

MICHAEL HECKMAN, a prominent citizen and successful merchant of St. Thomas, is a son of John and Catherine (Dice) Heckman, and was born April 22, 1855, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. The Heckman family is of German descent, and Michael Heckman's great-grandfather, Philip Heckman, was an early settler of Westmoreland county. He married Maria Iseman, of Armstrong county, and had a family of nine children. One of his sons, Michael Heckman (grandfather), was born in Westmoreland county in 1800. His son, John Heckman (father), was born August 24, 1828 (see his sketch)⁹. In early manhood he followed farming, but during the latter part of his life has been successfully engaged in the general mercantile business at Elderton. He is a consistent member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, a thorough-going business man and a strong democrat. He married Catherine Dice, daughter of John and Catherine (Sipes) Dice. They have had five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest.

Michael Heckman was reared on his father's farm, and at Elderton, and received a good common-school education. Leaving school, he assisted his father on the farm and in the store until 1881, when he engaged, at St. Thomas, in the mercantile business for himself, as junior member of the firm of Hileman & Heckman. In the same year he purchased Mr. Hileman's interest, and formed a partnership with his brothers, Harvey and t. M. Heckman, under the firm-name of Heckman bros. His brother Harvey dying, he and his brother T. M. have continued in the mercantile business at St. Thomas until the present time. They have invested some ten thousand dollars in their business, and have one of the largest stocks of general merchandise in that section of the county. Their store-room is commodious and convenient for the display of their choice and well-assorted stock of dry-goods, groceries, hardware, clothing and notions which are necessary to accommodate their patrons. In addition to his mercantile interests Mr. Heckman owns a large amount of valuable farming land in Plum Creek township, which is worth several thousand dollars. He has acquired what he owns by his own efforts and judicious management, and never received any material aid from any one.

On April 1, 1885, he married Mary Thomas, the fourth daughter of Johnson and Mary Thomas, of Plum Creek township. To Mr. and Mrs. Heckman have been born four children: Maud E., born April 3, 1885; Vernie B., born May 1, 1886, and died Dec. 27, 1887; Selah O., born July 13, 1887; and John C., born June 19, 1889.

In politics Mr. Heckman is an active democrat, and has held the offices of overseer of the poor, and auditor and inspector of elections. He is an elder of the Lutheran church at St. Thomas, and a member of the Elderton Conclave, No. 1105, Royal Arcanum. Michael Heckman is widely known as an honest, reliable business man, full of enterprise and energy.