

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

PHILIP AVENT, who owns 65 acres on lot 21, concession 3 of the Township of Bayham, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1818, and settled in the County of Elgin about 1850. In 1848 he was married to Margaret Scanlan, of Ireland, and one daughter, Mary Ann, has been born to them. Mr. Avent has worked hard to improve his property, which is worth about \$2,000 at present.

STEPHEN BACKUS, of the Township of Dunwich, was born on the farm where he now lives, May 15th, 1825. He owns 480 acres of land, and resides on concession 10, lot 13, of this township. In 1860 he was married to Elizabeth Burgess, of Fingal, Ont., but has no family. Our subject's father, Stephen Backus, came to Canada from New York State, about 1810, and his mother, Anna Story, was a native of Ireland. Their family consisted of Andrew, Joseph, Thomas, Mary, Olive, Sarah, Hannah, Stephen, Robert, Henry and Walter, of whom all but three survive. Coming to Canada when it was but a wilderness, they endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life; but prosperity followed their efforts, and each of their sons succeeded to 200 acres of fine land. The old homestead, one of the best farms in the township, is now occupied by the subject of this sketch.

ANDREW BACKUS, lot 11, concession 10 of the Township of Dunwich, owns a homestead called "Lake View," comprising 460 acres. He was born in that township January 1st, 1812. Mr. Backus always was interested in military matters, and has served in the militia as ensign, lieutenant and captain. His wife was Miss Mary Jane Hamilton, who was born in Ireland, November 30th, 1816. They were married May 2nd, 1839. Of this union twelve children were born, six sons and six daughters. Seven of these are now living, viz., Mary, Stephen, William, Andrew, Sarah, Catherine and Amelia. Andrew, the youngest son, has served for several years in the militia, and recently resigned with honors. Our subject's father and mother are elsewhere mentioned in these sketches.

ROBERT BACKUS, of "Maple Grove," a farm of 250 acres, lot 13, of the 9th concession of the Township of Dunwich, was born in the same township, June 15th, 1827. His wife, Jane Pearce, was also born in Dunwich, and they were united October 20th, 1858. Four children, three sons and one daughter, were born of this union; their names are William, Frederick, John and Anna. Mr. Backus is the youngest living son of Stephen Backus and Anna Story, whose names have been previously mentioned. His farm is in a fine state of cultivation, and is valued at \$20,000.

JOHN BOBIER, of the Township of Dunwich, deceased, owned 600 acres of land, valued at \$40,000. He was born in the County of Wexford, Ireland, in 1800, and lived to the good old age of 80 years, being a farmer all his life. He first settled in the County of Elgin in 1825, and was married, in 1829, to Jane Wellwood, a native of County Carlow, Ireland. Their family consisted of thirteen children, of whom twelve, viz., Joshua, Mary, Thomas, Sarah, Harriet, John, Joseph, Richard, Louisa, David, Amelia and Alfred, are now living. Mrs. Bobier is now in her 74th