

A Centennial Biographical History of Crawford County, Ohio, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902

Elijah Lyons, who is engaged in the cultivation of a good farm in Cranberry Township, has always resided in Crawford County, his birth having occurred in the township which is still his home, on the 22d of May 1850, his parents being **Jacob** and **Susan (Robison) Lyons**. The father was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, in 1822, and was a son of **Adam** and **Barbara Lyons**, who came to Ohio about 1830, settling in Richland County, near Shelby, where his father leased a tract of land for several years. He was then in limited financial circumstances and on the expiration of his lease he came to Crawford County, residing in Cranberry Township up to the time of his death. **Adam Lyons'** children were **George, John B., Jacob** and **Susan**. The father of our subject was fourteen years of age when he came to Ohio, and eight years later he purchased eighty acres of the farm upon which his son **Elijah** now resides. Soon afterward he further completed his arrangements for a home of his own by his marriage to **Miss Susan Robison**, who was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of **William** and **Christina (Zeigler) Robison**, who came to Ohio about the same time the **Lyons** family removed to this state. They took up their abode in what is now Auburn Township, Crawford County, then a part of Richland County, and later removed to Cranberry Township, spending their last days upon the farm where **Mr. French** now resides. **George Robison**, an uncle of **Mrs. Lyons**, was an officer in the war of 1812, and for many years thereafter was a leading figure in military circles. Two of her brothers, **William C.** and **Thomas Henry**, were loyal supporters of the Union cause during the Civil war, and the latter died near Arkansas Post while in the army.

At the time of their marriage **Mr.** and **Mrs. Lyons** located on the farm which he had purchased and later he added to this a tract of ten acres. To the further development and improvement of his property he devoted his energies until his death. His study of political issues led him to give his support to the Democracy, but he was never an office seeker. In early life he held membership in the Presbyterian Church, but in later years, as there was no church of that denomination in the neighborhood, he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was an energetic and persevering man and bravely faced the hardships of frontier life. He secured school land covered with a dense forest, built a cabin, cleared away the trees and in due course of time had a comfortable home for his family. He died in 1891, and his wife passed away in 1894. She, too, was a loyal and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Four children were born unto them, but only two are now living, the sister of our subject being **Matilda**, widow of **Thomas Baer**, of New Washington.

Elijah Lyons enjoyed the sports in which boys of the period usually indulged, pursued his education in the district schools and assisted in the work of the home farm. His early educational advantages, however, were supplemented by study in the Plymouth High School, in the Delaware University and in a Presbyterian Seminary at Lexington, Ohio. Prior to his seventeenth year he began teaching and for nine terms followed that profession through the winter months. In the spring he would then attend school in order to perfect his own education and in the summer he assisted in the work of the home farm. In the fall after he had attained his majority he went to La Salle County, Illinois, where he remained for eighteen months, after which he engaged in teaching school for one term and also worked on a farm. He then took charge of the home farm, operating it on the shares up to the time of his marriage.

In 1880 **Mr. Lyons** was joined in wedlock to **Miss Susan J. Holtz**, of Huron County, and then took his bride to Van Wert County, Ohio, settling on forty acres of land which he had purchased only a short time previous. Twenty-two months later his wife died, and after bringing the remains to Huron County for interment he returned to Van Wert County, disposed of his farm and chattel property and then again went to his old home. In the following autumn he purchased a farm of fifty acres, now owned by **Albert Nye**. It was then all covered with underbrush, but with characteristic energy he began to prepare it for the plow, and in due course of time abundant harvests rewarded his labors. He was again married, February 14, 1886, his second union being with **Miss Susannah Smith**, a native of Crawford County and a daughter of **Jesse** and **Eva (Shoup) Smith**. Their union was blessed with two children. **Clarence E.** and **Wilbert W.**, but the latter is now deceased.

After his second marriage **Mr. Lyons** erected a residence upon his farm and there made his home until 1892. In the year previous his father had died and **Mr. Lyons** then traded his farm to his sister for her share in the old home place and also handsomely provided for his mother. He is now the owner of the old home farm, a valuable and desirable property, attractive in appearance by reason of the excellent buildings and richly cultivated fields. He usually votes the Republican ticket, but is not strongly partisan, believing, however, in clean politics and the support of men who will secure purity in government. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to the support of which he contributes, also attending its services. He belongs to Hyperion Lodge, No. 651, K. P., and has passed all the chairs. As a member of the school board he has manifested his friendship for the cause of education and as a citizen he is public-spirited, heartily endorsing all movements for the general good.

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