

One of this old Indian fighting pioneer's sons, John Jay HAWKINS, the founder of the family in Jay county, was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, September 25, 1789, and was named in honor of John Jay who in that same year was appointed by Washington the first chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and in whose honor also Jay county was given its name, the only county in the United States thus named. John Jay HAWKINS was but a lad when he moved with his parents from Kentucky to Ohio and he grew up amid pioneer conditions in what later came to be organized as Preble county, his schooling thus having been so much neglected that he did not acquire the ability to read and write until after his marriage to Nancy SELLERS, who taught him these accomplishments. She also was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, and was a daughter of Nathan SELLERS, a Revolutionary soldier who had emigrated to that section but who became a pioneer of Ohio in 1809. During the war of 1812 John Jay HAWKINS served as a lieutenant in the army and later served as sheriff of Preble county. He became a man of affairs in that county and remained there until early in 1829 when he moved with his family into what then was a wilderness over in this part of Indiana, having previously selected a site for his new home on the banks of the Little Salamonie, south of where Portland seven years later was laid out when the county came to be organized. It was on March 8, 1829, that he and his wife and their six children arrived at this site after the toilsome trip along the inadequate trails of the period. During that summer the family lived in what the pioneers called a "half-faced camp," but before fall had a stout log cabin erected and were snugly ensconce before the hard winter came. All hands pitched in and presently a clearing was effected and the making of a farm was under way. Game was plentiful and there was no lack of meat, while the sale of furs to the traders kept up the supply of such money as was needed. It was while hanging for dressing the carcass of a deer that John Jay HAWKINS came to his untimely end, the carcass falling upon him and inflicting such injuries that he died from their effect on March 15, 1832, a little more than three years after his arrival here, and he was the first white person buried here. His widow survived until 1868. They were the parents of six children, four sons, Samuel, Nathan B., Benjamin W. (who became agent for Jay county at the time of its organization, as is set out elsewhere) and Joseph C., and two daughters, Avaline, who married James SIMMONS, and Caroline, who married B. W. CLARK, whose descendants in the present generation form a numerous connection. Nathan Byrd HAWKINS, the second son of this pioneer family, was born in Preble county, Ohio, October 24, 1812, and was thus sixteen years of age when he came over here into the Salamonie country with his parents in 1829. He took an active part in the work of clearing and developing the home place and also found time, as has been noted, to "show land to strangers," thus becoming the first real estate agent and business man of the pioneer community. After awhile, in order to gratify his inclination for a business career, he went to Richmond and became a clerk in Elijah Coffin's store, later becoming engaged in business on his own account at Milton. In the meantime he had attracted the attention of John

S. Newman, one of Indiana's leading lawyers*of the period, who advised him to take up the study of law. In 1839 he returned to Jay county and began the practice of law at Portland, which had been created the county seat three years before. Three years later, in 1842, he was elected to represent this dis~id in the state Legislature and in 1850 was elected delegate to the State constitutional convention from the district comprised of the counties of Randolph, Jay and Blackford. Upon the creation of the court of common pleas in 1852 he was elected judge of that court, this judicial district comprising the counties of Blackford and Jay, and was serving in that judicial .capacity at the time of his death on October 18, 1853. As has been noted in the introduction to this review Judge Nathan B. HAWKINS took an active part in the general business affairs of the community and as a private banker afforded to the pioneers their first banking facilities. Judge HAWKINS married Rebecca SHANKS, who was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1818, and who had become a resident of this county when her parents, John and Mary SHANKS, settled here in pioneer days. Of the children born to Judge HAWKINS and wife, six grew to maturity, namely: John Jay, whose last days were spent in Washington, where for years he was engaged in 'the Government service; lane C., who married David VanCleve BAKER, in his day one of the leading lawyers of this part of Indiana; Helen H., who married Isaac A. GRIFFITH, in his day one of the leading merchants of this county; Rachel A., who married Norton A. MEEKER, a former merchant of Portland; Sarah G., who married Benjamin F. FULTON, also a Portland merchant, of whom further mention is made elsewhere, and Nathan B., Jr. Judge HAWKINS was a charter member and first worshipful master of Jay lodge, No. 87, F. and A. M., and his was the first Masonic funeral held in this county. The second Nathan Byrd HAWKINS was born in Portland on January 1, 1853, and was less than-one year old when his father died. He completed his schooling in old Liber College and in the Indianapolis high school and when nineteen years of age became engaged in the lumber business at Portland, but presently disposed of that business and in 1875 assisted in the organization of the Citizens Bank at that place, of which concern he was made assistant cashier and with which he continued actively connected the remainder of his life, thus early becoming one of the leaders in the commercial life of Portland and of this county, a promoter of the best interests of this region until his death. During the days of the natural gas "boom" here he was president of the Portland Gas, Oil and Mining Company, and did much toward the development of the industries dependent upon natural gas hereabout. In 1906 he was elected state senator from this district and served in .the Senate during the sessions of 1907 and 1909. His death occurred on February 20, 1911. Senator Nathan B. HAWKINS married Genevra I. JAQUA, daughter of James B. JAQUA, banker and lawyer, of Portland, and of whom further mention is made elsewhere, and to this union were born three children, Estella, Morton S. and Zillah Pearl. As noted above, Senator HAWKINS was the first to use the firm name of N. B. HAWKINS and Company, which was later Changed to the HAWKINS Mortgage

Company, now one of the leading financial concerns in the Middle West and whose business is carried on under the general direction of the Senator's son, Morton S. HAWKINS, president of the company, who continues to make his home in Portland, direct descendant in the fourth generation of John Jay HAWKINS, the founder of the family in Indiana, and third in descent from Judge Nathan B. HAWKINS, "the first business man in Jay county." Morton S. HAWKINS was born in Portland on February 12, 1881, and attended school there up to the eighth year when he was sent to the Jesuit Fathers school at old Albuquerque, N. M. After a season's attendance there he entered the West Texas Military Academy at San Antonio, where he was in attendance for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Indiana and entered the Law School of Indianapolis University at Indianapolis, from which he was graduated in 1903 with the degree of L.L.B. For twelve years Mr. HAWKINS continued his residence in Indianapolis, practicing his profession first in association with Pierre Gray and then for a time in association with Arthur W. Brady, general counsel for the Union Traction Company. He then formed an association for practice with Merrill Moores, present member of Congress from the Seventh Indiana district, and was for seven years thus associated, or until his return to Portland. While living at Indianapolis Mr. HAWKINS promoted the organization of the Beech Grove Traction Company and was otherwise active in the general affairs of the city. It was in 1912, following the death of his father and the reorganization of the latter's extensive business interests, that Mr. HAWKINS returned to Portland to take direction of the affairs of N. B. HAWKINS & Company, of which he had been elected president. In 1919 this company was reorganized as the HAWKINS Mortgage Company, capital stock \$1,500,000, and Morton S. HAWKINS has continued to serve as president of the company. In 1913, the year after he entered upon the general direction of the affairs of this financial concern, Mr. HAWKINS spent nearly a year in Europe, investigating in England, Belgium, France and Germany the methods of handling small loans on personal property. About that same time the Russel Sage Foundation started an agitation in the United States to reform the small loan business and outlaw the "loan shark". Through this movement laws were passed in many states fixing a reasonable monthly rate of interest and I-ensive regulating such business and subjecting it to state examination. After this form of business thus had been placed on an equitable basis the HAWKINS institution called in a staff of experts and perfected plans for the establishment of welfare loan institutions in every city of over 20,000 population in the country. This work is now well under way, the HAWKINS Mortgage Company's mutual system of Welfare Loan Societies now having no fewer than twenty nine branches, operating in eleven states. In addition to his activities as the head of this growing institution Mr. HAWKINS has, since his return to Portland in 1912, organized and promoted no fewer than ten state banks and trust companies in the states of Indiana and Ohio. He also maintains a close interest in various local industrial and commercial enterprises and was actively instrumental in the establishment of the Portland

Republican, a daily newspaper started in 1913, and is a member of the board of directors of the company which publishes the newspaper. Mr. HAWKINS is a Scottish Rite (32) Mason, affiliated with the local lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons at P'ortland and with the consistory at Fort Wayne, and is also a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Murat temple at Indianapolis. On February II, 1922, at Atlanta,

Morton Sevier HAWKINS was united in marriage to Fannie Lamar MANLEY, of that city, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. MANLEY and a member of the well known Lamar, Doughty and Manley families of Georgia. The marriage, it was announced, was the culmination of a romantic meeting of Miss Manley and Mr. HAWKINS in London during the preceding summer, the former having made the European trip during that summer with her grandmother, Mrs. Charles L. GATELEY. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.33-38 Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.