

Robert H. Dunlap is a son of Robert and Isabella (Hutchinson) Dunlap, both born, reared and educated in Pennsylvania, and passing the whole of their lives among its people. They were useful and esteemed citizens of the state, industrious and frugal, and helpful in all that aided in the promotion of the substantial good of the community in which they lived. And when they passed over to the activities that know no weariness, their remains were laid to rest in the soil their labors had hallowed. The father was born and reared in Mercer county and followed farming all his life. He found a deposit of coal on his farm and became interested in coal mining in connection with his farming operations, making both profitable by industry and good business capacity. He and his wife were the parents of six children, four of whom are living: William P., of Butler county, Pennsylvania; Martha Jane, the wife of J. W. Everett, of Parker's Landing, in that state; and Robert H., the widely popular subject of this memoir, and Lewis M., of Grove City, Pennsylvania.

MATTHEW M. COX.

For a full quarter of a century Matthew M. Cox, of Hunnewell, has been connected with the mercantile life of that city, and during that period has risen from a very subordinate position in his line of effort to one of leadership, making the ascent by sheer merit and business capacity. He was born in our sister county of Monroe on March 15, 1861, and is a son of Samuel H. and Mary F. (Lasley) Cox, both of whom were born in Virginia, where their an-

cestors had lived and contributed to the welfare of the commonwealth for generations, the paternal grandfather, James A. Cox, having been an extensive planter and leading citizen in his part of the state, and later having followed the same pursuit and occupied a similar social and political rank of influence in Missouri.

The father of Mr. Cox came with his parents to this state in 1834, when he was but eight years old. He took his place in the wild life of the frontier as it was then and grew to manhood on his father's farm, which he helped to redeem from the wilderness and build up into fruitfulness and beauty, and secured what education he could in the district schools of the neighborhood. This was limited at the best, for the schools were primitive in appointments and course of instruction, and even such as they were he was able to attend them only during the winter months and then irregularly. After leaving school he turned his attention to farming and raising stock, in which he was engaged until 1888. He then quit farming and entered mercantile life in Hunnewell in partnership with his son, the firm name being S. H. Cox & Son. As a member of this firm he continued merchandising until his death, on February 19, 1898.

The father was married on November 7, 1857, to Miss Mary F. Lasley. They had five children, all of whom are living: James W., of Quincy, Illinois; Willie C., the wife of the late W. C. Blackburn, of Shelbina; Charles T. and Matthew M., of Hunnewell; and Alwilda, the wife of W. A. Vance, of Shelbina. In politics the father was a pronounced and unwavering Democrat, and in church relations

was allied with the Southern Methodists. He was serviceable to his party and took a warm and helpful interest in all the good works of his church. In all the relations of life he bore himself with manliness and uprightness, and on all sides he was esteemed as an excellent citizen, a good business man and a worthy representative of the best elements of the population of the county.

Matthew M. Cox grew to manhood on his father's farm in Monroe county, and, like most of the offspring of the plains, obtained his education in the public schools. After leaving school he remained with his parents and assisted them in the work of the farm until 1884, when he took a position as a clerk in a Hunnewell dry goods store belonging to an older brother. In November, 1885, he formed a partnership with W. C. Blackburn and together they started a grocery and grain business under the firm name of Blackburn & Cox. Mr. Cox has remained with this establishment through many changes in the firm and has at length become a stockholder in the co-operative concern known as the Hunnewell Mercantile Company, with which he is still actively connected.

From the dawn of his manhood he has taken an active and serviceable part in all matters of public improvement and helped to promote the usefulness of all moral and intellectual agencies at work in the community. He served as a member of the school board four years, and in many other ways has given the people around him the benefit of his enterprise and public spirit and the stimulus of his excellent example as a citizen. In politics he is a firm and faithful Democrat,

loyal to his party and serviceable in all its campaigns. For many years he has been a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and taken an active part in its work.

Mr. Cox was married in 1888 to Miss Anna M. Balliet, of Hunnewell. All of their six children are living. They are: Callie L., Pauline, Willie M., Henry Hollis, Pearl V. and Thomas Jay. They all live at home and contribute greatly toward making the household a popular resort for their hosts of friends and one of the social centers of the city. The father has helped to elevate and keep up the standard of the business life of the community by fair dealing and strict integrity in all his transactions. He has given light, animation and proper stimulus to its social activities, and he has been one of the prime factors in promoting its public interests and giving the spirit of improvement among its people proper trend and restraint. He stands high in the esteem of the whole county and well deserves the regard and good will bestowed upon him by all classes of its citizens.

CHARLES T. COX.

This leading business man and eminent citizen of Hunnewell is a brother of Matthew M. Cox, a sketch of whom, containing the family history, will be found elsewhere in this work. He was born in Monroe county, Missouri, on June 20, 1859, and is a son of Samuel H. and Mary F. (Lasleg) Cox, natives of Virginia and early settlers in Missouri. His education was obtained in the public schools in the neighborhood of his father's farm.

Monroe county, on which he lived until 1879. He was then twenty years old, but felt impelled by a strong sense of duty to take up the battles of life for himself, and in obedience to this feeling he took up his residence in Hunnewell, determined to make his own way in the world without waiting for fortune to smile on him or circumstances to favor his aspiration.

For eight years thereafter he hauled lumber in connection with W. C. Blackburn, encountering the rage of the elements on many occasions and cheerfully enduring all the hardships incident to his occupation. He made the business pay and took good care of his earnings, showing then, as he has shown ever since, a commendable frugality and thrift in connection with his admirable industry. In 1887 he gave up the line of effort in which he had been successfully engaged for eight years and returned to the family homestead, on which he carried on extensive operations in farming and raising live stock during the next nine years.

Neither teaming nor farming was exactly suited to his taste, however, and so, in 1898, he gave the impulses within him free rein and followed their demands by moving to Hunnewell and engaging in mercantile life. To this end he bought the interest of C. L. Landrum in the grocery business of which his brother Matthew was a partner. They conducted the business together until 1902, when their establishment became a part of the cooperative concern known to the world as the Hunnewell Mercantile Company, in which he is still one of the leading factors. His business life among this people has been successful in a material way,

but it has been more. It has helped to hold up the good name of the mercantile interests of the city to credit and high standing in the business world all around the town and throughout a large extent of the surrounding country, and has given an example in mercantile life worthy of all imitation because of its uprightness, enterprise and real manliness without regard to circumstances.

Mr. Cox has also been active and serviceable in the public affairs of the community. He has ever shown a cordial and intelligent interest in the welfare of the community and intense activity in promoting it. No move for the substantial and enduring good of the city has lacked the aid of his energetic mind or the directing force of his skillful hand, and the people appreciate his services in their behalf as those of one of their leading and most intelligent citizens. He is now serving them well as one of the aldermen of the city, a position in which his loyalty to the community and devotion to its lasting good have full scope for exercise to the advantage of the municipality and all the people living within its limits.

On December 20, 1879, Mr. Cox was joined in marriage with Miss Lillie Jane Davis, of Hunnewell. They have had six children and all of them are living. They are: Nellie Leone, the wife of Thomas Hawkins, of Shelbina; Ethel, the wife of Samuel Haskett, of this county; Samuel C., a resident of Hunnewell; Elizabeth, now Mrs. J. C. Maupin, of Enterprise, Shelby county; John H. and Edward, both living at home. In politics the father is a Democrat. In fraternal life he is connected with the Modern Wood-

men of America and in religious affiliation he is allied with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in which he is an active and zealous worker.

On the soil of Missouri and amid its mercantile interests Mr. Cox has exemplified the traits of character and elements of elevated manhood that gave his ancestors prominence and influence in the "Old Dominion" for generations. He has been sedulous in industry, upright in conduct and enterprising in all personal and public affairs. And as no example of worth and potency is ever lost on the American people, he is esteemed in the community which has witnessed and had the benefits of his earnestness and zeal as one of its best and most serviceable citizens. In business, in social relations and in domestic life he has met every requirement of upright and serviceable living, and in public affairs he has been both a stimulus and a sedative, inciting his fellow citizens to all good works for the advantage of the community and restraining them from all excesses in the exercise of their enterprise. The community is indebted to him for wise counsel and productive energy, and also for prudent guidance and conservative force, and it esteems him accordingly.

CHARLES A. HICKMAN.

A scion of valiant ancestry and filled with the spirit of American patriotism, Charles A. Hickman, of Hunnewell, has exploited in the pursuits of peaceful industry the attributes of exalted manhood that have distinguished other members of his family on the field of carnage and helped to give American citizenship its

standing in the estimation of the world., His grandfather, William A. Hickman, fought under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in one of the decisive battles of the world's history, where native courage and love of liberty were matched and won against splendid discipline and the heroism of ten thousand sanguinary conflicts.

Mr. Hickman was born in Shelby county on December 7, 1873, and began his education in the public schools of Hunnewell, which he completed at the Christian University at Canton, Missouri, where he was a student in 1892 and 1893. He is a son of Joseph H. and Fannie (Reid) Hickman, the former a native of Alabama and the latter of Shelby county. A brief account of their lives will be found elsewhere in this volume. After leaving school the son entered the employ of W. Stoddard, a railway contractor of St. Paul, Minnesota, with whom he worked until 1905. He then passed one year in Chicago, and since that time has been continuously connected with the contracting firm of C. H. Sharp & Co. Construction work has engaged his attention from the dawn of his manhood until the present time except for two years, when he was engaged in farming in the Indian Territory. It will be easily inferred from the story of his life as outlined above that he has had a great variety of experiences and has mingled with men under vastly differing circumstances. His opportunities of observation have been extensive and have presented a wide expanse in phases of human life. He has profited by them to his own advantage and that of the community in which he has so long lived and