

study and care he bestows on his breeding have made him an authority on all matters connected with the subject and given his opinions concerning it great weight. In 1907 he opened a general store in Leonard. But he soon found out that merchandising in a general way was not to his taste, and in October, 1908, he sold the business to his son-in-law, C. E. Stuart, and returned to his farm.

On February 25, 1880, Mr. Hawkins married with Miss Bertha G. Shofstall, a daughter of W. H. and Sarah C. Shofstall, natives of Ohio, but herself born and reared in this county. Three children have been born of the union, two of whom are living, Sallie Kate, the wife of C. E. Stuart, of Leonard, and Arthur Scott, who is associated with his father in the stock business, the name of the firm being J. W. Hawkins & Son. The business is extensive and all the energies and time of both father and son are required for its proper management and complete success.

In politics Mr. Hawkins is a pronounced Democrat, but he has never been a very active partisan, nor has he at any time sought or desired a political office, although he did serve three years as school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religious affiliation belongs to the Baptist church. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Bank of Leonard and a member of its board of directors. While his business is exacting and he has given it all the attention necessary to make a great success of it, he has not allowed it to absorb him wholly, but has given due and helpful attention also to the affairs of his township and

county, always aiding in the promotion of every worthy enterprise for their benefit, and contributing his full share of zeal, enterprise and industry to accelerate their progress and raise the standard of living among their people, with an ardent desire to keep them in the forefront of progress in every way as parts of one of the most enterprising and influential states of the American Union.

MICHAEL HERSHEY.

Although born in Canada and of a father who was also a native of that country, Michael Hershey, of Cherry Box, in this county, has passed almost the whole of his life in the United States and may properly be considered an American to all intents and purposes. His life began in 1843, and he is a son of Benjamin and Magdalena (Dausman) Hershey, the father born in Canada and the mother in Germany. When their son Michael was a very small boy the family moved to Indiana, where the father has passed the subsequent years of his life as a farmer. His principal occupation in Canada was farming also, but in connection with his agricultural operations there he conducted a grist and saw mill. Nine children were born in the family, five of whom are living: Benjamin, David, Michael, Martha and Salome. Their mother died on January 11, 1872.

Michael Hershey obtained his education in the district schools of Indiana, and after leaving school remained with his parents, working on the farm and assisting the family for a number of years. In 1870 he came to Missouri and located

at Cherry Box, in Taylor township, this county, where he is still living. He has been continuously and successfully engaged in farming since his arrival in the county, and has made steady progress in his work of gaining a substantial competency for life. He owns and has under cultivation eighty acres of good land, and the farm is well improved and highly productive. In 1869 he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Benner, a native of Pennsylvania. They have had nine children, six of whom are living: Allen, Magdalena, Jacob, Benjamin, Henry and Nancy. Fannie died August 16, 1910. In politics the father is a Republican, but he has never taken a very active interest in political affairs. His religious connection is with the Mennonite church.

MILTON PASCHAL OAKS.

This enterprising and progressive farmer of Taylor township, in this county, whose success in life has been considerable and won altogether by his own industry, thrift and business capacity, was born in Greene county, Illinois, in 1850, and came with his parents to Missouri in 1857. His father, Michael Oaks, was a native of Tennessee, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Oaks. They had twelve children, of whom only two are living, Milton P. and his sister Etta, the wife of Samuel Windrum, of Denver, Colorado, and these are the only living members of the family, as the parents are also deceased, the mother having died in 1868 and the father in 1877. He, after the death of his first wife married again, choosing Miss Jane Debord as his second wife.

They had four children, but only their son Charles is living of that offspring.

On coming to Missouri the family located in Bethel township, Shelby county, and there the parents passed the remainder of their days engaged in farming. Their son Milton obtained a limited education in an old log school house in Bethel township, and as soon as he left school began the career as a farmer, which he is still extending with increasing profit and esteem among the people. His farm contains eighty acres and is well improved and highly cultivated. It is fully equipped with the needed appliances for its work, and is one of the comfortable and valuable country homes of the township in which it is located. In connection with his farming operations he carries on a flourishing live stock industry, which he manages with the same sedulous care and close attention that he bestows on his general farmnig.

In 1871 Mr. Oaks was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Waite, a native of Shelby county. They have had four children, of whom three are living, their sons Walter Byron, Isaac Pierce and Milton Chester. In politics the father is a Republican, deeply interested in the welfare of his party and always zealous and effective in its service. He served on the school board more than five years, and in many other ways has been of great service to the township and county of his home. In religious connection he is allied with the Methodist church. He and his wife are regarded with respect and good will wherever they are known, and looked upon as exemplars of the best attributes of elevated and sterling American citizenship.