

HARDWICK MARK K  
Form 4  
February 05, 2013

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
HARDWICK MARK K

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
[FRME]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
200 E JACKSON STREET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/05/2013

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Chief Financial Officer / Executive Vice President

(Street)  
MUNCIE, IN 47305

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction Number	5.	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	Security (Instr. 5)
Phantom Stock	(1)	02/05/2013	A	41	(1)	(1)	Common Stock 41 \$ 15.23

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships		
	Director	10% Owner	Officer
HARDWICK MARK K 200 E JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305			Chief Financial Officer
			Executive Vice President

## Signatures

Jennifer Mainord (Confirming Statement on File)

02/05/2013

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Each share of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of FRME common stock. The shares of phantom stock will be settled in cash or shares of FRME common stock, at the reporting person's election, upon separation from First Merchants.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.