

PORTRAIT AND
BIOGRAPHICAL

ALBUM

— OF —

LENAWEE COUNTY, MICH.,

CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent
and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF MICHIGAN, AND
OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:
CHAPMAN BROTHERS
1888.

years. He has always been exceedingly active in the establishment of religious edifices in Lenawee County, and in other ways has done much to advance the moral interests of the county. He has assisted in organizing and building up five different churches in Fairfield and Dover Townships, and considers that "religion and education are inseparable." His example as a conscientious, upright man, walking in the paths of virtue and peace, is worth much to the community. In this age of litigation, it is his pride that he has never sued a man, or been sued himself; he has never wilfully wronged anyone.

JAMES UPDIKE, JR. The finely appointed little farm of eighty acres which occupies a portion of section 13, Franklin Township, became the property of the subject of this sketch in 1875, and he has since bent his energies to its improvement and cultivation, with most admirable results. The proprietor is a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence and good taste, and while having a proper respect for the wherewithal to make life comfortable, has embellished his homestead with the various features which render it one of the most attractive spots in the township. The buildings are of modern style, the fields are fenced in a neat and substantial manner, and everything about the premises is kept in first-class order, nothing allowed to go to waste or become an offense to the eye. Around the residence are fruit and shade trees with a fine orchard in the rear, while the live stock and machinery give evidence of the care and thoughtfulness of the proprietor.

Our subject, the son of one of the earliest pioneers of this county, first opened his eyes to the light in the primitive log cabin, which was the first dwelling of his parents in Tecumseh Township, and which was located upon land which had been but slightly cultivated before his father took possession of it. The latter, also James Updike, a native of New York State, was reared to manhood in his native county, and married Miss Belinda Hause, whose birthplace was not far from the early home of her husband. They continued in the Empire State until after the birth of three children, when they came to

Michigan and located upon the land which they occupied until retiring from active labor.

The parents of our subject came to this county prepared to meet hardships and difficulties, and proved themselves equal to the emergency. They succeeded in building up a comfortable home, occupying the log cabin but a few years and then removing into a good frame dwelling. The father was a man of excellent judgment, kind and generous as a neighbor and friend, and became known as one of the most thorough and successful farmers of Tecumseh Township. He is still living, and makes his home with his son Martin G., a resident of Tecumseh Township. He is now over eighty-four years of age, having been born Oct. 1, 1803. During his residence of over forty years in this county he has made many warm friends, and has abundant reason to feel that his life and labors have not been in vain. The wife and mother departed this life at the homestead Nov. 30, 1873, when about sixty-five years old. Both parents were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the days of their youth and strength, and the father is still identified with the old society.

James Updike, Jr., was the eighth in a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters. Of these, three sons and two daughters are living and residents of this county. James, in common with his brothers and sisters, remained under the home roof and availed himself of the instruction afforded at the district school. Upon reaching manhood he was married, April 2, 1873, at the home of the bride in Tecumseh Township, to Miss Atlanta A., daughter of John T. and Caroline H. (Thompson) Bates. Mr. and Mrs. Bates were natives of New York State and were married in Cortland County, where their three children were born, the wife of our subject being the youngest of the family. Her birth took place Nov. 5, 1853, and she was fifteen years of age when her father came to Michigan and located on a farm in Tecumseh Township. The mother had died in Cortland County, N. Y., in 1863, at the age of thirty-seven years. Mr. Bates subsequently married Miss Salina Coyle, who accompanied him to the West and remained here until after the death of Mr. Bates, which took place in the village of Tecumseh, July 31, 1877, when he was sixty-three years of

age; Mrs. B. then returned to New York and is now a resident of Homer, that State. Mr. Bates was a man of much force of character, and became quite prominent in the politics of the county. He affiliated with the Republican party and with his estimable wife, was a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The wife of our subject continued with her father until her marriage, in the meantime receiving a good education and developing those elements of character which have constituted her a true wife and mother. Of her union with Mr. Updike there have been born two sons—Earl B., Dec. 7, 1876, and Lucius C., Dec. 29, 1878. Mr. Updike, politically, uniformly votes the Republican ticket. By good management and industry he has accumulated a competence and has something laid by for a rainy day.

ROBERT B. SUTTON, a farmer, residing on section 16, Dover Township, is the son of Pharis and Hannah Sutton, of that township (see sketch of Pharis Sutton for parental history), and is a native of this State, where he was born in Hillsdale County, Sept. 22, 1841. When he was scarcely two years old, his parents came to Rome Township in this county, where his boyhood was passed on a farm, and in the public schools, where he received a good education, which was supplemented by two terms of instruction in the excellent college at Adrian. In 1858 he came with his parents to Dover Township, which since that time has been his home.

When Mr. Sutton grew to manhood he preferred the healthful, free life of a farmer to the routine and confinement of office work, and he has ever since paid close attention to tilling the soil. Bringing to his work an intelligent and practical knowledge of the principles that govern agriculture, he has been particularly successful in their application. His farm comprises 138 acres of land, most of which is well improved and very productive.

Mr. Sutton has a pleasant home, over which his wife presides with grace and hospitality. Her maiden name was Alice C. Pontius, and she is the daughter of David and Corlella (Bryant) Pontius,

(See sketch of D. Pontius). She was born in Seneca County, N. Y., Dec. 2, 1851, and was united in marriage with our subject March 29, 1871. This union has resulted in the birth of two children—Maggie A. and Florence A.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sutton are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in their daily life they show that theirs is not a meaningless creed. They are active in whatever promotes the best interests, socially or morally, of the township in which they reside.

PHARIS SUTTON, a veteran farmer of Dover Township, is one of the few men still living in our midst, who, in days long gone by, were among the brave and hardy pioneers who opened up Lenawee County for settlement. His parents were John and Sarah (Blaine) Sutton, natives of New Jersey, where, after their marriage, they first settled. Thence they removed to New York, where they spent the most of their wedded life, living in the following counties, at different times: Onondaga, Wayne and Seneca, in the latter of which they died. They were worthy people, of frugal, honest habits, and they trained their children, six sons and four daughters, to follow in their footsteps.

Our subject was the seventh child in the parental family, and was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., Oct. 18, 1800. In the days of his youth no idle hands were allowed in the household, and our subject was early initiated in the best ways of making himself useful in farm labors. When sixteen years of age he was apprenticed to learn the carpenter's trade, and after he had mastered its details, he went to Chautauqua County, where he put it in practice for some years.

On the 9th of October, 1828, Mr. Sutton married in that county, Miss Hannah M., daughter of Milton and Lois (Briscoe) Foote, natives of Connecticut. In 1830 Mrs. Sutton's parents left their home in New York and came to Lenawee County, in this State, settling on a farm now owned and occupied by J. A. Townsend in Madison Township, where they lived until 1835. They then disposed of that property, and removed to Hillsdale County, where