

CLARK B. HINES.

Among the prominent representatives of professional life of Bellville is Clark B. Hines, a leading attorney. He was born February 6, 1860, in the house in which he yet resides, his parents being Benjamin F. and Mary J. (Armstrong) Hines. He represents an old southern family, his grandfather, Phillip Hines, having been born in Maryland, whence he came to Ohio at an early day, settling near Palmyra on the Fredericktown road. He was a farmer by occupation and died at an advanced age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lydia Root, also belonged to a prominent family living near Hagerstown, Maryland. Their son, Benjamin F. Hines, was born in Richland county, September 26, 1829, on his father's farm three miles south of the present home of his son Clark, and died in Bellville, March 23, 1893. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Mary J. Armstrong, who was born in this county, four miles south of Bellville on the old state road, and is still living, her home being in this city with her son Clark. She is a daughter of Isaac Armstrong, who removed from Maryland to the Buckeye state and became identified with agricultural pursuits in Richland county. In 1850 Benjamin F. Hines removed to Bellville, where he engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes until 1881, when he retired to private life. He was very successful in his business undertakings and deserved great credit for his prosperity, for it was due entirely to his own labors. In addition to his store he owned valuable farming lands. In politics he was an active Democrat and held various township and municipal offices, while fraternally he was connected with Bellville Lodge, No. 376, F. & A. M., and the I. O. O. F. lodge of Bellville, No. 306. In the family were two sons and one daughter, but Clark B. is the only one living, the others dying in childhood.

Amid the refining influences of a good home Clark B. Hines was reared and in the public schools he acquired his education. He early became familiar with the work of his father's shoe shop and when only ten years of age made a pair of shoes. He worked in the shop at various intervals, his labors there being alternated with pursuance of his studies. His preliminary studies were supplemented by a course in the high school at Mansfield and subsequently at a college in Cleveland, Ohio. The following years he succeeded his father as the proprietor of the boot and shoe store in Bellville and managed that enterprise with good success until 1899, when he sold out.

In the meantime he took up the study of law, beginning his reading in 1885. As opportunity offered he devoted his time to the mastery of the principles of jurisprudence under the direction of Hon. C. E. McBride, of Mansfield, and in March, 1897, was admitted to the Ohio bar. He has elegantly furnished offices in Bellville and a good law library, and has a large practice in Richland, Morrow and Knox counties, and is a member of the federal bar. He is a member of the county, the state, the American and International Law Associations. He carefully prepares his cases and protects every point of attack. He is keen to note the salient features in a suit, and, while neglecting not the slightest details, gives due prominence to the important points upon which the case finally turns. From his father he inherited three good farms in Richland county and he personally superintends his property interests. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat, and from 1890 until 1894 he served as the mayor of Bellville, discharging his duties in a very capable manner, his administration being practical and business-like and proving of marked benefit to the city.