

cial institutions of the county and one which receives a representative support.

Mr. Steinbach manifests a deep interest in all that tends to conserve the progress and material and social prosperity of his native town and county and lends his influence and aid in the promotion of all worthy public enterprises. He is a stalwart in the local camp of the Republican party, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a popular figure in the social life of the community and his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

#### JOHN C. BOWER.

Mr. Bower is one of the substantial citizens of Shelby county, which has represented his home from his boyhood days, and here he is the owner of a well improved farm of 320 acres, eligibly located in Bethel township. The farm is now rented to his elder son, and Mr. Bower is living virtually retired in the village of Bethel, where his parents settled in the pioneer days, as member of the sturdy Germany colony founded here in the '40s.

John C. Bower claims the old Keystone state of the Union as the place of his nativity, having been born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on July 23, 1833, and being a son of John L. and Christina (Schnaufer) Bower, both natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, the father having been born in the year 1800. Their marriage was solemnized in the year 1832, in Pennsylvania. Of their twelve

children eight are now living, and concerning them the following brief record is entered: John C., the eldest, is the immediate subject of this review; and Theodore L., Samuel F., Walter C., Christina, August, and David, all of whom are residents of Bethel, this county; and Miranda, who is the wife of Charles F. Stecher, of Camp Point, Illinois. Christina is the wife of William Seppel, a well known citizen of Bethel. The family name has been prominently and honorably linked with the industrial and civic progress of this section of the county, and its representatives of the present day are well worthy of the unqualified esteem in which they are held in the community. The father came with his family to Missouri and numbered himself among the Bethel colonists in 1846. He was a cabinetmaker by trade and he followed the same in Bethel until his death, which occurred in 1872, his devoted wife having been summoned to the life eternal in 1863. Both were zealous members of the Bethel Colony church and he was identified with the Republican party from the time of its organization until his death.

John C. Bower, whose name introduces this article, gained his early education in the common schools of his native county in Pennsylvania and was about thirteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Missouri. He was reared to manhood in the village of Bethel, where he learned the trade of cabinetmaking and also that of wheelwright, under the able direction of his honored father, who was a skilled and versatile mechanic. He continued to be associated with his father in the work of

his trade until 1870, and in the meanwhile he has also turned his attention to farming and stock-growing. He eventually gave his undivided attention to the latter lines of industry, with which he continued to be identified during the remainder of his active business career. Since 1894 he has lived retired, having an attractive home in Bethel and renting his farm to his son, as has already been stated in this context. He is known as a plain, unassuming citizen of sterling integrity of character and as one who has ever borne his share in connection with the work of material and social development and progress. His political support is given to the Republican party and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1861 Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Roser, who was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 1, 1833, and who came with her parents to Shelby county in the pioneer days, the family becoming members of the Bethel colony. Mr. and Mrs. Bower became the parents of four children, of whom three are living, Miranda, who is the wife of Henry Fox, of Bethel; John J., who resides on and rents the old homestead farm of his father; and Gideon, who likewise is a successful farmer of this county.

#### HARRY C. BAIR.

The able and popular postmaster of the village of Bethel is Harry C. Bair, who is a native son of Shelby county, where his grandfather, Reuben Bair, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, took up his abode in 1846, hav-

ing come hither from Stark county, Ohio. The postmaster is a son of Samuel J. Bair, who is the subject of a specific sketch on other pages of this volume, so that further reference to the family history is not demanded in this article.

Harry C. Bair was born in Bethel, this county, on October 15, 1875, and here he was reared to maturity, securing his early educational discipline in the public schools and assisting his father in his farming operations. At the age of twenty years he severed the home ties and during the ensuing five years he traveled about from place to place, principally in the west, for the sake of seeing the country, gaining experience, etc., the while he found employment at various occupations and defrayed his expenses, besides saving a portion of his earnings. In 1900 he returned to Bethel, and here he followed the carpenter's trade and house painting until July 1, 1907, when he received appointment to the office of Postmaster, under the administration of President Roosevelt. He has since continued incumbent of this position, has carefully handled the affairs of the office and has gained public commendation of an unequivocal type. He is well known in this part of the county and his friends are in number as his acquaintances. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican and he has been a zealous worker in the local camp of the "grand old party."

On August 30, 1908, Mr. Bair was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Ziegler, who was born and reared in Bethel and who is a daughter of William F. Ziegler, of this village.