

be ground, while two men would go in charge of the grist. Later a mill was established half a mile from the home of the Stevens family and operated by horse power. This was considered quite a luxury, being a great saving of time and travel.

Upon approaching manhood young Stevens began making arrangements for a home of his own, and in 1837 took unto himself a wife and helpmate, Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Rountree. This lady was born in Ohio and removed with her parents to Indiana when a girl. She lived at home until her marriage with our subject, which took place near Crawfordsville, Ind. Prior to and for some time after his marriage Mr. Stevens engaged as teacher in Illinois and Indiana, covering a period of fifteen years. He met with success as an instructor and was proffered the professorship of a seminary in Missouri. On account of the outbreak of the Rebellion he declined, feeling it his duty to assist in the preservation of the Union. He raised a company in Catlin, of which he was to have been Captain, but upon reporting to the Governor under the call for 75,000 men, the quota was found to be full and they were not accepted.

Mr. Stevens now turned his attention to agriculture and purchased his present farm of eighty acres, where he took up his abode and has since resided. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, namely: Charles Fremont, Winfield S. and Jessie F. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens are members of the North Street Methodist Episcopal Church at Danville, and our subject politically is a strong Republican. Upon becoming a voting citizen he joined the Democratic party, but in 1856, finding his party had violated their professed principles, he wheeled into the Republican ranks the year of their organization, voted for John C. Fremont, and has since labored for the success of Republican principles. He takes a warm interest in educational matters and keeps himself well posted upon topics of general interest.

The parents of our subject were James and Susannah (Thomas) Stevens, the father a native of Kentucky and the mother born in Knox County, E. Tenn., in the old fort of historic fame. The paternal grandfather, Solomon Stevens, was born in England, and when coming to America settled

in one of the Carolinas, whence he removed later to Kentucky and finally came to Illinois in 1826 in company with his son James. They settled near Brooks' Point, and Grandfather Stevens lived to be seventy years old. James Stevens was seventy-six years old at the time of his death, and his wife, Susannah, was seventy-three. The latter was of German descent and was an offshoot of the family of the Union General, George H. Thomas, who distinguished himself during the late war. Grandfather Stevens was an own cousin to Alexander Stevens of Georgia, and one of the noted Confederate leaders. Both father and grandfather served in the war of 1812. James Stevens was then only a boy and could only enter the army under his father's permission. They fought side by side in the same company. The parental household included nine children, namely: Lovina, William, Polly A., James H., Henderson P., John, Sarah F., Nancy and Samuel.



**JOHN R. KINSEY.** The community of Oakwood Township recognizes in the subject of this notice one of its most useful and worthy citizens, a man liberal and public spirited, one who gives generously to his church (the United Brethren), in which he is a Class Leader and Steward and an active worker in the Sunday-school, and who in all the walks of life strives to make the best of circumstances and follow that line of conduct by which he may be enabled to leave a good record for his children to look upon in future years. Conservative in politics, he was first identified with the Old Line Whigs and upon the abandonment of that party by the organization of the Republicans, he identified himself with the latter in whose principles he thoroughly believes and votes accordingly. His occupation is that of a farmer, and he operates forty acres of good land on section 23, also owning fifty-seven acres in Catlin Township. He has neat and substantial modern buildings and a comfortable home, built up by his own energy and industry.

The native place of our subject was a few miles