

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

### **Ezekiel C. McNutt.**

One of the well-known and highly esteemed residents of Auburn Township, Crawford County, Ohio, is **Ezekiel C. McNutt**, who is a representative of one of the old pioneer settlers of this county. The birth of **Ezekiel McNutt**, who is the subject of this biography, was on June 2, 1839, in Columbiana County, Ohio, and he was the son of **Abraham** and **Mary J. (Craton) McNutt**, and he was one of seven children born to them, the five surviving members of the family being: **Alexander**, a resident of Bucyrus; **Abraham**, a resident of Liberty Township, in this county; **Mary J.**, the wife of **Aaron Darr**, of Sulphur Springs; **Rachael**, the wife of **Aaron Park**, of Gabon, Ohio; and **Ezekiel C.**, the subject of this sketch.

**Abraham McNutt** was born in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and grew to manhood on his father's farm, at the age of eighteen leaving the parental roof for the town of Petersburg, where he learned the trade of tanner and engaged in that business until 1840, at which time he became a resident of Crawford County, Ohio. Here he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Liberty Township, near the Cranberry Township line, and settled in a small log house in the woods, this cabin having been erected by the original settler. The land had not been either cleared or improved, and **Mr. McNutt** immediately engaged in the labor of preparing the land for cultivation. He built a comfortable hewed-log cabin, which in time gave place to a substantial brick residence that was his home until his death, which occurred in 1874, when he was sixty-two years of age. In politics **Mr. McNutt** was a staunch Whig, but later became identified with the Republican Party. He was a man noted for his sound judgment and deep conviction, but was of that temper that enabled him to live through the trying times of the Civil war in perfect amity with his neighbors, although he was surrounded by those of differing political opinion. So well was he known and so highly esteemed that his views were never questioned. **Mr. McNutt** had been reared in the faith of the Methodist Church, but did not formally connect himself with any religious body, although he was a God-fearing man and a regular attendant upon church services.

**Ezekiel C. McNutt** was the youngest son of the family and was afforded good educational advantages. At the age of twenty-one he began to teach the district school during the winter season and spent the summer on the farm, and this quiet, useful life was suddenly changed by his enlistment for service in the Union army. On August 1, 1864, he became a member of Company G, Twenty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under the command of General Hatch. The latter had charge of about ten thousand men on the coast of South Carolina, where they were stationed until April, 1865, guarding Confederate prisoners. In April of that year our subject's regiment started for Savannah and took part in the engagement at Honey Hill and Red Hill, and also some sharp skirmishes, receiving his honorable discharge at Charleston, South Carolina, on July 15, 1865.

After his war experience our subject returned home and resumed his old life, teaching and farming, as previously, continuing until 1872, at which time he and his brother-in-law erected a building in New Washington, where they opened up a grocery and provision store. For three

years our subject was connected with this business, having the entire management of it, remaining one year after his marriage.

**Mr. McNutt** was married on July 7, 1875, to **Miss Mary J. McKee**, who was born in Waynesburg, Auburn Township, and she was the daughter of **James McKee**, of Scotch-Irish extraction, who was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania. **Mr. McKee** came to Crawford County about 1833 and settled in Auburn Township, spending his life in this and Cranberry Township. One year after marriage **Mr. McNutt**, in 1876, removed to the farm of his father-in-law, in Cranberry Township, the latter desiring the presence of his daughter, her mother having died in April of that year. For seven years our subject farmed on shares for his father-in-law, and he made his home with our subject's family, where he received devoted, filial care. In 1883 **Mr. McNutt** removed to a farm of forty acres in Cranberry Township, which he purchased some time prior to this date, and remained on this tract for four years, at the end of that time selling it and purchasing forty-one acres just across the line, in Auburn Township, remaining here until 1895, when he also sold that farm advantageously and removed to his present one of eighty acres. This is fine farm land, and here our subject and family enjoy all the comforts of country life. Two of their three children survive, these being: **Edna E.**, who married **Levi Lash**, in this township; and **James Wesley**, who was born on December 12, 1886, hence is only fourteen years of age, but is remarkable for intellectual gifts, as he has successfully passed the Boxwell examination and is a youth of great promise. **Frederick E.**, the second child, has passed away. In politics **Mr. McNutt**, like his honored father, is identified with the Republican Party. Both he and wife were reared in the Methodist Church, but as there is no organization of that kind here they attend and support the Lutheran Church, where they are highly valued.

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