

JOHN KUHNS MIKESELL, who owns a beautiful 200-acre farm in Blacklick township, Indiana county, belongs to a family which has been settled in these parts for several generations. The Mikesells are of German descent, John Mikesell, the founder of the branch in Indiana county, having been a native of Germany. He spent his early life there, coming to America when a young man, in the early part of the last century, and first settling in Bedford county, Pa. Thence he came to Indiana county, making his home in Center township, on the Ridge near the line of what is now Burrell township. He became the owner of 300 acres in what was then an unsettled region, erected a small log dwelling and set to work to clear his land for cultivation. The rest of his life was spent at that place, farming, and he made many improvements on the property, building a stone residence and substantial barn, and in various other ways adding to its appearance and value. He married Margaret Altimus, and they became the parents of six children: Adam, who settled in Center township; Elizabeth, who married Peter Bowman; Peter, who settled in West Wheatfield township; Joseph, who died in Michigan; John, who died in Iowa; and Jonas. Mr. and Mrs. Mikesell died on the farm and are buried there. They were members of the Lutheran Church, which he served as elder, and in politics he was an adherent of the Democratic party.

Jonas Mikesell, son of John, was born March 7, 1804, on the Ridge farm in Center township, and there received such educational advantages as the subscription schools afforded. However, he became a well informed man in spite of his lack of early opportunities, and was well read in both German and English. Working at home until he reached manhood, he then removed to Clarion county, locating near Salem, on a farm owned by his father-in-law, Christopher Rugh. It was a tract of 123 acres, and he carried on its cultivation for some time, eventually selling out and returning to Indiana county. Settling at his parents' old home on the Ridge in Center township he cared for his widowed mother in her declining years and operated that place, which comprised 180 acres of fine land. He lived there the remainder of his life, improving the farm greatly. He died Jan. 16, 1854, and was laid to rest in the family burying lot on the farm. He married in center township, Catherine Rugh, who born at Rugh Station, in what is now Burrell township, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (Best) Rugh, and died at the old homestead. She is buried in the cemetery of the Lutheran Chapel at Coral. Mr. and Mrs. Mikesell were members of the Lutheran Church, and he was quite active in church work. Politically he was a democrat. They were the parents of ten children: Julia Ann, who died unmarried in 1909; John Kuhn; Solomon, who died from the effects of wounds received while serving in the Civil war; Abraham, who died in Altoona, Pa.; Christopher, also deceased; Jonas, Jr., deceased; Augustus, who died in boyhood; Isaac, deceased; Jacob, twin of Isaac, who died in infancy; and Philip, who resides in Illinois.

John Kuhns Mikesell was born March 4, 1833, near Salem, in Clarion county, Pa., and was but two years old when his parents returned to Indiana county. He attended school in Center township, and acquired his knowledge of farming under his father's tuition, working with him upon the home place until he died and subsequently cultivating that tract on his own account for a number of

years, until the land and coal were sold, in 1890, to the Graceton Coal & Coke Company. He then moved to Blacklick township, buying the Alexander Gordon farm, a tract of 224 acres which he has since occupied. He follows general farming and stock raising. Mr. Mikesell considers no detail of his work too trivial for attention, and his home and surroundings show his taste and thrift. He has erected buildings and made other notable improvements on the property during his ownership, and few farmers have their work on a more systematic and orderly basis.

Mr. Mikesell was married in Center township June 2, 1870, to Keraenhappuch (Carry) Coy, a native of Pine township, this county, daughter of Lewis and Margaret (Sleppey) Coy, and they have had a family of five children, namely; Augustus Babb, who resides on the homestead, working for his father, and at present acting as a director on the school board of Blacklick township, being secretary of that body; Laura May, who married Edward Berkley and lives in Middletown, Ohio; Ira B., now living at Steubenville, Ohio; Christopher, who died on the farm; and Mary, unmarried, who lives at home.

Mr. Mikesell is a member of the Lutheran Church at Coral, which he helped to organize, and he is at present serving as elder and superintendent of the Sunday school, being one of the most efficient workers of that congregation. In politics he was originally a democrat, but now supports the Republican party.

The Coy family, to which Mrs. Mikesell belongs, is also of old settled center township stock. John Coy, the founder of the family in Indiana county, came hither from Bedford county, Pa., settling in Brushvalley township in 1820 and later moving to pine township, where he passed the remainder of his life. He married Sarah Bowers, and they had a large family, viz.: Lewis; Franey; John B., who married Margaret Empfield; Adam, who married Rachel Lyda; Sarah, who married George Empfield; Peter, who married Mary Stevens; Nancy, who married Samuel Stall; Elizabeth, who married William Fowler; and David, who married a Miss Dick.

Lewis Coy, son of John and Sarah (Bowers) Coy, was born in 1812 in Bedford county, Pa., and was a boy when he came with his parents to what was then known as Brushvalley township, Indiana county. Later he moved with the family to Pine township, where he spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming, dying in July, 1896. In 1834 he married Margaret Sleppey, who was born in 1810, daughter of Abraham and Ann Sleppey, and they had a family of nine children, three sons and six daughters, one of the latter being the wife of John Kuhns Mikesell.