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JOHN MORRIS. Among the successful and enterprising citizens of Athens Township, Harrison County, who have by their own industry and economy achieved a remarkable success, none are more widely known for integrity and inherent honesty than the subject of this sketch. He was born May 4, 1816, and from his earliest recollection his life has been one of continual hard work. His father, Morgan Morris, was born in Maryland, to which State the Morris family at a very early period emigrated. The father of Morgan, James, was the head of the following family: Daniel, John, James, Morgan, Phoebe and Elizabeth. The family all emigrated to what is now West Virginia, where the parents lived and died.

In West Virginia Morgan met and married Elizabeth Wood. She was the daughter of Edward Wood, who was among the earliest pioneers that settled in the section in which he lived. The country was at that time infested by Indians, who compelled the residents to seek the protection of block houses during their raids. After his marriage Morgan Morris came to Ohio, and settled in Jefferson County, where he left his family -- his wife and two children -- to enlist on his country’s defense, serving through the War of 1812. He reared the following family: Nancy, Mary, Phoebe, John, Elizabeth, Thomas, Hannah, William, Morgan, Eliza Jane. In 1837 Mrs. Morris died and was buried in new Athens Cemetery. For a second wife Mr. Morris married Ellen Smith, of Harrison County, and the issue of this marriage were Rebecca Ann and James S. June 4, 1864, Mr. Morris died and was laid to rest by the side of his wife at New Athens. He was a supporter of the Democratic party, and a member of the Presbyterian Church at Crab Apple.

John Morris’ early life was spent on the home place until he was of age, when he concluded to engage in business for himself. His education was limited to such instruction as was to be had at the common schools, which he attended as frequently as his work permitted. March 20, 1846, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of James T. Porter. After marriage he and his wife located on a farm in Cadiz Township, where they remained about six years, when they purchased a farm in Athens Township, to which they removed, and in four months after their removal his wife died. After a sojourn of sixteen years he purchased his present residence in the same township. In financial matters Mr. Morris has made his own success, having commenced life with only his own perseverance, determined will and ceaseless industry. His farm now consists of 261 acres, and is admirably suited for farming and stock-raising. Mr. Morris may well congratulate himself on his success, and also upon the high opinion in which he and his family are held. Five children were born of the first marriage: James, Elizabeth (Mrs.

Johnson Hughes), Rebecca Jane, William and Margaret (now deceased). The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Morris took place July 11, 1852, and her remains were interred in Crab Apple Cemetery. April 29, 1859, Mr. Morris married Elizabeth Maxwell, a daughter of James Maxwell. The issue of this union were Alonzo, John O., Thomas M., Mary Alice, Morgan, Sarah J. and Charles (the last named now deceased) From his early manhood Mr. Morris has voted the Democratic ticket, and still renders efficient aid to his party when needed. He has served his township as trustee for five or six years, and discharged his duties satisfactorily.

Alonzo Morris was born January 12, 1860, and spent his youth at home. He received his education at the common schools, and afterward at Franklin College. June 13, 1881, he was married to Laura E., daughter of J. T. Dickerson, of New Athens, and since his marriage he has resided in Athens Township. His children are Lizzie Olive and Bessie Leverne. He and family are members of the Presbyterian Church at Nottingham. He supports the Democratic ticket and is a worthy representative of his family.

Thomas M. Morris was born February 21, 1862, and was educated at the district schools. In 1888 he married Emma E. Monahan, and made his home in Athens until 1890, when he removed to Belmont County. Like his father he is a Democrat. His family, as well as himself, are members of the Presbyterian Church at Crab Apple. One child, John Howard, has been born to this marriage.