

labored, and in consequence his services to the city and its people have been of a high order of excellence and fruitful for their good. He has studied conditions and requirements under many circumstances and is able to deduct the right measure of good from all for any particular necessity at home. And being engaged in construction work, he has also been in touch with the genius of improvement and learned just how men feel toward it in any given case. He has therefore been able to apply his own energy and capacity in this regard intelligently and by it lead up to good results. He is regarded as one of the best and most useful citizens of Hunnewell, for he is always alert to its substantial and enduring welfare and eager in his efforts to promote it.

In political faith Mr. Hickman is a firm Republican, standing by the principles of his party with unquestioning loyalty and supporting its candidates with all his power under all circumstances. In local affairs, however, his first consideration is the welfare of the community, whether the interests involved be those of the city or the county, and for their good he works incessantly without regard to partisan or personal claims. In fraternal life he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Masons. In these organizations he finds latitude for the exercise of his public spirit, and he gives it free rein in them to the end that the people around him derive the benefit of his activity. His religious affiliation is with the Christian church, and in that also he has long been active and effective as a worker and

wise and judicious as a counselor. He is a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants' Bank of Hunnewell and connected with other institutions of value in promoting the enduring welfare of Hunnewell and Shelby county, of which he is recognized as one of the leading and most influential citizens.

#### THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SHELBINA, MISSOURI.

This bank, which is one of the historic financial institutions of Shelby county, was founded on October 28, 1888, with a capital stock of \$30,000, all of which was paid in at once before the bank was opened for business. The officers at the beginning were: President, William H. Warren; vice-president, C. H. Lasley; cashier, John J. Bragg; directors, William H. Warren, C. H. Lasley, John J. Bragg, John J. Ellis, J. W. Thompson, S. G. Parsons, John T. Frederick, F. D. Crow and Thomas M. Sparks.

Mr. Warren served as president until July, 1890, when he was succeeded by S. G. Parsons, who served until February, 1894. John R. Lyell was then elected president, but in September, 1895, he resigned and was chosen cashier, J. W. Thompson succeeding him as president and serving as such until his death in 1898. Soon after the death of Mr. Thompson the bank went into liquidation. A reorganization was had in 1898, with J. William Towson as president. Mr. Towson retired in 1900 and J. R. Lyell, the present incumbent of the presidency, was chosen to succeed him.

The vice-presidents have also changed from time to time. Mr. Lasley served

but a short time and then gave way to J. W. Thompson, who held the office until 1895. B. F. Dobyms was also vice-president for a short time. He was succeeded by T. M. Sparks, who filled the office until his death in 1896. Then Martin S. Buckman was elected and he is still rendering valued service as vice-president.

The next cashier after Mr. Bragg was Alonzo W. Combs, who resigned soon after his election and was followed by John R. Lyell. The present cashier, Arthur E. Jones, began his term of service in 1900, and has filled the position continuously ever since. The officers of the bank at the time of this writing are: President, John R. Lyell; vice-president, Martin S. Buckman; cashier, Arthur E. Jones; directors, in addition to the above, J. R. Morgan, W. A. Maupin, W. B. Kendrick and Charles B. Martin. In 1908 the institution underwent another reorganization, raising its capital stock to \$40,000 in the new arrangement.

#### JOSEPH H. HICKMAN.

This venerable citizen of Shelby county, who has his home in Hunnewell, was born in the county on November 20, 1840, his life beginning in what is now Jackson township, and before the county was organized as a separate municipality in the state. It is easy to infer that if he came into being before Shelby county was organized his life began amidst the constant hazards, continual privations and hardships and arduous requirements of pioneer existence and his habits were formed and his faculties developed in accordance with the requirements of

such a state of life. In fact, he has shown throughout his long and useful career the qualities of self reliance, resourcefulness and readiness for any emergency that is born of the frontier, and his early training has been of the greatest service to him under circumstances far removed from the requirements of the pioneer life.

Mr. Hickman is a worthy scion of a family of military renown, his grandfather, William A. Hickman, having taken part in the War of 1812 and fought valiantly under General Jackson in the decisive contest against the flower of the British army at New Orleans, which quieted all objection to the dominion of the United States over the territory they had purchased from France, and convinced all beholders of the power of this nation to defend with the sword every domain it might acquire by diplomacy or purchase. The grandfather was a native of Alabama and became a resident of Missouri early in the 30's, locating in Marion county, where he passed the remainder of his days in farming and raising live stock.

Joseph H. Hickman is a son of David and Sinah (Davis) Hickman, the former born in Alabama in 1808, and the latter a native of Kentucky. They were married in 1828 and moved to Missouri in 1829, making their first home in this state in what is now Marion county. In 1830 the father bought a farm of 160 acres, within the present limits of Shelby county, but long before the county was organized. He and his young wife were among the first settlers of this portion of the state and shared with the few other hardy adventurers who started its redemption