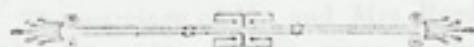


came with his bride to this county and in 1868 located where he is now living. He carries on general farming and stock-raising.

The political affiliation of Mr. Davis is with the Republicans and he is always ready to visit the polls on election day. His army life, which was one which reflects credit on his patriotism and valor, is commemorated through his membership with the Grand Army. He also belongs to the Patrons of Industry. He has been Highway Commissioner and made an acceptable public officer. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church and endeavors to carry out in his daily life the grand principles that underlie Christianity. His only child is George W. who was born August 4, 1871, and is now a junior in the State Agricultural College in Lansing. He is fitting himself for a useful career and gives promise of adding to the lustre of the name he bears.



**A**SA W. REED. The fine farm of this gentleman forms a part of Sheridan Township and comprises three hundred and fifty acres of land, every part of which is capable of producing good crops, and which has been thoroughly improved, supplied with every needful farm structure and made the seat of a thriving business. There are two residences upon the farm, that occupied by our subject being a home-like and substantial structure on section 12. Like everything else about the place, its appearance indicates the prosperity and thrift of the occupants, and the good judgment which leads them to surround themselves with every reasonable enjoyment.

The paternal family is an old one in Connecticut, in which State Ephraim Reed, the father of our subject, was born. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and participated in the battle of Plattsburg. He removed his family to Franklin County, N. Y., for a few years and in 1839 came to this county, settling on what was known as the Emory Farm in Sheridan township. There was at that time but one store in Albion, no railroad through this section and but few settlers; produce was hauled by

teams to Detroit. After a year's residence the family settled on section 12, taking possession of raw land—timbered openings—which the father and sons began to clear. They built a log house, hiring men to help raise it, and in their forest home not only labored and denied themselves many of those things now believed to be necessary for comfort but enjoyed much that is unknown to the pampered children of a higher state of civilization.

The mother of our subject was Sarah (Hayes) Reed, who was born in New Jersey and married in New York. Her father, Asa Hayes, served in both the Revolution and the War of 1812. She died in 1846, but her husband survived until 1867, living to the venerable age of ninety-five years and nine months. The latter had been temperate in all his habits and both parents belonged to the Christian Church. They had eleven children, five of whom are now living. The one whose history now claims our attention was born in Franklin County, N. Y., February 5, 1825, and in the district schools of his native State acquired a knowledge of the common school branches. He was fourteen years old when he came to this State and he subsequently attended a boarding school in Jackson County. He made his home with his parents until their death, helping to clear off the farm on which he has continued to reside, completing its improvement after becoming its owner.

The wife of Mr. Reed belongs to one of the pioneer families of this county. She bore the maiden name of Fidelia Gay, was born in Livingston County, N. Y., November 19, 1828, and was seven years old when the family came to this county. The parents were in limited circumstances and during her youth she learned the thrifty ways which prudence enjoined upon them and developed the strength of character for which she has since become known and esteemed in her neighborhood. Her parents, John and Lodicia (Pierce) Gay, were natives of the Empire State and began their married life there. In 1835 they came to this State, making their home in Lenawee County two years, in Hillsdale County two years and then locating permanently in this county. Here they entered into rest, the wife in 1887 and the husband the year following. They had six children, four of whom