

was school trustee for a period of nine years; during the past five years he has been secretary and treasurer of the school board, and through all his service his time and ability have ever been fully devoted to forwarding the work of the schools.

Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Margaret Clark, in Tweed, County Hastings, Ont., in April, 1871. She was born in County Hastings in 1849, and was the daughter of George and Margaret (Kincaid) Clark, the former a stone mason and farmer, who emigrated from County Donegal, Ireland, to Ontario. Mrs. Margaret Thompson died June 9, 1885; she left four children: John E., a farmer of Chatham township, who married Mary Farnsworth, and has two daughters, Margaret Irene and Mabel Elena. George H., Effie A. and Walter C. are at home. Maggie Bell, the youngest, died in infancy.

BENJAMIN JAMES, who has for a quarter of a century been engaged in general farming and stock raising in Zone township, in the County of Kent, was born May 4, 1833, in Cornwall, England.

John and Jane (Sutherland) James, his parents, also of Cornwall, crossed the Atlantic in 1847, and first located in the State of Pennsylvania, where they remained some eighteen months. Thence coming to Canada, they made their home in the County of Middlesex for one year, and then moved to Lake Huron, in the County of Lambton, where the father purchased 300 acres, on which they resided a few years. He then took up another tract of 200 acres, on which they remained twelve years, at the end of that period moving to Sarnia, Ontario, where Mr. James passed the rest of his days in retirement. He died in 1878, at the age of eighty-eight years; the mother, who was born in 1782, had preceded him to the grave in 1863. They were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Their family consisted of the following named children: Jane (who married), John, Henry, Richard and William, all now deceased; Mary A., now a resident of Sarnia, who first married William Fryers, and afterward became the wife of Berand Shephard; Thomas, of the County of Lambton; and Benjamin.

Benjamin James remained with his parents until his marriage, in boyhood receiving such

educational advantages as the schools of the neighborhood of his home afforded. He commenced work at an early age, and has had an industrious career. Until 1875 he continued to reside in the County of Lambton, thence removing to his present location in Zone township, County of Kent, where he farms fifty acres, and rents another tract of the same size, all lying in Lot 14, 3d Concession. In spite of his life of toil, Mr. James is well preserved and active. He enjoys the unfeigned respect of his neighbors and friends, and is well and favorably known in the community where he has so long resided.

Mr. James was married in Plympton, Ontario, in March, 1864, to Emma E. Barker, who was born in December, 1843, in Norfolk, England, daughter of Mathew and Mary (Southway) Barker, who came from that country to Canada in 1846 and located in Hamilton, Ont. After a three years' residence there they moved to the County of Lambton, the section in which they settled being so completely a wilderness that they were obliged to live in their wagon for six weeks, until their cabin could be completed. They made a permanent home in that spot, the father dying there in August, 1871, at the age of seventy-one, the mother in November, 1890, at the age of seventy-six. She remarried after Mr. Barker's death, her second husband being Daniel Carter. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Barker: Ann (deceased), who married William Bridges; Susan, Mrs. George May, of Muskoka; Samuel, of Harrisville, Michigan; Sarah (deceased), who first married Robert Bridges, later John Halpee; William, deceased; Emma E., Mrs. James; Harriet, who married Absalom Wheeler, of Moore, Ontario; Mahala, wife of John Serymegor, of North Branch, Michigan; Joshua, of Sarnia, Ontario; Albert, a farmer of Horsens Island; George, a resident of Michigan; and Washington, of Sarnia, Ontario.

To Mr. and Mrs. James have come the following children: Charles M., a carpenter, who resides in Flint, Michigan; Mary A. M. (deceased), who was the wife of William Elsie; Rebecca, who is the wife of Walter Miller, of Ridgetown, Ont.; Albert, who lives at home; Jennie (deceased), who married Lester McMullin; and George S. and Hiram F., both at home. In religious connection Mr. and Mrs. James are members of the Methodist Church. He is a Reformer in political sentiment.