

**THOMAS HOWARD.** The Howard family, of Howard County, as its name indicates, is of English descent. Its ancestry leads back to Thomas Howard, earl of Surry, and third duke of Norfolk, an eminent statesman and soldier of the time of Henry VIII, who distinguished himself in the battle of Flodden. Benjamin Howard, a descendant of his, who settled in Virginia, in about 1660, was the founder of the family in this country. He left two sons - Thomas and Henry. Henry went to Baltimore, Md., and from him descended John Eager Howard, a distinguished soldier in the revolutionary war, and afterwards governor of Maryland, and United States senator from that state. Thomas Howard remained in Virginia, and of his family came Gen. Benjamin Howard, of Kentucky, a member of congress, governor of the territory of Louisiana, and a brigadier-general in the United States army. Branches of the Virginia Howards also settled in South Carolina and Ohio. Tilghman A. Howard, a member of congress from the former state, and William Howard, a member from the latter, were representatives of these branches. Thomas Howard, the subject of this sketch, a leading citizen of Howard County, comes of the Kentucky branch. His father, Matthew Howard, who served in the war of 1812, son of Benjamin Howard, and brother to the mother of Judge Tolson, of this county, was born in Madison County, Ky., February 16, 1794. In 1816, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Tolson, then a young lady of Kentucky, but born in Virginia, in 1796. They had five children, of whom Thomas Howard, of this county, was the eldest. In 1819, the parents with their children immigrated to Howard County, and here, thirty-two years afterwards, in October, 1851, the father died, the mother following her husband in death in 1862. Matthew Howard was a man of strong character and superior intelligence, and although averse to public life, he was a recognized leader of the men among whom he lived; and when he died he left an honorable name behind him. Thomas Howard was born November 16, 1817, also in Madison County, Ky. he was therefore, but one year old when his father came to this county. His father being a farmer, he was brought up to that occupation, which he has ever since followed. In 1844, he settled on the place where he now lives, which embraces a tract of sixteen hundred acres of the best quality of land. His farm is one of the well improved farms of the county. Mr. Howard was married January 11, 1844, to Miss Elizabeth Shields, who was born and brought up in this county, a daughter of Frank Shields, who came to Howard County in 1819. Nine children are now living of this union - Mary E., Benjamin, Matthew, Sallie, James, Joseph, Thomas, Nellie and Paul. He has been a member of the Baptist church for many years, and not only as a church member, but as a neighbor and citizen he stands as well as any man in the county. Mr. Howard, although well qualified for any public position where sober good sense and sound judgment are required, has no political ambition, being content to live a quiet, honorable and Christian life, surrounded by a family where his whole heart abides, enjoying the friendship of neighbors and the confidence of all who know him.