

## THOMAS W. FORMAN.

In section 5, Black Creek township, is located the fine farm property of this representative exponent of the agricultural industry in his native county, where he has ever held a secure place in popular confidence and esteem. He is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of Shelby county, and he is one of the loyal sons of the state who went forth in defense of the Union when its integrity was menaced by armed rebellion.

Thomas W. Forman was born on the parental homestead farm, in Taylor township, this county, on December 15, 1844, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Mary (Bowling) Forman, honored pioneers, concerning whom duly specific mention is made in the sketch of the career of their elder son, John Forman, on other pages of this work, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present connection. Thomas W. Forman was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days and contributed his quota to the work of the home farm, the while he received such limited educational advantages as were offered in the somewhat primitive district schools of the locality and period. He was about seventeen years of age at the inception of the Civil war, and his youthful patriotism prompted him to make definite response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. At Palmyra, Marion county, in October, 1861, Mr. Forman enlisted as a private in Company F, Third Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, under command of Gen. John M. Glover. He continued in active service with this gallant regiment until victory had crowned the Union

arms and peace had been declared: His command was assigned to the Army of the Red River, and with the same he participated in many engagements in Missouri and Arkansas, including the battle of Little Rock. He was mustered out in the city of St. Louis in the fall of 1865, and duly received his honorable discharge, having proved a valiant and faithful soldier of the republic and made an excellent record during his long years of service.

After the close of his military career the young soldier returned to his native county, where he farmed on rented land until he was able to make investment in land of his own. In 1867 he purchased sixty acres in section 5, Black Creek township, and from this modest nucleus, through his own well-directed efforts and careful business methods, he has evolved a fine landed estate of 880 acres, constituting one of the best farm properties in the county, as he has made the best of improvements on the same and has manifested much judgment in the handling of all departments of the farm work. Mr. Forman is thus one of the extensive and substantial agriculturists of his native county, and he has made a specialty of the raising of high-grade live stock and in the buying and shipping of cattle, horses and mules, in which connection he has built up a flourishing enterprise, particularly in the handling of mules, of which he keeps an average of fifty head, being a successful breeder as well as dealer.

It is naturally to be presupposed that a citizen who has been so enterprising and successful in connection with his private interests should also take a loyal

concern in all that tends to advance the material and civic welfare of the community, and in this respect Mr. Forman is essentially progressive and public spirited. He is a stalwart in the local camp of the Democratic party, but the only office in which he has consented to serve is that of school director, of which he was incumbent for a number of years. He and his wife hold membership in the Christian church.

On December 18, 1873, Mr. Forman was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Mayes, who was born, reared and educated in this county, being a daughter of James and Louisa Mayes. Mr. and Mrs. Forman have four children, namely: Ella, who is the wife of Joseph Van Skike, of Shelby county; Benjamin F., who is associated in the work and management of the home farm, and Alice and Marvin.

#### HUGO POWELL.

This esteemed citizen of Shelbina, who has recently moved to that city after farming and raising live stock in Shelby county with great industry and a gratifying measure of success for a period of over thirty-four years, is a native of Germany, and was born in the city of Breslau in that country on May 20, 1827. Before he was a year old his parents, Arthur and Laura (Frost) Powell, also natives of Germany, emigrated to the United States and located in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. There the father worked at his trade as a brewer until 1848, when he returned to his native land, where he died in 1852. He and his wife were the parents of two children, of whom Hugo

is the only one living. The mother died in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, in 1847, and the year following the father took her remains back to Germany.

He obtained a limited public school education in the schools of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and after leaving school went to the city of New York, where he served as a cash boy in a store five years. In 1853 he enlisted in Company F, Sixth New York Regular Cavalry, under the command of General Scott. While in the military service under this enlistment he learned the trade of clothing cutter. But he was devoted to the Union and found a charm in military life which had not been fully dispelled by his short term in the army. He therefore enlisted again in 1861, at the very beginning of the Civil war, becoming a member of Company F, Excelsior Brigade, New York, which was commanded by Colonel Sickles, who later became one of the distinguished generals of the Union army and lost one of his limbs in the deluge of death at Gettysburg. Mr. Powell served in this brigade eighteen months, then received a serious injury by falling off a bridge while doing duty as a picket during the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia. This incapacitated him for further military service, and he was honorably discharged from the army on August 28, 1862, in the city of Philadelphia.

His next move in life was to work at his trade as a clothing cutter, which he followed for five years in New York city. At the end of that period he came West and located for a short time at Beloit, Wisconsin, and there he was engaged in merchant tailoring and dealing in gents' furnishings for three years.