

LEWIS HEADLEE.

Lewis Headlee, who for many years engaged in the pursuit of agriculture and stock-raising in Harrison township, this county, and who entered into rest, after a long and useful life, on August 22, 1884, was one of the most prosperous farmers of this part of the state and a man whose high moral character and the interest he took in the general welfare of the community merited him the confidence and respect of all who had the pleasure of meeting him. He was a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, born February 4, 1808, and a son of John and Lydia (Headlee) Headlee. In the family were seven children, namely: Phineas, Eli, Enos, Lucy and Rachel, twins, Katherine and Lewis.

The boyhood days of Lewis Headlee were spent on his father's farm in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and there he attended the district schools, where he acquired his education, remaining under the parental roof until he was of age, at which period of his life he went to Newton, Pennsylvania. There for several years he engaged in the mercantile business, meeting with a high measure of success and, upon giving up that enterprise, he removed to this county, settling in Summit Station, where he remained eighteen years, nine years of which he served as justice of the peace. The duties of that office he had also performed while a resident of Newton, where he followed general farming and stock-raising on five hundred acres of land, most of which he cleared and improved. His farm produced great quantities of the best quality hay and oats and he did quite a business in all kinds of stock, having fed many head annually which he shipped to the markets throughout the state. Subsequently he disposed of this farm and removed to Harrison township, where in 1867 he bought two hundred sixty-six acres of land, later adding one hundred and five acres, all of which he cleared, fenced and thoroughly drained, his premises being known as the "Old Pigeon Swamp" farm, to which he had given sufficient attention to make it one of the most desirable in the county. Here he spent the remainder of his days in general farming and stock-raising.

On October 30, 1856, he was united in marriage to Miss Minerva Shannon, a daughter of John and Kisiah (Rodgers) Shannon, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, having come to this county at an early date, settling in what is now known as Summit Station, Lima township. The Shannon family included nine children, namely: John, deceased; Thomas, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Ellen; Robert, who resides in Hiawatha, Kansas, with his wife, Susan Bessee, a native of Summit Station, by whom he has had nine children; Margaret, deceased; Minerva; David, who wedded Miss Anna Ramsey, of Columbus, Ohio, by whom he had nine children, the couple residing in Nebraska; and Emma, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Headlee were born: Phineas; Flora; Thomas; Benson and Adda, who reside at home; Wilbur; Emma; and Zella; two children having departed this life in infancy. Mr. Headlee was a staunch republican and always took active interest in the affairs of the party. Prominent in local politics, he served for many years as justice of the peace and was so efficient in that office as to have established for himself a wide reputation throughout the county and many person sought his advice in legal matters, since he was well known and respected for his fairness, wisdom and executive ability. He also performed the duties of justice of the peace at Kirkersville all the while he resided there. Among other services which he rendered the county was that of trustee of the infirmary, the duties of which position he efficiently performed for a number of years. Mr. Headlee was a man of high moral character who, amid the pressure of his business affairs and agricultural interests, always found time to give his religious obligations and attended divine services at the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was a leading steward and to which he was a large contributor. He was well known throughout the county not only for his industry and enterprise but for his extraordinary

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intelligence and legal knowledge and, being a man of upright character, who always endeavored to so shape his conduct as to keep his name above reproach, he was ever held in the highest respect by his fellow citizens.

CITE: *Centennial History of the City of Newark and Licking County Ohio*, by E. M. P. Brister, Vol. II, S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1909. pp 343-344.

NOTE: For some reason this biography totally ignores the fact that Lewis Headlee had a first wife, Elizabeth Sinsabaugh and had six known children with him. My only explanation would have to be that his second wife, Minerva is living when this biography is written. Too much time has passed for the reasons – although, one could speculate a plenty. –*Michael Richard Clouse (4th great grandson of Lewis Headlee and Elizabeth Sinsabaugh.) 2 December 2005.*
