

HISTORY OF
HOUSTON COUNTY
MINNESOTA

EDITED BY
FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ILLUSTRATED

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H. C. COOPER, JR. & CO.
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FOREWORD

The aim of this work is to present in an available form the facts which the average citizen desires to know about those events of the past that have been important in making the county what it is today. To the recital of these events have been added the biographies of former and present citizens, giving a closer insight into the lives and work of the prominent actors in the events here depicted.

No two editors would select the same material for a county history, opinions as to what such a work should consist of are varied. But we believe that we have selected such material as will prove of the greatest value and the greatest interest to the greatest number of people.

In compiling this material, the publishers have drawn freely upon the History of Houston County, published by the Minneapolis Historical Co. in 1882. Gathered nearly forty years ago, there is much information therein that is not to be obtained elsewhere at the present day. Two notable publications which should be read supplementary to this present work are the History of Portland Prairie by H. V. Arnold (printed and published by the author in Larimore, B. D., in 1911); and The Yucatan Valley in the Early Days, by Samuel B. McIntire (published in the Houston Sentinel in 1901, and reprinted in book form the same year).

Other sources of information have been the local records of county, villages, towns, churches, and organizations, the publications of the state and of the Minnesota Historical Society, and the files of the Houston County and La Crosse newspapers.

It has been deemed wise not to make any attempt at this time to publish the War History of the county, notable though that record has been. The Civil War record of the country has already been well covered in other works. The history of the part the county played in the World War is being prepared by a commission appointed by the Governor, and will be published by the state when complete, making it inadvisable to attempt at this time to print what is as yet gathered in but fragmentary form.

Those whose names appeared on the prospectus, and whose encouragement has been an inspiration from the start are: L. L. Duxbury, Robert D. Sprague, Moses Emery, J. C. Kelly, W. D. Belden, J. P. Lommen, Frances Lapham, Dr. D. C. Rhines, Rev. Father M. Borresch, E. K. Roverud and Rev. Alfred O. Johnson. The various county officers have also rendered much assistance.

To these people, and to all others, who by their interest, support and encouragement, have made the work possible, not only the publishers and

the editor, but also the citizens of the county, now and in future years, owe a debt of gratitude.

That the history is faultless, we do not presume. It is probably not within the power of man to arrange a work of this kind without many mistakes of one sort or another. That it will meet with unqualified approval we dare not hope. But we believe that the merits and value of such a work overbalance the inevitable shortcomings, and we are assured that the work will increase in value with the passing of the years.

Our association with the people of Houston County has been a pleasant one. We have conscientiously performed our task, and in placing the history in the hands of those whom it most concerns, our hope is that we have done our work well.

H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

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CHAPTER I

MINNESOTA

Minnesota derives its name from the river named "Minisota," by the Dakotas, pronounced "Min-nee-sotah" (Mini, water; sota, turbid or cloudy or poetically, sky colored). To secure the correct pronounciation in English letters, the convention called at Stillwater, in 1848, to secure a territorial organization, instructed their delegates to see that the name of the Territory was written Min-ne-sota.

Minnesota occupies the exact center of North America. The State is bounded on the south by Iowa, on the west by South and North Dakota, on the north by Manitoba and Ontario, and on the east by Wisconsin. It extends from latitude 43 degrees 30 minutes to 49 degrees 24 minutes, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes to 97 degrees 15 minutes west longitude. It is about 400 miles long and from its most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles wide.

In area Minnesota is the tenth State of the Union. It contains 84,287 square miles, or about 53,943,379 acres, of which 3,608,012 acres are water. The headwaters of three great river systems are found in its limits, those of streams flowing northward to Hudson Bay, eastward to the Atlantic ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico. About half of this surface, on the south and west, consists of rolling prairie. The rest, embracing the elevated district west and north of Lake Superior, has rich mineral ranges. Throughout most of the timbered sections are fertile valleys and broad trenches of flat and slightly rolling tillable lands.

But few states are so well watered as Minnesota. Its navigable rivers are the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the Rainy River, the St. Louis, the Red River of the North, and the Red Lake River, all of which, near their sources, have extensive water powers. The smaller streams include the Rum River and Snake River, the Cannon and Zumbro rivers, the Vermillion, Crow, Blue Earth, Des Moines, Cottonwood, Chippewa, Le Sueur, Root, Elk and Sauk rivers. These with their tributaries and a host of lesser streams penetrate every portion of the State.

Within the State there are about ten thousand lakes, the largest of which is Red Lake, in the extreme central northern part of the State. On the same northern slope, in St. Louis county, is the beautiful Vermilion lake, with its tributaries. Bordering on the northeast corner of the State for one hundred and fifty miles, the waters of the great Lake Superior wash its shores. On the southern slope of the State is Itasca lake, the source of the Mississippi, with Cass lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Leech lake, and other innumerable lakes, all adding volume to the water of the Mississippi, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Then we have Mille Lacs, the source of Rum River, and the picturesque Lake Minnetonka. These are the largest lakes in the State.

The shore of Lake Superior is the lowest land in the State, 602 feet above sea level. The waters of the northeastern part of the State south of the Mesabi iron range flow into Lake Superior, and are carried to the Atlantic ocean. The Mississippi river, having its chief source in Lake Itasca, at 1,466 feet elevation, runs in a southerly direction, leaving the State at 620 feet above sea level.

The Red River of the North, rising in the north, near Itasca lake, at a height of 1,600 feet above the ocean, leaves the State at an elevation of 750 feet. The average elevation of the State is given at about 1,275 feet. The highest elevation is the Misquah hills, in Cook county, 2,230 feet.

Minnesota has an annual mean temperature of 44 degrees, while its mean summer temperature is 70 degrees, the same as that of middle Illinois and Ohio, southern Pennsylvania, etc. Its high latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer than states further south, and during the growing season there are two and one-half hours more sunshine than in the latitude of Cincinnati. The winters are not severe. The rainfall in summer is abundant. In every way the climate of Minnesota is ideal.

The great and prosperous commonwealth now known as the State of Minnesota, at one time formed part of three great sovereignties: France, Spain and Great Britain. At different periods sections of it bore the names of the Northwest Territory, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and finally "Minnesota."

The economic, political and institutional life of Minnesota can be traced back to the brilliant period of Louis XIV of France and the French conquest of the territory furnishes one of the most fascinating chapters in American history. Whether this was effected by devoted priests under the direction of various religious orders or by intrepid adventurers encouraged in their undertakings by officials of the French government, makes little difference. The French were the pioneers in the development of the Northwest fur trade and it was the discovery of potential wealth in the large number of fur bearing animals in the territory that offered a promising field for white adventurous spirits from the settlements along the St. Lawrence River.

Thus it was that in 1655 two of these traders, now indisputably identified as Medard Chouart, Sieur de Groseilliers and Pierre d'Esprit, Sieur de Radisson, reached Minnesota, having crossed Wisconsin to the Mississippi River and after two years' sojourn returned to Montreal laden with valuable pelts. They were the first white men to visit Minnesota.

Thereafter the possibilities of great wealth in the vast empire beyond the Great Lakes became known and the commercial life of Minnesota may well be said to have commenced in the seventeenth century.

In 1679 Daniel Greysolon DuLhut (Duluth), a French officer, explored the region along the shores of Lake Superior and inland to Mille Lacs lake where he held council with the Indians and during the following summer journeyed to the Mississippi River where he met Father Louis Hennepin, a missionary priest. Father Hennepin was on a voyage of discovery also, the object being to trace the source of the Mississippi. He reached the

Falls of St. Anthony, the present site of the City of Minneapolis, April 30, 1680.

The spirit of romance and adventure was ever present during this early period of Minnesota's history, and the latter part of the seventeenth century, but the aborigines did not always take kindly to the visitors. It was, therefore, a matter of self preservation that led to the erection by Nicholas Perrot a fort on the shores of Trempealeau in 1689 and of a similar means of defense by Pierre LeSueur, French explorer, at the mouth of the Blue Earth River eleven years later.

When France lost her American dependencies in 1763 all that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River came under the control of Great Britain and the result was that English trading enterprises began to supersede the French companies.

During the early years of this commercial warfare, there arrived in the territory Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut, who was the first "Yankee" to venture into the territory. With characteristic foresight, Carver established friendly relations with the Indians, and it is alleged that in the spring of 1767 he obtained a grant of land from the Sioux which included the present site of the city of St. Paul, but no government recognition of the grant, currently referred to as "Carver's Claim," has ever been discovered.

The battle for supremacy in the fur trade continued to occupy the attention of the French, British and American companies until the Northwest Company was organized in 1783 and which a few years later gained exclusive control of the trading region beyond the Great Lakes. This supremacy it practically maintained until 1816 when the American Fur Company came into existence. This latter company has been credited with being commercially and politically the greatest single force in the development of the territory of which Minnesota forms a part.

That section of the State west of the Mississippi river had several times prior to 1803 been alternately possessed by Spain and France, but following the "Louisiana Purchase" in that year Minnesota came under the jurisdiction of Missouri territory, and incidently, for the first time became a political division of the United States. In 1805 that part east of the Mississippi river, which had been a section of the Northwest Territory, and later of Indiana, was included in Michigan territory.

Geographers and scientific explorers were also taking an active interest in the territory about this time for in 1798 David Thompson traversed and mapped the Red Lake region and the discovery of the source of the Mississippi River at Itasca lake was announced in 1804 by William Morrison.

Two years after the Louisiana Purchase the Federal government sent an expedition into the new acquisition commanded by Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, who wintered near what is now Little Falls and visited the Indian trading posts which had been established at Leech and Cass lakes.

Lieutenant Pike negotiated with the Sioux for the purchase of a tract of land extending from below the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peter's (Minnesota) rivers, up the Mississippi to include the Falls of St.

Anthony, extending nine miles on each side of the river. Another tract nine miles square at the mouth of the St. Croix River was included in the cession. In consideration of these grants the Government paid \$2,000, the actual payment being made in the distribution of goods to the Indians by Major Forsyth in 1819 and that year Fort St. Anthony, afterward named Fort Snelling, was located on the Mississippi-Minnesota rivers site.

Another Government expedition arrived in the territory in 1820 headed by General Lewis Cass, who then was governor of all the territory between the Detroit River on the east and the Mississippi on the west. This expedition ascended the Mississippi River to Cass Lake, so named by the historian Henry Schoolcraft, who accompanied it and who also named Lake Itasca, discovered by Thompson in 1804. Three years later the country north and west of Fort Snelling was traversed by Major Stephen Long and a military escort.

Italy was represented in this exploration but not officially, for with Major Long was Giocome C. Beltrami, an Italian political exile. Beltrami left Long's expedition at Pembina and traveled alone or with Indian companions past Red Lake and across the western section of the territory and down the Mississippi River to Fort Snelling.

In the early summer of 1823 the first steamboat on the upper Mississippi, the little "Virginia," laden with supplies, picked its way slowly up the river to Fort Snelling, but almost a decade passed after the advent of soldiers at the fort before settlers began to arrive in any number.

Hon. Henry H. Sibley, afterwards the first governor of the State of Minnesota, arrived at St. Peter's (Mendota) in 1834 from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, as resident partner and manager of the American Fur Company, and the Anglo-Saxon influence which had begun to manifest itself in the years following the treaty of Versailles in 1763, by which the territory's allegiance was changed from France to England, began to take more definite shape.

The Sioux and Ojibway Indians, had, up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, held the territory practically undisturbed, but the commercial spirit entered at about this period and the Indians were used to material advantage in many transactions with the fur traders. They received in exchange for peltries, guns, ammunition, blankets, calicoes, knives, tobacco and rum. Under this system of barter the traders were undoubtedly able to reap large profits, the Indians being permitted to obtain desired articles at the trading posts and given credit according to their hunting and trapping ability.

The first actual settlement of the present State of Minnesota followed as a result of treaties negotiated with the Indians by Governor Dodge of Wisconsin at Fort Snelling, and by Joel Poinsette, a special commissioner, at Washington in 1837. By the first of these the Ojibways ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries, and by the Washington treaty the Dakota Indians ceded their lands east of the Mississippi and all its islands. Through these treaties the United States Government gained possession of the land between the Mississippi and the St. Croix

rivers south of a line drawn through the mouth of the Crow Wing River; and after the ratification of the treaties by Congress in 1838 these lands were opened for settlement.

In the next few years small settlements were created at St. Paul, Mendota, Pembina, Marine and Dakota (Stillwater), at which latter place the "Stillwater Convention" was held August 26, 1848, whereby measures were adopted for separate territorial organization and providing that the proposed new territory be named Minnesota. Henry H. Sibley was elected delegate to Congress with the result that on March 3, 1849, the bill organizing Minnesota as an independent territory was passed. The territorial government was declared fully organized June 1, 1841, by Hon. Alexander Ramsey of St. Paul, who had been appointed governor.

With the creation of the territory of Minnesota, the domain of which extended to the Missouri River, a change took place in the industrial and commercial life of the people. The region was still mainly Indian country and the magnificent opportunities for development brought about negotiations with the tribal chiefs for approximately 24,000,000 acres of the finest agricultural land in the world by the signing of the famous Traverse des Sioux and the Mendota treaties. The first of these was signed July 23, 1851, in the presence of a large number of Sioux chiefs at a council presided over by Governor Ramsey and at which the United States Government was represented by Hon. Luke Lee, Indian Commissioner; the second was negotiated at Mendota on the fifth of August. By the Traverse des Sioux treaty the chiefs ceded all the lands claimed by the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux, east of the Bois des Sioux and Big Stone rivers and Lake Traverse to the Mississippi River, excepting a reservation one hundred miles long by twenty wide, at the upper part of the Minnesota River. The Indians, under the terms of the treaty, were to move within two years to the reservation; to receive from the Government, after removal, \$275,000 to enable them to become established in their new domain, and \$30,000 was to be expended in breaking land, establishing mills and providing a manual labor school. They also were to receive an annuity of \$68,000 for fifty years payable \$40,000 in cash, \$10,000 in goods and provisions, a civilization fund of \$12,000 and an education fund of \$6,000.

By the Mendota treaty, which was signed by sixty-four chiefs of the Med-ay-wakanton and Wah-pay-kee-tay bands of Sioux, all their lands in the territory of Minnesota and Iowa were ceded. In consideration for this the United States was to reserve for them a tract of an average width of ten miles on either side of the Minnesota River between the Yellow Medicine River on the west and the Little Rock River on the east; to pay them \$220,000 with which to settle debts and aid in their removal to the reservation; \$30,000 to be used for the erection of structures and opening farms; an annual civilization fund of \$12,000; an annual education fund of \$6,000; to provide \$10,000 in goods and provisions annually and to pay \$30,000 in cash. The annuities were to continue for fifty years. The treaties were ratified by Congress in June, 1852.

A third treaty of 1851 was effected by Governor Ramsey with the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibways at Pembina, but was not ratified by

the Government until the fifth of May, 1864, when President Lincoln by proclamation confirmed it. By this treaty 11,000,000 acres of land embraced within the northwestern section of the State in the Red River Valley was added to the already large tracts available for white settlement.

The United States census of 1850 showed that the white population of Minnesota numbered 6,077, but immigration increased rapidly after the negotiations and ratification of the Indian treaties and by 1853 steamboats engaged in the Minnesota River trade carried capacity cargoes and passengers. Villages grew rapidly in the valley of the Minnesota, which was regarded as a veritable Eden and farms appeared in all directions. A period of unprecedented immigration continued from 1853 to 1857, at which time the population of the territory was 150,027. During these years of prosperity Minnesota attracted the best class of men and women from Europe. They were hardy frontiersmen indeed, with slender financial resources, a condition typical always of those who have been in the vanguard of settlement. As a class they were far superior in morality, education and intelligence than the pioneers in many of the older territories. Many were farmers who came west in "Prairie Schooners," with their own stock. Although Southwestern Minnesota gained more from the incoming population than any other section, the unusual success which attended the beginning of the lumber industry had its effect on every branch of trade and a rapid increase in the wealth of the newcomers.

The adventurous spirit, however, of many of the settlers led many of them to locate near the extreme limits of the land grants and in immediate proximity to Indian settlements. Occasionally the younger Indians on hunting expeditions returned to the ceded lands in the Southwestern section near the Iowa border. One band under the leadership of Inkpaduta, composed of about fifteen lodges, were particularly given to marauding. It was this band which caused the first serious trouble for the whites. In the spring of 1857 a few of these Indians hunting in the vicinity of Rock River killed a dog belonging to a white settler. The owner of the dog assaulted one of the Indians and then gathering a few neighbors went to the Indian camp and disarmed them. In a spirit of revenge the Indians went to the white settlement at Spirit Lake, March 6, 1857, massacred the men and took four women captives, two of whom were later rescued. Other settlements were attacked and altogether forty-two settlers were killed. An expedition was dispatched by Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, the Indian agent, but all escaped across the prairies into the wilds of Dakota territory, except the eldest son of Inkpaduta who was killed in an attempt to capture him.

The prosperity of the years prior to 1857 resulted in a demand for an extensive railroad system and for a state government for the territory; therefore Congress, on February 26, 1857, passed an act authorizing a constitutional convention and also granting a large amount of lands in aid of public schools. In March of the same year, Congress enacted legislation making large grants of lands to railroad companies. But as the year 1857 advanced, financiers began to feel the effects of uncertain conditions in the East. Stringency in the money market was the rule and business was dull.

Local bankers had little money for business loans, having invested heavily in real estate. The crash came August 28, when a telegram reached St. Paul announcing the suspension of several eastern banking institutions. Within a week real estate transactions ceased; payments became slower, past due accounts began to accumulate; gold commanded a stiff premium and soon disappeared from general circulation, and money of any kind was scarce. Early in October St. Paul banks suspended specie payments, more banking firms went under and instead of immigration an exodus from the territory had actually begun. Bankers held meetings and unsuccessfully urged Governor Samuel Medary to call an extra session of the territorial legislature. The Constitutional convention which had assembled at St. Paul July 13, acting on the instant demands of the people, incorporated into the fundamental laws of the proposed state the constitutional basis for a sounder financial policy, but it was not until after the Civil War that prosperity returned.

The proposed State Constitution adopted at the convention also changed the western boundary of the proposed state, which heretofore had extended to the Missouri River. The Red River of the North, the Boise des Sioux River, Lake Traverse and Big Stone Lakes with a line extending due south to the Iowa border, was the established western limits. The Constitution also provided for the election of State officers at the same time of voting on the adoption of the Constitution. The first State legislature convened December 2, 1857, and continued in session until March 25, 1858, when a recess was taken pending the admission of Minnesota to statehood by Congress. The act of admission was passed May 11, 1858, and the State's first governor, Henry H. Sibley, assumed office May 24. On June 3 the legislature having again assembled, Governor Sibley delivered his inaugural address and the State's lawmaking body continued in session until August 12, 1858. The first legislature worked diligently on financial and railroad legislation. To utilize the Government land grant a scheme was devised aimed to aid companies who might be willing to undertake the construction of railroads. This act came to be known as the "Five Million Loan Bill," under which the credit of the State was loaned to that amount. It was proposed as an amendment to the constitution and was adopted by a large majority. There always was much opposition to the measure, however, and when the State Supreme Court later ruled that the constitutional provision did not require the railroads to give the State a prior lien on their property, the railroad bonds depreciated in value. Eastern financiers refused to buy the bonds and finally the entire scheme collapsed with the foreclosure of the mortgages which the State had taken upon railroad franchises and lands. The result was the abandonment of railroad construction temporarily. The total amount of bonds issued was \$2,275,000, and by foreclosing the State acquired about 250 miles of graded road, the franchises and the lands amounting to about five million acres indemnity.

Minnesota struggled desperately, in the period from 1858 to 1863, to overcome the financial disasters of 1857 and to regain the prosperity which, a few years before, had seemed the State's natural heritage. Abundant crops of 1859 and 1860 restocked the granaries, and it was hoped that the

difficulties would be overcome. But the presidential campaign served only to develop the disturbing situation throughout the country, followed by the war period, commencing with the President's proclamation, in April, 1861, in which the young State not only contributed her full quota of men for the preservation of the Union, but also was forced to fight for her own existence through one of the worst Indian uprisings ever witnessed in America.

Governor Alexander Ramsey chanced to be at Washington on the twelfth of April, 1861, when news that Fort Sumter had been fired upon, and war, which so long had been a probability, became a reality. He hastened at once to the war department and offered one thousand men from Minnesota, the first tender of troops from any quarter after the fall of the Charlestown fortress. On April 15th President Lincoln's war proclamation was published, and on the 16th Ignatius Donnelly, acting governor, issued a call for the first regiment of volunteers, which was assembled, organized and quartered at Fort Snelling with amazing rapidity, and before Lee surrendered at Appomatox, thus ending the war of the Rebellion, Minnesota had furnished a total of 22,160 troops.

The war, calling so many able-bodied men from the State, left the frontiers almost defenseless and, although the Indians had more or less complaint to make regarding extortions practiced on them by post traders, no serious outbreaks had occurred. They were, however, becoming more and more restless and coming off their reservations at increasing recurring intervals.

A sentiment was growing among the whites that the Indians should adopt modes of civilization, the splendid agricultural lands which they control should not be left idle. Therefore, the head chiefs were induced to go to Washington, in 1858, in charge of Hon. Joseph R. Brown, for the purpose of negotiating for the transfer of the whole, or part, of the twenty-mile strip on the upper valley of the Minnesota River, which had been reserved for them by the treaties of 1851. The transfer was made and a ten-mile strip on the north side of the river was relinquished to the Government for an agreed price of \$140,000. The Government also provided that every head of a family, or single person over 21, adopting civilization, should receive in fee eighty acres of land. When, however, for some cause, the payments were not made and no money was divided, on account of the relinquishment, the more hostile Indians became rebellious. Internal strife arose and was augmented from time to time by the withdrawal of families who were willing to sever tribal relations and accept the civilization fund provided in the earlier treaties. These were, however, annuity Indians and had a right to be heard in councils. They numbered about six thousand two hundred and received an annual cash payment from the Government of about fifteen dollars each. They were treated as wards of the Government and handled little or no actual cash, agencies having been established, around which gathered storekeepers who sold the Indians goods in anticipation of the annual payments.

The discontent continued to increase, however, and the hostile feeling against the whites was in no wise ameliorated by some injustices which

crept in with the dealings at the agency stores, culminated in the great massacre of 1862.

On the seventeenth of August, 1862, four Indians made a threatening attack upon a family in the township of Acton, twelve miles west of Litchfield. They drove the family to a neighbor's house, where, after an altercation, they killed three men and two women. They lost no time returning to camp and reporting what had happened. The Indians, after consultation, decided to stand by their fellows, and a general uprising followed by the entire Sioux bands. Their movements were so swift that before effective resistance could be brought about, eight hundred men, women and children were massacred within a few days.

State and national authorities took prompt action, and a detachment of volunteers, under command of General Sibley, aided by some Union troops, met the savages near Wood Lake, on September 23, overwhelmed them and released a large number of women and children, who had been taken captive. The 2,000 Indians captured were given a trial and 303 were found guilty of murder and rape and condemned to death by military court martial. A reprieve by President Lincoln saved all but thirty-eight of the most prominent, who were hanged at Mankato on the 26th of December, 1862. Many of the Indians who escaped capture fled into the Dakotas, but two expeditions were sent after them and, in 1864, the final chapter of the Sioux outbreak was written when the Indians surrendered their ponies and arms to the Government.

Settlers, who had lost property through the Indian raids, were compensated to the amount of \$1,370,374 following an investigation by a commission appointed by the Government. This money was taken from the trust fund, which had been created for the Indians under the treaties of 1851, and which amounted, at that time, to \$2,520,000. With the payments of the claims to settlers by act of Congress, further annuities to the Indians were stopped.

Despite the drain of war upon the male population of the State an increased acreage was sown during this period and, with the beginning of Scandinavian immigration into Minnesota, the outlook appeared brighter for its future.

The close of the Civil War, in 1865, with the return of the soldiers, and with no further outbreaks by Indians, a new era of prosperity loomed. New railroad companies had been granted charters on the road-beds taken in the foreclosure proceedings of 1857, and during the next five years the population increased to 239,760. The Government was making large expenditures for war claims, war bounties, payments to discharged soldiers and the payment of other bills made money plentiful. Agriculture was given a great impetus by the steady influx of immigration from northern European countries and the population steadily increased until, in 1875, Minnesota's population was 597,407. An effort was made, during this era of prosperity, to adjust the matter of the dishonored railroad bonds, but it was not until 1881, at an extra session of the legislature, that an act was passed authorizing final adjustment on the basis of 50 per cent, payments

to be made from the proceeds of 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands.

The million-population mark was passed by the State between 1880 and 1885. The development of the Dakotas, subsequent to 1885 and the breaking up of virgin soil in that territory, doubled the wheat yield of the Northwest, and the Minnesota farmer turned his attention more to diversified activities, with especial reference to dairying.

From 1885 to 1890 the population continued to increase, the national census in the latter year giving Minnesota credit for 1,302,826 inhabitants, and five years later, in 1895, the State census showed a population of 1,527,619.

In April, 1898, the United States declared war on Spain, and Minnesota, following the example shown in the Civil War, was the first to respond to the call for troops, and furnished four regiments. They were designated the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth. The first three were mustered into service at St. Paul, May 7, after being mobilized April 29. The Fifteenth Regiment was mustered into service July 18. A total of 5,315 officers and men were furnished by Minnesota. The Twelfth and Thirteenth were mustered out in November, 1898; the Fifteenth, March 27, 1899, and the Fourteenth, October 3, 1899.

At the beginning of the present century Minnesota's population was 1,751,394; the State enumeration taken in 1905 showed 1,979,912, and the Federal census showed Minnesota's population to be 2,075,708, and by 1918 it was estimated that this had increased to 2,550,000.

During the four years, from August, 1914, the world has been in a turmoil and, although President Wilson did not declare war on Germany until April 7, 1917, Minnesota troops had been in active service more than a year prior to that date on the Mexican border. The first change from peace to militant activity for the State came with orders, June 18, 1916, for the Minnesota National Guard to go to Llano Grande, Tex. The First, Second and Third Regiments of Infantry and the Second Battalion of Field Artillery were mobilized at Fort Snelling (named Camp Bobleter), June 26. The Third Regiment left for the Texas border July 10; the First Regiment July 12; the Second Regiment July 15; the Second Battalion of Field Artillery July 20, and the First Battalion of Artillery Oct. 1, 1916.

After service on the Mexican border the Third Regiment was mustered out, at Fort Snelling, in December, 1916; the First Regiment was mustered out March 14, 1917; the Second Regiment was mustered out January 24, 1917, and the First Field Artillery Regiment was mustered out February 28, 1917.

When President Wilson issued his war proclamation against the Imperial German government, on Good Friday, April 7, 1917, Minnesota, therefore, was somewhat prepared, as the Minnesota National Guard's service in the Southwest had somewhat prepared them.

The First Minnesota Regiment was called out March 26, 1917, and mustered into service April 7; the First Field Artillery was called June 24 and mustered in July 20; and the Second and Third Infantry Regiments were called July 15 and mustered in at the companies' home stations at

various dates from July 21 to 29. These three regiments were again sent to the Southwest, but this time were stationed at Camp Cody, near Deming, New Mexico. The First Field Artillery left for Camp Mills, L. I., September 4, 1917, and a few weeks later was sent to France, where it upheld the honor of the State and Nation as the 151st United States Field Artillery.

In June, 1917, the Conscription Act became effective and all men between the ages of 21 and 31 were registered for military service, and later this was extended to men up to 45. More than a half million Minnesota men were listed as registrants; and, up to the fall of 1918, nearly 100,000 of Minnesota's best manhood was in the service, either with the Federalized National Guard or in the National Army.

To better enable Minnesota to do its share in the war, the legislature of 1917 passed an act creating the Commission of Public Safety, to be composed of seven members, including the Governor and Attorney General, and appropriated \$1,000,000 for its use. This commission had almost unlimited powers and was to continue in existence until three months after the war ended. One of the first acts of this commission was to create the Minnesota Home Guard, comprised of volunteers in practically every city and town in the State, and approximately 20,000 men, from 18 to 52, became members. The commission also adopted and enforced other orders, including the closing of saloons in certain sections of the State and aiding the Government in its "work or fight order," as well as establishing standard minimum prices to be charged for commodities. In addition to these activities the State co-operated fully with the National Government in bringing to bear every natural resource, including the output of the mines and forests.

The formation of three new regiments of Minnesota National Guard was also authorized, in the summer of 1918, by the Governor, to aid in home defense.

Toward the end of 1918 Minnesota suffered one of the most serious catastrophes in its history through forest and prairie fires. On the afternoon of October 12, a small blaze, which had been smouldering in the peat bogs of Aitkin County for weeks, fanned by a high wind, suddenly broke forth into a seething, blazing mass and swept across sections of Aitkin, Pine and Carlton counties toward Duluth. The fire, fifty miles in width, destroyed the thriving villages of Moose Lake and Cloquet and nearly 600 men, women and children lost their lives. The property loss reached \$30,000,000. The military authorities were sent to the scene and worked for weeks rehabilitating the refugees; the people of the State responded quickly to the call for succor so that before winter set in everything possible was done for the sufferers.

But the terrible calamity was expected to bring good results, for the people were aroused to the necessity of adequate protection in the future, not only of the lives of the settlers in the forest area of Minnesota, but for the safeguarding of the forests themselves.

Another serious disaster befell on the afternoon of Sunday, June 22, when a cyclone struck Fergus Falls, and entailed a heavy destruction of life and property. But with characteristic Minnesota courage the people

rallied from this catastrophe, the citizens of the State came to their rescue in every way possible, and an even fairer city is arising on the ruins of the older one.

Chronology

1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.

1659-60. Groseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Lacs region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought to have come to Prairie Island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.

1661. Father Rene Menard left Keweenaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.

1679. July 2, Daniel Greysolon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Lacs. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix River, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.

1680. Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of the Mille Lacs Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.

1689. May 8, Nicholas Perrot, at his Fort St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet.

1695. Le Sueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie Island, above Lake Pepin.

1700. Le Sueur established Fort L'Huillier, on the Blue Earth River (near the mouth of the Le Sueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.

1727. The French established a third fort on Lake Pepin, with Sieur de La Perriere as commander.

1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.

1763. By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.

1766. Captain Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony Falls and Minnesota River. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, at a cave afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, by which he said they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by Government.

1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest Territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi River.

1798-1799. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.

1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.

1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years in possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.

1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi River, visited Elk Lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.

1805. Lieutenant Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Fort Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.

1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways and Winnebagos, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red River colony established by Lord Selkirk.

1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi River, became a part of Crawford County, Michigan. Fort St. Anthony (renamed Fort Snelling in 1825), established, and a post at Mendota occupied by troops under command of Colonel Henry Leavenworth. Major L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving in the autumn of that year.

1820. Corner stone of Fort St. Anthony, later called Fort Snelling, laid September 10. Governor Cass visits Minnesota and makes a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Fort St. Anthony, Aug. 1. Colonel Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.

1823. The first steamboat in Minnesota arrived at Mendota, May 10, Beltrami being a passenger. Major Stephen H. Long explored the Minnesota River, the Red River Valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.

1826. Great flood on the Red River; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Fort Snelling.

1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi River, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk Lake).

1833. First mission established at Leech Lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.

1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. General H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.

1835. Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.

1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.

1837. Governor Dodge of Wisconsin made a treaty at Fort Snelling, with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.

1838. The treaty ratified by Congress. Franklin Steele makes a claim at St. Anthony Falls. Pierre Parrant makes a claim and builds a shanty on the present site of St. Paul.

1839. St. Croix County established.

1841. The "Chapel of St. Paul" built and consecrated, giving the name to the future capital of the State.

1843. Stillwater settled.

1846. August 6. The Wisconsin enabling act.

1847. The Wisconsin constitutional convention meets. The town of St. Paul surveyed, platted and recorded in St. Croix County register of deeds' office. First improvement of the water power at the Falls of St. Anthony.

1848. May 29, Wisconsin admitted, leaving the area of Minnesota without a government. August 26, the "Stillwater convention" held, taking measures for a separate territorial organization, and asking that the new Territory be named Minnesota. October 30, H. H. Sibley elected delegate to Congress.

1849. January 15, H. H. Sibley admitted to a seat. March 3, the bill organizing Minnesota passed. March 19, its territorial officers appointed. June 1, Governor Ramsey declared, by proclamation, the Territory organized. September 3, the first territorial legislature assembled.

1850. Great flood this year; highest water ever known. Minnesota River first navigated by steamboats. Census shows 6,077 inhabitants.

1851. Location of the capital, university, and penitentiary; another flood. July 23, treaty of Traverse des Sioux completed and August 5 the treaty of Mendota, opening the territory west of the Mississippi to settlers.

1852. June 23, the treaties ratified by the United States Senate.

1853. Pierce's administration. W. A. Gorman appointed governor. The capitol building completed.

1854. Celebration of the opening of the Rock Island railroad, the first road to the Mississippi River, by a mammoth excursion, reaching St. Paul June 8. Large immigration this season and the three succeeding ones, and the real estate mania commences.

1857. Enabling act passes Congress February 26. Gov. Samuel Medary (appointed by Buchanan), arrives on April 22. Legislature passes a bill to remove the capital to St. Peter, but it fails to accomplish the object. Ink-pa-du-ta massacre, April. Land grant passes Congress. April 27, extra session of the legislature to apportion land grant. July 13, constitutional convention assembles. Real estate speculation reaches its height, and is checked by the financial panic, August 27. Great revulsions and hard times. Census shows 150,037 population. October 13, constitution adopted and State officers elected.

1858. State loan of \$250,000 negotiated. Five million loan bill passed by the legislature, March 9; ratified by vote of people, April 15. Great stringency in money market. State admitted May 11. State officers sworn in, May 24.

1859. Hard times continue to intensify. "Wright County War." "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money issued. Work on the land grant roads ceases. Collapse of the five million scheme. First export of grain this fall. Hard political struggle; the Republicans triumph.

1860. Another warm political canvass. Federal census, 172,023.

1861. April 15, President's proclamation for troops received; the first regiment recruits at once; June 22, it embarks at Fort Snelling for the seat of war.

1862. Call for 600,000 men. July 2, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis. August 17, massacre at Acton; August 18, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency, eight miles east of Redwood Falls; 19, New Ulm attacked; 20, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25, second attack on New Ulm; 30, Fort Abercrombie besieged; September 2, the bloody attack at Birch Coulee. September 23, battle of Wood Lake; 26, captives surrendered at Camp Release; military commission tries 321 Indians for murder, rape, etc.; 303 condemned to die. December 26, 38 hung at Mankato.

1863. General Sibley's expedition to the Missouri River; July 3, Little Crow killed; July 24, battle of Big Mound; July 26, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28, battle of Stony Lake.

1864. Large levies for troops. Expedition to Missouri River, under Sully. Inflation of money market. Occasional Indian raids.

1865. Peace returns. Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded. In all 22,016 troops furnished by the State. Census shows 250,099 inhabitants.

1866-72. Rapid railroad building everywhere; immigration heavy; "good times" prevail, and real estate inflated.

1873. January 7, 8 and 9, polar wave sweeps over the State; seventy persons perish. September, the Jay Cooke failure creates another panic. Grasshopper raid begins and continues five seasons.

1876. September 7, attack on bank of Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter killed and three captured.

1877. Biennial session amendment adopted.

1878. May 2, three flouring mills at Minneapolis explode; eighteen lives lost.

1880. November 15, portion of the hospital for the insane at St. Peter destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates burned to death, seven died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six missing; total loss, \$150,000.

1881. March 1, the State capitol destroyed by fire.

1883. August 21, tornado in Olmsted County most destructive at Rochester; many homes wrecked and 26 people killed.

1884. January 25, State prison partially burned.

1886. April 14, a tornado strikes the cities of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings and killing about seventy people.

1887. Important legislation regarding the liquor traffic, common carriers and elections.

1889. The legislature enacts the Australian system of voting in cities of 10,000 and over. The first electric street railway started in the State at Stillwater.

1890. United States census shows a population of 1,301,826. July 13, an excursion steamboat returning from Lake City encampment foundered on Lake Pepin, and 100 people were drowned. July 13, a tornado swept

across Lake Gervais, in Ramsey County, demolishing several buildings and killing six people.

1891. June 15, a series of tornadoes started in Jackson County, near the town of Jackson, traversing Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower and Fillmore counties, on a line nearly parallel with, but from five to fifteen miles north of the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, doing a large amount of damage to farms and farm buildings, and causing death to about fifty people along the track of the storm.

1892. June 7, national convention (Rep.) held at Minneapolis. The Australian system of voting used at the November general election.

1893. The legislature authorizes the appointment of a capitol commission to select a site for a new capitol, and providing a tax of two-tenths of a mill for ten years to pay for the site and the erection of a building. A great financial crisis causes the failure of several banks and many mercantile and manufacturing establishments in the larger cities of the State.

1894. September 1, forest fires start in the neighborhood of Hinckley, in Pine County, carrying death and destruction over nearly four hundred square miles of territory, destroying the towns of Hinckley and Sandstone, causing the death of four hundred and seventeen people, rendering homeless and destitute twenty-two hundred men, women and children, and entailing a property loss of about one million dollars.

1895. A census of the State was taken during the month of June, and the total population of the State was found to be 1,574,619.

1896. The Red Lake Indian reservation was diminished to about a quarter part of its former area, and on May 15 a large tract of agricultural and timber lands formerly belonging to that reservation was opened for settlement.

1897. July 2, the monument at Gettysburg to the First Minnesota Regiment was dedicated.

1898. July 27, the corner stone of the new capitol was laid. Minnesota supplied four regiments for service in the Spanish War, being the first State, May 7, to respond to the President's call. October 5, the Pillager Indians attacked United States troops near Sugar Point, Leech Lake.

1899. Semi-centennial of the Territory and State celebrated by the old Settlers' Association, June 1, and by the Historical Society, November 15.

1900. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 1,751,394. Death of Senator C. K. Davis, November 27.

1901. In the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, N. Y., the superior exhibits of wheat, flour, and dairy products of Minnesota caused her to be called "the Bread and Butter State."

1902. August 23, the fortieth anniversary of the Sioux War celebrated at New Ulm. Monuments and tablets erected there and at other places in the Minnesota Valley.

1903. Tide of immigration into Minnesota, particularly in northern and western sections. April 22, death of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor, later governor of the State, United States senator, and secretary of war.

1904. Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Minnesota exhibits win many first prizes for flour, butter, fruits, iron ores, work of pupils in schools, etc.

1905. January 3, legislature convenes in the new capitol. The population, according to the State census, June 1, was 1,979,912.

1906. September 3, Live Stock Amphitheater on the State Fair ground dedicated, with address by James J. Hill. Attendance at the Fair on that day, 93,199; during the week, 295,000.

1907. Folwell Hall, the new main building for the College of Science, Literature and Arts, of the University of Minnesota, completed at cost of \$410,000 for the building and its equipment. The total number of students of this university enrolled in all departments for the year was 4,145.

1908. The fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Minnesota to statehood was celebrated in connection with the State Fair, its attendance during the week being 326,753.

1909. Death of Gov. John A. Johnson after an operation at Rochester, Minn., Sept. 21, 1909. Lieut. Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart sworn in as Governor by Chief Justice Start, in the Supreme Court retiring room, at 11 o'clock the same day.

1910. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 2,075,708. Death of State Treasurer Clarence C. Dinehart June 8. E. S. Pettijohn appointed to succeed, June 11. Forest fires in northern Minnesota during the second and third week in October result in death to about thirty people and the destruction of about \$20,000,000 of property. Spooner and Baudette wiped out.

1911. The legislature ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution for election of U. S. senators by popular vote, October 18. George E. Vincent was inaugurated president of the University of Minnesota.

1912. The legislature in special session enacted a new primary election law and "corrupt practices" act. October 19, the statue of Governor Johnson on the capitol ground was unveiled.

1913. February 5, former Governor Hubbard died in Minneapolis. June 16-20, the American Medical Association held in Minneapolis its sixty-fourth annual session.

1914. The total mileage of main line railways operated in this State was 9,002 miles, on June 30, an increase of 54 miles from the mileage of 1913. July 4-11, the National Education Association held its annual convention in St. Paul.

1915. In November, the last bonds of indebtedness of the State resulting from the Five Million Loan Bill for railroad building, enacted in 1858, were paid and burned. December 30, Governor Hammond died of apoplexy in Clinton, La.; and on the same day Lieutenant Governor Burnquist took the oath of office as his successor.

1916. In February, iron and steel manufacture and production of Portland cement, each on a very large scale, were begun at Duluth. May 29, James J. Hill, railway builder, organizer of the Great Northern Railway

system, died at his home in St. Paul. July 19-21, the National Prohibition convention was held in St. Paul for the presidential campaign.

1917. April 6, the United States entered the World War, which began in the last days of July, 1914. During nineteen months until the war closed, Minnesota gave over 80,000 men in the army service, 13,000 in the navy, and 6,000 in the marine corps, an aggregate of over 100,000 troops. July 1, Marion LeRoy Burton began presidency of the State University.

1918. May 11, dedication of the building of the Minnesota Historical Society, erected by the State at a cost of \$500,000. September 25, Archbishop John Ireland died. Oct. 12-13, forest fires after a long drought, driven by a great wind, spread over a large area in Carlton County and the south part of St. Louis County, inflicting loss of more than 1,000 lives of agricultural settlers and residents in many villages with destruction of property exceeding \$30,000,000. November 11, signature of an armistice terminated the World War and opened a new era of reconstruction. The people of Minnesota own 222,222 automobiles.

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Houston county is situated in the southeastern corner of the State of Minnesota and has for its neighbors, Winona county on the north; the Mississippi River with Wisconsin beyond, on the east; Alamakee county in Iowa on the south; and Fillmore county on the east. It is about twenty-four miles from north to south and nearly that from east to west, with a land area of about 334,120 acres, lying between the Mississippi on the east, and the line between Ranges 7 and 8 on the west, and between the Iowa State line on the south and the line between Townships 104 and 105 on the north. Aside from the irregularities caused by the winding course of the Mississippi River, the county consists of sixteen government townships.

There are seventeen political townships. Along the Mississippi from north to south they are named La Crescent, Hokah, Brownsville, Crooked Creek and Jefferson. The next row west is Mound Prairie, Union, Mayville and Winnebago; the next, Houston, Sheldon, Caledonia and Wilmington; the next, Money Creek, Yucatan, Black Hammer and Spring Grove. Of these only five, Black Hammer, Caledonia, Spring Grove, Wilmington and Winnebago correspond with the lines of the government survey.

The Mississippi River has several sloughs winding through a swampy belt of varying width, which is broader near the southern boundary of the county. The largest tributary of the Mississippi in the county is the Root River, which comes into the county from Fillmore county on the west, and flows in an irregular eastern direction through the southern part of the northern tier of townships. Thompson's Creek from the south joins the Root River at Hokah, while the South Fork joins the main Root River at Houston. From the north Root River has several tributaries in this county, the largest being Money Creek and Silver Creek. The principal creeks emptying into the Mississippi are Pine Creek, finding its outlet in La Crescent township; Crooked Creek, finding its outlet in Crooked Creek township; and Winnebago Creek finding its outlet in Winnebago township. Mills have existed along these waterways since the earliest days, but the waterpower has never been made use of on an extensive scale.

The portion of the county along the Mississippi and other streams has a rugged and picturesque appearance, with irregular bluffs and oval crests with rock-capped summits. These, with alternating hills and valleys, extend back into the country several miles, and then gradually assume the form of a rolling prairie which still further on becomes a level prairie. The upland surface of the much dissected plateau which forms the county is from 1,150 to 1,300 feet above the sea level, and more than 500 feet above the valley of the Mississippi River. The sink holes, due to the caving of the subterranean drainage channels are a common feature, and in some places their linear arrangement is very noticeable.

If the valleys excavated by drainage were filled up the county would be very nearly flat, the highest part being in the southwestern corner, in the area of the Decorah shale and Platteville limestone. The great diversity of surface that appears arises entirely from the effect of erosion by streams and atmospheric forces on the rocks, which consists of alternating sandstones and limestones. This effect would be still greater, or still more apparent, were it not that the loess loam, which is very thick in this part of the State, tones down, with its overspreading canopy, the roughness which the rocky surface really possesses, leaving it actually one of an undulating or rolling character, except along the immediate river bluffs, and cause precipitous or steep hillsides.

The valleys excavated by the streams are remarkable and instructive. Not only have the larger streams cut out gorges of enormous depth in the rocky floors in which they run, but every little creek and tributary runs in a gorge which shows the same rock sculpture. Even the freshet creeks and the rivulets born after every summer shower, dry entirely the greater part of the year, find their way to the main valleys through rock-bound, canon-like valleys. This makes the country present the usual characters of southern latitudes where the northern drift sheet has not been spread. There is nothing more evident than that these valleys antedate the glacial epoch.

In other portions of the northwest where the drift does prevail larger streams than those found in Houston county have generally worn their channels only through the drift sheet. Even the Mississippi River itself, above the Falls of St. Anthony, has no rocky bluffs. It very rarely there even strikes the rock. It is occupied still in dissolving and removing the materials of the drift which covers that portion of the State. It would require a good many inter-glacial periods, or pre-glacial periods, to excavate it as deeply as the same valley is wrought in the southeastern portion of the State.

In the limestone area the Houston county valleys are narrow and more generally rockbound; they widen out so as to include good farm lands on the bottoms here in the sandstone areas. This is illustrated in the upper portion of many of the tributaries of Root River. In descending one of these valleys from the upland, the first descent is very rocky and very impracticable. This is caused at first by the cut through the Shakopee limestone. The Jordan sandstone that underlies the Shakopee sometimes relieves this ruggedness a little, but its thickness is so small compared to that of the whole Lower Magnesian that it is barely observable in this way. Through the underlying St. Lawrence limestone the descent is also rough, and the valley narrow, with little or no arable land in the valley. On reaching the horizon of the top of the Dresbach sandstone, the change introduced into the aspect of the valley is very noticeable. It widens, the rock is seen exposed in a nearly continuous escarpment along the tops of the now more distant bluffs, the descent is easy, the stream flows with a winding course, and is perhaps fringed with a small shrubby growth, the lower slopes of the bluffs on either side are turf-covered, and, finally, a rich alluvial soil, spreading out over the bottoms show considerable

areas that has been cleared and cultivated. This character then extends to and follows the whole course of Root River to its mouth, the valley constantly increasing in width and showing a terraced condition, where ancient floods or periods of high water have stood, and whence, after vast accumulations of alluvium, have retired, reducing the river at last to its present insignificant dimensions.

This is the general character of the valley tributary to Root River, but this succession of changes can be seen within Houston county only in those tributary valleys on the south side of Root River. Those on the north side enter on the St. Croix sandstone before reaching Houston. The best agricultural portion of the county is in the center and southwest quarter. The valleys throughout the county were originally wooded, and in the eastern part of the county a great deal of the upland was also wooded, and much timber still remains. Taken altogether, the county may be denominated rolling, broken and hilly, though there are also some fine prairies that are simply undulating. All the farms are well drained naturally.

The following measurements by aneroid will show the depth of some of the valleys below the immediate upland at the points named: Section 17, Caledonia, three miles south of Sheldon. Beaver Creek, at the great spring, is 230 feet below the tops of the bluffs, which embrace the Shakopee limestone, Jordan sandstone and a part of the St. Lawrence sandstone. At Sheldon the bluffs are 420 feet high. At Houston the bluffs north of the city are 520 feet above the level of water in Root River in summer. At Hokah, Mount Tom rises 530 feet above the flood plain of Root River. On Section 11, Union, the ridge between Thompson's Creek and the railroad, at the sculptured rock, rises 355 feet above the highway directly south of the ridge. At Brownsville the height of the bluff above the flood plain of the Mississippi is 495 feet. Fred Gluck, of Brownsville, measured the same by triangulation in the winter season and obtained 486 feet as the height above the ice. Railroad surveyors are said to have obtained 483 feet as the height of the same bluff. The most of this height is made up of sandstone, there being but 105 feet of limestone in the upper part of the bluff belonging to the St. Lawrence formation.

The soil of the county is formed by the loess loam. It is very fertile and apparently very enduring. It is mainly a clayey deposit, without stones or gravel, but yet in some places becomes arenaceous, the sand grains being very fine. The loess is hardly pervious to water. Many farmers resort to the expedient of retaining the surface water, after rains, in open reservoirs, produced by throwing a low dam across some of the shallow drainage valleys that intersect their farms, thus forming with the common loam a small pool or lake for the use of their stock. Except on the brows of the bluffs which enclose the valleys this loam is thick enough to make a reliable subsoil as well as surface soil. In some of the valleys it is very thick, but here it is apt to be influenced by the causes that produced the river terraces, and to mingle with the ordinary alluvium. On the uplands, generally, where it may not have been reduced by wash, its average thickness might reach thirty feet, but in some of the valleys

material of the same aspect is sometimes encountered to the depth of over 100 feet.

In the valley of the Root River, and also along the Mississippi, the soil of the alluvial terraces, greatly resembling that of the loam in the uplands, is apt to be more sandy, and sometimes very light and very poor. These materials are generally seen to be obliquely stratified layers, and to embrace, in the Mississippi Valley, small gravel stones of northern origin. The immediate flood plain of these rivers presents still another variety of soil. While it is generally sandy, and often very light, it is also a very rich soil, and is apt to be enduring by reason of the Nile-like overflows to which it is subjected, and the decomposition of large quantities of vegetation. This variety of soil sustains some of the heaviest forests to be found in the county.

It is noticeable that many of the valleys, particularly those running east and west, as Crooked Creek valley, have the bluffs along the north side of the creek, destitute, or nearly so, of timber, but are heavily timbered along the opposite bluffs, on the south side. This may be due to warm days in winter or early spring, when the sap may have started in the trees on the north bluffs, followed by severely cold weather, before the actual setting in of steady warm weather. Of course the sun's heat would be quickest felt on the bluffs facing south. This process repeated for a good many years would injure and at last destroy the timber on the north bluff, if it were ever possible for trees to come to maturity there, while timber on the south bluffs would escape these sudden changes, owing to the shaded condition of the bluffs during the warmest portion of the day, and would only experience a steady increase of warmth due to the progress of the season. Now, however, there are many valleys with the hills on both sides more or less heavily wooded.

Rock outcrops occur everywhere along the cliffs of the valleys of the Mississippi and its tributaries, affording abundant opportunity for the determination of the character and thickness of the successive beds. The rock formations outcropping at the surface are all Paleozoic.

The green Decorah shale is represented by a thickness of 25 feet, and is underlain by a massive bed of Platteville limestone, averaging 15 feet in thickness. Because of resistance to erosion, together with geologic position, these formations, as already stated, constitute the highest land in the county, capping the high areas in the southwestern corner. They yield small supplies to shallow wells, but are of little value as a source of water. Some springs occur at the margins of their areas, but most of the water sinks through the crevices of the formations into the underlying sandstone.

The St. Peter sandstone here is about 80 feet thick, or only half the thickness of the same formation in Hennepin county. It occurs beneath the Platteville limestone in the southwestern part of the county and underlies a large area of the uplands south of Root River. Although cemented by iron and somewhat resistant in places, a condition due to surface alteration, it does not generally give rise to rock exposure, the outcrop areas commonly being flat and covered with grass and trees. It yields moderate

supplies of water to shallow wells, but owing to the free escape of its water to the adjoining lowlands, it does not afford amounts sufficient for industrial or public supplies.

The Shakopee dolomite is about 75 feet thick, occurring beneath the uplands above the river valleys. It carries some water in joints, bedding planes, and solution passages, and gives rise to a number of springs, but it does not generally afford supplies adequate even for domestic and farm purposes.

The New Richmond sandstone, which ranges up to 35 feet in thickness, is exposed beneath the Shakopee in the uplands several hundred feet above the stream. It affords little water along its outcrops, but where it is covered by younger rocks, as in the southwestern portion of the county, it may furnish supplies of considerable importance to moderately deep wells, though generally the amounts will prove insufficient for industrial or public supplies.

The Oneota dolomite, which is approximately 150 feet thick, outcrops in the upper portion of the cliffs bordering Mississippi and Root rivers and their tributaries and forms conspicuous bluffs and pinnacles. The upper portion is often broken and characterized by the presence of chert and other concretions. It contains some water in joints, bedding planes, and solution passages. Along the borders of the valley springs of considerable importance issue from this formation, a few yielding sufficient quantities for industrial or public supplies and even for water power.

The Jordan sandstone, a coarse buff sandstone about 100 feet thick, outcrops below the Oneota in the cliffs bordering Mississippi and Root rivers. In the greater part of the county it yields abundantly, the public supplies for several villages being derived from it. Near the outcrops, however, the yield is greatly reduced because of the escape of the water into adjacent valleys.

The St. Lawrence formation consists of green and gray calcareous shales with some green sand and occasional sandstone layers, having a total thickness of about 175 feet. It outcrops in the lower portions of the cliffs of the Mississippi and underlies the bottom of Root River and the lower portions of its tributaries to the western border of the county. It contains considerable water in the sandy layers and is said to yield flows at a few localities in the valleys. It has, however, little value as a water zone, its yield being materially less than that from the overlying Jordan or the underlying Dresbach sandstone.

The Dresbach sandstone is a massive, crumbling sandstone about 60 feet thick, with occasional cemented layers. It outcrops along the cliffs of the Mississippi and beneath the alluvium of Root River. Its base is approximately at the level of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway along the Mississippi. It is a strong water-bearing formation, and in the valley of Root River yields abundantly, the water being used for industrial and public supplies. Beneath the upland it contains large quantities of water, but there is generally no advantage in sinking to it, as the supplies are not materially larger than those from the Jordan except near an outcrop of the latter.

Underlying the Dresbach are several hundred feet of shale and sandstone, which lie almost entirely below the level of the flood plain of the Mississippi and are encountered only in deep wells. The upper portion consists of blue and green shale and the lower of porous sandstone. The shale furnishes an impervious cap, which confines the water in the sandstone thus giving rise to splendid flows from the sandstone in the valleys of the Mississippi and Root rivers. The yield is generally sufficient for all purposes, including industrial and public supplies.

Beneath the last-mentioned sandstone are the red shales, sandstones, and quartzites of the red clastic series, which rests upon the granitic rock. Neither the red clastic series nor the granite will yield much water.

Houston county lies in what is called the Driftless Area, a tract of about 15,000 square miles, occupying nearly all the southwestern quarter of Wisconsin, and extending into southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois. Unlike the vast stretches around it covering more than half of North America, this comparatively small tract, about as large as the country of Denmark, contains no deposits indicative of having been left by melting ice sheets. Houston county, therefore, contains no drift clay or boulders brought here by ice action, in the Glacial Age. There is a thick deposit of foreign gravel in Riceford, in the extreme southwestern part of the county, and there is a terrace along the Mississippi River that is made up of sand and gravel, evidently brought here from the north. It is possible that these deposits may have been brought here by small isolated glaciers in the raging waters which flowed from the receding ice sheets, but the existence of such small flating glaciers in the driftless area is not yet agreed upon by all geologists. At any rate the county wholly escaped the operation of those forces which spread the well-known drift clay and boulders over most of the State.

There is a marked alluvial terrace; that is, a terrace made up of deposits left by the waters of the past geologic periods, that accompanies the Mississippi and Root rivers, and ascends their lower tributaries, but it does not seem to be true that all the streams are terraced before reaching the level of that terrace. This indicates that the high water which produced that terrace was due to backing up from the Mississippi, and that possibly the country itself in general was not more wet than at present; in other words, that the amount of surface drainage that passed down the valleys was no greater than now. Root River was simply wider and deeper, with a sluggish current, due to the greater volume of the Mississippi. The highest point at which the terraced condition of the Root River has been observed is Preston, in Fillmore county, but it must certainly extend several miles further up that valley. By aneroid measurements, united with the levels of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, the height of this terrace at Preston is found to be about 300 feet above the Grand Crossing of the Southern Minnesota Railroad near the mouth of Root River, while the same terract at Hokah, likewise near the mouth of Root River, is only about 100 feet above the flood plain. It is also probable that the loam terrace, as seen at La Crescent, is the same continued to and coalascent with the Mississippi terrace; and there it is 90 feet above the Mississippi flood plain.

This would necessitate a fall of about 200 feet to the Root River at its highest stages, in a distance of 50 miles in a right line. Root River valley, between the rock bluffs, has an average width through Houston county of about two miles, and that would have been the width of the stream, with a depth of over 100 feet.

There is, besides, this high, loam-terrace, a second terrace level, visible especially at La Crescent on the Mississippi, which there rises 50 feet above the flood plain of the river, and spreads out in a plateau on which the village has been located. This terrace, as already mentioned, is made of gravel and pebbles of northern glacial origin and was identified only along the Mississippi. The largest stones it contains are three inches in longest diameter. It is passed through in wells and seems to be entirely pervious to water, as all wells on it get water at about the level of the flood plain of the river. This material is used for grading and road-bed on the Reno-Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and elsewhere. It consists entirely of rounded water-worn materials, the main part being the usual parti-colored quartzite pebbles, granitic, hornblendic, amygdaloidal and lamellar, as well as uniform and massive. A great many of them have a red color, or some shade varying from red. The coarsest pieces are rare, found only in the upper portions of the debris of alluvial fans.

The following more special observations have been made on these terraces in Houston county. At Sheldon, six miles from Root River, in the valley of Beaver Creek, the terrace on which the Newberry House stands is 30 feet above the water of the creek below the dam. The materials of the terrace at this place are sandy loam, horizontally stratified, with more clay near the top and less evident stratification.

At Houston the only observable terrace, measured about a mile west of the city, is 65 feet above the flood plain. The track of the railroad is about one foot above the flood plain of the river, which is 18 feet higher than the water below the mill-dam.

At Money Creek the terrace rises 30 feet above the flood plain, which is 20 feet above low water below the mill-dam. The contents of this terrace are stratified. On Section 30 in this town the contents of Root River Terrace, and their arrangement, are as follows: Mixed and broken stratifications, roots, soil, etc., 2-4 feet; loam and sandy loam, 3-6 feet; oblique strata of light sand; loam and light sand; one layer of sand, blown out 6 inches; oblique layers of sand; horizontal strata of fine sand; strata of fine sand or clay; sloping clay layers, damp rusty; dry blowing sand; wet clay, with rusty lumps; contorted, curling, or massive strata; hid from view by debris.

The full height of the bank where the section was taken is about twenty feet. At a point further to the right a couple of bones were found, but in the confused and broken uppermost layer. They were where that layer comes down to the river, and about three feet below the surface, or five feet above the water of the dam, the surface of the bank sloping about 45 degrees.

At Hokah the village is on a terrace sixty-five feet above the flood

plain of Root River, and there is a distribution of loam about the bluffs at a higher level (as well as at many other points along Root River valley), reaching to 100 feet, or a little more, above the flood plain. This loam appears in indistinct benches or terrace-levels, or patches of terrace, rising often with a slope, far up the rock-bluffs. It very rarely appears level as a well-marked terrace. It suggests rather a worn-out terrace level, the upper surface of which has suffered erosion by being gullied out and smoothed off toward the river. It is generally cultivated for farms, and has good wheat fields, consisting of the same materials as the lower terrace. Its actual height is difficult to ascertain.

Southwest quarter of Section 22, La Crescent. At the roadside appears a terrace, rising about fifty feet, which at the top consists of the fine loam of which the foregoing terrace is composed, showing at least eight feet of such material, while its lower twenty feet are of drift gravel, which is coarse and obliquely stratified, the coarsest pebbles being one or two inches in diameter. This occurs on the rounded point of the rock bluff which faces both valleys.

The village of La Crescent stands on a beautiful terrace of drift gravel, generously laid out, with wide streets and alleys, fifty feet above the flood plain of the Mississippi. This terrace gradually toward the high rock-bluffs. It is surmounted along the bluffs by another terrace, rising forty feet higher, which consists of loam.

This drift gravel must be attributed to the agency of the river. It has every feature of a water-work alluvial deposit. It is not found in Houston county in any of the valleys of the other streams, back from the Mississippi. It ante-dates the loess loam, as that is terraced above it, and probably bears the same relation to an earlier glacier period as the terraced loam does to the last.

At Brownsville the loam terrace is eighty feet above the flood plain of the Mississippi.

At Yucatan the terrace flat is forty feet above the present flood plain of the South Fork of Root River. The flood plain is six feet above low water.

At Freeburg the terrace is twenty feet above the flood plain of the South Fork of Crooked Creek, which is five feet above the water of the creek.

The material resources of the county consist of its excellent soil, its timber, its waterpowers and its stones. The rocks of the county do not contain any valuable minerals. They are everywhere abundantly exposed and are quarried at various places. A number of churches, schools, public buildings, mills, business blocks and residences in the county are constructed of native stone and brick. Good sand is found in various places, and at varying depths, and has been used to a considerable extent. The loam everywhere is suitable for making brick, which are uniformly red. Lime has not been burned on an extensive scale, but considerable has been prepared in pot-kilns for local use.

Flowing wells can be obtained in the valleys of the Mississippi and Root rivers throughout their entire extent in this county and also in the

lower courses of the tributary streams. On the upland the water in the deep wells remains several hundred feet below the surface. For example, in the village well at Caledonia it is reported to stand about 250 feet and in the village well at Spring Grove about 300 feet below the surface.

The water from all horizons is moderately mineralized, the principal constituents being calcium, magnesium, and the bicarbonate radicle. A wide variation in the waters of this county in normal chlorine content was noted by H. C. Carel in his investigations some years ago, and recorded in the Eighteenth Report of the Minnesota State Board of Health, 1899-1900, pages 241-260, and in the Nineteenth Report, 1901-1902, pages 346-356. A general statement summarized from these reports is to the effect that the deep-lying water-bearing strata are much more heavily loaded with chlorine than the shallower beds. At Houston in 1900 there were twenty-eight artesian wells, ranging in depth between 230 and 310 feet, all obtaining their water from sandstones lower than the Dresbach. The shallowest of these wells yielded the least chlorine, 44.2 parts per million; the deepest yielded 187.2 parts per million. On the higher ground around Houston, where the supplies are drawn from the Jordan, the New Richmond, and even from so high a formation as the St. Peter, the amount of chlorine is appreciably less. The average chlorine content of springs flowing from these formations is, for the county, only 4.6 parts per million. As a summary of Carel's investigations the following figures have been compiled from the large amount of material gathered by him as to the average chlorine content of underground waters being expressed in parts per million: Springs (several formations), 4.6; shallow wells, 2.8; Jordan sandstone, 9.4; Dresbach sandstone, 13; lower sandstone, 9.5; red clastic series, 76.

There are springs along the base of the cliffs at numerous points, the waters draining freely from the rocks wherever they are cut by deep valleys. In the vicinity of Hokah many springs rise from the base of the Jordan sandstone. Several miles west of Hokah is Stimpson Spring, which was long a favorite resort and which is reported to issue from above an impervious limestone as a stream of considerable size. When the county was first settled there were many gristmills operated by water power, and streams issuing from springs were frequently utilized. Winnebago Creek, Pine Creek, Thompson Creek, Money Creek, Beaver Creek, Crooked Creek, and Crystal Creek are all examples.

The village of Caledonia and the farms adjacent have a number of wells ranging from 250 to 312 feet in depth, in some of which the water stands more than 250 feet below the surface. A generalized section of these wells is here given: Loam clay and bottom of the St. Peter sandstone, 70 feet; Shakopee, 40 feet; New Richmond sandstone, 10 feet; Oneota dolomite, 150 feet; Jordan sandstone, entered 40 feet; making a total of 310 feet.

The village of Houston lies in the valley of Root River, which here apparently flows over a bed of the St. Lawrence formation. In the valley flowing wells are obtained from the Dresbach and lower sandstones. The public waterworks are supplied from a well six inches in diameter and 302 feet deep, which has been pumped at the rate of 130 gallons a minute.

The water rises 12 feet above the surface, or about 960 feet above sea level.

The village of Spring Grove is situated in the highest portion of the county, where the Platteville limestone occurs. The public waterworks are supplied from a well 396 feet deep, but many of the private wells are shallow. The water in the deep wells stands far below the surface.

Along the valley of Root River in the vicinity of Hokah there are flowing wells with considerable head. In several wells where the situation is favorable the natural head of water is used to operate hydraulic rams that lift the water to levels to which it would not otherwise rise. At Hokah this inexpensive and convenient method of pumping is employed at the village waterworks. Ordinarily this device raises sufficient water, but a gasoline engine can be used in case of shortage. The village well is 544 feet deep, the water rising 18 feet above the surface or 692 feet above sea level. The yield exceeds present needs, though in the past there has been some difficulty owing to the loss of water either through a leak in the casing or through the uncased portion of the sandstone. The public supply is used by about one-half the people and about 5,000 gallons is consumed daily.

As a summary it may be said that the three strongest water-bearing formations are the Jordan, Dresbach, and basal Cambrian sandstones. On the upland they lie at depths of several hundred feet and the water stands far below the surface. In the deepest valleys they occur at or near the surface, and where not exposed by erosion give rise to flows. The basal Cambrian sandstone is best protected from erosion and is therefore the best artesian zone. The water from all sources is moderately hard.

The Government survey of Houston county was made in 1852, 1853, 1854. The field notes taken give an excellent idea of the general appearance of the surface of the county at that time. Following is a brief transcript of those notes:

Township 101, Range 3, fractional; east part of Jefferson. This is embraced wholly within the river bottoms of the Mississippi. It is timbered but low, with some marsh and standing water. Acreage, 3,169.76.

Township 101, Range 4; west part of Jefferson and south part of Crooked Creek. The Mississippi bluffs run north and south across the east end of this town, which embraces some marsh and slough land in the eastern tier of sections. These bluffs, which unite with those of Winnebago Creek from the west, in the southeastern corner of the town, introduce in that portion a very rough and rocky character of surface. The town is nearly covered with timber. Acreage, 22,546.52.

Town 101, Range 5; Winnebago. This is crossed by Winnebago Creek, which received several tributaries from the north and south. There is a tract of prairie in the southwest corner of the town and another in the northwest corner. The remainder is either timbered or shrubby, with oaks and aspens. The creek valley is deep and rocky. Area, 23,045.05 acres.

Township 101, Range 6; Wilmington. This town is about equally divided between prairie and timber, which are irregularly intermingled.

Waterloo Creek, in sections 29, 32 and 33, runs in a deep valley, with steep and rocky banks. Area, 23,037.13 acres.

Township 101, Range 7; Spring Grove. Along the northwest edge of this town the south fork of Root River causes a deep valley, which is rough, timbered and rocky. The rest of the town is variously overspread with mingled prairie and timber or oak bushes, with gently undulating and sometimes rolling surfaces. Area 23,045.12 acres.

Township 102, Range 4; part of Crooked Creek and south part of Brownsville. This town is named from the creek which crossed it from west to east, south of the center. This creek with its branches causes a rough and rocky surface, with deep gorges over a considerable area. The town has no natural prairie. Area, 20,403.73 acres.

Township 102, Range 5; Mayville and west part of Crooked Creek. In the central part of this town are the sources of Crooked Creek, which leaves the town towards the southeast, in Section 25. With the exception of small portions of sections 31 and 32, this town has no prairie, but the heaviest timber is along the creek and its tributaries. The surface is undulating to rough. Area, 22,976.20 acres.

Township 102, Range 6; Caledonia. Beaver Creek is the only stream in this town. It causes a rough and bluffy surface in sections 19, 18, 7, 6, 5, 8 and 17, flowing northward. A little more than one-half is of elevated prairie, the timber being along the creek and in the eastern side of the town. Area, 23,063.95 acres.

Township 102, Range 7; Black Hammer. The south fork of the Root River crosses the western portion of this town in a northerly direction, accompanied by a heavily timbered and rocky tract affecting nearly one-half of the town. There is an irregular strip of prairie which enters the town from the southeast and runs northwest past the center. Area, 23,042.34 acres.

Township 103, Range 4; north part of Brownsville and south part of Hokah. This is a border town along the Mississippi, and in the north has some bottom land east of the bluffs. No prairie is shown. The Wild Cat Creek joins the Mississippi at Brownsville, Section 26, and Thompson Creek flows across the northwest corner. These streams, like others in the county, run in deep rocky valleys, and cause a great diversity of surface some distance on either side from the immediate valley. They have a great many tributary valleys which do not contain streams, but which are equally deep and bluffy. Area, 20,912.18 acres.

Township 103, Range 5; Union and south part of Mound Prairie. Root River, with its tributaries, the Crystal, Bear and Thompson creeks, causes a rolling and even a rough surface over much of this town, with frequent rock exposure. There is a small area of prairie, covering Section 4, with adjoining parts of 5, 8, 9 and 3; but the greater part of the town is represented as timbered, or overgrown with small oaks and aspens and with hazel. Area, 22,951.16 acres.

Township 103, Range 6; Sheldon and south part of Houston. The south fork of Root River, with its tributaries from the south, Beaver, Crystal and Badger creeks, covers this town with a network of deep valleys,

in many places very rough. In the eastern portion of the town the surface is more uniform and open. Area, 22,854.31 acres.

Township 103, Range 7; south part of Yucatan. The south fork of Root River crosses the southeastern quarter of this town. The whole town is rough and wooded, except a narrow prairie belt occupying the river bottoms. Area, 23,045.67 acres.

Township 104, Range 5; north part of Hokah and east part of La Crescent. This is a Mississippi River town, and between the line of the river bluffs and the channel of the river is a belt of bottom land, much of it marshy, from two to four miles wide. The Root River cuts a deep gorge across the southern part of the town, and Pine Creek crosses the northern portion. Area, 20,398.03 acres.

Township 104, Range 5; Mound Prairie and west part of La Crescent. This town is crossed by Root River, along the southern two tiers of sections. It has a belt of prairie within the rocky bluffs, covering sections 33, 34 and 35, and a marsh in sections 30 and 31, but the rest is more or less wooded. Pine Creek also crosses the northeastern portion of the town. Area, 23,045.07 acres.

Township 104, Range 6; Houston and east part of Money Creek. This town is broken by Root River and Money Creek. It also has Silver Creek in the eastern portion. There is a belt of prairie land along the Root River, within the rock bluffs, and in the western portion of the town in Money Creek valley, but the most of its surface is wooded and broken. Area, 22,984.56 acres.

Township 104, Range 7; north part of Yucatan and west part of Money Creek. This town has prairie bottom-land along Root River, which crosses it from west to east in the southern half, and along Money Creek in sections 1, 2 and 12. The rest of the town is more or less wooded, with a rolling surface. Area, 23,179.03 acres.

The conditions as described in this early report continue to the present time, except that much of the timber has been cleared from the tillable land, and new growths of timber, hitherto prevented by the spring fires kindled by the Indians have appeared on the bluffs and ridges.

The characteristic feature of the northern part of the county is the Root River, which has recently been deepened and straightened for drainage purposes, and which was at one time navigable.

The first appearance of the Root River on any map was in 1703, when the published map of Guillaume De L'Isle showed the course of the "R, des Kicapous," flowing into the Mississippi from the west. This water, which historians have identified as the Root River, is sketched as a large stream, and is continued westward by a dotted line to a supposed union with the "Riviere Longe," of La Hontan. This fictitious "River Long," of La Hontan is made to be a northwestward continuation of the Des Moines River with a conjectural connection with the Kicapous, which, as just stated, has been identified as the Root River.

La Hontan's own map appeared in 1704. As his works are now believed to have been fiction, and his map purely a garbled copy of previous maps, it is not a matter of vital import whether or not he intended that his "River

Long" should be merely an exaggeration of the Root River. As elsewhere stated, N. H. Winchell believes that the Root River flows into the Mississippi at about the place where La Hontan describes the mouth of his Long River. Nicollet believed La Hontan's River to be the Cannon, while De L'Isle, as noted, drew it as a western extension of the Des Moines.

Sheet No. 5, of Popple's Atlas of the British Empire in America, published in 1733, shows the River Quicapon, which is probably intended to be the stream now called Root River.

Another map, evidently of Italian origin, which bears neither date nor author's name, but was evidently published in the latter years of the eighteenth century (1750 and 1778 are both conjectural dates) has a river "Quikapous," which from its size and location is evidently the Root River.

The map of Sr. Robert Vaugondy, probably published in 1775, shows the "R. des Quicabou," evidently the Root River. The "Quicapous" also appears on the map by Le Sr. d' Anville, published in 1775, and the "Quicapoux" on the "Carte des Cinq grands Lacs du Canada" (Map of the Five Great Lakes of Canada), probably published in 1762, but of which no author or date are given.

A map published by Robert Sayer and J. Bennett probably in 1775 gives the Root River as the "Macaret" River.

But in a map published by J. Hinton, probably about 1776, the old general form of the name is resumed, and the Root River appears as the "Quicapous."

The same name for the Root River is also used in the map which accompanies the stories of Carver's travels published in 1779.

In Carver's own map of 1781, the Root River is named the "Yallow." The map of the United States of North America, etc., engraved by William Faden in 1793, calls the Root River the "Quicapoo," but the map published by Laurie and Whittle in 1794 uses the name "Maceret."

The map compiled by Gen. Collott to accompany his travels in North America in 1774-76, engraved in 1805, calls the Root River the "Yellow R." but incorrectly gives its source as a lake, a mistake which may be due to marshes having been covered in time of high water.

The map of 1806 compiled by M. Lewis and copied by Nicholas King, gives the "Carneille" River in the present location of the Root River.

The Root River has borne its present name since about 1806-7, when it appears on a chart entitled "A map of Lewis and Clark's track across the western portion of North America from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. By order of the executive of the United States in 1804, 1805 and 1806. Copied from the original drawing of William Clark by Samuel Lewis." Since that time the Root River has been a feature of every map of Minnesota.

Thus it will be seen that from the first appearance of the stream on a map in 1703 down to the time it assumed its present name in 1805-06, the Root River bore the following names: Kicapous, Quicapon, Quikapous, Quicabou, Quicapoux, Maracet, Quicapous, Yallow, Quicapoo, Maceret, Yellow and Carneille. The Indians found here by the whites called the stream Hokah, which also means "root."

CHAPTER III

ABORIGINAL REMAINS

That Houston county has been the home of man through countless generations is shown by its numerous earthworks. These earthworks extend along the high lands overlooking the Mississippi River, and back along the bluffs of the Root River and its tributaries. Notable among the remains of a departed people in Houston county are the La Crescent group, with human remains and copper implements; the Hogback group with rock burials, the mounds at Jefferson, in the upper part of one of which was found a skeleton of a warrior with gun and hatchet, while in the lower part was found a stone box grave of small dimensions containing the flexed bones of an adult skeleton deposited after the flesh had been removed, while in one adjacent was a stone vault six feet in diameter, which contained charcoal, ashes and split bones of animals and two chipped scrapers. In other groups are found effigy mounds, in the shape of birds of large dimensions.

The evidences are many that these mounds were not built by a race distinct from the Indians, but that the Mound Builders were in fact no other than the more or less immediate ancestors of the Indians found here by the whites. The relics found in them indicate a state of society and mode of life in every way identical to that of the Indian.

Much interesting material has been written on the subject and N. H. Winchell's "Aborigines of Minnesota" contains aside from a general discussion of aboriginal inhabitants of Minnesota, a detailed description of some of the remains found in Houston county. The following survey is reproduced from that work.

The La Crescent Group (northern part), S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$; S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$; and E. $\frac{1}{2}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 10, T. 104-4. Many mounds were destroyed by the railroad and many others have been plowed down and dug away. These are in part on a terrace about twenty feet above a lower plateau, which is about thirty feet above the Mississippi River, and the rest are on the lower plateau.

The northern part of the La Crescent group embraces fifty-two mounds, which are all circular except two, which are elongated mounds. Of these one is 62 feet by 44 feet, and 4 feet high, and the other tapers from 33 feet in width to 12 feet near the narrow end. Its greatest height is at its widest point, viz: $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Its ends have the form of semi-circles, one with a radius of 12 feet, and the other with one of 6 feet. One, which is partly removed, furnished an aboriginal pipe.

"When opened they have been found to contain human remains of men of large stature, and it is said that in grading for the railroad, a copper skillet and other trinkets were found at a depth of eighteen feet below the

surface." (Geol. Report on Houston County.) Surveyed July 21 and 22, 1884.

La Crescent Group (southern part). This contains ten mounds, of which three are effigies. The circular mounds are small and somewhat scattered. They are all situated on the two plateaus mentioned, one about thirty feet, and the other about fifty feet above the river. The effigy which is on the lower terrace represents nothing so much as a cross, but it doubtless belongs to that class which is named bird effigies. Mr. Lewis, in "Science," No. 6, 1885, has designated another of these effigies a frog, and taken by itself it has the form of a frog more than that of any other animal, but it may rather be composed of two imperfect bird effigies, one directly in advance of the other, and so near together that they are in one mound. This idea is rather favored by the fact that a third effigy, like a bird with spread wings, is very close to the rear, and by a little enlargement, either of the frog or of this third bird, the three would be brought into union. The spread of the wings, the size and length of the body and the direction of flight are almost identical in the trio.

This part, and the northern part of this group, are numbered continuously from north to south.

Mounds near Pine Creek, south of La Crescent, on S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 15, T. 104-4, located on a spur from a plateau, about fifty feet above the river. This group consists of two, an elongated mound and a bird effigy, with the remains of an animal effigy on plowed land. The form which is called a bird effigy is hardly susceptible of that designation, as its wings are more like short, small, elongated mounds, crossing that of the wings nearly at a right angle. The body, however, is wider than the head. Surveyed July 18, 1884.

Pine Creek Group, south of La Crescent, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, and N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 15, T. 104-4. On a plateau about fifty feet above the flood plain of the Mississippi. This group of twenty-two mounds embraces four bird effigies, all of which, with straight broad wings, appear more like simple Greek crosses, with one arm too long and the opposite one too short. As they are all headed, however, in the same direction, they appear to be a small flock of birds, and can hardly be separated from numerous others, which are more evidently intended to represent birds in flight. One of the tumuli is egg-shaped, and they are all small, the largest being thirty-two feet in diameter. Surveyed July 18, 1884.

A lone mound is in Root River valley one mile northeast of Hokah, on N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T. 104-4, on a plateau about sixty feet above the river, twenty-two feet by twelve feet.

Another lone mound is near the center of Section 27, T. 104-5, on a terrace about sixty feet above the river, in the woods, twenty-two feet by three feet.

Silver Creek Mounds, W. $\frac{1}{2}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T. 104-6, on a terrace about thirty-five feet above the river bottomland. Here are three tumuli, the largest, separated from the others, being forty-six feet by three feet. One has been said to be the grave of the celebrated chief Black Hawk but this is untrue. It is now plowed. Surveyed July 14, 1884.

Circular enclosure two miles west of Hokah, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 2, T. 103-5, about sixty feet above the bottom land of the creek. The average depth inside is about two feet. The width of the embankment is fourteen feet. The opening at the south side is nine feet. The diameter from the center of the embankment on the east side to the same on the west side is forty feet. Surveyed July 9, 1884.

Mounds on Hokah townsite, N. $\frac{1}{2}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 6, T. 103-4. There are three mounds on the public square, one being a bird effigy, seventy feet above the river, its height being one and one-half feet. Length of body is eighty-seven feet, span of the wings is 225 feet. The wings of this effigy are slightly flexed backward. The body is rounded at its extremity. A smaller bird effigy, sixty feet above the river, a little N. of E. of this, on block K, has no flexure in its wings and has a rectangular termination of its body. Another animal effigy is on lot 1, block 17, at ninety-five feet above the river. Mr. Lewis says, in "Science," No. 106, 1885, "From the extremity of the snout to the tip of the tail its length in a right line is just sixty-two and one-half feet, and the body is one and one-half feet in height. . . . Formerly there existed several other effigies, and thirty or forty mounds and embankments, on the same terrace with the birds, which have been removed in grading streets and lots." In this number was one turtle effigy.

Mounds two miles above Brownsville, W. $\frac{1}{2}$, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, T. 103-4, on a plateau about thirty feet above the bottomland. This group consists of a thickly set cluster of fifty-eight tumuli, mostly less than twenty-eight feet in diameter, the largest being forty-four feet by three feet. Surveyed July 2, 1884.

A lone tumulus is at Brownsville on S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T. 103-4, on a spur of the bluff about 480 feet above the flood plain. It is composed of stone covered with dirt, and is thirty-five feet by three feet, and about 600 feet from the Mississippi River. The bluff at De Sota can be seen plainly from this mound, and also the bluffs above La Crosse. Surveyed July 1, 1884.

Mounds near Fairy Rock on the Mississippi River, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T. 102-4. These three tumuli are about 150 feet above the river, of less than medium size and about 200 feet south of Fairy Rock. Surveyed May 16, 1889.

Mounds two miles north of Jefferson, on N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 23, T. 101-4, about twenty-six feet above the slough. Across the line of Sec. 14 were formerly a number of round mounds, now almost obliterated. The group consists of thirty-three ordinary tumuli of moderate dimensions, the largest being forty feet in diameter, and the rest about thirty feet. Surveyed June 30, 1884.

Mounds at Jefferson, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 35, T. 101-4, on a narrow rocky ridge about 500 feet above the Mississippi, group of three mounds. The only information obtainable respecting this group is that published in the Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, p. 45, for 1890-91, imprint 1894, by Cyrus Thomas, as follows:

"No. 1, about thirty feet in diameter and six feet high, of the usual

conical form, on the summit of the cliff, had already been opened sufficiently to remove therefrom the skeleton of an Indian warrior, together with his gun, hatchet, etc. The excavation which had been made was still partly open, and extending downward only about half the depth of the mound. Digging about a foot further into the hard, light-colored earth, apparently a mixture of clay and ashes, a stone slab was encountered something over two feet long, something less in width, and five inches thick, of the same kind of rock as that found in the cliff. This was lying flat upon others of various sizes, which were placed edgewise so as to form an oblong cist or coffin, but so small that its contents, the decayed bones of an adult, were nearly in a heap, as though the skeleton had been folded and deposited after the flesh was removed. No implements or vestiges of art were found.

"No. 2. This interesting mound, situated about fifty feet south and somewhat down the slope from No. 1, is circular, about twenty-five feet in diameter and six feet high. An excavation had been made in the top of the covering of top slabs of a stone vault or chamber, which further exploration showed the mound to contain. The form of this vault is shown in the accompanying figure. It was about six feet in diameter throughout, and before it was disturbed probably reached nearly or quite to the top of the mound. Some of the top rocks had been thrown down, and, with some small human bones, were lying on the slope of the mound. The floor of the inner area was filled to the depth of about two feet with charcoal, ashes and split bones of animals, among which were found two roughly chipped scrapers or skinners. This accumulation had not been disturbed by those who had made the first partial opening above, and who, as was learned, had unearthed the skeleton of an Indian child, with some modern beads and other trinkets.

"No. 3 is situated about 100 feet north but much below No. 1, and is about twenty feet in diameter and four feet high. Nothing whatever of interest was found in it.

"Nothing was observed in relation to these works differing from the usual conical mounds in this region except the peculiar commanding position which they occupy, and the walled structure of No. 2. Of the numerous bluffs in this region no other affords such a clear and extensive view of the surrounding country as this. An unobstructed view of the Mississippi for a considerable distance above and below, also up the Little Iowa, Winnebago and other streams, is here obtained. From this position can be seen the mouth of Root River on the west, and on the east the deep-gorged Bad Axe, and the last battle-field on which Black Hawk fought. It must, therefore, have always been a favorite outlook point or station.

"Mound No. 2 seems to have been purposely built upon the sunny slope of the cliff just below the summit, so as to be sheltered from the cold north-west winds, and partly also from observation, while its occupants had a nearly unobstructed field for observation and signals. Unlike the other mounds near it which were opened, it was composed wholly of the rock and soil taken from around it. Possibly it may have been used as a sentry post or signal station. The charcoal, ashes and split bones of animals were doubtless the remains of the feasts and fires of the watchmen; the burial

of a child in the mound was intrusive and by modern Indians. Not a fragment of pottery was found at this locality, although within ten miles of the pottery circle in Iowa, which will be noticed hereafter."

It appears from this, and from the cairns at Red Wing, as well as from the stone-box graves of Dayton's bluff, in Ramsey county, that the mound builders resorted to stone for the construction of their burial cists when suitable stone slabs were available.

Ruined fort, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33, T. 101-4. The outlines of this fort are only just traceable. They are on a high ridge. The fort was about 600 feet by 500 feet. Surveyed April 22, 1892.

Winnebago Creek mounds, W. $\frac{1}{2}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 35, T. 101-4, on a plateau about twenty-two feet above the creek. This group embraces forty circular mounds, of rather less than average size. They are scattered promiscuously over the platform.

Hogback mounds near Jefferson, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 35, T. 101-4. These are tumuli of good size, and three have been opened. The largest of fifty feet by seven and one-half feet, and is about 350 feet above the river. Those opened have rock burials. The smallest is an elongated mound.

New Albion group, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5, T. 101-4, and continuing into Allamakee county, Iowa. On a plateau about fourteen feet above the marsh. This group embraces eleven tumuli, situated between the railroad and the marsh to the east. But two of these are north of the State line. One is fifty-five feet by three feet, and the other is flat-topped with a top diameter of twenty feet. The series extending southwestwardly, comes to the "sandpit" and has lost a portion of two. Four have been excavated. Surveyed June 24, 1884.

There are also numerous other groups of mounds in the county, notably in Yucatan townships, which have not as yet been scientifically surveyed or examined, but which have been dug into and searched at various times by curiosity seekers.

An example of Indian pictographs and carvings is found in the Reno cave on the northwest quarter of section 35, township 102, range 4. This cave is 150 feet above Minnesota slough. It is twelve feet long and five feet wide at the bottom. The main portion is twelve feet high. The floor is five feet above the ground at the entrance. On the walls are numerous crude outlines of various animals, including man, fish and birds. An 8-rayed star has been interpreted sometimes to represent the four main points of the compass with intermediate divisions.

Many relics found in Houston county are in the hands of private collectors. In the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society are to be found the following specimens from this county: 15 arrow heads, 8 war points, 3 spear heads, 6 awls, 4 clay vessels (from mounds), 1 clay disk, 1 hematite celt, 1 piece of hematite, 2 chipped implements, 2 scrapers, 1 celt, 1 stone pipe (from a mound), 2 stone hoes, 3 shell beads (from a mound), 1 discoidal stone, 1 pendant, 1 perforated stone, 1 grooved ax, 1 ceremonial, 1 shell pin.

CHAPTER IV

REIGN OF THE INDIANS

From the days of the early explorers, the Root River Valley, and its adjacent territory in Houston county, was ranged by the M'dewakanton band of the Dakota Indians. Many a murderous foray was made against them by the Sauk and Fox Indians, who used this county as a pathway to the Dakota village at Winona. Later the Winnebago were temporary occupants.

The Dakota were the principal division of the Siouan family, and are more commonly called by their family name of Sioux, rather than by their individual name of Dakota. The Siouan family consists not only of the Dakota proper, but also of the Winnebago, the Assiniboin, the Minnetare group, and the Osage and southern kindred tribes.

The word Sioux, now applied to the whole linguistic family, though by the early settlers applied to the Dakota alone, is a corruption of the word Madouessi or Nadouescious, the French rendering of a word meaning literally "the snake-like ones," or figuratively "the enemies," the name by which the Chippewa and other Algonquin Indians called the Dakota. Dakota, variously spelled, was applied by this branch for the Siouan family to themselves, and means "joined together in friendly compact," an unconscious prophecy of the "E. Pluribus Unum" which was to become the motto of the United States of America.

An important division of the Dakota were the M'dewakanton tribe, who ranged the Mississippi as far south as the Illinois River country. At one time the M'dewakanton had their headquarters about the Mille Lacs region in northern Minnesota, hence their name which means "The People of the Spirit Lake." Evidently driven out by the Chippewa, who had obtained arms from the whites, they established themselves in seven villages along the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

The Wabashas were the head chiefs of the M'dewakanton. Their immediate band, in which was probably a mingling of the former Mantanton, became the buffer band between the other Dakota and their enemies on the south. From Mille Lacs they moved to the mouth of the Rum River, near Anoka, Minn., then to the mouth of the Minnesota River, not far from St. Paul, Minn., then to Red Wing, Minn., and then to Winona, Minn., where they established themselves permanently. With headquarters at Winona, which they called Ke-ox-ah, and where the annual games of all the M'dewakanton were held, they had at different times, temporary villages on the Upper Iowa, on the Root River, at Trempealeau, and at Minnesota City.

Three Wabashas are known to the history of Houston county. The origin of the dynasty is shrouded in antiquity. But some time in the first

quarter of the eighteenth century a powerful Dakota chief married a beautiful Chippewa princess, and by her had two sons, both of whom were raised as Dakotas. The eldest was Wabasha I. Later, returning to her own people, the Chippewa princess married a noted Chippewa brave. One of the children born to this union was Mamongazida, a famous Chippewa chief, who was the father of the still more famous Wabajeeg. Thus the princess became the ancestress of two royal houses, one ruling the M'de wakanton Dakota and the other the Chippewa. Wabasha I was probably born about 1720. In spite of his traditional Chippewa blood, he frequently engaged in fierce warfare against the people of that nation.

Our first real knowledge of Wabasha I (then rendered by the French, Ouabashas) dates from March 9, 1740, when he is recorded as having met Pierre Paul, the Sieur Marin (afterward commander of a Lake Pepin stockade in 1750-52) on the Rock River, in Wisconsin. At that time Wabasha I and those with him offered to surrender themselves and to submit to punishment for the slaughter by some Dakota warriors of several Chippewa who had been under the personal protection of the French.

After France, by the treaty of 1763, relinquished its titles in North America to England and Spain, the French traders began to withdraw from the Sioux country. The English were slow to take their places because they feared the Indians. The Sauk and other Algonquin leaders continued their fight against the English. The French had withdrawn their authority, and the British had not yet time to look after the Indians of the west. Passage through the Indians of the Wisconsin country was fraught with the greatest danger. And the attitude of the Sioux themselves was suspected by reason of a murder which had taken place about 1761, when a trader, called by the Indians, Pagonta, or the Mallard Duck, was shot while smoking in his cabin at Mendota by Ixkatapay, a Sioux Indian with whom he had quarreled.

The absence of the traders worked a great hardship on the Indians. They had degenerated by contact with the whites. No longer were they the noble lords of the wild who had been able to wrest their living from the forests and plains and streams. They had lost their skill with the spear and with the arrow. They had been taught to depend on the whites for ammunition and provisions. Now they could no longer obtain these articles, and as the result they were reduced to absolute want.

Therefore, the Indians of the neighborhood of Winona, Red Wing, South St. Paul and the Minnesota River held a conference, as the result of which they resolved to surrender Ixkatapay, to promise peace, to beg the traders to return, and to implore the protection of the British. The council selected a delegation of nearly 100 to go to Quebec on this mission, with Ixkatapay as a prisoner. Wabasha I was leader of this party. They went by way of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers, but before they reached Green Bay one after another deserted. There all but six had turned back, taking Ixkatapay with them. The chief Wabasha I and five others, true to their trust, kept on their way.

Reaching Quebec, Wabasha I explained the situation and the condition of his people, and offered himself for execution for the murder of the

trader, in the place of Ixkatapay, but implored the British to take his people under their protection and to send ammunition and goods at once to his suffering tribes in exchange for the furs that they had on hand. Struck with his noble character the English granted all he asked, and gave him seven medals for the seven bands of his tribe, one of which medals was hung about Wabasha's own neck. It is said that Wabasha I was also presented with a red cap and gaudy uniform.

It was natural that Wabasha I having been signally honored by the British, and having received succor at their hands, should side with the English against the colonists in the Revolutionary war. The British traders were active in instigating the Indians to hostility against the Americans. Wabasha I was recognized as a leading chief. He was directed in his movements by the English commander at Mackinac. In 1779 Wabasha I and his warriors were at Prairie du Chien, awaiting instructions as to whether he should attack the Sauk and Fox for favoring the Americans. In 1780 Wabasha I was the leader of a thousand Sioux, designed to reinforce the British at Kaskaskia and attack the settlements at St. Genevieve, Mo. Wabasha I, who in the official reports is called General Wabasha, was highly commended by the British officers for his discipline, valor and uncommon abilities, and was mentioned in the war correspondence of the time as commanding a force of Indians in no way inferior as soldiers to the regulars of the British army. Wabasha I was at Prairie du Chien at the conclusion of the peace between Great Britain and the colonies, and promised to respect the fact that war had ceased. During the revolution Wabasha I made several trips to Montreal, and it was especially stipulated that on account of his position as commander of so large a force, his visits to Mackinac were always to be welcomed by the British with a salute of the cannon, the cannon to be loaded with solid shell instead of with blank cartridges.

Wabasha I died of cancer of the neck on the Root River in Houston county, January 5, 1806. There is a traditional story that he had been exiled from the main body of the band by the murderous hate of his brothers, but as he had been in public life sixty-six years, and must have been considerably more than eighty years of age, it seems more probable that he had gradually committed the chieftainship to his son.

Some time before the death of his father Wabasha II became nominal chief of the band. He was low of stature, was not a warrior, and is said to have hated war. He was a wise and prudent man, especially in council, and was a strict abstainer from whiskey. He highly admired and appreciated the arts of civilization and desired that his people should be profited by them. He was called The Leaf, La Feuille, corrupted to Lafoy and to La Fye. Unless there is a mistake in Pike's map the Wabasha band in 1805 was located on the upper Iowa River, though possibly this was a temporary camp for that year. It was evidently during the early years of the reign of Wabasha II that the band moved its headquarters to the present site of Winona, though probably the Indians had used the prairie site of the city for various purposes long before that date.

Wabasha's braves espoused the cause of the British in the war of

1812. Wabasha II himself was opposed to war, but was sometimes led into it by his hot-headed soldiers. He was with the other Indians at the unsuccessful siege by the British, in 1813, of Ft. Meigs, on the Maumee River, in northwestern Ohio. The fort was then held by the Americans under William Henry Harrison, later president of the United States. The Winnebago having killed an American soldier, appointed a feast at which each guest was to eat a morsel of the soldier's body. One of the Dakota, being invited to partake, said: "We came here, not to eat the Americans, but to wage war against them." Then Wabasha II said to the Winnebago: "We thought that you, who live near to the white men, were wiser than we who live at a distance; but it must, indeed, be otherwise if you do such deeds." The result was that the feast was not held.

After the treaty of peace made at Ghent, December 24, 1814, the British agents in Canada sent invitations to the Dakota chiefs to attend council to be held at Drummond Island, about fifty miles east of the Straits of Mackinac. Wabasha II, Little Crow and others attended. The agents explained to them that the king across the waters had made peace with the Americans and that hostilities must cease. After lauding the valor of the Indians, the British offered them blankets, knives and other goods as presents, but they were rejected. The paltry presents so aroused the indignation of Wabasha II that he addressed the English officer as follows:

"My Father, what is this I see before me? A few knives and blankets. Is this all you promised at the beginning of the war? Where are those promises you made at Michilimackinac, and sent to our villages on the Mississippi? You told us that you would never let fall the hatchet until the Americans were driven beyond the mountains; that our British father would never make peace without consulting his red children. Has that come to pass? We never knew of this peace. We are told it was made by our Great Father beyond the water, without the knowledge of his war-chiefs; that it is your duty to obey his orders. What is this to us? Will these paltry presents pay for the men we have lost, both in the battle and in the war? Will they soothe the feelings of our friends? Will they make good your promises to us? For myself, I have always found means of subsistence, and I can do so still."

Beginning with Pike, Wabasha II met all the early explorers who came up the river in the next twenty years. He signed the treaties of 1816, 1825 and 1830. He visited Washington in 1824. He was at the head of his tribe during the Red Bird War and the Black Hawk War and at the time of the bringing in of the Winnebago. Every white who came in contact with him spoke most highly of his worth and character. He died about 1836 of small-pox. He was probably at that time about sixty-three years old. Many of his band perished at the same time. The Wabasha band thus reduced in numbers, faded in influence and importance, though its head continued to be recognized as the nominal head chief of all the seven bands of the M'dewakanton.

Several white people lost their lives in the Red Bird War, so-called, which had its climax in the Mississippi channel adjacent to Houston county.

Red Bird was born in 1788 and died in 1827. Various stories are told

of the origin of his name, one being that he wore on each shoulder the plumage of a red bird in imitation of the epaulettes which he had seen worn by the American officers. He is described as being a man of splendid proportions, six feet high, and with a noble countenance. Until the Red Bird outbreak, he had the confidence of the whites to the extent that his presence at Prairie du Chien was considered a guarantee of Indian peace. But after learning of what he believed to be the basest treachery and cruelty to some of his people by the officers at Fort Snelling he sought the most terrible revenge.

In 1826 there was considerable unrest among the Dakota, Winnebago and Chippewa Indians, of the Upper Mississippi region. In October, 1826, by orders from Washington, Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien was abandoned, and the troops were transferred to Fort Snelling. Many of the Indians believed that the move had been made because of cowardice. Their increasing arrogance caused considerable apprehension on the part of the white settlers, but these fears were quieted by the realization that Fort Snelling was well manned, and the number of whites along the river constantly increasing.

The trouble was finally precipitated by the action of the officers at Fort Snelling. In the early spring a band of Chippewa had been fired upon by a band of Dakota, near the fort, and several killed and wounded. Two of the offending Sioux were captured by the soldiers and two were surrendered by their chiefs. The four were handed over for execution to the Chippewa, who killed them in a most revolting manner. At this time two Winnebagos were in confinement at Fort Snelling for trivial offenses, and the rumor spread that these two were among the four Indians whom the whites had delivered to the savage Chippewas.

Red Bird decided upon retaliation. With two companions, We-Kau and Chic-hon-sic, he went to the house of Rijeste Gagnier, two miles southeast from Prairie du Chien, killed Gagnier, scalped and wounded an infant girl, who afterward recovered, and killed a boarder, Solomon Lipcap.

In the meantime demonstrations had been made against the government employees. In the middle of June, 1827, two keel boats from St. Louis, commanded by Captain Allen Lindsay, passed up the river en route for Fort Snelling with military stores. When they reached the present site of Winona, a band of young Dakota warriors requested the crew to come ashore. When they complied they were surrounded by a mob of angry Indians, who jumped aboard the boats and expressed their indignation at the Fort Snelling affair. The members of the crew, however, succeeded in getting aboard their boats, and ridding themselves of the threatening redmen.

At Fort Snelling the thirty-two men of the two crews were armed with muskets, and a barrel of ball cartridges provided. On the downward trip Winona was passed on June 26, the same day on which Red Bird and his companions had attacked the Gagnier family. The Dakotas at Winona again made hostile demonstrations, but not a shot was fired on either side. This danger passed, the boats separated, there being no apprehension of harm from the Winnebagoes.

But the Winnebagoes had not yet taken their full revenge. Thirty-seven of them concealed themselves on an island in the Mississippi, adjacent to Houston county, near the mouth of the Bad Axe. As the first boat, the "O. H. Perry," swung within thirty yards of the shore to take advantage of the deep water, the concealed Winnebagoes opened fire. A negro fell, wounded with a shattered leg, and afterward died. The crew seized their guns and fortified themselves behind the gunwales. At the second volley from the Indians a member of the crew fell dead, his musket protruding from a loophole in the gunwales furnishing the target for a Winnebago marksman.

The boat grounded on a sand bar, and the Indians rushed to their canoes, intending to board it. By this time the crew had opened fire, and were maintaining a vigorous defense. The foremost canoe of the onrushing savages met with a broadside volley, which killed two of the Indians almost instantly. Their dying struggles upset the canoe. Still intent upon revenge, the Indians in the other canoes attempted to board the boat. Two succeeded. John Beauchamp, commander of the crew, rushed to the side of the boat at the head of his men to frustrate this attempt. He was killed by the first savage, but the murderer was in turn killed by John Mandeville, a gallant sailor, commonly called "Saucy Jack." The other savage was also killed. The rest of the Indians, several of whom were wounded, retreated to the shore.

The Winnebagoes on the island now resumed their murderous fire. Mandeville assumed command of the crew, which now numbered but ten effective men. With great courage, under a heavy fire he sprang onto the sand bar, followed by four of his men, for the purpose of pushing the boat from its perilous position. The balls flew thick and fast, some passing through their hats and clothes, but they persisted and the boat was soon afloat.

Seeing their prey escaping, the Winnebagoes increased their efforts. But the craft was now free, and before the guns could be reloaded the boat had been carried by the swift current out of shooting distance from the island. The casualties of the whites consisted of two men killed, two mortally wounded and two slightly. The Indians possibly lost ten or twelve killed and quite a number wounded.

The boat arrived at Prairie du Chien about sunset of the next day, June 27. The other keel boat, in which was Captain Lindsay and William J. Snelling, a son of Colonel Josiah Snelling, the commander at Fort Snelling, passed Houston county about midnight. The Indians near the mouth of the Bad Axe opened fire on her, which was promptly returned. No damage was done on either side, and the boat continued on its way, reaching Prairie du Chien on June 28.

The white settlers at once took measures of protection. Those about Prairie du Chien left their houses and farms and crowded into the abandoned Fort Crawford. Word was sent to Colonel Snelling who soon arrived with two companies of infantry. Civilian military companies were also raised. The Winnebago were finally found several hundred strong, camped near what is now Portage City. To save his people Red Bird and his two com-

panions surrendered. Red Bird died in prison at Prairie du Chien, and in September, 1828, his accomplices, We-kau and Chic-hon-sic, were indicted, tried and convicted, and sentenced to be hanged December 26. But the day before the date set for the execution, a pardon arrived from President John Quincy Adams, and the prisoners were released.

One of the final chapters in the Black Hawk War of 1832 was enacted in Houston county. The story of that uprising is beyond the scope of this work. Black Hawk set out with a band of Sauk and a few Foxes, to recover the valley of the Rock River in Illinois and Wisconsin. Before the uprising was put down it had cost the lives of some fifty whites and nearly exterminated the Black Hawk band. The final battle was fought on Aug. 2, 1832, at the mouth of the Bad Axe, opposite Houston county, the soldiers there encountered the entire body of Indians. A steam boat, the "Warrior," participated in the battle. Nearly all of the Indians were killed. General Henry Atkinson sent Wabasha's band of Dakota after the men, women and children who had escaped to Houston county. With their powder wet from the swim across the river, the worn out followers of Black Hawk fell easy victims to the fresh Dakota, and a terrible slaughter took place, only a few escaping. Neopope, Black Hawk's chief advisor, was spared on account of his rank, and taken to Prairie du Chien, where the Dakota received their reward. Black Hawk did not flee into Houston county with his followers, but escaped with his chief soldier, the Prophet, hoping to find refuge with the Winnebago. But they refused him refuge, and the two fugitives pursued their way to the Dalles of the Wisconsin River where they were captured about two miles above Kilbourn City by Cha-e-tar and One Eyed Decorah, who, on August 27, delivered them up to the Indian agent at Prairie du Chien. In April, 1833, Black Hawk and the Prophet and other prisoners were taken East, were interviewed by President Andrew Jackson, and confined in Fortress Monroe. June 4, 1833, they were released, and were escorted by army officers through the principal cities of the East, in order that they might fully realize the power and number of the whites. Black Hawk spent his remaining years in quiet. He died Oct. 3, 1838, and was buried near the village of Montrose in Iowa.

Both the whites and the Dakota have been severely blamed for the massacre of the Black Hawk fugitives in Houston county. The slaughter was not in keeping with the character of Wabasha II, but many reasons may be assigned for the act. The Sauk had for many years made murderous raids on the women and children left in the Sioux villages while the Sioux warriors were away hunting, and the Sauk war whoop was one greatly to be dreaded. Thus with the remembrances of murders committed, acting under orders from the white commander, and goaded by taunts of cowardice, Wabasha and his men committed this act of extermination against the band whose uprising had proven so disastrous to the whites.

A short time before the breaking out of this Black Hawk War, Wabasha's band had been greatly alarmed by an attack the Sauks had made on a Sioux camp on Money Creek, in Houston county. The Dakota had repulsed them and rescued Witoka, the daughter of the head warrior, Wah-kon-de-o-tah. The danger, indeed was so great that the main band

moved from Winona to Trempealeau, where they remained for several years.

The year after the Black Hawk War marked the beginning of the occupancy of parts of Houston county by the Winnebago, from 1833 to 1848 and later.

The Winnebago were an outlying tribe of the Siouan family, believed by some writers to be an older branch than the Dakota themselves. They were visited at Green Bay by Jean Nicolet as early as 1634. He knew them as the Men of the Sea or the Men of the Salt Water, from the aboriginal name, Ouinipegou, which appears in modern name of Winnebago. Literally the word ouinipeg means "ill smelling or dirty water," and the early French called the Winnebago, "Puants," or "Stinkards." In the early fur trading days the Winnebago were ranging as far westward as the Mississippi River.

For some two centuries thereafter central Wisconsin continued to be their home. The treaty of Prairie du Chien, signed Aug. 19, 1825, already mentioned, located the boundary between the Winnebago and the Sioux on a line starting in Wisconsin on the Mississippi River opposite the mouth of the Iowa River, then running back two or three miles to the bluffs, thence along the crest of the bluffs to the mouth of the Bad Axe River and thence to the mouth of the Black River.

By the treaty signed at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, Aug. 25, 1828, and proclaimed Feb. 13, 1833, the Winnebago relinquished their claim to much of their Wisconsin land and agreed to move to the neutral strip in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa. A portion of the tribe moved to their new possession in 1833-34.

Wabasha II, at his death in 1836, was succeeded by his son, Wabasha III, whose original name was Tahtapesaah, the Upsetting Wind. Wabasha III is the Wabasha best known to the whites. He signed the treaties of 1836, 1837, 1851 and 1858. Like the two Wabashas who came before him he was shrewd and cautious. He was friendly to the whites, but from a sense of justice upheld the Winnebago in their opposition to their removal to the inhospitable Long Prairie country in central Minnesota. By the treaties of 1851 he relinquished his title to all his remaining lands in Houston county, but he and his band continued to hunt here at least until 1860. Wabasha III led his warriors in the Sioux Uprising of 1862, but he was opposed to it, and was the first to make proposals of peace even while his nation were still in arms. He finally withdrew his followers from Little Crow's camp, and in his new camp of some 100 lodges, protected many whites and mixed bloods. Before this he had been in friendly communication with the white commanders for some months. He died April 23, 1876, at the Santee agency in Nebraska. With profound grief he has seen the gradual degeneration of his people at the whim of the whites, and well realized the duplicity and theft that the Dakota suffered from all the white men with whom they came in contact. The descendant of an ancient line whose empire had once been larger and richer than many a European nation, he spent his latter years as a lonely old man, refusing to join in

the readjusted life of his people, and sadly pondering over the wrongs that had been done him.

The espousal of the cause of the Winnebago by Wabasha III, when the people of that tribe objected to being exiled to central Minnesota, placed him in disfavor with the whites. By a treaty signed at Washington, Nov. 1, 1837, and proclaimed June 15, 1838, the Winnebago had ceded all their remaining lands east of the Mississippi River, and those who still remained agreed to join their fellow tribesmen in the neutral strip. It was further agreed that the eastern portion of the neutral strip, for a distance of twenty miles back from the Mississippi, should be used exclusively for hunting. Thus the land which the Winnebago were to be allowed to actually occupy in what is now Houston county was limited practically to Spring Grove and Black Hammer townships, and a corner of Yucatan.

By a treaty signed Oct. 13, 1846, the Winnebago agreed to relinquish their rights to the neutral strip, and to remove to a tract assigned them in Morrison, Todd and Stearns counties in central Minnesota. Henry M. Rice was appointed agent for the removal, and in the spring of 1848 the Winnebago, most of whom were then living on the Turkey River in northeastern Iowa, were notified to prepare themselves for the journey. But in the meantime there had been a growing dissatisfaction on the part of the Indians. They did not fancy the country to which they were to be sent, which in fishing, hunting, climate and natural attractions could in no way compare with the country over which they had been roaming in northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota. They suspected that the purpose of the whites was to make the Winnebago a buffer band between the Dakota and Chippewa tribes, and thus endanger them almost to the point of extermination. They were frightened, too, by a belief in the unhealthfulness of the new region. An epidemic of bilious fever and cholera morbus among the adults, the whooping cough among the children, was sweeping the Minnesota Dakota. The Wabasha band had escaped, though many even of them were suffering with intermittent fever. In addition to all these causes for apprehension on the part of the Winnebago, enemies of Mr. Rice, in order to make him trouble, were urging the Indians to resist the removal.

At once they began to desert. Some returned to their ancient hunting grounds in Wisconsin. About a hundred made their way to southeastern Nebraska and joined the Otoes. Others announced that they would remain where they were. But the whites continued their preparations. It was arranged that one party under Henry M. Rice should go up the river in boats and canoes, and that the other party should go by land under the direction of Major J. E. Fletcher. June 6, 1848, Major Fletcher announced that both parties were to start, and in order to hurry the hesitating Indians, had their belongings loaded onto the wagons. But the angry Indians at once unloaded the vehicles, and prepared to resist by cleaning their guns and moulding bullets. Thoroughly alarmed, Major Fletcher sent to Fort Atkinson for troops, and Capt. John Parker responded in person with his dragoons, a company of mounted volunteers who were garrisoning the fort in the absence of the regulars who were fighting in Mexico. Soon

afterward a company of infantry arrived from Fort Crawford. All that day and night and the next day and night the tension was almost at breaking point, the soldiers constantly on the alert with drawn sabers and pistols, and the Indians carrying their loaded guns and going about scowling and muttering. But nature was fighting for the whites, as the Indians, without provisions, and prevented by the soldiers from deserting the camp and going hunting, began to feel the demands of hunger. Promised provisions as the price of their acquiescence in the removal plans, they agreed to submit as soon as they had been fed. Fresh beef was issued in bountiful rations, and amicable relations were soon restored.

The cavalcade set out in two parties, one party going by water in charge of Mr. Rice and the other by land in charge of Major Fletcher. The dragoons from Fort Atkinson accompanied Major Fletcher, while the company of infantry from Fort Crawford went with Mr. Rice. There were also many white helpers with both parties. It was agreed that both parties should meet at the present site of Winona, where lived Wabasha III, the head of the M'dewakanton Dakota.

That city was reached without mishap. There the whites and Little Hill's band encamped on the river bank, but the rest of the Indians encamped across the prairie under the shadows of the bluffs, where they began to fraternize with the M'dewakanton Dakota of Wabasha's Band, who there had their home. When the Winnebago expressed their fears of the new country into which they were being taken, Wabasha took pity on them, and agreed to sell them the portion of his possessions which embraced the present site of Winona, where they would be in a rich hunting country, adjacent both to their recently abandoned home in Iowa and Minnesota, and to their former home and the graves of their ancestors in Wisconsin. Plans were made for a close alliance between Wabasha's band and the Winnebago.

Realizing that a crisis had been reached, Mr. Rice boarded a steamboat and went to Fort Snelling for assistance. Captain S. H. Easton hastened to Winona with a company of infantry, and a band of Dakota Indians from the Minnesota River. These Indians, carefully coached, were to constitute a reception committee, who were to express their joy that the Winnebago were to be their northern neighbors, and to paint to them in the most glowing language the advantages of the country to which they were to be removed. When Captain Eastman arrived he took command of the infantry company from Fort Crawford and the dragoons from Fort Atkinson, and in addition to this some sixty white teamsters and helpers were armed and equipped. After a short parley, it was arranged that at 10 o'clock the next morning a council should open between the Dakota of the Minnesota River and the Winnebago. That night the whites maintained a strong picket force and sent friendly Indians as spies into the Winnebago camps.

The morning of June 12 dawned in splendor and clearness. Early in the morning the whites formed in battle array, and two six-pound cannon were heavily loaded with grape. At 10 o'clock a cavalcade of mounted Indians, painted and decked with all their war ornaments approached the camp of the whites. A mile away they halted and sent a deputation forward

to the soldiers. The leader, an imposing figure on a white horse, rode forward and called out in broken English: "What do these shining guns mean? We thought we were coming to council, not to fight." Captain Eastman replied: "You can have whatever you want. If you want to fight, we are prepared; if you want a council you will not be molested." The Indians declared that they wanted only a council, but asked permission to ride around the white men's camp. Permission was granted, and after riding around the camp the Indians retreated toward their own camp. Suddenly they halted and wheeled about. Quickly forming into a column twelve abreast they started on a wild charge against the whites, yelling and shouting and many sounding the war whoop. The whites prepared for the worst. The cannons were ready and the gunners stood with lighted port fires, while the dragoons were ready to charge and the infantry and the wagonmen to fire. It was a thrilling and perilous moment. But when the Indian cavalry was within a hundred feet from the line of the whites, it broke away to the right and left, and the riders set up a wild shout of laughter. It had been but a demonstration to show their horsemanship and gratify their vanity.

The Indians then went into conference, the Minnesota River Indians urging the Winnebago to move to the new lands, and Wabasha and his braves urging them to be firm in their determination to make Winona their home.

While the council was in session, an irresponsible soldier and a hot-headed young Indian began to quarrel and were about to fight. Each had a gun and prepared to use it. Both Indians and whites realized that a single shot would precipitate a bloody battle in which hundreds might be killed and wounded. Mr. Rice and others ran between the two disputants, disarmed them, and led them away.

Chief Little Hill had not sympathized with the other Winnebago in their resistance. He now led his band aboard the steamboat, which was soon on its way up the river, followed by the hootings and howlings of their dissatisfied tribesmen.

The sudden departure of Little Hill and his band disconcerted the rebellious Indians. Mr. Rice, E. A. C. Hatch, S. B. Lowry, George Culver and others argued with them to accept the inevitable and give in. While the young braves still wanted to fight it out, the older heads realized that the Indians could not successfully oppose the whites. One Eyed Dacorah, Little Decorah, Winnishiek, Big Canoe, Good Thunder and Carimona, all prominent chiefs, announced that they and their bands would no longer resist. When the steamboat returned, some seventeen hundred were ready to embark.

But not all the Indians could be induced to go. Chief Dandy and his band returned to their old homes on the Black River in Wisconsin. Another band marched through Iowa, and joined the members of their tribe who had sought refuge with the Otoes in Nebraska. A few mingled with the Wabasha band.

As soon as the majority of the Winnebago had left Winona, Wabasha was arrested for inciting rebellion, and was taken to Fort Snelling. The

Dakota warriors were inclined to resist this arrest, but Wabasha only laughed. After being detained for about two weeks, he was severely lectured and released.

Thus the Winnebago passed from the history of Houston county. Their subsequent story will be told but briefly. The Long Prairie country in Minnesota to which they were removed from Houston county never satisfied them. Gradually they worked southward into the Big Woods in Wright county, Minnesota. In 1855 the Winnebago agency was transferred under the terms of the treaty signed February 27 and proclaimed March 23 to Blue Earth county near Mankato, Minnesota, but the Sioux Massacre caused the whites to be apprehensive of the Winnebago, so under an act of Congress approved Feb. 21, 1863, they were removed to Crow Creek, on the Missouri River in North Dakota. In 1865 they agreed to move to a tract in Nebraska purchased from the Omaha Indians. The removal of the Winnebago to this Nebraska tract, known as the Black Bird Reservation, was accomplished in 1866. There a part of the tribe is still located. But in the meantime there had been constant desertations from the tribe by homesick Indians who longed for their old homes in Wisconsin. Bands were frequently rounded up by the whites and taken to the reservation, but the returning trail was constantly thronged. As late as 1854 there were small villages of Winnebago in Houston county, one in the vicinity of the present village of Houston being still well remembered by the whites. An Indian grave yard in Yucatan, fenced and decorated, remained for some years after the arrival of the settlers.

But it was toward Wisconsin for the most part that the Winnebago turned their homeward footsteps. Finally, in 1875, the Government gave them certain homestead rights in Wisconsin which enabled them to gain homes of their own by building houses and doing a certain amount of improving on their land. The larger part of the Winnebago are now scattered through a territory in Black River Valley and to the westward. The land they live on is of little value, with sandy poor soil among the scrub oaks and jack pines. Some little corn is raised, as well as potatoes, and a few of the Indians raise chickens. They do some hunting and trapping, and pick blueberries and cranberries, gaining a living as best they can.

Thus live the descendants of a race that once had at its command the unmeasured sweeps of nature, and the boundless wealth of forest and plain, lake and river.

The series of treaties by which Houston county passed from the Indians to the whites present an interesting subject for study. The first Indian treaty which affected Houston county was that signed at Prairie du Chien, Aug. 19, 1825, and proclaimed Feb. 6, 1826. It was participated in by the Sioux (Dakota), Chippewa, Sauk, Fox, Menomonie, Iowa and Winnebago, and a portion of the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawattomie tribes. It provided for peace between the Indians and the whites and among the Indians themselves, and also laid down several boundaries. The treaty definitely placed Houston county in the possession of the Dakota. To the south were the Sauk and the Fox, the dividing line starting at the mouth of the Oneota River and extending in a general southwestern direction. To the

east were the Winnebago, the dividing line running a few miles east of the Mississippi.

But the boundary lines and the peace provisions were little respected. Raiding parties were soon crossing Houston county again, the Sauk and the Fox against the Wabasha Village, and the Wabasha braves in retaliatory raids against the Sauk and Fox.

Another treaty was signed at Prairie du Chien, July 15, 1830, by deputation of the Sauk and Fox, several bands of the Dakota, the Omaha, the Iowa, the Ottoes and the Missouri. One of the provisions of this treaty was the ceding of a strip of land forty miles wide lying largely in Iowa, but partly in southeastern Minnesota. This strip, which came to be known as the Neutral Strip, took in a large part of what is now Houston county, the northern line extending, generally speaking, from the northeast corner of La Crescent to the northwest corner of Black Hammer township.

The Neutral Strip was ceded to the Winnebago by the Treaty of Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Ill., signed Aug. 25, 1828, and proclaimed Feb. 13, 1833. The Winnebago re-ceded the strip to the whites by a treaty signed at Washington, Oct. 13, 1846, and were removed in June, 1848.

The Dakota ceded to the whites vast tracts of land in Iowa and Minnesota by the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, signed July 23, 1851, and the Treaty of Mendota, signed Aug. 5, 1851. These tracts included all of Houston county not embraced in the Neutral Strip, and thus was the last vestige of Indian sovereignty removed.

CHAPTER V

EARLY EXPLORATION

The first civilized men to gaze upon the towering bluffs of Houston county were probably Father Louis Hennepin, a priest of the Recollects of St. Francis, and his two companions, Antoin du Gay Auguel, known from his birthplace as "le Picard," and Michel Accault. They were sent out by Robert Cavalier de La Salle from Fort Crevecoeur near Lake Peoria, Illinois, Feb. 28, 1680. On their way up the Mississippi they were captured by a band of Dakota warriors on the warpath against the Illinois and Miami nations. These Dakota took the white men to the Mille Lacs region in northern Minnesota. After spending a while in the Mille Lacs region, Hennepin and Auguel, leaving Accault as a hostage, were brought southward again by the Indians looking for supplies which La Salle was to have sent to the mouth of the Wisconsin. On their way down the Mississippi River, guarded by a Chief Ouasicoude (Wacoota) and a company of Indians, Hennepin and Auguel came to St. Anthony Falls, near Minneapolis, which Hennepin named. Later the party was overtaken by Aquipaguetin, a Sioux chief who had taken Hennepin into his family as an adopted son. Some time was spent in hunting between the mouth of the Chippewa and the mouth of the Wisconsin, and as the Root River country was an excellent hunting country, rich in elk, buffalo, deer and bear, as well as smaller game, it is permissible to conjecture that Hennepin may have set his foot on Houston county soil. Again the party started northward and about July 25, 1680, encountered DuLuth and a bodyguard of French soldiers.

Daniel Greysolon, better known as Sieur Du Luth (variously rendered), had started out from Montreal, Sept. 1, 1678, explored the Lake Superior region and the territory westward, met the Dakota in the Mille Lac region, and on July 2, 1779, set up the standard of New France at their village. He returned to Lake Superior from that lake the next summer, ascended the Brule River, made the portage to the Saint Croix, and was on his way down the Mississippi when he learned that Hennepin and his two companions were in captivity among the Dakota. Hastening to the rescue, Duluth journeyed down the Mississippi with two Frenchmen and an Indian, and after a canoe trip of two days and two nights overtook Hennepin and about 1,000 Indians. This meeting probably took place about opposite Houston county. Du Luth fearlessly took Hennepin in his own canoe, and started up the river to the Mille Lacs region, which they reached Aug. 14, 1680. There at a council he upbraided the Indians in scathing terms. He told them that Hennepin was his brother; he denounced them for making Hennepin and his two companions slaves and taking away Hennepin's priestly robes; he taunted them that after being associated with Frenchmen for a year they should have kidnapped other Frenchmen on their way to

make them a friendly visit. As a climax Du Luth returned the peace calumets which the Indians had given him. The Indians began to make excuses, but this did not deter Du Luth from his determination to take Hennepin away. Hennepin himself was rebuked by Du Luth for taking insults without resentment as such conduct lowered the prestige of the French. Toward the end of September, Du Luth, Hennepin and their party once more descended the Mississippi River, passed Houston county and reached Canada by way of the Wisconsin River, the Portage, the Fox River and Green Bay. Thus in the fall of 1680, Hennepin, Du Luth and their companions beheld for the last time the picturesque surroundings of Houston county.

Hennepin's account of his adventures makes no particular reference to what is now Houston county, but describes the bluffs and scenery in this region in a general way, and mentions the Black River. Many interesting incidents are told of life on this portion of the Mississippi in that far-distant time. The meat captured spoiled quickly, and the Indians were evidently not good fishermen, as they were thankful whenever they could secure a fish dropped on the land by an eagle. At times they secured turtles, but the capture was difficult as the turtles would plunge into the water and thus evade being taken. Hennepin was especially interested in the appearance of the shovelnose sturgeon. He saw one which an otter caught, and Auguel declared that it reminded him of a devil in the paws of a beast. But after frightening the otter away, they cooked and ate the fish, and found it very good.

Nicolas Perrot was the next white man to become familiar with the region embracing Houston county, and maintained an actual occupancy further up the river. Perrot was for some twenty years a trader and interpreter in the Northwest for the French. Perrot arrived at Green Bay, where he was already well known, in the late summer of the year 1685. He found the Indians restless and inclined to inter-tribal warfare, so that some time was spent in their pacification. It was later than he had planned, therefore, when he set out for the country of the Sioux, where he hoped to secure a good harvest of valuable furs. After crossing the Wisconsin portage and proceeding down that river to its mouth, he turned his little fleet of canoes boldly upstream, and as the weather was growing cold and traveling difficult, they "found a place where there was timber, which served them for building a fort, and they took up their quarters at the foot of the mountain, behind which was a great prairie abounding in wild beasts." This camp is believed to have been at Trempealeau Mountain, in Wisconsin, and Perrot thus passed Houston county. Later he left this wintering place, possibly in the summer of 1686, and established himself near the foot of Lake Pepin. He was continuously in the upper Mississippi region until the spring of 1687, when he was ordered to proceed eastward with such Indian allies as he could enlist and join the French in a war against certain Indians of New York State. In the meantime he had amassed a stock of furs worth 40,000 livres. In his absence on the war path these were left at the mission house at Green Bay, which was burned by hostile Indians, with a loss of all his peltry.

In the autumn of 1687 he set out once more for the Northwest to retrieve his ruined fortunes. After the ice had begun to form on the Fox River, he passed down the Wisconsin to the Mississippi, and ascended the Mississippi to this region. At Fort Antoine, at the foot of Lake Pepin, on May 8, 1689, he took possession of the Dakota country in the name of the King of France, annexing the Minnesota and St. Croix River districts and all head waters of the Mississippi, as well as all the region drained by the whole upper course of the Mississippi.

It is possible that Armand de Lom d'Arce, Baron La Hontan, accompanied Perrot on one of his expeditions to the upper Mississippi. La Hontan's name in this region is connected with the "Long River," which he claimed to have ascended for some five hundred miles. When later exploration revealed no such river, La Hontan was discredited and his statements condemned as fiction. However, efforts have been made to identify the Long River as an exaggerated account of the Minnesota, Cannon or Root rivers. La Hontan came to Canada as a French soldier in 1683 when a youth of seventeen. In the course of his military duty he came more or less in contact with the fur traders and voyageurs of the upper Mississippi. His published works may be the result of a vivid imagination strung upon a slender thread of actual facts, or they may be wholly fiction based upon stories he had heard from real travelers. Certainly there is no five hundred mile river falling into the Mississippi from the west in this region, though it is true that the description of the mouth of the Root River with its rushes and its plentiful trout agrees with the description of the mouth of the Root River left by other early explorers.

N. H. Winchell in his "Aborigines of Minnesota," says: "It (the Long River of La Hontan) comes nearest to the region of the Root River. The Mozeemlek are far west on a river that flows west, separated from the sources of the Long River by a mountain range. In the Journal (Travels), La Hontan says he entered the mouth of Long River November 3 (1688), and that on the ninth he reached the villages of the Eokoros (that is, after six days' travel); therefore, the Eokoros were likely to be Iowas. They were then at war with the Esanapes, sixty leagues (180 miles) higher up the river. They had 20,000 warriors, which number was greater before the war which they had waged with the Nadouesses (Sioux), the Pinamoha and the Espanapes. They lived in long huts, round at the top, made of reeds and bull-rushes, interlaced and cemented with a sort of 'fat-earth' (that is, clay).

"The Esanapes were very numerous and powerful. The village was large and like a city, the houses almost like ovens, but large and high, and constructed as above described. The Gnaesitares were not acquainted with the peace pipe. The Long River had 'little trouts' which they fished out for food."

Professor Winchell further writes: "After having read attentively the narrative of La Hontan, and examined his map accompanying it, I reached the following conclusions:

1. His story would indicate that he entered the Root River in Houston county, Minnesota, that being the only stream with rushes (reeds)

at its mouth, and also large and long enough to give basis to his story, and having trout; though I do not feel satisfied that he entered any stream at all.

"2. There is a naturalness in the yarn, in its general course and in its details, that almost preclude disputing its truthfulness, except what he says about the Mozeemlek slaves, which convinces me either that he is trying to sketch a veritable trip up the Long River or is an adept at mixing facts and fiction, making the whole to appear fact.

"3. All that he says, and the map which he draws of the Gnaesitares and the Mozeemlek, seems to me to be largely fictitious, or having for a basis of fact only some general and crude statements of the natives, and could have been framed in with imaginary fiction by any unscrupulous reporter who cared not for the truth and expected that his lies would not be detected, at least not until after his death, but was determined to weave a wonderful and book-selling yarn.

"4. He could not have been beyond the limits of Minnesota and, so far as his facts are amenable to geographic verification, they are limited to Minnesota. They can be verified in that area. He had a compass and an 'astrolabe,' and he makes a map that shows a stream nearly direct from the west. He shows many islands, but the Root River is almost free from islands, and does not issue from a lake. Its distances are enormously too great and cannot be condensed into the limits of Root River.

"5. The names given the Indian tribes are probably invented or manufactured by the adventurer in some such manner as Schoolcraft obtained 'Itasca,' but from the natives' dialects instead of from Latin.

"6. This fictitious character being forced upon the reader by the perusal of his Long River trip, is necessarily extended, though with much regret on the part of the student of early northwestern travels, to his trip down the Mississippi, up the Missouri to Osages, and to the Arkansas, and thence to the whole book. In short, the reader is more than once compelled to doubt the statements made as to the lives and customs of the 'savages,' and hence to class the work as a tissue of falsehood, strung on so much fact as the author could command from his knowledge of the country."

One of the witnesses of Perrot's proclamation at the foot of Lake Pepin was Pierre Charles Le Sueur, an explorer and trader whose work added to the knowledge given to the world by Perrot. He was brought to Canada as a youth and spent practically his whole life in trading with the Dakota of the upper Mississippi and Minnesota. It has been claimed that he reached the Mississippi by way of the Wisconsin as early as 1683, three years after Hennepin's voyage. He appears to have been identified with several of Perrot's ventures, and, as stated, was with him at the post at the foot of Lake Pepin in 1689. The next year he made a voyage far up the Mississippi above St. Anthony Falls. In 1695 Le Sueur built a fort on Pelee Island, a short distance above Red Wing, which was maintained four years during his own absence in France. He later returned and conducted an expedition in search of copper in the Blue Earth country. In ascending the river on this expedition he passed Houston county in the early part of

September, 1700. He descended the river to the Gulf of Mexico in 1702. In these various trips to this region Le Sueur had ample opportunity for observing the beauties of Houston county, and a river Quincapous mentioned in the accounts of his travels may mean the Root River which appears on early maps as Quicapous and Quicapoux.

More than a quarter of the eighteenth century passed away before another attempt was made to establish a post on the upper Mississippi. The Fox Indian wars had made the Fox-Wisconsin waterway untenable, and any approach to the Dakota had to take the difficult route from the end of Lake Superior through the tangled marshes and lakes at the head of the Mississippi.

In 1727, however, the French Government determined to establish a post among the Sioux. In September of the same year the new fort was erected near what is now Frontenac, on the Minnesota side of Lake Pepin, and dedicated amid imposing ceremonies as Fort Beauharnois. The failure of the expedition against the Foxes the following year made this post untenable, however, and it was hastily abandoned by the alarmed garrison. In writing from Fort Beauharnois, May 29, 1727, Father Michel Guignas describes the bluffs, islands and scenery of this region.

In 1727, however, the French Government determined to establish a build a Dakota post was placed in charge of Rene Godefroy, Sieur de Linctot. With him went his son, Louis Rene; Augustin Langlade and his brother; Joseph Joliet, grandson of the explorer; one Campeau, a skilled blacksmith, brother of the one at Detroit; and Father Michael Guignas, chaplain of the expedition. They arrived on the Mississippi in the autumn of 1731, and built a fort near Trempealeau.

The succeeding years were replete with danger and difficulty for the officers and traders of the little post. The various tribes of Indians were at war, and the situation of the French among the fierce beligerents was almost that of prisoners. In the summer of 1735, Linctot finally made his way to Canada with an immense quantity of beaver skins and other peltry.

To succeed Linctot in the post of the Dakota, the Governor-General of New France chose Jacques le Gardeur, Sieur de St. Pierre, sending him with a party of twenty-two men to the upper Mississippi. This small convoy reached its destination late in 1735, and early the following spring St. Pierre determined to remove the post about sixty miles higher up the Mississippi. There for a year they held a hostile tribe at bay, employing every device of strategy and dissimulation, and finally on May 30, 1737, abandoned the post with all its goods and belongings in order to save their lives.

Thirteen years later, in 1750, the French Government established another Sioux post, under the leadership of Capt. Pierre Paul Marin, a well-known Wisconsin commandant. He was recalled two years later to serve on the Allegheny frontier, and his son, Joseph, succeeded to the command. The later maintained his post for three years, but during the French and Indian Wars was obliged to withdraw the garrison and destroy the post—the last under French occupation upon the upper Mississippi.

French rule in the upper Mississippi Valley ended with the treaty of

Feb. 10, 1763, when the Mississippi nearly to its mouth became the boundary line between the possessions of England and Spain. Three years later, in 1766, Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut, set out to explore the new British domains in the Northwest. Starting from Boston in June, 1766, Carver traveled to the Strait of Mackinaw and Green Bay, and thence by the canoe route of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, to the Mississippi. Then he ascended the Mississippi, accompanied by a French-Canadian and a Mohawk Indian. He spent the winter of 1766-67 among the Sioux of the Northwest. In the spring of 1767 he descended the Mississippi to the present location of Prairie du Chien, in the hope of securing goods. Disappointed there, he ascended the Mississippi to the Chippewa, and reached Lake Superior by way of that stream and the upper tributaries of the St. Croix. It was afterward claimed that he made a treaty with the Sioux, granting him a tract of land about a hundred miles wide along the east bank of the Mississippi from the Falls of St. Anthony to the southeastern end of Lake Pepin. It did not take in any of Houston county. On the strength of this alleged treaty many claims were from time to time presented to the United States Government, but Congress has always refused to recognize the claim of Carver's heirs and successors.

At the close of the Revolutionary War the land east of the Mississippi became a part of the new United States by the Treaty of Sept. 3, 1783. Spain continued in possession of the land west of the Mississippi from 1762 to Oct. 1, 1800, when the tract was receded to France, which nation, however, did not take possession until 1804, at which time a formal transfer was made from Spain to France, in order that France might formally transfer the tract to the United States under the Treaty of April 30, 1803.

Two years later the Government determined to send an expedition into the Northwest in charge of Zebulon M. Pike. He was given orders to negotiate treaties with the Indians, to secure a conformity with laws of the United States by the Northwest Fur Company and others engaged in the fur trade, to secure the site for a fort near the head of the Mississippi River navigation, and to extend geographical exploration. He started from St. Louis in a keel boat Aug. 9, 1805, with twenty soldiers, spent the winter in northern Minnesota, started down the river April 7, 1806, and again reached St. Louis the latter part of that month.

Pike reached Houston county on Sept. 10, 1805. He that day spent a while in conference with Wabasha and a company of his warriors who were encamped at the mouth of the Upper Iowa. That night Pike encamped somewhere in the southeastern corner of Houston county. The next day, in the rain and cold, he made poor progress, and stopped to camp on the present site of Brownsville. Still continuing in cold and rain, he passed Root River, which he calls the Racine River, passed La Crosse, and camped somewhere near the present site of La Crescent, on the night of September 12. On his trip down the river Pike, on April 16, 1806, camped at Brownsville, within a few hundred yards of where he had camped on the ascending trip, Sept. 11, 1805. He killed a wild goose and roasted it for supper. Although the snow still lay thick on the sides of the hills, the trees were in bloom. While hunting after pigeons, he and his men exchanged gun

signals with some Indian hunters in the distance but did not see them. April 17 they found Wabasha still encamped at the mouth of the Upper Iowa, and received from him a present of a kettle of boiled meat and a dressed young deer.

Major Stephen H. Long led an expedition up the Mississippi in 1817. The voyage was made in a six-oar skiff. He camped in Houston county, a little above the mouth of the Root River, on the night of Thursday, July 10. In his journal he mentions the scenery of this region, especially the bluff formations. Near the southeast corner of the county was a small encampment of Dakota consisting of a war party of ten or twelve. These Indians hoisted an American flag and fired a salute. Several of them, in a canoe, overtook the skiff, and were rewarded with some small gifts. The Root River at that time was navigable in high water, forty or forty-five miles, and in low water about twenty. No Indians were then living in its valley, though Long says that it was a favorite hunting ground and that hunting parties frequently encamped in the neighborhood. A small band of Winnebago were encamped a little above La Crosse on the Wisconsin side. On the trip down the river, Houston county was passed, July 20-21.

With the establishment, in 1819, of Fort Snelling, Trempealeau county was placed within the pale of civilization and thereafter soldiers, traders and visitors were frequently passing. The expedition which established the fort, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Leavenworth and accompanied by Major Thomas Forsyth, the Indian agent, reached what is now Houston county Wednesday, Aug. 11, 1819.

That same year, on November 2, a sawmill was established on the falls of the Black River, "not much inferior to any in the United States." Seven chiefs of the Dakota nation granted the original permission to do this, and later Wabasha, the head chief, made the permission permanent. The mill was soon destroyed by the Winnebago.

Governor Lewis Cass, with his party, including Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and James D. Doty, passed Houston county in 1820. They reached the upper Mississippi by way of Lake Superior, and after leaving the region of their explorations came down the Mississippi. On this trip down the river, Cass and Schoolcraft and their men, landed on the present site of Winona, and camped for the night on the Minnesota bank of the Mississippi some five miles below Trempealeau Mountain, not far north of Houston county.

A mill was built in 1822 on the Menominee branch of the Chippewa River by permission of Lawrence Taliaferro, the Indian agent at Fort Snelling, and with the consent of the Dakota. Joseph Rolette and Judge James Lockwood, both of Prairie du Chien, were the financial backers of the proposition, and Wabasha's band of the Dakota were also interested in it. With this beginning, the rafting of lumber past Houston county to Prairie du Chien and other river points became a familiar sight.

On his expedition to Lake Winnipeg, in 1823, Long again passed Houston county accompanied by a part of his followers. From Prairie du Chien, a part of the expedition under James F. Calhoun made the trip on

horseback along the west bank of the Mississippi. William H. Keating was the chronicler of the expedition.

The first steamboat to ascend the upper Mississippi, the "Virginia," passed Houston county on May, 1823, and arrived at Fort Snelling, near the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, May 10. A number of prominent people were aboard. Steamboat traffic thus being established, the region of the mouth of Root River became widely known. J. Constantine Beltrami, who explored the Red River of the North and the sources of the Mississippi River, was one of the passengers aboard the "Virginia" when it made its first trip to Fort Snelling.

The period of exploration really ends in 1835, when this region was visited by George William Featherstonhaugh and William Williams Mather, by George Catlin, and by a military expedition under Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen W. Kearney, the topographer of the expedition being Albert Miller Lea.

The military expedition reached Winona overland from Iowa, entering the State southwest from what is now the city of Albert Lea. In July, 1835, the soldiers camped in Minnesota, opposite Trémpealeau. They crossed a corner of Houston county.

Thus the bluffs of the Mississippi and Root rivers in Houston county, which had watched the first white man penetrate these solitudes, were now known to the world, and the activities of civilization were soon to be throbbing at their feet. Frenchmen, Englishmen and Americans had examined their formations, the whistle and chug of the steamboat had become familiar, the rich land over which for so many years the solitudes had kept watch awaited the axe of the pioneer and the plow of the husbandman.

CHAPTER VI

GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction over Houston county has been claimed by four nations, Spain, France, England and the United States; by the French and English colonial authorities; by Louisiana District; by the executive power of the territory of Indiana; by the territories of Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, and by the State of Minnesota. As a part of Minnesota Territory it was included in Wabasha and Fillmore county before attaining county privileges itself.

Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by the Papal grant of Alexander VI, May 4, 1492, may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi River, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking actual possession of this part of her domains other than was incidentally involved in De Sota's doings. The name of Florida was first applied to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico, and proceeding northward indefinitely.

England, basing her claims on the exploration made by her along the Atlantic coast, issued to various individuals and "companies" charters to vast tracts of land extending from the Atlantic westward.

Practically, however, the upper Mississippi Valley may be considered as having been, in the first place, Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada who first visited it and traded with its natives. The names of Canada and New France were used interchangeably to apply to the vast French possessions of the American continent. The name, Louisiana, was invented by La Salle and applied by him to the entire Mississippi Valley. But, generally speaking, the Canada, or New France, of the eighteenth century took in the upper Mississippi Valley, while the name Louisiana was used for the lower valley.

At the close of the great European conflict which found its echo in the so-called French and Indian War in America, the Mississippi became an international boundary. The preliminary treaty of peace signed by representatives of England, Spain and France, at Fontainebleau, Nov. 3, 1762, confirmed by the definite treaty signed at Paris, Feb. 10, 1763, made the Mississippi from its source to about the 31st degree of north latitude the boundary between the English colonists on this continent and French Louisiana. But on the first mentioned date, representatives of Spain and France had signed a secret treaty by which French Louisiana, including New Orleans, was ceded to Spain.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the territory east of the Mississippi, and north of the 31st parallel, passed under the jurisdiction of the United States. By the definite treaty of peace between the United States

and Great Britain, ratified at Paris, Sept. 3, 1783, a part of the northern boundary of the United States, and the western boundary thereof, was established as follows: "Commencing at the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods, and from thence on a due course west to the Mississippi River (the Mississippi at that time was thought to extend into what is now Canada), thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the Mississippi River until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, page 82).

By the secret treaty of Saint Ildefonso, signed Oct. 1, 1800, Spain receded the indefinite tract west of the Mississippi to France, which nation did not, however, take formal possession until three years later, when a formal transfer was made from Spain to France, in order that France might formally transfer the tract to the United States under the Treaty of April 30, 1803.

By an Act of Congress, approved Oct. 31, 1803, the President of the United States was authorized to take possession of this territory, the act providing that "all military, civil and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government shall be vested in such person and persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct." (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 245.)

December 20, 1803, Louisiana was formally turned over to the United States by M. Laussat, the civil agent of France, who a few years previous, November 30, had received a formal transfer from representatives of Spain. The region comprehended in the "Louisiana Purchase" as the land thus transferred to the United States was called, included all the country west of the Mississippi, except those portions west of the Rocky Mountains actually occupied by Spain, and extended as far north as the British territory. The Louisiana Purchase, therefore, embraced Houston county.

By an Act of Congress, approved March 26, 1804, all that portion of the country ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana lying south of the 33rd degree of north latitude, was organized as the territory of New Orleans, and all the residue thereof was organized as the District of Louisiana. The District of Louisiana was therefore the first territorial affiliation of Houston county. The act creating the District provided that the executive power then vested in the government of Indiana should extend to the new District. Houston county, therefore, had it at that time been transferred from the Indians to the whites, would have fallen under the executive power of Indiana Territory as a part of Louisiana District.

Indiana had been created a territory from the Northwest Territory May 7, 1800, and was admitted as a State Dec. 11, 1816. In the meantime, however, March 3, 1805, Louisiana had been organized as a Territory, with full territorial powers. The name, Louisiana, however, on April 30, 1812, was taken by the Territory hitherto known as Orleans, and Louisiana, with its present boundaries became on that date a State in the Union.

For two years thereafter there were in existence both a State and a Territory of Louisiana. But by an Act of Congress, approved June 4,

1814, that part of the Louisiana Purchase north of the State of Louisiana was given the name of Missouri with full territorial powers. The struggles in Congress which led to the Missouri Compromise; the agreement that all the area west of the Missouri and north of the parallel 36°36' should forever be free from the sway of slavery, and the final admission of Missouri as a State with her present boundaries Aug. 10, 1821, are a vital part of the history of our Nation. This admission of Missouri as a State left the land to the northward, including Houston county, without a fountainhead of territorial government from that date until June 28, 1834, when it was attached to the Territory of Michigan, which had been created Jan. 11, 1805. The present Houston county was therefore placed under the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory. Michigan was admitted as a State, Jan. 26, 1837, the act having been passed by Congress April 20, 1836.

When Wisconsin Territory was organized by an Act of Congress, April 20, 1836, all of the Louisiana Purchase north of the State of Missouri was placed under its jurisdiction. This included what is now Houston county. Wisconsin became a State May 29, 1848.

The Act creating the Territory of Iowa, June 12, 1838, divided the Territory of Wisconsin along the Mississippi River, and gave the name of Iowa to the western part. Iowa remained a Territory from 1838 to 1846. The greater part of southern and southeastern Minnesota was within the jurisdiction of Clayton county. Henry H. Sibley was a justice of the peace in that county. The county seat was 250 miles distant from his home in Mendota at the mouth of the Minnesota River, and his jurisdiction extended over a region of country which, as he expressed it, was "as large as the empire of France." A convention of duly authorized representatives of the people remained in session at Iowa City from Oct. 7 to Nov. 1, 1844, and framed a State constitution. It was provided that the constitution adopted, together with any alterations which might subsequently be made by Congress, should be submitted to the people of the territory for their approval or rejection at the township elections in April, 1845. The boundaries of the proposed new State, as defined in the constitution, were in part as follows: ". . . Thence up in the middle of the main channel of the river last mentioned (the Missouri) to the mouth of the Sioux or Calumet River; thence in a direct line to the middle of the main channel of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) River, where the Watonwan River—according to Nicolet's map—enters the same; thence down the middle of said river to the middle of the Mississippi River; thence down the middle of said river to the place of beginning." This would have included in the State of Iowa, Houston county, and, in fact, all the counties of what is now Minnesota that lie south and east of the Minnesota as far as Mankato, also including Faribault county and nearly all of Martin, the greater part of Blue Earth and portions of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Jackson.

Congress rejected these boundary lines, and March 3, 1845, in its enabling act, substituted the following description of the proposed boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines River, in the middle of the Mississippi; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue

Earth River; thence west along said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line 17°30' west of the meridian of Washington City; thence due south to the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri; thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects with the Des Moines River; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning." Thus the southern boundary of Minnesota would have been on a line due east from the present city of Mankato to the Mississippi River and due west from the same point to a point in Brown county. This would have included in Iowa all but a small fraction of the counties of Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca and Blue Earth, portions of Brown, Watonwan and Martin, and all of Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. This reduction in its proposed territory was not pleasing to those citizens of Iowa who wished the State to have its boundaries to include the Minnesota River from the Blue Earth to the Mississippi, and the Mississippi from the Minnesota River to the Missouri State line. This changing in the boundary was really a political measure, a part of those battles in Congress over free and slave States which preceded the Civil War. The boundaries as proposed by Congress were rejected by the people of Iowa after a bitter campaign. Aug. 4, 1846, Congress passed a second enabling act, which was accepted by the people by a narrow margin of 456, the vote being 9,492 for, and 9,036 against. This second act placed the northern boundary of Iowa still further south, but added territory to the west. The northern boundary of Iowa, as described in the enabling act, was identical with the parallel of 43°30' north, from the Big Sioux River, eastward to the Mississippi. This, with the exception of the short distance from the Big Sioux River to the present western boundary of Minnesota, is the present southern boundary of our State. Minnesota's southern boundary, as thus described, was carefully surveyed and marked within six years of its acceptance by Iowa. The work was authorized March 3, 1849, and two appropriations of \$1,500 each were soon made. The survey was completed during the years 1849 to 1852, at a total cost of \$33,277.73. Although the work was done with the best instruments then known, an error of 23 chains, evidently due to carelessness, was discovered within a year. Iowa was admitted as a State, Dec. 28, 1846.

Iowa having been admitted, the area that is now Minnesota again lost its territorial affiliations. However, on Dec. 18, 1846, Morgan L. Martin, delegate from Wisconsin Territory, gave notice to the House of Representatives that "at an early day" he would ask leave to introduce a bill establishing the Territorial Government of Minnesota. The name, which is the Indian term for what was then the river St. Peter (Pierre) and has now become its official designation, was, it is believed, applied to the proposed Territory at the suggestion of Joseph R. Brown. During its consideration by congress the bill underwent various changes. As reported back to the house, the name "Minnesota" had been changed by Stephen A. Douglas to "Itaska." Mr. Martin immediately moved that the name "Minnesota" be placed in the bill in place of "Itaska." "Chippewa," "Jackson" and "Washington" were also proposed. After many motions, counter motions

and amendments, "Minnesota" was placed in the bill, which with a minor change passed the house. In the senate it was rejected. A second attempt was made two years later. January 10, 1848, Stephen A. Douglas gave due notice to the senate that "at a future day" he would introduce a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. He brought in the bill February 23. It was several times read, was amended, referred to committee and discussed, but congress adjourned August 14 without taking ultimate action on the proposition.

In the meanwhile Wisconsin was admitted to the Union May 29, 1848, and the western half of what was then St. Croix County was left outside the new state. The settled portions of the area thus cut off from Wisconsin by its admission to statehood privileges were in the southern part of the peninsula of land lying between the Mississippi and the St. Croix.

The people of this area were now confronted with a serious problem. As residents of the territory of Wisconsin they had enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in the United States. By the creation of the State of Wisconsin they were disfranchised and left without the benefits of organized government. Thus, Stillwater, which had been the governmental seat of a growing county (St. Croix), was left outside the pale of organized law. Legal minds disagreed on the question whether the minor civil officers, such as justices of the peace, created under the territorial organization, were still qualified to exercise the authority of their positions. At a meeting held at St. Paul in July, 1848, the citizens of that (then) village considered the question of the formation of a new territory. August 5, a meeting of citizens of the area west of the St. Croix was held at Stillwater, and it was decided to call a general convention at that place, Aug. 26, 1848, for a three-fold purpose: 1—To elect a territorial delegate to congress. 2—To organize a territory with a name other than Wisconsin. 3—To determine whether the laws and organization of the old Territory of Wisconsin were still in effect now that a part of that territory was organized as a state. In the call for this meeting the signers called themselves, "We, the undersigned citizens of Minnesota Territory." The meeting was held pursuant to the call. Action was taken in regard to the first proposition by the election of H. H. Sibley, who was authorized to proceed to Washington and use such efforts as were in his power to secure the organization of the Territory of Minnesota. In regard to the second proposition a memorial was addressed to the president of the United States, stating the reasons why the organization of Minnesota Territory was necessary. The third proposition presented technical points worthy of the attention of the wisest legal minds. The State of Wisconsin had been organized, but the Territory of Wisconsin had not been abolished. Was not, therefore, the territory still in existence, and did not its organization and its laws still prevail in the part of the territory that had not been included in the state? If territorial government was still in existence, would it not give the residents thereof a better standing before the nation in their desire to create Minnesota Territory? Might not this technicality give the delegate a seat in Congress when otherwise he must, as simply the representative of an unorganized area, make his requests in the lobby and to the individual members? John Catlin, who had been

secretary of the Territory of Wisconsin before the organization of that State, declared that the Territory still existed in the area not included in the organized State and that he was the acting governor. Accordingly, the people of the cut-off portion organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin," and named a day for the election of a delegate. In the closely contested election, held Oct. 30, 1848, Sibley won out against Henry M. Rice and accordingly made his way to Washington, technically from the "Territory of Wisconsin," actually as a representative of the proposed Territory of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, indeed, Sibley, living at Mendota, had ceased to be a citizen of the Territory of Wisconsin in 1838, when Iowa Territory was created, and was a resident of the part of Iowa Territory which the organization of the State of Iowa had left without a government, rather than of that territory in question (between the Mississippi and the St. Croix), which the admission of Wisconsin as a state had left without a government. Sibley was, however, after much opposition, admitted to Congress and given a seat Jan. 15, 1849. He at once set about securing friends for the proposition to create Minnesota Territory. December 4, 1848, a few days previous to Sibley's admission to Congress, Stephen A. Douglas had announced that it was his intention to introduce anew a bill to establish the Territory of Minnesota. Like the previous attempt, this bill underwent various vicissitudes. As passed, March 3, 1849, the Act creating the Territory read as follows: "Be it enacted * * * That from and after the passage of this Act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning in the Mississippi River at a point where the line of 43° and 30' of north latitude crosses the same, thence running due West on said line, which is the northern boundary of the State of Iowa, to the Northwest corner of the said State of Iowa; thence southerly along the western boundary of said State to the point where said boundary strikes the Missouri River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River to the mouth of the White Earth River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the White Earth River to the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain; thence East and South of East along the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain to Lake Superior; thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the State of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior; thence along the western boundary of the State of Wisconsin to the Mississippi River; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning, and the same is hereby erected into a temporary government by the name of the Territory of Minnesota."

The executive power of the Territory of Minnesota was vested in a governor (appointed of office was four years, unless sooner removed by the President), who was also superintendent of Indian affairs. The legislative power was vested in a governor and a legislative assembly, consisting of a council of nine members, whose term of office was two years, and a house of representatives of 18 members, whose term of office was one year. It was provided that the number of members in the council and the house might be increased by the legislative assembly from time to time in proportion to the increase in population, but that the whole number should not exceed 15

councillors and 39 representatives. It was provided that the first election should be held at such time and place and be conducted in such manner as the Governor should appoint and direct, and that the persons thus elected to the legislative assembly should meet at such place and on such days as the Governor should appoint, but thereafter the time and place and manner of holding and conducting such elections by the people, and the apportioning the representatives in the several counties and districts, to the council and house of representatives, according to the population, should be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the regular sessions of the legislative assembly, but that no session should exceed 60 days.

Every white male inhabitant above the age of 21, who was a resident of the Territory at the time of the passage of the Act organizing the same, was entitled to vote and eligible to office at the first election. But the qualification of voters and of holding office and of holding office at all subsequent elections should be such as should be prescribed by the legislative assembly. It was provided by the Act that all laws passed by the legislative assembly should be submitted to Congress, and if disapproved by it, should be null and of no effect. The laws in force in the Territory of Wisconsin after the date of the admission of the State of Wisconsin were continued to be valid and in operation in the Territory of Minnesota so far as not incompatible with the provisions of the act of organization of the Territory of Minnesota, subject to be altered, modified or repealed by the governor and legislative assembly of said territory. All justices of the peace, constables, sheriffs and all other judicial and ministerial officers who were in office within the limits of the Territory at the time the law organizing the Territory was approved were authorized and required to continue to exercise and perform the duties of their respective offices as officers of the Territory of Minnesota temporarily and until they, or others, should be appointed and qualified in the manner therein described or until their offices should be abolished. The Governor was given the veto power, and the council and house could pass a bill over his veto by a two-thirds vote. The judicial power of the Territory was vested in a supreme court, district court, probate court, and justices of the peace. The supreme court consisted of a chief justice and two associate justices, appointed by the President, whose term of office was four years and whose salary was \$1,800 a year.

The Territory was by the act of organization required to be divided into three judicial districts, and the district court to be held therein by one of the judges of the supreme court at such times and places as might be prescribed by law, and the judges thereof were required to reside in the districts assigned to them. The clerks of said courts were appointed by the judges thereof.

The United States officers of the Territory were a governor, secretary, chief justice, two associate justices, attorney and marshal, appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the senate of the United States. The governor received a salary of \$1,500 a year as governor and \$1,000 a year as superintendent of Indian affairs. The chief justice and associate justices and secretary received a salary of \$1,800 a year, and the members of the legislative assembly \$3 a day during their attendance

upon the sessions thereof and \$3 each day for every 20 miles traveled going to and returning therefrom.

The people of the Territory of Minnesota were not long content with a territorial government. In the words of A. N. Winchell, "December 24, 1856, the delegate from the Territory of Minnesota introduced a bill to authorize the people of that Territory to form a constitution and State government. The bill limited the proposed State on the West by the Red River of the North and the Big Sioux River. It was referred to the committee on territories, of which Galusha A. Grow of Pennsylvania was chairman. January 31, 1857, the chairman reported a substitute, which differed from the original bill in no essential respect except in regard to the western boundary. The change there consisted in adopting a line through Traverse and Big Stone lakes, due south from the latter to the Iowa line. The altered boundary cut off a narrow strip of territory estimated by Mr. Grow to contain between 500 and 600 square miles. Today the strip contains such towns as Sioux Falls, Watertown and Brookings. The substitute had a stormy voyage through Congress, especially in the Senate, but finally completed the trip on February 25, 1857.

The enabling act, as passed and approved February 26, 1857, defined the boundaries of Minnesota as follows: "Be it enacted, * * * that the inhabitants of that portion of the Territory of Minnesota which is embraced with the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the point in the center of the main channel of the Red River of the North, where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions crosses the same; thence up the main channel of said river to that of the Bois des Sioux River; thence (up) the main channel of said river to Lake Travers; thence up the center of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the head of Big Stone Lake; thence through its center to its outlet; thence by a due south line to the north line of the State of Iowa; thence east along the northern boundary of said State to the main channel of the Mississippi River; thence up the main channel of said river and following the boundary line of the State of Wisconsin, until the same intersects the St. Louis River; thence down said river to and through Lake Superior, on the boundary line of Wisconsin and Michigan until it intersects the dividing line between the United States and the British possessions; thence up Pigeon River and following said dividing line to the place of beginning; be and the same are hereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and State government, by the name of the State of Minnesota, and to come into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, according to the federal constitution."

These boundaries were accepted without change and are the boundaries of the State at the present time. The State was admitted May 11, 1858.

It will therefore be seen that the territorial claim of title to Houston county was first embraced in the papal grant to Spain, May 4, 1493. It was then included in the indefinite claims made by Spain to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies; by the English to lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements, and by the

French to lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements. The first definite claim to territory now embracing Houston county was made by La Salle at the mouth of the Mississippi, March 8, 1682, in the name of the King of France, and the second (still more definite) by Perrot near the present site of Pepin, Minn., May 8, 1689. This was also a French claim. France remained in tacit authority until February 10, 1763, when, upon England's acknowledging the French authority to lands west of the Mississippi, France, by a previous secret agreement, turned her authority over to Spain. Oct. 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France, but France did not take formal possession until Nov. 30, 1803, and almost immediately, Dec. 20, 1803, turned it over to the United States, the Americans having purchased it from Napoleon, April 30 of that year.

March 26, 1804, the area that is now Houston county was included in Louisiana District, under the executive power of the officials of Indiana Territory, and so remained until March 3, 1805. From March 3, 1805, until June 4, 1814, it was a part of Louisiana Territory. From June 4, 1814, to August 10, 1821, it was a part of Missouri Territory. From August 10, 1821, until June 28, 1834, it was outside the pale of all organized government, except that Congress had general jurisdiction. From June 28, 1834, to April 20, 1836, it was a part of Michigan Territory. From April 20, 1836, to June 12, 1838, it was a part of Wisconsin Territory. From June 12, 1838, to December 28, 1846, it was a part of the Territory of Iowa, and was included in the boundaries at first proposed for the State of Iowa. From Dec. 28, 1846, to March 3, 1849, it was again without territorial affiliation. From March 3, 1849, to May 11, 1858, it was a part of Minnesota Territory and on the latter date became an integral part of that Sovereign State.

CHAPTER VII

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Situated at the southeast corner of a great State, Houston county began to attract settlers long before the land was open to preemption. These settlers, for the most part came by one of three great routes of travel. One way was to embark on a Mississippi steamboat at some Illinois point, which had been reached overland, and travel directly to this county. Another way was to embark on a Mississippi boat at some Illinois point, and disembark at some Iowa point, often McCregor or Lansing, and thence come overland across the prairies to Houston county. Another way was to reach La Crosse by water or overland, and after Oct. 14, 1858, by railroad, and thence to come across the river into Houston county. Brownsville early became an important port of entry for those who came on steamboats or from LaCrosse. These routes were not only used by settlers coming into Houston county, but also by thousands of settlers seeking land further west, so the trails were thronged with travelers, and much desirable land had been occupied by squatters before it came into the market in 1854.

The first settlement in Houston county was made in what is now Jefferson township. In 1847, John and Samuel Ross, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom had served in the Mexican War, came up the river by steamboat from Galena, Illinois, and disembarked at an excellent landing on the west bank of the Mississippi. With the help of the Winnebago Indians, each of the brothers erected a cabin. When the survey of the boundary between Iowa and Minnesota was started at the Mississippi River in 1849, it was found that one of the brothers had his cabin in Iowa and one in Minnesota. A few years after their arrival Samuel sold out to John, who later sold the whole property, but continued to live in this vicinity. For some time the brothers engaged in getting out lumber. Their place was long known as Ross's Landing. In 1854 a number of sturdy Irishmen arrived, with their families, among whom may be mentioned Patrick Collins, John Cauley, Thomas Brady, Patrick Donahue, Patrick McCue, Daniel Friney, Daniel Kennedy and Michael Crowley.

Brownsville was settled in 1848. The first settler was Job Brown. Brown, whose adventurous nature gave him the sobriquet of "Wild Bill," had come from Michigan to Galena, Illinois, and from there had entered service in the Mexican War. After that campaign he came up the Mississippi River on a steamboat, disembarked at the mouth of the Chippewa River, there secured a canoe and floated down the river looking for a townsite. For a while he visited at La Crosse, and then continued his journey. On reaching the group of islands opposite the mouth of the Root River he found there, a shanty, in which were living a German named

Vunk and an American named Phillips, the latter of whom had an Indian wife. The three men decided to form a partnership in planting a town at the foot of the towering crag known as Wild Cat Bluff, a location well known to all three. The excellent landing, the wonderful opportunities of hunting in the surrounding wilderness, the potential possibility of future agriculture in the lands stretching westward, were all factors in this decision, but perhaps the leading reason was that owing to its position in the Neutral Strip, they would not have to pay tribute to the Indians for its occupancy, and would in addition probably be unmolested by the Fur Companies which sought a monopoly of fur trading with the various Indian tribes.

Tearing down the walls of the cabin, the three men constructed a raft, loaded on the roof, and floated down to the new location. This was in June, 1848. Having planted his colony, Brown returned to White Pigeon, Michigan, visited his father, and in the fall started back to Minnesota with his brother, Charles Brown, and his sister's husband, James Hiner, as well as four helpers, one John Miller, two familiarly known as "Jerry the Frenchman" and "Jangulation Bill," and one whose cognomen is not known. Lost in a snow storm, they finally found themselves at Black River Falls, with provisions running short, and Miller with a badly cut foot. Leaving the party there, Job struck out through the snow, and after great suffering reached La Crosse, followed later by the others. About Christmas time, they arrived at Wild Cat Bluff, and found the cabin deserted, Phillips having been drowned and Vunk having moved on. Thus the settlement had its start.

In 1850 came David Brown, who had met Job Brown during the Mexican War, but who was not a relative. A little later came William Morrison, who became known as "Wild Cat Jack." With him was William Blair. Others came in gradually, and with the establishment of the land office and the influx of settlers to the prairie lands west and northwest, the village became an important point.

La Crescent was settled in 1851. The first settler was Peter Cameron. He had been a fur trader in several states, and in 1843 had located at La Crosse, where he had built a claim shanty, and engaged in fur trading and lumbering. In the spring of 1851, he came across the river, and erected a commodious double log house, in section 10, near an excellent spring. At the same time he secured considerable land, and attempted to establish a village. In 1855 he went back to La Crosse, where he died July 30, of that year. In 1852, Thor Halvorson, probably the first Scandinavian in the county, located in the southeast quarter of Section 3. He made some improvements, and did some wood chopping, but for several years spent most of his time away. The same year, William Meyers, a German, established a claim on Section 6, and rolled up some logs for a shelter, while F. Duren settled in the same Section, as did also Henry Wetgen. Samuel Hopper settled near the northwestern part of the county partly in Houston and partly in Winona county. This was the beginning of the Pine Creek settlement. In 1853, Johannes Tuininga, a Hollander, settled in Section 6, and Martin Cody, from Ireland, in Section 8.

Hokah was permanently settled in 1851, but was occupied as early as 1849, by William Richmond and John Kreels, who built a shanty on the banks of the Root River in Section 34, and got out lumber to raft down the Mississippi River. Their shanty was a comfortable affair for their temporary occupancy, but they made no attempt at establishing a permanent home or making a claim at that time. Richmond was afterward identified with the history of Brownsville.

The first permanent settler came, as noted, in 1851. In that year Edward Thompson started out with two companions from Winnebago County, Illinois, looking for a mill site. Coming up across the Iowa prairies, he reached this county, passed a little west of the present village of Caledonia, and reached the South Fork of Root River without finding what he desired. There he hewed out a canoe from a walnut log, and drifted down the Root and Mississippi Rivers to Brownsville. Thus he and his companions reached the cabin of Job Brown, but the owner being away, and the door being securely fastened they were compelled to sleep on the frosty ground. The next day Mr. Brown returned and suggested the mouth of what is now known as Thompson's Creek as a suitable location. Accordingly, Thompson staked a claim there and put up a shelter. In October of the same year he brought his family here, his wife being the first white woman in the community. His brother, Edward, also came, and took a prominent part in the early days of the village. Among those who helped in building the mill were John H. Steward, a blacksmith. Other early comers were Albert Blackinton, Fred Hammer, William Rielur, and Jeremiah Jenks.

Winnebago was settled in 1851, as was its neighboring towns of Wilmington and Caledonia. Freeman Graves, a native of Vermont, started out from Columbia county, Wisconsin, on foot, to find a new home further west. Crossing the Mississippi at McGregor, Iowa, he pursued his course North through Clayton and Allamakee counties, and on March 15, staked out 200 acres, a part of which was in Section 34, Winnebago township, and a part in the State of Iowa. Working alone in the wilderness, he erected a shanty almost on the state line, and then went back to Columbia county and induced some of his friends to follow him. All selected claims nearby, in Iowa. Having thus secured some neighbors, he brought his family here that winter, his wife being the first white woman in the settlement. Asa Beeman settled in the town in 1852. James and William Tippery came in 1853. Among the arrivals of 1854 were Asa Sherman, S. C. Perry, David Salisbury, Patrick Walsh, Thomas Barry, Michael Sheehan, Timothy McCarthy and F. D. Eaton. There was an influx of settlement in 1855, and in that year the German population began to arrive.

The first settlers in the vicinity of Wilmington township, while intending to locate in Minnesota, got over the line into Iowa. In June, 1851, came Mrs. James Robinson and her sons, William, Henry, John and George. They came from Columbia county, Wisconsin, crossed the Mississippi, and traveled up over the prairie until they reached the state line. On July 4, they erected a log house. Henry, one of the brothers, took a claim of eighty acres in section 36, Wilmington township, and put up a log shanty in 1852.

He continued, however, to live with his mother on the Iowa side. The Indians were nearby on the Upper Iowa River, and frequently visited at the home. In 1852 James Coil and George Carver located on the Iowa side of the line. In the same year a settlement was made in section 32, by John Edger, Michael Callahan, Charles Kelley and Michael Tanner, all natives of Ireland. None of this colony remained long. Gjermund Johnson Lommen came in 1853, and settled on section 16, later moving to section 7. He was soon joined by Knut Anderson, Halver Peterson, Knudt Severson, Knud Olson, Ole O. Hefte, and Fred, Peter, James, Eber and Iver Hanson. In 1854 came the vanguard of the Rhode Island settlement, and that year and the next came such men as James M. and Darius (Duty) S. Paine, Charles F. Albee, Jeremiah Shumway, Silas C. Perry, Dr. Alex Batchellor, Tideman Aldrich, John G. Cook, James K. True, John McNelly, David Salisbury, Elisha Cook and others. In 1854, Henry Deters, the first German settler, arrived, and gradually others of his countrymen obtained possession of practically all the land about Eitzen.

The first settler in Caledonia was Ralph L. Young, said to have been previously a Mormon elder at Nauvoo, Illinois. He came here in 1851, with his wife, two sons and a daughter, and put up a bark hut in the southern part of the town. In May, 1852 Anthony Huyck, a native of Allegany county, New York, settled about a mile and a half from the present village, accompanied by Peter L. Swartout. The two were jolly young bachelors, and many amusing stories are told of their efforts at housekeeping. After breaking forty acres, Huyck went on to Spring Grove. Samuel Armstrong took a claim also in 1852. In December of that year, William F. Dunbar came here, looked over the land and made plans for bringing a colony from Massachusetts.

In March, 1853, Samuel McPhail came over from Wild Cat Valley, where he had settled in December, 1851, and selected a claim. In June of 1853 he began active improvements by building a little log store and log dwelling. In the store venture his partner was O. W. Streeter.

The advance guard of the Massachusetts colony came in August of that year. They landed at Brownsville, and having been recommended to a certain hotel, found it a single room log cabin, in which the party could hardly find standing room, to say nothing of sleeping accommodations. But they made the best of the circumstances, and the next day followed the trail to Caledonia.

In this party were Edwin H. Stewart and family, John Dunbar and family, Henry Parmelee and Michael Mead. Others who came that year were Henry Burnet, Hugh Brown, James Hiner, L. W. Paddock, Nelson Haight, Hugh Brown, Eugene Marshall, J. W. Finn, Jacob Webster, Daniel Herring, Hiram Abbey, James Wing, Joseph Pendleton, John Burns and Thomas Burns. Among those who followed were J. J. Belden, Daniel Kerr, Jediah Pope, Milton B. Metcalf, Charles W. Metcalf, Oliver Dunbar and Wells E. Dunbar. Nearly all of these settlers landed at Brownsville and found their way to Caledonia on foot or with ox teams. Caledonia village soon became an important stopping place on the route to points further westward.

The first development of Spring Grove dates from the winter of 1851-52, and before the end of 1852 there was quite a settlement in the town. In the winter mentioned, John Vale, who lived over the line in Iowa, came up and selected a considerable tract of land, and split some rails. In the spring of 1852, Arthur B. Bow and James Smith staked out claims. Bow, who was from Vermont, staked out large tracts in the most desirable locations for the purpose of speculation. He built a crude cabin and proceeded to wait for the influx of land seekers. Smith put up a shanty east of Bow, his claim being on section 11. In the fall he went back to Lansing, where he worked for the winter at his trade as a printer. A little after the arrival of Bow and Smith, Anthony Huyck came over from Caledonia. As he had already been in the county a year he was well equipped for pioneer life. In the summer of 1852, there was a decided influx of settlement, principally of people of Scandinavian birth. Vale sold to H. Narveson, Knud Knudson Kieland and Fingal Asleson. For a time all three lived in the Vale cabin in the eastern part of section 10, and held the land in common, but soon divided their land and erected separate cabins. About the same time Peter Johnson Lommen settled in section 3, Knud Olson Bergo in section 10, Evenson Haimo in section 9, Ole and Tolef Amundson Berg in section 16, and Torger Johnson Temelane in section 15. Other early settlers on Norwegian Ridge were Gulbrand M. Rund, Levor and George Timanson, Gilbert Nielson, Myrha and Hans Nielson, Ole C. Steneroder, Ole Oldon (Big Ole) and others. In the southern part of the township, in 1852, Ole O. Ulen settled in section 26, John Anderson Kroshus in section 26 and Ole Christopherson in sections 34 and 35. In the same year, W. Banning put up a grist mill in section 19.

The first settler in Houston was W. G. McSpadden, who came up the Root River from La Crosse, June 14, 1852, and staked out 80 acres in section 33, just above the confluence of the South Fork with the Root River. Mr. McSpadden operated a ferry at La Crosse, and until 1854 divided his time between the two places. On his second trip here, in 1852, he brought with him, Ole Knudson. Knudson took a claim east of McSpadden, and erected his cabin, by consent, on McSpadden's land. Walter Webster took a claim west of the others, in section 33, the main part of the village now standing on part of his claim. He lived through the winter in McSpadden's cabin.

The year of 1853 marked a period of activity in settlement. Among the arrivals of that year was a colony of six families from Sweden, who had read in a Swedish paper of the wonderful possibilities of the Root River Valley, and decided to cast their lot here. The heads of these families were David Johnson, Lars Johnson, John Anderson, Abraham Anderson, Ole Benson and Lars Redding. David Johnson bought out Webster's rights for \$30. Lars Johnson secured a claim west of him, the extreme western part of the village now lying on the western edge of his farm. John and Abraham Anderson located in section 3. Lars Redding settled in section 34.

In the meantime, settlers had been coming into the Silver Creek region. The first comer was Henry Hyatt, who arrived in 1852 and settled on the eastern branch of Silver Creek. He looked over a large tract of land, intend-

ing to bring in a colony of relatives, but his expectations did not materialize, and he soon left.

John S. Looney came the same year and settled on section 27, in that beautiful valley that has since borne his name. He brought his family in the fall and at once became a prominent citizen. His three adult sons, James, Corydon and Abraham, also secured claims. The family remained about six years. With the Looneys came Charles Gainer, who settled on section 23. Samuel Cushon came the same year and his name is still applied to the high peak which is included in the land he took. He soon left.

Other early settlers were E. K. Dyer, Charles Case, Adam Coon, A. B. Hunt, Isaac Thompson, William Webster, William Butterfield, John Moore, Lawrence Lynch, Harvey McAdams, Albert H. T. Stafford and Morris Farmin.

The first settler in Crooked Creek township was George Powlesland, who came in June, 1852, and selected a claim in section 36. He spent the summer working on a farm in Iowa. In the fall he came back with a team of oxen, accompanied by George Littlefield and William Oxford. A prairie fire had swept over the region and Mr. Powlesland found considerable difficulty in getting his bearings and finding his claim. Mr. Littlefield and Mr. Oxford selected claims, but did not return until the following year. Mr. Powlesland proceeded to erect a cabin, 16 by 20 feet, with a single window and an earth floor. On Jan. 12, 1853, he brought his family here, making the trip with the ox team from Iowa. Though in the middle of the winter there was but little snow on the ground and the trip was made without difficulty. In the spring of 1853 Mr. Oxford drove in with an ox team from Brownsville, following the old Indian trail, on which he made a number of improvements.

The date of the first settlement of Mound Prairie township is in considerable doubt. Along the Black River in this township there was a heavy growth of black walnut timber, which could be cut and rafted down the Mississippi, and this naturally attracted early attention. Possibly John Crypts came in 1852, or earlier. He brought his family, settled south of the river on section 34, and started to get out logs with the assistance of the Indians. Thomas Van Sickle, also probably came in 1852, and engaged in the same business. He was first in section 4 south of the river and later in section 21, north of the river. James C. Day, John Bush and Henry P. Eberhard came in the next year or so.

The first settler in Black Hammer township was Edwin Stevens, who came here with his wife in 1852, and settled on section 21. But the season was unusually dry, water was scarce, and he continued on his way to section 4, where his wife helped him to put up a log cabin. In 1854 he sold out and moved still further north into Yucatan township, where he established a mill. Torkel Anderson, a native of Norway, came in March, 1853, having made his way up over the Iowa prairies on foot bringing with him an axe, two iron wedges and beetle rings as his only tools for making a shack. He put up a shanty of poplar poles with a birch bark roof, split rails to enclose a field, and cleared ten acres the first year. He also planted an orchard of apple trees. In the same year came Halver Olson; Guttorm and Jens Olsen

Otterness, Knud Olsen Ike, with his three sons, Knud, John and Ole; and a number of others. This was the beginning of a large Scandinavian colony which soon peopled a large portion of the town.

Union township received its first settler in 1853, when David House, with his wife and father, located a claim in section 14, in the Hokah Valley. Edwin Butterfield had chosen this same claim a few months previous, but without making any improvements had gone further west on a prospecting tour. Finding nothing better to his liking, he returned to the claim he had selected and found Mr. House on it. Accordingly, he took a claim in section 13, and in the fall brought his family. A little later in the same year came Frank J. Kitzinger, who staked a claim in section 15, and started the first hotel. About the same time Marcus Sammons settled in section 29.

Money Creek township was settled in 1853. John Campbell and Nathan Vance, who had previously made several trips to this region looking for a mill site, came here in the spring of that year, and located in the northern part of the township. Campbell secured 320 acres, including the site of the mill and hamlet of Money Creek. Vance took a claim adjoining. The two men moved into a tepee, whose owners were absent, and were thoroughly frightened when the Indians appeared with angry demonstrations at the white men who had thus stolen their habitation. But they were propitiated by a few presents and left the two settlers in possession. As the spring advanced, fifteen acres were broken on the Campbell claim, corn and potatoes planted, and a shanty erected. In the fall Mr. Campbell returned to Wisconsin. Sometime in 1853, Willis Thompson settled in section 19 and James Spaulding in section 26. Toward spring in 1854, Campbell brought his family here, with goods, provisions, oxen, cows, swine and the like. Not long afterward he started a mill, but did not complete it for some time. When Mr. Campbell went back to Wisconsin in 1854, Mr. Vance remained here several years. He built a cabin, broke some land, and in time brought his family here. Among others who came in 1854 were Captain John Bates, Charles Williams, Russell Thurber, Cyrus B. Sinclair, Stephen Robinson and Nora F. Berry. About the same time, the Root River Valley portion of the township was being settled, James Spaulding being followed in 1854 by Martin Christianson, Ole Omodt and others. In 1855, settlers began to appear in the northwest corner, among whom may be mentioned Samuel Nichols and son, S. A. Nichols, Phil. Mohan, and J. McLeod.

Sheldon township received a few settlers in June, 1853. Probably the first was Gutorm Guttorsen who located in Sections 7 and 8. Michael and Andrew Michaelson and Andrew Jermondson arrived about the same time, and selected their claims while sitting on the bluff east of Badger Valley. In 1854 came Ole Targeson. In the southeastern part of the town in that year, claims were taken by John Brown and Benjamin Swan.

The first claim in Yucatan township was staked out in the spring of 1853 or 1854 by Asa Comstock, who did not, however, locate on it until later. The first settler was Edwin Stevens, who came up from Black Hammer township in the fall of 1854. He put up a cabin in the form of an old fashioned "A" tent, constructing it of two layers of basswood logs, the lower layer flat side up and the top layer flat side down, filling the interstices

with hay and then piling the whole structure thick with hay. The ends were made of similar basswood logs driven upright into the ground. At one end was a small door made of split basswood logs fastened together by securing them to cross logs with wooden pegs. This door was hung on leather hinges. At the other end was a stone fireplace and stone chimney, filled in with clay. This cabin was located in the woods on the South Fork not far from where the Howe Mill was later built in Section 23. In 1854 E. Mackintire took a claim in section 33. In 1856, Stevens platted a town-site, and before fall the new village had five log cabins. The same year, Mackintire and his partner Cooper had a mill running. In the fall of 1855, Stevens sold out to Peter Larr and Hiram Howe.

Mayville township received attention in 1854, when Jerry Hooley settled in Section 9. John Pope took land in section 31, that year, but built his cabin over the line in Caledonia. In 1855 a number arrived among whom may be mentioned Edward Buckley who settled in section 9, James Cashman who settled in section 4, Martin Rohan who settled in section 8, Thomas and James Kennedy who settled in section 5, Thomas Moriarity who settled in section 8 and James McCurdy who settled in section 11. In the northwestern part of the town, Charles Klein settled with his large family. John Mann secured a claim in section 4.

Thus began the settlement in the various townships of Houston county. The great influx was in the middle fifties, and before the opening of the Civil War, while the county was still more or less wild, most of the desirable claims had been taken.

CHAPTER VIII

TRANSPORTATION

The history of river transportation in Houston county begins with the days of the birch bark canoes of the Indians, continues through the days of the barges, batteaux, rafts and skiffs of the explorers, missionaries and traders, develops into the days of the palatial packers, and declines through the days of the grain boats, and is ending for the time being at least with the days of the excursion boats and small pleasure craft, with a possibility of a revival of an important freight traffic. The history of land transportation in the county begins with the days of the Indian trails, continues through the days of the ox cart, stage coach and mail routes and develops into the days of the railroads, the first forty years of the railroad era being characterized by the gradual increase in the use of horses, and the last half decade being co-incident with the rapid increase in the number of automobiles used for both travel and pleasure. The history of improvement in routes in travel includes the story of the dredging and regulation of the channel of the Mississippi, the deepening and straightening of Root River, the building and gradual improvement of roads and streets, and the recently inaugurated system of highly improved highways under county, state and federal supervision.

Situated as Houston county is, on the once great highway of commerce, the Mississippi River, it was natural that the first settlers for the most part should come by steamboat. The landing at Brownsville was one of the best along the whole upper course of the great river. Here were landed the throngs of settlers bound not only for this county but also for the rich regions west and northwest. There was also a steamboat landing in Jefferson township and a ferry landing at La Crescent.

Many volumes have been written regarding transportation on the upper Mississippi with its many picturesque features. Its history is beyond the scope of the present work. After the founding of Ft. Snelling in 1819, the mail and supplies for the garrison were carried by soldiers from Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien) in the summer by keel boats or canoes, while in the winter the distance was traversed on the ice in a sort of sledge drawn by dogs or a Canadian pony. The early traders usually used Indian canoes, keel boats or batteaux or skiffs. The canoes were manufactured with a frame of white cedar covered with the bark of a white birch or of green hides with the hair side in stretched over a frame of willows. They were made from ten to twenty feet in length, capable of carrying two or three tons of lading, and were of light enough weight so that they could be easily carried over portages. They were propelled with a paddle and often accomplished from eighty to one hundred miles a day. The batteau were usually rowed by six or seven men. They were light made boats usually

about forty feet in length, from ten to twelve feet wide, and could carry about five tons. The ordinary skiffs were rowed by from two to twenty oarsmen. The keel boats or barges were intended to be propelled by poles stuck in the bottom of the river, the men leaning with the shoulder against the upper end shoving the boat along by walking on the deck or on a plank. These barges were at least partially provided with an upper deck, partly to walk upon, partly as a protection of the men and the cargo against the rain or the other inclemencies of the weather. Most of them were also provided with temporary masts and simple tackle and rigging for use when the wind and the width and comparative straightness of the channel provided a favorable opportunity. This poling or pushing of the barges against the current was not only a toilsome and tedious, but also a very unsatisfactory way of transportation. High water suitable for boats of deep draft could not be navigated as it was impossible to manipulate poles long enough to reach to the bottom. At the times of low water sandbars were almost unconquerable obstacles. Yet in spite of these difficulties there was considerable river traffic even in those days. There was also some land traffic, the travelers going on foot with a pack on their back, following the paths of the Indians in the summer, and using snowshoes to get across the trackless wastes in winter.

The first steamboat on the upper Mississippi, the Virginia, passed Houston county in May, 1823, on the way to Fort Snelling. For nearly twenty years thereafter all the steamboats passing the county were ones chartered by the government to carry supplies to the troops at Fort Snelling. In 1842, the "Rock River," was put into the general freight and passenger service, and the following year the "Otter." After this the river trade increased and before long there were several companies operating boats and indulging in a spirited rivalry. The river was made still more accessible to people coming from the East, when in the middle fifties communication was first established with its mighty course by rail. For many years the steamboat business continued to flourish. Its decline started in the early seventies, when the completion of the railroad bridge at Winona in December, 1870, and the railroad bridge at Hastings in December, 1871, gave St. Paul and Minneapolis through communication with the east. The extension of the railroad line southward from Winona through Houston county on the western bank of the Mississippi still further curtailed the steamboat business, while the completion of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy on the east bank of the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien in 1886, still further spelled its doom, as all the principal towns on both banks of the upper river were thus provided with railroad facilities. Many of the palatial packets were turned into grain boats, some were taken elsewhere and used on the lower Mississippi or the Ohio. After this the packet service gradually diminished, until 1919 when it was entirely suspended. There are, however, many prominent men who believe that the Mississippi is again destined to become a great highway of commerce exceeding in this regard even its former splendor.

In the meantime many millions of dollars have been spent in efforts to improve the upper Mississippi. Extensive dredging operations have been

conducted, frequent "wing dams" have been constructed to keep the channel in its proper place, and the river banks rip-rapped with trap rock in several places.

A characteristic feature of transportation in the early days was embodied in the stage coach lines. The old territorial road from La Crosse to St. Paul crossed Houston county through the towns of La Crescent and Mound Prairie. At one time no less than three different stage lines were operating out of La Crosse over this route. The first important stop was the Lorette House in Mound Prairie. At meal times there were busy scenes, with the great coaches drawn by four or six horses, driving up with a flourish, unloading their crowded loads of passengers, and changing horses, while the loud voiced drivers gave noisy orders, gossiped with the loungers, and quarreled among themselves. Sometimes the Lorette House served nearly one hundred persons at single dinner. The carriers on nearly all the mail routes also carried passengers, and some operated quite pretentious stages. As early as 1860, J. J. Belden was furnishing Caledonia with a tri-weekly mail service from La Crosse. The La Crosse-St. Paul stage business ceased with the completion of the railroad from La Crosse to St. Paul. But the mail routes continued for many years thereafter.

The following mail routes were in existence in Houston county in 1876:

Brownsville to Caledonia—Daily. Leaving Caledonia at eight o'clock, and arriving at Brownsville at eleven o'clock A. M. Leaving Brownsville at three o'clock, arriving in Caledonia at seven o'clock P. M.

Caledonia to Houston—Tri-weekly. Leaving Caledonia at seven o'clock, arriving in Houston at ten o'clock A. M. Leaving Houston at one o'clock, arriving in Caledonia at six o'clock P. M., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Caledonia to Newburg—Tri-weekly, via Spring Grove. Leaving Caledonia at seven o'clock, arriving in Spring Grove at ten o'clock A. M., and in Caledonia at seven o'clock P. M., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Caledonia to Waukon—Bi-weekly. Arriving at Caledonia at twelve o'clock, Tuesdays and Fridays, and departing at one o'clock the same day.

Brownsville to Freeburg—Weekly. Leaving Brownsville Saturday morning at seven o'clock and returning in the evening at six o'clock.

Houston to Winona—Bi-weekly. Leaving Houston Tuesdays and Fridays, at eight o'clock A. M. via Money Creek to Winona. Arriving in Houston at seven o'clock P. M., Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Riceford to Houston—Weekly. Leaving Riceford Saturday mornings, arriving in Houston at eleven o'clock A. M. Leaving Houston at one o'clock and arriving in Riceford at seven P. M.

Gradually they were discontinued, some by reason of the building of the Reno-Preston some by the establishment of the rural free delivery. The only post office at the present time that does not have railroad connection is Eitzen, just on the Iowa line in Winnebago township.

Most of the early settlers, whether they came overland all the way or landed from the steamboats made their way to their new homes with a yoke of oxen. Some brought their oxen overland from as far away as

southern Illinois, usually walking alongside while the women and children, when tired, rode on top of the goods in the cart. Those who came by steamboat had to secure further means of transportation after landing. Some bought or hired their oxen at La Crosse or Brownsville. Others who were fortunate enough to have friends already here, were met at the landing place and taken with their goods to their prospective claims.

A few of the pioneers had horses, both to make the trip here and for farm work after their arrival. But it was not until the county became more thickly settled that horses came into general use. The oxen, indeed, were much more suitable for general farm conditions in a pioneer country, could stand the climate and insufficient shelter better, and could exist on rougher forage than the horses.

In making their way to their new homes, the first comers among the whites followed the Indian trails, or picked their way as best they could through the valleys, over the ridges and across the prairies. The routes they made gradually developed into established lines of travel.

In territorial and early State days, the Minnesota Legislature repeatedly memorialized Congress asking for appropriations for various territorial and State roads, the most important of which were to cross Houston county. Some were to extend east and west and some north and south. In these memorials the importance of Houston county as the gateway to the wonderful agricultural wealth of Minnesota was duly set forth in glowing terms, but Congress did not grant the money and the financial burden of maintaining the highways remained with the people of the county. The early legislatures, however, established several territorial road routes which had a part of their course in Houston county, and this served to advertise the locality and bring settlers through here, even if it did not furnish financial aid in road construction.

The first official action toward good roads in Houston county was taken at the first meeting of the county board, May 26, 1854. Petitions were presented, for a road from Brownsville, by way of James A. McCan's, David Brown's and William Oxford's to the Iowa State line near Eliakim Laffin's in what was afterward Winnebago township, and one from Brownsville by way of William Richmond's to Jacob Beusch's on the Root River. These petitions were laid over. A highway to be known as Road 1 was ordered viewed by Darwin T. North and Job Brown from Brownsville, by way of Hiram Butterfield's to the forks of the Root River, and another to be known as Road 2, was ordered viewed by Job Brown and Enoch C. Young, from Brownsville by way of Caledonia, to the western line of the county where it was to intersect with the Decorah road. On June 8, the petitions laid over from the previous meeting were granted. Christopher Clark and Samuel Dean were appointed viewers of Road 3, from Brownsville to the Iowa State line at Laffin's, and William Richmond and William Shelby were appointed viewers of Road 4 from Brownsville to the Root River at Beusch's. At the same meeting there was laid over, a petition for a road from Brownsville by way of William Oxford's on Crooked Creek; George Powlesland's; section 31, township 102, range 5; and Norwegian Ridge to the Fillmore county line near the mill at Riceford. This route duplicated, from Browns-

ville to Oxford's the route of Road 3, so on July 5, the commissioners appointed Joel Finn and William Oxford, viewers of Road 5, to extend from Oxford's by way of George Powlesland's; section 31, township 102, range 5; and Norwegian Ridge to the county line near Riceford. On the same day, July 5, 1854, three other roads were also ordered viewed. Peter Cameron and Samuel Armstrong were appointed viewers of Road 6, to extend from the northeast corner of the county on the Mississippi by way of Thompson's sawmill (Hokah) and the Norwegian Ridge to the place where the large Indian trail crossed the south line of the county. J. N. Stewart and David House were appointed viewers of Road 7, to extend from Thompson's sawmill (Hokah) by way of Eugene Butterfield's and Levi West's to intersect with the road from Brownsville to Caledonia. Darwin T. North and Clark W. Thompson were appointed viewers of Road 7 to cross the county from east to west, starting at Brownsville, and extending by way of Thompson's sawmill (Hokah) and the forks of the Root River. Oct. 2, 1854, a petition was granted for a road commencing at M. N. Taylor's and extending by way of John S. Looney's to the county line near the mouth of Rush Creek on the best route to Chatfield. M. N. Taylor and Terry A. Grover were appointed viewers.

Supervision over the roads of the county was established July 5, by the creation of eight road districts as follows: District 1, townships 101 and 102 and south half of 103, range 4; District 2, north half of township 103, range 4, and northeast quarter of township 103, range 5; District 3, Pine Creek election district (all of the county east of the middle line of range 5, and north of the Root River); District 4, west half of township 104 range 5, northwest quarter of township 103, range 5 one mile on the east side of township 104, range 6 and one mile wide on the east end of the north half of township 103, range 6; District 5, remainder of township 104, range 6, township 104, range 7, north half of township 103, range 7, and the remainder of the north half of township 103, range 6; District 6, south half of township 103, range 6, township 102, range 6, township 102, range 5, and the south half of township 103, range 5; District 7, township 101, ranges 5 and 6; District 8, townships 101 and 102, and the south half of township 103, range 7. Supervisors were appointed for the various districts as follows: 1, David Brown; 2, Levi West; 3, Henry Gillette; 4, Nels Oleson; 5, Thomas Conniff; 6, B. N. Lawrence; 7, Eliakim Laffin; 8, James Smith.

With the increased settlement, there was an added necessity for more roads. But the laying out of even such crude roads as were provided in those days, was expensive, and therefore in many instances, instead of establishing roads, the county boards established cartways, which were unimproved trails leading from the main roads to the homes of various settlers.

In the late fifties it was found that some of the state and territorial roads established were being obstructed by settlers who deliberately fenced up portions of the roads laid out across their lands. In many instances, the marks of the surveyed route had become obliterated. July 21, 1859, the board ordered all obstructions removed, and provided for a survey in

case of dispute. Sept. 14, 1859, still further action was taken, it being provided that where the marks of the original survey had been obliterated and there was uncertainty or dispute about the real roadway, the town supervisors should have power to call in a surveyor and relocate the obliterated roadway.

Although road matters have occupied the major part of the attention of the county and town officials from the earliest days, nevertheless until recently there were few really good roads in the county. Most of the roads, in fact, after the springtime rain, were practically impassible. This condition, unfortunately, in many parts of the county still remains. But beginning several years ago, a decided effort has been made to establish better highways, and this is resulting in some excellent stretches of road. The mileage of improved roads is increasing year by year, the citizens are awakening to the necessity of better transportation facilities, and in time the main routes of travel will be in such condition as to be a source of comfort and pleasure to travelers at all seasons of the year.

The trunk line system provides for the permanent improvement and maintenance of the highways most commonly traveled. The system as now contemplated embraces three main routes and one branch route.

Road No. 1 enters from Fillmore county and extends through Spring Grove township and village, Wilmington township, Caledonia township and village, follows part of the west and north line of Mayville township, then through Union, Hokah township and village, La Crescent township and village, and into Winona county.

Road No. 2 enters from Winona county, extends through Money Creek township, Houston township and village, Sheldon township, Caledonia township and village, Wilmington, Eitzen village, Wilmington township and into Iowa to New Albion.

Road No. 3 extends from Brownsville through Brownsville township, Mayville and Caledonia village, follows the line between Caledonia and Mayville, and then through Winnebago and Jefferson to New Albion in Iowa.

Road No. 4 branches from Road 2 at the South Fork bridge in Sheldon and extends to near the south line of Yucatan.

The stretch of road from La Crescent to La Crosse was built and is maintained by the city of La Crosse. It was originally constructed with great difficulty and at heavy expense, being built up from the soft oozy bed of sloughs and swamps. The main bridge from Pettibone Island to La Crosse was erected by the people of La Crosse.

Before the building of bridges, the ferries constituted an important feature of transportation. The principal ferries in Houston county crossed the Mississippi at La Crescent to La Crosse, and the Root River at Houston and Hokah. The ferries played a considerable part in the early history of the county. Ferry licenses were granted by the legislature and by the county boards. The first one granted in this county was by the Minnesota Territorial legislature, authorizing Charles F. Jenson to operate a ferry across the Mississippi River near La Crosse. He was to select any place he chose opposite "Prairie La Crosse" and within four miles thereof, and was to have an exclusive right for six years, no other ferry to be established

within a mile of him. He was to operate the ferry at all hours, but after 9 o'clock at night could charge double fare. He was to be allowed to charge regular rates as follows: For each foot passenger, 15 cents; for each horse, mare or mule with or without rider, 50 cents; for each ox or cow, 50 cents; for each two horse or two ox or two mule team, loaded or unloaded, with driver, \$1.00; for each single horse carriage, 75 cents; for each additional horse, mule or cow, 25 cents; for each swine or sheep, 4 cents. All freights of lumber, merchandise, or other articles, not in teams, at the rate of 10 cents a barrel, and 50 cents a thousand feet of lumber, with 5 cents a hundred weight for all other articles.

Oct. 4, 1854, Peter Cameron was granted a license by the county commissioners to operate a ferry across the Mississippi at his landing near the northern line of the county. That year he had started a canal beginning in the lower part of section 13, in La Crescent township and terminating near the center of section 14, at a point in Pine Creek where a fragmentary lake or slough extends well up to the first terrace. A steam ferry boat was also built at La Crosse, 150 feet in length but the machinery did not arrive, the proprietor died, and the enterprise was abandoned.

July 5, 1854, William McConnell was granted a license by the county board to operate a ferry across the Mississippi River. He was to pay the county an annual fee of \$25. This license was on July 2, 1855, transferred to Smith, Clinton & Bates.

In 1855 Mr. Bates put on a steam ferry boat known as the "Honey-Eye," but which the settlers nicknamed "Mu-Chick-e-Vous." It was an antiquarian and dangerously dilapidated affair. The early settlers used humorously to relate that, sometimes, while crossing the river, it had to tie up to an island, let the steam go down, take off the safety-valve, and with buckets fill the boiler, then get up steam again and finish the trip. For two years the people had to submit to such ferry accommodations as this boat furnished. Before the boat was finally abandoned the Kentucky Company had become the owner, and when it was too much impaired to attempt another trip, a new boat was brought from Pittsburgh, Pa., and this ran up to the spring of 1857, when it was cut down by a field of ice and sunk, while tied up at La Crosse.

Feb. 7, 1857, Thomas McRoberts, the agent of the Kentucky Company, was granted the exclusive privilege of maintaining a ferry across the Mississippi at a point near the foot of Mississippi Avenue in the village of La Crescent, subject, however, to the provisions of the charter granted to the Winona & La Crosse Railroad Co. The rates he was allowed to charge were as follows: For each foot passenger, 20 cents; for each horse, mare, mule or ass, with or without rider, 50 cents; for each head of loose cattle, 35 cents; for each head of sheep or swine, 10 cents; for each two or four horse wagon, 75 cents; for each pair of horses, mules or oxen, in wagon, 75 cents; for each single horse, carriage or cart, 75 cents; for each two horse carriage and driver, \$1.00; for lumber a thousand feet, \$1.00; for freight a hundred pounds, 10 cents.

Under this license, after the sinking of the former boat in the spring of 1857, a large boat, called the "Jo Gale," was then chartered for the summer

business, and at the same time a new boat was ordered at New Albany, which reached here in the fall of 1857. This was the "McRoberts," named as a compliment to the agent of the company. This boat ran 21 years, or until August, 1878.

For several years, about the time of the war, there was great dissatisfaction with the ferry. The company charged \$1.50 each for passengers. This high rate caused an opposition boat, the "General Pope," to be put on, the fare on which was fifty cents each way. Freights also were so reduced that a farmer with 500 bushels of wheat to transport would save \$25. At one time Gen. C. C. Washburn became interested in the ferry question, and materially assisted in securing cheaper rates.

In 1877 the McRoberts was sold by the Kentucky Company to J. C. Day, and was later owned by J. C. Day, Thomas McRoberts and P. S. Davidson. Its successor as a ferryboat was the Warsaw, which, when the river was free of ice, made regular trips, in the summer time, making as many as eight round trips a day.

O. W. Streeter was by act of the legislature approved March 3, 1855, given the exclusive right of maintaining a ferry across the Mississippi, at a point to be selected by him in Section 11, Township 104, Range 4, for fifteen years, no other ferry to be established within a mile of him. He was to be under bonds of \$500 to keep safe boats in good repair, and to give good service at all hours, though allowed to charge a double fee for those who crossed after 9 o'clock at night. The regular rates were established as follows: Foot passenger, 20 cents; horse, mare, mule or ass, with or without a driver, 50 cents; single horse carriage, 75 cents; two horse, two ox or two mule team, loaded or unloaded, with or without driver, \$1.00; additional horse, mule, or cow, 30 cents; additional sheep or swine, 10 cents; for lumber, a thousand feet, \$1.00; all articles of merchandise in barrels, ten cents a barrel; for other articles, a hundred pounds, six cents.

Mr. Streeter, on Oct. 31, 1855, sold his rights to Cyrus K. Lord. The first regular boat was run by Captain W. G. McSpadden, and was called the "Wild Kate." The first part of the name was peculiarly expressive and appropriate, for, while it was a most valuable assistance to the emigrants and settlers, it had no regular time table, and, like a train running out of schedule time, was always "wild." The great bulk of travel in those days was from the east, and so the "Wild Kate" used to remain over on that side until somebody desired to come over, when, by the aid of two horses working treadmill fashion, it would be slowly propelled to the shore on the Minnesota side.

The Target Lake Plank Road & Ferry Co. was incorporated Feb. 28, 1856, for the purpose of constructing a single or double track road from a point within a mile of section 24, to a point within half a mile of section 28, in township 104, range 4. Toll gates were to be erected at convenient intervals and tolls collected not exceeding the following rates: For each vehicle, sled, sleigh or carriage drawn by two animals, five cents a mile, if by more than two animals, two cents a mile for each additional animal; for each vehicle, sled, sleigh or carriage drawn by one animal, two cents a mile; each horse and driver or led animal, one cent a mile; each score of sheep or swine,

one cent a mile; each score of neat cattle, four cents a mile. Persons attending religious services on Sundays were to be exempt from toll traveling both ways, and men liable to military service were exempt from toll while going or returning from any military gathering at which presence was required by law. The capital stock was placed at \$1,000 and divided into a thousand shares. Commissioners appointed to receive the stock subscriptions were Nicholas Hintgen, Thomas B. Stoddard, Joel Marsh, John W. Thompson, Ole Rundson, William Hunter and C. W. Jenks.

On March 1, 1856, E. A. Goodell was granted a charter for fifteen years to operate a ferry across the Mississippi at any point he might select in Brownsville; no one else for that period to operate one within one and a half miles of the point he should select. In the day time he was allowed to charge the following rates: For each foot passenger, 10 cents; for each horse, mare, mule or ass with or without a rider, 25 cents; for each two horses, two ox or two mule team, loaded or unloaded, with driver, 75 cents; for each single horse carriage, 50 cents; for each additional horse, mule, ox or cow, 25 cents; for each swine or sheep, 5 cents; for lumber per thousand feet, \$1; for articles of merchandize in barrels, 5 cents a barrel; all other articles a hundred pounds, 6 cents. During the night hours from 8 P. M. to 5 A. M. he was allowed to charge double.

In 1863, the steamer "Spray" was put on, operating between Brownsville and La Crosse. It was owned by Harvey Rumsey and operated by Captain Whittaker. After about three months it was succeeded by the "Express," a stern-wheel boat of 35 tons register, operated by Captain G. L. Winslow. In 1872, Captain Winslow had a boat of 24 tons register built at La Crosse which he named the "Vigor" and with which he replaced the "Express" the following year. About this time, however, the railroad company but on the steamer "Jessie Girden" as a transfer boat. Finding that it would not pay to continue in competition, Captain Winslow went further down the river and engaged in business. But when a few years later, the railroad bridge was built and the railroad ferry discontinued, Captain Winslow returned and operated a ferry for many years.

A charter to be in force for twelve months only, was on Feb. 27, 1856, granted to J. L. Wertz, to establish and maintain a ferry across the Root River in section 28, township 104, range 4. The rates were established as follows: Foot passenger, 5 cents; horse, mare or mule, with or without rider, 15 cents; each ox or cow, 10 cents; each two horse, two ox or two mule team loaded or unloaded, with driver, 25 cents; each single horse carriage, 20 cents; each additional horse, mule, ox or cow, 10 cents; each swine or sheep, 5 cents; all freight of lumber, merchandise or other articles not in teams at the rate of 10 cents a barrel, 50 cents a hundred feet of lumber; and 5 cents a hundred pounds for all other articles.

At Houston, a ferry was operated for many years, beginning about 1858.

Transportation on the Root River has never been of great importance, though during the early days there was a shipbuilding yard at Houston, and boats laden with goods went as high as Rushford. The completion of the present improvements to the river will make it available for launches,

row boats and canoes, though the current will be so swift that the use of the deepened river for either pleasure or transportation will be almost negligible.

One of the largest single projects in Houston county has been the straightening of Root River for drainage purposes under the state judicial ditch law. Due petition being made, the court heard the petitioners and the remonstrances in 1917, and damages and benefits being duly assessed, and the county bonds provided for, the work was started. It will be completed in 1919. The river has been dredged, in many places a new channel has been built, and other improvements made. While much of the picturesqueness of the river has been ruined, and while there has been since the beginning considerable opposition to the project, it is believed by many that the project will reclaim considerable overflow land and regulate to some extent the disastrous spring floods to which the Root River Valley is subject.

The project of improving the Root River is by no means a new one. In the early days, when the river was navigable to above Houston, and many goods were brought up that way, it was believed that with a little deepening, the river would become an important highway of commerce. In 1856, the Minnesota Legislature memorialized Congress to this effect, asking \$15,000 for deepening the river. The facts as set forth in the Memorial are an interesting statement of conditions as they then existed. It was stated that the navigation of Root River from its mouth to Rushford, a distance of about fifty miles by the river, was obstructed by driftwood and snags, which a moderate appropriation, judiciously expended, would easily remove, and therefore render the river navigable for that distance. It was further stated that the valley of the Root River was already thickly inhabited, that large amounts of goods and merchandise were being transported into the valley by tedious and circuitous overland routes, at heavy expenditure, whereas the Root River if cleared would form a convenient and comfortable route of travel. It was also set forth that there was already a surplus of production in farm products, and that the opening of the Root River would provide a market for these products on the upper Mississippi, to which region supplies were then being brought from points in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, further down the Mississippi River.

The money was not granted, however. With the passing of the years the river diminished in volume, the tilling of the soil caused the stream to fill up with loose earth washed from the fertile fields, dams were constructed, and navigation was impossible. The dams in time were washed out, but the other river obstructions continued to increase. Thus conditions remained until the dredging of the judicial ditch.

All the railroads of Houston County are owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co. The lines are the River Division, the Southern Minnesota Division, the Reno-Preston Division and the La Crescent-Dubuque Division. The Mississippi is bridged near La Crescent, thus giving connection with La Crosse.

The thoughts of the pioneers early turned to the necessity of railroads

in developing the newly opened regions of the upper Mississippi River valley. This was especially true of the people of Houston county, which was the point of entrance of so many of the pioneers who were seeking lands in Minnesota. Brownsville had not long been settled when a railroad was projected which was to have its eastern terminus at that village on the Mississippi and extend westward over the rich Minnesota and Dakota prairies.

The Louisiana & Minnesota Railroad Co. incorporated by the legislature March 3, 1853, was authorized to construct a road along the western bank of the Mississippi from St. Paul southward to the Iowa boundary. The Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Co., incorporated March 4, 1854, was authorized to construct a railroad from the northwest shore of Lake Superior by way of St. Anthony (Minneapolis) and St. Paul, to Dubuque, crossing the Iowa boundary at any convenient point. Thus both these roads were authorized, should they desire, to cross Houston county. But on June 29, 1854, Congress passed an act which bestowed a grant of alternate sections, designated by odd numbers, six miles on each side of a road which should enter the state somewhere between sections 9 (in Fillmore county) and section 17 (in Freeborn county), thence northward to St. Paul, and thence by the most practical route to the eastern boundary of the territory in the direction of Lake Superior, thus fixing the route of the Minneapolis & Northwestern.

As early as 1855, the Territorial Legislature took action toward establishing a railroad through Houston county. By an act approved March 2, 1855, the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad Co. was established with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000. The road was to have its eastern terminus at Hokah. From there it was to extend westward by the most feasible route to the Great Bend of the Missouri River. The privilege was also granted of extending a branch from Hokah, up the west bank of the Mississippi by way of Target Lake to Eagle Bluffs in Winona county, and to connect at any point the directors might think proper with the line to be established by the Lake Superior, Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad Co. Authority was given to complete a steamboat canal from the main channel of the Mississippi River, through Target Lake to Root River, in section 28, township 104, range 4, and to remove all obstructions to navigation between Hokah and that point. A right of way was granted for both canal and railroad, not to exceed two hundred feet in width. Elaborate directions for operating the railroad were included in the act. The holders of the charter were Edward Thompson, Samuel McPhail, James Smith, Edward Bell, Ole Knudson, T. B. Twiford, W. B. Gear, Benjamin Thompson, John Looney, Joseph Sovesse, William F. Dunbar, B. Pringle, James McCann, H. N. Farnham, W. W. Bennett, Robert H. Shankland, J. S. McCuen, David Olmsted, Benjamin F. Brown, Joseph P. Hamelin, H. D. Huff, Thomas Foster, Jacob McCrary, and William Bross. In those days riders were often attached to bills entirely foreign to its original purpose, and this act incorporating the railroad also provided that the county seat of Fillmore county should be at Carimona, and that Wright county should be fully organized. March 1, 1856, the act was amended, allowing the construction of a branch from Hokah to Brownsville.

On Nov. 3, 1855, the officers met at their headquarters at Chatfield. The board then stood as follows: Clark W. Thompson, president; C. A. Stevens, vice-president; H. L. Edwards, secretary; T. B. Twiford, treasurer; H. W. Holley, chief engineer. The executive committee were T. B. Twiford, Edward Thompson, T. B. Stoddard, William B. Gere and T. J. Safford. Soon after this a survey was made by the chief engineer, H. W. Holley, from the Mississippi River to Hokah.

On Dec. 8, 1856, a public meeting of those favorable to the construction of the road was held in Chatfield. The meeting was called to order by William B. Gere, who stated the objects of the meeting, and gave a brief history of the enterprise, stating that \$50,000 had been subscribed to the stock. G. W. Willis was appointed chairman of the meeting, and Edward Dexter was selected for secretary. Earnest speeches were made by several gentlemen. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions to defray the expenses of an agent to Washington, to secure, if possible, congressional aid in the form of a land grant. This committee succeeded in raising about \$1,300 in Chatfield, and James M. Cavanaugh, afterwards member of congress, was appointed to proceed to Washington and look after a land grant. The thanks of the meeting were voted to Col. Thomas B. Stoddard, of La Crosse, for his services in behalf of the enterprise.

But in spite of these elaborate preparations, not a foot of roadbed was graded, nor were there any railroads in Minnesota until some years later. Railroad service was approaching, however, and in the middle fifties the Mississippi was linked to the east with iron rails. Oct. 14, 1858, the Milwaukee & La Crosse started operating trains to La Crosse, thus establishing direct railroad connection from the Atlantic to within a few miles of Houston county.

To encourage the building of railroads in Minnesota, Congress, by an Act approved March 3, 1857, granted to the Territory of Minnesota in trust for prospective railroads vast tracts of government land. In accordance with this Act, the Legislature, by Act approved May 22, 1857, designated four Land Grant roads, granting them alternate sections designated by odd numbers, six miles in width on each side of their lines, 120 sections for each continuous twenty miles located, and 120 more for each continuous twenty miles in operation. One of these roads was the Root River Valley and Southern Minnesota.

In this grant, the charter of the road was considerably amended. Its eastern terminus was to be at La Crescent instead of Hokah. From La Crescent it was to extend westward by way of Target Lake up the Root River Valley and westward. Numerous branches were authorized, including one from Hokah to Brownsville. A certain limit was placed on the time allowed for completing the various lines.

The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company was the name taken by the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad, May 23, 1857, the day after the land grant was conferred. On April 3, the railroad had a meeting at La Crosse, and a survey by the chief engineer, H. W. Holley, was ordered to be made at once, to begin at or near St. Peter and to extend thence eastward to La Crosse. The party, accordingly, started to make this survey

from Chatfield to St. Peter on April 6, 1857. The survey from St. Peter to La Crescent was completed early in June. About this time the Milwaukee & La Crosse Company became interested in the proposed road.

The survey being completed, the grading was started. A number of bridges were built, including one over Thompson's Creek at Hokah, and a trestle over the slough east of La Crosse.

After the Five Million Dollar Loan Bill was passed, the company executed a mortgage, issued bonds and deposited them with the state, receiving therefor \$575,000 in state bonds, having at that time granted $37\frac{1}{2}$ miles on its branch up the Minnesota, and about $20\frac{1}{4}$ on its Root River branch. The company defaulted on the payments April 1, 1860, and the Governor advertised the property at public sale, and there being no bidders, transferred it to the state. In the next three years the state conferred the property and rights on various persons, but they were not able to comply with the conditions. On May 13, 1863, a meeting of those interested was called at Riceford, and a reorganization of the old Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota was perfected with the following directors: T. B. Stoddard (president); Luke Miller (vice-president); Charles D. Sherwood (secretary); Edward Thompson, Richard Chute and Hiram Walker (executive committee); Parker Paine, A. G. Chatfield, Thomas McRoberts and Charles H. Lee. But the Civil War was raging and this company, like the others, was unable to take up the work, and the property and rights again reverted to the state.

Another attempt was made the following year. March 4, 1864, the Root River Branch of the road, projected from La Crescent up the Root River Valley, through Chatfield to Rochester, was transferred with all its rights to a revived Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, consisting of T. B. Stoddard, C. D. Sherwood, Luke Miller, Daniel Cameron, Clark W. Thompson, William D. Hurlbert, Hiram Walker, William Meighan, B. D. Sprague, H. W. Holley, Thomas McRoberts and William Morin. It was required that ten miles of the road be completed for operation within a year. But the time elapsed and the ten miles did not materialize. The time was accordingly extended a year. In 1865 work was commenced in earnest. The war was over, general conditions were resuming their normal tenor, and new settlers were flocking to the Mississippi Valley. The original intention was to have the line started from the river near the present railroad bridge, thence across the bottoms to the village of La Crescent, and curving around southward, run three miles in that direction to the point of the bluffs at the entrance of Root River Valley into that of the Mississippi, and then to follow its present course toward Hokah. But a new route was adopted, several miles of the old grade now occupied by the River Division were abandoned, and a line ran straight west from a lower point, leaving the eastern terminus several miles from the village of La Crescent, greatly to the disappointment of the people of that hamlet.

The grading was accomplished with much difficulty, and a considerable amount of trestle work had to be constructed across the Mississippi bottoms. In September, 1866, railroad iron was barged up the Root River during the high water, and unloaded at convenient points, so the track was laid

up the valley as far as Hokah without the use of construction trains. Then a locomotive and some platform cars were brought over the river from La Crosse, and before the end of the year the requisite ten miles had been completed, and the line was at once pushed on to Houston. It was in 1866 also that a machine shop and foundries were erected at Hokah. There a good water power was obtained with a fall of twenty feet. At this place the company began to manufacture its own cars, and by the close of 1870, some 300 had been turned out.

Rushford remained the terminus for about two years. In the meantime, the company on July 4, 1866, had secured a grant of lands westward to the state line. The people of Chatfield were turning their attention toward the Winona & St. Peter, to which they hoped to secure a branch, and the people of Rochester were content in that that road had reached their village the year previous. It was therefore decided that the Southern Minnesota, instead of going to Rochester by way of Chatfield, should extend westward through the southern tier of Minnesota counties.

Accordingly the road was pushed on to Lanesboro in 1868. In October, 1867, the Minnesota Central Railway Co., building southward from St. Paul, reached Austin. Leaving a gap west of Lanesboro, the Southern Minnesota, in 1869, started at Ramsey, a point on the Minnesota Central, a short distance north of Austin, and built their line west to Alden in Freeborn county. The next year the gap between Lanesboro and Ramsey was filled, and on Oct. 26, 1870, the road was open from the Mississippi to Alden. Before the end of the year, the line had been extended west to Winnebago City in Fairbault county. In the years following the road was gradually extended clear across the state and into South Dakota.

In 1872 the shops at Hokah were abandoned except as repair shops, and the construction shops established at Wells. The company at that time had seventeen locomotives and more than 300 cars. The locomotives were chiefly wood burners, but the great coal fields of Iowa now having been brought within reach, five were sold, and the others altered so as to allow the use of coal. Later the repair shops were removed from Hokah.

In 1875, when the bridge was completed across the Mississippi near La Crescent, the Grand Crossing terminus was abandoned and the people of La Crescent realized their ambition of immediate connection with the west.

The Southern Minnesota Railway Co. was reorganized from the Southern Minnesota Railroad Co. March 3, 1877. The Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company was also organized. Jan. 1, 1880, the Southern Minnesota, after receiving a deed from the Extension Company, deeded its road from the Mississippi River to Sioux Falls, and the branch from Wells to Mankato, to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the latter issuing bonds and taking possession of the road May 1, 1880.

The Reno-Preston Division had its inception early in November, 1873, when several meetings were held in Caledonia to consider the matter of securing railroad facilities for that village. Among those interested were Thomas Abbotts, C. A. Coe, N. F. Dorival, W. H. Harries, Wells E. Dunbar and Nicholas Koob. November 28, the Caledonia & Mississippi Railroad

Co. was duly incorporated, and authorized to construct a line from the Mississippi by the most convenient route to Caledonia. The original board of directors consisted of Thomas Abbotts, A. D. Sprague, C. A. Coe, N. E. Dorival, Richard Lester, Michael Roster, William Oxford, O. J. Weida, Nicholas Koob, Mons Fladager and Joseph Vossen. The first officers were: President, Thomas Abbotts; vice-president, A. D. Sprague; treasurer, Nicholas Koob; secretary, N. F. Dorival; attorney, Richard Lester. During the winter subscriptions were taken, and in the summer a survey was made by Joseph Till, and a little grading done. Plans were made for the purchase of ties and rails. But there was considerable opposition on the part of those who feared that the line would take business away from the county to La Crosse instead of bringing business to Caledonia. Money was hard to obtain, the company was unable to meet its obligations for the grading done, various suits were brought, and much bitterness resulted, deepened by a newspaper controversy which kept the county in a turmoil for months. Then the proposition lay dormant for several years.

In the early spring of 1879, the Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota Railroad Co., desiring feeders for its river road, began to consider favorably the idea of building a road from the Mississippi westward through Caledonia. Accordingly, this company made an offer to complete a narrow gauge road, iron it, equip it, and put it in operation, in consideration of certain bonuses to be voted by the citizens of the territory through which the road was to pass. The old Caledonia & Mississippi was therefore reorganized as the Caledonia, Mississippi & Western, and the surveying and the purchase of the right of way extended vigorously. The question of the bonus aroused all the former controversy in Caledonia. The newspapers again took up the fight. At this juncture a number of citizens from La Crosse proposed to organize a company to build a line from La Crosse to Omaha by way of Caledonia. But there was considerable doubt as to their good faith, their plans were nebulous, while the Caledonia, Mississippi & Western was ready to start actual work at once. Therefore, on May 23, 1879, the bonds to the amount of \$20,000 were voted by a substantial majority.

The question of a terminus was now considered. No mention had been made of Preston in the plans of the company. The road was to pass south of Preston, and townships of Canton and Harmony were each asked to vote a bonus of \$12,000. Caledonia voted \$25,000. Canton and Harmony, however, refused to vote the bonus asked, and the company turned its attention to Preston, agreeing to make Preston the terminus of the road on condition that the citizens of Preston vote a bonus of \$25,000 and persuade the citizens of Harmony and Canton to change their opinions. After a bitter fight the conditions were fulfilled, Preston voting \$25,000, Harmony \$12,000 and Canton \$12,000. The bonuses voted and the right of way secured, it did not take long for the narrow gauge road to be built. The first shovel of dirt was thrown in June, 1879, and on Sept. 7, 1879, the first rail was laid at Reno. The first train reached Caledonia Sept. 25, 1879. On Christmas day, 1879, the gang was within sight of Preston, but the cold was so intense that work was suspended, and it was not until toward evening on Dec. 26, 1879, that the first train reached Preston. This first train, a work train,

was in charge of Conductor W. W. Foot and H. G. Vesley, engineer. The first passenger train, in charge of the same engineer and the same conductor, started running regularly Jan. 19, 1880. During the construction of the road Frank Adams was constructing engineer and F. O. Wyatt superintendent.

In April of that year the officials of the Chicago & Northwestern went over the line with a view to purchasing it and continuing the tracks to Chatfield. But the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul heard of this, and at once purchased the road from the eastern stockholders.

From that date until 1901, the line retained its narrow gauge tracks, with poor connections at Reno, and with all the freight disadvantages attendant upon the necessity of a transfer at Reno. In 1890 Senator Richard E. Thompson introduced a bill in the Minnesota legislature, authorizing the railroad and warehouse commission to order the gauge broadened. The towns along the line took up the agitation, and the company decided to comply with the wishes of the people. Work was commenced in the summer of 1901, and the first standard gauge train reached Preston Monday morning, Nov. 11, 1901, at 5:30 o'clock. The train consisted of engine 1343, a combination mail, baggage and smoking car, a day coach, and the superintendent's private car, occupied by several officials. The train crew consisted of W. W. Foot, conductor; Robert Byrens, engineer; J. D. Hanlon, fireman; J. D. Schwartz, express messenger and brakeman, and H. W. Rollins, mail agent.

The actual change from the narrow to the standard gauge was accomplished with little delay. The narrow gauge passenger train brought the mail as usual on Saturday, Nov. 9, and immediately returned to Reno. Monday morning the mail left Preston on time, as usual, on the wide gauge train and the change became an accomplished fact.

In 1870, all the gaps being filled up, the Southern Minnesota was running trains from the Mississippi to Wells. The railroad promoters were interested in Lanesboro, Fountain and Wykoff, and were in hope that these places would grow in such a manner as to eliminate Preston from among the important villages of the county. Accordingly, the company refused to establish any stations between Lanesboro and Fountain, and those desiring to take the train from Preston had to drive to one or the other of these places. Finally the citizens of Preston organized a freighting association and obtained the permission of the railroad officials to erect a freight house and station, the expense of building, maintaining and operating the same to be borne by the citizens of Preston. The building was at once erected, and W. C. Grant was employed as operator at \$45 a month. However, for a time passenger trains stopped only when flagged. Shortly afterward, in 1871, a postoffice was established there with W. C. Grant as postmaster, and the trains were compelled to stop to leave and receive mail. After a time, when the affairs of the company reached the courts, the court ordered the new company to buy and operate the Isinours station.

When the depot was built stage and freight lines were established from Isinours to Preston. The stage line was Preston's only public passenger connection with the outside world until the narrow gauge road was

built to Reno in 1879. The narrow gauge still left Preston with nothing but the stage lines and private teams to convey passengers to the north and west. H. R. Wells for many years worked for the opening of a branch from Preston to the main line of the Southern Minnesota. Finally the president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul consented to receive a delegation of citizens to talk over the matter. This committee, consisting of H. R. Wells, R. E. Thompson, Henry Nupson, George W. Hard, J. W. Hopp, S. A. Langum and A. W. Thompson, met President A. J. Earling at Chicago, June 6, 1902, and after a long discussion the president promised that surveys should be made. Several surveys were made during the summer of 1902, and the company decided to build the road providing the citizens of Preston would secure a right of way free of charge to the company. This was done, and in the spring of 1903 the citizens turned over to the company deeds to the right of way the entire distance, the cost being met by an issue of \$5,000 bonds, which were authorized at a special village election at Preston, only 13 voting in the negative. The railroad started work in the spring, but owing to the wet season track laying was not completed until the fall. The civil engineer in charge was C. S. Coe. The first train over the new road left Preston at 12:48, Monday, Nov. 23, 1903, eighteen minutes after scheduled time. William Shook was the conductor, Levi Kline the engineer, George Laskey the fireman, and J. E. Ford and Gus Shultz the brakemen. A number of leading citizens had arranged for an excursion, being met at Isinours by many prominent men of Lanesboro.

A route from La Crosse, northward, on the west bank of the Mississippi, was contemplated in 1856. On February 25, of that year, a charter was granted the Winona & La Crosse Railroad Co., giving it a right to construct a railroad from Winona, to a point within two miles of the corner of sections 11, 12, 13 and 14, township 104, range 4. A few days later the company was authorized to construct a ferry from its terminus, to any point within six miles of La Crosse. Though a railroad was later built along this route, it was not built by this company nor by its successors.

The Chicago & Northwestern bridge at Winona was completed Dec. 29, 1870. The Milwaukee & St. Paul, now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, used the Winona bridge for crossing from Minnesota into Wisconsin, running from Winona to La Crosse on the east bank of the river, over the tracks of the La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad, now owned by the Chicago & Northwestern. In 1872, the Milwaukee & St. Paul extended their line from Winona to La Crescent, where the trains were ferried to the Wisconsin side. But this track was used largely for freight service, the passenger trains continuing to cross at Winona. In 1875, as noted, the iron bridge from La Crosse to North La Crosse was completed and has since been used for all traffic over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.

In 1872, the people of Houston county secured railroad connection to the southward. In 1871, the Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota Railroad Co. started grading a line at Dubuque, northward, and before the end of that year tracks were laid as far as Allamakee county. The track reached the state line in May, 1872, and on May 24, of that year, a station was opened there. The work was then pushed northward, the connection being made

with the Southern Minnesota and the River Division a few months later.

Various routes have been surveyed in this county along which railroads have never been built. It may be that in future years one of these routes will be used for a trolley route tapping the rich farming districts of Houston and Winona counties.

The Five Million Dollar Loan and the repudiation of the Railroad Bonds issued under its provisions, was long a subject of controversy in this state. By an Act approved by the Minnesota territorial legislature May 22, 1857, four railroad corporations of this Territory, as already mentioned, were granted alternate sections, designated by odd numbers, six miles in width on each side of the roads and their branches, this being in accord with the liberal railroad land grant by Congress. These four railroad corporations, were the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company (changed to St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company), the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley, the Transit Railroad Company (changed to Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company), and the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad Company. The companies were to pay three per cent of their gross earnings in lieu of taxes and assessments, and the lands granted by Congress were to be exempt from all taxation until sold and conveyed by the companies. The corporations were generally given ten years to construct their respective roads. The financial embarrassments of 1857 retarded the progress of railroad building, and it also became evident that the parties who had obtained the railway charters mentioned had neither the money nor credit to complete these great highways in internal improvements.

The territory of Minnesota was admitted to statehood, May 11, 1858. The constitution ratified and adopted Oct. 13, 1857, provided, in article 10, section 2, that "no corporations shall be formed under special acts except for municipal purposes;" and it still further provided that "the credit of the state shall never be given nor loaned, in the aid of any individual, association or corporation." Notwithstanding the strong feeling worked up over the talk of getting bonds in the aid of railroads so badly needed in the state, the first act of the legislature, which was approved March 9, 1858, before the state was admitted, was to submit an amendment to the constitution, provided for loaning the State's credit to the four land grant roads to the extent of \$1,250,000 each, or \$5,000,000 in all, provided \$100,000 for every ten miles to be graded, and \$100,000 for every ten miles when the cars were running regularly. In return it required the roads to pledge the net income to pay the interest on the bonds, and to convey the first 24 sections of land from the government grant to the State, and to deposit in first mortgage bonds an amount equal to the loan from the state for security. This proposal occasioned much uneasiness among the most prudent of the citizens in the State; and through public meetings were held denouncing the measure, it was, however, upon being submitted to the people, on the appointed day of a special election, April 15, 1858, carried by a large majority, there being 25,023 in favor to 6,733 against the amendment. The measure afterward became known as the Five Million Loan

Bill. The State bonds were of \$1,000 denomination, had 25 years to run, with interest at 7 per cent, the railroad companies to pay the interest, and were to be delivered to the incorporators of the companies when ten miles of the road was graded and ready for the superstructure. Owing to technicalities, it was extremely difficult to market these bonds. Times were hard and the companies were unable to pay the required interest.

On the assembling of the legislature in 1860 the interest on the state bonds having been defaulted, an amendment to the constitution was adopted and submitted to the people expunging the section sanctioned and approved by them April 15, 1858, reserving only the state's rights. The electors of the State, at the general election of November 6, 1860, with unanimity, by a vote of 27,023 to 733, approved of the amendment.

Of the subsequent history of the Five Million Dollar Loan Bill the Minnesota Legislative Manual says: "Along with the prosperity of the State, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the State pride began to assert itself with more force, and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for June 12, and was voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

"In 1881 the Legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds, and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860 prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter Act had been previously determined unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. An extra session of the legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the legislature on a basis of 50 per cent of the amount nominally due, and after a careful examination of all the claims presented, the bond issue was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds to the amount of \$4,282,000 to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted at the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor and 24,526 votes against, the action of the legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877."

CHAPTER IX

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The area now embraced in Houston county was included in the original limits of Wabasha (then spelled Wabashaw county), which was one of the nine counties created by the First Territorial Legislature.

Governor Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor, arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1849, and on June 1, 1849, issued his first proclamation. June 11, 1849, he issued a second proclamation dividing the Territory into three judicial districts. July 7, 1849, the Governor issued a proclamation dividing the Territory into seven council districts and ordering an election. The first session of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Minnesota was held at St. Paul, commencing Sept. 3, 1849.

By an Act approved Oct. 27, 1849, the Territory was divided into the counties of Washington, Ramsey, Benton, Itasca, Wabashaw, Dakotah, Wahnahta, Mahkahto and Pembina. Only the counties of Washington, Ramsey and Benton were organized for all county purposes. The others were organized only for the appointment of justices of the peace, constables, and such other judicial and administrative officers as might be especially provided for. They were entitled to any number of justices of the peace and constables, not exceeding six in number, to be appointed by the Governor, and their term of office was made two years, unless sooner removed by the Governor. These officers were made conservators of the peace.

Wabasha county as "erected" by the Act of Oct. 27, 1849, composed practically all of the southern part of the present State of Minnesota. Its northern boundary was the parallel running through the mouth of the St. Croix and the mouth of the Yellow Medicine rivers; the southern boundary was the Iowa line; its eastern, the Mississippi; and its western, the Missouri; and it also included the big peninsula between the Missouri and the Big Sioux rivers, and all of what is at present southeastern South Dakota. Of this vast county, the present Houston county was a part.

In 1851, by the Revised Statutes, Chapter I, the Territory was divided into Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabashaw counties, and their boundaries defined. Wabashaw county consisted of all the State lying between the Mississippi River and a line drawn due south from Medicine Bottle's village at Pine Bend. The line south from Pine Bend would touch what is now the western boundary of Goodhue, Dodge and Mower counties. Wabashaw county therefore took in a portion of what is now Dakota county, as well as all the present counties of Goodhue, Dodge, Mower, Wabasha, Olmsted, Fillmore, Winona and Houston.

Fillmore county was created by act of the Legislature approved March

5, 1853. Its sister counties that were created or had their boundaries altered at that time were Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Scott, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth, Sibley, Nicollet and Pierce. Section 4, Chapter 5, General Laws of Minnesota, 1853, gives the boundaries of Fillmore county. The lines indicated are somewhat vague, but the county generally speaking took in all of Houston county, nearly all of Winona county, parts of what are now Olmsted and Fillmore counties, and a small corner of Wabasha.

The Governor was to appoint county officers, justices of the peace and constables, who under proper bonds were to serve until their successors were duly selected at the next general election. The county commissioners were to locate the county seat. Under this authority, Gov. Willis A. Gorman appointed as officers: H. B. Stoll, of Minneowah, register of deeds; Erwin H. Johnson, of Winona, treasurer; Andrew Cole, judge of probate; John Iams, sheriff. Henry C. Gere, of Winona, Myron Toms, of Minneowah, and William T. Luark, of Minnesota City, were appointed the commissioners. O. M. Lord, possibly at a little later date, was appointed coroner. T. K. Allen, John Burns, George M. Gere and H. B. Waterman, who had served as justices when their residences were included in Wabasha county, were retained as justices in the new Fillmore county.

The first board of county commissioners, consisting of Henry C. Gere, Myron Thoms and William T. Luark, met at the Winona Hotel on Center street in Winona, May 28, 1853, and appointed Henry C. Gere chairman. Henry B. Stoll was clerk. Thus organized, the board proceeded to business. Grand and petit jurors were drawn, and three assessors, S. A. Houck, John C. Laird and Jeremiah Tibbetts, were named in place of three appointees of the Governor who had failed to qualify.

The second meeting was held at the home of John Burns at the mouth of Burns Valley, June 4, 1853, the clerk and two of the commissioners being present. Henry C. Gere was absent. The bond of S. A. Houck as assessor was accepted with William T. Luark as surety.

Owing to high water, it was impossible for Messrs Luark and Gere to get to Minneowah, which had been selected for the next meeting place, and, consequently, on July 4, Myron Toms, commissioner, and Henry B. Stoll, clerk, adjourned the session to meet at Winona the next day. But the trails were still impassable, so on July 5, the other two members, Messrs. Gere and Luark, met at the Winona Hotel in Winona, and after approving the bond of Erwin Johnson as treasurer, adjourned until July 9, 1853.

On July 9, 1853, the meeting was held at the Winona Hotel, Winona, and all the members were present. At this meeting the commissioners created five election precincts. The Mount Vernon, Minnesota City, Minneowah and Winona precincts all lay within the present limits of Winona county. The Root River precinct was created on the petition of ten legal voters. The precinct consisted of a strip running the whole length of what was then the county, the northern boundary being a line drawn due west from the home of Nathan Brown, at Dakota, in the present Winona county, and the southern boundary being a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Root River. It therefore included the northern

half of what is now Houston county. The first election was ordered held at the home of John S. Looney, in what is now section 27, Houston township, Houston county, with John S. Looney, Joseph Brown and G. W. Gillfillan as judges of election. At this same meeting of July 9, 1853, the first school district, that of Minnesota City, was established. The first petition for a road was also granted, its route to be from Minnesota City to Winona, with Harvey Hubbard and E. B. Drew as examiners. C. R. Coryell was appointed county surveyor.

The next meeting of the board was held at the Winona House, Winona, July 22, 1853. At this meeting, Messrs. Gere and Luark were present. In the absence of H. B. Stoll, Sylvester J. Smith was appointed clerk pro tem. The examiners of the route between Minnesota City and Winona reported that they had located the road. It followed practically the lines of the thoroughfare now connecting the two places.

Aug. 27, 1853, Messrs. Luark and Toms were present. The Brownsville precinct was created at the request of twelve voters. It embraced all that part of the then Fillmore county lying south of a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Root River. The election was to be held at the Public House of David Brown, the judges to be Charles Brown, Samuel McPhail and M. C. Young. After creating this precinct, the commissioners approved the bond of C. R. Coryell as surveyor. Lewis H. Springer and O. M. Lord were appointed viewers of a road in the Rollingsstone valley leading from the Minnesota and Winona road to Dr. Bentley's location.

The first general election was held at the designated places, Oct. 11, 1853. H. M. Rice was elected territorial delegate to Congress, William Freeborn, of Red Wing, was elected to the State Council, and O. M. Lord, of Minnesota City to the lower house of the Assembly. The county officers elected were: County attorney, Andrew Cole; judge of probate, H. S. Waterman; register of deeds, William B. Gere; sheriff, John Iams; surveyor, Robert Pike, Jr.; county commissioners, John C. Laird, Robert Pike, Jr., and W. B. Bunnell. The justices elected were: William H. Stevens, of Wabasha Prairie (Winona); H. B. Waterman and Robert Pike, Jr., of Minnesota City; S. M. Burns, of Mt. Vernon, and Myron Lewis, of Minneowa.

This election led to the events which resulted in the division of Fillmore county and the creation of Houston and Winona counties. A number of land promoters, prominent in county affairs, unable to secure an interest in the Winona townsite, invested in a land scheme at Chatfield, and planned to establish the countyseat there. Late in the fall of 1853 it became apparent that the retiring board was strongly in favor of the new project. Therefore, on Dec. 19, 1853, commissioners Henry C. Gere and Myron Toms, with G. W. Willis as acting clerk, met at the Case cabin at Chatfield, in the Root River precinct and established the countyseat at Chatfield, in the center of section 6, township 104, range 11. The final meeting of the board was held at the home of W. B. Bunnell, at Homer, in the Minneowa precinct. Henry C. Gere and Myron Toms were present. Various bills to the amount of \$411.47 were presented and county orders drawn for the amount. C. F. Buck was clerk pro tem. of this meeting.

The board of commissioners elected Oct. 11, 1853, consisting of Robert

Pike, Jr., John C. Laird and Willard B. Bunnell, met at the home of Robert Pike, Jr., in Minnesota City, Jan. 2, 1854, with W. B. Gere as clerk. W. B. Bunnell was made chairman. The bond of John Iams as sheriff was accepted. Assessment districts were created. The first district was all of the county north of the north line of township 106; the second district was all south of the north line of township 106 and the north line of township 103; the third district was the three southern tier of townships. Houston county thus fell in the second and third districts. S. A. Houck was the assessor assigned to the first district, Hamilton McCollum to the second, and Edward Thompson to the third.

January 3, the board met at the same place, with Commissioners Robert Pike, Jr., John C. Laird and Willard B. Bunnell, and Clerk William B. Gere present. Although the previous county board had located the county seat at Chatfield, the meeting at which they had done so was the only time they met there, their subsequent meetings being held in the present Winona county. The 1854 board decided to take the matter in its own hands. A ballot being taken it was found that one member voted for Winona, one for Minnesota and one for Chatfield, Pike voting for his home village of Minnesota City, Laird for his home village of Winona, and Bunnell, although he lived at Homer only a few miles from Winona, casting his vote for Chatfield, possibly because his friends were interested in the Chatfield land scheme, possibly because of pre-election promises, and possibly because of jealousy that the village of Winona, built on what he called a sand bar, should so rapidly outstrip his own village of Homer.

The next meeting of the board was held at the home of John C. Laird in Winona, Jan. 7, 1854. All the members were present. At this meeting, the county having no income, it was found that the liabilities were \$536.86. M. Wheeler Sargent was appointed county attorney, and C. F. Buck, judge of probate, in place of Andrew Cole and H. B. Waterman, who had failed to qualify. The question of the county seat came up and by a unanimous vote it was located at Chatfield, on section 6, township 104, range 11, Pike and Laird having given up the fight because of the certainty that the county would be divided, with Minnesota City and Winona in a different county from Chatfield.

As early as the previous winter, the people of Winona had begun to talk of a new county with Winona as the county seat, leaving Chatfield in Fillmore county. Samuel McPhail and others desired still another new county in the southeast corner of the State, with Brownsville as county seat. Conferences were held, boundary lines discussed, and an agreement reached. H. D. Huff, of Winona, a well known hotel keeper, L. H. Springer, of St. Charles, and Samuel McPhail, of Brownsville, were among the leaders in the move. Mr. Huff having time and money at his disposal went to St. Paul and was active in creating sentiment in favor of the bill for the division of Fillmore county which was introduced in the lower house of the Territorial Assembly by O. M. Lord, of Minnesota City, who was a member of that body. G. W. Willis, a prominent promoter of the Chatfield land project, opposed the bill but his opposition was futile. Mr. Willis succeeded, however, in having a bill passed granting a charter to the Chatfield Land Co.

Mr. Lord's bill was approved Feb. 23, 1854, and was signed by N. C. D. Taylor, speaker of the house; S. B. Olmstead, president of the council, and W. A. Gorman, Governor of the Territory. By this bill, the counties of Houston and Winona were created, and new boundaries defined for Fillmore, Wabasha and Goodhue.

Houston was given its present boundaries. On the first Tuesday in April following, a special election was to be held for the selection of three county commissioners, one register of deeds, one county treasurer, one sheriff, one district attorney, one judge of probate, one county surveyor, one coroner, three assessors, one supervisor of roads for each road district, two justices of the peace and two constables for each precinct. The election returns were to be canvassed by the register of deeds of Fillmore county, who was to issue certificates to the successful candidates who could then qualify immediately. As a preliminary to the election, the Governor was authorized to appoint inspectors of election in each precinct. The county-seat was established at Brownsville.

The first meeting of the county commissioners of the newly created Houston county was held at Brownsville, May 26, 1854. The three commissioners present, constituting the board, or, as the clerk quaintly calls it, "the court," were Samuel McPhail, Ole Knudson and Joseph Lovesee. James A. McCan, register of deeds, sat as clerk. Samuel McPhail was selected as chairman. The first business was to divide the county into the election precincts of Brownsville, Pine Creek, Root River, Spring Grove and Caledonia. Three assessment districts were established, the first taking in the southeast part of the county, the second the southwest part, and the third the northern part, the assessors being respectively D. D. Brown, R. L. Young and George Canon. Expenses to the amount of \$23.82 for the election of April 4, 1854, were ordered paid. Petitions for various roads were presented. Two were refused and two routes were ordered viewed. The two ordered viewed extended from Brownsville along the main routes of travel, one to the forks of the Root River near Houston, and one by way of Caledonia to the west line of the county. James A. McCan was ordered to have a desk made for the use of the register of deeds. Matthias Richmond was appointed constable of the Brownsville precinct and Thomas H. Parmelee of the Caledonia precinct.

The second meeting was held June 8, 1854, Messrs. McPhail and Lovesee being present and Mr. Knudson being absent. D. D. Brown of the first assessment district, George Canon of the third assessment district, and Elijah Ferguson, appointed in place of R. L. Young who failed to qualify from the second district, presented their bonds and received their assessment rolls and charts. A tax of ten mills was levied, nine mills for the county and one for the Territory. The two road petitions laid over from the previous meeting were granted and roads ordered viewed from Brownsville to the Iowa line in Winnebago township and from Brownsville to the Root River at Jacob Beusches. A petition was presented for a road from Brownsville by way of William Oxford's on Crooked Creek; George Powlesland's, the east line of section 31, township 102, range 5, and Norwegian

Ridge to the Fillmore county line near the rolling mill at Riceford. School District No. 1 was created at Brownsville.

The commissioners met July 3 and at once adjourned to July 5. On that date considerable business was transacted. Road 5 from Oxford's to Riceford; Road 6, from the northeast corner of the county by way of Thompson's sawmill and Norwegian Ridge to the Iowa line; Road 7, from Thompson's sawmill by way of Edwin Butterfield's and Levi West's to intersect with the Brownsville-Caledonia road; and Road 8, from Brownsville by way of Thompson's sawmill and the forks of the Root River to the western line of the county, were ordered viewed. Surveys on Roads 1, 2, 3 and 4 were accepted. Eight road districts were created and supervisors appointed. William McConnell was granted a license for six years to operate a ferry across the Mississippi at Taylor's lime kiln. A license was granted L. D. Smith to sell spiritous liquors by the quart, and one to Ole Knudson to sell liquors at retail at the fork of the Root River were granted, the fee in each case to be \$20. School districts 2 and 3 were created at and near Houston.

The fourth meeting of the commissioners were has held Oct. 2, 1854, Messrs. McPhail and Knudson being present and Mr. Lovesee absent. The session continued for several days, Mr. Lovesee appearing on the second day. Peter Cameron was granted a license to operate a ferry across the Mississippi at Cameron's landing near the northern line of the county. L. D. Selfridge was granted a license to sell spiritous liquors by the quart, and O. N. Thayer was granted a retail liquor license at Brownsville. School district No. 4 was created in the vicinity of Hokah. A road was ordered viewed commencing at the home of M. M. Taylor and extending by way of John S. Looney's to the county line near the mouth of Rush Creek on the best route toward Chatfield.

At the fifth and last meeting of the first county board, held Oct. 28, 1854, on petition of Job and Charles Brown, proprietors of Brownsville, that village was duly confirmed as a townsite according to statute.

Thus was the machinery of county government set in motion. The system of county government by a commission of three members, appointed from districts, continued in force during territorial times. The successive boards of commissioners during these years were as follows: 1855—James Smith (chairman), Ole Knudson and Samuel Armstrong. 1856—Ole Knudson (chairman), Samuel Armstrong and Alexander Batcheller. 1857—Samuel Armstrong (chairman), James C. Day and Alexander Batcheller. 1858—Alexander Batcheller (chairman), Henry T. Fox and Frederick Gluck. The last meeting of this board was held July 8, 1858.

Minnesota was admitted as a State May 11, 1858. Previous to this, on March 20, 1858, Charles L. Chase, acting territorial governor, approved an act passed by the legislature providing for township organization. Under this act, on April 5, 1858, the commissioners of Houston county created fourteen townships—La Crescent, Hokah, Brownsville, Crooked Creek, Jefferson, Mayville, Winnebago, Houston, Sheldon, Caledonia, Wilmington, Hamilton, Yucatan and Spring Grove. Union was created April 29, 1858, to take effect Feb. 1, 1859. Although there have been many changes in the

boundaries since that time, these townships correspond in general with the present townships, with the exception that the northwestern township is now Money Creek instead of Hamilton, Black Hammer has been created from Spring Grove, and Mound Prairie from La Crescent and other towns. By a legislative act approved by Governor Henry H. Sibley, Aug. 13, 1858, further provisions were made for county and township government. Under this act, it was provided that the counties of the State should be governed by a board of supervisors consisting of the chairmen of the various townships, and a representative from each ward of each incorporated city.

Under this act the Houston county board of supervisors held its first meeting at the court house in Caledonia, Sept. 14, 1858, being called to order by James A. McCan, the register of deeds, who had served as clerk of the board of commissioners since the county was first organized. Fourteen townships having been created, the board consisted of fourteen members—Alonzo Adams, Alexander Batchellor, Charles H. Brown, John Brown, Stephen Bugbee, Daniel Cameron, D. F. Case, Frederick Gluck, Robert Kenney, Joseph A. Melvin, William Schwindew, C. W. Thompson, C. C. Chase and George Powlesland. The place of the last named was later taken by John Powlesland. L. D. Selfridge claimed a seat from Brownsville village, under the law which under certain circumstances admitted to membership in the board the senior alderman from the wards of an incorporated city. The board, after due investigation, recorded a triple riveted opinion that Brownsville was not an incorporated city within the meaning of the county organization act, that if it were incorporated it had no wards, and that if it were incorporated and had a ward there was no evidence that Mr. Selfridge was the senior alderman of the ward, and, furthermore, that Brownsville was already ably and amply represented by Mr. Gluck. Stephen Bugbee acted as chairman pro tem. on motion of C. W. Thompson, and appointed a committee consisting of D. F. Case, Alonzo Adams and Alexander Batcheller to draw up the rules by which the board was to be governed. Thomas H. Conniffe, the district attorney, presented to the board the act of the legislature concerning the election in the town of Houston. This election had been held at Looneyville, May 13, 1858, and the legislature by act approved Aug. 10, 1858 (Chapter CLII, Special Laws of 1858) had legalized it. The legislature also, by act approved Aug. 11, 1858 (Chapter CXCI, Special Laws of 1858), had legalized certain irregularities in the creation of townships by the county commissioners in Houston, Brown, Stearns and Chisago counties.

After hearing these laws read, and adopting the rules presented by the committee, the board elected as chairman, C. W. Thompson, who received the votes of Messrs. Adams, Brown (C. H.), Bugbee, Cameron, Case, Chase and Melvin. Messrs. Batcheller, Kenny, Powlesland, Brown (John) and Schwindew voted for Frederick Gluck. Mr. Thompson voted for Mr. Bugbee. Mr. Gluck did not vote. It was arranged that much of the routine business of the board should be considered by regular committees, as follows: Treasury, Melvin, Cameron, Batcheller; clerk's office, Chase, Kenny and Brown (C. H.); claims and accounts, Case, Melvin, Batcheller; justices and constables, Bugbee, Gluck and Adams; roads and bridges, Cameron,

Schwindew, Brown (C. H.) ; supplies for public offices, Powlesland, Bugbee, Schwindew ; register's and clerk of court's offices, Kenny, Chase and Cameron ; overseers of the poor, Brown (John), Kenney, Adams ; printing, Case, Brown (C. H.), Batcheller ; public buildings, Melvin, Brown (John), Cameron ; assessment and equalization, Bugbee, Case, Powlesland ; schools and school districts, Adams, Gluck, Chase. F. S. Bugbee was appointed clerk of the board, and thus became the first auditor of Houston county.

The second board of county supervisors met July 20, 1859. On motion of Robert Kenny, Dr. G. J. Sheldon was appointed temporary chairman. There was some question as to the legality of the call for the meeting, and in addition to this the date was in advance of the time set by law for the annual meeting, but of the twelve present at the meeting, only two, John Dorsh and Henry Snure, voted against proceeding with the organization of the new board. The other ten members were Thomas McRoberts, who was chosen as chairman, Dr. G. J. Sheldon and Robert Kenny, already mentioned ; Adolph Knobloch, D. C. Sherman, Andrew Hanson, Charles B. Lilly, Matthew McGinnis, Josephus Seeley and John Schwindew. Later J. P. Schaller took his seat, making thirteen members in all.

The regular annual meeting of the second board was held Sept. 13, 1859. The board consisted of fifteen members, those in addition to the ones present at the July meeting being C. W. Thompson, D. F. Case, Julius Billings and James Langmore. It was decided that Robert Kenny was not entitled to membership on the board, and in October, 1859, P. Fleming took his place. But the district court decided in favor of Mr. Kenney, and he again took his seat Nov. 9, 1859, sustained by a court mandamus.

The supervisor system did not long continue in Minnesota, though it is still in vogue in Wisconsin. Instead, the State of Minnesota in 1860 adopted the wiser plan of county government by commission, one commissioner representing each district.

The board of county commissioners met June 4, 1860. The members were John Dorsh (chairman), Edward Thompson, J. P. Schaller, John Phelps and Dr. G. J. Sheldon. Of these, Messrs. Dorsh, Schaller and Sheldon had served on the previous board of supervisors. The first action of this board was to divide the county into commissioners' districts. Several distributions were proposed, that finally decided upon being as follows : 1, La Crescent and Hokah ; 2, Mound Prairie, Houston, Hamilton (Money Creek) and Yucatan ; 3, Caledonia, Sheldon and Union ; 4, Brownsville, Crooked Creek, Jefferson and Mayville ; 5, Winnebago, Wilmington, Spring Grove and Black Hammer.

The system thus established, the county commissioners have since continued to exercise the duties of their office in the manner provided by statute. The county has been fortunate in the case of men it has elected as commissioners, and the public affairs have been well and ably administered.

The successive county officers have been as follows :

County Superintendent of Schools—The early county superintendents were appointed by the county board. Later it was made a regular elective office. The first superintendent in Houston county was Rev. James Froth-

ingham, appointed by the board May 2, 1864. At the beginning of the fall term of that year, Mr. Frothingham resigned and W. J. Parrott was appointed. He was followed the next year by David P. Temple, who in turn was succeeded by W. H. Harries. Then came J. B. Le Blond. The next superintendent, D. C. Cameron, served for a long term of years, and inaugurated many improvements. Since then the superintendents have been: 1887, James Brady; 1889, F. W. Noyes; 1891, Fannie Lapham; 1897, George H. Kuster; 1901, S. N. Ristey; 1905, Georgina Lommen; 1913, Marie Otternees; 1919, Mary C. Weida.

Judge of Probate—The first judge of probate, elected in the spring of 1854, was Dr. G. James Sheldon. His successors have been: 1855, E. A. Goodell; 1858, Edward Bogan; 1860, John H. Smith; 1862, Edward Bogan; 1864, John H. Smith; 1868, Edmund Null; 1870, W. H. Birdsell; 1872, J. W. Cook; 1880, A. J. Flynn; 1889, Thomas Ryan; 1899, Lars Budahl (died Aug. 13, 1909); 1909, Charles A. Dorival. Judge Dorival is still serving.

Clerk of the District Court—James A. McCan sat as clerk of the first court held in Houston county, Oct. 20, 1855. He also sat at the term of June 23, 1856. James J. Belden sat the first time Oct. 20, 1856, and the last time Oct. 21, 1865. During a part of his term, John J. Dunbar, the deputy, acted as clerk. John Dorsh sat the first time May 15, 1866, and the last time Oct. 19, 1869. Joseph Vossen sat for the first time May 3, 1870. G. J. Lomen sat for the first time at the May term in 1878. He resigned his office, and E. K. Roverud, who was appointed, sat for the first time at the May term of 1886. That fall Moses Emery was elected and took office in January, 1887. Frank Bartholomew served from 1895 to 1899, D. P. Stewart from 1899 to 1911, and Charles L. Metcalf from 1911 to the present time.

Sheriff—The first sheriff of Houston county was Matthew Williams. He was followed in 1858 by Edmond Kelley, who in turn was succeeded in 1861 by William W. Willis. Joseph G. Prentiss became sheriff Jan. 1, 1865. R. F. Judd took office Jan. 1, 1867. His successors have been: 1871, John Phelps; 1873, S. W. Walker; 1875, Mark Hargreaves; 1879, Walter Goergen; 1885, George C. Drowley; 1893, George N. Blexrud; 1901, Frank H. Evans; 1903, Jacob Johnson; 1907, Christ K. Blexrud (Mr. Blexrud died July 25, 1912, and his brother, H. J. Blexrud, was appointed in his place); 1913, George N. Blexrud; 1919, William H. Abbotts.

Register of Deeds—The first register of deeds of Houston county was James A. McCann, who was likewise clerk of the county board and clerk of the county court. In 1859 he was followed by D. L. Buell. The succeeding registers were: 1863, D. N. Gates; 1865, J. W. Cook; 1871, Edward S. Bugbee (died in office and was followed Aug. 7, 1873, by N. E. Dorival); 1874, P. H. Rosendahl; 1875, James McMahan; 1877, P. H. Rosendahl (died in office in 1880, and his term was filled out by John Aiken); 1881, Mahlon Farmin; 1885, H. Herzog; 1889, O. K. Dahle; 1893, James O. Donovan; 1897, H. H. Snure; 1899, Clemence E. Styer; 1905, Adolph Eiken; 1919, N. C. Koel. Mr. Koel is serving at the present time.

Treasurer—The early lists of treasurers is somewhat incomplete. D. N. Gates was appointed treasurer Jan. 2, 1855. He resigned April 27, 1855,

and James J. Belden was appointed. William E. Marlow was treasurer in 1857, followed in 1859 by W. H. Bunce. Matthew Williams took office in 1860, and disappeared in May, 1861. On May 17, 1861, the county board appointed W. H. Lapham. John J. Dunbar served in 1862. The succeeding treasurers were: 1863, Charles A. Coe; 1870, Samuel Aiken; 1874, Elias Velo; 1876, John F. Russell; 1882, H. H. Snure; 1889, E. E. Stewart; 1893, Ole G. Laugen; 1901, O. E. Burtness; 1919, F. H. Snure.

Auditor—In the early days the register of deeds sat as clerk of the county board. The first to serve after the county was created was James A. McCann, who was likewise clerk of court. E. S. Bugbee was appointed clerk of the board Sept. 14, 1858. A. V. Pierce became auditor and clerk of the board Dec. 14, 1858. He was followed in 1861 by Truman B. Neff. Since then the auditors have been as follows: 1863, Edward Dorival; 1865, N. E. Dorival; 1871, James H. Cooper; 1875, E. W. Trask; 1881, E. K. Roverud; 1889, C. J. Scofield; 1901, C. C. Eberhard; 1907, Robert Burns; 1915, E. N. Newhouse. Mr. Newhouse is now serving.

County Attorney—In the early days there was much shifting about in the office of county attorney, and at times the county board employed lawyers to act in that capacity, regardless of who had been elected. Jan. 3, 1855, O. W. Streeter was appointed to the office. In 1856, Hugh Brown nominally filled the position. Upon his death, July 7, 1856, W. B. Beebe was appointed. Following him, in 1857, Thomas H. Conniff served. March 13, 1859, the county board voted to employ Wyman Trask, but on July 21, 1859, recognized Mr. Conniff as still officially holding the position. March 31, 1861, he resigned and John Montgomery was appointed in his place. Orville T. Gilman was appointed a few months later. Up to this time, however, the services of the county attorney were confined for the most part to giving advice to county officials, and the criminal prosecutions in the district court appear to have been in the hands of Morton S. Wilkinson of St. Paul and Samuel Cole of Chatfield. Mr. Gilman removed in 1860, and James R. Lawrence, after serving for a time in his place, was regularly appointed to the office Sept. 16, 1861. Next came Thomas H. Conniff, D. L. Buell, Wyman Trask, R. A. Murray and J. H. Smith. In 1871, W. H. Harries took office, followed in 1873 by John H. Smith. Mr. Smith resigned to go to the legislature and James O'Brien was appointed. Mr. Harris took office again in 1879, and Mr. O'Brien came in again in 1881. Since then the county attorneys have been as follows: 1883, C. S. Trask; 1885, Dwight A. Buell; 1887, James O'Brien; 1889, E. H. Smalley; 1891, C. S. Trask; 1901, O. K. Dahle; 1913, W. A. Deters; 1915, O. K. Dahle; 1919, W. E. Flynn.

County Surveyor—There was considerable confusion in the county surveyor's office in the early days. Viewers and surveyors were appointed for individual roads, and consequently many citizens in different parts of the county received pay for county surveying work. Eugene Marshall was probably the first county surveyor. He resigned Oct. 5, 1856, and J. P. Segg was appointed. F. N. Goodrich served in 1858. George Gregory, Isaac Thompson, Wells E. Dunbar and C. H. Brown were all early county surveyors. Since 1869, the county surveyors have been as follows: 1869, F. N. Goodrich; 1873, E. L. Comstock; 1875, Isaac Thompson; 1877, Wil-

liam C. Pidge; 1880, Isaac Thompson; 1882, E. L. Comstock; 1885, Ward Noyes; 1889, C. H. Brown; 1891, Isaac Thompson; 1893, William N. Amidon; 1897, Joseph Till; 1899, George Andrews; 1901, Ealy G. Briggs; 1907, E. B. Webster; 1909, C. C. Eberhard; 1911, John Conniff; 1917, E. B. Webster.

Coroner. No complete record of the early county coroners has been kept. Dr. M. J. Veiling appears to have been the first in the county. Then there was a succession of physicians and laymen whose occupancy of the office was more or less nominal. Among them may be mentioned H. B. Laffin, Timothy A. Pope and Wyman Trask. Since 1868 the coroners have been: 1868, F. M. King; 1870, J. M. Riley; 1874, G. L. Gates; 1880, P. Bjornson; 1881, William McKenna; 1882, H. D. B. Dustin; 1885, H. P. Johnson; 1887, C. S. Cranson; 1891, H. P. Johnson; 1893, L. K. Onsgard; 1895, F. H. Whitney; 1899, A. M. Crandall; 1903, F. H. Whitney; 1905, D. C. Rhines; 1913, J. S. Collins; 1917, D. C. Rhines; 1919, A. B. Molitor.

One of the greatest problems of the early county boards was that of finances. The people for the most part were poor, wheat and pork were practically the only commodities that the farmers could sell for money, gold was at a premium, it was with the greatest difficulty that people were able to pay their taxes, and the delinquent lists were long. The county had to pay the State the county's share of the State tax in cash, whether the people were paying their taxes or not. Consequently, county orders were issued in payment of county debts. These orders drew a high rate of interest, but the affairs of the county were in such uncertain shape that the orders were away below par and could sometimes be purchased at 50 per cent of their face value. Some of the successive county boards refused to accept their own county orders in payment of taxes, other boards refused to accept more than a certain percentage of the taxes in county orders.

The confusion caused by these county orders was deepened by the system of doing county business, nearly every board giving new and varying instructions to the auditor, treasurer and register of deeds regarding county orders, delinquent taxes, and tax sales. The accounting system was not of the best, it was difficult to get the town and school authorities to make proper returns, and with so much vacant land and land to which full title had not been obtained from the Government, property was assessed that was not subject to taxation and this further added to the complexities of the situation.

The first definite statement of the finances of the county is to be found in the records of Jan. 5, 1859, when a committee of the board of supervisors, consisting of Frederick Gluck, Alonzo Adams and J. A. Melvin, rendered a complete report of the money affairs of the county up to that date. It was found that from May, 1854, when the county was organized, until July 7, 1856, the county commissioners had allowed bills to the amount of \$4,359.82; from July 7, 1856, to Jan. 1, 1859, \$12,712.05; from Jan. 1, 1858, to Sept. 14, 1858, \$4,946.28; making a total authorized by the board of commissioners of \$22,016.15. But for some reason which the committee did not discover, orders had been issued to the amount of \$22,051.15, an

amount \$35 in excess of the amount authorized. Of this amount, during the regime of the commissioners, orders had been redeemed to the amount of \$15,544.55, leaving, when the commissioners went out of office Sept. 14, 1858, the amount of \$6,506.61 unpaid. The board of supervisors from Sept. 14, 1858, to Jan. 7, 1859, allowed bills to the amount of \$3,975.00 for which orders were issued, and none of which had been paid, leaving the orders outstanding amounting to \$10,481.60. Of the uncollected tax of 1857 there remained uncollected \$3,700. A third of this, \$1,233.33, when collected would be devoted to the State territorial tax, so the county would receive \$2,466.67. The county held a mortgage against William Marlow, due Jan. 7, 1859, for \$436.00 with interest of \$30.52, making a total of \$466.52. Thus the total assets of the county on Jan. 7, 1859, amounted to \$7,548.41, leaving a deficit of \$2,933.19. But a tax of three-fourths per cent had been levied and was, according to law, to be collected before Feb. 15, 1859. This the committee hopefully figured would amount to \$9,750.00, leaving enough in the treasury to pay the expenses of the county to Jan. 1, 1860.

March 9, 1861, the county commissioners issued a notice that in accordance with an act of the Legislature, the question should be submitted to the voters of issuing bonds to take the place of floating orders, warrants and notes dated before Jan. 1, 1861, and still outstanding. The next day it was decided that in case the voters declined to sanction the bond issue, an extra tax levy should be made to secure funds to apply on the county indebtedness.

Then came the defalcation of the treasurer, Matthew Williams. In the middle of May, 1861, it became apparent that Williams had disappeared, and efforts were at once made to ascertain the fate of some \$4,000 which was in the treasury. May 17, 1861, the county board met, and in consultation with E. P. Dorival, the assistant treasurer, endeavored to ascertain the exact amount of the absconding treasurer's shortage. In the county safe, of about \$4,000 supposed to be in the county treasury, there was found \$74.50 in gold; \$104.57 in silver; \$10.00 in currency, and \$258 in State script. In the treasurer's private safe at home was found \$41.55 in cash, and small amounts in notes and other papers. May 23, 1861, W. H. Lapham was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Williams' absence, and after he and the county board had thoroughly investigated the affairs of the office, it was announced on June 7, 1861, that Williams' shortage amounted to \$3,890. This figure was declared by many to be too high, and was subsequently compromised with the bondsmen at a lower amount. July 27, it was decided to bring suit against the absconding treasurer and his bondsmen for \$4,000. At the same meeting, a committee consisting of John A. Anderson, L. D. Selfridge and Isaac Thompson was appointed to consider such propositions as the treasurer's bondsmen might make in regard to a settlement of his affairs.

While these troubles were harassing the board a controversy arose with John Rippe, of Brownsville, who refused to deliver to the board of assessors records of Brownsville township. Suit was ordered brought against him, but in time the matter was settled.

December 6, 1862, compromise was reached with the Williams bondsmen. They were to pay \$100 in cash and \$2,400 in county orders, the case to be paid before Jan. 13, 1863, one-half the orders in six months and the other half in a year. In the meantime, judgment had been obtained against the bondsmen in the courts. Therefore, when the bondsmen failed to keep the terms of the compromise agreement, the board ordered the judgment paid at once in cash.

Again, however, the matter was compromised, and in time the matter was settled. A number of citizens who were not on the bond assisted the bondsmen, so that the burden did not fall too heavily on any one individual. The original bondsmen were: D. L. Buell, Embrick Knudson, E. D. Kelly, D. T. Dameron, Matthew McGinnis, John J. Dunbar, John Oleson, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Peter Olson Quale, D. C. Jefferson, Alexander Stapleton, Henry S. Allen, John Hurley, John Brenner, William McGinnis, John Murnane, E. Bell, E. Griggs, E. S. Rollins, James H. McDonald, John Stanguin, Knud Nelson, Lars Torgeson, Ole Torgelson, Anders Nelson, John Nelson, Embrick Nelson, Lars Oleson and Ole Christiansen.

The defalcation and incidents therewith left the finances of the county in still worse shape. While the compromise was pending, Sept. 5, 1862, the board voted to ask the Legislature to pass an act authorizing the laying of a tax up to six mills on the real and personal property in the county.

In 1865 and 1866 the outstanding county orders caused considerable trouble. The heaviest holder was Charles H. Eaton of La Crosse. William D. Gibbs and H. Ostrander also held large amounts, and there were also many smaller owners of this depreciated script. Suit was avoided by the county's paying a portion of these orders in cash, and making arrangements for the payment of the balance in installments.

From the dawn of the seventies to the present time the money affairs of the county have been on an increasingly substantial basis, the county is entirely out of debt except for the judicial ditch bonds not yet matured, and county orders are bank checks cashable at 100 cents on the dollar.

The countyseat contests in Houston county, and the story of the erection of the various county buildings, constitute an interesting phase of political progress. The act creating the county established the countyseat at Brownsville. The first meetings of the county board were held in a building rented from Charles Brown in that village. April 2, 1855, when the question of changing the location of the countyseat was pending, it was ordered that the clerk give notice of a proposition to build a courthouse at Brownsville, should that place be chosen by the voters as the countyseat. A request was made to the commissioners that they "stick the stake" for the countyseat at Brownsville, a request which was laid over until the next session.

In the meantime, on March 3, 1855, the Governor had approved an act of the Legislature authorizing the people of the county to vote upon the question of the county seat. The election was to be held the first Tuesday in April, 1855, and the choice was to be made between Brownsville, Houston and Caledonia, then the three metropolises of the county. The contest was an earnest one, and many were the methods used by the supporters of each village to secure the votes of the country people.

The opponents of Brownsville had a cartoon representing a huge boulder from the bluff crashing through a cabin and driving the occupants out. Houston was represented by some Caledonian in like comic manner as being overflowed with water, drowning everything out, and the Houston people retaliated on Caledonia by displaying a caricature, representing Samuel McPhail coming out of a well, apparently very deep, exclaiming, "there is no use, water cannot be found here."

The last meeting of the commissioners at Brownsville was held on the morning of April 26, 1855, when it was ordered that the records be removed to Caledonia, at which village a brief meeting was held the same evening in a room secured for temporary headquarters. The next day, after a half hour's consideration, the board selected a block, on which Samuel McPhail was ordered to erect a building for a courthouse. This small courthouse continued to be used for several years as the office of the register of deeds. Aug. 1, 1857, a contract was let to Samuel McPhail to erect a jail and courthouse. William D. Gibbs was evidently the real contractor, and the orders in payment of the contract were issued jointly to McPhail and Gibbs, and evidently remained in the possession of Gibbs. More or less trouble followed over the matter in the succeeding years. There was a question as to the title of the land on which the buildings stood. By 1858 the buildings were in need of repairs and added fittings, but the uncertainty as to the county's tenure caused the board to hesitate. The next year it was decided that the register of deed's office should be moved and certain repairs made. Feb. 3, 1860, a committee waited on Mr. Gibbs to ascertain the liabilities of the county in connection with grounds and courthouse. No satisfactory information was obtained about the grounds, but it was found that for building the courthouse he held county orders bearing 5 per cent a month, 60 per cent a year.

March 22, 1860, with a countyseat contest pending, the board of supervisors passed a resolution strongly censuring those who had caused the courthouse to be erected. Two days later there was a petition presented to the board, asking that a vote be authorized on removing the countyseat. The petition showed 740 names. Of these 650 desired that the countyseat be removed to Brownsville, and ninety that it be moved to Sheldon. Six names were rejected, and as 736 was more than half of the 1,391 votes cast at the last election, the vote on the question was authorized.

The countyseat question being settled for the time being, various improvements were made in the courthouse, the remodeling and repairs being completed early in January, 1862. January 9 the board ordered all the officers except the county attorney and the sheriff to move to the courthouse. The clerk of court, the judge of probate, and the county surveyor were to occupy the easterly room, the auditor the westerly room, and the register of deeds and the treasurer the small room. The county attorney and the sheriff were authorized to occupy an office in a private building at the former's expense.

Even at this time the courthouse was inadequate and in 1867 a courthouse suitable for the time and purpose was erected, being completed September 5. This is the courthouse best remembered by the people of

today. It was a two-story structure with high stone basement, the basement being used as a jail, the first floor for offices, and the second floor for a courtroom and public meetings.

The contractors were E. D. Eaton and John Hanke. The building cost \$2,000, a compromise having been reached by reason of alleged inferior workmanship. The former courthouse was converted into a residence for the sheriff.

The basement jail in a few years proved out of keeping with the dignity of a rapidly progressing county. It was damp and dark and inconvenient. So as early as 1871, agitation was started for a new building. In May of that year a proposition was made to erect a courthouse and jail, for which the county was to appropriate \$30,000 and the citizens of Caledonia were to raise \$10,000. The matter continued to be discussed and finally it was decided to erect a structure for a jail and sheriff's residence, and to continue to use the old building for courthouse purposes. In the meantime, however, the removal of the countyseat continued to be agitated. In 1872 the Legislature authorized a vote on the question of removing the countyseat to Houston, and in 1873 and 1874 authorized votes on the removal of the countyseat to Sheldon. In these years Caledonia, Houston, Sheldon and Yucatan were all authorized by the Legislature to issue bonds for the building of a courthouse. With this agitation over, it was decided to proceed with the building of a jail at Caledonia that should be a credit to the county and adequate for countless years to come. The structure was to be of stone which the county was to furnish. In 1874 bids were called for this stone, 225 cords to be 8 by 12, and 16 inches long, while 125 was to be common stone of varying sizes. The bids ranged as high as \$16 a cord for the dimension stone and \$9.20 for the common stone. The contract was awarded to John Dorsch, a prominent public citizen, at \$10 for the dimension stone and \$7 for the common stone. In March, 1875, bids were asked for the construction of the combined jail and sheriff's residence, to be built in accordance with plans made by Charles G. Maybury, of Winona. The bids received on the appointed day were as follows: S. Drake, \$28,075; B. J. Grimshaw, \$27,600; N. Koob, \$30,451; S. E. Smith, \$32,843; T. W. Burns, \$34,750; C. Bohn, \$27,822; N. H. Delop, \$28,015; Kirsheimer & Co., \$26,800; John Klick, \$28,439; W. F. Heath, 28,900; Shaw & Joy, \$27,435; A. W. Gage & Co., \$26,514. Bids were also put in for the masonry and carpentry, and for the iron work alone. A. W. Gage & Co., of Winona, being the lowest bidders, received the contract. On January 1, 1876, the jail building was reported completed in a satisfactory manner. E. P. Dorival of the board had the general supervision of the work, and on its completion, received the substantial thanks of the board in a vote presenting him with \$100 as a token of their appreciation of his services. J. P. Bagley, of Milwaukee, who did the iron work, was officially commended for the character of the work.

In 1883, the county having outgrown the courthouse, the present stately structure was erected, so that now the county is provided with a substantial courthouse and jail, set in a beautiful park beautified with fountains, trees, shrubbery and ornamental lights.

CHAPTER X

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The instruction of the young is one of the elementary factors of human existence. The child of the lowest savage is shown how to get its food. The child of the highest type of civilization is taught to develop its mind, its soul and its body to the highest ideal possible. Every nation has its system of public schools; every nation has its institutions of higher learning. The people of Minnesota, from the earliest days, have devoted much care and attention to the question of education, and, as the years have passed, have evolved, by much sacrifice and through toil and devotion, a most admirable system. In the working out and amplification of this system Houston county has taken an important part.

The Indians ranging Houston county had no schools, but thorough and extensive instruction was given the young Indians in everything that they were likely to find useful in daily life. Instruction in the religion of the tribe was also given, and a few favored ones were initiated into psychic mysteries such as are little understood even by advanced philosophers of the present day.

The Dakota and Winnebago Indians held the wisdom of the aged in high esteem and paid respectful attention whenever an elder could be induced to speak of the traditions and knowledge of the past. Much effort was given to educating the youth in the hunter's craft, and both boys and girls had much to learn to fit them for their station in life.

No one could be long among the Dakota and Winnebago in the early days without hearing the elders giving to the children such instruction as would qualify them to take care of themselves. Whatever they did or made, it was their aim to do everything well and in a workmanlike manner, if nothing more than the making of a moccasin, a ramrod, or a paddle for a canoe. They did not like to be thought bunglers, or to see their children, either boys or girls, do anything awkwardly.

There were many things to be learned about the habits of wild animals and birds, the best manner of approaching them, handling weapons of the chase so as to avoid accidents, setting traps, skinning animals and birds, cutting up meat, running, leaping, swimming, climbing, and the like. The making of bows and arrows, and their skillful use, was no easy task to learn. The following of a trail, a noiseless walk, and skillful methods of warfare, were all in the curriculum. The building of a smokeless fire, the creating of the smudge of the signal fire, correct personal adornment in accordance with custom, the curing of skins, and the art of oratory must be mastered by the Dakota and Winnebago youth. As a child he must be docile, good-natured, obedient, brave, and respectful; indifferent to his own pain. As he grew older he must be courageous and shrewd, a master hunter and a

relentless fighter. He must be able to care for himself in the trackless woods away from his kind, or when matching his wits against a cunning enemy or a wily animal. He must face all dangers, even death, without flinching.

The control of the voice must be mastered. There were traditional songs to be learned and hereditary dances in which to acquire skill. They took much pains to learn to imitate the voices of birds and beasts, and this was a necessary part of the education of both the hunter and the warrior. When near an enemy they could communicate with each other by mimicking the voices of the birds, without giving alarm, and they sometimes imposed upon the beasts which they hunted by counterfeiting the voice of the mother or her young. In fact, they had discovered a great many ways of accomplishing their purposes, of which none but a race of practical hunters would ever have thought.

The girls had much to learn. They had to cook, string beads and embroider; they had to build tepees and look after the wants of the braves. They must at times even defend themselves from the enemy. They must gather wild fruits and vegetables, and know the wild herbs. They must know something of the rudiments of medicine.

The Dakota and Winnebago took special pains to teach their children how to guard against being frozen, and the young people profited well by these instructions, as it was a rare thing for one of them to be seriously injured by the frost. Both sexes must also learn the rudiments of counting, and many were taught to draw crude pictures. The knowledge of the difference between the edible and poisonous nuts, fruits, berries, stalks, grains and roots must be carefully acquired. Thus while the Indian children were not confined to the school room, there were plenty of hard lessons to occupy their youthful years.

The schoolhouse came with the advent of the whites. In the story of American civilization the establishment of the school and the church has been coincident with the building of the home. However, at the formation of the Union, and later, when the Federal Government was established, there was no definite line of action as to public education, although at the same time the Federal Constitution was adopted the last session of the Continental Congress was being held in the City of New York, and the ordinance of 1787 was passed, regulating the affairs of the Northwest Territory, including that portion of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi River. In this ordinance much attention was given to the question of providing a means of public education by giving one section in each congressional township for school purposes. Later it was provided that two sections in each township, numbers 16 and 36. The land grant gave impetus to the natural tendency toward educational matters, and in all the settlements one of the first efforts was to prepare to instruct the children. The church and the school building, when not one and the same, were practically always found side by side. The hardy pioneers of the great Northwest, of which Minnesota was a part, did not even wait for a territorial government, but set to work at once to establish schools.

The first school in Minnesota for the education of white children was organized by Dr. T. S. Williamson on the present site of St. Paul. At that time investigation demonstrated that there were about thirty-six children in the settlement of St. Paul who might attend a school. A log house, ten by twelve feet, covered with bark and chinked by mud, previously used as a blacksmith shop, was secured and converted into a schoolhouse, the school being taught by Harriet E. Bishop. Here, then, while the United States troops were gaining such signal success in the war with Mexico, there was begun the system of education which has become one of the best in this great nation. In this same little schoolhouse, in November, 1849, was held a meeting for the purpose of establishing a system of public education, based upon the congressional act of March, 1849, establishing Minnesota Territory. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, after being appointed territorial governor, proceeded at once to assume the duties of his office. In his first message to the territorial legislature in the fall of 1849 he emphasized the need of wise measures looking to the establishment of a system of public education. He said: "The subject of education, which has ever been esteemed of first importance in all new American communities, deserves, and I doubt not, will receive your earliest and most devoted care. From the pressure of other and more immediate wants it is not to be expected that your school system should be very ample, yet it is desirable that whatever is done will be of a character that will readily adapt itself to the growth and increase of the country, and not in future years require a violent change of system."

In response to this appeal for legislation in school matters, a committee of education was appointed by the legislature, and a very able report was made by the chairman, Martin McLeod. This report was formulated into an act relating to public schools in Minnesota, which act was passed on the last day of the session, Nov. 1, 1849. Tax levy was provided and a system of management was arranged. The county commissioners could form a school district in any community where there were five families. There were to be three trustees and a clerk in each district. These trustees had various powers, having entire charge of the erection, renting and maintenance of a school building, the hiring and examining of teachers, selection of courses and the like. The trustees and clerk were to serve for one year. Every voter in a district paying any tax other than road tax was allowed to vote on school matters. Thus school matters remained during territorial days.

The second State Legislature passed a new school act March 10, 1860, to take effect April 1, 1860. The chancellor of the University of Minnesota was to be State superintendent of instruction. Each town was to have a town superintendent whose powers were many. The superintendent, among other duties, was to divide the town into districts, and had the authority to define and alter the boundaries of all districts in his town. The formation of districts was to be reported to the county auditor, who would designate for each a number, all districts in the county being numbered consecutively. After the superintendent had created a district he was, within twenty days, to notify some legal voter of the district, who was compelled at once to give

a five days' notice to every legal voter in the proposed district to attend a district election. When two of the three trustees elected at such meeting should consent to serve the district was considered duly organized; and after the district had exercised its privileges for a year it was to be considered legally organized. In changing the boundaries of a district, or districts, the superintendent was to hold a hearing to learn of objections. The trustees of districts affected by alterations could, if they so desired, appeal to a board consisting of the town chairman, the town clerk, and the superintendent, and a majority of this board was necessary to make the change. Districts overlapping township boundaries could be created by the concurrent action of the chairman of the towns concerned; while overlapping county boundaries were reported to the auditors concerned. The superintendent was to visit each school in his town twice each term. All examinations of teachers were to be conducted by him, and no one was to be allowed to teach who did not hold a certificate from him or from the State normal school. He was to be elected for one year at the annual town meeting. His compensation was fixed by the supervisors and was not to exceed the per diem rate paid to the other town officers.

The third State Legislature took its hand at school affairs, and passed a school act, approved March 7, 1861, to go into effect immediately. It placed the control of local school matters in the town board of supervisors and in a town superintendent to be appointed by them. Each town was to constitute one district. The three town supervisors were to be the trustees of the school district, the town clerk, the school clerk, and the town treasurer. Each district (town) was to be divided into sub-districts. These sub-districts in each district (town) were to be numbered consecutively; thus, each town was to have a sub-district 1, a sub-district 2, and thus on to the limit to sub-districts. The new sub-districts were to conform as nearly as possible to the districts already in existence; previously created districts overlapping the town boundaries being considered sub-districts of the town in which the schoolhouse or place of holding school sessions was located. The division into sub-districts was to be made by the school trustees (town supervisors) on the last Tuesday in March, 1861. The trustees also had charge of the alteration of school boundaries. Hearings were to be given to persons in any way aggrieved by acts of the trustees, and the right of appeal from these decisions to the State superintendent was allowed. The trustees also were to hire teachers. In each sub-district there was to be appointed a sub-clerk and three directors. These directors were to have charge of the schoolhouse, furniture, apparatus and the like, to appoint a librarian. The school trustees (town supervisors) were to appoint a town superintendent. He was to visit each school once each term, and was to receive the same per diem fee as the town officers. He was also to examine all teachers and to receive in pay therefor 50 cents in advance from each candidate.

The State normal school board was to select a list of text books to be used in the schools for the next five years. All the schools of the State were to be in general charge of the State superintendent, who was to be elected by both houses of the State Legislature every two years, the first term dating from March 15, 1861. The governor was to fill the vacancies

by appointment. One of the duties of the State superintendent was to organize teachers' institutes.

The fourth State Legislature adopted an entirely new school system. By an act passed March 6, 1862, to go into effect at once, the secretary of State was to be State superintendent of instruction ex-officio. Each sub-district as existing at that time was to become a district, and all the districts in the county were to be numbered consecutively by the county auditor. The county commissioners had the power to create and alter districts, but were to avoid, so far as possible, having the districts overlap the town boundaries. Each school district was to have a director, a clerk and a treasurer. These three were to be called the trustees and were to have charge of the schoolhouse and the hiring of teachers. On ballot of the voters the trustees could rent, build, alter or move a schoolhouse. The trustees were to be elected the first Tuesday in May, 1862, and after that on the last Saturday in March. The town superintendents then serving were to hold office until September, 1862. Then there was to be an examiner in each commissioner district. The examiner was to receive \$2 a day for giving general examinations and 50 cents for each examination given at other times. A county tax of one-fifth of one per cent was to be levied for the support of schools, and all fines for penal offenses not otherwise disposed of by law were also to be added to the school fund. The fund was to be apportioned among the different districts. The cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Winona were exempted from the provisions of this act of 1862.

The sixth State Legislature formulated practically the system still in use. It provided that the system of 1862 might be continued in counties where no change was desired, but that in counties desiring a more complete system, the county commissioners might appoint a county superintendent of schools, who was to have general control of the schools of the county. The trustees were to have charge of all local affairs of their districts, but the county superintendent was to visit each school once a term, was to grant certificates on examination to the teachers, was to hold teachers' institutes, and generally to promote the welfare of the educational interests of the county. The salary of the superintendent was to be fixed by the county commissioners, and the term was to be one calendar year. This act was passed on March 4, 1864.

Beginning April 1, 1867, the State superintendents of public instruction have been appointed by the Governor. Since 1876 the office of county superintendent has been elective.

Since the evolving of the foundations of the present system in 1864 there have been many improvements and amplifications. The present system consists of rural schools of one, two and three and sometimes four rooms; consolidated rural schools; graded schools; high schools; normal schools; the State University, and special schools for the deaf, blind and orphaned.

Rural schools are supervised in each county by the county superintendent of schools. Consolidated, graded and high schools are supervised by a principal or superintendent in charge of each. The county super-

intendent has authority to exercise general supervision over all public schools in the county, receiving reports from all public schools in relation to attendance, cost of maintenance, teachers, buildings, text books, libraries and other general factors.

The schools are supervised and controlled on the part of the State by: a State department of education which is directed by the State superintendent of education and his assistants; a State high school board which has immediate direction of State high and graded schools; a normal school board having charge of the normal schools; and a board of regents having charge of the State University.

The public schools are supported by: (a) A local tax upon the property of the school district including a one-mill tax required by law to be levied in each district; (b) a State mill tax; (c) income from the permanent State school fund; (d) special annual State aid.

The State aid is granted to rural, consolidated, graded and high schools, and to special departments in high and graded schools, under specified conditions fixed either in the law or by administrative rule of the Department of Education or the high school board.

Annual grants by the State are made to public schools for the establishment and maintenance of school libraries. The annual grant is \$10 for each teacher, with a limit of \$25 to each school building, conditioned upon an equal sum being paid by the school.

Normal schools are supported by direct appropriations made by the Legislature.

The State University is supported by a State tax of twenty-three hundredths of a mill upon all taxable State property, by State appropriations, and by appropriations from the Federal Government. In addition to this, the University receives support through fees.

The State provides funds for teachers' institutes and training schools, held under the direction of the State Superintendent of Education.

Teachers' certificates are issued by the superintendent of education upon examinations, or upon endorsement of diplomas or other credentials issued by accredited State normal schools, high school training departments, and by colleges and universities.

The State normal schools are located at Winona, Mankato, St. Cloud, Moorehead and Duluth, and one has been authorized for Bemidji.

The first educational instruction among the whites in Houston county was given in the pioneer homes by the mothers, who, though they had come to a new country, did not desire their children to grow up in ignorance.

The early comers never lost sight of the idea upon which the possibility of founding and supporting a popular government rests—the education of the children—and as fast as the children arrived in the country, or became of school age, the best possible provision at the command of the people was made for their schooling. An account of the various expedients resorted to that would meet the requirements of the circumstances, would, while sometimes laughable, reveal the struggling efforts of a determination to bestow knowledge upon the rising generation in spite of all difficulties. Schools were often kept in a log dwelling, where the schoolroom would be

partitioned off only by an imaginary line from the portion occupied by the family. Sometimes an open shed, as an annex to a house, would serve the purpose in the summer.

The usual method was for the neighbors to get together and organize a district and select a lot for a building. Of course each one would want it near, but not too near, and sometimes there was a little difficulty in establishing a location which would prove to be the best accommodation of the greatest number. And then to build a schoolhouse, a "bee" was the easiest way, and so plans and estimates were improvised, and each one would subscribe one, two, three, or four logs so many feet long, so many shingles, so many slabs, so much plaster for chinking, so many rafters, a door, a window, or whatever might be needed for the particular kind of schoolhouse to be built, and at the appointed hour the men would assemble with the material, bringing their dinner pails, and by night, if there had not been too much hilarity during the day, the building would be covered and practically completed. The benches would be benches indeed, often without backs, and sitting on one of them was about as comfortable as sitting in the stocks, that now unfashionable mode of punishment.

The first official action in regard to education in Houston county was taken on June 8, 1854, at the second meeting of the county commissioners when school district No. 1 was created, embracing a tract on the bank of the Mississippi, and extending a mile and a half north and a mile and a half south of the village of Brownsville. School district No. 2 was set off July 5, 1854, embracing section 36, township 104, range 5; sections 1 and 12, township 103, range 6; sections 6, 7 and 8, township 103, range 5; and sections 31 and 32, township 104, range 5. This district, generally speaking, embraced the pioneers living eastward from Houston. School district No. 3 was set off the same day. It consisted of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, township 103, range 6; and sections 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, township 104, range 6; that is, the village of Houston and surrounding territory.

Oct. 4, 1854, school district No. 4 was created, embracing the Hokah pioneers. It consisted of sections 5 and 6, township 103, range 4; section 1, township 103, range 5; and section 36, township 104, range 5. Jan. 3, 1855, school district No. 5 was created to accommodate the pioneers northeast of Houston. It consisted of sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 township 104, range 6. School district No. 6 was created April 2, 1855, in the eastern part of what is now Winnebago township and the western part of what is now Jefferson township. On the same day, school district No. 7 was created consisting of the territory southwest of Brownsville Village. It embraced sections 27, 28, 29, 32 and 33 in township 103, range 4. Although these early districts were all subsequently renumbered, their original numbers and creation are important in fixing the beginnings of the system in this county.

The board continued to create and alter school districts upon petition, but as the years passed there was considerable confusion about boundaries, numbers and organization. Local officers, frontiersmen in a crude country, were often neglectful of their duties, the members of the county board had little opportunity to study conditions in the various parts of the

county, and were willing to create new districts or change old ones at the request of almost anyone who came along. Sometimes changes were made which were known only to the one making the request.

To prevent some of the more flagrant of these abuses, the county board on Sept. 15, 1858, passed a resolution that the board in the future would not consider any division of a school district or township unless notice should have been posted in three public places in the territory affected at least ten days before the petition be presented to the county board.

March 10, 1859, the board had before it reports from various school districts as a basis for the school appropriations. There had been fifty-five districts created. Of these forty reported. There was a total of 1,733 children of school age in these forty districts, and \$1 was appropriated for each one. The largest number in any district was 165, the smallest 21. The average number was a little over 43.

In 1860 school affairs were still in poor condition. A report rendered to the county board detailing the number of ~~scholars~~ scholars in the different districts as a basis for the appropriation of funds, declared that there was no real evidence before the committee that any of the schools of the county were in session three months a year as required by law, and, in fact, stated that there was evidence that some districts were drawing school money from the county without holding any school at all. The districts of the county reported to the board at this time were as follows: No. 1, Brownsville, 85 of school age; 3, 61 of school age; 4, Hokah, 60 of school age; 5, Houston, 36; 6, Winnebago, 41; 8, Spring Grove, 73; 9, Yucatan, 43; 10, Mound Prairie, 54; 11, Brownsville, 50; 12, Caledonia, 43; 13, Caledonia, 94; 14, Caledonia, 40; 15, La Crescent, 56; 17, Wilmington, 46; 18, Wilmington, 90; 20, La Crescent, 101; 22, Black Hammer, 72; 23, Hamilton, 79; 24, Spring Grove, 78; 26, 38; 28, Caledonia, 30; 29, Caledonia, 29; 32, Crooked Creek, 30; 34, 46; 35, 24; 36, 50; 37, Brownsville, 64; 38, Yucatan, 32; 39, Brownsville, 33; 40, Crooked Creek, 40; 41, Crooked Creek and Brownsville, 25; 42, Mound Prairie, 29; 43, Caledonia, 39; 44, Union, 44; 48, Houston, 35; 49, 18; 50, Jefferson, 25; 51, Sheldon, 34; 52, Wilmington, 13; 52 (duplication of numbers), Wilmington, 26; 53, Hokah, 54; 54, 40; total enumeration, 2,000. In 1861 these numbers were obliterated when each town became a district with sub-districts. In 1862 all the districts were renumbered. These districts, with additionally created ones, remain as then numbered with the exception that a few of the old districts have been merged in others and their numbers given to newly created ones.

In 1882 considerable progress had been made. A report issued that year contains the following information:

"There are now 96 districts, with 109 schoolhouses. But Hokah and Brownsville graded schools, with four departments each, hold session in but three of their schoolrooms, thus making 107 schoolrooms in which school is held. District No. 30, Brownsville, is a special district; No. 12, Hokah, and 42, Caledonia, are independent. The latter two were created independent to secure immunity from the school book law. The villages of Hokah and Brownsville have schoolhouses containing four departments each. These are well furnished and are more than adequate for their pres-

ent wants. The one at Brownsville is the most costly and complete in the county.

"La Crescent, Houston, Spring Grove, Caledonia and Money Creek, have each a schoolhouse containing two rooms. The finest of these is the one at Money Creek. Caledonia has far outgrown her schoolhouse, and two departments are located in a rented building.

"Of the 96 schoolhouses, 68 are frame, three brick, five stone, and 20 log. The prairie towns, as a rule, contain the best schoolhouses, while the log houses are found in the valleys and upon the ridges. Four new and substantial frame houses were built last year. But seven of these districts are in debt, notwithstanding several failures of crops in some parts of the county.

"Thirty-one districts have wall maps, eleven reading-charts, twenty-two have globes, seventeen have dictionaries, and seven have bells. Caledonia has the largest enrollment; two districts vie for the honor of the least. About forty districts hold no summer school. The enrollment is not as great as in former years; the decrease is principally in the village schools.

"The total number enrolled in the schools for the year ending Aug. 31, 1881, was 4,025. The average length of schools was nearly five months. The value of schoolhouses is \$572,329. Paid out for teachers' wages, \$15,049. In addition to the above showing, 24 parochial schools were in session, with an enrollment of 360.

"One hundred and nineteen teachers were licensed during the year. Of these six hold first grade certificates, 85 second grade, and 28 third grade certificates. Eighteen of these teachers have attended a normal school, five have graduated. One certificate has been revoked.

"As a body a progressive spirit pervades the teachers, and they will compare favorably with any body of teachers in the State. Institutes are held each year, the instructors being furnished by the State. County institutes of one week are held at different times.

"During school months, each Saturday in some parts of the county a teachers' meeting is held, the exercises of which are conducted on institute plans. These are a powerful factor and have been the means of developing many young teachers and helping many older ones to a higher plane. The superintendent makes it a rule to be present at these meetings."

In 1890 there were 105 districts, 102 being common, two independent, and one special. These districts had 102 schoolhouses, of which five were brick, four stone, and seven log. An estimated value of the school property was \$62,605 on schoolhouses and sites, \$5,876 on seats and desks, and \$3,043 on school apparatus. There were about 2,000 volumes in the school libraries. Not much attention was being paid to Arbor Day, only four districts planting trees that year. Fifty-five of the districts had no trees whatever on their school grounds. The county superintendent made 146 visits, only six districts being unvisited. Eleven county teachers' associations were held, with an average enrollment of 273. A state teachers' institution was held at Caledonia, April 7, 1890, with an enrollment of 109 teachers. There were ten teachers' examinations held, six in the fall and four in the spring. Twenty-two applications were rejected. The following

teachers' certificates were issued: First grade, male 6, female 1, total 7; second grade, male 38, female 68, total 106; permanent hygiene, male 37, female 59, total 96; limited hygiene, male 3, female 14, total 17. For the fall term there were 5 male and 18 female teachers employed, for the winter 34 male and 82 female teachers, and for the spring, 18 male and 55 female teachers, making a total of 36 males and 96 females, for the year. Of these 27 had attended a High school, 22 a Normal school, 8 a college, and 132 one or more teachers' institutes. Seven were graduates of a High school and 12 of a Normal school. None were college graduates. Thirty-four had taught in one district continuously for three years, 41 for two years and 43 for one year. Of the scholars attending the public schools, 2,981 were entitled to the apportionment of funds, and 941 not so. For the fall term of 1889 there were but 917 scholars enrolled; for the winter term of 1889-90 there were 3,418 enrolled, and for the spring term of 1890 there were 2,014 enrolled. The average daily attendance was 1,628. The average length of school in each district was nearly six months. Of the scholars, between 8 and 16, who attended school three months or more during the year, there were 1,754. The total of scholars enrolled during the year was 3,922. Of these 855 were between 5 and 8 years, 2,649 were between 8 and 16, and 418 were between 16 and 21.

In 1900, George H. Kuster, then county superintendent, had this to say of the schools of the county:

"During the past year the schools have materially prospered. The average number of days' attendance measured 8 per cent over last year. Nearly 100 more pupils will draw apportionment. This is the first year no foreign language has been taught in the rural schools of the county. The average number of months taught in the common school districts is raised to a fraction over 6.5. The average monthly wages for males has gone up from \$38 to \$40, and for females from \$27 to \$28. The general work in the schoolroom has much improved. The appearance of the schoolrooms and yards has been improved. The young teachers entering the profession are stronger students and with experience will make better teachers. The summer school of 1890 was exceptionally successful, the attendance being very regular. The sectional teachers' meetings held in different parts of the county were quite successful. Reading circle work was carried on by the teachers. Two new graded school buildings and one rural school building were built on modern plans during the year."

Two years later, Samuel Ristey, then superintendent, spoke of the schools in these words:

"The schools are slowly progressing with a slight improvement from year to year. We have been especially handicapped in not obtaining teachers with the requisite education. A few were obtained from normal schools, and a few from neighboring high schools, especially from Rushford and La Crosse, but most from the grades in our village schools, and even a few are 'crammed' for the teachers' examinations in our county schools. We have to depend mainly on village schools. Within the last year the attendance has increased from 72 to 78 per cent. Too many pupils attend too irregularly to be reached by the teacher. Two good school buildings were

built during the past year and six districts have voted to build new schools this fall or next spring. Several furnaces were placed in old schoolhouses, and new schoolhouses are generally heated by furnaces. The summer schools have been very successful in the county during the past three years."

This superintendent favored the consolidation of districts, stating that the county was not too rugged if the schools were located in the right places; as the public highways lead to the smaller valleys and finally follow these to the main valley, which is a good place for a schoolhouse, as the children can easily be conveyed in all directions. No action had then been taken on this, as the patrons of the country districts were wary of letting their district go under the control of the village. This year the county had nearly all first and second grade teachers to fill the schools.

Georgia Lommen, in 1910, made this report: "Although the results in rural schools developed during the past two years are not all that the best friends would have them, the interest throughout the county has been splendid and some progress has been made. Teachers are more appreciative of the necessity of better training for the work. Many of the rural school teachers attend the normal summer school and in this way raise the standard of their qualifications. In many districts the interest in industrial education is marked, especially along agricultural lines. The industrial contest work during the past two years has been a means of interesting teachers and pupils in the increasing demand for better rural schools and better social conditions surrounding home and school. The working material of the school room has been gradually improved, the libraries well selected and the reading material has never been better. The interiors of the school rooms are noticeably clean and well kept, every doubtful system of heating and ventilation having been condemned. The furnace is giving way to the patented one-room heater and ventilator. About one-half of the schoolrooms are supplied with a musical instrument. There is much interest in high school examinations. The first rural school examination was held during the past year. These examinations have been an incentive to better work on the part of both teachers and pupils. Reading circle work has been well and conscientiously done. While the compulsory law has not worked all the good hoped for, it has improved the attendance on the whole. A minimum of seven months of school during the year, and an increase of 40 to 100 days attendance as a requirement of apportionment would lead to better attendance."

The statistics embodied in the report of Superintendent Marie Otterness for the year ending July 31, 1918, are as follows:

High and graded school districts. Children of school age: Males, 306; females, 386; total, 692. Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 705. Number not entitled to apportionment, 50. Total enrollment, 755. Number between 5 and 8 years of age, 126. Number between 8 and 16 years of age, 477. Number between 16 and 21 years of age, 152. Total between 5 and 21 years of age, 755. Number between 8 and 16 who have attended the entire year, 407. Total attendance in days by all pupils, 114,154. Total days of school, 720. Average days for each school, 180.

Average daily attendance for each school, 158. Average number of days each pupil has attended, 151. Number of books taken from libraries, 5,339. Number of teachers: Males, 8; females, 33; total, 41. Average monthly wages: For males, \$128; for females, \$64.90; total, \$777. Teachers who attended High school but did not graduate, 2. Teachers who attended Normal school but did not graduate, 1. Teachers who attended college but did not graduate, 2. Teachers who graduated from High school, 35. Teachers who graduated from a High school training department, 0. Teachers who graduated from a Normal school, 17. Teachers who graduated from a college or university, 15. Teachers who have attended an institute or training school, 28. Teachers who have taught in their present school three years, 15. Teachers who have taught in their present school two years, 16. Teachers who have taught in their present school one year, 10. Number of districts loaning text books free, 4 (in the grades). Number of districts selling text books at cost, 3 (in High schools). Average cost per pupil in districts loaning, \$0.70. Average cost per pupil in districts selling, \$2.50. Number of trees planted on Arbor day, 0. Number of seats for pupils, 928.

Rural and semi-graded. Children of school age: Males, 1,029; females, 941; total, 1,970. Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 1,841. Number not entitled to apportionment, 194. Total enrollment, 2,035. Number between 5 and 8 years of age, 493. Number between 8 and 16 years of age, 1,506. Number between 16 and 21 years of age, 36. Total between 5 and 21 years of age, 2,035. Number between 8 and 16 who have attended the entire year, 1,230. Total attendance in days by all pupils, 203,457½. Total days of school, 14,240. Average days for each school, 147. Average daily attendance for each school, 14. Average number of days each pupil has attended, 100. Number of books taken from libraries, 8,143. Number of teachers: Males, 2; females, 101; total, 103. Average monthly wages: For males, \$51; for females, \$50.65; total, \$50.66. Teachers who attended High school but did not graduate, 9. Teachers who attended Normal school but did not graduate, 75. Teachers who attended college but did not graduate, 5. Teachers who graduated from a High school, 62. Teachers who graduated from a High school training department, 20. Teachers who graduated from a Normal school, 4. Teachers who graduated from a college or university, 0. Teachers who have attended an institute or training school, 100. Teachers who have taught in their present school three years, 16. Teachers who have taught in their present school two years, 27. Teachers who have taught in their present school one year, 60. Number of districts loaning text books free, 94. Number of districts selling text books at cost, 3. Average cost per pupil in districts loaning, \$0.67. Average cost per pupil in districts selling, \$0.86. Number of trees planted on Arbor day, 15. Number of seats for pupils, 1,988. Number of districts where less than ten pupils were enrolled, 13. Number of districts where more than ten but less than twenty were enrolled, 46.

Total. Children of school age: Males, 1,335; females, 1,327; total, 2,662. Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 2,546. Number not entitled to apportionment, 244. Total enrollment, 2,790. Number between

5 and 8 years of age, 619. Number between 8 and 16 years of age, 1,986. Number between 16 and 21 years of age, 188. Total between 5 and 21 years of age, 2,790. Number between 8 and 16 who have attended the entire year, 1,637. Total attendance in days by all pupils, 317,611 $\frac{3}{4}$. Total days of school, 14,960. Average days for each school, 148. Average daily attendance for each school, 21. Average number of days each pupil has attended, 114. Number of books taken from libraries, 13,482. Number of teachers: Males, 10; females, 134; total, 144. Average monthly wages: For males, \$112.60; for females, \$54.13; total, \$58.19. Teachers who have attended High school but did not graduate, 11. Teachers who attended Normal school but did not graduate, 76. Teachers who attended college but did not graduate, 7. Teachers who graduated from a High school, 97. Teachers who graduated from a High school training department, 20. Teachers who graduated from a Normal school, 21. Teachers who graduated from a college or university, 15. Teachers who have attended an institute or training school, 128. Teachers who have taught in their present school three years, 31. Teachers who have taught in their present school two years, 43. Teachers who have taught in their present school one year, 70. Number of districts loaning text books free, 98. Number of districts selling text books at cost, 6. Average cost per pupil in districts loaning, \$0.68. Average cost per pupil in districts selling, \$1.68. Number of trees planted on Arbor Day, 15. Number of seats for pupils, 2,916.

The number of children in the county given in this report of 1918 is based on the census of August, 1917. After that date several children moved into the county so the enrollment showed a larger number than the census.

The districts in Houston county, with location, are: 1—Village of La Crescent; 2—Sec. 8, La Crescent; 3—Sec. 8, Black Hammer; 4—Sec. 6, La Crescent; 5—Sec. 11, Houston; 6—Sec. 8, Money Creek (consolidated with 7); 7—Village of Money Creek; 8—Sec. 26, Money Creek; 9—Sec. 19, Money Creek; 10—Sec. 23, Houston; 11—Sec. 21, Mound Prairie; 12—Village of Hokah; 13—Sec. 10, Hokah; 14—Sec. 4, Mound Prairie; 15—Village of Houston; 16—Houston (consolidated with 15); 17—Sec. 29, Yucatan; 18—Sec. 8, Yucatan; 19—Sec. 33, Yucatan; 20—Sec. 27, Yucatan; 21—Sec. 13, Yucatan; 22—Sec. 18, Sheldon; 23—Sec. 16, Sheldon; 24—Sec. 1, Houston; 25—Sec. 25, Sheldon; 26—Village of Sheldon; 27—Union (not in session); 28—Sec. 26, Union; 29—Sec. 12, Union; 30—Village of Brownsville; 31—Sec. 28, Brownsville; 32—Sec. 3, Brownsville; 33, Sec. 6, Brownsville (not in session); 34—Sec. 11, Mayville; 35—Sec. 11, Caledonia; 36—Sec. 9, Caledonia; 37—Sec. 22, Blackhammer; 38—Sec. 30, Caledonia; 39—Sec. 27, Caledonia; 40—Sec. 35, Caledonia; 41—Sec. 22, Caledonia; 42—Village of Caledonia; 43—Sec. 21, Mayville; 44—Sec. 33, Mayville; 45—Freeburg, Crooked Creek; 46—Sec. 27, Crooked Creek; 47—Sec. 28, Jefferson; 48—Sec. 30, Jefferson; 49—Sec. 7, Winnebago; 50—Sec. 23, Winnebago; 50—Sec. 23, Winnebago; 51—Sec. 20, Yucatan; 52—Fitzen, Winnebago; 53—Sec. 5, Wilmington; 54—Village of Spring Grove; 55—Sec. 8, Spring Grove; 56—Sec. 29, Spring Grove; 57—Sec. 26, Spring Grove; 58—Sec. 27, Wilmington; 59—Sec. 25, Wilmington; 60—Riveford, Spring

Grove; 61—Sec. 21, Brownsville; 62—Sec. 26, Mound Prairie; 63—Sec. 13, Sheldon; 64—Sec. 8, Brownsville; 65—Sec. 19, Black Hammer; 66—Sec. 24, Wilmington; 67—Sec. 11, Wilmington; 68—Sec. 30, Brownsville (not in session); 69—Sec. 28, Black Hammer; 70—Sec. 31, Wilmington; 71—Sec. 20, Caledonia; 72—Sec. 6, Crooked Creek; 73—Sec. 7, Hokah (children transported to district 12); 74—Sec. 35, Black Hammer; 75—Sec. 13, La Crescent; 76—Sec. 28, Spring Grove; 77—Sec. 18, Wilmington; 78—Sec. 10, Jefferson; 79—Sec. 23, Yucatan; 80—Sec. 11, Black Hammer; 81—Sec. 11, Winnebago; 82—Sec. 35, Jefferson; 83—Houston (consolidated with 100); 84—Sec. 6, La Crescent; 85—Sec. 21, Wilmington; 86—Sec. 29, Wilmington; 87—Sec. 6, Money Creek; 88—Sec. 24, Spring Grove; 89—Sec. 10, Money Creek; 90—Sec. 4, Mayville; 91—Sec. 29, Hokah; 92—Sec. 14, Crooked Creek; 93—Sec. 19, Mound Prairie; 94—Sec. 8, Mound Prairie; 95—Sec. 8, Jefferson; 96—Sec. 17, Money Creek; 97—Village of Reno; 98—Sec. 34, Sheldon; 99—Sec. 16, Spring Grove; 100—Sec. 10, Sheldon; 101—Sec. 20, Crooked Creek; 102—Sec. 31, Yucatan; 103—Sec. 1, Yucatan; 104—Sec. 26, Winnebago; 105—Sec. 16, Union; 106—Sec. 31, Jefferson; 107—Sec. 6, Mayville; 108—Sec. 33, Union.

The history of these various districts does not materially differ. In each community in the early days, the first schools were usually taught in private homes, afterward a log cabin was built, and still later a frame structure, or in some instances buildings of stone or brick. At the present time, a few each year, modern brick buildings are being built along the latest approved lines, with side lighting, good ventilation, excellent heating facilities, and other sanitary equipment.

A History of Houston County, published in 1882, gives much information concerning the starting of many of the districts, that is now not available elsewhere, and which is worthy of preservation and is therefore here presented. It is probably a fairly accurate account of the leading districts up to the time of the early eighties, and in future years will prove of interest as a story of worthy beginnings.

District No. 1, La Crescent Village. The first school in this district was held in the spring of 1856. The building was a small frame structure, erected by John A. Anderson as a territorial schoolhouse. The first term was one of three months, with Miss Nancy Ambler as the teacher. There were but six or eight scholars, and when towards the end of the term they were practically all seized with fever and ague, educational activities were temporarily suspended. In 1857 a one-story brick schoolhouse was erected, measuring 20 by 30 feet, and was in use until 1868, when a two-story stone building was constructed, at a cost of \$2,800. It was divided into two departments and was kept well up to contemporaneous standards in equipment and scholarship requirements.

District 2, La Crescent Township. The earliest school in La Crescent Township, of which there is any record, was one established in section 6, in 1855. The first teacher was Jane Burton. The building was constructed of logs, and served its purpose until 1864, when a frame schoolhouse was erected, 16 by 24 feet, at a cost of \$300, on the land of J. Tuininga in the same section. This latter building was in use until 1870 or 1871, when

District 84 was set off from District 2, at which time it was sold at auction for \$15. A new house was built early in the seventies, in section 8.

District No. 3, Black Hammer Township. The early records of this district have not been preserved. The district was organized in an early day, and a schoolhouse built in 1865. The next year school was taught in the new house by the daughter of J. W. Comstock, a pioneer of Yucatan.

District No. 4, La Crescent Township. In 1860 a school was taught in Groff & Co.'s mill, for a single term, by Abby Taft. In the following year a school was started in a small frame house just east of the mill, on section 3. It was afterwards held for some time in a log house, and later a new building was erected at a cost of about \$400.

District No. 5, Houston Township. The logs to construct the schoolhouse were hauled in the winter of 1857, and the following spring the building was erected on section 14, by Peter Brandt and Kelsey Curtis. The school was opened in the summer of 1858 by Mrs. J. Coon. In 1881 a building was erected in section 11.

District No. 6, Money Creek Township, was provided with a log schoolhouse in 1863. C. S. Fitch taught the first school. In the fall of 1876, a new house was built at a cost of \$500.

School District No. 7, Money Creek Village. Up to the year 1862 or 1863 there was but one school in the whole township, and this was kept in a log building erected in 1856, opposite Sinclair's blacksmith shop. The first teacher here was Charles Tiffany. This schoolhouse was a general utilitarian affair, serving also as a meeting-house and town hall until the Methodist church was constructed. A schoolhouse was put up just north-east of the village, a few years after the one above mentioned, which served until the fall of 1881, when a new schoolhouse with modern improvements was erected. It was 22 by 48 feet, with two vestibules, 10 by 16 feet, one on either side. In it was taught a graded school of two departments. In 1862 or 1863 this mother of districts propagated two others by subdivision, retaining the old No. 7 for herself.

District No. 8, Money Creek Township. A schoolhouse was partially completed in the early part of the Civil War, but some of the people felt that with so many men at the war, and so many children needed for farm work, there would be little use for schoolhouses, so the building remained incomplete, and no school was kept there until one or two years after the war was over. The first teacher was Miss Mary Pierce, who resided on the south side of the river in Houston Township. After the war the house was completed.

District No. 9, Money Creek Township. In this district the first school was opened by Ellen Robinson, in a log building on the Todd farm, opposite the residence of her father, S. Robinson. The house had been erected as a residence by Thomas Shimmings, and was one of the early dwellings. It later became a part of Mr. Robinson's dwelling. In the summer of 1866 or 1867, a frame schoolhouse was put on section 19, near S. Robinson's residence.

District No. 10, Houston Township. The first schoolhouse in this district was erected in 1854 or 1855. It was of the crudest description,

being put up in a single day, the logs and labor being furnished by the people of the neighborhood, who gathered, held a picnic and completed the schoolhouse, 14 by 20 feet. The only furniture was a crude seat for the teacher and four long, backless benches. The first teacher was Angelina Sperry. Later a brick schoolhouse was erected in section 23.

District No. 11, Mound Prairie Township. The first school was in a log structure put together by Mr. Van Sickle, on section 21. It was presided over by E. S. Lore, which must have been in 1856. In 1861 a schoolhouse was built of logs by subscription, the size being 16 by 20 feet. James Connor was the first teacher in the new building.

District No. 12, Hokah Village. In the winter of 1855-1856 a school was started in Masonic Hall, with Emily Pond as the first teacher. She was succeeded the next winter by Mrs. D. L. Clements. In 1857 a house and lot were purchased, the building being converted into a schoolhouse. It served the purpose up to 1867, when a new building was erected, which was subsequently enlarged.

District No. 13, Hokah Township. In 1857 or 1858 a small log schoolhouse was put up on what is called "The Ridge," in section 10, by the German Catholics who had settled in that vicinity. It was on the farm of V. Bierden and was a subscription school and was taught one season by a Catholic priest. Afterwards a log house was put up near by, as a public school building, the school being opened by Jacob Schonhard. This was on the land of John Ahrens, and was used up to the year 1876, when a frame building was erected on the same section, at a cost of about \$400.

District No. 14, Mound Prairie Township. Andrew Orr taught the first term here, in 1858, in a building put up by Mr. Fairbanks. That same fall a frame building was erected opposite Dr. Sheldon's house. In 1872 the house was removed to the south side of the prairie, on section 9, where it now accommodates a larger number of pupils. Still later it was moved to section 4.

District No. 15, Houston Village. The first school was in an old shanty formerly used by Joel Marsh in the lower town near the bank of the river near the end of the present bridge, about 1855. Probably the first school was taught by George Tyler. When the village was moved to its present location, the school likewise was moved. Later a good schoolhouse was erected on the southern borders of the village, and a graded school established.

District No. 16, Houston Township. The original building in this district was erected in section 31. It was used as the community center, public and religious meetings of various kinds being held there. The railroad right of way passed over the very spot on which the building stood, and in 1878 a new schoolhouse was erected a short distance from the old site.

District No. 17, Yucatan Township. The schoolhouse was erected in 1861, in section 29.

District No. 18, Yucatan Township. In 1867, a tax was levied for a new district, and a log schoolhouse, 18 by 24 feet, erected. Mrs. Gale was the first teacher.

District No. 19, Yucatan Township. A school was taught in a log structure near the Dedham mill, in 1857, by Mary McGowen. Eunice Comstock also taught there at an early day. The school was in the Mackintire house for some time, and at the residence of Charles Wilsey until the erection of the schoolhouse some time during the war.

District No. 20, Yucatan Township. The first school in Yucatan was managed by Emeline Howe, in a rough timber building situated near the residence of E. Bidwell. This was in 1856 or 1857. About 1860 the districts were divided, and this building was moved down the road and another constructed on section 27, 20 by 24 feet, of stone. A. L. Thompson was the earliest teacher.

District No. 21, Yucatan Township. In 1866 school was held in a log house on section 22. Margaret Murphy was the teacher. In 1868 school was kept in John Burns' house on section 23.

District No. 23, Sheldon Township. The first English school taught in the Badger Valley was by William H. Murphy in 1856 or 1857, and was held in private houses about the neighborhood. A Norwegian school had been previously taught for a few months by Gunder Jermondson. The history of the schools in Sheldon differs in no essential respects from that of the schools throughout the county.

District No. 27, Union Township, was organized July 28, 1858, there being 44 pupils awaiting instruction. John Hurley, Henry Snure, Sr., and John H. Hyke were the first trustees, and Edmund Null, clerk. In the same fall the schoolhouse was built at the corner of section 29. The first sessions of the district, however, were held in an old log shanty built by Marcus Sammons, the teacher being Sarah A. Lyon. In the autumn of 1859 a log schoolhouse was laid up with a hip roof, in section 29, and was the seat of learning for that part of the town for many years. The district was a large one, and some of the scholars were put to great inconvenience in reaching it, which made the attendance irregular.

District No. 28, Union Township. In 1860 a neat little schoolhouse was built on section 26, in Thompson's Valley.

District No. 29, Union Township. The first school taught in the valley was on section 12, in a house built by Hiram Griffin. Frances Pound was the first teacher. Afterwards a log building was erected, the materials for which were contributed by the neighboring settlers, among them David House, Edwin Butterfield and Levi West. In after years a good stone schoolhouse was built.

District No. 30, Brownsville Village. The first school was taught in the village of Brownsville in 1854 by James McCan. The next was held in the winter of 1854-55 by M. G. Thompson, who was followed by William Beeby. Both these were private schools. In July, 1856, the county commissioners established a district, containing the village, and a school meeting was held Aug. 9, the same, when Job Brown, Alex. McLaren and J. H. Smith became trustees. The first public school was held in the winter of 1857-58; and in 1858 a one-story frame schoolhouse was built, 24 by 40 feet, costing \$400. On Jan. 1, 1859, there were 67 scholars in the district. Previous to the completion of the large building in 1874 there were for several

years three separate schoolhouses in use, with one male and two female teachers. School was first opened in the new building at the time of its completion, in January, 1874, with one male and three female teachers, P. O. Phillips being principal.

District No. 31, Brownsville Township. The first school in this district was held at the home of Arthur Mullen, with Mary Murphy as first teacher.

District No. 32, Brownsville Township, came into existence in 1857, and the schoolhouse was built the next year. The first trustees were John Palmer, Isaac Maul and Jonathan Cox. The first teacher was Augustus McPherson.

District No. 33, Brownsville Township. In January, 1856, a district was organized at the home of Timothy Hackett. The first officers were Harvey Fassett, Emory Hackett and Silas Torrence. In the fall the men of the neighborhood put up a schoolhouse of logs. In 1880, a half acre was purchased from James Daily, and the next year the Christian Church was bought and moved on the lot.

District No. 34, Mayville, dates from the late fifties, but when District No. 90 was set off, in 1876, it took with it the schoolhouse in section 4, and the people left in District No. 34 erected one on section 11. The first teacher was Edward Crow, of La Crescent.

School Districts No. 35 and No. 36, Caledonia Township, were the outcome of a school started in 1856 or 1857, in a log house on section 11, where it was kept up until the winter of 1873, when two houses were put up, No. 35 on section 11, the other, No. 36, being built soon after on section 9.

District No. 37, Blackhammer Township, when first organized, embraced nearly all the township, but has gradually been curtailed. The first schoolhouse was built of logs, in 1857, at a public bee, the men of the district each bringing an axe and a few logs, and giving their services free. The first teacher was Frank Brown.

District No. 39, Caledonia Township. The first school taught was in the log house of Nelson Haight, on section 28, in the fall of 1859. The teacher was Mrs. Mary Wheaton, who later became the wife of L. M. Brigham. The next school was in the house of G. N. Thompson, just west of Flynn's stone house, on section 33. In the summer of 1861 the teacher was Laura V. Haight. The next school was in Thompson's stone house. A schoolhouse was erected in 1863, on section 27. The first school within its walls was presided over by William Conniff, in the winter of 1863-64. About 1877 the German Catholics had a schoolhouse in this locality in which several terms were held.

District No. 40, Caledonia Township. The first school in this district was at the house of Reuben Rollins. The second was at the house of J. Pope. The district was established in 1859 and the schoolhouse built in 1863.

District No. 41, Caledonia Township, was organized about 1866, when school was held in a log house on section 22, with Margaret Murphy as teacher. In 1868, school was held in John Burns' house, on section 23. In 1869, C. Madrill taught in the Bugbee homestead on section 14. A schoolhouse was built in 1870.

District No. 42, is the village school of Caledonia. Its history is found elsewhere.

District No. 43, Mayville Township, was organized in the late fifties. The first school was held at the home of Charles Murphy, under the instruction of Mary Murphy. The first schoolhouse was built in 1859. The first trustees were Henry Wiltgen, James Connolly and T. J. Murphy.

District No. 45, the village school of Freeburg in Crooked Creek Township, was started in 1857, when school was taught by Mrs. Charlotte Bayne, in the slab shanty of David Snyder. The first trustees were Phillip Schaller, George Powlesland and William Powlesland.

District No. 46, Crooked Creek Township. Mrs. Charlotte Bayne taught the first school in this district. A schoolhouse was erected in 1856, one of the earliest in the county.

District No. 47, Jefferson Township, was organized in 1863, the first teacher being Anna Johnson, who taught in the summer of 1864. The schoolhouse was a log structure, and was built about the time the first district was organized. In early days the school terms were usually from three to four months each year.

District No. 48, Jefferson Township, was organized about 1860, when a summer term was taught by Mary Donahue at the residence of John Cauley. Afterwards a school was taught in Mr. Collins' claim shanty. In 1864 a schoolhouse was constructed, and the following year B. Gertrude Hackett taught the first term in the new house. This schoolhouse, which was the first one erected in the district, was of moderate size, and was in use for many years.

District No. 49, Winnebago Township. The first school in this district was commenced in January, 1862, and was taught by Michael McNamara, for the not to be despised sum in those days of \$14 a month. The first schoolhouse was of logs, and was built in 1864 on section 17, but it was afterwards moved to section 7, where it stood and did good service until the winter of 1876-77, when it was consumed by fire, and a new frame structure replaced it in the fall of 1877. In accordance with the state law passed in 1861, providing that every township should be a school district, to be sub-divided in accordance with local requirements, Winnebago was made into four districts, and numbered accordingly. The next year, or the year following, the law was changed, requiring the county to arrange the school districts, giving them consecutive numbers regardless of town lines. The new allotment gave No. 1 the number of 49; No. 4 became No. 50; No. 2 became No. 51, and No. 3 was transferred into No. 52. No. 81 was next formed.

District No. 50, Winnebago Township, was organized in 1857. On January 31, James Langmuir, Jacob Tippery, and T. E. Smith were elected trustees, and C. A. Coe clerk. The school was first taught for two years in a log house rented from C. A. Coe. Nine and a half months' school was taught in 1858, divided into three terms, the teachers being Sarah E. McNally, G. G. B. Boomer, and Miss Emily Pope, who later married E. E. Stewart. The schoolhouse was built in 1859-60 on section 23. When the question of building it arose trouble began as to the location. Every mem-

ber of the district of course wanted it near, but not too near, and after a few special meetings the site was fixed in the northwest quarter of section 23. The building cost about \$700.

District No. 51, Winnebago Township, (Merged in District No. 52). In 1857 or 1858 a private school was opened at the house of L. Houghton, near the south line of section 21, and was taught by Mrs. Houghton. This was a two months term. Later a school was opened in the house of S. Graves, which was taught by Annie Johnson. This school held several terms, and in 1865 a schoolhouse was put up on the southwest quarter of section 35, where school was kept until 1873, when the district was merged into No. 52.

District No. 52, Eitzen Village. School was first opened in the old Lafin log house, and was taught by Lizzie Williams, who later became Mrs. Eugene Marshall, of Caledonia. In 1866 a stone schoolhouse was erected in the center of section 32, near Eitzen. The first school in that building was taught by Miss J. C. Jones, at \$18 a month, and began Aug. 12, 1867. This house was subsequently burned, but was rebuilt in 1875.

District No. 53, Wilmington Township, was one of the original districts. The first school was taught in a building owned by A. Gilbertson in 1857. In a year or two a stone schoolhouse was put on section 6, which served for school purposes until 1872, when a frame building went up.

District No. 54 is the village school of Spring Grove. In the early days, Norwegian school was held in the homes of the pioneers. In 1857 a frame schoolhouse was erected about 18 by 24 feet. This building was used also as a church and public hall and was afterward converted into a town hall. In 1872 a two story frame building was erected.

District No. 55, Spring Grove Township. A Norwegian school was commenced in a very primitive way at a very early period of the history of the colony. Cornelius Narveson was the first teacher. For a while sessions were held in the house of Ole Amundson Berg on section 16, and afterward a room was rented from John Myhro on section 8. The school was held in various places, until a small frame building was constructed on section 8. This must have been about 1867, although there is a wide difference in the recollection of the citizens as to the exact time. Afterwards the original structure was doubled in size.

District No. 56, Spring Grove Township. The first school was held on section 30, in an old log house of Abner Aiken, which had been his residence. It continued there for some time, but was not very popular. In 1866 a comfortable house was put up, on the west line of section 29, at a cost of about \$800.

District No. 57. This was organized in the spring of 1857, and the first officers were: Andrew Hanson, clerk; Hans P. Rosendahl, treasurer, and Teman Gilbertson, director. The first funds were raised by subscription, and Ole Ulen and Andrew P. Kroshus cut and had sawed the timber for the erection of the first schoolhouse, which was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1857. This building was 14 by 18 feet, and was constructed by Embrick Olson and Gilbert N. Myrha. Mahala E. Rowe taught the first school in this house in the summer of 1858, and as an interesting fact, it

may be mentioned that the last school was taught in the building in the winter of 1880 by her son. It was then superceded by a new schoolhouse erected half a mile east, near the southeast corner of section 26.

District No. 58, Wilmington Township, was the first district in the township in which a school was held, and it was in a private house before a schoolhouse was erected. It was Norwegian in its attendance and teaching and was sustained by subscription. It was migratory, being held at the houses of Thomas Anderson, A. Swanson and others, until 1857, when the Norwegian schoolhouse was built, each settler having been put under contribution for two logs. All turned out to assist in putting it up, and it continued as a schoolhouse, church, and public hall until 1878, when a building was constructed on section 27.

District No. 59, Wilmington Township. This is on Portland Prairie. The first school was in the house of T. Aldrich, on section 25, in 1857, and was taught by Mary Ann Cook, who subsequently became Mrs. Amos Glanville. The first schoolhouse was erected not unlike the one above described, on the community principle. This was in 1858, and on the farm of T. Aldrich on section 25. Schools were kept and religious services held there. In 1868 the old schoolhouse was replaced by a frame structure.

District No. 61, Brownsville Township, was organized in 1857. The first teacher was Mary Ruddy. The first trustees James Ruddy, John Deiuch and John Flannery.

District No. 62, Mound Prairie Township, was organized in 1866, and a log house put up in the same year, 20 by 16 feet, and paid for by voluntary subscriptions. It is located on section 26. Miss Ella Looney taught the first term, and the officers were: Director, George Senn; treasurer, C. Lehman, and clerk, John Smith.

District No. 64, Brownsville Township, was organized in 1857, and a schoolhouse built that year. The first teacher was John Duggan. The first trustees were John Hall, John Sullivan and Patrick Long.

District No. 66, Wilmington Township. This was in 1866 set off from District No. 59, a schoolhouse was soon erected on section 24, and was first taught by Ellen H. Cass.

District No. 67, Wilmington Township. The first school was held in a shed attached to the house of Mathew McGinnis, in 1865, and was taught by Miss Dora Quinland, who later became Mrs. William Murphy, of Caledonia. The school was also held in Mike McGinnis' house. In 1867, a schoolhouse was built on section 30, and in 1880 it was moved to the south line of the same section.

District No. 68, Brownsville Township, was organized in 1867, and the first school was held in the pioneer home of Patrick Sweeney. The first trustees were Patrick Sweeney, James Daily and Jacob Sharrard. A schoolhouse was erected in 1867.

District No. 69, Black Hammer Township, was set off from District No. 37, May 18, 1865. The first officers were: Julius Billings (clerk), Joseph Haninan (director), and Tolef Hogensen (treasurer). The first term was caught by Maria O'Connor at the residence of Julius Billings in

1865. The schoolhouse was completed in 1867 on section 28, on land of Lars Ericksen.

District No. 70, Wilmington Township. In 1867 this district was set off from No. 59, and the next year a house was built on section 31. Ellen Healy was the first district teacher here, although a private school had previously been taught in settlers' houses by Norwegians in their own tongue, by the use of their own text books.

District No. 72, Crooked Creek Township, was organized in the spring of 1868. The first school was taught by Ellen Conley in the home of L. Yohe. The first trustees were Jacob Walter, Joseph Bigley and Patrick McCarthy.

District No. 73, Hokah Township came into existence in about 1866, the initial school being in an old log structure belonging to Ira Butterfield, and was presided over by Helen Butterfield. About the same time a schoolhouse was built, at a total cost of \$100. The settlers turned out, bringing the material, and put up the building, which is on section eight.

District No. 74, Black Hammer Township. Sept. 9, 1868, this district was organized at the home of E. H. Solberg, the officers elected being Elling Anderson (director), H. B. Allen (treasurer), H. E. Solberg (clerk). The following year a schoolhouse 16 by 24 feet was completed on section 35, on land of Helge Olsen. School was taught in the winter of 1870 by Lena J. Heaul.

District No. 75, La Crescent Township, was organized about 1870, and was first taught by Ella Richardson. For some time school was held only during the winter, but later a summer term was introduced and maintained. The first building was of hewn logs.

District No. 76, Spring Grove Township. On April 24, 1869, a regular meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a school district from territory taken from No. 57. The meeting was at the house of John Erickson, and the following year the house now there was erected at a cost of about \$700, and in 1870 the exercises of the school began, under the rule of Ella M. Dibble.

District No. 77, Spring Grove Township, was first organized about 1870, and a building put up on section 18.

District No. 78, Jefferson Township, had originally been in a district connected with a southern part of Crooked Creek Township. The earliest teacher was Theresa Manix, of Caledonia; the second was B. Gertrude Hackett. Anna Kelliker had previously taught in the house of P. McCauley, on the Crooked Creek side of the line.

District No. 79, Yucatan Township. Originally this was a part of No. 17, but a division was finally made and a house put up at a cost of \$350. It was built in 1871 by Donald Chisholm. Agnes McInnis was the first teacher.

District No. 80, Black Hammer Township, was set off from District 37 by the County Board at the March session in 1870. The schoolhouse was completed that fall. The first term was held in the spring of 1871 by Ella Dibble. The first officers were Alex. Simpson (clerk), John Soutu (treasurer) and John Cunningham (director).

District No. 81, Winnebago Township, was organized from a part of No. 49, on Aug. 16, 1870. The first officers were: William Gallagher, director; John Connell, treasurer, and G. M. Holliday, clerk. The schoolhouse was a frame structure, built in 1871. Sylvia Johnson took the initiative as a teacher.

District No. 82, Jefferson Township, in the old village, in section 35, was organized in 1870. The first school was taught by Ella Haines, of Dorchester, Iowa.

District No. 83, Houston Township, was a part of District 15 for many years. It was set off about 1871. The first school was held in the Swedish Baptist Church with Miss Sheldon, of Mound Prairie, as the teacher.

District No. 84, La Crescent Township, was set off from District 2, in 1871, and a frame schoolhouse put up on section 6. M. Emery was the first teacher.

District No. 85 was instituted in the spring of 1873. A house was put up on section 21. The first teacher was David I. Vinge.

District No. 86, Winnebago Township. About 1874 this district was set off from No. 52, and a schoolhouse put up the same year by a man who received \$100 for laying the stone work, the district furnishing the material. Annie Anderson was the first teacher.

District No. 87, Money Creek Township. The first schoolhouse was built on section 6, about 1874, with Sarah Cameron as first teacher.

District No. 88, Spring Grove Township. This district was taken out of No. 57, in 1878. The first school was held at the residence of Knud Gilbertson, on section 23, in the winter or late fall of 1878. In the summer of 1879, a pretty schoolhouse now used was erected on section 24, on the farm of Knud Gilbertson.

District No. 89, Money Creek Township, had its first school in 1876, with Thomas Lane as the first teacher.

School District No. 90, Mayville Township, was set off from District No. 34, in 1876, and took the site of the original schoolhouse. The original district had been organized in the late fifties, and school held in various available houses until 1865, when a schoolhouse was erected on section 4.

District No. 91, Hokah Township. A German subscription school was first taught here by Miss Hafner, at her brother's house on section 29, about 1861. A few years later, probably about 1865, the Rev. Father F. X. Neubrandt had a school a single winter. The district itself was organized in the latter seventies, and a frame house was erected for school purposes at a cost of about \$400.

District No. 92, Crooked Creek Township, was taken from District 46 in 1876, and the schoolhouse built the following year. The first school was taught in the Hurdelbrink home by Mary J. Finney, of Lansing. The first trustees were Carl Baeske, Frank Hurdelbrink and John Brown.

District No. 93, Mound Prairie Township, was provided with a log schoolhouse in 1877. The first instructor was Mary Harris.

District No. 93, Mound Prairie Township, is the Lorette District. The first meeting was held at the Lorette House, for organization, Sept. 7, 1876. Mrs. Anna M. Carpenter donated one-half acre of land, the northeast of

the southeast of section 8. There was at once erected a neat white frame house, 18 by 30 feet, with green blinds, and is furnished with plain desks, a fine teacher's desk and chair, a portable blackboard, full set of the largest size Camp's outline maps and Holbrook's 12-inch globe. The cost of the house, including the furniture, was \$578. The first enrollment of scholars was 59, the first term being taught by J. W. Gleason. The opening session was held Dec. 18, 1876. Anna M. Carpenter was clerk, John Frey, director, and August Trenske, treasurer. Mary Keup, of La Crescent, was the first lady teacher. Three weeks from the time the first nail was driven, 38 scholars were seated in this flourishing schoolhouse.

District No. 96, Money Creek Township. A school was first taught in this district in 1879, in an old log house belonging to Ole R. Berland. During the summer of 1881 the schoolhouse was erected, a building 16 by 24 feet. The first teacher was Jennie Winslow, who was later succeeded by her sister.

Houston County has been fortunate in its supervision of schools. In the early days, each of the five districts had a school examiner. The first ones were appointed by the county board on Sept. 5, 1862, and were as follows: 1, William H. Lapham; 2, John Ewing; 3, Rev. James Frothingham; 4, Lyman Loomis; 5, David Temple. The first county superintendent was the Rev. James Frothingham, appointed by the county board May 2, 1864. At the beginning of the fall term of that year, Mr. Frothingham resigned, and W. J. Parrott was appointed. He was followed the next year by David P. Temple, who in turn was succeeded by W. H. Harries. Then came J. B. Le Blond. In 1876, W. D. Belden was appointed. But the legislature had passed a new law making the office elective and providing that the then incumbent should continue to serve until a successor was elected. The matter went into the courts. In the fall, however, D. C. Cameron was elected. He served for many years. Following him the superintendents have been: 1887, James Brady; 1889, F. W. Noyes; 1891, Fannie Lapham; 1897, George H. Kuster; 1901, S. N. Ristey; 1905, Georgia Lommen; 1913, Marie Otterness; 1919, Mary C. Weida.

At the present time the schools of the county are in a most flourishing condition. There are in all 105 districts. Houston, Spring Grove and Caledonia have high schools, a special feature of the first named being a Teachers' Training Department which grants to its graduates a first grade teacher's certificate, and is doing some excellent work in furnishing the country schools with competent teachers. Hokah has a graded school. La Crescent with four departments, Brownsville with three departments and Eitzen with two departments are semi-graded schools. In addition to the three semi-graded schools the districts that were rated as Class A in 1918 were: 5, Houston township; 8, Money Creek township; 9, Money Creek township; 10, Houston township; 11, Mound Prairie township; 19, Yucatan township; 26, Sheldon township; 27, Union township (not in session this year); 35, Caledonia township; 36, Caledonia township; 43, Mayville township; 49, Winnebago township; 59, Wilmington township; 62, Mound Prairie township; 64, Brownsville township; 66, Wilmington township; 73, Hokah township (children transported to district 12 this year); 85, Wil-

mington township; 87, Money Creek township; 89, Money Creek township; 90, Mayville township; 94, Mound Prairie township; 103, Yucatan township; 107, Mayville township.

The Class B districts are as follows: 2, La Crescent township; 13, Hokah township; 17, Yucatan township; 18, Yucatan township; 20, Yucatan township; 25, Sheldon township; 29, Union township; 32, Brownsville township; 37, Black Hammer township; 39, Caledonia township; 40, Caledonia township; 45, Freeburg; 48, Jefferson township; 50, Winnebago township; 53, Wilmington township; 55, Spring Grove township; 56, Spring Grove township; 60, Riceford; 61, Brownsville township; 65, Black Hammer township; 67, Wilmington township; 69, Black Hammer township; 74, Black Hammer township; 79, Yucatan township; 81, Winnebago township; 84, La Crescent township; 95, Jefferson township; 96, Money Creek township; 98, Sheldon township; 99, Spring Grove township; 105, Caledonia township. To this list 67, Wilmington township, and 98, Sheldon township, are added this year.

The three high schools and one graded school are of brick as are thirteen of the rural and semi-graded schools. Eighty-three of the rural and semi-graded schools are of frame and five of stone. No log schoolhouses remain. The average length of the school year in the high and graded schools is nine months, in the rural and semi-graded districts a little over seven months. The average number of voters attending the annual school meeting in 1918 in the high and graded school districts was 62, in the rural and semi-graded districts it was a little over eight. The average rate of special tax in 1918 in the high and graded school districts was 18.2 mills and in the semi-graded and rural schools, 5.17 mills.

Considerable community work is being done in the various schools, and the teachers are co-operating with the agricultural agent in his work. A Public Health Association has been organized to provide the school system with a visiting and examining nurse. County teachers' meetings and several sectional teachers' meetings are held each year, as are school officers' meetings. An annual teachers' meeting and an annual teachers' institute are held. An annual graduation for those completing the course in the rural schools is held with appropriate exercises at Caledonia.

CHAPTER XI

EARLY TOWNSHIP HISTORIES

Houston County is divided into seventeen townships. The Mississippi Townships are La Crescent, Hokah, Brownsville, Crooked Creek and Jefferson. Next west are Mound Prairie, Union, Mayville and Winnebago. Next west are Houston, Sheldon, Caledonia and Wilmington. The most western townships are Money Creek, Yucatan, Black Hammer and Spring Grove.

The seventeen townships in Houston County date back to the early election precincts. When, on July 9, 1853, Fillmore County, then including Houston County, was divided into precincts, one was named the Root River Precinct, and included all of what is now Houston County north of a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Root River. The land in Houston County south of that line was not placed in an election precinct until Aug. 27, 1853. When Brownsville Precinct was created it included all the part of the county south of a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Root River.

May 26, 1854, at the first meeting of the county commissioners of Houston County, five election precincts were created: Brownsville, Pine Creek, Root River, Spring Grove and Caledonia. Brownsville consisted of all of the county east of the middle line of range 5, and south of the Root River. The election was to be held at Brownsville Village, in charge of Matthew Alexander, John Montgomery and Edward Thompson. Pine Creek, changed Jan. 7, 1856, to Manton, consisted of all of the county east of the middle line of Range 5, and north of the Root River. The election was to be held at the home of Harvey Gillette, in charge of Francis Diamond, Peter Cameron and Harvey Gillette. Root River, also called the Looneyville Precinct, took in all the county west of the middle line of range 5, and north of the middle line of township 103. The election was to be held at the home of Ole Knudson, in charge of Ole Knudson, John S. Looney and Joseph Lovesee. Spring Grove consisted of all of township 101, range 7, and the south half of township 102, range 7. The election was to be held at the home of James Smith, in charge of James Smith, William H. Roe and Sibeon Peterson. Caledonia consisted of all the county east of the middle line of range 5, south of the middle line of township 103, and west of the line between ranges 6 and 7. The election was to be held at the home of James Hiner, in charge of James Hiner, Samuel McPhail and Samuel Armstrong.

Four more election precincts were created during territorial days, Hokah and Winnebago on April 2, 1855, Money Creek on Jan. 7, 1856, and Yucatan on April 7, 1856. Hokah consisted on the northern twelve sections in township 103, range 4; the southern twelve sections in township 104,

range 4; the east half of township 103, range 5, and sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 in section 104, range 5. The election was to be held at the house of John N. Stewart, in charge of George House, Jaon N. Stewart and Levi West. Winnebago consisted of township 101, ranges 4, 5 and 6. The election was to be held at the home of Eliakim Laffin, in charge of Eliakim Laffin, E. B. Eaton and Gershom Pope. Money Creek consisted of everything west of the middle line of range 6, and north of the Root River. The first election was to be in charge of Nathan Vance, C. B. Sinclair and Russell H. Thurber. Yucatan consisted of the south half of township 103, range 7; the north two-thirds of township 102, range 7, sections 5, 6 and 7; township 102, range 6, and sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in township 103, range 6.

Fourteen townships were created April 5, 1858: La Crescent, Hokah, Brownsville, Crooked Creek, Jefferson, Mayville, Winnebago, Houston, Sheldon, Caledonia, Wilmington, Hamilton, Yucatan and Spring Grove. La Crescent township embraced sections 1 to 24, in township 104, range 4; and sections 1 to 24, and all of sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, township 104, range 5, north of the Root River. Hokah Township embraced the old Hokah Precinct, namely, the south twelve sections in township 104, range 4; the north twelve sections in township 103, range 4; the east half of township 103, range 5; and sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 in township 104, range 5. Brownsville Township consisted of the south twenty-four sections in township 103, range 4; and the north twelve sections in township 102, range 4. Crooked Creek Township embraced sections 13 to 36, township 102, range 4; sections 1 to 6, township 101, range 4; and sections 24, 25 and 36, and the east half of sections 23, 26 and 35, township 102, range 5. Jefferson Township consisted of all except the northern tier of sections in township 101, range 4. Mayville Township embraced all of township 102, range 5, except sections 24, 25 and 36, and the east half of sections 23, 26 and 35. Winnebago Township embraced township 101, range 5. Houston Township embraced township 104, range 6; the west half of 103, range 5; and all of 104, range 5, south of the Root River. This conflicted in sections 34 and 35, township 104, range 5, with the borders of Hokah Township. Sheldon Township included township 103, range 6. Caledonia Township included township 102, range 6. Wilmington Township included township 101, range 6. Hamilton Township embraced township 104, range 7. Yucatan Township embraced township 103, range 7. Spring Grove Township embraced townships 101 and 102, range 7.

December 15, 1856, Black Hammer was created of township 102, range 7. April 29, 1858, to take effect Feb. 1, 1859, Union, the name of which was afterward changed to Mound Prairie, was created from Hokah, Houston and La Crescent. From Hokah were taken sections 26, 27, 34 and 35, in township 104, range 5, and the west half of sections 2, 3 and 10, in township 103, range 5. From Houston was taken the west half of township 103, range 5. From La Crescent was taken that part of township 104, range 5, south of the territorial road and west of the east line of sections 14 and 11, leading west from La Crescent and known as the Ridge Road. Dec. 15, 1858, when the name was changed to Mound Prairie, the township was

altered to consist of sections 14 to 35, inclusive (except sections 24 and 25), in township 104, range 5, and sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, the west half of section 2, and the north half of sections 10, 16, 17 and 18, in township 103, range 5. On the same day, a new town of Union was created, consisting of all of township 103, range 5, except sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and the west half of section 2, and the north half of sections 10, 16, 17 and 18. It was also on the same day that Black Hammer Township was created from township 102, range 7. In 1865 the name of Hamilton was changed by act of the legislature to Money Creek, thus completing the list of townships. The boundaries of the townships have been changed in minor details many times since, but they occupy approximately the same relative positions as when created.

BROWNSVILLE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

Brownsville is the central township of the five that border on the Mississippi River, which forms its eastern boundary. On the north lies Hokah Township, on the west Union and Mayville, and on the south Crooked Creek. Though Brownsville embraces a part of two government townships, it is several sections smaller than a full town. Between the river and the village there are no intervening sloughs, there being, consequently, a good natural landing, a condition quickly noted by Job Brown, the pioneer, when in quest of a town site.

At this point, from the river's bank rises Wild Cat Bluff, nearly 500 feet in height, and which, being the highest point on the river for miles, was a prominent landmark for the early pilots and steamboat captains. The landing here was also the point of debarkation for a large number of the pioneer settlers, especially those going to Caledonia and the vicinity.

The material of the bluffs is sandstone as a base, with limestone near the top, and some good quarries have been opened, where lime is made. Both varieties of stone have been used for building purposes.

The principal river, aside from the Mississippi, is Wild Cat Creek, coming from the west, and a branch from the south, which unites with the main creek a mile from the village, the stream thus formed entering the Mississippi by way of a slough that starts opposite the lower end of the town. The precipitous bluffs on the river lead to elevated plateaus, with prairie-like expansions, covered with fine farms. Both lowlands and highlands, though differing somewhat in the character of their soil, are in most places well adapted to agricultural purposes, and have been so utilized since the early settlers located here. Some of the land, however, can only be used for pasturage.

Brownsville was settled in 1848 by Job Brown and two wanderers whom he encountered living on an island in the river. In the winter he brought his brother, Charles Brown, and his brother-in-law, James Hiner, as well as some helpers. In 1850 came David Brown, not a relative of the other Browns. A little later came William Morrison and William Blair. These men all settled in the village, and there the history of the township has since centered.

Among the earliest settlers in the township, outside of the village, were George Shrof, John Whitlow, Mr. Stone and Mr. Watson, who located on the ridge to the north, which was known as Connaught Ridge, owing to the number of Irish who took claims there. Among them was Dennis Sheehan, who put up a shanty in 1853; William Power and his father, in 1854. James Hickey, who came in April, 1854, located on section 10, and Jonathan Hall on section 4 the same year. John Shelly, who at first stopped a few miles above the village, also took a claim in section 4, but two years later moved into the village. Within the next three years John Flannery, Joseph Keefe, Thomas Gavin and others arrived.

The first building put up in town was one of logs, moved down from an island opposite the mouth of the Root River. It measured 14 by 12 feet, and had a "shaker" roof. It was about 300 yards above the stone warehouse. The second house was just above the spring and was afterward sold to William Morrison, better known as "Wild Cat Jack."

The first frame building was erected by Charles Brown in 1850, and it was afterwards used as a schoolhouse. Mr. Brown also built the first public building, which was called the town hall, and was used both as a church and a schoolhouse. The Methodist Episcopal society held services in it for a number of years, and it was used first as a schoolhouse in May, 1857, with Mary J. Wells as teacher, and A. McLaren, Charles Brown and J. H. Smith as trustees, its use in the latter capacity being abandoned when the large brick schoolhouse was erected.

In a very few years after the founding of the village, it presented a lively scene. In 1855 the levee was crowded with goods, and during the quarter ending June 30 the land sales amounted to \$74,292. The census then gave the county a population of 2,616. There was a theatre in successful operation in the village, and lots were selling at from \$100 to \$800 each. At the beginning of this year the population of the village was 50 inhabitants, and there were 20 offices and stores, but by the end of the year there were 228 inhabitants and 45 new buildings had been erected. In the fall a Sunday school was started in the store of Gates & Wykoff.

On July 1, 1856, several stage lines were started, carrying mails; one from Brownsville to Chatfield, via Hokah, Houston and Rushford; another from Brownsville to Caledonia, via Elliota, and a third from Brownsville to Traverse de Sioux. D. A. J. Baker was the contractor.

While the land office was here Dexter & Ripley conducted a bank, but it was not one of issue. Much of the business of this institution was to supply the land buyers with specie to complete their government purchases. When the land office moved on ~~the~~ Chatfield the bank was discontinued. Mr. Ripley was afterwards appointed to the supreme bench of the state.

In 1870 there were nearly fifty stores in active operation, but in 1882 there were not more than half as many places of business all told, including saloons and shops. The following is a fairly comprehensive list: A. L. Darling, general merchandise and hardware; John H. Rippe, general merchandise; John Cluss, hardware; Frank P. Moore, drugs; Miss T. M. Dorival,

millinery and fancy goods; Aug. Knautz, boots, shoes and harness; Thomas Curry, grocer and shoemaker; Leonard Schwartz, meat market; Edmund Kelly, groceries and liquors; William Tohman, groceries and liquors; William Powers, general merchandise; John C. Beck, wagon and carriage maker; William Ideker, blacksmith; James Colleran; Gustavus Graf, blacksmith; Adolph Rier, carpenter and cabinetmaker; F. Brehme, barber, confectionery and toys; Matt Roster, Fred Gluck, Peter Thimmersch, Florian Hauber and George Hoffman, saloon keepers; Michael Feeney, groceries and meat market; John Rippe, agent for the Diamond Jo, salt, cement and lime. There were three principal hotels: the Gluck House, conducted by Fred Gluck; the Roster House, by Matt Roster, and the Minnesota House, besides several smaller public houses. In the winter of the same year a St. Louis firm made arrangements for cutting 10,000 tons of ice above the village. At this time the town had two physicians, Dr. J. M. Riley and Dr. W. W. Bell.

Several manufacturing industries were established at an early day in the village and its vicinity. One of the first of these was the Brownsville Knoblack Brewery, established in the early fifties. In 1856 the demand for the product was far in excess of the supply.

The Wild Cat Flouring Mill came into existence in 1866, the builder and proprietor being George Schaller. It was two and a half stories high with a basement, the ground dimensions being 40 by 50 feet. The power was derived from Wild Cat Creek, which has a fall of 24 feet, and was transmitted by an overshot wheel, 19 feet in diameter. It was originally a two-run mill, with first class machinery.

In 1878 the Schaller Brothers, J. C. and P. J., who had bought it in 1870 and remodeled it in 1875, sunk an artesian well near their mill to a depth of 590 feet, which yielded 590 gallons of clear, sparkling water per minute, having a regular temperature of 54½ degrees winter and summer. The water was turned into the flume to help supply the power to run the mill.

The City Flouring Mill was put up in 1873 by Julius Hanke. The Brownsville Bluff Brewery was constructed in 1871 by V. and J. Fetzner. Clark's saw-mill was constructed in 1878, the main building being 36 by 85 feet, with an addition 25 by 36 feet.

The first saw mill was erected by Job and Charles Brown and Alexander McLaren in 1855. The first grist mill was built on Spring Branch Creek by Job Brown in 1856, the run of stones used having been in operation at the sawmill the previous year.

The village was platted and recorded by Job and Charles Brown, immediately after the county was organized. Several additions have been added to the original plat, extending the village both to the north and south, and well up the hill to the west of the lower end, so that the second stories of the buildings on the west side are usually on a level with the ground, and the cellars are excavated as tunnels into the bluff. The business part of the village is 25 feet above the river, while that part situated in the ravine is 30 or 40 feet above the river. The railroad runs along the river's edge, on a grade somewhat lower than Front street. Near a western addition to the

village there arises Spring Branch, a small stream which pours into Wild Cat Creek.

The municipal history of Brownsville dates from March 20, 1858, when the legislature incorporated the "Town of Brownsville" in sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, township 103, range 4. The town council was to consist of a president, a recorder and three trustees, all of whom must be householders. Upon the town council were conferred the usual powers of village authorities. The early records of the village have not been preserved.

A crisis in village affairs came in 1873, when acting under a bill passed by the legislature that year authorizing the village board of education to levy taxes at its discretion for school purposes, the board erected a commodious brick shoolhouse at a cost of about \$10,000 to accommodate the rapidly increasing youthful population. Many of the citizens opposed the erection of this building on account of the cost, several moved away, the taxes were heavy, and the village received a decided set back.

At various times in the past Brownsville has been the scene of attempted mining operations. Tradition relates that the origin of these attempts dates back to 1832, when a party of United States soldiers, and several engineers, who had had practical experience in the discovery of lead near Galena, Illinois, encamped near the foot of Wild Cat Bluff, and engaged in prospecting experiments, examining caves and making excavations, though without success. They eventually sunk a shaft 105 feet deep, a mile and a half directly west of the bluff, and, it is said, believed that they had discovered evidences of lead. The time allowed them in the neighborhood having expired, they were unable to do more, but before moving on they filled the shaft with loose earth, brush and stones, macadamizing the opening and finishing with a large key stone. It was the intention of two of the engineers to keep their discovery a secret, and after the expiration of their term of service to return and resume operations and secure the mine for their own benefit. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, however, these miners never returned. Both went to the Mexican war, in which one was killed and the other lost his legs. The latter, supposing he was going to die, imparted the secret of the mine to a friend, instructing him how to find it. In the latter seventies this tradition came to the knowledge of George Graf, then proprietor of the land on which the shaft was sunk, and on investigating decided that such operations had actually been carried on.

In 1875 William McCormick sunk a shaft, 60 feet deep, on section 22, and found evidences of lead ore. In March, 1877 he also began another shaft, and the first year put it down 100 feet, at which depth he found water.

Later he carried the shaft to a depth of 200 feet, and by him, or others, a lateral drift was also run for 75 feet or more. This work cost over \$2,000, without the finding of any profitable ore. Mr. McCormick began his investigations at that particular spot, as it had been noticed that lightning frequently struck there.

In 1877 Bernard Graf began a shaft on section 15, and carried it to a depth of 65 feet, when water prevented further progress with the means at command. In the winter of 1878 he opened another shaft, being assisted by an old miner, and reached a depth of 92 feet, when the shaft caved in.

For some time he continued his operations, starting a shaft in another place. But in spite of these and other attempts, which occasionally met encouraging indications, no ore in paying quantities has yet been discovered.

The town of Brownsville was organized May 11, 1858. The officers elected were: Supervisors, Frederick Gluck, chairman; James Ruddy, and Mr. Lynn; clerk, L. Holstein; assessor, Stephen Reynolds; collector, Jacob Reider; constables, Stephen Reynolds and Michael Brady; overseers of the poor, Edward Bogan and L. D. Selfridge.

BLACK HAMMER TOWNSHIP

The township of Black Hammer lies on the western boundary of the county. It is bounded on the north by Yucatan, on the east by Caledonia, on the south by Spring Grove, and on the west by Fillmore County. It is a full government township, with an area of 23,040 acres.

The surface in the southern part is generally rolling prairie, interspersed here and there with little groves of young timber. Riceford Creek enters the township in section 31, and winds its tortuous course in a northerly direction, to finally leave the town between sections 4 and 5. Along this stream the surface is more broken, with bluffs that extend up from 350 to 400 feet above the surface of the water below. On the top of the hills are level ranges, with a growth of brush and small oak timber, and this, when removed, leaves the land in a fair condition for cultivation.

The soil is a dark loam, mixed with clay, and capable of producing wheat and the other cereals. The sides of the bluffs are more or less covered with timber of different varieties, such as oak, elm and basswood, with an occasional red cedar clinging to a crevice in the rocks. The eastern and northeastern part of the town is also bluffy or broken, and covered with timber, which is originally owned by the farmers of Caledonia in ten and twenty acre lots, from which they procured fencing and fuel.

The appearances in the north part of the township indicate that this region was at one time the favorable rendezvous of a race that antedates our American chronology. Near Riceford Creek are the remains of what might have been fortifications, or perhaps constructions intended for some other use. They have been plowed over, and other eroding processes have been at work, and now some of them are well nigh obliterated. There is also in this vicinity a cave or cavern that may have been formed or modified by human hands. It has an entrance not unlike a door, four feet square, and extends a thousand feet or so, varying in height from five feet to six feet. At one time a gold coin was found in this cavern by Peter C. Carrier, a son of William Carrier, who disposed of it to James Vincent, of Houston village. It was about the size of a \$5.00 piece, but bore no intelligible inscription.

The first white man who came to the township with the view of locating was Ed. Stevens, who arrived from Cambridge, Wis., with his wife in the summer of 1852. He picked out a location in section 21, but on account

of the dry weather and scarceness of water, remained there only a few days, removing to a place in section 4, where there was a spring, and there he and his wife built a log house. In 1854 he sold his claim to Peter Carrier, Sr., and moved to a mill site he had found in Yucatan.

In March, 1853, the second pioneer of Black Hammer arrived, in the person of Torkel Aageson, a Norwegian, born in 1818, who had been two years in America, having lived awhile in Rock County, Wisconsin, and Winnishiek County, Iowa. He brought tools with him, with which he built a habitation of poplar poles, with a birch bark roof, where he lived alone, the only white man in town, except Stevens, who was several miles away to the north. During the first season he broke ten acres, which marked the beginning of agriculture in the town. He afterwards planted an orchard and gathered the first crop of apples ever raised in this section.

In June, 1853, other settlers arrived, including Knud Olsen Ike, with his three sons, Knud, John and Ole; Mr. Guttorm, and Jens Olsen Otterness, the two last mentioned of whom were still living on their original claims thirty years later.

Lars C. Findreng settled in section 21 in 1854. He died in 1873, when his son, Ole T., came into possession of the farm. Halver Olson came in 1853 and was a squatter on section 17. He moved west in the seventies. Another early settler was Christopher Ericson, who located in section 17.

The first death which occurred in the township was that of a daughter of Lars Skime, who died in 1854, and as a burial place a spot was designated on the farm of Torkel Aageson, on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 22, where about twenty interments were made prior to the establishment of the cemetery near the church. All indications of the spot having once been used as a burial ground, however, have long since disappeared.

The first birth in Black Hammer Township was that of Anna Maria Otterness, daughter of Guttorm Otterness, and occurred in the fall of 1853. She died in early womanhood.

The first town meeting was held in the schoolhouse in district 37, on April 5, 1859. The officers of the meeting were: Julius Billings, moderator; George Mitchell and O. W. Olson, judges, and Alexander Simpson, clerk. The meeting was called to order at ten o'clock. H. E. Solberg moved that the name of the town be "Clinton," and the motion prevailed. This name, however, was subsequently rejected by the state authorities, as there was already a town in the state by the same name. At this meeting resolutions were adopted permitting both hogs and dogs to run at large. Twenty-five votes were cast. The assessment for road tax was two days' work for each poll, and five mills per cent on real estate. The town was divided into six road districts, and the boundaries of each specifically defined. Three road overseers were appointed, William Carrier for the northern part, John McCabe for the southwest, and Christian Lamén for the southeast. At a town meeting on Dec. 31, 1863, it was voted that each volunteer soldier receive \$300 as a town bounty, and that the drafted men receive a like amount, payable in town orders.

Black Hammer Township is probably the only township thus named in

the country, unless some former residents may have bestowed it upon some newer settlement farther west. The name was derived in the following manner. Knud Olson Bergo, who was living just across the town line in Spring Grove, on getting up one morning saw that a fire had swept over the prairie in the south part of the township to the north, including a bluff which formed part of sections 27, 28 and 34. Its charred appearance at once suggested to his mind a certain bluff located in Slidre Valdres, Norway, which was Mr. Bergo's birthplace, and so he exclaimed in Norwegian, "Sort Hammer," which signifies "Black Bluff;" and the people have had the good sense to retain the name to this day, which, it will be perceived, is composed of an English and a Norwegian name. Mr. Bergo died many years ago and was buried in Spring Grove cemetery. In the early eighties his widow was living with her only daughter Mrs. Knud S. Nohre, near Riceford. The only son, Ole, removed to one of the western counties in the state.

The men from Black Hammer who early enlisted for service in the Civil War were assigned to Company F, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Their names, so far as can be learned, were: Hans O. Oleson and Chandler Flemming, who were killed at Nashville, Tenn.; Alvin Smith, who died at Memphis, Tenn.; Silas Carrier, who died at Ft. Snelling, Minn.; and Frank Brown, William Cooper, Silas J. Cooper, Henry Cooper and John Birdsell.

About Oct. 1, 1864, a number went into Company D, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. These were Tosten Johnson, Ole O. Ike, Andrew Christiansen, Ingvald Hansen, Ole O. Ose, John Anderson and John McCabe. Mr. McCabe was the only one who did not return. He left a widow and two children, who lost their lives in August, 1866 when their house, in section 29, was swept away by a flood.

A military company was organized in the town under the state laws during the war, and was duly officered and drilled. It numbered about 75 men, and had a band of three pieces, purchased by the town, and consisted of a fife, a snare drum, and a base drum. The headquarters of the company were at the schoolhouse in district No. 37. The officers were: Tosten Johnson, captain; George Mitchell, first lieutenant, and Lars Larsen, second lieutenant, with the usual non-commissioned officers.

CROOKED CREEK TOWNSHIP

(Reno and Freeburg Villages)

Crooked Creek is one of the eastern townships of Houston County and the second north of the Iowa line. It is somewhat smaller than a regular government township. Its eastern boundary line is formed by the western bank of the Mississippi River, while to the north lies the township of Brownsville, and a small part of Mayville; to the west Mayville and a part of Winnebago, and to the south Jefferson and Winnebago. Along the river, as in the other eastern townships, may be seen a chain

of rocky bluffs, partly covered with timber, and presenting a somewhat rugged and forbidding appearance. But this broken surface is characteristic of the entire township, which is made up chiefly of ridges with their intervening valleys. Both on the ridges and in the valleys the soil is good, and farming is extensively carried on. In the valleys are many springs of clear and wholesome water, and there are also many springs on the bluffs facing the river.

The land east of the Mississippi bluffs is marshy, and fit only for some varieties of timber and for hay. Oak, birch and maple are found throughout the greater part of the township.

Near the northwest corner of section 25, and opposite Fairy Rock, a branch of the Mississippi, known as Minnesota Slough, leaves the main stream, and flows south through sections 25, 35 and 2, and thence into Jefferson.

Entering the township from the west is Crooked Creek, which follows a tortuous easterly course until it empties into Minnesota Slough. This stream has several small affluents, one of which, flowing through a considerable valley, joins it from the southwest. Another starts from a spring in section 18, and flows in a general northeasterly direction. A spring in section 21 gives rise to another, which enters the creek near the south line of the same section, while still another little rivulet originates in a spring in section 29, and reaches the creek in the same section.

Clear Creek starts from a single spring on a farm in section 3, and runs northeast until it reaches Minnesota Slough, near the mouth of Crooked Creek. Since early days it has afforded excellent trout fishing.

On section 3 there was formerly a well defined mound, about 20 feet high and 150 feet long, but its cultivation, which began in the late seventies, has to a large extent obliterated its sharp outline.

Another natural curiosity in the township is that known as Fairy Rock, in section 23. This is a bluff in which is a cavern about 24 feet long, 10 feet wide and 7 feet high. The cavern is situated near the top of the bluff, 200 feet or so above the water. Its walls and ceiling are of sandstone, on which for the last 60 years or more visitors have inscribed their names. In pioneer days the place was used for a while as a residence by Charles Brown, of Brownsville.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway traverses the eastern part of the township, running north and south, and connecting at Reno with the Reno Preston branch of the same road, which runs westward, passing through the little village of Freeburg, thus affording good transportation facilities in various directions.

Reno, the junction point of the two branches, was formerly known as Caledonia Junction, and is situated on Minnesota Slough, in the eastern part of the town, 14 miles southeast of Caledonia and seven miles north of New Albin, Iowa. The western branch, which connects here, was constructed in 1879 as a narrow gauge road. Freight going west from the main line had to be transferred here, with much waste of time and labor. These inconveniences were obviated by the change to standard gauge, effected in 1901.

The first white settlement in Crooked Creek Township was made in June, 1852, by George Powlesland, who came up from Iowa, where he had been working on a farm, and made a claim in section 36. He made several trips back and forth, on his second arrival, in the fall, being accompanied by George Littlefield and William Oxford. Owing to the ravages of a prairie fire, he found difficulty in locating his claim, but finally found it and erected a small cabin with an earth floor and a single window, to which early in January of the following year, he brought his family. Mr. Littlefield and Mr. Oxford, who had gone back to Iowa after selecting claims, also returned in 1853, and in the spring the latter drove to and from Brownsville along an Indian trail, which he stopped to improve and which subsequently became the regular road between the two places. His first claim was in section 30, where the village of Freeburg is now located, and his first house was of logs with an elm bark roof, and the ground for a floor. Subsequently he entered a quarter of section 35, and also acquired other land.

When these pioneer settlers came, the nearest place for supplies was Lansing, 25 miles away, and the nearest mill was at Columbus, Iowa, about 40 miles distant. Mr. Oxford's first crop consisted of corn, turnips and buckwheat, to which he added pumpkins, exchanging his corn and pumpkins for venison, which he obtained from the Indians. Owing to the mill being so far away, the buckwheat was ground in a coffee-mill and sifted through Mrs. Oxford's green veil, similar expedients being familiar to all the early settlers in this and other regions.

The Indians above referred to belonged to the Winnebago tribe, and were probably straggling bands from the Turkey River reservation, where this tribe, or a part of it, had been sent after they had ceded their Wisconsin lands to the United States. They were always civil to the whites, who treated them with consideration. With the increase of the white population they became fewer, until they disappeared altogether, being unable to adopt civilized habits and hold their own in the presence of the superior race. One old Indian hunter used often to stop at Mr. Oxford's, and would quietly get up and go out at daybreak, and return with the steak of a deer to cook for breakfast.

The year 1854 witnessed the advent of several new settlers, including George F. Brenner, Thomas Eicher and Thomas Ryder. Mr. Brenner took a claim in section 32, and on August 6, the same year, the first wedding in the township occurred, that of George F. Brenner and Caroline B. Weideman. Mr. Ryder, who came here in August, afterwards lived for a while in Wisconsin and Iowa. He returned, however, to Crooked Creek, and became a prominent citizen here, at different times holding town office. The first birth in the township, however, was that of Mary Jane Oxford, which occurred May 24, 1854.

In 1855 John Palmer arrived and built a house on a ridge, where he made his permanent home. Two of the principal settlers in 1856 were John Muller and Patrick Graham, the former being accompanied by his sons. Mr. Muller started a homestead in section 3, while Mr. Graham located in section 18.

In the following year, 1857, George Schaller rendered a valuable public service by building the first grist mill in the township.

In 1858 occurred the first remembered death, that of a child of Mr. and Mrs. David Snyder.

Among the other pioneers who arrived during the first few years of settlement were Anthony Huyck, Thomas Bayne, Nicholas Roster and family, and Mr. Dean. Mr. Huyck showed his enterprise by acquiring land and making improvements, which he sold to actual settlers, including Mr. Roster, who secured a claim from him with a timber residence, 12 by 14 feet in size, and who also succeeded in obtaining 320 acres on or near the site of the present village of Freeburg. He died in 1872, while Mr. Dean, who went as a soldier in the Civil War, died in the army.

During the war a band of lawless characters, numbering some ten or twelve, established headquarters on the Mississippi lowlands, in section 36, and committed depredations up and down the river, and on both sides, living on their plunder. The place, which was known as Robbers' Roost, was finally raided, some of the men shot, some drowned, and others were sent to the Wisconsin state prison.

The organization of the township was effected on May 11, 1858, the officers chosen being as follows: George Powlesland, chairman; George Muller and Anthony Noel, supervisors; A. N. Pierce, clerk; William Powlesland, assessor; J. P. Schaller, treasurer; William Oxford, overseer of the poor; J. P. Schaller and Lawrence Duggan, justices of the peace; John Peryer and Nicholas Krauss, constables. At this meeting J. P. Schaller was moderator, and L. D. Churchill was clerk of election. The election was held at the mill, the total number of votes cast being 43.

Probably the first manufacturing industry in Crooked Creek Township was a broom factory, established by John Muller in 1856, the year he arrived here. It was located in section 27, where he operated it for five years, and then removed to section 3, where he and his sons, under the firm name of John Muller and Sons, built a factory, 16 by 32 feet and two stories high, and continued the industry, turning out 4,000 brooms annually. The work was done during the winter season, the proprietors being engaged in farming during the summer.

The first grist mill was built, as elsewhere stated, by George Schaller, in the summer of 1857. Mr. Schaller operated the mill for eight or ten years, and then sold it to Nicholas Roster and J. P. Streif, who ran it for two years or more. It was then transferred to Michael Mander, who in turn disposed of it to Nicholas Roster, by whom it was operated until 1874, when he disposed of it to William Hill and J. M. Graf. The mill was burned in December, 1876, and rebuilt on the same site by Mr. Graf and Garret Hurley in the summer of 1877.

Freeburg is situated on the Reno-Preston division of the C., M. & St. P. Railway, in section 30 of the township. As elsewhere shown, some of the land forming its site, or in the immediate vicinity, was claimed by John Oxford, one of the earliest settlers in the township, and soon after Nicholas Roster, another pioneer, also located here.

HOKAH TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

Hokah is the second river township from the northern boundary of the county, lying south of La Crescent, having Mound Prairie and Union to the west, and Brownsville to the south, with the Mississippi River as the eastern boundary. The name of the township is of Indian origin, and was applied by the aborigines to Root River. According to tradition, it was also the name of a powerful Indian chief, whose village formerly stood on the beautiful spot now occupied by the village of Hokah.

Root River, which in early days, before the erection of mills on its banks, was readily navigable, enters the township from the west, near the southwest corner of section 36, and winds in a generally easterly direction through the northern half of the township until it empties into the Mississippi. At its point of entrance it divides into two streams, both of which run northeasterly, though at times several miles apart, until they unite in the southwestern corner of section 28. The river then takes a more northerly course until it touches the boundary line of La Crescent Township, after which it turns to the southeast and continues in that direction until it reaches its outlet. The valley of the river has here an average width of about two miles. Here and there the river is joined by other streams, the most important of which is Thompson's Creek, which is fed by springs, and furnishes a remarkably reliable water power.

The surface of Hokah closely resembles that of the other river townships in the county, having the usual bluffs facing the Mississippi, with interior valleys, ridges and plateaus, and in many places the scenery is very picturesque. In early days the bottom land was heavily timbered with black walnut, maple, oak and other hard woods, large quantities of which were cut and rafted down the river, and some of which was sawed in local mills.

It was this lumber that brought the first settlers, William Richmond and John Kreels, who in 1849 built a shanty on the banks of the Root River in section 34, and got out lumber to raft down the Mississippi River. They had a comfortable home but made no attempt to enter a claim.

The first permanent settler in the township was Edward Thompson, who arrived in the spring of 1851. Attracted by the fine water power, he staked out a claim, and in October brought his wife and family here, Mrs. Thompson for some time being the only white woman in the locality. With the assistance of John H. Steward he built a mill. Soon after his brother, C. W. Thompson, came and proved an active factor in the development of the community. Other early arrivals were Albert Blackinton and wife, Hiram Griffin, David House, who located in what is now Union Township; Fred Hammer, William Rielur and Jerry Jenks. Mr. Jenks was soon afterwards taken ill, and after some delay a doctor was procured from the Iowa River settlement, who gave the patient hydropath treatment, which was quite popular at the time, but it proved ineffective and the man died.

Butterfield Valley, south of the village, was first settled in 1853 by Hiram Butterfield, who came from Illinois and took a claim in section 8. He remained until about 1874, when he went to Oregon. John Densch, who arrived in 1854, was probably the first settler on the "Ridge." It is related

that he made the experiment of using for the roof of his log cabin a piece of sailcloth which he had brought from the East.

In 1852 William James settled on section 34, but two years later moved to section 5, where he died a few years later.

The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, the day on which many of the older towns in the county organized. The meeting, which was at the Hokah House in the village, was called to order by Clark W. Thompson. J. G. Prentiss was called to the chair, and L. S. Keeler was chosen moderator, with D. L. Clements as clerk. Seventy-two ballots were cast, and officers were elected as follows: Supervisors, C. W. Thompson, chairman; R. S. Wooley, and David House; clerk, D. L. Clements; assessor, S. E. Sneider; overseer of the poor, A. H. Davison; constables, Anthony Demo, Jr., and Henry Franklin; collector, Anthony Demo, Jr., justices of the peace, L. L. West and Lewis Pond. It was voted that all hogs found running at large after May 20 should be liable to a fine of one dollar each. It was also resolved that "a fence four and a half feet high, and with not less than four rails, not over eighteen inches from the ground, shall be a legal fence." On May 29 overseers for road districts were appointed. At a meeting April 5, 1864, it was voted, 29 to 23, that the town should pay a bounty of \$100 to each of those who might enlist in the army before the first of September.

Attracted here, as he was, by the water power, Mr. Thompson, in 1852, put up a sawmill. The dam, as first constructed, secured the enormous fall of 36 feet, the pressure of which, however, proved too great, so that just as the mill was ready to begin operations it gave way and started down stream. Though a hard blow to Mr. Thompson, he persevered, modified his plans, and reconstructed the dam, this time giving it a head of 25 feet, and in due time had his mill in motion. It had a Muley saw and could cut 5,000 feet of hardwood lumber in a day. In 1853 his brother, C. W. Thompson, came into the concern and put up a grist mill. Afterwards he started a furniture factory, which for a time did a good business.

A. M. Thompson and S. J. Prentiss started a plow factory. The plow manufactured was of steel and a very good implement, but the factory was finally sold, and one of the flouring mills afterward resulted. The manufacture of brick was later carried on in the western part of the town by W. F. Weber, and some were also burned near the railroad shops. In 1869 William M. Wykoff started a foundry, which did mostly railroad work.

To preserve the waterpower at Hokah, Mr. Thompson achieved a notable construction, starting work in 1866. He placed his head gates in the old channel at the upper railroad crossing, using the old bed between the two railroad crossings. From thence he excavated a canal six feet deep, fifty feet wide and 1,500 to 1,800 feet long through the bottoms to the mouth of Thompson's Creek, which was used as a tail race to the mills. In the construction of the foundation, there was used some 1,500 cords of timber and some 500 cords of stone. On top of this was placed the dam, consisting of crib work planked with three-inch plank. Then the whole dam was covered with stone, making a crossing from twenty to fifty feet wide.

Hokah Village is the head and heart of the town. It is most charmingly situated on a ridge in a crescentic form, reached by a not very abrupt

incline from the northeast. The principal business street is along this ridge, with a slope to the north and on to the Root River valley, and to the south into Lake Como. While the village overlooks the scenery all around, there is, in the not remote distance, a series of peaks on every side, arising with almost Alpine sharpness of outline, and only wanting in altitude the character of mountain scenery, and to one who has never been beyond the confines of a prairie country, a sudden transition to this spot would be a realizing of the poet's and the artist's dream.

Its earliest years were full of promise, and it was flourishing and building up with great rapidity, when the panic of 1857, caused by the failure of the Ohio Loan & Trust Company, of New York, dealt it a severe blow, from which it did not recover until after the Civil War.

Then better times began, when, in 1866, the Southern Minnesota Railroad began operations. The next year the splendid railroad shops were built, Edward Thompson being the master mechanic, and the village began to revive. The streets took on a more businesslike aspect, new mills were put up, and old ones remodeled, and everything seemed to conduce to the permanent growth and prosperity of the place. Thus it went on until June, 1880, when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Company got possession of the railroad, the car shops were broken up, and the workmen scattered, and the business interests of the place were speedily reduced to a point beyond which they were long in advancing. When the catastrophe came there were here, in addition to the railroad shops, four first-class flouring mills, with their elevators and cooper shops, giving employment to scores of men, besides a number of stores and small shops of various kinds.

Hokah was constituted an independent village by an act of the Legislature of the State, approved on March 2, 1871. The first election was in May following. S. J. Prestiss and E. H. Keeler were the election judges. The first officers chosen were: Trustees, H. H. Bowdish, John F. Russell and William Wightman. Mr. Bowdish was president of the board; justice of the peace, David House; treasurer, W. F. Weber; constables, Oliver P. Sprague and H. L. Dunham. A corporate seal was procured, and the village set up for itself as an independent municipality.

HOUSTON TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

Houston township lies on the northern tier of townships, being the third from the Mississippi River. On the north lies Winona county, while on the east is Mound Prairie township, on the south Sheldon and Yucatan, and on the west Money Creek and Yucatan. It is made up of parts of three government townships. On the southwest its outline is irregular, owing to a considerable tract, containing five whole sections and parts of three other sections, that projects out to the westward like a somewhat blunt wedge driven between the townships of Money Creek and Yucatan. Aside from this parallelogram with its greatest length running from north to south. Its arrangement is such that it takes in the valleys of the water courses consisting of the Root River and its South Fork, and Silver Creek,

a branch coming down from the north to unite with Root River near the eastern boundary of the town. The navigation of the river was cut off at an early date by the erection of mills and bridges, and later by the diminishing of the water supply. The new drainage ditch, however, has deepened the channel, making a pleasant route for launches, row boats and canoes.

The projecting sections on the west, give Houston township in its southern part a width of eight miles, while its width above the two southern tiers is four miles, and its length from north to south seven miles. The river enters the township in its most western section, and flows easterly through the southern part, passing just to the north of Houston village. Its valley takes the name of the river, while that of Silver Creek is known as Looney Valley, being thus named after one of the early settlers. The South Fork of Root River enters the main stream in section 34, just east of Houston village, coming from Sheldon township. The valley of the South Fork is known as Swede Bottom, as most if not all of its early settlers were natives of Sweden. Along these principal valleys there are roads leading to the village, which is thus rendered easy of access from all parts of the township.

The soil in the valleys is of a peculiar richness, consisting of a dark, clayey loam, and as the surface is usually level or slightly rolling, these valley lands furnish many ideal locations for farms, which have been long established, especially near the upper part of the streams where the best soil is found. A little way back from the streams the land frequently rises into considerable bluffs, which form the boundaries of elevated plateaus reaching back to the next valley. The ascent is usually abrupt and continues for several hundred feet, while the ridges are usually too narrow for successful cultivation, though here and there some good farms are found on them. On the river bottoms there was formerly in many places a large growth of good timber, such as oak, elm and walnut, and though it has since been greatly reduced in quantity there are many good groves and the hillsides are for the most part well wooded.

When the first white settlers arrived they found a band of Winnebago Indians living in a score or two of rude habitations situated on a bend in the river near the lower village.

The first white settler in Houston township is supposed to have been W. G. McSpadden, who arrived June 14, 1852, having tramped up the valley from La Crosse. He staked out eighty acres on the eastern part of the southeast quarter of section 33, just above the confluence of the South Fork of the Root River with the main stream, which was then easily fordable from the Mississippi. Having secured this choice location, he returned to La Crosse, where he operated a ferry, doing all he could to persuade passing immigrants to locate in the Root River settlement. For two years he came and went, dividing his time between the two places, and then took up his permanent residence here, though not on his original claim. On his second visit he brought with him a Norwegian named Ole Knudson, who took a claim of 160 acres adjoining Mr. McSpadden's on the east and erected a shanty which was afterwards found to be in section 34 on Mr. McSpadden's land, and which in time developed into a store.

A number of other settlers came in 1852, including Walter Webster, who settled on the southwestern part of section 33, but sold out the next year to David Johnson. The latter made improvements and built a block-house, but later left the county. Lars Johnson, a Swede, in 1853 bought 160 acres of David Johnson, to the west of the latter's place. E. K. Dwyer, Charles Case and William Webster were early settlers, Mr. Case selling out to T. H. Conniff. A few others secured locations in the valley, and the place became known as "The Forks."

In Looney valley the earliest settler was Henry Hyatt, who arrived in 1852, and located on the eastern branch of Silver Creek. He expected to secure other lands for his sons and relations, but as they did not arrive, he soon left. While he was still here John S. Looney arrived with three sons and put up a shanty on section 27. He was an energetic man who had been to the lead mines of Galena and also spent some time at La Crosse; but after remaining here six years he left for Dubuque, whence he went to Illinois. His sons all secured land in the vicinity, but James left about the same time as his father. Abraham and Corydon spent most of their time on the Mississippi River, Abraham finally settling in Winona, and Corydon going to the Pacific coast. This family gave the name to the valley.

Charles Gainer came with the Looneys, taking land in section 23, where he remained until the others had left. A. B. Hunt, Isaac Thompson and Adam Coon became permanent residents. Mr. McSpadden established a valuable water-power on Silver Creek. In 1853 Samuel Cushon located on section 25 in the western part of the township. Near his place stands a high solitary peak, formerly a landmark for travelers, which was named Cushon Peak. This settler, however, left in 1854, selling his land to Mr. Hendrickson.

In section 31 is an Indian mound where in former days the remains of an Indian chief of some distinction was buried. The body was found by the early settlers sitting on this elevation, supported by some stakes driven into the ground and a wolf-proof pen built over him. For years the Indians were accustomed to visit the spot and show their respect by leaving offerings of tobacco or some other present supposed to be acceptable to the deceased. The tomb was finally demolished, the chief's skull coming into possession of an ethnologist, who found that it indicated a good mental development. William Butterfield, who had taken a claim in section 31, and who died in July, 1854, was buried on the spot. A few years later, during the war, a Fourth of July celebration was held there and a liberty pole planted.

In 1853 a Swedish settlement was started on the east bank of the South Fork of Root River, from which the place derived the name of Swede Bottom. The pioneers of this movement were John and Abraham Anderson, Ole Benson, his son, C. A. Benson, Lars Redding and others. While still in their native land they had seen an account of the Root River valley which was published in a Swedish paper and which had caused their emigration to the locality.

During the same year many others located near the "Forks," among the

early arrivals being John Moore, Thomas Hogarty, Lawrence Lynch, Harvey McAdams, Albert Olson, H. T. Strafford and Morris Farmin.

As nearly as can be ascertained the first birth in the township was that of Jennie, daughter of David and Johanna Johnson, and took place in January or February, 1854. She died when ten or twelve years old near Red Wing, this State.

The first death, it is said, was that of Abraham Anderson, who passed away in August, 1853, soon after his arrival here. He was an old man of 73 years, and was buried in a mound in section three. Other deaths were those of Mr. Butterfield, previously mentioned, and of Augusta Johnson, a sister of David Johnson, an unmarried girl of twenty years, who was accidentally shot in her brother's house in 1854.

The earliest marriage of which any record has been found was that of Ole Benson and Mrs. Sarah Anderson, who were united at the house of Lars Johnson on the western part of Houston village.

The first business of the pioneers was to produce something to eat for themselves and families, and it was several years before they had sufficient land cultivated to raise anything for the outside market. The first crop they raised for sale was wheat, the land producing thirty or more bushels to the acre. But in time the crop grew less and more attention was paid to corn and other products, with satisfactory results.

A ferry across the Root River was established in 1858, on section 30. It was a rope ferry with a self-propeller, consisting of a lateral wing so arranged that the current would carry it over in whatever direction the boat was headed. This contrivance was later abandoned and muscular power resorted to as a substitute. Still later a bridge was erected.

The earliest manufacturing enterprise in the township was undoubtedly a sawmill, which was built in 1855 by W. G. McSpadden on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 23. It stood on the bank of Silver Creek, at a point where there was a fine undeveloped water-power of twelve feet head, an advantage Mr. McSpadden had previously noticed. By 1856 he had the mill in operation. It was furnished with an old fashioned vertical-frame saw, driven directly by a crank connection with a flutter-wheel, and could run through 1,000 feet of inch boards in a day. Eli Baker bought an interest in the mill, but soon resold to Mr. McSpadden, who ran it alone for a time. It was afterwards operated by different persons up to the close of the war, when it was finally shut down as a sawmill.

In 1865-66 Mr. McSpadden put up a flouring mill at the old saw mill dam, securing about 17 feet fall. This mill was 30 by 40 feet, two stories high, with a basement, and was provided with a turbine wheel. It did good work until 1874, when it was swept away by a flood. With characteristic enterprise, Mr. McSpadden at once put up another and a superior mill of the same dimensions, providing it with three run of stones, with an oat meal attachment. It was driven by an improved turbine wheel under a 20-foot head, and had a capacity of 50 barrels a day. This mill was finally destroyed by fire in December, 1878. It was known as the Wakefield Flouring Mill.

About 1867 a sawmill was started about one mile east of Houston village, on the South Fork of Root River in section 34, and was completed two years later by E. W. and Charles Hoyt. In 1871 the property was bought by N. A. Redding, who improved it. The mill had a circular saw and could turn out about 3,000 feet a day. In 1875 Mr. Redding commenced the erection of a flouring-mill adjoining the sawmill. The new structure was 30 by 40 feet, two stories in height, and had two run of stones, with a capacity of 30 barrels a day. It had a head of six feet, the power being transmitted by a turbine wheel. In 1879 a run of feed stones was put in, and the establishment was run as a custom mill, under the name of the Redding Flouring and Saw Mill.

Another early industrial enterprise was established in 1867 or 1868, a shop being put up on the farm of Charles Smith on section 36, in the western part of the town. It was furnished as a blacksmith shop, but after a while an engine and turning-lathe were put in, converting the establishment into a machine shop, which was conducted by Simeon Todd. In 1872 Mr. Todd and Mr. Smith erected a saw mill, with a good sized steam-engine for power, which operated a reciprocating saw. After two years the enterprise was abandoned and some of the machinery sold, the rest being left along the roadside to take care of itself.

Another enterprise started by W. G. McSpadden was an amber cane syrup manufactory. For this purpose he procured a plantation cane crusher, with a capacity of 200 gallons of syrup a day, and this was connected with an overshot waterwheel, utilizing the old dam. He also put in a large Cook evaporator.

About four or five years after the earliest settlers had staked out their claims, the impulse of speculation caused the laying out of a number of town sites, of which much was expected. Not only was the original village of Houston started, but also a number of other hamlets.

One was in Looney Valley. A townsite company was organized by Messrs. Looney, Hunt and Wilson, and a tract of forty acres was set aside, surveyed and platted by Isaac Thompson in 1857. A postoffice, called Looneyville had been established in 1855, with D. D. Wilson as postmaster. The proposed village was located at the cross roads in the center of the west half of the northwest of section 26, and the east half of the northeast of section 27, twenty acres lying north of the east and west road and ten acres on either side of the north and south road.

In 1855 a store had been opened by Corydon Looney, with about a wheelbarrow full of goods. D. D. Wilson, who soon succeeded to the proprietorship of this mercantile emporium, materially increased the stock, and in 1856 erected a large log building. He later put up a frame building which served the double purpose of store and residence. In 1858 the business was closed out and Mr. Wilson went to Money Creek. He was an enterprising and public spirited citizen, and afterwards served his fellow citizens as state representative.

As for the village itself, the only evidence of it in after years were the corner lot stakes which the mowing machines occasionally encountered. The postoffice was discontinued in 1858.

Soon after Looneyville had been mapped out, another town site company sprang into existence, among the projectors of which were Messrs. Snow, Looney, Riley, Polleys, and Harvey Gillett. The site selected was south of Looneyville, on the southeast of section 27, and the northeast of 34. Its founders were satisfied that the railroad, which had already been projected, would pass through it on that side of the river, but it was finally built on the other side. The city was duly platted and recorded under the name of St. Lawrence, and for a long time the land was assessed as city property.

Houston Village had its beginning in 1856, when W. G. McSpadden platted a townsite on his farm which he called Winfield, in honor of Gen. Winfield Scott. It was located on the east eighty of the southwest quarter of section 33.

A practical beginning was made by the establishment of a blacksmith shop by Henry Wilson. A place of refreshment was also opened. In the same section, west of this plat, an effort was made to start a hamlet known as Crookston.

The west half of the southwest quarter of section 34 was owned by Ole Knudson, together with a small strip on section 33. West of this there was a tract of 160 acres taken by David Johnson, a Swede, in 1853, and west of this, 160 acres was taken by Lars Johnson. Both subsequently sold to Mons Anderson of La Crosse. David Johnson's claim was originally taken by William Webster, who sold it in 1853 for \$30. On this tract grew up the village of Houston.

When the Southern Minnesota Railroad was laid through here, Mr. Anderson gave 70 acres of land, and thus secured the station, which caused the removal of the village to the new location. This removal began early in the autumn of 1866, being started by Andrew Forsyth. The original village "Old Houston," or "Lower Houston," was soon practically deserted, so far as business interests were concerned.

The first regular store in Houston was opened by Ole Knudson in 1854. He brought his goods up from La Crosse on a keel-boat, which he owned, and with which he also did a transportation business. In 1858 Mr. Brown started a second store, which he operated for a year. Isaac Abrahamson also opened a store in 1858, which he stocked with about \$500 worth of goods, purchased from Mons Anderson, for whom he had worked in La Crosse. A blacksmith shop was started by Peter Erickson in 1856. In the following year Mr. Hoyt opened a hotel, and in 1858 another hotel was started by Lawrence Lynch. At one time a ship-yard was in active operation near the bridge, and quite a number of steamers were built.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

Jefferson Township has the honor of having been the first settled township in Houston County, the vanguard of the pioneers arriving here in 1847. It occupies the southeast corner of the county, and also of the state of Minnesota. The northern tier of sections in the original survey was

taken to help make up Crooked Creek Township, but the loss of these was compensated for by the additions of several sections on the east, extending to the Mississippi.

The eastern portion of the township presents the characteristic topographical features of the lands on the western bank of the Mississippi in this region. There are numerous sloughs extending for two or three miles inland, the intervening land being merely a mass of swampy alluvium, some of which has not yet been utilized. Back of this are ridges, bluffs, dunes, and conical shaped hills, with the intervening ravines. The greatest ravine in the township is that formed by the Winnebago River, which comes in from the west, entering by section 30, then flowing through 29 and 28, then tortuously in 27, turning south through 34, and finally emptying into a slough in the eastern part of section 35. This depression has several branches both on the north and south sides, between which are table lands of greater or less width. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad skirts the inner sloughs up and down the river, which for about two miles opposite the town is nearly a mile wide, but in section 29 narrows to less than 80 rods. A number of good springs are found, occurring mostly on the points of the bluffs near the river. In section 28 near the Catholic church, is a particularly fine spring, which in early days was so large that it was thought to furnish enough power to run a factory.

The bluffs back of the sloughs rise several hundred feet, and on their summits are some small but good farms. Along the valley, which is comparatively narrow, the soil is a rich loam. Some of the bottom lands near the river, where not timbered, furnished perennial crops of wild meadow grass, utilized for hay. The varieties of soil throughout the township are not unlike that near the river. There is timber and prairie, ravine and ridge land, forming a picturesque landscape, devoid of monotony and pleasing to the eye.

When the state line between Iowa and Minnesota, west from the Mississippi, was surveyed, no suitable place could be found to plant the iron monument designed to mark the boundary, until reaching a spot about three miles from the river, when it was placed on the line in the center of section 35. This spot is the first high ground west of the river. This line post is an obelisk of cast iron, half an inch thick, and standing five feet eight inches above ground. It is twelve inches square at the base and tapers to seven at the top. The lettering and figures are cast upon the monument, the north side bearing in a vertical line, like the characters on each side, the word, "Minnesota;" on the south side, "Iowa," on the west, "Lat. 43 degrees 30 minutes," and on the east, "1849." It was not, however, until several years after the date thus inscribed that the post was brought up the Mississippi River by a surveying party, landed at the nearest point, and with great difficulty, hauled by oxen to the spot.

The men who started the ball of civilization rolling in Jefferson Township, and, incidentally, in the county, were John and Samuel Ross, two brothers, who arrived here on a steamboat from Galena in 1847, and disembarked at a point on the west bank of the river, whence they proceeded

to select places of settlement. With the help of the Indians they erected cabins and began pioneer work, being engaged for the most part in lumbering. On the survey of the state line in 1849, Samuel, whose location was some distance to the south of John's, found that his cabin was in the state of Iowa. Several years later he sold out to John, and resided at Ross's Landing, the site of Jefferson Village, and continued logging, running his timber down to Galena. Soon after the Rosses came a man named Smith, located a claim in the vicinity, but a little later sold it to a Norwegian who arrived, accompanied by his wife. These latter settlers had not been there long, when some one calling at their cabin, found that the man had been dead for four days, and that his wife was too sick to get up from his side. The two Rosses gave the body decent burial under an oak tree near the spring, and one of them took the woman to Lansing, where she was lost sight of. Patrick Collins, who arrived in the township in May, 1854, became a permanent settler, establishing in section 30. John Cauley and family came the same year and it was about the same time that Thomas Brady, Patrick Donahue, Patrick McCue, D. Friney, and Daniel Kennedy arrived. Michael Crowley, who came from Louisville, Ky., died after living here a few years; his wife survived him until 1880. The first death in the town was probably that of their son Patrick, who was drowned in September, 1854. While taking some oxen to water he was crowded by them over a high bluff, and although soon taken from the water, all efforts to resuscitate him proved unavailing.

Robert Kenny, who was prominent among the early settlers of Jefferson Township, was born in Kilkenny County, Ireland, in 1835, and came to America with his parents when ten years old. He came to this township with his brother Thomas in the spring of 1854. In May, 1861, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Kirby, a widow, who had long been a resident of Dubuque County, Iowa. He resided in various places until 1872, when he moved to New Albin, where he built a house. For some years, while living in Houston County, he was quite prominent in local politics, but later gave his attention solely to business matters, and had a successful career. His wife died in April, 1879, and was buried in the Jefferson Catholic cemetery.

Another pioneer settler of Jefferson township was Peter McDonald, a native of Canada, who came to the township with his brother, Ensign, in October, 1855. For a number of years they had resided in New York, and in July, 1852, Peter had been married in Waterbury, this state, to Catherine McMullen. The day after arriving here he took a claim in section 7, his brother, who had been here the season before, taking one in section 28. After the arrival of Mr. McDonald's family in the following spring, he moved to section 34, where he established a permanent home. In May, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war.

The first births in the township of which there are any record were those of Michael and Patrick Donahue, twin sons of Patrick Donahue. They were born in July, 1856. As already seen, the early settlement of the township was not effected without an occasional sad event occurring. To

one of these James Mahlon fell a victim. He resided with his sister, Mrs. Hughes, and in December, 1855, started to go to Brownsville to do some trading, but, taking the wrong track, became lost in a severe snowstorm. His remains were not recovered until the following spring. He was at first buried in town, but afterwards his remains were disinterred and transferred to a place in or near Brownsville. His sister died quite suddenly while on a visit to friends in Wisconsin, and her remains were brought here and buried in the Catholic cemetery. Her son, John, subsequently resided for many years on the old place in section 27.

In early days there were three markets generally used by the settlers on the township, the first one patronized being a place called Victory, in Wisconsin, which was reached in the summer time by crossing the river in skiffs. The others were Brownsville and Lansing, each about 15 miles distant.

The organization of Jefferson township took place in 1858. At the first election, held at the residence of Patrick Donahue, Robert Kenny, John Ross and Patrick Donahue were chosen as supervisors, Mr. Kenny being chairman. As available men were scarce, it was found necessary to double some of the offices. Thus, Alex. Durkee was made both clerk and constable, John Ross was assistant clerk and treasurer, Patrick Donahue was road master as well as supervisor, and Robert Kenny and Michael Brady were elected justices of the peace. It is not recorded that any of the town fathers were overworked, and matters ran along quite smoothly for the first year. It was not long, however, before friction developed, even in that thinly settled community. In the following year, 1859, Robert Kenny was again elected chairman of the board, and on the last day allowed by law presented his bond, with John Ross for his surety. It seems that the clerk wished a relative of his to have the place, and persuaded the other supervisors to name him to fill what he alleged was a vacancy. Mr. Kenny, not being willing to surrender his rights, the matter was referred to the district court, then presided over by Judge Donaldson. Mr. Kenny engaged Hon. Daniel Norton, state senator, as counsel. The result of the affair was that the clerk was required to accept the bond as tendered, and Mr. Kenny was declared the lawfully constituted chairman of supervisors.

The village of Jefferson grew up on the site of Ross's Landing, named after John Ross, whose settlement here has been already recorded. For a number of years he was the only continuous resident in the locality. In the fall of 1868 Anton Eck arrived and started a hotel, or tavern, on a slough about three-quarters of a mile north of the state. He, too, was a resident here for many years. Soon after him came James Callihan, who also opened and kept a hotel. In the fall of the next year, 1869, Lewis Hayes located here and erected a large building, the lower story of which was arranged for a store and the upper one for a dwelling. Mr. Hayes was a native of Vermont, who had come west to Lansing, Iowa, in 1852. He had married Sophia Smith, who had been living in Baraboo, Wis., and whose father, Isaac D. Smith, a native of the state of New York, came to Jefferson township at the same time, in the fall of 1869.

The land on which the village was laid out was bought of William Robinson by William and R. P. Spencer, and was surveyed and recorded as a village plat. William Robinson built a warehouse for storing grain, and was for several years in that trade. In the same fall Mr. Hayes rented his store to John Robinson and Mr. Tartt, who opened it and continued in trade for several years. After that James took the store and ran it for about a year, when he closed out, which wound up merchandising here.

What the future of the village would have been but for an unfortunate dispute with the railroad company, is a matter for conjecture. The company had started to construct its line, when a dispute arose between it and the village on the subject of damages, to which some of the citizens thought themselves entitled. The case went to the supreme court, and in 1873 the company finally built their tract by the water's edge, but erected no station. Instead of doing so, they started the rival village of New Albin, which for a few years had a rapid growth, absorbing what little life had been infused into Jefferson, which fell into a moribund condition. The latter place was in time honored by a water tank, put up for the company's own convenience. In the early eighties it had but a few residents, who were engaged mostly in fishing, some cultivating small gardens at the base of the bluffs. The fishing industry assumed considerable proportions, immense seines being used, and sometimes 50,000 pounds being taken at one haul. Indeed, there is a story, still vouched for by the older residents, that about Christmas, 1879, a haul of nearly 100,000 pounds was secured. The principal varieties of fish thus landed were sheepshead, white bass, buffalo, pickerel, pike, and often enormous catfish, weighing 40 or 50 pounds each. As to New Albin, after some ups and downs, it is now a place of considerable importance, and is patronized as a market town by the farmers of the adjacent territory.

As a proof that literary ambition was not lacking among the early settlers of Jefferson, and that even the higher flights of poetical composition was sometimes attempted, even in regard in matters of a prosaic and practical kind, the following effusion, which was received by one of the early county auditors, E. W. Trask, is herewith reproduced from an earlier publication:

“Notice is hereby given, that Jefferson John,
On the 9th day of March, thereabouts or thereon,
Was duly elected to an office of trust,
And by law is equipped to rake in the dust
That is coming or due to Jefferson Town,
From a five hundred note to a dollar bill down.
His oath and his bonds are duly on file,
And ready for action in case he'd beguile
The good town of Jefferson of its tin;
John Murphy is treasurer, so be it, Amin.”
“Given under my hand, March's 31st day,
And the very same eve I sent it away.
A. D. 1880, at the gloaming or dark,
Sic Semper Tyranis; M. Crowley, Town Clark.”

LA CRESCENT TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

La Crescent is the most northeasterly township in Houston County, and contains about 27 sections. It is bounded on the north by Winona County, on the east by the Mississippi River, on the south by Hokah township, and on the west by Mound Prairie township. Just across the river lies the flourishing city and busy railroad center of La Crosse. From the Mississippi the bottom lands extend well back into the township. Pine Creek flows diagonally through a characteristic valley from the northwest corner, and empties into Target Lake, a body of water in the southeast corner, about three-quarters of a mile long and half as wide. The stream is fed almost exclusively by springs from the hillsides. In the southwestern part of the township there is a high ridge extending from Pine Creek Valley to that of Root River, but with ravines penetrating it at various points. The best farming land is in the valleys, which are exceptionally healthful. The ridges were settled later by German immigrants who found the strong clay soil capable of producing good crops.

The civilization of the township began with the coming of Peter Cameron in 1851. He was a native of New York who had come west at an early age, and had become a fur trader, for a time making his headquarters at Chicago, and later operating on the Mississippi. In 1842 he settled at La Crosse, where he did some lumbering and improving. Crossing the river in the spring of 1851, he built a large double log house in section 10, also acquiring 240 acres of land, and 300 acres more along the river. He did what he could to promote the building of a village, and in the spring of 1854 he and D. Richardson started a store in the Cameron house, putting in several hundred dollars' worth of goods, Mr. Richardson attending to the customers. In 1855 Mr. Cameron returned to La Crosse, where he died July 30, 1855, while erecting a saw mill. Mr. Cameron was a man of restless energy and vast conceptions, but had so many different interests that some of them perforce were left uncompleted at the time of his death. Among other things, it was his ambition to establish a city on the western bank of the river that should rival La Crosse, and even pass it in the race for supremacy, and to that end he began the construction of a canal from the river to the land available for a site. This canal began at the river in the lower part of section 13 and terminated near the center of section 14, at a point in Pine Creek where a fragmentary lake or slough makes well up to the first terrace. Though the lake is quite shoal in places, the bottom is soft, and it was thought that the passage of the steamers would deepen and preserve a channel. One steamer, 150 feet in length, was built in La Crosse, and launched, but owing to Mr. Cameron's death, the machinery was never put in, and the enterprise was abandoned.

In 1852, the year after Mr. Cameron's arrival, Thor Halverson, a Norwegian, made his appearance and settled in section 3. Though working away from home most of the time, at wood chopping and other occupations, he maintained his residence here until 1881, from time to time selling land, some of which was in the village.

In the same year, 1852, some immigrants started what was known

as the Pine Creek Settlement, on Pine Creek, in the northwestern part of the township. Among them was Samuel Hooper, whose cabin was built on the county line, so that one-half of it was in Winona County. He stayed, however, but two years, and his place passed into other hands.

In October, 1852, William Meyers started to improve a claim in section 6, but in the next year moved farther north in the same section, where he established a farm on which he died in 1873.

Another settler that year in the same section was F. Duren, who began improvements, but left in 1855 for Winona County. It is said that to escape the draft during the Civil War, he returned to his native Germany.

Henry Wetgen also came in the summer of 1852 and started a farm in section 6, on which he lived for nearly twenty years. In October, 1853, he and his wife, Margaret Anna, had a daughter born to them, whom they named Christiana, and who afterwards became the wife of G. Baden, of Hokah. It is thought that this birth may have been the first in the township; it was, in any case, one of the earliest. Mr. Wetgen died in 1871, leaving his wife and two children, who kept up the property.

Section 6 received another in July, 1853, Johannes Tuininga, a native of Holland, locating in the southwestern corner. He proved a permanent settler and was still living there in the early eighties. At an early day, when physicians were scarce on the west side of the river, his wife was bitten by a rattlesnake. Having no money, he supposed it impossible to procure a physician, and so, in considerable agitation, he proceeded to apply the only domestic remedy of which he had heard. With a ton and a half of hay he had bought four fowls, and had raised twenty-four chickens. These he killed one after another, and laying them open, applied them in turn to the bitten part, but without any alleviation of the symptoms. While the family were in despair, a stranger was seen coming up the road. He was informed of the emergency and asked if he were not a physician, though Mr. Tuininga, honestly enough, told him beforehand that he had no money to pay one. The gentleman, who was H. M. Rice, of St. Paul, was not a physician, but he gave Mr. Tuininga \$10 and told him to go for one at once. The doctor arrived and Mrs. Tuininga recovered. Mr. Tuininga never forgot this act of kindness, and when, years afterwards, he saw Mr. Rice's name on a ticket at the polls for Governor, he voted the straight ticket of that party for the only time in his life.

Martin Cody, an Irishman, staked a claim in section 8, in 1853, arriving in the township July 30, the day after Mr. Tuininga. After living there a few years, he removed to the village, where he remained, being still a resident some thirty years later, and then one of the oldest men in the township. After the arrival of these settlers, others came more rapidly, most of them remaining and establishing permanent homes.

The earliest death of which there is any record was that of Catharine, the two year old daughter of Detrich Day, in the fall of 1854. The hardships of pioneer life were felt particularly by the young children of the early settlers, and the severity of the seasons, frequent lack of sufficient or suitable food, and difficulty of obtaining medical aid, caused many to perish in their early years. Those who survived infancy, however, usually grew

up strong and hardy, their vigor being due, after a good hereditary, to a life spent mostly in the open air with abundant exercise.

On May 11, 1858, a meeting was called to perfect the organization of the township. On motion of A. J. Anderson, O. T. Gilman was called to the chair as temporary chairman, and A. H. Brayton moved that J. C. Pennington be the moderator, which prevailed. On motion of G. F. Potter, O. T. Gilman was appointed clerk. At 10 o'clock the polls were opened, and when they closed at 5 p. m. it was found that 140 votes had been cast and the following officers elected: Supervisors, D. Cameron (chairman), S. Day and P. S. Taft; clerk, M. W. Wilcox; assessor, William R. Mercer; collector, C. F. Adams; justices of the peace, George F. Potter and J. Stewart; constables, S. K. Clow and John Anderson; overseer of the poor, Thomas Minshall; road overseers, D. Cameron, Fred Welch and M. Van Sickle.

During the latter part of the Civil War the township, in common with other communities, voted bounties to volunteer soldiers, a meeting being held March 30, 1864, at which the following resolution was presented by G. F. Potter:

"Resolved: That the supervisors and the town clerk of La Crescent be, and they are hereby instructed and required to issue township orders to the amount of \$200 for each volunteer who shall be duly accredited to the township of La Crescent, to and for a sufficient number of volunteers to fill the quota of said town, on the present and all future calls that may be made by the President of the United States for volunteers."

On the motion being put it was declared carried, with 59 in the affirmative and one in the negative. On the motion of George F. Potter, it was unanimously resolved that a special tax be levied to meet the obligations just incurred. Another special meeting of the board was called on Feb. 20, 1865, to confirm the action already taken, as a question had arisen as to whether the bounty would apply to subsequent calls. It was resolved to continue the bounty.

In 1863 an organization was effected called the "La Crescent Relief Club," to secure funds to pay enlisted men, that there might be no necessity for the dreaded draft. The sum of \$4,800 was raised and paid out in bounties at the rate of \$200 each to enlisted men. The amount, however, was returned by the township, so as to make an equitable burden upon the property holders.

A number of industrial enterprises secured an early start in various portions of the township. One of the earlier ones was a saw mill commenced in 1856 by Groff & Co. It was located on Pine Creek, in section 3, the power being secured by a dam thrown across the stream. The mill was 18 by 44 feet and two stories high, with a vertical saw propelled by a turbine wheel. It was completed and put into operation May 13, 1857, and developed a capacity of 1,000 feet of lumber a day. It was kept in more or less regular operation until about 1872, when it was sold to T. Casper. The building itself went to Hokah township, and the machinery beyond St. Cloud. The power was subsequently used by Groff & Co. to drive their flouring mill.

The Liganore flouring mill was built in 1859 not far from the old saw mill. As originally constructed it was 30 by 40 feet in ground dimensions,

with an attic above the second story. It had at first a single run of stones turned by a reaction wheel made by the owners of the mill, Groff & Co.

The Burton sawmill was constructed in 1857 on the southwest quarter of section 6, by D. Burton, and was furnished with two sash saws and had plenty of water from Pine Creek. At times it had too much and was finally almost destroyed. An attempt was made to move it to a more favorable location eighty rods down the stream, but the reverses had so nearly broken up the proprietor that the project was abandoned.

About the time that the Burton mill was erected, another saw mill was put up by Samuel Michael on a branch of the creek in section 1. It had a single saw set in motion by an overshot wheel. This mill also was frequently damaged by freshets, and almost as frequently changed hands, each new proprietor hoping for better luck than his predecessor; but in 1866 a greater flood than usual put it completely out of business.

The La Crescent flouring mill was built early in the seventies by D. J. Cameron on his farm in section 9, on Pine Creek. It was a two-story frame building, with four run of stones. A dam was constructed to secure a head of seven feet, but it was discovered that in order to maintain that amount the water was backed up to the race of the Toledo mill, and after a legal contest it was decided that the dam must be lowered two feet. The project was then abandoned.

The Toledo Woolen Mills started in 1865 when Thomas Fletcher and J. and N. Webster erected on Pine Creek, in the southeast quarter of section 6, a fine stone structure, three stories high, with a good basement, for the manufacture of yarns, flannels, blankets and kerseymeres. The machinery cost about \$8,000, and included one set of cards 48 inches in width, six looms, a jack with 264 spindles, with shearing, fulling, and other appliances. In 1878 M. Webster bought out Mr. Fletcher and his brother and became sole proprietor. The local trade was supplied in a retail way, and three men with teams were kept on the road to dispose of the goods manufactured.

In 1860 C. J. Laugenbach put up a flouring mill, with two run of stone, near where the woolen mill was subsequently erected. It did good work until the fall of 1864, when it was destroyed by fire and the woolen mill occupied the power.

The village of La Crescent came into being largely as the result of the great natural advantages afforded by its site. Just north of its location the river bluffs sweep back in a wide curve, approaching the river again about a mile to the south, thus forming a crescent-shaped basin, on the front of which lies the river bottom. Behind this is a terrace or bench, a pretty stretch of table land, and back of this another bench, of which the bluffs form the western boundary.

With such advantages, it became the haunt of man. The Mound Builders here left the curious earthworks which proclaim their one-time presence.

Excavations have revealed the presence of ashes, bones, shells, broken pottery and other debris. The more modern Indians also found here a favorite camping place.

It was here that Peper Cameron, as already mentioned, built, in 1851, the double log house in which, in 1854, D. Richardson started a store.

Among the settlers who were attracted here who became conspicuous in the early history of the village were the members of the Gillett family. This family consisted of Mrs. Mary Gillett, a widow, her four sons, the two eldest of whom were named Harvey and William, and a daughter. They had come to La Crosse from Ohio, and having caught the small pox, and in some way lost their money, they found themselves in the pest house, entirely destitute. On arriving here they took the northeast quarter of section 10, the claim being entered in the mother's name, as the sons were unmarried. The two brothers took the first steps towards the platting of the village site, the first plat consisting of about forty acres on the southwest of the northeast of section 10. Having procured some oxen, during the following winter the Gilletts got out logs and cord wood, and afterwards broke up some land. The place was called Manton, and this part of the village still bears this name on the records. After the first plat had been made the sale of lots commenced, all the promoters being thoroughly imbued with the belief that their activities were the first steps in the founding of a great city.

In the fall of the same year, 1855, Col. William R. Mercer, of La Crosse, came over and built a hotel, the site chosen being that subsequently occupied by the La Crescent hotel, on the crest of the bench on Mississippi avenue. It was run by him for about two years. A general store was soon after started by John A. Anderson from Ohio, who erected a building, and in the same year Charles Sperry opened a blacksmith's shop. The Gilletts did a good business in selling lots until the spring of 1856, when, or soon after, they sold out, and retired in good circumstances to La Crosse, from there going to Hastings, where they made a permanent home.

The next promoters of the townsite of La Crescent were the members of the Kentucky Company. This company was organized in the spring of 1856 at Louisville, Ky., the principal original members being Jared Boyle, J. M. Bryant, Charles S. Waller, Thomas McRoberts and E. Randolph Smith.

The object of this company was to establish a city in the upper Mississippi valley. Making a thorough survey of the situation, they came to the conclusion that circumstances were favorable for the growth of a great city on the west bank of the Mississippi, near the southeast corner of what was then the Territory of Minnesota.

The townsite of La Crescent appeared to them to be ideal. Therefore they purchased the Gillett interests and thus became the possessors of all the site except the lots already sold or reserved. The whole tract was then laid out into lots and placed on the market, the corner lots being reserved for future use.

Backed by prominent men, and widely heralded throughout the country at a time when prices were inflated and townsites a popular speculation, the lots found a ready sale, many prominent men, especially in Kentucky, becoming heavy holders. Such men as George D. Prentiss, of the Louisville Courier; Will Bross of the Chicago Tribune; Gen. John C. Breckenridge; George B. McGoffin, afterward war governor of Kentucky; Henry Walter, of Chicago; John G. Allen, St. Louis; Col. A. G. Hodges, Louisville, Ky.;

A. H. Bowman, Lexington, Ky.; G. A. Rockwell, and many others, purchased lots and were enthusiastic friends of the scheme.

In June of the year of organization, 1856, the principal stockholders visited the site of their new village. At a meeting held at the Tremont House, in La Crosse, these stockholders decided upon the present name.

In the days of Peter Cameron the place was known simply as Cameron's. The Gilletts had christened their village Manton. The Kentucky Company desired a name more characteristic and individual. In naming the village there was probably a combination of two ideas. One was the shape of the bluffs back of the village. The other was an association of thought with La Crosse across the river, the crescent of the Turks and the cross of crusaders having been rivals through the centuries. As a matter of fact, however, the name La Crosse has no connection whatever with the English word, cross, but was the French name of an Indian game, often played on the prairie now occupied by that city.

After this meeting, Thomas McRoberts remained in La Crescent as active agent and began selling lots on the spot. These lots brought from \$250 to \$600 each. So intense was the spirit of speculation that an offer of \$1,100 owned by a non-resident was refused.

In 1857 a double and single store, and twelve dwelling houses were erected. Strangers were constantly arriving, there was talk of a great railroad of which La Crescent was to be the eastern terminus, and everything seemed favorable to the growth of a city.

But various causes were working to prevent the realization of these hopes. Except in high water, the village had not immediate steamboat landing. The company attempted to build a causeway from the bank of the river to the site of their village, but the work was damaged by the high water. A ferry was, however, put in, bringing to the village passengers who landed from the steamboat at La Crosse. Another cause which kept the village from growing was the policy of the promoters. As already stated, no corner lots were sold and the company retained all the most desirable locations for future use or sale. Few actual settlers could afford the price asked for the lots, the men of wealth living in various parts of the country who acquired the lots as a speculation did nothing to have the land occupied or improved.

However, it was some time before the hopes of the promoters were abandoned. The place recovered quickly from the panic of 1857, and the grading of the Southern Minnesota railroad brought men and traffic here. But the terminus of the road when the rails were laid was established some distance south of La Crescent, and the village languished.

When the railroad bridge to La Crosse was completed, advantage was taken of the new impetus to business thus promised, and many more lots were sold, one company platting an addition on the edge of the lake and marsh, which at seasons was under water, and another platting one on the hills and sides of the bluff.

In the early days two different private schools were started at La Crescent, but neither flourished long. The Carr Academy, a select school, was opened in 1857 by Elder Spencer Carr, a Baptist minister. A building

was erected, and was so constructed as to be easily capable of enlargement should it become necessary. The higher branches were taught and some pupils from out of town were secured, which, with those in town, made up the total number of about eighteen. The school, however, was not a success, and the proprietor soon turned it into a drug store, and after a while moved to Wisconsin and later to Kansas. The La Crescent Female Seminary was an educational institution opened in 1861, Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Anderson being the teachers, assisted by Edwin Rice, a son of Mrs. Rice. A building erected by Charles Waller, of Chicago, was first occupied, and boarding accommodations for the twenty or thirty pupils were found in the old La Crescent Hotel. After the first year the entire establishment was moved to the hotel, the whole building being occupied, and additional pupils secured, there being thirty or forty boarders, with some day scholars from the village. At the end of two years they moved to Rochester and later the family went to California.

In the early eighties La Crescent village contained one general store kept by P. Ferguson, a small drug and confectionary store conducted by Thomas Minshall, the postmaster; a hotel, of which Mr. Sawyer was the proprietor; two blacksmith and wagon shops, and a shoe shop, a number of empty stores, and the railroad station, with its agent, express office and telegraph.

MOUND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Mound Prairie township is the second from the Mississippi River, on the northern line of Houston county. It has Winona county on the north, La Crescent on the east, Union on the south and Houston on the west. The town was named because of a remarkable rounded bluff in section 4.

The town is eight and one half miles from north to south and five miles wide, and includes a part of two government townships. The Root River bisects the town a little south of the center in an irregular course from the west, with a tendency toward the south. Several branches join it in this township, both from the north and from the south. Crystal Creek cuts across the southwestern corner, and Pine Creek, from Winona county, runs through section 4.

The general topography is in harmony with the other towns in the county, and along Root River there are valleys, bluffs, and ridges, the latter in quite an extensive plateau north of the center.

The railroad runs in the valley of the Root River, and there is a station, a store and a post office on section 28, which in the case of this town, is near the geographical center. There is little unproductive land, except the sharp sides of the bluffs, and if land was scarce even these could be utilized.

There are conflicting claims as to the date of the first settlement of Mound Prairie. There was a heavy growth of black walnut timber along the Root River, which could be cut and rafted down the Mississippi, and several parties availed themselves of this opening. They built temporary cabins, squatted on desirable claims, and then sold such rights as they

claimed to possess to men seeking homes. This part of the county was thus captured by the supplementary land office operators early in the fifties.

So far as can be learned, the first man to make a claim within the present limits of the township, was John Crypts. His first business was getting out black walnut logs, and he is said to have employed the Indians in this work. His claim, or one of them, was south of the river, on section 34. He did considerable land speculation for those early days.

Thomas Van Sickle, originally from Pennsylvania, came, it is quite likely, in 1852, and engaged in running off black walnut timber, and in the claim business. He located on section 4, a mile or so south of the river, but subsequently sold out there and went across the river to section 21. This latter claim he soon sold to James C. Day, and removed to Iowa, but later returned to Houston county, and resided near Brownsville until his death in the late seventies.

James C. Day, who, also, was a Pennsylvanian, after cultivating a farm for a few years, sold it to P. Eberhard, and removed to La Crescent, where he operated a ferry boat.

Jacob Bush, who came from Hokah in 1853 or 1854, secured a claim on section 26, in what became known as Bush Valley. In 1855 he began the erection of a sawmill and a dam, and had them nearly completed when a flood swept away the constructions and he abandoned the enterprise and soon afterwards left for the Pacific coast, finally locating with his family in Oregon.

Henry P. Eberhard, a native of Prussia, came to Mound Prairie in the spring of 1854 and secured eighty acres on section 21. His son, J. A. Eberhard, became proprietor of the only store in town, and was also station and express agent. Another son, Phillip, settled on section 21 on the Van Sickle claim.

In 1856 Dr. J. G. Sheldon located on section 33.

Abraham Milhauser located on sections 21, 22 and 27, and the next year built a dam, but subsequently moved to La Crosse, where he built a steam sawmill that was later owned by Mr. Paul. After a year or so he returned, but did little more as he died in 1858. His son, A. A. Milhauser, however, born in Pennsylvania in 1851, became a prominent citizen of the township. In 1878 he married Elizabeth Krohler and soon after bought a farm on section 8. In the early eighties he was chairman of the town board.

Philip G. Vix, a native of France, came from Wisconsin in 1854, locating on section 29, where he was still living twenty-five or thirty years later.

Edward S. Lore arrived in the spring of 1855 and located on the North Ridge, his father, Seth, subsequently joining him. Edward S. removed to Jackson county, taking a claim on the Des Moines River. At the time of the Inkpadoota Sioux massacre he was the only man who effected an escape from his immediate settlement. He finally made his way back to Mound Prairie, and died while on a visit to friends in the East in 1877. The father, Seth Lore, who was a native of New Jersey, at one time lost heavily by the wreck of a merchant vessel in which his means were invested. He was one of the founders of Ironton, Ala., where he did a large business in connec-

tion with John Forsyth, formerly Spanish minister, and Hon. Alfred Iverson, a senator from Georgia. His daughter, Mrs. C. B. Carpenter, came soon after him. She was the first clerk of the district and first woman in the State to hold that position. James Stowe, of Augusta, Me., who came about the same time, took a claim on section 8. He died about 1864.

In 1855 the proclivity to lay out cities and villages struck this locality, and Dr. Sheldon, having become impressed with the necessity, had a village surveyed and platted, and bestowed upon it the name of "San Jacinto." It was on William Hunter's land.

The first marriage celebrated in Mound Prairie township is supposed to have been that of Christian Zeigler and Sophia Eberhard, in 1856. The first death, it is said, was that of a child of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Heffner, and the mother soon followed the little one.

A post office was secured about the year 1855, and it was named San Jacinto, in honor of the decisive battle for Texan independence, of which General Sam Houston was the hero.

In 1856 a post office was located at the Lorette House, and E. S. Lore held the postal keys. Mrs. Anna M. Price, a sister of the postmaster, was appointed deputy in the following spring and had charge until it was discontinued, except a single year, when David Davis was postmaster. In 1869 both these offices were discontinued, and the Mound Prairie office established, with J. A. Eberhard in charge.

The first town meeting of which there is a record was at the house of James Hewitt in April, 1860. There were sixty-two votes cast. Isaac Holmes was moderator, and the officers chosen were: Supervisors, George Cannon, chairman, Jacob Bush and George Larson; assessor, Jacob Krohler; town clerk, William Connington; treasurer, Seth Lore, and superintendent of schools, Andrew Orr.

In 1853 or 1854 Jacob Bush built a dam across the creek in section 26, and nearly completed a sawmill 24 by 40 feet, of very heavy timber 18 inches square. A wheel was ready to be placed in position, when a sudden freshet proved too much for the dam to resist. The mill stood for years as a monument of the dismal failure, and its timbers finally lay scattered about the place.

In 1856 a second attempt was made to build a mill to saw lumber and grind grain. Abraham Milhauser was the moving spirit in the enterprise. A dam was thrown across the Dayville or Hanson Creek, in section 22, but the first rise in the stream carried it away, and so this attempt to utilize the water power of the town proved likewise a failure.

At a later date a feed mill was established by James McLaughlin, who called horses into requisition, having a contrivance not unlike that employed in running a threshing machine of the olden type. Four horses were used, and he had a feed mill of his own invention so constructed that corn in the ear was ground in one operation, without preparatory crushing. The stones had a diameter of three feet, four inches, and were taken from the sandstone bluff nearby. They had a capacity for grinding 150 bushels of corn a day, and a larger amount of small grain.

At quite an early day a store was opened by Charles Chase on the Sheldon farm, and the firm afterwards became Chase & Andrew Orr. While the railroad was building, D. J. Cameron had a small stock of goods near the station. In 1868 J. A. Eberhard opened a store at the station in a small building. A store has since been maintained at this point.

The Lorette House was a well known landmark in the early days. It was on the old territorial road from La Crosse to St. Paul, and was the first principal stopping place after leaving La Crosse. It was constructed by Seth Lore and kept by him until 1861. After that his daughter, Mrs. C. B. Carpenter, became the hostess. It was a log house, 18 by 20 feet, with three rooms on the ground floor and a chamber above, and an extension back of the building as a cook room. In early times this was a stopping place for three lines of stages, and not unfrequently seventy people would be accommodated with dinners. On the old register may be found the names of General Sibley, Governor Ramsey, Judge Goodrich, Major McCullom, Captain Rollins, Colonel Allyn, Lords Cavendish and Groesnor, Sir William Ashley, with numerous Indian Chiefs, including Hole-in-the-Day, Bastie, and others. The house was noted for its immense fireplace, which took up one half of a side of the building. In 1859 a frame addition was built, 20 by 30 feet, and two stories in height. When the railroads began operations this old hostelry, around which clustered so many associations, was discontinued and left as a solitary landmark of an age gone never to return.

MONEY CREEK TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

The township of Money Creek is located in the northwest corner of the county, with Winona County on the north, Houston Township on the east, Houston and Yucatan on the south, and Yucatan Township on the south, and Yucatan Township and Fillmore County on the west. It is eight miles long in its greatest length from east to west, and five miles wide, and contains about 35 square miles.

The Root River meanders along its southern border, which approximately follows the river. The creek from which it takes its name comes into the township by several branches from the north, in the eastern part, which, uniting, flow south into Root River. There is more valley than ridge land in the township, particularly in the eastern and southern parts. It is well settled and has many fine farms. The Southern Minnesota Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway passes through the southern part of the township at several points as it follows the Root River Valley.

Money Creek was settled in 1853. Early in that year came John Campbell and Nathan Vance who had previously been here several times looking for a mill site. Campbell took 320 acres, including the site of the mill and hamlet of Money Creek. Vance took a claim adjoining. In the same year, Willis Thompson settled in section 19 and James Campbell in section 26.

Captain Bates, a river captain, came in the spring of 1854 and settled on section 8, at the same time, Charles Williams, a millwright, took land in section 5, and Russell Thurber, a claim adjoining the town site, each remaining a number of years.

Another settler in the spring of 1854 was Cyrus B. Sinclair, a native of Maine, who came here from La Crosse, and entered a claim in section 7. An enterprising man, he helped in the development of the town, was the first postmaster, and did the first blacksmithing. He was a member of the Territorial legislature. After eight or ten years he moved to Winona County, and was subsequently a member of the state legislature. His son, William, in 1857, opened the first regular blacksmith shop in Money Creek, and operated it for many years subsequently.

Stephen Robinson, who came here with Mr. Sinclair, bought the improved claim on section 19 from Willis Thompson. He had previously taken a claim in Goodhue County, but remained here instead. Mr. Thompson took another claim on section 30, which had a waterpower that was afterwards transferred to John Stewart, who improved the property by building a saw-mill, and subsequently a grist-mill. Mr. Thompson, with hopeful anticipations, platted a city, which he named Christiana, but which never got beyond the parchment stage of existence. Other settlers in the eastern part of the township about the same time were Noah F. Berry, with his father and brothers, Noah taking a claim in section 1.

While the above mentioned pioneers were taking possession of their claims, other colonists, were arriving and taking lands in the Root River Valley, most of them being Norwegians. Prominent among these were Martin Christianson and Ole Omodt, who located on section 26, the latter buying out James Spaulding. In the following year, 1855, Samuel Nichols, his son, S. A. Nichols, Phil. Mohan, J. McLeod, and others, settled on the ridge toward the northwest corner of the township.

John Campbell erected the first mill in town, starting in 1854. It was much like other pioneer mills, with no bolting arrangements, and but a single run of stones. But when the settlers succeeded in raising grain, they resorted to this mill, and as the number of pioneers increased, they came in ever augmented numbers. Sometimes, the people bringing their grist to be ground had to wait several days for their flour, and those who could not find accommodations in his small log house had to sleep in the mill itself, or sometimes out of doors, in or under their carts. Soon after putting the grist mill in operation he erected a sawmill. The latter, which contained a single sash saw, remained in operation for fifteen years. In 1859, Mr. Campbell put up a flouring mill, with one run of stones, a smutter and a bolter.

John Stewart, who about 1857, as mentioned, built a sawmill on section 30, some two years later built a grist mill with a single run of stones, and with bolting facilities. It later became quite an important flour mill.

Many years ago Stephen Robinson commenced the manufacture of brick on his farm, which proved to be of good quality. At first they were moulded by hand in the old fashioned way, but about 1870 he procured a

machine, and since that time the manufacture has been extensive. The brick used in the construction of the county jail in Caledonia were from this yard, and numerous other buildings in Caledonia and other towns in the county were thus supplied.

A tannery was established by John Emery, near Money Creek, in 1866. In about two years the business was closed out.

The hamlet of Money Creek, at first called Clinton, was platted in the fall of 1856 by John Campbell, the pioneer. He sold the first lot to Mr. Stolls, who erected a tavern, which he kept for several years. Soon after the hamlet was surveyed a half was sold to Mr. Goodrich, of the firm of Draper & Goodrich, who built a store, the beginning of the mercantile business here. Other early merchants here were G. Bissell, Wood & Vance, Corey & Emery, and A. W. Wheeler.

The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, at the house of Enoch Gould, E. D. Northrop was chairman and C. B. Sinclair, clerk. The following officers were unanimously elected, each having received 37 votes. Supervisors, O. P. Gates, chairman, Charles Gyle and C. Anderson; clerk, C. G. Berry; assessor, N. Whittemore; collector, H. Mills; overseer of the poor, Enoch Gould; constables, H. Mills and Stephen Van Horn; justices of the peace, Charles Smith and E. D. Northrup.

The township of Money Creek was originally called Hamilton, but when the act was passed by the legislature forbidding the use of the same name for more than one town or city in the state, and it was found that the name of Hamilton had been previously appropriated, this township was obliged to take a new name, and chose one that was not likely to have a duplicate. Some man, having got his pocketbook and its contents wet in the Creek, and spreading out the bank notes on a bush to dry, a sudden gust of wind blew them into the water again, and some of the money was never recovered; so this circumstance suggested the name of the stream, after which the town was named.

MAYVILLE TOWNSHIP

The township of Mayville is bounded on the north by Union; on the east by Brownsville and Crooked Creek; on the south by Winnebago, and on the west by Caledonia. It is the southeast of the four central townships of Houston County, its northwestern corner being exactly in the center of the county. It is a government township, with the exception of sections 24, 25 and 36, and one-half each of sections 23, 26 and 35, which were added to Crooked Creek.

Crooked Creek Valley extends up into this township, coming in at sections 23 and 26, and extending northwest to section 18, where the head of the valley is well elevated. Another depression comes up through section 26, carrying a small branch, which makes its appearance in section 29. There is another little stream rising in section 9, which finds its way into the creek in section 16. Away from these valleys the land is what

may be called table land, but by the inhabitants is usually termed "ridge land," and supports many good farms. In the northern part the ridges are broader than elsewhere. The eastern central part is mostly made up of high abrupt bluffs and narrow ravines. The southwest part of the town is rolling and embraces a strip of prairie land, with some brush land, as it is called, and some timber, particularly in section 14 and the immediate vicinity. Nearly the entire northwest part is well timbered. The soil is of a clayey character, except in the prairie region where black loam prevails.

Crooked Creek flows eastward through the central part of the township, deflecting toward the south as it leaves to enter the town of Crooked Creek. Along this stream are high bluffs, with narrow ravines coming in at the sides. At a certain elevation rock crops out in a shelf-like way. These ravines seem altogether out of proportion to the size of the affluents of the main creek, and in the far west would be called gulches, with more or less picturesque names attached.

There are no villages in the township, except Caledonia, which is mostly in the township of that name, but laps over into Mayville on sections 18 and 19.

The names of the first white settler in Mayville Township is not now known, but among the earliest arrivals were John O. Herron, who located on section 14; P. Kelly, Jerry Hooley, T. J. Murphy, Edward Buckley, Thomas Moriarty, Winston Taylor, Martin Rohan, and Thomas and James Kennedy. Of these Mr. Hooley and Mr. Murphy arrived in the fall of 1854, the former settling on section 9, where he remained until 1868, when he returned to Illinois. Mr. Murphy removed from his original claim to section 28, where he resided for many years. Most of the others mentioned above came in 1855 or 1856. Mr. Buckley located first in section 9 and later in section 4, where he remained. Mr. Moriarty took land in section 8, but later went to Fillmore County. Martin located on section 8, but afterwards removed to section 5, where also the Kennedys established themselves in the spring of 1855. J. J. Reinhardt came to Mayville in 1856 and located on section 21, where he remained. Mr. Cashman settled on section 4 in 1855.

In the northwest part of the town the first settler was Charles Klein, with his wife, five daughters and four sons. John Mann located on section 4. Gasper Molitor, who arrived from Germany in 1856, bought a claim in section 17. John Meade came at an early date and secured a claim on section 19. Nicholas Neu pre-empted a claim in section 20 in 1857, and paid the government price, but sold in 1866 and removed to section 19. For four or five years after the first immigrants arrived, there was a considerable influx of others, mostly from Ireland and Germany.

In the fall of 1857 the first marriage occurred, that of William Schminde and Catherine Reinhardt. The first death was that of John Spoeden, in May, 1856. In the early history of this township there seems to have been no very startling events. Those who colonized it came with the honest purpose of securing homes, in which they succeeded.

SHELDON TOWNSHIP

The township of Sheldon is one of the four interior townships of the county, and corresponds to a government township, except that its first six sections are in Houston, the township to the north. It is bounded on the east by Union, and a part of Mound Prairie; on the south by Caledonia, and on the west by Yucatan. Its southeast corner is but a mile or two from the exact center of the county. The northwestern part of the township is crossed by the South Fork of Root River. Starting in the upper part of section 34, Badger Creek flows in a northerly direction to join the South Fork in section 9, while Beaver Creek runs north in the western part of the township. These streams flow through valleys bordered by bluffs and ridges, while another valley on the extreme east adds to the variety of the landscape, its hills and dales being the most conspicuous features.

Beaver Creek has long been noted as a stream possessing excellent water-power. It is formed from large springs, and has a western and southern branch which unite and form a single stream about a mile from the village of Sheldon. The stream varies in width from 20 to 25 feet, and has a depth of about 18 inches, with a fall of about two feet to the mile.

The honor of being the first settler in Sheldon undoubtedly belongs to a Norwegian named Gutorm Guttarsen, who arrived in June, 1853, from Rock County, Wis., and located 160 acres in sections 7 and 8. He, however, was not much ahead of two brothers, Michael and Andrew Michaelson, and a man named Andrew Jermonson, who arrived within a week or two, at most, of Mr. Guttarsen. These men were also Norwegians.

Michael Michaelson, then 25 years old, took a claim in section 21, and became a permanent resident. He helped in the construction of Brown's mill, the first erected in the township, and helped to build one of the early school houses. His brother, Andrew, settled in section 16, but in nine or ten years removed to Dakota. Andrew Jermonson died two years after his claim.

In the spring of 1854 Ole Targeson, another Norwegian, came to Sheldon with his family from Dane County, Wisconsin, and taking a claim resided here until his death in 1881, at the age of 87 years, the homestead coming into the possession of his son.

The first man to take up land in the southeastern part of the township was John Brown, and his cabin was the first house in the village of Sheldon. He also built the first sawmill in the village. Mr. Brown, who was a Scotchman, remained here until about 1874, and then went to the Red River, where he was killed in a runaway accident in 1880. Soon after his arrival here came Benjamin Swan, in 1854. He started a farm just to the north, and married a daughter of Ole Targeson. In 1873 or 1874 he removed to Iowa.

In 1857 a Mr. Seeley built a grist-mill near the sawmill, being assisted by John Phelps, who afterwards became the owner of the mill, and operated it for several years. Both mills were purchased by Joseph Schneider in 1868, and in 1875 they were replaced by another mill, with four run

of stones and up-to-date machinery, which was operated for a number of years as a first-class mill.

About a year after Mr. Brown's arrival, a Mr. Cook came to the locality and built a house, which was subsequently enlarged and converted into a hotel, being operated by Martin Neubury.

The first store in the village was opened by Moses Woods, a miller, in 1856. It occupied a small slab building, which he erected, and was run for about a year when insufficient custom caused him to abandon it.

In 1857 John Paddock arrived from Illinois and started a better store with a good stock of merchandise. About the same time the postoffice was established, with Mr. Paddock as postmaster. The first religious service was also held at his house, and he was the first justice of the peace. After remaining in trade for about two years, he changed his occupation for that of a hotel keeper. He remained in town for about ten years, when he returned to Illinois. His daughter, Adeline, married Lewis Herring, about the fall of 1856. Another early store keeper was George Brenneman.

In 1856 John E. Homme, a Norwegian, took 120 acres in section 18, and at a later date bought 175 more. He was a carpenter by trade, and had previously resided in Dane County, Wisconsin. He developed a good farm here, on which he lived for many years. One of his sons, E. J. Homme, became a prominent Lutheran minister, the editor of a periodical, and founder of a Home for the Friendless.

In 1855, Henry Wilson, who had traveled all over the world, bought 160 acres in section 19. Subsequently he became a prominent citizen of the township, serving a number of times in local office.

The first settler on "the Ridge" in the eastern part of the town was Jerry Cunningham, an Irishman, who had arrived in New York in 1851, and after working in different states, arrived in Houston County in 1854, the year of the first land sale. He bought 160 acres in section 13, where he subsequently built a log house in which he and his family lived for several years. It was afterwards replaced by one of more modern style and structure. In 1857 he married Ellen Haggerty, and they reared a family of children.

Another Irishman, named John Murphy, settled in Sheldon township at an early date, but in 1859 he went to Dakota. Among the pioneers or early settlers of the township who stayed, built homes and became more or less prominent, with the dates of their arrival, were: George Brenneman, 1857; Christof Evenson, 1857; G. Guttesen, 1853; John N. Ingham, 1856; Levi Olson, 1854; Moses Woods, 1856; J. B. Williams (came to Houston County in 1852, and opened the first dry goods store in Sheldon in May, 1857); Hans Hogensen, about 1868; Mikkel Eastonson, 1863; Leander G. Carpenter (came to the county in 1869); Hiram Knox, 1863; George W. Mills, 1876; Joseph Schneider, 1875; Edgar E. Webster, 1876; Jasper M. Know, 1877; and Frederick Pieper, who came to Houston County in 1866, and to Sheldon Township in 1881.

The town of Sheldon was organized May 11, 1858, at a meeting held in the village. The officers elected were: Supervisors, John Brown, chairman; Steiner Knudson and Henry Olson; town clerk, James Patton; as-

essor, Michael Ryan; collector, Lawrence Lynch; justices of the peace, Lyman B. Jefferson and Ch. Fetsan; constable, Bartholomew Henry; overseer of the poor, John Paddock.

The village of Sheldon derived its name from Julius C. Sheldon, previously a resident of Suffield, Connecticut, who anticipated a large and steady growth for the place, and with others, did much to promote its interests. For some years the prospects were quite encouraging; but the village met the fate that has befallen so many others of like promise, when the railroad left it six miles to one side, and its trade was diverted to other points. It is beautifully situated in the valley of Beaver Creek, on a broad bench of land running back from the creek, about a mile in width, and generally level. Though surrounded by bluffs, it is connected by various roads with the other towns, and is easily accessible when the roads have been rendered impassible by heavy snows or rains. The village, as laid out, had 16 blocks, with eight lots in each and cross alleys. Five streets ran north and south, and five east and west.

SPRING GROVE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

(Riceford and Newhouse)

The township of Spring Grove lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, and is identical with a government township. It has an area of about 23,000 acres. On the north is the township of Black Hammer, on the east is Wilmington, the State of Iowa is on the south, and ~~Wilmington~~ county on the west. The township was at first known as Norwegian Ridge, the name being especially applied to the whole elevated region which extends over into what is now Wilmington. When first organized Spring Grove was much larger than it is now, taking in a part of what has since been organized as Black Hammer. There are two villages, Riceford, on a creek of the same name, in section 6, and Spring Grove and Newhouse, on the C. M. & St. P. Railway (formerly the Narrow Gauge) in section 11.

The only stream of any importance is Riceford Creek, which courses along the western border of the township near the county line, running north, to finally unite with Root River. This township, taken in connection with its neighbor, Wilmington, has some special geological features worthy of notice. Most of the other townships in the county are gorged with deep valleys and ravines, cut in alternating strata of sandstone and limestone, below the general level of the country; but here, the prevailing features in the county are reversed, as a connecting series of elevated ridges forming broad uplands rear their water-sheds nearly 200 feet above the surrounding prairie country. One common ridge a mile or more in width extends in a diagonal direction from the southwestern part of Spring Grove to the northern part of Wilmington. From this main upland extending in various directions, numerous spurs project, some of them for two miles, with sequestered valleys between. The widest of these are two miles across. As mentioned in the geological account of the county, these peculiarities are not due to upheavals but to erosion.

In several places from elevated points some remarkably fine views are obtained. Looking northward, nearly the whole of Black Hammer township is spread out like a panorama, to the west is a depression, with an elevation far beyond. The prospect looking south is only interrupted by the highlands beyond the Iowa River, and whichever way one turns there is hill and vale, prairie and woodland, with dwellings dotting the landscape, and an occasional spire above the intervening groves pointing to the blue vault above.

This region is called the hill country, and embraces ten miles or so from east to west, and six or seven from north to south. The surface drainage is in all directions, and the top of the watershed is remarkably level, and carries the railroad bed with little grading. The slope either way is quite gradual, and what may be deemed remarkable, the whole region is overspread with a rich clay loam, and being mostly open country is occupied by numerous farms, some of them on an extended scale. The dwellings are usually in sheltered nooks among the groves or below the brow of a protecting declivity.

The village of Spring Grove is quite pleasantly situated on a high part of the main ridge, on nearly level ground, on the southern part of the watershed. The buildings are well set apart and are neat and substantial.

Along the table lands the early settlers found beautiful groves of oak, without underbrush, interspersed with maple and black walnut, and in the shady aisles of these overhanging boughs, clear and sparkling springs bubbled up in the most inviting places, urging the seeker after a home to make this spot his abiding place. Much of the timber is now gone, but enough remains to give a good idea of the delightful prospect that greeted the early explorers.

The soil is of a clayey nature, merging into dark rich loam in the lawlands, but somewhat lighter along the bluffs, which are well adapted to grazing. In the southern part of the town, toward the west, the numerous springs form rivulets going south, to finally reach the Upper Iowa River in the State of Iowa.

An abundance of limestone is found along the ridges cropping out at convenient points, and an occasional kiln is burned with satisfactory results, although on account of the want of a steady market this is in no respect an organized industry. This lime rock also furnishes most excellent building material, and has been extensively used for this purpose.

The first actual settler in Spring Grove township was James Smith, a printer from Pennsylvania, and then a bachelor, who arrived in the spring of 1852 and took a claim of 320 acres in section 11. In the fall he went to Lansing, Ia., to work at his trade, but returned in the spring of 1853. After his marriage to Elizabeth Lundrum, of Illinois, a Sunday-school was started at his house, and was maintained for some time. Mr. Smith also secured the establishment of the post office, giving the place the appropriate name of Spring Grove, which it still retains. His house was the first stopping place in town. At an early date he was appointed a justice of the peace, and was a member of the county commissioners' court while Minnesota was still a Territory.

Arthur B. Bow, of Vermont, who arrived about the same time, or perhaps a little earlier than Smith, built a cabin just west of Smith's and staked out large quantities of desirable land with a view to speculation. After a while, however, he sold out to Embrick Knudson and went further west.

Mr. Knudson, who was a native of Norway, had come to Spring Grove about 1854. He assisted in the organization of the township, and was for several years postmaster and town treasurer. About 1863 he also moved farther west, finally settling in Stearns county, where he died in 1880. One of his children became Mrs. Nels Bersen of Fillmore county.

John Vale, a pioneer from Iowa, came here in the winter of 1851-52 and ran a line around immense tracts of choice land, also cutting and splitting some rails. In the following spring or summer, however, he moved away, after selling his rails, and such rights as he acquired, to Knud Knudson, Knieland and Fingal Asleson, who remained here as permanent settlers. Anthony Huyck, of Caledonia, came to Spring Grove soon after Mr. Smith, and, having ox teams, made some valuable improvements. Many other settlers arrived during the summer of 1852. Most of these were making a general western progress on the lookout for a desirable location, and, finding here all that they desired, took up claims and remained.

During the first summer, when this region was attracting so much attention, there was quite an immigration of enterprising young men and women from Norway, some of whom had halted for a brief while in Wisconsin. A number of these men rose to positions among the leading farmers, business men and politicians of the county, and in most cases their descendants are still living here. Among the more prominent of these were the following: Peter Johnson Lommen, section 3; Even Evenson Haime, section 9; H. Narveson, section 10; Fingal Asleson and Knud Knudson, section 10; Ole and Tolef Amundson Berg, section 16; Torger Johnson Tenneland, section 15. Knud Olson Berg located on section 10, but after his death a number of years later his family removed. Among other Norwegians who arrived in 1852, or within a year or two afterwards, were: Gudbrand M. Rund, Levor and George Timanson, Gilbert Nielson, Myrha and Hans Nielson and Ole C. Steneroder. The locality in which these men settled was known as Norwegian Ridge, and on the organization of the county it became the name of the voting precinct. One settler who came here, named Ole Oleson, was known far and near as "Big Ole," from his extraordinary size. In a year, however, he removed to Iowa.

In the southern part of the township the earliest settlers were Ole O. Ulen, on section 26; John Anderson Kroshus, section 26; Ole Christopherson, sections 34 and 35, with others. The locality is known as "the valley," and contains some of the finest cultivated farms in the county.

The southwestern part of the township, lying south and east of Riceford Creek, is mostly prairie, and much of the land was bought at the early land sale by speculators. At a later period it was settled largely by Americans. Among these was W. Banning, who, in the fall of 1852, built a grist mill on the creek in section 19. Though a small and primitive affair, and slow in its operation, it was very useful to the settlers, as it was the first

mill in this region, and was regarded with wonder and admiration by the Indians, who freely patronized it. At first it was a mere corn cracker, but after a while the stones got a little nearer together, and the product was dignified by the name of meal. An earlier description of this mill, published some twenty-seven years ago, may prove of interest to present day residents of the county. It was as follows: "A dam was thrown across the river, and a head thus obtained. Below the dam was a box to receive a wheel with a vertical shaft, the wheel having buckets radiating like the spokes of a wagon wheel, placed at the bottom. The water was admitted on one side, and following the wheel three-quarters round, would make its escape. It was a wooden affair and the crudest kind of a turbine wheel, with no attempt at confining the water and securing the reaction, as is now done. The running-stone was connected directly with the wheel shaft, the stones rested on a strong hardwood frame, and literally stood out of doors, with no covering except in case of rain, when a few boards would be called into requisition to cover the hopper. The great trouble in the whole business was to feed it slow enough for its capacity. It is said a whole handful of corn inadvertently dropped in at once would bring everything up standing."

Among the numerous yarns told at the expense of this mill is that of a man who, having seen his grist deposited in the hopper, went around below to see the meal come through, and after waiting a reasonable time and there was no "giving down," an investigation was made, when a mouse was discovered catching up each kernel as it appeared, and biting out the eye, when it would throw the rest away. This intruder being driven off, the man in due time got his grist through. But, after all, the efforts of Mr. Banning are not to be despised, considering the obstacles he had to overcome, the long distance over a bridgeless and roadless country he had to convey the stones and the tools and material he required for his undertaking, which, under the circumstances, was a most formidable one. All this, moreover, was accomplished with very small financial resources. The stones of this mill, which measured twenty-six inches in diameter, subsequently came into possession of V. T. Beeby, of Riceford, and the site of the mill was occupied by E. Nelson. In June, 1853, Mr. Banning sold the mill property, including a considerable tract of land that he had staked off, to W. H. Rowe, who improved the mill and fixed a bolting-box, to be revolved by hand, so that he had a flouring mill. He also rigged up a saw for his own use.

The early settlers, though to us they appear surrounded by a halo of romance, in their opportunities for obtaining large tracts of rich land for nothing, or a merely nominal price, in the abundance of game in the forests, and of fish in the streams, in reality had a very hard time of it. The land required a large expenditure of labor before it became productive, and only primitive agricultural tools were available for the purpose, the elaborate and effective machinery now in use being then unknown. There were no luxuries, what we now regard as the ordinary comforts of life were rare, and even actual necessities were hard to obtain, especially in the winter, when most of the settlers in this region had to go to Turkey River, in Iowa, to

mill. Later a mill was built near Dorchester, but that was still quite a journey. As an instance of the work and hardship required to keep soul and body together, on one occasion Knud Olson took what he could comfortably carry on his back in a sack, and started for the mill below Dorchester, and it was more than a week before he succeeded in getting home. The deep snow and cold weather prevented many from going to mill at all. The Banning mill, already referred to, would on such occasions be immovably frozen up, and the settlers had to grind their corn in a coffee mill, or pound it up in a mortar.

The first birth in Spring Grove township was that of a daughter of Tolef Amundson Bergh, Mary J., who was born Oct. 29, 1852, but who died in the same year, November 29. The burial was on the farm, about three miles west of the village. On Dec. 12, 1852, occurred the birth of John P. Lommen, son of Peter Johnson Lommen. Mr. Lommen is now in Caledonia. The first marriage, it is thought, was that of Hans Nielson Myhra and Mary B. Anderson, in February, 1854.

During the years 1854 and 1855 a further influx of settlers took place, and they continued to arrive in considerable numbers for several years. Farms were opened in all parts of the town and the early comers were already beginning to reap some of the rewards for their arduous toil. Larger buildings were erected, schools and churches established, and a general air of thrift and enterprise began to be visible where so recently all was wild and uninhabited, except by the wild beasts of the forest and prairie.

The cultivation of wheat received the attention of the pioneer farmers at an early day, and at first the yield was beyond their expectations, being sometimes from twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, but various untoward circumstances, atmospheric and other causes, produced frequent failures, the crop getting down sometimes to ten bushels or less per acre. From the crude and experimental efforts of early years have been developed more systematic and scientific methods of farming, and the beneficial results are already apparent. Corn, and its remunerative product, pork, is largely raised, and in spite of occasional mortality among the hogs, has been, since the introduction of the railroad, a potent source of wealth to the farmer, rivaling the butter and cheese business, which in these days has attained such large proportions.

The early citizens of the township labored under the disadvantage of being so far removed from market as to render farming or other industries, less profitable than in more favored localities. Therefore, when the Chicago, Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota Railroad Company made the preliminary survey, and submitted the proposition to build a narrow gauge line if the requisite encouragement was extended, the town voted a bonus of \$12,000, payable within twenty years, the bonds to bear interest at the rate of seven per cent, the town to elect when, within the specified time, the payment should be made. Under the conditions of the contract between the company and the town, two stations were established, one at Newhouse and the other at Spring Grove, and after the road was built farmers and merchants profited by the vastly increased facilities for transportation.

Of the early precinct and town meetings many interesting tales are

told. At the first county seat election, which took place in Smith's Grove, just east of the present village, the whole town came out, and as Caledonia was seeking the honor, Samuel McPhail, the original proprietor of the village plat, was on hand at this the most thickly settled place hereabouts, and, as told by old settlers, he furnished eggs, which were boiled in kettles on the ground, and he also had butter to eat on them, which was more or less a novelty at even the regular meals at that time. If there was any doubt as to which way the question would be decided, the butter and eggs settled it. It was the most exciting election ever held in town.

The first steps leading to the founding and subsequent development of this thriving village have already been mentioned, as have also the names of the principal actors. It required no prophetic vision to foresee the ultimate concentration of capital and energy which has placed this naturally favored spot among the brightest and most prosperous of inland towns, and given to the surrounding country a trading point excelled by none in southern Minnesota. When the settlement of the region west of this led to the founding of the village of Preston, in Fillmore county, this became a halfway station between that place and Brownsville, where the land office was then located. Mr. Smith's house then became a popular stopping place for travelers, and for some time was the only one at this point.

Mr. Smith's house and store, which was not large, was situated on the old Brownsville road, on the eastern part of section 11, just east of the present village. In 1855, or thereabouts, Mr. Smith sold his stock of goods to William Hinkley, who commenced the erection of a store about a half mile west of Smith's place, and soon moved in a stock of goods. The land he bought of Embrick Knudson.

In addition to groceries and general merchandise, Mr. Kinkley was a dealer in wines and liquors, which in those primitive days meant "whiskey straight." His supply in this line was kept in a little addition to the store, in which he slept, and the weary traveler passing the store any time in the night would gently tap on the window, pass in his bottle or jug with the "equivalent," and Hinkley would fill it without getting out of bed, and hand it back to the grateful customer. After a while Mr. Hinkley removed to Riceford.

About this time William Fleming bought forty acres of land of Embrick Benson, paying him \$100 for it, which was 100 per cent above the government price. This particular forty is the land on which most of the village now stands. Mr. Fleming was a noted character in his way, keenly appreciating practical jokes and stories. He erected a large log building, his neighbors all turning out to assist, making the occasion a holiday, and this house became a famous one in its day. It was the half-way house on the road to Brownsville, and a general stopping-place where dances and parties were gathered. The house was always full, and it required considerable skill to stow away the extra guests always arriving. Men used to be required to sleep across the foot of the bed where there were two or three pointing in the other direction. At one time there were several gentlemen from St. Paul, and to make a bed wide enough to hold them, an annex to a bed was made up of a row of chairs in front, and as they proved

to be too low a lot of pumpkins were placed on them and they were thus brought up to the grade. After these men left they called it the "Pumpkin Tavern," and so Fleming took the hint, and he used to take a pumpkin and, making a jack-o-lantern of it, place a candle inside and put it on a pole in front of his house as a sign, and of course no one could resist the temptation in those days to call in and take a drink. For many years it was known far and near as the "Pumpkin Tavern," and Mr. Fleming conducted it until his death long years ago. It is said that he was the first adult American to be buried in the town.

After some time Mr. Smith had his farm platted and laid out as a village site, but it was never so occupied, and was finally sold to Robert McCormick, who kept a public house.

The next notable move here was the erection of a building for a saloon, by Nick and Jesse Demering, of Caledonia, near the Fleming House, but it was soon abandoned as a saloon, and in 1857, Mr. Badger, of Madison, Wis., put in a large and choice stock of general merchandise. This building was on the present site of Fladager Brothers' big store. The business went on for a few months only, when the building was mysteriously burned, which was a serious loss, as the stock of goods was remarkably extensive for so new a country.

Soon after this a firm by the name of Tarrt & Smith came from Dorchester, Ia., brought a stock of goods and displayed them in a building that is still standing in the east part of the section. After a few years they folded their tents and silently returned from whence they came. The historic forty already alluded to had passed into the hands of Peter Halver-son, who sold it to Mons Fladager in February, 1860, when he came here and identified himself with the interests of the village and town. At first he occupied the old log building formerly used as a tavern by Fleming. In 1864 he erected a neat frame building on the site of the Badger place, and occupied it until November, 1881, when, having completed a fine brick building, he removed his goods thereto. Mr. Fladager became one of the leading merchants in the village, and in time the oldest trader. In fact, the only families within the present village limits when he came were those of Mr. Hinkley and Robert McCormick. The business that is founded is now conducted by his sons, Henry and Peter.

The location of the village is exceptionally favorable, occupying level or gently sloping ground on the table before mentioned, supplied with an abundance of lime rock and brick clay for building purposes, while the rich agricultural country surrounding renders it one of the best for trade in this part of the State. A part of the original grove still remains on the north, which, besides adding to the natural beauty of the place, shields it from the cold northern blasts of winter.

Newhouse is the name of a little place on the line of the railroad, which is quite a shipping point for stock and other farm products. It is located in the southeast of the northwest quarter of section 29, and was at first called Newport, but as it might be confounded with some of the numerous Newports in other States, the name was soon changed to Newhouse, in honor of one of the old families on whose land it was established on the

completion of the road in 1879. A grain elevator was built by the railroad company, and a store was soon after opened by Johnson & Halverson, which, however, was not long continued. Tollefson & Co., merchants at the then newly established station of Mabel, opened a branch store here, but soon withdrew to their principal trading place. The first postmaster was Ole B. Nelson, who kept the office at the station.

Riceford is located on Riceford Creek, and lies mostly in the southwest quarter of section 6. It is regularly laid out and has the mill pond on the south, from which the river curves around toward the north and skirts the village on the east. The streets running east and west, beginning at the north side of the village, are Richland, Elm, Mill and Vine. The other way, beginning at the river, there are Main, Second, Third, and Fourth. None of these streets are very thickly settled, except Main street, and that cannot be said to be crowded. Before the town was located here, some idea was entertained of establishing it on the flat about half a mile north of where it was finally placed. This would have been near the Crystal flouring mill, but this project was finally abandoned. The village was named in 1856, in honor of Hon. H. M. Rice, of St. Paul, who visited the locality about that time, and following an Indian trail, forded the river about twenty rods from the Crystal mill, and from this circumstance the village was called Riceford.

The site of the village was first taken from the government by William D. Van Doren, in the fall of 1854, and he put up a log shelter. He was originally from New York State, and after stopping a while in Michigan, came on to this region and spent a few weeks about three miles south of here, at the residence of W. H. Rowe, and then came to this place and established himself. The next year, 1855, he sold out to Job Brown, the original pioneer, who seems to have been on the alert for eligible points for town sites. Among the first to be attracted to this then promising place were S. W. Wilcox, J. Shaw, Edward Coffee, J. Muns, Charles H. Brown, John Watson, A. Mosher, and Rollin Dunbar, each of whom erected a dwelling, and some of them other buildings. Just south of the above mentioned claims, on section 7, Orin Chatfield had taken some land, and in 1856 he commenced the erection of a sawmill, building a dam that created a fall giving him sufficient power for the purpose.

After being in operation for ten years this mill was bought by the flour-mill company, and was demolished, its material going into their flume and dam.

Soon after Mr. Brown came here he opened a store in a small building just north of the mill. In 1858 he erected a frame building opposite the mill, and soon put his goods in that. It was on or near the site of the first Van Doren habitation. After he sold out there were many changes in the personel of the trade here. At one time there were two stores with general merchandise, two hotels, two mills, two blacksmith shops, two shoe shops, a foundry, wagon shop, and other concomitants of a thriving village. Those were palmy days for Riceford, for then it caught business

from the north and from the south, and the traveler from the east or west was put under contribution for refreshment and sleep. The town was a business center. The stores were busy, the hotels were full, the mills were crowded with grain, the shops were occupied with business, and, to use a modern phrase, everything was "booming." At first several failures of the wheat crop, and then the building of the railroad, which inaugurated a new order of things, kept the citizens from realizing their high ambitions.

A village which at one time was an ambitious suburb of Riceford, called South Riceford, was laid out on the sidehill, south of the creek. It had its Main street, its Water street, and its Line street, on the northern border, but it was finally abandoned, and the dwellings removed or torn down. In 1856 Job Brown began the erection of a flouring-mill on his property here, the first load of tools and materials being brought here by John Muns. The dam was placed about forty rods below the sawmill. The building was of stone, 24 by 40 feet, two and one-half stories high, with two run of stones, one of them being small. The fall secured was nine feet, and a turbine wheel was put in. The machinery at this day would not be considered very adequate, although the mill had a daily capacity of 250 bushels. It was overrun with grists to grind, and was often filled with sacks awaiting their turn, which would not come around for weeks perhaps. It had but a single bolting cloth, but did a very profitable business.

The Crystal Mill was erected in the southwest quarter of section 6, on a forty acre lot purchased by W. H. Rowe, of Dexter & Ripley, in the winter of 1869, and by him conveyed to his daughter, Mrs. S. M. Beeby, wife of V. T. Beeby. In April, 1869, the improvements began with the construction of a dam and the building of the mill. Two run of stones were put in, and a turbine wheel, and on Nov. 9, 1869, it went into operation. The dam, however, proved too weak to resist the spring flood, and in March, 1870, was washed away. This accident recurred each season, after each rebuilding, for some years. This proving too monotonous and expensive to the owners, in 1876, a substantial stone dam was constructed, which proved capable of resisting the flood.

In the year 1869 Mr. D. A. Sherwood erected a building 18 by 30 feet, put in a cupula furnace and began iron casting. For a time he did a very good business, amounting to three or four thousand dollars a year.

UNION TOWNSHIP

Union is a township just northeast of the center of the county, having an irregular northern boundary line, which separates it politically from Mound Prairie and Hokah townships; a part of Mound Prairie and Sheldon lying to the west, Mayville to the south, and Brownsville and Hokah to the east. It embraces the greater part of a township of government survey, lacking only some of the northwestern sections, which were taken from it to increase the area of Mound Prairie Township.

The surface of Union Township is very evenly divided between hills and valleys, the hills and bluffs rising several hundred feet above the water level.

Crystal Creek rises in the northwestern corner of the township and flows in a northwesterly direction.

Under the edge of a bluff near the highway in section 28 is a fine clear fountain bubbling, known as Indian Spring, which gives rise to the brook of the same name. In early days the place was a favorite one with the Indians, who used to camp here when on hunting and fishing expeditions. A more ideal spot for the purpose could hardly be found.

The first white settlers in the township were David House, with his wife and father, who in 1853 located a claim in Hokah Valley in section 14. After a while the father went on to Kansas, but Mr. House stayed quite a number of years on his farm, finally becoming a merchant in Hokah.

The claim taken by Mr. House in section 14 had been previously selected by Edwin Butterfield, who, however, failed to make improvements, in accordance with the law; so on his return from a prospecting tour, finding Mr. House in possession, he had no recourse but to seek other land, and accordingly started a farm in section 13.

In the same year Frank J. Kitzinger took land in section 15, and opened a hotel or tavern. He subsequently became a resident of Hokah. Marcus Sammons selected five forties in the northeastern part of section 29. He died just before the war in the village of Hokah.

In the following year, 1854, Henry Snure, Sr., staked out a claim in section 29, and with him came William Henry Snure. In the fall of 1855, George Snure, a son of Henry Snure, Sr., Walter Krick, Jacob Becker, and Daniel Klein, came from Upper Canada, near Niagara Falls. George Snure lived with his father until he went out as a soldier in the Civil War. Walter Krick and Jacob Becker settled in section 31. Daniel Klein, who married Katherine Snure, daughter of Henry, located on section 30. Both Becker and Klein later went to reside in Hokah, which seemed about that time to have an attraction for the settlers, but Mr. Klein subsequently returned to his farm. Jacob Klein, who married Agnes Snure, developed a good farm in section 30. The Snure family seems to have done its part in the early settlement of the township, as another of its members, Simeon, took land in section 30, where he resided for many years, a thriving farmer. The Kleins were also active. Charles Klein, who resided in the township for awhile, finally moved to Mayville. John Klein, a pioneer of Hokah, took land in section 4, Union Township. Among the other early settlers were Hiram Griffin, a transient; James Franklin, Edward Null, W. H. Younglove and John Hurley. Some of the early arrivals were merely land speculators, who had no intention of making a permanent settlement, or even of making improvements, but hoped to enrich themselves by taking a middleman's profit on land deals; but this class of people had little success here. The eligible locations were soon taken, and the occupants for the most part, proved industrious and useful citizens, many of them in process of time becoming well to do.

They were ready and prompt in their support of enterprises for the general, each man contributing what he had to give, according to his means, and when money was scarce, other things equally available were cheerfully furnished. Thus, when it was proposed to erect the school-house of District No. 44, a subscription paper was passed around and materials donated as follows by the men whose names were subscribed: John Snure, one quarter of an acre of land on the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 29; Jacob Klein, four 20-foot logs, and 100 feet of boards; Edmund Null, six 18-foot logs and one square of shingles; Henry Snure, four 20-foot logs, one square of shingles, 100 feet of boards, 300 lath, and one window; James Franklin, four 20-foot logs, and eight beams; Martin Younglove, four 20-foot logs; Daniel Klein, four 20-foot logs; John Hurley, four 18-foot logs, and one square of shingles; John Roach, three 18-foot logs; John Hyke, four 18-foot logs, and one square of shingles; Jacob Baker, four 18-foot sleepers and 15 pounds of nails; Benjamin Franklin, three 18-foot sleepers; Thomas White, one 12-light window, 8 by 10; Walter Krick, two windows, 12 lights, 8 by 10; Henry Snure, Jr., one window of 12 lights; George M. Snure, eight pairs of rafters; William Younglove, 15 one-inch boards. All the material was to be on the ground by the first of March, 1859, and the building was to be 18 by 20 feet. The first trustees of this school were John Hurley, Henry Snure and J. H. Kuyck. Edward Null was the clerk.

No authentic record has been preserved with respect to the first death in the township, but it was probably that of Samuel Hall, grandfather of David House. There were two deaths in 1855, one of James Kyle, which occurred in July, and the other of a child of John Franklin.

The hotel built by Frank J. Kitzinger, as previously mentioned, was the first in the township, and was called the Union House. It burned down but was later rebuilt. Martin Neubury, who came about 1859, was another pioneer hotel man of Union, his place being known as the Valley House. He later removed to Sheldon.

A postoffice was established in 1857 in section 20, the first postmaster being Henry Snure. Later the office was moved to section 29, and was in charge of Edmund Null, but about 1875 it was discontinued.

During the Civil War 14 men were drafted from Union Township, namely: John Roach, Benjamin Franklin, Edwin Butterfield, Jesse Doers, Frank Kitzinger, James Franklin, David House, Daniel Klein, James McMillan, George Kyle, Timothy McKenney, Henry Snure, Thomas White, and Walter Krick. Some of them reported in person to the provost marshal, while others escaped service by paying the \$300 commutation, or procured a substitute. Some of the younger men in the township voluntarily enlisted, and Joseph Phillips had five sons in the Union army.

The organization of the township was effective on April 5, 1859, when the first town meeting was held at the house of F. J. Kitzinger. Oliver Nelson was chairman and Edmund Null, clerk. Officers were elected as follows: Supervisors, Benjamin Franklin, chairman, John Hurley and Henry Snure; town clerk, Edmund Null; justices of the peace, David House and Simeon Snure; assessor, Edwin Butterfield, collector, John

Culver; constables, Abner Seaman and James Franklin; overseer of the poor, Oliver Moran; pound masters, W. H. Younglove and David House.

A flour and feed mill, called the Union Valley Mill, was erected by Edwin Butterfield at an early day. It had the dimensions of 26 by 36 feet, and a capacity of 50 bushels a day, the power being transmitted by a 36-inch turbine wheel. There was a 12-foot fall of water, which was somewhat scant for the demands of the mill.

Union Township has no village, but the villages of Hokah, Caledonia, Brownsville and Houston are within easy reach, and afford convenient markets, especially to the people living on the outskirts.

WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP

Wilmington township is the third from the Mississippi River on the southern border of the county, which is also the State line. In form and size it coincides with a township of government survey.

In its topography it is not unlike the neighboring townships, being quite broken and uneven, but with a productive soil, bearing in its primitive condition a light growth of small oak, popular, and hazel brush. In the southeast corner Portland extends into the town and embraces several sections. This prairie is rolling and somewhat broken, interspersed with groves which have increased in size since the suppression of the prairie fires.

The township originally labored under the native disadvantage of this section of country, a want of water for domestic and stock purposes, and the settlers had to resort to the "hauley system," as they facetiously called it, to procure a supply, and as the dependence was on natural springs, this made considerable labor, as the springs were sometimes situated at a considerable distance.

The character of the soil on the more elevated portions is of a clayey nature, while in the depressions the soil is richer in vegetable mould, with a gravel or clayey subsoil. Portland Prairie has a rich dark loam with a substratum of clay. The township is devoid of any barren spots, being productive with ordinary treatment.

In June, 1851, Mrs. James Robinson, a widow, with her sons, William, Henry, John, and George, the eldest being hardly of age, came from Columbia county, Wisconsin, and located near the State line, erecting a log house July 4. One of the brothers, Henry, took a claim of eighty acres in section 36 and put up a shanty in 1852.

A tribe of Winnebagoes was at that time on the Iowa River, and they not unfrequently came among the white settlers to barter their peltries. Henry Robinson cultivated his land but resided with his mother on the Iowa side of the line, not removing to his own claim until 1861. The first cabin in time gave place to a comfortable residence.

In the year 1852 George Carver, a sturdy pioneer, settled on the Iowa side of the line. In the same year a small settlement was made on section 32, near the later mill and store north of the Bergen post office. There

were four in the party, all natives of Ireland. John Edger was one of them, and he broke up twenty-five acres the following summer, but soon sold out and removed to the southeast part of the town, finally going to Iowa.

His father-in-law, Michael Callahan, also one of the party, sold his claim, which he held with Mr. Edger, to Ole Bye. Charles Kelly selected land north of the others, but he, with a blacksmith named Michael Tanner, not finding work, soon left.

Probably the first Norwegian to enter the township was Gjermund Johnson, who in the summer of 1853 took a claim on section 16. After putting up a shanty and making some improvements, he removed to sections 7 and 18, where he established a good farm. Ole Bye, who, as already related, bought the Edger claim, in 1856 moved to the east line of section 33, where he remained for the rest of his life. Among the other pioneer settlers in the Norwegian part of the township were Halver Peterson, Knudt Severson, Knud Olson, and Ole O. Hefte.

Portland Prairie received a considerable accession of settlers during the season of 1854, all or most of whom were Americans, and proved permanent residents. Among them were C. F. Albee, Dr. Alexander Batchellor, John McNally, Jeremiah Shumway, James and Duty Paine, and J. G. Cook. These Americans came from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, arriving by the river at Lansing, without having any specific knowledge of where they were going, except "to Minnesota." The land office was located at Brownsville, and some of the party having examined the location, they concluded not to look any further. The party bought out John Edger, and it is said that for a time the cabin had sixteen inmates.

These settlers were soon followed by a number of others, who arrived in increasing numbers. The first frame house on the prairie was built, it is said, by Asa Sherman, who was afterwards, as it was supposed, drowned in the Mississippi River.

The arrivals in 1855 included George Shumway, R. E. Shumway, John Albee, Horace Arnold, Arnold Stone, James Emerson and Amos Lapham, and by the spring of 1856 there had been built about eight dwellings, most of them being small and rude log cabins. Among the prominent pioneers who came later were: Cornelius Metcalf, Jr., in 1857; his father and family; William Cass and Leonard Albee, with their respective families, in 1858; H. W. Pease, from Maine, the same year; D. P. Temple in 1859; L. L. Lapham in 1860; E. C. Arnold in 1861; H. P. Kelly in 1862; C. F. Wright in 1863, and Amos Arnold and Joel S. Yeaton in 1864. During these years and afterwards a number of others arrived, some of whom, however, proved only transient residents.

The first birth in the settlement occurred in the fall of 1852, in the cabin of Mr. Edger, and was that of James Kelly, son of Charles and Margaret Kelly, who were at the time living in a wagon near the cabin. This child grew to manhood and subsequently became a business man of New Albin, Ia.

The first death was that of the wife of Ole Bye. She was taken sick soon after they had bought their place here, and died in August, 1853, being buried in Winneshiek county, Iowa.

In 1855 occurred the first marriage, that of Ole A. Quarley and Sarah Everson, which was celebrated by the Rev. Mrs. Carson, of Decorah, at the house of Gjermund Johnson, on section 7. This couple reared a family of children.

Portland Prairie was the first part of the town settled. The locality known by this name, however, lies only partly in Wilmington Township, a part of it being in Winnebago Township, and a part extending across the state line into Iowa. The county records show that the ownership of the prairie farms, for a dozen years or so from the first settlement, frequently changed hands. The Germans and Scandinavians were appearing to take up the remaining vacant lands, or purchase of the Americans who desired to sell their improvements. Like most frontier places, the first residences were not commodious, but comfortable log cabins, requiring little except a few days' hard labor to erect. Many families had to bear their inconveniences many years before the luxury of a frame house could be enjoyed. The farming at first was of a rude character, with appliances such as were in vogue before the era of machinery, and while there was an abiding faith in the ability of the soil to produce root crops, corn and oats, there was many a dubious shake of the head when wheat was mentioned. But like many another question, practical experience soon solved the problem in the affirmative, although most of the flour at first used to come from outside the county. Wheat, oats and corn soon began to be established crops. The trouble of getting it ground, at first very serious, was in a few years rendered satisfactory by Messrs. Harney & Edward Bell, who built a log mill and set it to running in Dorchester.

The first reaper was a McCormick, which, although an improvement upon the sickle and the cradle, must be regarded as the progenitor of the present self-binder, developed by the law of selection and the survival of the fittest. It was introduced by Samuel Evans about the year 1857, and a threshing machine arrived about the same time. At first there was absolutely no market for anything outside the settlement, so the people devoted their time to making themselves comfortable, and to do this, made the usual recreations of hunting and fishing a part of their business. The amount of money in circulation, especially during the panic of 1857, would take but few figures to represent.

When Charles Albee arrived here he brought with him a single, old-fashioned rifle, and this was brought into frequent requisition to kill deer at long range, which were found along the river bluffs. The prairie chickens also had a peculiar fascination for the New Englanders, while the enormous catfish of the Mississippi were a never ending source of astonishment, in comparison with their diminutive namesake in eastern waters. Almost the first marketing of wheat realized the munificent amount of 38 cents a bushel, in Lansing, which was also the nearest postoffice for some time.

In 1856 a mail route was established between Brownsville and Dorchester, and Dr. Batchellor was appointed postmaster, Con Metcalf being deputy.

The residents in the northern part of the township, as a rule, came by way of Brownsville, while those in the south generally came through Lansing or McGregor. There were then two settlements of Norwegians, those who were in the vicinity of Ole Bye, in the southern part, and those who rallied around Gjermund Johnson, in the northern portion of the township.

Another important settlement at an early day, as well as at present, is known as the American settlement, the personel of which has already been given. The predominating element is still American on what is called the prairie. There are a few of Irish extraction, but the rest of the town was settled by people from Norway.

Four years after the general settlement of the community the first schoolhouse was built. Before this time it was hardly required, as most of the settlers were young men whose children were not yet of school age. The mail facilities were so slow and imperfect that few newspapers were taken. Letters or papers mailed in the East were ten to fifteen days on the road, and news on reaching the settlement would be so old as to lose its quality of news, and the settlers had recourse each winter to the debating club, which met in the house of Dr. Batchellor, and afterwards in the schoolhouse, where the relative gratitude due to Columbus or Washington was most vehemently argued; with questions as the beauties of nature and art, and whether capital punishment should be abolished. Thus the tedium of the long winter evenings was bridged over.

The war of 1861 of course created the usual excitement, and enlistments were the order of the hour.

The Sioux massacre of 1862 caused the most alarming panic throughout the whole Northwest, extending to Lake Michigan. The roads were filled with panic stricken settlers fleeing from the imaginary tomahawk and scalping knife.

The people of Wilmington, like the rest, became thoroughly frightened, and while some remained on their farms, most of them started with their families, and what few valuables they could carry, for Lansing. When near the southeastern part of the town, in the vicinity of C. F. Albee's farm, the American residents succeeded in halting the fugitives, and to assure them that there was no danger, C. F. Albee and A. Sherman started on horseback for Spring Grove to learn whether the Indians were really there, as all comers reported, murdering the people and burning all before them. Everything having been reported as quiet as the conventional Potomac, the people slowly went back to their recently forsaken homes, but many of them had turned their cattle into the grain, the losses were quite heavy.

The first town meeting was held on May 11, 1858, in what was known as the Norwegian schoolhouse, the present district No. 58, located near the center of section 28. M. Glanville was chosen moderator, and John G. Cook and Silas Perry, clerks of election. The following officers were chosen: Supervisors, A. Batchellor, chairman, Jeremiah Shumway, and Herman Peterson; clerk, John McNally; assessor, Asley Swanson; collec-

tor, G. Pope; overseer of the poor, C. F. Albee; justices of the peace, J. G. Cook and Silas C. Perry; constables, J. M. Paine and Peter O. Quarley

At this meeting the town was divided into nine ward districts, with the following overseers: Mike McGinnis, G. Andreson, H. Peterson, G. Gilbertson, Knud Severson and T. Oleson. A resolution that hogs should be permitted to run at large was unanimously adopted. The meeting then adjourned. And thus the town of Wilmington was started on its career as a political entity.

WINNEBAGO TOWNSHIP

This township coincides with the government survey, and is the second from the Mississippi on the southern boundary of the county and state. It has Mayville on the north, Jefferson on the east, Allamakee County, Iowa, on the south, and Wilmington on the west. The town is drained by Winnebago Creek, which, with the township, gets its name from the Winnebago Indians who used to frequent this region. The main branch of this stream rises near the northwest corner, and running south of east, leaves the town about two and a half miles from the southern boundary on the east side. The valley of the river makes well up into the town and there is the usual hill and dale so characteristic of the west bank of the Mississippi in this vicinity. Away from the creek there is the table land which makes good farms.

The first man to stake out a claim in Winnebago Township was Freeman Graves, a native of Underhill, Vt., who, however, was reared on a farm in New York state. In 1846 he came west as far as Columbia County, Wisconsin, from which locality he started on foot in the early spring of 1851 for the new territory of Minnesota. Crossing the Mississippi at McGregor, he pursued his course to the north through Clayton and Allamakee counties, Iowa, until he found a place which filled his requirements for a home, and at once stuck his stakes for a claim of 200 acres on what afterwards proved to be a part of section 34, in Winnebago Township, and the rest in the state of Iowa. There this solitary pioneer put up a shanty on the south half of the southwest quarter of section 34, and after making some improvements returned to Wisconsin and induced some of his neighbors to accompany him back, which they did in October of the same year, prepared to remain through the winter. When the lines were run his friends were found to be in Iowa. In the winter of 1851-52 he returned to Wisconsin for his family, and Mrs. Graves thus became the first white woman in this region.

Another early settler was Asa Benson, from Pennsylvania, who at first selected some land on section 30, but soon after went over into the valley and located on section 22. His claim, as first located, was among the first on Portland Prairie.

In 1854 Asa Sherman, a native of Rhode Island, arrived in company with S. C. Perry, and together they pre-empted quite a large amount of

land. Mr. Sherman was afterwards drowned in the Mississippi River, as was believed at the time, while Mr. Perry left after living here several years.

David Salisbury, from Rhode Island, arrived in the fall of 1854, remained for some time with Mr. Sherman and finally bought him out.

Soon after this the German element began to arrive on the prairie, among the first to appear being F. Monk, William Schapper, F. Rhug, and Herman Carston. In the north part of the town John and Jacob Meyus came about 1855, and in time they established good farms. In the fall of 1854 Thomas Barry, a brother-in-law of Patrick Walsh, bought the north-east section 25, and remained, while Walsh moved to Jefferson after the war.

Michael Sheehan and Timothy McCarthy, who came in the spring of 1854, and took claims in sections 6, 7 and 16, were also permanent settlers. The Tippery brothers must have arrived in 1853, and put up a shanty a little south of that of Thomas Barry. E. D. Eaton made a claim on section 23, which included the site of Barber's mill. During the season Oscar Boomer became a partner with Eaton, and the two laid out a town and called it Watertown. In the spring of 1855 the property was purchased by Wyman Trask, except about three blocks, which were reserved. In the fall of 1855 Charles A. Coe came from Norway, Herkimer County, New York, and bought out the Tippery brothers. W. W. Doty also put in an appearance about the same time and formed a partnership with Coe to build a sawmill at Watertown. Coe and Doty went to New York state to procure the machinery. Trask got a large number of logs together in anticipation of the mill. In the spring of 1856, the mill machinery was shipped to Brownsville, but, some disagreement arising, the mill was never set up here, but finally went to Rochester. Trask had to turn his timber into rails and firewood.

At an early day the Hanson brothers, five of them, arrived from Norway, and secured claims on section 18.

The first birth in the township, of which there is any record was that of Patrick Sheehan, a son of Michael Sheehan, and occurred early in May, 1854. Louella Melvin, daughter of Joseph and Cordelia Melvin, was born on section 32, near Eitzen Village, on Feb. 7, 1857. She was a granddaughter of Eliakim and Elvira Laflin, and became the wife of Frank Willis, of Caledonia. The first death was that of old Mr. Spangler, in 1855, and he was buried on the bluff between the upper and lower mills. The first marriage was that of Albert Leach and Mrs. Martha McDonald, and was solemnized at the house of E. D. Eaton, a justice of the peace of the first precinct of the county, in the fall of 1854 or 1855.

It is supposed that the first log house put up in the valley was by Joseph Tippery and his brother William, which was in 1853. It was placed near the upper mill on section 23, where the cemetery now is, and near where there was at the time a ford across the creek. It was sold, as above mentioned, to Mr. Coe. In the spring of 1858 Peter McDonald lived in the house. He had two children, a son and a daughter, and that season the

little boy was drowned in the spring branch near the house. This house was a source of considerable trouble afterwards as it was sold to I. C. Calkins, who moved it to the prairie, a quarter of a mile east of Eitzen, and placed it across the road south of J. A. Melvin's. Of course it made Melvin indignant to have his communications thus cut off, and the vendetta began in a modified Corsican style. Calkins proceeded to build a barn, which was burned on May 9, 1864. Melvin was arrested as an incendiary and held to bail to answer before the grand jury, but this tribunal found no bill against him. Melvin then proceeded against Calkins in a legal way and secured the arrest of him and his family, and he, securing a postponement of the case, took himself beyond the jurisdiction of the court, in May, 1865, and this practically ended the local war.

The first blacksmith's shop in town was started by Thomas Biggs, a practical workman, who built shop on the farm of J. A. Melvin on section 32, in 1862, near Eitzen, and was carried on by him for several years. T. H. Templeton, in 1862 or 1863, built a shop on section 25, but his fire only continued to burn about a year. The next man to erect a forge was B. J. Smith, in 1867, near the upper mill, who after hammering away a while sold to Mr. Kemp. About the year 1870 Charles Vorpole started a shop at Eitzen.

The first mill in the valley was the "Upper Mill," which was built of stone in the years 1860 and 1861 by Ensign McDonald, but he sold it to McMillen & Rose before any machinery had been introduced. The new firm began to put in machinery, but sold to Sevin & Lindburg about the year 1865, who finally got it into operation. The next year Sevin sold his share to Charles Johnson, and then, Lindburg dying, his widow sold her share to McMillan & Clark, and the firm became Johnson, McMillan & Clark. During the summer of 1877 the firm razed the old mill to the ground, and enlarging the basement, placed a two-story frame building upon it, put in new and improved machinery, and in the fall of that year were again in operation.

The "Lower Mill" a stone structure, was built in 1865 by Alexander and Davis Beck and George Cooper, the latter being a practical miller.

The first store in Winnebago Township was located in the mill building on section 22, and was kept by Ensign McDonald.

The next stock of merchandise to be opened up was in Semfer's building at Eitzen, the proprietor being Mr. Hilbert. About 1866 C. Bunge started a store in a log house. In 1873 H. F. Bucholz opened a store near Eitzen, but he was financially submerged in 1878, after a five years' struggle. Previous to this, however, in 1866 or 1867, W. R. Balloe built a store near the upper Winnebago Mills, and rented it to Oleson & Co., who ran a grocery and dry goods store for two years, when they failed. T. B. Barber in 1874 erected a two-story building near the lower mill, on section 23, to be used for store purposes. In the spring of 1881 C. Bunge commenced the manufacture of brick, and during the season burned two kilns containing in the aggregate 150,000 brick.

The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, at the house of E. Laffin, on section 32. Mr. Laffin took the chair, and Freeman Graves, the

senior resident, was elected moderator, and Asa P. Beman, clerk. A motion to proceed to the election of town officers prevailed. The polls were kept open from 9:50 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., the result of the balloting being as follows: Supervisors: Joseph A. Melvin, chairman, Fred Kolhmeier, and Edward Lynch; clerk, Lovel Houghton; assessor, Lark E. Laffin; collector, Harvey E. Jones; overseer of the poor, John Tourtelotte; justices of the peace, Asa P. Beman and Herman Carston; constables, Frederick Ruhe and James H. Templeton; overseer of roads, Freeman Graves. There must have been 28 persons present, as nearly all the candidates had 27 votes each. A motion to have the next town meeting at Lovel Houghton's was carried. Soon after this three road districts were arranged by the town officers, and the following overseers appointed: Wyman Trask, Michael Sheehan, and Freeman Graves.

Eitzen is a flourishing village on the state border. Conrad Laufer had a farm house in 1865 and occasionally kept travelers. In 1867 he opened a saloon and arranged to accommodate, in a more suitable way, his increasing trade. That same year Charles Hilbert, of La Crosse, put in a small stock of general merchandise, but before long he failed and his goods were sold at auction in Caledonia.

About the same time C. Bunge, Jr., procured a small stock of goods and displayed them in an old log cabin, it being the place in which the first town meeting was held. His success was such that he purchased a larger building from Laufer, moved it across the street, put in a larger stock, and continued to enjoy a large and increasing trade.

In 1871 Mr. Laufer erected a commodious hotel at a prime cost of \$3,000 besides the furniture. In 1871 W. B. Johnson erected a hotel near the lower mill.

In 1868, on Aug. 28, C. Bunge, Jr., received the appointment of postmaster at Eitzen. The office was first in the old log cabin, but was transferred into the new store on his removal into it.

In 1858 an office was established on section 22, called Winnebago Valley. James Langmuir was appointed postmaster. The mail was due once a week. Mr. Langmuir held the office until in 1874, Edward Stevens was appointed, who kept it at his farm house for a few months. Then T. B. Barber became assistant, and the office was removed to the store at the lower Winnebago mill.

Wilmington post office was established at an early date, probably about 1855. Alex Batchellor was appointed postmaster and David Salisbury, deputy. The office was at a farm house in section 30. In about a year Mr. Salisbury moved away and was succeeded by Mr. Sherman as deputy, who attended to the business under Mr. Batchellor until J. G. Cook was regularly appointed, when the office was moved to his residence on section 25, Wilmington Township, and during this time the name was changed from Portland Prairie to Wilmington. In 1863 R. E. Shumway received an appointment as postmaster, and the office went to his residence on section 36. There he remained four years, then went to section 25, and in 1868 to section 30 in the township of Winnebago.

YUCATAN TOWNSHIP

The township bearing this name is one of the western towns of the county of Houston, the second from the northeastern corner. It is bounded on the north by Money Creek and Houston, on the east by Houston and Sheldon, on the south by Black Hammer, and on the west by Fillmore County.

The South Fork of Root River winds through the township toward the northeast. The Root river itself is not far from the northern boundary, which is so arranged as to bring the line within the valley, and it thus has an irregular outline that carries the northeast corner of the township two and one half miles further south than the corresponding corner on the west. The township is diversified with the usual hill and dale, the topography and character of the soil being not unlike that of the contiguous townships. The railroad, following the Root River Valley, dips down into its territory at two points, but there is no station. It contains a little over 43 square miles, the surplus over a government township coming from a town on the north.

The first man to set stakes in the territory of Yucatan was Edwin Stevens, who first settled in the southern part, in what is now Black Hammer. It is difficult to fix the exact date, but it was probably in 1852. With the assistance of several Winnebago Indians, he erected a rude log dwelling. He also went down to Decorah and helped build the first mill put up there. In the fall of 1854 he sold out his place and took up his abode in another cabin of peculiar construction, it being all roof, and made by splitting basswood logs and piling them in an inverted V shape, with the flat side up, then covering the interstices with another layer in the reverse position, and finally covering the whole with hay. At one end he erected a stone chimney. This cabin was situated in the woods near the South Fork, in close proximity to the present Howe mill in section 23.

In the spring of 1856, when the town site fever was epidemic throughout this region, Mr. Stevens put up another log house on the open land north of his other location, and platted a town of forty acres, north of the road in the southeast of the southeast quarter of section 14, and gave it the name of Yucatan. His reason for selecting this name is not known, but it is possible that it was suggested to him by his own name, and a mental comparison between himself and John L. Stephens, the American traveler and author, then not long deceased, who had traveled and made extensive explorations in Yucatan, Central America, and made the world familiar with its ruined cities of mysterious origin, half buried in the depths of tropical forests. However, this may be, the result of his enterprise was that during the summer the city had five log buildings erected, and reached the pinnacle of its glory. A mill-dam was completed and a saw-mill commenced.

In September, 1855, Mr. Stevens transferred his right, title and interest here to Peter Larr and Hiram Howe, and removed to Worth County, Iowa, where he lived some years, and then went to Puget Sound, Washington Territory.

In the summer of 1855, E. McIntire, from Dedham, Mass., who had been a railroad contractor, came here and took a claim on section 33. He was an enterprising man, and secured the establishment of a post office which was called Dedham. He was the first representative from this district in the state legislature, and his son, S. B. McIntire, was the first cadet to West Point, appointed from this congressional district. Mr. McIntire afterwards took up his residence in Houston. In company with a Mr. Cooper he built a mill and had it running in 1856. It had one run of stones and a long bolt, turned out eight bushels an hour, and was driven by a reaction wheel. Soon after a run of stones for feed was put in. In 1859 an addition was made to the mill, in which a still was placed to make whiskey from the corn obtained as toll in the grist-mill; the still had a capacity of 100 gallons a day. In 1861 Mr. McIntire sold out to L. Lynch, Mr. Cooper having previously disposed of his interest.

John Adams was a very early settler, while Enoch Gould was the first man in the north part of the town, in the Root River Valley. Mr. Gould was a native of New Hampshire, and came to Yucatan from Fox Lake, Wis., in 1855. His family joined him a year or two later. He took 400 acres of land in sections 33 and 34. He secured a post office on section 33, called Hamilton, which afterwards gave the name to the town that was finally re-named Money Creek.

In the spring of 1856, Dr. T. A. Pope, of Chautauqua County, New York, who had lived a short time on Pope's Prairie, south of Caledonia, made a claim in section 13. In the same year he procured the establishment of a post office, which at first was called Utica, the name being later changed to Yucatan. Dr. Pope was the first postmaster. He also practiced medicine and opened a farm, and was the first town clerk, in which office he served for several years. In 1860 or 1861 he removed to Sheldon and taught school for about two years, then returned to his place in Yucatan. Soon after that he sold his farm and removed to Houston, where for a number of years he practiced his profession, finally going to Iowa.

Peter Larr, a native of Missouri, came here from Wisconsin in the summer of 1856, and took land on sections 14 and 23. This he sold in 1866 and moved up the valley, and a few years later settled on sections 26 and 27. In 1856 Mr. Larr and H. Howe bought out Stevens, including the mill property and the town site.

On April 18, 1856, John and H. Colby, two brothers from Erie County, New York, arrived and secured a place on section 22. They remained about eight years. H. Colby was the first regular mail carrier between this place and Caledonia, making a single trip each week, at first on foot, but later bestride a mule. On the breaking out of the war he enlisted in Company H, Eighth Missouri Regiment. After the war he sold out and left the county, but later returned and settled on section 10. John Colby, after disposing of his share of the property above mentioned, moved to Oak Ridge and bought 120 acres on section 9. In 1865 Urdix Colby, his brother, joined him and opened a shoe shop near Howe's sawmill. Later, after several removals, he took a farm on section 27.

In the spring of 1853 or 1854 Asa Comstock secured a claim in section 27, locating on it in the spring of 1856, when he bought other large tracts. Fifteen years later he went to Missouri.

James Kelly, one of the influential and prominent men of Yucatan, came here from Brownsville, in April, 1856, and took 280 acres on section 29. He built a house and started a farm, which he left in charge of his father, Hugh Kelly, and went to work at the carpenter's trade in Rushford. In the fall of 1859 he returned to his farm to remain. His father died in 1871, and his mother in 1874, both at an advanced age.

Robert Earl was the first to locate on Oak Ridge, about 1858. In 1865 he sold to Mr. Colby. Soon after him came William Mahaffery, from Delaware, who stopped on section 7, and remained some 15 or 20 years, finally moving to Rushford.

Lawrence Lynch arrived about 1860, when he bargained for the Dedham mill and distillery, which he subsequently lost in the August flood of 1866.

The first birth in Yucatan Township was that of James C. Kelly, son of James Kelly, and occurred Oct. 28, 1857.

The earliest marriage of which any record has been found, was that of William King and Martha M. Colby, in the fall of 1857, the ceremony being performed at the residence of the officiating justice, E. McIntire, Esq.

In the winter of 1862, Mary Larr, daughter of Peter Larr, being at the point of death, requested that her remains might be deposited at a particular spot designated on her father's farm, and her wish being complied with, that became a nucleus for a cemetery.

A new cemetery was established in 1873, on sections 27 and 28, the first interment being that of Eugene Bidwell, in September.

In the summer of 1856 Edwin Stevens built a dam across the South Fork of Root River, on section 23, where the Howe mill was subsequently located, and commenced the construction of a saw-mill. Before it was completed he sold the establishment to H. Howe, with the understanding that it should be finished according to certain specifications; but when the property was delivered it proved unsatisfactory, and the wheel was removed and numerous other changes made before it met the views of its new owner.

The first grist mill was that already mentioned, in section 33, on Riceford Creek, and was called the Dedham Mill. It was a frame building, 20 by 30 feet, and did a large amount of custom work. Mr. Watkins soon bought out Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Lynch bought out Mr. Mackintire in 1860. In the flood of August, 1866, it was swept away.

The Howe Mill on the South Fork in section 23 was erected by E. B. Howe, who commenced it in the fall of 1870 and completed it in the spring of 1871. The Daily Mill was put up about 1875 or 1876 by James Daily.

When the first meeting was held to organize the town, the chairman was Alonzo Adams. The first officers were: Clerk, Mr. Chapman; treasurer, Mr. Little; assessor, Hiram Howe; justice of the peace, E. McIntire; constable, Charles Smith.

Chapter XII

BIOGRAPHY

The intimate life of the community is best told in the personal stories of its citizens. Biographical facts not only provide permanent genealogical material for the families of which they treat and valuable information for the historical investigator, but also furnish inspiration for worthy emulation. In so new a county as Houston there are few men who have not started as poor boys and attained their success through their own efforts. The story of their equipment for the struggle by birth, training, environment and experience is of vital significance. So, too, is the story of the men of the younger generation, who with better preparation, and under more favorable circumstances, have taken up the work which their fathers have laid down.

Therefore in supplementing the general county history, the publishers of this volume and their staff have gathered biographical data from some eight hundred leading families of the county. The list is comprehensive and thoroughly representative. The research involved in collecting the material has extended over a period of two years, and during that time the opportunity has been opened to all of those who have desired that their family history be thus recorded and preserved.

It is manifestly impossible to include every family of the past and present; such a task would be beyond human ability. The criticism that in such a work, many worthy families are omitted, while to be regretted, is hardly a just one, as the scope of the work might be trebled, yet still omit many a family whom some would like to see thus honored. And while the story of some of those here included is no more worthy of preservation than the story of some of those who are omitted, those here printed are thoroughly typical and represent every phase of the county's citizenship.

These biographical and genealogical sketches have been gathered from personal interviews, from records and from newspapers. They have all been submitted to some member of the family most concerned. While it is believed that a high degree of accuracy has been maintained, the responsibility rests with the families themselves and not with the publishers. In a few cases, sketches submitted for correction have not been returned. In such instances the duplicate has been printed, containing the facts as originally gathered.

The difficulties of gathering such a vast amount of material are many. Even brothers and sisters often give widely varying accounts, not only of the facts and dates concerning their parents, but even of the rendering of their parents' names. In a few instances, where an agreement was impossible, both versions are given.

All personal estimates of life, character, accomplishments, worth, influence and ability have been added by the board of editors, constrained by a desire throughout to avoid extravagant laudations, though in many instances such laudations would be most thoroughly deserved.

Ara David Sprague, pioneer merchant of Caledonia, was for many years one of the most influential men in the whole county, and his life and work are an inseparable part of the business, financial, agricultural, religious, educational, and social life of the community. The Sprague family in America was founded by three brothers, Ralph, Richard and William, of Scotch-Irish blood, who came to America in 1828. Descended from one of these brothers was Asa Sprague. David Sprague, the son of Asa Sprague, moved as a young man from Massachusetts to New York, and there married Anna Cunningham. Of this union was born on January 29, 1824, at Richfield, Otsego county, Ara David Sprague, the subject of this sketch. When eleven years of age, he was taken to Exter, in the same county, and there he was reared to agricultural pursuits. He passed through the district school and was given the advantage of three terms in a select school. At the age of twenty he set out from the parental home with \$25 which he had earned during his boyhood, resolved to carve his fortunes. Investing his money in patent medicines, he commenced life as an itinerant vender in western New York, Pennsylvania and several states to the westward. He continued in this business three years, meeting with considerable success. In 1850, he enlarged his business, added a wholesale line of notions, and provided himself with a large wagon and four horses. However, just as his business was being put on a substantial basis, he was taken with severe attacks of inflammatory rheumatism which rendered him practically helpless for two years, during which he expended his entire savings and some \$600 in addition. Facing these distressing circumstances, he went to Chicago as soon as he was well, and again equipped himself as an itinerant merchant. In 1854, however, he determined to secure a permanent location. Accordingly he came to Minnesota, and secured four lots and a house at Caledonia, and started trading in a log cabin. In 1857 he built a frame store, enlarged his stock, and prepared for the rapidly increasing development of the county. With the years, his business continued to grow. In 1875 he disposed of his mercantile stock to his nephews, and turned his attention to the hardware business. That same year, with J. C. Easton, of Chatfield, he opened the first bank in the county. This institution is now known as the Sprague State Bank. A thorough believer in the future of this region, he was one of the organizers and enthusiastic supporters of the old narrow gage Chicago, Milwaukee & Western Railroad Company, now the Reno-Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. From the very beginning, he began to acquire land in this neighborhood, and he became in time the largest real estate owner in the county, as well as the owner of considerable tracts elsewhere. In this land he took a personal interest, and it was a familiar sight to see him in the fields laboring with the farm hands. Failing health caused him to gradually relinquish the management of his affairs to his sons, Robert D. and Ellsworth A. In establishing his own fortunes, Mr. Sprague was not unmindful of the needs

MR. AND MRS. ARA D. SPRAGUE





R. D. SPRAGUE

of the community, and the greatest good for the village and county were ever in his mind, so that now some of the county's most substantial improvements stand as monuments to his memory. The Methodist Episcopal church of Caledonia, was one of the recipients of his bounty, and the erection of the present sightly church and parsonage were made possible by his generosity. He also gave substantial aid to other churches. After a long useful life, Mr. Sprague died Jan. 11, 1909, after an illness born with unflinching courage and cheerfulness through many years. Mr. Sprague was married June 7, 1857, to Ella Williams, and to this union were born four children: Anna C., wife of Chas. W. Latham; Arthur Dewitt, Ellsworth Ara and Robert David. Arthur D. lives at Devils Lake, North Dakota, the others are in Caledonia. Mrs. Ella Williams Sprague proved the able helpmeet of her husband in all his endeavors, a loving wife and an understanding mother. She was born near Quincy, Illinois, March 26, 1838, came to Caledonia in 1855 or 1856 and continued to make her home here until her death, October 4, 1918. Mrs. Sprague was a modest, unassuming and Christian woman, greatly beloved by all who knew her, and her passing was a distinct loss to the community.

Robert D. Sprague, cashier of the Sprague State Bank, of Caledonia, and one of that village's most energetic and useful citizens, was born in Caledonia, April 29, 1872, son of Ara David and Ella (Williams) Sprague. He passed through the graded schools of Caledonia, afterward attending the State Normal School at Winona, and finishing at Carleton College, at Northfield, Minn. With this preparation he entered his father's bank as assistant cashier. In 1899 he was elected cashier. In 1903, he and his brother, Ellsworth A. took over the bank which they continued to conduct as a private institution until 1908, when it was incorporated as a state bank with its present name, with Ellsworth A. Sprague as president, Arthur D. Sprague as vice-president; and Robert D. Sprague as cashier. Like their father before them, the three men are extensively interested in farm lands throughout the county and elsewhere. Robert D. Sprague has served on the village council for seven years and has been its president for two years. He has been treasurer of the Caledonia Commercial Club since it was first organized. During the World Conflict he was very active in civilian war work, and has assisted materially in the various drives. He was married June 6, 1898, to Grace Farrington, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Eugene V. Farrington, of Preston, and this union has been blessed with two children: Robert E., born Sept. 7, 1904; and A. Janet G., born June 29, 1914.

Eugene V. Farrington was born on a farm in Herkimer county, New York, Dec. 1, 1836, son of Cephas and Susan (Sabin) Farrington. The family came west in 1856, located in Baraboo, Wis., and there remained two years, after which they came to Minnesota and located in Jordan township, Fillmore county, taking up a claim on section 26, on which the parents spent the remainder of their days. Eugene V., who had received a good education at the White Plains Academy, N. Y., followed the fortunes of the family in New York and Wisconsin, and upon arriving in this county, took a farm near his father's, which he broke and improved, and where he

carried on agricultural operations for some years. At once upon his arrival he began to take an interest in public affairs, and at various times was elected to offices of trust and honor. In 1875 and again in 1879 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and in this capacity advocated a number of wise and progressive laws. In 1881 he was elected to the office of judge of probate of Fillmore county. It was in this position that he indelibly impressed his personality upon the life and history of the community. Taking office Jan. 1, 1882, he served continuously until the spring of 1907, when, having been elected for another term the previous fall, he resigned on account of failing health. In the meanwhile he had allied himself with a number of societies. Having been an orderly sergeant in Company I, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, he early became identified with Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., and served as its commander for 18 years. He also belonged to Preston lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., and to Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A. Being of sincere and deep religious convictions, he joined the Methodist Episcopal church at an early age and became a staunch supporter of that body at Preston, being superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. In 1907 ill health caused his retirement from all active life, and the sad end came July 13 of that year. Mr. Farrington was married, Dec. 28, 1865, to Alice E. Sheldon, daughter of James and Sarah (Walradt) Sheldon. To this union were born four children: George Warren died at four years of age. Charles Herbert died at 18 months. Sabin E. lives at Louisville, Ky. Grace M. is the wife of Robert D. Sprague, cashier of the Sprague State Bank of Caledonia, Minn. Mrs. Eugene V. Farrington is now living in Preston in a beautiful home on the ridge, where she is spending her declining years, surrounded by the love and tenderness which her gracious character so amply merits.

Torgus Kettleon (Eiken), a pioneer of Black Hammer Township, was born in Norway, and came to Houston County, Minn., when there were but a few settlers here, entering land, Aug. 25, 1855, in Black Hammer Township. He was accompanied by his wife and several children, and, like nearly all the early immigrants, had crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel, landing after a long and tedious voyage. The first home of himself and family here was a dugout, which he soon converted into a cellar, erecting thereon a log house, which for some years proved a fairly comfortable residence. He began his agricultural operations by clearing off a patch for corn, which, when ripened and gathered, was ground into meal in a coffee-mill—a common device with the pioneer settlers before a grist mill was established in the neighborhood. In time Mr. Kettleon developed his farm and raised various crops, establishing for himself and family a comfortable home.

Tollef Eiken, a well known and respected resident of Black Hammer Township, was born in this township, son of Torgus Kettleon (Eiken), his parents being among the earliest settlers here. Tollef's early home was a log house which his father erected soon after his arrival in 1855. Like his father, he followed agriculture, the most certain way of getting a living in early days, and in time became a prosperous and esteemed citizen,

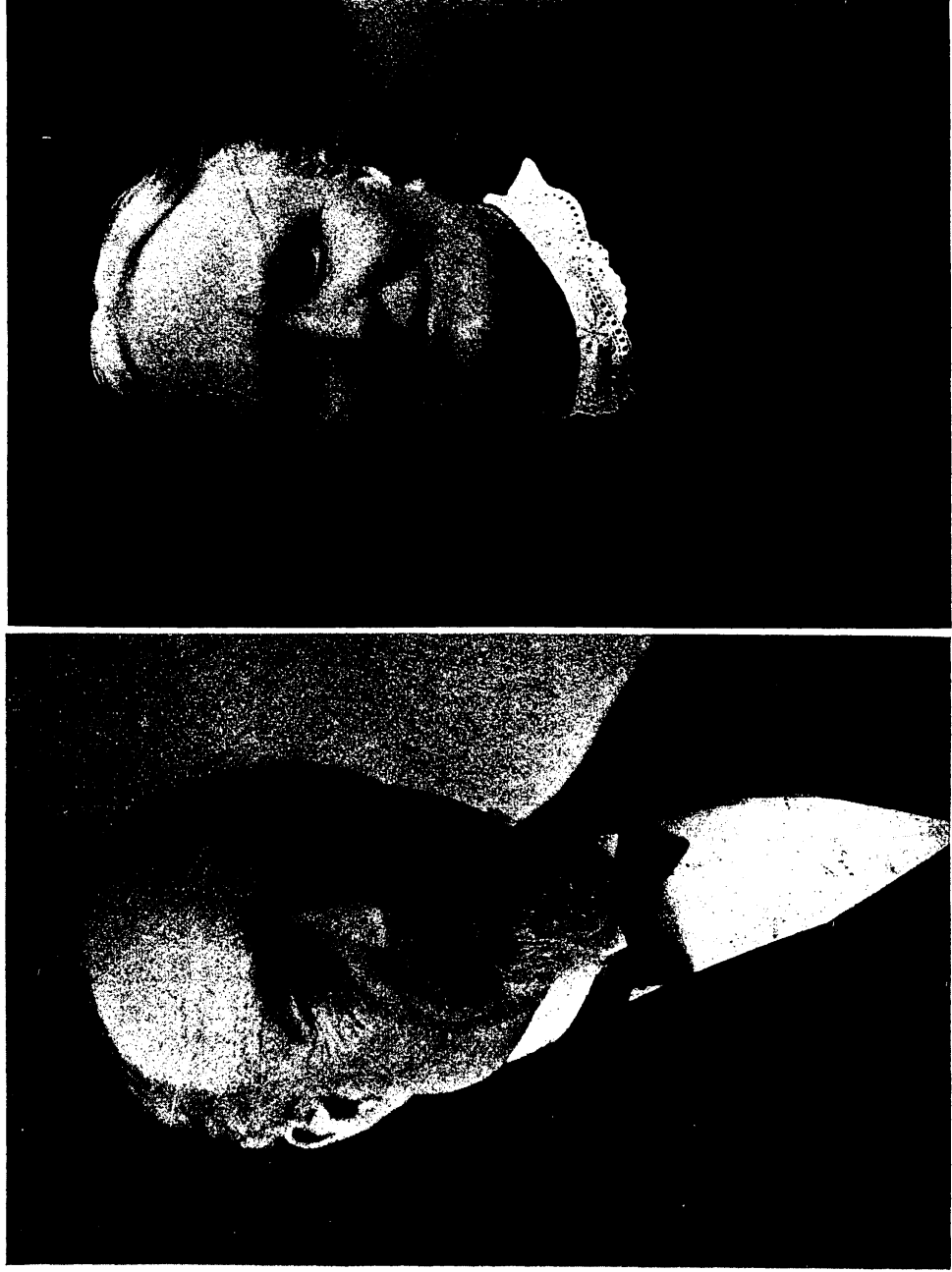
-serving as chairman of the township board and in other offices. He is still a resident here and is one of the prominent members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. He married Johanna Masvold, a native of Norway.

Martin Adolph Eiken, present assistant cashier of the Caledonia State Bank and for fourteen years register of deeds of Houston County, was born in Fillmore county, Minn., May 4, 1882, son of Tollef and Johanna (Masvold) Eiken. He acquired his education in the district school and in the Breckinridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. Subsequently he spent several years as a school teacher in Fillmore and Houston Counties. Having developed considerable proficiency in baseball, he became a member of the Northern League and for a year and a half was a professional player. At the end of that time, though only 22 years old, he came before the people as a candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of register of deeds, and was elected, taking office Jan. 1, 1905. For fourteen years he served faithfully and efficiently, winning an excellent reputation for careful attention to the county's needs. Upon his retirement he assumed his present duties at the bank, of which he had for some years been a director. Mr. Eiken has been a leader in public and political affairs, has served on various committees and delegations, and has done good work as secretary of the Republican Central Committee. He has also labored in behalf of the cause of education as a member of the school board. For some years he has been a member of the Caledonia Fire Department. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Masonic order, in which he has advanced as far as the Chapter, and with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Eiken married Ada Odelia Solberg, a native of Houston County, and he and his wife are the parents of two children, Muriel Evelyn and Malcolm Solberg.

Knud Anderson Dahle, one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmington Township, now deceased, was born in Valdres, Norway, in the year 1829. Emigrating when a young man to the United States, he was married at Detroit, Mich., in 1852, to Margit Roble, also a native of Norway. For one year he worked in the Detroit docks as a boat builder, earning at first only 75 cents a day, though after his employer learned that he was married he added 25 cents a day to his wages. After remaining in Detroit for the time above mentioned, they moved to Chicago, where they remained six months, Mr. Dahle following the same occupation there. In July, 1854, he made a more important move, he and his family leaving Chicago for the northwest. After a short stay at Rock Prairie, Wis., they came on in a covered wagon drawn by oxen to Houston County, Minn., finally reaching Wilmington Township. Before they arrived here, however, Mr. and Mrs. Dahle suffered the loss of their infant son, Wilhelm, who died enroute near Spring Grove, this county. The land which Mr. Dahle secured was in section 14, and was all wild. It had one advantage, however, as through the place ran the territorial road from Lansing, Iowa, to Caledonia, which gave them access to markets. His career was similar to that of most of the enterprising pioneers. There was plenty of hard work to do, and some privations to be suffered, but Mr. and Mrs. Dahle were hardy folks, unaccustomed to luxury, and both worked hard and made progress, in time

becoming the proprietors of 360 acres of land, besides erecting substantial buildings. At last they found themselves in a position to retire and took up their residence at Spring Grove, where Mrs. Dahle died in the year 1897 at the age of 73 years. Her husband survived her three years, dying at the same age. They had eight children: Wilhelm, previously mentioned, who died in infancy; Mina, who died in the seventies; Andrew, now a farmer in this county; Sophia, now Mrs. Andrew Myhre, occupying a part of the old homestead; Knut, who was engaged in business at Minot, N. D., but who died there several years ago; Olaus K., practicing law at Caledonia, Minnesota; Maria, now Mrs. Fresly, of Elroy, Wis.; and Julia (Mrs. Dyer), who died in the spring of 1917.

Olaus K. Dahle, a member of the bar of Houston County, and a man of sterling reputation in public and private life, was born in Wilmington Township, this county, Jan. 9, 1865, son of Knud Anderson and Margit (Roble) Dahle. His early education was obtained in the district and Lutheran parochial schools, and was supplemented by school attendance in Caledonia and a course in the Winona Normal School. He resided on his parents' farm until he was 19 years old, and then became clerk in a store in Caledonia, being thus occupied for three years. In the year, 1888, though he had never attended a political caucus, and had voted but once, but was brought before the public as a candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of register of deeds, being nominated by acclamation, and he was also endorsed by the Democrats and his name printed on the Democratic ticket. His election followed as a matter of course, and he served in that office for four years. Ambitious of further success in life, he decided to study law, and accordingly entered the State University, being graduated from the law department in 1894. On his admission to the bar he was taken into partnership by Judge James O'Brien, the firm having offices in Caledonia. A year later, however, Mr. Dahle moved to Spring Grove and engaged in the newspaper business, becoming editor and proprietor of the Spring Grove Herald, the destinies of which paper he guided for four years and a half. In the meanwhile his ability and party services were recognized by his appointment in 1897, as second assistant to the chief clerk of the House of Representatives, and in 1899 he was made first assistant. In the year 1900 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of county attorney and was elected without soliciting a vote. He continued in the office through successive re-elections, for a period of sixteen years, retiring in January, 1919. His public career, beginning at the early age of 23 years, has been a highly creditable one. In addition to the various activities above mentioned, Mr. Dahle is president of the Onsgaard State Bank of Spring Grove, and has served as a member of the local school board and president of the Commercial Club. He is a Scottish Rite Mason, belonging also to the Woodmen and Workmen lodges, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Dahle married Oline Onsgaard, daughter of N. O. Onsgaard, who was the founder of Onsgaard State Bank at Spring Grove. He and his wife are the parents of seven children, Kenneth, Norris, Mervin, Obert, Oscar, Margit and Norman, all living except Mervin, born March 25, 1902 and



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died Jan. 21, 1919, while a student at the State Agricultural College. Mr. and Mrs. Dahle have purchased a beautiful homestead in Wilmington to which they retired in March, 1919.

Walter Goergen, a former well known public official of Houston County, who resided for a number of years in Caledonia, but is now deceased, was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, and came to the United States in 1864 with his uncle Tisen, they settling in Caledonia township, this county. Here he worked for others for awhile to earn money with which to make a start. After that he rented farms and engaged in agriculture, finally buying a farm of 260 acres in Wilmington Township, which he operated for a number of years, at the end of which time he sold it to his son-in-law. His public career had begun much before this however, as in 1878, before he had located on the last farm mentioned, he had been elected on the Democratic ticket to the office of sheriff, in which he served for three terms, or six years. He was then, in 1884, elected county auditor and held that office for two years, at the same time being a member of the village council and the board of education. Then returning to his farm, he remained there for eight years, after which he took up his residence on a farm of 65 acres in Caledonia, where his widow now resides. At the time of the organization of the Houston County State Bank he became its president and continued in that office after it became a national bank. After a long and useful career as farmer, banker and public official he passed from this life Feb. 2, 1906, his loss being deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, including his surviving relatives. Mr. Goergen was united in marriage May 25, 1873, to Isabella Hemri, who was born in Norway, July 10, 1850. Her father, Ole, had died in Norway, and at the age of nine years she had come to this country with her mother, and the latter's five other children, the family settling in Caledonia Township, this county, where the mother spent the rest of her life, and before her death saw all her children well established in promising careers. Mr. and Mrs. Goergen had twelve children: Susan, now Mrs. Louis Enas, of Caledonia; Lizzie, now Mrs. Wilberdine and a resident of Montana; Martha, wife of Wilbur Nelson, of Lansing, Iowa; Phillip, who lives in Minneapolis; Walter, Isabella and Lena, who are residing at home; and Anna, who is now Mrs. Lars Hanson, of Caledonia, and four who are dead. Mrs. Goergen, who survives her husband, has also six grandchildren, and the family is one well known and respected in this part of the county.

Elling K. Roverud, for the past 30 years editor and proprietor of the Caledonia Journal, and who has also at various times taken a prominent part in local and state politics, is a man who has achieved a high measure of success through innate force of character, and without any initial advantages other than good heredity, a sound constitution, and a high standard of personal morals. Like many of the successful men of the great northwest, Mr. Roverud is of Scandinavian origin, having been born in Norway, Nov. 2, 1852, son of Knute H. and Guri (Stromsod) Roverud. The father was born in 1821 and the mother in 1818. Married in Norway, they came to Minnesota in 1867, locating on a farm, and in the following year buying a homestead, where Knute H. Roverud died in 1892, after an energetic

and industrious career which enabled him to gain a substantial degree of prosperity and to provide well for his family. Though a man of quiet disposition, he yielded influence in local affairs and was an active member of the Republican party in his county. Religiously he was a Lutheran. For some years before his death he had been a widower, his wife having passed away in 1885. They were the parents of ten children, of whom there are three now living: Martha Kinstad, of La Crosse, Wis.; Elling K.; and John K., the one last mentioned residing in Calmar, Iowa.

Elling K. Roverud as a boy attended the common schools, his further education being made dependent upon his own efforts. His ambition and industry solved the problem, and in 1876 he was graduated from the Winona Normal School. After that he taught school for several terms. In 1878 he finished the normal course in the Lutheran college at Decorah, Iowa, and when his diploma was given him he was entirely without money and had hardly clothes enough to present a respectable appearance. For three years he taught school, and by the end of that time his personality had made so favorable an impression upon the citizens of his county that in 1880 he was elected to his first important public office, as county auditor. His four years' service in this office led to his appointment as clerk of court, which position he held for over a year, and then for two years was again county auditor. From 1883 to 1890 Mr. Roverud was in the hardware business at Caledonia. In 1890 he bought the Caledonia Journal, of which he has since been editor and proprietor. One of the flourishing newspapers of Houston County, it has a large circulation throughout this portion of the state. The plant is well equipped, and besides the publication of the Journal does a large amount of job printing. In 1894, four years after entering into the newspaper field, Mr. Roverud was elected a member of the state senate, and gave eight years of active service as one of the law makers at St. Paul. He has taken an active part in two national conventions of the Republican party, having been elected by the republicans of the First Congressional District as a delegate to the national convention in 1900 at Philadelphia, Penn., and by the republicans of the state of Minnesota as a delegate at large to the national convention in Chicago in 1912. On Nov. 12, 1879, Mr. Roverud was united in marriage with Martha K. Blexrud, a daughter of Knute Blexrud, who was one of the earliest settlers and farmers in Houston County. Of this marriage seven children have been born: Gena C., who for a number of years has been a teacher in the Stillwater public schools; Hannah, who is residing at home; Ella M., a teacher in the St. Paul schools; Nora, now Mrs. C. E. Daniels, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and now living at Lehigh, Iowa; Katherine, a graduate of Stout Institute at Menomnie, Wis.; Adelia, who is a stenographer for the firm of Duxbury & Duxbury at Caledonia; and Elmore K., who is a high school graduate. A member, with his family, of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mr. Roverud has served as its secretary for over 25 years.

Elling H. Burtness, a pioneer settler of Wilmington Township now passed away, was born at Ness Hollingdal, Norway, Sept. 29, 1837. In 1861, accompanied by his brother Swen, he came to the United States on

a sailing vessel, landing in this country after a long voyage. Like most of his race, he sought the northwest, making his way to Wilmington Township, Houston County, Minn., and having on his arrival no other property than what he could conveniently carry around with him. Here he went to work by the month as a farmer, an occupation that he had followed in his native land. In 1863, though without money with which to make a first payment, he bought 120 acres of land on which was a log house, about 50 acres of the land being broken. For a few years he led a bachelor life, his father, Helge, who came from Norway and joined him in 1865, living with him. His farming operations, like those of the other pioneers, were carried on with the aid of oxen, horses being scarce or little used at the time. His personal qualifications, however, were such as to command success, and in time he found himself the owner of 440 acres of land, having by 1874 erected a large house and barn. A member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, he helped to start the congregation of that faith in his locality, and served as trustee of the church, being also one of the school officials of his district. After a long and useful career, he passed away on the home farm on February 15, 1913. Mr. Burtness was married in Houston County, about 1866, to Christie Myhre, who was born in the same locality in Norway as himself, Dec. 27, 1845, and who had accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Myhre to this county in 1849. She died Aug. 13, 1913, having survived her husband but a few months. They were the parents of 14 children: Live, now Mrs. J. P. Kopang, of Spring Grove; Sigri, who is living on the old homestead; Margaret, who died at the age of eighteen months; Henry, who occupies a part of the old homestead; Olaus E., county treasurer of Houston County; Peter, who is farming and is President of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Cook, Minn.; Theodore, who died in infancy; Theodore (second), who is a farmer in St. Louis County, Minn.; Emma, who died at the age of ten years; Theoline and Elida, twins, the former of whom is living on the homestead, the latter having died in 1908, at the age of 28 years. Carl and Edwin, who now own the old homestead; and Emma, who is a professional nurse and has been in the United States service with the Red Cross.

Olaus E. Burtness, for eighteen years treasurer of Houston County, who has for a long period been one of the most prominent citizens of Caledonia, was born in a log house on his parents' farm in Wilmington Township, this county, April 28, 1872, son of Elling H. and Christie (Myhre) Burtness. His early education was obtained in this district school, and was later supplemented by a three years' term in Decorah Breckinridge College. He then worked for two years in a store at Wilmington, at the end of that time buying a half interest in the mercantile business conducted by J. E. Eide, the firm being known as Eide & Burtness. During this period he served four years as town clerk of Wilmington township. In 1900 Mr. Burtness was elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket and served in that office through successive re-elections until the fall of 1918, having a very creditable record as a competent and trustworthy official. He is now assistant cashier and a director in the First National Bank of Caledonia, of which he was formerly president for

a number of years. A member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, he has served for six or seven years as one of its trustees. Mr. Burtness was married Oct. 26, 1899, to Clara Kinstad, then a teacher in Houston County, whose home was at La Crosse. He and his wife are the parents of two children: Charlotte, born Aug. 3, 1903, and Martha, born March 24, 1907.

Joseph Vossen, one of the best known and most popular citizens of Houston County, died at his home in Caledonia, Wednesday evening, June 18, 1913. He was born in Cologne, Germany, June 23, 1840, and there attended school. In 1858 he came to America and at once to Houston County, locating in Caledonia Township. Two years later he moved to the village of Caledonia, where he ever afterwards lived, becoming a great factor in the building up of the village. At the time it was incorporated he was elected one of the village trustees and served either as president of the council or as a trustee almost continuously until a few years before his death, when he voluntarily retired. In 1865 he opened a grocery store which he conducted until 1873. He was town clerk in 1867 and 1868. In 1870 he was elected clerk of the district court, and being re-elected in 1874, served until 1878, and for many years after was deputy clerk of court. In 1880 he was elected village justice and in May the same year he took a trip to Europe to visit the scenes of his childhood, going by the way of Paris and other European cities. Being very familiar with probate law and practice, he had a great deal to do with the settlement of estates in court. He was a man among men, one who could be trusted. His kind and affable manners won for him the respect and esteem of the entire community. In his later years he devoted most of his time to his abstract office and his own private affairs. He was a man of means whose wealth had been faithfully and honorably gathered, and his name will live long in the annals of Houston county as that of a man of solid worth. No tribute is too costly to perpetuate the memory of his splendid career as a business man and citizen. Mr. Vossen was twice married. His first wife passed away many years ago, and on June 15, 1910, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Anna Hoffman, who survives him.

Giles A. Ransom, D. D. S., who is engaged in the successful practice of his profession in the village of Caledonia, was born at New Albion, Allamakee County, Iowa, Aug. 6, 1885, son of Giles N. H. and Estella (Avery) Ransom, his father being a Methodist minister. Dr. Ransom acquired his elementary education in the schools of New Albion, but is to a large extent self educated. Ambitious to succeed in life, he selected the profession of dentistry, for which he qualified himself by taking the regular course in dental surgery at the Northwestern University, Chicago. Establishing an office at Eitzen, on the southern border of Houston County, in Winnebago Township, he began the practice of his profession there, driving to business each day from New Albion where for the time being he retained his residence, on account of social ties. Among the latter may be mentioned his connection with the choir of the Methodist church. In 1917 Dr. Ransom opened his office in Caledonia, where he has since practiced, having established a good clientele. He is a member of the Methodist church here and also of the Commercial Club. In 1910 he was



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united in marriage with Loraine Bird, and he and his wife are the parents of three children, Ronald, Norma and Glenn.

John B. Schiltz, founder of the Schiltz family in Caledonia township, was a native of Prussia, Germany, where he grew up and was married to Anna Marie Tillen. His occupation was that of a farmer. In time his family increased until he found himself the father of eight sons and two daughters. In 1865 one of the elder sons, Matt, came to the United States, locating in Dubuque, Iowa. In the same year the rest of the family set out to join him, taking passage in a sailing vessel which landed them on the shores of the New World 56 days later. They immediately came west and joined Matt, and in the following year, 1866, all came to Houston County, Minn., renting a farm a mile and a half east of Caledonia village, in Caledonia township. Thus the family became established here, but Mr. Schiltz was not destined to long share its fortunes. He had walked all the way from Dubuque and exposure to inclement weather had brought on a cold which led to a more serious affection and resulted in his death June 22, 1866, about three months after their arrival, which was in April. He had reached the age of 56 years. His wife, thus bereaved, made the best of circumstances. She kept the family together, and with the help of a yoke of oxen was able to work and develop her farm. She survived her husband many years, dying on the old homestead about 1901 at the age of 85.

Peter Schiltz, head of the firm of Schiltz & Son, proprietors of a grain elevator at Caledonia, and one of the leading citizens of Caledonia Township, was born near Trear, in Prussia, Germany, May 7, 1857, son of John B. and Anna Marie (Tillen) Schiltz. He was nine years old when he arrived with his parents and the other members of the family in Caledonia Township, this county. He had but little chance to obtain an education, being obliged to help his mother as soon as he was old enough to be of any use. As, however, there were eight sons in the family, the work, as they grew up was divided among them, and when Peter was a young man he found himself able to start in on his own account and for four years he rented a farm. At the end of that time he bought 140 acres of land in section 20, Caledonia Township, which was a neglected farm. This he improved into good condition and later bought 140 acres more, thus doubling the size of his place. Among his most important improvements was a good set of buildings. On this farm he made a specialty of raising good stock, keeping a large herd of cattle, and finding this a profitable part of his business. When the first elevator was started Mr. Schiltz was placed in charge for one year. He then bought out Sprague Bros., the proprietors and for four years conducted the elevator alone, afterwards taking into partnership his son, Theodore J. It is now about ten years ago since he left his farm in charge of his son, John P., Jr., who has since conducted it, and took up his residence in the village. His business affairs have prospered and he has become a man of substance. For many years he served in public, not only on the school board of his district, but also as a member of the town board, of which he was chairman for some years, and as assessor, which office he held for four or five years. Mr. Schiltz was

married April 27, 1880, to Susanna Schmitt, who was born in Caledonia township in 1860, daughter of Frank Schmitt, a pioneer who came to the county among the very earliest settlers. Mrs. Schiltz died in February, 1916, at the age of 55 years, leaving seven children, Frank, Kate, John P., Jr., Cecelia, Peter, Theodore and Anna. The family are members of the Catholic church, Mr. Schiltz being one of the trustees of St. Peter's Church, and a member of St. Peter's Society.

Henry C. Seuffert, proprietor of a general hardware, heating and plumbing business at Caledonia, who is also an expert tinsmith, was born at Muensingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany, Aug. 11, 1865, son of Christian and Rosalia (Gross) Seuffert. Both parents were natives of Wuerttemberg, the father born at Ulm, Jan. 10, 1835, and the mother at Muensingen, Nov. 23, 1830. They were married May 13, 1863. The father, who was a cooper by trade, came first to the United States to establish a home. His wife, with their two children, subsequently joined him at Muscoda, Grant County, Wis. From there they later removed in succession to Madison, Wis., Sauk City, Eau Claire, Alma, which place they left in 1881, then Alexandria, Minn., and thence to Fergus Falls, Minn., subsequently returning to Alexandria. After residing for a number of years at Alexandria, they came to Caledonia, Houston County, where both parents died. In addition to the two sons mentioned, who were Henry C. and Christian, of whom Christian died soon after coming to America, they had four other children: Eugene, born in Muscoda, Wis., Dec. 8, 1868; Adolph, born in Sauk City, March 16, 1870; and Louise, born in Eau Claire, Dec. 5, 1871, and Christian born at Eau Claire, who died in infancy. Henry C. Seuffert acquired his early schooling in Eau Claire, and later attended the parochial and public schools in Alma. He subsequently learned the cooper's trade, and was also engaged in mill work in Buffalo County, Wis. On July 18, 1881, he entered the employ of Tester & Schilling, of Alma, who were engaged in the hardware business, and remained with them for 13 years, during which time he learned the tinner's trade, becoming an expert workman. As an example of his skill it may be stated that while at Alma he made a tin model of the raft boat "Juniata," towing a raft of logs, which was exhibited by the Mississippi River Logging Co., at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, where it was awarded a Blue Ribbon in the Department of Transportation. In 1895 Mr. Seuffert engaged in business for himself, opening a shop in Alma, where he conducted a tinsmith's business and carried a line of hardware until 1900, when he came to Caledonia, Minn. Here he bought out A. J. Flynn, and, bringing his hardware stock from Alma, conducted a hardware and tinsmith's business, which he has since enlarged to a general hardware, heating and plumbing business, his store being known as the "Red Front Hardware Store." Energetic and industrious, he has been successful and is now numbered among the prosperous business men of Caledonia. He is a member of Lodge No. 20 A. F. & A. M., at Caledonia, and also of the order of Woodmen. Mr. Seuffert married Fredericka Achenbach, who was born in Belvidere township, Buffalo County, Wis., daughter of William and Christina (Laudenbach) Achenbach. He and his wife have two children: Norman Eugene and



JAMES CLIFFORD AND FAMILY

Luella Matilda. Norman E. married Mary Lockwood, and Luella is the wife of C. F. Lewis, of Preston, Fillmore County, Minn.

James Clifford, who is now living retired in the village of Caledonia, after a successful career as an agriculturist, is one of the prominent and respected citizens of the township and county. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, Sept. 1, 1848, son of William and Catherine (Brady) Clifford, farming people who lived and died in their native land. There were five children in the family, John, James, Margaret, Catherine and Michael. In 1871 James came to the United States, arriving in Houston County, Minn., in June. His sister Catherine, who came over in 1873, married James Brown, of St. Paul. James, who had attended school in Ireland, and worked for farmers there, began in Houston county by renting and operating a place on shares. Later he bought a tract of 80 acres in Caledonia township, which he devolved into a good farm, making many improvements on it, and continuing to cultivate it with profitable results until his retirement a few years ago. He also made his energy felt in other directions, being identified with several important local enterprises, including the creamery, of which he is today vice president and a director; the Caledonia Stock & Grain Co., now known as the Elevator Company, of which also he was a director, and the Telephone Company, of which he is a member. He also devoted a part of his time to public affairs, serving as supervisor for twelve years or more, as school clerk for 15 years, and as a member of the board of county commissioners for four years, during which time the county poor farm was moved to its present location and a substantial building erected, also the court house grounds improved by the planting of shade trees. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Clifford was married Nov. 4, 1874, to Bridget Dunn, who was born in Ohio in 1853, daughter of Michael and Mary (Ryan) Dunn. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford have had ten children, of whom six are now living, namely: William, who is a farmer in Mayville township; Katherine, wife of John P. Schummers; Michael, who is a farmer; John, a salesman, James and Patrick, who is living at home. Of the four who died, Mary attained the age of 13 years. James and Patrick each did their share as loyal citizens in the service of their country during the great war, thus giving the family a record of which they may well be proud. James entered the aviation service and was stationed in England. Patrick saw active service with the heavy coast artillery in France, participating in the battle of the Meuse and the Battle of Ypres. Both were honorably discharged and returned home to again take up the civilian duties which the war had interrupted.

Michael Dunn, an early settler in Mayville township, where he built up a homestead, was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1848, making the voyage on a sailing vessel which reached port after a voyage of six weeks. In the same vessel as a passenger was Miss Mary Ryan, to whom Michael was married in this country. Locating in Louisville, Ky., they kept a boarding-house there for railroad men, but subsequently moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. About 1859 or 1860 they landed at Brownsville from a steamboat and located on wild land in Mayville township, Mr. Dunn building a log house and commencing to

clear his tract with a yoke of oxen. He had at first 80 acres, but subsequently increased the size of his farm to 240 acres, erecting good buildings. There he resided until 1877, when he moved to an 80-acre tract about two miles north and over the line in Caledonia township. He improved this latter place also and increased its size to 160 acres, making his home there until his death. His wife also died on the farm. They were faithful members of the Catholic church. They had two children, Patrick and Bridget, the latter of whom married James Clifford.

John P. Schummers, deputy county auditor, living in Caledonia, of which village he is a prominent citizen and business man, was born here Feb. 28, 1880, son of Nicholas and Theresa (Lehnen) Schummers. He received his early business training in Caledonia, and was in the mercantile business from 1902 to 1912, selling out to the Caledonia Co-operative Co. He is now serving efficiently as deputy county auditor. He is a director of the Caledonia State Bank, and a member of the Catholic church, in which he holds the office of trustee, and also of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Schummers married Katherine Clifford, who was born in Caledonia, daughter of James Clifford. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Margaret, Alois, Ambrose and Catherine.

Nicholas Schummers, an early settler in Caledonia, was born in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, where as he grew up he learned the trade of cabinet-making. There he married Theresa Lehnen, and in 1871 he and his wife, with one child, Katherine, now deceased, came to the United States. They located first in La Crosse, Wis., where Mr. Schummers worked as a carpenter and staircase builder, and being an expert in all such work he found no difficulty in obtaining employment. At the end of the time mentioned, however, he came to Caledonia, Houston county, where he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, buying rough furniture and finishing it. His store was located on the present site of the post office, and there he conducted business for nineteen years, during which time he added general merchandise to his stock. He then erected the block that now bears his name, which was originally a one-story building 22 by 60 feet, but by subsequent improvements has been transformed into a two-story building 90 by 60 feet. He remained sole proprietor of the business, which he carried on to the end of his life, dying in 1908 at the age of seventy-two years. He was a member of the German Catholic church, and one of its trustees, and had served on the building committee at the time of its erection. For twenty-one years he rendered efficient service as a member of the school board of his district. His wife died at about the same age on Sept. 23, 1917. They had nine children, Katherine, Anna, Josephus, Nicholas, John, who died in infancy; John P., Margaret, Alois and William. Margaret is now Mrs. N. F. Gaspard, Alois resides in Austin, Minn., and William in Olivia, Minn.

Severt Solberg, who was for over thirty years engaged in the meat business in Caledonia, of which place he was a well to do and influential citizen, was born in Norway about 1859. His father, John Solberg, was a carpenter who brought the family to the United States when the subject of

this sketch was about sixteen years old. Settling first in Illinois, they came later to La Crosse, Wis., where John Solberg finally died. Severt, who had received some slight schooling in Norway, learned the carpenter's trade from his father and followed it in La Crosse, and also for a while in Chicago, to which city he, with his father and a brother, went after the great fire of 1871 when builders and carpenters were in demand. Subsequently he returned to Minnesota, and resided for a while in Lanesboro and Peterson, Fillmore county, opening a meat market in Peterson. In 1879 he came to Caledonia and bought out the market of Mr. Weida, which he operated for four years, at the same time being engaged in buying stock. He then rented a place on the site of the present property, finally buying it from Dan Haines, and, in 1905, he erected a handsome block which now bears his name and that of his partner, Mr. Schansberg, who resided in Lanesboro. This partnership was dissolved in 1910, Mr. Solberg retiring and the business passing into the hands of his son, Helmer J. Severt Solberg died in 1913 at the age of fifty-four years. He was well known throughout the county, where for so many years he had been engaged in the stock business. Fraternally he belonged to the Woodmen's and Workmen's lodges, and was a prominent member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and was its representative in the Old Synod at its meeting in Chicago. Mr. Solberg married Jeanette Schansberg, who was, like himself, a native of Norway, coming to America with her parents when four years old. She died in 1900 at the age of forty-two. They had ten children: James Olaf and Vina G., who died young; Laura, now Mrs. B. E. Tweten of Solway, Minn.; Inga, wife of J. B. Bjorstad of Glasgow, Mont.; Helmer J., now of the firm of Solberg Bros., of Caledonia, Minn.; Selma, wife of Frank Hundt, of Bucyrus, N. D.; Ada, wife of Adolph Eiken, of Caledonia, Minn.; Edna, who married H. S. McKay of Cloquet, Minn.; William A., a partner of Helmer J. in the meat business; and Vina M., now Mrs. S. C. Stenehjem of Caledonia.

Helmer Julius Solberg, a member of the well known firm of Solberg Bros., meat dealers of Caledonia, was born in this village, Sept. 8, 1882, son of Severt and Jeanette (Schansberg) Solberg. He was educated in the graded school of Caledonia and a business college in La Crosse, and subsequently became associated with his father who was engaged in the meat and livestock business in Caledonia, in partnership with Mr. Schansberg. On the dissolution of the above mentioned firm in 1910, and the father's retirement, the business came into the hands of Helmer J., and was operated by him alone until 1914, when his brother, William A., became his partner, the firm having since been known as Solberg Bros. Founded by the father, Severt Solberg, in the early eighties, it has long been solidly established and has been conducted successfully by both father and sons. Helmer J. Solberg is now serving in his second term as a member of the city council. He is also secretary of the Houston County Poultry Association, and a member of the Commercial Club. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church. He married Clara M. Stevens, daughter of Edmund and Josephine Clara (Jones) Stevens, who were pioneer settlers in Houston county. Mr. and Mrs. Solberg have had four children: Cleo

May, now deceased, and Helen J., Irma and Wayne Edmund. The family occupy a high social position in Caledonia and the vicinity.

Martin J. Walhus, D.D.S., who is successfully engaged in dental practice in the village of Caledonia, was born in Spring Grove, this county, Jan. 12, 1889, son of John Walhus. After completing a course in the Spring Grove high school, he entered the dental department of the State University of Minnesota, where he was graduated in 1911. He then came to Caledonia and opened an office and has since been engaged here in the practice of his profession, his patrons, of whom he has a goodly list, being drawn both from the village and the surrounding country. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and Woodmen's camp in Caledonia, and of the Masonic chapter at Winona. Besides building up a good business he has taken an active interest in local movements for the betterment of the village and county and is recognized as an enterprising and useful citizen. Dr. Walhus married Ruth E. Hellickson, daughter of E. C. Hellickson of Caledonia and a native of Houston county. He and his wife have one child, Donald.

John Schmitt, one of the hardy pioneers of Caledonia township, was born in Prussia, Germany, and grew up in his native country. In 1849 he made a trip to America, returning again to Germany. What he had seen of the country made him resolve to make it his future home and it was not long before he again set foot on American shores. On each occasion his voyage was made in a sailing vessel, the first trip across occupying sixty-two days and the second ninety days. Making his way west to Chicago, he there obtained work at brickmaking, though by trade he was a weaver. In Chicago, where he remained for several years, he was married to Mary Demmer, and three children were born to them there, Theodore, Hubert and Emma. Realizing, however, that the city was no place in which to make any great success and provide for the needs of a growing family, Mr. Schmitt resolved to get onto the land and become a farmer. To do that he needed to go where land was both good and cheap. Good land could be found in many places, but in the older settled states it cost more than he could afford, and his thoughts accordingly turned to the northwest where conditions were more favorable for him. At last, determined to try his luck as a pioneer, he set out with his family in a wagon drawn by oxen, taking an almost straight westerly line for Dubuque county, Iowa, and then turning north, continuing his journey until he reached Caledonia township, Houston county, Minn. On several different occasions while on the way, as the country became wilder, and the distance seemed long and interminable, he was on the point of turning back, but, nevertheless, kept plodding along. On his arrival here he located on 160 acres of mostly wild land, there being only three acres broken. There were no buildings and he had to build a log shanty. He had brought with him some stock, for which also he had to build a shelter, and then he found himself fairly started on his new career. There were then but three houses in Caledonia village and the township was very thinly settled. Of roads, there were none anywhere near his farm. To earn a little money he split shingles from logs, a common resource of the pioneers, but these had to be carried to market and brought but a small price when there. It proved sufficient, however, as he was soon raising

most of his food supply on his farm. In time he acquired eighty acres more and made good progress in developing the place, putting up more buildings, among them a substantial hewed-log house, which has since been remodeled by his son Phillip and is now in use. At last, after a career of useful industry resulting in well deserved prosperity, Mr. Schmitt passed from this life at the age of eighty years, honored and respected by his many friends and acquaintances, and mourned by his surviving relatives. He had been for many years a widower, as his wife had died at the age of thirty-seven. He had served as a member of the town board, and, as a faithful Catholic, has helped the churches of his religion which were established in his neighborhood. In addition to his three children already mentioned, he and his wife had three others, who were born in Caledonia township: Phillip H., owner of the old home farm, now living in Caledonia village; and Lizzie and Ann, twins, the latter of whom died in infancy. Lizzie is now the wife of Leo Schaffer of Zumbrota, Minn.

Phillip H. Schmitt, who is now living in Caledonia village, after a residence of sixty years on the old John Schmitt homestead in Caledonia township, which he still owns, was born in a log house on the above mentioned farm, March 16, 1855, son of John and Mary (Demmer) Schmitt. He was educated in the district school and under his father's mentorship acquired a good knowledge of agriculture, as above intimated, remaining on the home farm, which in time came into his possession and on which he raised Herford cattle, a good grade of horses and other stock. This farm is now being operated by his two sons, John and Frank. Mr. Schmitt was chairman of the township for ten years, and served for a number of years as an official of the Catholic church. He has had a successful career and is now a man of substance and high standing in the community. He married Barbara Link of Dubuque county, daughter of John Link, a pioneer, and he and his wife have had eight children: Anna, now Mrs. Layton of Caledonia township; John, now helping to operate the home farm; Theodore, a resident of St. Paul, Minn.; Leo, now deceased; Phillip, of St. Paul; Martha, residing at home; Joe, deceased; and Frank, on the home farm.

Jacob Bouquet, a pioneer merchant of Caledonia township, and now living retired in the village of Caledonia, was born in Belgium, July 20, 1834, son of Michael Bouquet, his mother's family name being Pohl. He was the first member of the family to come to the United States, being then a young man, and making the voyage on a sailing vessel which took about thirty days to make port. After reaching this country he went first to Ohio, where he remained for about two years. After that he visited a number of places, working at his trade of mechanic, and gradually moving westward until he arrived at Chicago. From that place he continued further west to Galena, Ill., where he stayed two years, and there cast his first vote, which was for President Lincoln. Not having as yet found a place in which he cared to make a permanent settlement, he crossed over the river into Iowa, remained there two years, then spent another two years or so in La Crosse, Wis., and finally came up the river to Houston county, Minn., locating in Caledonia township. Here he made the acquaintance of Thomas Abbot and was associated with him for a number of years in making wagons,

ploughs, drags, sleighs, and other useful articles for the early settlers. Mr. Bouquet then changed his occupation, entering into a general mercantile business in partnership with J. C. Kiern, now of Winona. They also bought and operated a store in Brownsville, their connection lasting six or seven years when it was dissolved. After that Mr. Boquet remained inactive for about two years, but at the end of that time he opened a store in Caledonia, of which he was sole proprietor for thirty-three years, also owning the building, which he had erected, thus increasing the property value of the village. As a merchant he had a successful career and formed many warm friendships, establishing a wide reputation for enterprise and integrity, and it was a notable event in the history of the village when he finally announced his retirement. He was one of the first citizens in the township to take shares in the railroad when it was put through, and he also became a stockholder in the Farmers' elevator. A member of St. Peters Catholic church, he served forty-five years as its treasurer. He is now in the enjoyment of a fair competence, the result of his many years of successful industry. Mr. Bouquet married Josephine Wagner, a native of the Duchy of Luxemburg, who died at the age of seventy-three years. Six children were born to them: John P., Herman, Josephine, Mary, Susie and Cecelia.

John W. Potter, proprietor of a flourishing furniture, undertaking and musical instrument business in Caledonia, was born in Winona, Minn., July 4, 1882, son of Joseph W. and Minnie (Stott) Potter. Completing his literary education at the Caledonia high school, his parents having moved to this village, he became connected in business with his father and at the early age of eighteen obtained a State license as undertaker, being then the youngest licensee in the State. At the age of twenty-one he became a partner in the business, five years later becoming sole proprietor, which he has since remained. Here he handles the better grade of furniture, keeps an unusually good stock of musical instruments, and is conducting a reliable and well equipped undertaking business. He is a Free Mason, belonging to both the Blue Lodge and Chapter, and is also a member of Lake Como Lodge, I. O. O. F., at Hokah, Minn. Mr. Potter married Emma C. Laugen, who was born three miles west of Houston, daughter of O. G. and Ninah (Christianson) Laugen, her parents having been early settlers in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have had two children: Norma and Milton, the latter of whom died at the age of four years.

Ole Olson, one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmington township in 1854, was born in Norway, where he grew up and married. In 1853 he and his wife, with their one child, a daughter, Guri, took passage for America on a sailing vessel, and after a long voyage, arrived safely in this country. Their first settlement was made in Illinois, but from that State they came in the following year to Houston county, Minn., taking forty acres of land in Wilmington township. The expense Mr. Olson had incurred for passage money and otherwise had left him without resources, and he was unable to buy even a few simple tools with which to begin the development of his land. By Mr. Sprague, however, who recognized his type of manhood, he was furnished with a grub hoe and an axe on credit, and with these he set to work. His progress, at first slow, was accelerated with the lapse of

years, and to his first forty-acre tract he added another and still others until he was the owner of five "forties," making a farm of 200 acres. A few years after he arrived in the county he suffered a loss in the death of his wife who had accompanied him from Norway. Some time after that event he married Sigra Engen, who proved a good helpmate to him, often carrying eggs and other produce to market at Dorchester, while he, himself, made long walks with heavy loads on his back. In time he erected good farm buildings and became one of the prosperous citizens of his township. He was a member of the first Norwegian Lutheran congregation organized in the township and also of the committee which erected the first church edifice in Wilmington, and he subsequently held official position in the congregation. His son Ole later served on the building committee of the new church. Mr. Olson's death occurred when he was sixty-five years old, his wife dying at sixty-eight. Their children were: Ole N., now known as Ole N. O. Hefte, and proprietor of the old homestead; Inger, wife of Nels Bye of Soulby, Minn.; Olaus, now living in Canada; Ingebord, who is married and lives in North Dakota; Nels, now of Tracy, Minn.; and Sarah, who died at the age of eighteen years. Mr. Olson's daughter Guri, the child of his first wife, grew up and married, but is now deceased.

Ole N. O. Hefte, proprietor of the old Ole Olson farm in Wilmington township, but now residing in the village of Caledonia, of which he is a prominent citizen, interested in several business enterprises, was born on the farm above mentioned, Feb. 19, 1861, the house in which he first saw the light being a pioneer log structure. His education was obtained in the little log schoolhouse of the district and in the parochial school attached to the Norwegian Lutheran church of Wilmington. His first industrial experience was on the home farm, on which he grew to manhood, and where he has spent the greater part of his life, except for a period of seven years in North Dakota and his residence in Caledonia village, to which place he came in 1910. Here he became buyer for the Caledonia elevator, of which he is now manager, being also a director in the company. He is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove elevator and the Caledonia creamery, as well as in a clothing store and a general store in Caledonia, and in the Caledonia State Bank, of which he is a director. For some years Mr. Hefte served as town chairman, and for ten years as assessor, and while residing in Wilmington township he was a member of the school board. Mr. Hefte married Ingwald Doley, daughter of Ingwald Doley, a pioneer of Wilmington township. This union has been blessed with six children: Setmine, wife of J. E. Stenehjem, Caledonia clothing merchant; Oliver, who for a time was in the mercantile trade in Caledonia, but who now owns and operated forty acres of the old homestead; Inoh P., who is in partnership with J. E. Stenehjem; Hilda, wife of Odin Blehrud; Olga D., wife of Dr. J. B. Scott; and Stella, who resides at home.

Asborn Stenehjem, founder of the well known Stenehjem family in Houston county, and one of the pioneer settlers of this county, was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married. With his wife, Kari, and one child, Ole, he came to the United States in 1850, landing at New York after a voyage of ten weeks in a sailing vessel. Proceeding west,

he settled in Illinois, in which State he was engaged in farming until 1854. He then came to Houston county, Minn., driving with an ox team into Wilmington township. There he secured 160 acres of land and built a log house, which was the first dwelling of the family in the county. His first agricultural work was done with the aid of his oxen, which he used for a number of years. His first horse, then a young colt, was received as a present from A. Hanson of Waterloo Ridge, and he carried it home on his back, a distance of six miles. It became a family pet, and was known as "Wesle Fan," or "Little Fan," wesle in Norwegian meaning small. Mr. Stenehjem often walked to Brownsville and Lansing, carrying home groceries on his back, which in pioneer days was often the only means of transportation; and to add to the difficulties the only road was a rude trail which often had to be cleared from brush. Indeed, Mr. Stenehjem had to cut a way into his land when he took possession of it. In time he increased the size of his farm to 220 acres and built a good house and barn, together with the necessary outbuildings, and cleared and broke a good portion of his land. A member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, he gave the site for the first church of that denomination in Wilmington township, and in many ways proved himself to be a useful and public spirited citizen. Both he and his wife are now deceased. They had seven children: Ole, already mentioned, who became a farmer in Black Hammer township and is now dead; Andrew A., who remained on the old home farm, where he died at the age of fifty-nine years; Martha, who married Hans Bjerke and went to North Dakota, where she is now living; Peter, who went west and finally settled in North Dakota; Johanna and Louritz, deceased; and Johann.

Andrew A. Stenehjem, for many years a well known farmer and stock dealer in Wilmington township, was born on his parents' farm in that township, son of Asborn and Kari Stenehjem, who were pioneer farmers there. His education opportunities were confined to the usual course of study pursued in the little log schoolhouse of his district, while his industrial training was more thorough and was received under his father's direction on the home farm, where he always made his home, and to the ownership of which he succeeded. As a farmer he was successful, and in addition to cultivating the soil, he both raised and bought stock, which he shipped to market, following this latter occupation for some thirty years. He was also prominent as a citizen and served for a number of years as a member of the town board, and of the school board of his district, in addition to being a consistent and useful member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. His death at the rate of fifty-nine years was deeply regretted throughout the township and vicinity. Mr. Stenehjem married Gunvor Trehus, who was born near Rockland, Ill., in 1853. She is still living and is now a resident of Spring Grove, this county. They were the parents of thirteen children: Ella M., Dora, Albert, Thomas, Peter, J. Edwin, Gerhard, Martin, Arthur, Odin, Styrk, Theodora and an unnamed infant. Ella M. is the wife of Christ Knottrud, of Lanesboro, Minn.; Dora is a teacher and has specialized in music in Minneapolis; J. Edwin and Styrk are business men of Caledonia; Theodora and the unnamed infant are dead. The rest of the sons are at Williston and Arnegard, N. D. The brothers are all expert baseball players



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD KLUG

and have organized a team of their own at Arnegard, N. D., which town has thus the unique distinction of possessing a ball team composed practically of the members of one family.

John Edwin Stenehjem, a prominent business man of Caledonia, a member of the Stenehjem-Hefte Co., dealers in clothing, was born in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn., Jan. 15, 1881; son of Andrew A. and Gunvor (Trehus) Stenehjem. He was reared on his parents' farm, acquiring his education in the district school, and later pursuing more advanced studies at the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa. Thus prepared, he entered the employ of P. M. Fuss, clothing dealer of Caledonia, for whom he worked for a year and a half, at the end of that time buying a half interest in the business. That arrangement was continued for eight years, when O. N. O. Hefte became Mr. Stenehjem's partner, Mr. Hefte's son, Inoh P., buying an interest in the business three years later, since which time no further changes have been made. The firm is doing a prosperous business and has an extensive patronage throughout this part of the county. Mr. Stenehjem is a thirty-second degree Mason, belonging also to the Mystic Shrine at St. Paul. He is personally popular and his energy and business ability have advanced him far on the road to prosperity. Mr. Stenehjem was married Jan. 17, 1901, to Setmine Hefte, daughter of O. N. O. Hefte, of Wilmington township. They have three children: Marie, Arnold and Genevieve.

Julius Gran, a prosperous merchant of Caledonia village, was born in Jefferson township, this county, son of Peter Gran, a farmer. He was educated in the district school, which he left at the age of fourteen years to work on his father's farm, also at times working out for others. In that way he spent about four years, and then, going to St. Paul, entered the employ of the Pullman Car Company, for whom he worked in that city for two years, and was then sent by them to Butte, Mont., where he remained for a year. At the end of that time he came home, and his next two years were spent on the farm. Then returning to St. Paul, he entered the dining-car department of the Great Northern Railway as assistant store keeper, which position he held for six years, serving for four years subsequently as head store keeper. Then returning to Houston county, he entered into his present partnership with Helmer J. Solberg, in the commission business, in which he has now been engaged for about five years. The firm is doing a good business and is well known throughout this section as a reliable concern. Mr. Gran is a member of the Yeomen's Lodge at St. Paul. He married Josephine Stenens, daughter of Edward Stenens, a pioneer of Houston county, and he and his wife have one child, Achsa Mae.

Richard Klug, an early settler in Caledonia township, was born in Bavaria, Germany, and there grew to manhood. After coming to the United States in early manhood, he was married in Wisconsin to Mary Klos, a native of Belgium, and they settled in Houston county, Minn., driving with an ox team to a point five miles west of Caledonia, where he rented a farm. Subsequently he and his family moved to a farm three and a half miles west of Caledonia, which he bought. It contained eighty acres and was provided with a log house 14 by 16 feet in size, in which the family took

up their residence. Making use of his oxen, he broke the land, and in time erected good buildings and increased the size of his farm. His wife also raised some apple trees from seed, some of which are now standing on the place and are as sturdy as oak trees. In early days she used to walk to Caledonia village, carrying butter and eggs to dispose of. She is still living and now resides with her son Nicholas R. on his farm in this township. A Catholic in religion, as were all his family, Richard Klug helped to support St. Peter's church in Caledonia, and also served for some time as a member of the school board of his district. He was a worthy citizen who did his part in helping to advance the interests of the community in which he had made his home. There were eight children in the family, five of whom are now living.

Nicholas R. Klug, who is prosperously engaged in farming and stock raising in Caledonia township, was born in Houston county, on a farm five miles west of Caledonia village, Jan. 24, 1877, son of Richard and Mary (Klos) Klug. His parents later moved to a farm three and a half miles west of the village, and on these two farms he was reared to manhood, being occupied with agricultural work until reaching the age of sixteen or seventeen. He then worked for two years at the carpenter's trade. Since then he has been engaged chiefly in agriculture in its various branches of crop raising, dairying and stock raising. In 1904 he came to his present farm, which then contained forty acres, but which he has increased to an area of 120 acres. Here he is raising graded and registered Holstein cattle and other good stock. He has built a new barn and outbuildings, using for a residence the house which stood on the place when he took possession of it. He was one of the founders of the local creamery, serving on the building committee, and has since been a shareholder in it. He also holds shares in the stock and grain company. A member of the Catholic church, he served on the building committee of the school.

Theodore Schmitt, for many years an enterprising and successful farmer of Caledonia township, now living in Caledonia village, was born in Dubuque, Iowa, April 10, 1852. He was only an infant when his parents came with their family to Houston county. Those were pioneer days and they had privations to endure, but game was plentiful, and it was but a short time after their arrival here when the father, in going after the cows on Badger Creek, found a deer which had fallen into a hole and was unable to get out. The next day he yoked up his cattle and, taking his rifle and a stout rope, went to the spot. There he shot the deer, hauled it out of the hole, which was twenty-five feet deep, with the rope and carried it home. Young Theodore, who now remembers but few of those early events, as he grew up attended school in Badger Valley and assisted his parents, upon him, as he was the eldest child, falling the larger share of responsibility. At the age of thirty years he started in for himself, locating on a farm of 120 acres, forty acres of which were then mostly wild land, and there were neither buildings, fences nor shade trees. His early operations were conducted in a primitive manner but were none the less effective. He grubbed the land and cultivated it with the aid of oxen, built the frame house which is still standing, and planted Norway spruce and other trees in his yard as

a wind shield and for shade purposes. He also erected good barns and other outbuildings, until he had a well developed farm with modern equipment. He kept a good grade of stock, and became a shareholder in the creamery and the Farmers' elevator. As one of the substantial citizens of his township, Mr. Schmitt was called upon to take part in the affairs of local government and has held office as town treasurer and assessor, also as a member of the school board. He and his family are members of St. Peter's Catholic church. Mr. Schmitt married Louisa Wagner, who was born near New Hampton, in Chickasaw county, Iowa, daughter of Nicholas Wagner, now deceased, whose last days were spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt. The latter have had nine children, one of whom, Elizabeth, is now deceased. Those living are: Mary and Louisa, teachers in the parochial school; Barbara, wife of John King, of Caledonia; Anna, wife of Frank Clark of Galesburg, Ill.; Adela, Bernice, Edward and Paul. In the spring of 1919 Mr. Schmitt sold his farm which he had built up by so many years of hard work, and this fall has moved to the village of Caledonia, where he will make his future home.

John P. Ellenz, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Caledonia township, was born April 19, 1888, in this township, on the farm of his father, Phillip Ellenz. On account of poor health when a boy, he attended school only six months, but later, through his own exertions, picked up an average amount of knowledge. Residing with his parents and accompanying them when they moved to Caledonia some twelve or thirteen years ago. After that he worked out on farms for seven years, at the end of which time he bought the home farm which he has since operated. He has built a basement barn, 32 by 68 feet, and also a machine shed, and is successfully raising Hereford cattle, Black Poland China hogs of the large breed, a good grade of horses, and Buff Orpington poultry. He served as president of the telephone company, and is a man who takes an interest in enterprises having for their object the benefit of the community in which he lives. Mr. Ellenz married Catherine Davy, who was born in Houston, a daughter of John Davy. He and his wife are members of St. John's Catholic church.

Patrick Dunn, who was for a number of years proprietor of a farm of 160 acres in Caledonia township, was born in Kentucky about 1860, son of Michael and Mary (Ryan) Dunn. He accompanied his parents to Brownsville, Houston county, Minn., and later to their farm in Caledonia township, which he helped his father to develop, and of which he finally became the proprietor. It contains 160 acres, which he farmed successfully until his death in 1905, at the age of about forty-five years. Identified with the county from his early years, having been educated in its district schools, he always took a warm interest in its progress and development, being ever ready to perform the duties of a good citizen. He was a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator, and provided well for his family. Like his father, he was a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Dunn was married March 1, 1880, to Margaret McKenna, who was born in Union township, Houston county, daughter of Timothy and Mary (Murphy) Dunn. Of this union seven children were born: Mary, wife of James Driscoll; Michael and Frank, residing on the home farm; Anna, who is a nurse; Patrick, who is

a dentist now in the United States service, with the rank of first lieutenant; Stella, who is a normal school student; and Paul, who is attending parochial school.

Michael Dunn, a former resident of Caledonia township, was born in Tipperary county, Ireland, and married Mary Ryan, a native of the same county. Emigrating to the United States, they settled first in Kentucky, whence at an early date they removed to Houston county, Minn., locating near Brownsville. Subsequently they took a tract of prairie land in Caledonia township, where they engaged in farming, Mr. Dunn, with the help of his son Patrick, erecting a house and barns. There he and his wife subsequently died. They were members of the Catholic church, and for some time he served as an officer on the school board of his district.

Timothy McKenna, a pioneer of Union township, resided in that township for a number of years, developing a farm from wild land with the help of his oxen. He later moved to Caledonia township, where he spent the rest of his life, and was a well known and respected citizen. He was a member of the Catholic church, and served on the school board of his district. He married Mary Murphy, a native of the same county in Ireland as himself.

Patrick Driscoll, who was for many years a well known farmer and esteemed citizen of Caledonia township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1848, son of Patrick Driscoll. Coming to America when young, he grew to manhood in Houston county, and was married in Caledonia, Oct. 10, 1882, to Catherine O'Leary, who was born in this township, Dec. 15, 1859, daughter of Michael and Margaret (Murry) O'Leary. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll located on a rented farm two miles east of the present homestead, and on the township line. From there they moved to a farm of eighty acres, which they purchased in section 1, on which they erected buildings. In 1916 they moved to the present homestead in section 1, but had been here only a few days when Mr. Driscoll died, on Oct. 21, 1916. He had been an active, industrious man, and had attained a fair measure of success, being a shareholder in the creamery and in the Caledonia Grain & Stock Company. He and his wife were the parents of nine children: Michael, now a resident of Gt. Falls, Mont.; William, on the home place; Edward, who served in the United States army in France; John, residing in Montana; Annabel, who is at home; Catherine, a nurse; Robert, who attended school at La Crosse is now a telegraph operator at Fargo, N. D.; and Archer, of Caledonia. The family are members of St. John's Catholic church.

Patrick Driscoll, an early settler of Caledonia township, now deceased was a native of Ireland, and in early manhood was a sailor in the coastwise trade. He was married in his native land to Anastasia Collins and continued to reside there for some years after his marriage. In 1847 he came to the United States alone, leaving behind his wife and five children. It was on August 15 that he took passage and it was not until Christmas that he arrived at New Orleans, to which place the vessel was bound. In the spring of 1848 he went to Louisville, Ky., where he worked at whatever he could find to do, chiefly at railroad and public construction work. Still seeking to better his condition, he edged farther north, reaching Cincinnati,

where he was joined in 1851 by his wife and three children, a daughter, Julia, having died in Ireland, and one of the sons, John, coming with his uncle, Florence Driscoll. Those who came with Mrs. Driscoll were Florence (a son), Patrick and Mary. The sailing vessel in which they took passage had made a quick voyage of little over three weeks. After being joined by his family Patrick Driscoll removed with them to Kentucky, where a son, Michael, was born. Thence they removed to Missouri, and later to Dubuque, Iowa, where they lived for six years, or until 1860. In June of that year he set out with his family in a covered wagon, drawn by oxen, for Houston county, Minn., arriving in Sheldon township after a five days' trip. Here he bought 120 acres of land in section 14, and forty acres in section 22, and built a log house 18 by 24 feet in size, also a log stable, the family making their own furniture. There they resided for six years, grubbing the land and carrying eggs to market. At the end of that time Mr. Driscoll sold a part of the land and bought half a section in sections 1 and 2, and the family made another removal, their new house, a frame building, being located on the town line. This proved to be the last earthly home of Patrick Driscoll, as, after building up the place, he died there in July, 1879, at the age of sixty-five years. He was followed by his wife, who passed away in 1890. They were worthy industrious people, and faithful members of the Catholic church.

John Driscoll, now deceased for many years, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser, residing in section 1, Caledonia township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, Jan. 10, 1839, son of Patrick and Anastasia (Collins) Driscoll. He came to America in 1851, with his uncle, Florence Driscoll, his mother, with several other children, coming in the same year and joining the father, who had preceded them in 1847, at Cincinnati. After their reunion they moved to Kentucky, where they spent a year, and then went to Missouri, where the uncle, Florence, died. After that the subject of this sketch accompanied his parents and the other members of the family to Dubuque, Iowa, where they resided for six years, moving at the end of that time in a covered wagon drawn by oxen, to Sheldon township, Houston county, Minn., and taking land in sections 14 and 22. From there they removed six years later to section 1, where they built up a farm on which the parents subsequently died, as elsewhere narrated. During these several removals John proved of active assistance to his father and helped to improve both homesteads. He resided at home until 1872, when, on October 29, he was united in marriage, at St. John's church in Caledonia, to Bridget Cahill, who was born in Cork, Ireland, Feb. 1, 1844, daughter of James and Margaret (Borry) Cahill. He and his wife then located on their present farm in section 1, Caledonia township, taking up their residence in a frame house which stood on the place. There was also a log barn and straw shed. By hard work they much improved the place, erected a fine farm house, with other good buildings, acquired in all 320 acres of land and did a profitable business, keeping a good grade of Durham cattle, and Mr. Driscoll being a stockholder in the local creamery and co-operative elevator. Mr. Driscoll died June 26, 1918, and his death was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. He and his wife were the parents of

five children: Florence, Anastasia, Michael J., James C. and Margaret. The parents of Mrs. Driscoll, James and Margaret Cahill, never came to this country, dying in Ireland, their native land. They had seven children, however, all of whom came here, namely: Anna, Bridget, Honora, Ellen, May, John and Michael. Bridget, who came with relatives by steamer in May, 1861, resided for ten years in Hartford, Conn., and then came to Houston county, Minn., with a sister.

Guttorm Guttormson, one of the earliest settlers in Sheldon township, now deceased, was born in Hollingdahl, Norway, and came to the United States in 1849, first settling on a farm in Wisconsin. Three years later, in 1852, he arrived in Houston county, Minn., and took land in section 7, Sheldon township. His tract, of course, was wild, and there was a band of 300 Indians camped on it or in the immediate vicinity. Under such conditions he began the life of a pioneer farmer and in course of time improved his land and made of it a cultivated farm. With the advent of white settlers the community grew and Mr. Guttormson, as one of the first settlers, became a man of some importance, taking an active part in church and school work. He attained an advanced age, dying April 9, 1904. He was married in Houston county to Belle A. Lee, who died in 1913. They were the parents of six children, of whom their son Ole is now proprietor of the homestead. Mr. Guttormson had been twice married previous to his union with Miss Lee and by his second marriage had other children.

Ole Guttormson, who operates the home farm of 174 acres of good land in section 7, Sheldon township, which farm was established by his father in 1852, was born in this township June 9, 1871, son of Guttorm and Belle A. (Lee) Guttormson. He attended district school in both Sheldon and Yucatan townships and when only eight years old began to make himself useful on his parents' farm. Later, when his father became an invalid, more work devolved upon him, and the management of the place finally came into his hands. He continued in agriculture here until 1913, at which time he rented the farm and moved to Houston village, where he resided for four years working for others. In 1917 he returned to his farm, which he is now operating as a general stock farm, raising cattle, horses and swine. His sisters, Libbe, Anna and Gelena live on the farm and keep house for him. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is independent.

George O. Alstad, who for thirty years was a well known farmer of Caledonia township, was born in Norway and came to America in 1873. He had married in Norway Ellen Anna Logtu, who followed him with the children in 1877. Settling in Iowa, Mr. Alstad worked out there for several years, and then formed a partnership in the purchase of a farm. Later he sold his share and rented a farm, subsequently buying one. This he afterwards sold and moved to another seven miles away. After some time spent on the last mentioned property, he moved with his family to Mabel, in Fillmore county, Minn., where he resided for some years, renting in succession several farms. He next moved to a farm in Black Hammer township, Houston county, which he sold about 1887, moving to a farm in section 18, Caledonia township, which was his final home, as he died



GUTTORM GUTTORMSON AND FAMILY

there Jan. 16, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. George O. Alstad had five children, two of whom died in infancy. The other three were Ole, who is now living; Karen, who died Aug. 6, 1912, and Jonas G., who died Jan. 16, 1919.

Jonas G. Alstad, for many years prosperously engaged in mixed farming and stock raising in section 18, Caledonia township, was born in Norway, July 20, 1869, son of George O. and Ellen Anna (Logtu) Alstad. In 1877 he accompanied his mother to the United States, and the rest of his boyhood was spent on his parents' farms in Iowa and Minnesota. During this time he attended district school in various locations, and when old enough assisted his father on the farm. He was about eighteen years old when they settled on a farm in Caledonia township. On March 13, 1902, when in his twenty-third year, he was united in marriage with Anna Johnson, who was born July 1, 1882, daughter of Soren Johnson. She was one of eight children—Ben, Carl, Anna, Christ, Simon, Eline and Olive—her parents being natives of Norway. At the time of his marriage Mr. Alstad purchased the home farm, which he continued to cultivate, doing mixed farming, including the raising of cattle and swine. The farm contains 154 acres, about half its area being cleared and the rest being in timber. Mr. Alstad rebuilt the house and erected all the other buildings now in use, including the barn, granary and chicken coop. The barn measures 38 by 38 feet, having an addition 17 by 22 feet. Mr. Alstad was also a shareholder in the Beaver Ridge Telephone Company, in which he held the office of treasurer; also a shareholder in the Peoples Co-operative Elevator in Caledonia, and the Co-operative Creamery in Spring Grove. He attends the Black Hammer Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he was trustee for three years. His public service included twelve years as school clerk and some time as road commissioner. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Alstad are: Gerhard Sigurd, Feb. 8, 1905; Alma Regina, Dec. 8, 1906; Clara Mathilde, Sept. 16, 1908, and Mabel Belinde, April 30, 1912, the three eldest of whom are attending school. Mr. Alstad was an experienced farmer and for many years pursued a prosperous career. He was, moreover, a man taking an active interest in whatever concerns the good of the community in which he resided. Since his death, January 16, 1919, Mrs. Alstad still carries on the farm.

Johanes Johnson Klongerbo, who was formerly engaged in farming in Caledonia township, was born in Norway, where he married Bergete Dahl. In 1870 he came to the United States alone, being followed in the next year by the rest of the family, who left Norway May 9, and arrived in Caledonia township, Houston county, Minn., July 15, the voyage across the ocean having been made in a sailing vessel. Three years after his arrival here the subject of this sketch bought a farm, which he operated until 1879, his further career being cut short by an accident from the effects of which he died. He and his wife had five children: Christina, now living in Hillsboro, N. D.; Soren, residing in Caledonia township, this county; Hans, who lives in Clearwater county, Minn.; John, a resident of Hillsboro, N. D.; and Nels J., the present owner of the old homestead.

Nels Johnson Klongerbo, an enterprising farmer and prominent citizen of Caledonia township, of which he is now chairman, was born in Norway

Aug. 12, 1861, son of Johanes Johnson Klongerbo, by his wife Bergete Dahl. He was ten years old when he accompanied his mother to the United States, his father having come to this country in the previous year, 1870, and settled in Caledonia township, this county. Here Nels attended school for three terms, which, with two winters of school attendance in Norway, constituted his education. After the death of his father, which occurred in 1879, he and his brother took charge of the farm and worked it together for thirteen years, or until 1892, when Nels purchased it and has since been the proprietor. It has an area of 200 acres, of which about 110 acres are clear, the balance being in woodland. Mr. Klongerbo is engaged in mixed farming, raising cattle and hogs for the market, and keeping a fine herd of milch cows. He has good outbuildings, which he is engaged in still further improving. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Creamery and in the Peoples' Co-operative Elevator at Caledonia. Ever since he attained his majority, except for six years, he has served as school treasurer, and he has been a member of the town board for nine years, being elected chairman in the spring of 1919. On Aug. 29, 1891, Mr. Klongerbo was united in marriage with Carrie Alstad, who was born in Norway, Nov. 14, 1866, daughter of George O. and Anna (Logtu) Alstad. She died Aug. 16, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Klongerbo were the parents of eleven children: Bedine, now deceased; Julius, residing on the home farm; Anna, wife of Carl Hanson, and Nelvin Nettie, Selma, Celia, Clara, Bernhard, Teman and Elmer, all of whom are residing at home, the younger members attending school. The family attend the Black Hammer Norwegian Lutheran church.

Osmond Larson, a pioneer of Houston county, and in early days a surveyor but later a farmer, was born near Christiana, Norway, and came to America when a young man, locating at Madison, Wis., where for six years he followed the trade of bricklayer. He then came to Houston county and was here employed as a surveyor, at times being engaged in agricultural work. He took part in the Civil War, serving for a short time in a Minnesota regiment. Finally he located on the farm in section 17, Sheldon township that is now owned and operated by his son Lawrence Weom. Here he died in 1882, being survived several years by his wife, whose death occurred in 1904. They were the parents of thirteen children.

Lawrence Weom, one of the leading citizens of Sheldon township, where he owns a fine farm of 260 acres, was born on this farm June 9, 1859, son of Osmond Larson and his wife, Elizabeth Vraa. He was the third born in a family of thirteen children, and was educated in Houston and in a district school in Sheldon township. Trained to agriculture on the parental farm, at the age of twenty-one he went to South Dakota, where he took a homestead. On his father's death in 1882 he returned to Houston county, and has since been engaged in operating the home farm, except for a period of three years during which he rented it and resided in Houston village, working for others. On his 260 acres of valuable land he has erected good buildings and fences, and generally improved the property until it is now one of the best equipped and most profitable farms in the valley. His present fine residence was built in 1906. He is a stockholder in the local creamery and in the Farmers' Telephone Company, as well as other business

LAWRENCE WOOM AND FAMILY



enterprises and is ranked among the successful men of his township. In politics a Prohibitionist, he served as town treasurer for eleven years, at the end of which time he resigned. He was also for one term a director on the school board, and is a trustee of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Weom was married Dec. 12, 1899, to Hilda (Johnson) Abrahamson, and they have two children, Bernice Aaronnette and Laurel Allen. Mrs. Weom was born in Norway, the oldest child of Andrew P. and Christine Johnson, who brought her to this country when she was an infant. She was educated in the Houston schools, and as a young woman married Aaron Abrahamson, now deceased, by whom she has five children, Elmer, Lillian, Helen, Henry and Myrtle. Elmer is clerk in a general store at Houston; Lillian lives at home; Helen is the wife of W. R. Anderson of Houston township; Henry and Myrtle are deceased.

Andrew P. Johnson, farmer and merchant, was born in Sweden, Oct. 21, 1834, and was married in his native land. With his wife Christine, who was a native of Norway, he came to the United States, settling in Winona, Minn., where for several years he was employed in a sawmill. He then came to Houston county, bought land and engaged in farming, also for a while operating a store as a general merchant. He died in Houston in 1893 some time after his retirement from business. During his active career he served in various local offices. He was twice married, having two children by his first wife and ten by the second.

Knudt Strand, who was one of the settlers in Sheldon township in the later seventies, now deceased, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, where he married Sarah Johnson, who was also born in that part of Norway. Their emigration to this country took place in 1878, and they came directly to Houston county, Minn. For a time Mr. Strand worked out for others, and then as soon as he had accumulated sufficient means he took land in Sheldon township and engaged in farming. After spending many years in that occupation he and his wife retired and came to live with their son, John K., on whose farm in section 26, Sheldon township, Knudt Strand died on Jan. 25, 1910. His wife still resides with her son, above mentioned, who was the youngest of their three children.

John K. Strand, who owns and operates a good modern farm of 119 acres in section 24, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Oct. 22, 1875, son of Knudt and Sarah (Johnson) Strand. He was but three years old when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents and accompanied them to Houston county. After a while they located on a farm in Sheldon township, and in that locality he attended district school. Being his parents' only son, he became his father's chief assistant on the farm, residing at home until twenty-one years old. He then worked out for a year, after which he engaged in agricultural work for himself, renting his present farm, which he bought a few years later. He has made all the noteworthy improvements on it, putting up the buildings and fences, and bringing the land into a high state of cultivation, and is breeding up in Durham cattle and other good stock. One of the enterprising and substantial citizens of his township, he is widely known and respected. He has

served on the school board for a number of years, in politics being independent, while he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, known throughout this part of the county as the "Stone Church." Mr. Strand was married Dec. 2, 1896, to Carrie Dahle, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Hans and Ingeborg (Nelson) Dahle. He and his wife have had seven children: Clarence, who resides on the home farm; Henry, who died Sept. 25, 1905, at the age of six years; and Orvin, Emma Sylvena, Louisa Nara, Lizzie Dortha and Clara Bernice, who are residing at home. Hans Dahle, father of Mrs. John K. Strand, was born in Telemarken, Norway, as was also his wife Ingeborg. They were early settlers in Sheldon township, where Mr. Dahle cleared and improved a farm, residing on it until his death about 1907. During his active career he was a prominent man in the township, serving for some time on the town board and taking a lively interest in school and church work. His wife, who survives him, is now living in Houston. They had ten children, of which their daughter Carrie (Mrs. Strand) was the fifth in order of birth. In her girlhood she attended school in the Badger district of Sheldon township.

Alfred E. Swenson, a well known farmer and stock breeder residing in section 23, Sheldon township, was born in Houston township, this county, Feb. 10, 1884, son of S. A. and Lena (Carlson) Swenson. In his boyhood he attended school in his native township and also in Houston village. His parents being farmers, he was brought up to agricultural pursuits and resided at home until his marriage, though at the age of seventeen years he rented and operated a farm independently. When twenty years old he purchased a farm in section 23, which he still owns and where he resided until Jan. 1, 1919. When he took the place there were practically no improvements on the land, and the present appearance of the 160 acre farm with its good buildings, and well kept land, is due to his hard work and good judgment. After leaving this farm he rented it to a tenant, and himself moved to a 240-acre farm in section 10, which he is now conducting. An important part of his business is the raising of pure-bred Ayrshire cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, he being a member of the Duroc-Jersey Breeders' Association. His operations have been conducted with good judgment and have resulted profitably, giving him an established position among the successful farmers and stock raisers of Sheldon township. He is a member of the Houston Shipping Association and a shareholder in the Telephone Company. His religious affiliations are with the Swedish Baptist church, while in politics he is independent. On April 10, 1913, Mr. Swenson was married to Julia Sheldon, who was born in Mound Prairie Township, Houston county, daughter of Sumner S. and Ada (Fairbanks) Sheldon. Two children have been born to them: Warren Sheldon, June 16, 1914; and Alfred Wayne, July 12, 1917. Sumner Sheldon, father of Mrs. Swenson, was born in Brownsville, this county, Aug. 19, 1855, and has always been a farmer, owning land, on which he made improvements, in Mound Prairie township. He is still in active life. His wife, who is also living, was born in Houston township, Nov. 6, 1868. Their daughter Julia, who was the second born in a family of six children, acquired her elementary education in a district school in Mound Prairie township, and also attended prepara-

tory schools at Austin, Minn., and Onalaska, Wis. For two years before her marriage she followed the occupation of a teacher in Houston county.

Hans Stigen, proprietor of a farm in Black Hammer township, where he has resided for a number of years, was born in Norway, and was married in his native land to Olena Hanson. In 1881 they emigrated to the United States, locating about thirty miles southeast of La Crosse, Wis., where they resided for a while, Mr. Stigen working for others. Finally they moved to Black Hammer township, Houston county, Minn., where Mr. Stigen bought the farm on which he and his wife are still living, and on which he has made improvements. They have had a family of fourteen children.

Mathias H. Stigen, a well known farmer of Sheldon township, residing in section 33, was born in Norway, Oct. 24, 1876, son of Hans and Olena (Hanson) Stigen. In 1881, when a boy of seven years, he accompanied his parents to America, and later attended school in Black Hammer township, Houston county. His educational opportunities, however, were not great, as he had to begin industrial life at the early age of eight years, helping to support himself, which he did entirely at a somewhat later period, working out until his marriage. He then began farming on his own account at Rushford, Fillmore county, where he remained for a year, subsequently removing to Wilmington township, Houston county, where he operated a farm for about six years. At the end of that time he bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 33, Sheldon township, where he has good land and substantial buildings and is successfully raising both stock and grain. He is a member of the Lutheran church in Black Hammer township, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Stigen was married Oct. 8, 1900, to Clara Dahle, daughter of Andrew and Berget (Sames) Dahle, her parents, natives of Norway, being early settlers in Wilmington township, where they still reside on a farm. Mrs. Stigen was the third born in a family of eleven children, and was educated in Wilmington township, Houston county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stigen: Olga, wife of Edward Beck of Minneapolis; Arnold, Minerva, and Silvia and an infant unnamed residing at home.

Ole Halvorson Skree, the pioneer founder of a farm in section 16, Sheldon township, was born in Norway April 22, 1824. He was married in his native land to Sarah H. Michaelson, also a native of Norway, born Sept. 29, 1823. For a number of years after their marriage remained in Norway, for at least six of their nine children were born there. At last, in the hope of bettering their condition, they emigrated to the United States, locating first in Dane county, Wis., where they resided for one year. At the end of that time they removed to Houston county, securing land in section 16, where Mr. Skree began the work of developing a farm. He had made good progress on it when death cut short his labors on Nov. 20, 1864. During his career in the township he took active part in church and school work. His wife survived him many years, dying Jan. 18, 1892.

Tollef O. Skree, who is engaged in successfully operating the farm of 140 acres in section 16, Sheldon township, which was established by his father, was born in Telemarken, Norway, in January, 1849, son of Ole

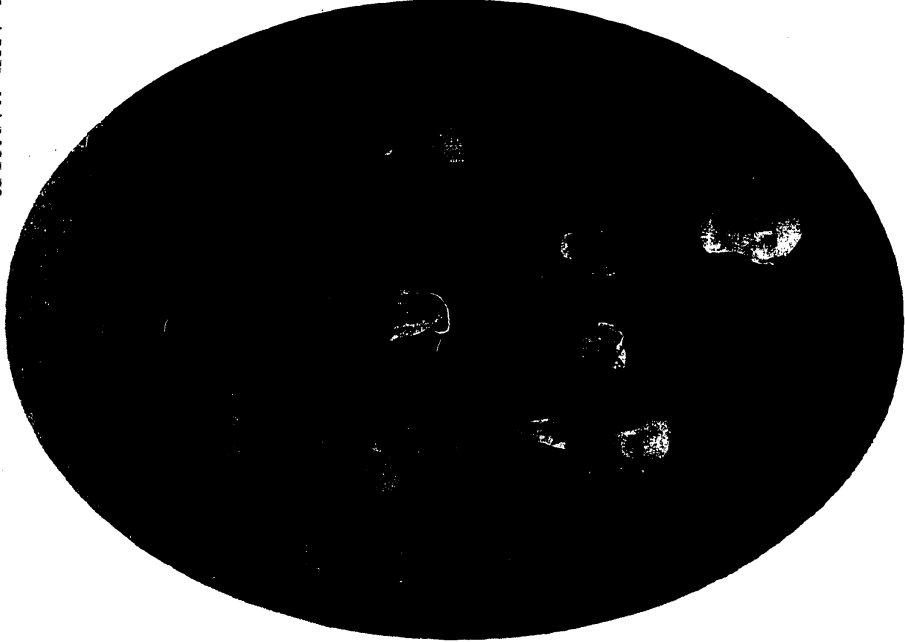
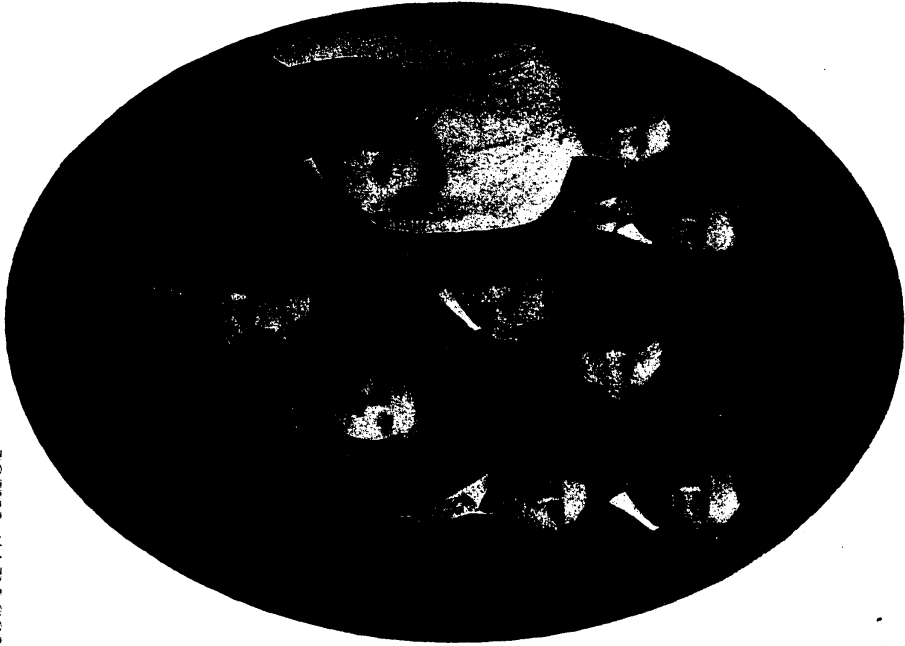
Halvorson Skree and his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah H. Michaelson. After coming to this township in childhood with his parents, he attended district school, though his opportunities were limited, as at an early age he had to make himself useful on the farm. At the age of twenty years he took charge of the farm and looked after his mother's interests until her death. Here he has continued to reside, engaged in general farming. The property is well improved and Mr. Skree receives good prices for his crops and stock. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics is an independent Republican.

Ole O. Sanden, the developer of a good farm in Sheldon township, but who is now deceased, was born in Telemarken, Norway, July 4, 1841. He was thirty-one years old when he came to the United States with his parents, the family settling first in Wisconsin, where they resided for a year or two. Then coming to Houston county, Minn., they located in Sheldon township and engaged in the work of farm development, in which Ole O. took an active part, finally becoming proprietor of a farm of his own. He also served as a member of the school board and was active in church work. He was married in this county to Katherine Nelson, who, like himself, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, and they were the parents of eleven children. Mr. Sanden died in 1901 and his wife on Dec. 3, 1904. They were worthy and industrious people who had played a useful part in the work of local improvement, and were widely known and respected.

Hans O. Sanden, one of the leading farmers of Sheldon township, residing in section 16, was born on his present farm, May 9, 1876, son of Ole O. and Katherine (Nelson) Sanden. He was the fifth born of his parents' eleven children, and was reared on the home farm, attending district school in this township. For a number of years he acted as his father's assistant, becoming the active manager of the farm a number of years before the father's death, and the property finally came into his possession. At the present time he has 378 acres in Badger Valley, besides a tract of woodland on the Ridge, and his buildings and fences are in good condition, the entire estate constituting a well improved modern farm. He is making a specialty of breeding Hereford cattle, of which he has a herd of between forty and fifty, and also raises other stock. He holds shares in the Houston Creamery, the Houston Shipping Association, the Houston Telephone Co., and the Houston State Bank. In politics, independent, he is at present serving both as town and school treasurer. He is a member of the "Stone" Norwegian Lutheran church and of the Modern Woodmen of America at Houston. Mr. Sanden was married Sept. 23, 1904, to Lizzie Wilson, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of Abraham and Guro (Kittelton) Wilson. He and his wife are the parents of five children, Nadine Katherine, Grace, Myrtle, Katherine and Olaf. Both the Sanden and Wilson families have been long established in this part of Houston county, their members being energetic and enterprising people widely respected.

John Carlson, who for the last twenty-one years has been operating a farm of 260 acres in section 15, Sheldon township, and has now a fine and well improved place, was born in Halland, Sweden, April 22, 1860, son of

JOHN CARLSON AND FAMILY



Carl John Larson and his wife, Anna Larson. The parents were natives of the same locality, and both died in Sweden, the mother in 1882. The father came to this country and resided for three years with his son John, the subject of this sketch, after which he returned to Sweden, where his death occurred 16 years after that of his wife. John Carlson, who was the eldest in a family of five children, attended school in Sweden. At the age of 16 years he began working out and so continued until he was 22. He then came to the United States, landing in this country without any knowledge of the English language. Locating in Houston county, he engaged in construction work on the St. Paul railroad. He also worked in the Houston Flour Mill at intervals until 1899, when he started farming. For the first four years he rented a farm in Sheldon township. After he operated a farm in Looney Valley for five years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm in section 15, Sheldon township. Here he has erected all the buildings, built fences and roads and made various other improvements. He is also interested in the Farmers' Shipping Association and the Farmers' Telephone Company. His political principles are those of the Republican party. Mr. Carlson was married Aug. 8, 1883, to Anna Sophia Johnson, a native of Sweden, where she attended school, and the seventh born of the nine children of Johan Larson and his wife, Christie Johnson. Her parents never came to this country, both dying in their native land. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have nine children as follows: Anna C. and Carl Alfred, residing at home; Ida Josephena, wife of John England, a farmer in Looney Valley; Ben Edwin, a farmer in Union township, who married Emma Schmidt; Elmer Julius, John Leonard, Charles William, Lillian Augusta and Emmett Nordeau. This family has the proud record of having given three sturdy sons for service in the United States Army, Elmer Julius and John Leonard serving with the Army of Occupation in Germany, and Charles William serving with the Ambulance Corps in France.

Gunder O. Skree, a well known and respected citizen of Sheldon township, now retired, who won success as a general farmer, stockraiser and dairyman, for many years operating a farm of 153 acres in section 21, was born in Telemarken, Norway, June 11, 1851, son of Ole Halvorson and Sarah (Mickelson) Skree. His parents came to this country in the early fifties, settling first in Dane county, Wis., and then, about a year later, removing to Houston county, Minn., and settling on land in Sheldon township, where they developed a farm. Both are now deceased.

Gunder O. Skree in his boyhood attended the local schools for a limited period and was trained to agricultural pursuits on the home farm. At the age of 18 years he began working out and for some time followed various occupations, including railroad work, farm work and lumbering. Marrying in 1874, he then moved to Clay county, Minn., where he took a farm which he operated for seven years. At the end of that time he sold the place and returned to Sheldon township, Houston county, taking a farm in the valley in which he now lives, and which farm he operated for 13 years. Then selling it, he moved to his present location in section 21, where he has 153 acres of valuable land on which he has erected good modern buildings and has a thorough equipment for general stock and dairy farming.

Since 1904 he has been giving special attention to the breeding of Short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. He is also a stockholder in the local creamery, elevator and telephone companies. At the present time he is no longer doing any hard work on the farm, leaving its operation to his son Anton. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in former days served as school treasurer, in politics being a Republican. Forty-six years ago, on May 18, 1874, Mr. Skree assumed the responsibilities of domestic life, being united in marriage with Anna Gorena Anfinson, who was born in La Crosse Valley, La Crosse County, Wis., daughter of Anfin and Martha (Evenson) Anfinson. Of this union five children have been born: Matilda, wife of John O. Sanden, a merchant of Aurelia, N. D.; Segrid, wife of Charles Kragness, a farmer of Sheldon township; Oletha, wife of Oscar Nelson, a farmer of Kanabec county, Minn.; Anton, who married Mary Kragness and resides on the home farm; and Ellen, wife of Delbert Lewis. Anfin and Matilda (Evenson) Anfinson, the parents of Mrs. Skree, were both natives of Norway, the father born in Nunedahl and the mother in Omley. They were early settlers in Houston county, residing for a few years on Swede Bottom, after which they moved to a farm near the Stone church in Houston township, the place now being owned by Mr. Anderson. Mrs. Anfinson died in 1867, and her husband subsequently farmed for a number of years in Clay county, Minn., after which he returned to Houston county and made his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Skree, dying here in 1890. They were the parents of nine children, of whom their daughter Anna Gorena was the third in order of birth.

John A. Tangen, whose death on Feb. 20, 1916, deprived Sheldon township of one of its enterprising and respected citizens, was born in Hamar, Norway, Feb. 21, 1855, son of Anderson and Bertha Tangen. The parents, who never came to this country, are both now deceased. John A., who was the younger of two children, acquired his education in Norway, and was 17 years old when he came to America. Locating in La Crosse, Wis., he found employment in a sawmill, and later did other work, residing there for 18 years. He was married in that city, and some years subsequently moved with his family to Houston county, Minn., and began agricultural operations on a farm in section 7, Sheldon township, continuing in that line of industry until his death. A man of domestic tastes, and a good neighbor, he was well liked in the community, and had a wide circle of friends. He was a consistent member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics was a Republican. Mr. Tangen was married in La Crosse, Oct. 3, 1881, to Gusta Christianson, daughter of Cupprud and Mary (Jenson) Christianson, and a native of Norway, her birthplace being in the vicinity of Christiania. She was the eldest in a family of three children, and being young when she came to America, in 1860, attended school for a limited period in Fillmore county, this state, the family locating on Highland Prairie. Mr. and Mrs. Tangen had a family of four children: Ida Bertina, Gunda Jecena, Alfred Conrad and Marvin. Ida Bertina is residing at the Radison Hotel in Minneapolis; Gunda Jecena is also at one of the leading hotels there; Alfred Conrad and Marvin are assisting their mother to

operate the home farm, which she has managed successfully since her husband's death.

Ole A. Tweiten, a prosperous general farmer residing in section 28, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Jan. 30, 1867, son of Aaslak and Sigrid (Gruta) Tweiten, who were natives of the same locality. He was the sixth born in a family of seven children, and attended school in his native land, residing with his parents until arriving at the age of 20 years. He then began working out for others, spending two years at the shoemaker's trade. In 1891, wishing better opportunities than he could find in his native land, he came to the United States, locating at Madison, Wis., in the vicinity of which place he worked on farms and at miscellaneous occupations for ten months. Then coming to Houston County, he worked out for three years and then bought a farm on Oak Ridge, where he resided two years. After that for about 14 years he was engaged in operating various farms, which he purchased and subsequently sold, spending one year on his next farm after moving from Oak Ridge, then eight years on a farm in Yucatan township, three years on a farm in Money Creek township, and two years on a farm in Sheldon township. On selling the last mentioned place he took up his residence in Houston, where he was engaged in hauling cream for two years. He then bought his present farm of 123 acres in Badger Valley, section 28, Sheldon township, which he is operating along general lines, raising both crops and stock. Capably managed, the farm is yielding good returns. He is a member of the Shipping Association. He is a member of the Free church of Houston and in politics is independent. Mr. Tweiten was married Jan. 5, 1893, to Elsie Bilstad, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, close to the home of Mr. Tweiten's parents, a daughter of Ole and Gjestrand (Kettlestrad) Bilstad. She came to America in 1889, but was not accompanied by her parents, who died in their native land. Mr. and Mrs. Tweiten have been the parents of eight children: Selena, Oscar, Julius, Julia, Albin and Gena, all residing on the home farm, and Albert and Harold, who are deceased.

Segurd Vathing, a former resident of Houston county, who made agricultural improvements in several different townships, was born in Telemarken, Norway, where he was married to Gro Bondahl, also a native of that locality. Coming to the United States in 1871, they proceeded directly to Houston county, Minn., and located first in Mound Prairie township, where they resided for a year. They then moved to Irish Ridge in Sheldon township, but after a year there took land in Union township, where they lived for eight years, Mr. Vathing developing a farm, which he then sold. After disposing of it he moved to what is now the farm of John Carlson in this township, but after spending three years on it, bought the farm in section 9, where his son Iver now lives. Here he remained until his death in 1904. His wife is now residing on the farm with her son Iver. They were the parents of ten children.

Iver Vathing, who is engaged in operating the farm in section 9, Sheldon township, formerly owned by his father, was born in Union township, this county, Nov. 1, 1876, son of Segurd and Gro (Bondahl) Vathing. He was the ninth born of his parents' ten children and in his boyhood

attended school in Sheldon township, afterwards assisting his father on the home farm until the latter's death. He was only 16 years old when he assumed its management, and he has since continued to operate it, his mother and sister Susie residing with him since the father's death in 1904. He has 75 acres of valuable land, which he conducts as a general stock farm, breeding Shorthorn and Durham cattle, and Poland-China hogs. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company. His farm is well improved and provided with modern equipment, and by industry and perseverance he has raised himself to a place among the substantial citizens of his township. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, worshipping in the stone church of that denomination in Sheldon township, and in politics is independent.

William Whaley, one of the pioneers of Sheldon township, was born in Ireland in 1821, and was a young man when he came to the United States. For some years he resided in Ohio, and then came to Houston county, Minnesota. Here at first he worked out at anything he could find to do, for a part of the time at railroad work. In 1858 Minnesota became a state, and it was about that time that Mr. Whaley purchased the farm in section 26, Sheldon township, which has since been the family homestead, its present proprietor being his son, William J. Here he resided until his death, March 26, 1893, or for a period of 35 years, during which time he improved the property and erected good buildings on it. He was an industrious and respected citizen and for many years was a member of the district school board. He was survived by his wife, who is now residing on the farm with her son above mentioned. She, like her husband, was born in Ireland, her maiden name being Katherine McNamara. Their marriage took place in Houston county.

William J. Whaley, who is carrying on a good business as farmer and stock raiser on a farm of 120 acres in section 16, Sheldon township, which was established by his father, was born on this farm, Nov. 28, 1884, son of William and Catherine (McNamara) Whaley, both natives of Ireland. He was educated in District School No. 25, and has always resided on the homestead, assisting his father until 19 years of age, at which time he assumed the management of the farm and has since operated it. He has improved the property by adding some modern buildings, including an excellent barn, 34 by 60 feet, fully equipped with all needful apparatus. He breeds Polled Angus cattle and Persian horses, gradually raising the grade of his stock, and is a shareholder in the elevator at Caledonia and a member of the Houston Shipping Association. In religion he is a Roman Catholic. Mr. Whaley was married in November, 1914, to Catherine Hurley, who was born in Crystal Valley, Union township, daughter of William and Catherine (Cunningham) Hurley. Her parents were both born in this county, and were farmers. Both are now deceased, the father dying July 25, 1911, and the mother in 1888. Their daughter Catherine was their only child.

Ole O. Runingen, a large land owner in Houston township, where he is now residing on a farm, though practically retired, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Oct. 9, 1857, and was 12 years old when he came to America.



MARTIN T. RUNINGEN AND FAMILY

Brought up to agricultural pursuits, he has continued in that line of industry throughout the greater part of a long career, and has achieved more than ordinary success, being now the owner of 726 acres of land. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery Company, the Farmers' Elevator and Telephone companies, and the Shipping Association. For a number of years he served as a member of the county board, of which for a time he was chairman, and also in other offices, including those of town supervisor and member of the school board. Mr. Runingen married Julia Johnson, who was born in Sheldon township, on October 10, 1857, just one day after his own birth. They have been the parents of seven children.

Martin Theodore Runingen, proprietor of a high grade stock farm of 160 acres in section 13, Sheldon township, was born in Houston township, this county, Oct. 19, 1888, son of Ole O. and Julia (Johnson) Runingen. He was brought up on his parents' farm, on which he remained until his marriage, at which time he took the farm of 190 acres on which he is now living and where he has established a reputation as an expert and successful stock breeder, breeding full blooded Shorthorn cattle, and high grade Duroc Jersey swine. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Houston, and, religiously, of the Lutheran church. Politically he is a Republican. On Feb. 20, 1917, Mr. Runingen was united in marriage with Alma Jorde, born in Hokah Valley, Houston county, daughter of John and Julia (Olson) Jorde, and they have one son, Maynard, born Jan. 15, 1919. John Jorde was born in Norway Oct. 14, 1862, and came to the United States when only nine years old. He was married in Houston county to Julia Olson, who was born in Norway, April 3, 1869. Then they settled on a farm in Hokah Valley, where they are now living retired from active work. Their daughter Alma was the second born of their six children and was educated in this county, attending district school.

Peter Wilson was the owner for some years of good farm lands in Sheldon township, but who is now living retired in Houston, after a successful career as an agriculturist, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Nov. 27, 1853, son of Aavil Mickelson and his wife, Hage Targeson. The family came to the United States in 1871, settling in Houston, this county, and three years later on a farm in the vicinity, where the father died in 1881, and the mother a few years later. They had 15 children, of whom Peter was the second in order of birth. Of these children only two are now living, Peter and Julia, now Mrs. Sever Knutson of Houston township. Peter Wilson was a well grown young man of 18 when he arrived in Houston county with the other members of the family, but he was unable to speak English. He obtained employment, however, working three years for Mr. Driscoll. Then, having attained his majority, he went to Clay county, Minn., where he took a homestead, residing on it as a bachelor for four years, and three years after he was married. Then selling the farm, he came to Sheldon township, Houston county, taking a farm there which he operated until 1913, in which year he purchased his present home in Houston, where he is now living retired. He is administrator for several estates and is widely recognized throughout the township as one of its reliable and public spirited citizens. While living on his farm he served six years

as school treasurer. He is a member of the Lutheran "Stone" church, and in politics a Republican. Mr. Wilson was married March 20, 1881, to Asper Peterson, who was born in Houston, July 10, 1863, daughter of Swan and Asper (Gunderson) Peterson. He and his wife have had eight children: Anna Helena, wife of Peter Holm, a farmer in Black Hammer township; Samuel Alfred, who married Anna Otterness and resides on the old Wilson homestead in Sheldon township; Clara Patrina, wife of Al Ross Lee, a farmer in Canada; Jane Telena, wife of George Metcalf of Caledonia; Emma Marie, wife of Robert Lee, a Canadian farmer; Gena Hancena and Clarence Helmer, who reside with their parents; and Mabel Telena, who died in infancy. The parents of Mrs. Wilson were both born in Norway, the father coming to the United States before the Civil War and settling in Sheldon township, this county, where he resided for a number of years. He then moved to Albert Lea, but later returned to Houston, and engaged in farming here. He is still a resident of Houston. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Wilson, died at the latter's birth, she being the only child of that marriage. By a second marriage Mr. Peterson had nine other children.

Samuel Alfred Wilson, who is engaged in operating the old Wilson farm in section 19, Sheldon township, was born in Clay county, Minnesota, Nov. 5, 1884, son of Peter and Asper (Peterson) Wilson. He was the second born of his parents' eight children, and attended district school in Sheldon township, Houston county. He was reared on his parents' farm, but at the age of 14 years began working out for others, and was thus occupied for some years as a farm hand. He then engaged in stump pulling and made that his business for eleven years, at the end of which time he returned to the old homestead, where he has since been engaged in general farming, raising stock and grain for the market. The homestead consists of 160 acres of excellent land, together with a good set of buildings, and Mr. Wilson is enjoying a prosperous career. At the present time he is school treasurer of his district, in politics being a Republican. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church known as the "Stone Church," and is fraternally affiliated with the order of Yeomen. Mr. Wilson was united in marriage, May 16, 1916, to Anna Otterness, who was born in Black Hammer township, this county, daughter of Ole and Martha Otterness, both natives of that township, where they engaged in farming. Mrs. Wilson's father died in 1899, but her mother is still living on the old homestead. They had three children, of whom their daughter Anna was the second in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have one child, Maybelle Adeline.

Martin Westby, in former years an industrious farmer of Yucatan township, was born in Norway, and was a young man of 23 years when he came to America and settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota. After residing there a few years, he came to Houston county, taking land on Oak Ridge, Yucatan township. There he developed a farm and resided until his death, Jan. 29, 1909. He married Martha Kosa, who, like himself, was born in Norway, and who is still living on the homestead. They were the parents of 13 children, of whom their son, Oscar, is now a prosperous farmer in Sheldon township.

Oscar Westby, a well known farmer residing in section 18, Sheldon township, was born in Yucatan township, this county, May 17, 1886, son of Martin and Martha (Kosa) Westby. He attended school in that township and worked for his father until his marriage, when he settled on his present farm of 251 acres of valuable land. Here he has made all the standing improvements, and is successfully engaged in raising both stock and grain. In politics he is independent. On Aug. 7, 1909, Mr. Westby was united in marriage with Mary Benson, who was born in Yucatan township, daughter of Gunder and Bertha Benson. Mr. and Mrs. Westby have one child, Martin. Mrs. Westby's parents were both born in Norway, and are now farming in Sheldon township, Mr. Benson having settled in this county at an early date. He and his wife have had six children, of whom their daughter Mary was one of the youngest.

Andrew Lind, though not one of the first arrivals in Sheldon township, came early enough to take a pioneer's part in the work of local improvement, transforming a part of the wilderness into a productive farm. He was born in Sweden, March 28, 1838, and on May 21, 1868, married Caroline Nelson, born May 5, 1842. In 1869 he and his wife emigrated to this country, locating first in Iowa. There, however, they remained but a year, at the end of which time they removed to Houston county, Minnesota, taking a tract of practically unimproved land in section 10, Sheldon township, on which their son, Frederick O. Lind, now resides with his mother. This tract Mr. Lind improved into a good farm and, having finished his life's labors, passed away Oct. 5, 1892. During his active career he took a warm interest in the development of the community and was one of those who organized the Houston creamery. He and his wife had eight children: Anna S., born Dec. 5, 1870; Charles F., born Jan. 10, 1872; Benjamin N., born Nov. 27, 1873; Emma, born Dec. 3, 1875; Andrew, born Dec. 23, 1877; Sophia, born Oct. 19, 1879; Frederick O., born Aug. 25, 1882; and Hilda W., born June 12, 1885.

Frederick O. Lind, who is successfully engaged in operating a farm of 167 acres in section 10, Sheldon township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Aug. 21, 1882, son of Andrew Swenson and Caroline (Nelson) Lind. He was one of the younger of a family of eight children and in his boyhood attended the Stockholm school, in District 100. Beginning agricultural life on his parents' farm, he assisted his father until arriving at the age of 17 years, after which he worked out for a year. He then returned to the home farm, which he operated until 1907, when he went to North Dakota, where he secured and proved up a homestead. Then returning to the home farm he again took up agriculture here and has since operated the place as a general farmer. He has put on practically all the modern improvements and now has a good set of buildings, with full equipment. He is also a stockholder in the creamery company, the Farmers' Elevator Company, the telephone company, the Shipping Association, and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill. He is a member of the Swedish Baptist church and in politics is a Prohibitionist. Mr. Lind was married April 24, 1913, to Emma Benson, who was born in Houston township, this county, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Benson) Benson. Her

parents, natives of Sweden, were early settlers in Houston County, the father being a farmer and carpenter by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Lind have two children, Dorothy Elenora, born June 9, 1914, and Freda Ortley, born July 9, 1917.

John T. Lee, who is profitably engaged in general agriculture on a farm of 80 acres in section 14, Sheldon township, is a native of Houston county, having been born in Crystal Valley, Houston township, May 4, 1884, son of Thor T. and Tilda (Johnson-Kittleson) Lee. Thor T. Lee came to Houston county in the pioneer days with his parents, who were among the first settlers in Crystal Valley, Houston township. He devoted his life to farm pursuits and died April 18, 1918, his wife now living retired in Houston Village. John T. Lee, the direct subject of this sketch, in his boyhood attended school for one year in Houston township. At the age of 15 years he began working away from home, both in Minnesota and North Dakota. His work was not all of an agricultural nature, for he was employed in the mail service a short time, and afterwards engaged in railroad work, serving four years as a fireman and three as a locomotive engineer, on the C. M. & St. P. Railway. During that period he resided in Austin, Minn. Finally giving up the railroad, he returned to Houston county and took up farming at his present location, where he has 80 acres of good land, with adequate buildings and is making progress along general agricultural lines. He is a member of the Houston Shipping Association. In politics he is independent and has served one term as a member of the school board of his district. Religiously a Lutheran, he is a member of the "Stone Church" in Houston; also of the Masonic lodge there. Mr. Lee was married June 24, 1909, to Edith Runingen, who was born in Crystal Valley, Houston township, daughter of Ole and Julia (Johnson) Runingen. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Ori Tyler, Gale Carlan, Eldry Joyce and Merle Julian.

Targe Nerison, a well to do farmer of Sheldon township, residing in section 14, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, October 6, 1861, son of Ole and Anna (Targerson) Nerison. His parents were natives of Telemarken, Norway, coming to this country in the spring of 1858 and settling in Dane county, where they remained four years. Then removing to Houston county, they settled at Badger, in Sheldon township, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying Jan. 11, 1896, and the mother in 1900. Targe, who was the second born of their 13 children, was educated in the district school in Sheldon township and resided at home until he was 20 years old. After that he worked out for a number of years until his marriage. He then engaged in farming for himself, locating in Badger Valley, in which locality he remained for seven years. At the end of that time he bought 80 acres of timber land where he now lives, which he has since developed into a good farm, having made all necessary improvements, including the erection of a good set of buildings. He carries on general farming, raising crops and stock with profitable results. He has served one term as a member of the school board and in politics is independent. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Nerison was married in July, 1890, to Sarah Strumme, who was born in Telemarken,

Norway, daughter of Andrew and Tagre Strumme. She died July 22, 1911, leaving eight children: Anna T., now a resident of California; Thea T., wife of Clifton Spears, who is in the hotel business at Devil's Lake, N. D.; Oscar T. and Anton T., residing at home; Julia T., residing at Devil's Lake, N. D.; Clara T., Lena T. and Theodore T., who are living at home. Andrew Strumme, father of Mrs. Nerison, with his wife and family came directly from Norway to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1870, locating in Sheldon township. For many years he followed the occupation of a teacher. He died here about the year 1901, and was survived by his wife, who is now living in Badger Valley. Their daughter Sarah was the youngest in a family of nine children.

Charles Nelson, who owns and operates a profitable stock farm of 280 acres in Sheldon township, his residence lying in section 10, was born in Halland, Sweden, April 16, 1852, son of Nels and Annè (Anderson) Carlson. His parents, who never came to this country, are now deceased. Charles remained in his native land until he was 20 years old, attending school there in his boyhood. When he came to America he was unable to speak English, but found employment in railroad construction work in Pennsylvania, being thus occupied for two years. For 23 months afterward he worked on a farm in the same state, and then became fireman in a hotel in Renover, Pa., which job he retained for six months. He then resolved to seek the Northwest, knowing that there many of his countrymen had settled and achieved success, and accordingly he soon afterward made his appearance in Houston county, Minnesota. During his first two years in this county he worked out for others, saving his money and biding his time until he was able to purchase land. When he finally bought he selected his present farm, where he has since remained, and which he has greatly improved by the erection of substantial buildings of modern type. The land is also of a good crop producing quality, but Mr. Nelson is at present giving his chief attention to stock raising, making a specialty of Hereford cattle. In all branches of his work he has been successful and has taken his place among the enterprising and prosperous farmers of his township. He is a shareholder in the Houston Creamery Company and the local telephone company. His political principles are in general those of the Republican party. He has served on his district school board for a number of years. Religiously, he is a member of the Adventist church. Mr. Nelson was married Nov. 28, 1878, to Christine Nelson, who, like himself, was born in Halland, Sweden, June 25, 1857, her parents being Ben Nicholas and Anna B. (Bergeson) Nelson. Her father having died in Sweden, she accompanied her mother to this country in August, 1876, locating at Jamestown, N. Y., whence in the following December they came to Houston county, Minn. Several years later the mother died at Cannon Falls, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are the parents of eleven children, as follows: Edward, a farmer at Bonin, Mont.; Frederick, who is farming at Emerson, N. D.; Alma, wife of Albin Carlson, a farmer and miller of Money Creek township; Nannie, wife of Joseph Krohler, who is employed in a factory at Naperville, Ill.; Paul, a farmer in Houston township; Charley, a farmer in Bonin, Mont.; Archie, residing on the home farm; Julia, who is a proficient teacher;

Esther, who resides with her parents, and Rebena, also a proficient teacher and a graduate of the Swedish Seminary at Broadview, Illinois.

Anton Nelson, one of the leading stock raisers of Houston county, having a fine farm of 300 acres in section 11, Sheldon township, was born in Sweden, April 3, 1862, son of Nels Carlson and his wife, Anne Anderson, he being the fifth born in a family of eleven children. The parents, who never came to this country, are now deceased. Anton attended school in Sweden, acquiring an average education, and resided in his native land until reaching the age of 26 years. He then came to the United States, locating in Houston county, Minnesota. He was then unable to speak the English language, and for two years worked for a brother, Charles Nelson. Subsequently he hauled cream for three years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm, containing 300 acres of valuable land. He has added to its improvements and is making good progress in stock breeding, paying particular attention to Shorthorn cattle, registered, of which he has a herd numbering usually about sixty head. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery, the Farmers' Elevator, the Telephone Company and the Houston Shipping Association. Of the Telephone Company he is now president, and he is one of the directors of the Houston County Fair Association. In politics an independent Republican, he is serving as a member of the school board of District 100. Mr. Nelson was married, March 13, 1894, to Anna Sophia Lind, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lind, and who for five years previous to her marriage taught school in this county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson: Leafy Norma Gladys, who was educated in the Houston high and the Winona normal school and is now a teacher in Houston county; Ernest Abner, who for two years attended the agricultural college at St. Paul, and is now assisting his father; and Chester Carlisle, a graduate of the same college, who is also at home on the farm. The family are affiliated religiously with the Swedish church on Swede Bottom.

Owen O'Connor, one of the earliest settlers of Sheldon township, was born in Kilglass, County Roscommon, Ireland. Coming to the United States in the later forties, he located first at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he resided for a number of years. About 1852 he came to Houston county, taking a tract of wild land in Sheldon township, which he subsequently developed into a good farm. There he died Jan. 9, 1874, respected in the community as a good neighbor and citizen. He married Winifred Mulligan, a native of the same locality in Ireland as himself. She survived him many years, passing away Sept. 4, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor were the parents of five children: Mary Ann, Thomas and Ellen (twins), John and Steven.

John O'Connor, who is profitably operating 240 acres of valuable land in Sheldon township as a general farmer, was born in this township in 1866, son of Owen and Winifred (Mulligan) O'Connor. His education was acquired in District School No. 63 and at Houston. Residing at home until the age of 19 years, he then began working out, and in 1887 became employed in construction work in Illinois on what is now the Great Western Railroad. In the fall of 1889 he was employed as bridge carpenter for the



ANTON NELSON AND FAMILY

same road and continued at bridge work on the C. M. & St. P. R. R. until 1891, when he was transferred to the east end of the Great Northern road. In the following spring he entered the employ of the "Soo" line and remained with that road four months. He then returned to the farm in sections 14, 15 and 23 (with residence in the latter), Sheldon township, where he has since remained, having developed the property and made many improvements on it. He is conducting a successful business, raising both grain and stock, for which in these days he receives good prices. Independent in politics, he has taken an active part in local affairs, having served for a number of years as a member of the school board, also for a number of years as supervisor on the town board, and one year as assessor. He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic church of Caledonia. Mr. O'Connor was married Jan. 29, 1894, to Margaret Peyton, who was born in Alamakee county, Iowa, daughter of Patrick and Margaret (McNulty) Peyton. He and his wife have six children, Sylvester John, William Owen, Mary Elizabeth, Mabel Theresa, and Grace Helen, all residing at home. Margaret, a twin sister of Mabel, died in infancy. Patrick Peyton, father of Mrs. O'Connor, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and came to this country when a small boy. He later settled in Iowa, afterwards coming to Winnebago Valley, Houston county, where he followed farming, and died Oct. 4, 1893. His wife, Margaret McNulty, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, survived him little over two years, passing away Nov. 8, 1895. They were the parents of nine children, whom they carefully reared, the family being one highly respected in the community.

Andrew T. Findring, who is prosperously engaged in general farming in section 21, Sheldon township, was born on the farm where he now lives, March 20, 1857, son of Targe Findring, a native of Norway who was an early settler in this township. His education was obtained in District School No. 23, and he remained on his father's farm, which he helped to cultivate, until arriving at the age of 18 years, after which he worked out for others. At the age of 26 he purchased a farm in Sheldon township, which he operated for 25 years, at the end of that period coming to his present farm. Here he has 178 acres of valuable land, on which he is carrying on general farming, having a good set of buildings. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery Company, the Houston Shipping Association and the Telephone Company. In politics a Republican, he served for many years on the school board and for 15 years as a member of the town board. He is a member of the stone Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Findring was married Feb. 12, 1883, to Anna Dahle, who was born in Sheldon township, Houston county, on the farm of her parents, Hans and Isabelle (Nelson) Dahle, who were natives of Telemarken, Norway, but were married in this county. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Findring consists of seven children: Tilda, Helma, Emma, Theodore, Dorothy, Eliza and Anton. Hans Dahle, father of Mrs. Findring, was born in October, 1824, and came to this country somewhat in advance of the Findrings. He was here married to Isabelle Nelson, who was born December 1, 1842. In Norway he had been a drummer boy in the army. After coming to Houston county he secured land in Sheldon township and engaged in farming, which

was his occupation until his death in 1908. He held various local offices and was active in church and school work, being a man widely respected for his general usefulness and agreeable personal character. His wife is now residing in Houston. Their daughter Anna, who was the second born in a family of ten children, acquired her education in the schools of Sheldon township.

John Harrington, who was the founder of a good farm in section 26, Sheldon township, which is now operated by his widow, was born in Ireland and when a young man emigrated to the United States, settling in Bridgeport, Conn. About 1878 he came west to Houston county, Minn., locating on a farm in Sheldon township. Later, however, he purchased the farm in section 26, previously mentioned, on which he resided until his death, April 24, 1885. He had attended school in his native land and was a man of intelligence and industry, making good progress while he lived in improving his property. He was a member of the Roman Catholic church, and in politics was a Democrat. Mr. Harrington was married Feb. 9, 1881, to Honora Cunningham, who was born in the northern part of Michigan, near Lake Superior, daughter of Martin and Ella (Dugan) Cunningham, she being the second in a family of eight children. Her parents, both natives of Ireland, came to this country at an early date and were married in Michigan. Not long afterwards they became pioneers of Mound Prairie township, Houston county, Minn., where they engaged in farming. Both are now deceased. Their daughter Honora, widow of John Harrington, was educated in the district schools of Mound Prairie township. Since her husband's death she has shown ability in the management of the farm, which contains $319\frac{3}{4}$ acres of valuable land. She carries on general farming successfully and is a stockholder in the Caledonia Creamery Company and the Houston Shipping Association. She and her husband had six children: Mary and John, who reside on the home farm; Michael, who is deceased; Agnes, wife of George Herbel and a resident of St. Paul; and Daniel and Cornelius, both residing at home. The surviving members of the family are, as the father was, members of the Catholic church.

Adam Heintz, a retired farmer residing in the village of Caledonia, was born in Bavaria, Germany, Jan. 23, 1851. He was 14 years old when he came to America, landing at New York in 1865. From that city he went to Canada, where he worked in the lumber camps for 50 cents a day. After being occupied in this manner for several years, he entered the States and took up his residence in Illinois for awhile. From there he came to Houston county among the early settlers. Here for awhile he worked for others. He was then married in Caledonia to Carolina Becker, and after his marriage engaged in farming for himself, buying land which he subsequently developed and cultivated, also erecting good buildings, until he had a good agricultural estate. After many years of successful activity, he retired and took up his residence in the village of Caledonia, where he is now living. He and his wife have had six children, all sons, and all of whom are living.

Charles Grover Heintz, residing on the old Heintz homestead of 144 acres in section 25, Sheldon township, was born on the farm he is now

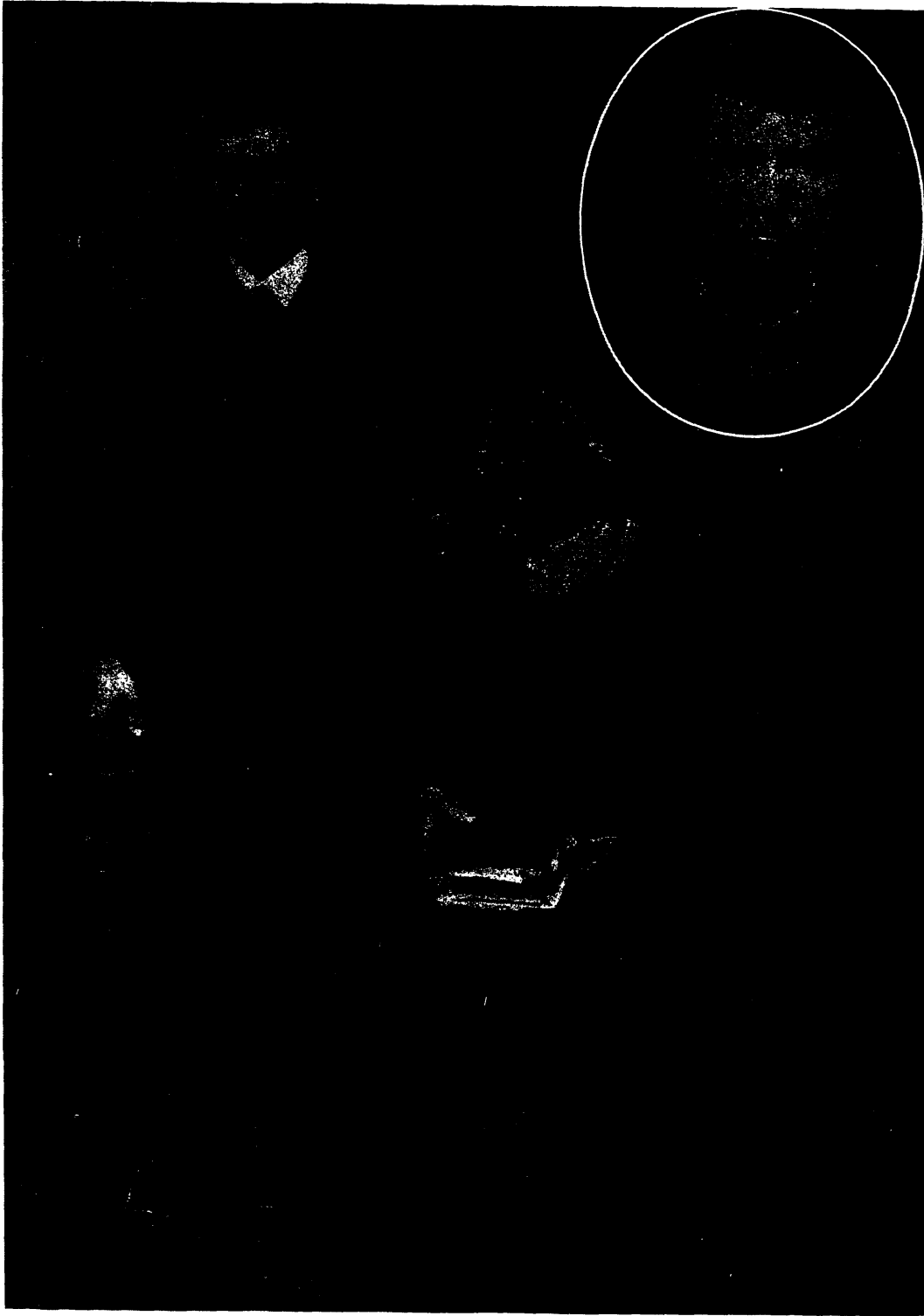
operating, Dec. 2, 1886, son of Adam and Carolina (Becker) Heintz. He was the fifth born of his parents' six children, and in his boyhood attended District School No. 25 in Sheldon township, where he acquired his education. He has always resided on the home farm, which for a number of years he has operated on his own account. He is breeding up in Short-horn cattle, Duroc-Jersey swine and Shropshire sheep, and has won success both as a breeder of good stock and a crop farmer. In politics he is independent. On June 30, 1919, Mr. Heintz purchased a farm of 100 acres in Union township, where he will reside from March, 1920. Mr. Heintz was married, Feb. 23, 1914, to Matilda Kuecker, who was born in Mayville township, this county, daughter of August and Emma (Tessmer) Kuecker, she being the third in order of a family of six children. Her education was acquired in Union township. Mr. and Mrs. Heintz have two children: Howard Allen, born June 8, 1915; and Lysle Charles, born May 31, 1917. August Kuecker, father of Mrs. Heintz, was born in Illinois, Nov. 3, 1863, and his wife in Houston county, Minn., Feb. 4, 1868. They are farmers now residing in Union township.

George Kittelson, an enterprising general and stock farmer of section 23, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, March 8, 1868, son of Kittle Torgerson and Djare Bundahl. The parents, natives of the same part of Norway, were there married and resided until 1869, when they came to Houston county, Minn., locating in Mound Prairie township on a farm. They afterwards removed to Union township, where both died. George Kittelson was the third born of their five children and received a practical training in agriculture on the home farm, assisting his parents until he was 30 years of age. He then engaged in farming in Looney Valley, where he remained for five years, at the end of that time coming to his present farm. Two years, however, he spent on a farm in North Dakota, which he bought and still owns. His farm in Sheldon township contains 160 acres of valuable land, and is situated on Hauge Ridge. It is well improved, the buildings being in good condition. Mr. Kittelson raises both crops and stock, being a general farmer, but is giving particular attention to the breeding of Durham cattle. Independent in politics, he is now serving his second year as school treasurer. He is a member of the stone Norwegian Lutheran church in Houston. On March 30, 1886, he was married to Elsie Johnson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, daughter of Kittel and Sigina (Oesity) Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Kittelson have had ten children: Tillie Sophia, wife of Jerden Swenson, a farmer of Sheldon township; Carl, who died at the age of three years; John Selmer, residing at home; Selena, who is a nurse; Jeanette, Carl (second), Ella Georgina and Josephine, all living at home; Nina, who died in infancy; and Nina (second), residing with her parents. Kittel and Lena (Oesity) Johnson, the parents of Mrs. Kittelson, came from Telemarken, Norway, to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1868, settling in Yucatan township, where they remained two years. They then removed to Looney Valley, and later to Badger Valley, Sheldon township. Mr. Johnson died in Houston in 1908, but his wife still survives and is a resident of that village. They had seven children, of whom their daughter Elsie was the eldest.

Swan Carlson, proprietor of a farm of 62 acres in section 9, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Aug. 22, 1855, son of Carl and Helga (Olson) Erickson. He was about six years old when he accompanied his parents to this country, and his education was acquired in the district school in Money Creek township. He assisted his father to develop the home farm in that township, residing on it until 20 years of age, after which he worked out occasionally, but continued to assist his parents when at home. About 1882 the family moved to the farm in section 9, Sheldon township, where Swan Carlson has since resided and of which he is now the owner. Here his parents died and the property came into his hands. His land is valuable and well improved, he having erected good buildings on it. Here he is raising a high grade of stock, breeding up in Durham cattle. He is also a stockholder in the creamery company, and is one of the thriving and progressive farmers in his township. In politics he is an independent Republican. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he has been janitor for 23 years. Mr. Carlson was married Jan. 27, 1890, to Mary Eglund, who was born in Stonger, Norway, daughter of Gjergen Buerenson and his wife Bertha, both natives of the same locality. The family came to America in 1871, settling first in Wisconsin and then coming to Houston, where the father, already advanced in years, taught parochial school. Both parents are now deceased. Mr. Swan Carlson died Feb. 14, 1918. The name now borne by the family was derived, as is the Scandinavian custom, from the founder's Christian name, Swan, the subject of this sketch taking as his surname, his father's name of Carl, and adding the "son."

Carl Erickson, in former days an active farmer and respected citizen of Money Creek township, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, where he married Helga Olson. Coming to America in 1861, they settled in Sheldon township, this county, remaining there a year, at the end of which time they removed to Money Creek township and took land. There they resided for 20 years, during which time Mr. Erickson developed a good farm. He and his wife then moved to the farm now operated by their son Swan in section 9, Sheldon township, where Carl Erickson died about 1894, and his wife in 1903. They were industrious and worthy people who had bravely met and overcome many obstacles and discouragements in life before reaping their reward in a comfortable prosperity. They were the parents of eight children.

Samuel Kuster, now deceased, for many years owner of a farm of 120 acres in Sheldon township, was born in Switzerland, Sept. 14, 1836, son of Christian and Mary (Sahrle) Kuster. He was educated in his native land, where his parents spent their lives, and where he remained until 1860, when he came to the United States, landing at New York on March 5. From that city he went to West Virginia, where for a short time he worked at the stone mason's trade. During the next twelve months he was employed in a salt works in Virginia. Then removing to Cincinnati, he engaged in farming near that city, where he resided from 1861 to 1869. While there, in March, 1864, he was united in marriage with Mary Lewis, who was born at Toronto, Canada, Aug. 12, 1844, and whose parents had died in Canada.



MR. AND MRS. SWAN CARLSON AND MOTHER

In 1869, with his wife and family, Mr. Kuster removed to Lansing, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until 1881, when he came to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on a farm near Caledonia. There he remained for eight years, at the end of which time he came to the farm in section 35, Sheldon township, which his son Henry is now operating. For a number of years he served as school clerk, in politics being independent. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and was one of the substantial and respected citizens of the community in which he resided. He and his wife were the parents of nine children. Mr. Kuster died in September, 1918, and Mrs. Kuster died Thanksgiving day, 1917.

George H. Kuster, in former years a prominent member of the educational profession in Houston county, but now deceased, was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, May 10, 1867, son of Samuel and Mary (Lewis) Kuster, he being the third in order of birth of their family of nine children. His parents were farmers who moved to near Lansing, Iowa, when he was about two years old, and in the district school of his neighborhood he acquired the elements of his education, which was later supplemented by a high school course at Caledonia, Minn., and a scientific course at what is now known as Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he was graduated in the class of 1894. He, himself, earned the cost of his education, beginning to teach school at the age of 18 years, an occupation in which he subsequently continued, being for two years one of the teachers in the Houston High School. On the Republican ticket he was elected county superintendent of schools, taking office in January, 1897, and serving four years. As such he displayed marked ability and was instrumental in the establishment of the high school at Spring Grove. He was also at one time the owner and editor of the Spring Grove Herald. Mr. Kuster continued in school work until the summer of 1909, when, on account of failing health, he moved to a farm in section 35, Sheldon township, on which he died Jan. 22, 1910, about six months after he had taken up his residence there. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Bird Island, Minn., which he served as senior warden, and also belonged to the camp of Modern Woodmen of America at Caledonia. A highly esteemed citizen, his loss was deeply deplored by his family and a wide circle of friends. Mr. Kuster was married Dec. 24, 1896, to Emma A. Owen, who was born near Beaver Dam, in Dodge county, Wis., daughter of Warren A. and Sabina (Maguire) Owen, she being the third born in a family of eight children. She acquired a district and high school education at Postville, Iowa, which was later supplemented by institute work. To Mr. and Mrs. Kuster four children were born, three of whom are now living: Ethel M., who is now teaching district school in Houston county; and George W. and Lester S., both of whom are attending the Caledonia High School. Since her husband's death Mrs. Kuster has operated the home farm of 80 acres as a stock farm, giving special attention to the breeding of Holstein cattle, of which business she has made a success. She is a member of the Eastern Star lodge and the Royal Neighbors of Caledonia, and stands high in the community as a woman of elevated character and business enterprise. Warren Owen, father of Mrs. Kuster, was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., May 3, 1840,

and was brought up to farm work. When a young man he enlisted as a private in Company C, Twelfth U. S. Infantry, and, taking part in the Civil war, was wounded at Gettysburg. From that time until the close of the war he did hospital duty, being mustered out in 1864. He then returned to a farm in Dodge county, Wis., on which he had previously settled, and resumed agricultural pursuits. In 1864 his marriage occurred to Sabina McGuire, who was born in London, England, Aug. 15, 1838, and from Wisconsin he later removed with his wife and family to near Postville, in Allamakee county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. Since 1906 he has resided at Grand Rapids, Wis. His wife died in February, 1909.

Targe Kragness, in former years an active farmer of Sheldon township, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, and came to the United States when a young man of eighteen years. A short time after arriving in this country he settled in Houston county, Minn., acquiring land in Sheldon township, where he farmed for a number of years, dying here in 1882. He was married in this county to Guneild Knutson, also a native of Telemarken, Norway, and who survived him for thirteen years. They had a family of thirteen children. Mr. Kragness was a man of domestic tastes who devoted his whole attention to his family and the cultivation of his farm, on which he made good progress, thus helping to develop the agricultural resources of the county.

Ole T. Kragness, one of the substantial citizens of Sheldon township, where he is engaged in general agriculture, was born in this township, Oct. 31, 1869, son of Targe and Guneild (Knutson) Kragness, he being the fourth born of their thirteen children. He acquired his education in the district school, but was only nine years old when he began working for neighboring farmers. When he was thirteen his father died, and although so young he then had to assume a large part of the responsibility of carrying on the home farm, on which he continued to reside until two years after his marriage. He then operated another farm for two years, after which he bought the old homestead and was its proprietor for four years. Then selling it, he bought his present farm of 160 acres of excellent land in section 16, Sheldon township. He has a well improved place with good buildings and is raising both stock and grain with profitable results. He is also a shareholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is a member. On May 18, 1890, Mr. Kragness was united in marriage to Sarah Kragness, a native of Sheldon township, this county, and the second born in a family of fourteen children, her parents being Levi and Sarah (Knudson) Kragness. Mr. and Mrs. Ole T. Kragness have had ten children: Targe O., Gilbert O., Louise, Lafe, Sophia, Lena, Adolph, Rudie, Edna and Martha. The first mentioned, Targe O., died in 1914, and Louise, Lafe and Edna are also now deceased. The others are living on the home farm. Levi and Sarah (Knudson) Kragness were both born in Telemarken, Norway, and were early settlers in Houston county, where Levi followed agriculture and became quite a prominent citizen, serving as town clerk and in other local offices, and being active in

church and school work. His widow now lives with her son on the old home farm in Sheldon township.

Arne Lybeck, who at an early date established the farm in section 28, Sheldon township, that is now operated by his son Andrew A., was born in Valdaras, Norway. He was eighteen years of age when he came to the United States, but it was not until a somewhat later period that he arrived in Houston county, Minn. Here he married Anna Shepar and they settled on the farm above referred to, which he continued to cultivate and improve for a number of years, or until it passed under the management of his son. He died here in June, 1908, his wife having passed away in the previous year. They had two children: Carrie and Andrew A.

Andrew A. Lybeck, proprietor of a farm and sawmill in Sheldon township, where he is conducting a prosperous business in both lines of activity, was born on the farm above mentioned on Nov. 7, 1876, son of Arne and Anna (Shepar) Lybeck. His education was acquired in district school No. 98, Sheldon township, and his agricultural training on the home farm, of which he became proprietor at the time of his marriage. In 1905 he started the sawmill which he is now operating, and which has a capacity of 2,000 feet per day of hardwood lumber. His farm, which has an area of 123 acres, is well improved, and he raises on it both stock and grain with profitable results. He is a member of the Houston Shipping Association and is one of the enterprising and substantial citizens of Sheldon township. In politics he is independent, and religiously he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Lybeck was married Nov. 7, 1901, to Inga Johnson, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Henry and Johanna Johnson. Her parents, natives of Norway, were early settlers in Houston county, Mr. Johnson being a farmer. He died in 1910 and his widow is now living in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Lybeck are the parents of six children, all residing at home, namely: Amanda, Josephine, Anton, Helen, Evelyn and Addel.

Nels Christianson, an early settler in Sheldon township, long since deceased, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, and was there married to Ingeborg Johnson. Coming to the United States in 1861, they located on land in section 22, Sheldon township, which now constitutes the farm of their son, John Nelson. It was then all wild land, but Mr. Christianson made improvements on it, and also worked other lands for a few years. His life, however, was not sufficiently prolonged to enable him to develop a good farm, as in 1869 he died, his death being followed by that of his wife two years later. They had a family of six children.

John Nelson, proprietor of an excellent farm of 240 acres in section 22, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Dec. 23, 1839, son of Nels Christianson and his wife, Ingeborg Johnson. He was his parents' second child, and was twenty-two years old when, in 1861, he accompanied them to Houston county, Minn., and took up his residence on the land which constitutes his present farm. Until his father's death in 1869 he was his assistant, and after that event the management of the homestead came into his hands. He has put on all the improvements, including the buildings and fences, and the place is thoroughly modern in

every respect. He has for many years carried on general farming successfully, though is now practically retired. He is a member of the Houston Shipping Association. In politics a Republican, Mr. Nelson formerly rendered service on the school board. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church. More than forty years ago Mr. Nelson assumed the responsibilities of domestic life when, on Oct. 1, 1877, he was united in marriage with Aase Stromme, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, one of the twelve children of Aanund Stromme and his wife, whose maiden name was Torgier Oldsatter. The Stromme family came to this country about 1869, locating in this county and vicinity. After retiring from agricultural work Mr. and Mrs. Stromme took up their residence with their son-in-law, John Nelson. He is now deceased but she is still residing there and has now attained the venerable age of ninety-six years. Only three of her twelve children are living. To Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson eleven children have been born: Nels, a farmer in this vicinity who married Emma Sanden; Andrew J., who married Josie Sanden and resides at Wild Rose, N. D.; Christian, a farmer at Daneville, Mont.; Oscar, a farmer of Ogilvie, Minn., who married Lizzie Skree; Emma, wife of George Foss, a farmer of Yucatan township, Houston county; Louis, who lives on the home farm; John, who is now in the United States military service; Obert, who is also a soldier; and Mentor, Thea and Katherine, who are residing at home.

Carl Kruckow, who was engaged for a quarter of a century in improving a farm in Mayville township, but who is now deceased, was born in Germany, where he grew to manhood and married Augusta Poehlen. In 1883 he came alone to Houston county, Minn., being joined by his wife and children in the following year. Settling on a farm in Mayville township, three miles east of Caledonia, he bought the property and was engaged in farming there until his death on Feb. 8, 1918. His wife, who survived him, is still residing on the homestead. They were the parents of seven children.

Carl A. Kruckow, a well to do farmer of Sheldon township residing on a farm of 120 acres in section 14, was born in Germany, Oct. 4, 1884, son of Carl and Augusta (Poehlen) Kruckow. One of a family of seven children, the fifth in order of birth, he was reared on the home farm in Mayville township, acquiring his education in the district school, and remained at home until his marriage in 1916. He then settled on his present farm of 120 acres, where he is successfully carrying on general farming, raising grain and stock for which in these days of increased demand he finds a ready market. He is a member of the Lutheran church and politically is an adherent of the Republican party. On April 26, 1916, Mr. Kruckow was united in marriage with Helena Runingen, daughter of Ole O. and Julia (Johnson) Runingen, her father being a well known farmer and extensive land owner in Houston township. Mr. and Mrs. Kruckow have one child, Laurine, who was born March 1, 1918.

Antone Olson, who for many years was a well known farmer of Jefferson township, was a native of Norway and first came to the United States in 1869. After a short residence here he returned to Norway for his family, bringing them over in 1873 and settling on a farm in Jefferson township, where he remained until 1908. He and his wife then removed to South



CARL A. KRUKOW AND FAMILY

Dakota, where he died. Mrs. Olson, whose maiden name was Regena Olson, now resides with her son, Christ A., in Sheldon township.

Christ A. Olson, a prosperous farmer of section 21, Sheldon township, was born in Norway, Nov. 7, 1859, son of Antone and Regina (Olson) Olson. Brought to this country by his parents in 1873, he attended school in Jefferson township, and as he grew up assisted his father to develop the home farm, being thus occupied until his marriage. He then rented the home farm for a few years, subsequently buying it and continuing to operate it for about ten years, when he removed to Looney Valley. There he remained eight years engaged in agriculture, after which he went to North Dakota for a season. Returning to Houston county he resided during the winter on a rented farm, and then bought his present farm of 160 acres in section 21. His land is valuable and well improved and he is doing a successful business as a general and stock farmer. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Free Church in Houston. Mr. Olson was married March 21, 1896, to Carrie Louisa Libick, daughter of Audney and Anna Libick, who were natives of Telemarken, Norway, and early settlers in Sheldon township, this county. Both parents are now deceased. Their daughter, Carrie Louisa, was born in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have nine children: Amanda, Elizabeth, Christina, Antone, Catherine, Adolph, Georgina, Louise and Andena, all residing at home. Mrs. Christ Olson died Nov. 24, 1915.

Louis Poppe, who is now living retired on a farm four miles south of Caledonia, after a number of years spent in agricultural activity, was born near the city of Hanover, Germany, where he married Lena Niemier, a native of the same locality. In 1884 they emigrated to the United States, locating first at Elmhurst, Ill., where Mr. Poppe worked at the carpenter's trade for about a year, after which he spent the same length of time in farming there. Then coming to Houston county, Minn., he settled on a farm in the southeastern part of the county, near New Albin, Iowa. In that location he remained for a year and then moved to another farm in this county, subsequently retiring to his present location, on a farm operated by his son, William. His wife is also residing there. They have been the parents of six children.

Henry F. Poppe, who in company with his brother, Louis, is engaged in operating a farm of 200 acres in section 33, Sheldon township, was born near Hanover, Germany, Dec. 27, 1883, son of Louis and Lena (Niemier) Poppe. He was the eldest of his parents' six children and was a young babe when he came with the family to this country. As he grew older he attended district school in Houston county and resided with his parents for most of the time until his marriage, at intervals, however, working at the carpenter's trade, at which he continued also after his marriage until the spring of 1917, when he bought his present farm with his brother as a partner. Here he is carrying on general farming, for which his place is well equipped, the land being rich and fertile, the buildings good, and his machinery and implements up to date. He is doing a successful business and ranks among the substantial citizens of his township. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Caledonia, and in politics is independent. Mr.

Poppe was married in December, 1912, to Lydia Wiebke, who was born in Houston county, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wiebke, her mother's family name being Kruase. Her parents, natives of Germany, were early settlers in Houston county, but are both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Poppe have three children: Harold, Norma and Vincent.

Halvor Peterson, one of the pioneer settlers of Sheldon township, now deceased, was born in Telemarken, Norway, and came to the United States when a young man. For a few years he resided near Madison, Wis., and then removing to Houston county, Minn., located in Sheldon township, taking land in Badger Valley. From there he subsequently removed to a farm on Hauge Ridge, which was his final earthly home, as his death took place there in 1895. In his native land he had received military training, and after settling in Houston county, besides conducting agricultural operations successfully, he was active in church and school work. His wife survived him but a short time, dying in 1896. They were the parents of ten children.

Theodore H. Peterson, who is operating the old homestead farm of his parents, containing 200 acres in section 33, Sheldon township, was born on this farm, Jan. 7, 1876, son of Halvor and Julia (Quolin) Peterson. His education was acquired in district school No. 8, this township, while he learned agriculture on the home farm, assisting his father until the latter's death. For one season after he worked out, continuing to reside at home. Then he rented out the farm and worked for others for some eight or nine years, during which time, however, he proved a claim in Ward county, N. D. After selling his interest there he returned to Houston county and for four years continued to rent out his land. At the end of that time he took up his residence on the old homestead, where, except for one year, he has since remained, engaged in general farming. His land is fertile and the farm is well improved as to buildings. Mr. Peterson is also a stockholder in the Hauge Ridge Telephone Company, and served for one year as its president. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, but though leading a Christian life is not a member of any church.

Theodore Anderson, who was for a number of years an industrious farmer and highly respected citizen of Sheldon township, but is now deceased, was born at Lime Grove, Neb., Aug. 11, 1873, son of Swan and Julia (Thompson) Anderson. His parents, natives of Norway, were early settlers in Sheldon township, Houston county, Minn., but after residing here a while moved to Nebraska. Later they changed their residence to Forestville, Wis., where the father died, the mother being still a resident there. Theodore Anderson, who was the third born in a family of eleven children, attended district school in Nebraska and resided with his parents until attaining his majority. At times he worked out for others, both in Houston county, Minn., and in Nebraska, but at last purchased land in the latter State, which he farmed for four years. Then coming to Sheldon township, Houston county, he operated a rented farm for four years, at the end of that time purchasing the farm of 160 acres in section 18, on which he spent the rest of his life, and where his family now reside. Here his death took place on Feb. 18, 1918, and was an event deeply regretted in

the community, where he had made many friends. He had been a kind husband and father, a good neighbor, and a reliable citizen. In politics he was a Republican, while his religious affiliations were with the Lutheran church. Mr. Anderson was united in marriage in June, 1904, to Bessie Halverson, who was born in Sheldon township, daughter of Halvor Thorson and his wife, Tilda Olsdater, her parents, natives of Norway, being early settlers in this part of Houston county. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of seven children: Herbert Samuel, who died when about four years old; Tobert Gladwin, now on the home farm; Bernie Oliver, who died at the age of fourteen months; Ruby Belinda, Judith Alvena, Sherman Oliver and Theodore Walter, the last four mentioned of whom are residing at home.

Charles Anderson, who is now living retired in Houston, was an early settler in Houston township, and was for a number of years actively engaged in the work of agricultural improvement as a general farmer. He was born in Sweden in 1844 and was a young and single man when he came from his native land to Houston county, Minn., taking up his residence with a brother who lived on Swede Bottom in Houston township. After residing with that brother for a number of years, during which time he was engaged in agricultural work, he became employed in the elevator at Houston, but spent only a short time in that occupation, soon taking a farm—that where W. R. Anderson now lives—which he operated for a few years. Then on account of an accident, he sold the place and bought the farm in section 8, where his son Amil C. now resides, and which he operated until the fall of 1914, when he retired. Mr. Anderson was married in Houston county to Anna Johnson, who, like himself, was born in Sweden, the date of her birth being Jan. 19, 1844. They have reared a family of six children.

Amil C. Anderson, a prominent representative of the agricultural and stock raising interests of Sheldon township, residing in section 8, was born on the farm where he now lives, March 5, 1888, son of Charles and Anna (Johnson) Anderson. He was the youngest of his parents' six children, and his education was both literary and technical, as, after graduating from the district school he attended the agricultural college at St. Paul for a half term. At the age of eighteen years he took over the management of the home farm, and except for one year, has resided on it ever since, the exceptional period covering a residence in Houston. The farm has an area of 260 acres and is provided with adequate buildings and good equipment. Mr. Anderson carries on general farming, giving special attention to breeding Duroc-Jersey swine and other good stock, which he has found a profitable branch of his business. He owes no political allegiance to either of the two great parties, casting his vote according to his judgment for the fittest candidate.

Mr. Anderson was married Jan. 1, 1916, to Frances Abrahamson, daughter of Frank O. and Sarah F. (Johnson) Abrahamson, well known and respected farming people of Houston township, residing in section 4 south. Mrs. Anderson is an active factor in church and charitable work, being a member of the Swedish Baptist Ladies' Aid Society.

Anton William Krage, well known as an enterprising farmer and stock raiser in Sheldon township, was born in Wiscoy township, Winona county, son of William C. and Wilhelmina (Marquardt) Krage. The father, born in Mecklenburg-Schwerein, Germany, May 11, 1848, died in 1901. The mother, who was two years younger than her husband, died Nov. 10, 1912. Anton W., who was the sixth born of their seven children, in his boyhood attended district school in Winona county. He resided at home until eighteen years of age and then worked out for six or seven years. At the end of that time he married and for the next three years rented his father-in-law's farm. He then purchased his present farm of 160 acres in Sheldon township, where he is breeding Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China swine, Shropshire sheep, and White Leghorn chickens, with profitable results, besides raising the usual crop. Mr. Krage has for many years been an earnest advocate of the breeding of fine animals. He is particularly fitted by nature for the care and attention of animals, and is a thorough student of his chosen line of work, as well as a thorough believer in its constantly increasing possibilities. His Shorthorn cattle are all of high grade registered stock bred from a pure blooded sire. His Poland-China swine are all pure bred from registered sires and dams. It is in sheep, however, that Mr. Krage takes his deepest interest, and to this branch of the farming industry he plans to devote more and more of his attention, believing that sheep are one of the most profitable branches of the stock-raising business for this region. His sires and dams are all pure bred registered stock, and his excellent flock justifies the faith that he has placed in it. Outside of his farm interests, Mr. Krage is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Houston. In politics he is independent voting for the man and the issue rather than for the party. His religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Krage was married March 31, 1910, to Pearl E. Todd, who was born in Winona county, Minn., daughter of Philip C. and Ellen (Robinson) Todd. Her father was born in New York State and her mother in Maine. They were early settlers in Wiscoy township, Winona county, Minn., where they farmed for many years, but are now living retired in Money Creek Village, Houston county.

Thor Amundson, in former days a well known farmer in Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, where he married Carrie Anderson, also a native of that part of Norway. In 1861 they left their native land for America, and settled on a tract of land in Sheldon township, this county, where he and his wife spent the rest of their days, Mr. Amundson dying in 1896 and his wife in 1892. They were the parents of six children: Bertha, Osmond, Helen, Andrew, Ole and Gertie. Osmond and Bertha are now residing on the homestead; Helen is the wife of Emil Johnson and resides in North Dakota; Andrew lives near Duluth; Ole in Luna Valley, this county; Gertie is the wife of Adolph Alexon, a merchant of Spokane, Wash.

Osmund Amundson, who is engaged in farming on the old Amundson homestead in section 9, Sheldon township, was born in this township, Aug. 17, 1864, son of Thor and Carrie (Anderson) Amundson. He was brought up on the home farm and assisted his father until arriving at the age of



MR. AND MRS. ANTON W. KRAGE

fifteen years, when he began working out for others. This he continued to do for some years, working on the home farm at intervals. In 1896 he took it over and has since operated it. He has forty acres in one piece, with twenty acres farther south, ten acres adjoining on the north and twenty acres joining on the west, the last three tracts having been added to the original farm. He is carrying on general farming successfully, and is a stockholder in the creamery and telephone companies, and a member of the shipping association. His sister Bertha, who works in La Crosse, resides with him. Mr. Amundson is a Republican in politics and a member of the Lutheran church.

Whatley Burfield, a former resident of Sheldon township, where for a long series of years until his death he was a well known and respected citizen, was a native of Pennsylvania. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, but, coming at an early date to Houston county, Minn., he soon found it more profitable to engage in farming, and accordingly took land in Sheldon township, which he improved and cultivated for many years. During the Civil War he served in a Minnesota regiment. His death occurred in May, 1907. Mr. Burfield married Isabelle Lee, a native of Norway, and they had a family of nine children. Mrs. Burfield, now seventy-nine years old, has until recently continued to reside on the old homestead, but is now making her home with her daughter in North Dakota.

Frank Edward Burfield, who for a number of years until his death on March 3, 1915, was proprietor of a farm of 120 acres in section 12, Sheldon township, was born on his parents' farm in this township, July 24, 1867, son of Whatley and Isabelle (Lee) Burfield. He was the fourth born in a family of nine children and was educated in the district school in Crystal Valley, this township. Until the age of twenty-three he resided at home, assisting his father. He then bought a farm in Union township, and for two years was engaged in operating it. On his marriage in 1894 he removed to a farm on South Ridge, La Crescent township, where he followed agriculture for a while, subsequently spending a year in La Crosse. He then took the farm in section 12, Sheldon township, on which he resided until his death, engaged in its improvement and cultivation. It is a farm of 120 acres, well provided with good buildings, and is now being operated by his widow with the aid of her son, Whatley W. Mr. Burfield was a man of sterling qualities, industrious, devoted to his home and family, and an agreeable and accommodating neighbor, and his death was felt as a distinct loss to the community. In politics he was a Republican.

Mr. Burfield was married, Nov. 19, 1894, to Selma Miller, who was born in Sheldon township, Houston county, daughter of John and Minnie (Simke) Miller. Three children were born of this union: Whatley Washington, Feb. 22, 1898; Sidney Sylvester, June 27, 1903; and Paris French, Feb. 2, 1908.

John Miller, father of Mrs. Burfield, was a native of Germany, where he grew to manhood and was married to Minnie Simke. They came to Houston county, Minn., in 1865, locating on a farm on Union Ridge, Caldonia township, where Mrs. Miller died in 1891. Mr. Miller later retired and

moved to La Crosse, where his death occurred in 1910. They had eight children, their daughter Selma being one of the younger members of the family. She was educated in Union township, attending district school.

Aaron Benson, who is engaged in operating a good farm of eighty acres in section 28, Houston township, was born in Sheldon township, this county, May 8, 1874, son of C. A. and Anna B. (Benson) Benson. The parents, who were born and married in Sweden, came direct to Sheldon township in 1860, the father being first employed in railroad work, but later settling on land in Sheldon township, where he died in December, 1880. His wife now resides in Houston village. Aaron, who was the fourth born of their seven children, in his boyhood attended district school in Sheldon and Houston townships. When only eight years old he began working out as a herd boy, and later was employed for seven years in the Houston mill. He then took charge of his mother's farm, which he operated until his marriage. After that he farmed for three years on Caledonia Ridge, and then bought his present farm, consisting of eighty acres of good land, with adequate buildings. As a general farmer he has made good progress and each year finds him in a more prosperous condition. In politics he is independent. Mr. Benson was married March 5, 1914, to Oleva Benson, who was born in Houston township, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Benson.

Halvor O. Houge, one of the early settlers of Sheldon township whose name has been perpetuated in Houge Ridge, a prominent elevation of land in this township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, June 24, 1844. He was about seventeen years of age when he came to the United States, accompanied by his father and grandfather. Their first settlement was made in Wisconsin, where they resided for a few years. They then came to Houston county, locating first in Badger Valley, Sheldon township, where they lived for a short time then moving to the ridge which is now known as Houge Ridge. That place became his permanent home as long as he remained actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and he left it only on his retirement in 1913, when he took up his residence in Houston, where he is still living. During his active career he served at times in local office, in particular as a member of the school board. Mr. Houge was married in this county to Julia Wisland, who, like himself, was born in Telemarken, Norway, the date of her birth being Feb. 22, 1850. She died June 28, 1892. They were the parents of seven children.

Henry H. Houge, who is operating a farm of 122 acres in section 34, Sheldon township, and who is one of the public officials of the township, was born on a farm in Sheldon township, Dec. 18, 1873, son of Halvor O. and Julia (Wisland) Houge. He was the second born of his parents' seven children, and in his boyhood attended district school No. 98 in Sheldon township. Until arriving at the age of twenty-two years he remained on the home farm, which he assisted his father to develop. He then engaged in business as a carpenter and contractor, continuing in that line of occupation for about four years. At the end of that time he took his present farm of 122 acres, the land being fertile and productive, and the buildings in good condition. Here he is carrying on general farming successfully, and each year operates a threshing outfit, doing work for the neighboring



HENRY H. HOUGE AND FAMILY

farmers. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Caledonia and in the Houge Ridge Telephone Co., of which latter institution he is secretary. In politics Mr. Hogue is an independent Republican, and is now serving as town clerk and school clerk. He is a member and trustee of the Norwegian "Stone Church" of Houston. Mr. Hogue was married Jan. 30, 1900, to Anna Moen, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Simon and Asloug (Vraa) Moen. He and his wife are the parents of seven children: Gearhardt, Abner, Helen, Stella, Myrtle, Arthur and Eugene Merle.

Simon Moen, one of the early settlers in Badger Valley, Sheldon township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, in 1850, his wife, Asloug Vraa, being born in the same district in September of the same year. After settling in Badger Valley, this county, Mr. Moen devoted himself to farming and improving his property and continued to be thus occupied up to the time of his death. His wife, who survives him, now resides in Houston. Their daughter Anna, now Mrs. Henry H. Houge, was educated in a district school in Yucatan township, this county.

John Lewis, an early settler of Houston county, now deceased, was born in Furstdahl, Norway, and came to the United States with his parents when twelve years old. After several years' residence at Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wis., they moved to Houston county, Minn., locating on Oak Ridge, Yucatan township, where they engaged in farming. There John Lewis grew to maturity and acquired a knowledge of agriculture in its different branches. At the age of twenty-five years he married Signe Gedstead, a native of Norway, and afterward he took a homestead in section 10, Yucatan township, and began to clear and improve the land. In course of time he developed it into a fine farm of 320 acres, well provided with good buildings, and became one of the township's leading citizens, serving as a member of the school board and in town office, and showing efficiency and devotion to the public interests. Mr. Lewis resided on his farm until his death in November, 1914, his wife passing away in January, 1916. They were the parents of fourteen children, most of whom they reared, and who have since reflected credit on the family name.

Abraham Martin Lewis, proprietor of a fine modern stock farm of 280 acres in section 21, Sheldon township, was born on Oak Ridge in Yucatan township, Houston county, Nov. 22, 1868, son of John and Signe (Gedstead) Lewis. He attended school in his native township and received a good agricultural training on the home farm, on which he resided until his marriage, when he located on the farm he now owns and operates, which was then an unimproved tract. He has erected all the present buildings on it, his residence, built in 1916, being one of the most modern in the township. The other buildings are also of modern type and well kept, the entire property giving plain indications of good management and prosperity. Mr. Lewis breeds Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, as well as some sheep. An active and enterprising citizen, he holds stock in the creamery company, the Farmers' Telephone Company, and the Farmers' Shipping Association. He is at the present time serving as town clerk. In politics he is independent. Mr. Lewis was married in March, 1888, to Frances Swan,

who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Ben and Dorcas (Kragness) Swan, she being the seventh born in a family of eight children. Her father was born in England and her mother in Norway, the former being a farmer and miller by occupation. They were early settlers in Houston county, and Mr. Swan was a veteran of the Civil War. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have nine children: John, residing on the home farm; Delbert, who married Ellen Skree; Tilda, who died April 1, 1917; Lars, who resides in Wisconsin; Alice, wife of Alfred Dahle and a resident of Minneapolis; and Bennie, Teckla, Pearl and Nina, residing at home.

William Happel, a respected resident of Houston Village, where he is now living retired, is a native son of the county, and one whose life has been contemporaneous with its entire history, as he was born June 17, 1858, just a few years after the first white settlers had appeared within its limits. His boyhood was passed amid pioneer scenes, when the Indians were the most numerous inhabitants, and the development of a farm meant, in most cases, years of strenuous labor, with many natural obstacles to overcome and many privations to be suffered. When a young man he worked for a number of winters in the woods at lumbering, though farming finally became his sole occupation. The land he selected for improvement was situated in Looney Valley, Houston township, and he resided on it until his retirement in 1910, when he came to his present home in the village of Houston. During his active career he served twelve years on the school board. He is still the owner of valuable property in Houston township, amounting to 270 acres of land. In 1884 Mr. Happel married Elizabeth Fitting, who, like himself, was born in this county, the date of her birth being June 16, 1861. She died Aug. 10, 1908, having been the mother of five children: Milton, Phillip, Rudolph, Alfred, and Emanuel, of whom the last mentioned is now deceased. Of the others, Milton is a farmer in Winona county; Phillip resides in Houston county; Rudolph is a discharged soldier of the great war, and Alfred is living in Houston county. In 1917 Mr. Happel built a nice modern residence, which lies just on the outskirts of the village, close to the corporation line.

Knudt Overby, owner of a farm of forty acres on Oak Ridge, in section 16, Yucatan township, was born in Tronfell, Norway, Sept. 13, 1842. He was married in his native land to Helen Larsdatter, who was born in Norway, July 17, 1847. In 1882 Mr. Overby came to America, his wife joining him two years later. He located first in Fillmore county, Minn., where for a time he worked for others. Then coming to Houston county, he settled on his present farm on Oak Ridge, where he still resides, and which is now operated by his son, Otto F. During his active career he made good improvements on the place and was a successful farmer. He is still active in church and school work, and in other matters of a general nature, being always willing to make himself useful when his services are needed. He and his wife have been the parents of thirteen children.

Otto F. Overby, who is now engaged in operating his father's farm in Yucatan township, the property being located on Oak Ridge, in section 16, was born in this township, April 17, 1890, son of Knudt and Helen



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM HAPPEL



Overby. He was the youngest of his parents' thirteen children. In his boyhood he attended the district school on Oak Ridge, and at the age of fourteen began working for others, which he continued to do until 1914, when it became necessary for him to return to the home farm, which he has since operated successfully, raising both stock and grain. The farm has an area of forty acres, the land being fertile and the part devoted to crops well cultivated. Otto F. gives his whole time to it except at times when there is little to do, when he works out for the neighboring farmers. He is a practical agriculturist and has made the farm yield good returns. In politics he is independent.

Charles Smith, a pioneer settler in the northwestern part of Houston county, was born in New York State in 1818, and was by occupation a farmer. In 1854 he came west to Houston county, Minn., taking land two miles west of Houston village, which was then known as Hamilton. In time he became an extensive land owner, and served as land agent and surveyor for nine years, locating land for new settlers. For nine years the Houston post office was located at his farm residence, he being the first postmaster. Then, as he did not wish to serve any longer, it was transferred to Houston. Mr. Smith died on his farm in 1879, his loss being regretted by a wide circle of friends. He married Sophia Galutia, like himself, a native of New York State, born in 1820. She survived him a few years, dying in 1886. They were the parents of four children: Riley, Elroy, Lucy and Herbert.

Herbert Smith, who is now living practically retired in the village of Houston, after many years spent in the cultivation of the soil, was born two miles west of Houston, on the farm of his parents, Charles and Sophia (Galutia) Smith, June 5, 1858, being the second white child born in the county. As he grew up he attended the district school and assisted his father to develop the home farm, of which he took charge at the age of twenty-two years, remaining on it for fifteen years thereafter. He then sold it and bought another farm, operating it from Houston, in which village he took up his residence. He has since continued to reside here and has recently sold his farm, being now practically retired. Mr. Smith joined the Masonic lodge in Houston a year after it was started and has passed through all the chairs. He is also a member of the Eastern Star lodge. In politics he is a Democrat and for eight years he served as boiler inspector. On March 15, 1881, Mr. Smith married Sarah Sample, who was born in the western part of New York State, Jan. 30, 1860, daughter of Gerome and Ellen (Porter) Sample. Her parents, also born in western New York, came to this county at an early date, locating first on Highland Prairie. They later retired and moved to Houston village where both died. Their daughter Sarah was the fifth born of their six children. The others are: Madellia, Genge, Ida, Newland and Emma. Mrs. Smith is a charter member of Houston Eastern Star.

Gunder Laugen, the founder of a farm in section 25 west, Houston township, but now deceased, was born in Numadahl, Norway, in 1821. He grew to manhood in his native land and was there married to Christina Landsverk. In 1867 they came to the United States, settling first near

Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., where they farmed for about two years, at the end of that time removing to the farm in Houston township, Houston county above mentioned. There were at the time no improvements on it, but he started them by erecting a small log house and from that time on spent his time in developing the place until advancing years made him entrust further improvements to the younger generation. He died on the farm April 3, 1903, his wife having died in 1885. They were the parents of three children: Ole G., now one of the prominent citizens of Houston township; Louis, who is deceased; and one who died at sea while on the way to this country.

Ole G. Laugen, proprietor of a fine farm in Houston township, who has also rendered public service in high official position, as county treasurer, member of the State Board of Equalization, and State Senator, was born in Nonadahl, Norway, April 24, 1854, son of Gunder and Christine (Landsverk) Laugen. He was thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., and two years later he came with them to Houston county, the family locating on the farm in section 25 west, Houston township, which has ever since been his home, except for one or two periods of temporary absence. As a boy he attended the district school, and for a number of years was his father's assistant on the home farm, of which in the natural course of events he finally became manager and then owner. It is now a fine estate, well improved with good buildings, and provided with the necessary equipment for modern scientific farming, which he carries on with profitable results. Mr. Laugen's public service began many years ago, when he became identified with the affairs of town government, serving at various times as clerk, assessor and supervisor. His efficiency in local office led to his nomination as county treasurer, and as such he served for eight years, during that time residing in Caledonia. Renominated in 1890, on the Populist ticket, he declined office, but in 1892 he was again nominated and elected on the Republican ticket, serving eight years. In 1901 Mr. Laugen was appointed by Governor Van Sant to membership on the State Board of Equalization from the Tenth Judicial District; and in 1902 he was nominated and elected State Senator from Houston county, in which office he served four years, taking a beneficial part in much important legislation. His record as a public servant is one to which his fellow citizens may point with pride as justifying their choice of a representative in the highest legislative body in the State, and was the culmination of a long career of usefulness and fidelity to public interests. Religiously Mr. Laugen is identified with the Lutheran church. He was married, Dec. 17, 1880, to Dinah Christianson, who was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, daughter of Martin and Randine (Gulbrandson) Christianson, who were natives of Christiana, Norway. Emigrating to Chicago, Ill., in 1852, her parents, accompanied by Segrid Anderson, came in the following year to Houston county, Minn., and took a farm in Money Creek township, where they spent the rest of their lives, the mother dying in March, 1916, and the father some years previous. Mrs. Dinah Laugen survived her mother by only eight months, passing away Nov. 28, 1916. She and her husband



O. G. LAUGEN

were the parents of six children, whose record in brief is as follows: Emma, wife of John W. Potter, of Caledonia; Sophia, wife of Leslie Emery, of Caledonia; George, a member of the firm of Potter & Laugen, of Houston, who married Velma Whitehouse; Martin, a traveling salesman living in St. Paul, who since a boy of eighteen was in the employ of Bishop & Babcock until 1918 and is now with a Chicago firm; Louis, residing on the home farm; and Josephine, who died in Caledonia. Martin and Louis both enlisted in the United States Navy for the Great War, and were in training when the Armistice was signed. Mr. Laugen is now devoting his time to the cultivation of his fine farm, being one of the leading representatives of the agricultural industry in his township. He is a member of the Shipping Association, and is fraternally connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Knud O. Sogla, proprietor of a good general and stock farm in section 17, Yucatan township, was born in Hallindahl, Norway, Oct. 8, 1855, son of Ole Knutson and his wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Houjinson. The parents were natives of the same place as their son. In 1859 the family emigrated to the United States, and coming to Houston county, Minn., settled in Black Hammer township, where the father found employment working for others for a year. He then moved over the county line into Fillmore county, where he first worked out and afterwards engaged in farming on his own account until his death. He served in the Civil War in a Minnesota regiment and returned home having escaped both death and wounds. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Knud O. Sogla, who was the eldest of his parents' ten children, in his boyhood attended school in Fillmore county. He resided at home until twenty-two years of age, after which he worked out for others. In 1883 he married Petra Hanson, a native of Tronjen, Norway, whose parents, now deceased, never came to this country. A year after his marriage Mr. Sogla rented land in Fillmore county, which he farmed for about twelve years. At the end of that time he took his present farm of eighty acres in section 17, Yucatan township, Houston county, where he has made practically all the improvements now standing and developed the land. He breeds Duroc-Jersey hogs and other good stock, and is also a shareholder in the Bratsberg Creamery Co. and the Farmers' Telephone Company. Since coming here he has made good progress and has become one of the prosperous citizens of his township. He and his wife have six children: Hans, who married Josie Munson, became a farmer at Big Timber, Mont., and is now deceased; Mary, wife of Abraham Neland; Julia, now Mrs. Ben Underwood of Langton, N. D.; Paul, who married Carrie Thompson, a farmer of Big Timber, Mont., now deceased; Elmer and Elizabeth, who reside at home with their father.

Torger Torgerson-Sauro, a prominent farmer of Yucatan township, operating a farm of 320 acres in section 32 north, was born in Telemarken, Norway, March 29, 1852, son of Torger Olson and his wife Ragneild Johnson. His mother died when he was three years old, and he continued to reside in Norway until arriving at the age of eighteen, when he emigrated to the United States, locating in Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn.,

where he found employment during the summer working out for others. He was at first unable to speak the English language. In 1872 his father, then well along in years, also came to this country, locating in Rushford, where he met an accidental death in the following year, being killed by a train. After his first summer in Fillmore county the subject of this sketch went to Iowa, where he remained two years, during a part of which time he attended English school, thus supplementing the education he had received in his native land. After that he worked in the Wisconsin pineries for one winter and then returned to Rushford, where, and in the vicinity, he worked out for some years. He then rented a farm which he operated until 1877, in which year he came to his present location. On his farm of 320 acres he has made valuable improvements—practically all now in use—and as a general stock farmer has met with gratifying success. He also holds shares in the Rushford Creamery, Elevator and Telephone Co. Independent in politics, he has served at different times both on the school board of his district and as supervisor on the town board, in each case for a number of years. He is a member and trustee of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Rushford and also belongs to the camp of Modern Woodmen of America at that place. On June 12, 1878, Mr. Torgerson-Sauro was united in marriage with Gunild Gullickson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, daughter of Gulick Herbenson and Aaslak Olson, and who came with her parents to this country in 1869, residing first in Decorah, Iowa, whence, a year later, they came to Fillmore county, Minn. Both parents are now deceased. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson: Henry, who died Aug. 17, 1918; John, who married Carrie Ekre and lives in South Rushford; Ole, on the home farm; Mollie, wife of Christ Grenrud, a tinner residing in North Dakota; Anna, at home, and Emma, who is the wife of Bernt Westby, a farmer on Oak Ridge, Yucatan township.

Oscar O. Laugen, proprietor of a fine farm of 320 acres in Houston township, residing in section 36 south, and who for many years has also been engaged in the sawmill industry, was born in Rock county, Wis., near the city of Broadhead, April 18, 1869, son of Ole and Emily (Satre) Laugen. He was a babe of two months when his parents moved to Houston county, Minn., taking the farm in Houston township on which he now lives. He was educated in the district school and also in a school at Harmony, which he attended for one term. Up to the age of twenty-two years he was his father's assistant, but at that time began operating the farm independently and, it having become his own property, he has continued its development and improvement, raising grain, hay and stock. For the last twenty years he has also operated a sawmill, and in company with Messrs. Hempstead and Smith operates a threshing outfit. He has made a specialty of stock raising, but all branches of his business are on a profitable basis, and he is numbered among the leading and most enterprising farmers of his township. He is also a shareholder in the local creamery and elevator companies. His fraternal affiliations are with the Yeomen's lodge at Houston. In politics a Republican, he served for about twenty years as town supervisor, and has also rendered efficient service



OSCAR O. LAUGEN

on the school board, and in other capacities. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston. On Dec. 22, 1892, Mr. Laugen was united in marriage with Jane Lofthus, who was born in Freeborn county, Minn., daughter of Nels and Anna (Laugan) Lofthus. She died Nov. 16, 1910, leaving five children: Olaf Norris, now a member of an engineer corps in the United States military service still in France; and Alma Telleta, Edwin Conrad, Anna Isabelle and Clara Josephine, who are residing on the home farm with their father.

John J. Sliter, now serving in his third term as representative from the First District in the State Legislature, is a man whose record as a highly successful farmer, promoter of important business enterprises, and public spirited citizen is well known to practically all the inhabitants of Houston county, where he has spent the last twenty-two years of his life. He was born at Spring Green, Wis., Aug. 26, 1873, son of John S. and Mary E. (Jones) Sliter. The father, born in March, 1846, spent his active career as a farmer and is now living retired at Spring Green. The mother, a native of Wales, died in 1903. John J., who was the second born of their four children, acquired his elementary education in the district school, afterwards attending the high school at Spring Green and the normal school at Valparaiso, Ind. He then took a stenographic course at Chicago, and subsequently studied law for one year at St. Paul. For a while he taught school in Wisconsin and Minnesota. After residing with his parents until he was twenty-two years old, he engaged in farming for himself near Spring Green. In the fall of 1896 he purchased land in Looney Valley, Houston county, taking up his residence on it in 1898. There he remained for eight years engaged in agriculture. Then disposing of that property, he located on a farm at the lower end of Looney Valley, which farm he still owns. After a residence there of eight years Mr. Sliter moved to Houston, where he has since made his home. During his career as an agriculturist, one of great activity and rapid progress, he gradually added to his landed possessions until he had become the owner of about 700 acres of valuable land, including farm buildings, which he now rents out to tenants. Since taking up his residence in the city he has shown equal activity and has identified himself closely with local interests. He is director and secretary of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Houston, which he organized, and is treasurer, secretary and general manager of the People's Shipping Association. In politics he is a Republican, but with the exception of service on the school board, has held no public offices except that of representative to the State Legislature, to which he was first elected in November, 1914, being re-elected in 1916, and again in 1918. In this important position he has made a good record and gained the confidence of his constituents. The greater part of his time, when not attending to his legislative duties, is devoted to his farm, which he has brought into a high state of improvement, and which he operates according to the most modern and scientific methods. He is a member of the Masonic order. Mr. Sliter was married Oct. 26, 1897, to Florence Thompson, who was born in Looney Valley, Houston county, daughter of Isaac and Mary T. (Darling) Thompson, natives respectively of Vermont and Ohio. Mr.

Thompson came to Houston county as early as 1852 or 1853. He and his wife are both now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Sliter four children have been born: Mary Jeanette, Margaret Elizabeth, Helen Lolah and Dorothy Edith.

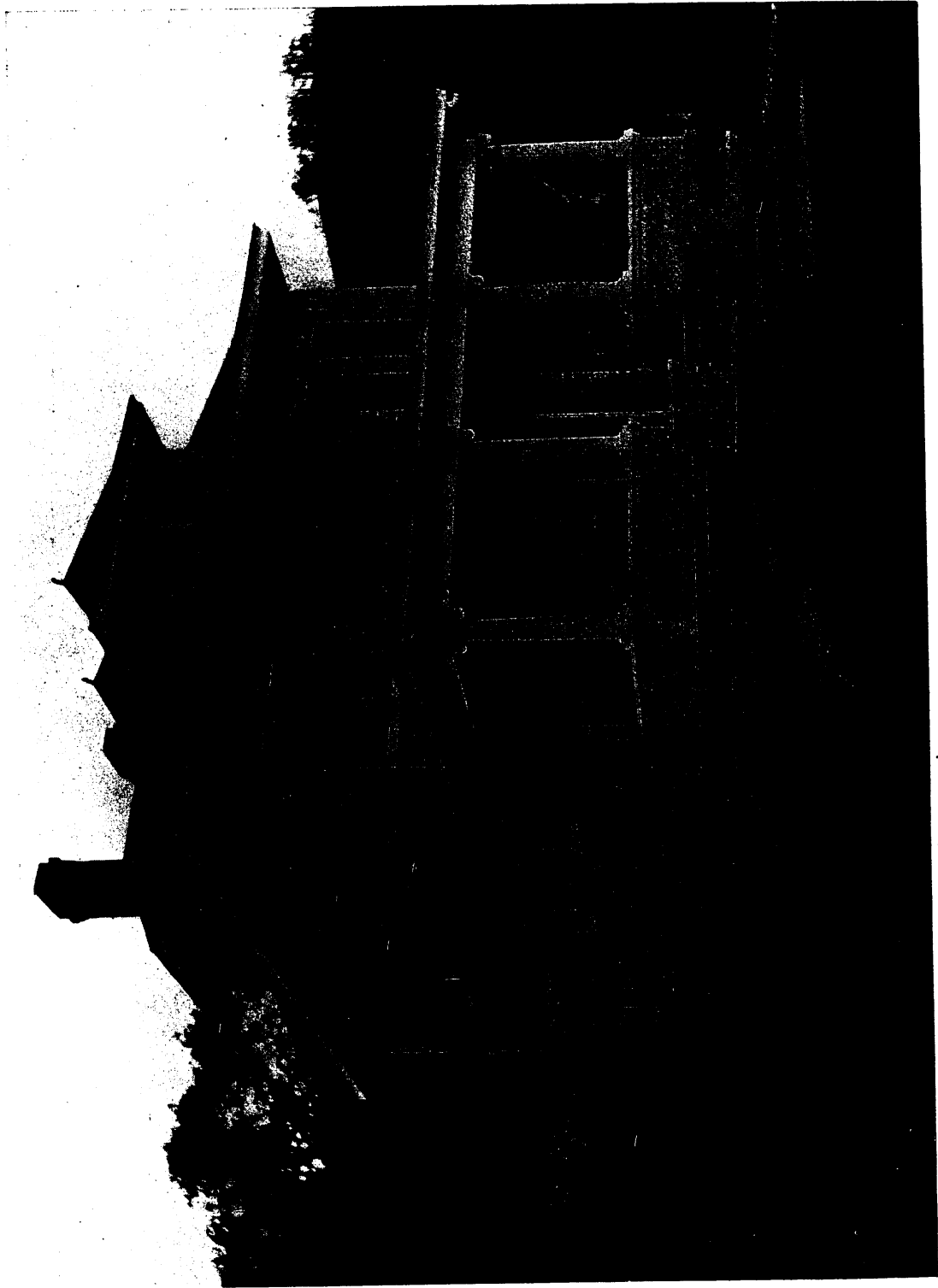
Lauritz Ukkestad, an elderly resident of Yucatan township, where he has spent many years in agricultural pursuits, was born in Nonstad, Norway. He came to the United States in 1865, while still single, and located immediately in Houston county, Minn. Here he married Ingeborg Tollefson, a native of Telemarken, Norway. Mr. Ukkestad's first employment in this country was at railroad work, but he later rented land in Yucatan township and engaged in farming. He is still residing on a farm here and is a well known and respected citizen. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children.

Theodore Ukkestad, a well to do general farmer operating 160 acres of valuable land in section 32, Yucatan township, was born in this township, July 10, 1889, son of Lauritz and Ingeborg (Tollefson) Ukkestad. In his boyhood he attended school in district 17, and after he was confirmed began working out for others, though at intervals residing at home. In this way he spent the time until March 18, 1913, when he was united in marriage with Julia Olson, who was born in Fillmore county, Nov. 26, 1887, daughter of Iver and Julia (Tolrud) Olson. Her parents are now deceased. After his marriage Mr. Ukkestad bought his present farm on which he raises both crops and stock, in these strenuous times receiving good prices for all his farm products. He is a shareholder in the Rushford Creamery and in the Farmers' Telephone Company. He and his wife are parents of two children, Ruth Edna, born April 4, 1914, and Thelma Judith, born Oct. 10, 1915.

Andrew C. Johnson, Sr., proprietor of the Brantdale, a leading stock farmer of Houston township, who has also taken a prominent part in public affairs, was born near Drammen, Norway, July 6, 1857, son of John and Mary (Stensrud) Johnson. He was his parents' only child, as his father died when Andrew was but a few weeks old. In 1861 Mrs. Mary Johnson came with her son to America, locating in Houston county, Minn., where she contracted a second marriage with Peter Wager of which eight children were born. She died on a farm in Houston township in January, 1910. Andrew C. Johnson, who was a child of about four years when he arrived in Houston county, resided with his mother and in his boyhood attended the district school. He was brought up to farm work, and at the age of twenty-one, being then his own master, left home and went to Madison county, Neb., where he took a homestead, which he held while working for others. After improving it as he found opportunity, he sold it and engaged in the butcher's business at Newman Grove, a village situated on the line between Madison and Platte counties, Nebraska. There he remained for fifteen years. At the end of that time he disposed of his interests and returned to Minnesota, buying his present farm of 460 acres in section 11, Houston township. His tillable land, which is rich and fertile, he rents out to others, giving his own attention to the stock business, especially to the breeding of Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has

A. C. JOHNSON AND FAMILY





A. C. JOHNSON RESIDENCE

made substantial improvements on his farm, in 1914, erecting his present residence, which is one of the most modern in this locality and which, together with his barn, is illuminated by his own individual lighting system. On this handsome estate Mr. Johnson expects to make his permanent home. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the Odd Fellows' lodge at Hokah. In politics a Republican, Mr. Johnson has for many years taken an active part in public affairs in the communities where he has resided. While in Nebraska he held school office for some years, was town assessor two years; county commissioner in Madison county, Neb., for nine years in succession; and since locating permanently in Houston county he has served twelve years on the school board of his district, is now serving as justice of the peace, and was representative from Houston county in the State Legislature during the session of 1913. He is also one of the trustees of his church and was delegate to the Lutheran annual convention of 1918, held at Fargo, N. D. December 22, 1886, Andrew C. Johnson was united in marriage with Sarah Larson, who was born near Skeon, Norway, daughter of Lars and Cecil Anderson. She was an only child and was educated in Dodge and Brown counties, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been the parents of six children, John Magness, Mabel Josephine, Marie, Nellie Sophia, Andrew Christopher, Jr., and Florence Serene, all of whom are residing at home except Nellie Sophia, who died Jan. 10, 1914. John M. and Andrew C., Jr., both served their country during the great war, John being in training at Camp Grant and Fort Sheridan, and Andrew C., Jr., going to France with the 333rd heavy artillery. Lars and Cecil Anderson, the parents of Mrs. Johnson, were both born in Norway, in the same locality as their daughter. Soon after the latter's birth they emigrated to Wisconsin, and Mr. Anderson enlisted for service in the Civil War, was killed at the battle of Corinth, Miss., Oct. 18, 1862. His widow subsequently married again, but died in Houston county when her daughter Sarah (Mrs. Johnson) was a child.

John Alfred Doblár, who is engaged in operating a well improved farm of seventy-three acres in section 18, Money Creek township, was born on this farm March 3, 1880, son of Anton and Anna (Kahoun) Doblár. He represents the third generation to reside on this place, as the father, Anton Doblár, who was born in Germany, of Swiss parents, in 1857, came here with his widowed mother when a lad of ten years, the mother contracting a second marriage and spending the rest of her life here. Anton Doblár was killed in Winona Jan. 17, 1898. His wife Anna, who was born in Dubuque, Iowa, May 11, 1858, is still living on the farm with her son, John Alfred. The latter was the second born in a family of nine children. In his youth he attended school in Money Creek township and first engaged in agricultural work on the home farm. From the age of twelve to that of twenty-nine years he worked out, assisting his parents with his earnings. He then married and settled down on the homestead, where he has since been engaged in general farm work. His land is highly improved and is well provided with good buildings and other equipment. Mr. Doblár is also a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery, the Farmers' Exchange Elevator at Houston, and the Farmers Telephone Company, in which he

is a director. In politics he is a Democrat with independent proclivities. On Jan. 11, 1911, Mr. Dobler was united in marriage with Gelena Jore, who was born in Sheldon township, Houston county, daughter of Anon and Gura (Vathing) Jora, who were early settlers in that township, to which they came from their native land of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Doblar are the parents of four children, Archie Joseph, Myrtle Genevieve, Hazel Anna and Ruby Tona.

Lars N. Larson, in whose death on Nov. 29, 1902, the village of Houston lost a useful and highly esteemed citizen, was born at Nonstad, near Christiania, Norway, Jan. 29, 1857, son of Nels and Maria Larson. He was one of the older members in a family of seven children, some of the younger of whom were born in this country, to which his parents emigrated when he was five years old, settling on land in Yucatan township, Houston county, Minn. There he attended school, and as he grew older worked on the home farm. He was still a boy when his father died, and his duties then became more onerous, the farm in time coming under his management, and he operated it for thirteen years after his marriage. Then moving to Houston village, he engaged here in the wagon repairing business, in which line of work he was very expert, and in which he continued until his death, having a large trade from all the surrounding country. A man of high character, honest in his business dealings, and with an agreeable and attractive personality, he was popular among a wide acquaintance, and his demise was felt as a loss by the entire community. He was a faithful member of the Lutheran church, shaping his life in accordance with its doctrines. In politics, a Republican, he served three terms as supervisor in his township and for a number of years was an efficient member of the school board. Mr. Larson was married April 13, 1883, to Liva Olson, who was born near the stone church in Yucatan township, this county, daughter of Tosten and Margaret (Anfinson) Olson, she being the eldest of their ten children. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson, Henry Nicholai, who is now engaged in the lumber business at Altura, Minn. He married Edna Vomsal of Houston, and has one child, Leila. Toston Olson, Mrs. Larson's father, was born in Norway, as was also his wife, Margaret. They were early settlers in Houston county, where they engaged in farming. Their second farm was in Money Creek township, where they resided until 1908, when Mr. Olson retired and came to Houston village, where he passed away April 19, 1918. His wife died April 6, 1905.

J. B. Johnson, who is taking part in the agricultural development of Houston township as proprietor of a farm of 200 acres in section 31, was born in Holan, Sweden, Aug. 15, 1859. His parents, John and Anna Johnson, who were natives of the same locality, came to the United States with their family in 1868, settling on a farm in Houston township, this county. John Johnson also worked at times for others, and continued to reside here until his death in 1902. His wife died in 1911. J. B. Johnson, who was the eldest of their three children, was about nine years old when he came to America, and after arriving in this country attended school in Houston. At the age of twenty years he began farming in Swede Bottom, east of Houston in Houston township, and was a resident there for a number



JOHN B. JOHNSON AND FAMILY

of years. Afterwards he removed to a farm in Sheldon township, where he remained until his marriage in 1883, when he came to his present farm. This is a well improved piece of property, well adapted to general farming, in which Mr. Johnson has made a success. He is a stockholder in the Houston Creamery Company. His fraternal society affiliations are with the camp of Modern Woodmen of America at Houston, and in politics he is a Republican. In the month of April, 1883, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Jane Skree, who was born in Houston county, daughter of Ole and Sigrid Skree, she being the fourth born of their five children. The parents were natives of Norway and were among the pioneer settlers of Sheldon township, where both died, the father during the Civil War period. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson eight children have been born: Oscar O., a farmer in Looney Valley, Houston township, who married Olga Osfit; Josephine, wife of John S. Johnson, residing in Sheldon township; Tilla, wife of Phil Hoppel, a farmer of Looney Valley; Mattie and Verleda who are living on the home farm; and Clarence and Samuel, both of whom were in the United States service during the World War, Clarence being still in France, and Samuel having been in training at Camp Hancock.

Robert McCormick, one of the early settlers in Money Creek township who did good pioneer work in civilizing the wilderness, but who is now passed away, was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1830. He was a young man when he came to America and found employment at railroad work in New York State. In 1868 he heard the call of the West and came to Houston county, Minn., securing wild land in Money Creek township which he subsequently spent many years in developing, achieving valuable results. He continued thus actively engaged until within a few years before his death, when he retired and moved to Rushford in Fillmore county, where he passed away about the year 1910. Mr. McCormick married Mary Moran, who was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1830, and who is still residing in Rushford. They were the parents of three children: Mary, Daniel and Robert William.

Robert William McCormick, who is engaged in general farming on the homestead in section 10, Money Creek township, that was established many years ago by his father, was born in this township, Aug. 25, 1880, son of Robert and Mary (Moran) McCormick. His education was obtained in the district school and he assisted his father on the farm until arriving at the age of twenty-three years, at which time he rented the farm and has since operated it on his own account. It contains 200 acres and is provided with good buildings and modern improvements. Mr. McCormick is carrying on general farming and is raising good stock, both cattle and hogs. He is also a shareholder in the Rushford Farmers' Elevator and a member of the shipping associations at Houston and Rushford. He attends the Roman Catholic church at Rushford, and, in politics a Democrat, served three years as clerk of the school board of his district. Mr. McCormick was married Dec. 7, 1905, to Rose Waste, who was born in Houston, this county, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Wright) Waste. Her father was a carpenter and contractor by occupation and passed away March 13, 1919. Her mother, who was born in Black Hammer township, died March 3, 1910.

To Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have been born seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Those living are Paul Harold, Irene, Magdalyn Almyra, Elizabeth Mildred, Robert and Mary Rosalyn.

John E. Anderson, a general farmer owning 260 acres of land in Yucatan township, of which 220 acres are in section 12, where he resides, and 40 acres in section 2, was born at Getbur, in Halland, Sweden, June 2, 1866, son of Charles G. and Mollie Anderson. His mother dying when he was a boy, the father married for his second wife, Bertha Stena Johnson, and in 1880 emigrated with his family to Houston county, Minn., locating first in Looney Valley, Houston township, and two years later removing to Yucatan township, taking land on Oak Ridge, where he developed a farm. He died in 1913, but his wife Bertha is still living and is residing with her son Alec in Yucatan township. John E. Anderson first attended school in Sweden and after coming to Houston county, attended district school for two terms in Looney Valley. Until the age of 29 years he resided on the farm with his father and stepmother, and then married and engaged in farming for himself on Oak Ridge. For the first seven years he operated rented land and then bought 160 acres in section 2, Yucatan township, residing on that farm for six years. He then moved to his present location, where he is engaged in general farming on the two farms above mentioned, both of which are well improved. He is doing a successful business and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. At the present time he is serving as treasurer of his school district. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston. Mr. Anderson was married April 12, 1897, to Martha Ellefson, who was born in Skeln, Norway, daughter of Ellef and Martha Ellefson. Her mother dying in 1866, she accompanied her father to this country two years later, the surviving members of the family, which included seven children, settling first on Highland Prairie, this county, but soon after removing to Yucatan Valley. After working out for three years the father bought a farm on Oak Ridge, Yucatan township, where he resided until 1906, when he removed to the state of Washington. Two or three years later he took up his residence in Montana, where he died Feb. 12, 1911, after a year's residence there. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of seven children, all residing at home, namely: Mollie, Carl, Stella, Elmer, Arthur, Henry and Gertie.

Ole K. Knutsen, a general farmer residing in section 24, Yucatan township, where he is successfully operating 216 acres of land, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Feb. 2, 1868, son of Kittel and Oshear (Olson) Knutsen. The family came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1885, locating on this farm, where the father resided practically until his death in May, 1909. The mother is now residing on Bridge Creek, Yucatan township. Ole K. Knutsen, who was the fourth born of their seven children, acquired his education chiefly in Norway, though he attended school for about two weeks here. He was 17 years old when he came to this country and had already for four years earned his own living. Until he married he worked out for others, and then started farming for himself in Caledonia township, one mile south of the Sheldon township line. Later he bought a farm on Money Creek, which he operated for five years, at the end of which time



he purchased his present farm of 216 acres, on which he raises both crops and stock, devoting his whole time to the business. He is enjoying a prosperous career and is one of the prominent citizens of his township. For two years he has served as a member of the school board. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Knutsen was married March 17, 1896, to Lizzie Moen, who was born in Sheldon township, daughter of Samen and Anna Moen. He and his wife are the parents of five children, all residing at home, namely: Katie, Sullivan, Anton, Amy and Knudt. The parents of Mrs. Knutsen, who were born and married in Norway, were early settlers in Sheldon township, this county, where the father died on his farm in 1889. His widow is now the wife of Halvor Hauge and resides in Houston. Before coming to the United States Mr. Moen served in the regular army of Norway. Of her parents' ten children Mrs. Knutsen was the fourth in order of birth, and she was reared and educated in Sheldon township.

Ludwig H. Julsrud, one of the leading merchants of Houston, engaged in business as a jeweler and watchmaker, and dealing also in optical goods, cut glass ware and musical instruments, was born in Eidsvold, Norway, Oct. 29, 1871, son of Hans and Ingeborg (Hoken) Julsrud. The parents were natives of the same locality, the father being a farmer. Both died in their native land, where they spent their entire lives. Ludwig H., who was the seventh born in a family of nine children, attended public school in Norway, after which, at the age of 15 years, he became clerk in a store. In 1895 he came to America, locating in Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., where he had an uncle, Jens Julsrud, who kept a store. For this uncle he worked four years. Then going to Winona he began to learn the trade of watchmaker, subsequently perfecting his knowledge in the watchmaking school at Elgin, Ill. In 1900, having mastered the trade, he started in his present business in Houston, which he has since built up into one of the solidly established concerns in the county, having gained a reputation as a fair and reliable dealer which has proved one of his most important assets. He is also a stockholder in the Houston State Bank, and in the Outlook Flour Mills, at Outlook, Saskatchewan, Canada, of which his brother is president. An Independent Republican in politics, he has served three terms as a member of the Houston village council. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Blue lodge of Masons, and the Yeomen, having formerly been clerk in the Yeomen lodge. Mr. Julsrud was married in June, 1899, to Amanda Omodt, who was born in Houston county, daughter of Knud and Ingeborg (Thorson) Omodt. Her parents, native of Norway, were pioneer settlers in Money Creek township, this county, but are now living retired in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Julsrud have four children: Helen Ingrid, Clara Bargild, Hjordes and Adrian Leland. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Adolph J. Anderson, who is successfully engaged in operating a general stock farm of 216 acres in section 31 west, Houston township, was born on the old Anderson homestead in section 36 west, this township, Sept. 2, 1871, son of Sigurd and Jorane (Egland) Anderson. His education was acquired chiefly in the school of his district, but he also attended a term at the Rushford High School, in Fillmore county. Until the age of 21 he

acted as his father's assistant on the home farm, and then became its active manager, operating it for six years. At the end of that time, about 1899, he bought 216 acres of his present farm in section 31 west, to which he has since added until he now has a whole half section of valuable land, with good buildings. He is carrying on a profitable business as a stock farmer, raising cattle, horses and swine, of the last mentioned stock usually keeping about fifty head. His greatest specialty is in raising choice potatoes, his product demanding the top prices in the best markets. In 1919 he had no less than twelve acres. In order to better accommodate the market and to sell at the best advantage, he has erected on his farm a good potato warehouse which is proving a great convenience. He is a member of the Shipping Association, has been a shareholder in the Houston Creamery since its organization, and also holds stock in the elevator company. In politics he is an independent Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. Mr. Anderson was married, Oct. 13, 1897, to Anna Halvorson, who was born in Norway, May 2, 1871, daughter of Even and Anna (Johnson) Halvorson, who were natives of Telemarken, Norway. The family came to the United States in 1878 when Anna was seven years old, locating immediately in Houston township, this county, where they engaged in farming, and where Mr. Halvorson died in November, 1915. Mrs. Johnson is still residing on the old homestead in Looney Valley, with her son Alfred. Her daughter Anna was the eldest of eight children and was educated in Houston township. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson: Lawrence, who is residing with his parents; Stanley Edwin, who died in 1902 at the age of two years; Alice Jeanette, Martha Elenora, Stella Bernice, Geneva Irene, Ruth E. and Reuben Elvin, twins, are residing on the home farm. The family have a high social standing, Mrs. Anderson having always taken an active part in church work and the Ladies' Aid Society.

Dr. K. T. Midboe, who is engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in Houston, Minn., was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 2, 1878, son of Thomas and Signe (Midboe) Esping. The father, who was a farmer, died when the subject of this sketch was a baby, and the latter came to the United States with his mother in 1880, settling in Yucatan township, this county. The mother died in 1904 at the age of 63 years. K. T. Midboe attended the district school in Yucatan township, and began working out for farmers when 13 years old. He later engaged in farming for himself in Yucatan township. Subsequently he went to the Dakotas, where he drilled wells for three years and also farmed. Having then made up his mind to embrace a professional career, he went to Chicago, where he entered McKillopp's Veterinary College and was graduated in 1916, immediately afterwards establishing himself in Houston. Although located here but a comparatively short time, he has already built up a good reputation and a profitable practice, with excellent prospects for the future. He is the only veterinary in Houston. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church in this city. Dr. Midboe was married Sept. 19, 1917, to Emma Hostvedt, daughter of Anfin and Isabelle (Saugen) Hostvedt, her parents being farming people of this county. She received a good educa-



MR. AND MRS. SIGURD ANDERSON



tion, attending the Winona High School and later graduating from the Winona Normal School, after which she was a teacher for ten years before her marriage. Dr. and Mrs. Midboe are active participants in the social life of Houston, and are popular among their numerous acquaintances. They are the parents of one child, Theron Allen.

Christ Brevig, an early settler in Yucatan township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, and was a young man when he emigrated from his native land to Houston county, Minnesota. Here he married Julia Trondvent, and they took land in Yucatan township and engaged in farming. After residing on their first farm for a number of years, they moved to Root River Valley in the same township, where they took another farm, on which Mr. Brevig died in the spring of 1914. His wife survived him until the fall of 1916, when she too passed away. They were the parents of three children, Charles, Susie and Osmond.

Osmond Brevig, a general farmer on 240 acres of land in section 5, Yucatan township, was born in this township, Sept. 15, 1876, son of Christ and Julia (Trondvent) Brevig. He was the youngest of his parents' three children and attended school on Oak Ridge, this township. When a lad of 16 years he began working out and was thus engaged for seven years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm, which is well improved. He is a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company and has attained a well recognized place among the prosperous citizens of his township. Politically an independent, he is at present serving as school clerk, and is a member of the Lutheran church on Oak Ridge. Mr. Brevig was first married, in November, 1902, to Clara Bratland, who was born in Yucatan township, Houston county, daughter of Ostim and Mary (Olson) Bratland, who are now retired farmers in Rushford. Mrs. Clara Brevig died Aug. 1, 1912, leaving two children, Melvin and Odine. On Oct. 2, 1914, Mr. Brevig married Anna Clave, also a native of Yucatan township, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Targe Clave, who are still residing here. Of this marriage there has been one child born, Bernice.

Sigurd Anderson, one of the few original pioneers of Houston county who are yet living, and who in his day has been an active factor in the growth and development of the county, was born near Christiania, Norway, Oct. 15, 1833, son of Andrew Skar and his wife, Serena Swenson. The parents were farmers who died in their native land, the father being a man of some importance in the township or village of Marydahlen, where for many years he served frequently in public office. Sigurd, who was the second born in a family of six children, attended school both in Marydahlen and Christiania. In 1853, a young man of 20 years, he resolved to seek his fortune in the United States, and even at that early day, realizing that the West or Northwest presented the best fields of opportunity for those who sought to gain a living from the soil, he made his way directly to Chicago, where he stopped for a while to seek work and earn a little money. For a few months he worked for the city tending the Lake street bridge. He was the better able to find employment as he had some knowledge of English, which he had acquired in Norway. In 1854 he joined two other

men who were bound as homeseekers to the Northwest. Heading straight for Dubuque, they reached that place after a journey accomplished partly by stage and partly on foot. Then they took boat to La Crosse, and after reaching that village crossed over the Mississippi river in a canoe and, as night came on, found shelter in the attic of a log house. It was cold weather in early March and in the morning they found themselves covered with snow which had sifted through the chinks. Thence they walked to Houston, the walking being bad, as the ground was covered with snow and water. On his arrival at Houston Mr. Anderson claimed 160 acres of land in section 36 west, which was the nucleus of his present farm. To secure the land he had to borrow money at forty per cent interest, and also had to sign a petition circulated by the settlers, promising to aid in throwing into the river any speculators who tried to outbid them for their lands, which were sold by auction. When the auction started a speculator began bidding, but was promptly seized and dragged to the river, when he agreed to bid no more, and soon after a boat pulled out with all the speculators on board. On reaching his land Mr. Anderson found it occupied by a camp of 300 Indians, who, however, gave him no trouble, as both then and subsequently they proved peaceable. The woods abounded with various sorts of game, including deer, partridges and turkeys, with wild geese near the river and sloughs. For eight or ten years he resided in a log house, after which he built a frame structure. For a number of years he worked hard in breaking and developing his land, adding to its original amount until he owned 425 acres; and besides this he developed a considerable amount of land for other settlers, operating a breaking team. He also for a while in those early days conducted a general store and trading post and was a well known and popular character in the northern part of the county. In later years he became one of the first stockholders of the local creamery. He is still engaged in the management of his farm in section 36 west, it now containing 240 acres, and is also the owner of a resort at Long Lake, Wis., where he spends his summers. For over forty years he took an active part in the management of town affairs, first becoming a town official at the age of 21, soon after his arrival in the township. At the time the court house was built he was a county commissioner, serving one term. He is a member of the Lutheran church and, politically, of the Republican party. Mr. Anderson was first married in 1856 to Christina Hendrickson, who bore him five children: Eliza (deceased); Henry, now residing in Canada; Mary (deceased); Barnhard, now living in Alaska; and Martha (deceased). Mrs. Christina (Hendrickson) Anderson died in 1868. In 1869, Mr. Anderson married Jorene Eglund, and this union resulted in eight children: Serena, at home; Adolph, a farmer of Houston township; Clare, wife of Prof. Theodore Running, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Dr. William, of Grand Forks; Bertha (deceased), and Evelyn, now Mrs. Ole Tonning, of Moorhead, Minn. Mrs. Jorene (Eglund) Anderson died Sept. 13, 1914.

Hans Forsyth, who settled in Houston in 1868 and later became a land owner and farmer, was born in Gubrensdahl, Norway, Sept. 8, 1826. He grew to manhood in his native land and was there married to Eli Swenson, who was born May 25, 1834. It was in August, 1868, that they emigrated

to the United States, coming directly to Houston county. That fall and winter Mr. Forsyth worked in a warehouse at Houston, and in the following year engaged in farming, becoming owner of the homestead in section 30, Money Creek township, that is now in possession of his son Anthon. There he continued to reside, developing and improving the place until his death in 1900. His wife passed away eight years later in 1908. They were the parents of a family of ten children: Nels, Mattie, Ole, John (deceased), Carrie A., Anna, who died in infancy; Herman, Emma, Anthon and Tena.

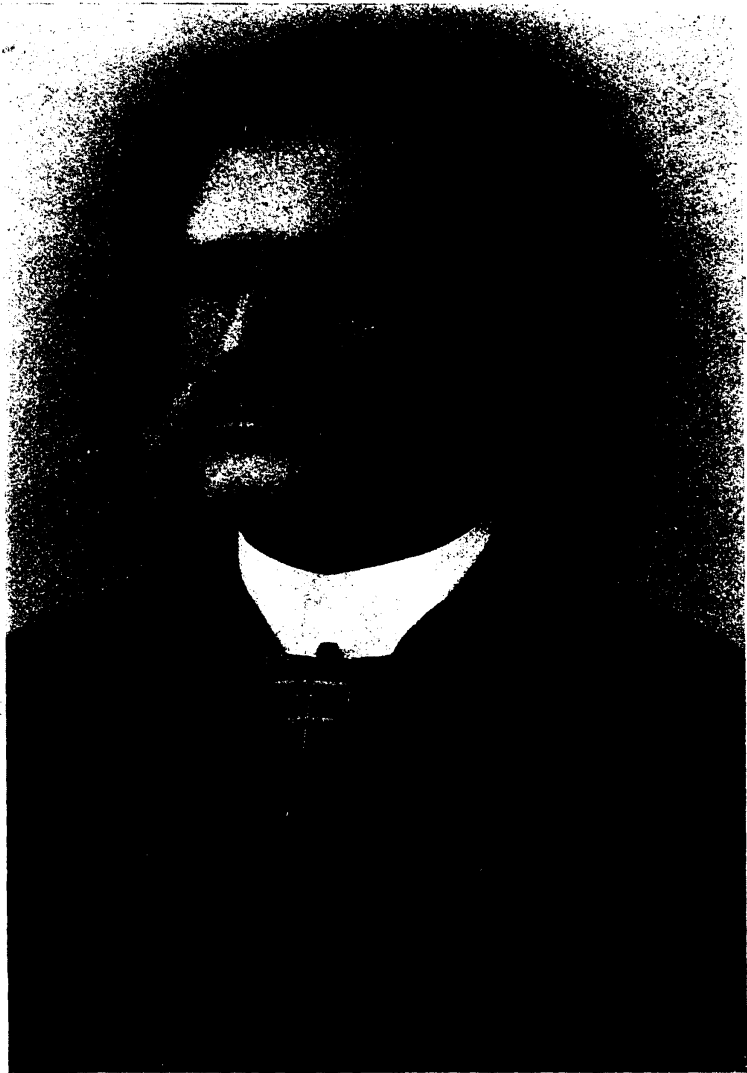
Anthon Forsyth, one of the leading stock farmers of Money Creek township, proprietor of a fine farm of 410 acres, was born in Houston township, this county, Jan. 14, 1875, son of Hans and Eli (Swenson) Forsyth. He was the ninth born in a family of ten children and was educated in District School No. 9, Money Creek township. Brought up on his parents' farm, he early learned the science of agriculture in its practical bearings and for a number of years was his father's assistant. Some years before his father's death he took over the management of the farm, becoming its owner in the year 1900. He had built it up to its present area of 410 acres, well supplied with good buildings, and is operating it as a general stock farm with profitable results. Aside from this he has additional business interests, being president of the Farmers' Elevator Company and a stockholder in the Creamery and the Houston State Bank. A Republican in politics, he has served as a member of the board of supervisors for the last 15 years, being now its chairman. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. A man of enterprise and activity, he has made good progress on the road to fortune and is today numbered among the most prosperous citizens of his township. Mr. Forsyth was married Nov. 21, 1906, to Emma Peterson, a daughter of Swan and Caroline (Swenson) Peterson, her parents being natives of Norway, who were married in Houston county, and are now living retired in Houston, being well advanced in years. To Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth five children have been born: Harley Sylvester, Carl Edward, Eva Karen, Allan Peterson and Herman Martin.

David J. Halliday, who owns and operates an excellent farm of 160 acres in section 5, Money Creek township, and is numbered among the prosperous and respected citizens of this township, was born near Portage, Wis., May 7, 1869, son of John and Margaret (Wright) Halliday. The father was born in New York state, March 13, 1879, and was always a farmer by occupation. With his wife Margaret, who was a native of Ireland, and their family, he moved in 1872 from Wisconsin to Minnesota, locating near Nodine, Winona county. There his wife died in 1873, and a year later he settled on land in Looney Valley, Houston county. His residence here, however, lasted but three years, as at the end of that time he returned to his farm at Nodine. Not long afterwards he retired and for the rest of his life he resided with his children. During his active career he served at times in local office. By his wife Margaret he had three children, she having five others by a previous marriage. David J. Halliday, who was the second born child of his father's marriage, attended district school for a somewhat limited period in Winona and Houston counties.

When a lad of 13 or 14 he began working out at intervals, and was thus entirely occupied after reaching the age of 18. When he married in 1895 he took up his residence in Money Creek village, but two years later moved to his present farm, on which he has made valuable improvements, his place being now well equipped for general farming. He raises both stock and grain for the market, and is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery and the Farmers' Exchange in Houston. On December 31, 1895, Mr. Halliday married Anna Tenberg, who was born in Money Creek township, June 6, 1873, daughter of Garrett and Antonia Tenberg. She was the fourth born in a family of eight children, and after attending the district school, pursued more advanced studies in the Rushford High School and the Winona Normal School. For some years thereafter she followed the profession of a teacher, both in Houston county and in North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Halliday are the parents of one child, Morris Donald, born April 25, 1906. Mr. Halliday is independent in politics, with a leaning toward the Prohibition party. He is a past forester in the camp of Modern Woodmen of America at Houston, his wife belonging to the Royal Neighbors. Their religious affiliations are with the Baptist church. The parents of Mrs. Halliday, Garret and Antonia Tenberg, were natives of Holland, and early settlers in Houston county, Mr. Tenberg becoming a land owner and farmer in Money Creek township. They subsequently moved to a farm in Fillmore county, on which they resided for the remainder of their lives, both being now deceased.

C. A. Anderson, a general farmer operating 160 acres in section 25, Houston township, was born in the northern part of Sweden, Feb. 4, 1853, son of Andrew Johnson and his wife, Anna Leise Peterson. He was educated in his native land, where he lived at home until he was 16 years old, at which time he began working out. In 1873 he came directly to Houston county, Minnesota, and began working out on farms. He had at that time no knowledge of English, but gradually acquired it through contact with English speaking people. After a number of years he rented a tract of land east of Houston, on which he farmed for two years, at the end of that time renting his present farm. Three years later he bought it and has since been sole proprietor. The land is rich and fertile and the buildings substantial. As a general farmer he has made a success and is now one of the thriving and well to do citizens of his township. His parents, who came to America in 1881, resided with him until they died, the father March 15, 1891, and the mother, Feb. 24, 1900. They had three children, of whom he was the second born, and Mr. Johnson had another child by a former marriage. Mr. Anderson's sister, Augusta, who is unmarried, resides with him, and takes care of the household. In politics Mr. Anderson is a Republican with Prohibition tendencies.

Ole Eliassen, a retired farmer now residing in Houston village, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Dec. 22, 1842. When a young man he emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, and taking land in Yucatan township, there engaged in farming, which was his occupation until 1903, when he retired. He was first married to Heggie Muhle, who, like himself, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, though somewhat younger. She became



C. A. ANDERSON

the mother of two children, Helen and Ole Theodore, but died when the younger, Ole Theodore, was a babe in arms. By his second wife, Inga Denstad, he has had three children: Martha, Eli (deceased) and Petra.

Ole Theodore Eliassen, a well known general farmer residing in section 13, Yucatan township, was born in this township, near the Sheldon township line, March 16, 1892, son of Ole and Heggie (Muhle) Eliassen. He was educated in the school of his district and in the Houston high school and acquired a knowledge of agriculture on his parents' farm. When about 15 years old he began working out and so continued until 1912, when he engaged in farming on his own account. Three years later, however, he again began working for others, but returned to independent farming in 1916. He is now operating a farm of 80 acres, raising both crops and stock with profitable results. He is a member of St. Peters church at Houston, and in politics is independent. Mr. Eliassen was married Feb. 6, 1918, to Lena Scattum, who was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, daughter of Andrew Scattum. Her mother died when she was a child, and her father is now residing with his son near Rushford, Minn. Though among the younger members of the farming community Mr. and Mrs. Eliassen have already made a good start on the road to prosperity, and with youth and health and the favorable conditions which now prevail in the demand for all farm products, their continued success seems well assured. They have one child, Odin Elmer, born Dec. 29, 1918.

Christof Evanson, one of the pioneer settlers of Sheldon township, where he made extensive farm improvements, and became a prominent citizen, was born in Norway, which country he left in 1851 for the United States. Locating first in Koshonog, Wis., he later went to Goodhue county, Minn., where he took a claim which he subsequently relinquished. Then coming to Houston county, he took some unimproved land in Sheldon township on which he commenced improvements by building a small log house. This, however, he resided in for but a short time, as he soon put up better buildings, and as time went on he made more extensive improvements until he was the owner of a fine estate. He was a man of much force of character, and also possessed some legal knowledge, which led to his becoming the general advisor of the community, and the manager of estates other than his own. For 22 years he took an active part in local affairs, serving as assessor and in all the other town offices successively, and in 1878 he was a member of the legislature. His death occurred Jan. 30, 1914, when he had attained the venerable age of 91 years. His wife, who survives him, now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Ole Nelson, in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Evanson were the parents of seven children: Edwin, Andrew, Gilbert, Tilda, Julia, Christopher and Anna.

Andrew C. Evanson, who is now living retired in Houston, after a successful career in the drug business, was born in Sheldon township, this county, Jan. 31, 1864, son of Christof and Birget (Anderson) Evanson. His education was acquired in the common schools of Sheldon township, which he attended until about 15 years old, at which time he sought and found employment in Houston. Here he learned the drug business, working twenty years for others, after which, in 1899, he engaged in the

business for himself and so continued until his retirement in the fall of 1916. He has since remained practically unoccupied except for the performance of his duties as vice president of the Security Bank of Houston, in which institution he is a stockholder. His home is one of the most modern residences in the village. During his active career Mr. Evanson rendered efficient public service, serving nine years on the board of education, as mayor of Houston for a number of years, and also as village clerk. Prominent in the affairs of the Republican party in this region, he was chairman for some years of the Republican State Central Committee and for eight years was a member of the Republican Congressional Committee. His record as a business man and public spirited citizen stands high in the county. He has been for many years a member of the Masonic lodge in Houston and was the first member of Scandinavian birth to belong to it. He also belongs to the order of Yeomen and was the first foreman of the order here. Mr. Evanson was married November 26, 1888, to Clara Abrahamson, who was born in Houston, Minn., daughter of Isaac and Isabel (Anderson) Abrahamson. He and his wife have two children: Georgia Evangeline and Horton Kjerulf, both residing at home. Isaac Abrahamson, father of Mrs. Evanson, was born in Norway, as was also his wife, Isabel Anderson. He came to this county at an early date and was practically the first merchant in Houston, and served efficiently as a member of the village council. He is now living retired in Houston at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Abrahamson died in November, 1893.

Otto Wager, a general farmer operating 420 acres of land in section 11, Houston township, was born in Looney Valley, this township, Dec. 17, 1862, son of Peter and Mary (Stensrud) Wager. The parents were both born in Norway, the mother being first married there to John Johnson, who died after they had had one child, Andrew C. With this child she came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1861, and here married Peter Wager, who had arrived here from Norway as a young man and engaged in farming, in which occupation he still continues. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wager had eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first born. The mother died in January, 1910. Otto Wager was brought up in Houston township and here attended school. He remained at home until he was 21 years of age and then went to Nebraska, where he spent 13 years of his life, chiefly working farms. From there he went to Missouri, where he remained two years, at the end of that time returning to Houston county. Here he worked two years for others and then engaged in farming on his own account. In 1913 he settled on his present farm of 420 acres, which has a productive soil and is well provided with substantial buildings. As a general farmer he is meeting with good success and increasing steadily in prosperity. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Wager was married in March, 1883, to Christina Jacobson, who was born in this township and valley, daughter of Hans and Caroline (Stensrud) Jacobson. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wager, namely: Louis, who is a farmer in Houston township, and who married Selma Mark; and Myrtle, Ella, Marvin, Pearl and Irwin, who are residing at home. The parents of Mrs. Wager, who were both born in



OTTO WAGER AND FAMILY

Norway, came to the United States a year or two later than the Wagers, locating on a farm in Looney Valley, Houston township, where the father died some years later. The mother subsequently went to Nebraska, where she spent a number of years, but finally returned to Houston county and spent the rest of her life with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wager, the latter of whom was the fifth born in her family of eight children.

Targe Findreng, one of the early farmers in Sheldon township, was born in Norge Vaardal, Norway, where he grew up and was married, by that union, which was his first, having nine children. He was later married in Norway to his second wife, whose maiden name was **Thone Kragnes**, and who was a native of the same place as himself. In 1852 they emigrated to the United States, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained two years. At the end of that time, in 1854, they came to Houston county, Minn., overland by ox team, and took land in Sheldon township, where Mr. Findreng was engaged in farming until his death in 1873. His wife survived him for many years, dying Sept. 3, 1909. They had seven children: Ole T., Anne, first (deceased), Anne, second (deceased), Tolley (deceased), Anne, third (deceased), Andrew, a farmer of Badger Creek; and Dagne, who lives with Ole T.

Ole T. Findreng, a well known and esteemed resident of the village of Houston, where he has made his home for the last 16 years, was born in Norge Vaardal, Norway, Aug. 13, 1845, son of Targe and Thone (Kragnes) Findreng. He was a child when his parents emigrated to America, and, after two years' residence in Dane County, Wis., when he was nine years old, settled on land in Sheldon township, Houston county, Minnesota, driving an ox team all the way from Dane county. Here he attended district school and early began to make himself useful on his parents' farm. His agricultural training stood him in good stead, for, on account of his father's failing health, he had to take charge of the farm while still a lad. Subsequently he became the owner of it and increased its size to 174 acres, also making other improvements, and cultivating it profitably until 1902, when he rented it and moved to Houston village. In 1908 he sold the property to his brother, Andrew T. Findreng. At Houston he engaged in selling monuments for the Jones Granite Works of St. Cloud, Minn., and acting as president of the Mound Prairie Insurance Company. He is also a stockholder in the Houston State Bank. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics an independent Republican. While residing in Sheldon township he served as a member of the town board and at various times in all the other town offices, and for one term was a member of the board of county commissioners. Mr. Findreng was married March 14, 1869, to Thone Morken, who was born in Förstal, Norway, daughter of Ole and Groe (Nelson) Morken, who were natives of the same locality. The Morken family located in Sheldon township in 1865, the parents residing there until the father died in 1889 and the mother in 1890. Their daughter Thone was the eldest of their five children. Mr. and Mrs. Findreng have no children of their own, but have an adopted son, Bernhard, who married Bertha Jensen and resides in Houston, his occupation being that of a

rural route mail carrier. They have two children, Eunice Teolena and Olaf Torval.

Martin Westby, a settler in Yucatan township, who contributed to the agricultural resources of the county by developing a good farm from wild land, but who is now deceased, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Feb. 2, 1859, son of Evan and Marit Westby, who were natives of that locality. Coming to the United States in 1874, the parents settled in Norway, Fillmore county, Minn., where they spent the rest of their lives. Martin, the subject of this sketch, attended school in his native land, and at the age of 14 years began working out for others. In 1872, a lad of 13, he came to America, being at that time unable to speak English. Joining his parents in Fillmore county, he resided there for some years, working out as he had done in Norway and acquiring a practical knowledge of agriculture and American farm methods. At last, when able to begin an independent career, he came to Yucatan township, Houston county, and purchased land in section 15, where he developed what is now the family homestead, containing 340 acres of land with good buildings. Here he died Jan. 29, 1910. He was a stockholder in the Rushford elevator and in the Houston Creamery Company. Since his death the farm has been operated by his widow with the assistance of her children. Mr. and Mrs. Westby had 13 children: Mary, wife of Halvor Jore, a farmer on South Ridge, Yucatan township; Josie, wife of Alfred Martinson, a railroad man, and residing at Grand Meadow, Minn.; Stena, wife of Hans Fellows, a farmer of Looney Valley; Caroline, wife of Ray Nesbitt, residing near Ridgeway, Winona county; Edwin, a farmer of Yucatan township; Oscar, a farmer of Sheldon township; Ole, who resides on the old homestead; Bennie and Gynther, who with Christ are operating the home farm; and Nettie, who is housekeeper at home; Christian, who married Sarah Houge and is also helping to operate the Westby farm; and Inga and Delia, residing at home.

Gideon Traff, a prominent farmer residing in sections 9 and 16, Houston township, where he is operating a farm of 220 acres, was born in Sweden, May 1, 1866, son of John and Inga (Jacobson) Traff. Accompanying his parents in 1872 to Looney Valley, Houston township, this county, he attended school there, and also for some time in Storer Valley. When 18 years old he began working out on farms, but later took up the stone mason's trade, which he followed for about twelve years. He then engaged in farming on his own account, for five years renting land in Money Creek township. At the end of that time he bought his present farm of 220 acres, on which he raises both stock and grain, doing a general farming business. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company. His political principles are those of the Republican party and he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Traff was married Oct. 17, 1897, to Anna Halvorson, who was born in Houston county, Nov. 2, 1887, daughter of John and Tilda (Carlson) Halvorson. Mr. and Mrs. Traff have three children: Edna Josephine, Tena Genevieve, and Adolph Goodwin. Edna Josephine is the wife of Harry R. Hastings, of Wakonda, South Dakota, and has one child, Ruth Laverne. Tena Genevieve and Adolph Goodwin are at home.



GIDEON TRAFFE AND FAMILY

Christian J. Erickson, who holds a prominent place among the successful general farmers of Yucatan township, residing in section 20, was born in this township, Dec. 25, 1873, son of George and Inga (Paulson) Erickson. His parents were natives of Norway, the father coming to this county in 1869 and settling on a farm in Yucatan township, where he is still living. The mother died in 1917. Christian J. attended school in this township and was reared on his parents' farm, assisting his father until he was 15 years old. He then began working out and from that time on earned his own living. On his marriage in 1901 he engaged in farming for himself, renting land for a number of years, and was thus occupied until he bought his present farm, onto which he moved Feb. 20, 1915. He has 243 acres of valuable land, provided with good buildings and is profitably raising both stock and grain. He also holds shares in the Farmers' Telephone Company. In politics an independent Republican, he is serving as a director on the school board, and he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston. On Jan. 2, 1901, Mr. Erickson was united in marriage with Betsy Kittelson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, daughter of Kittel and Arshar Kittelson. Her parents after coming to Houston county were engaged for a number of years in farming in Yucatan township. The father died in 1909, and the mother is now residing with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Erickson. To the latter seven children have been born, all of whom are residing at home, namely: Albin Ingvald, Edna, Clara Jugina, Clarence Bertram, Gena Alma, Kindahl Knudt and Berdine.

O. H. Forsyth, now living retired in Houston, of which place he is a well known and respected citizen, was born in Scotland of Norwegian parents, and came to this country with his parents when a young man. They settled on land in Money Creek township, Houston county, where they engaged in the work of agricultural development. The subject of this sketch, who was a young man on his arrival in the county, assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm, and remained at home until 1881, when he went to the Red River district in North Dakota, where for a number of years he was foreman on the Grandon farm. Subsequently returning to Houston county, he resumed agricultural work here, and so continued until he finally retired and took up his residence in Houston village. Mr. Forsyth married Hilda Sorenson, a native of Norway, and they have been the parents of four children. Their religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church.

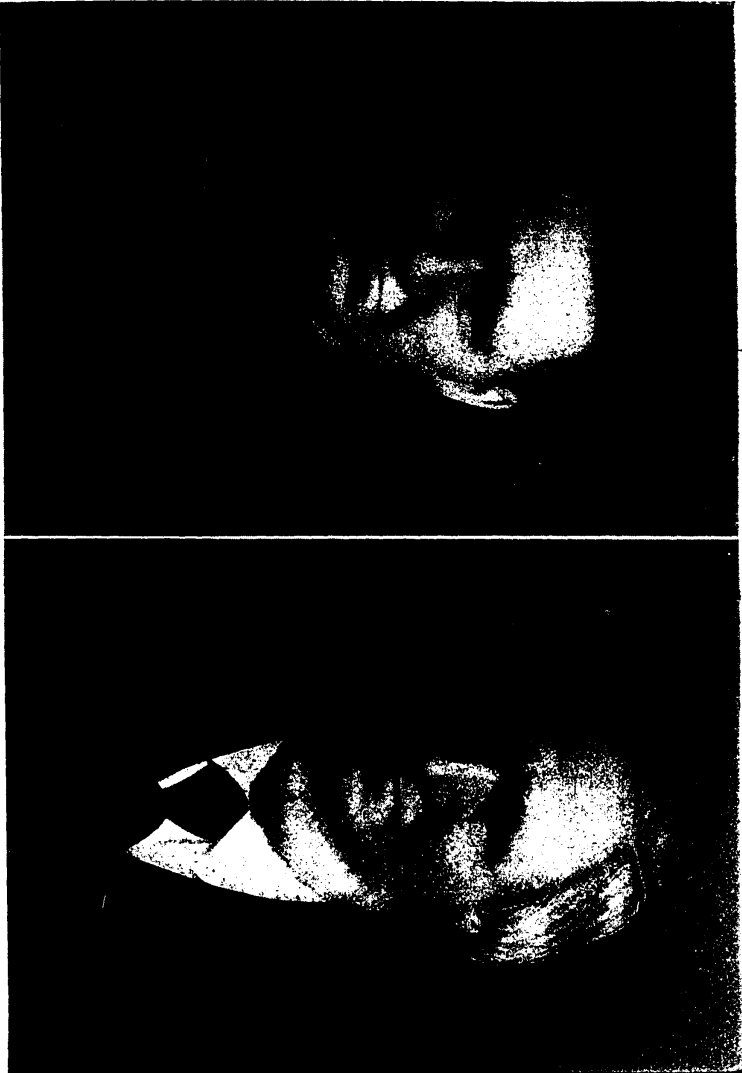
Edwin G. Forsyth, who is carrying on a successful business in Houston as a plumbing and heating contractor, was born in Houston, this county, Nov. 4, 1892, son of O. H. and Hilda (Sorenson) Forsyth. The years of his boyhood and early youth were spent in this vicinity, but at the age of 19 he left home and went to Alberta, Canada, where for four years he was in the employ of an uncle who was engaged in the machinery business. Then returning to Houston, he worked here for a short time, but soon went to Rushford, where for one year he was engaged in the plumbing business. At the end of that time he returned again to Houston and established his present business, for which he has a complete equipment, and is conducting along modern lines, with satisfactory results. He is also the owner of

real estate in Canada. His fraternal affiliations are with Mystic Circle Lodge, No. 78, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Forsyth was married Nov. 14, 1916, to Erma Onstine, who was born in Yucatan township, this county, daughter of G. H. and Julia (Sewertz) Onstine. He and his wife have one child, Russell Leland. G. H. Onstine, father of Mrs. Forsyth, was born in Fillmore county, this state, and for some years was proprietor of a hotel at Rushford. Later he took a farm in Yucatan township, Houston county, which he operated for a number of years until he retired. He is now residing in Houston. During his active career he held various local offices. His wife, Mrs. Julia Onstine, was born in this county.

Knud Sorum, the founder of a flourishing farm, most of which lies in sections 1 and 2, Houston township, was one of the hardy pioneers of this township who helped to change the barren wilderness into cultivated and productive fields. He was born in Valdres, Norway, and was a boy when he came to Minnesota. After settling in Houston county he enlisted for service in the Civil War and became so efficient a soldier that he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, but was obliged to leave the army on account of heart weakness. He then returned to his farm in Houston township, this county, and devoted his energies to its improvement, residing on it until his death in 1905 at the age of 80 years lacking two months. Mr. Sorum married Gro Midgaarden, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, and who is now living with her sons, Henry O. and E. M. Sorum, on the old homestead. They had a family of four children: Henry O., E. M., Tilda Marie, now Mrs. H. Magnuson, of Hassinger, N. D., and Aletta Josephine, who died at the age of six years.

Henry O. and E. M. Sorum are operating a good farm of 200 acres, of which 160 acres lies in sections 1 and 2, Houston township, and 40 acres over the line in Winona county. They are good farmers and substantial citizens and are taking their due share in the progress of the community. Both were born on the farm where they now reside, Henry O. on April 19, 1881, and E. M. on July 4, 1882. They attended the district schools, and were reared to farm pursuits by their father. Since his death they have taken over the farm, and are making a success of general farming and stock raising. They are holders of stock in the Houston Co-Operative Creamery and in the Farmers' Telephone Company. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in politics are independent. Henry O. Sorum was married Oct. 11, 1905, to Anna Olson, who was born in Houston county, Minn., daughter of Oliver and Belle (Larson) Olson, who were prominent farmers of Houston township, but who are now retired and residing on a farm in Money Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Sorum have four children: Clara Gladys, Oliver Ingvald, Henry Leonard, and Ruby Marletta.

Jens Ekre, who, though not a pioneer, was numbered among the early settlers of Yucatan township, was born in Nonstad, Norway, where he spent the early part of his life and was married. In 1867, with his wife Mary, and their family, he emigrated to the United States, settling near Rushford, Fillmore county, Minnesota. After a short residence there,



MR. AND MRS. KNUD SORUM

however, he moved to Yucatan township, Houston county, taking land not far from the present farm of his son, Christof J. Ekre, in section 33 north, where he engaged in farming, and was thus occupied for a number of years. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Mr. Ekre was an industrious and worthy citizen and his work along the lines of agricultural development was a factor in the improvement and civilization of the township.

Christof J. Ekre, proprietor of a fine farm of 477 acres in section 33 north, Yucatan township, of which township he is one of the leading citizens, was born in Nonstad, Norway, April 27, 1853, son of Jens and Mary Ekre. In the spring of 1870, a youth of 17 years, he came to America, joining his parents at Rushford, in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they had settled several years previously. He was unable at that time to speak English, but had begun industrial life at the age of twelve years in his native land, and, being strong and energetic, soon obtained employment. For about eight or ten years he worked out for others, wisely saving as much as he could of his earnings with an eye to the future, and at last he found himself in a position to make an independent start in life. Not being able to purchase an improved farm, he bought a tract of wild land in Houston county and set to work to make the improvements himself. After being four years on that place, he sold out at a profit and took another farm, on which he resided for twenty years, during which period he brought it into good condition. Then, in 1900, he came to his present farm of 477 acres on Root River, which he is operating as a general stock farm. The land is rich and fertile, and here, too, he has made extensive improvements, erecting substantial buildings putting up fences, and making use of the most modern machinery and farm appliances, with the result that he now occupies a place among the thriving and well to do citizens of the township. He is also a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company. In politics a Republican, he has devoted a part of his time to the public service, having formerly held the position of school treasurer for twenty years and town supervisor for four years. Mr. Ekre was married in 1882 to Tilda Olson, who was born in Houston county, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Evenson. Her parents were natives of Norway and were farmers. The father is now deceased, but the mother resides in Yucatan township with her son, Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Ekre are the parents of six children: Mena, who is a teacher in Clearwater county, Minn.; Elmer, residing on the home farm which he is helping to operate; Clara, wife of John Targerson of Rushford; Amelia and Cora, residing at home; and Nels, who with his brother Elmer is also engaged in operating the farm, Mr. Ekre being now practically retired from active work.

Anton F. Magnussen, the thriving proprietor of a farm of 100 acres in section 5 south, Houston township, was born in Smolan, Kalmerland, Sweden, Aug. 16, 1855, son of Magnus Anderson and wife. Both the parents died in their native land, never coming to this country. The father's occupation was chiefly that of a farm laborer. Anton F., who was the youngest of five children, attended school in Sweden, but was obliged to begin work when seven years old, on account of his father's illness. For thirty years thereafter he remained in Sweden, working for various farmers

without making much headway on the road to prosperity, until discontent with his lack of opportunity impelled him to seek a more favorable field of effort, and in 1892 he set out for the United States, in due time arriving in Houston county, Minnesota. Here he worked for two seasons as a farm hand in Looney Valley, Houston township, and having by the end of that time accumulated a little money, he began his career as an independent farmer by renting a farm in this township. This he operated for eleven years, making gradual progress, until at the end of that period he was able to purchase his present farm adjoining the limits of Houston village, which affords him a convenient market. He has achieved good results as a general farmer, and is reaping the reward of industry and perseverance. He is a member of the Farmers' Shipping Association. Independent in politics, he has served twelve years as road supervisor in Houston township. The Lutheran church numbers him among its members, and he also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Magnussen was married in Sweden, Dec. 27, 1883, to Amanda Christine Carlson, a native of the same locality as himself. Of this union seven children have been born: Aldor Frederick, who married Gena Peterson of Sheldon township, who operates a threshing outfit; Delia Manda Sophia, who is a resident of Winona; John Sanford, who married Anna Brennan, and is a carpenter and contractor at New Albin, Iowa; Anna Amelia, wife of John Berg, a locomotive engineer on the C. M. & St. P. Railway, residing in Malden, Wash.; Amiel Wilfred, a carpenter, who has done his country good service as a soldier of the Great War, in France; Alfreda, wife of Oscar Hanson, a farmer of Money Creek township; and Bernice, who is attending school.

August Johnson, who is now living practically retired in section 4 south, Houston township, was born in Smoland, Sweden, April 7, 1856, son of Carl and Christine (Janson) Johnson, who were natives of the same locality. When he was ten years old, his parents, in the hope of bettering their condition, emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on Swede Bottom. In the following year, however, they moved to a farm in Looney Valley, where they resided until the fathers' death in 1882. He was an industrious and worthy man, respected by his neighbors, and served on the school board for a number of years. After his death his widow made her home with her son August until 1913, when she, too, passed away. August Johnson, who was the second born of his parents' six children, attended school in Looney Valley, Houston township. He resided at home until 25 years old, when he married. He then rented a piece of land and farmed it for nine years, at the end of which time he bought 160 acres in Looney Valley, in close proximity to Winona county. There also he spent nine years engaged in agriculture. Then selling the place, he resided for two years on his mothers' farm, after which he bought a smaller farm west of Houston and operated it for two years. This also he sold to operate another farm for two years, at the end of which time he came to his present small farm in Swede Bottom. Here he resided three years, engaged in hauling cream and also in farming. Then selling his horses and other farm appurtenances, but retaining the ownership of the property, he took up his residence in Houston village, where he lived retired from active work for

AUGUST JOHNSON AND FAMILY





MR. AND MRS. ISAAC THOMPSON

three years, subsequently moving back to his farm, where he still resides. Here he is living practically a retired life, as he has but two acres of land, sufficient to give him a little light employment. He is a member of the Free Evangelistic church at Houston, and in politics is independent. Mr. Johnson was married Oct. 27, 1881, to Sophia Johnson, who was born in Halland, Sweden, one of the younger of the seven children of Andrew and Anna Breta (Swenson) Johnson. She attended school in Sweden until 19 years old, at which time, her mother having died, she accompanied her father to Minnesota in 1880. After her marriage in the following year, he resided with her and his son-in-law, Mr. Johnson, until his death in 1911, when he had reached the advanced age of 93 years, 9 months and 9 days. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of seven children: Carl, who is now farming in Houston township; Gust, a farmer in Sheldon township; Effie, wife of Thor Kragness, a farmer of Houston township; Adolph, who is engaged in agriculture in Winona county; Helmer, deceased; Mary, wife of Magnus Strand, residing in Houston; and Christina, wife of Olaf Floyan, a railroad man living in Houston. This family was one of the many to be called upon to make the Great Sacrifice during the World War. The son, Helmer, entered the United States service, was sent to France, and there died, giving his life in the cause of Liberty and Democracy.

Isaac Thompson, one of the notable pioneers of Houston county, who resided on his farm in section 26, Houston township, which he took over sixty years ago, was born in Rupert township, Bennington county, Vermont, Feb. 12, 1829, son of John and Electa (Draper) Thompson, the father being a native of Connecticut and the mother of Vermont. John Thompson died when his son Isaac was a babe of eleven months, and his wife subsequently removed to Lowell, Mass., from there to New York, and later to Houston county, Minn., dying at the home of her son, the subject of this sketch, about 1897 or 1898. There were three children in the family, of whom Isaac was the youngest; and by a previous marriage of the father two other children were born. Isaac Thompson acquired the elements of knowledge in a school in Vermont, and was subsequently a pupil for one year at Homer Academy, Homer, N. Y. From the age of three to that of 22 he resided with a family named Sheldon at Homer, and then, having resolved to seek his fortune in the Northwest, he set out for Milwaukee, Wis., where he arrived with 25 cents in cash, which he divided with two companions. It was thus necessary for him to obtain immediate employment, and he gladly embraced an opportunity to teach school some two miles from the city. After five months' pedagogic experience in that locality, he made another westward drive reaching the vicinity of La Crosse, where he taught another school for four months. He then engaged in surveying, assisting to run the first levels from La Crosse to Sparta, finishing the work in December; and in the following spring he worked for a short time as chainman on the Eastern Division of the Milwaukee Railway. While engaged in surveying in La Crosse county he formed a partnership with Mr. Hood and Mr. Smith in the land business and the firm lasted until 1857, when it was dissolved owing to the financial panic. In that year he took his present farm, which then consisted of wild land, though he continued to

reside in La Crosse for three years subsequently, hiring men to break his land and get out rails for fencing. Game was then very plentiful and the Indians were almost as numerous as the wild animals, but were always friendly. After settling on his farm Mr. Thompson applied himself closely to the work of its improvement and cultivation, and in time built up a fine estate, becoming the owner of 800 acres, which for the most part he has since divided among his children. He identified himself closely with all local movements for the betterment of the community, and assisted in organizing the creamery and telephone company. He became a Free Mason as early as 1856 and now belongs to the lodge and chapter. In politics a Democrat, he took an active part in public affairs, served many times in school office, was county surveyor a number of years, town supervisor for about thirty years, county commissioner two terms, and a member of the legislature for two terms, in 1868-1872. Thus he was during a long period one of the active in shaping the history of the county, and in particular of his own township, and in his public functions he always showed dilligence and efficiency, with fidelity to local interests, his record being one that was approved by the majority of his fellow citizens, and may be regarded with justifiable pride by himself and family. Mr. Thompson was first married in 1856 to Angelina Sperry, who was born, either in New York or Pennsylvania. By her he had two children: Carrie, now the widow of John Wilson, and a resident of Aberdeen, S. D.; and Evangeline, now deceased, who was the wife of Ward Noyes of Minneapolis. In 1861 Mr. Thompson married Mary Darling, who was born near Lake Champlain, New York. Of this union seven children were born, three of whom are now deceased. Those living are: Margaret Augusta, wife of H. G. Cooley, a real estate dealer of Miami, Florida; Florence, wife of John J. Sliter of Houston; Edith B. and Porteous Isaac, who are residing at home with their father. Mr. Thompson died May 14, 1918, and Mrs. Thompson, Aug. 21, 1915.

Carl John Anderson-Nyberg, who is the owner of a farm of 120 acres in section 25, Houston township, which he is operating along general lines, raising crops and stock, was born in the northern part of Halland, Sweden, Aug. 15, 1865, son of Andrew Anderson and his wife, Anna Lena Olson, both natives of the same locality. The parents, who were farming people, died in their native land. Their son, Carl John, after receiving an average schooling, began work on farms at the age of eleven years, and continued in that line of occupation in his home district until 1880, when he came to Houston county, Minn. He arrived here unable to speak the English language but was given employment by Mr. Forsythe as a farm hand and worked in that capacity on several farms for three years. Then for two years he was engaged in mill work and later for the same length of time in a livery barn. Then he returned to farming, working a while for others, but later renting a farm which for five years he operated on his own account. At the end of that time he bought his present farm, which was then unimproved, the improvements now standing having been made by himself. The land consists of good fertile soil and its cultivation has yielded profitable results. Owing to the numerous Andersons in this vicinity the



HENRY HANSON AND FAMILY

subject of this sketch has adopted the surname of Nyberg to avoid confusion, and by that name he is generally known. He is a member of the Free church at Houston and in politics is independent. He was married Feb. 22, 1886, to Inga Sophia Olson, who was born in Sweden, daughter of Ole and Inga Olson. Her parents died in Sweden and she came to America in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson-Nyberg have a family of nine children: Emma, residing at home; Arthur, a resident of Houston; Bertha, who is a teacher at Spring Grove; Ellen, who was teaching in Storer Valley and is now Mrs. Otto Benson of Canada; Minnie who is teaching near Rushford, and Lillie, Victor, Myrtle and Paul, who are residing at home. Arthur is a veteran of the Great War, having seen active service in France with Co. L, of the 257th Infantry. He did valliant service at the battles of St. Mihiel, Sept. 15, 1918, and at the battle of the Meuse, in the Argonne, Oct. 28, 1918. He was discharged April 8, 1919.

H. T. Halvorson, a well known and prosperous citizen of Yucatan township, proprietor of a farm of eighty acres, where he is engaged chiefly in raising cattle and cultivating tobacco, was born in Telemarken, Norway, April 9, 1851, son of Targe and Segrid (Lanvik) Halvorson. He acquired his first schooling in his native land, where he resided until he was about ten years old, accompanying his parents to Houston county in 1861. The farm or land on which they settled was in the southern part of Yucatan township, and his education was continued across the line in the township of Black Hammer. For thirteen years he lived with his parents on the farm, assisting his father in its development and cultivation, and then, on his marriage, he took his present farm, where he has since remained engaged in the occupation above mentioned. He has a well improved place and is in prosperous circumstances. For six years he served as treasurer and secretary of the Sheldon-Houston Telephone system, for fourteen years was assessor of Yucatan township, and for twenty-four years school clerk. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Lutheran. Mr. Halvorson was married Jan. 1, 1878, to Guneild Germundson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, Feb. 2, 1859, daughter of Jgermond Anundson and his wife Elsie Bjerguvson. Her parents came with their family to Houston county, Minn., in 1865, residing first in Caledonia and later in Yucatan township. Both are now deceased. Their daughter Guneild was the eldest of their three children. Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson have five children: John S., a farmer and miller in Yucatan township; Theodore, a partner with his brother John; Edwin, a photographer residing at home; Sarah, wife of John C. Houser, a farmer of Sheldon township; and Elsie, wife of Ole Bjorgufson, also a farmer in this township.

Hans Hanson, for many years a substantial and respected farmer of this region, was born in Norway and was there reared and married. In 1861 he set out with his family for the New World, and after landing at New York, made his way to La Salle county, Ill., where he worked for a short time. From there he brought his family overland to Fillmore county, this State, where he labored as a farm hand. In 1863 he came to Houston county, and after being employed for a while by others, rented a farm in Mound Prairie township. He was thus successfully engaged for

many years. Mr. Hanson died in 1891 and his wife in 1886, their latter years having been spent with their son, Henry, in Houston township. They were the parents of eight children, Ole, Hans, Anna, Helen, Julia, Henry, Halvor, and an unnamed child who died in infancy.

Henry Hanson is well known throughout the northern part of Houston county as a successful man of affairs. As a general farmer and stock-breeder he has won considerable success, as the owner of a flourishing mill he has contributed to the prosperity of his neighborhood, and as a prominent citizen he has done his share in town, school and church affairs, as well as in several farmers' organizations which have their center in Houston village. He was born in Tin, Norway, April 24, 1851, son of Hans and Margaret Hanson, who in 1861 brought him to La Salle county, Ill., then to Fillmore county, this State, and then in 1863 to Houston county. After arriving here as a youth of twelve years he attended school in Money Creek township for a while, but in his spare time worked hard at farm work both for his parents and for others, and before long was forced to give up his schooling entirely. While working as a farm hand he carefully saved his money, and in 1873 was enabled to start his career on his own responsibility by purchasing 260 acres in Houston township, a wild tract of land which now constitutes a part of his well tilled farm of 608 acres. To the development of this farm Mr. Hanson has since devoted his attention. From time to time, as expediency has demanded and circumstances permitted, he has erected suitable farm buildings, the handsome residence which now adorns the place having been erected in 1913. The farm is valuable and is known as one of the best in the neighborhood. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Hanson owns a mill with a twenty-horsepower engine. The principal output of this mill is hardwood lumber for building purposes, though considerable grist is also ground as an accommodation to the people of the neighborhood in Houston and Winona counties. The Houston Creamery Co., the Home Telephone Co. and the Houston State Bank, all number him among their stockholders, and listen gladly to his advice. One of the school board, which he has faithfully served for fourteen years, his services have been of much value and have resulted in the district's making considerable progress along educational lines. All in all he is a useful citizen and is taking his part in every good move. Mr. Hanson married Gunda Olson, born in Wisconsin, Sept. 19, 1863, daughter of Peter and Johanna Olson, and this union has been blessed with ten children, all of whom are living: Hannah lives at home; Julia is the wife of Ludwig Sather of Winona county, Minn.; Emma is the wife of Arthur Anderson a farmer of Houston county; Edward assists his father; Helen is the wife of Nels Johnson of Houston; Palma is the wife of James Hesselgrave of Dakota, Minn.; Alma is now Mrs. Andrew C. Johnson of Byron, Minn.; and Ella, Elvin and Arthur are at home. Peter Olson, a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Norway, married in Onalaska, La Crosse county, Wis. After coming to this country he lived for a while in Wisconsin and then settled on a farm near Hokah in this county. After his death, his widow came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hanson, where she still makes her home.

Thor O. Runingen, one of the prosperous farmers of Houston township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, the original home of many of the successful men of this region, on Jan. 20, 1860, son of Ole and Ingeborg Runingen. His parents were natives of the same district of Norway, the father born in 1830 and the mother in 1823. Coming to America with their family in 1865 they located in Crystal Valley, this county, but a year later homesteaded a farm in Houston township on which the father died in 1877 and the mother in 1899. Of their two children, Thor O. was the younger. In his boyhood he attended the school of his district and, after making himself useful on the home farm until the age of fifteen years, began working out, being thus occupied for seven or eight years. He then bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 1 south, Houston township, which he is conducting on a profitable basis, carrying on general farming. His place is well improved and he also owns a half interest in the old home farm. His nephew, Julius Runingen, resides with him and exercises supervision over the farm. Mr. Runingen is a member of the M. W. A. camp at Houston, also of the Lutheran church known locally as the "Stone church." In politics he is a Republican and for five years served efficiently on the board of education. He is a man who has earned the respect of his neighbors for his enterprising spirit and his good qualities as a citizen.

Aslak Olson, an early settler in Houston township who added to the agricultural wealth of the county by developing a good farm, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 7, 1840, son of Ole and Guro (Thorson) Olson, who were natives of the same district. When he was a year old his father died, and at the age of ten death deprived him of his mother, and he with the four other children in the family came under the care of relatives. As they were not wealthy, his schooling was somewhat limited and he began to contribute to his own support soon after his mother's death, working wherever he could find employment. He continued as a wage earner in his native land until 1869, when realizing that his chances for self-advancement in Norway were small, he followed the example of so many of his countrymen by seeking his fortune in the United States. Selecting Houston county, Minn., as the scene of his future exertions, he located in Crystal Valley, Houston township, but it was several years before he acquired land, and for about two years he was engaged in railroad work in the West. This enabled him to earn and lay by a little money, and in 1872 he bought land in section 36, Houston township, and began his career as an independent farmer. He cultivated 160 acres of land and was one of the first stockholders of the co-operative creamery company, becoming a prosperous and respected citizen of his township. In religion he was a Lutheran and took an active part in the work of his church. Politically he gave his allegiance to the Republican party. Mr. Olson was married July 14, 1872, to Anne Thorson, who was born on a farm on Koshkonong Prairie, Dane county, Wis., daughter of John Thorson Lee and his wife Gro, whose family name was Ononsdater. Of their marriage ten children were born, namely: Julia, wife of Edward Anderson of Houston; Gena, wife of William Peterson, a farmer residing in Looney Valley, and who has

eight children; Theodore, a farmer in Union township, who married Gena Jorgenson and has seven children; John, who resides on the home farm with his mother; Marie, wife of Ole Peterson, a farmer at Bullock, S. D.; Amanda, who is a first grade teacher in Houston township, now in her sixteenth term; Emiel, a farmer of Mound Prairie township, who married Sophia Jorgenson and has one child; Leander, who died in 1915 at the age of twenty-four years; Nina and Clarence, who are residing at home. Mr. Olson died Aug. 27, 1915.

John Thorson Lee, one of the pioneer settlers in Crystal Valley, Houston township, now deceased, was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood and married Gro Ononsdater. Emigrating to the United States in 1848, they settled first in Dane county, Wis., whence in 1851 they came to Houston county, locating on a tract of wild land in Crystal Valley. There they founded a homestead, their first shelter being a wagon box in which they took up their quarters until Mr. Lee had time to erect a log house. The first crop they raised consisted of flint corn and a few potatoes, and subsequently operations were conducted for a number of years with the aid of an ox team. Mr. Lee attained the great age of ninety-six years, dying in 1904. His wife passed away many years previously, in 1874. They were the parents of six children, of whom their daughter Anne, who married Aslak Olson, was the fifth in order of birth.

Knute O. Senness, a considerable land owner in Yucatan township, who is also connected with the Houston post office as rural route carrier on Route No. 3, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Nov. 12, 1856, son of Ole K. and Susie (Trontvet) Senness. The parents, also natives of Telemarken, emigrated to the United States with their family in 1860, and coming west to Houston county, Minn., located in Sheldon township. In 1862 they moved to Yucatan township, where they engaged in farming. The mother died a few years after arriving in this county, the father surviving her until 1894. Knute O. was the eldest in a family of seven children, of whom there is but one other now living. He attended school in Yucatan township and resided at home until attaining his majority. After that for three years he worked farms on shares. He then went to North Dakota, where he spent eighteen months, at the end of that time returning to Houston county and buying a farm in Yucatan township, which he operated until 1903. In that year he became rural mail carrier, which position he has since held, being now the oldest in point of service connected with the Houston office. In the same year that he began his postal service Mr. Senness rented land and began farming. Subsequently he made land purchases and now is the individual owner of 246 acres, besides being a partner with his son-in-law of 377 acres, all in Yucatan township. His son-in-law operates a part of the land, the balance being rented out. In addition to this property Mr. Senness owns his home and three lots in Houston village. In politics a Republican, he served as school treasurer in Yucatan township, also as supervisor and chairman of the town board. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In December, 1878, Mr. Senness was united in marriage with Ragneheld Bugten, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, the second of the four children of Tarbean and Tarbjär (Midgard) Bugten, who were natives



MR. AND MRS. KNUTE O. SENNESS

of the same part of Norway. Her parents with their family emigrated to Fillmore county, Minn., in 1860, crossing the line into Houston county in the following year. The father was drafted for military service in the Civil War and died in a war hospital in 1863. The mother reared her family and continued on the farm until 1903, when she came to Houston and took up her residence with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Senness, at whose home she died Jan. 18, 1917. The latter are the parents of one child, Sophia, who married Severin Erickson, a farmer in section 22, Yucatan township, and who has two children, Melvin K. and Reuben E.

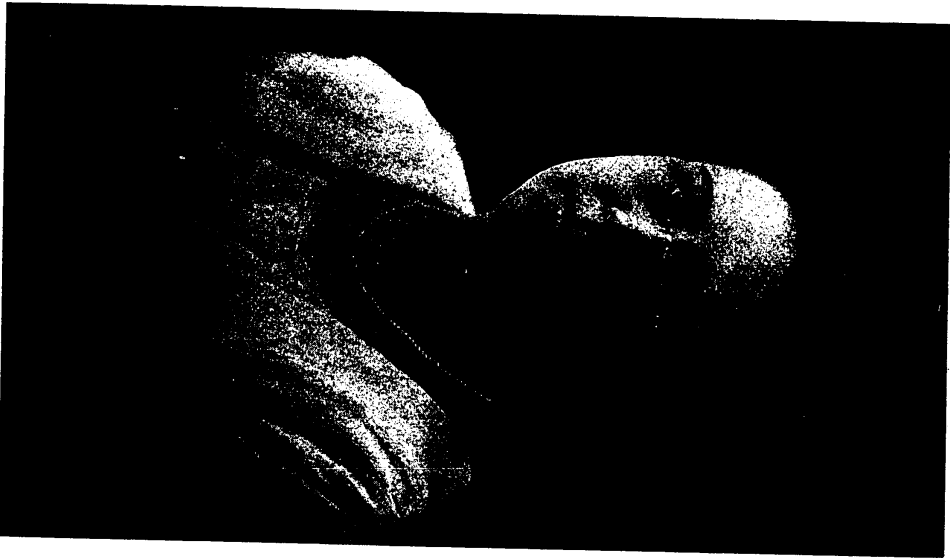
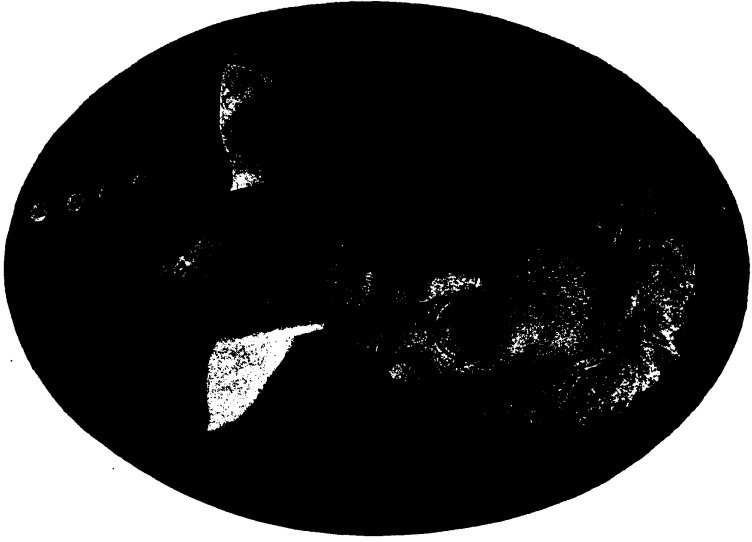
Targe Targerson, who at an early day established a farm in section 10, Houston township, but is now retired and residing in the village of Houston, was born in Norway and came to this country with his parents when thirteen years old. He was reared to manhood in Houston township and county, and developed the farm above mentioned, on which he resided until his retirement in 1909. He married Carrie Thompson, also a native of Norway, and they have been the parents of a family of eleven children, of whom their son Andrew is now operating the old home farm.

Andrew Targerson, who is engaged in operating a good farm of 160 acres in sections 10 and 15, Houston township, was born in this township, Oct. 16, 1883, son of Targe and Carrie (Thompson) Targerson. He was the fourth born in a family of eleven children, and after learning general farm work on his parents' homestead, he worked out at intervals until his marriage. He then settled on the home farm, on which he has since continued to reside, having equipped it with modern buildings and made other improvements. He is carrying on general farming successfully, and in these days of increased demand for all agricultural products, finds a ready market and good prices for all he can raise, whether of grain, hay or stock. He is also a shareholder in the Houston Creamery and Telephone Company. He is independent in politics and is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Targerson was married December 16, 1908, to Martine Nelson, who was born in Houston township June 24, 1888, daughter of Martin and Thea Nelson, and who was educated in this township. Her parents were both born in Norway, the father coming to Houston county, Minn., when a young man of twenty years, and locating on a farm west of Houston. Later he moved to Glenburn, N. D., where he is still leading an active life. He and his wife had a large family of children, of whom their daughter Martine was the third in order of birth.

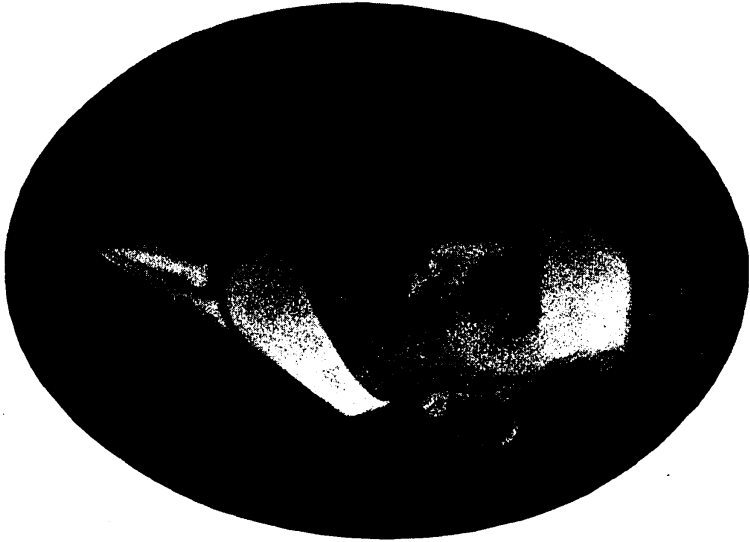
Sven T. Halvorson, for many years one of the thriving farmers of Yucatan township, residing in section 12, was a man who has won success in spite of a severe physical handicap, and was an example of the value of self help and courageous determination. His memory will long be cherished by those who knew his sterling worth. Like many of the successful men throughout this region, he was born in Telemarken, Norway, the date of his birth being Feb. 29, 1854, and his parents Targe and Segrid Andreas Halvorson. It was with his parents that he came to the United States, a boy of seven years, in 1861, when this country was in all the turmoil and excitement of the Civil War, then recently begun. The Halvorson

family, however, headed directly for Houston county, Minn., far away from the sound of the guns, and into what was then a wilderness, settling on a tract of wild land in Yucatan township. Here young Sven grew up, one of a family of five children, of whom he was the second in order of birth. The family homestead was in the southern part of the township and he attended school for a while in the adjacent township of Black Hammer. His industrial training was thorough, and until the age of twenty-one he was his father's assistant in the development of the home farm, the management of which subsequently came into his hands. When his father died he purchased the farm and has since remained on it, making improvements and carrying on general farming, in addition to which, during his last few years he engaged in the raising of tobacco. He had ninety-one acres of fertile land and his operations were conducted on a profitable basis. Mr. Halvorson made much progress in life in spite of a severe discouragement which came to him when he was about eighteen years of age. He was caught in a severe blizzard away from home, being out nearly all night, and had both hands so badly frozen that they had to be amputated above the knuckles. It is, therefore, the more to his credit that he achieved success and has held his own with men who suffered no such handicap. For a number of years he served as a member of the school board, in politics being a Republican. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He died Dec. 9, 1918, and his loss is sincerely mourned.

C. J. Swenson, who is engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Houston, was born in the province of Halland, Sweden, Nov. 12, 1869, son of S. A. and Olena (Larson) Swenson, and emigrated to America with his parents at the age of twelve. He acquired his preliminary education in the Houston school, after which he took a business course at Red Wing, Minn., later attending the Normal school at Winona. For a while he taught school in Houston county, beginning when eighteen years old and continuing in that occupation until he was twenty-two. He then entered the employ of Cass Gilbert, architect of the new State Capitol, and subsequently that of Griggs, Cooper & Co., wholesale grocers of St. Paul, Minn., as a stenographer. In 1897 he started in the mercantile business in Houston, which by honesty and square dealing he has built up from a small beginning to one of the leading mercantile establishments in the village. Three years ago he admitted two of his clerks into partnership with him, the style of the new firm being the C. J. Swenson Co. They carry a complete stock of goods, suitable to the requirements of their customers, and are doing a thriving business. Mr. Swenson has for many years been a member of the Board of Education of the Houston High School, is a director of the Houston County Agricultural Society, and vice president and a director in the Houston State Bank. During the late war he served the government as secretary of the local war finance committee, had charge of the Liberty Loan drives in his village, and was a member of the County Legal Advisory Board. Mr. Swenson married Minnie Anderson, who was born in this county and educated in the local schools. Her parents, Andrew and Louisa Anderson, were farmers and among the first settlers of this section of the county experiencing all the hardships and inconveniences of pioneer life. The



MR. AND MRS. G. J. SWENSON AND DAUGHTER



father was a soldier in the Civil War. He died in the year 1881, aged forty-five years. The mother lived until the year 1918, attaining to the age of nearly eighty-two. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have one child, Edla, who was graduated from the Houston High School, and the Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School at Minneapolis.

S. A. Swenson, who is now living retired in the village of Houston, was born in Halland, Sweden, May 19, 1841. There he grew up and was married to Olena Carlson, a native of the same place and born June 25th the same year. In 1881 they came to the United States, settling in Houston, this county, Mr. Swenson finding work on the railroad. Later he engaged in farming, in which occupation he continued until his retirement. On October 27, 1917, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. In spite of their advanced years both are in the enjoyment of good health. They were parents of six children, Charles J., Carrie, Effie, Ellen, Hannah and Alfred.

John Traff, who is residing on a farm in Houston township, after a long career of agricultural activity, was born in Sweden, May 5, 1837. He grew up in his native land and was there married to Inga Jacobson. In 1871 he came to Houston county, Minn., his wife and family joining him in the following year. After working out for a year or two he settled on a farm in Looney Valley, where he engaged in agriculture on his own account. Subsequently he removed to another farm, and later made another removal, to the farm on which he is now living, and which is now the property of his son, Oscar L. His wife, who was born in Sweden, Feb. 14, 1828, died in February, 1913. They were the parents of a family of five children: Alfred, Charles, Christine, Gideon and Oscar L.

Oscar L. Traff, an enterprising farmer who now owns and operates the old Traff homestead in section 15, Houston township, was born in Sweden, April 20, 1870, son of John and Inga (Jacobson) Traff. He was the youngest of their five children, and was but two years old when he came with his mother to Houston county, Minn., the father having arrived here the year before. He was educated in district schools in this township, and as a boy began to assist his father on the home farm, also occasionally working for other farmers. After reaching the age of nineteen years he worked out for others continuously for a while, then returned home and worked with his father again until he was twenty-two, and afterwards again for others for about two years. He then gave up agriculture for the time and for the next nine years was employed as a stone mason. On his marriage in 1903 he settled on the parental homestead, which he had purchased in the previous year and which he has since operated as a general farmer. It contains 120 acres and he has made extensive improvements which have converted the place into a fine modern farm. He is a member of the Shipping Association. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is a member and trustee, and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. Traff was married May 6, 1903, to Elizabeth Germanson, who was born in Money Creek township, daughter of Ole and Anna (Benson) Germanson. The parents, natives of Norway, were married in Houston county, and began farming at an early date in Money Creek

township. They are now living retired in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Traff have three children, Orvin Joseph, Lester Arvid and Agnes Alvera.

Thomas Rowland, who was for a number of years one of the leading business men of Houston, the founder of a successful hardware, furniture and undertaking establishment, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in March, 1849. In 1872, at the age of twenty-three years, he came to the United States, locating immediately in Houston county, Minn. For a while he was engaged in railroad work, but later, about 1888, entered into the hardware and furniture business, to which he added undertaking, and was proprietor of the establishment above mentioned until his retirement in 1915. He was also at times interested in other enterprises, being always ready to lend a hand in any project for the benefit of the community in which he lived. Among his various activities he assisted in organizing the Houston State Bank, of which he was one of the first directors and later vice-president, and he is still a director in the bank, though at present residing at Long Beach, California. While living in Houston he served for much of the time as a member of the village board. Mr. Rowland married Jennie McConville, who was born at Cedarburg, Wis., Aug. 10, 1852. He and his wife had four children, Emmett, Arthur T., Sylvester and Rose May. Emmett is now deceased. Arthur A. and Sylvester are partners in carrying on the business established by their father. Rose May is the wife of Dr. J. A. Bergan, a practicing physician and surgeon of Long Beach, Calif., and has one child, Rachel May.

Arthur T. Rowland, who in partnership with his brother Sylvester is proprietor of an up-to-date hardware, furniture and undertaking establishment in Houston, was born in this village, March 4, 1880, son of Thomas and Jennie (McGonville) Rowland. After graduating from the Houston schools he attended business college for one year at La Crosse, and then going to Chicago, spent one winter at an embalming school, where he learned the scientific part of the undertaking business. Even when a young lad he had begun to make himself useful in his father's store, and finally, in April, 1915, when his father was ready to retire, he and his brother Sylvester took over the business, which they have since conducted along the same general lines, keeping a large and up-to-date stock in each department, and rendering a high grade of personal service. Arthur T. Rowland is also a director in the Security State Bank of Houston. He was married Nov. 25, 1915, to Sarah Blekum, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Knudt and Tone Blekum. Her parents were natives of Norway, the father, a farmer by occupation, being an early settler in Houston county. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. T. Rowland have two children, Ruth and Robert, who are twins.

John Campbell, the first settler in Money Creek Valley, an early miller and farmer, was born in Scotland, Jan. 1, 1827, and settled in Houston county, Minn., in the fall of 1852, after a previous residence in West Salem, Wis. In the following year he built a feed and flouring mill, which he operated for nine years, or until 1862, when he sold the mill and business and engaged in farming. In the latter occupation he continued on the same farm for over forty-five years, in 1908 retiring from active work and

taking up his residence in the village of Houston. He was formerly active in church and school work and at various times served in local office. Mr. Campbell married Elizabeth Hemstock, who was born in England, Aug. 12, 1829. They have been the parents of nine children, seven of whom were born in Money Creek township, this county. The record in brief is as follows: One who died in infancy; Edward G., now living retired in Houston; Hattie, deceased; James, who is engaged in the machinery business in La Crosse; Belle, who is the widow of H. B. Keeler and resides in Montana; William, engaged in the newspaper business in Milwaukee; Benjamin, proprietor of a business college in Jackson, Mich.; and Lucy, who resides in Houston with her brother. All attended school in Houston county and Lucy was formerly a teacher.

Edward G. Campbell, an esteemed resident of Houston Village, to which place he came in June, 1909, after retiring from agricultural pursuits, was born near Portage, Wis., Aug. 22, 1850, son of John and Elizabeth (Hemstock) Campbell. He was but two years old when his parents settled in Houston county, Minn., the father engaging in the milling business in Money Creek township. There he was reared to manhood and attended school. At the age of ten years he began working on his parents' farm, his father having given up the mill, and he subsequently continued on the home farm engaged in agriculture until his retirement in 1909. He is now enjoying the fruits of his former industry, his sister, Lucy, residing with him. In 1908 he sold his real estate holdings. He has been a stockholder in the Security State Bank since its organization, and is a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Money Creek. In politics he is an independent Democrat.

Even Halvorson, who for some thirty-eight years was engaged in agricultural improvements in Houston township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1877, with his wife Anna and several children, he emigrated to Houston county, Minn., and securing land in Houston township, began his career as an independent farmer. His early operations were conducted under the difficulties incidental to almost pioneer conditions of life, but he persevered and made progress until he finally succeeded in developing a good farm, on which he died Nov. 11, 1915. His wife is still residing on the homestead. Besides the children who accompanied them from Norway, others were born to them until they had in all a family of seven.

Halvor H. Eglund, a respected citizen of Houston township, operating as a general farmer 180 acres of land in section 2, was born in Telemarken, Norway, April 15, 1876, son of Even and Anna Halvorson. He was the third born of his parents' seven children and was but an infant of about one year when he arrived with the family in Houston county. As he grew older he attended district school in Houston township and gained his first industrial experience on the home farm. Later he learned the stone mason's trade, which, with other occupations, he followed until his marriage. He then took a small farm in Money Creek township which he operated for a while, subsequently residing for two years in Houston Village, where he was engaged in mason work. At the end of that period he es-

established himself on his present farm of 180 acres in section 2, Houston township, where he is successfully carrying on general farming. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Eglund was married May 23, 1906, to Inga Hegge, who was born in Storer Valley, Mound Prairie township, daughter of Henry and Marie (Hanson) Hegge, both natives of Norway, who were married in Houston county, Minn. They resided in Houston township west of Mr. Eglund's farm for some years, but later settled in Storer Valley, where they are still living. Their daughter Inga (Mrs. Eglund) was the third born of their four children. Mr. and Mrs. Eglund have five children: Renelia M., Avis F., Melda H., Hollis I., Lyle K.

Abraham Anderson, one of the pioneer settlers in Swede Bottom, Houston township, was born in Sweden, Jan. 5, 1820. In the fall of 1853 he came to Houston county, Minn., settling on a farm in the above mentioned location, and spending his first winter in a tent. Two years later he bought the land which he afterwards developed into a farm, residing on it until his death on Dec. 10, 1893. He was twice married, having three children by his first wife. In Houston county he married his second wife, Catherine Anderson, who was born in Sweden, May 21, 1821. By her he had four children. After his death she went to Iowa to make her home with a daughter, dying there in March, 1901. Her remains were brought back to Houston and buried beside those of her husband.

Frank O. Abrahamson, who is now living practically retired on a farm of sixty acres in section 4 south, Houston township, was born in this township Oct. 17, 1860, son of Abraham Anderson and his wife Catherine Anderson, who were among the early Swedish settlers in the township. Here he attended district school and was brought up to farm occupations in which he gradually became expert. Until the age of twenty-five he resided at home and then bought land and engaged in farming on his own account, first locating in Sheldon township, just south of the "Stone Church," where he resided for five years. At the end of that time he bought the farm on which he now lives, and which originally contained 197 acres. It lies adjacent to the village limits of Houston and is well provided with modern buildings. Owing to his practical retirement from active work, Mr. Abrahamson has disposed of all but sixty acres of the land. He has had a successful career as an agriculturist, and for many years has been one of the leading citizens of Houston township, which he served formerly as supervisor, and also as assessor for six or seven terms, as well as being a member of the school board of his district. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. Mr. Abrahamson was married in October, 1885, to Sarah F. Johnson, who was born in the village of Houston, this county, daughter of Christian and Louise (Redding) Johnson. She was the fifth born in a family of seven children, and was educated and taught school for a number of years in Houston county. Mr. and Mrs. Abrahamson have had four children: Renald Kenneth, who died at the age of seven years; Frances, wife of Emil Anderson, a farmer of Sheldon township; Louise Catherine, a graduate of the University of Minnesota in the class of 1913, who is now a teacher in the high school at Kenyon, Minn.; and Paul Kenneth,

who is now in his fourth year as a law student in the University of Minnesota. Mrs. Abrahamson passed away Jan. 2, 1918, at a hospital in Rochester. Christian Johnson, father of Mrs. Abrahamson, and his wife, Louise (Redding) Johnson, were both born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1853 or 1854, residing for one year at La Crosse, Wis. They then came to Houston, Mr. Johnson becoming a land owner and farmer in this vicinity. He and his wife both died in the year 1911, Mr. Johnson in February, and his wife on Christmas Day. They were among the worthy pioneer settlers of this county, most of whom have now passed away.

Obert A. Johnson, who for a number of years up to the time of his death on Jan. 12, 1913, was a prominent and well to do citizen of the village of Houston, was born in Houston, Sept. 29, 1876, son of Andrew P. and Olena Johnson, the father being a native of Sweden and the mother of Norway. Andrew P. Johnson and wife were among the earliest settlers of this county, Mr. Johnson at one time owning a large amount of property in Houston where he engaged in mercantile business. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Obert A., who was the third born of their ten children, acquired his elementary education in Houston, and afterwards attended St. Olaf at Northfield, Minn. When sixteen years old he relinquished his studies to take charge of his father's store in Houston, and was thus engaged until his marriage at the age of twenty-one, when because of poor health he sold out the store and bought a farm in Sheldon township. He retained his residence in Houston, however, renting his land and engaging in stock buying and other light occupations. Later he purchased more land and at the time of his death owned two farms, one in Sheldon and one in Houston township. He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran church, and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics was a Republican. As a citizen he was prompt to fulfill his duties, and was a man of progressive spirit interested in the development of the community in which his lot was cast, and of which he was a worthy and respected member. Mr. Johnson was married Feb. 16, 1900, to Nellie Benson, who was born in Sweden, daughter of John and Johanna (Samuelson) Benson. Of this union five children were born: Henry Andrews, Georgia Alvena, Allie Percival, John Arnold, and one other who died in infancy. Since her husband's death Mrs. Johnson has sold the farm in Houston township, but retains the one in Sheldon township. She also owns three residence properties in Houston, which she rents to others, a part of her time being devoted to caring for her real estate interests. She is a member of St. Peter's Ladies' Aid Society and is an active worker in every good cause.

John Benson, who is engaged in farming on Union Ridge, near Caledonia, was born in Sweden, where he married Johanna Samuelson. They came to America in the month of June, in or about the year 1871 and settled on a farm in Swede Bottom, near Houston, this county, where they remained until 1901. They then moved to their present location on Union Ridge, where Mr. Benson has since continued in agricultural work. In the family are six children: Effie, who is keeping house for her father and brother on the farm; Anna, wife of Hans Anderson, residing at Whalen,

Minn.; Nellie, the widow of Obert A. Johnson of Houston; Charles, who is residing at home and assisting his father; William, who is married and farming on his own account on Caledonia Ridge; and Allie, who died at the age of seventeen. Mrs. Benson died Feb. 26, 1918.

Julius N. Anderson, a prominent and well to do farmer of Houston township, residing in section 35, was born on the farm on which he now lives, March 7, 1875, son of Nels and Hannah (Anderson) Anderson. He was reared on his parents' farm, and acquired his education in the district school and the Houston high school, attending the latter for two terms. At the age of twenty-one years he took over the management of the home farm and has since operated it. He has made important improvements which have much increased the value of the property, which is now one of the best farms in the locality, having an area of 276 acres where he is extensively engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of cattle and swine for the market. He is a director and president of the local creamery company, holding stock both in that and in the elevator company. An independent Republican in politics, he served for a number of years as a member of the town board.

Nels Anderson, one of the pioneer settlers on Swede Bottom, Houston township, was born in Halland, Sweden, where he grew to manhood and was married to Hannah Anderson. About 1856, or possibly a year earlier, he emigrated to the United States, and on arriving in this country, settled first at Batavia, Ill. There, however, he remained for but one year, at the end of that time coming to Houston county, Minn., and becoming one of the original settlers on Swede Bottom, where he secured land and in time developed a farm of 276 acres. He attained an advanced age, dying here on May 17, 1917. His wife is still living and resides on the old homestead with her son Julius N., who was the youngest of their three children, and the only son, the other two children being Anna and Hulda. Anna, who is unmarried, was formerly foreign buyer for Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., one of the largest business houses in Chicago, and is now proprietress of a Ladies' tailoring establishment on Wabash avenue in that city doing a large business and giving employment to sixty people. Hulda is the wife of Eli Core, holding an excellent position as bookkeeper with one of the large firms at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

Patrick Burke, who half a century ago settled in section 18, Yucatan township, his land lying on the line between Houston and Fillmore counties, was born in Ireland March 16, 1841. When a boy his parents, with their family, emigrated to Canada, where he was reared and resided until he was a young man. Then coming to the States, he worked as a lumberman in the woods of Michigan and Wisconsin, finally coming to Houston county, Minn., and settling on the farm above mentioned, which in course of time he developed and improved, residing on it until 1908, when he retired and took up his residence in Rushford, Fillmore county. Mr. Burke married Margaret Maloney, who was born in Peterboro, Ontario, Feb. 20, 1851, and by whom he has had eight children. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church.

William Burke, who is operating a good farm of 220 acres lying partly in section 18, Yucatan township, and partly in Fillmore county, was born on this farm, Feb. 28, 1882, son of Patrick and Margaret (Maloney) Burke. He was the fourth born of his parents' eight children and in his boyhood attended school in district 18, Yucatan township. Brought up on the home farm, he acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture in its different branches, and on arriving at the age of eighteen years began working out on farms, being also occasionally employed in other occupations. After his marriage he worked four months in Iowa, and at the end of that time took up his present work on the old Burke homestead, where, besides raising the usual crops of this region, he is breeding up in Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. His operations are being conducted on a profitable basis, and each year finds him in a more prosperous condition. He belongs to Camp No. 232, M. W. A., at Rushford, and is a member of the Catholic church at that place. In politics he is independent. On Jan. 15, 1915, Mr. Burke was united in marriage with Matilda Lee, who was born in Norway, daughter of John and Carrie (Hermanson) Lee. Her parents, natives of Christiania, Norway, never came to this country and are both now deceased. She, herself, came to the United States in 1911 and at the time could speak no English, though now she has a fluent command of the language. Mr. and Mrs. Burke are the parents of two children, Vincent Joseph and Lucile Margaret.

James Kelly, one of the pioneer settlers of Yucatan township, now deceased, was a native of Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, and came to the United States in 1849, first settling in Boston, Mass., where he followed the carpenter's trade. There in 1852 he married Charlotte Carson, who was born in the same Scotch county as himself, and two years after their marriage, in 1854, they came west to Houston county, Minn., taking 240 acres of land in Yucatan township, on which Mr. Kelly started improvements. It was, of course, at that date, in a wild condition; and after a short residence on it, Mr. Kelly, perhaps owing to lack of sufficient means, left it for a while, and going to Chatfield followed his trade there for about three years. At the end of that time he returned to the farm and resumed work on it, making steady improvements for a number of years until he had converted it into a good piece of agricultural property, with adequate buildings, fences and farm equipment, a considerable portion of the land being under cultivation. There he continued to reside until his death on March 28, 1890. He was for a number of years one of the leading citizens of the township, at various times holding town office, and for a while serving as county commissioner. His wife died but six days before him, on March 22nd the same year. They had one child, James C.

James C. Kelly, farmer and banker, and one of the leading citizens of Houston, is a man well known throughout the county for his large agricultural and financial interests, and also for his former services as representative from his district in both branches of the State Legislature. He was born at Chatfield, Minn., Oct. 28, 1857, son of James and Charlotte (Carson) Kelly, who, not long after his birth, returned to a farm on which they had previously settled in Yucatan township, and on which the

greater part of his own life has been spent. After attending the district school he became a pupil at St. John's College, Stearns county, thus receiving a better education than fell to the lot of the average farmer's boy in early days. His industrial education was equally well taken care of, as, being his parents' only son and child, he naturally became his father's most dependable assistant on the home farm, the management of which was turned over to him when he had reached the age of eighteen years. In time he became the owner of the property and developed it into a fine modern farm of 720 acres, operating it personally until 1915. In 1902 he entered a new field of business activity, becoming connected as a director with the institution then known as the Citizens' State Bank of Houston. This later became merged with the Farmer's & Merchant's Bank, and in 1909 the name was changed to the Houston State Bank, since which time Mr. Kelly has served in the office of president. In 1915 he took up his residence in the village of Houston, but still devotes much of his time to the superintendence of his farm and his landed interests. He is also secretary of the Mound Prairie Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company. In politics a Democrat, Mr. Kelly has on several occasions taken an active and prominent part in public affairs, being a member of the State Legislature in 1889, and of the Senate in 1891 and 1893. In religion he is a Catholic, his fraternal society affiliations being with the Knights of Columbus. On Jan. 12, 1886, James C. Kelly was united in marriage with Ellen J. Kelly, who was born in Boston, Mass., daughter of John and Mary (Conley) Kelly. Her parents were natives of Ireland, the father being a farmer by occupation. They came to Minnesota in 1855, settling in Black Hammer township, this county, where they spent the rest of their lives. Their daughter, Ellen J., who was the eldest of their eight children, was educated in the district schools of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are the parents of five children: Francis M. Kelly, D.D., a priest now stationed in Winona, Minn.; Arthur J., a dentist of Buffalo, Minn., who married Dianah M. Hill of Minneapolis; and Charlotte I., Joseph J. and Mary V., who are residing at home.

Theodore Thorson, who owns and operates the old Thorson farm of 196 acres in section 12, Yucatan township, was born on this farm, May 17, 1887, son of Ole and Bertha (Hermanson) Thorson. He was the sixth member of a family of seven children, and his education was acquired partly in district school No. 103, on Oak Ridge, this township, and partly in a district school in Allamakee county, Iowa. He was nineteen years old when the management of the home farm came into his hands and he operated it under rental until 1916, when it became his through purchase. The 196 acres of good land which it contains are supplemented by adequate buildings, fences, and other equipment, making it a desirable piece of property. He is engaged largely in breeding Hereford cattle, Poland-China hogs, and a good grade of horses, and is meeting with much success in his operations, being one of the most energetic and prosperous young farmers in the township. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Thorson was married Oct. 27, 1909, to Bertha Karlsbatten, who was born in Black Hammer township, Houston county, daughter of Throls and Gunild Karlsbatten. Her parents, natives of Hollingdahl,

Norway, were early settlers in Houston county, and are still residing in Black Hammer township actively engaged in farm work. Their daughter Berthå was the fourth born of their seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Thorson have four children, Tenart Odine, Berdine Gerhardt, Ole Arnold and Gladys Benora.

Ole Thorson, the founder of a good farm in section 12, Yucatan township, which is now operated by his son Theodore, was born in Telemarken, Norway, and was a young man when he emigrated to Houston county and settled on the land which now constitutes the farm above mentioned, but which was then wild. His subsequent career for a number of years, therefore, was that of a pioneer, and was marked by unremitting industry and hard labor until he had succeeded in bringing his place into a civilized condition. For many years he continued his improvements, increasing gradually in prosperity until he found himself in comfortable circumstances. His death occurred in 1901. His wife, whose maiden name was Bertha Hermanson, and who was a native of Veck, Norway, is now residing with her children in Yucatan township, Houston county.

Carl Olson, who is now living retired in the village of Sheldon, after a life of agricultural activity, was born in Christiana, Norway, and came to the United States when a young man, locating in Minnesota. After the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in a Minnesota regiment and served one year and nine months without suffering any casualties, though he returned in ill health. Settling in Fillmore county, he was there married to Gertrude Stegensjord, a native of Telemarken, Norway, and they took a farm in Yucatan township, Houston county, where they resided for a number of years. Then moving to North Dakota, they were engaged in farming there for three years, at the end of which time they returned to Houston county. Here Mrs. Olson died in August, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Olson were the parents of seven children.

Olaus C. Olson, a prosperous farmer residing in section 9, Yucatan township, was born in this township, March 18, 1870, son of Carl and Gertrude (Stegensjord) Olson. He worked on his parents' farm until arriving at the age of twenty-four years, when he was united in marriage, on Dec. 13, 1893, with Julia Evenson, a daughter of Christof and Birget (Anderson) Evenson pioneers of Sheldon township, this county. At the time of his marriage his cash capital consisted of fifty cents, but his father gave him a cow, and he found work on a farm in Yucatan township, where he remained for a year. He then started in for himself, renting a farm in Black Hammer township, which he operated for a number of years. After that he farmed for five years in Sheldon township. Then removing to Fillmore county he operated a farm there for four years. During all this period he worked hard and made a steady advance in prosperity. From Fillmore county he returned to Yucatan township, Houston county, and purchased his present farm of 120 acres in section 9, where he is carrying on general farming with profitable results. He has made practically all the improvements on the farm, one of the most recent being his neat and comfortable residence, erected in 1916. Thus, through industry and perseverance he has risen in the last twenty-five years from the condition of

an almost penniless youth to that of a man of substance and influence in his community—an example well worth emulating by the younger generation. He and his wife have a family of eleven children: Belle, wife of Andrew Rasmussen, a farmer of Fillmore county; Georgia, wife of Helmer Ekern, a farmer in Yucatan township; Clarence, Clarice, Bernice, Orvin, Minor, Gladys, Raymond, Norman and Ronald.

Aslak A. Myran, who is prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Yucatan township, as proprietor of a farm of 438 acres in section 34 north, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 11, 1864, son of Aslak and Gunhild (Haarsom) Myran (Loudahl). The parents, who were natives of the same part of Norway, the father being a farmer, are both now deceased. Aslak A., who was the youngest of their seven children, attended school in his native land, and at the age of sixteen years began working out. He was twenty years old when he emigrated and settled in Houston county, Minn. For three years he lived in Badger Valley, Sheldon township, and worked for others. After that he spent a year at Moorhead, Minn. He then returned home and married and began farming on his own account in Badger Valley, Sheldon township, remaining there nine years. The next nine years of his life were spent in Crystal Valley, Houston township, after which he came to his present farm. Here he has made all the improvements, which are modern and substantial, and, the land being rich and fertile, his estate is one of the most valuable for agricultural purposes in the township. He raises both crops and stock, giving particular attention to the breeding of Hereford cattle, and is also a shareholder in the telephone and creamery companies and other local enterprises. From the condition of a green Norwegian boy unable to speak English, he has risen in the last thirty-four years, through industry and ability, to that of a well to do and respected citizen, with a fluent command of the language of his adopted country, and permeated with modern ideas of advancement. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church known as the "Stone Church," and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Myran was married in June, 1890, to Hattie Nearsen, who was born near Madison, Wis., daughter of Ole and Anna Nearsen, who were early settlers in Badger Valley, Sheldon township. Of this union three children have been born: Anna, wife of John Johnson, a farmer of Adams county, Minn., and Alfred and Gena, who are both residing on the home farm.

Ole Kittelson, who was formerly for a number of years engaged in agriculture in Mound Prairie township, and later in Houston township, but is now deceased, was born in Norway, March 29, 1861, son of Kittel Ushard and his wife Jennie, whose family name was Boundl. The fourth born in a family of five children, in 1869 he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minn., they settling in Union Valley, near Caledonia, where they made their permanent home. Both father and mother are now deceased. Young Ole was educated in the district school and resided at home until about twenty-two years of age, when he went to Granville, N. D., where he worked for others. He also worked out for a while at Moorehead, Minn. During this period, which lasted for some years, or until his marriage, it was his custom to return home to spend the winters. After his marriage

OLE KITTLIESON AND FAMILY



he bought land at Mound Prairie, where he engaged in farming on his own account, later removing from that location to a farm west of Houston. In 1911 he retired and took up his residence in Houston, being then in poor health. The change gave him rest, but there was no permanent recovery, and he passed away Oct. 13, 1913. Previous to his death he had sold his farm lands, but left to his wife the comfortable residence in Houston which is her present home. Mr. Kittelson was a consistent member of the Lutheran church, and a man of sterling character. At various times he held town office and was independent in politics. On Dec. 23, 1890, Ole Kittelson was united in marriage with Olena Olson, who was born in Sheldon township, Houston county, Minn., daughter of Ole and Guneil (Olson) Olson. Of this union four children were born: Jeanette, who graduated from a business college in La Crosse, and is now a bookkeeper in Dayton, Minn.; Ida, who is a teacher at Brooten, Minn.; Clara, a graduate of the Winona Normal School, and now teaching at Lake Crystal; and Gladys, who is attending school in Houston. Ole Olson and his wife Guneil were both natives of Telemarken, Norway, Mrs. Olson being born June 16, 1835. They were of nearly the same age and came to this country and county about the year 1860, a relation of theirs, Knud Olson, being one of the first settlers on Mound Prairie. Ole Olson engaged in farming there, but later moved to near Bode, in Humboldt county, Iowa, where he became an extensive land owner and where he died Oct. 14, 1905. His wife, now eighty-four years old, resides with her daughter, Mrs. Kittelson, who was her only child.

W. Roy Anderson, a prosperous general farmer operating 235 acres of valuable land in section 4 south, Houston township, was born in this township, Dec. 23, 1890, son of John F. and Ellen (Benson) Anderson. John F. Anderson, also a native of Houston county, still owns a farm of 280 acres in Houston township, but he and his wife now live in Houston Village. W. Roy Anderson was educated in the schools of Sheldon township and resided on his parents' farm until a short time after his marriage. He then moved to his present farm, where he is doing a successful business raising both crops and stock, his chief specialty being the breeding of Duroc-Jersey swine. Active and enterprising, he gives his whole attention to the farm, which is well improved and provided with substantial buildings. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. On Sept. 24, 1913, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Helen Abrahamson, who was born on this farm, the youngest of the five children of Aaron and Hilda (Johnson) Abrahamson, and who was educated in Houston. Her father died when she was a year old and her mother is now the wife of Lawrence Weom, a farmer of Sheldon township. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have one child, Warren Ronald, born July 31, 1914.

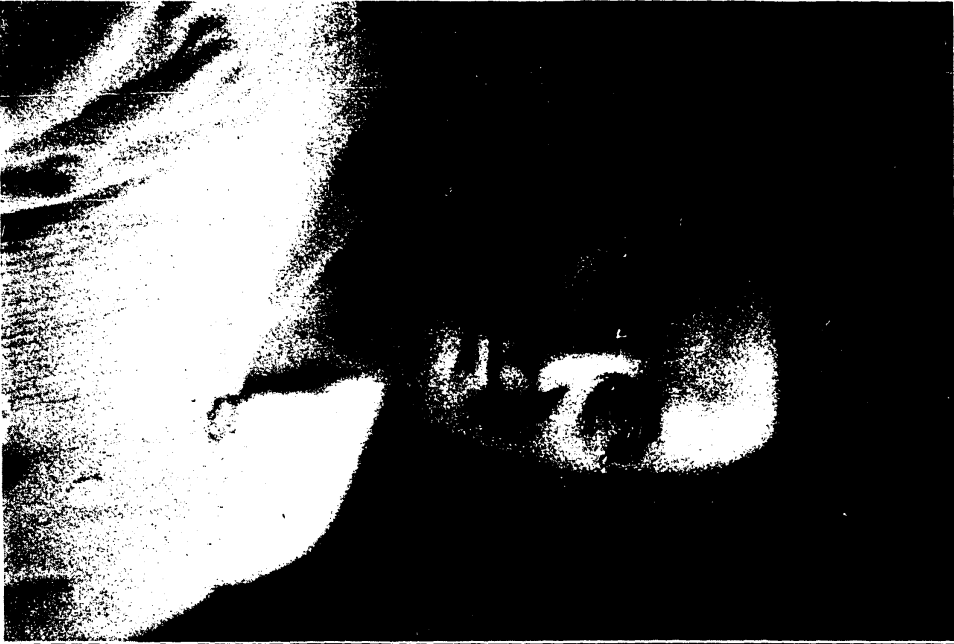
Andrew Britson, one of the pioneer settlers in Looney Valley, Houston Township, was born in Ringsager, near Christiania, Norway. He was twenty-two years old when he came to America and located in La Crosse Valley, La Crosse county, Wis. After a residence there of a year or two he removed to Looney Valley, Houston township, this county, where he settled on a farm, and continued in agricultural pursuits until his death in

1907. Mr. Britson married Bessie Johnson, a native of Telemarken, Norway, their marriage taking place in Houston county. She died some years before her husband. They were the parents of four children, Lena, Albert T, Gustaf and Carolina.

Albert T. Britson, a well to do farmer, operating 200 acres of land in section 3, Houston township, was born in Houston county, Nov. 25, 1858, son of Andrew and Bessie (Johnson) Britson. He attended school in Houston township and until the age of 23 years resided on the parental homestead. He then engaged in farming on his own account, also operating a threshing machine—a branch of farm industry in which he has now been engaged for forty years. On his marriage in 1886 he settled on his present farm of 200 acres, a well improved piece of property, on which he is raising both stock and grain with good financial results, and continues in the business of threshing at the appropriate season. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Britson was married in May, 1886, to Christina Traff, daughter of John and Inga (Jacobson) Traff, who settled in Looney Valley, Houston township in the early seventies. Eleven children have been born to them, namely: Nettie, now deceased; Elmer, who is a contractor for concrete work, residing at Warwick, N. D.; Arthur and Ida, residing at home; Cora, wife of Jacob Palmer of Foreston, Minn.; Elvena, Emma, Delia, Melvin and Leonard, who are residing at home; and Nettie (second), the fourth born child, who died at the age of two and a half years.

Knut Onsgard, for many years a prominent farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Spring Grove township, was born in Norway and came to Minnesota in 1861, locating in Spring Grove, where for a number of years he led the life of a pioneer farmer, working hard and having few comforts. His condition bettered, however, with the development of his farm, and he finally became prosperous. He rendered useful service on the school board of his district and helped to build the Lutheran church in his vicinity, of which he and his family were members. He died in 1902 at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, whose maiden name was Birget Larson, survived him some eight years, passing away in 1916 at the age of eighty-seven.

Louis K. Onsgard, M.D., who for the last twenty-seven years has been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Houston, was born in Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., Jan. 1, 1866, son of Knut and Birget (Larson) Onsgard. He was reared on his parents' farm and educated in the district school. Having made up his mind to enter the medical profession, he pursued his studies at the Eclectic Medical College, at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was graduated in 1887. Beginning practice at Harmony, Fillmore county, Minn., he remained there five years, coming to Houston in May, 1892. Here, being thoroughly qualified both as a physician and surgeon, his practice has steadily increased and he has won an enviable reputation in his profession. In addition to his general practice, he is local physician for the C. M. & St. P. Railway. He is a member of the Houston-Fillmore Medical Society, which he has served as treasurer since its organization; also of the Minnesota State Medical Society, the



DR. AND MRS. L. K. ONGGARD



American Medical Association, and the American Association of Railway Surgeons. His fraternal society affiliations, aside from the above, are with the Beaver, United Workmen and Yeomen lodges at Houston, while religiously he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of this city. Dr. Onsgard married Anna Langen, who was born at Rockford, Ill., daughter of Ole and Emily (Satre) Langen, and who came to Houston county, Minn., when three years old with her parents, who were farmers. Dr. and Mrs. Onsgard are the parents of five children: Orrin, who married Winifred Chapel and is now operating a garage in Houston, handling the Ford automobiles; Agnes, a music teacher in Houston; Laura, who was graduated from St. Olof College at Northfield, Minn., and is now a teacher in Wabasha; Ruth, a student in the Winona State Normal School at Winona; and Kenneth, a student in the Houston High School, who resides at home with his parents. Dr. Onsgard is a man who has identified himself closely with the best interests of the community in which he has made his home, being always ready to promote a worthy enterprise, and he and his family have a high social standing in this part of the county.

Knudt G. Knutson, owner of considerable landed property in Houston county, and for a number of years a resident of Yucatan township, was born in this county in 1865. He was brought up to farm work and made agriculture his chief occupation, from time to time making purchases of land, much of which he has improved. He is now practically retired, having for some time past been in poor health, which has recently necessitated his removal to the hospital at La Crosse. He is a stockholder in the Yucatan Creamery, the Houston State Bank, and other important business enterprises, and is a man of considerable means. Mr. Knutson married Emma Galena Foss, who was born in Yucatan township, Houston county, in 1865, and they have been the parents of a family of seven children.

Gilbert Knutson, a well known and respected citizen of Yucatan township, where he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, was born in this township, April 4, 1895, son of Knudt G. and Emma Galena (Foss) Knutson. Of his parents' seven children he was the sixth in order of birth. His education was obtained in District School No. 21, this township, and he resided at home until 1914. He then rented a part of his father's land, farming it until March 1, 1917, when he bought his present farm of 59 acres in section 14, which he is operating as a general stock farm. The land is valuable and is provided with good buildings. Mr. Knutson also operates 20 acres belonging to his father, and is a stockholder in the Yucatan Creamery. He is an active and enterprising man and has made material progress since starting in for himself. Politically he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church at Houston.

Ole Omodt, one of the pioneers of Money Creek township, who passed away a quarter of a century ago, was born in Hetherland, Norway in 1808, and was a farmer by occupation. He married Martha Berkland, born in Berkram, Norway, in 1816, and in 1854 they set out for the United States, arriving in Chicago, July 3. There a friend of Mr. Omodt's informed him that an acquaintance of his was going to Minnesota on the following day, and advised him to go along in company. He and his wife decided to do

so, and accordingly on July fourth they started. The Rock Island Railroad from Chicago to the Mississippi river had lately been constructed and was then in its first week of operation. The party took it to Rock Island, the passengers when they arrived at the end of the line, being unloaded on a sandbar. They found but one building there, which contained a hall upstairs and a saloon below, and there they passed the night with poor accommodations, having to wait until next day for the boat. On July 18 they disembarked from the steamer at La Crosse. There Mr. Omodt left his family and joined a party coming to Houston county to locate land and look over the ground. Satisfied with what he saw, Mr. Omodt and his family came on a flatboat owned by a man named Knutson, who had arrived in the previous year. His son Knud, the second born child, went to work for Mr. Knutson for four dollars a month and board, while Mr. Omodt himself, with the rest of the family went on to Money Creek township where he bought a land claim, there being a small log house on the tract. There the family made their home, Mr. Omodt being actively engaged in improving the property until the failure of his health obliged him to rest from his labors. After a residence on the farm of nearly 39 years he died May 21, 1893. His wife survived him, passing away in 1912, at the venerable age of 96 years. They were pioneers of the best type, law abiding and industrious, and worthily did their part in the development of the county. Their family numbered ten children.

Knudt Omodt, who is now residing in the village of Houston after a successful career in agriculture, was born in Hetherland, Norway, March 15, 1839, son of Ole and Martha (Berkland) Omodt. He was a lad of 15 when he accompanied his parents to America and to this county, where they settled in the summer of 1854. While the parents located on a tract of land in Money Creek township, Knud, who was their second born child, went to work for a settler named Knutson who owned a flatboat, and made his home at Houston. He had attended school in Norway, but had to pick up a knowledge of the English tongue, which, as he mingled with English-speaking people, he acquired long before the other members of his family. From Mr. Knutson he received four dollars a month and his board, but four dollars in those days would buy three or four times as much as such a sum would now. Later he worked for others, and until he was 21 turned his earnings over to his father. After awhile he entered the employ of a Mr. Smith, for whom he cut logs, at \$1.25 per thousand feet. He had, however, to take his pay in a pair of steer calves. These he exchanged in a trade for a pair of horses, trading the later for land in Money Creek township. Thus he got started as a land owner and farmer, residing at times, however, on the home farm, which for a couple of years he rented. He finally took up his residence on his own property in Money Creek township, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1908, when he rented his farm and took up his residence in Houston village. He is now the owner of two farms, and is a stockholder in the Houston State Bank, and in other enterprises. Formerly he served in various local offices, being for a number of years a member of the school board of his district. In politics he is independent and in religion a Lutheran. In June, 1874, Knud Omodt was united



MR. AND MRS. KNUD OMODT



in marriage with Ingeborg Thorson, who was born in Norway in 1845, daughter of Peter Thorson, her father being an officer in the Norwegian army. Neither of her parents ever came to America, she, herself, about four years before her marriage, accompanying to this country an emigration party from her home neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Omodt are the parents of three children: Ferdinand, who is engaged in the jewelry business at Caladonia; Amanda, wife of Ludwig H. Julsrud, a jeweler and merchant of Houston; and Arnold P., who is in the Houston State Bank.

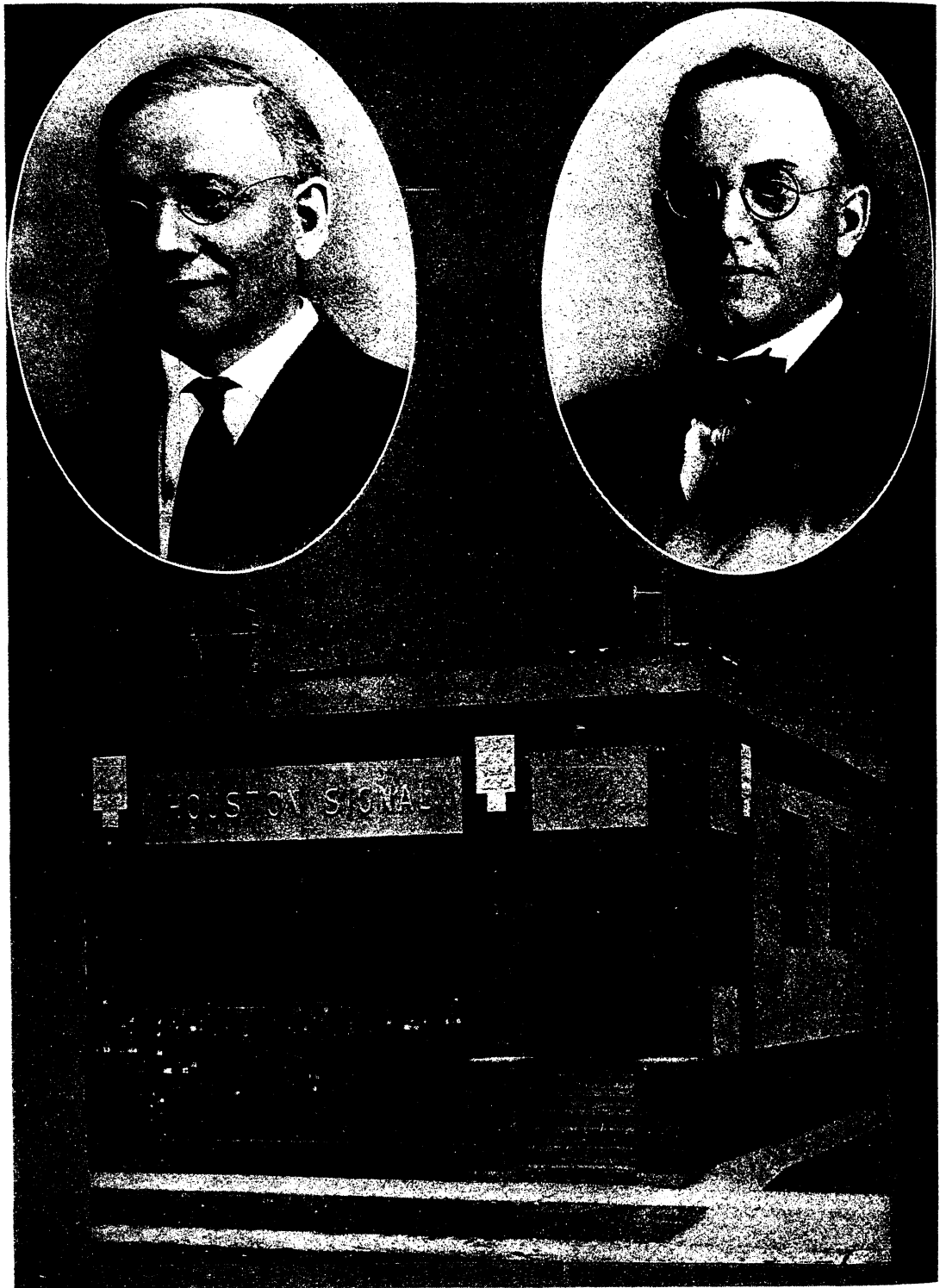
John August Anderson, who was engaged for a number of years in developing a farm in section 21, Houston township, was born in Sweden in August, 1862. With his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson, he came at an early date to Houston county, Minnesota, the family settling on the farm above mentioned. Here the parents died, the father in 1900 and the mother a number of years previously. John August, who as a young man had spent much of his time in working out for other farmers, subsequently became associated with his father in the management of the homestead, and was thus engaged until his death on March 19, 1899. He was a steady industrious man who gave close attention to his business and was respected by his neighbors for the worth of his character. He was identified politically with the Republican party. Mr. Anderson was married, Feb. 22, 1888, to Julia Hanson Hove, who was born in Norway, daughter of Ole Hanson and Ingeborg (Hanson) Hove, who settled on a farm in Storer Valley, Mound Prairie township in 1875, where the father is now living at the age of 88 years, being still manager of the farm. Mrs. Anderson's mother died in 1887. Mrs. Anderson, who was the second born in a family of four children, was educated in the school of her district in Mound Prairie township. Since her husband's death she has remained on the farm, which her son is assisting her to operate. She has two children. Ida is the wife of Carl J. Johnson and resides in Houston township where he owns a farm; Arthur J., resides on the home farm. He married Myrtle Olson.

Bernt Benson, who was formerly engaged in agricultural work in Houston township, was a native of Halden, Sweden, where he grew to manhood and married Anna Breta Peterson. In 1870 they emigrated to the United States, locating first at Batavia, Ill., where they remained two years, Mr. Benson working for others at miscellaneous occupations. At the end of that time they came to Houston county, where for the rest of his life Mr. Benson was engaged in farm work, assisting his son, Bernt Peter Benson, who is now a farmer in this township. He died in 1881 and his wife in October, 1902. They had a family of eleven children of whom Bernt Peter is the oldest.

Bernt Peter Benson, president of the Houston Mercantile Company, who resides on a farm of 146 acres in section 34, Houston township, that is now being operated by his son, was born in Halden, Sweden, Feb. 1, 1845, son of Bernt and Anna Breta (Peterson) Benson. He began work in his native land at the age of 16 years, and continued until he was 22, being employed mostly at the carpenter's trade. He then came to the United States with his parents, who settled at Batavia, Ill., where he worked two years in a quarry. The family then moving to Houston county, Minn., he

was engaged for three winters in cutting wood, and in farm work in the summers. At the end of that time he began operating a farm on shares and continued to be thus employed until 1874. He then bought land in Houston township, which he farmed for nine years. Subsequently selling that place, he moved to the farm on which he now lives, where, until 1913, when he turned its operation over to his son, he was engaged in general farming. He owns 240 acres of land in Yucatan township, and is a stockholder in and president of the Houston Mercantile Company, a stockholder in the Telephone Company, and other business enterprises. In politics Mr. Benson is a Prohibitionist. He served as clerk and treasurer of school district No. 83, for a number of years. Mr. Benson was first married, June 24, 1870, to Anna Breta Anderson, who was born in Haland, Sweden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Bengson. She came to the United States with her parents about 1872, but soon after came to Houston township, Houston county, Minn. Later her parents moved to Swea, Iowa, where the father died, and the mother died subsequently in Sweden, to which country she returned. Mrs. Anna Breta Benson died in 1872, leaving one child now deceased. On Dec. 8, 1874, Mr. Benson married Johanna Katherina Benson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Evenson, and a native, like the first Mrs. Benson, of Haland, Sweden. Her parents, who were farmers in Swede Bottom, Houston township, came to this country in different years, the mother in 1872 and the father in 1874. The latter died first, in 1883, his wife surviving him until 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Bernt P. Benson are the parents of eleven children, all living, as follows: Anna, wife of Alex Abrahamson, for many years a farmer of Taylor, N. D., but now a farmer of Cannon Falls, Minn., Edward A., who married Ellen Abrahamson, and is now living retired in Houston; Alfred, a farmer at Chippewa Falls, Wis., a farmer who married Amanda Anderson; Leve, wife of the Rev. Carl O. Dalhed, of Marinette, Wis.; John, who is a carpenter, and lives at home; Emma, wife of Fred Lind, a farmer in Swede Bottom, Houston county; Arthur, on the home farm; Cora, wife of Earl Harris, a barber of Holliday, N. D.; Clarence on the home farm; Charles who has a record as a veteran of the Great War having been engaged for fourteen months in France hauling supplies to the front lines; and Ella, wife of Charles Benson, a farmer of Money Creek township.

Louis Schonlau, M. D., a prominent physician and surgeon, now deceased, had an interesting career of usefulness to his fellow men in the alleviation of illness, suffering and distress. He was born in the Kingdom of Westphalia, Germany, and after duly passing through the lower schools and the Gymnasium, entered the medical department of the famous University of Bonn, where he received his degree. Thus equipped, he became a member of the Medical Corps of the German Army. His service there completed, he came to America in 1886, and opened an office at Freeport, Illinois. Four years later in 1870, he moved to West Point, Nebraska, where he practiced for some fifteen years. From there he went to Columbus, in that state, where he followed his profession until his lamented death, Aug. 13, 1900. Dr. Schonlau was married in Germany to Hermina Koehling, who died in 1865, leaving three children, Casper F., Clementine and



CASPAR F. SCHONLAU—GERARD L. SCHONLAU
OFFICE OF HOUSTON SIGNAL

Catherine. In 1870, these children were brought to America by Lena Schmidt, whom Dr. Schonlau soon afterward married. By this union eight children were born of whom there are living seven, Carrie, Nellie, Freda, Louis, Winnie, Thea, and Leo. Alma, the twin sister of Freda, is dead. Mrs. Lena Schonlau is now living in Omaha, Nebraska.

Caspar F. Schonlau, head of the firm of Schonlau & Son, publishers of the *Houston Signal*, an up-to-date weekly journal, and who is also engaged in the insurance business at Houston, was born in Westphalia, Germany, Sept. 15, 1861, son of Dr. Louis and Hermina (Koechling) Schonlau, who were natives of the same province. Caspar F. Schonlau attended school in Germany until reaching the age of nine years, when he came to the United States. Without having attended an English school, he was bound out at the age of 12 to a German printer. At the age of 16 he left home and the next five years of his life were spent in traveling from place to place as a journeyman printer, during which time he worked in over 200 printing offices. Equipped with this experience he came to Houston—which place he had visited in August, 1882—and purchased a half interest in the *Houston Signal*. Six months later he bought out his partner's interest and subsequently conducted the paper alone until 1910, when he took his son, Gerard L., as a partner, since which time the *Signal* has been published by the firm of Schonlau & Son. Under President McKinley's administration Mr. Schonlau was appointed postmaster of Houston, serving during the two terms of that President, and continuing in the office until a year after the close of President Taft's administration—a period of 17 years in all, lacking one month. In addition to the publication of his newspaper, Mr. Schonlau conducts a well equipped job printing-office, and is also engaged in the fire insurance business. He is a stockholder in the Houston State Bank and has been a stockholder and director in the Security Bank of Houston since its organization. He is also secretary of the People's Telephone Exchange. A member of the Masonic order, he has served as secretary of the Blue lodge at Houston for the last 22 years; and is also clerk of the Modern Woodmen of America and recorder in the lodge of Ancient Order of United Workmen, besides being a member of the Yeomen. On Nov. 25, 1884, Caspar F. Schonlau was united in marriage with Emma Gerard, who was born in Lewiston, Minn., daughter of John B. and Nancy (Todd) Gerard. Her father, who was born in New York in 1831, and who was a blacksmith by occupation, died in June, 1917, having been retired for 20 years previous to his death. Her mother, a native of Pennsylvania, is now living in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Schonlau have two children. Gerard L., previously mentioned, married Cora Anderson. Clement F. graduated from the dental department of the University of Minnesota in the Class of 1913, and practiced his profession in Houston until Dec. 30, 1918, when he became a victim of the Spanish influenza. He married Mabel Hanson of La Cross, Wis., formerly a teacher, and left one child, Dorothy. The office of the *Houston Signal* is an interesting example of what may be done with a village newspaper office in the way of sightliness, comfort, convenience and adaptability to its purpose. The building was erected in 1918, by Schonlau & Son, under the personal supervision of

Casper F. Schonlau, the senior partner and editor. The building is 24 by 44 feet, with full basement, and concrete floors. The front is of solid rough brick, while the side and back walls are of hollow tile, stuccoed with white sand and pebble dash. The location is admirable and the whole appearance is attractive and picturesque, an ornament to the village and a credit to its owner. The conveniences are many, including a hot air furnace, electric lights, and running water from a well 295 feet deep. Work is made more comfortable and efficient by the built-in stock cupboards and the arrangement of the ample windows. In presses and type the establishment is well equipped, and not only turns out a creditable newspaper but also considerable quantities of commercial work.

Edward P. McIntire, a pioneer settler of Yucatan township, was born in New England, or in one of the Eastern states, and was of Scotch ancestry. He married Sarah Palfrey, also a native of an Eastern state, but whose ancestors were Irish. In the fifth decade of the nineteenth century they came to Minnesota, while it was yet a territory, and located in what is now Yucatan township, Houston county, where Edward P. McIntire engaged in mercantile business, in which he continued for many years, also serving as postmaster. Later he was engaged in milling for a time, and then moved into lower Houston, where he operated a farm and also kept a hotel, though at that time there was nothing on the present site of Houston village. He finally retired from active work and spent the rest of his life at, or in the vicinity of, Houston, where he was a charter member of the Masonic lodge. He and his wife were the parents of three children, one of whom, Samuel B., became a noted citizen of this county.

Capt. Samuel Bates McIntire, who had a distinguished career as a United States army officer, and was later a prominent member of the Houston county bar, was born at Dedham, Mass., May 21, 1838, son of Edward P. and Sarah (Palfrey) McIntire. The eldest of his parents' three children, he attended the common and high schools of Dedham and afterwards a school in Boston. In the fifties he accompanied his parents to the then territory of Minnesota, the father becoming a prosperous merchant in what is now Yucatan township, Houston county. From this, the First District, young Samuel Bates McIntire was appointed, on the recommendation of Congressman J. M. Cavanaugh, as a cadet in the West Point Military Academy, being the first cadet appointed from Minnesota after its admission as a state in 1858. From that famous institution he was graduated in 1862, and entered the Civil War as an artillery lieutenant. He served until the close of the war, taking part in a number of important battles, and being brevetted captain for gallant conduct at the second battle of Manassas, which occurred Aug. 30, 1863. After the war he served in Alaska and California, traveling four times across the United States. Then leaving the service, he was married in Philadelphia to Helen Frances Weld, and soon afterwards brought his wife to his parents' home in Houston county, Minnesota. Here he helped his father to operate the farm, and also engaged in teaching. He also acquired land in Yucatan township. After a short time spent in these miscellaneous occupations, Capt. McIntire

took up the study of law at Rushford and, being admitted to practice, sold his holdings in Yucatan township and bought an 80-acre farm in what is now the central part of Houston village. At the same time he began the practice of law, in which he continued actively engaged up to within a few days before his death on June 14, 1917. His professional career, to which he was well adapted by reason of a high degree of oratorical ability, was marked by a conscientious sense of duty, and he was held in great esteem both by his fellow members of the bar and by the citizens of the county generally. A Democrat in politics, he was elected to various offices, serving at various times as justice of the peace, president of the village board, supervisor, and president of the school board, which last mentioned office he held for more than 40 years. He was also for some time postmaster of Houston. Other offices than those mentioned he declined. He was, however, vice president of the Telephone Company, and in all things showed himself a public spirited citizen, ever ready to lend his aid and influence to the promotion of a worthy cause. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Houston, of which his father was a charter member, and also belonged to the Eastern Star lodge and to Grand Army of the Republic. By his first wife he had one child, that died in infancy. On Oct. 15, 1897, he was married secondly to Frances Gerard, who was born in Money Creek township, this county, daughter of John B. and Nancy (Todd) Gerard. She survives her husband and is now a resident of Houston.

John B. Gerard, one of the pioneers of Money Creek township, was born in New York State, Nov. 25, 1831. He learned the blacksmith's trade, and coming west when a young man, was married in Wisconsin, in May, 1858, to Nancy Todd, who was born in Pennsylvania, Oct. 20, 1841. Locating with his young wife in Houston county, Minn., he conducted a blacksmith's shop in Money Creek township until about 1877, when he moved to Houston, where he continued in the same occupation until his retirement about 1897. He died June 16, 1917, and was survived by his wife, who is still living in Houston. Mr. Gerard was a highly respected citizen, and was a veteran of the Civil War, having served three years as a private in Company I, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He and his wife had six children, of whom three are now living: Emma, wife of Casper F. Schonlau, publisher of the Houston Signal; George, a resident of Houston; and Frances, who is the widow of Capt. S. B. McIntire, late of Houston.

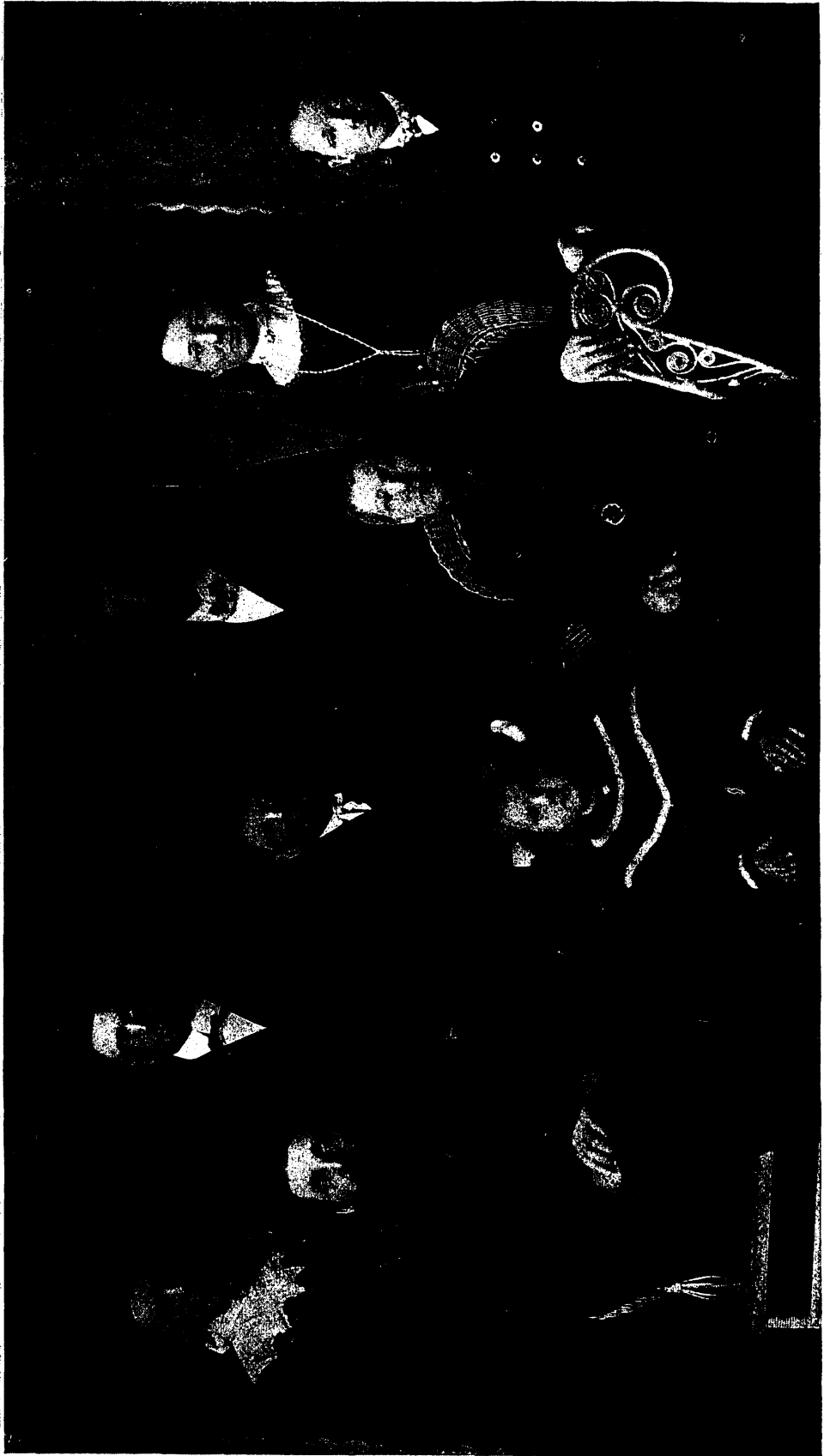
Gerard L. Schonlau, who is a partner with his father, Caspar F. Schonlau, in the firm of Schonlau & Son, editors and publishers of the Houston Signal, was born in Houston village, this county, Aug. 8, 1886. After completing his studies at the Houston high school, he entered the Wisconsin Business College at La Crosse, Wis., and there completed a business course. In March, 1910, he formed a partnership with his father in the firm above mentioned, and they have since been successfully engaged in the publication of the "Signal," of which they have made a bright and newsy paper, enjoying a good patronage. In politics Mr. Schonlau is independent with Republican tendencies. Aside from his journalistic interests he is a partner with S. Abraham in the newly remodeled S. & A. Theater, staging the latest and best moving-picture plays. In 1913 Mr. Schonlau was elected village

recorder of Houston, in which position he served for five years. He is an active and useful member of the Houston Commercial Club, and is past master of Mystic Circle Lodge, No. 78, A. F. & A. M. On June 23, 1910, he was united in marriage with Cora Mae Anderson, who was born Oct. 8, 1887, daughter of C. W. and Bertha (Benson) Anderson. Her father is now deceased, but her mother is living, being a resident of Houston village.

Ole Hovde, an early settler in Yucatan township, where he developed a fine farm, was born June 21, 1838, in Telemarken, Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married to Aslang Olsdatter, a native of the same place, born Dec. 23, 1833. In 1863 they set out for the United States, coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, and locating on wild land in section 28 north, Yucatan township, which he developed into the farm above mentioned—a farm now of 580 acres of valuable land, which is operated by his two sons, Andrew O. and John. Here he died November, 1914, at the age of 78 years, widely known and respected. He was survived by his wife, who is still living, having now attained the age of 85 years. They were the parents of eight children, Alice, Torbin, Ole, John, Andrew, Anton, Annie and Emma, of whom Ole and Annie are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hovde with their family, were, as the surviving members now are, faithful members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Andrew O. Hovde and John Hovde are engaged in operating a fine farm of 580 acres in Yucatan township, and are regarded as among the most successful and enterprising men of the community. They were born on the farm where they now live, John on Feb. 26, 1867, and Andrew O. on Oct. 15, 1868, the sons of Ole and Aslaug (Olsdatter) Hovde. Both received a good boyhood education, and Andrew O. attended the Valder Business College at Decorah, Iowa. They were reared to farm pursuits by their father, and have since his death carried on general farming for themselves on an extensive scale, doing a thriving business in both stock and grain. They are interested in the Rushford Creamery, the Farmers' Elevator at Rushford, and the Farmers' Telephone Company. Both are Republicans. Their religion as that of their parents before them is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. John Hovde married Christine Ensrud, who died May 12, 1906. Andrew O. is now one of the members of the town board and is clerk of his school district. He is a member of the Yeoman lodge at Rushford.

Jacob T. Halvorson, proprietor of a valuable farm of 330 acres in section 11, Yucatan township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, April 14, 1860, son of Targe and Segrud Andreas Halvorson. In the year following that of his birth he came to Houston county, Minn., with his parents, who settled on a farm in the southern part of Yucatan township. As a boy he attended school in Black Hammer township, while his industrial education was not neglected, as he found plenty to do in assisting his father in the improvement of the homestead, on which he resided until his marriage. On assuming the responsibilities of domestic life he engaged in farming for himself, renting a farm in Sheldon township, which he operated for two years. At the end of that time he bought his present farm of 330 acres, all valuable land, and well provided with suitable buildings. He is giving



HERMAN LARSON AND FAMILY

his principal attention to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, superintending operations, the active work being performed by his sons, to whose judgment he leaves most of the details. He has built up a profitable business and is now numbered among the well to do men of his township. A Republican in politics, he has taken a more or less active part in public affairs, having rendered six years' service as one of the town's supervisors, and having also served some time as a member of the school board. He is a Lutheran in religion, being a member of the "Stone Church" in Houston. Mr. Halvorson was married December 21, 1885, to Caroline Erickson, who was born in Yucatan township, July 23, 1869, daughter of George and Inger (Paulson) Erickson. He and his wife are the parents of ten children: Ida Serena, wife of Edward Shebstad, residing on Hauge Ridge, Sheldon township; Torwald and Carl John, residing on the home farm; Stena, wife of Solway Shebstad, a mechanic residing in Rushford; and Mabel, Clara Georgina, Bertha Ovidia, Emma Helena, Clarence Palmer and Minerva, all of whom are living with their parents. George Erickson, father of Mrs. Halvorson, was born in Nonstad, Norway, Nov. 20, 1841. He came to this country in 1869, locating on a farm in Yucatan township, Houston county, and for the first few years worked out for others. Later he bought land and began farming on his own account, still being a resident of this township. His wife, who was born in Nonstad, Norway, June 1, 1844, died Aug. 1, 1917. They had 14 children, of whom Caroline was fourth in order of birth.

Herman Larson, who was for many years a land owner and farmer in Yucatan township, was born in Nonstad, Norway, July 15, 1853, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, when eight years old, or about the year 1861. Agriculture being the main occupation here in his youthful days, he naturally became a farmer, and was thus occupied until his death on the old homestead in 1906. He was married in this county to Anna Skare, who was born in Wisconsin, Oct. 2, 1858, and who is still living on the farm where she and her husband passed so many happy years. Mr. Larson was a prominent citizen of Yucatan township in his day, at various times serving in town and school office. With his passing away the township lost another of its old and respected pioneer settlers who had done his part in contributing to its present state of prosperous development. He and his wife had eight children.

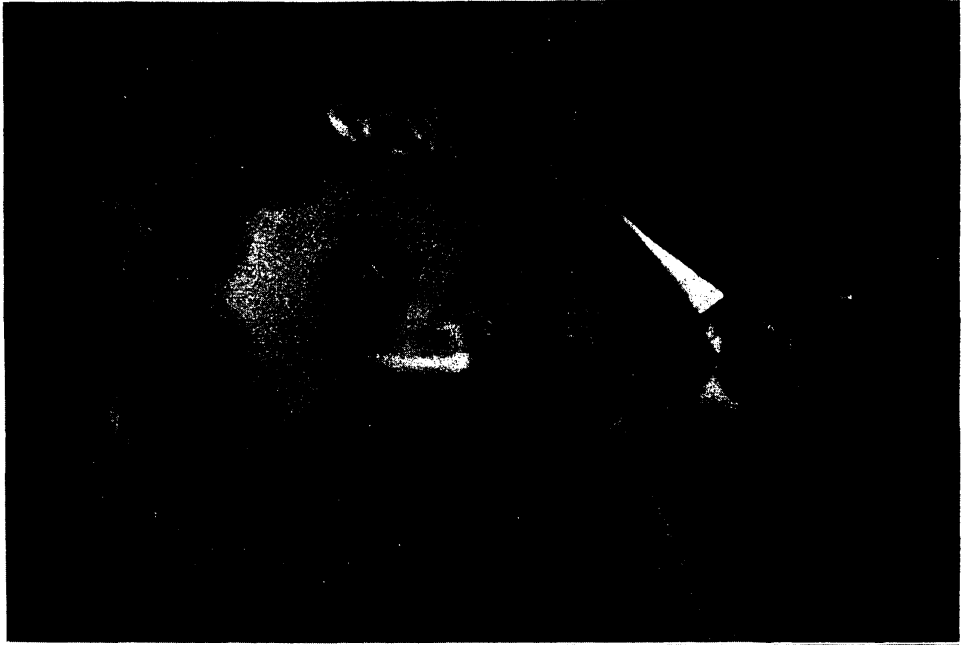
Theodore H. Larson, a prosperous general farmer of section 6, Houston township, was born in Yucatan township, Houston county, July 25, 1880, son of Herman and Anna (Skare) Larson, who were pioneer settlers here. There were eight children in his parents' family, of whom he was the second in order of birth. His education was acquired in the district school, while he learned agriculture and stock raising on his parents' farm, where he remained until 1910, or four years after his father's death. He then came to his present farm, where he has 175 acres of good land, with adequate buildings, and is carrying on general farming successfully. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery Co. and the Telephone Company. At the present time he is serving as school clerk, in politics being a Republican. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran

church. Mr. Larson was married Oct. 3, 1907, to Anna Hostvet, who was born in Houston township, this county, daughter of Anfin J. and Ingeborg (Laugen) Hostvet, and who was educated in Yucatan township. Her father, a native of Norway, and an early settler in Houston township, died on the family homestead on Oak Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are the parents of four children: Harley, Irvin, Ruth E. and Helen.

Tolef Jordshaugen, who has been identified actively or passively with agricultural enterprises in Yucatan township for the last half century, was born in Telemarken, Norway, in July, 1838, and was about thirty years old when he emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, and settled on a farm in Yucatan township. He was married in this county to Hegge Medby, and after some years' residence of the first farm they moved about three miles distant to the farm on which they have since resided. They have been the parents of five children. Tolef Jordshaugen died July 10, 1918, and was buried in the Lutheran Stone church cemetery, July 12, 1918, at the age of 80 years.

Theodore Jordshaugen, who is engaged in operating a profitable farm of 160 acres in section 25, Yucatan township, was born in this township, June 21, 1886, son of Tolef and Hegge (Medby) Jordshaugen. He was the fourth born of their five children, and was brought up on his parents' farm, attending school in District No. 20, Yucatan township. At the age of twenty years he rented his father's farm and operated it on his own account for ten years. He then bought the farm in section 25 on which he has since resided and which is a good piece of agricultural property, having a fertile soil and substantial buildings. Besides carrying on general farming successfully, Mr. Jordshaugen is a stockholder in the Houston Co-operative Elevator and the Twin Ridge Telephone Company. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics a Republican. On Nov. 6, 1915, Mr. Jordshaugen was united in marriage with Olena Gausted, who was born on an adjoining farm in this township, daughter of Ole and Betsy (Bratland) Gaustad. Both her parents were born in Norway, the father in Trondhjem and the mother in Telemarken. The former came to this country with his parents when a lad of 13 and grew up and attended school in Yucatan township. He is now the owner of one of the best farms on the ridge. He and his wife have had nine children, their daughter Olena being the third born.

Harvey Chapel, in early times a farmer of Money Creek township, and later a stock shipper and for over forty years a resident of Money Creek township, was born in Tioga county, New York, March 1, 1838. When nine years old he accompanied his parents to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he was reared to manhood. In 1854, at the age of 16, with a companion, he walked from his home in Dodge county to Money Creek township, Houston county, Minn., and two years later, in 1856, he came here and bought government land, remaining six weeks. In the following year he came again, returning home after the harvest. The fall of the next year, 1858, saw him united in marriage with Julia Wydhoff, who was born near Berlin, Germany, in 1841. In 1859 he brought his wife to his farm in Money Creek township, and they took up their residence in a log house which he erected, and in



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS CHAPEL

which they made their home for three years. Mr. Chapel then moved with his family to Wisconsin, and was enrolled in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, but before entering the service he was attacked by the measles which left his lungs in so weak a condition as to unfit him for army life, and he was accordingly discharged. After being away from Houston county for three years he returned and resumed his residence on his farm, where he remained until about 1870. He then took up his home in Money Creek village and there resided until 1903, in which year he moved to Houston village, where he continued to live until his death, March 2, 1912, aged 74 years and one day. At the time of his death he was the owner of 300 acres of land, in addition to town property. For a number of years during his active career he gave a portion of his time to public affairs, serving twelve years as constable, one term as a member of the board of county commissioners, and holding school office almost continuously. In early life he was a member of the Grange. Prior to the Civil War he became a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Houston, and he was one of those who organized the lodge of that order at Money Creek. His wife survived him three years, dying Feb. 20, 1915.

Thomas Chapel, a well known stock dealer and land owner of Houston, who for many years has been one of the prominent citizens of the county, was born near Beaver Dam, Dodge county, Wis., Dec. 24, 1863, son of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel. While he was still a babe he was brought by his parents to Money Creek township, Houston county, Minn., where they owned a farm, and there the early years of his boyhood were spent. In that vicinity he first attended school, his education being continued in Houston village, to which the family moved in 1870. The father being engaged chiefly in stock dealing, young Thomas picked up some knowledge of business, and at the age of 17 he bought a colt and began a modest business of his own. He resided at home until he was 21 years old, by which time he had accumulated some capital. He then went to work in a cement factory at La Crescent, where he was employed for about two and one-half years. It was ten months after he entered the employ of the cement company, or on Sept. 7, 1886, that he was united in marriage with Mary Ella Lockwood, a native of Ridgeway, Winona county, Minn., and daughter of James and Mary Jane (Lee) Lockwood. Leaving La Crescent in 1888, Mr. Chapel rented a farm in Money Creek township, near his old home, and for four years subsequently was engaged in its cultivation. He then rented a farm in Pine Creek township, Winona county, for two years. At the end of that time he gave up farming for awhile and moving to Houston engaged in business as a butcher, being thus occupied for about five years. Then trading the business for a farm in Pine Creek township, Winona county, he resumed the stock business, renting his farm. He is still thus engaged, having one farm, however, which he operates with hired help. Mr. Chapel now owns about one thousand acres of valuable farm land in Houston county, most of which is in Money Creek township. He is a stockholder in the Security State Bank of Houston, and in the Galoway Farm Implement plant at Waterloo, Iowa. In politics a Democrat, Mr. Chapel served for a number of years as justice of the peace at La Crescent, and was a member

of the village board of Houston for nine years. He belongs to the Blue Lodge of Masons and to the Modern Woodmen of America at Houston, and attends the Presbyterian church. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star Lodge. They are the parents of seven children: Gertrude Maude, wife of L. H. Briggs, cashier of the Security State Bank of Houston, who has one child, Lyle Ellsworth; Ella Pearl, wife of Wallace McMillan, bookkeeper in the Houston State Bank; Winnie May, wife of Orrin Onsgard, proprietor of a garage and dealer in Ford automobiles; Hazel Josephine, wife of Clarence Wahl, for several years bookkeeper in the J. R. Watkins Medical Company of Winona, and who has one child, Darrel Chapel; Thomas Ray, who is a farmer assisting his father; Vera Mabel, wife of Robin Foss, who is in the employ of the Standard Oil Company at Houston; and Ilah Belle, telegraph operator at Houston, and wife of Ernest L. Rowlee. James Lockwood, father of Mrs. Thomas Chapel, was born in New York State, and in 1853 came to Bangor, La Crosse county, Wis., where he engaged in farming. About two years later he removed to Winona county, where he also followed agriculture, residing on his farm there until he retired about 1907. His wife died Nov. 3, 1901, and he is now living with his children, with whom he finds a comfortable home. For a number of years during his active period he served as a constable. He and his wife had nine children, of whom Mary Ella, now Mrs. Chapel, was the fifth in order of birth. During her girlhood she attended school in Winona county.

Halvor H. Baker, for many years a prominent citizen of Rushford township, just over the line from Houston county, was born in Norway, Feb. 26, 1840, and came to America as a boy of fourteen in 1854. For a few months he lived at Muskeegan, Wisconsin, and then spent several months in Illinois. In 1860 he set out for Minnesota, coming overland with a yoke of oxen. He settled in Fillmore county and there spent the remainder of his days. The tract upon which he settled was at that time nearly all wild. He set to work with a will, and in time developed an excellent farm, consisting of 40 acres in Money Creek township, forty acres in Yucatan township, and 100 acres in Rushford township, the home being near the line but in Rushford township. With the passing of the years, he achieved a good measure of prosperity and occupied an excellent position in the neighborhood. For thirty years he did good work on the school board, he was road overseer for a number of terms, and in other ways did his share as a public spirited citizen. He was a liberal supporter of the Norwegian church and one of its trustees. His business interests included stock in the Rushford Creamery. After a useful life filled with worthy labor and successful endeavor he died July 29, 1911, leaving to his family the heritage of an excellent record. Since his death his widow conducts the place with the help of her son Henry and daughter Sarah. General farming is successfully conducted, a specialty being made of full blooded Swiss cattle. The home is known far and wide for its hospitality, and the family stands high throughout the county. Mr. Baker was married April 14, 1862, to Augusta Olsen, who died at the age of twenty-four. April 7, 1887, he was married at Winona to Alice Reese, who was born in Norway, June 16, 1859, came to America in 1882, lived for a while in Illinois and then came to Rushford.

This union was blessed with five children: Henry, who is on the home farm; Eli, of Wilmar, Minn.; Julia, now Mrs. Torger Lewis, of Oak Ridge, Houston county; Sarah, who is at home; and Carl, who works for Torger Lewis.

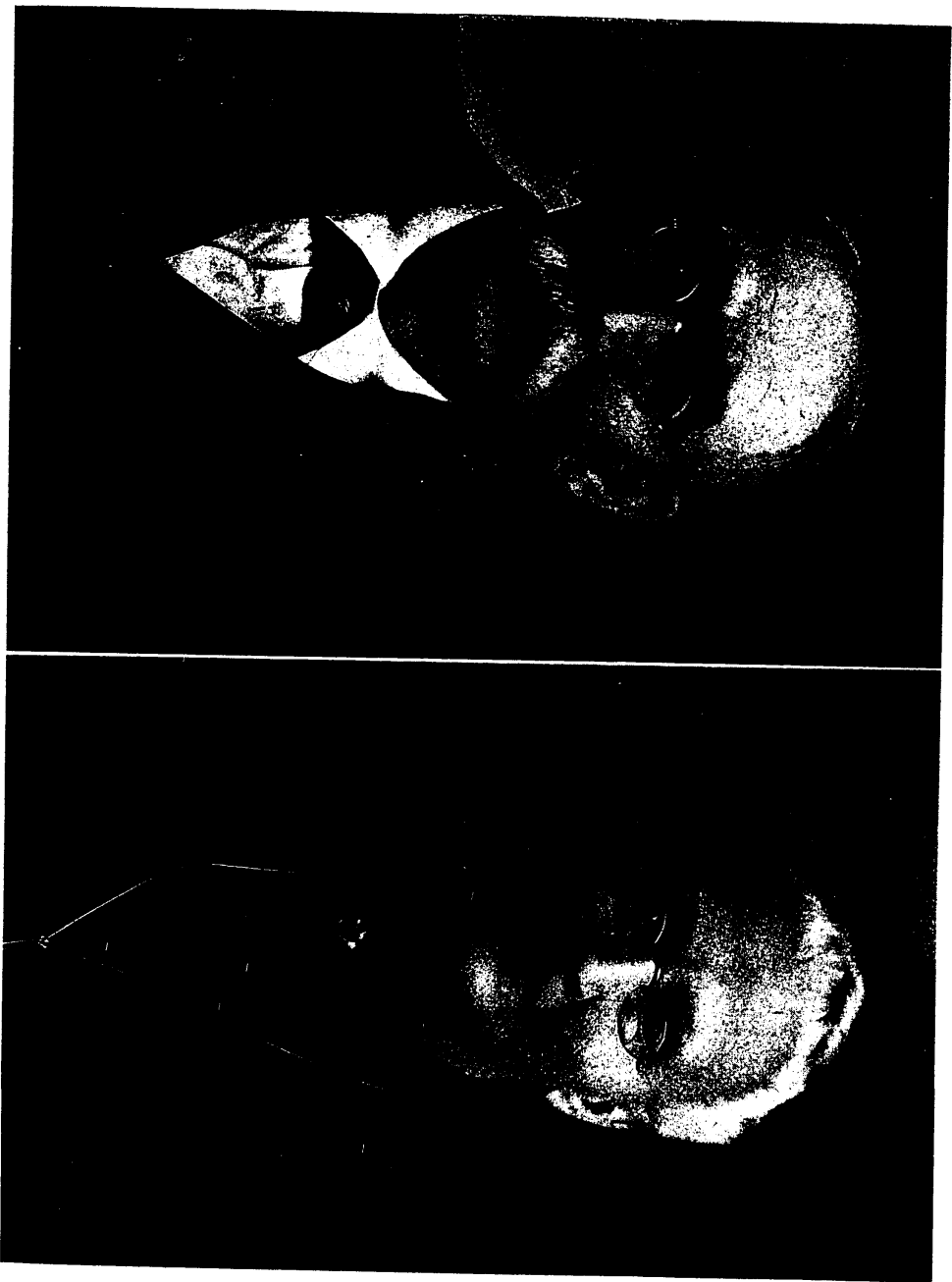
Gust Leander Dean, who took an active and effective part in the work of agricultural development in Houston township, where he died Dec. 5, 1905, was born in Halland, Sweden, June 4, 1857. His parents both died in Sweden, the father being a sea captain by occupation. Gust L. Dean was a young man when he emigrated to the United States, locating first at Preston, Minn., where he found employment. From there he came to Houston, where for about five years he worked in the mill. For awhile also he taught school in this county, but finally settled down to agricultural work, securing land in section 36 in the southeastern part of the township, which he developed into a farm of 200 acres. Here his death occurred, as already narrated. Mr. Dean was an energetic and enterprising man, a good practical farmer and an agreeable neighbor, and his passing away was regarded as a distinct loss to the community. He was the first stockholder of the co-operative creamery company and was always ready to take a helping hand in promoting local interests. He was a member of the Swedish Baptist church. Mr. Dean was married February 8, 1889, to Augusta Olivia Sackerson, who was born in Halland, Sweden, Oct. 24, 1861, daughter of Andreas Martin Sackerson and his wife, whose maiden name was Josephine Matilda Benson. The father was formerly a tailor, but is now living retired in Sweden, being 88 years old and his wife 79. Neither ever visited America. Their daughter, Augusta Olivia, was the second born in a family of seven children, and was educated in her native land, coming to this country in 1886, four years before her marriage. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dean: Olga Leoranga, born Dec. 7, 1891, and Leo Walter, born Oct. 22, 1894, both of whom were educated in Houston county and are residing at home with their mother, Leo operating the farm.

John H. Halvorson, proprietor of a feed mill in section 23, Yucatan township, who is also engaged successfully in tobacco culture, was born in this township, March 27, 1879, son of H. T. and Guneild J. (Gunderson) Halvorson. He was reared on his parents' farm in this township and in his boyhood attended the district school on Oak Ridge. For a number of years he was engaged in assisting his father, residing on the home farm until his marriage. He then rented a farm in Yucatan township, and later one on Houge Ridge, in Sheldon township, where he remained two years. At the end of that time he bought his present mill, known as the old Howe mill, together with 61 acres of land. The mill, which he has since conducted, has a capacity of 15 sacks of feed an hour, and is provided with an equipment for sawing lumber. To this he is about to add a planing-machine. His land he devotes to the cultivation of tobacco and is having good success with this crop. His brother Theodore is a partner in the business, John H. being the active manager of the mill. Mr. Halvorson is the present school clerk of District No. 1, in politics being a Republican. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston. Mr. Halvorson was married Nov. 24, 1904, to Mary Schiebsted, who was born in Houston, this

county, daughter of Sven and Solvo (Moen) Schiebsted. Her father, a native of Telemarken, Norway, settled at an early date in Houston, but now resides on Houge Ridge with his son. The mother of Mrs. Halvorson is now deceased. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson has been enlarged by the birth of five children, Cecelia Galena, Hazel Elvena, Gynther Melvin, Ernest Tenious and Melton John.

Aaron Vance, one of the earliest settlers in Money Creek township, was born in Gratton, Vt., Oct. 14, 1812. He grew up in his native state, where he learned the shoemaker's trade, and was married to Lucinda Tucker, who was born in Newbury, Vt., in 1818. In 1849 he moved with his family to South Ryegate in the same state, and resided there until Feb. 28, 1866, when he came to Houston county, Minnesota, arriving March 3, 1866, settling on a tract of wild land in Money Creek township. Two brothers and two sisters had preceded him here, but there were very few settlers in the township, and Money Creek village contained but one store and a grist mill. Mr. Vance spent 10 years in developing a farm, at the end of which time he moved to the village. Later he took up his residence in Winona, but the last four years of his life were spent with his son, William A., in Houston, his death occurring Jan. 4, 1905. During his active period he held various local and town offices. His wife died six years before him. They were the parents of eight children: George L., David E., W. A., Albert N., Nancy Jane, Nicholas W., Abbie and Aaron W. George L. and David E. are deceased; Nancy J. is now Mrs. D. C. Dyer, of Houston village; Abbie is now Mrs. Calvin Vance of Houston village.

William A. Vance, a respected citizen of Houston, connected with one of the principal mercantile establishments of the village, was born in Barnett, Vt., April 5, 1843, son of Aaron and Lucinda (Tucker) Vance, he being the third born of their eight children. As a young man, Dec. 25, 1866, he came to Houston county, whither his parents had preceded him, and he resided with them until reaching the age of 21. For ten years he lived on their farm in Money Creek township and then moved to Houston, where he worked six years for Mr. Dyer. At the end of that time he was appointed postmaster under President Harrison's administration and served in that office for four years. After that for two years he conducted a store in Sheldon township for Mr. Dyer. Then returning to Houston, he entered the employ of James P. Onstad, one of the leading merchants here, dealing in dry goods, groceries, hardware, shoes, and farm implements, and has been thus occupied for practically all of the time since. He owns a comfortable home in the village, where he and his wife are residing, spending the afternoon of life, surrounded by their children and acquaintances, having an adequate competence to maintain their declining years. A Republican in politics, Mr. Vance has for a number of years at various times taken an active part in local government affairs. He served some years as town assessor in Money Creek township, and also as a member of the school board. In Houston he has served as village trustee and also as president of the village council, and he has further rendered service as a member of the Republican County Central Committee, and as census taker in Houston and in Money Creek township. While a young man living in



MR. AND MRS. W. A. VANCE

Vermont he joined the Presbyterian church, but joined the Baptist church after coming to Money Creek township, this county. Mr. Vance was first married to Mary Gray, a native of St. John's, New Brunswick, who, however, died eleven months after her marriage. Two years later, Jan. 12, 1875, Mr. Vance married Abigail Simms, daughter of Robert and Jane (Hall) Simms. He and his wife have three children, Hattie Belle, Ethel May and Minnie Gray. Hattie Belle is the wife of Charles Metcalf, of Caledonia, the present clerk of court for Houston county, and they have one son, Charles Vance. Ethel May is the wife of Abraham Abrahamson, who is clerk in a mercantile establishment in Lanesboro, Minn. She has two children, Marian, a teacher, and Aldons, who is clerk in the James P. Onstad store in Houston. Minnie Gray is the wife of Elmer O. Abrahamson, who is employed in the same store. Mr. Vance is a member of the Masonic lodge in Houston and has passed through the chairs. Both he and his wife belong to the Eastern Star lodge, in which Mr. Vance has been Worthy Patron and Mrs. Vance Star Esther. They are people of means and of high standing in the community. Though often persuaded by his children to retire, Mr. Vance has hitherto preferred to lead an active life, of which he is still capable, in spite of his advanced years.

Ove T. Rakstad, who is successfully engaged in general and stock farming in section 29, Yucatan township, was born in Nonstadt, Norway, June 22, 1867, son of Olavat and Marn (Bjarkanas) Rakstad, who were natives of the same place. Both the parents died in Norway. Ove T., who was the second born of their four children, attended school in his native land, where he remained until he was 15 years old. He then came to the United States, locating in Lac qui Parle county, Minn., where he found employment working for others for about four years. When he arrived in this country he could speak no English but subsequently he picked up a knowledge of the language. At the age of 19 he came to Houston county, where in January, 1892, he was united in marriage with Susan Jacobson, a daughter of Ole and Bertha Jacobson, and who was born on her parents' farm in this township. The parents, who were natives of Norway and pioneers in this vicinity, are both now deceased. Renting his father-in-law's farm, Mr. Rakstad operated it for four years, after which he bought his present farm of 217 acres of valuable land, on which he has since resided, carrying on general farming and stock raising with profitable results. He has made all the improvements now on the farm, including a new barn recently erected, 60 by 36 feet in ground dimensions. Through hard work and attention to business he has made steady progress until he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of his township, and is a man respected both for his achievements and for his personal character. He is a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery and the Rushford Elevator. His fraternal affiliations are with the Yeomen lodge at Rushford. Mr. and Mrs. Rakstad are the parents of three children, all sons: Ole, who has an excellent record in the United States military service, and Bennie and Selmar, who are residing on the home farm.

Mathias Gustavson, who is following general agriculture successfully on a farm of 150 acres in section 8, Yucatan township, was born in Tele-

marken, Norway, in 1853, son of Gust and Anlog (Moe) Gustavson. The father, who was a Swedish Finn, was bookkeeper for a firm operating the richest copper mine in Norway, while the mother was born in Satersdahl, Norway. Both are now deceased. Mathias, who was the second born in a family of four children, attended school in Satersdahl. His industrial life began at the early age of eight years and he worked out for others until he came to the United States in 1885, locating immediately in Houston county, Minnesota. Here also he worked out for awhile but finally bought his present farm, a good piece of agricultural property both as to the land and buildings, and where he is raising both crops and stock on a profitable basis, devoting his whole time to the business. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Oak Ridge. Mr. Gustavson was married in November, 1885, to Christina Olson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Ole Olson and wife. Both her parents died in their native land, and Mrs. Gustavson, herself, passed away Nov. 5, 1898. She left three children: Andrew and Ole, who are residing with their father; and Anna Berdina, who is the wife of Bennie Benson, a farmer residing at Leroy, Minn.

Herman Larson, the founder of one of the best farms in Yucatan township, whose life's labors came to an end some twelve years ago, was born in Nonstadt, Norway, July 15, 1853, son of Nels and Mary Larson. He was a lad of eight years when he accompanied his parents to Fillmore county, Minn., whence the family after awhile moved to Houston county. Here the father died, and the mother subsequently married again and finally died in Eau Claire. Young Herman acquired his education in the district schools and was brought up on the home farm, which he began to operate on his own account at the age of 25 years. After carrying on the enterprise for two years, he rented another farm, which he operated for about the same length of time. He then settled on a farm in Section 11, Yucatan township, which had some small improvements, but which he subsequently developed into a fine farm of 280 acres, with substantial buildings, residing thereon until his death on Aug. 3, 1906. His success was made as a general farmer, and by his industry, enterprise and high qualities as a man he had won high regard among his fellow townsmen. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and at time held various local offices, serving on the school board and as chairman of the town board. In politics he was Republican. Mr. Larson was married in March, 1876, to Anna Thompson, who was born near Stoughton, Wis., Oct. 6, 1857, daughter of Tollef and Helen (Skahre) Thompson. Her parents were both natives of Telemarken, Norway, who settled first in Wisconsin and later in Yucatan township, Houston county, Minn., where they engaged in farming until their death. Mrs. Larson has continued to reside on the farm established by her husband and has increased its size to 440 acres, the actual work being attended to by her sons. Of her marriage with Mr. Larson eight children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The survivors are: Nicholas, a farmer living at Brail, near Rice Lake, Wis.; Theodore, a resident of Yucatan township; Tena, wife of Ole Lee, of this township; Bertha, wife of Melvin Laumb, a farmer of Fillmore county; and Henry, Arthur and Inga, who are residing at home. Mrs. Larson is an active member of Ladies' Aid Society and takes an interest

in every movement calculated to benefit the community in which she lives.

David Murray, one of the pioneer settlers in Houston county, now deceased, was born in Amsterdam, N. Y., in March, 1841. His chief occupation through life was that of farming, but when he first settled in Houston county he drove the stage for awhile between Prairie du Chien and Winona. On giving up that occupation he settled at Ridgeway, Winona county, but later moved to Pleasant Hill township, Winona county, where he engaged in farming. On his retirement after a career of many years in agricultural activities, he took up his residence at Ridgeway Corners, where he died a year later. He was a Civil War veteran, having served 18 months as private in a Minnesota regiment. Mr. Murray married Jane Lemon, who was born in Ireland in 1844, and who is now living in Winona. They were the parents of four children: Jenette, Lester, Royal, and Etta.

Lester A. Murray, a well known and prosperous farmer of Money Creek township, residing in section 20, was born at Pleasant Hill, Winona county, Minn., Feb. 16, 1880, son of David and Jane (Lemon) Murray. He was the third born in a family of four children, and in his boyhood attended school at Ridgeway, Winona county. At the age of 16, being then a resident of Pleasant Hill township, that county, to which location his parents had moved, he began working out, but resided at home during the winters until the age of 19. After his marriage in 1902 he worked for two years in a lumber yard in Winona, at the end of that time moving to the farm on which he is now residing, and which he is operating as a general dairy and stock farm. He has 160 acres of valuable land, with good buildings and fences, and his place presents evidence of careful and successful management. Among his other business interests are those of a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery, the Houston Elevator, and the Paradise Telephone Company, of which last mentioned institution he is now serving as treasurer. He is a member of the Masonic order, being past secretary and present Steward of his lodge; also of the Eastern Star. In politics he is an independent Republican. Mr. Murray married Mabel Chapel, who was born in Money Creek, daughter of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel. Mrs. Mabel Murray died in December, 1916, leaving three children: Harvey A., born June 18, 1902; Harry David, born April 15, 1909; and Mertie Belle, born Sept. 25, 1910, all of whom are residing home with their father.

Jokkum Larson, in former years a well known farmer and respected citizen of Money Creek township, was born in Christiania, Norway, Jan. 1, 1830. He grew to manhood in his native land and there married Anna Jenson, by whom he had twelve children. In or about the year 1869 his wife died, after which event he sought a new home in the United States, arriving in Chicago not long after the great fire of 1871, which destroyed a large portion of the city. There he remained for a number of years, being connected with the builder's trade, which was then flourishing and continued to be good until the city was reconstructed. Subsequently Mr. Larson went to Stevens Point, Wis., where he was engaged for a short time in railroad work. At the end of that period he came to Houston county, Minnesota, securing land in section 17, Money Creek township, which had

some improvements on it. To these he added and as time went on developed a good farm, on which he died in December, 1905. When a young man he had served in the Norwegian army, and possessed a good physique, which enabled him to do the hard work incidental to the building up of his farm.

Hans J. Larson, proprietor of the old Larson homestead in section 17, Money Creek township, where he is carrying on a prosperous farming and stock raising business, was born in Christiania, Norway, March 22, 1865, son of Jokkum and Anna (Jenson) Larson. The eleventh born in a family of twelve children, he was brought to this country by his father, then a widower, in the early seventies, accompanying him to Chicago, later to Stevens Point, and finally to Money Creek township, Houston county, Minn. Here he attended the school in district No. 96, and remained with his father until twelve years old, at which time he began working out for others. Later, when about 17, he went to the pine woods and worked as a lumberman, bringing home his money to help the family. For a few years before his marriage in 1903 he rented the home farm and after that event took up his permanent residence on it, subsequently, on his father's death, becoming its proprietor. Since then he has made all the important improvements now standing and in use, and has 280 acres of fertile land. He is engaged in general stock raising, making a specialty of Durham cattle and Poland-China swine, and is a stockholder and director in the Rushford Creamery. He has served on the local school board, in politics being an independent Republican, and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Rushford, and of the Modern Woodmen of America at that place. Mr. Larson began domestic life when, on Jan. 22, 1903, he was united in marriage with Ida Omodt, who was born at Money Creek Station, this township, daughter of Louis and Julia (Hanson) Omodt. Both her parents were natives of Norway, the father of Stavenger and the mother of Telemarken. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have four children: Ralph Harold, Vernon Omodt, Irvin Harley and Harley Irvin.

Gust Nelson, a general farmer whose residence lies in the village of Money Creek, together with a part of his land, was born near Varmland, Sweden, Sept. 30, 1866, son of Nels Johnson and his wife Carrie Nelson, both of whom were natives of the same locality. After emigrating to near Christiania, Norway, where Nels Johnson was for awhile engaged in farming, he and his family, in June, 1885, came to Houston county, Minnesota, locating on a farm in Looney Valley, Houston township, where he resided until his death in 1903. His wife, who survives him, is now residing with her son Gust, who was the second born of their three children. The latter, who was about 19 years old when he came to America, acquired his school education in Norway, but could not speak English when he arrived in this country. Until 25 years old he assisted his father on the parental farm, and then bought a farm of his own in Storer Valley, which he operated for three or four years. Then he purchased land in Looney Valley which he and his brother worked together, a few years later dividing it. He continued his residence in that valley until the summer of 1917, when he sold his property there and bought his present farm, having 46 acres in connec-



MR. AND MRS. OLIVER OLSON

tion with his house in the village and 26 acres farther west, all of which he is operating as a general farmer. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery. Mr. Nelson has made good progress in carving out his fortune and is now in prosperous circumstances. In politics he is a Republican. He was married April 11, 1911, to Julia Henderson, who was born in Storer Valley, Houston township, Sept. 10, 1875, daughter of Jule and Guri (Hegge) Henderson, who were early settlers in that locality, coming directly from Norway. Both parents are now deceased. Their daughter Julia (Mrs. Nelson) was the third born of their four children, and acquired her education in Houston county. As a farmer's daughter she is well adapted for a farmer's wife and presides over the household with an efficiency founded upon practical experience. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

Oliver Olson, who is now living practically retired on a farm in section 8, Money Creek township, was born near Money Creek, Houston county, Nov. 16, 1855. The greater part of his life has been spent in agricultural pursuits, though when a young man he worked for awhile at the carpenter's trade. After buying land in Houston township, he remained on his farm there until the spring of 1916, when he took up his residence on the farm where he is now living, which is owned and operated by his sons, Henry O. and Helmer B., and is a fine estate of 440 acres. Mr. Olson married Belle Larson, who was born in Norway, April 22, 1866, and who was brought to this country when five years old. They have been the parents of eleven children: Henry O., Anna now Mrs. Oscar Soom, Ida, Helmer, Lester, Helen, Ellen, Eva, Melvin, Martha and Martin. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

Henry O. Olson, who with his brother, Helmer B. Olson, owns and operates a fine farm of 440 acres in section 8, Money Creek township, where they are raising a fine grade of stock, was born in Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., Dec. 16, 1884, son of Oliver and Belle (Larson) Olson. He was the eldest of his parents' eleven children and was educated in district schools in Houston township, also spending two winters in a Bible school in Chicago. From the age of 16 until that of 26 he worked out for others, but since 1911 has resided with his parents, and for some time operated the farm for them. He and his brother are now partners in the business and are successfully breeding Roan Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. The farm is fully equipped with modern appliances and is well improved as to buildings, the two brothers exercising careful management over every detail. Henry O. Olson is also a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. In politics he is a Republican with independent proclivities.

Abram Nelson, now living practically retired in section 12, Money Creek township, after an active career as a general farmer, was born in Norway, Feb. 2, 1837, son of Andrew and Josephine Nelson. The parents came to America in the year 1844, locating on Koshonong Prairie, Dane county, Wis., where they resided about two years. They then removed to Baraboo, Wis., where soon after the father died, his wife passing away about a year later. Abram was the youngest in a family of five children.

He attended school for a limited period in Baraboo, Wis., and North Freedom, Wis. At the age of eleven years he went to reside with a family with which he remained for a year, and after that he became self-supporting. In 1854 he came to Minnesota and took a land claim, but for several years he was employed in operating a breaking team and a threshing outfit. In 1857 he bought 160 acres of land in Wiscoy township, in the location known as Vinegar Hill—a tract that he sold a number of years ago. He has now 175 acres in Wiscoy township, Winona county, having retained but seven acres of land where he now lives, which he is cultivating as a garden. He is a member of the G. A. R., having served in the Civil War as a private in Co. A, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. In politics he is a Republican with Prohibition proclivities, and has served as justice of the peace and a member of the school board. Mr. Nelson was first married in 1860 to Aldeline Amelia Clark, who was born in New York State. Of that union two children were born, of whom the only one now living is Dora, wife of E. J. Kingsley of Money Creek township, Houston county. In 1890 Mr. Nelson married Mrs. Brenerman, a widow residing in Sheldon township, of which union there were no children. Mr. Nelson subsequently married for his third wife Mrs. Anna Campbell of Money Creek. She died in 1911, leaving no children. In 1912 Mr. Nelson married Mrs. Catherine R. Griffin, a resident of the vicinity of Rushford. She is the mother of two sons, Alfred, of La Crescent; and Samuel J., of Arizona.

Hugh O'Donnell, who aided in the development of Money Creek township by the establishment of a farm in section 17, was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, and was a young boy when he came to this country with his parents. Later he separated from the rest of the family in Albany, N. Y., and coming west, reached Winona, Minn., before there was any railroad built to that place. Soon after, however, he became engaged in railroad work and was thus occupied until about 1873, when he came to Money Creek township and bought the land in section 17 which he subsequently developed into the farm above mentioned. It was practically all wild land when he took it, but he had brought lumber with him, with which he built a small frame house, which was one of the first in this vicinity. To his original tract, which contained 40 acres, he subsequently added 100 more, and continued his improvements and the cultivation of his farm until his death about 1910. Mr. O'Donnell married Margaret Hennessy, who, like himself, was born in Tipperary, Ireland. She died before him—about the year 1901. They were the parents of six children.

John O'Donnell, a well to do general farmer operating 608 acres in Money Creek township, his residence lying in section 17, was born in Winona, Minn., Nov. 8, 1862, son of Hugh and Margaret (Hennessy) O'Donnell. He was the eldest of his parents' six children. His early education was obtained in Winona and he subsequently attended school for awhile in this township. Until he was 21 years old he acted as his father's assistant on the home farm, and after that worked out until his marriage. He then settled on a 40-acre farm close to his present location, operating it for two years, after which for five years he rented an adjoining farm. Then he went back to the 40-acre place, residing on it for a few years, and

from there moving to the Layne farm, which he operated for eight years. From there he came to his present place which now contains 608 acres, which in part is the old homestead of his parents, and which he is operating as a general farmer, though paying particular attention to the raising of Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs. He has made good progress on the road to fortune, being a hard worker and a thoroughly practical man in his line of industry, and is a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery and Elevator. In politics a Democrat, he served a few years on the local school board. In religion he is a Catholic and attends the church at Rushford, which place is about four miles west of his farm. Fraternally he belongs to the order of Yeomen. Mr. O'Donnell was married April 21, 1888, to Susan Layne, daughter of John and Johanna (Shortall) Layne, her parents being early settlers in section 11, Money Creek township, and for a number of years prominent farming people here. Both are now deceased, Mr. Layne dying about 1891 and his wife about eight years previously. Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell are the parents of nine children: Hannah, wife of Delbert Ives of Money Creek township; John, residing at home; Edward, who is farming in Canada; and Mary, Joseph, Kathrine, Gertrude, George and Lawrence, who are residing at home with their parents.

Albert John Ronnenberg, now living practically retired in Rushford, but who for a number of years was extensively engaged in agriculture improvements on a large farm in Money Creek township, Houston county, was born in Hart township, Winona county, Minn., Dec. 6, 1860. He was brought up on his parents' farm, the management of which finally came into his hands, and he remained on it until his marriage at the age of 26 years. Then coming to Houston county, he took land in section 4, Money Creek township, and began the development of a farm, which in time attained the dimensions of 586 acres. On this large tract of land he made valuable improvements, converting it into an excellent modern farm, now known as Sunny Slope Stock Farm. Here for a number of years he made a specialty of breeding Red Pole cattle and Poland-China hogs, also being one of the stockholders in the Rushford creamery. In March, 1914, he took up his residence in Rushford, though he still gives his attention to his estate, a part of which is now operated by his son Arthur W. One of the leading citizens of his township, he served for some 18 years as a town official, being also a member of the school board of his district. Until 1917 he also served on the creamery board, but resigned in that year. Mr. Ronnenberg married Minnie Gielow, who was born in Holstein, Germany, March 19, 1869. They have three children: Albert H., who is operating an adjoining farm; Hubert F., who is now in the United States military service; and Arthur William, who is operating 260 acres of his father's farm.

Arthur William Ronnenberg, an enterprising young farmer of Money Creek township, who is engaged in operating 260 acres in section 4, was born in this township, Jan. 27, 1895, son of Albert John and Minnie (Gielow) Ronnenberg. He was a boy of eleven years when he accompanied his parents to Money Creek township, this county, and for awhile he attended school here, later being a pupil for two years in the Rushford high school. Up to the age of 21 years he was engaged in assisting his father, subse-

quently farming a part of his father's land on his own account, during which time he kept bachelor's house for a year. On his marriage he moved to his present location on the parental homestead, where he is engaged largely in breeding Red Pole cattle and Poland-China swine, following the same general lines pursued by his father. He is meeting with good success and is already numbered among the prosperous citizens of the township. He is affiliated fraternally with the Masonic lodge at Money Creek. On Sept. 6, 1916, Mr. Ronnenberg was married to Genevieve Rank, daughter of Charles A. and Anna M. (Chapel) Rank, prominent farming people of Money Creek township. He and his wife have one child, Caryl Arthur, who was born Sept. 26, 1917.

Joseph Addleman, an early settler in Looney Valley, Houston township, where in his day he was a prominent citizen, was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1800. When young he accompanied his parents to Indiana, then almost a frontier state, they locating in Wayne county. There or in that vicinity he remained until 1860, when he resolved to seek his fortune in the Northwest and accordingly came to Houston county, Minnesota. He had married Harriet Clark, a native of North Carolina, who accompanied him, with their children, and they settled in Looney Valley, where he took land and engaged in farming. The country was then very wild and they had pioneer hardships to undergo, which bore the more heavily upon them as Mr. Addleman was then already advanced in years. In 1870 he died and his wife then moved to Houston village, where she resided for many years, passing away in 1896. They were the parents of nine children: Sarah, Rebecca, William H., Margaret, Mahala, Mary, Louisa, Josephine, who died in infancy, and Benjamin K. During his active career in the township Mr. Addleman served a number of times in local office.

Benjamin K. Addleman, a general farmer operating 83 acres of land in section 12, Money Creek township, where he is doing a thriving business, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, Sept. 13, 1855, son of Joseph and Harriet (Clark) Addleman. He was one of the younger members of his parents' family and was about five years old when he came to Houston county. His education was acquired in the district school in Houston township. He was about 16 years old when his father died and he then took the management of the home farm, assisting his mother for four years, at the end of which time his mother rented out the farm and he began working for others. Later he learned the cooper's trade, and worked at it for the Houston flour mill. In 1879 he went to California, and while on the Pacific coast he made the trip overland to Walla Walla, Washington. In 1881 he returned home and worked out until 1908, when he bought his present farm, on which he is raising both grain and stock with profitable results. At the time of his marriage and for about two years he was deputy sheriff and turnkey at Caledonia. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Addleman assumed the responsibilities of domestic life Feb. 18, 1906, his bride being Cora Elfleda Wilsey, who was born in New York State Feb. 18, 1860, daughter of Charles and Harriet (Comstock) Wilsey. Her parents were both natives of New York State, the father born in 1825 and the mother in 1830. They came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1861, locating



MR. AND MRS. B. K. ADDLEMANN



on a farm in Yucatan township, on which they passed the rest of their lives, Mr. Wilsey being postmaster at Yucatan for some 16 years.

Michael Ryan, who was for a number of years a highly esteemed citizen of Money Creek township, where he established a good farm, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, Nov. 22, 1837, son of John and Katherine (Hennesy) Ryan. The parents were lifelong residents of their native land, but never lived to rear their son Michael, who was left an orphan at the age of 14 months. Brought up by others, who had less than a parent's interest in him, he obtained but little schooling, the lack of which, however, he later made up by a good natural intelligence and quickness of perception. As he grew older he began to have an ambition to succeed in life, and as a young man took the first step in that direction when he emigrated to the United States, locating on Staten Island, New York, where he found employment for a year. At the end of that time he came west to Winona, Minn., and for several years worked out in that vicinity. From there he came to Houston county, and began improving a farm in Money Creek township, continuing his improvements for two years, or until his marriage. He then took a wild tract in section 16, Money Creek township, and began the development of a farm here. Starting with 40 acres, and with his first dwelling a log house, he toiled steadily, making gradual progress until he owned 120 acres and was provided with a good set of buildings. On this estate he died, Feb. 10, 1903, his wife coming into possession of the property. Mr. Ryan was a man of domestic tastes, devoted to his family, and unambitious of public distinction. A Democrat in politics, he contented himself with casting his vote, but all his life he was a faithful member of the Roman Catholic church. He was married Nov. 7, 1870, to Johanna Barlow, who was born in County Limerick, Ireland, the eldest of eleven children of Patrick and Johanna (Donahue) Barlow. To Mr. and Mrs. Ryan ten children were born: Kathrine, Johanna, John, Patrick, George, Mary, Michael, Clara, Anna Stacia, and Helen. Kathrine, now deceased, was the wife of Dennis Tracy. Johanna, who married John Tracy, is now a widow, and resides with her mother. She has three children, Gerald, Helen and Frances. John and Michael are also residing on the home farm with their mother. Patrick and George are farmers in Canada and are both married. Mary, now deceased, was the wife of John Maloney, who is a resident of Canada. Anna Stacia is the wife of John Burke, a farmer in Money Creek township. Helen married James McManimon and resides in Yucatan township. Clara died at the age of nine years. Since her husband's death Mrs. Ryan, with the aid of her sons, John and Michael, has continued to operate the farm, and has increased its area by the purchase of 80 additional acres of good land, thus possessing a farm of 200 acres. She has also erected a new residence and made other improvements, evincing capable management and resourcefulness. Patrick Barlow, father of Mrs. Ryan, was a native of Ireland, as was also his wife, Johanna Donahue. They came to the United States in 1853, settling first in New York State, where Mr. Barlow was engaged in railroad work. In 1864 he came west and, with his family, took up his residence in Winona, Minn., where until his death about 1888, he was employed in the shops of the Northwestern Railroad Company. His

wife died in Winona in April, 1905. They were industrious and worthy people, an asset to the community in which they made their home.

Gale C. Rank, proprietor of a general stock and dairy farm of 195 acres in section 5, Money Creek township, was born in Houston township, near the village of Houston, this county, July 28, 1893, son of Charles A. and Anna M. (Chapel) Rank. He acquired his elementary education in District School No. 6, Money Creek township, afterwards attended the Houston high school for three years, and then took a two years' course at a business college in La Crosse. Until the age of 21 years he resided with his parents on their farm in section 8, Money Creek township, and his time was chiefly devoted to agricultural work. Then in the fall of 1914 he opened a garage in Houston, which he operated for a year. Having then had enough of the garage business, he sold out and bought his present farm, which he is operating with good financial results. He is a member of the M. E. church and the Yeomen's lodge at Money Creek, and in politics is a Republican. On March 10, 1915, Mr. Rank was united in marriage with Marie Wells, who was born in Dodge Center, Minn., daughter of Floyd and Minnie (Babcock) Wells. Her parents, natives of New York State, were early settlers at Dodge Center. The father is now a traveling salesman with the Avery Tractor Company, of New York State. The mother died when her daughter Marie was a mere child. There were but two children in the family, and Marie was educated at Dodge Center, her native place. Mr. and Mrs. Rank are the parents of two children, Rolland Charles and Ruth Marie. The family is one of high social standing in this part of Houston county.

Herman Ferdinand Unmasch, who owns and operates a farm of 114 acres in section 8, Money Creek township, of which township he is one of the progressive and thriving citizens, was born at New Hartford, Winona county, Minn., April 23, 1882, son of Fred and Henrietta (Bargard) Unmasch. The parents were natives of Pommern, Germany, the father born in 1845 and the mother in 1849. Married in their native land, they emigrated directly to Winona county, Minnesota, where they bought land and engaged in farming. There they are still residing, Fred Unmasch being one of the most prominent men of his locality and active in all matters pertaining to local government. Herman F. Unmasch, the direct subject of this sketch, was the seventh born in a family of eleven children. He attended school at New Hartford, and resided at home until arriving at the age of 18 years, after which he worked out until his marriage in 1908. For a year after that event he assisted his wife's father and then bought his present farm, which he is operating as a grain and stock farm to good advantage. He is also a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. He attends the M. E. church at Money Creek and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Unmasch was married May 6, 1908, to Mae Orr, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of David and Hattie (McGappy) Orr. Their family circle has been enlarged by the birth of four children, Myron David, Merton Lynn, Hattie Mae, and Donald Herman.

John Carlson, who is now residing on a small tract of five and a half acres of land adjoining the village of Money Creek, after some years of more extensive farm work in the township, was born in Sweden, Sept. 22, 1852,



JOHN CARLSON AND FAMILY

son of Carl and Anna Carlson. The parents passed their lives in Sweden, where both died, neither having visited this country. John Carlson, who was educated in his native land, resided there until nearly 36 years old, and was there married, on June 30, 1878, to Severina Christina Johnson, daughter of John and Gustava Caroline (Johnson) Johnson. In July, 1888, he came directly to Houston County, Minnesota, locating in Money Creek township, where he secured employment as a farm hand. He had left his wife and family in Sweden, but was joined by them in September of the following year. Some years later he bought a farm two miles east of the village of Money Creek, which he cultivated for some six or seven years, at the end of which time he sold it and moved to his present farm, which he is operating as a means of passing the time and to avoid being idle. He is in prosperous circumstances and is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran church, and in political matters is independent. He and his wife have had four children: Amanda, wife of Soren Sorenson, of Houston; John Algert (first), who died young; John Algert (second), who is residing on his parents' home farm; and Eda Gustava, who lives with her parents.

Fletcher A. Bidwell, one of the pioneers of Houston county, whose life was spent for the most part in Yucatan township, was born in Wisconsin about the middle of the fifth decade of the last century. He was brought up to farming and came to Houston county at an early age, securing land in Yucatan township, where he developed a farm. His death occurred in 1910. He married Sarah Francis Farley, who was born in Massachusetts in 1859, and by whom he had two children: Elmer E., who is now a farmer in section 11, Money Creek township; and Francis Roy, who is farming in the state of Iowa.

Elmer E. Bidwell, a prosperous farmer of Money Creek township, having a good farm of 180 acres in section 11, was born in Yucatan township, Houston county, March 9, 1877, son of Fletcher A. and Sarah Frances (Farley) Bidwell. He was educated in the district schools of his native township and on his parents' farm acquired a good practical knowledge of agriculture in its various branches. At the age of twelve years he began working out and supporting himself, and he continued to work for others until his marriage. For ten years after that event he operated rented farms in Houston county, and at the end of that time bought his present farm of 180 acres of valuable land, where he is engaged in breeding Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, besides raising the usual crops. His operations have resulted successfully and he is now numbered among the well to do and progressive farmers of his township. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery, the Rushford Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company. For the past nine years he has served as treasurer of school district No. 89, and in politics is an independent Republican. Religiously, he is a member of the Roman Catholic church. On Dec. 28, 1898, Mr. Bidwell was united in marriage with Johanna Martha Maloney, who was born in Yucatan township, daughter of Dennis and Kathrine (Nester) Maloney, she being the second born in a family of 13 children. She was educated in the public schools of Houston county and in a Sisters' school at Chippewa

Falls, Wis. After a happy married life of over 17 years she passed to the other world on May 8, 1916. She was the mother of seven children; Everett Vincent, Sylvester Eugene, Stella Madonna, Rose Elmira, Arthur Joseph, Elmer James and Robert Francis, all of whom are residing at home with their father. Dennis Maloney, father of Mrs. Elmer E. Bidwell, was born near Montreal, Canada, and his wife, Kathrine, in Detroit, Mich. They were early settlers in Yucatan township where they resided for over forty years, Mr. Maloney being one of the pioneer homesteaders of the township. Besides being an energetic farmer, he assisted in the construction of the railroad here. About 1910 he and his wife moved to Saskatchewan, Canada, where they took a farm, on which Mrs. Kathrine Maloney died in 1916. While living in Yucatan township, Houston county, Mr. Maloney served on the town board, as a member of the school board, and in other local offices.

Charles Chapel, one of the leading stock farmers of Money Creek township, where he is operating 265 acres of land, was born on the farm on which he is now living, Oct. 4, 1884, son of William H. and Mary C. (Layne) Chapel. He attended school in Money Creek township and resided at home until reaching the age of 20 years. He then entered a store in Houston as clerk and assistant, and in that and other occupations he was engaged for about two and a half years. He then began farming on his own account in Money Creek township, remaining two years on his first farm, and for the next five years operating the farm of his father-in-law, Kenneth McLeod. He then came to his parents' old homestead in Section 12, where he is now residing, having 185 acres in the homestead farm and 80 acres adjoining it, all of which he is operating as a general stock and dairy farm. The property is well improved, the buildings and equipment being thoroughly modern, and Mr. Chapel is conducting a profitable business, being also a stockholder in the Money Creek creamery. His political principles are those of the Democratic party.

Mr. Chapel was married, May 30, 1911, to Mabel McLeod, who was born in Money Creek township, near the Fillmore county line, daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth (Brunner) McLeod. He and his wife have one child, Kenneth Allan. Kenneth McLeod, the father of Mrs. Chapel, was born in Nova Scotia, of Scotch ancestry and settled in Houston county, Minnesota, at an early date. He has devoted his active career to farming and owns and has developed 280 acres of land in this county, also being the owner of land in Canada. He and his wife are now living in Rushford, retired. He is a stockholder in the Rushford creamery and elevator, and in other local enterprises, being one of the leading citizens of the community. He and his wife have had eight children.

James Chapel, a well known representative of the agricultural interests of Money Creek township, proprietor of a farm of 120 acres in section 20, was born in the village of Money Creek, Jan. 1, 1878, son of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel. Until his marriage he resided with his parents and then rented and operated the home farm for four years, making a specialty of full blooded shorthorn stock. After that he was engaged in farming in Harden county, South Dakota, for two years. Then, return-



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ing to Houston county, he resided for two years in the village of Money Creek, operating the old home farm for a while, and then, in the fall of 1917, purchased his present farm of 120 acres in section 20, where he is profitably raising grain and stock for the market and doing considerable dairying. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek creamery.

Mr. Chapel was married in 1905 to Lylia Jergenson, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, daughter of John and Emma (Heghlen) Jergenson, the former a native of Denmark and a pioneer of Wiscoy township, Winona county, and the latter a native of Norway. After long and useful effort they are now retired and reside in Money Creek, Houston county. Their daughter Lylia was the elder of their two children. Mr. and Mrs. Chapel have two children, Lula and Maurice. In politics Mr. Chapel is a Democrat with independent proclivities. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Chapel is a communicant.

John Fitting, one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Money Creek township, residing in section 18, was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, March 3, 1866, son of Peter and Margaret (Frey) Fitting. Of his parents' nine children he was the second in order of birth. His education was acquired in District No. 94, Mound Prairie township, and until the age of 24 years he was engaged in assisting his father on the home farm. He then bought land and farmed for himself in Mound Prairie township until 1902, at which time he sold out there and bought his present farm, having an area of 300 acres. The land is highly valuable and Mr. Fitting's improvements have made of it a model farm, with fine buildings and complete equipment. He is giving particular attention to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens, and has been highly successful in his operations. His other business interests include those of a stockholder in the Money Creek creamery, the Houston Farmers' Exchange and the Houston State Bank. A Republican politically, he served in Mound Prairie township as supervisor and clerk of School District 94, and has been chairman one year of District 7, Money Creek township. He attends the M. E. church at Money Creek and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Fitting was married, December 10, 1890, to Laura Emmons, who was born at Pleasant Hill, Winona county, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Sandress) Emmons. He and his wife have six children, Nina Elizabeth, George B., John P., Jr., Floyd William, Otto Theodore and Lillian Augusta. Mrs. Fitting's parents were born in Cambridgeshire, England, where they were married. Emigrating to this country on a sailing vessel, they landed after a voyage of nearly three months, and making their way westward settled in Houston county, Minnesota, subsequently removing to Winona county, where the father died on a farm, Dec. 25, 1890. The mother died in 1915 when 93 years of age. They were prominent people in their locality, Mr. Emmons serving at times in school and other local offices. They had a family of 13 children, of whom six are now living, Neonia, Alice, David, George, Laura and Mary A.

Charles E. Benson, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Money Creek township, having a farm of 140 acres in section 5, which he devotes largely to stock raising, was born in this county, three miles south of

Houston, Sept. 2, 1885, son of Benjamin and Christine (Nelson) Benson. His parents were both born in Halland, Sweden, the father coming to Houston county when a lad of eight years, the family settling in Swede Bottom, Houston township. There Benjamin Benson grew to manhood. He enlisted in the army in 1862, when a youth of 17, served against the Indians and later against the Confederates, and after the war settled on land in Sheldon township, where he is now living on a farm in section 10. Charles E. Benson, who was one of a family of nine children, all of whom are now living, in his boyhood attended District School No. 100 in Sheldon township, and later for one year the school at Houston. He resided on his parents' farm until about 17 years of age, and then went to Canada, homesteading land 80 miles north of Regina, where he resided for five years. From there he went to the state of Washington, spending one season in the mountains as horse breaker, and also working in the woods, for some three years. At last, owing to an injury received in the woods, he returned home and was laid up during the winter. After that, until his marriage, he worked on the home farm, buying his present farm when he began domestic life for himself. The property is well improved and he is doing a good business in breeding Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. He is a shareholder in the Money Creek creamery, the Farmers' Telephone Company and other local enterprises, and is now a man of means and a respected citizen of his township. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Swedish Baptist church. He belongs to the Sons of Veterans at Money Creek. Mr. Benson was married Aug. 22, 1916, to Ella V. Benson, who was born in Houston, April 6, 1897, daughter of Bernt and Johanna Katherina (Benson) Benson. Her parents were natives of Halland, Sweden, and for a number of years were actively engaged in farming in Houston township, where they now live, the father being president of the Houston Mercantile Co. Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Benson are the parents of two children, Goldie Isabelle and Lila Irene.

Orrin R. Kingsley, one of the settlers in Money Creek township in the days previous to the Civil War, but who is now deceased, was born in the state of Pennsylvania, May 31, 1824. He became a farmer by occupation and continued as such after taking land in Houston county. Though over forty years old when the war broke out, he enlisted in the First Minnesota Battery, with which he served for three years, or until the close of the war. Then returning to his farm in Houston county, he took up the burden of its improvement and was an active farmer here for a number of years. Subsequently he removed to Pickwick, Winona county, Minnesota, where he continued in agricultural work until two years before his death, which occurred in 1894. Mr. Kingsley married Catherine Nelson, a native of Norway and about two years younger than himself. She died many years before him, in 1869. They were the parents of eight children: Almeda (deceased); Albin W.; Alfred J. (deceased); Mary A.; Ebz. J.; Clarissa M.; Edwin A.; Ida J. (deceased).

Ebenezer Jackson Kingsley, one of the leading citizens of Money Creek township, vice president of the Houston State Bank, and a stockholder in various local and other enterprises, was born on the old Emery farm in

this township, Sept. 14, 1857, son of Orrin R. and Catherine (Nelson) Kingsley. He was the fifth born in his parents' family of eight children, and was educated in the district schools in Money Creek township, and in Wiscoy township, Winona county. He was reared on his parents' farm, but at an early age began working out, and when 18 years old began farming on his own account, soon afterwards becoming a land owner in Winona county. After being engaged in agricultural pursuits there for eleven years, he returned to Houston county and took a farm in section 12, Money Creek township, containing 160 acres, which he operated for 17 years, making hogs and corn his special products, though during the latter years he also engaged in dairying. At the end of the period mentioned he sold the farm, all but seven acres and the house he is now living in, and has since lived practically retired, using his land for pasture and garden purposes. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek creamery, of which he is now president; and also holds stock in the Farmers' Elevator at Houston and the Northwestern Security Co., of Minneapolis. In politics a Republican, Mr. Kingsley has at various times taken an active part in local government affairs, serving in town and other offices. He was chairman of the town board for twelve years and for the same length of time a member of the school board. His fraternal affiliations are with the Yeomen and Sons of Veterans. Mr. Kingsley was married Jan. 24, 1889, to Dora Nelson, who was born in Faribault county, Minnesota, May 18, 1873, daughter of Abraham and Adeline (Clark) Nelson. To Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley eight children have been born: Ina, wife of Clarence Smith, a farmer living near Stockton, Winona county; Abraham G., who is farming in the same vicinity; Warren J., who died in infancy; Erwin Jackson, who enlisted in the United States military service and died at Camp Cody, Feb. 9, 1918; Orrin Francis, a veteran of the United States military service; Thomas Howard, residing at home; Violet Catherine, who died at the age of five years, and Kenneth Nelson, who is residing at home. This family, like so many other old American families of Civil War traditions, made its sacrifice in the World War. The son, Orrin Francis, filled with the same principles that animated both his soldier grandfathers, went into service in France, was wounded during the Argonne campaign, and lost the sight of one eye. After being cared for in France he returned to this country and received treatment at a hospital in Baltimore.

Abraham Nelson, father of Mrs. E. J. Kingsley, was born in Norway, Feb. 29, 1837. He was always a farmer by occupation and was seven years old when he came to this country, growing to manhood in Wisconsin. At the age of 18 he came to Minnesota, locating in Winona county, near what is now known as Wytoka, where he resided until his marriage to Adeline Clark, who was born in Fond du Lac county in 1840. He then removed to Money Creek township, Houston county, but later went to Faribault county, Minnesota, where he and his wife spent a number of years. He then returned to Winona county, continued in active life here for a number of years, and is now living retired in this county. His wife died about 1891. He is a Civil War veteran, having served the last six months of the war in a Minnesota regiment.

Edwin A. Kingsley, who is engaged in farming forty acres in section 11, Money Creek township, raising stock, poultry and grain, was born in Wiscoy township, Winona county, Dec. 20, 1860, son of Orrin R. and Catherine (Nelson) Kingsley. His parents were early settlers in this township, the father enlisting from this county for service in the Civil War. Both are now deceased, Orrin R. passing away in 1894 and his wife in 1869. Edwin A. Kingsley attended school in District 51, Wiscoy township, and also for one year at the Winona Normal school. From the age of 14 until his marriage he worked out for others, and then settled on the old Kingsley farm in this township, where he and his wife lived for one year. From there he moved to a farm on South Ridge, where he spent several years, at the end of that time coming to his present location in the northwest corner of section 11. Here he has made good progress with his improvements and is doing a successful business in his line of industry. Independent in politics, he served as a member of the local school board for a number of years. He belongs to the Sons of Veterans at Money Creek, to which he was admitted by virtue of his father's military record. Mr. Kingsley was married, Sept. 12, 1891, to Bertha L. Sandrock, who was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, daughter of William and Emma (Hawkins) Sandrock. To Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley six children have been born, William Edwin, Roy Ray, Emma Aura, Marion Catherine, Louis Albin and Violet Susan. William Edwin, who was the first to enlist in the U. S. navy from Money Creek township for service in the present war, died at Charleston, S. C., Jan. 28, 1918. Roy Ray, who is a farmer at Wiscoy, Winona county, married Clara Hennessy, and has 2 children, Robert Roy and one deceased. The other children are residing at home. This was one of the families that made the great sacrifice during the World War. The son, William Edwin, was one of the favorite young men in the township. The stories of his grandfather's part in the Civil War were a part of his boyhood traditions, and when the Great War broke out, he planned also to do his share. Volunteering himself on his country's altar, he went into service, and there met his untimely end. His example will be an inspiration to all the younger element in the township.

John Layne, proprietor of the old Layne farm of 281 acres in section 11, Money Creek township, where he is doing a profitable business as a general farmer and stock raiser, was born near Galena, Ill., in 1864, son of John and Johanna (Shortall) Layne. The father was a native of Missouri and the mother of Ireland. John Layne, Sr., removed from his native state to a farm about six miles from Galena, Ill., where he resided for about 25 years, during a part of the time, however, being engaged in mining. He then came with his family to Houston county, Minnesota, taking land on Vinegar Hill, Money Creek township, which in time he developed into a good farm, which is the same on which his son and namesake now lives. His wife died in 1874, his own death occurring in December, 1886. They were the parents of seven children. John Layne, the present bearer of the name, acquired his education partly in Illinois and partly in Houston county, Minnesota. He assisted his father on the home farm up to the time of the latter's death, and has since continued to reside on the

JOHN LAYNE AND FAMILY



homestead, of which he is now the owner. While engaged in general farming, he gives special attention to the raising of Hereford cattle and Poland-China swine, a branch of his business in which he has been very successful. For a number of years he served as clerk of the district school board, being independent in politics. In religion a Roman Catholic, he attends the church of that faith at Rushford. His fraternal affiliations are with the Yeomen's lodge at Money Creek. Mr. Layne was married about 1890 to Margaret O'Donnell, who was born in Winona, Minn., daughter of Hugh and Margaret (Hennessy) O'Donnell. Her parents, both natives of Ireland, were early settlers in Winona county, this state, coming to Money Creek township, Houston county, about 1873. Here they took land in section 17 and developed a farm, on which they finally passed away, Mr. O'Donnell about 1910 and his wife about 1901. They were the parents of six children. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Layne, namely: Margaret, wife of Joseph Hennessy, a farmer residing near Lanesboro, Minn.; John, Jr., who is assisting his father on the home farm; Hannah, Mary and Mabel, residing at home; Alice, who is preparing for her life work as a nurse at St. Francis Hospital, La Crosse; William, who is deceased, and Genevieve, living at home with her parents.

Walter J. Frosch, who owns and operates a good dairy and stock farm of 160 acres in section 1, Money Creek township, and is a prominent and well-to-do citizen, was born in La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 22, 1879, son of Joseph and Katherine Frosch. The parents were natives of the Duchy of Luxemburg, where they were married, coming to the United States and directly to La Crosse, Wis., in the early seventies. The father, who was a mechanic, worked 24 years for the Platt & Medary Co., and died while in their service in 1890. The mother died in La Crosse in 1885. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Walter J. was the fourth in order of birth. He acquired his education in the schools of La Crosse and resided with his parents until the age of 14 years, when he left home and found employment for six dollars a month, working the first year in Nodine. He continued working for others, with increased pay, for some four or five years, or until his marriage, at which time he rented land in the vicinity of Nodine and for nine years was engaged in farming there. He then purchased his present farm, on which he is making a specialty of breeding Poland-China thoroughbred hogs and other good stock, being also a shareholder in the Money Creek creamery, the Houston elevator and the Independent Harvester Co. of Plano, Ill., and is a director in the Farmers' Co-operative Telephone Co. He attends the Baptist church, is a member of the Masonic order and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Frosch was united in marriage, Dec. 17, 1900, with Rose Lee, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, daughter of W. F. and Katherine Lee, she being the second born in a family of six children. He and his wife have one child, Perry Franklin, born Jan. 21, 1902. The parents of Mrs. Frosch were both born in Montreal, Canada, and were very early settlers in Winona county, Minnesota, where W. F. Lee, the father, became a land owner and also practiced veterinary medicine and surgery for 25 years, and is still an active citizen,

who has held various local offices and is well-to-do. He and his wife are still residing at Ashton, that county.

Clarence E. Hawkins, proprietor of the farm known as Hickory Hill Ranch, in section 20, Money Creek township, where he is carrying on general farming with profitable results, was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, Feb. 22, 1882, son of Royal Henry and Jane (Pervis) Hawkins. Of his parents' ten children he was the ninth in order of birth. The family moving to Money Creek Township, Houston county, in 1889, he attended District School No. 9 in this township and acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture on the parental farm on which he worked as his father's assistant until his marriage in 1901. He then rented the farm for two years, and afterwards a neighboring farm for five years, purchasing it at the end of that time. There he resided until his father's death, in November, 1912, at which time he moved back to the home farm, purchasing the rights of the other heirs, and has since been engaged in the cultivation and improvement of the property, carrying on general farming. He has 280 acres of fertile land, with good buildings, and on the farm is a valuable spring which furnishes excellent water. In addition to the business interests above described, he is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. He belongs to the order of Yeomen at Houston and to the Sons of Veterans at Money Creek. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics is independent. Mr. Hawkins assumed the responsibilities of domestic life on September 18, 1901, when he was united in marriage with Tressie Lord, who was born in the village of Sheldon, Houston county, Sept. 15, 1886, daughter of David and Carrie (Walters) Lord. Her father, who was a native of one of the eastern states, was a farmer and veterinary surgeon, and also operated a threshing machine. He died in Houston in 1911. His wife, who was born in Wisconsin, is now residing in Looney Valley, Money Creek township. Of seven children, their daughter Tressie was the fourth in order of birth. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins has been enlarged by the birth of five children, Margaret Jane, Royal Dwight, Clarence Eusebius, George Henry and Daisy Marie.

John Hennessy, formerly a farmer and esteemed citizen of Money Creek township, who established the farm on Vinegar Hill, in section 15, that is now operated by his son, Patrick, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland. He was a young man when he came to the United States, locating at Galena, Ill., where he found employment in the lead mines. His residence there lasted for a number of years, and there he married Sarah Highland, a native of Queenstown, Ireland. About 1853 he moved with his family to Winona, Minn., and for some years thereafter was engaged in river work. At last, desiring to establish a permanent home, he came to Houston county, and securing 120 acres of wild land on Vinegar Hill, Money Creek township, began to improve and cultivate it, his first residence on his property being a pioneer log house. For a number of years thereafter he devoted himself to his task, working patiently and industriously and making steady progress, so that at the time of his death, about 1898, he was the owner of a fairly good farm. He was survived by his wife, who passed

away about a year later. They were the parents of nine children: Michael, John, Maggie, Daniel, Steven, Patrick, Philip, Mary and Nellie.

Patrick C. Hennessy, proprietor of the old Hennessy homestead on Vinegar Hill, in section 15, Money Creek township, was born in Winona county, near the city of Winona, June 20, 1869, son of John and Sarah (Highland) Hennessy. His parents moving to Money Creek township, Houston county, when he was quite young, it was here that he attended school. Becoming industriously active at an early age, he assisted his father until the latter's death, at which time—about 1898—he took over the home farm, on which he has continued to reside, and where he is profitably carrying on general farming. He has 160 acres of valuable land and has made many improvements on the property, having good buildings and fences, and an ample supply of the usual farm implements and machinery. He is also a stockholder in the Rushford creamery and elevator. In politics he is independent and formerly served for a few years as school director. A Roman Catholic in religion, he attends the church in Rushford. Mr. Hennessy was married, Feb. 23, 1908, to Miss B. E. Mae O'Brien, who was born at Grand Rapids, Wis., daughter of John and Susan (O'Laughlin) O'Brien, she being one of the younger members in a family of nine children. She acquired a good education, graduating from the high and normal schools at Grand Rapids, and also attended the normal school at Oshkosh. From that time until her marriage she was engaged in teaching, spending three years at that occupation in Oshkosh and three years in what is now her home district in Money Creek township, Houston county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hennessy belong to the Yeomen's lodge at Money Creek. They are the parents of two children, Ralph Raymond and Rosamond. John O'Brien, father of Mrs. Hennessy, and now residing with her and his son-in-law, was born in New York State, June 17, 1848. When seven years old he accompanied his parents to Oshkosh, Wis., where he attended school. At the age of about 14 years, being of an adventurous disposition, he ran away from home to join the army, but was brought back by his relatives. Later he learned the stone-cutter's trade, and was during most of his subsequent life until his retirement overseer in various quarries. He now devotes a part of his time to traveling. Mrs. Hennessy's mother, who was born at Fond du Lac, Wis., Dec. 20, 1853, died in 1910.

Stephen Robinson, one of the pioneer settlers of Money Creek township, was born in Albion, Maine, Sept. 2, 1809. With another native of the Pine Tree State, Cyrus B. Sinclair, he came to Houston county, Minnesota, in the spring of 1855. He had previously visited this territory and selected a piece of land in what is now Goodhue county, but on coming here with Mr. Sinclair he concluded to remain in Houston county, and took a claim on section 19, Money Creek, erecting on it one of the first log houses in the township, which house is still standing. Here he followed farming until his demise in April, 1896. About 1860 he established a brickyard in section 19, Money Creek township, where he and his sons manufactured a fine quality of red brick, continuing in the industry until about 1875. His own brick house, constructed of brick from his yard, was built in 1869, his son, David W., erecting one in 1874. Several other houses in Houston and

the vicinity, and several in Caledonia, were also built of brick which he had manufactured. Mr. Robinson was married in the State of Maine to Betsey Falker, who was born Dec. 27, 1818, and who died Feb. 22, 1901. They had seven children, who were born as follows: Martha, Feb. 24, 1840; Ellen, Jan. 12, 1842; David W., Oct. 26, 1844; Emily, May 12, 1847; Taylor, March 29, 1850; Mary, July 11, 1852; and Stephen Henry, June 28, 1855.

B. F. Perkins, now living retired in the village of Money Creek, was born in Lackawack, Ulster county, New York, July 31, 1843, son of Nathan and Nancy (Gillett) Perkins. The father was born Nov. 14, 1810, and the mother Dec. 12, 1815. Emigrating from New York State in 1862, they came to Houston county, Minnesota, and located on a farm in section 30, Money Creek township. There Nathan Perkins followed farming until his untimely death, June 2, 1867, being accidentally drowned in the Root River. His wife, Nancy, to whom he was married Oct. 16, 1836, survived him until July, 1900, when she passed away. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Norman, born June 10, 1839; Edgar, June 14, 1841; B. F., July 31, 1843; George F., Dec. 16, 1845; Eugene, Feb. 13, 1848; Jerome, May 2, 1850; George J., April 22, 1852, and Darius, July 29, 1856. B. F. Perkins was educated in his native state and came west with his parents in 1862. For several years he assisted them in the development of the home farm. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits for himself, buying a farm in sections 18 and 19, Money Creek township, which he developed into a fine piece of agricultural property. As a general farmer he had a long and successful career, and was recognized as a valuable man in the community. After residing on his farm until 1907, he retired, and he and his wife have since made their home in the village of Money Creek, where they are spending the afternoon of life in pleasure and comfort. Mr. Perkins was one of the original stockholders of the Houston Creamery, and in later years was connected with the Money Creek Creamery. He is now interested in the Farmers' Exchange Elevator at Houston. For many years he has been a member of Orient Lodge, No. 84, A. F. and A. M., of Money Creek. On Dec. 17, 1867, he was united in marriage with Emily Robinson, who was born in Albion, Maine, May 12, 1847, daughter of Stephen and Betsey (Falker) Robinson. This union proved a happy one, and for fifty-one years they have trod life's pathway together, sharing each other's joys and sorrows. They have had three children, two of whom have passed on before them. Alice M., born Dec. 3, 1872, died at the age of nine years, Dec. 31, 1881. Walter C., born March 4, 1883, died in his thirty-second year, Aug. 18, 1914. Fred C., the eldest child, who was born June 1, 1869, is the present proprietor of the old home farm.

Fred C. Perkins, who is engaged in farming the Perkins homestead in section 19, Money Creek township, having 200 acres of well improved land, was born on this farm, June 1, 1869, son of B. F. and Emma (Robinson) Perkins. In his boyhood he attended graded school in Money Creek Township, and also for eight months a graded school in Minneapolis, and until his marriage he assisted his father on the home farm. He then rented the Norman Perkins farm, which he operated for three years, after that, for a year, residing on the parental homestead on account of impaired



MR. AND MRS. B. F. PERKINS

health. At the end of that time he changed his occupation, engaging in the hotel business in Money Creek village, and also operating a cream route for 18 months. Then buying the store of A. G. Larson in Money Creek village, he engaged in the general mercantile business and was thus occupied for seven years. He then gave it up to become a partner with his brother-in-law, who was proprietor of a feed and sales business in North Dakota, but the climate not agreeing with him, he returned home and took up farming again, having since resided on the homestead, which is a well improved piece of property. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. For nine years formerly he was a member of the school board, for one term town treasurer, and for four years postmaster at Money Creek, in politics being a Republican. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Masonic lodge at Money Creek and the Yeomen at Houston. He attends the M. E. church.

Mr. Perkins was married Jan. 1, 1895, to Minnie B. Miller, who was born in Money Creek township, daughter of George and Jane (Vance) Miller. He and his wife have two children, Leora A., born Dec. 6, 1902, and Franklin, born March 16, 1906, both living at home. George Miller, father of Mrs. Perkins, was born in the state of Pennsylvania, and during the Civil War served in a regiment from that state. Soon after the war he came to Houston county, buying land in Money Creek township and engaging in agriculture, which was his occupation until about seven years before his death. On his retirement he took up his residence in Money Creek village, where he died in 1906. His wife, who was born in Money Creek, is still residing there. They were the parents of a family of eleven children.

David W. Robinson, now living retired in the village of Houston, after a long career devoted to agricultural pursuits, in the township of Money Creek, was born in the State of Maine, Oct. 26, 1844, son of Stephen and Betsey (Falker) Robinson. He received his education in the public schools of the township, and grew to manhood on his parents' farm. In 1865 he enlisted in Company K, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and served until after the close of the war, being honorably discharged in 1866. Though he saw active service in facing the enemy, he was neither captured nor wounded, but was seized with lameness as a result of exposure, a condition from which he never fully recovered. At the age of 29 years he engaged independently in agriculture on a farm of 200 acres in Money Creek township, which he had purchased through his father while still in the army. He improved the land, erected a good residence, and a complete set of outbuildings, and became in time one of the prosperous and influential farmers of his township. In 1909 Mr. Robinson retired and removed from his farm to the village of Houston, where he has since made his home. During his active career he served as supervisor for several years, as a member of the school board for many years, and for four years as a member of the board of county commissioners. He belongs to Orient Lodge, No. 84, A. F. and A. M.

Mr. Robinson was first married in December, 1873, to Lillie Johnson, who was born in Wiscoy township, Winona county, Minnesota. She died in 1887, leaving three children: Nellie, now Mrs. John Varvatt, of Houston; Morton, residing in Montana, and Curtiss W., proprietor of the old

home farm in Money Creek. On Sept. 30, 1890, Mr. Robinson married Ida Harris, who was born in La Crescent, Minn., Nov. 5, 1858, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Harris. Of this union two children have been born: Verna, now a milliner in Houston, and one who died in infancy unnamed.

Curtiss W. Robinson, proprietor of the old Robinson homestead in section 19, Money Creek township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Jan. 26, 1882, son of David W. and Lillie (Johnson) Robinson. He attended district school No. 9, in this township and resided at home, helping his father until reaching the age of 21 years, at which time he rented the home farm. After operating it under rental until 1916, he purchased it and has since remained the sole owner, representing the third generation of Robinsons to own the property. He is conducting it chiefly as a dairy and stock farm, breeding Polled Durham cattle and Poland-China swine. He is also a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery and in the winter time operates a sawing outfit. At the present time he is serving as treasurer of School District No. 9, in politics being a Republican. He attends and helps to support the M. E. church at Money Creek, while his fraternal affiliations are with the order of Free Masons, including the lodge, chapter and Eastern Star, he being a member of the lodge at Money Creek, in which he has passed through the chairs; and with Kingsley Camp, Sons of Veterans at Money Creek, of which he is the present secretary.

Mr. Robinson was married Sept. 1, 1908, to Pearl Ramsdell, who was born in Houston, Minn., Jan. 4, 1881, daughter of Charles and Alice (Robertson) Ramsdell. He and his wife have one child, Lillian Irene, born Aug. 19, 1912. Charles Ramsdell, father of Mrs. Robinson, who is now practically retired, was formerly a bridge contractor. He owns property in Houston, where he served some years as marshal and constable. His wife was born at Sparta, Wis. They have been the parents of six children, of whom their daughter Pearl was the first born.

O. M. Dybing, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of 250 acres in section 25, Money Creek township, was born in Stavanger, Norway, son of Gabriel and Anna (Svalestad) Dybing. The parents never came to this country, the mother dying in Norway twenty years ago. They had four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. He was educated in his native land and remained at home working on his father's farm until arriving at the age of 22 years. He then emigrated to the United States, coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, where he arrived unable to speak the English language. For eight years he worked for his uncle and then bought the farm which he is now operating, the land of which is valuable and the buildings substantial and in good condition. Here he has made a pronounced success as a general farmer and has attained a position among the prosperous citizens of the township. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston and has served as school treasurer for the last twenty years. Mr. Dybing was united in marriage in 1895 to Ellen Kalverstrand, who was born in Norway and came to the United States with her parents when five years of age. Her father is now dead but her mother is living, being a resident of Avalanche, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Dybing

have two children, Gilbert and Olga, both residing at home. In 1913 Mr. Dybing made a trip to Norway to renew old associations and see his father, brother and sister, the reunion, though but temporary, proving very enjoyable. He is a stockholder in the creamery and elevator at Houston and is a man whose enterprise, industry and good neighborly qualities have made him both respected and popular.

James Buckbee, an early settler in Mound Prairie township, who did pioneer work in breaking and developing land, was born in the state of Maine, where he grew to manhood and married Melissa Storer, also a native of that eastern state. After the war between the states broke out he became a member of a volunteer regiment from the state of New York, with which he served three years. On receiving an honorable discharge from the service, he set out with wife and family for the Northwest, and selecting Houston county, Minnesota, as the scene of his future activities, began pioneer farming in Mound Prairie township. He died on his son's farm in section 18 in the year 1904, his wife having passed away about two years previously. They were the parents of six children: Mary, Martha, Buford, Luella (Mrs. Orrin Northrup, of Pleasant Hill township, Winona county), Jasper W. and Mabel.

Jasper W. Buckbee, who is doing a successful business as a general stock farmer, operating 169 acres in section 18, Mound Prairie township, was born in this township, March 19, 1873, son of James and Melissa (Storer) Buckbee. In his boyhood he attended school in Storer Valley, his parents' farm being the scene of his industrial training, which was thorough in all the details of farm work. On attaining his majority the management of the place came into his hands, and he operated it for his parents until his mother's death, about 1902, after which for some six or eight years he operated it under rental, during that time working occasionally for others. Then, in company with a friend, he went to Virginia, where he made the acquaintance of a young lady, Miss Fannie Gilbert, who was born near Cumberland, that state, June 22, 1889, daughter of Mason and Maggie (Walden) Gilbert, her parents being members of well known and respected families in the Old Dominion, where they still reside. The acquaintance soon ripened into something more than friendship, and on March 2, 1910, Miss Gilbert became Mrs. Jasper W. Buckbee. With his young wife, Mr. Buckbee returned to his farm in Mound Prairie township, where they have since made their home. They have a pleasant and comfortable residence, the farm is well improved and Mr. Buckbee is doing a good business as a stock raiser, being also a shareholder in the Houston creamery. In politics he is a Democrat with independent proclivities. He and his wife have two children, Ralph L., born Dec. 16, 1910, and Jesse W., born Nov. 29, 1912.

William Lynch (Sr.), a well known farmer residing in section 9 south, Mound Prairie township, was born in this township, son of John and Eliza (Carl) Lynch. The records containing the date of his birth were accidentally burned, but the year is believed to have been 1855 or 1856. His parents were both natives of County Kildare, Ireland, and on coming to this country settled first in New York State, whence they removed to Illinois,

later to Wisconsin, and finally to Houston county, Minnesota, John Lynch taking land in Mound Prairie township which he in time developed into a farm. Both he and his wife are now deceased, the latter's death occurring when she was 63 years old, several years previous to his. He was a man of some prominence in the township and at various times served in local office. William Lynch was the second born of his parents' five children. In his boyhood he attended the local school and acquired a knowledge of agriculture on the home farm, at first assisting his father, and later operating the farm until the latter's death. He then became owner of a part of the estate, his tract containing 60 acres, well provided with buildings, which since 1912 he has rented out, though still continuing to reside on it. As the result of a long and active career of industry, he is now in comfortable circumstances. A Catholic in religion, he attends the church at Hokah, this county.

Andrew Orr, one of the pioneer settlers of Houston county, who aided in its civilization by improving wild land into good farm property, was born in Ireland and was a lad of about seven years when he was brought to the United States. As a young man he purchased land in Mound Prairie township and engaged in its improvement, residing on his property for a number of years. Subsequently he spent ten or twelve years as a merchant in Hokah, keeping a general store. At the end of that time he returned to his farm in section 4, south, Mound Prairie township, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in the year 1891. At various times he held local office, both on the town and school board. Mr. Orr married Margaret Cooper, who was, like himself, a native of Ireland, and who is now residing in Tacoma, Wash.' They had a family numbering 14 children, one of whom, Eugene E., is now owner of the old homestead.

Eugene E. Orr, one of the representative farmers of Mound Prairie township, proprietor of the old Orr homestead in section 4, south, who is also one of the town officials, was born on the farm on which he now resides, May 10, 1871, son of Andrew and Margaret (Cooper) Orr. Of his parents' 14 children he was the fourth in order of birth. In his boyhood he attended school both in his home district and later in Hokah, to which place his parents removed for a residence of ten years or more, during which time his father was engaged in mercantile business. Working on the home farm until 19 years of age, he then rented land and engaged in agricultural work on his own account. In 1893 he married and for eight years thereafter he continued to farm rented land, at the end of that time buying his present farm, which was his old home and birthplace. He has 230 acres of valuable land, with good and substantial buildings, and is raising both grain and stock, having in particular a good herd of swine. He is a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge at Hokah. In politics an independent Republican, he had rendered efficient service on both the school and town boards. Mr. Orr was united in marriage, Nov. 30, 1893, with Estelle Fairbanks, who was born in Union Valley, Union township, this county, June 6, 1873, daughter of William and Catherine (Van Gordon) Fairbanks. Her parents were natives of New York State, the father coming to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1853 and settling in Union Valley, where he engaged in farming, chang-



MR. AND MRS. HENRY MADES

ing the wild land into fertile fields and aiding in the work of civilization in the county. He resided on his farm until near the close of his life, spending his last years at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. Orr, where both he and his wife passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Orr are the parents of two children, Norman, born March 31, 1900, and Ellison, born Jan. 20, 1910, both of whom are residing on the home farm.

Henry Mades, Sr., proprietor of a fine modern farm of 280 acres in section 17, Mound Prairie township, but is now practically retired, was born in Reinland, Prussia, Germany, Oct. 3, 1852, son of Peter and Anna Katharina (Katz) Mades. His parents were natives of the same province, the father born Jan. 7, 1822, and the mother in about the same year. They emigrated to the United States in May, 1860, coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, and locating on a farm which Peter Mades cultivated up to the time of his death, Aug. 2, 1905. He had then been for some years a widower. In the Civil War he served as private in a Minnesota regiment. Henry, who was the youngest of his parents' three children, and is the only one now living, attended school in the Day Valley district, Mound Prairie township. Brought up on the home farm, he assisted his father up to the age of twenty-two years and then bought the homestead, on which he has since resided. It has an area of 280 acres and is well improved, he having erected good modern buildings and provided it with a full equipment of machinery and implements necessary to modern stock farming, which he has made his specialty. He now leaves the active operation of the place to his son, Henry, Jr., he himself merely exercising a general supervision over it. His career has been one of industry and success and he is now a man in prosperous circumstances. In politics he is an independent Republican, and religiously a member of the Evangelical Association. Henry Mades, Sr., was married in July, 1874, to Mary Marie Hyer, who was born in Pommern, Germany, daughter of William and Louisa (Runka) Hyer, her parents being natives of Prussia who came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1874, locating in Mound Prairie township. Later they removed to near Nodine, in Winona county, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father being a farmer and stock raiser. Mr. and Mrs. Mades, Sr., have been the parents of eight children: Frank, a resident of Dakota, Minn.; Anna, wife of Henry W. Becker, a farmer of Berry Mills, Wis.; Martha, who died at the age of fifteen years; August, who died at the age of six months; Theodore, who died in infancy; Lydia, wife of Henry Rodenberg, a farmer of Mound Prairie township; Emil, who is farming in Dresbach township, Winona county; and Henry A., Jr., who is operating the home farm. Henry Jr., married Laura Harlos, daughter of John Harlos, and has two children, Luella and Esther.

William Gust Herman Radtke, who for the last twenty-three years has been engaged in the successful operation of a farm of 140 acres in section 6, Mound Prairie township, was born in Germany, Sept. 8, 1859, son of Frederick and Henriatta (Brandt) Radtke. In 1886 he accompanied his parents to La Crosse, Wis., where the parents subsequently died. William, who was twenty-seven years old, or nearly, when he came to this country, had received a common school education in Germany, and had served two

years in the German army. He had commenced industrial life at the age of fourteen, and after coming to La Crosse found employment in a sawmill, also being engaged in railroad work for a time. There he resided until 1895, in which year he came to his present farm, where he is raising grain and stock with profitable results. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is independent. Mr. Radtke was married in July, 1886, to Lena Ahlert, who was born in Germany, daughter of Herman and Louisa (Burrow) Ahlert. Her parents settled in La Crosse, Wis., at an early date. The father is now deceased but the mother is still living, and on April 17, 1918, had attained the venerable age of ninety-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Radtke have seven children: Elsie, wife of Emil Kosten of Winona, Minn.; and William, Sadie, Edward, Freda, Eda and Agnes, who are residing at home with their parents. Of these children, Freda and Eda are twins.

James Mackey, one of the pioneer settlers of Mound Prairie township, now deceased, was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and was a carpenter by trade. Coming to the United States when a young man, he located first in Philadelphia, where he followed his trade. He was also married there to Florinda Egelton, who, like himself, was a native of Londonderry, Ireland. Not long after their marriage they resolved to seek their fortune in the Northwest, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, securing a tract of land in section 9, Mound Prairie township. There were then but few white settlers in the township, and the land was nearly all wild, but a few farms having been started. Of wild game and Indians, however, there was a great sufficiency. Amid such pioneer surroundings Mr. Mackey began the arduous task of developing a farm. After continuing his labors for a few years, he, for some reason, suspended them, and removed to Postville, in the southwest corner of Allamakee county, Iowa, but returned to his farm in Mound Prairie township shortly before the Civil War broke out, and made no subsequent change of location. For many years thereafter he continued to improve and cultivate his farm, contributing by his labors to the general advancement and prosperity of the community and becoming more prosperous himself with the lapse of time until he finally retired from active work. After that he made his home with his son James, the present owner of the homestead. His death occurred in February, 1915. During his active career he served at times in various local offices, in particular as a member of the school board, and was a man highly respected for his personal qualities and good citizenship. At the time of his death he had been a widower for about a year. He and his wife were the parents of seven children.

James Mackey, who owns and operates one of the pioneer farms of Mound Prairie township, which was established by his father previous to Civil War days, was born in this township, Oct. 3, 1867, son of James and Florinda (Egelton) Mackey. He acquired a district school education and a good training in practical agriculture on the parental homestead, where he remained until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years. He then bought a farm just across the line in Union township and engaged in agriculture on his own account, remaining there until his father retired from active work, when he sold his farm and bought the old homestead, his



ANTON J. ALBRECHT AND FAMILY

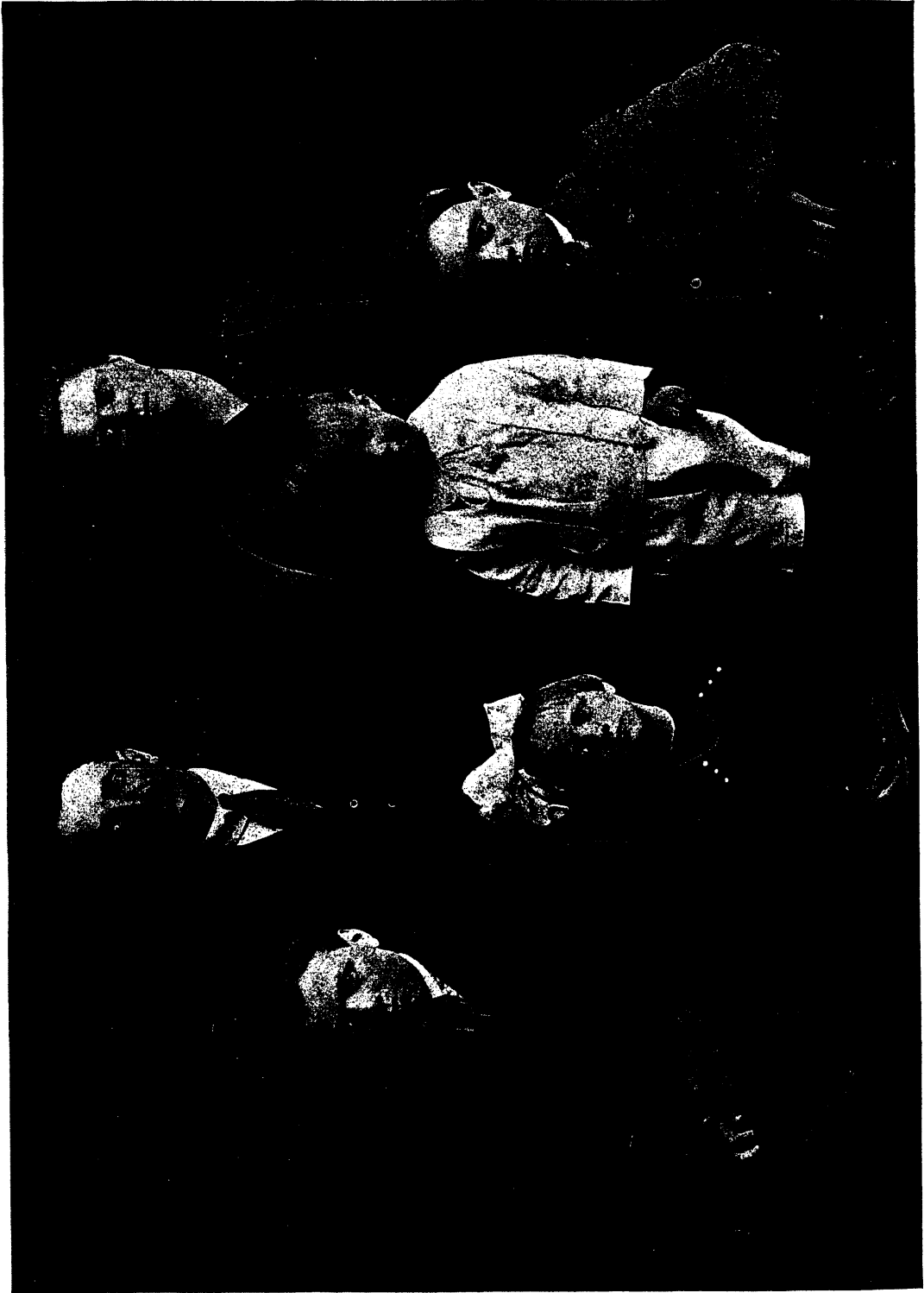
parents residing with him until their death. The estate contains 120 acres of valuable land, and is well improved, showing the effects of more than sixty years of earnest endeavor and unremitting industry on the part of father and son. Mr. Mackey is operating the farm along general lines, raising grain and stock, and is recognized as one of the prosperous citizens of his township. During the winter, in order to keep his time fully occupied, he does blacksmith work, having a shop on his farm. He is a stockholder in the Hokah-Mound Prairie Telephone line, of which he was formerly secretary. For a number of years he served on the school board of his district, in politics being a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Houston, to which he was demitted from the Hokah Lodge. On June 20, 1902, Mr. Mackey was united in marriage with Eulalah Hyatt, who was born in Trempealeau, Wis., daughter of George and Mary (Seymour) Hyatt. He and his wife have seven children: Florence Caroline, Robert Seymour, George Hyatt, Olive Blanche, James Marvin, Mary Elizabeth and Galbreth. George Hyatt, father of Mrs. Mackey, was born in Canada, but settled many years ago in Trempealeau, Wis., where he followed the barber's trade for a number of years. He then moved to Onaska, La Crosse county, where he is now living, engaged in business as a barber. He is a member of the Masonic order. His wife Mary, who was born in Ohio, died in 1913. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Eulalah (Mrs. Mackey) was the fourth in order of birth.

Anton Albrecht, who for a number of years and until his death on Jan. 9, 1916, was extensively engaged in farming in Bush Valley, Mound Prairie township, was born in Switzerland, Aug. 2, 1862, son of Philip and Mary (Bleisch) Albrecht. He was about twenty-two years old when he came to the United States, locating in Dubuque, Iowa, where for about two years he worked in a dairy. After that he went to Montana, where he remained several years engaged in herding sheep. Then going to St. Charles, Minn., he worked on a farm in that vicinity for two years and then came to La Crescent, Houston county, buying 330 acres of land in Bush Valley, section 35, Mound Prairie township, where he built up an excellent farm, which he operated until his death. He also owned a farm of 380 acres in La Crescent township, was a stockholder in the Hokah State Bank and the La Crescent State Bank, and served as vice president and president of the Hokah Stock and Grain Company. He was president of the local telephone line and vice president of the People's Telephone Exchange of Hokah. His successful career marked him as a man of energy and ability and led to his election as one of the supervisors of his township, in which position he served efficiently for many years. He was also for many years a member of the school board of his district. In religion he was a Roman Catholic. Mr. Albrecht was married, at Menominee, Ill., April 14, 1891, to Amelia Hilby, born July 3, 1857, daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Britt) Hilby. Her parents were natives of Switzerland, the father born Aug. 24, 1815, and mother Feb. 28, 1818. They came to Wisconsin in the early fifties and were engaged in farming in that State until 1865, when they removed to Illinois, where the rest of their lives were spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht five children were born, all now living, namely: Matilda, born March 24, 1893;

John Joseph, born June 23, 1896, and died in infancy; Edward, June 20, 1897; Claudina, June 2, 1899; and Albert, Feb. 6, 1904. All the children are living at home. Since Mr. Albrecht's death his widow has continued to work the farm with the help of her children. It is a well improved place and in equipment and productive capacity has been kept up to a high standard.

Henry Rodenberg, proprietor of a farm of 281 acres in section 10, Mound Prairie township, was born in Germany, Oct. 20, 1875, son of William and Dora Rodenberg. The father was born in Hanover, Germany, March 1, 1840, and came in 1886 to Wisconsin, settling in Barre Mills, La Crosse county, where he took a farm. There he remained until his death in June, 1900. His wife, also a native of Hanover, Germany, born in 1845, died in Germany in 1878. Henry Rodenberg was educated at Barre Mills, and worked at home until his marriage. After that he farmed there on his own account for one year, and then moved onto his present farm in Mound Prairie township, where he is engaged in general farming. He has built a new house and barns and other outbuildings, and his place is now well improved and equipped with modern machinery and implements. He is also a stockholder in the South Ridge Telephone Company. Since 1910 he has been treasurer of his school district. His religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. Rodenberg was married Nov. 15, 1899, at Mound Prairie, this county, to Lydia Mades, daughter of Henry and Mary (Heyer) Mades. Her father was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Oct. 3, 1852, and came to Minnesota when eight years old. He has resided since early youth on the same farm in Mound Prairie township. Mrs. Rodenberg's mother was born in Pommern, Germany, in April, 1852. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Rodenberg has been enlarged by the birth of four children: Ella, born Jan. 2, 1901; Marie, Feb. 17, 1902; Irene, Jan. 21, 1904; and Lydia, Dec. 20, 1911, all residing at home.

Joseph Sappner, a former resident of Mound Prairie township, who for a number of years was engaged in agricultural pursuits in section 15, where he improved a farm of 120 acres, was born in Oestrich, Bohemia, July 28, 1846, son of Albert and Theresa Sappner. With his parents he came to America in 1854, the family settling in Milwaukee where the father followed his trade of mason. Subsequently both he and his wife died there. Joseph, who was the second born of their six children, attended school in Milwaukee, after which he began industrial life, at the age of eighteen, being employed on farms and occasionally in the woods as a lumberman. After a while, however, he applied himself to learn the cooper's trade, which he followed in Richland Center, Wis., where also he bought a farm. Subsequently removing to La Crosse, he followed his trade there for a few years, being proprietor of a shop, but finally sold the business and for two years was engaged in farming near that city. At the end of that time he removed to Houston county, Minnesota, and took the farm above mentioned in Mound Prairie township, where he spent the rest of his life engaged in its improvement and cultivation. His death occurred April 4, 1910, and was much regretted in the community where he had built up a reputation as an industrious man and useful citizen. In politics he was a Democrat.



GUSTAV H. BOLDT AND FAMILY

Mr. Sappner was married in La Crosse, Wis., June 7, 1883, to Bertha Paulina Shulman, who was born in Shelby township, La Crosse County, Wis., daughter of August and Bertha Shulman, she being the oldest of their two children. Her parents were natives of Saxony, Germany, who settled in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, where they took a farm, on which subsequently the mother died. The father, who survived her, spent his last years with his daughter, Mrs. Sappner. To Mr. and Mrs. Sappner nine children were born; Henry, who is a farmer living near Stewartville, Olmsted county, Minn.; Joseph, who is now serving in his fourteenth year in the United States regular army, holding the rank of sergeant; Helen, who died in infancy; Anna, wife of Bert Nimocks, who is engaged in the lumber and teaming business in Montana; John William, residing on the home farm with his mother; Elsie, wife of Frank Benson, residing near Houston; Jeanette, wife of Ralph Kuhen, who is in the government employ at Minneapolis; Emma, residing on the home farm with her mother, and another child, the sixth born, who died in infancy.

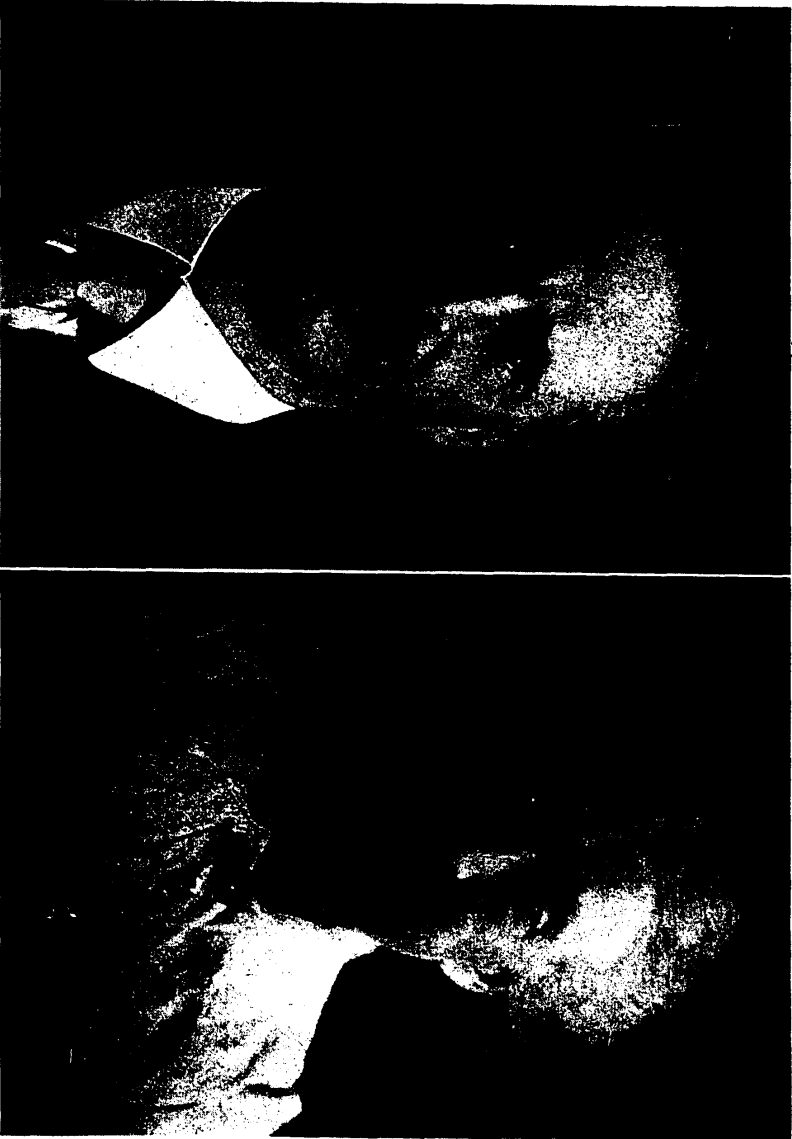
Gustav H. Boldt, who owns and operates a farm of 140 acres in section 8, Mound Prairie township, was born at New Hartford, Winona county, Minn., July 27, 1878, son of Herman and Margaret (Milius) Boldt. The father was born in Pommern, Germany, May 1, 1842, and emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1870, locating in Mound Prairie township, where he worked out for others for seven years. He then bought land in Winona county, where he is still residing on a farm which his sons are operating, he being now retired. His wife died June 18, 1909. Gustav H. Boldt was the third born of his parents' eight children. He attended district school in Winona county and resided at home until sixteen years old. For nine years after that he worked out on farms, and during part of that time operated a threshing machine. At the end of that period he took a farm in La Crescent township, Houston county, which he operated for four years, and then moved to Looney Valley, where he farmed for two years. He then took his present farm of 140 acres, well improved, which he is operating along general lines, raising grain and stock, and giving particular attention to breeding Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs. He is also a stockholder in the Houston elevator. He is a member of district school board No. 94, Mound Prairie township, and is independent in politics. Mr. Boldt was married Sept. 24, 1906, to Lydia Krage, who was born in Wiscoy township, Winona county, Minn., Aug. 15, 1888, daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Marquardt) Krage. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Harvey H., Herbert J., Sylvia Esther and Sidney Charles.

William C. Senn, proprietor of a well equipped and profitable farm of 113 acres in section 4 south, Mound Prairie township, was born in this township, Nov. 2, 1884, son of John and Katherine (Miller) Senn. The parents were both natives of Wisconsin, the father coming to Houston county when a lad of eight or nine years, and growing up with the county. His occupation has always been that of a farmer and he and his wife are still living on their farm in Mound Prairie township. William C., who was the second born of their eight children, was reared on the homestead and in his boyhood attended school in Bush Valley. Until his marriage he was

engaged in assisting his father on the home farm, and then moved to the farm on which he now lives, which he is operating along general lines, raising crops and stock to good advantage. He is also a shareholder in the Hokah elevator. In politics he is independent, voting for the man rather than for the party. Mr. Senn was united in marriage, June 15, 1911, with Emma Anderson, who was born in Houston township, this county, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Halberg Anderson. Her parents were both born in Sweden and came to Houston county many years ago. Mrs. Senn's father is now dead, but her mother, who is still living, resides with her. Mr. and Mrs. Senn have four children, Willard, Russell, Lola and Shirley.

Emil Byer, a general farmer residing in section 8, Mound Prairie township, where he is operating a farm of 120 acres, was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, Oct. 20, 1879, son of Michael and Thresa (Werner) Byer. The parents were natives of Germany. The father, born in 1833, came to the United States when a young man and engaged in farming in Wisconsin, where he resided for the rest of his life. He is now deceased, but his wife is still living on the old farm. Emil, who was the second born of their four children, was educated in the district schools of Vernon County, Wisconsin. After residing at home until about nineteen years of age he rented land and farmed for two years in Wisconsin. At the end of that time he came to Mound Prairie township, Houston county, and for fourteen years subsequently was engaged in farming rented land, at the end of that time buying his present farm. On this he has made some notable improvements, having lately erected a good barn, 40 by 60 feet in size, and with modern equipment. His other buildings are also good and substantial, and he is numbered among the prosperous farmers of this township. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican, with independent proclivities. Mr. Byer was married April 17, 1901, to May Goede, who was born in this township, daughter of Ferdinand and Pauline (Brunke) Goede. The parents were born in Pommern, Germany, but settled at an early date in Houston county, Minnesota. The father is still residing on a farm in this county, and has been a widower for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Byer are the parents of four children: Selma Viola, Hazel Eleonora, Louisa Anna and Pauline Freda.

Henry H. May, a general farmer who owns and operates a farm of 166 acres in section 4 south, Mound Prairie township, was born in Plymouth, Wayne county, Michigan, Oct. 2, 1868, son of Henry F. and Fannie (Hyatt) May. The father, who was a native of the same place, was a merchant and lumberman, devoting a number of years of his life to the latter industry in various parts of the lumber region. At the time the Civil War broke out he tried to enlist as a soldier, but was refused on account of his youth. He finally obtained a place in the commissary department, in which he rendered service to the government. His wife was born at Ann Arbor, Mich. Both died in their native state. Henry H. May, who was the eldest of their four children, attended school at Cadillac, Mich., and also at Grand Rapids, that state. When twenty years old he worked out in the woods at lumbering, and followed that occupation in part for a number of years, also at times working in mills. In 1895 he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and se-



MR. AND MRS. HENRY H. MAY

curing land in Mound Prairie township, engaged in farming. He did not, however, remain at his first location, but subsequently removed to the farm on which he now lives, which he is operating as a general stock farm. He has made good progress, having a well equipped place, and is now numbered among the prosperous citizens of this township. He is a member of Frontier Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M., at North La Crosse, to which he was dimitted from Hokah, where he first joined the order. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. May was married, April 6, 1915, to Margaret Elizabeth Crowe, who was born in Orange township, Schuyler county, New York, daughter of William and Ann (McClung) Crowe. Her parents were among the early settlers in Houston county, coming west in 1867 and taking land here. They spent many years in farming in Mound Prairie township, and each attained a venerable age, Mr. Crowe being ninety-eight years old when he died and his wife ninety-two.

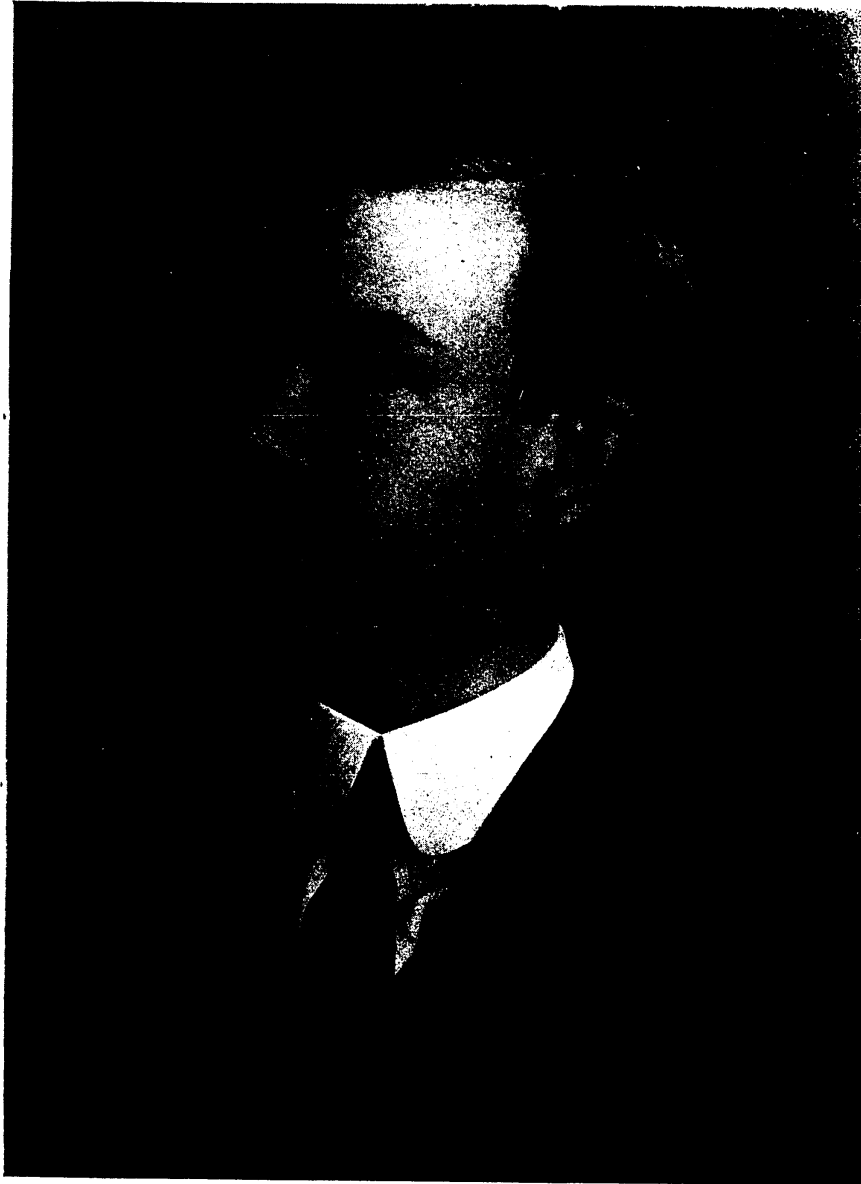
John Olson, one of the early farmers in Mound Prairie township, who did his part in the promotion of agriculture and the civilization of the county, was born in Norway, near the city of Christiania, and was a boy when he came to the United States. In 1858 he arrived in Houston county and found employment. In 1860 he and his brother Olaus bought a farm in Mound Prairie township, and for three years he resided with his brother. Soon after he was married to Helen Hanson, a native of Telemarken, Norway. During the last six months of the Civil War he served as a private in a Wisconsin regiment, and on his return home he settled with his wife on a small farm in this township, on which he resided for two years. At the end of that time he took sixty acres in section 30, his dwelling being a small log house, and here he resided for nearly half a century, or until his death in 1914, spending many years of that time in the improvement of his property. For a number of years he was a member of his district school board. His wife survived him but a short time, dying on Christmas Day, 1915. They had but two children, of whom, Ole Martin is now proprietor of the old homestead, which has been enlarged to a farm of 405 acres; and the other of whom is now Mrs. Lena Happel, of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Ole Martin Olson, proprietor of a modern stock farm of 405 acres, his residence lying in section 30, Mound Prairie township, and who is also one of the principal town officials, was born in Houston township, this county, May 5, 1865, son of John and Helen (Hanson) Olson. He was educated in the schools of Mound Prairie township, where, soon after the Civil War, his parents took a farm, two years later removing to a sixty-acre farm which now forms part of his present estate. On this latter place he took his first lesson in agriculture, assisting his father until arriving at the age of fifteen years. He then started in for himself, breaking a pair of calves, and renting a tract of land on which he engaged in farming. In time he increased his stock and bought land, also operating a threshing outfit. He returned to the old homestead which finally came into his possession, and where he has since resided. It is now a farm of 405 acres and he is operating it successfully as a general stock farm, making a specialty of breeding swine and Percheron horses. He also raises good cattle and is a

stockholder and director in the Houston creamery. He is now serving his tenth year as chairman of the town board, and has been a member of the school board since he was twenty-one years old. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Odd Fellows lodge at Hokah. Mr. Olson was married in March, 1891, to Matilda Haupt, who was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, daughter of Adolph and Henrietta (Redmann) Haupt. He and his wife are the parents of ten children: Henrietta; Adolph, who served in the army during the Great War; Myrtle, now Mrs. Arthur Anderson of Houston; Vera, Irvin, Julia, Dorothy, Eva, Georgia and Marion. Henrietta is the wife of Charles Johnson, of Houston township, and has three children, Harold, Lois and Loraine. Vera, who graduated from the Houston high school, including the normal department, is now a teacher. The other children are all residing on the home farm.

William Bottcher, an active and enterprising farmer of Mound Prairie township, residing in section 29, was born in this township, Nov. 19, 1882, son of Charles and Minnie Bottcher. The parents were both natives of Germany, the father emigrating directly to Houston county, Minnesota, about 1872 or 1873. He cleared and improved a farm in Mound Prairie township, residing on it for a number of years until he met his death in a runaway accident in La Crosse. His wife is still living on the old farm. William was the fourth born of their eleven children, one of whom, Joseph, is now operating the farm. At an early age, having acquired his education in the district school, William became active on the farm, assisting his father in the work of improvement. Residing at home until his marriage, he then rented a farm in Mound Prairie township, operating it until 1913, when he came to his present location in section 29. Here he has sixty acres of good land, besides twenty-three acres in the Root River Bottom, and is carrying on general farming with profitable results, raising both grain and stock. He is a member of the district school board, and in politics is independent. Mr. Bottcher was married June 17, 1903, to Metta Vix, daughter of Louis and Arvilla (Edmonds) Vix, pioneers of Mound Prairie township. He and his wife have seven children: Lillian, Esther and Ethel (twins), Irvin, Raymond, Arthur and Adolph.

James G. Sheldon, M. D., a notable pioneer of Houston county, long since deceased, was born in Herkimer county, New York. Of his early life there are few details available, but it is known that he studied medicine and was graduated as a regular physician. At Celina, Ohio, he was married to Margaret Roberts, a native of Mercer county, that State, and in 1853 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, Dr. Sheldon buying a farm of 160 acres in Wild Cat Valley, Brownsville township, from Samuel McPhail, for which he paid \$600. Almost immediately he assumed his natural place as a leading citizen, practicing his profession, and taking a prominent part in public gatherings, and all movements for the progress and welfare of the community. He was one of the committee that had charge of the great barbecue held at Brownsville, July 4, 1855. In 1856 he sold his farm in Brownsville and moved to Mound Prairie township, buying a farm in section 33. It contained 430 acres, but the active work was done mostly by



FRANK SHELDON

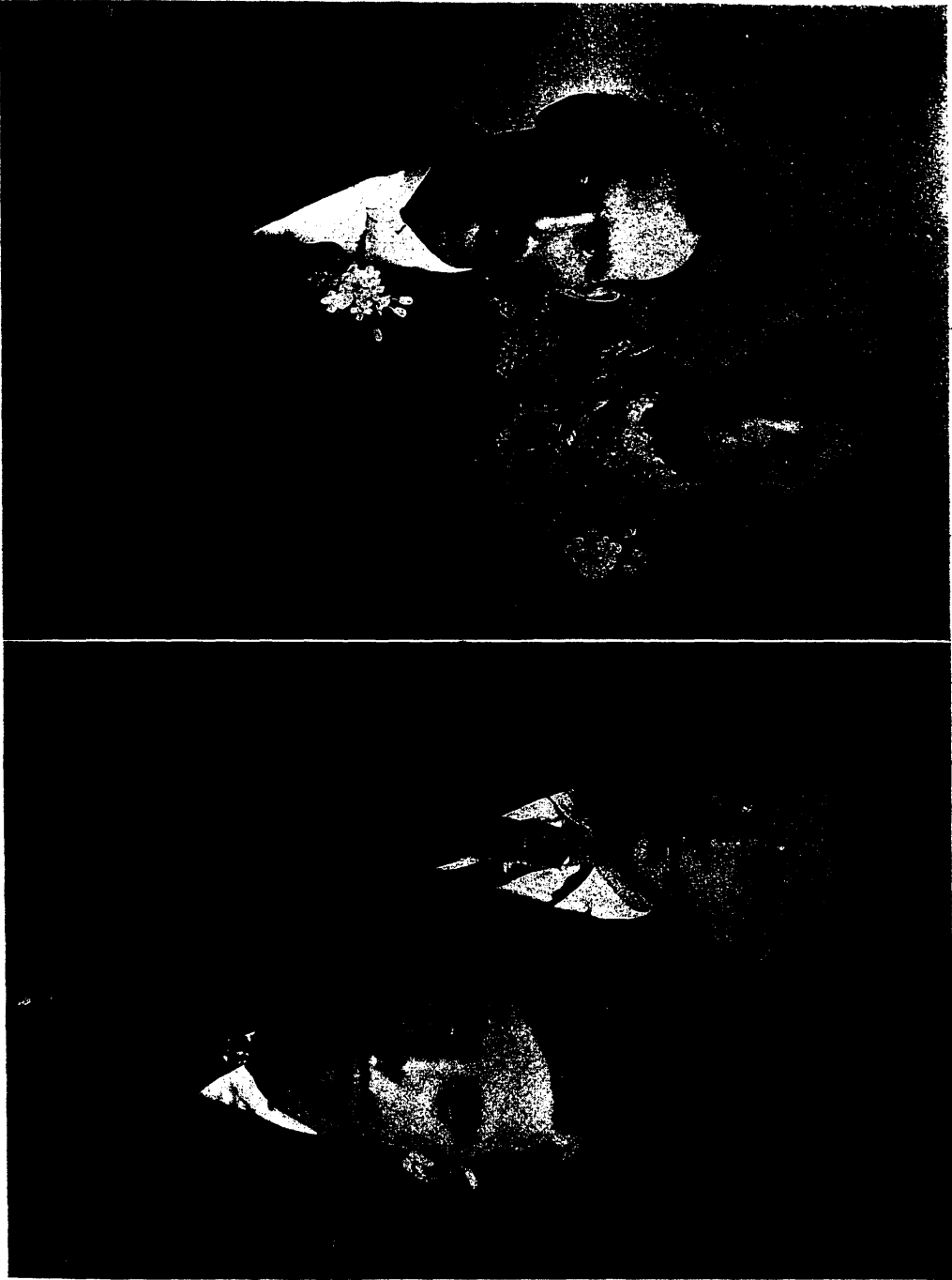
his sons, as he continued in the practice of his profession, having his office and residence on the farm, and, his services as a physician being in great demand, he had little time for agriculture beyond exercising a general supervision over the work. After the state was admitted, and when for a time the counties were governed by a board of supervisors, Dr. Sheldon was the temporary chairman of the second board of supervisors, in 1859, and took a prominent and active part in the subsequent proceedings of the board. As a man of education, his councils were of the highest value in those days when the foundations of the county were being built, and when the policies of the future conduct of county affairs were being formed. He was a great student, well versed in the classical languages, and in addition to his other mental activities, gave some time to the study of law, though he never practiced it. In 1879 he deeded the farm to his sons, Sumner S. and H. R. Sheldon, who still own and conduct it, and who still have in their possession most of their father's valuable books, constituting at one time the finest library in the county. In 1880 Dr. Sheldon passed from this life, a man greatly honored and respected. He had become quite well to do, but will be chiefly remembered for his public spirit, and the help he was always willing to render to the sick and distressed. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1908, after having been for fifty-five years a resident of this county, and a sharer in her husband's fame and popularity. Their children were as follows: Celina A., now Mrs. H. J. Herzog, of Drady, N. D.; H. R. and Sumner S., on the old home farm; Florence N., wife of Rev. A. R. Carrick, a Presbyterian clergyman of Tieton, Wash.; and Julia A., now Mrs. W. J. Evans, of Gooding, Idaho.

Sumner S. Sheldon, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Mound Prairie township, of which he is one of the leading citizens, was born in Wild Cat Valley, Brownsville, township, Houston county, Minnesota, Aug. 19, 1855, son of Dr. James G. and Margaret (Roberts) Sheldon. In the year after his birth his parents took the farm in section 33, Mound Prairie township, on which he is now residing, and here he grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the district school. In early manhood he and his brother, H. R., took charge of the farm, the father being engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1879 their father deeded the property to them, and since then the subject of this sketch has greatly improved it, having erected a fine residence, with a complement of outbuildings, and added twenty-five acres to the estate, which now has an area of 455 acres, all contained in section 33. Mr. Sheldon follows general diversified farming, and breeds a good grade of stock, including cattle, horses, swine and sheep. A man of enterprise, wealth, and public spirit, he possesses a marked influence in the community, and has served Mound Prairie township in various official positions, having been assessor, supervisor, and town clerk. He was also for several years a member of the school board. In 1890 he served as U. S. census enumerator of Mound Prairie township. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church. Mr. Sheldon was married May 2, 1887, to Ada L. Fairbanks, who was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, Nov. 6, 1868, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fairbanks. Of this union six children have been born, as follows: Ruth, Feb. 26, 1888;

Julia C., Oct. 17, 1889; Frank, Jan. 3, 1895; Lois S., May 11, 1899; Laura M., Aug. 19, 1901; and Sumner S., Jr., Aug. 13, 1910. Ruth is now Mrs. J. F. Bottcher, of Money Creek township, and has three children, Ada, John, and Ruth. Julia C. is the wife of A. E. Swenson, of Sheldon township, and has two children, Warren and Wayne. Frank, of whom a separate sketch appears in this volume, gave his life to his country in the great war just ended. The three other children are residing on the home farm.

Frank Sheldon, one of Houston county's youthful heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the cause of human freedom in the great world war, was born on his parents' farm in section 33, Mound Prairie township, Jan. 3, 1895, son of Sumner S. and Ada L. (Fairbanks) Sheldon. He acquired his preliminary education in the district school, later attended the agricultural school at Caledonia, and was graduated in the class of 1914 from the La Crosse County Agricultural College at Onalaska. Thus prepared for a successful career, he took up farming on the parental estate, which was the pioneer farm of his grandparents, and assisted in its operation according to modern and scientific methods until he was called to the colors, Feb. 24, 1918. Having become a private in Company G, 132d Regiment of Infantry, he learned the duties of a soldier first at Camp Dodge, then at Camp Logan, Texas, and later at Camp Upton, New York, and in May, 1918, sailed for France. His regiment was assigned to the 33d Division, and he became a member of an automatic rifle squad, with which he made a fine record. His bravery was proven on various occasions, and particularly a few days before his death, when his company formed part of the force which captured Forges Wood, when he took eleven prisoners, single-handed, from a dugout. On Oct. 8, 1918, his command crossed the Meuse River, at the village of Brabant, about fifteen miles north of Verdun, and swept up the right bank of the Meuse through the town of Consenvoye. There they met with a heavy machine-gun resistance, and took shelter in shell-holes, advancing their bombers by ones and twos to overcome the strong points with grenades, the automatic rifles in the meanwhile pouring a shower of lead at the enemy. Frank, who was taking part in this work, succeeding in silencing two of their machine guns. While thus engaged he was struck in the head by a machine gun bullet and instantly killed. His body was interred in a cemetery just outside the town of Consenvoye, the grave being marked by a wooden cross. His corporal, John R. Chantland, said of him: "Frank was one of the best liked men in the company. He never grumbled, was always willing and ready to offer his services for any kind of work, and I don't believe he ever had a falling-out with anyone. . . . He gave himself freely, and left us all with a clean record, and the memory of a brave lad whom all could admire." His lieutenant-colonel, P. P. Staniszewski, bore similar testimony. When the news of his death was received in his home town, the sympathy of the entire community went out to his parents in their great hour of sorrow.

Buford Martin Buckbee, who for a number of years was well known as an enterprising and successful general farmer of Mound Prairie township, residing in section 18, was born in this township, Nov. 29, 1864, son of James and Melissa (Storer) Buckbee. His father, a native of the State of



BUFORD M. BUCKBEE AND FAMILY



EMIL B. BENSON

Maine, was an early settler in this township, locating here immediately after the close of the Civil War, in which he served three years as a soldier in a New York volunteer regiment. His wife, also a native of Maine, accompanied him to this county. They established a flourishing farm, and both attained an advanced age, James Buckbee dying on his son's farm in section 18 in 1904 and his wife about two years previously. Buford Martin Buckbee was reared on his parents' farm and when a boy attended school in Mound Prairie township. When he grew to manhood he engaged in farming for himself and his time for a number of years was spent in developing the estate of 120 acres in section 18 on which his widow is now living. He was one of the useful citizens of his township, ever ready to lend a hand in promoting its moral or material interests, and for some time he rendered efficient service on the school board. His death, which occurred Aug. 8, 1910, caused deep regret in this and neighboring townships. Mr. Buckbee was married Oct. 13, 1900, to Anna Dorthea Pederson, who was born in Norway, Dec. 4, 1859, near the city of Christiania, daughter of John and Inga (Gulbrandson) Pederson, and who came to Houston county, Minnesota, when a child, about 1870. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Buckbee, both sons—Ira Manville and Bennie Delphen—who are now operating the home farm for their mother. The soil is rich and the farm well provided with modern buildings and equipment, and the two sons, though young, are already practical farmers equal to the task imposed upon them.

Emil B. Benson, a general farmer operating 163 acres of land in section 9, Mound Prairie township, was born in Halland, Sweden, April 9, 1881, son of Frederick and Ange (Anderson) Benson. The parents were natives of the same province, the father born May 17, 1849, and the mother Jan. 11, 1847. The former was in early life a fisherman. Coming to Houston county, Minnesota, in October, 1900, they settled near Houston, where they remained until 1905, when they retired and took up their residence with their son Emil B. The latter, who was the fifth born in a family of eight children, attended school in Sweden and also for a short time in Houston township, this county. When only eight years old he began to earn his own living by herding cattle, and continued at that and other occupations in his native land until he was sixteen years old. He then came to Minnesota, locating immediately in Houston, where for three years he worked out for others. He then rented a farm in the township, from which some years later he moved to his present place, where he is doing a good business as a general farmer. In politics Mr. Benson is a Republican with independent proclivities. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Barney Jamieson, who contributed to the work of civilization in Houston county by developing a good farm in section 9, Mound Prairie township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 28, 1830. It was in 1853 that he came to the United States, a young man in his twenty-third year. For a number of years he traveled through various parts of the country, until he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he remained for a while. From there he came in 1862 to the adjoining county of Houston, securing a tract of wild land in Mound Prairie township, on which he built a log house

and began the work of improvement. Starting with seventy acres, he built up his farm until it had an area of 200, and was well provided with necessary buildings. On this place he resided until his death on July 27, 1914. In early days he served as a member of the school board, being a well read man and well qualified to exercise supervision in educational matters. He was also a man of peaceful temperament, preferring rather to suffer injustice than engage in disputes or contentions with his neighbors, by whom he was universally respected. Mr. Jamieson married Anna Halvorson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 28, 1831, their marriage taking place in Fillmore county. She died Jan. 15, 1900, in the same room and in the same bed where her husband breathed his last more than thirteen years later. They were the parents of eight children, of whom James, the fourth born, is now proprietor of the homestead.

James Jamieson, who is his father's successor in the proprietorship of the old Jamieson homestead in section 9, Mound Prairie township, was born on this farm, May 15, 1867, son of Barney and Anna (Halverson) Jamieson. He acquired his education in the district school, and as soon as he was old enough to work became his father's assistant on the home farm, where he has always resided. In 1901 he purchased the property, consisting of 196½ acres of valuable land, with a good set of buildings and equipment, and is operating it successfully as a general stock farm. Many of the more important improvements have been introduced by himself and are of modern design. Mr. Jamieson has served six years as a member of the town board, showing good qualities as a public official. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Lutheran, being a member of the "Stone Church" in Houston township.

Bendix H. Johnson, a well known farmer of Mound Prairie township, who is successfully operating a farm of 160 acres in section 4 north, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, July 30, 1873, son of Heinrich and Agatha Johnson. The parents, who never came to this country, are now deceased. Bendix H. Johnson attended school in his native land, but began industrial life at the age of eleven years, working for five years on one farm. In 1890 he emigrated to the United States, locating first in Dakota Valley, Winona county, Minnesota, where he found employment at farm work. At that time he was unable to speak English. He worked for one employer for eighteen months and after that for others, until 1897, when he came to Houston county and took his present farm, which is well improved, he having erected all the buildings thereon. He is raising both stock and grain, doing a profitable business, and is a shareholder in the Pine Creek Creamery Co. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. Mr. Johnson was married March 30, 1898, to Ida Goede, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, daughter of August and Albertine (Pappenfuss) Goede, she being the fourth in order of birth in a family of ten children. Her parents, natives of Germany, were early settlers in Winona county, and are still living on the old homestead there. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have six children, all residing at home, namely: Ness William, Henry August, Frank Julius, Theodore Richard, Freda Katherine and William Herman.



MR. AND MRS. WALTER S. BEARDSLEY

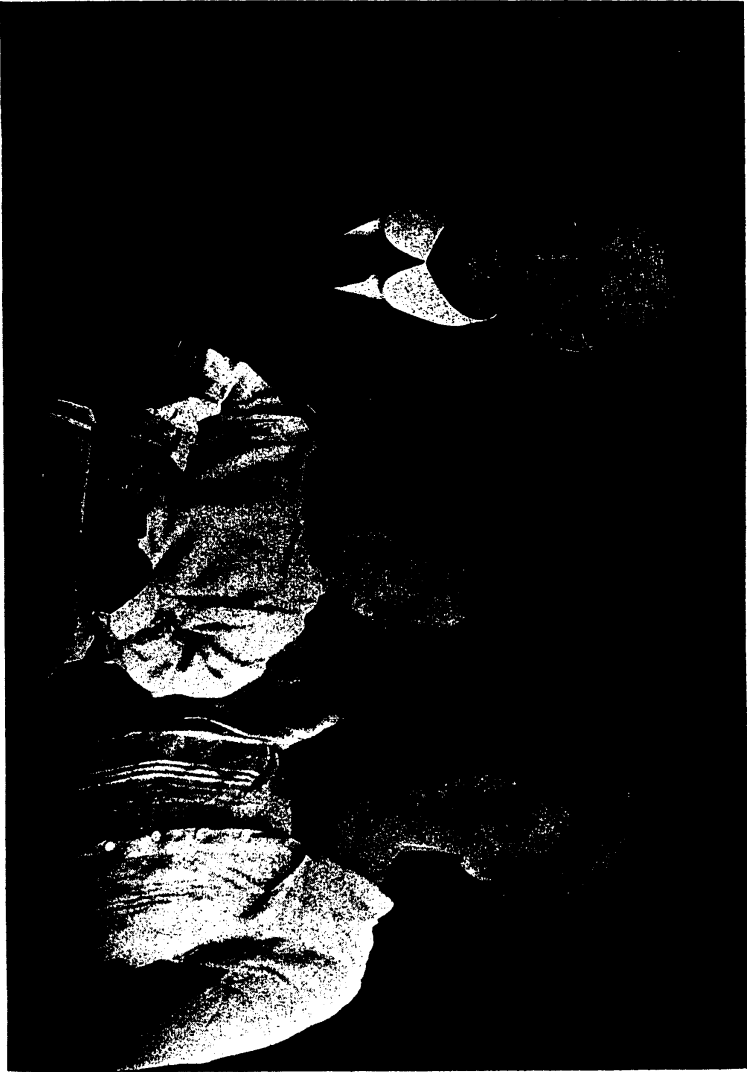
Walter Scott Beardsley, in former years one of the leading citizens of Mound Prairie township, but now deceased, was born near Milwaukee, Wis., March 7, 1853. He never knew his parents, as his mother died when he was a babe, and he was adopted by a family named Wagner, with whom he lived until he was eighteen years of age. He then came to Mound Prairie township, Houston county, working out here for a number of years, and subsequently going to North Dakota, where he remained seven years. Then returning to Houston county, he resumed his residence in Mound Prairie township, and his former employment, continuing to be thus occupied until his death. His public service in one capacity or another covered a period of twenty-two years, and included the offices of supervisor, clerk, assessor, and chairman of the town board, and he was noted as one of the most useful and public spirited citizens of his township. Mr. Beardsley was married Jan. 26, 1887, to Caroline Vix, who was born near Watertown, in Dodge county, Wisconsin, daughter of George and Catherine (Wolf) Vix. Mrs. Beardsley is residing on the farm of sixty-four acres near Mound Prairie station which was left to her by her husband, and which she is renting out to tenants. She has had no children of her own, but has reared three: Margaret Olson, who has resided in the Beardsley home since she was left an orphan at the age of two weeks; and who graduated from the common schools of Day Valley in 1914; Oscar Johnson, an orphan from the Minnesota State School, now seventeen years of age; and Mildred Tingle, who was born in Minneapolis and confided to Mrs. Beardsley's care by the Associated Charities of that city. Mrs. Beardsley's parents, George and Catherine (Wolf) Vix, were natives of Alsace, France, the father born Oct. 26, 1805, and the mother June 14, 1814. They were married in France and came to America in 1841, locating in Wisconsin, seventy miles from Milwaukee, where Mr. Vix drove oxen and engaged in other similar occupations. They later moved to the neighborhood of Watertown, that state, residing for some time with an uncle. In June, 1854, they drove with an ox team to Houston county, bringing with them two cows and two calves, and arriving here after a journey of five weeks. Here they found numerous Indians, who, however, never gave them any trouble. Taking wild land, Mr. Vix began the work of improvement and in time developed a farm of 320 acres, on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, the former dying Feb. 16, 1896, and the latter June 18, 1888. Their daughter Caroline was the third born in a family of four children and when a girl attended school in Mound Prairie township.

Albert Kletzke, proprietor of a farm of 120 acres in section 11, Mound Prairie township, was born in this township, March 1, 1872, son of Ferdinand and Caroline (Borgerd) Kletzke. The parents were natives of Germany who came to America about 1868, locating first in Watertown, Wis. After remaining there about a year, they came to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in Day Valley, where they remained until the father's death. The mother died in La Crosse three or four years later. Albert Kletzke for a few years in his boyhood attended district school, but his home being broken up when he was about eight years old, he soon afterwards had to make himself useful and help to earn his own living. When old enough

he engaged in well drilling as assistant to John Welch, and about the year 1900 started in the same business for himself, continuing to follow it until 1907. He then took his present farm, where he has since followed agriculture successfully in connection with pump repairing. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank and president of the East Ridge Telephone Company. His religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. In 1896 Mr. Kletzke married Ida Strelow, who died in January, 1906, leaving three children, Malinda, Elsie and George. Mr. Kletzke married secondly Mrs. Louisa (Behrndt) Lemke, daughter of Albert and Sophie (Roth) Behrndt, she being one of a family of eight children. Her father was a native of Germany and her mother of New York State. Mr. Behrndt came to Houston county, Minnesota, when about thirty years old, settling on Crooked Creek, whence in a short time he removed to Hokah, where he and his wife are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Louisa Kletzke have one child, Charlotte, who was born at Mound Prairie, Nov. 23, 1916. By her former marriage Mrs. Kletzke has also a son, Ezra Lemke.

Frederick Boldt, one of the hardy farmers who helped to develop the agricultural resources of Mound Prairie township, was born in Germany, June 24, 1845. He was 19 years old when he came to America, locating in Houston county, Minnesota. While residing here he was married to Paulina Burrow, who was born in this township, March 18, 1865. Soon after their marriage he and his wife moved to La Crosse, where they lived for some years, during which time he worked out for wages. Then he returned to Houston county; remained here about one year farming, and from here moved to Winona county, where he and his wife spent seven years farming. At the end of that time, returning to Houston county, they settled on land in section 16, Mound Prairie township—a tract of 120 acres—and devoted themselves to its improvement, in time developing a good farm. Here he spent the balance of his life, passing away Jan. 31, 1917. Mrs. Boldt died Feb. 21, 1904. He and his wife had five children: William, who resides with his brother John P. on the homestead; Amelia, wife of John O. Anderson, now farming at Salem, Ore.; John P., proprietor of the old homestead; Amanada, residing in Portland, Ore., and Elsie, wife of Rudolph Mark, a farmer of Mound Prairie township.

John P. Boldt, who is engaged in operating the old Boldt farm in section 16, Mound Prairie township, of which he is now the owner, was born in La Crosse, Wis., Jan. 4, 1886, son of Frederick and Paulina (Burrow) Boldt. He attended school in Winona county, and later in Mound Prairie township, Houston county, his parents having moved to the farm above mentioned. Until the age of 26 years he was engaged in assisting his father, after which he rented the home farm, operating it under rental until May, 1917, when he bought it. It contains 120 acres of good land, with adequate buildings and a good equipment of everything necessary for general farming, which occupation Mr. Boldt is carrying on successfully. He is a member of the Evangelical Association church, and in politics is a Republican. He was married, June 6, 1917, to Alvera Witt, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of Christian and Emma (Redmann) Witt. Her



JOHN BOLDT AND FAMILY

father, who was born in Germany, was a boy of four years when he came to America, locating in Houston county, where he grew to manhood and became a prosperous farmer. He is still in active life. He and his wife have had ten children. Mr. and Mrs. Boldt are the parents of one child, Donald Arthur, born March 22, 1918.

John Schumacher, a well known and respected citizen of Mound Prairie township, where he is operating a farm of 77 acres, was born in Winona county, Minnesota, in the township of New Hartford, April 17, 1875, son of Ferdinand and Caroline (Calf) Schumacher. The parents were natives of Pommern, Germany, the father born May 15, 1836, and the mother Dec. 30, 1833. They came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1868, with two children, settling on a farm on South Ridge, where, however, they remained but a year, removing at the end of that time to New Hartford township, Winona county. There they took a homestead and engaged in farming, residing on their farm in that township until the death of the father in 1906. They had a family of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest. John Schumacher was educated in the Rose Valley district school, which he attended until 14 years of age. He assisted in cultivating the home farm until about 20 years old, after which for about three years he was engaged in carpenter work. Since then he has been engaged for the most part in farming, but also does carpenter work occasionally, and for some years has been a member of a threshing crew. He bought his present farm in 1906, and in 1918 built a good basement barn. As a general farmer he is meeting with success, and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. Mr. Schumacher was married, Sept. 26, 1898, at New Hartford, Minn., to Mary Wolter, daughter of August and Matilda (Voss) Wolter, she being the third born of their six children. Her father was born in Pommern, Germany, Aug. 17, 1842, and came to Houston county Minnesota, in 1868. Later he became a resident of Winona county, where he was married to Matilda Voss, who was born in Pommern, Germany, on July 11, 1850, and who had come to Winona county from Watertown, Wis. They engaged in farming in Winona county, where they are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher have eight children, the two eldest of whom were born in New Hartford township, Winona county, Minnesota, and the others in Houston county. Their respective names, with dates of birth, are as follows: Walter, Aug. 25, 1899; Martha, Oct. 8, 1900; Theodora, March 2, 1904; Pauline, Sept. 5, 1905; Agnes, Dec. 19, 1908; Maria, May 9, 1910; Adelia, Sept. 1, 1913, and Edwin, Dec. 24, 1918. Mr. Schumacher and his family are members of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican.

Henry G. Splitter, for a number of years a prominent business man of La Crosse, was born in La Crescent township, Houston county, Minnesota, June 18, 1871, son of William and Mary Splitter. The father was a native of Germany and always a farmer by occupation. After farming for a number of years in La Crescent township, he removed to Ellsworth county, Kansas, where he lived retired on a farm until his death. His wife was born in Wisconsin. Henry G., who was the fifth born of their eight children, attended school in La Crescent township, Wisconsin, and later at Lorraine,

Kansas, supplementing his education by a course at the La Crosse Business College, his parents having settled in that city. There he later engaged in the dry goods business, which he successfully carried on until his death in November, 1895. He was a member of the Baptist church and in politics a Republican. Mr. Splitter was married Aug. 19, 1895, to Mary Lehmann, who was born in Mound Prairie township, Houston county, Minnesota, daughter of Charles and Anna (Senn) Lehmann, she being the third of their five children in order of birth. Her education was obtained in the district school in this township. After her husband's death Mrs. Splitter returned to her parents' home in section 22, Mound Prairie township, and resided there until March, 1916, when she bought her present farm in Storer Valley, section 19, in the same township. She has 143 acres of valuable land, with good buildings, and is successfully engaged in general stock farming, with the assistance of her son, Henry Winfred. The latter, her only child, is a graduate of the normal department of the Houston high school.

Charles Lehmann, who was for a number of years a well known and prosperous farmer of Mound Prairie township, but is now deceased, was born in Germany, Jan. 27, 1844. He was twelve years of age when he came to Houston county, where he was reared to manhood except for the few years that he resided with his father in Chicago. Having acquired a good knowledge of agriculture, he subsequently bought land and engaged in farming in Mound Prairie township, residing here until his death in 1914. Mr. Lehmann was married in La Crosse to Anna Senn, who was born in Switzerland, Jan. 8, 1847. She is now residing with her daughter, Mrs. Henry G. Splitter, on the latter's farm in section 19, Mound Prairie township.

Thomas Fairbanks. There has been much difference of opinion as to who were the original white settlers of Mound Prairie township, but, in spite of conflicting claims, there can be no doubt that one of the first to occupy land in the township was the subject of this sketch. Thomas Fairbanks was born in the State of New York in 1818, only three years after the close of our second war with Great Britain, and an equal length of time after Napoleon had met with his final defeat at the battle of Waterloo. The great Northwest was then practically an unknown country, save to a few French traders, trappers or hunters, whose business was mostly with the Indians. Young Fairbanks acquired a knowledge of farming while still residing in his native state; but though fair opportunities were not then lacking in New York State, a spirit of adventure led him, while still in his early manhood, to seek the West, and he accordingly made his way to Illinois, and thence to Iowa. He had already been united in marriage with Catherine Orr, a native of Ireland, and it was while residing near Freeport, in northern Illinois, that their eldest child, Frank R., was born, in 1845. It was in 1854 that Mr. Fairbanks, with his wife and family, came from Iowa to Houston county, Minnesota, and took land, as already mentioned, in Mound Prairie township, his tract being situated in section 4, south. Practically the entire county was then wild, only a few scattered farms having been established, and they were in a primitive stage of development, but little



land being broken, and the only dwellings being rude log houses, some of which contained but a single room. Mr. Fairbanks' first house was a similar structure, of small size, and he began the work of clearing his land with a yoke of oxen, horses being rarely seen on the pioneer farms. To describe in detail his subsequent progress would be to repeat a story often told. It is sufficient to say that he possessed all those hardy qualities that were essential to success in such a mode of life, and in time by persevering industry developed a good farm from his wild land, erecting better buildings as he made progress, building fences, and providing himself from time to time with improved equipment. He continued to be thus actively engaged until 1897, in which year he retired, his retirement perhaps being hastened by the ill health of his wife, who died at Hokah about that time, or soon after. Mr. Fairbanks subsequently removed to Valley City, North Dakota, where he, himself, passed away in 1913. They had a family of eleven children.

Frank R. Fairbanks, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Mound Prairie township, though now practically retired from active work, was born near Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois, Aug. 26, 1845, son of Thomas and Catherine (Orr) Fairbanks. While still a young boy he accompanied his parents to Iowa, and then, in 1854, to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on land in Mound Prairie township which now forms a part of his present farm in section 4 south. Here he grew to manhood, for a while attending the district school, but spending a number of hours each day in healthful industry as his father's assistant. When twenty-four years old, which was after his marriage, he rented a part of the home farm, operating it for a few years, after which he spent four years farming in North Dakota. Then returning home, he purchased the property he is now living on, including the old homestead, and containing altogether 237 acres of land, though not all in one field. He has made valuable modern improvements, and has had a successful career as a general farmer, though he now leaves the practical operation of the farm to his sons. He has served at times in various local offices, in politics being independent, and he is a member of the Masonic lodge at Houston. Mr. Fairbanks was married in January, 1867, to Luella J. Burfield, who was born near Rock Island, Ill., daughter of W. B. and Eliza (Williams) Burfield. He and his wife have ten children: Ada, wife of S. S. Sheldon, of Mound Prairie township; Robert and Mae, residing at home; Catherine, now Mrs. Dana Dyer, of Houston; George and Darrol, who are farming in North Dakota; Mary, residing at home; Paul, who is operating the home farm; Jessie, wife of Peter Gokey, who is employed in the government Indian service in Montana; and Jennie, wife of P. Willis, a farmer at Big Sandy, Mont. Mrs. F. R. Fairbanks died May 4, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Burfield, the parents of Mrs. Fairbanks, came to Minnesota about 1856, settling at Caledonia, Houston county, where Mr. Burfield followed the trade of millwright for some years. Later they took a farm in Crystal Valley, where Mr. Burfield died in 1907, at the age of about eighty-three years. He had the distinction of having organized the first Masonic lodge in Minnesota.

Fred Herman Beckman, who is meeting with good success as proprietor of a farm of 220 acres in Mound Prairie township, his residence lying in section 18, was born in Pommern, Germany, Nov. 14, 1885, son of August and Louisa (Albrecht) Beckman. The parents came with their children to America in 1894, landing at Baltimore, whence they proceeded west. After a brief stay of a few days at La Crosse, Wis., they came on to Houston county, where they made a permanent settlement. For a number of years August Beckman worked out for others, and then retired, making his home with his son Fred Herman until his death, which occurred in 1912. His wife is still residing on the farm. Fred H. Beckman, who was one of the younger members in a family of eight children, was about nine years old when he arrived in Houston county. At the age of thirteen he began working out and was thus occupied until his marriage in 1907. After that he farmed rented land for about ten years, at the end of that time buying his present farm, a well improved piece of property, on which he is profitably raising both grain and stock. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is independent, voting for the men rather than for the party. His marriage, already referred to, occurred in December, 1907, his bride being Gusta Huebner, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, daughter of Fred and Mary (Redmann) Huebner. Her father, a native of Germany, is now operating a large farm in North Dakota. Her mother was born in Germany, and is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Beckmann are the parents of five children, Edna, Harold, Victor, Hazel and Lester.

Michael J. Deegan, who owns and operates the old Deegan farm of 160 acres in section 15, Mound Prairie township, was born in this township Oct. 16, 1861, son of James and Julia (Shiel) Deegan. He was only about four years old when his father died while serving in the army, but when old enough he was sent to school in district No. 11, and also attended a convent school at Hokah for about three months. He began working on the farm at an early age and had the practical charge of it by the time he was fourteen. It finally became his own property and he has continued his residence here and has made all the modern improvements on the place, so that it is now well provided with substantial buildings and all necessary equipment. He raises both crops and stock, finding a ready and profitable market for all his products, and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of this township. He is a member of the Catholic church at La Crescent, and in politics is a Democrat. Mr. Deegan was married April 9, 1902, to Elizabeth Morris, who was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, daughter of John and Jane (Graham) Morris, both of whom were natives of that province, the father born March 27, 1834, and the mother in 1838. The parents were farming people who emigrated from Canada to La Crosse, where they resided for twenty years. The father is now retired and is living in Pine Creek. Of the nine children in the family, Elizabeth, now Mrs. Deegan, was the seventh in order of birth. She spent her early years in Canada, where she acquired her education. Mr. and Mrs. Deegan have one child, Julia Elizabeth, born Feb. 25, 1915.

James Deegan, one of the pioneer settlers of Mound Prairie township, was born in Queens County, Ireland, and was a young man when he came



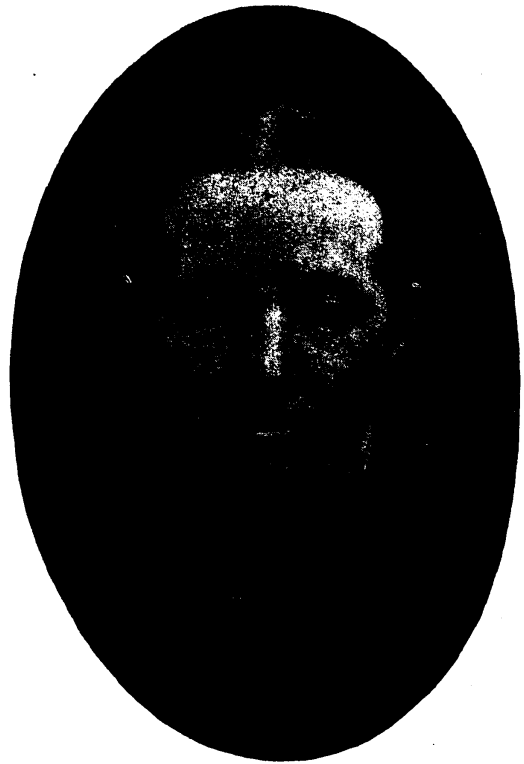
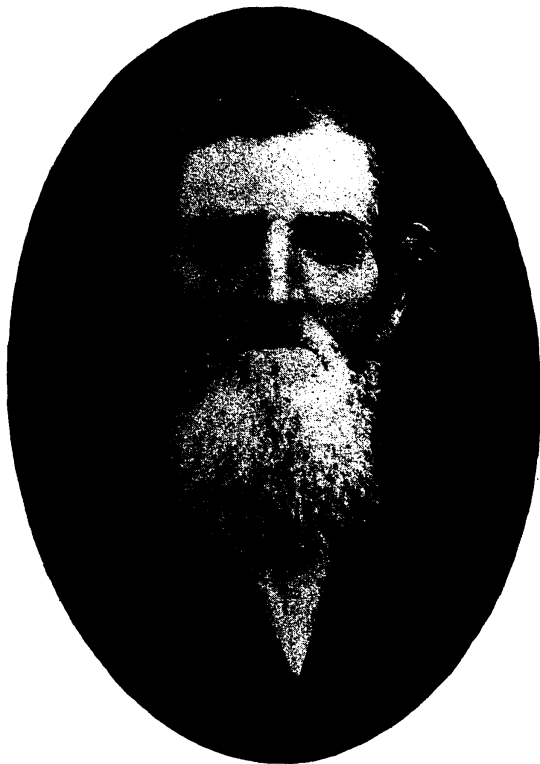
SAMUEL N. WEBB AND FAMILY

to the United States. He first located in New England, and was married at Middletown, Conn., to Julia Shiel, who was a native of the same county in Ireland as himself, and who had come to this country when a girl of fourteen years. For a number of years Mr. Deegan remained in Connecticut, being employed in a stone quarry, but not finding it easy to make satisfactory progress on the low wages then paid to workmen in that and most other lines of industry, he resolved to seek independence and fortune in the Northwest, and with that object in view set out with his wife and family for Houston county, Minnesota. It was in the year 1855 when he arrived here and settled on a tract of land in section 15, Mound Prairie township, on which he began to make improvements. Here he continued to reside until 1865, in which year he enlisted for service in the Civil War as a private in a Wisconsin regiment. A few weeks later he died in St. Louis, to which place his regiment had been sent. His wife continued on the farm until her death in 1904. Michael J. is now proprietor of the old homestead. Katherine is the widow of Frank Wurm, of La Crosse, and she has two children, Francis J., who served his country during the Great War in the United States Navy, and Mary.

Samuel N. Wheaton, one of the older residents of Caledonia township, where, as general farmer and stock raiser, he is doing a profitable business, is one of the surviving pioneers of this township, in which he settled nearly sixty years ago. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, July 10, 1848, and first came to Houston county, Minnesota, with his mother in 1856. After a residence here of a few months they returned to New York State, but came again to Houston county in 1859, when he was a boy of eleven years. From that time he has remained here and grown up with the county, watching its development from a wilderness almost uninhabited except by Indians, to the highly cultivated and civilized section of the State which it is today. In this work of progress he has taken an active part along agricultural lines. In 1859 his father bought twenty acres of his present farm which is now highly improved and contains 220 acres, provided with good buildings and a full equipment of everything necessary for up-to-date farming and stock raising; and in addition to this place he also owns and operates 1,530 acres of other land in this township, being recognized as one of the most enterprising and successful men in this part of the county. As a breeder of Holstein cattle he has an established reputation, while he is also noted for his practical public spirit in supporting every worthy enterprise calculated to benefit the community in either a moral or material sense. He has been active in school work, serving for a number of years as a member of the board of education. Mr. Wheaton married Anna M. Houghton, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, Sept. 16, 1852, and they have been the parents of six children: Ruth L., deceased; Pearl P., deceased; John P., Paul R., Ralph R. and Hazel E., now Mrs. Aaron Lee. It is interesting to note that Mr. Wheaton was one of the prime movers in the proposition which has resulted in the construction of the big Houston County Drainage Ditch and the straightening of Root River.

John R. Wheaton, who as general supervisor is operating the Wheaton stock farm of 1,120 acres in the western part of Mound Prairie township, is one of the leading stock raisers in this part of Houston county. He was born in Caledonia township, this county, April 7, 1885, son of Samuel N. and Anna M. (Houghton) Wheaton, and was the third born in a family of six children, being the eldest of the four who are now living. He was educated in the district school of his locality and at the age of sixteen years began doing a man's work on the parental homestead, proving a valuable assistant to his father, with whom he was closely associated until after attaining his majority. At that time he took the practical charge of the farm which he is now operating, and of which for some time he has had full charge. He raises a large amount of stock yearly and is also profitably engaged in selling wood and lumber. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange and Elevator at Houston, and a director of the Farmers' Telephone Co. In politics he is an independent Republican, while his fraternal society affiliations are with the Masonic order. Mr. Wheaton was married Dec. 18, 1907, to Caroline Dahl, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, daughter of Lars Dahl and wife, whose maiden name was Betsey (Halseth). Her parents were born in Norway, where the father was a farmer and fisherman. On coming to the United States many years ago, they settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where Mr. Dahl died in February, 1909. He was survived by his wife, who is still a resident of that county. Their daughter Caroline (Mrs. Wheaton) was the second born of their five children. Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton are the parents of four children, all residing at home, namely: Ruth Louise, Arthur Nelsen, Olive Lucille and Samuel Nelius.

Albert Blank, one of the leading general farmers of Mound Prairie township, where he is operating 480 acres of land, his residence lying in section 5 north, was born in Pommern, Germany, April 26, 1854, son of Carl and Mena (Huffman) Blank. The mother dying in her native land at the age of forty years, the father emigrated to Brazil, where he resided for some time with his children and finally died. Albert, who was the first born of the eleven children, was educated in Germany. He resided at home until he was thirty years old, and then came to the United States from Germany, locating first in La Crosse, where he resided for nineteen years, following different occupations, including those of sawmill worker and mason. Then coming to Houston county, he took a farm on South Ridge, Mound Prairie township, which he operated for three years. For the next eight years he was engaged in agricultural work in Brownsville township. At the end of that time he came to his present farm containing 480 acres of valuable land, well provided with buildings, which he is operating as a general stock and grain farm with profitable results. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and in politics is independent. Mr. Blank was married in February, 1878, to Hulda Dobratz, who was born in Pommern, Germany, April 20, 1860, daughter of William and Frederica Dobratz. Her parents with their family emigrated to the United States in 1882, settling in Wisconsin. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Blank have been the parents of twelve children: Charles, who died at the age of fourteen years;



MR. AND MRS. JACOB KROEHLER
T. J. KROEHLER AND FAMILY

Anna, wife of Earl Harris, a foreman in the rubber mill at La Crosse; George, who is engaged in government work at La Crosse; William, a railroad machinist residing at La Crosse; Fritz, a resident of La Crosse; Elsie, wife of Joseph Leidolph, who is employed in a motorcycle works for the government; Olga, wife of Frank Otto of South Ridge; and Walter, Esther, Irene and Arthur, who are residing at home.

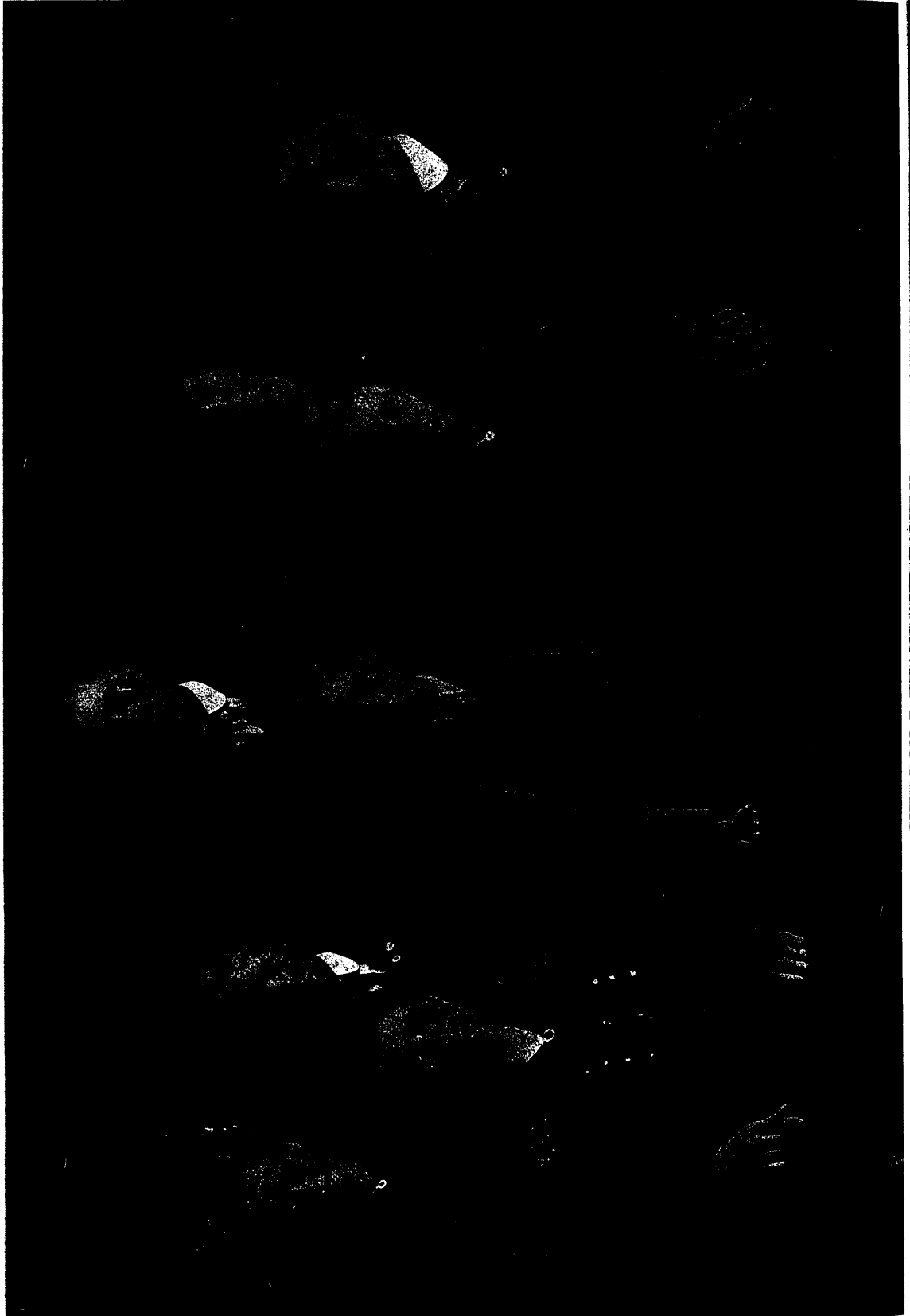
Jacob Kroehler, one of the pioneer settlers of Mound Prairie township, who has departed forever from the scene of his early labors, was a native of Germany, who, on coming to the United States, settled first in Wisconsin. Thence, after a short time, he came to Houston county, locating in Mound Prairie township before the government survey of the county had been made. The tract of land on which he settled was in section 21, and his first dwelling was a small log house. He married Kathrine Eberhard, also a native of Germany, and they worked together through a long series of years, converting their wild tract of land into a cultivated and well improved farm, and also rearing a family of 13 children. Mr. Kroehler died on his farm on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day, 1914. His wife survived him but a few months, passing away Feb. 20, 1915. They were worthy pioneers who did their part in advancing the work of civilization in this county.

Tobias J. Kroehler, a well known general stock farmer, having 395 acres of land in Mound Prairie township, was born on this farm, Feb. 19, 1866, son of Jacob and Kathrine (Eberhard) Kroehler. He was the seventh born of his parents' 13 children, and his boyhood was spent amid pioneer scenes, one feature of which was the little log schoolhouse in which he acquired the elements of knowledge. His industrial education was more thorough, for at the early age of ten years he was put to work behind the plow, and from that time on for a number of years he spent the greater part of his time assisting his father to improve the home farm and cultivate the land, also, when he became old enough, operating a threshing outfit in the fall. At the age of 25 years he assumed the management of the farm, his father on account of age taking a less active part, and in time the property came into his hands. It now includes 395 acres of valuable land, together with good buildings and a full equipment of all necessary tools and machinery, and Mr. Kroehler has operated it successfully as a general stock farm, being also a shareholder in the Houston Elevator Company. Many of the most notable improvements on the place have been made by himself, and his reputation as a man of enterprise and ability stands high in the community. At the present time Mr. Kroehler is renting his farm to tenants, though he exercises a general supervision over the property, paying personal attention to the orchard, which contains 1,500 apple trees of the Wealthy species. A Republican in politics, though with independent proclivities, he served four years as town supervisor, and was a member of the school board for a number of years. He and his family attend the Evangelical Association church. On Nov. 16, 1893, Mr. Kroehler renounced bachelor life, being united in marriage with Harriet Grace Swinburne, a teacher for several years in Houston county schools, who was born near Sparta, Wis., daughter of George W. and Mary F. (Perkins)

Swinburne. He and his wife have four children, Avis Lydia, Esther Elizabeth, Myron Willard and Everett Charles Lee. Avis Lydia is now training for a nurse at the Winona General hospital. Esther Elizabeth, who was educated in the local schools and at the Winona Normal School, has taught school in Winona and Houston counties, and is now residing at home and teaching in the home district. The two younger children are also home. George W. Swinburne, the father of Mrs. Kroehler, was born at Lyndonville, Vt., in 1847, and his wife Mary near Milwaukee, Wis., in 1848. Mr. Swinburne was a carpenter and builder by trade, and came to Houston county, Minn., at an early date, residing with a brother in Mound Prairie township. He later settled in Sparta, Wis., residing there for a number of years, and afterwards spending a number of years in Cavalier county, North Dakota. He is now living at Zephyr Hills, Florida. He is a man of high education, and is a Civil War veteran, seeing active service during the great struggle between the North and South, in which he received a gunshot wound. He enlisted in 1861, first in the National Guards of Manchester for three months' service at Fortress Monroe, Portsmouth Harbor, N. H., and was discharged from there at expiration of service. He then enlisted in Company G, 4th Vermont Volunteers, and continued in the army until close of the war.

William Orr, a former resident of Mound Prairie township, where for a number of years he was engaged in the work of agricultural improvement, was born in New York State, Sept. 3, 1853. His occupation was always that of a farmer. He was a young man when he sought his fortune in the West, locating in Mound Prairie township in 1880 and taking land which he in time developed into a good farm. He became a prominent man in his township at various times holding local office, and his death, which occurred Feb. 18, 1918, caused widespread regret. Mr. Orr married Catherine Vix, who was born in Houston county, Minn., in 1853, she being, therefore, about the same age as himself. They had a family of 11 children: Nora, Raymond, Maude, Archie, Myrtle, Agnes, Jennie, Clifford and Pearl, living, and Georgia and John, who died in infancy.

Clifford Earl Orr, a well known and respected citizen of Mound Prairie township, where he is enjoying a successful career as a general farmer, was born on the farm where he now lives, Sept. 26, 1895, son of William and Catherine (Vix) Orr. He was the tenth born of his parents' eleven children and attended school in Mound Prairie township and at Hokah, this county. When 17 years old he took charge of and operated one of his father's farms in Mound Prairie township, remaining there until April 5, 1917, when he removed to his present farm, the one on which he was born, and which contains 127 acres. In addition to this he operates the lower farm of 147 acres, raising both grain and stock, his herd of cattle averaging about 40 head. In politics he is independent, voting for the man rather than for the party. Mr. Orr was married Dec. 20, 1916, to Mabel Doering, who was born in Nebraska, daughter of Adam and Clara (Henningesen) Doering, her father being a native of Germany and her mother of Copenhagen, Denmark, Mr. Doering was brought to this country when a lad of four years and at the age of 22 went to Nebraska. Later he returned to



Houston county, Minn., where he had previously resided, and is now living in Union township, being still in active life. His wife is also living. Their daughter Mabel was the eldest of their family of four children. She was educated in Caledonia township and taught school in Houston county for four years before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Orr have two children, Mabel Ivy and Violet Henrietta.

Edmund Evans, for many years proprietor of Silver Tower Fruit Farm, but now deceased, was born in Blackthorne, Oxfordshire, England, in September, 1819. On April 10, 1849, he was married to Ann Ayers, also a native of England, and in the year of their marriage they sailed for the United States, and settled in the state of New York, where they resided until 1852. They then removed to Indian Territory, where Mr. Evans was employed by the government in the agricultural department of Spencer Academy, a Presbyterian mission institution located on the Choctaw reservation. He held that position until 1859, when on account of his wife's poor health, he returned with her to New York state. Early in 1860 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, and for a short time resided in La Crescent village. From there they moved to a farm in section 11, Mound Prairie township, where they established a home, Mr. Evans carrying on general farming and fruit raising. As a fruit grower he was not only the first in his vicinity, but was also one of the earliest in the state, and as such became widely known, while in general agriculture he was equally successful. In course of time he increased the area of his farm to 360 acres, and resided on it until his death in 1898. Mrs. Evans died Sept. 28, 1915. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Edwin F., William J., Sarah R., Henry C., Arthur, Mary Jane A., Sheldon J., Walter T., Albert E., Julia A., and Rose L. Mr. Evans was a member of the Presbyterian church of La Crescent.

Sheldon J. Evans, proprietor of the Excelsior Fruit Farm, who for a number of years has been one of the leading factors in fancy fruit and berry culture in Houston county, and who is also engaged in general fruit farming in section 10, Mound Prairie township, was born in section 3, this township, March 27, 1863, son of Edmund and Anna (Ayres) Evans. He was educated in the district school, and until the age of 21 years was engaged in assisting his father on the latter's fruit farm, known as Silver Tower Fruit Farm. He then engaged in carpenter work and painting, and was thus occupied until 1890, when he went into the business of raising red raspberries on his parents' farm, continuing in it for seven or eight years with good success. At the end of that time, in 1896, he bought his present farm, where in addition to fruit culture he raises grain, cattle and hogs, and also carries on dairying. The farm contains 320 acres, and in 1914 Mr. Evans built a neat modern residence of concrete cement brick. It is interesting to note that this beautiful residence is practically the sole work of Mr. Evans himself. He was the architect, supervised the work in person, and even made the brick himself in a three brick hand machine, so that the structure is a tribute to his ability, good taste, and versatility, as well as an evidence of his sincere desire to do his share toward building up the community. His operations have been conducted on a profitable basis,

and in addition to the interests already mentioned, he is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Valley Creamery, and the Farmers' Co-Operative Elevator and the Stock Shipping Association at Houston. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative Market Co., at La Crosse, an association which by providing means for the farmer to reach the consumer directly is doing much toward solving marketing problems and the high cost of living. He is a life member of the Minnesota Horticultural Association and is active in its work. For about thirty years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Foresters. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian Church, and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. Evans was married, Sept. 6, 1898, to Sophia Lind, daughter of Andrew and Caroline Lind. Her parents were born in Sweden, the father on March 27, 1838, and the mother May 5, 1842. Emigrating to Iowa in 1872, they remained there about a year, and then came to Houston county, Minn., settling in Swede Bottom, near Houston, where the father died Oct. 5, 1892. The mother is still living and resides on the old farm. They had eight children, of whom their daughter Sophia was the sixth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have seven children, whose respective names, with dates of birth, are as follows: Silas Clement, Aug. 10, 1898; Edmund Arthur, Jan. 14, 1900; Luella Viola, Oct. 13, 1902; Marland Lind, April 9, 1905; Evelyn Janette, Aug. 4, 1906; Harold Willis, Jan. 11, 1908; and Stella Jermima Caroline, Aug. 22, 1910. Mr. Evans has shown a commendable degree of enterprise in all his undertakings, and especially in his successful career as a fruit grower, a line of business in which many farmers fear to embark, on account of the risk from unfavorable weather and insect pests. He has mastered all difficulties, however, and built up a high reputation. His home is surrounded with evergreens, trees, and shrubbery, set out in a tasteful manner, which shows that the owner is a man who believes in doing everything well.

Henry Doering, a well known and respected citizen of Union township, who is successfully operating a farm of 120 acres, residing in section 16, was born in Hessen, Germany, Oct. 10, 1862, son of Henry and Katherine (Falk) Doering. His parents, who were born and married in Germany, came to the United States in 1868, and engaged in farming in Houston county, though the father's occupation in Germany had been that of a weaver. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Their children were Mary, Valentine, Henry, Adam, William, Daniel, Anna, and Gustav. By a previous marriage Henry Doering, Sr., had three other children: Elizabeth, Kathrine and Bertha. Henry, Jr., was educated in the district school, and resided on the home farm, assisting his father until his marriage. Three years previous to that event, however, he bought the farm on which he now lives, and on to which he moved at the time he began domestic life. About 85 of the 120 acres are cleared, the rest being woodland. He has erected all the present buildings, having a good barn and modern house, and is successfully carrying on mixed farming, devoting special attention to the raising of cattle and hogs. He is also a stockholder in the local telephone company, and is clerk of his school district. Mr. Doering was married Feb. 18, 1892, to Ida Mann, who was born in Union township, Houston

county, Dec. 31, 1872, daughter of Louis and Emelie (Kreise) Mann. Her parents, natives of West Prussia, Germany, came to the United States in 1870, and engaged in farming in this county. They had nine children: Emil, Ida, Alvina, Adolph, Ludwig, Reinhold, Emma, Minnie and Charles. Of these children, Emil, Adolph and Ludwig are now deceased, as also are the parents. To Mr. and Mrs. Doering eight children have been born: Clara, May 8, 1893; Vera, Oct. 19, 1894; Ida, Feb. 17, 1897; Esther, Nov. 8, 1898; Elanor, June 18, 1900; Henry, March 31, 1902; Helen, June 21, 1905; and Gladys, July 21, 1910. Clara is the wife of George Schauble. The others are residing on the home farm, those of suitable age attending school. The family attend the Lutheran church.

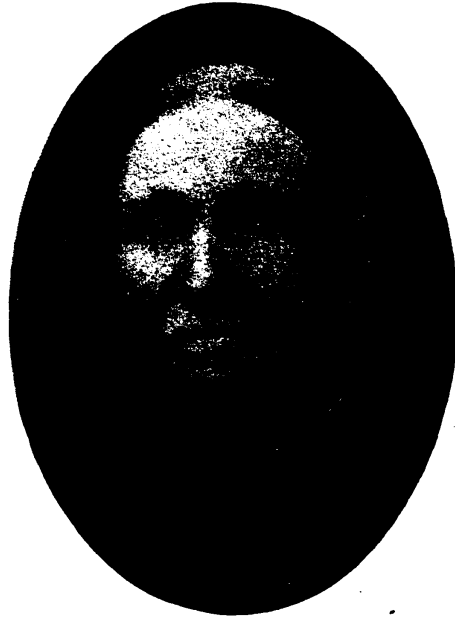
Nere Tveten, one of the leading farmers of Yucatan township, operating 360 acres in section 3, where he has resided for the last eleven years, was born in Telemarken, Norway, July 29, 1856, son of Gulick and Anna (Nereson) Tveten. His parents were farming people who died in their native land, never coming to the United States. Nere was the third born in a family of seven children and attended school in Norway, where he grew to manhood. In 1882, ambitious to advance himself in life, he followed the example of so many of his countrymen in emigrating to the United States, settling in Fillmore county, Minnesota. When he landed in this country he could speak no English, but remedied that disadvantage after a short residence here. At first he worked out for others, but as soon as he was able he secured a piece of land and began farming for himself in Fillmore county. There he remained for several years, subsequently going to Winona county, where he farmed for three years. Twenty-one years ago he came to Houston county, and eleven years ago to the Ed Johnson farm on which he is now living, and where he is carrying on general farming successfully, having at the present time about 60 head of cattle, besides hogs and other stock. He is also a shareholder in the Rushford Creamery. Energetic and enterprising, he is making good progress and is numbered among the substantial citizens of Yucatan township. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church at Rushford. Mr. Tveten was married in January, 1892, to Rognhild Amalia Anderson, who was born in Fillmore county, Minn., daughter of Gout and Anna (Halvorson) Anderson. Her parents were natives of Telemarken, Norway, who on emigrating to America settled first in Illinois. Later they removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, settling on a farm near Rushford. They are now retired and are well advanced in years, Mr. Anderson having served as a soldier in the Civil War. Their daughter Rognhild Amalia (Mrs. Tveten) was the third born in a family of seven children, and was educated in Fillmore county. Mr. and Mrs. Tveten have ten children, all residing at home, namely: Gust Adolph, Andrew Edwin, Carl Helmar, Anna Jeanette, Nora Regina, Reuben Leonard, George Martin, Selmar Theodore, Henry Oscar and Cora Amelia.

John O. Lee, who is now living retired on the farm of his son Gilbert in Yucatan township, after a long career in agricultural pursuits, was born in Fyrstal, Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 11, 1838. In 1854 or 1855 he accompanied his parents to the United States, they settling at Kaskoning, near

Madison, Wis. Being then a strong well grown boy of 16 or 17, he was able to aid in the support of the family, and for a year was employed on the railroad. At the end of that time the family moved to Badger Valley in Sheldon township, Houston county, Minn., and engaged in farming. The Civil War coming on, young John O. Lee was drafted for military service and was in the army for one year and nine months, being fortunate enough to escape both wounds and sickness. On his return home he resumed his residence on the home farm. On May 17, 1869, he was married to Margaret Brakke, who was a native of the same part of Norway as himself, born Feb. 19, 1848. He then settled on the farm in Yucatan township, where he is still living and which during a long course of years he developed into a valuable property, finally retiring from active work. He is still in the enjoyment of good health. Mr. Lee was formerly active in school and church work and assisted in the building of the Lutheran "Stone" church at Houston. He also served as town supervisor. He has recently sustained a bereavement in the death of his wife, which occurred April 3, 1918. They were the parents of eight children: Halvor J., Gilbert (first), Christian, Emma, Gina, Ole, Gilena and Gilbert (second).

Ole J. Lee, who is following a prosperous career as a general farmer and stock raiser in Yucatan township, having a good farm of 211 acres in section 22, was born on an adjoining farm in this township, Jan. 3, 1882, son of John O. and Margaret (Brokke) Lee. He was the fifth born of their seven children, and was educated in District No. 20, this township. Up to the time of his marriage he resided on the home farm, assisting his father for the most part, but during the last few years having the management of the farm. On assuming domestic responsibilities he started in for himself on his present farm, which he is operating along general lines, though making a specialty of breeding Durham cattle, of which he has a good herd. He is also a stockholder in the Yucatan Creamery, the Farmers' Telephone Company, and the Security State Bank of Houston. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Houston and is now serving as school clerk, in politics being a Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the order of Yeomen. Mr. Lee was married Sept. 25, 1903, to Tena Larson, who was born in Yucatan township, this county, Aug. 13, 1884, daughter of Herman and Anna (Skare) Omonrud, she being the third born of their seven children. Her father, a native of Nonstad, was a prominent farmer here who died at the age of 53 years in August, 1906. Her mother, a native of Houston county, is now residing on the old homestead in Yucatan township. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are the parents of two children, John Hilbert, born Sept. 9, 1905, and Harold Albin, born Sept. 18, 1907.

Gulick Highlen, for many years a well known and respected citizen of Yucatan township, where he was engaged in agriculture, was born in 1834 in Stavanger, Norway, where he grew up and married Anna Tenneson, a native of the same locality, born in 1836. Their emigration to the United States took place in 1869, and coming to Houston county, Minn., they first settled in Spring Grove township. A year later they moved to Yucatan township, where they engaged in farming, in which occupation here Mr. Highlen spent the rest of his life, dying in 1916. He had been a widower



MR. AND MRS. JOHN O. LEE
OLE J. LEE AND FAMILY



HANS TRULSON AND FAMILY

for two years, his wife having passed away in 1914. They were the parents of eight children.

George Highlen, who is engaged in operating the Dever Bros.' farm of 120 acres in section 33, Yucatan township, and is also a property owner, was born in Stavanger, Norway, Nov. 14, 1866, son of Gulick and Anna (Tenneson) Highlen. He was an infant of two or three years when he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, and his education was acquired in district schools in Yucatan and Money Creek townships. When twelve years old he began working out and earning his own living, and from that until his marriage he was variously employed—at farming, railroad work, and lumbering. In July, 1897, he was united in marriage with Susan Brevig, who was born in Yucatan township, daughter of Christopher and Guneild Brevig. Her parents were natives of Telemarken, Norway, who were early settlers in Yucatan township, where they farmed for a number of years. Both are now deceased. At the time of his marriage Mr. Highlen started farming for himself in Money Creek township, subsequently removing to Houston, and later to Yucatan township. In Houston he was engaged in business for six years, and then engaged with the Dever Bros. to operate the farm on which he now resides, and where he is raising both crops and stock. He owns 80 acres of land in Martin county, Wisconsin, and is one of the well to do men of his township. He has served on the school board for three years, in politics being an independent Republican, and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church on Oak Ridge. He and his wife have ten children: Cora G., Jesse A., Grace C., Edna L., Nora, Charlotte O., Belvina, Orvin T., and James T. Jesse A. died April 27, 1919. The others are living at home.

Lars Trulson, who was formerly engaged in agricultural pursuits in Yucatan township, but is now deceased, was born in Holling, Norway, and was a young man when he emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota. After some agricultural attempts elsewhere, he settled on land in section 1, Yucatan township, and was there engaged in farming until 1882, when he removed to North Dakota. A year later, however, he returned, and the rest of his life was spent in this township, where he died in the fall of 1904. He was a man of mark in the community and at various times held school and town office. He was married in Houston County to Gunhild Halgrimson, also a native of Norway, and by whom he had nine children: Truls, Hans, Rindena, Arnt, Helmar, Mary, Elling, Emil and Christina. Mrs. Gunhild Trulson died in October, 1912.

Hans Trulson, who is owner of a farm of 156 acres in section 1, Yucatan township, which he is successfully operating, was born in Houston township, this county, Sept. 23, 1877, son of Lars and Gunhild (Halgrimson) Trulson. He was the second born in a family of nine children, and attended school on Oak Ridge in Yucatan township. Residing at home, he worked for others at intervals until 16 years of age. Later he rented a farm for one year, and then with his brother bought a farm of 280 acres, to which he removed in 1913. He carries on general farming with profitable results, and is making a specialty of raising full blooded Hereford cattle. He is chairman of the district school board and in politics is independent.

Mr. Trulson was married April 26, 1903, to Emma Moen, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Simon and Anna (Vraa) Moen, she being the seventh born of their nine children. She was educated in Yucatan township. Her parents, natives of Telemarken, Norway, were early settlers in Sheldon township, this county, where the father died. The mother is now residing in Houston. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Trulson has been enlarged by the birth of six children, all of whom are residing at home, namely: Gena, Agnes, Lawrence, Charlotte, Sullivan and Edna.

Tinnes Highlen, who is conducting a profitable business as a general farmer in section 6, Yucatan township, was born near Stavanger, Norway, Feb. 2, 1862, son of Gulick and Anna (Helleland) Highlen. 1869 he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, the family settling first in Spring Grove township, whence they removed to Yucatan township a year later. Both parents are now deceased, the mother dying in 1914 and the father in 1916. Tinnes began assisting his father in grubbing and other elementary farm work at the age of ten years. Two years later he began working out for others, and did so thereafter for 16 years, during which time he traveled over a considerable stretch of country. After his marriage he began agricultural operations on his own account on a rented farm in Money Creek township, where he resided for five years. He then moved to Houston township, operated a small farm there for three years, which he then sold, buying a farm in Yucatan township. This latter farm he sold three years later, buying the farm on which he now resides, but to which he did not move until a year after he had purchased it. Here he has 154 acres of good land, with adequate buildings, and is operating the place as a general stock farm. He has met with good success, attained by hard work, and is now in comfortable circumstances. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Oak Ridge and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Highlen was married September 13, 1903, to Matilda Steen, who was born near Westby, in Vernon county, Wisconsin, March 11, 1876, daughter of Peter and Anna (Amundson) Steen. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Eva Andrea, Melvin Theodore (died June 8, 1919), Telona and Gilmore. Mr. and Mrs. Steen, the parents of Mrs. Highlen, were both born in Norway, the father being a farmer in early life and the mother a school teacher. They were early settlers in Vernon county, Wisconsin. Both are now deceased, Mr. Steen dying when his daughter Matilda was a child.

Tollef Odegaarden, who was one of the settlers in Yucatan township in the early eighties, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Oct. 24, 1865. He was 18 years old when he came to the United States and located in Iowa, where he worked for two years. At the end of that time he came to Houston county and settled on a tract of land on Oak Ridge in Yucatan township. There he resided until 1907, when he went to Bowman county, N. D. Two years later he returned to Yucatan township, where he spent the rest of his life on the farm, dying June 24, 1917. Mr. Odegaarden married Hattie Sheper, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, May 25, 1865, their marriage taking place in Houston county. She survives her



TOLLEF ODEGAARDEN AND FAMILY



OLE T. ODEGAARDEN AND FAMILY

husband and is now residing with her son Ole on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Odegaarden had two children: Ole, the son above mentioned, and Lizzie, who is the wife of Fritz Anderson, a farmer in Houston township.

Ole T. Odegaarden, a well known farmer and tobacco raiser, who is operating 200 acres of land in Yucatan township, was born in this township, Feb. 2, 1887, son of Tollef and Hattie (Sheper) Odegaarden. His education was obtained in District School No. 103, after which he continued to reside on the home farm until his marriage, at which time he went to Bowman county, N. D., where, however, he remained for only a year, at the end of that returning to the homestead. There he remained for three years operating the farm, at the end of that time buying and removing to a farm in Root River Valley, where also he stayed for three years. He then came back to the home farm, on which his mother resides, and which has an area of 120 acres. In addition to this he is operating the valley farm of 80 acres, the two estates occupying all his time. For some time past he has made a specialty of raising tobacco. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, known as the "stone church," and in politics is an independent Republican. Mr. Odegaarden was married July 17, 1911, to Bertha Odegaarden, who was born in Norway, daughter of Bert and Anna (Halverson) Odegaarden. Neither of her parents ever came to this country, the father dying in Norway, where the mother is now living. Mr. and Mrs. Odegaarden are the parents of three children, Tollef, Burns and Helmer, all living at home.

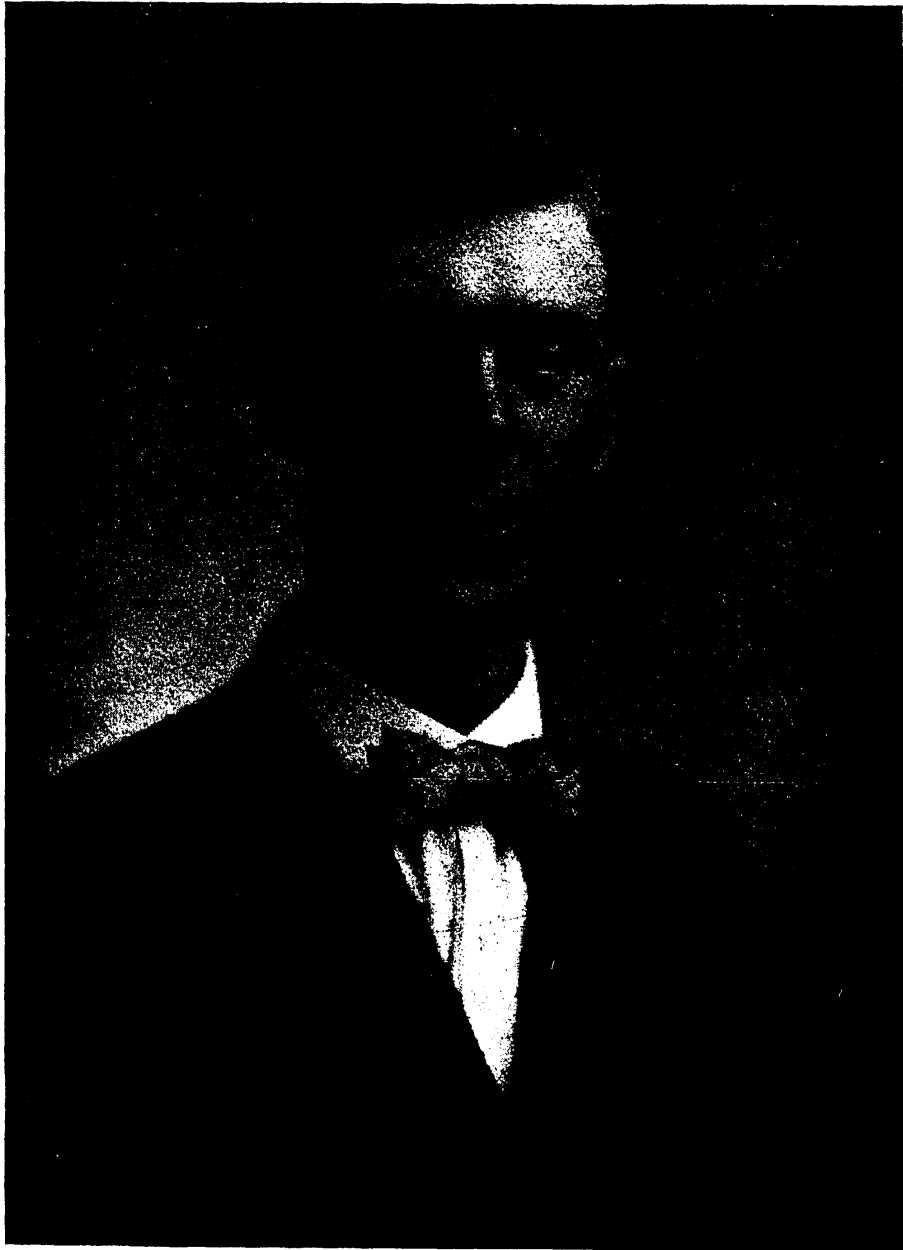
Lars P. Gaustad, a well known resident of Yucatan township, where he has resided for 22 years, was born in Drouthheim, Norway, Oct. 5, 1847. As a young man of twenty years he emigrated to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where for a considerable time he worked for other people. In 1896 he came to Houston county and settled on a farm in section 17, Yucatan township, where he is now living retired, after a life of successful industry. Mr. Gaustad married Maria Rolph, who was born in Sweden, Nov. 16, 1844, and they were the parents of five children: Anna, wife of C. Johnson, who is a member of the Minneapolis police force; Christina, widow of Frank Haggard and a resident of Rushford, Minn.; Peter L., who is now operating the home farm; Sarah, wife of Alfred Anderson of Rushford; Ida, wife of Edwin Helgemo of Rushford; and Carl, who is now deceased. Mr. Gaustad is a stockholder in the Norway Creamery at Bratsberg.

Peter L. Gaustad, a practical agriculturist now operating the old Gaustad farm in section 17, Yucatan township, was born in Norway township, Fillmore county, Minn., June 12, 1877, son of Lars P. and Maria (Rolph) Gaustad. He attended school in his native district and later accompanied his parents to Yucatan township, Houston county, where his subsequent life has been spent on the homestead which they took in 1896 in section 17, and which he is now operating as a general farmer. It contains 140 acres and he is also operating an additional tract of forty acres. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Rushford. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church, he being a member of the congregation at Highland Prairie, while in politics he is a Republican.

John J. Lewis, who is operating a farm of 260 acres of valuable land in section 10, Yucatan township, was born on the family homestead in this section and township, now belonging to his brother Targie, on May 10, 1887, son of John and Signe (Gidstead) Lewis. His education was acquired in the district school on Oak Ridge and under his father's direction he early became expert at general farm work. At the age of 16 he rented his father's land and resided on and operated the farm for a number of years thereafter. About 1911 he went to northern Minnesota, where he took a farm which he conducted for two years. At the end of that time he sold out and returning to Houston county settled on his present farm, which adjoins the old home. It is a well improved piece of property and he is carrying on general farming with good financial results, being also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery and the Rushford Elevator. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Halvor J. Lee, who is successfully conducting a general stock farm of 320 acres in section 10, Yucatan township, was born in Sheldon township, Houston county, Feb. 20, 1870, son of John O. and Margaret (Brakke) Lee. His parents soon after his birth moving to Yucatan township, it was here that he acquired his education, attending the Yucatan Valley stone school-house. Until his marriage at the age of 27 years he remained at home assisting his parents, but on assuming the responsibilities of domestic life, he moved to a farm belonging to his father in Yucatan township, which he operated for five years. Then going to Houston village he engaged in mercantile business with S. S. Vathing and was thus occupied for six years. On selling out his interest in the store he came to his present farm on Oak Ridge, where he has 320 acres of highly improved land, most of the improvements having been made by himself. His farm is one of the best in this part of the county, and he is raising a good grade of cattle, sheep and hogs, finding a ready market for his stock. He is also a shareholder in the Houston Creamery, the Farmers' Exchange Elevator and the Telephone Company. Like his father, he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has served six or seven years as a member of the school board, and also as town supervisor and town clerk, in politics being a Republican. He and his wife have five children, all residing at home, namely: Julian O., Gynther M., Hilda A., Orvin L. and Morris G.

Andreas H. Wahl, who is wooing fortune successfully as a general stock farmer in section 20 north, Yucatan township, was born in Rhuken, Norway, Oct. 24, 1847, son of Hans Evenson and Arlet Larson Wahl. He was his parents' only child, and never knew his mother, as she died when he was a week old. He attended school in Norway, and resided with his father until he was 20 years of age, after which he began working out, being employed for some time in a sawmill. Later he went to Christiania, the capital of Norway, where for two and a half years he worked for a crockery dealer. In 1877 he married Gunhild Targarson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, daughter of Targe Olsson and Ragneild Johnson. Her mother died in Norway, and her father later coming to America, met an accidental death, being killed by a train at Rushford, Fillmore county,



JOHN J. LEWIS



HALVOR J. LEEB AND FAMILY



ANDREAS H. WAHL AND FAMILY



SEVERIN ERICKSON AND FAMILY

Minn. In 1881, Mr. Wahl came with his wife and family to the United States, locating at once in Houston county, Minnesota. For three or four years after arriving here he worked out for different farmers, and then engaged in agricultural work for himself, renting land for three or four years in Yucatan township. Having by the end of that time accumulated a little money, he bought the land which constitutes his present farm, but which at the time was destitute of improvements. Since then he has had a manful task to perform, but has done it well, and is now the owner of a well improved place of 270 acres, with good buildings, where he is profitably engaged in stock breeding. He also owns shares in the Rushford Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company. A Republican in politics, he has served four years on the school board. In religion he is a Lutheran and a member of the church of that denomination. He and his wife have been the parents of four children: Hans, who was a farmer in Canada, but who died, leaving a widow and four children; and Theodore, Gena and Oscar, who are residing at home with their parents.

Severin Erickson, a general farmer of Yucatan township, residing in section 22, was born in this township, No. 28, 1875, son of George and Inga (Paulson) Erickson. The early years of his boyhood were spent on his parents' farm, his education being acquired in the district school. At the age of twelve he began working out for other farmers and from that time on was practically self-supporting. Until his marriage in 1899 he continued to work out, except for one year during which he operated a rented farm. On assuming the responsibilities of domestic life he rented a farm in Yucatan township, and from that time up to 1907 operated rented land. In the year last mentioned he bought a farm in this township on which he resided until the spring of 1917, when in company with his father-in-law he purchased the farm which he is now operating, and which has an area of 377½ acres, being provided with adequate buildings. He carries on general farming, raising stock and grain for the market and is receiving good prices for his products. A Republican in politics, he has served as town supervisor and also as clerk on the school board of his district. In religion he is a Lutheran and a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Houston. Mr. Erickson was married July 27, 1899, to Sophia Sennes, daughter of Kunte O. and Rachel (Butten) Sennes. He and his wife have two children, Melvin K., born Sept. 27, 1899, and Reuben E., born May 17, 1902, both residing at home.

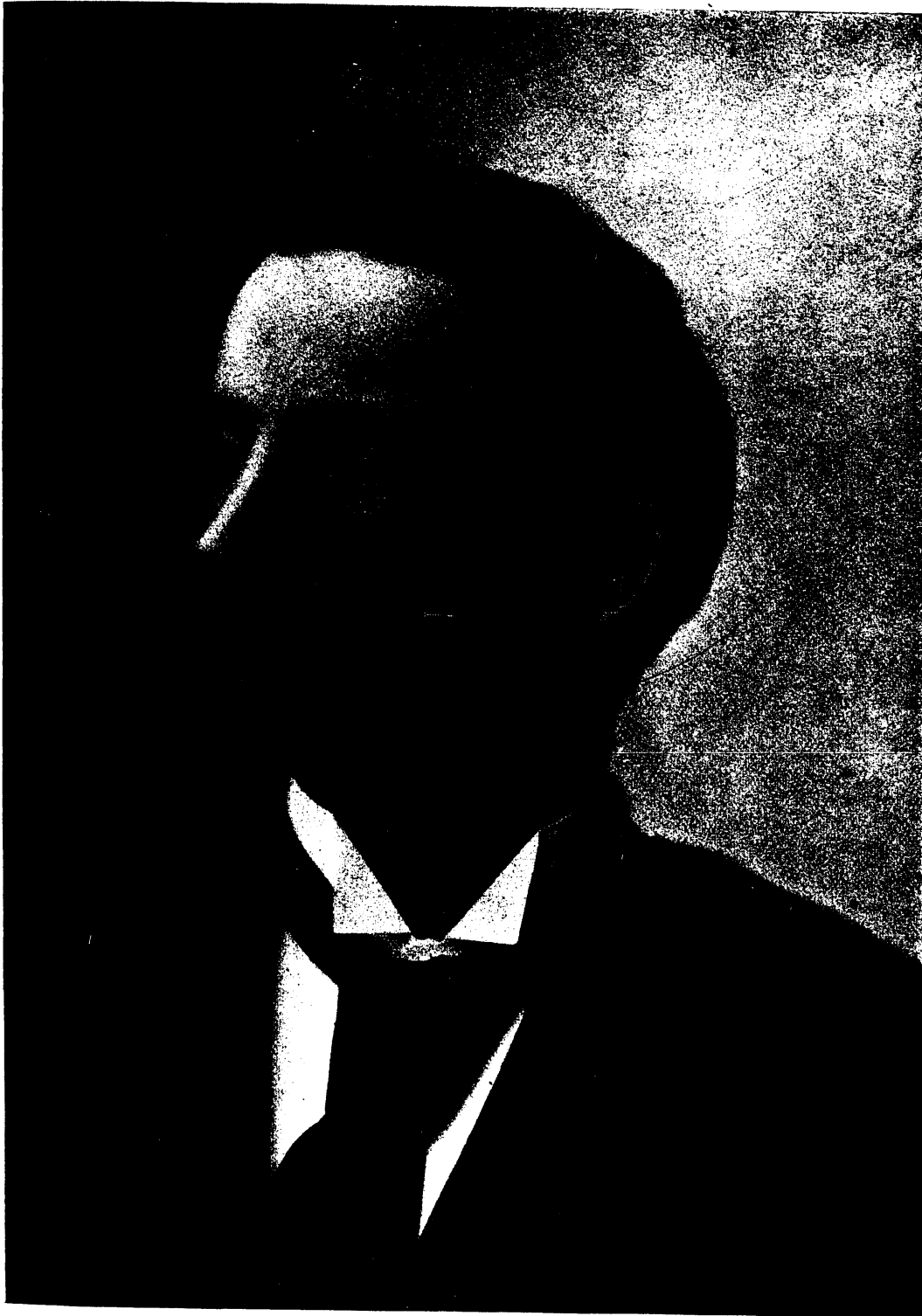
Carl J. Anderson, who spent a number of years in agricultural improvements in Houston and Yucatan townships, chiefly in the latter, but who is now deceased, was born in Hallan, Sweden, in 1833. There he grew to manhood and married Bertha Stena Johnson, who was seven years younger than himself. In the spring of 1880 he emigrated with his family to America, landing in New York on May 11, and coming west to Houston county, Minnesota. Here he worked out for a year and then engaged in farming in Looney Valley, Houston township, remaining there two years. At the end of that time he removed to Oak Ridge, Yucatan township, where he continued in agricultural work until his death on Oct. 20, 1913. His wife is now residing with her son Alec S., who conducts the home farm. Alec S.

Anderson was born in Houston county, March 12, 1887, was educated in the district schools, and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. He is a substantial man of the community, and has been successful in his farming operations.

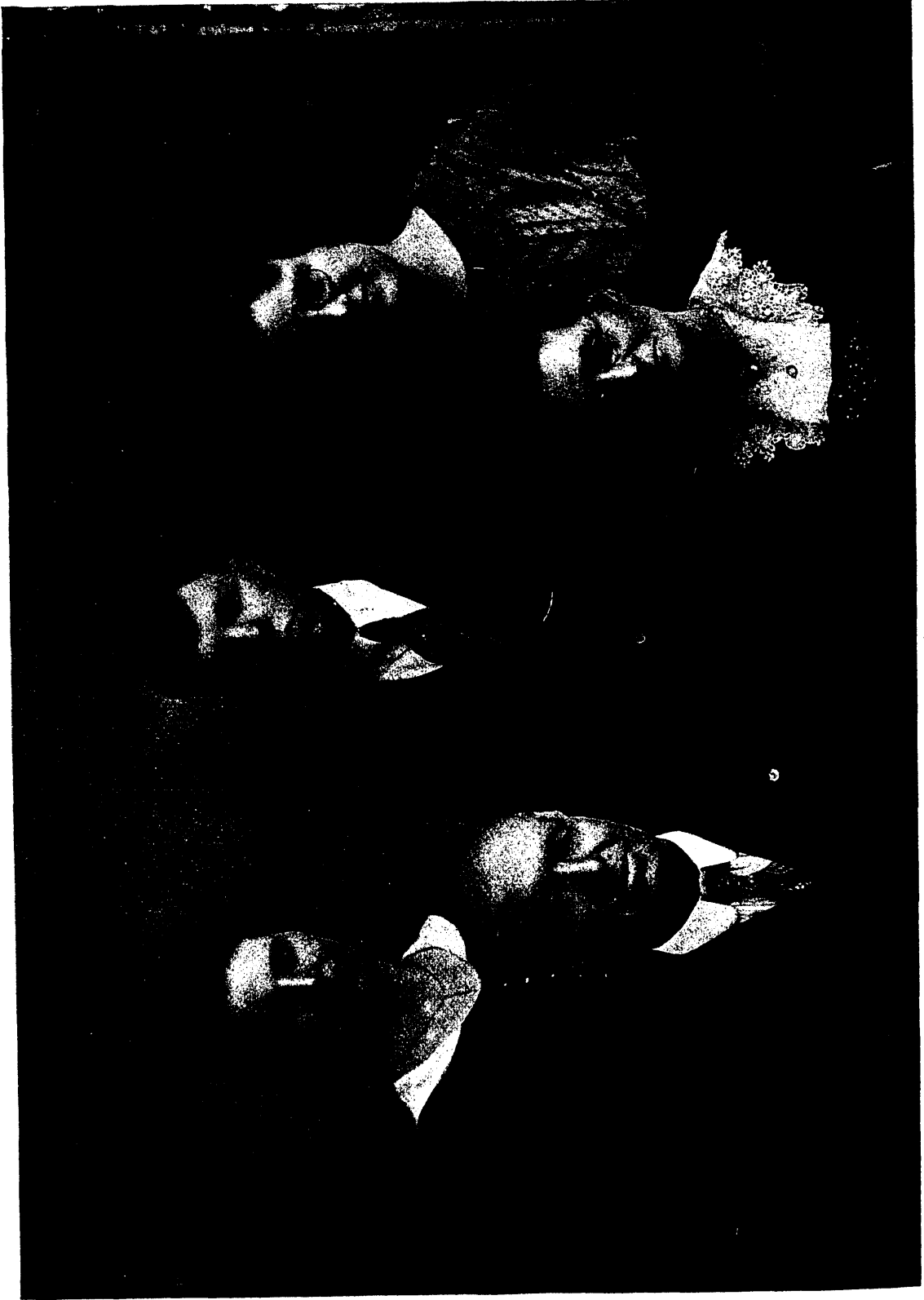
Emil J. Anderson, a respected citizen of Yucatan township, engaged in farming in section 1, and also in kindred pursuits elsewhere, was born in Hallan, Sweden, Dec. 24, 1873, son of Carl J. and Bertha Stena (Johnson) Anderson. He was the eldest in a family of seven children, and was in his seventh year when he accompanied his parents to the United States and to Houston county, Minnesota. Residing first in Houston township and afterwards in Yucatan township, he attended the district school, and when a lad of 16 began working at intervals for others. In 1892 he went to Dakota, where he worked out on farms, and continued in that occupation after returning home until taking up his residence on his present farm in section 1, Yucatan township, which now contains 110 acres, he having sold another tract of the same size. He also operates a farm of 153 acres in North Dakota, and is giving his time to farming and threshing. In addition to his real estate holdings near Minot, in Burk county, N. D., he operates a threshing outfit in Steele county, that state, and has been thus engaged for a number of years, making the trip each year. An energetic and enterprising man, he is making good progress along business lines and steadily increasing in prosperity. He is a member of Mayflower Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., at Findlay, N. D. In politics he is a Republican with independent proclivities, voting for the man rather than for the party.

George Walters, who was formerly connected with the milling business at Hokah, Houston county, was born and grew to manhood in Germany, where he was married. Soon after the latter event he came with his wife Katherine to the United States, settling first in Pennsylvania, where he worked at his trade of miller. Subsequently he removed to Wisconsin and from that state came to Hokah, Houston county, Minn., where he was employed in the mill for a number of years, dying there in 1904. His first wife, Katherine, died about 1868, leaving five children, and he subsequently contracted a second marriage, of which six children were born.

Louis G. Walters, who has developed a good farm of 200 acres in Yucatan township, lying mostly in section 21, was born near Bad Axe, Wis., Aug. 4, 1866, son of George and Katherine Walters. He was quite young when he accompanied his father to Hokah, Houston county, where he attended school. Of his mother he has no recollection, as she died when he was two years old, and he was reared chiefly by his stepmother, his father having contracted a second marriage. At the early age of nine years he had to contribute to his own support and from that time on worked out for others until he married. After that important change in his life he rented land in Money Creek township, and was engaged in farming there for four years. He then moved to Houston township, operated one farm there for four years and another for three years, and at the end of the latter period came to his present farm, which was then unimproved. He has since erected good buildings and fences and turned it into a valuable



EMIL J. ANDERSON



B. E. LILLY AND FAMILY

estate, on which he conducted general farming on a profitable basis. He belongs to the camp of Yeomen at Yucatan and is a member of the Lutheran church. His political principles are those of the Republican party. He still owns his farm, but in February, 1919, he moved to Houston village where he has erected a modern stucco residence, where he is practically retired. His son-in-law, William Paulson, is now operating the farm. Mr. Walters was married March 11, 1897, to Dora Tennison, who was born July 9, 1879, daughter of Tennes and Odena (Aemolia) Tennison. He and his wife are the parents of five children: Mabel, wife of William Paulson, who conducts the home farm in Yucatan township; Verna, who married Gilbert Brevig, a farmer in Yucatan township, and Lavida, Daphne and George, who are living on the home farm.

Bird E. Lilly, a well known and highly esteemed resident of Houston, who, though now retired, is the owner of a valuable stock farm of 240 acres in Houston township, was born in Kent county, Mich., July 20, 1858, son of David and Harriet (Turrel) Lilly. His parents were natives of Ohio, the father in early life being engaged in the lumber business and later in farming. After the breaking out of the Civil War, David Lilly enlisted in a Michigan regiment of volunteer infantry and was killed at the battle of South Mountain in 1862. His wife survived him many years, dying at the age of 58 in 1899. Bird E. Lilly was educated in the graded school at Dover, Ohio. He resided with an uncle in that state until 16 years old, when he began industrial life. Subsequently coming to La Crescent, Minn., in 1877, he bought a farm in this vicinity, beginning farming operation. In 1888 he moved to Houston township, where he bought the farm he now owns, containing 240 acres of valuable land, well improved, and provided with substantial buildings and a complete equipment for stock and general farming. After operating the place successfully until 1911, Mr. Lilly then retired, placing tenants in charge of the farm, and taking up his residence in the city of Houston, where he is enjoying the rewards of his former industry. He is a shareholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company, the Farmers' Elevator, and the Houston State Bank. In politics a Republican, he served formerly as a member of the Houston town board, and also on the school board of his district. His fraternal affiliations are with the Mystic Circle Lodge, No. 78, A. F. and A. M. Mr. Lilly married Ella Augusta Frey, born in Mound Praire township, this county, April 7, 1865, daughter of John and Augusta (Zeuskee) Frey, respected farmers. The father, a veteran of a Minnesota regiment in the Civil War, and a most substantial citizen, died Nov. 7, 1900, while the mother is now living in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Lilly have three children: Elma E., born April 16, 1888; Marietta, born May 11, 1895, a teacher; and David, born Aug. 20, 1902.

Ole Evenson, who in former years took an active part in the agricultural development of Houston and Yucatan townships, but who has long since passed away, was born in Telemarken, Norway, in 1836. There he grew to manhood and married Berget Targerson, who was born in February, 1838. Emigrating to the United States, they arrived in Houston county, Minnesota, in 1866, and first settled on a farm near Houston, later

removing to section 32 north, Yucatan township, where Mr. Evenson established the farm that is now owned by Torger Torgerson. On this place he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1883. His widow, who still survives him, is now residing with her son, Christopher, in this township. They are the parents of eleven children, of whom there are now living: Christopher, Christian, Theodore, and Tilda, the last named of whom is the wife of Christ Ekre.

Christopher O. Evenson, a well to do farmer engaged in operating a farm of 82 acres in section 29 north, Yucatan township, was born in Houston township September 19, 1870, son of Ole and Berget (Targerson) Evenson. In his boyhood he attended school on Oak Ridge and also the Chisom and Ferndell schools. His industrial experience began at the early age of eleven years when he already worked out for other farmers besides at times assisting on the home farm. Later he worked out more regularly and continued to be thus occupied until 1890, when he returned home and took charge of his present farm, which he has since operated, his mother, now past 81 years of age, residing with him. He has some valuable land, which he is operating successfully as a general farmer, being also a shareholder in the Rushford Creamery. In politics he is a Republican with independent proclivities, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Sever Knutson, proprietor of a poultry farm in section 33, Houston township, was born near Cambridge, Dane county, Wis., Sept. 9, 1869, son of Soren and Isabella (Klave) Knutson. The parents were natives of Norway, the father born in Telemarken in 1831, and the mother in Voss, June 24, 1842. They were married in Wisconsin, where Soren Knutson worked as a farmer, also being employed for some time in a wagon factory at Stoughton. He died May 6, 1876, and his widow subsequently became the wife of Arne Arneson, whom she survives, being now a resident of Houston. She had three children by her first and four by her second marriage. Sever Knutson, her first born by her first marriage, was educated in a district school in Hancock county, Iowa, and after leaving home at the age of 14 years he worked for farmers in that county until he was 18. Then coming to Houston county, he was engaged here in railroad work for five years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm, consisting of 40 acres in the Houston school district, where he is engaged chiefly in raising poultry. He also operates other land. He has fully improved his farm, which is provided with good modern buildings and equipment. His house is new with modern comforts, and is well located as to picturesque scenery and pleasant surroundings, as well as in regard to more utilitarian purposes. Mr. Knutson is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican. On No. 23, 1892, Mr. Knutson was united in marriage with Julia Ovalson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 11, 1866, daughter of Oval and Haggie (Targersdatter) Hageland, and who was brought to this country by her parents when six years old, the family settling immediately in Houston county, Minn., on the farm now occupied by the subject of this sketch, where he subsequently died, being an elderly man at the time he arrived here. His wife survived him, passing away in February, 1893. Mrs. Knutson was



MR. AND MRS. SEVER KNUTSON AND RESIDENCE

the youngest of their five children, and in her girlhood attended school in Houston.

Christopher Jacobson, who formerly carried on agricultural operations in Root River Valley and elsewhere in Houston township, was born in Nonstadt, Norway, in January, 1844. In 1867, at the age of about 23 years, he emigrated to America, coming directly to Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., where he worked on farms and also on the railroad for a number of years. Then going to North Dakota, he was engaged there in farming until 1884, when he returned to Minnesota and took a farm in Root River Valley, Houston township. A few years later he removed to the farm in section 6, Yucatan township, that is now operated by his family. Here he resided until his death, June 25, 1917. His wife is still living and resides on the homestead. They were the parents of three children: Martin A., now a farmer in Palouse, Wash.; John Alexander and Carl Melvin, who are residing on the homestead.

John Alexander Jacobson, farming on a general stock farm of 80 acres in section 6, Yucatan township, was born in Barnes county, N. D., May 28, 1883, son of Christopher and Karn (Goarder) Jacobson. His education was acquired in the school of his district in Yucatan township, and from an early age he made himself useful on his parents' farm, the management of which came into his hands when he was but 15 years old. He has since operated it with profitable results, and is also a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church at Rushford, and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. Jacobson was married Jan 16, 1918, to Hilda Stensing, who was born in Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stensing. Both her parents were born in Norway, the father in January 1852, and the mother August 14, 1854. Mr. Stensing, who was a tailor by trade, came to the United States when a young man, locating in Winona, Minn. He later removed to Rushford, then returned for a time to Winona, but finally took up his residence in Rushford, where he conducted a tailor's business for nearly forty years. For some time he was a member of the Rushford city council, but declined other office. His death took place in Rushford March 7, 1916. He and his wife had ten children, of whom their daughter Hilda (Mrs. Jacobson) was the second in order of birth. She attended school in Rushford and subsequently became a trained nurse, practicing there and in North Dakota until her marriage. They have one child, John Clifford, born June 4, 1919. Carl M. Jacobson, who is associated with his brother, John A., in operating the home farm, was born in Fillmore county, Nov. 23, 1889, received his education in the districts schools, and has devoted his life to farm work.

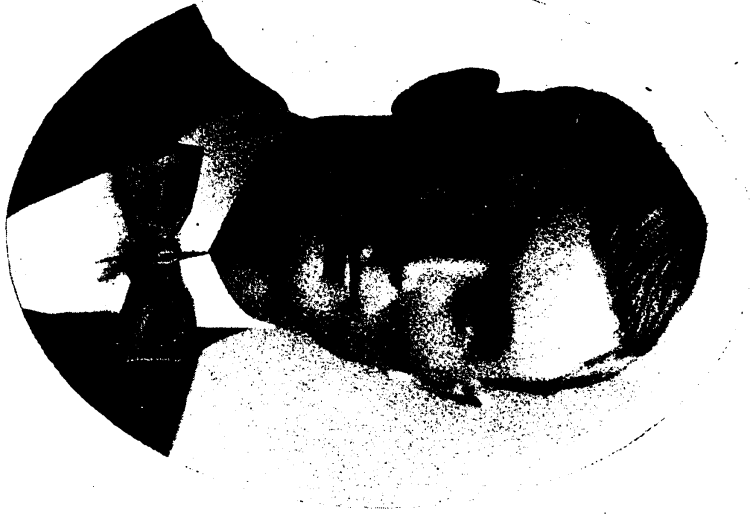
Ole Mikelson, who contributed to the development of Houston county by the establishment of a farm in section 1 south, Houston township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Jan 31, 1833. He grew to manhood in his native land and there married Droches Christenson of that district of Norway, who was a few years younger than himself. Emigrating to the United States, they arrived in Houston county, Minnesota, at a very early date and for two years resided in Sheldon township, Mr. Wikelson working

for others. Then securing land in Houston township, he established the farm above mentioned, on which he died Nov. 4, 1914. His wife died many years before him, in July, 1890. They were the parents of seven children: Mary, wife of Ed Clark of Aaslyn, Wis.; Michael, who is residing on the old home farm; Carrie, wife of Alfred Nelson, a farmer living near Houston; Anna, wife of John Vetch, a farmer on Union Ridge, Mound Prairie township; Christine, who resides at Madison, Wis.; Gertrude, who is living on the old homestead; and Christ, also living on the old homestead, of which he is now the proprietor.

Christ Mikelson, who is profitably engaged in operating a good farm of 117 acres in section 1 south, Houston township, which is the homestead established by his father, was born on this farm, Oct. 10, 1884, son of Ole and Droches (Christenson) Mikelson. His education was acquired in the district school and he was trained to agricultural pursuits under the mentorship of his father. At the age of 21 years he took charge of the home farm and worked on shares for some eight or nine years, at the end of which time he bought out the interests of the other heirs and it became his property. It is well improved and he is carrying on general farming with satisfactory results, being numbered among the prosperous men of his township. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is independent.

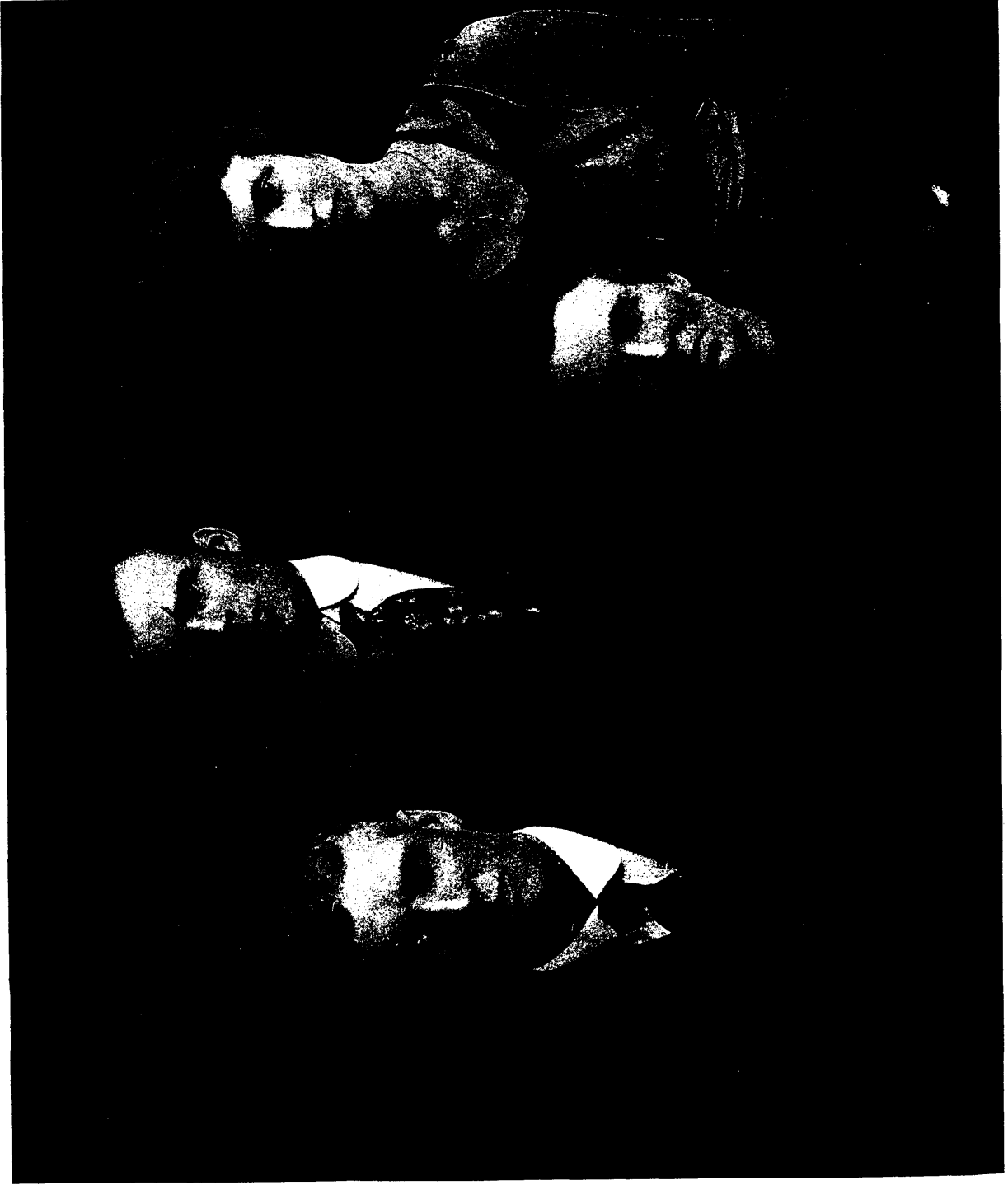
John August Johnson, a former resident of Houston township, who contributed to its agricultural development, was born in Sweden, Oct. 9, 1841. In 1869, at the age of twenty-eight, he came from his native land directly to Houston county, buying land in Houston township, where he engaged in farming. His active career lasted until his death April 24, 1885, or a period of 16 years. He was married in this county to Anna Noeling, who was born in Sweden, Aug. 29, 1850, and who died in Houston county Dec. 13, 1880. They were the parents of three children, Carl Alfred born Nov. 21, 1875, is now a prominent farmer in Houston township. Hannah Josephine, born May 21, 1873, is now Mrs. G. A. Barbisch of La Crescent, Minn. John Edward Johnson was born Jan. 24, 1878.

Carl Alfred Johnson, a prosperous stock farmer, operating a good farm of 240 acres in section 27, Houston township, was born in this township, Nov. 21, 1875, son of John August and Anna (Noeling) Johnson. He was educated in the district school and began industrial life at an early age on his parents' farm. When twelve years old he went to work for Mr. Lilly on the latter's farm and was in his employ for 15 years. He then was employed at the State Agricultural School for one year, and at the end of that time rented the N. H. Forsyth farm for five years, and then came to the Lilly farm of 240 acres which he is now operating on his own account. He makes a specialty of raising Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs, and has been very successful both as a stock and general farmer. He also owns a farm in this valley which he is leasing to others. The Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company number him among their shareholders. A Republican in politics, he has taken a more or less active part in the affairs of local government, being at present a supervisor of Houston township and clerk of the school board of his district. Mr. Johnson was married Aug. 26, 1914, to Elenor Regina Senn, who



CARL ALFRED JOHNSON AND FAMILY





RICHARD CHAPEL AND FAMILY

was born in Mound Prairie township, Houston county, June 11, 1892, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Schild) Senn. She was the fourth born in a family of eight children, and was educated in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson two children have been born: Alton N., June 14, 1915; and Lloyd A., Oct. 15, 1917.

Richard Chapel, a prosperous stock farmer in section 19, Sheldon township, having a farm of 260 acres, was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, Sept. 23, 1866, son of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel a memoire of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Richard Chapel was reared on his parents' farm and attended the school of his district in Money Creek township. He resided at home until the age of 21, working for the most part on the home farm, though at times being employed by other farmers. Upon attaining his majority he engaged in business as a blacksmith at Houston, conducting a shop there for about five years. At the end of that time he moved to the vicinity of Sparta, in Monroe county, Wis., where he resided for twelve years. Then returning to Money Creek township, he operated the old home farm for a year, subsequently purchasing his parent farm in section 19, Sheldon township. The property is well improved and Mr. Chapel is profitably engaged in stock-raising, giving special attention to the breeding of Durham cattle and Poland-China swine. In politics an independent Democrat, he has served at times in local office, including three years as town treasurer while residing in Wisconsin. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Chapel was married Jan. 1, 1897, to Ellen Hanson, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of Hans and Anna (Halcimer) Levi. He and his wife have two children: Clifford and Harriet, both residing at home. Clifford is a member of the Masonic lodge and Modern Woodmen camp at Caledonia. The parents of Mrs. Chapel, who were both born in Telemarken, Norway, were early settlers in Houston county, taking a homestead which they improved. The father died in September, 1898, and the mother now lives at Whalen, Fillmore county.

Nels Nelson, the owner of a farm part of which lies within the corporation limits of Houston, and who is also a rural mail carrier, on Route No. 2, was born in Warberg, Sweden, July 31, 1863, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Martin Swenson. The mother's name before her marriage was Wilhelmina Emanuelson. Neither of the parents ever came to America. The mother died in 1874, when her son Nels was a boy of eleven years. The father died in 1904. Young Nels attended public school in Sweden, being confirmed in the Lutheran church at the age of fourteen. When sixteen years old he came to Minnesota, locating in Houston county, where he attended school for some time. In his native land he had had about eighteen months' industrial experience, and in Houston county he found agricultural and other work, his residence for the most part being in Houston village. Later he secured employment in the flour mill here, and worked in it for eleven years. For a few years after that he was engaged in farming, but about nine years ago he went on the mail route, and has remained as carrier ever since in connection with the Houston post office. When not employed in distributing the mails he is engaged in cultivating 57 acres of

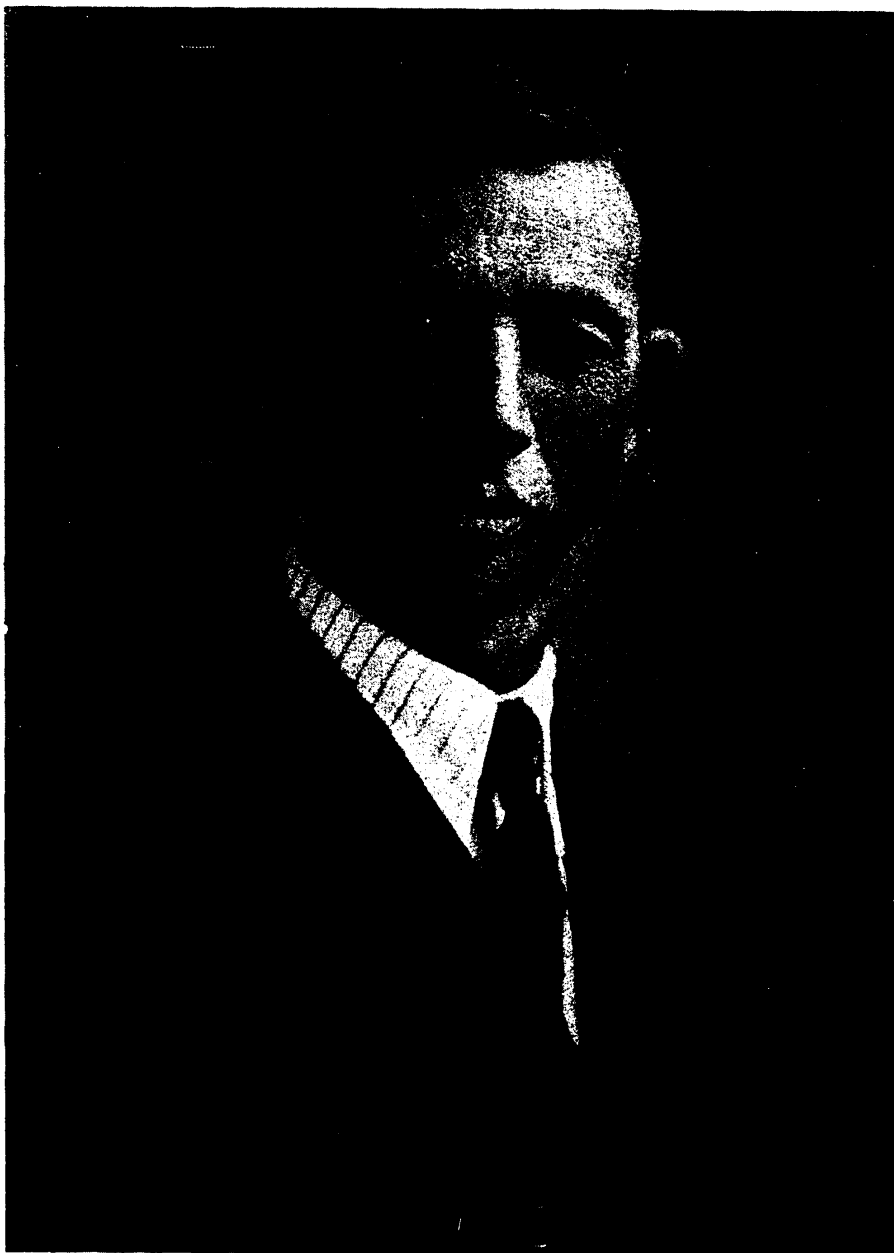
land, 15 acres of which lie within the city limits. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and to the Yeomen, in the former lodge holding the office of worthy advisor. Mr. Nelson was married Nov. 25, 1888, to Julia Erickson, who was born in the house in Houston in which she and her husband now live, daughter of Peter and Bertha (Overn) Erickson. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have three children: Pauline Natalia, born April 25, 1891; Roscoe W., born May 7, 1895, and Vivian Janice Margaret, born Jan 6, 1901. Pauline, who was graduated from the Houston High School, for some years prior to her marriage followed the occupation of a teacher. She is now the wife of Carl C. Hvambosal, and resides at Minot, N. D., her husband being head buyer for the Piper-Howe Lumber Company of that place. Roscoe W., who was graduated from the Houston High School and also from the Winona Business College, is now on the home farm with his parents. Vivian Janice Margaret was graduated from the Houston High School and is now a student in the normal department of the same school. She is residing at home.

Peter Erickson, a Houston county pioneer and for a number of years up to the time of his death a highly respected resident of Houston village, was born in Norway, and came to this country when a young man. He first settled in La Crosse, Wis., where he worked a few years for a Mr. Cameron. At that time he could have had lots in what is now the heart of La Crosse city for his pay, but declined the offer, preferring to receive the cash. He came to Houston County before the original village of Houston (known as the Old Town) was founded, and established a saw-mill on the banks of Root River. There were then no railroads and all merchandise and supplies had to be hauled by ox teams from La Crosse. After a few years Mr. Erickson built a blacksmith's shop in the Old Town, which he conducted until the outbreak of the Civil War. Animated by the true American spirit, he then joined the Union army as a member of the 19th Wisconsin Volunteers, and served till the close of the war, quitting the service with the rank of sergeant. Though never wounded, the hardships he endured sapped his vitality, and he never fully recovered his health, being unfit for manual labor. He continued to reside in Houston until his death in 1896. He served a number of times as a member of the town board, and in other local offices, showing public spirit in all things concerning the welfare and progress of the community. Mr. Erickson married Bertha Overn, also a native of Norway, who died in 1910.

Phillip Charles Happel, who owns and operates an excellent farm of 120 acres in section 14, Houston township, was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, Sept. 11, 1886, son of William and Elizabeth (Fitting) Happel. Of his parents' five children he was the second in order of birth. His education was acquired in the district school, and he remained at home until 1901, when he began working out, though for three or four winters he still resided at home. For two years he hauled cream for the Houston creamery, and then engaged in farming on his own account. After a residence of five years on the first farm he took, he purchased his present place of 120 acres, with adequate buildings, which he is operating as a general stock farm, making a specialty of breeding Hereford cattle.



PHILIP C. HAPPEL FAMILY AND RESIDENCE



LOUIS WOHLERS

On March 11, 1919, his residence was burned, and he replaced it with his present home, well arranged and equipped throughout with all modern comforts. His standing as a farmer and as a citizen is shown by the fact that in the spring of 1919 he was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Houston county. Mr. Happel is a shareholder in the Houston Creamery Company, of which he is one of the directors; and in the Farmers' Elevator Company, the Co-operative Store, the Farmers' Telephone Company, of which he is president, and a member of the board of supervisors of Houston township. In politics he is independent and is now serving as director of the school board. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Happel was married, Dec. 6, 1906, to Tilda Johnson, who was born in Sheldon township, this county, daughter of John Benjamin and Janet (Skrey) Johnson. Her parents, who were born in Norway, are now residing west of Houston. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Happel has been enlarged by the birth of five children, one of whom, however, the youngest, died in infancy. The survivors are Lavera Jeanette, Helen, Norma Phyllis, and Beverly.

Ole K. Gordon, who as a general farmer is operating 149 acres in section 32, Houston township, was born in Numdahl, Norway, July 29, 1866, son of Knud Peterson and his wife Veil, whose family name was Olsdater. His parents were farming people who spent their lives in their native land. The second born of their three children, he attended school in Numdahl, and at the age of ten years began working on farms during the summer, continuing at school in the winter. On attaining his majority in 1887 he left his native land for the United States, and landing at New York, came directly from that city to Houston county, Minnesota. Here until his marriage he was engaged in miscellaneous occupations, including railroad work and lumbering. On beginning domestic life he worked a farm for his wife's father for one year, and then moving to Houston, was employed in the mill until it burned down. He then worked at bridge carpentering one year, at the end of which time he came to his present farm, which consists of 149 acres of valuable land adjoining the corporation of Houston. Here he is making good progress as a general farmer, finding a ready sale at good prices for his crops and stock, and operating his farm on a paying basis. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the order of Beavers, and in politics is a Democrat with independent proclivities.

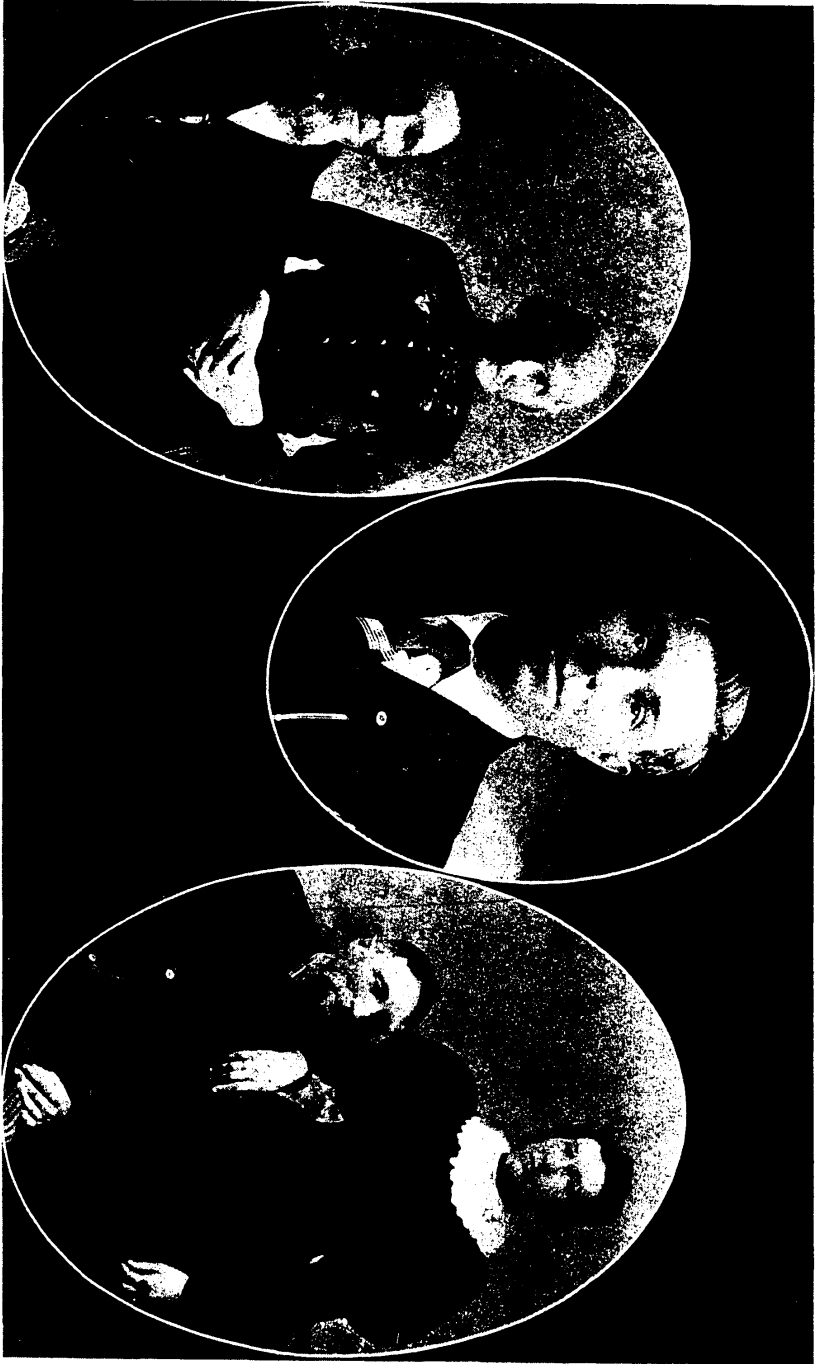
December 17, 1895, Mr. Gordon was married to Pauline Johnson, who was born in Houston Township, this county, Aug. 31, 1877, daughter of Andrew and Anna Johnson. Her parents were natives of Sweden, the father being one of the first settlers in Looney Valley, this county. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Their daughter, Pauline (Mrs. Gordon), who was the youngest of their three children, was educated in Houston township. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have one child, Aldis Kermitt, Oct. 4, 1909, who is attending school.

Louis F. Wohlers, who is engaged in operating the Wohlers farm in section 23, Houston township, and who, aside from this connection, is an

independent land owner, was born at Brownsville, Houston county, Minnesota, March 27, 1879, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wohlers. The parents were born in Germany but were married in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, subsequently becoming farmers in Brownsville, where Henry Wohlers held office on the school board and in other capacities. He is now retired, the farm being operated by his son, George. He and his wife have been the parents of ten children. Louis F., who was one of the younger members of the family, attended school in Brownsville. At ten years of age he began working for others and has earned his own living ever since. His life has been devoted to agriculture, and in the spring of 1913 he began farming for himself. He has 160 acres of valuable land in Carson county, South Dakota, but at present is operating what is known as the Wohlers farm, which previously belonged to his brother John, who was killed by a train while en route to Chicago. He carries on general farming with profitable results, having a practical knowledge of all parts of the business. His political principles are those of the Republican party, but so far his activities in the direction of politics have been confined to casting his vote. As a prosperous and enterprising citizen of Houston township, he is well known and his reputation stands high.

Jacob Ray Vanderpan, who is engaged in general agriculture on a 400-acre farm in Houston township, was born in Eau Claire county, Wisconsin, May 19, 1881, son of Isaac and Sybil (Hoffma) Vanderpan. The parents were natives of Holland, from which country the father emigrated to Wisconsin when 17 years of age. Previous to his marriage, in Wisconsin, he worked out, and then engaged in farming. He and his wife are now living retired at New Amsterdam, La Crosse county, where he has held various town offices. Jacob Ray was the second born of their four children. After attending school at New Amsterdam, he became a pupil at Gale College, Galesville, Wis., where he completed his literary education. Until he attained his majority he resided with his parents. After that he worked out a few years and then engaged in farming. In 1907 he took his present farm, which he is operating in a general way, raising both grain and stock, and has made his mark as a successful farmer. He is affiliated politically with the Republican party. Mr. Vanderpan was married Nov. 23, 1905, to Cynthia Sanderson, who was born on this farm, daughter of John and Jane (Benson) Sanderson, and who was educated in the district school here and at Houston. He and his wife have two children, Laurel Sanders and Carrol Ames. John Sanderson, father of Mrs. Vanderpan, was born in Norway, and his wife, Jane Benson, in Sweden. He was an early settler in Houston county, and for a number of years owned and operated the farm on which his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vanderpan, now live. He and his wife are now retired and reside in Houston.

William Bailey, one of the pioneer settlers in Mound Prairie township, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, in 1833. After emigrating as a young man to the United States, he located first in Illinois, where he married Mrs. Sophia Harvey, nee Borgeus, who, like himself, was a native of Cambridgeshire, England. In 1861 he came with his family to Houston



IRVIN BAILLEY
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BAILLEY—MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. BAILLEY

county, Minnesota, settling in Mound Prairie township, where he took land which he began to improve. After being thus engaged for three years, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, as a private in a Minnesota regiment, and served for one year lacking 13 days, or until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. After his return home he resumed his interrupted farm work, and continued to reside on the homestead until his death in 1913. His wife had died about five years previously. They were the parents of two children: George W., now a farmer in section 1, Houston township, and Ida, who is the widow of William Hughes. By a previous marriage, however, Mrs. Bailey had four other children.

George W. Bailey, who is making a specialty of stock breeding on a farm of 160 acres in section 1, Houston township, was born at Richmond, Ill., Dec. 22, 1857, son of William and Sophia (Harvey) Bailey. He was about three years old when his parents came to Houston county. His early education was obtained in the log schoolhouse and he later attended school for a while in Winona county. The early part of his life up to the age of 37 years was spent on the parental homestead, during which time he worked with his father in improving the place. He then moved to the farm on which he is now living, where he has since resided, and where he is making a success as a breeder of pure-bred Brown Swiss cattle and Poland-China swine, being also a stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company. In politics he is independent.

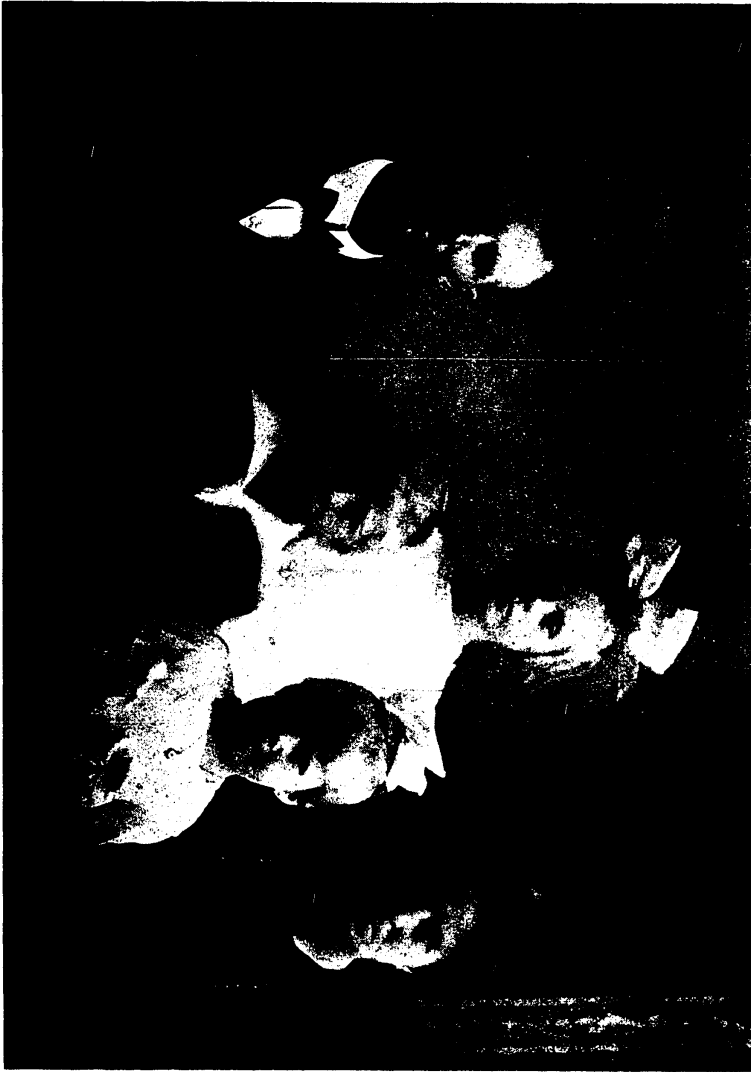
Mr. Bailey was married Dec. 15, 1893, to Adelia Rouse, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, Aug. 26, 1867, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rouse. Her parents were natives of an eastern State, but had removed to Winona county, Minnesota, at an early date and were there engaged in farming. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are the parents of one child, Irvin A., who was born April 19, 1896, and is now associated with his father in farming.

Edward Peterson, who has led an active career for a number of years both as a merchant and farmer, and who is now proprietor of a fine farm of 283 acres in section 25, Houston township, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, Dec. 31, 1871, son of Swan and Caroline (Swenson) Peterson. The parents were natives of Norway, the father coming to Houston county, Minnesota, when a young and single man. He was married here and became a land owner and followed agricultural pursuits until his retirement. He and his wife are now residing in Houston, he being 84 years of age and his wife about 74. Their son, Edward, was the fourth born in a family of eight children. He attended school in Houston, and afterwards the La Crosse Business University. He was brought up on the farm but at the age of 18 began to learn the cooper's trade, at which he continued for two years. He then went to work in the general store of Field & Briggs in Houston, entering their employ on Jan. 5, 1890, and continuing with them for nine years, after which he followed the same line of occupation until 1911, working partly for others, but operating a store in Houston for seven years. At the end of that time he came to his present farm of 283 acres, all valuable land, and, having added to the improvements, has now one of the best

equipped farms in Houston township, on which he is raising both grain and stock with profitable results. He is also a shareholder in the Farmers Telephone Company. Politically he is an adherent of the Prohibition party, and religiously a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Peterson was married June 21, 1899, to Anna Swenson, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, daughter of Swen and Sophia Swenson, she being the youngest of five children. Her parents, natives of Swenden, were early settlers in this county, the father being a shoemaker by trade. He died in Houston, where his wife is still living. Mrs. Anna Peterson died May 7, 1916.

Evan Olsen, who for twenty-five years formerly was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Yucatan township, and did valuable work in improving a farm, was a native of Telemarken, Norway, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, when 20 years of age. He was accompanied by his parents, then well along in years, for whom he cared until their death. For some time after coming here he worked out for others, and as he was strong and vigorous, and handy with the broad axe, he found plenty to do in the pioneer community, building log houses, constructing fences, and performing other useful service. After some years of this kind of work, he thought it time to establish a home of his own, and so secured a tract of land in Yucatan township, on which he resided for 25 years, developing it into a good farm. He then moved to Pleasant Hill township, Winona county. He is now living in Houston village at the age of 79 years. Mr. Olsen was married in Houston county to Tilda Kettelson, who died in August, 1917. They were the parents of nine children: Olaus E., Tilda, Edward (deceased), Clarence (deceased), Andrew (deceased), Tenius, Gina (deceased) and Edwin.

Olaus E. Olsen, who as a general farmer is successfully operating 253 acres of land in Root River valley, section 31, south, Houston township, was born in Yucatan township, this county, Jan. 12, 1880, son of Evan and Tilda (Kittelson) Olsen. He acquired the elements of knowledge in the school of his district and remained at home until reaching the age of 17 years, after which he began working out, turning over the greater part of his wages to his parents. After he was 21 he kept what he earned and continued to work out for three years more, at the end of which time he returned home and resumed work on the home farm as his father's assistant, which he continued to be for a number of years. He then rented his father's farm for four years, and at the end of that time bought the farm on which he now resides, a well improved piece of property of the most modern type, with full equipment of implements, tools and machinery. His buildings are sightly and commodious. The home is comfortable and well located. The new barn is 36 by 80 feet, with full basement, admirably fitted for its purpose in every way. The silo is a large structure, 12 by 36 feet, built of vitrified glazed tile. Thus admirably equipped, the farm is successfully conducted by its owner, and everywhere bespeaks his energy and thrift. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Houston and the Farmers Telephone Co., and is one of the leading representatives of the agricultural interests in Houston township. Mr. Olsen was married Nov. 13, 1909, to Mina Lee, who was born in Clay county, Minnesota, daughter of Andrew and



OLAUS E. OLSON AND FAMILY



THOMAS TENNISON AND FAMILY



Jane (Juve) Lee. She was the ninth born in a family of ten children, and was educated in the local schools and also at the agricultural school at Fargo, N. D. Mr. and Mrs. Olsen have three children, Judith, Irwin and Luverne. Mrs. Olsen's parents were both natives of Telemarken, Norway, the father, Andrew Lee, came to the United States with his parents when nine years of age. He became a farmer in Houston county, later went to Clay county, where he resided for a while, but returned finally to Houston county. He and his wife are now living on a farm southeast of Houston.

Carl J. Halvorson, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on the old Halvorson homestead of 120 acres in section 16, Houston township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Sept. 2, 1875, son of John J. Egland and his wife, Tillie Carlson. The parents were born and married in Norway, and located on a farm in Sheldon township in 1870. A few years later they bought the farm on which their son Carl J. now lives, and on which the father died in 1885. In the family there were seven children: Mary, Halvor; Anna, first (deceased); Carl J., Anna, second (deceased); Tillie, and John. After the death of John J. Egland, his widow married Even Benson, now deceased, and to this union was born one son, Ed. E., now of Houston. Carl J. was early thrown on his own resources, and has educated himself by wide reading and observation. He began working out at the age of fourteen, and so continued until 1897, when he returned to the family homestead and took charge of it, since which time he has taken care of his mother, who resides with him. He has been successful as a farmer and has advanced gradually in prosperity until he is now well to do. His politics are those of the Republican party and he is a member of the Lutheran church.

Thomas Tennison, a prominent stock raiser of Houston township, whose well equipped farm of 200 acres is situated in section 21, was born in Eggersund, Norway, March 22, 1871, son of Tennes and Amalia (Tosten-son) Tennison. The father dying in 1883, his widow came to this country five years later and subsequently married Gunder Halvorson. She became a second time widowed and is now residing in Paradise Valley, Houston township at the age of 73 years. Thomas Tennison first attended school in Norway and afterwards a district school in Houston township, this county, being a boy of 13 when he arrived in America. He began industrial life working on his parents' farm, and afterwards worked on farms for others. Still later he was engaged in agricultural work in North Dakota. On his return home he married and then rented land and farmed on his own account. He finally bought 80 acres of the farm on which he now lives, to which tract he has added from time to time, building up the place to its present area of 200 acres. He has made good improvements and has a complete equipment of everything necessary for modern stock farming. He is also a shareholder in the Money Creek Creamery, the Co-operative Elevator, and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., and is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous citizens of Houston Township. Religiously a Lutheran, he is a member of the "Stone Church" in this vicinity; also of the order of Yeomen, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Tennison was united in marriage, May 1, 1900, with Anna Thompson, who was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, daughter of Mathias

and Nellie (Johnson) Thompson. She was the second born of their three children and was educated in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Tennison have three children, all residing at home, namely: Mae, Myrtle Fern and Arnold Thomas. Mrs. Tennison's father, who was a farmer, was born in Norway, and came to Houston county at an early date. He died when she was about two years old. Her mother is now living in Houston.

Marcus Leander Lee, who is engaged in general farming on the old Lee homestead of 220 acres in section 1, south, Houston township, was born on his present farm, Feb. 18, 1878, son of Thor T. and Bertha (Gunderson) Lee. He was one of the older members in a family of twelve children, and was educated in the district school in Crystal Valley, Houston township. Until the age of 19 years he acted as his father's assistant on the home farm, after which he operated it for one year on his own account. He then engaged in farming in Chippewa county, Wisconsin, and was there four years, at the end of which time he returned home and for seven years thereafter was engaged in farming in Crystal Valley. After that he farmed four years in Caledonia township, and then returned to the old homestead, where he has since resided. He is doing a good business as a general farmer and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. In politics he is independent, while, religiously, he is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Lee was married March 23, 1898, to Helena Hegland, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of Knud H. and Carrie (Sanden) Hegland, and who in girlhood had been a schoolmate of his. They have seven children, all residing at home, namely: Delbert, Curtis, Thorie, Burdette, Myrtle, Fern and Carol.

Knud H. Hegland, formerly a respected citizen of Mound Prairie township, where he spent many years in agricultural pursuits, was born in Telemarken, Norway, and was 19 years of age when he came to the United States, settling in Michigan. There he resided for a number of years, and was married to Carrie Sanden, also a native of Telemarken, Norway. Then coming to Houston county, Minnesota, he and his wife settled in Mound Prairie township and engaged in farming. He became one of the prominent men of the township, serving for a number of years on the town board and in school office. He died on his farm in May, 1914, being survived by his wife, who is now living in Houston.

Tennes A. Tennison, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Houston township, his farm of 168½ acres lying in section 5, south, Houston township, was born in Eggersund, Norway, Aug. 11, 1866, son of Tennes and Amalia (Tostenson) Tennison, the parents being natives of the same locality. The father, born in 1833, died in 1883, and his widow coming to this country five years later, made her home with her son, Tennes, until she married Gunder Halvorson, whom she survives. She is now living in Paradise Valley, Houston township, at the age of 73 years, having been born in 1846. Tennes A. Tennison, who was the eldest of his parents' seven children, attended school in his native land. When 14 years of age he began industrial life, and in 1884, at the age of 18, he came to the United States, locating in Houston, this county. He was at that time unable to speak English, but he found employment, working for others for a number of



TENNIS A. TENNISON AND FAMILY

years, during which time he saved what he could of his earnings. In 1900 he bought land and engaged in farming, and in the spring of 1908 he came to his present farm containing 168½ acres of good land, and provided with adequate buildings. Here he is raising both stock and grain with profitable results, and is numbered among the enterprising and successful men of his township. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics is independent. On Aug. 25, 1892, Mr. Tennison married Elizabeth Nelson, who was born in Flekkeiford, Norway, June 14, 1873, fourth of the six children of Emanuel Nelson, a shoemaker, and his wife, Martha Nelson, who brought her to America when she was a young child. Both parents died in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Tennison have two children: Gladys Madeline and Norman Emanuel. Gladys Madeline graduated from St. Olaf's College in 1917, and is now a teacher in the Houston High School. Norman Emanuel was born Dec. 22, 1899, and is residing at home.

John Halverson, one of the early settlers of Sheldon township, was born, like many of the successful farmers throughout this region, in Telemarken, Norway. His wife, whose maiden name was Tilda Carrison, was a native of the same place or district. Their early career as farmers in Houston county was in Sheldon township, but they later moved to Houston township, where John Halverson died in 1882. His wife is still living on the old homestead. They were the parents of six children.

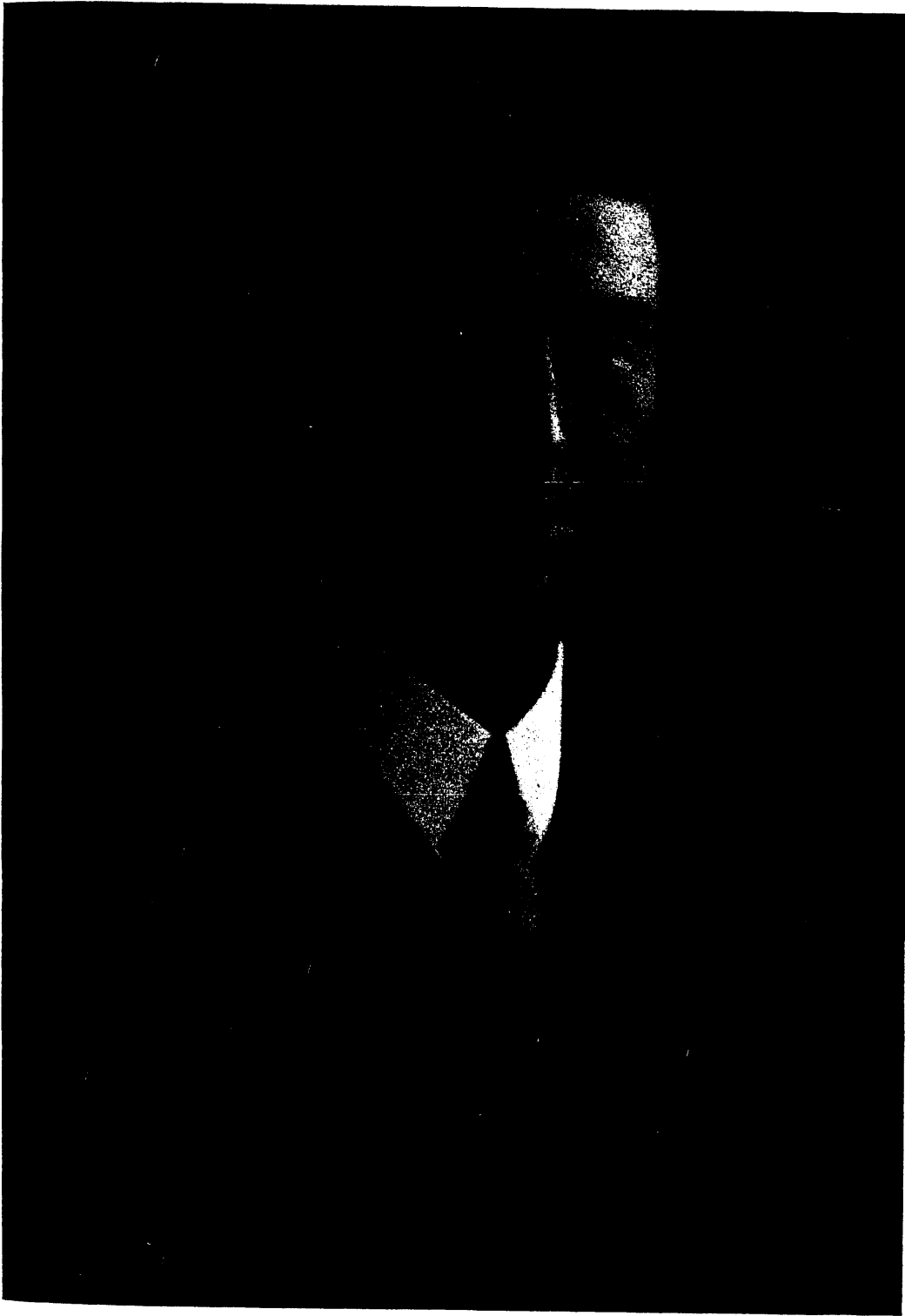
Halvor J. Halvorson, an esteemed resident of Houston township, now engaged for the most part in carpenter work, but who spent many years in agriculture, was born in Sheldon township, May 18, 1873, son of John and Tilda (Carrison) Halverson. He was the second born in a family of five children, and was educated in a Lutheran school in Looney Valley, his attendance at an English school being limited to three days. He began working out at the age of nine years and so continued in this county until he was twenty, at which time he went to South Dakota, where he worked one season on a farm. He then returned to Houston county and worked on a farm here for a year. After that he worked for Mr. Buell in Houston for eighteen months. Then going to Moorehead, Minn., he engaged in the carpenter's business, remaining there a year, and returning home for the winter. The next spring he went again to Moorehead and remained until Christmas. Again he spent the winter at home, but spent the next two threshing seasons at Moorehead. He then engaged in carpenter work and contracting at Houston, following that occupation until his marriage in 1905, when he took a farm in Money Creek township and was there two years, or until he moved to his present location in section 36 west, Houston township, where he owns a building lot of half an acre. He still follows carpenter work, occasionally engaging in other occupations, and attained to prosperous circumstances. He is a member of the Lutheran church known as the "Stone Church," and in politics is independent. Mr. Halvorson was married in March, 1905, to Tilda Jardshougen, who was born in Yucatan township, daughter of Tolef and Hage (Midboe) Jardshaugen, she being the eldest of their five children. Her parents, natives of Norway, settled in Yucatan township at a very early date and are still residing there. Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson have three children, Tina, Hilda and Orvin, who are all

attending school. Mrs. Halvorson takes an active part in charitable work and is a member of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Knute T. Thompson, now deceased, cashier of Houston State Bank, treasurer of the Houston Co-Operative Creamery, prominent business man and leading citizen, was a commanding figure in Houston county life for many years. He was born in Norway, was brought to this country as a child, and was reared in Dodge county, Wisconsin. As a young man he found his way to this county, and for a while taught school in Badger Valley, making many friends and laying the foundations of his future success here. After teaching for a while he went back to Dodge county and clerked in a store. With this experience he returned to this county in 1883, and opened a store at Houston. This brought him in contact with the financial needs of the county, and after successfully conducting his store for many years he founded the Farmers & Merchants State Bank. In 1909 this bank was absorbed by the Houston State Bank and Mr. Thompson became cashier of the consolidated institution. During these years his popularity was constantly growing. He had the absolute confidence of the people. Citizens for miles around consulted him in regard to business and legal matters, and his judgment was invariably sound and good. He was probably advisor to more people than any other man in the county. Many people who thus consulted him made him the administrator of their estates. In the Norwegian Lutheran (Stone) church he was an active and untiring worker, and served the congregation for many years as a trustee. His business ability and personal friendships built up the Houston State Bank, and his presence on the official list of the Houston Co-Operative Creamery had much to do with its success. His death, at the Sanitorium in Onalaska, Wis., April 12, 1919, was a distinct loss to the community, and so highly was he regarded that all business in the village was suspended during his funeral. Mr. Thompson was married in 1884 to Tilda Nelson, and this union resulted in a son. Both wife and son died many years ago.

Carl Carlson, who was formerly engaged in agricultural operations in the township of Houston, but is now deceased, was born in South Halland, Sweden, in 1846. He resided in his native land until arriving at the age of thirty-six years and was there married to Anna Elengson, who was born in South Halland in the same year as himself. In 1882 he emigrated with his family to Houston county, Minnesota, locating on a rented farm two miles from Houston, but for some time in order to accumulate funds he worked out for others. Later he bought land in Winona county, where he resided for a number of years, but subsequently returned to Houston county, and taking a farm here engaged in its cultivation. His death occurred on the farm, Aug. 4, 1910. He was an active and enterprising man, and was one of the founders of the Money Creek Creamery, in which he was a stockholder. His wife subsequently became a stockholder in the Houston Elevator. She survived him some seven years or more, dying in January, 1918. They were the parents of six children: Albert, Albin, Amanda, Jennie, John and Alfred.

Alfred Carlson, one of the leading farmers on Money Creek township, residing in section 2, was born on a farm near Houston, this county, Nov.



K. T. THOMPSON



THOR T. LEE AND FAMILY

16, 1888, son of Carl and Anna (Elangson) Carlson. His parents moving to Winona county when he was quite young, he attended school there, and also for one year in Money Creek township after their return to this county. Until attaining his majority he resided with his parents, and after that worked out for two years. After that for six years he farmed rented land in Money Creek township, and then bought his present farm of 145 acres, on which he is raising stock and grain with profitable results, finding a ready market for his products. He is also the owner of land in Winona county. He is a member of the Yeomen's lodge at Money Creek and is independent in politics. Mr. Carlson was married June 17, 1914, to Beulah Bradt, who was born at Almon, Minn., Aug. 8, 1891, daughter of John and Eva (Cain) Bradt. He and his wife have three children: Barbara Beth, born July 13, 1915; Lucille Bernice, born March 27, 1917; and Curtis Charles, born Oct. 28, 1918. John Bradt and his wife were born in New York State, and in 1856 settled in Winona county, Minnesota. For the first few days they farmed amid pioneer conditions and then engaged in the general mercantile business at Almon, Winona county. They are now living retired in the village of Money Creek.

Thor T. Lee, who for many years was one of the leading and representative farmers of Houston county, was born in Norway, April 26, 1846. He was four years old when he came to the United States with his parents, who settled first at Stoughton, Wis. From there, after a comparatively short interval, they removed to Houston county, Minnesota, becoming the first settlers in Crystal Valley, Houston township. There they took wild land, which they developed into a farm. On that farm young Thor was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the vicinity. In the course of time he became the owner of the property, and continued in agricultural pursuits there until his retirement in 1912. He then took up his residence in Houston village, where he spent his remaining years, passing away April 18, 1918. During his active career he served for a number of years on the board of education. Mr. Lee was first married in 1870 to Bertha Gunderson, a native of Norway. She died in 1880, after having been the mother of five children: Ida, now Mrs. G. G. Senness; Emma, deceased; Julius, Marcus and Bertha. In 1881 Mr. Lee married for his second wife, Mrs. Tilda (Johnson) Kettle-son. The children of this marriage were: Josephine, who married Ed. Senness, but is now deceased; John, of Ft. Ridgley; Galena, wife of Ed Runin, of Ft. Ridgley; Emma, now Mrs. Paul Wheaton; Aaron, of Crystal Valley; and Rose and Alma, who are residing at home.

Phillip Krick, a progressive farmer of Union township, who is operating the old family homestead in section 32, of which he is now the owner, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, June 19, 1876, son of Phillip and Augusta (Neujahr) Krick. Both parents were born in Germany, the father on Nov. 27, 1836. Phillip Krick, Sr., who was educated in his native land, was sixteen years old when he came to America, settling first in Canada, where for two years and a half he was engaged in farm work. Then in 1855 he removed to Houston county, being numbered among the pioneer settlers. He is still living on the old family homestead with his son, the subject of this sketch. His wife was born in 1846 and died July 13, 1897.

They had five children: Walter, residing in North Dakota; David, of Caledonia, Houston county; Edward, a resident of the State of Washington; Emma, wife of George Becket, and Phillip, Jr. The last mentioned attended the district school at intervals until nineteen years old, in the meanwhile assisting his father on the farm. He also went to school one winter in La Crosse. At the age of twenty-one he began farming for himself, renting his father's farm, which he operated under rental until 1916, when he purchased it. For a number of years he has been engaged in making improvements, chiefly with respect to the buildings, which are now in good condition. Though he does mixed farming, he gives his main attention to stock raising and dairying, his cattle being of the Shorthorn breed. He also owns a threshing outfit and has engaged in threshing every fall for the last fifteen years. Among his other business interests are those of a shareholder in the co-operative elevator at Caledonia and in the telephone company. On April 5, 1904, Mr. Krick was united in marriage with Hulda Anderson, who was born in Norway, July 12, 1880, daughter of Ole and Lena (Olson) Anderson, and who came to Houston county, Minnesota, with her parents in 1892. The parents are now living on a farm in Mayville township. They have had four children: Hulda, now Mrs. Krick; Axel, living on the home farm; Canstance, who married Wallie Engwalson; and Carl, who died when four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Krick have one child: Florence Augusta, who was born Jan. 11, 1907, and is now attending school.

John Pederson, who contributed to the agricultural resources of Mound Prairie township by developing a farm from wild land in section 18, was born in Norway in 1830, and was there reared to manhood. He there married Inga Gulbrandson, who was born in Norway in 1832 and in 1870 they came to the United States, locating in Storer Valley, Houston county, Minn., where Mr. Pederson improved some land, subsequently removing to Houston, where he resided for three years. He then returned to Storer Valley, Mound Prairie township, and bought the land which now constitutes the farm of his son Christian J., in section 18, which he improved, residing thereon until his death in 1913. His wife survived him several years, passing away in 1916. They were the parents of two children, the son above mentioned and Dorothy, now Mrs. Byford Buckbee of Storer Valley, this county.

Christian J. Pederson, proprietor of a farm of 120 acres in section 18, Mound Prairie township, which is the old homestead established by his father, was born near Christiania, Norway, March 28, 1858, son of John and Inga (Gulbrandson) Pederson. He was twelve years old when he came to Houston county with his parents, and for a time attended school in Mound Prairie township and in Houston. His early industrial experience was gained on the home farm, but at the age of seventeen years he began working out for others at intervals, and after he was twenty his work was entirely away from home. In April, 1881, he was united in marriage with Lizzie Olson, who was born in Storer Valley, Mound Prairie township, daughter of Olaus and Dorothy (Gulbrandson) Olson. With his young wife he then went to Wadena county, in the northern part of Minnesota, where he engaged in farming, residing there thirteen years. After suffering





C. J. HAPPEL AND FAMILY

some losses from a fire, he sold out and returning to Houston county, settled on the old home farm, where he has 120 acres of land, with good buildings and other improvements, and is doing a good business as a general farmer. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and has served on the board of education for a number of years, in politics being a Republican. He and his wife have had ten children of whom there are now living, Olga Genetta Blanche, Abraham and Clara Eveline, all residing at home. The parents of Mrs. Pederson, Olaus and Dorothy (Gulbrandson) Olson, were both born in Norway, and were pioneer settlers in Houston county, Minnesota, taking land and improving a farm. Both died on their homestead, the mother in 1892 and the father in 1915. They had a family of ten children, of whom their daughter Lizzie (Mrs. Pederson) was the second in order of birth.

Jacob Happel, one of the pioneer settlers of Mound Prairie township, long since deceased, was born near Marens, in Hesse, Germany. Until the age of thirty years he resided in his native land, and while there served eleven years in the German army, during a part of that time as substitute for another man. With the money thus earned he paid his passage to the United States. After arriving here he made his home for a short time with his brother, who lived near Hartford, Wis. He then became engaged in railroad work and while thus occupied visited various localities, going as far as North Carolina. About 1858 or 1859 he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and secured forty acres of wild land in what is now section 20, Mound Prairie township, his residence being a small log house. On that land, which he developed into a good farm, he resided until his death in 1884. Mr. Happel married Martha Lena Siegler, who was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, their marriage taking place in this country. She survived him ten years, dying in 1894. They had a family of eight children: Barbara, William, Louis, Charles, Henry, Caroline, John and Peter.

Charles J. Happel, proprietor of the old Happel homestead in section 20, Mound Prairie township, the estate now containing 220 acres, was born on this farm, Jan. 18, 1865, son of Jacob and Martha Lena (Siegler) Happel. He was the fourth born of his parents' eight children. Brought up on the farm, he attended school in Day Valley, this township, though at an early age he was obliged to make himself useful assisting his father, and also, as he grew older he operated a threshing outfit, doing work for the neighbors. At the age of twenty-nine years he bought the home farm and has since operated it, making a specialty of breeding Durham cattle and Poland-China swine, besides other good stock. He is doing a successful business and is a shareholder in the Houston creamery and Houston elevator. His farm is well improved and fully equipped, being kept up to a high modern standard. In October, 1913, he finished his present modern home, which is as fine a place as is to be found in the neighborhood. It is a sightly structure, beautified with a spreading lawn and pretty shrubbery, and is equipped with all the comforts and conveniences that modern life demands. In politics Mr. Happel is a Republican and is now serving his sixteenth year as a member of the school board of his district. He has also served three years on the town board. He is a member of the Evangelical Association

church. Mr. Happel was married Sept. 15, 1897, to Minnie Ruehman, who was born in the city of Chicago, Feb. 17, 1873, daughter of William and Amelia (Tetzlaff) Ruehman. He and his wife have two children: Florence C., a graduate of the normal department of the Houston high school; and Wesley C., residing at home. The parents of Mrs. Happel were both born in Germany, the father in Hanover, June 14, 1834, and the mother in Pommern, Nov. 25, 1843. Mr. Ruehman was a tailor by trade and was engaged as such in Chicago for a number of years. Subsequently coming to Houston county, Minnesota, he engaged in farming not far from the present home of Mr. Happel, his son-in-law, but later sold out and went to La Crosse, where he resided for a number of years. He and his wife are now retired and are living with Mr. and Mrs. Happel. He was formerly an active worker in the A. O. U. W., and other fraternal orders. He and his wife had seven children, of whom their daughter Minnie was the second in order of birth. The others are August, Caroline, Amelia, Louisa, August and Henrietta. Minnie, now Mrs. Happel, passed her early years in Chicago, where she acquired her education. Mr. and Mrs. Happel are among the prosperous residents of Mound Prairie township. They stand high socially and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout this part of the county.

Adam Doering, a well known farmer and respected citizen of Union township, residing in section 32, was born in Germany, Jan. 12, 1865, son of Henry and Katherine (Falk) Doering. The parents were born and married in Germany, the father being a weaver by trade. They came to America in 1870 and, settling in Houston county, Minnesota, engaged in farming. Both are now deceased. Their children were: Elizabeth, Kate, Bertha, Mary, Anna, Valentine, Henry, Adam, William, Daniel and Gustav. Bertha is now deceased. Adam Doering was educated in the district school and worked on the home farm until nineteen years of age, after which he worked out four years for others. He then moved to Winona, where he followed the blacksmith's trade for two years. During the next six years he was engaged in farming in Nebraska. He then returned to Houston county, and having married, operated in succession two rented farms, each for two years, in 1898 buying the farm on which he now lives. It contains eighty acres, all the land being cleared. Mr. Doering does general farming, including dairying and stock raising, keeping graded Shorthorn cattle. About 1904 he rebuilt his house, and in 1906 his barn, which measures 32 by 60 feet, and is provided with a stone basement. He has also erected various outbuildings. In addition to his home farm, he also has a farm of eighty acres in Mayville township. He is a shareholder in the co-operative elevator at Caledonia, and in the local telephone company. For two years he served as clerk of his school district. He has made good progress as a farmer, having an expert knowledge of the business, and is now in comfortable circumstances. Mr. Doering was married in Wayne, Neb., March 1, 1893, to Clara Henningsen, who was born in Denmark, April 18, 1872, daughter of Nels H. and Mary (Hansen) Henningsen. She was eleven years old when she accompanied her parents to America, where for the most part her father's occupation was that of a farmer. Both parents are now deceased, as also are two of their seven children. The survivors are: Nels,



MR. AND MRS. FERDINAND GOEDE, JR.

Celia, Clara, Peter and Olga, the last mentioned of whom is the wife of Andrew Erickson. Mr. and Mrs. Doering have had four children: Mabel, born Feb. 16, 1894, who is the wife of Clifford Orr, of Mound Prairie township; Chester Henry, born Dec. 23, 1896, residing at home; Adam Earl, born March 31, 1902, who died April 1 the same year, and Clarence Valentine, born April 13, 1903, who is attending school. The family attend the German Lutheran church.

Frederick Klinski, for many years one of the enterprising and successful men of Union township, was born in Germany, Feb. 16, 1857, son of Adam and Mrs. Eva (Zemska) Klinski. The parents were born and married in West Prussia, the father being a worker in a brick factory. Neither ever came to America, and both are now deceased. Their children were Augusta, Wilhelmina, Frederick, Johann, Erastus, Ferdinand, and two others now deceased. Frederick, after attending school, took up his father's trade of brick making, and worked at it in his native land until reaching the age of twenty-five years, when he came to America. Locating at once in Houston county, Minnesota, he became a hired hand on the farm which he afterward owned in section 29, Union township, and remained such for a year and five months. The next summer he worked out on another farm. In 1885, when he married, he rented a farm, which he operated subsequently for nine years, at the end of that time buying another farm, on which he made improvements, building a barn, and which he later sold to his son. About ten years ago he bought a farm in section 29, Union township. It contains 120 acres, of which eighty acres are cleared, the balance being in wood and bluff land. He repaired the buildings, which are now in good condition, and engaged in mixed farming, giving his chief attention to raising cattle and hogs for the market. In his latter years his sons performed the actual work, Mr. Klinski exercising a general supervision. In addition to his direct farming interests he was also a stockholder in the local telephone company. He died March 6, 1919. Mr. Klinski was married Jan. 27, 1885, in Mayville township, this county, to Wilhelmina Haberland, who was born in Germany, daughter of John Haberland and wife, both of whom are now deceased. She was one of five children, namely: Louisa, Wilhelmina, Augusta, Marie and Ludwig, of whom Ludwig is dead. To Mr. and Mrs. Klinski ten children have been born: Ida, Feb. 19, 1886; Emma, Feb. 28, 1887; Mina, Oct. 3, 1888; John Emil, July 23, 1890; Frederick, Jan. 31, 1893; Ludwig, Aug. 25, 1895; Emil, June 7, 1897; Louisa, June 7, 1899; Ella, July 3, 1902; and Reinhold, July 21, 1904. The four first mentioned are married, Ida being a resident of Houston county. Emma of La Crosse, Mina of Caledonia, and John Emil of Houston county. The others are residing at home, the younger members attending school. The family attend the Lutheran church in Union township.

Ferdinand Goede, a representative agriculturist of Mound Prairie township, operating a farm of 264 acres, was born in this township, Aug. 4, 1876, son of Ferdinand and Pauline (Brunke) Goede. The parents were natives of Pommern, Germany, who early settled in Houston county, Minnesota, and engaged in farming. The mother died a number of years ago, but the father is still living on the old homestead. Ferdinand, Jr., was educated in

the district school and also attended a German school in La Crescent township, the family being members of the German Lutheran church. He was reared on the home farm, and at the age of twenty-one years went to work on the city railway in La Crosse. Subsequently returning to Houston county, he resumed farm work and three years later bought his present farm of 264 acres, which he is operating along general lines, raising grain and stock with profitable results. He has a well improved place, with adequate buildings, and is making good progress. In politics he is independent. Mr. Goede was married Aug. 25, 1909, to Minnie Selke, who was born in La Crescent township, this county, daughter of Fred and Christina Selke. Her parents were natives of Germany, who settled in Houston county, Minnesota, many years ago. The father died when Mrs. Goede was a child, but her mother still survives and is now a resident of Hokah. To Mr. and Mrs. Goede three children have been born: Adeline, born Feb. 25, 1909; Wilma, born April 6, 1911; and Fern, born April 9, 1916.

Mrs. Mary Snure, residing in section 32, Union township, where she is operating a farm of 240 acres, was born in Germany, Jan. 2, 1854, daughter of Henry and Katherine (Falk) Doering. In 1869, at the age of fifteen years, she accompanied her parents to the United States, the family settling in Union township, where they engaged in farming. Both parents are now deceased. They had eight children: Valentine, Henry, Adam, William, Daniel, Gustav, Mary and Anna. By a previous marriage the father had three other children: Elizabeth, Katherine and Bertha. Mary, who was reared on her parents' farm, in her youth attended the district school, and as she grew older assisted in the work of the household. She was first married to Ernest Wiggan, who died at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving two children, Anna and Ella Louise, both of whom are married. Some time after her first husband's death the subject of this sketch was united in marriage with George W. Snure, who was born in Canada, Sept. 22, 1838, and who was one of the pioneers of Houston county, settling here in 1855. He was also a veteran of the Civil War, in which he served three years, being honorably discharged and afterwards becoming a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He had been twice previously married, having no children by his first wife, but one by his second, namely, George Albert, who was born Jan. 23, 1875, and who is now living in Fillmore county. Mr. Snure was a prosperous farmer and a highly respected citizen of Union township, whose death on Aug. 16, 1905, was much regretted. His farm contains 200 acres, and was enlarged by Mrs. Snure some eight years ago, when she purchased forty acres more. The land on the original place was cleared by Mr. Snure, he also erecting the buildings, the improvement of the place, together with his duties as school clerk for over twenty years, keeping him fully occupied. With the assistance of her sons, Mrs. Snure is operating the farm on a profitable basis, raising grain and stock. She is also a shareholder in the Farmers' Elevator of Caledonia and the Co-Operative Creamery. Mr. and Mrs. Snure had ten children, whose record in brief is as follows: Henry, born July 12, 1879; Matilda Elizabeth, born March 23, 1881; Mabel Agnes, Dec. 6, 1882, died April 26, 1891; Clara Christina, March 31, 1885; Robert W., March 15, 1888; Nellie Mildred, Feb.

25, 1890, died Dec. 4, 1918; Viola Irene, Aug. 19, 1891; Raymond LaRoy, July 4, 1893; Daisy La Verne, July 12, 1895; and Doris Lucille, Sept. 7, 1897. The family attend the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Snure is operating the farm with the assistance of her children, and has shown herself both a good farmer and a good business woman. She and her family are prosperous and occupy a high social standing in Union township.

Mrs. Anna Snure, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Union township, being proprietress of a farm of 119½ acres in section 29, was born in Mound Prairie township, Houston county, Minn., Nov. 27, 1888, daughter of Martin and Bertha (Wiese) Rosine. Her parents, natives of Germany, came to this country separately, and after their marriage engaged in farming in Mound Prairie township. Mr. Rosine is now dead, but his wife is still living on the old homestead. They had four children: Anna, John, Ferdinand and Louisa. John, who was born April 29, 1890, is residing with his sister, Mrs. Snure, and helping her to operate the farm. Ferdinand died in infancy. Louisa, born May 11, 1893, is residing on the Rosine farm with her mother. Anna, the subject of this sketch, married Philip Snure, who died in 1915. They had two children: Ruth Electa, born July 8, 1909; and Phyllis Orinda, born July 5, 1915. Since her husband's death Mrs. Snure has operated the farm with the assistance of her brother. Of its total area about eighty acres are cleared. The barn, 32 by 44 feet, is cemented and provided with a stone basement, while the house is a good frame building of eight rooms, other improvements being in contemplation. Mrs. Snure successfully carries on mixed farming, making a specialty of stock raising. Her career presents additional evidence of woman's ability to succeed in most of the occupations followed by men, as she is carrying on a profitable business and has a well kept farm. She is also a shareholder in several important local enterprises, including the creamery, elevator and telephone companies. The family attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

Peter Arnet, a former resident of Mound Prairie township, where he broke land and established one of the good farms of the township, was born in Germany, and came from that country to the United States when nineteen years old, locating in Washington county, Wisconsin. As a young man he learned the brewer's trade, but later gave that up and engaged in farming. Before starting in for himself, however, he worked for others, and thus earned money to pay the passage of his parents to this country. His first farm was in Washington county, Wisconsin, and he operated it until April, 1864, when he sold his interests there and came to Houston county, Minnesota. Soon after his arrival here he enlisted in a Minnesota regiment, with which he served until the close of the Civil War. On his return he took up farming in Mound Prairie township, buying a tract of land which he improved until he had a good farm of 160 acres, on which he resided until his death in 1885. Mr. Arnet married Elizabeth Eberhard, who was like himself a native of Germany, and who died some years before him. They had a family of twelve children: Catherine, George B., Sophia, Elizabeth, Charles, Margaret, John, Lillie, living; and Peter and Jacob and two unnamed infants, deceased.

George B. Arnet, a prominent farmer of Mound Prairie township, who has built up a fine farm of 301 acres from what was practically a tract of wild land when he took it, was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, Jan. 16, 1857, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Eberhard) Arnet. He was the third born of his parents' twelve children, and being only about seven years old when he came to Houston county, his education was acquired in the district school near where his parents settled. Like all the early school-houses, it was a log structure, as was also the house in which he first resided here, and which is still standing and in good condition. In those days deer and other wild game were plentiful, and neither meat nor fish was hard to procure. Up to the age of twenty-three years he assisted his father to improve and cultivate the home farm, and after that began working out. When ready to start in for himself he purchased the land that constitutes his present farm, and which then was but slightly improved. This he has since developed into a good modern farm, with substantial buildings, and a complete equipment for grain and stock raising. He breeds a good grade of Durham cattle, together with other stock, and is enjoying a prosperous career, finding a ready market for all his products. In the early days he assisted in breaking the land on this farm, using from four to six yoke of oxen, and a large breaking plow, so is thoroughly familiar with all the conditions of pioneer farming. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and a part of his time has been given to public affairs, as for twenty-two years he served as township treasurer, and for a number of years on the school board. He is a member of the Evangelical Association church. On March 11, 1887, Mr. Arnet was united in marriage with Matilda Burow, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of Frederick and Amelia (Freyschmidt) Burow. Mr. and Mrs. Arnet were the parents of eight children: Elsie E., Irena S., Selma M., Frederick Peter, Philip George, Joseph John, Edwin William, and Amelia A. Elsie E., Irena S., Selma M., Joseph John and Edwin William are residing on the home farm. Selma M., who acquired her elementary education in the district school, subsequently attended school in Houston, and later the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., where she was graduated with the degree of B.A. She is now a high school teacher. Frederick Peter, who graduated from the Houston high school, died May 17, 1894. Philip George, a graduate of the agricultural college at St. Paul, served in France with Co. E, 47th U. S. Infantry, and was killed in the battle of Chateau Thierry. Amelia A. died at the age of nine months. Mrs. Matilda Arnet, the mother of these children, died Feb. 15, 1907, her loss being deeply regretted in the community.

Frederick Burow, formerly a prominent citizen of Mound Prairie township, was a native of Prussia, Germany, and married Amelia Freyschmidt. Upon coming to Houston county, Minnesota, he took land in Mound Prairie township, which they developed into a good farm. Here Mr. Burow died in 1903. During his active career he served many times in school and town office, and for a number of years was a director of the Farmers Insurance Company. His wife survived him some years, dying in 1910. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom, Matilda, became the wife of George B. Arnet. The two families have been closely connected since the

GEORGE R. ARNETT AND FAMILY





PHILIP GEORGE ARNET

early days, Frederick Burow and Peter Arnet serving in the same company and regiment in the Civil War, and after that conflict making the trip to Mound Prairie together.

Philip George Arnet, one of the heroes of the great war, who willingly gave his life for the great cause of humanity, was one of the highest type of those splendid representatives of manhood who bore the torch of human liberty across the seas to war-wrecked France. A true consistent Christian in private life, filled with the highest ideals of service both in his daily walk and in his army career, he met his death unflinchingly, and left a record that will make the world better for his having lived, even for so short a time. Philip was born June 6, 1895, on the farm of his father, G. B. Arnet, in Mound Prairie township. He attended district school in his neighborhood, and later entered the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota from which he was graduated with the class of 1916. With a brilliant career ahead of him, he then started his work as a scientific farmer. When war was declared between Germany and the United States he desired to enlist, but was persuaded by his friends to wait until the call should come for his services. The call for the National Army soon came, and on Sept. 8 he left Caledonia, in charge of the first quota of men from Houston county. He received his first training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and in November was transferred to Camp Pike, at Little Rock, Ark., where he spent most of the winter. From there he went to Camp Green, Charlotte, S. C., and then to Camp Mills, Hemstead, N. Y. During all this time his letters were always filled with cheer, and with the joy of service, and he anxiously awaited his opportunity to reach the firing line. At Chateau Thierry, on Aug. 3, the very day in which he had written his last letter home, he was killed in action, during a charge which showed his courage, and those same qualities which has distinguished his whole career. His fellow members of Co. E, 47th Infantry, laid him to rest in the soil of France, which he had died to save, and there he awaits the Last Day. His memory will long be cherished by a grateful country and in the hearts of those who loved him. The young man was a devoted member of Tabor's Evangelical church, and was active in its work, having held various offices in the Sunday School and Young People's Society. It is worthy of note that Philip was a close friend from boyhood of Frank Sheldon, who also gave his life for his country and for humanity, making the supreme sacrifice on the fields of France.

Henry Philip Eberhard, who spent the greater part of his life in Mound Prairie Township, engaged in the work of land improvement, was born in Germany, in 1842, and was a mere babe when his parents emigrated to Wisconsin, in which State he remained until past his twelfth year, being a boy in his "teens" when the family removed to Houston County, Minnesota. Brought up to agricultural pursuits, he naturally became a farmer, acquiring land in Mound Prairie township, which he developed and cultivated, establishing a good farm, on which he resided until his death in 1903. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in a Minnesota regiment, and though never wounded was confined to the hospital for a number of weeks with an attack of black measles. During the years of his activity he served at times in local office, being for a number of years a member of

the school board and also for some time chairman of the town board. Mr. Eberhard married Maria Louisa Corlett, who was born in Rochester, N. Y., in May, 1845. She resided with her son, Harry Philip, on his farm in section 28, Mound Prairie township, until her death, April 9, 1919.

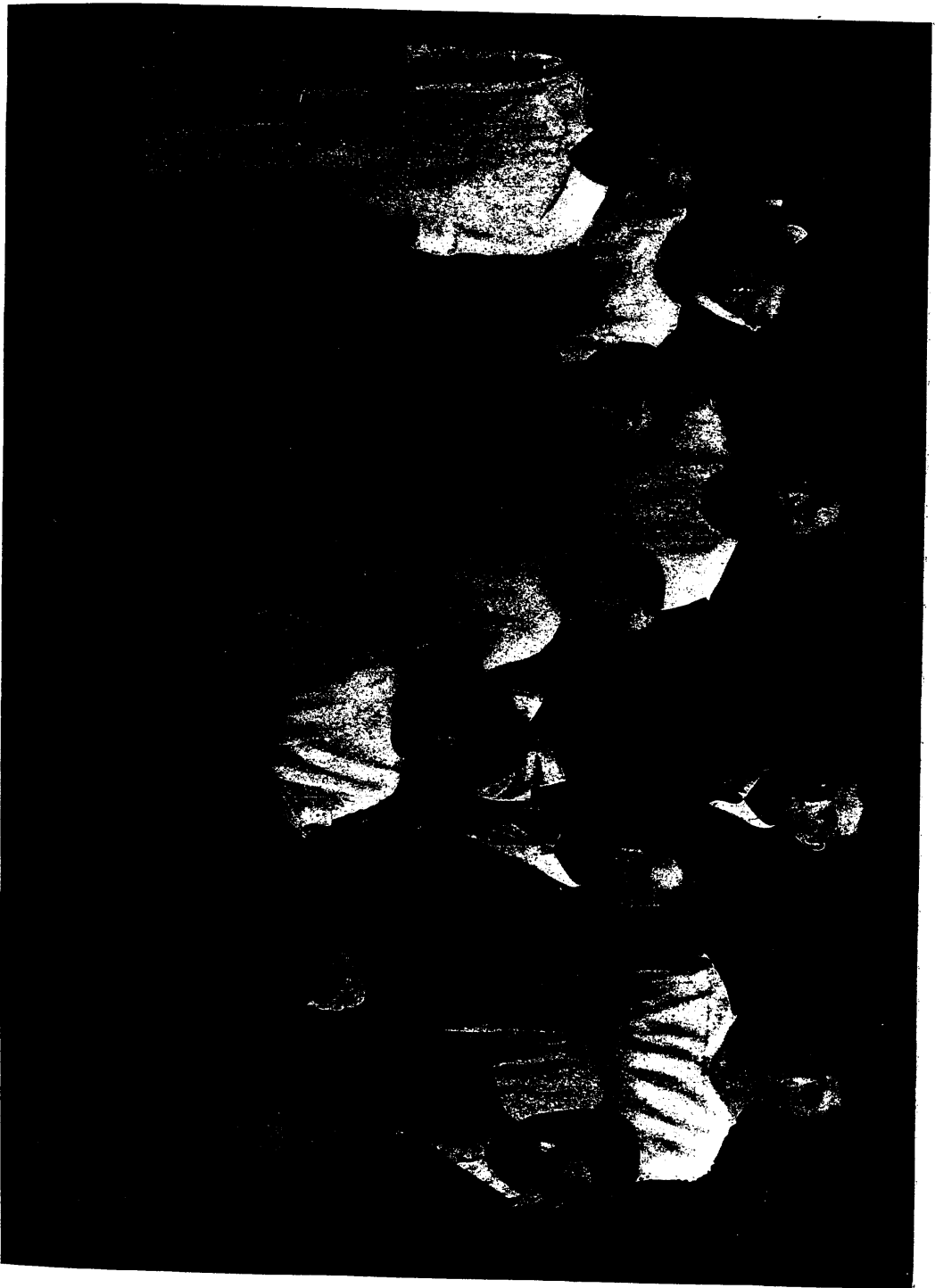
Harry Philip Eberhard, Jr., a general farmer residing in section 28, Mound Prairie township, where he is cultivating 65 acres of land, was born in this township Sept. 26, 1880, son of Henry Philip and Louisa (Corlett) Eberhard. He acquired his education in the local schools and remained at home assisting his parents until arriving at the age of 22 years, after which he began working out and so continued until he bought his present farm in 1912. He is doing a good business as a general farmer and is numbered among the well to do citizens of his township. He attends the Evangelical church, while his political principles are those of the Republican party.

Adolph Haupt, one of the men whose labors as pioneer agriculturists have been the chief factor in the building up of Houston county, his own particular work being done in Mound Prairie township, was born in Germany on Jan. 14, 1835. The years of his early manhood were spent as a sailor, but he was still young when he came to the United States with the intention of settling here. In New York he was married to Henrietta Redmann Nov. 1, 1863, and, turning their backs on the East, they came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1866, taking an unimproved farm in Mound Prairie township. Besides developing this farm, in section 9, Mr. Haupt acquired and improved other land, and was one of the organizers of the fire insurance company in this township. He finally retired from active work and took up his residence in Houston village, where he is now living. His wife died in June, 1887. They were the parents of a large family numbering eight children: Lena, Henrietta, Henry, Matilda, Adolph F., Anna F., Helen and Julia.

Adolph F. Haupt, a well known stock farmer of Mound Prairie township, operating 360 acres of land, his residence lying in section 9, was born in this township June 4, 1872, son of Adolph and Henrietta (Redmann) Haupt. He was educated in district school No. 94 in this township and was reared on the home farm, assisting his father until the age of 16 years, after which, for three years, he worked out. He then returned to the homestead and operated the farm with his father for a number of years, finally purchasing from him his present farm. Later he bought the old home, thereby becoming proprietor of 360 acres altogether, which he is operating as a general stock farm in a careful business-like manner, buying when prices are low and utilizing his property to its full capacity of production. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Elevator. A Republican in politics, he has served on the school board for about 20 years, and was road supervisor seven years.

Oct. 19, 1897, Mr. Haupt married Emma Lemke, who was born in Mound Prairie township, Aug. 7, 1873, daughter of Frederick and Bertha (Klitzke) Lemke. He and his wife have eight children, all residing at home, namely: Esther, Rosella, Herbert, Silas, Edna, Nina, Laura and Dorothy. Frederick and Bertha Lemke, the parents of Mrs. Haupt, were both born in Germany. The father was an early settler in Mound Prairie township,

ADOLPH F. HAUFF AND FAMILY





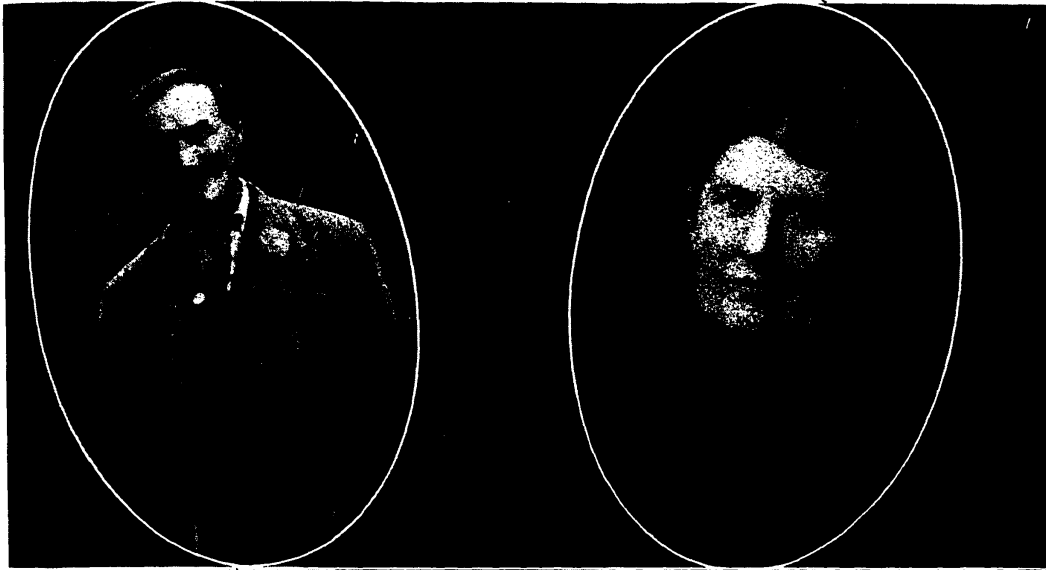
JOHN J. MOE AND FAMILY

this county, farming for a number of years, and also for a number of years being employed in mills in La Crosse. From the latter place he finally returned to his farm, where his death occurred. His wife subsequently operated the farm until 1917, when she retired, and is now residing with her son, Herbert, in Mound Prairie township. It is worthy of note that Mr. Haupt's friends are justly proud of the work that he has done in home activities during the great war. He has done more than his share in everything that the Government asked of its loyal citizens. Furthermore he acted as solicitor in the various war drives, and did much toward winning for the town the reputation which it enjoys of "going over the top" in its contributions.

John J. Moe, who came to Houston county over thirty years ago has since established himself as one of the prosperous and well to do farmers of Jefferson township, was born in Tronjem, Normay, Aug. 22, 1865, son of John and Christine Moe. Up to the age of 22 years he resided in his native land working for a bare living; but being an ambitious young man, home prospects did not satisfy him, and he resolved to seek a field of larger opportunity in the great American republic. Some of his acquaintances had already emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, and from them he had learned of the opportunities for obtaining cheap land, as well as of the widespread demand for labor. Accordingly in 1887 he said good bye to his friends and relatives in Norway and came alone to the United States, arriving in Houston county in October. The expenses of the journey had exhausted his funds, and buying land was for the present out of the question, but employment was easy to obtain and he became a wage earner, living economically and saving his money with an eye to the future. During the winters of 1887, 1888 and 1889 he worked in the Wisconsin pineries as a sawyer, and the summers of 1888 and 1889 in the lumber mills of La Crosse. In the fall of 1889 he went to Washington territory, where he was connected with the lumber business for three years, working in the woods during the winters and in the mills in summer. In the spring of 1893 he returned to Houston county, Minnesota, and being by this time much better off financially than when he had arrived in Houston county, a green Norwegian immigrant, he made preparations for embarking on the last stage of the road to progress by taking a wife, being united in marriage July 5, 1893, to Mary, daughter of Andreas and Berit Anderson of Jefferson township. In the same year he bought 200 acres of land in section 19, Jefferson township, a small part of which tract was cleared, and it being also provided with an old log house of two rooms, and a barn. Though the improvements were so scanty, the land was good and only needed developing, a task to which Mr. Moe applied himself with vigor. His work in the woods and mills had strengthened his body and hardened his muscles, giving him just the sort of capital he needed with which to achieve success, but pioneer farming is no child's play, and many a night when he went to rest he felt as tired as though he had done a hard day's work in the woods. But gradually conditions improved and the work became less arduous. He and his wife occupied the original house for the first fall and winter only, after which he built a more comfortable log house, to which they transferred their home,

and in which they resided up to 1907, when the erection of a two story modern frame house of nine rooms marked a still further advance in material circumstances, emphasized by the other substantial buildings which Mr. Moe has erected from time to time. These include a good frame barn, 32 by 84 by 18 feet in dimensions; a granary, 26 by 40 by 10 feet; machine shed, 20 by 40 by 10; hog house 20 by 40, with corn cribs and other out-buildings indispensable to a good modern farm. Mr. Moe has also increased the amount of his land by the purchase of 120 additional acres, and now has 150 acres under cultivation, the rest consisting of pasture and timber land. He has an adequate supply of tools, machinery and stock, his cattle and hogs being graded animals, and his farm, which is six miles north of New Albin, is productive and profitable. He also derives profit as a shareholder in the Co-operative Creamery, Co-operative Stock and Grain Co. and Co-operative Mercantile Co. of New Albin, and is a ready supporter of all commendable local enterprises. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations and those of his family are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Moe are the parents of seven children, born as follows: Elmer, Sept. 15, 1894; Cecelia, Oct. 9, 1896; Elmer, Jan. 8, 1899; Walter, Nov. 13, 1901; Carl, Oct. 18, 1903; Mabel, Feb. 18, 1906, and Ida, May 7, 1908. It is interesting to note that in 1914, Mr. Moe made a three months' trip to Norway to visit his aged mother. He made the trip by way of Washington, D. C., visited England and France, and sailed through the English Channel and the North Sea to Christiania.

William Sandrock, who is extensively engaged in the nursery and fruit raising business in Money Creek township, is one of the leading pioneers in this industry in Houston county, having been engaged in it for some forty years. He was born in Saxe-Weimer, Germany, May 25, 1851, son of John and Bertha Erb, who were natives of the same German state, the father born in 1824, and the mother on May 2, 1828. The father, who was a jeweler by trade, died when the subject of this sketch was a young boy, and the mother in 1853 came to the United States, settling in Milwaukee, where she married a Mr. Salzer, by whom she had five children. Her son William was adopted by a family named Sandrock, and has since retained that surname. He attended school for 18 months in Germany, and later for some time in Milwaukee and in Columbia county, Wisconsin. At the early age of ten years he had to contribute to his own support and began industrial life in a paint shop in Milwaukee. Subsequently he followed other occupations, working in a tobacco warehouse and also in a drug store, where he was employed when the Civil War broke out. Toward the latter part of the war he tried to enlist but was refused on account of his youth, he being then only in his fourteenth year. He succeeded, however, in securing a job as sutler's assistant in a soldier's camp, and thus his craving for military excitement was partially satisfied. After that, for about seven years, he worked for a Mr. Hawkins at Wyocenia, Wis., then worked land on shares for one year, and finally, in 1873, came to Money Creek township, Houston county, taking the land that constitutes his present farm. It was then wild and covered with woods, and for the first year Mr. Sandrock, who was then married, resided with his brother-in-law. At the end of that time he



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SANDROCK AND RESIDENCE

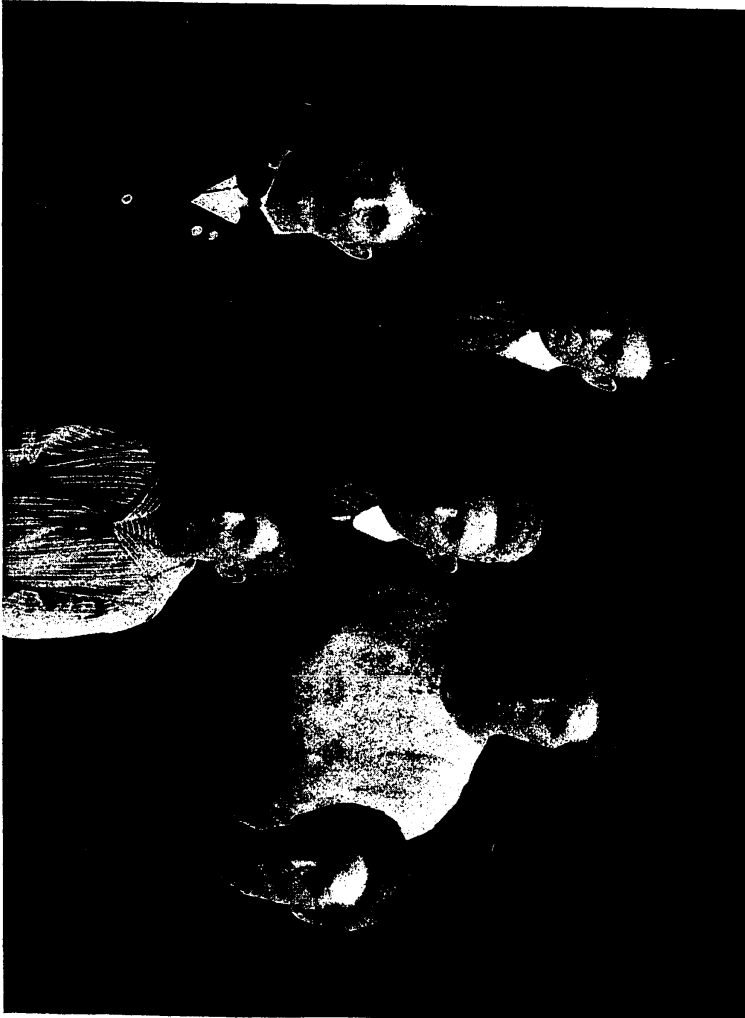
built a house for himself, which was the first of his many improvements. In 1875 he engaged in the fruit raising business, in which he has since continued. In 1880 he added the nursery business to the interests and has developed that also to considerable proportions, making a specialty of evergreens and flowers. Among his trees are the Norway spruce, Colorado spruce, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Norway pine, Scotch pine, white pine, jack pine, Mocha pine, Austrian pine, American arborvitae, white spruce, tamarack, and the cottonless cottonwood. In his orchard he has seventy species of apple trees and eleven of crab apples, and he also uses a small apple tree for shrubbery. Some of his cottonwood trees have attained a growth of eleven feet in one year. His estate, containing 123 acres, is known as Vinegar Hill Nursery, that name having been bestowed on the hill by Mr. Sandrock himself. He is a member of the State Horticultural Society, and keeps well informed as to all improvements and discoveries in his line of business. He is also a man of broad reading along many other lines and is a member of the National Geographical Society. A Republican in politics, he has served a number of years on the school board, of which he is now the clerk, but has declined other offices. Mr. Sandrock was married Dec. 5, 1871, to Emma Hawkins, who was born at Wyocena, Columbia county, Wisconsin, daughter of Henry and Louise (Spaulding) Hawkins, her father being a native of New York State and her mother of Vermont. Of this union five children have been born: Bertha, wife of E. Kingsley; May Frances, widow of Mel Foster, and residing at St. Charles, Minn.; Arletta, wife of Max Splittstoesser, farmer of St. Charles; Louis, who died in 1906 at the age of 26 years; and Emma, wife of Charles Houtz, residing in Winesap, the State of Washington. Mrs. Emma (Hawkins) Sandrock, died April 25, 1892, and for the past 22 years Mr. Sandrock's sister, Emma Salzer, has been his home keeper.

William F. A. Neumann, who is prosperously engaged in general farming and stock raising in Jefferson township, residing in section 10, was born in Crooked Creek township, Houston County, Minnesota, Aug. 12, 1883, son of William F. F. and Margaret (Hanke) Neumann. His parents settled in Crooked Creek township in 1873, buying wild land in sections 3 and 34, where they subsequently developed a farm, and later they bought a considerable quantity of other land, most of which the elder Neumann has since divided among his children. He is still a resident of Crooked Creek township, but his wife is deceased, having passed away in 1913. William F. A. Neumann, who was the first born in a family of eight children, acquired his education in the district school and was early trained to agricultural work in various branches. He remained on the home farm until 1905, and then went to Dickey county, North Dakota, where he owned 160 acres of land, of which he broke 50 acres, also building a house and barn. In 1912 he sold out his farm there and returned to Houston county, Minnesota, again taking up his residence on his parents' farm. In 1917 Mr. Neumann came to his present farm in sections 10 and 11, Jefferson township—a farm of 240 acres, of which he is the owner, 120 acres of it lying in section 10, in which also his house, a good frame building, and a new frame barn, are located. The farm is located six miles northwest of New Albin,

Iowa, and is a desirable piece of agricultural property on which Mr. Neumann has already made a good start as an independent farmer, having an adequate equipment of teams, tools and machinery. Eighty acres of the land are already under the plow. Mr. Neuman is a member of the Crooked Creek congregation of the German Evangelical church. In politics he is a Republican. Young, ambitious and energetic, he has excellent prospects for the future and is a respected citizen of the community in which he resides.

William F. F. Neumann, a resident of section 34, Crooked Creek township, where he is living on the farm established by his parents 45 years ago, and on which he has spent most of his life, was born in Pommern, Germany, April 17, 1855. He attended school in his native land and in 1871 accompanied his parents to the United States and to Brownsville, Houston county, Minnesota, where the family resided for two years. In 1873 they bought 160 acres of land in sections 3 and 34, Crooked Creek township, a wild and very rough tract, of which they developed a part, also building thereon a two-story stone house, with good barns and other farm structures. There the mother of the subject of this sketch died in 1886, being followed to the grave four years later by her husband. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the latter being now deceased. The other son, August, now resides next to the old home farm in Crooked Creek township. William F. F. Neumann has remained on the home farm since taking up his residence on it in boyhood, and on his father's death in 1890 he became its owner. Sturdy and strong, during his active career he was a hard worker and grubbed many an acre of land, besides doing much harvesting by hand. He did general farming, but gave his particular attention to stock raising, breeding from 100 to 150 head of cattle annually. He owned good teams and equipment and was successful in the line of business he undertook. The surface of his original homestead farm is of a hilly character, but he also accumulated a considerable amount of other land, including a farm of 720 acres, some timber land in Jefferson and Crooked Creek townships, and about 1,000 acres of Mississippi bottom land. These holdings he has divided among his children, retaining his residence on the old home farm. He is a prominent member of the Crooked Creek congregation of the German Evangelical church, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Neumann was married Oct. 4, 1882, to Margarita, daughter of Julius and Katherine Hanke of Brownsville. She died in April, 1913, after undergoing an operation at Rochester, Minn. To Mr. and Mrs. Neumann were born eight children: William F. A., now a prosperous farmer residing in section 10, Jefferson township; Katy, deceased; Ferdinand, a farmer living in Crooked Creek township; Clara, now Mrs. Benjamin Pohlman of Jefferson township; Julius residing on the home farm; Henry, of Jefferson township; Anna, wife of George Colsch; and Rosa, now Mrs. Joseph Fink of Crooked Creek township.

Levi W. Corey, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of 340 acres in sections 6 and 7, Money Creek township, was born in Wiscoy township, Winona county, Minn., Feb. 6, 1869, son of Gilbert M. and Esther (Todd) Carey. He was the second child in a family of seven and was edu-



LEVI W. CORREY AND FAMILY

cated in district schools in Winona county. His parents being farmers, he was trained to agriculture from his youth, and until his marriage worked at intervals for his father and for other farmers, sometimes being away from home. For six years after his marriage he farmed for himself in Winona county. He then went to Emmons county, North Dakota, where he bought a farm, which he held for four years, though at the time residing in Wiscoy township, Winona county. At the end of that period he located on a farm in Money Creek township, Houston county, where he was profitably engaged in general dairy and stock farming until 1918, when he moved to a fine farm of 340 acres in sections 6 and 7, in the same township. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery and the Houston Elevator. A Republican in politics, he is now serving his tenth year as treasurer of school district No. 7.

Mr. Corey was married January 6, 1897, to Tena Olson, who was born in Mound Prairie township, daughter of Peter and Hannah Olson. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Corey, namely: Gilbert (deceased), Myrtle, James A., Neal, and Robert E.

Gilbert M. Corey, father of Levi W., was born in Vermont, near the city of Montpelier, Aug. 9, 1839. His wife, Mrs. Esther Todd Corey, was a native of New York State, born in October, 1843. Emigrating to Minnesota previous to the Civil War, when that great struggle broke out, he entered the service as a private in Company D, Seventh Minnesota regiment, and was a soldier for nearly four years. On being honorably discharged he returned to Minnesota and located in Wiscoy township, Winona county, where he bought land and engaged in farming, spending many years in the improvement of his property. In 1907 or 1908 he moved from his farm to the city of Winona, where he is now living retired. During his active career he held various town and school offices and also served as representative from his district in the State Legislature. He was also for many years overseer of the C. A. Butler lands. Peter and Hannah Olson, the parents of Mrs. Lee W. Corey, were born in Norway, but were married in this country. Peter Olson served in the Civil War in a Minnesota regiment, and subsequently became a land owner and farmer in Mound Prairie township, Houston county. He died on his farm in December, 1915. His wife now resides with a daughter, Mrs. Henry Hanson, of Houston township.

Carl J. Weier, proprietor of the Freeburg Silver Star Creamery, was born in Germany, Dec. 12, 1880, son of Frederick and Emily (Hempt) Weier. He was educated in his native land, attending high school until reaching the age of 19 years, after which he entered a dairy school, where he learned butter making. He then engaged in the creamery business, which he followed in Germany until he came to the United States in 1904, being the only member of his family to come to this country. Locating at Freeburg, this county, he here found a run-down butter-making plant, which he purchased. It was practically dead property, but he succeeded in reviving it, and has since built up the business to a production of 145,000 pounds of butter, and 7,000 gallons of ice cream. The old plant being destroyed by fire, he erected a new building, installed with a 15-horsepower engine and complete modern machinery both for butter making and ice cream freezing.

His record has been in the highest degree creditable, and shows what can be accomplished by special training united with industry and determination. He was obliged to adapt himself to new conditions, learn a strange language, and begin his operations with rusty and worn-out machinery; yet the first year he turned out 100,000 pounds of butter, and instead of the 24 or 25 patrons with which he began he now has 175 or more. Mr. Weier married Emma Heitman, daughter of John Heitman, a pioneer of Houston county. He and his wife have three children, Arthur, Arnold and Ervin.

Henry A. Holmes, who owns and operates a small but choice farm of 115 acres adjoining the village of Clinton in Money Creek township, and also has other landed property, was born near Guttenberg, Sweden, Dec. 21, 1858, son of Andrew A. and Hannah (Orup) Holmes, who were natives of the same locality. The father came first to Houston county, Minnesota, and settled at Houston, lower town, being followed by his family eighteen months later. He worked out for others, having intentions of finally establishing himself on the land, but about a year or a year and a half after the arrival of his family, he and his wife and one of their younger sons died of typhoid fever. Henry A., who was eleven years old, or thereabouts, when he came to this country, had attended school for a while in Sweden, and after arriving in this county his education was continued for a while in the school on Swede Bottom, where he acquired his first knowledge of English. When about fourteen or fifteen years old he began working out and continued to be thus engaged until his marriage in 1885. After that event he was employed on the railroad at Winona for a few months, and then engaged in farming in Houston township, where he resided for a number of years. At last, selling his farm there, he purchased the one he is now operating, on which he has made practically all the improvements now standing, as he has remodeled the old buildings and made additions to them, and has a full and complete equipment. He is a stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery, and also owns city property in Houston, and a farm in Saskatchewan, Canada. Independent in politics, he served as school director for a number of years. His religious affiliations are with the Baptist church. Mr. Holmes was first married in 1885 to Ida Benson, who was born in Houston township, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Benson, who were early settlers in that township. Mrs. Ida Holmes died in 1898, leaving no children. In the fall of 1899 Mr. Holmes married Charlotte J. Benson, a cousin of his first wife, and daughter of Benjamin and Christine (Nelson) Benson, prominent residents of Sheldon township. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have one child, Oliver W., who was born Feb. 4, 1902, graduated from the Houston high school in the class of 1918, and is now a student at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

Paul Peter Noel, proprietor of a blacksmith and woodworking shop in Freeburg, Crooked Creek township, was born seven miles below Dubuque, Iowa, Feb. 4, 1854, son of Anton and Mary (Hilkin) Noel. He was a boy of about thirteen years when he accompanied his parents to Crooked Creek township, Houston county, they taking land on the site of Freeburg. He finished his schooling in the neighborhood and was occupied with farm work on the homestead until reaching the age of twenty, at which time he began



HENRY A. HOLMES AND FAMILY



PAUL P. NOEL AND FAMILY

to learn the blacksmith's trade in the village of Freeburg. Here in time he built a shop and started in for himself. He has continued in the business up to the present time, having won a good reputation as a reliable blacksmith, and also as a woodworker, for which he has all the necessary machinery. His religious affiliations are with the Catholic church. Mr. Noel was married May 27, 1876, in St. Nicholas church, Freeburg, to Mary A. Jyohe, who was born in Shullsburg, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, Sept. 17, 1856, daughter of Lawrence and Sophia (Siley) Jyohe. Mr. and Mrs. Noel have been the parents of eleven children, whose record in brief is as follows: Matilda, born March 3, 1880, who died at the age of five months and six days; Joseph, born March 19, 1881, and now a resident of San Francisco; Anna, born June 24, 1883, who is the wife of Ed. Haslon of San Francisco; John, born Sept. 17, 1885, now a resident of Genoa, Wis.; Clara E., born May 10, 1888, who is the wife of H. Hoover of San Francisco; George, born July 28, 1890, who is residing at home; Dora, born Dec. 11, 1892, who is the wife of James Bond of San Francisco; Bernard, born July 21, 1895, and now serving in the United States navy; Frank, born April 1, 1897, who lives in St. Paul; Marie, born Feb. 17, 1900, who is now Mrs. Bert Harm of La Crosse; and Blanche, born Sept. 12, 1902, who is residing at home.

Lawrence Jyohe, an early settler in Houston county, was born in Vier, Germany, and when a young man emigrated to the United States, taking passage in a sailing vessel. During the sixty days he spent on the ocean he made the acquaintance of Sophia Siley, a native of Wurtemberg, and to whom he was married in New York. There he remained for five years working at the trade of woodworker and carver, and then, perhaps following Horace Greeley's advice, he came west, and settled on a farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. After twelve years spent in that locality, he came with his family to Houston county, securing a tract of land three miles from Freeburg, and taking possession of a log house which stood on the place. In Wisconsin he had used oxen for his farm work, but after locating in Houston county he made use of horses. He was one of the school officials of his district, and also served for some time as chairman of the town board. After an active and industrious career, he died here at the age of sixty-three years, and his wife at that of eighty-four. They had nine children, Frank, Lawrence, Louis, Stephen, Sophia, Mary, Lizzie, Anna and Clara. The religious affiliations of the family were with the Catholic church.

George G. Miller, formerly proprietor of a fine farm of 320 acres in Money Creek township, who was also a veteran of the Civil War, in which he performed the part of a brave soldier, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, in December, 1848. He was quite young when death deprived him of his father, and a few years after his mother also died, leaving him and another child the surviving members of the family. He was reared in the family of a Mr. Crandall, and for a while was sent to the district school, where he obtained his education. At the age of eighteen years he enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment for service in the Civil War and served four years, or until its close. Being wounded at the battle of Bull Run, he was confined for a short time to the hospital and then given a furlough, spending the time allowed him at home. He then returned to the army and served

out his period of enlistment. At the close of the war he returned to Pennsylvania, from which State he later accompanied Mr. Crandall to Houston county, Minnesota. Here he found employment working for others, but at the end of two years rented land and began farming. For a number of years he operated rented land, and then bought a farm in Money Creek Valley, which he improved by the erection of buildings and in other ways, and expanded to an area of 320 acres. After a successful career as a general farmer, he retired and took up his residence in the village of Money Creek, where his death occurred Sept. 25, 1909. He was one of the first stockholders in the Houston Creamery and was recognized as one of the township's enterprising and successful men, and as a reliable and useful citizen. In politics he was a Republican, but confined his political activities to casting his vote. He was a member of the G. A. R. post at Money Creek. Mr. Miller was married in January, 1861, to Melissa Jane Vance, who was born in the State of Vermont, May 22, 1853, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth (Ricker) Vance. Her parents were among the pioneer settlers of Houston county, arriving here in the early fifties and locating on a farm near Money Creek village. After a number of years they retired and moved to La Crosse, but later returned to Money Creek village, where a few years later Mr. Vance died. His wife died about the year 1898. They had five children, of whom their daughter, Melissa Jane, was the second in order of birth. She was educated in Money Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of eleven children, Minnie, Cora, Clara, Maud, Frank F., Bert, Elmer, Mary, Ethel, Ray G. and Walter, whose record in brief is as follows: Minnie is the wife of Fred Perkins, of Money Creek township. Cora is the wife of Russell E. Vance, and resides at Del Rio, Texas, her husband being proprietor of a large fruit farm there. Clara is the wife of Ernest Christianson, who is engaged in the hardware business at Lewiston, Mont. Maud married John Harmon and resides with her husband on a farm at Banks, N. D. Frank F. is a clerk in a hardware store at Beach, N. D. Bert and Walter are associated together in operating the home farm in Money Creek township. Elmer is a farmer at Beach, N. D. Mary is the wife of Melvin Snuggerud, her husband being engaged in the hardware business at Flandreau, S. D. Ethel married Mark Corey, a farmer, and resides four miles northwest of Money Creek. Ray G. is now in the United States military service. Since her husband's death Mrs. Miller has continued her residence in the village and is an active participant in its social affairs. She is a member of the Eastern Star lodge and is esteemed among a wide circle of friends.

Philip H. Elsheimer, a respected farmer and stock raiser of Crooked Creek township, was born in Franklin county, Mass., Sept. 9, 1863, son of Henry P. and Catherine (Mentis) Elsheimer. In 1865, Henry P. Elsheimer and his father and his father-in-law, John Mentis, came west, and each bought eighty acres of wild land in Crooked Creek township. Here they built a log cabin and made preparations to welcome the rest of the family. They then returned and brought their relatives here. Philip H., then a baby, came with the rest. He had but limited education, but thoroughly learned the business of farming on the rough land on which his parents had



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE G. MILLER

located. As he grew to manhood he took over the management of the home farm which he operated for many years. In October, 1912, he and his good wife moved to a farm of 203 acres, one mile south of the homestead. This was nearly all wild land and no buildings had been erected thereon when Mr. Elsheimer purchased it. Since then he has erected a modern two-story, eight-room frame dwelling, a good frame barn, granary, machine sheds and the like. An artesian well supplies fresh pure water. The land being rough, only a small portion is tillable, and Mr. Elsheimer has therefore turned his attention to stock raising, for which the land is admirably suited. He has a fine herd of high grade Hereford cattle, with which he has been very successful. His operating equipment is of the best, and he is constantly adding to it. A man of poor parents, who by industry, intelligence and frugality has made his present position in the world, he is highly respected by all with whom he comes in contact. His trading center is at New Albion, Iowa, nine miles south, where he was a stockholder in the Farmers' Savings Bank and in the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Co. A thorough believer in education, he has done efficient service as a member of the school board for several years, but he has not cared to mingle in politics. Mr. Elsheimer was married June 15, 1904, to Bertha Neumann, born in Crooked Creek township, June 3, 1880, daughter of August and Louise (Mann) Neumann, early settlers of that township. This union has been blessed with five children: Philip H., Louise M. A., August V., Walter J., and Clara H., all bright children and the pride of their parents' hearts. Philip H. was born March 27, 1905; Louise M. A. was born Jan. 6, 1907; August V. was born Dec. 22, 1908; Walter J. was born Jan. 7, 1915, and Carl H. was born Aug. 8, 1918. The family faith is that of the German Evangelical church of Crooked Creek, of which Mr. Elsheimer is a prominent member and liberal contributor.

Olaf Benson, who was one of the first settlers in Swede Bottom, Houston township, was born in Halland, Sweden, where he married Christine Letberg. While in his native land he saw in a local paper an account of the Root River valley in Minnesota, which was so favorable that he, with several other men and their families, set out for the promised land. It was in 1853, about a year after the first settler had arrived in Houston county, that Olaf Benson, John Anderson and Abraham Abrahamson, and others with their families, located on the east bank of the South Fork of Root River. Wild game of various kinds was abundant, so were Indians, and what is now the flourishing city of La Crosse was only a boat landing with one store. The new settlers lived in tents until a rude log house could be erected in which for a while all the three families made their home. Three other families who had accompanied them from Sweden—two by the name of Johnson, and the family of Lars Redding—took claims in the vicinity. On the land he had secured Mr. Benson began the usual improvements, using axes he had brought with him from Sweden. In the very next summer, that of 1854, he suffered a great bereavement in the loss of his wife, who died in the community log house above mentioned. He persevered in his task, however, for the few years that were yet allotted to him, but was about to move to a farm which he had purchased near Red Wing, when

in 1858 death overtook him also and he rested from his labors. He and his wife had had five children, whose task it became to complete the unfinished work of the parents, a work that in time was well accomplished.

Benjamin Benson, proprietor of a fine general stock farm of 217 acres in section 10, Sheldon township, and who is also one of that rapidly diminishing band of veterans of the great Civil War, was born in Halland, Sweden, June 2, 1845, son of Olaf and Christine (Letberg) Benson. He was a lad of about eight years when he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, and found himself amid novel and primitive scenes incidental to frontier life. He was scarcely a year older when he lost his mother, but his father continued in the work of developing a homestead until he, too, a few years later, was snatched away by the hand of death. Young Benjamin attended the first district school established in the neighborhood of Swede Bottom, Houston township, where the family settlement had been made. He was only sixteen when the Civil War broke out, and in the following year, or, to be more exact, on August 15, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Seventh Minnesota Regiment. His first service was against the hostile Indians in Minnesota and Dakota, but subsequently he was transferred to the South and took part in the battles of Nashville, Tupelo, Abbeyville and the siege of Mobile. Though never wounded in battle, he received an injury while in the service. It is interesting to note that he was present at the hanging of the Indian murderers at Mankato after the uprising and stood in the third rank from the scaffold. After being mustered out in 1865 he returned to Houston county and settled on his present farm in section 10, Sheldon township. It was then, however, merely a tract of wild land without improvements, and his first task was to erect a log house. During the half century that has since elapsed he has developed his place into a fine farm of 217 acres, well provided with good modern buildings and has had a successful career as a farmer, making a specialty of stock raising. He is also a shareholder in the creamery and telephone companies. Independent in politics, he served for about twenty years as town supervisor, and was also for a long time a member of the school board. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he served formerly as junior vice commander and in other offices. Mr. Benson was married March 28, 1874, to Christine Nelson, who was born in Halland, Sweden, June 30, 1853, and who came to this country in 1871, her parents remaining in Sweden. He and his wife have had nine children, all of whom are living, namely: Adelia Caroline, wife of Herbert Mathews, a farmer in Saskatchewan, Canada; Charlotte Jane, wife of Henry Holmes, a farmer of Money Creek township; Henry and Oliver (twins), both of whom live in Canada, the former having married Bessie Strand and having one child, Ben. C., and the latter having married Maude Scott; Frank B., who married Elsie Safner, resides on the home farm and has two children, Roger A. and Myrtle L.; Charles E., a farmer of Money Creek township, who married Ella Benson, and has two children, Goldie and Lena; Lille Grace, who married Alfred Redding, a banker of Bingham Lake, Minn., and has seven children, James, Willis, Victor, Lillie, Gladden, Iris and Benson; Otto Emil, who married Ellen Anderson, of Looney Valley, and is farming a half section in Canada; and

MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN BENSON





FRANK BENSON AND FAMILY

Vesta Leona, who married Frank Anderson, who is now farming in Canada and has two children, Dorothy and Chapman.

Patrick Welsh, one of the pioneer settlers of Winnebago township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to the United States as a young man in 1850, locating in Lexington, Scott county, Ind. There he married Stacy McDonald, a native of Wexford, Ireland, who, like himself, had come to America on a sailing vessel in 1850. While residing in Lexington, Patrick worked on the railroad. From there he removed with his family to Hannibal, Mo., and from the latter place in 1859 to Houston county, Minnesota, making the journey in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. He and his wife had then four children, Thomas, Mary, Larry and John. Before bringing his family here, he had made a visit to the county in 1857 and bought 120 acres of wild land in Winnebago valley, Winnebago township, and on this he now settled, he and his family living in the wagon until he had built a log house. In addition to his oxen he had one cow, and with this limited amount of stock he began the career of a pioneer farmer in this county. His markets were at Lansing, Iowa, and Brownsville, this county, to which he drove with his wagon and oxen. He increased the size of his farm until it contained 360 acres, and erected all the necessary buildings. He was one of the school officers of his district, and in 1865 helped to build the Catholic church in Jefferson township, of which he and his wife were members. About five years before his death he moved to New Albin, where he finally passed away at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. He had been a widower for a number of years, his wife having died on the farm at the age of fifty-eight. In addition to the four children previously mentioned, six others were born to them in Houston county: Mary, Margaret, Ann, Ellen, Anestolea and Michael.

Thomas William Welsh, one of the leading citizens of Freeburg, Crooked Creek township, where for over forty years he has carried on a blacksmith's business, was born in Lexington, Scott county, Ind., July 8, 1853, son of Patrick and Stacy (McDonald) Welsh. While still very young he accompanied his parents to Hannibal, Mo., and from there to Houston county, they arriving here in 1859. He was then about six years old, and soon became a pupil in the log schoolhouse in Winnebago valley, Crooked Creek township, where the family settled. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the trade of blacksmith of G. A. Graf, of Brownsville, Minn., and after acquiring a good practical knowledge of it started in business for himself in Winnebago valley. He also conducted a shop for three years at Winnebago Mills. On Oct. 8, 1877, he bought a blacksmith's shop in Freeburg, moving his family here on November 3rd, and taking possession of a house which he had also purchased. His present shop, an improvement over the old one, was erected in 1885. Here he has conducted business uninterruptedly and has become widely known all over the county. He is a stockholder in and one of the directors of the Freeburg State Bank. For thirty-one consecutive years he has served as town clerk. He helped to build St. Nicholas Catholic church and has been one of its officials for thirty-nine years. Mr. Welsh married Johanna Early, of New York State, and he and his wife have had eight children, one of whom, Anestolea,

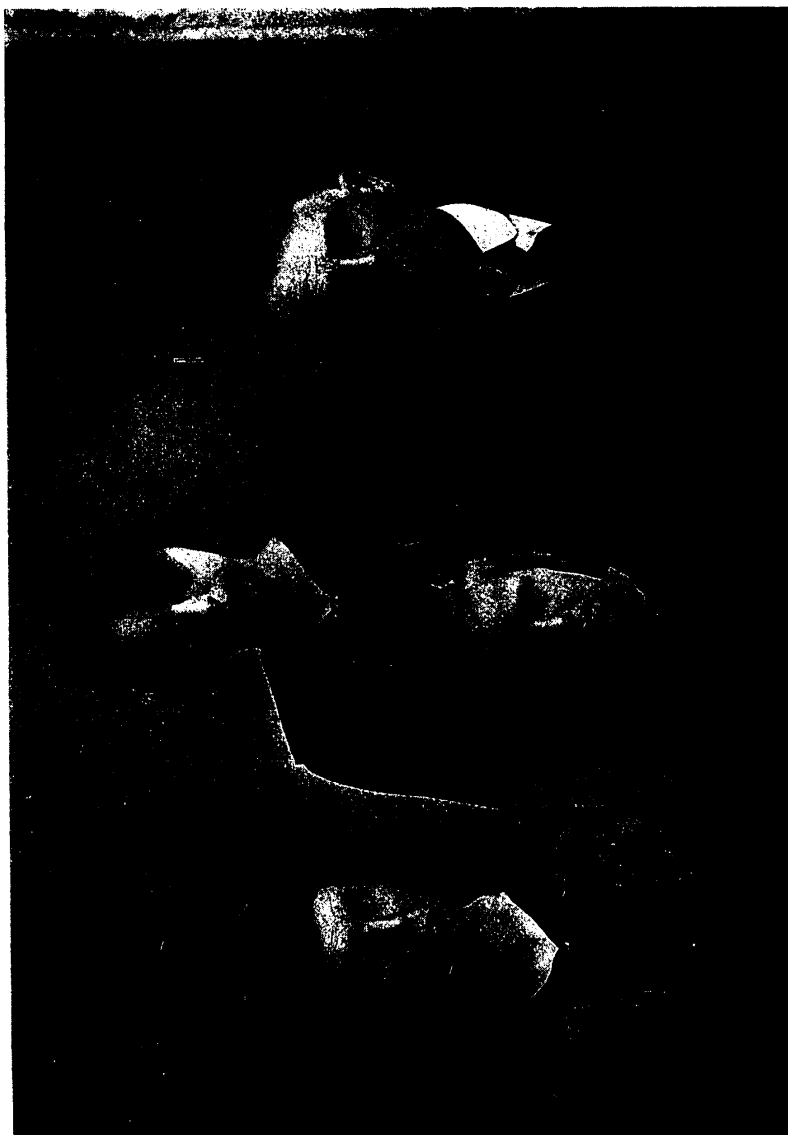
died at the age of seventeen years. Those living are Mary, Anna, Michael, James, Minnie, Ella and William. Mr. Welsh has also seven grandchildren.

Fredrick Otto, one of the thriving agriculturists of Mound Prairie township, operating a farm of 240 acres in section 17, was born in Pommern, Germany, Dec. 11, 1852, son of Fredrick and Carolina (Reinke) Otto. The parents, who never came to this country, are both now deceased. Fredrick, Jr., the subject of this sketch, was reared to farming pursuits in his native land, where in time he became operator of a farm, remaining there until 1880. He was then married to Bertha Saun, a native of Pommern, and in the same year, 1880, they came to the United States, locating in La Crosse, Wis. During his first year's residence there he was employed in railroad work, and then for thirteen years was an employee in a sawmill. He then came with his wife and family to Mound Prairie township, Houston county, and took his present farm, which he is operating along general lines, raising grain and stock on a profitable basis, being now numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is independent, voting for the man rather than for the party. Mr. and Mrs. Otto are the parents of four children: William, born April 29, 1884, who married Minnie Hyer and who is a carpenter residing at La Crosse; Frank, born Jan. 23, 1888, who now operates the home farm, and who married Olga Blank, a native of La Crosse and has one child, Fredrick; Rosa, born Sept. 29, 1890, residing in La Crosse; and George, born June 3, 1895, who has served in the United States military service in France with Co. A, 42d Engineers.

Fred Stelplugh, a well known dairyman and swine breeder, having a fine farm of 358 acres in section 30, Money Creek township, was born in Livingston county, Missouri, June 10, 1871, son of Joseph and Caroline (Fink) Stelplugh. The parents were natives of Germany, but were married in Davenport, Iowa, the father coming to the United States when a young man. Later he settled in Missouri, where he operated farm lands, and died when the subject of this sketch was a lad of fourteen years, his wife having passed away ten years previously. Fred, who was the youngest of his parents' seven children, completed his literary education in the high school at Utica, Mo. On his father's death, about 1885, he began working for others, herding cattle, handling horses, and following similar occupations in Missouri for a number of years. Then for two years he operated farms in Freeborn county, Missouri, subsequently buying land there which he cultivated until 1912. In that year he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and settled on his present farm, where he is breeding registered Poland-China hogs, and frequently shipping from his herd to other states. His farm is one of the best equipped in the township and Mr. Stelplugh keeps it up to the highest standard in every respect. He was married March 29, 1894, to Mary J. Webster, who was born at Utica, Mo., July 9, 1871, daughter of Daniel W. and Amelia (Carlton) Webster, and who is a descendant of Anna Dustin, whose name is famous in the annals of New England for her heroic escape from Indian captivity, she, with the assistance of a young boy killing their Indian guards while they lay asleep. Her



MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK OTTO



ALBERT TIETZ AND FAMILY

parents were natives of Haverhill, Mass., and were early settlers in Missouri. The father in early life was a teacher, but later engaged in newspaper work and in the mercantile business. After retiring from active work he spent a number of years with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stelplugh, but died at Marcelline, Mo., having survived his wife several years. To Mr. and Mrs. Stelplugh eight children have been born: Letta Agnes, born Jan. 11, 1895, wife of Ralph Harris, a fruit farmer of La Crescent township; Grace Amelia, born July 14, 1896, who is a teacher residing at home; Verne Bennett, born Dec. 8, 1898; Bertha Jenette, born Feb. 23, 1902; Blon Waldo, born Feb. 4, 1906; Homer Carey, born June 29, 1908; Hazel Alley, born April 24, 1911; and Helen Marie, born June 6, 1913, who also reside at home with their parents.

Albert William Tietz, who for forty-six years has been a resident of Mound Prairie township, and is the owner of a farm of 140 acres in sections 5, 6 and 8 with residence in section 6, was born in Schlava, Hinter Pommern, Germany, March 1, 1850, son of Martin and Henrietta (Schramm) Tietz. His parents were natives of the same province, where they spent their lives and died. Albert William, who was the third born of their seven children, attended school in his native land, where he remained until he was twenty years old, being employed chiefly at farm work. In 1872 he emigrated to the United States, landing at Baltimore, from which port he came directly to Houston county, Minnesota. He was at that time unable to speak English, but found employment at farm work in Mound Prairie township, where later he bought land which he developed into his present farm, and which he has operated along general lines, raising crops and stock. Though he has now rented it out, he still exercises a general supervision over the property. He is a stockholder in the Houston Elevator and the La Crescent State Bank, and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. Politically an independent Republican, he served for twenty-five years as a member of the local school board. Mr. Tietz was first married March 1, 1888, to Margaret Kroehler, daughter of Jacob and Kathrine (Eberhard) Kroehler, her parents being numbered among the pioneers of Mound Prairie township, developing a farm in section 21. The father died in November, 1914, and the mother in February, 1915. Mrs. Margaret Tietz died in March, 1900, leaving no children. May 20, 1903, Mr. Tietz married Ella Ender, who was born in Mound Prairie township, Dec. 8, 1882, daughter of Leonard and Amelia (Radtke) Ender, her parents being farmers in this township. Of this union two children have been born: Florence Annabel, born April 9, 1904, now attending the Houston high school, and Avis Luella, born June 7, 1909.

Bernhard C. Pohlmann, who occupies a prominent place among the successful farmers of Jefferson township, his residence lying in section 9, was born in Eitzen, Houston county, Minn., June 5, 1878, son of William and Elizabeth Pohlmann. The third born in a family numbering 11 children, he was educated in the district school, which he attended regularly from his early years until the age of 11, and subsequently during the winters until he was 15. For three years longer he continued to reside with his parents and then, at the age of 18, began an independent career

as an agriculturist, which has been one of successful achievement. The farm which he now owns in Jefferson township contains 400 acres, of which 150 are under cultivation, the rest of the land being in timber and pasture. The buildings include a good frame house, a barn, corn crib, machine shed, a hog-house with a basement for poultry, a repair shop and garage, and there is also a complete operating equipment. Mr. Pohlmann is engaged in general farming, giving particular attention to the breeding of high grade Black Aberdeen Angus cattle and Poland-China swine. He is also a shareholder in the Co-Operative Stock and Grain Company and the Co-Operative Mercantile Company of New Albin, Ia., and in the Jefferson Township Threshing Company. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. Pohlmann was married Oct. 16, 1907, to Clara Neumann, daughter of William F. F. and Margarite Neumann of Crooked Creek township. Of this union four children have been born, all now living, namely: Versell, May 18, 1910; Hilda, Jan. 30, 1913; Esther, Jan. 29, 1917, and Melvin, born Jan. 10, 1919.

Louis Vix, a pioneer settler of Mound Prairie township, where he founded a farm on which he is now living with his son, Grover C., was born in Alsace, France, March 2, 1841, and came to America with his parents and other relatives when four years old. In the spring of 1854, they moved to Minnesota, settling in Mound Prairie township, this county. In the spring of 1860, he made a trip to Kansas, and pre-empted land near Lawrence, but sold out a month later and went to Kansas City. He then went in the employment of the Government through the Indian Territory to the Arkansas River, thence to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and back up the Arkansas River to El Paso and Canon City, thence up the Platte River to Fort Kearney, and back to Leavenworth, Kansas, and St. Louis, Missouri, and finally to Minnesota. In 1863, he made a claim in Blue Earth county, upon which he made some improvements, but the claim was "jumped" while he was on a visit home. He then purchased land in section 29, Mound Prairie township. In 1865 he enlisted in Co. L, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, was in several battles, and was mustered out Oct. 1, 1865, at Selma, Alabama. In 1876 he married Arvilla Edmonds, who was born in New York State in 1853, and died in 1898. Of their nine children, the first three died of diphtheria within eighteen days of each other. The others are Louis Vix, Jr., Ida, Margie, Grover, Lulu, and Metta. Ida is now Mrs. Herman Papenfuss; Margie is now Mrs. Charles Bottcher; Lulu is now Mrs. Andrew Flatten; and Metta is now Mrs. William Bottcher.

Grover Cleveland Vix, a well known and prosperous farmer of Mound Prairie township, residing on the old Vix homestead in section 29, of which he is now the owner, was born on this farm, Feb. 14, 1885, son of Louis and Arvilla (Edmonds) Vix. After the usual attendance at the district school, and even before he abandoned his studies, he became active as his father's assistant in the improvement of the homestead. When only 14 years old he rented the farm from his father and operated it from that time until his marriage. He then moved to La Crosse, where for two years he was engaged in the hide business. Returning to the home farm at the end of that time, he resumed agricultural work and a few years later became the

BERNHARD C. POHLMANN AND FAMILY





MR. AND MRS. GROVER C. VIX

owner of the property, which he is now operating as a general stock farm, his father, a widower since 1898, residing with him. The farm has an area of 201 acres and is highly improved as to buildings and equipment. In 1916 Mr. Vix erected one of the finest farm residences in Houston county. On May 12, 1903, Mr. Vix was united in marriage with Malissa Woolley, who was born at Hokah, Houston county, July 26, 1885, daughter of Frank and Henrietta (Fischer) Woolley. Her parents are still residents of Hokah, the father being a painter, paper-hanger and musician. Their daughter was one of the elder members in a family of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Vix have eight children: John, residing on the home farm; Arvilla Jane, who died at the age of six months; Arvilla (second), Alice, and Robert, who are living at home; a child who died in infancy; and Sereta and Wauneta, the two youngest of the family. Mr. Vix is independent in politics, aiming to cast his vote for the best man regardless of party. He and his family are among the most respected residents of Mound Prairie township.

Peter C. Gran, who is now living retired on his farm of 280 acres in Jefferson township, is a type of the hardy Norwegian race which has done so much to civilize and develop the resources of the great Northwest. He was born in Toten, Norway, Feb. 8, 1848, a son of Christian Pederson. In his native land he attended the common school and subsequently entered the ranks of industry. In 1871 he came alone to the United States, and making his way to Houston county, Minnesota, located in Spring Grove, in the vicinity of which place he worked for a year as a farm hand. During the next two summers he was engaged in running logs on Black River in Wisconsin after which he made a trip to the Red River Valley in north-western Minnesota. A year after his arrival in this county he had been joined by his parents, who arrived from Norway accompanied by a young lady, Karine Christiansen, to whom he had plighted his troth in his native land, and to whom he was united in marriage in January, 1873. While working for others he had been saving his money, and by 1874 he found himself in a position to begin an independent career as a farmer. Not having enough money to buy an improved farm, however, he selected a tract of 160 acres of wild grub land in section 17, Jefferson township. It had no buildings and his first task was to erect a log house into which he moved with his wife, and his parents, the house being double, with two rooms in each part. Though his wife was not very strong, she rendered valuable assistance to him in improving the place, working daily with him in the fields when the weather permitted, and together they accomplished the task of grubbing and clearing. In time they acquired more land, buying an adjacent tract in section 8, and erecting larger and more modern buildings, including a house, barns, machine-sheds, granary and hog house. About 100 acres of the farm are now under cultivation, and the old log dwelling, though long since abandoned, is still standing on the original tract. Mr. Gran continued general farming and stock raising until 1914, in which year he retired from active work, renting the farm to his son Otto, but he and his wife continuing their residence on it. He is a shareholder in the New Albin (Ia.) Co-Operative Stock and Grain Co., and in

the co-operative creamery at the same place, from which his farm is about six miles distant. He has always been strong and rugged, and now, at the age of 70 years, could, if necessary, still do a fair day's work. In politics he has always been a Republican, and in former years served as a member of the township board and also of the school board of his district. He and his wife have been the parents of twelve children, as follows: Claus, who is a farmer in section 18, Jefferson township; Clara, deceased; Emily, wife of John Swenson, of Winnebago township, this county; Christian, who is a Pullman car conductor, residing in St. Paul; Julius, a produce dealer in Caledonia; Peter, Jr., a farmer in Winnebago township; Henry, a book-keeper in St. Paul, Minn.; Otto, who as above recorded, is operating the home farm under rental; Hannah, now Mrs. Peter Nelson of Wilmington township; Adolph, residing on the home farm; Julia, who is the wife of Oscar Moen of Spring Grove village; and Carl, who was in France in the United States service and is now at home. Mr. Gran and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church and attend services conducted by the Caledonia pastor of that faith, there being no church organization of the denomination in this immediate vicinity.

Alfred Wilson, a practical and successful farmer, operating 139 acres of land in section 6, Mound Prairie township, was born on the old Wilson homestead in this township, May 30, 1875, son of Abraham and Guro (Kittelsson) Wilson. The father, a native of Sweden, settled in Houston county, Minn., when a young man and built up the Wilson farm in sections 31 and 6, Mound Prairie township, and section 1 south, Houston township, where he died Feb. 4, 1912. His wife, who was born in Norway, is now residing with her son Edward on the home farm. Alfred Wilson resided on the home farm until his marriage, in his boyhood attending school in District No. 24. Dec. 20, 1910, he assumed the responsibilities of domestic life, his bride being Lulu Schauble, who was born in Union township, this county, July 3, 1889, daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Snure) Schauble, who are still engaged in farming in that township. At the time of his marriage Mr. Wilson took up his residence on his present farm, which he is operating along general lines, raising both crops and stock, for which, in these times of unlimited demand, he finds a ready market and receives good prices. Thus he is enjoying a prosperous career. In politics he is a Republican and has served one term as clerk of the school board, and is now a member of the town board. Religiously he is affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran church known as the "Stone Church." He and his wife have four children: Louise, born Oct. 22, 1910; Ansel James, born Nov. 20, 1912; Silas, born Sept. 30, 1914; and Melvin, born July 8, 1917.

Otto Gran, who is engaged in operating the old Gran farm of 280 acres in sections 8 and 17, Jefferson township, was born on this farm, in section 17, Oct. 19, 1883, son of Peter C. and Karine (Christiansen) Gran. He acquired a limited education in the district school, but early learned habits of industry, becoming in time a good practical farmer and has always been a hard and efficient worker. He has never left the parental homestead, which when his parents first took it, in 1873, consisted of 160 acres in section 17, but which was subsequently enlarged to its present size by the

ALFRED WILSON AND FAMILY



purchase of adjoining land in section 8. All this he helped his father and brothers to improve, and on the father's retirement in 1914, he rented the place and is now operating it on his own account, his parents and brother, Adolph, residing on the farm with him. He owns one-half of all the teams, stock and equipment, and is doing a successful business in general farming and stock raising. He is also the owner of a good automobile, and in all respects is an enterprising, up to date and prosperous citizen, well known and popular in Jefferson township and the vicinity. He served as town clerk for a number of years and is now holding the office of town treasurer. In politics he is a Republican. Religiously he is of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran faith. Mr. Gran was married, March 6, 1912, to Julia, daughter of Iver O. and Caroline Hendrickson, of Spring Grove, this county. She was born in Tronjem, Norway, Dec. 21, 1893, and came to America with her parents in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Gran have one child, Ervin Palmer, who was born Feb. 24, 1913.

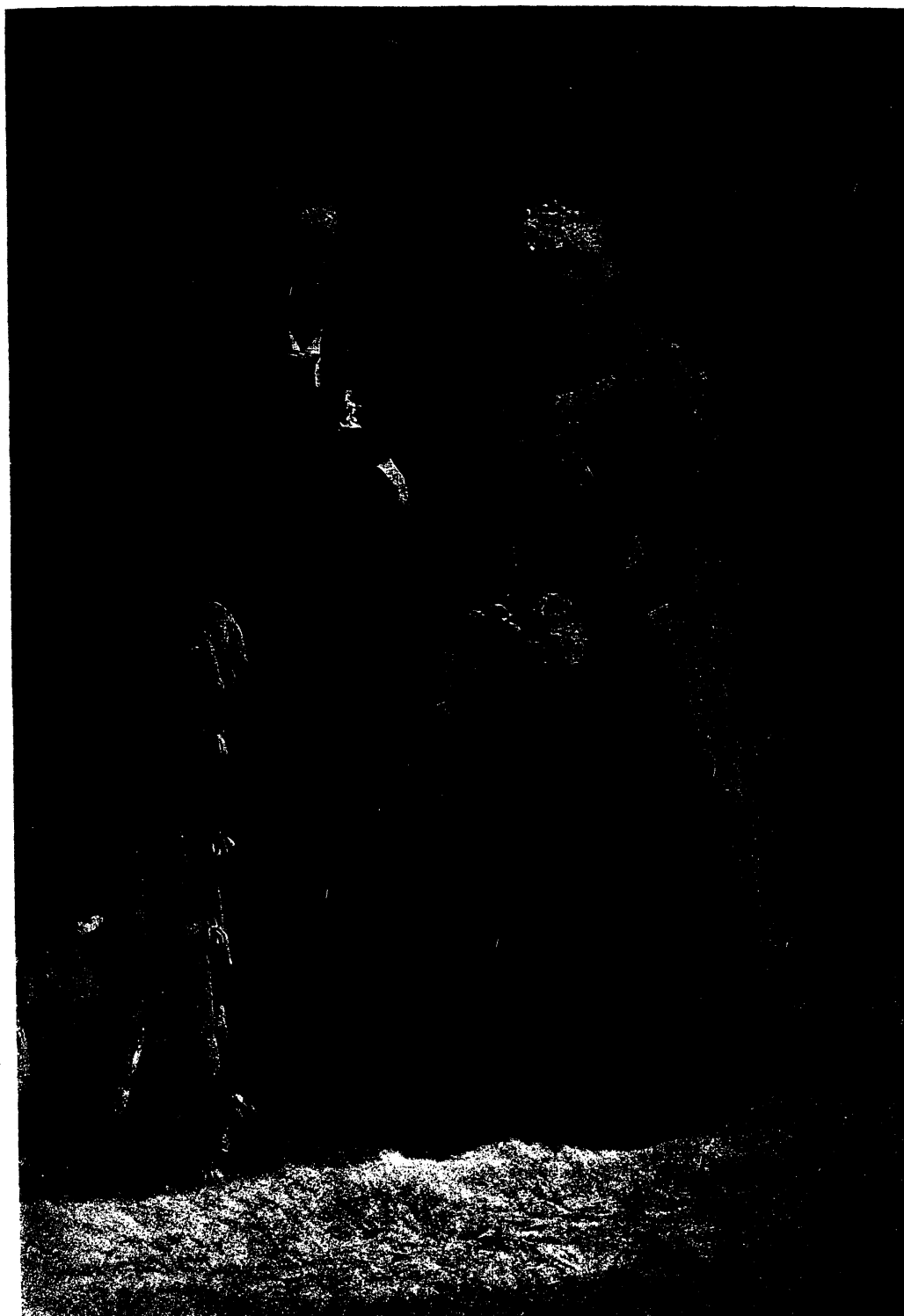
Frederick G. Harlos, proprietor of the old Harlos farm in section 17, Mound Prairie township, where he is successfully engaged in stock raising, was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, Aug. 23, 1862, son of Daniel and Marcrada (Hinerick) Harlos. He was a boy of four or five years when his parents moved to Houston county and settled in Mound Prairie township. Here he attended school for a limited period and was trained to industrious habits on the home farm, assisting his parents until 28 years old. He then purchased the homestead, which he has since operated as a general stock farm. It contains 260 acres of valuable land, with good buildings, and is fully equipped with modern appliances both for agricultural and stock raising. Mr. Harlos is doing a profitable business and is numbered among the enterprising and successful men of his township. Religiously he belongs to the Evangelical Association, and in politics is an independent Republican.

Claus P. Gran, who is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous citizens of Jefferson township who are engaged in agriculture, was born in Wilmington township, Houston county, March 30, 1873, son of Peter C. and Karine Gran. From an early age until he was 15 he attended the district school, but out of school hours, after he was old enough to work, he was seldom idle, as there was always something to be done on the home farm in section 8, Jefferson township, which his parents had taken in the year of his birth. Thus his time was occupied until 1893, when he went to St. Paul and entered the employ of the Northern Pacific Railway Company. On March 18, 1900, he was united in marriage with Christine, daughter of Andrew and Bertha Olson of Jefferson township, Houston county, and they began housekeeping in St. Paul. In the fall of 1906 Mr. Gran bought a farm of 120 acres in section 18, Jefferson township, known as the John Whelpers farm, of which 60 acres were broken, and he and his wife, with their two children, Clara B. and Arthur C.—their family at that time—took up their residence on it. It has since remained their home, and is now in good condition, Mr. Gran having made valuable improvements, including the erection of a comfortable frame house, a large modern barn, and other buildings, besides installing a complete equipment

of tools, stock and machinery. He is also a shareholder in the Co-Operative Creamery and Farmers' Co-Operative Mercantile Company of New Albin, Iowa. Though Mr. Gran's farm is rough in surface, it is very productive, and he raises stock and grain to good advantage. New Albin, seven miles away, is a convenient market. In politics Mr. Gran is a Republican and has served officially as town clerk. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, but as this denomination has no organization in Jefferson township or the immediate vicinity, meetings are held in private houses and conducted by the pastor from Caledonia. Mr. and Mrs. Gran have four children, who were born as follows: Clara Bernice, Jan. 21, 1903; Arthur Clarence, June 5, 1905; Esther Pernella, Nov. 25, 1909; and Edna Ruth, Oct. 29, 1914.

Frederick Klunkowsky, the founder of a farm in Union township, was born in Pommern, Germany, where he grew to manhood and married Augusta Hoffman. In 1866, at the age of about 31, he emigrated with his family to America, landing at New York, where, being poor, he had to remain until he had earned enough money to come west. When this had been accomplished he came on to Houston county, Minnesota. Here, unable at once to buy land, he worked out for three years, and then started farming for himself on rented land. Four years later he bought a tract from the state, of which six acres were cleared. This he in time developed into a good farm on which he lived until his death, May 13, 1918, his wife still continuing to live on the farm, being now 83 years old. They have had ten children, of whom two only are now living: Louisa, wife of John Betz; and Richard G., now a farmer in Union township.

Richard G. Klunkowsky, a prosperous farmer residing in section 31, Union township, was born in this township, April 3, 1869, son of Frederick and Augusta (Hoffman) Klunkowsky. He was reared on his parents' farm, assisting his father, and in his boyhood attending the district school. At the time of his marriage in 1896 he took over his father's farm of 120 acres, which he later sold to his brother-in-law. Ten years ago, or about 1908, he bought the farm on which he is now living, containing 150 acres, of which 95 acres are cleared, the rest being in timber. He has erected all the buildings except the house and a few small outbuildings, and is doing mixed farming, giving special attention to the raising of cattle and hogs, but not neglecting wheat and other grains. He is also a shareholder in the Caledonia Stock and Grain Co.'s elevator, and in the Farmers' Telephone Co. Mr. Klunkowsky was married in Houston county, May 13, 1896, to Theresa A. Kriese, who was born in West Prussia, Germany, Aug. 16, 1875, daughter of Michael and Emelie (Schoet) Kriese. The parents were farmers, owning a farm of 120 acres. They never came to this country and are now deceased. They had six children: Hulda, Emil, Albert, Theresa A., Ida and Wilhelm. Albert is now living in Preston, Minn. The others, with the exception of Theresa, are still living in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Klunkowsky have had nine children: Erna, born Jan. 4, 1898, who married Fred Baker; Albert, a twin brother of Erna, who died when four months old; Emil, born May 17, 1901; Herman, born June 26, 1903; Helen, born Dec. 31, 1905; Lily, born Nov. 13, 1907; Paul and Ernst, twins, born July 3,



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD KLONKOWSKY



JOHN PLITZUWEIT AND FAMILY

1910; and Louis, born Dec. 18, 1914. The seven last mentioned are all residing at home, those of suitable age attending school. The family attend the Lutheran church.

Julius Ziemann, who is contributing to the agricultural development of Union township by the cultivation of a farm of 200 acres, residing in section 16, was born in Germany, Aug. 30, 1855, son of Stèphen and Caroline Ziemann. The family came to Houston county from Germany in 1874, the parents engaging in farming. Both father and mother are now deceased. Their children were August, Julius, Gusta, Antonia, Caroline, Stephen, and Theresa, of whom the present survivors are Julius, Gusta and Theresa. Julius, who was confirmed in the Lutheran church in Germany, was 15 years old when he came to the United States. For six years after arriving in Houston county he worked out on different farms. He then married and rented a farm which he operated for twelve years, at the end of which time he purchased the farm on which he now lives, or, rather, 120 acres of it, buying the additional 80 acres in 1917. He has about 100 acres cleared, the balance being in wood and pasture. He does mixed farming, including stock raising and dairying, and has a well improved place, with fine buildings, all erected by himself. The clearing of the land was also his own work. Among his other business interests are those of a stockholder in the co-operative elevator at Caledonia and in the local telephone company. Mr. Ziemann was married, July 29, 1877, in Houston county, to Katherine Hoffmann, who was born in Wisconsin, Nov. 5, 1857, daughter of George and Elizabeth Hoffmann. Her parents were born in Germany, but married in this country, settling in Houston county, Minn., where they spent the rest of their lives in agricultural pursuits. They had two children, Mary and Katherine. By a previous marriage the mother had four children, Lena, Elizabeth, Marie and Christ, of whom Lena and Christ are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Ziemann have had nine children: William, born May 6, 1878, who died at the age of 13 months; Louis, born Jan 29, 1880, and now living in Sheldon township, this county; Emma, born Nov. 15, who married Valentine Elsheimer; Otto, born Aug. 17, 1885, who resides in Preston; John, born Dec. 22, 1888, who died at the age of 14 months; Julius, born July 12, 1890, residing at home, who for the last five years has been engaged in grain buying in Iowa, and who intends entering into mercantile business; Elizabeth, born May 22, 1893, residing at home; Robert, born Nov. 20, 1895, and Cora, born March 22, 1900, both of whom are living on the home farm.

John Plitzuweit, proprietor of a farm of 101 acres in section 20, Union township, was born in Russian Poland, Jan. 6, 1873, son of John Plitzuweit, Sr., and wife. His parents, who were farmers, are now deceased. Their children were George, Mary, John, August, Samuel, Anna and Peter. John, the subject of this sketch, was 25 years old when he came to the United States. He had attended school in his native land and had worked at farming. On arriving in this country, having a brother in St. Louis, Mo., he went there and found work in a brewery. A year later he removed to Philadelphia, where he lived three years. Then coming to Houston county, Minn., he located at Eitzen, and for three years worked out on farms in

the vicinity. At the time of his marriage, in 1904, he took the farm on which he now resides, and of which about 80 acres are cleared. He has made some notable improvements on it, having built a new barn and house, besides several outbuildings. The barn is a modern structure, 32 by 60 feet, with stone basement, while the house is a good eight-room frame. All the buildings are provided with the Carbide lighting system. Mr. Plitzuweit is making a specialty of stock raising, giving his chief attention to cattle and hogs. He has made good progress and is now numbered among the prosperous citizens of Union township. He is a shareholder in the co-operative elevator at Caledonia and in the local telephone company. Mr. Plitzuweit was married, Feb. 19, 1904, to Louisa Burmeister, daughter of George and Mary (Bauer) Burmeister, of Eizen. Her father, a native of Germany, has for many years been engaged in farming. His children by his wife Mary were Louisa, Clara and George, of whom the last mentioned is now deceased. After his wife's death he contracted a second marriage, with Elizabeth Tessmer, by whom he has had twelve children: Emma, Lydia, Matilda, Beata, Elizabeth, Edwin, Martin, Arthur, George, Freda, Irene and Hulda. Mr. and Mrs. Plitzuweit are the parents of three children: Paul, born July 28, 1905; Arthur, born July 9, 1907, and Norman, born May 11, 1917. The two elder sons are attending school. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

John N. Schmitz, who is successfully engaged in agriculture and stock raising on a farm of 250 acres in section 32, Caledonia township, was born in Houston county, Minn., Jan. 31, 1868, son of Nichlaus and Anna (Thill) Schmitz. He was educated in the district school and until 27 years of age was engaged in assisting his father in the latter's farming operations. He then married and rented the home farm, which he operated for nine years, at the end of that time purchasing 80 acres in section 32, Caledonia township, to which in 1917 he added 170 acres adjoining. About 170 acres of his land are clear, the rest being in woods and waste land. Here Mr. Schmitz is engaged in general farming, keeping a good herd of Shorthorn cattle, and raising cattle and hogs for the market. He has erected all the buildings on the place, including a fine eight-room house, built in 1908, a barn 34 by 80 feet, with stone basement, in 1910, and a silo in 1914. The barn is cemented and equipped with James litter carriers, and all the buildings are substantial and well adapted to the purposes for which they were designed. Mr. Schmitz is also a shareholder in the Caledonia and Spring Grove creameries, and has served as a director in the latter for six years. He also owns shares in the Caledonia elevator and the Farmers' Telephone Company. He is a one-fifth owner in a complete threshing outfit, which not only does all the threshing for the owners, but also earns them money by doing that of a few of the neighbors. Mr. Schmitz was married Feb. 11, 1896, to Anna Katherine Zenner, who was born in Caledonia, this county, Oct. 11, 1872, daughter of Nick and Mary Ann (Bouquet) Zenner. He and his wife have four children: Nichlaus, born Jan. 25, 1898, who is assisting his father on the farm; enlisted April 25, 1917, and served in the Medical Corps, in a Camp hospital at Columbus, N. M., from June, 1917, to February, 1919; Lawrence, born May 25, 1901, who is also helping on the

farm; Leo John, born Oct. 13, 1905; and Joseph M., born March 10, 1908, who are attending school. The family are members of the Catholic church, attending St. Peter's German Catholic church at Caledonia. Nichlaus Schmitz, father of John N. Schmitz, was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, and, coming to America alone, was married in East Dubuque, Ill., to Anna Thill, a native of the same Duchy. They were the parents of six children: Anna, who married Nick Wagner; Baltes, who married Lizzie Esch; Nick, who died in infancy; John N., subject of this sketch; Mary, who is the wife of Matt Konzem; and Maggie, who is the wife of Nick Schmitt. The father, who was a farmer all his life, died sixteen years ago, and was survived by his wife, who is still living.

George W. and Ardon V. Wheaton, proprietors of Cloverdale Dairy Farm in Caledonia township, are both natives of Houston county, George W. born Feb. 3, 1889, and Ardon V., Aug. 11, 1893. They are sons of Charles W. and Emma (Kellogg) Wheaton, the former of whom was born in New York State, probably at Carroll, Chautauqua county, Jan. 17, 1843, and the latter in Muscatine, Iowa, Oct. 10, 1854. Charles W. Wheaton came west when 16 years old, and became a farmer, which he remained all his life. He was first married in New York State to Celia Dickenson, by whom he had two children: Nettie, born July 18, 1870, who is now living in Owatonna, Minn., and Lynn, who died in infancy. His second marriage took place in La Crosse, Wis., Jan. 21, 1875, and he and his wife settled on a farm in section 36, Caledonia township, this county, where Mr. Wheaton died March 4, 1900, after a long and industrious career as an agriculturist, during which he gained the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. His wife, who survived him, is still living on the old homestead. They had six children: Florence, born May 8, 1876, who resides with her brothers; Earl Walter, born Nov. 21, 1877, who is an engineer living in La Crosse; Mark Eugene, born June 1, 1881, who is an engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railroad and resides in North Battleford, Canada; Grace Harriet, born March 27, 1887, who is living with her brothers in Houston county; and George W. and Ardon V., the brothers just referred to, the dates of whose respective nativities have been already given. Both brothers were young when their father died, George being eleven, and Ardon in his seventh year. On that event the family rented the farm to a tenant and moved to Caledonia village, where they resided for eight years, and where the children attended school, George in time graduating from the high school. At the end of the period mentioned the family returned to the home farm, where George and Ardon remained for five years. They then purchased the farm of 100 acres in section 24 on which they now live, where they are successfully engaged in general agriculture, including dairying and the raising of stock and grain. Their cattle are of the Holstein breed, and they sell all their milk and cream in Caledonia, being shareholders in the creamery there and also in the elevator. They raise all their own grain and feed and do their own feed grinding. In 1914 they built a new modern barn, 34 by 98 feet in size, with a first class equipment, and in connection therewith have good silo facilities. In addition to their own farm they also operate their mother's, which also contains 80 acres. So far the two brothers have re-

mained unmarried, their sisters Florence and Grace H. keeping house for them.

Martin Diersen, a well known and prosperous farmer of Jefferson township, residing in section 18, was born in Winnebago township, this county, Sept. 30, 1882, son of Henry and Magdalene (Burmester) Diersen. The parents were natives of Germany who came to the United States many years ago, settling first in Illinois, whence they removed to Eitzen, Houston county, Minn. Henry Diersen, the father, worked first as a farm hand, but subsequently engaged in farming for himself in Winnebago township, this county, where he is still living, being now one of the well to do citizens of that township. Martin Diersen was brought up on his parents' farm and attended district school up to the age of about 17 years. In the following year he began working out, though residing for the most part at home. On Feb. 7, 1907, he married Emma Meyer, daughter of J. H. Herman and Dorothy Meyer of Winnebago township, and for two years after his marriage worked his father's farm. In 1910 he bought the Pat Mangner farm of 160 acres in Jefferson township, which had 105 acres broken, there being also an old house and barn on the place, and at the same time, to give him a good start, his father presented him with all the money he had earned and turned in from the time he was 18 years old. Thus provided with funds, he began to improve his place and has since greatly increased its value. He has erected a good two-story frame house, a modern barn with hip roof, 32 by 72 by 18 feet in size, a granary 16 by 30, poultry house 14 by 20, and a garage 12 by 16 for his Oakland auto. His operating equipment is also fully complete, and he is successfully engaged in general farming, breeding high-grade Black Aberdeen cattle and Duroc hogs, in addition to raising hay and grain. His farm lies eight miles northwest of New Albin, and ten miles northeast of Eitzen. Mr. Diersen, in addition to his direct farm interests, is a shareholder in the Co-operative Stock and Grain Co. and the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Co. of New Albin, Ia. A hard and steady worker, he has already achieved a good measure of success and is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous young farmers of Jefferson township. A Republican in politics, he has taken part in the affairs of local government, having served as town supervisor, and also as treasurer of his school district. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Ada, born April 20, 1908; Erwin, Oct. 25, 1909; Elmer, March 28, 1912; Harry, Feb. 11, 1914; Arthur, Feb. 27, 1916; and Leslie born Sept. 22, 1918. Mr. Diersen and his family are members of the German Lutheran Evangelical church.

Charles Kubitz, who occupies a prominent place among the successful farmers of Jefferson township, residing in section 21, was born in Germany, Oct. 22, 1860, son of Ernest and Louisa Kubitz. He was but nine years when in 1869 he came with his parents to the United States, and the next four years of his life were spent with them in Dubuque, Iowa. In 1873 the family came to Houston county, Minnesota, and bought a farm in Jefferson township. Most of the farms in those days, however, were but little improved, if improved at all, and could be bought cheaply—a necessary condition in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kubitz, whose pecuniary re-



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN DIERSEN



CHARLES KUBITZ AND FAMILY

sources were very limited. On that farm the son Charles grew to manhood and became inured to agricultural labor, having little opportunity for attending school, and there he remained until 1879. Then, a young man in his nineteenth year, he went to Clay county, Minnesota, where he resided for about four years, doing farm work to some extent, and also working in a brickyard and for awhile being employed on the railroad. After various wanderings, Mr. Kubitz returned to Jefferson township, Houston county, in 1890, and bought 240 acres of land situated four miles northwest of New Albin, Iowa, on which tract were some improvements, including a small house and barn. In the same year he established a home of his own, being united in marriage, Dec. 30, to Mary, daughter of Peter and Catherine Dehning, of Dorchester, Allamakee county, Iowa. He has since more than doubled the size of his farm, having bought an adjoining tract of 245 acres, so that he is now the owner of 485 acres, of which land 160 acres are under cultivation, the rest being pasture and timber. In 1903, he erected a comfortable frame house, and has a good set of barns and out-buildings, which, together with the house, are lighted by electricity. His farm is well equipped with all necessary machinery of modern type, and is well watered with flowing wells. In 1917 Mr. Kubitz rented it to his son Edward, and is now practically retired from active work, and resides at New Albin, Iowa. Always a hard and persevering worker, Mr. Kubitz has reaped the reward of his industry, having amassed a fair competence and can now take his ease and watch the younger generation carry on the work which he and others like him initiated in the county under more difficult conditions. During his active career he carried on stock operations somewhat extensively, and with good success, breeding high grade Black Aberdeen cattle to the extent of 70 to 75 head annually and about 75 to 100 Poland-China hogs per year. He is a stockholder in the Co-operative Mercantile Company and the Co-operative Stock and Grain Company of New Albin. Mr. and Mrs. Kubitz are the parents of six children, as follows: Pearl, born Oct. 13, 1891, who is the wife of John Krock, of New Albin, Iowa; George, born Feb. 16, 1894, who was in the United States service, is now in the vulcanizing business at New Albin, Iowa; Edward, born May 11, 1895, now operating the home farm; Otto, born July 9, 1900; Florence, born Dec. 6, 1903; and Arlie, born Sept. 6, 1905, who are residing at home. Mr. Kubitz and his family are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at New Albin, Iowa. Mr. Kubitz has always been a Republican in politics. As one of the influential and public spirited citizens of his township he takes a warm interest in whatever makes for its advancement along moral or material lines, and served for three years as a member of the town board. He and his family stand high in social regard.

William Pohlman, who, though not one of the original pioneers, was an early settler in the southern part of Houston county, was of German birth. With his wife Elizabeth he came to Eitzen, Houston county, Minn., in 1868, but after awhile settled in Jefferson Township, buying 200 acres of wild grub land, of which in time he cleared and developed 90 acres, besides erecting substantial buildings. He also achieved success as a breeder of pure-blooded Aberdeen Black Poll cattle and other good stock, and was

recognized as one of the thorough-going, practical farmers and reliable citizens of his township. Though not active in local government affairs, he was a supporter of the Republican party. He died on his farm in 1914, having survived his wife, who passed away in 1911. They were the parents of 11 children, whose record in brief is as follows: Anna, now deceased; Bertha, wife of Henry Hahn of Jefferson township; Bernhard, of Jefferson township; Matilda, now Mrs. Otto Luttcens of Jefferson township; William, a farmer in Crooked Creek township; Minnie, wife of John Schuldt of Jefferson township; George, the present proprietor of the home farm; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Gust Becker, of Winnebago township; Herman, who died in childhood; Mary, now Mrs. Paul Heitman, of Union City township, Iowa; and Edward, who is now in France in the United States service.

George Pohlman, who owns and operates the old farm of his parents in section 16, Jefferson township, was born on this farm, Dec. 20, 1885, son of William and Elizabeth Pohlman. He was early trained to agricultural work, in which he has since continued, and in 1917 he bought the home farm, which he is now conducting. Besides raising the usual crops, he is a breeder of pure-blooded Aberdeen Black Poll cattle, the herd having been started by his father, and also Duroc-Jersey hogs. The farm is in excellent condition, the buildings and equipment being up to date, and the soil fertile, and Mr. Pohlman is operating it on a profitable basis. His nearest market is at New Albin, Iowa, which lies five miles to the south. A Republican in politics, he has served four years as chairman of the town board, and for some time has occupied his present position as clerk of the district school board. Aside from his direct farming interests, he is a shareholder in the Co-operative Stock and Grain Co. at New Albin, and among his useful possessions is a five-passenger Dodge automobile. Mr. Pohlman was married Dec. 16, 1913, to Mary, daughter of Ferdinand and Minnie Klinskie, of Winnebago township, this county, who was born Oct. 24, 1892. He and his wife have one child: Wilma, who was born Feb. 19, 1915.

William Henry Schuldt, who for the last 16 years has been proprietor of the old Schuldt homestead established by his parents in section 14, Jefferson township, in 1886, was born in Crooked Creek township, Feb. 16, 1877, son of William and Elizabeth Schuldt. In his boyhood he attended the common and parochial schools, but his education was limited, as most of his time had to be devoted to work on the home farm, his parents being then poor and in need of his services. In 1898, at the age of 22, he went to North Dakota, where he proved up a claim of 160 acres, and also worked there as a farm hand until 1902, when he sold his claim and returned to his parents' farm in Houston county, which he then took over and has since operated, his father, now retired, residing with him. His mother died in 1893. Mr. Schuldt holdings in land total 278 acres, of which he has 100 acres under cultivation, but the land being rough and of uneven surface, he gives a large part of his attention to the raising of stock, to which it is well adapted, and is successfully breeding Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, having a good operating equipment. He is making admirable progress, and is a stockholder in the Co-operative Creamery, the Stock and



WILLIAM POHLMAN AND FAMILY



WILLIAM EDWARD SCHULDT AND FAMILY—WILLIAM HENRY SCHULDT

Grain Company, and the Farmers' Savings Bank, all of New Albin, Iowa. In politics he is a Republican and for a number of years has served as school treasurer. Mr. Schuldt was married, June 7, 1905, to Dora Isaacksen, daughter of Ole and Mary Isaacksen of Jefferson township. His family has been enlarged by the birth of 8 children: Arnold, born Oct. 22, 1906; Helen, April 27, 1908; Harry A., March 14, 1910; Henry H., June 1, 1912; Blanche F., January 7, 1914; Esther M., March 30, 1915; Evelyn M., April 14, 1917, and Margaret D., born Feb. 10, 1919.

William Edward Schuldt, who for 45 years has been a resident of Houston county, and for over 30 years a well known and respected citizen of Jefferson township, this county, was born in Hanover, Germany, Jan. 28, 1842, son of John and Dora Schuldt. In his native land he attended the common and parochial schools and subsequently began industrial life as a farm hand. His mother was the only parent he can remember, as his father had died when William Edward was but three years old. In 1868, at the age of 26 years, he came alone to the United States, proceeding west to Lansing, Iowa, and from Lansing walking to Wilmington village, in Houston county, Minnesota. He was almost penniless, as he had but two dollars left when he reached Lansing, but on arriving in Houston county he found work as a farm hand with George Schulze of Wilmington, and remained with him for two years. By the end of that time he felt competent, not only to provide for himself, but also for another, and was united in marriage with Elizabeth Linde, daughter of John and Sophia Linde, a young lady whom he had known in Germany and who had come to America alone in 1869. They began domestic life together in Allamakee county, Iowa, just south of the village of Eitzen, Minn., Mr. Schuldt working by the day as a farm hand, which he continued to do for three years after his marriage. In 1873 he made an independent start in life as a farmer in Crooked Creek township, Houston county, buying 120 acres of land, of which all was wild except two acres. There was, however, a frame house on the place, and with this for a residence Mr. and Mrs. Schuldt began the task of establishing a home. There they remained until 1879, when Mr. Schuldt, after having improved the place considerably, sold it to his wife's brother. After that until 1886 he worked rented farms, but in the year last mentioned bought the farm on which he is now living, containing 270 acres in sections 10, 11, 14, and 15, Jefferson township. About 50 acres of the land had been broken and there was a small log house of one room on it. The land is rough and hilly, but Mr. Schuldt made many improvements, erecting a good set of buildings, and at the present time there are 100 acres under cultivation. In 1893 Mr. Schuldt turned the active management of the farm over to his son William H., and in 1901 he himself practically retired from active work, though he continues to live on the farm. During his active career he became the owner of 480 acres of land, besides erecting the buildings above mentioned. Always strong and rugged, he was a hard worker and made good progress in improving his financial condition, having now a reasonable competence. In 1893 his wife died and since then he has remained a widower. Their children were as follows: Emma, now Mrs. Henry Barescher, of Church's Ferry, N. D.;

John F., now a prosperous farmer and stockraiser in section 15, Jefferson township; Mary, widow of Ferdinand Weipert, now of Kingley, Mont.; William Henry, the present owner of the old home farm; Henry, deceased; Minnie, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Schunemann, of Bloom, S. D.; Anna, wife of Charles Eldrige, of Wattsford, N. D., and Herman, a farmer in Crooked Creek township, Houston county, Minn. Mr. Schuldt is a member of the New Albin congregation of the German Evangelical church, giving it liberal support and taking a prominent part in its various useful activities. He is a man who has always put duty before pleasure, but has found pleasure in duty faithfully performed. As such as he has gained the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends.

John F. Schuldt, a well known farmer and stock raiser, residing in section 15, Jefferson township, was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, near the village of Eitzen, Minn., March 18, 1874, son of William Edmund and Elizabeth (Linde) Schuldt. His parents were natives of Germany, but were married in this country, beginning domestic life at the location above mentioned, in Allamakee county, Iowa. Soon after the birth of their son John F. they took a farm in Crooked Creek township, Houston county, Minn., which they operated for some years and then sold. In 1886 they bought a farm in section 14, Jefferson township, which is now owned by their son, William Henry, with whom the father resides, the mother having died in 1893. John F. Schuldt acquired a limited education, attending the district school whenever he found opportunity, but the greater part of his time in boyhood and youth being devoted to industry, as he had to assist his father and brothers in the development and cultivation of the home farm. This kind of work, however, fitted him for his vocation in life, and he continued in it, working but little on other farms. Among the neighboring families was that of William and Elizabeth Pohlman, to whose daughter Elizabeth, John F. Schuldt was married May 16, 1905. She was then 21 years old, having been born in Jefferson township, Dec. 13, 1883. Mr. Schuldt now felt it necessary to establish a home of his own and begin an independent career, and accordingly purchased in Jefferson township 322 acres of upland, together with 80 acres on the Mississippi bottoms. Of this land he now has 150 acres under the plow, all of which is very productive; but as much of his land is rough and hilly, he gives his chief attention to stock raising, breeding high grade Aberdeen Poll cattle, besides good swine. His operating equipment, which is fully adequate, includes a good automobile, nowadays almost an essential for the up-to-date farmer. New Albin, Ia., only five and a half miles away, affords Mr. Schuldt a convenient market, and he is also interested in the business enterprises of the place, being a shareholder in the Co-operative Mercantile Company and the Co-operative Creamery. For a number of years Mr. Schuldt has held the office of school director in his district. In politics he is a Republican, while religiously he belongs to the German Evangelical church, he and his family being members of the New Albin, Ia., congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Schuldt are the parents of six children, who were born as follows: Edwin, May 24, 1907; Frida, June 27, 1908; Ella, April 13, 1910; Ervin, Aug. 28, 1911; William, Dec. 7, 1912; and George, March 22, 1916.

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JOHN F. SCHULDT AND FAMILY

Anton Olson, one of that sturdy band of pioneers who helped to change the wild places of Houston county into fruitful farms, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood and married Regina Anderson. Four children were born to them there, which was all their family, and with them, seeking to better their condition, they came to the United States, making their way to Houston county, Minnesota, and locating in Wilmington township, just east of Spring Grove. The expenses of their long journey had exhausted their slender resources, and for some time they were very poor. They remained at the location above mentioned for two years, Mr. Olson working as a farm hand when he could find employment. From necessity they had to be very economical, and not only managed to exist, but by 1876 Mr. Olson was able to make the first payment on a tract of wild land in section 9, Jefferson township and start in for himself as a pioneer farmer. This he did by erecting log buildings and then devoted himself to the work of breaking the land. He was strong and rugged, and had farmed in Norway, but he found the work no easy task. Year after year he continued his arduous labors, and year by year the cultivated area of his farm increased in size, in time also other improvements being made, until he found himself the owner of a paying farm without incumbrance. Here he continued to reside until his death in 1910. He was survived by his wife, who is now about 90 years of age and lives with her children. Of these the eldest is Christ, a farmer in Houston township, the others being: John, a farmer in South Dakota; Olive, now Mrs. John Reum, of South Dakota; and Martin, who is a farmer in section 8, Jefferson township.

Martin Olson, who is numbered among the prosperous farmers of Jefferson township, residing in section 8, was born in Tronjen, Norway, April 14, 1866, son of Anton and Regina (Anderson) Olson. He was a small boy when he accompanied his parents and their other three children to Houston county, Minnesota, and, after a two years' residence in Wilmington township, to a pioneer dwelling on a tract of wild land in Jefferson township. It was here that he received his industrial training, which was sufficiently thorough, his opportunities for school attendance being very limited. As he grew older he continued to work on the home farm, except for two or three summers, which he spent in the lumber mills of La Crosse, Wis. On August 30, 1892, he changed his condition of life, being united in marriage with Mary, daughter of Peter and Katherine Dohlin, of Crooked Creek township, Houston county. For the first three years after his marriage he worked his father's farm, and then, in 1895, bought 160 acres of land in section 8, Jefferson township, of which tract 20 acres were broken, there being also a log house, which was the only building. Here he has since remained, until recently actively engaged in general agriculture and stock raising, but in 1919, being afflicted with rheumatism, though still able to work to some extent, he leased the farm to his son Arthur. About 110 acres are now under the plow, the balance being in timber and pasture. The buildings, which were erected by Mr. Olson, include a comfortable house, a barn erected in 1913, a machine shed, granary, cream house, workshop and garage. The farm is also well stocked with graded Shorthorn cattle and Duroc swine, of which latter Mr. Olson raised from 50 to 60 annually, and

is only six miles from New Albin, Ia., which forms a convenient market. Mr. Olson is also the owner of a fine automobile, and is a stockholder in the New Albin Stock and Grain Company. Politically he is a Republican. He and his wife Mary, who was born in Sweden, July 4, 1869, have had five children, all of whom are now living, namely: Ellen, born Nov. 15, 1891, who is now Mrs. Louis Lampert of Crooked Creek township, and has two children, Leland and Eva R.; Minnie, born July 14, 1894, residing at home; Arthur, born Nov. 2, 1896, who is operating the home farm; Clara, born Nov. 2, 1898, and Laura, born Nov. 14, 1902, both residing at home.

William Langen, who settled in Houston county at the beginning of the Civil War, and died at Hokah, Feb. 26, 1918, was born in Wittenburg, Germany, February 23, 1835. After coming to the United States, he settled in 1861 in Mormon Coulie, La Crosse county, Wisconsin, but remained there only two months, removing in May of that year to La Crescent township, Houston county, where he took a farm, which was the stopping place of the first settlers. His development of the place was interrupted, however, by his enlistment in Co. E, Second Minnesota Infantry, with which organization he served in the South until the close of the war. Then returning home he resumed farming, continuing in that occupation until 1870, when he sold his farm, and became associated with his father-in-law, Joseph Pfeiffer, in the operation of the Hokah brewery. In 1878 he went to La Crosse, remaining there until 1881, when he bought a farm in Pfeiffer Valley and conducted it until 1901, when he sold it to his son, William J., and moved to Hokah, where he has since resided, with the exception of a short visit to Germany in 1870. He married Mary Pfeiffer, who was born in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1848 and who died Nov. 26, 1882. They were the parents of five children: William J., Mary, Antonette, Julius and Matilda.

William J. Langen, a well known farmer and prominent business man of Hokah township, was born in La Crescent township, Houston county, Feb. 17, 1869, son of William and Mary (Pfeiffer) Langen. He was educated in a convent school and worked at home until his marriage, when he bought his father's farm of 160 acres, known as Castle Rock Farm, 80 acres of which lies in section 20, La Crescent township and 80 acres in section 29 Kokah township. Here he has since carried on general agriculture, having a well improved place and having made good material progress. He is also a stockholder in the Hokah Grain & Stock Company, the Farmers' State Bank and the Bush Valley Telephone Company, and was secretary of the Peoples Telephone Exchange at Hokah at the time of its establishment. Aside from the interests above mentioned Mr. Langen has for a number of years taken a more or less active part in public affairs. He was town clerk from 1890 to 1895, served several years as assessor, first taking that office in 1896, and has been school clerk for the last 17 years. In politics he is a Democrat and in religion a Catholic. Mr. Langen was married Oct. 8, 1901, to Katie Von Arx, the eldest of the four children of A. J. and Katie (Hindenberger) Von Arx, and who was educated in the convent school at Hokah. Mr. and Mrs. Langen are the parents of seven children, who were born as follows: Matilda, Aug. 2, 1902; Marie, April 9, 1904; Martin, Feb. 17, 1907; Victor, May 28, 1909; Irma, Feb. 21, 1911;



JOSEPH S. HORIHEN AND FAMILY

Rudolph, May 27, 1913; and Norbert A., Nov. 27, 1915. A. J. von Arx, in former years one of the leading citizens of Houston county, who died May 7, 1916, was born in Switzerland, May 9, 1849. At the age of 25 years he came to the United States, locating first at Galena, Ill., where for three or four months he worked in the mines. Then coming to Houston county, Minnesota, he settled on a farm in Bush Valley. A man of forceful character, he soon made his influence felt and was connected with various local enterprises, besides holding official position. He was the first secretary of the Mound Prairie Farmers' Insurance Company, remaining such until his death; and was vice-president of the Hokah State Bank, and a director in the Houston State Bank. For 16 years he served as county commissioner. Mr. von Arx married Katie Hindenberger, who was born in Switzerland, Sept. 29, 1859, and who is still residing on the farm with a son and daughter.

Martin Horihen, who in former years helped to develop the agricultural resources of La Crescent township, was born in Kilkenny, Ireland. About 1840 he emigrated to the United States and for some years was employed in iron works in Pennsylvania. In 1848 he came west to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he engaged in farming, being thus occupied in that locality until 1874. He then moved to Houston county, buying a farm in La Crescent township, which he cultivated until about 1888 when he retired. His death occurred Nov. 1, 1900. Mr. Horihen married Anne Ruth, who was, like himself, born in Kilkenny, Ireland. She died on the farm in La Crescent township. They were the parents of a family of eight children.

Joseph S. Horihen, who is engaged in agricultural and stock raising—principally the latter—in section 7, Hokah township, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, Jan. 1, 1859, son of Martin and Anne (Ruth) Horihen. He was educated in a district school in Fillmore county and in the convent school at Hokah, and after becoming industrially active was engaged for a number of years in assisting his father on the home farm in La Crescent township. Later he and his brother William bought the farm from their father, operating it in partnership for seven years. Joseph S. then sold his share to his brother, and removing to Hokah township, bought his present farm, then containing 340 acres, in section 7. This purchase was made in 1903 and Mr. Horihen conducted the farm as a whole until 1915, when he sold 120 acres of it to his son Martin, who lives at home and cultivates his own portion. Finding stock raising profitable, Mr. Horihen is giving particular attention to that branch of his business. He is also a shareholder in the Kokah Grain Stock Company. He served as town supervisor in 1898 and from 1899 to 1902. In politics he is a Democrat and in religion a Roman Catholic. On Sept. 23, 1889, Mr. Horihen was united in marriage with Mary McDonald, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Daley) McDonald. Of this union there are six children: Anna, born July 21, 1890, now the wife of William Schnedecker, a farmer of La Crescent township; Martin, born Feb. 4, 1892, now operating that part of the home farm which he purchased from his father; Joseph, born April 30, 1894, who served with the United States army in France; Mary, born Oct. 17, 1899, now a teacher

at Freeburg, Houston county; Pearl, born Sept. 15, 1904; and Raymond, born April 26, 1906. Jeremiah McDonald, the father of Mrs. Horihen, was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1807. In his native land he married Mary Daley, who was born in the same county in 1823. Coming later to the United States, they settled in Chicago previous to the great fire that nearly destroyed that city in 1871, but remained there only a short time, when they came to Houston county, Minnesota. Here Mr. McDonald died in 1873, being survived by his wife, who passed away 25 years later, in 1898.

John B. Tschumper, who is connected with the agricultural interests of Hokah township as a farmer in section 36, Hokah township, was born in La Crescent township, this county, March 19, 1875, son of Emil and Veronica (Hickey) Tschumper. The father, Emil, was born in Switzerland and came to Minnesota when a young man, buying land in La Crescent township, Houston county, as soon as he had the means, sending for his parents, who joined him here. He and his wife are still living, being now residents of Hokah. John B. Tschumper, who was the third born of his parents' eight children, was educated in Notre Dame Convent at Hokah, and also in the district school. He worked at home until his marriage, when he bought his present farm of 100 acres, where he is carrying on general agriculture, raising good stock and grain on a profitable basis. He is a shareholder in the Hokah Stock and Grain Company and in the Hokah Telephone Company. In religion he is a Roman Catholic and in politics a Democrat. Mr. Tschumper was married Nov. 24, 1902, at Notre Dame Convent, Hokah, to Elizabeth Hosheit, daughter of John and Anna (Wolff) Hosheit. He and his wife have two children: Veronica, born May 30, 1904; and Sophia, born Nov. 20, 1907. Mrs. Tschumper's parents were born in Luxemburg, the father about 1830 and the mother about 1838. They came to the United States after their marriage, settling on a farm near Caledonia, this county. Mrs. Anna Hosheit died at Caledonia, March 25, 1900, and Mr. Hosheit at Spokane, Wash., in July, 1910. They had a family of eight children, of whom their daughter Elizabeth was the youngest.

Anton Feldmeier, who with his brother Frank is successfully operating a farm of 170 acres in Hokah township, his residence lying in section 29, was born in this township, Feb. 17, 1876, son of John and Julia (Jasper) Feldmeier, natives of Germany, the father born Dec. 26, 1830, and the mother Aug. 15, 1834. It was in 1872 that the parents came to Houston county and bought a farm in the vicinity of Brownsville. On that farm they remained for six years, at the end of which time they removed to one on South Ridge, where they made their home until 1894. They then bought the farm in section 29, Hokah township, now being operated by the two sons above mentioned, and here the father, John Feldmeier, died in October, 1916, being survived by his wife, who is still living on the farm. Anton, the youngest of their five sons, was educated in the district school and in the school attached to the Hokah convent, and worked on the home farm from early age. On the death of his father together with his brother Frank he bought the farm in partnership, it then containing 140 acres, to which they have added 30 more. In 1917 they built a good modern barn,



MR. AND MRS. A. DEMO

36 by 86 feet in size, with complete equipment. Mr. Feldmeier raises both grain and stock, finding a ready market for his products, and is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous citizens of Hokah township and has been town treasurer since 1915. He is a stockholder in the Hokah State Bank and in the Hokah Grain and Stock Co. In politics he is an independent voter and his religious affiliations is with the Catholic church.

Anthony Demo, now living retired in Hokah, is a man well known and respected throughout Houston county as one of its notable pioneers. His career in different branches of railroad work, as one of the early manufacturers of the county, as farmer, and as a public official and state legislator, is one of interest and instruction to all who seek knowledge in regard to the history of this county. Mr. Demo is of Eastern birth, his native place being Grand Isle, Vermont, and the date of his nativity April 13, 1835. His parents were Anthony and Louisia Demo, the father being a native of Lower Canada, and the mother of New York State. After their marriage they resided in Vermont for a number of years, while their children were growing up, and then, coming to Houston county, Minnesota, settled at Hokah, where they resided for some thirty years. Anthony, who was the sixth born of their eight children, and who is the only one now living, was educated in the public schools of Vermont. He began industrial life at the age of 14 years, finding employment at bridge work on the Vermont Central Railroad. Later he went to Jordan, Canada, and from there to Chicago, where he entered the employ of Stone & Boomer as builder of bridges and turntables. As such he helped to construct the frame of the first bridge built across the Mississippi at Rock Island, and was there when the first train came in. He also built the turn-table at that place. Finally, in 1855, he resolved to seek his fortune in the Northwest and at Chicago bought a ticket for St. Paul and set out; but on reaching Brownsville, Minn., he got off the train to investigate the place, and instead of proceeding to his intended destination, remained in Houston county, from Brownsville walking to Hokah along the Indian trail which was then the only road. Some settlers were then coming in and Mr. Demo found carpenter work to do, which kept him employed for a while. Soon, however, in company with Ed Lampkin, he started a sash and door factory, the partnership continuing for two or three years, at the end of which time Mr. Demo bought out his partner and continued the business alone, also doing carpenter work at frequent intervals until the Civil War took place. That event caused more or less disturbance in existing conditions and interfered for awhile with the growth of the county, few new settlers coming in and many of those here joining the army, either through enlistment or the draft. Mr. Demo himself became a soldier, serving two and a half years as a member of Company K, 2d Minnesota Cavalry. After his return from the war he resumed carpentry work in Hokah and continued at it until the construction of the railroad, when he found employment in the shops here. He was the first baggageman engaged on the Southern Minnesota division, but worked in the shops as long as they remained in Hokah. He was also placed in charge of the repair shops at Stevens Point, where he remained two years. On his return he took a farm in this township, on which he resided, engaged in its

cultivation, until his retirement in 1895, at the age of sixty years, when he took up his residence in the village. That Mr. Demo's strong personality made an impression on his fellow citizens may be gathered from the fact that he was elected as the first marshal of Hokah. He was also a lieutenant in the first regiment of militia organized in the state, and was elected by the voters of this district to represent them in the state legislature during the sessions of 1879 and 1891. For one term also he was doorkeeper in the Senate, and for six months was gatekeeper at the St. Louis exposition. He also served 18 years as president of the Hokah school board. He helped to organize the first I. O. W. lodge in Minnesota, and for many years has been a member of the G. A. R. post at Caledonia. He is a veteran Mason, having been a member of the A. F. & A. M. He has been elder of the Presbyterian church since 1895, and has also done the church efficient service as church treasurer and Sunday school superintendent. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Presbyterian. Mr. Demo was first married March 22, 1858, to Elizabeth Snure, who died Dec. 23, 1891. Two children were born of this marriage: William Anthony, now a practicing dentist at Blue Earth, Minn.; and George Albert, who is employed in the internal revenue office at Pittsburg, Penn. William Anthony married Minnie Stillman, and has three children, Florence, Percy and Robert. George Albert married Inez Hollister, and has one child, Hollister. On Oct. 17, 1894, Mr. Demo married, secondly, Mrs. Maryelta Train, a widow. Her parents, Daniel and Phoebe (Place) Clark, both now deceased, were natives of New York State, the father born at Belgium, Onondaga county, and the mother at Davenport, Delaware county. They were early settlers at Ridgeway, Minn., arriving there in 1855; and there they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Clark dying in 1867, and Mrs. Clark in 1890. Their daughter Maryelta was the twelfth born of their thirteen children. She was first married, May 21, 1876, to Dr. H. B. Train, who for many years was one of Houston county's most prominent physicians, and who died July 27, 1890. The only child of their marriage was Guy Clifford Train, born Jan. 8, 1878, who died when 18 months old.

Dan Brown, a retired stock dealer, now residing in the village of Hokah, who has also for the last six years been one of the leading officials of the Houston County Fair Association, was born in Winona county, Minn., April 15, 1858, son of Edward and Adeline (Blanchard) Brown. The father, a native of Montreal, Canada, born in 1817, when a young man removed to New York State, whence in 1857 he came to Winona county, Minn., seeing the county under primeval conditions when deer, bear, and other wild game were plentiful, and the creeks were full of trout. Taking 185 acres of land at Fremont, he farmed it until 1876, and then engaged in the hotel business in Utica, Winona county. In 1885 his hotel burned, and for six years following he worked as a weaver. He then went to Roseburg, Ore., with his son Edwin, remaining there five years, at the end of which time he returned to Minnesota, and until the death of his wife, which occurred Aug. 5, 1910, resided with his son Dan in Hokah. He then accompanied the same son to Spokane, Wash., where he died Dec. 9, 1910. Dan Brown, who was the seventh born of his parents' ten children, was educated in the

schools of Winona county and was reared on his parents' farm, where he acquired a good knowledge of stock. When 21 years old he borrowed twenty dollars from his mother to enter the butcher's business, which he followed subsequently for ten years. After being engaged in it for five years he began shipping live stock to Chicago from Utica, Hokah and Houston, Minn., and was engaged in that business for 36 years, during the last five of which he also shipped from North Dakota. He also owned a number of fast horses, at one time having five trotters, and keeping a trainer at the Utica tracks. Becoming the owner of the J. L. Klein farm, he resided on it, feeding live stock for the Chicago markets, and also owned a 160-acre farm in Money Creek and a section of land in North Dakota. In 1910 he built his present residence in the village of Hokah. For the last six years he has been superintendent of the horse division at the Houston county fair, and for many years previously was starter for the races at the same fair. He is a stockholder in the Hokah State Bank and the La Crescent State Bank, being a director in the former, and has served three terms as president of the village of Hokah. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Brown was married in December, 1880, to Eva Duckworth. On Jan. 1, 1897, he married for his second wife Anna Snure, daughter of John Clark and Addie (Hochstrasser) Snure, she being the third born of their six children. He has one daughter, Mabel, now the wife of Frank Spencer, Grand Canyon, Arizona. John Clark Snure was born at St. Catherine's, Canada, July 21, 1832, and came to Hokah, Houston county, Minn., when a young man. Until 1878 he was engaged in farming in this vicinity, and then entered the grocery business in Hokah, in which he continued until 1902, from which time until his death, July 1, 1907, he resided in Tacoma, Wash. His wife Addie, born Aug. 17, 1839, died June 28, 1918.

Carl L. Dahlke, a well known citizen of Hokah, owner of the old Dahlke farm near this village, but who is at the present time conducting a pool room in the village, was born in Prussia, Germany, Oct. 9, 1852, son of John Frederick and Henrietta (Kajuth) Dahlke. The father, born in 1834, came to America with his family in 1870, settling on the farm above mentioned near Hokah, this county, where, after an industrious agricultural career, he died in 1914. His wife, born in 1828, died in 1880. Carl L., who was the eldest of their five children, was educated in Germany, and was 18 years old when he accompanied his parents to this country. In 1873, at the age of 21, he took a farm in Peiffer Coolie, La Crescent township, and in the same year he was married to Mary Bonnwarth, daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Meyer) Bonnwarth, and who was born in Alsace, France, in 1850. For 15 years after his marriage, Mr. Dahlke remained on the home farm. Then he sold and bought the Neumeier place, near the old convent at Hokah. There he and his family lived until 1915, when he took up his home in Hokah village. The farm is now operated by his son Charles, and daughter Frances, he himself devoting his time to attending to his business interests in the village. He is one of the stockholders in the Hokah State Bank. For over twenty years he was a member of the town board, the greater part of which time he was chairman. He was also a member of the school board for over twenty years. He was bred in the Lutheran

faith, and in politics is a Republican, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Dahlke have had ten children, four of whom died in infancy. Flora (Mrs. Portz) is also dead. The survivors are Mary (Mrs. Kindhammer), Otto, Eda, Charles and Frances. Mrs. Dahlke is deceased.

James E. Parish was born in Mound Prairie township, Minnesota, August 13, 1876. He moved with his parents, Thomas R. and Lucy (Rice) Parish, now of Rushford, to Houston in 1879, and attended the public schools at that place, entering the Signal office as an apprentice while attending school. He taught school in this county five years. Dec. 22, 1896, he married Nellie M. Briggs, who died June 22, 1898. August 27, 1902, he married Molena T. Weone, and has three children: Royal, born August 22, 1903; Myrtle, born March 22, 1905; and Fern, born October 24, 1911. Mr. Parish was owner and publisher of the Rushford Star-Republican from February, 1912, to 1914, and then sold to S. N. Risley and worked for him two years, going to Spring Grove and for two years managing the Herald. He took charge of the Hokah Tribune December 1, 1918. He served in Co. G, 12th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American war. His fraternal relations are with the A. F. & A. M., M. W. A., B. A. Y., and Henry Lawton Camp, No. 12, United Spanish-American War Veterans of Winona.

George J. Hoffman, cashier of the Hokah State Bank, and a business man of high reputation in this part of Houston county, was born in Hokah township, this county, Jan. 3, 1869, son of John and Martha E. (Mohr) Hoffman. The parents were natives of Germany who came to the United States when children in 1840, their respective families locating at Burlington, Kenosha county, Wis., where they remained until 1855 or 1856. They then came in two prairie schooners, drawn by eight oxen, to La Crosse, and, crossing the river on a ferryboat, settled in Houston county, the Hoffmans taking a farm of 160 acres in section 34, Hokah township, for which they paid \$1,200. Arriving on July 4, they planted Indian corn, which ripened notwithstanding the lateness of the season. There the parents spent the rest of their lives, the father dying Jan. 13, 1882, and the mother in June, 1894. George J., who was the second born of their six children, in his boyhood attended the Hokah public school for awhile, his parents' farm being near the village, but his book knowledge was gained mostly through home study. In his youth he assisted his father on the homestead and until the age of 27 years was engaged in farming and the nursery business. In 1896 he engaged in the implement business at Hokah, as a member of the firm of Adams & Hoffman; but after six months' experience in that line, he went back to the farm, where he remained until 1901. He then sold the farm, of which he had become the proprietor, and bought the hardware and farm implement business of J. D. Becker, of Hokah. In 1903 he added groceries to his stock in trade. A year or two later he took John Ender into the business as a partner, and they bought out the general store of Otto Rippe, and carried it on for about eight years, or until 1913, when they sold the general store to Reilly & Reilly, and added a lumber yard to their other business. In 1910, Mr. Hoffman, in association with C. J. Schofield, started



GEORGE J. HOFFMAN AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER BROWN—B. B. BROWN

the Hokah State Bank, of which he has since been cashier. For five years he had a one-third interest in the Hokah Creamery Co., which he increased to a half interest on Jan. 1, 1919. On the same date he disposed of his interest in the hardware business previously mentioned, and became sole proprietor of the Hokah Midget Mill, in which he had owned a half interest for two years. Politically he is a Republican, and, religiously, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On Sept. 28, 1894, Mr. Hoffman was united in marriage with Bessie Miller, daughter of Rev. Henry J. and Mercy (Fox) Miller, and a native of Pennsylvania, where her father followed his ministerial calling until his death. Mrs. Bessie Hoffman died July 9, 1902. On Feb. 25, 1903, Mr. Hoffman married Laura Cook, who was born in Red Wing, Minn., daughter of George and Louisa (Fuchs) Cook, her parents, who were natives of Germany, having settled in Goodhue county, this state, the father dying Feb. 3, 1899, and the mother still continuing to make her home in Red Wing. By this union Mr. Hoffman has three children: Roland, born Dec. 12, 1903, now assisting his father in the bank; Clinton, born March 7, 1910, and died Oct. 2, 1910, and Ruth, born May 26, 1914.

Lorenz Brothers, John, Anton and Joseph, well known farmers and respected citizens of Hokah township, are the sons of Anton and Elizabeth (Brooks) Lorenz, and were born in Hokah township, John on Dec. 8, 1876, Anton in January, 1887, and Joseph Feb. 1, 1897. The parents were both natives of Bohemia, Austria, the father born in June, 1848, and the mother in September, 1863. The former came to Hokah, Minn., in 1866, and took the farm on which he resided subsequently until his death in March, 1918. Mrs. Elizabeth Lorenz, then Elizabeth Brooks, came to America in 1871, locating first in Maryland, where she resided for two years. She then came west to Chicago, remained there two years, and then came to Hokah, Houston county, Minn., where she soon after became the wife of Anton Lorenz. She is now residing on the home farm with her sons. The latter were educated in the convent school at Hokah, and were associated together on the farm, in the development of which they assisted their father. On the latter's death they assumed the care of the farm, which contains 90 acres, John being the owner of an additional tract of 26 acres. The place is well improved and they are conducting agricultural operations with profitable results. They are members of the Roman Catholic church. Anton is now serving as road overseer. The other children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Lorenz, Sr., are Frances, Katie, Anna, Mary and Frank. Francis is the wife of Fred Schnedecker, of Hokah township; Katie is now Mrs. George Sauer, of La Crosse; Anna is now Mrs. William Tschumpen, of La Crescent township; Mary is now Mrs. Joseph Schnedecker, of Hokah; and Frank is a farmer of Hokah township.

B. B. Brown, who is engaged in operating the old Brown farm at Hokah, having altogether 360 acres of land, was born in Hokah village, this county, Oct. 30, 1868, son of Christopher and Margaret (Shea) Brown. The father, who was born at St. Catherine's, Canada, Sept. 16, 1836, came to Houston county, Minnesota, when a young man, being among the earliest settlers at Hokah. Here he established the farm now operated by the subject of this sketch, on which he resided until his death in 1909. His

wife, who was a native of Ireland, came to this county with her parents when very young, settling near Brownsville. She died in the same year as her husband. B. B. Brown, who was the second born of his parents' four children, was educated in the Hokah public school. He worked on the home farm until about twenty years of age, after which, for about eight years, he was engaged in railroad work on the Wisconsin Central Railway, with headquarters at Ashland, Wis. Then returning home, he took charge of the old homestead in Hokah, where he has since remained. The farm is well improved, and Mr. Brown is making a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle. He is a stockholder in both the Hokah banks, having formerly been a director in the Farmers' State Bank. He has also seen a number of years' service as village treasurer and assessor, in politics being a Republican. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church, and he is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Charles Bolduan, who is the owner of a good farm of 130 acres in section 6, Hokah township, which he is operating successfully along general agricultural lines, raising grain, hay and stock, was born in Hokah village, May 17, 1877, son of Frederick and Wilhelmina (Voss) Bolduan. The parents were natives of Germany who came to the United States in 1869, locating immediately in Hokah township, Houston county, Minn. After a residence here for about ten years they bought land and engaged in farming, continuing in that occupation until about fifteen years ago, when they retired from active work and are now making their home with their son, Charles. They are the parents of six children: F. W. A., Ernest, Amelia, Charles, Hulda and Tillie. F. W. A. lives with Charles; Ernest is a resident of Chicago Heights; Amelia is now the wife of Frank Rotunde, of Mayville township, this county; Hulda keeps house for her brothers, and Tillie is now Mrs. Louis Helm, of Hokah village.

Charles Bolduan, the subject of this sketch, acquired his education in Hokah and worked at home with his father until about 1903. He then bought his present farm from his father and has since been engaged in its cultivation. It is well improved and is yielding good returns in bountiful crops and healthy stock, for all of which he finds a ready market. Mr. Bolduan is also a shareholder in and secretary of the Hokah Stock & Grain Company. Occupying a prominent position among the well-known and reliable citizens of his township, he has served as town supervisor since 1910, and since 1918 has been president of School District No. 12. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. Mr. Bolduan was married at Brownsville, this county, Oct. 4, 1905, to Anna Kelly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kelly. Her parents were born in Ireland and came to the United States, settling in Wisconsin, probably about fifty-five years ago, or towards the close of the Civil War period. They remained in that state, however, but a short time, soon locating in Houston county, Minnesota, and taking a farm in Union township, where they were numbered among the early settlers. They are still living on their farm. Their daughter, Mrs. Anna Bolduan, died in February, 1907, leaving two children, Frank and Marguerite, the latter of whom died in the fall of 1915. Mr. Bolduan's sister Hulda is now keeping

house for him and his family circle includes his parents, who are making their home with him, and one brother, who owns a threshing outfit and a machine shop, where he does some repairing.

Edward J. Reilly, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Hokah, Minn., was born in Hokah, Aug. 19, 1875, son of Edward and Marie (Solon) Reilly. The parents came to this section from Ireland about 1848 and are still residing here, the father for most of his life having been engaged in railroad work. Edward J. was the fourth born of their six children and was educated in the local schools. At the age of 20 years he went to Iowa, where for twenty-one years he was engaged in the grain business. In October, 1916, he returned to Houston county to take his present position in the bank, where he has shown ability and made himself popular with the patrons of the institution. He also has farming interests in Iowa. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Woodmen, Royal Neighbors and Yeomen. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Roman Catholic. Mr. Reilly was married in June, 1903, to Mae McDermott, daughter of Michael and Margaret McDermott. Her parents, who were born in Illinois, moved in 1896 to Iowa, where the father engaged in mercantile business. They are still residents of that state. Their daughter Mae (Mrs. Reilly) was the first born of their four children.

J. D. Becker, who is connected with the Hokah post office as rural mail carrier, was born in Union township, this county, July 11, 1861, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (James) Becker. The father, born in Germany in 1832, emigrated to Canada, whence, after a year's residence, he came to Hokah, Minn. But a year later, in 1860, he removed to Union, where he bought a farm of 165 acres, on which he resided until 1872, when he returned to Hokah. Here he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1911. His wife Elizabeth, who was born in Germany in 1834 and who came to America in childhood, died in 1914. J. D., who was the eldest of their six children, was educated in public schools. At the age of 22 he left home and entered the Hokah mill, where he was employed for fourteen years subsequently. He then engaged in the hardware business in Hokah and was thus occupied for ten years, giving it up to engage in carpenter work, in which he spent two years. In 1903 he took his present position as rural mail carrier on Route No. 1 from Hokah. He owns a comfortable home in the village and is a man in good circumstances. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America, having served six years as clerk of the latter. Independent in politics, he has served nine years on the school board, being its present treasurer, and was village president nine years—from 1894 to 1902. Mr. Becker was married, June 18, 1889, to Lucinda Walter, daughter of Jacob and Lucinda (Schaller) Walter, her father being a native of Germany. They were farmers for many years in Mower county, Minnesota, residing there until Mrs. Walter's death, after which Mr. Walter made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Becker, until his death, Aug. 25, 1904. Of the eleven children in the Walter family, Mrs. Becker was the third in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Becker six children have been born: George, Irene, Jacob, Ralph, William and Walter. Jacob and William served in the United States

Army during the great war, and Ralph in the Navy, William being still in France. Irene is a teacher.

William J. Miller, a well known and respected citizen of Hokah, residing on the outskirts of the village, was born at Mineral Point, Iowa county, Wis., Sept. 20, 1872, son of William and Mary (Hocking) Miller. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch or German ancestry, and died at Mineral Point, Wis., when the subject of this sketch was 7 years old. His wife, who was born at Mineral Point, Dec. 29, 1852, soon after his death became an invalid, her care devolving upon her son, William J., as soon as he was old enough to assume the responsibility. Another son had died in infancy, and a sister at the age of 14. Mrs. Mary Miller never recovered her health, though she survived her husband for thirty-three years, her death occurring March 11, 1912. She was an earnest Christian woman, a lifelong member of the church, and endured her sufferings with admirable patience and resignation. William J. Miller, owing to the causes above mentioned, had but a limited opportunity for obtaining an education. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age, he learned the value of self-help and not only acquired additional knowledge through home study but also made good progress along industrial lines. In 1891, when he was about 19, a change of climate was recommended for his mother, and for that reason he came to Hokah, Houston county, Minn., buying his present home near the village, a neat and attractive place. For awhile he worked at various occupations, making a specialty, however, of gardening, a branch of industry in which he is well skilled. For a time he was employed by F. Sobeck, merchant, as clerk and general helper, remaining with him three and a half years. For nine years he was gardener on the Dunham estate in Hokah. Later he became the Houston county agent for the Dr. Koch Remedy Company, of Winona, also for the California Perfume & Extract Company. In these interests he is still engaged and also sells a line of dry goods. Politically he is a Republican, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the Rebeckah Lodge. Mr. Miller was married in Brownsville township, Oct. 2, 1912, to Mary Isabella Ainsworth, daughter of Richard and Mary (Balderstone) Ainsworth. Her father, born in England, Jan. 14, 1842, came to America in 1866, meeting his future father-in-law on shipboard, with whom he came directly to La Crescent, Minn., and worked for him awhile here. After his marriage in 1870 he settled on a farm in Dover, Minn., but two years later, on the death of his wife, he drifted west, going with a yoke of oxen to Worthing, S. D. Contracting a second marriage, he reared a family by his second wife, losing all trace of his daughter by his first marriage, Mary Isabella, now Mrs. W. J. Miller. He died May 26, 1915, and having left her by will a generous legacy, his executors discovered her whereabouts and her identity being proved, she received the legacy. The mother of Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Mary (Balderstone) Ainsworth, was born in England, Aug. 5, 1847, and resided in her youth in Liverpool. With her mother and other members of the family, she followed her father to America and resided on the parental homestead in Brownsville township, where she remained until her marriage and where her only daughter, Mary Isabella, was born.

She died Oct. 14, 1872, at Dover, Minn., her daughter being subsequently reared by the grandparents on the Brownsville farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members and earnest workers in the Presbyterian church.

Charles L. Guenther, for many years the sturdy village blacksmith of Hokah, was born in Prussia, Germany, March 21, 1844, and was there reared and educated. At the age of nineteen he started to learn the blacksmith's trade in his native land. In 1873 he brought his family to America and located in La Crescent, this county, and there remained for four years. Afterward, in 1877, he came to Hokah, where he opened a shop. After many years of worthy hard work he retired in 1908, still continuing to make his home in the village. He was married in November, 1869, to Augusta Fleischauer, and to this union were born four children: William, C. E., Adolph (deceased) and Margaret. Mrs. Augusta Guenther died in August, 1881, and later Mr. Guenther married Fredericka Helm, and to this union were born two children, Minnie and Frieda. Mrs. Fredericka Guenther died in 1886, and in 1904 Mr. Guenther married Mrs. Augusta Schwadler.

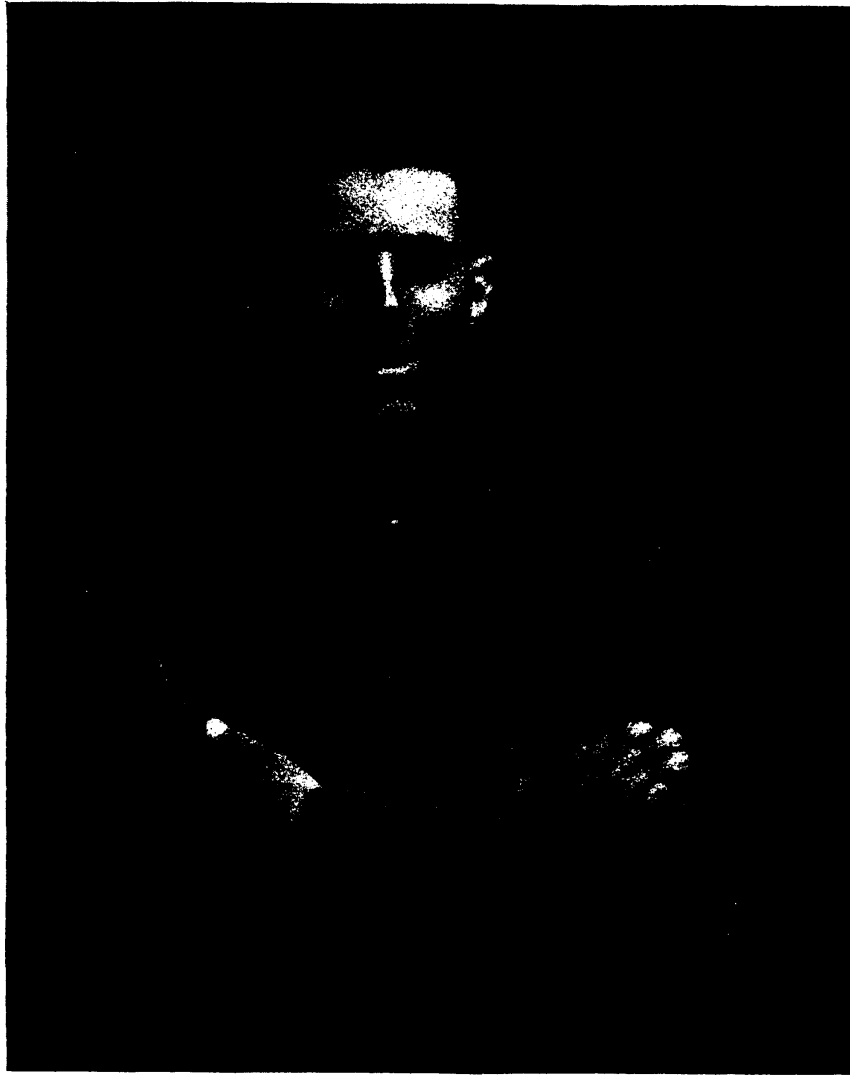
William Guenther, the efficient postmaster of Hokah, is likewise the village wagonmaker, and his excellent work is not only assuring his own success but is also doing considerable toward advertising the village. He was born in Prussia, Germany, Feb. 8, 1870, and was brought to America by his parents, Charles L. and Augusta (Fleischauer) Guenther, in 1873. After four years in La Crescent, this county, he was brought to Hokah, where he was reared and educated. As a boy he learned the blacksmith trade from his father. When about 19 he went to La Crosse and there thoroughly learned the wagonmaking trade. With this preparation he returned to Hokah, where he opened his present shop. He is a conscientious, hard-working man, and his wagons have an excellent reputation for quality and workmanship. Mr. Guenther has the unusual record of having been the village recorder for twenty-two years and school clerk for twenty years, and his services have been of much value to his fellow citizens. In September, 1918, he was appointed postmaster of Hokah, a position in which he is still serving. His financial relations are with the Farmers' State Bank, of which he is a director. Mr. Guenther was married Dec. 26, 1894, to Ida Panten, who was born in Germany, the daughter of Herman and Louisa (Schuneman) Panten, who brought their family to America about 1880, and settled in Hokah, where the father worked in a mill. Mr. Panten died in 1916 and his wife in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Guenther have had six children: Charles H., William E., Helen, Paul, Florence and Ruth. Helen is a graduate of Hokah High School and is now her father's assistant in the postoffice; Paul is now with the Hokah Creamery.

Corporal Charles H. Guenther, a veteran of the great war, was born in Hokah, Feb. 21, 1896, son of William and Ida (Panton) Guenther. He was educated in the public schools and then spent one year at the Wisconsin Business University, where he mastered typewriting and stenography. He enlisted in the Army July 14, 1917, and saw service with Co. B, Third Wisconsin National Guard, which became the 128th Infantry, 64th Brigade, 32d Division. He trained at Camp Douglas, Camp McArthur

and Camp Merritt, and was sent to France Feb. 18, 1918. On August 9 of the same year he was promoted to corporal. He saw active service in the Alsace Sector, in the Aisne-Marne offensive, Oise-Aisne offensive and twice in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, having participated in every action in which his division was engaged, an exceptional record which can be claimed by but few. He was gassed Sept. 1 at Tuvigny, France, and as the result was in a hospital three weeks, but this was at a time when his regiment was in a rest area. He was in active service when the armistice was signed, and marched with the Third Army of Occupation across the Rhine and there occupied a sector at the Coblenz bridgehead. He was discharged with the rank of corporal, May 19, 1919.

William E. Guenther, a hero of the great war, who gave his life in his country's service, is one of those noble boys whose memories will ever be cherished in the hearts of their grateful countrymen and whose supreme sacrifice made the world a better place in which to live. He was born in Hokah, April 21, 1898, son of William and Ida (Panton) Guenther. As a boy he was of unusually cheery and sunshiny disposition and was a general favorite with everyone in the village. He was ambitious to make a success in life and after long and hard study he passed the difficult examination for the position of railway mail clerk in 1917. But then came the great war. At a time when his prospects were of the brightest he went to La Crosse and, filled with love of country and humanity, volunteered his services in the cause of liberty. This was on July 21, 1917. At first he was a private in Co. B of the Third Wisconsin National Guard, which was afterward the 128th Infantry, 64th Brigade, 32d Division. He trained at Camp Douglass and Camp McArthur. From Camp Merritt, N. J., he embarked for France, February 18, 1918, and after arrival in Europe was transferred to Co. M, 16th Infantry, 1st Division. He saw service at Braves Sector, Soissons, Cantigny, St. Mihiel, Champaigne Forest and the Meuse, in the Argonne. At the Battle of Champagne Forest, near Chateau Thierry, he was badly wounded in the shoulder and was confined six weeks in the Rouen hospital. He was killed at the Battle of the Meuse in the Argonne, Oct. 11, 1918, and is buried in a beautiful cemetery among his heroic comrades in the Commune Sommerance, Department Ardennes, France. He was a true young man, a good soldier, an heroic warrior, and his short life and noble death left a memory which will be ever inspiring.

Philip G. Frey, a well known and respected citizen of Hokah, manager of the Hokah People's Telephone Exchange, was born in Houston county, April 25, 1880, son of Frederick and Carolina (Redman) Frey. The father, born in Germany in 1819, came as a young man to America, settling in Wisconsin; but after a short residence there he came on to Houston county, Minnesota, and took a homestead in Prairie township which he subsequently developed into a good farm. He died in 1889. His wife, who was born in 1841, is now residing in La Crosse. Philip G., who was the youngest of their eight children, acquired a district school education. At the age of 18 he engaged with his brother in well drilling, being thus occupied for three years. For the next ten years he was a resident of La Crosse, where he was engaged for awhile in the transfer business and also worked



WILLIAM E. GUENTHER

some time in button factories. Then in 1901 he married and returned to Houston county and resumed well drilling, but soon became connected with the Hokah Creamery, where he was employed for seven years. He then became local manager of the Hokah People's Telephone Exchange, which position he has held for the last ten years. He is a member of the local Yeomen's lodge and is now serving as treasurer of Hokah village, in politics being independent.

Mr. Frey was married, July 11, 1901, to Frances Behrndt, daughter of Albert and Sophia (Roth) Behrndt. He and his wife have three children: Phyllis, Charlotte and Carol Jean.

Albert Behrndt, father of Mrs. Frey, was born near Berlin, Germany, July 18, 1841. He learned the carpenter's trade and at the age of thirty years emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, settling first in Crooked Creek township, whence, about 1879, he came to Hokah, where he made his permanent home. His wife, Sophia, was born in Pennsylvania, Dec. 16, 1851, and came to Crooked Creek township, this county, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Roth. Their daughter Frances, now Mrs. Philip C. Frey, was educated in Hokah village.

James Green, who is now living retired in the village of Hokah, of which place he is a well known and respected citizen, is a man who, though trained in another walk of life, has achieved success as a farmer and as such has been a factor in the county of West Meath, Ireland, Nov. 11, 1847, son of Patrick and Mary (Colman) Green. When he was a boy his father died, and the mother subsequently came with her children, of whom she had seven, to the United States, settling in Providence, R. I. A grandson of hers was a student and is now a professor in Brown University, that city. Mrs. Patrick Green died in 1998.

James Green learned the trade of mason in Massachusetts and followed it subsequently in Providence, R. I., also occasionally working on farms. He was thus occupied until 1864, in which year, following Horace Greeley's advice to "Go west, young man," he made his way to Chicago. There he fell in with some people who were bringing sheep west and he accompanied them by train to La Crosse and from there helped to drive the sheep to Preston, Wis., where he remained for a year. At the end of that time, being tired of the West, he started back home, but on his way stopped at Hokah, Houston county, Minn., where, the prospect pleasing him better, he resolved to remain. This was a step which he has never regretted. After doing mason work for awhile he took a farm of 160 acres in section 3, town 103, range 5 (Mound Prairie township), on which he resided until 1914, farming and occasionally doing mason work. He then retired and took up his residence in Hokah village, in a home which he had maintained for many years previously in order that his children might be able to attend the Hokah school. Here he is now living in comfortable circumstances, enjoying the reward of his previous industry and thrift. Mr. Green was married March 9, 1868, to Annice Fairbanks, daughter of Thomas and Katherine (Orr) Fairbanks, her parents being pioneer settlers in Mound Prairie township, this county, and she being the fourth born of their eleven children. To Mr. and Mrs. Green fourteen children were born: Alice, who

is a dressmaker; Mabel, now Mrs. Mabel Chatfield; Maud, wife of Wenzel Barinik, of Hokah; Lark, now Mrs. Joseph Smith, of La Crosse, her husband being connected with the Sta Rite Company; Dora, wife of John Kruger, a railroad man; Mary, now Mrs. Mary Winkle, of St. Paul; John, who died in 1917; Oscar, who served in the Army and is now employed in the rubber mills in La Crosse; and Leonard, Lawrence, Thomas and Albert, who are deceased.

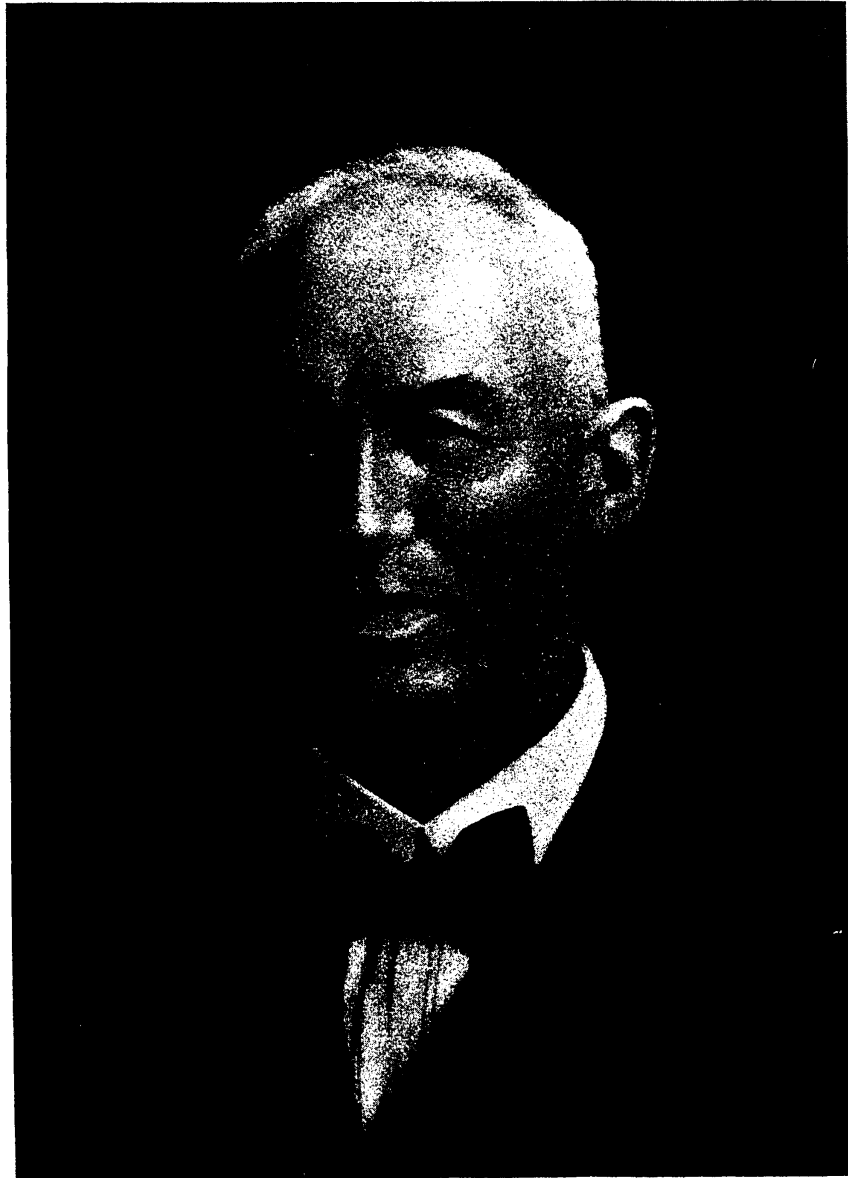
William H. Veglahn, one of the leading citizens of La Crescent township, proprietor of a farm of 225 acres in section 7, was born in this township, Jan. 28, 1874, son of William E. and Fredericka (Selke) Veglahn. Both parents were born in Germany, the father in 1842 and the mother in 1848. They came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1866, locating on a farm on South Ridge, La Crescent township, whence they later removed to another farm in section 7. There the father died in the year 1900. The mother resides on the old Farrell farm now owned by her. William H. Veglahn acquired his education in the district school on South Ridge. After becoming industrially active he worked on his parents' farm and on other farms in the neighborhood until his marriage at the age of 27 years, when he rented the home farm and operated it subsequently for ten years. In 1911 he bought his present place, which is a well improved piece of property and where he is carrying on general farming with profitable results. He is also a stockholder and director in the Pine Creek Creamery. He was town supervisor in 1905 and 1906 and has served as town treasurer for the last five years. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Lutheran. Mr. Veglahn was married June 5, 1901, to Theresa Lemke, daughter of Fred and Bertha (Kletzke) Lemke. Her parents, natives of Germany, came to Houston county at some date between 1865 and 1870 and engaged in farming on South Ridge, Mound Prairie township, where the father died in 1897. The mother still resides on the home place with her son Herbert. Mr. and Mrs. Veglahn are the parents of five children, all residing at home: Elmer G., born April 7, 1902; Dorothy A. B., Nov. 4, 1903; Edwin F. W., Feb. 6, 1907; Arnold O., April 25, 1909; and Erma T., April 15, 1912.

Henry Radtke, proprietor of a farm of 219½ acres in section 12, La Crescent township, and who has won a well earned reputation as a dairyman and specialist in fruit culture, was born in Manitowoc, Wis., Sept. 6, 1859, son of August and Fredericka (Oldenburg) Radtke. The father, a native of Schiefelbein, Germany, born April 2, 1832, came to Manitowoc, Wis., in 1858, but after a six months' residence there he and his family removed to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on a farm in La Crescent township, where he spent the rest of his life, dying May 15, 1914. His wife, born in Germany, Sept. 15, 1822, died Nov. 22, 1900. Henry Radtke, who was a babe when he accompanied his parents to La Crescent township, was educated in the district school on South Ridge. After becoming industrially active he worked on the home farm as his father's assistant until his marriage in 1887, when he took over the farm and operated it until 1918, when he rented it to his sons, Gus and William. In addition to building up a good dairy business he was one of the first farmers in this locality to engage largely in fruit raising, a line of industry in which he has been very



WILLIAM VEGLAHN AND FAMILY





E. B. WEBSTER

successful. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company and is in comfortable circumstances, having realized a competence through his enterprise and industry. In 1890 he served as town supervisor. In politics he is a Republican, and the religious affiliations of himself and family are with the Evangelical church. Mr. Radtke was married, July 4, 1887, to Pluma M. Frazier, who was born Sept. 13, 1886, in the town of Jefferson, Vernon county, Wis., daughter of Stephen and Ruth E. (Hoopes) Frazier. Mr. and Mrs. Radtke are the parents of ten children, born as follows: Milton L., May 23, 1888; William H., March 20, 1890; Charles H., March 27, 1892; Gustal W., Jan. 7, 1894; Pluma Pearl, May 25, 1897; Ruby R., Jan. 27, 1899; Theodore Roosevelt, May 3, 1902; Goldy L., March 27, 1904; Viola M., Aug. 11, 1906; and Glendora H., Oct. 24, 1909. Milton L. is a traveling salesman now residing at Detroit, Mich. He married Blanche Bishop, of La Crosse. William H. married Otilde Rusch, of Arcadia, Wis., and they reside on the home farm. Charles H. married Christina Unnasch, of Pine Creek Valley, and they reside at Pine Creek Valley. They have one child, Arnold C., who was born July 26, 1918. Gustal W. is associated with his brother, William H., in conducting the home farm. Pluma Pearl is now Mrs. Hugo Lemke, of Pine Creek Valley, and is the mother of a fine pair of twins, Lewis Henry and Lucille Bertha, born July 21, 1917. Two of Mr. Radtke's sons enlisted for services in the recent war. Charles H., who enlisted Sept. 7, 1917, was located at Camp Dodge, and received his honorable discharge April 7, 1919, with the rank of corporal. Gustal W., enlisted Oct. 24, 1918, was located at Camp Cody, New Mexico, and received his honorable discharge Jan. 11, 1919. Steven Frazier, father of Mrs. Henry Radtke, was born in Noble county, Ohio, Dec. 10, 1837. When 20 years of age he went to Illinois, where he taught school until his marriage in 1863. He then moved to Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm, which he operated during the summer, teaching school in the winter. Subsequently he moved to Viola, Wis., where he became mail carrier on the rural route when it was first established and continued in that position until about 1908, when he retired on account of failing health. He died Nov. 25, 1918, at Rochester, Minn. His wife, Ruth E. Hoopes, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, Jan. 10, 1845, and died Feb. 15, 1906, at Viola, Wis., where both she and her husband are buried.

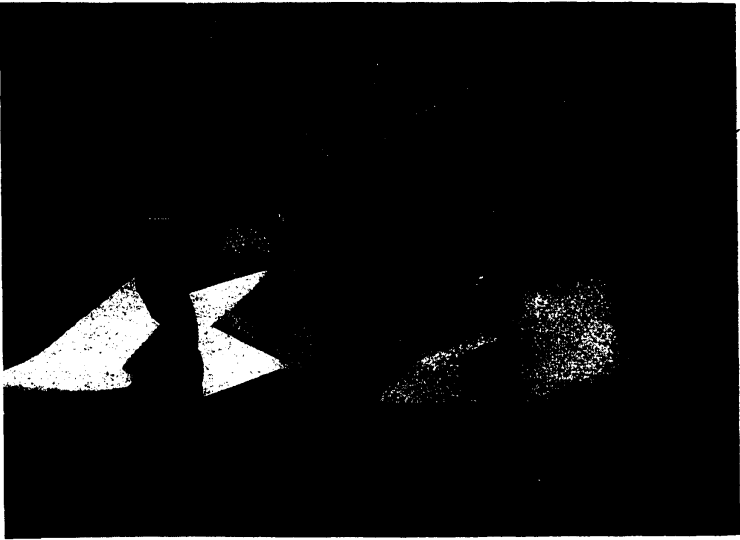
Everett B. Webster, now serving as county surveyor of Houston county, Minnesota, after a long and active career as contractor, builder and justice of the peace, was born in Oneida county, New York, April 29, 1851, son of William E. and Cornelia (White) Webster. In July, 1865, he accompanied his parents to La Crescent, Minn., where for awhile he attended the village school, being further instructed by his mother, who was a woman of superior education. At the age of 16 he began to learn the carpenter's trade, at which he became expert, and which he followed thereafter until reaching the age of 30, first as a journeyman and later as a contractor. In the latter capacity he built some of the finest country residences in the county, as well as the Catholic church at Dakota, Minn. Appointed postmaster of La Crescent, he assumed his duties April 1, 1898, and continued in that office for sixteen years, or until 1914, when he was elected

surveyor of Houston county, a position which he still holds. In politics he is a Republican. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Odd Fellows, to which order he has belonged for the last thirty-five years.

Mr. Webster was married June 3, 1873, to Emma Jane Harris, daughter of John S. and Melissa (Clayton) Harris, who were early settlers in Houston county. He and his wife had four children: Dewitt Clinton; Albert Eugene, who married Hattie Krebs and is a railroad clerk; William E. and Mabel, who is the wife of M. W. Smith, of La Crescent. The mother, Mrs. Emma Jane Webster, died September 8, 1917, and on Nov. 6, 1918, Mr. Webster married Ina G. Donald, of Cumberland, Wis.

Peter Adolphus Worthingham, who is connected with the La Crescent post office as rural mail carrier, was born in Joliet, Ill., Dec. 17, 1859, son of Peter M. and Louisa (King) Worthingham. The father, who was born in Canada, Oct. 20, 1834, became a resident of Joliet, Ill., when a boy and remained there until the spring of 1859. He there married Louisa King, who was born in Illinois Nov. 1, 1835. After several years of married life he went to California, where for nineteen years he was engaged in mining. He then came to Houston county, Minnesota, and engaged in the shoe-making business in La Crescent, remaining here until 1886, when he went to Montana, where he is now residing with a daughter and is still in active industrial life. Peter Adolphus Worthingham, who was the younger of his parents' two children, was not born until after his father's departure for California and never saw his male parent until he had reached the age of nineteen years. The rest of the family, in the meanwhile, having settled in La Crescent, he attended the public school here, and later worked in a shoe shop winters until twenty-one years old, when he engaged in farming. The latter occupation he followed until 1902, when he took his present position as rural mail carrier out of La Crescent. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party. Mr. Worthingham was married June 25, 1883, to Eveline Luther, the second born of the six children of Frank M. and Harriet (Hill) Luther. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born Oct. 30, 1830, and the mother Oct. 2, 1839. After their marriage they settled in Iowa, from which State they came to La Crescent, Houston county, about 1863, and engaged in farming in this township, where Mr. Luther died in April, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Worthingham have been the parents of nine children: James E., deceased; Frank, a resident of North Dakota; Louisa L., who married Herbert Murray and died Dec. 21, 1915; Thornton, who is now in the United States service; Elma and Fern, who are teachers; and Joyce and Peter. Mr. Worthingham belongs to two of the prominent fraternal orders—the Odd Fellows and Woodmen.

W. Milton Selby, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of La Crescent, where he has resided for over thirty years, and who was formerly representative from this district in the State Legislature, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, July 20, 1844, son of James and Mary Ann (Rogers) Selby. His parents were both natives of Ohio, the father born Dec. 21, 1814, and the mother March 27, 1816. He was under eighteen years of age when, in September, 1862, he became a member of Company H, 122d Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the end of the war, except for five



JAMES S. SELBY—MR. AND MRS. W. M. SELBY

months that he spent in Libby prison, having been captured at the battle of Winchester, Va., while serving in the Eighth Corps under General Milroy. He was mustered out in June, 1865, and in August of the same year came west to Wisconsin, where he went to work at the carpenter's trade. On Feb. 29, 1868, he was married at McFarland, Wis., by the Rev. George Hubbs, to Jane Orr, who was born in Belfast, County Londonderry, Ireland, Dec. 26, 1844, the eldest of the six children of John and Hannah (Paul) Orr, farmers of that vicinity. Her parents were born in Ireland, the father in 1818, of Scotch ancestry. Mr. Orr emigrated to the United States in 1847, and served in the Civil War in Company H, 36th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, until the close of the war. His wife died when her daughter Jane was in her ninth year. In 1868, the year of his marriage, Mr. Selby came to Hokah, Houston county, Minn., and resided here subsequently until 1871. He then moved to Waterloo, Iowa, where he worked in the railroad shops until 1875. During the next two years he was foreman of the repair shops of the C. B. & Q. Railroad at Buda, Ill. Then going to Aplington, Ia., he engaged in farming there, and was thus occupied until 1886, when he came to La Crescent, Houston county. Here his strong personality and helpful interest in public affairs led to his election as representative in the State Legislature, in which he served in 1899 and 1901. Since 1908 he has been connected with the firm of Fessler & Dahl, undertakers of La Crosse, as Minnesota deputy, and for the last twenty-one years he has been a notary public at La Crescent. He has been a member of the Masonic order since 1869, and since 1894 of the Masonic Veterans' Association of Minnesota, being also a charter member of Evening Star Chapter, No. 71, O. E. S. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, he belongs to Wilson Colwell Post, and has attended three national encampments. Mrs. Selby is a charter member of Evening Star Chapter No. 71, O. E. S., and is the only living past matron that was a charter member. She has represented her district as deputy grand matron. On March 1, 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Selby celebrated their golden wedding, the occasion proving a most enjoyable one. They have been the parents of three sons: James S., Alpha M. and Lloyd V., the two latter of whom are now deceased. James S., who is a widower now residing with his parents, is making a specialty of bee keeping and the cultivation of small fruits. He was made a Free Mason in 1869, and is a member of Morning Star Lodge, No. 29, A. F. & A. M.; also of the Masonic Veterans' Association of Minnesota, a member of the Masonic chapter at Caledonia, having become a Royal Arch Mason in 1871, and a charter member of Evening Star Chapter No. 71, O. E. S., at La Crescent. He is now serving in his fourth term as a notary public.

Joseph Schlabach, one of the leading farmers of La Crescent township, his residence lying in section 6, was born in this township, July 4, 1864, son of Peter and Mary (Meyer) Schlabach. The father, who was born in Germany in 1825, came to La Crescent, Minn., when thirty-three years old, finding employment in Mercer's Hotel in the village. Later he bought a farm in Pine Creek Valley, which he operated until his retirement in 1883, when he moved to La Crosse. His death occurred in 1908. His wife Mary, born in New York in 1844, is also deceased. Their son Joseph, who

was the fourth born in a family of eight children, was educated in the district school on Pine Creek. He worked on the home farm until twenty years of age, and then going to St. Paul, found employment in railroad construction work between Devil's Lake and the coast, and was thus occupied for two years. Then returning home he married and bought his father's farm of 208 acres, which he has since operated, also having another farm of 130 acres. Both farms are well improved and Mr. Schlabach is doing a profitable business raising stock and grain. He is a member of the Farmers' Equity and a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company. A part of his time has been devoted to the public service, as he is a member of the town board of supervisors, of which he was chairman for several years, and is road overseer. In politics he is independent and in religion a Methodist. Mr. Schlabach was first married Feb. 18, 1888, to Anna Leidel, daughter of Henry and Hannah Leidel, whose father, a native of Germany, came to this country at an early date and settled in Winona county, Minn. Mrs. Anna Schlabach died in January, 1897, leaving two children: Inez, who is overseer in the girl's department at the Berea Orphans' Home, near Cleveland, Ohio; and Gertrude, now Mrs. Ervin Wetchen, of Houston county. April 15, 1902, Mr. Schlabach married Katherine Kerrigan, who was born Feb. 19, 1879, daughter of Andrew and Delia (Layne) Kerrigan. Her father was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1839, and came to Minnesota when ten years old. Growing up here, he settled on a farm in Winona county and was engaged in agricultural work for many years, dying June 15, 1901. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom Katherine, now Mrs. Joseph Schlabach, was the seventh in order of birth.

Lewis Lilly, formerly a well known farmer on Pine Creek, La Crescent township, but now deceased, was born at Westfield, Mass., April 13, 1825. When he was four years old his parents moved to Dover Center, Ohio, where he resided until the age of eighteen. Then going to Wisconsin, he engaged in farming, remaining there several years. In 1849 he joined the rush of gold seekers to California, going overland with a yoke of six oxen and an emigrants' wagon, known in those days as a "prairie schooner." The journey, which was both tedious and dangerous, on account of deserts to be crossed and hostile Indians, occupied six months. He reached the gold fields safely, however, and had fairly good luck, subsequently returning home with a quantity of money. Soon after his return to Wisconsin he married Margaret E. Emily, who was born in Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1829. In 1863 he made up his mind to return to California and started with his wife and family, but on reaching Houston county, Minnesota, he stopped to engage in the sale of land, and finally making up his mind to remain permanently took a farm on Pine Creek, which was his home for many years thereafter, or until his retirement in 1900. He then took up his residence in the village of La Crescent, where he died Dec. 1, 1904. His wife died March 17, 1909. Their children were: Sarah L., now deceased, who married A. B. Lyons, and died in June, 1915; Albinus E., of La Crescent; and Rose M., who died at the age of fourteen years.

Albinus Lilly, a well known and respected resident of the village of La Crescent, who is proprietor of a 360-acre farm on Pine Creek, and is now

MR. AND MRS. ALBINUS LILLY





D. J. CAMERON

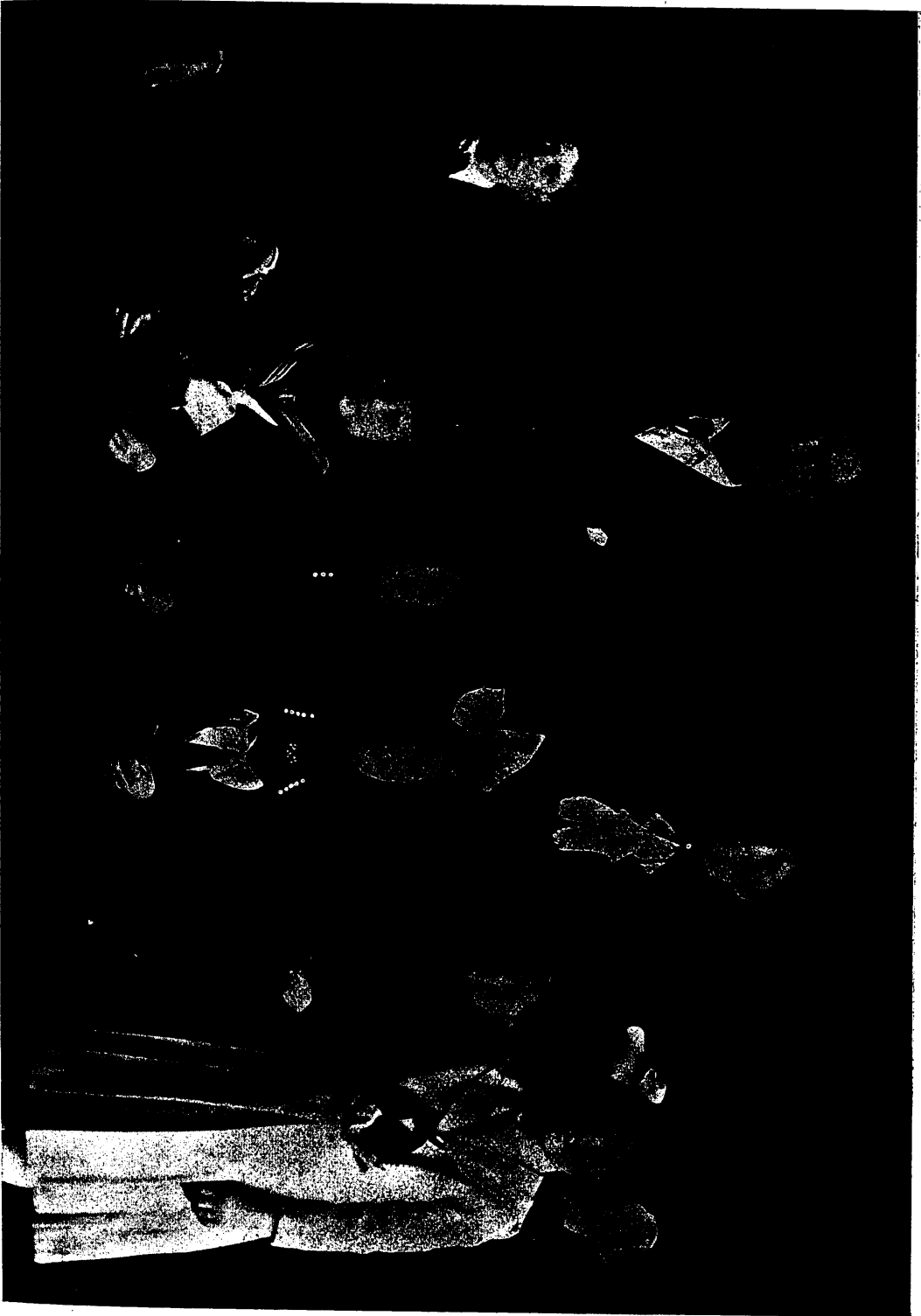
making a specialty of breeding brown Swiss cattle, was born in Roxbury, Dane county, Wis., March 7, 1862, son of Lewis and Margaret E. (Emily) Lilly. He was the second born in a family of three children and was an infant when he accompanied his parents to La Crescent township, Houston county. In his boyhood he attended the district school and as soon as he was old enough became active as helper on his parents' farm, assisting his father until he was twenty-five years old. He then married and took charge of the farm, operating it from that time as though it were his own, which it later became. There he continued until 1903, when he moved to the village of La Crescent. He still supervises the farm, however, keeping a record of the crop and stock operations, and, as already mentioned, is giving particular attention to raising of brown Swiss cattle. In politics he is independent. Oct. 3, 1893, Mr. Lilly married Delia Butler, daughter of Jeremiah and Susan (Layne) Butler. He and his wife have two sons, both now in the United States military service, Jerry A. and George B. Jeremiah Butler, who was born in Maryland, Aug. 6, 1824, at a later date moved to Missouri and from that State to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1878, locating in Money Creek township. He died Feb. 5, 1908. His wife Susan, who was born at Hannibal, Mo., in 1832, died in 1913. Their daughter Delia, now Mrs. Albinus Lilly, was the second born of their seven children. She became a teacher, following that occupation first in Illinois and afterwards in Minnesota, on Winona Ridge, then in the primary room in the school on Vinegar Hill, in Money Creek township, and for a time near Rushford.

D. J. Cameron, at one time a prominent citizen of La Crescent township, engaged for a number of years in railroad construction work, and later noted as a breeder of blooded horses, was born in Ontario, Canada, April 8, 1828. Leaving home at the age of nineteen years, he went to work as time keeper on a canal in New York State. Later he became connected with railroad construction work, and during his early experience in that line of industry resided for some time in Ohio. He afterwards built and completed the Hoosac River tunnel, after several contractors had given up the work. Subsequently he took a contract to construct a tunnel at Tunnel City, Wis., for the Milwaukee Road, and was also engaged in grading many miles of the same road through Wisconsin. About 1859 Mr. Cameron came to Houston county, Minnesota, buying land in La Crescent, but for some time thereafter continued railroad work, building the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road from Grand Crossing to Mankato. Later he worked on the Burlington & Northern, the Winona & St. Peter, with headquarters at Mendota, and the St. Louis & San Francisco roads. In 1881 he had work at Ontonogon, Mich., for the Milwaukee & Northern Road, also at Superior, Wis., for the Omaha. Before this was completed he took a contract to complete a tunnel through the Boston Mountains for the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, which job also several contractors had given up after starting, but Mr. Cameron successfully completed it for the necessary distance of one-half mile. He also graded south of the Boston Mountains, and at Fayetteville, Ark., for about eighteen months. After that he had a year's work in heavy rock on the Canadian Pacific Rail-

road, on the north shore of Lake Superior, east of Port Arthur. He then started work on a large tunnel for the San Francisco Railroad through the Buckbone Mountains in Arkansas, with fifteen miles of grading, and seventy miles of grading in the Choctaw Territory. When that work was finished he put through sixty miles of work from the Illinois River, Indian Territory, to Wagoner on the M. K. & T. He then gave up that line of industry and taking up his residence on his farm in La Crescent township, indulged his passion for fast horses, which he raised on the farm, keeping a stable of full-blooded animals until his retirement a number of years later, when he moved to La Crosse. He died Jan. 4, 1911. Mr. Cameron married Mary A. Rossiter, who was born on Prince Edward Island, Aug. 10, 1842, and who is now a resident of La Crosse. They were the parents of eight children: Anna, Belle, now Mrs. C. A. Patker, of Baltimore, Md.; Allen J., of La Crescent township; Mary, wife of Dr. Herbert Cary, of Minneapolis; John L., of La Crosse; Donald A., of Portland, Ore.; Grace, residing with her mother in La Crosse; and Catherine and Susie, deceased.

Allen J. Cameron, who owns and operates the old Cameron farm in La Crescent township, residing in section 9, was born at Ft. Snelling, Minn., son of D. J. and Mary A. (Rossiter) Cameron. Of his parents' eight children he was the second in order of birth. He was quite young when in 1859 the family settled in La Crescent township, Houston county, taking the farm on which he now resides, and his education was acquired in the school of his district and at the La Crosse Business College. Until his marriage he worked on the home farm for his father, and for a year after that event resided on a farm near Austin. He then returned to the home farm, which he subsequently inherited, and has since been engaged in its operation, having 440 acres of land, well watered and highly cultivated, with good buildings and a full equipment for grain and stock raising. He is a breeder of high grade stock of all kinds, a branch of the farming industry in which he has been very successful. Among his other business interests are those of a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank and the Pine Creek Valley Creamery, while he is also president of the La Crescent Canning Co., Inc. A man of forceful character, he takes a close personal interest in all things that make for the moral and commercial benefit of the community. He was for several terms chairman of the township board, and has also served as town treasurer and assessor. In politics he is independent and in religion a Roman Catholic. Mr. Cameron was married on Thanksgiving Day, 1898, to Anna B. Bresnin, who was born in Tiffin, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1869, daughter of John K. and Anne E. (Toumey) Bresnin. Her parents were both natives of Ireland, the father settling in Ohio when only seventeen years old, and the mother being brought to Canada at the age of three months. They both resided for some time in Pennsylvania, and from there removed to Ohio, where they were married, and in that State both subsequently died. Before her union with John K. Bresnin, Mrs. Bresnin had been previously married. By her former husband, Mr. Brady, she had a daughter, Mary E., and by marriage to Mr. Bresnin, an adopted daughter, Ella E., who was a daughter of Mr. Bresnin's former wife. Her children by Mr. Bresnin were five in number, Ignatius, Anna B., Catherine E., Louise and

ALLEN J. CAMERON AND FAMILY





HENRY ABNET AND FAMILY

John, so that the household included seven children in addition to the parents. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron are as follows: Anna Marie, born July 16, 1901, who is a student at St. Teresa's College, Winona; Katherine and Margaret, twins, born Jan. 22, 1903, of whom Katherine is a student in the La Crosse high school; Donald, born June 27, 1905; Jean, born Sept. 9, 1906, now at the Ursuline Convent at Toledo, Ohio; and Gerald, born July 4, 1908.

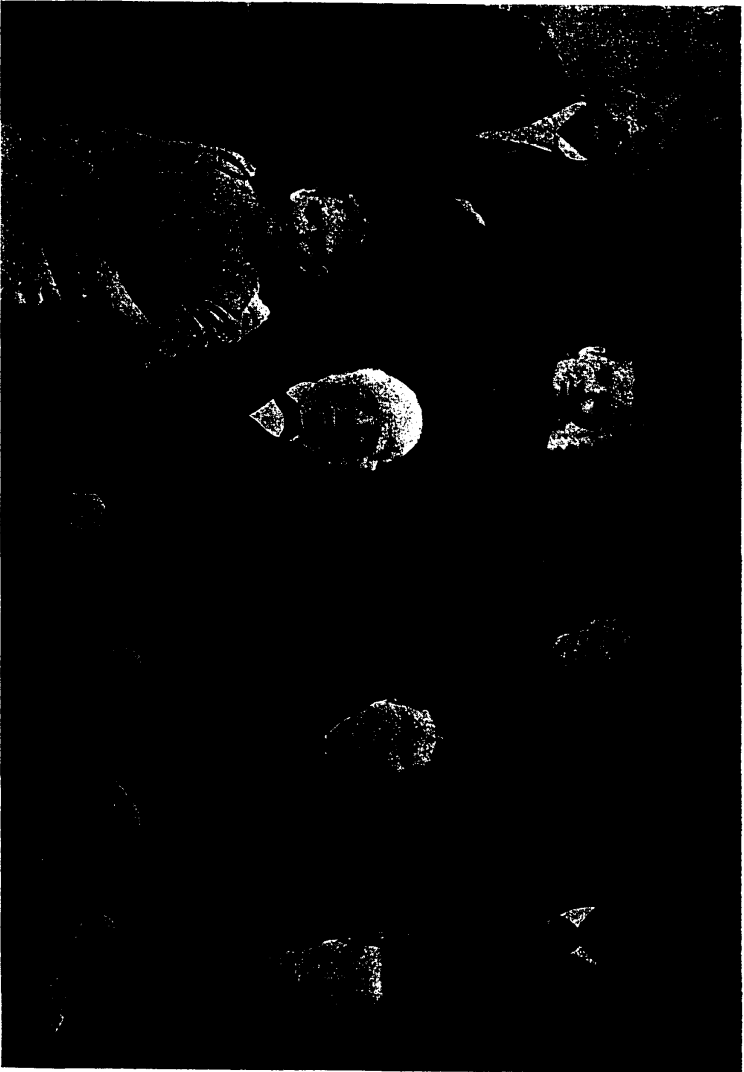
Henry Abnet, who is engaged in operating a modern farm of 228 acres on Pine Creek, in section 2, La Crescent township, was born at Onalaska, La Crosse county, Wis., Jan. 18, 1880, son of Christian and Margaret Abnet. The parents were natives of Switzerland, the father born in 1829 and the mother in 1835. After coming to this country they spent their lives on their farm near Onalaska, both being now deceased. Henry, who was the youngest of their ten children, attended school in Sand Lake Coulie, La Crosse county. After becoming industrially active he worked with his father for some years as the latter's assistant on the home farm, which he then took over and operated for four years himself. At the end of that time he bought his present farm in La Crescent township, on which he has built new barns and made other notable improvements, and as a general farmer is doing a thriving business. In politics he is independent and in religion a Roman Catholic. On Oct. 20, 1903, Mr. Abnet was united in marriage with Mary Pierce, daughter of George and Emma (Richmond) Pierce, she being the second born of their nine children. Her parents, of French origin, the father born in Canada in 1858, and the mother on French Island, Wis., in 1860. When a boy the former went to Massachusetts with his parents, and later removed to French Island, Wis. After marrying he bought a farm in Green's Coulie, near Onalaska, where he and his wife are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Abnet have five children, George H., Maretha Hope, Charles E., Heine A. and Beata Fern. Mr. Abnet is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Creamery, and is a man who takes a warm interest in everything calculated to promote the moral or material welfare of the community in which he resides, of which he and his family are prominent members.

Edward Hurley, agent at La Crescent for the C. M. & St. P. Railway, and a shipper of small fruits, was born in New Albin, Iowa, May 29, 1884, son of John and Mary (Scanlon) Hurley. The father was a native of Loveland, Ohio, born in 1860, and settled in New Albin when a young man. By his wife Mary, who was born in Caledonia, Minn., in 1864, he had a family of eleven children, of whom seven are now living. Edward, who was the second born, was educated in the public school at New Albin and in a business college at Waukon. He made such good use of his opportunities that at the age of fifteen years he was engaged to teach school in New Albin and did so for two terms to the satisfaction of the local school board. After that he worked at farming for a while, and then took a position in the railroad depot, where he studied telegraphy. In 1907 he came to La Crescent as agent for the C. M. & St. P. Railway, which position he still holds. In 1912 he also engaged in the business of buying and shipping small fruits, chiefly berries. He has prospered so as to be able to buy a comfortable home in the village. A member of the Catholic church, he belongs

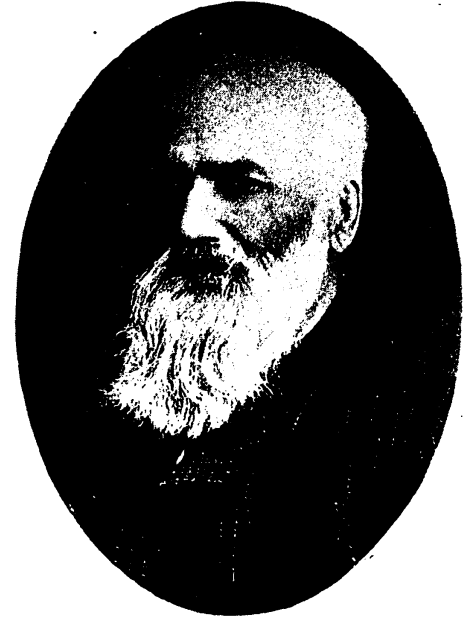
also to the Knights of Columbus and the Railroad Order of Telegraphers. Mr. Hurley was married Sept. 15, 1914, to Minnie Welsh, daughter of Thomas and Johanna (Hurley) Welsh. Both her parents were born in Houston county, the father being now station agent at Freeburg, Minn., where he follows the blacksmith's trade. Mr. and Mrs. Hurley have one child, Mary Lucille.

William Kramer, who is engaged in the culture of small fruits on a small farm of nine acres within the limits of La Crescent village, was born in La Crescent, Aug. 9, 1872, son of John C. and Eleanor Kramer. The parents, natives of Germany, resided for a few years at Dakota, Minn., whence they moved to a farm on Pine Creek, Houston county, and later to La Crescent village, where John C. Kramer operated a fruit and vegetable garden, giving particular attention to the raising of vegetables. He died here June 6, 1909, and his widow now resides with her son William. The latter was educated in La Crescent and for about fifteen years after becoming industrially active worked for his father. Then for about a year he was employed in a grist mill at Hokah, after which he went to Iowa and worked there on farms. Returning to La Crescent he went from here to Neillsville, Wis., where for four or five years he was engaged in carpenter work. He then returned to La Crescent and in 1906 took his present farm, containing forty-five lots, or about nine acres, which he is devoting to the culture of small fruits, a line of industry in which he has been very successful. In politics he is a Republican with independent proclivities. Mr. Kramer first married Luella Robbins, daughter of H. E. and Sarah Robbins. Of this union three children were born; Sadie, who is now Mrs. Rairdon; Violet (Mrs. Nichols), and Elvie, who is deceased. On Nov. 16, 1895, Mr. Kramer married Maud Cook, daughter of John H. and Mary (Davis) Cook. Her father was born at Beaver Dam, Wis., and her mother in New Hampshire, later coming to Wisconsin with her parents. Mr. Cook was a soldier in the Civil War, and he and his wife resided for some time in Neillsville, Wis. Of Mr. Kramer's second marriage one child has been born, Inez M.

William E. Selke, an esteemed citizen of La Crescent township, where he is successfully operating a good farm of 190 acres, was born in this township, Dec. 17, 1874, son of William and Christina (Boldt) Selke. The father was born in Germany, July 1, 1843, and the mother, also in Germany, in 1853. William Selke, Sr., who came to America when young, became a sailor and made several trips between this country and Germany, finally settling in Houston county, Minnesota, with his parents, who engaged in farming here. The father died July 3, 1890, and the mother in 1876. William E. Selke, who was the eldest of their eight children, on his father's death became proprietor of the home farm of 190 acres, which he has continued to operate. It is well improved and he is conducting a profitable business, raising grain and stock, for which in these times he receives good prices. He is also treasurer of the South Ridge Telephone Company. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the German Lutheran church. Mr. Selke was married, June 8, 1904, to Minnie Huebner, daughter of Ferdinand and Amelia Huebner, her parents being natives of Germany, but residents for many years of Rose Valley, Winona county, where they



JOHN C. KRAMER AND FAMILY



CHARLES F. BOYNTON AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. BOYNTON

are still living. She was the eldest of their eight children. To Mr. and Mrs. Selke four children have been born: Viola Elizabeth, April 27, 1905; Wilbert Ernest, June 23, 1908; Edward William, Nov. 3, 1911; and Arnold Walter, Dec. 25, 1915.

George Warren Boynton, one of the pioneer settlers in La Crescent, where for twenty-five years or more he conducted a blacksmith's shop, was born in Vermont, June 11, 1827. As a young man he learned the blacksmith's trade and was married to Mercy Brown, who was born July 1, 1824. After a residence for a while in St. Lawrence county, New York, he brought his family in 1864 to Dakota, Minn., arriving June 5. In November of the same year he moved to La Crescent, Houston county, and here worked one winter for H. D. Gurley. At the end of that time he went to work in the shops of the Southern Minnesota Railroad at Hokah, being one of the first smiths employed on that road. After being thus occupied for a while he returned to La Crescent, and buying the brick shop building of a man known locally as "Honest John," he engaged in the blacksmith's business, continuing in it for about twenty-five years, at the end of which time he retired. At the time of his death, which occurred Aug. 10, 1909, he had been a widower for ten years, his wife having passed away, Nov. 23, 1889. Their two children, Charles Eugene and Florence Abbie, were both born in St. Lawrence county, New York, the son Oct. 22, 1856, and the daughter, May 15, 1861. The latter died Sept. 13, 1876.

Charles Eugene Boynton, who is engaged in the mercantile and ice business in the village of La Crescent, was born in Pierpont, St. Lawrence county, New York, Oct. 22, 1856, son of George Warren and Mercy (Brown) Boynton. He came to Houston county with his parents, locating at La Crescent in November, 1864, and here attended the district school. When fourteen years old he entered his father's blacksmith shop to learn the trade, and continued as an assistant and journeyman until reaching the age of twenty-seven. He then became proprietor of the shop, which he conducted until 1912. In that year he engaged in the teaming business, and in 1914 in the ice business as an additional interest. In the fall of 1918 he entered into the mercantile business, at the same time giving up teaming. Industrious and capable, he has been successful and attained to prosperous circumstances. A Democrat in politics, Mr. Boynton has at various times taken an active part in local government affairs. At an early period he served as school clerk, was supervisor of La Crescent township before the incorporation of the village, and is now village trustee and school treasurer. He is a member of the Masonic order, including the Eastern Star; also of the Woodmen and Yeomen. Mr. Boynton was married, Feb. 5, 1880, to Anna May Howard, the third born of the eight children of Edwin C. and Annie (Fahey) Howard. The father, a native of England, came to America when a young man, locating in La Crosse, Wis., which was then a small place. He was a miller by trade and later worked in McSpadden's mill in Houston, and in a mill in Hokah. He and his wife are both now deceased, as also is their daughter, Mrs. Annie May Boynton, who passed away April 22, 1913, in her fifty-first year, having been born May 1, 1862. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Boynton are: Nellie E., born March 1, 1881, who is the wife

of George H. Snure, a railroad man; and Annie M., born Jan. 20, 1883, who is the wife of William P. Burrow, a farmer and fruit grower of Mound Prairie, this county.

Theodore E. Fitting, the owner and operator of a good eighty-acre farm in section 2, La Crescent township, is a good type of the enterprising modern farmer who is an asset to any community in which he resides. He is a native of Houston county, having been born in Mound Prairie township, May 19, 1877, a son of Peter Fitting. His early education was acquired in district school No. 94, after which he took a course in the Wisconsin Business University of La Crosse, graduating therefrom in the class of 1897. For several years subsequently he was employed as clerk in a clothing store in La Crosse, after which he worked a while for his father, and from 1902 to 1905 conducted the home farm. He then purchased his present farm, on which he has made practically all the important improvements now standing, having in particular remodeled the house, which is now a neat and comfortable residence. He is engaged in diversified agriculture, of which he has an expert knowledge, and, possessing an excellent equipment, is doing a profitable business. Aside from his direct farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Creamery Association. Of sterling qualities as a man and citizen, he possesses in a high degree the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen. Religiously he is affiliated with the church of the Evangelical Association. Mr. Fitting was married, June 25 1902, to Anna Buelow, of Mound Prairie township, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., March 30, 1883, daughter of Albert and Lena (Dettborn) Buelow. Her parents for three years were farmers in Houston county, but the father is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fitting have four children, all residing at home, who were born as follows: Verner, Feb. 11, 1904; Dorothy E., Dec. 25, 1906; Alfred W., Sept. 15, 1910; and Theodore E., Jr., March 8, 1912.

Jacob Pilger, a well known and respected citizen of La Crescent township, proprietor of the Pilger farm in section 13, was born in Rockfield, Wis., Feb. 9, 1861, son of John Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Ramer) Pilger. Both parents were born in Prussia, Germany, the father in 1825 and the mother in 1823. In 1847 John Henry Pilger came to the United States, settling in Milwaukee, in which vicinity he soon took a farm. In 1865 he came to Houston county, taking a farm on South Ridge, La Crescent township, where he resided until his death in 1887. Jacob Pilger was the ninth born of his parents' ten children. He attended the local school on South Ridge and remained on the home farm assisting his father until his marriage, when he took over the place and has continued to operate it. It contains 140 acres and is well improved, and Mr. Pilger is doing a successful business, making a specialty of breeding Durham cattle. In 1894 he became one of the town supervisors and served in that office for seven consecutive years, and for twenty-five years up to 1917 he was a director on the school board. He is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company. In politics Mr. Pilger is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Evangelical church. Mr. Pilger was married Oct. 19, 1886, to Elizabeth Arnet, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Eberhard)



THEADORE E. FITTING AND FAMILY



JACOB PILGER AND FAMILY

Arnet. Her parents were natives of Prussia who came to the United States at an early date, settling first in Wisconsin, whence in 1863 they came to Houston county, taking a farm in Mound Prairie township. Mr. Arnet, who served as a soldier in the Civil War, died on his farm in 1885. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Elizabeth was the fourth in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Pilger eight children have been born: Ada, who is now Mrs. Louis Pilger of Hokah; John, deceased; George, Ruth, Arthur, deceased; Lelia, May and Elsie.

Bernard Wieser, who until his recent retirement was for a number of years engaged in business in La Crescent township as proprietor of a grist and saw mill, was born in Germany in 1866. At the age of eighteen years he came to Winona, Minn., where he found work in a planing mill, and later in the Chicago & Northwestern Railway car shops. Coming to Houston county in 1903, he bought the saw and grist mill at Groff's, on Pine Creek, La Crescent township, together with a piece of land, and engaged in business as proprietor of the mill. Later he also purchased 160 acres of land. In 1917 he retired, selling the mill to his son Louis, and took up his residence in La Crosse, where he is now living. Mr. Wieser married Barbara Roth, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., in 1864. They have been the parents of two children, Joseph and Louis, the former of whom is now operating the farm which he took over from his father.

Joseph Wieser, proprietor of a farm of 140 acres in section 3, La Crescent township, was born in Winona, Minn., Feb. 18, 1890, son of Bernard and Barbara (Roth) Wieser. His parents being Roman Catholics, he was educated in a Catholic parochial school in Winona, and in 1903 came with them to Houston county. From 1903 to 1906 he was associated with his father in the latter's grist and saw mill. He then took over his father's farm which he has since operated, giving his principal attention to dairying. He is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Valley Creamery, and is now numbered among the enterprising and prosperous citizens of his township. In politics he is independent. Mr. Wieser was married Nov. 18, 1913, to Mary Rohrer, daughter of John and Mary (Baumgartner) Rohrer. Her parents were born in Houston county, the father in Bush Valley, Hokah township, in 1864, and the mother in La Crescent township. For a number of years they were engaged in farming in Bush Valley, but in 1908 retired and took up their residence in La Crescent village. Mr. and Mrs. Wieser have one son, Alois.

William F. Weist, who is conducting a store and blacksmith shop in Pine Creek Valley, section 2, La Crescent township, was born in Mound Prairie township, Aug. 25, 1886, son of Charles and Theresa (Papenfuss) Weist. The parents, who were born in Germany, came to Houston county, Minnesota, about 1883, settling in Hokah, where the father opened and operated a blacksmith shop. Later he moved to Mound Prairie, and from there to La Crescent, where he remained about eleven years. In 1898 he removed to New Hartford township, Winona county, where he is now engaged in farming. William, who was the second born of his parents' eleven children, was educated in the schools of La Crescent. He worked on the home farm with his father until after attaining his majority, and then

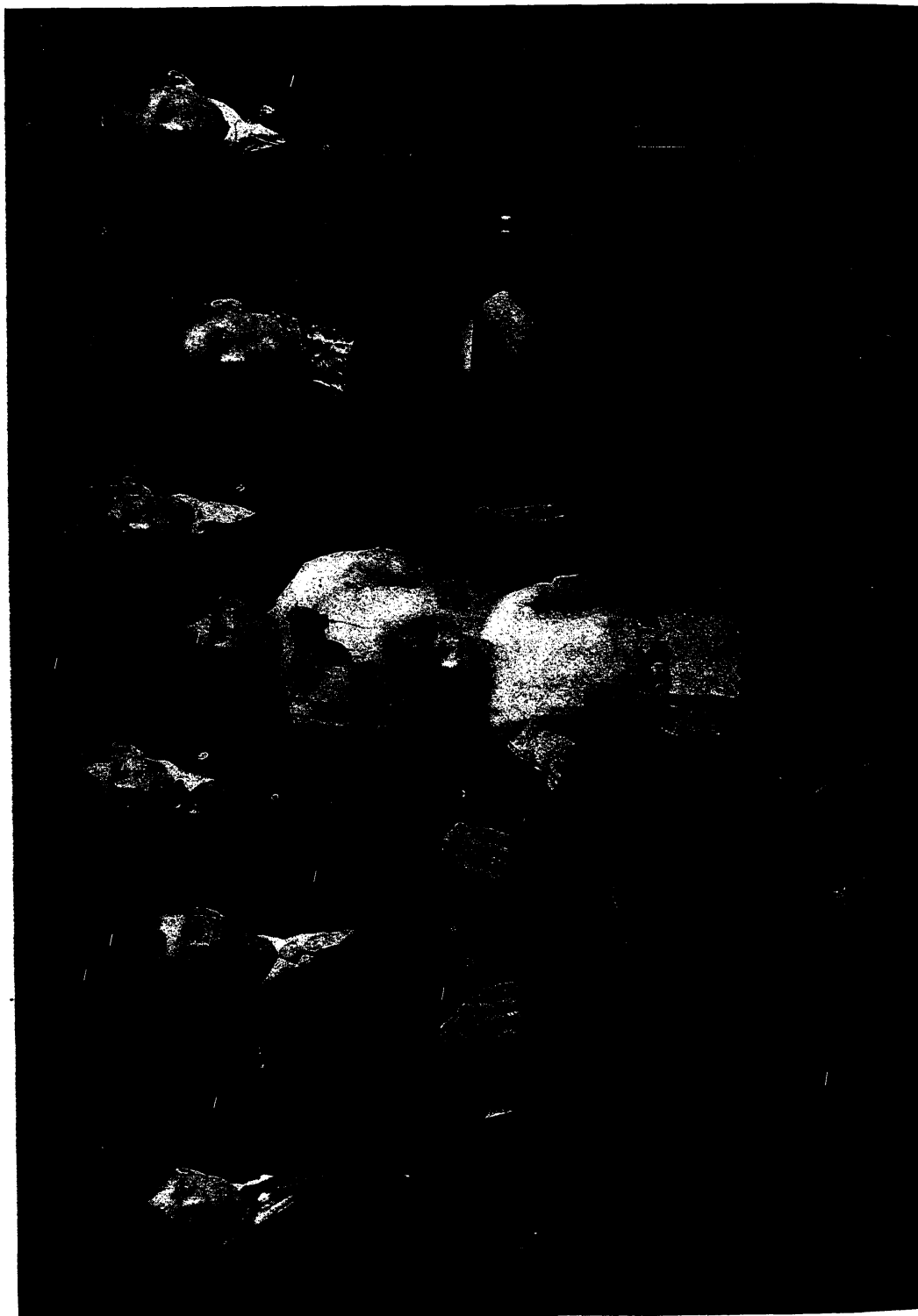
engaged in blacksmith work in La Crosse. There he remained until 1910, when he removed to his present location at the creamery in Pine Creek Valley, where he built his blacksmith shop and store building, and has since continued in business here, having a good patronage. In 1911 he served as constable and in 1914 became town clerk, in which office he is still serving. In politics he is independent and in religion a Lutheran. Mr. Weist was married April 22, 1912, to Margaret Schwartz, daughter of Herman and Eva (Smith) Schwartz, natives of Germany, who settled in Winona county, the father coming to this country at the age of fifteen years. Their daughter Margaret was the fourth born of their thirteen children. Mr. and Mrs. Weist have one child, William, Jr., born March 29, 1915.

Anton A. Bahr, a well known and respected resident of La Crescent Village, where he is engaged in several useful lines of occupation, was born in Germany, Nov. 13, 1872, son of Carl and Sophie (Fietz) Bahr. The parents were also natives of Germany, the father born in Malcho and the mother in Geritz, and it was in Malcho that they made their home after their marriage. In 1882 they emigrated to Houston county, Minnesota, locating in Mound Prairie township, where the father, Carl Bahr, died in the following year, leaving his wife and two children, of whom Anton A. was the elder, to carry on the home farm. The latter had received some schooling in Germany, and for a while attended the Loretta school on South Ridge, Mound Prairie township. At the age of thirteen he began working out, and was thus engaged, mostly at farm work, until he was twenty-five. In 1898 he had occasion to dig a well for himself, and learned the method so thoroughly that he began taking contracts to similar work for others, and has continued to do so up to the present time. He also utilizes a part of his time in operating threshing and sawing machines, and with one line of business or another, keeps employed most of his time. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent Bank, the Sterling Manufacturing Co. and the Northwestern Mail Order Co. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Lutheran. On Aug. 4, 1909, Mr. Bahr was married to Luella Yohe, daughter of Louis and Elizabeth (Elsheimer) Yohe. He and his wife are the parents of one child, Carl C. Louis Yohe, father of Mrs. Bahr, was born in Center Darlington, Wis., Dec. 4, 1859, and his wife in Greenfield, Mass., June 2, 1862. When a boy he moved with his parents to Freeburg, Minn., where until his marriage he lived on a farm. About 1887, or a little later, he moved to Reno, where he was engaged in railroad work as a section foreman, later residing in New Albin, Iowa, and coming to La Crescent in 1895. His career in railroad work covered a period of twenty-five years. In 1911 he gave it up and moved to North Dakota, where he bought land, and where he is now engaged in farming.

John Hafner, the proprietor of a good farm of 160 acres in La Crescent township, near the village of La Crescent, which he has been operating successfully since 1913, was born in this township, March 25, 1873, son of Lorenz and Mary (Meier) Hafner. His parents were natives of Germany, the father born Aug. 29, 1831. Lorenz Hafner upon coming to the United States, settled in Day Valley, Mound Prairie township, this county. There he remained until about 1868, when he moved to a farm in La Crescent



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM F. WEIST



JOHN J. HAFNER AND FAMILY

township, farming there until 1908. The rest of his life was spent in La Crosse, Wis., where he died in 1912. His wife died in 1910. John Hafner acquired his education in the district school and at the convent school in Hokah. He worked at home until 1900, in which year he bought a farm on South Ridge. Later he rented that farm to a tenant and in April, 1913, bought and moved onto his present farm, which he is operating on a profitable basis. He has good buildings and an adequate equipment of modern tools and machinery, and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. In addition to his farming interests he is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank. In religion he is a Roman Catholic. Mr. Hafner was married at La Crescent, Oct. 28, 1901, to Elizabeth Eden, daughter of Theodore and Elizabeth (Cook) Eden. Her father, born in Germany Jan. 12, 1842, came to America when about twenty-two years of age. At first he located in Iowa, where he was engaged in railroad work, but later he became a farmer in Winona county, Minnesota. From there he moved to La Crosse, Wis., where his wife, who was born in 1846, died in 1912. Then he came to La Crescent, and took up his home with John Hafner. Mr. and Mrs. Hafner have had seven children, of whom six are living. They are: Joseph, born Nov. 12, 1902; Henry, Nov. 20, 1904; Edward, Dec. 12, 1905; Nicholas, May 26, 1907; Walter, April 7, 1908; and Marie, April 15, 1915; all of whom are now living, and Jerome, who died in infancy. The Hafners occupy a recognized place among the well known and respected families of La Crescent township.

William Miller, who in partnership with his brothers, Allen and Louis, is proprietor of a good farm of 211 acres in section 22, La Crescent township, was born in this township, Aug. 25, 1882, son of John Paul and Mary (Bauser) Miller. The parents were natives of Germany, the father born in 1851, and the mother in 1862. John Paul Miller located in La Crosse, Wis., when about twenty years of age, but later bought a farm in Hokah township. In 1880 he removed to a farm in La Crescent township, which he operated until he retired from agricultural pursuits in 1913, selling his farm to his sons, and moving to Hokah Village. In 1916 he took up his residence in La Crosse, where he is now living. His wife died in 1914. William Miller was educated in the convent school at Hokah and in the La Crosse public schools. His early industrial experience was gained on the home farm, which in 1916 he bought in partnership with his brothers Allen and Louis. The farm has since been operated by the three brothers, or until July, 1918, when Louis entered the United States service, being now in France as cook with Company F, 33d Engineers. William and Allen are therefore the present operators of the farm, and are making a specialty of stock raising which they find a profitable branch of agriculture. They have a well improved place, with substantial buildings and modern equipment, and have made good progress both in the development of the farm and along financial lines. On Nov. 28, 1916, William Miller was married at La Crescent, Houston county, to Sophie Trumpi, daughter of Fred and Louisa (Forer) Trumpi. Her parents were born in Switzerland, the father Nov. 11, 1869, and the mother in 1871. Fred Trumpi came to La Crescent when fifteen years of age, and later became a farmer in Mound Prairie township,

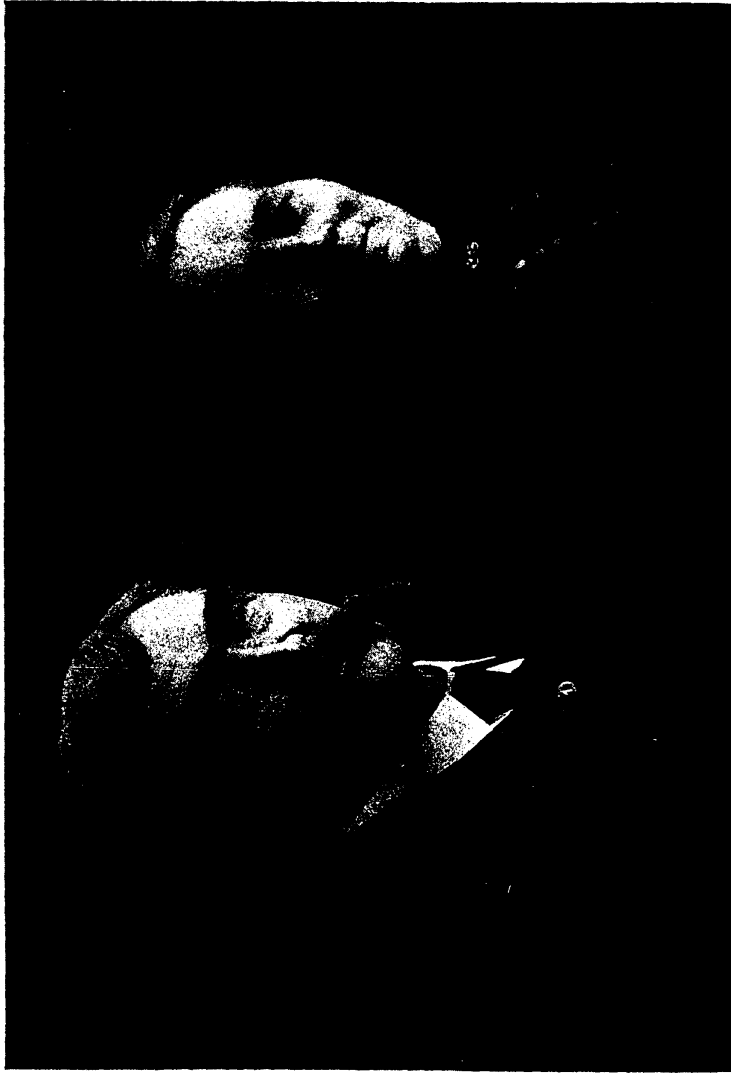
where he is still living. Mr. and Mrs. William Miller are the parents of one child, William, Jr., who was born Oct. 31, 1917. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Roman Catholic church.

John W. Welch, a well known and respected resident of La Crescent Village, who is engaged in the business of well drilling, was born in La Crescent township, this county, Sept. 6, 1863, son of Frederick and Mary Ann (Wiley) Welch. Both parents were natives of Norwich, England. They emigrated to Ohio about 1857, remained there one year, then came to Houston county, Minnesota, taking a farm on Pine Creek. There Frederick Welch, the father, died in November, 1864. His widow subsequently rented the farm and for some time thereafter resided on it in a log house. John W., who was the youngest of their six children, was educated in the school of his district. His early industrial life was occupied with assisting his parents on the farm, but in 1890 he began well drilling, an occupation in which he has since continued, and in which he has gained a reputation as an expert, and has attained to prosperous circumstances. He is president of the La Crescent State Bank, and is a stockholder in the Pine Creek Creamery. In the Masonic order he belongs to the Blue Lodge and Eastern Star. In politics he is independent and in religion a Presbyterian. Mr. Welch was first married June 20, 1900, to Jennie Bartlet, who died within two years of her marriage, leaving one son, Arthur, born June 23, 1901. Mr. Welch later married Anna Bowman, who was born in Hokah, June 19, 1885, daughter of August and Mary (Myer) Bowman, and this union has been blessed with five children: Ralph, born Dec. 5, 1904; Lester, born March 21, 1909; Clarence, born Nov. 21, 1911; Herbert, born Dec. 28, 1916; and Gerald, born Oct. 29, 1918. Mrs. Welch is a member of the Eastern Star.

John W. McCaffrey, cashier of the La Crescent State Bank and one of the leading citizens of La Crescent, was born in La Crescent township, this county, Jan. 9, 1865, son of William and Katherine (Crowe) McCaffrey. The parents were natives of Ireland, the father born in Dublin and the mother in County Tipperary. The former came to this country in 1848, settling first in New York, where he remained about a year, and then gradually working westward, reached Houston county, Minnesota, in 1863. Taking a farm in La Crescent township, he and his wife spent the rest of their lives here. John W. McCaffrey was the elder of his parents' two children. He acquired his education in the local schools and worked on the home farm until 1896. He then opened a store in the Lyons buildings in La Crescent, and in the following year erected a store building, continuing in business until 1912, in which year the La Crescent State Bank was organized, the store building being converted into a bank building, and Mr. McCaffrey becoming cashier of the institution, which position he has since retained. A Roman Catholic in religion, he is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and of the Woodmen, of which latter order he has been clerk since he joined it ten years ago. In politics Mr. McCaffrey is a Democrat. At various times he has served efficiently in public office. He was town clerk of La Crescent township before the incorporation of the village, serving as such for ten years, then became clerk of the village, which position he held for three years, and for the last three years has been village treasurer. He was



J. W. McCAFFREY



MR. AND MRS. DETRICH WETCHEN

also a member and treasurer of the school board for three years or more from the time the schoolhouse was built. Mr. McCaffrey was married June 14, 1897, to Jennie Coffey, daughter of Edward and Anne (Cowley) Coffey. He and his wife have two children: Katherine, who is now post mistress of La Crescent; and Anna, who is attending high school. Mrs. McCaffrey's parents were both natives of County Dublin, Ireland. The father, Edward Coffey, on coming to America, located first in New York, from which city he came to Houston county, Minnesota, to file a land claim at the land office at Brownsville, where he located for a time. Subsequently taking a homestead at Riceford, Minn., he resided on his farm there until 1900, when he moved to Madison, S. D., where he subsequently died. He took part in the Civil War as a member of a Minnesota regiment. He and his wife had eight children, of whom their daughter Jennie was the seventh in order of birth.

Albert M. Becker, who owns and operates a farm of 170 acres, lying partly in section 19, La Crescent township, and partly in section 30, Hokah township, was born in Greenfield, Wis., Feb. 14, 1879, son of Henry and Barbara (Klug) Becker. The father, who was born in the duchy of Luxemburg in 1845, came to this country in 1873, taking a farm on St. Joseph's Ridge, near La Crosse, Wis., where he resided until his death in 1901. His wife Barbara was born in Austria-Hungary in 1848 and is now living in La Crosse. Albert M. Becker was educated in the school of his home district, and remained on his parents' farm until the age of 14 years, when he began working out. For five years he worked in the Listman mill at La Crosse, and then, in 1911, came to Houston county and bought his present farm, which he is cultivating with profitable results. With fertile land and an adequate set of buildings he is making good progress, and is numbered among the enterprising and successful farmers of his locality. In religion he is a Roman Catholic and in politics a Democrat. On Oct. 3, 1906, Mr. Becker was united in marriage with Ida Betz, daughter of Henry and Helen (Helvig) Betz. Her parents were both born in Wisconsin, the father in 1858 and the mother in 1860. For a number of years they were engaged in farming in La Crosse county, but for the last five years have resided on a farm near Black River Falls, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Becker are the parents of six children: Herbert, Ceona, Bernice, Henry and Leo (twins) and Mary.

Dedrick Wetchen, a well known and respected resident of La Crescent, who was formerly engaged in agriculture as proprietor of a farm, was born in La Crescent, Minn., May 8, 1856, son of John Henry and Annie (Brandt) Wetchen. Both parents were natives of Bremen, Germany, and came to this country at an early date, settling first in La Crosse, Wis., whence they removed to La Crescent Township, Houston county, taking a farm in Pine Creek Valley, where the father died in 1868 and the mother on May 1, 1902. They had five children, one of whom, it is said, was the first white girl born in Houston county. Dedrick, who was the third born child, was educated in the district school on Pine Creek. He was but ten years old when his father died, after which he had to make himself useful on the farm. At the age of 18 years he became employed in the railroad shops on the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road and

was thus occupied for about three years. He then returned to the home farm, then containing 160 acres, and operated subsequently until 1913, when he took up his residence in the village. The farm, now having an area of 300 acres, is being operated by Mr. Wetchen's son Henry, whom he assists, also working occasionally at the carpenter's trade. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank. At the present time he is serving as a member of the village council, and was formerly supervisor and town treasurer. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Wetchen was married, Nov. 30, 1882, to Louisa Leidel, daughter of Heinrich and Johanna (Guenther) Leidel. He and his wife have two children: Esther, now Mrs. Charles Behrndt, and John Henry. The parents of Mrs. Wetchen were both born in Germany and on coming to the United States settled first in Ohio, whence they later came to Houston county, Minn., taking land in Pine Creek Valley. From there they moved to North Ridge, in Winona county, where they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Leidel dying Jan. 22, 1881, and his wife Dec. 18, 1887. Their daughter Louisa was the fifth born of their seven children.

William Schnedecker, an enterprising and successful general farmer residing in section 19, La Crescent township, was born in Hokah township, this county, Sept. 5, 1893, son of Joseph and Clara (Tschumper) Schnedecker. The parents are both natives of this county, the father born in Hokah in 1860 and the mother in La Crescent in 1876. They are still residing on their farm in Union township. William, who was the second born of their twelve children, in his boyhood attended school in Union Valley. He worked on the home farm assisting his father and also doing team work until 1914, when he rented a farm near Hokah and engaged in agricultural work for himself. In 1917 he moved to his present farm of 120 acres, which belonged to his grandfather and which he has purchased. Here he has made a good beginning as a general farmer, getting good prices for his grain and stock and is well along on the road to prosperity. In politics he is a Democrat and in religion a Roman Catholic. Mr. Schnedecker was united in marriage, June 5, 1917, to Anna Horihen, daughter of Joseph and Mary (McDonald) Horihen, farming people of Hokah township. Her parents, like his own, were both born in Houston county, the father in La Crescent and the mother in Brownsville township. Their daughter Anna was the eldest of their six children. Mr. and Mrs. Schnedecker have one child, Robert Joseph.

John Lehmann, a prominent representative of the farming industry in La Crescent township, residing in section 21, was born in Mound Prairie township, Nov. 22, 1878, son of Leopold and Mary (Gross) Lehmann. The father was born in Germany in November, 1851, and came to Minnesota when 10 years old, being reared to manhood on a farm in Mound Prairie township, where he subsequently followed agriculture until 1915. He then moved to La Crosse, where he died in June, 1918. His wife, Mary Gross Lehmann, who was born in Brownsville, Minn., in 1863, is still residing in La Crosse. John Lehmann, who with a twin sister was the second born in a family of ten children, acquired his education in the Bush Valley district school. He did miscellaneous work in his home neighborhood—chiefly





MR. AND MRS. JAMES FARRELL

farm work—until 1903, when he bought his present farm of 297 acres, which is well improved and where he is carrying on general farming with profitable results. His home, erected in 1916, is one of the prettiest in the township. It is a modern house of eight rooms and full basement, built of tile and cement, the cement being broom finished. There are many conveniences and comforts, including a pipeless furnace and a Delco lighting system which serves both house and barns. The house is well located both as to beauty and suitability and will remain as a monument to Mr. Lehmann's good taste, thrift and faith in the future. He is also a stockholder in the Hokah Farmers' State Bank. His religious faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Lehmann assumed the responsibilities of domestic life on Oct. 30, 1906, when he was united in marriage in La Crescent with Anna Tschumper, daughter of Emil and Veronica (Hicky) Tschumper. Her parents, who were born in Germany about 1848, came to Minnesota when young, settling on a farm in La Crescent, where they remained until 1917. They then sold their farm and removed to Hokah. To Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann four children have been born: Edward, July 30, 1907; Leona, May 25, 1910; Julius, Aug. 15, 1913; and Hilda, Oct. 2, 1915.

Thomas McCaffrey, who is now living practically retired in the village of La Crescent, was born in La Crescent township, Oct. 27, 1867, son of William and Katherine (Crowe) McCaffrey. The father was born in Dublin, Ireland, and came to America in 1847, locating in one of the Eastern states. Later he came west to Wisconsin, residing near Milwaukee for several years and then removing to La Crescent. Here he was engaged in farming until his death in April, 1909. His wife Katherine was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland. Thomas, who was the younger of his parents' two children, was educated in La Crescent and was trained to agriculture on the home farm, assisting his father until the latter's death. He then took a farm of 240 acres near La Crescent, operating it as a general farmer until 1917, when he retired and took up his residence in the village, renting his farm. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank and is a member of the local camp of Woodmen. In religion he is a Roman Catholic, while his political affiliations are with the Democratic party. Mr. McCaffrey was married, May 2, 1906, to Rose Cotter, daughter of John and Katherine (Cadigan) Cotter. Of this marriage three children have been born: Elva, Frances and William.

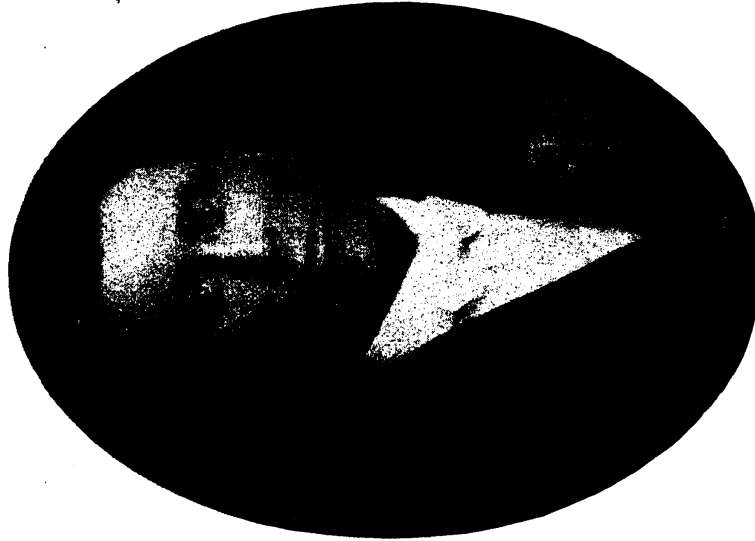
John Cotter, the father of Mrs. McCaffrey, was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1842, and came to the United States at the age of 13 years, his family locating at Ogdensburg, N. Y. He later came west to Montello, Wis., where he was married to Katherine Cadigan, a native of that place, born in 1854. From that time until their death they were engaged in farming at Buffalo, Wis. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom their daughter Rose was the third in order of birth.

James W. Farrell, who for the last thirty-three years has been engaged in farming the old Farrell homestead in La Crescent township, his residence lying in section 8, was born in this township, Nov. 22, 1856, son of Michael and Bridget (Lynch) Farrell. The parents were both natives of

Ireland, the father born in County Cork in 1819 and the mother in County Clare in 1824. On coming to the United States at an early date they located in Vermont, near Lake Champlain, where for some years they conducted a fruit farm. In 1855 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, then in the pioneer stage of its history, and took land on Pine Creek, La Crescent township, where they developed a farm on which they spent the rest of their days. James W. Farrell remained on the homestead until about 1882, when, a young man of about 25 years, he went west to the Pacific coast, where he remained about three months, after which he returned east as far as Chicago, where he entered into business as a cattle dealer, shipping cattle from Chicago to London, Liverpool and ports in Ireland. While engaged in this business he made four trips across the ocean. In 1886 he returned to Houston county, Minnesota, and took up his residence on the old homestead in La Crescent township, where he has since been engaged in general farming. His estate contains 300 acres and is well improved, being provided with good substantial buildings and a full equipment of modern farm machinery and implements. Mr. Farrell has enjoyed a prosperous career and is numbered among the enterprising and successful men of his township. In politics he is a Democrat with independent proclivities, usually voting for the best man regardless of party, but preferring to cast his vote for a Democrat when he can conscientiously do so. In religion he is a Roman Catholic. He was married on Nov. 5, 1891, at St. James' Catholic Church, Wabash avenue and Twenty-second street, Chicago, to Margaret Sheehan, born Sept. 15, 1867, daughter of John and Margaret (Dannahey) Sheehan. He and his wife are the parents of five children: Florence, a teacher; Irene, who is keeping house on the home farm; James, who is farming 143 acres of land in La Crescent township; Margaret, a teacher; and George, residing on the home farm.

John Sheehan, the father of Mrs. Farrell, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1829, and his wife Margaret in the same county, May 19, 1835. The latter came to America when 13 years of age, her family settling in Auburn, N. Y., where she was later married to Mr. Sheehan, who had come to this country in the same year as herself, also locating in Auburn. In 1865 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, taking homestead land near Caledonia, where they established a farm. The father died May 22, 1876, and the mother Nov. 22, 1914.

John Doehle, who is now living retired in the village of La Crescent, after a successful career in agriculture, was born in La Crescent township, this county, Oct. 5, 1858, son of Diedrich and Augusta (Koch) Doehle. His parents were natives of Germany, the father born in Bremen, Dec. 27, 1816. The latter, after making a trip to America and returning to his native land, came again to this country to make his home here, landing at New Orleans, where he married Augusta Koch, who was born in Germany in 1839, and who was, therefore, some 22 or 23 years younger than himself. After being engaged in oyster fishing on the Gulf of Mexico for awhile in 1854 he came up the river to Minnesota, settling with his wife in Pine Creek Valley, Houston county, where he spent the rest of his life, he dying in 1901 and his wife in 1904. John Doehle, who was the fifth born



MR. AND MRS. OTTO SELKE

of his parents' eleven children, was educated in the district school on Pine Creek and in early youth assisted his father on the home farm. Later he engaged in agriculture on his own account and finally took a farm of 160 acres in Pine Creek Valley, which he operated until his retirement in 1914, when he moved to the village of La Crescent. As the result of his former years of industry and thrift he is now in comfortable circumstances. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. Doehle was married Oct. 29, 1902, to Emilie Petry, daughter of Carl and Katherine (Foster) Petry. Her parents were natives of Germany, the father being an officer in the quartermaster's department of the German army. The mother was born in 1837 in Nierstein, but they spent their lives for the most part in Darmstadt, neither coming to this country. Mrs. Doehle was the fifth born of their nine children.

Otto F. Selke, who is prosperously engaged in agriculture on a farm of 150 acres in section 17, La Crescent township, was born in La Crescent, June 18, 1881, son of Frederick and Christina (Hettmann) Selke. The father, born in Germany in 1850, came to Minnesota at the age of 26 years, settling on a farm on South Ridge, La Crescent township, Houston county, where he remained until his death in April, 1895. His wife subsequently carried on the farm until 1907, when she retired from active work but continued to reside on it until 1917, when she removed to Hokah, this county. In 1918 she went to Donna, in southern Texas, near the Mexican border, where she remained until March 1, when she returned to the old farm where she now lives with her son, Otto F. Frederick and Christina Selke were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. Otto F. Selke was educated in the district school and began industrial life as his father's assistant on the home farm. For nine years he was associated with his father in operating a threshing outfit and sawing timber. From 1908 to 1912 he operated the home farm on his own account under rental and then purchased 150 acres of it, which constitutes his present farm, which he has under good cultivation. He is engaged in general farming, having adequate buildings and an equipment of modern tools and machinery. Since starting in for himself he has made good progress and has taken his place among the prosperous citizens of his township. In 1915 and 1916 he served as town assessor. As a native of the township and a son of early settlers here he is widely known and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Selke was married at Hokah, this county, on Nov. 6, 1907, to Theresa Ruff, daughter of John and Amelia (Kletzke) Ruff, she being the youngest of their seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Selke have two children: Alice, born July 9, 1910, at Hokah, and Esther, born in La Crescent, Nov. 3, 1912. John Ruff, father of Mrs. Selke, was born in Germany, June 24, 1853, and was seven years old when he came to this country. For two or three years he resided in Philadelphia and then came with his parents to Houston county, Minn., where he grew to manhood and became a farmer, residing in this locality until his death, which occurred March 21, 1909. His wife, who was born in Germany in 1845, died in 1887. They were the parents of seven children, of whom their daughter Theresa, now Mrs. Selke, was the youngest.

Frank A. Hafner, one of the younger farmers of La Crescent township, who rents and operates a farm of 440 acres belonging to his mother, was born in this township, June 13, 1895, son of Frank H. and Maggie (Reinhardt) Hafner. The parents were natives of Houston county, the father born in La Crescent and the mother in Caledonia. They were reared in this locality and after their marriage owned and operated farms in La Crescent township until the father's death, which occurred Dec. 3, 1917. The mother, Mrs. Maggie Hafner, now resides in a comfortable modern home in Hokah. Frank A. Hafner was educated in public and parochial schools at Hokah and La Crosse. Brought up to agricultural pursuits, he subsequently worked with his father until the latter's death, when he took charge of the farm, renting it from his mother. It is a well improved place with good buildings and a complete equipment of modern tools and machinery, Mr. Hafner operating it successfully, carrying on general farming, with a view to specializing in stock raising. In May, 1919, he purchased an improved farm of 105 acres in Caledonia township, where he will make his future home and where he will carry out his plans of general farming and stock raising. In common with the members of the Hafner family generally, he is a member of the Catholic church. On April 23, 1918, Mr. Hafner was married at St. Peter's church, Caledonia, to Clara Rose Konzem, the daughter and youngest of ten children of John and Barbara (Konzem) Konzem. Both her parents were born in Germany, the father in 1843 and the mother in 1853. Mr. Konzem at the age of 21 years settled in St. Paul, Minn., where for about five years he was employed in the lumber mills. He then came to Caledonia, Houston county, where he bought a farm with his wife, who had come to this place at the age of seven years. He died in 1898, but his wife, who survived him, is still residing on the farm which they purchased together.

William Finn, who owns and operates a farm of 208 acres in La Crescent township, residing in section 5, was born in this township, Feb. 15, 1857, son of Patrick and Mary (Cain) Finn. The parents were natives of County Limerick, Ireland, the father born in 1814 and the mother in 1824. On emigrating to America they spent some time in the Eastern states and then came west to Wisconsin and were engaged in farming several years near Fox Lake. Then coming to Minnesota they settled on a farm in Pine Creek Valley, Houston county, where they spent the rest of their lives. William, who was the fourth born of their eight children, was educated in the district school in Pine Creek Valley. Until 25 years old he worked for his father, after which he spent two years in Minneapolis. He then returned to Houston county, lived here awhile in Pine Creek Valley and Money Creek and then spent a year in La Crosse. Then returning to Houston county he settled on his present farm of 208 acres, which he is conducting on a profitable basis. For several years he has served as a member of the town board of supervisors and was town assessor for four or five years, rendering efficient service in both capacities. In politics he is an independent Democrat, and in religion a member of the Catholic church. For twenty years he has been a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

WILLIAM FINN AND FAMILY



Mr. Finn was married Feb. 25, 1892, to Mary Farrell, born April 14, 1865, daughter of Bartholomew and Honora (Casey) Farrell. Both parents were born in Ireland, the father in County Cork in 1829, and the mother in County Clare in 1834. Mr. Farrell emigrated to Vermont at the age of 18 years and was engaged in farm work in the East until his marriage, when he and his wife came to Houston County, Minnesota, and took a farm on Pine Creek, where they were among the first settlers. Their daughter Mary was the fourth born of their seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Finn are the parents of three children: Frank, born April 6, 1894, a veteran of the United States Service in the Great War; William, born Sept. 21, 1898, and Eileen, born July 7, 1901.

John S. Harris, one of the pioneers of the horticultural industry in Houston county, the founder of Sunnyside Gardens at La Crescent, was born at Seville, Ohio, Sept. 17, 1827. In his native state he learned the carpenter's trade, but while still a very young man enlisted for service in the Mexican war of 1845-46, from which he returned broken in health. Soon after he came west to La Crosse, Wis., and there in 1851 began market gardening, continuing there until 1854. During that period he was married to Melissa J. Clayton, who was born in New York State, Aug. 17, 1831. From La Crosse they moved to La Crescent, Houston county, where in the spring of 1856 Mr. Harris established the Sunnyside Gardens of 40 acres and engaged in the cultivation of vegetables and flowers, making a specialty of the more valuable varieties. In that business he was engaged until his death in March, 1901, gaining a widespread reputation as an expert horticulturist. He was a charter member of the State Horticultural Society, a contributor to many horticultural magazines, and at times lectured for state horticultural institutes. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Emma J., who died in September, 1917; Frank I.; Eugene E., of Onalaska, Wis.; and Ida M., now Mrs. D. W. Robinson, of Caledonia.

Frank I. Harris, a retired horticulturist and fruit cultivator, now residing in the village of La Crescent, was born in La Crosse, Wis., Nov. 25, 1854, son of John S. and Melissa J. (Clayton) Harris. He was an infant when his parents moved to La Crescent, Houston county, Minn., his father establishing the horticultural farm known as Sunnyside Gardens. Here as he grew up he attended the local school, later taking a course at the La Crosse Business College. At the age of 21 years he became associated with his father as a partner, the connection lasting for twenty years, at the end of which time he leased the place and continued the business alone, inheriting the property at his mother's death. After taking over the business he dropped the vegetable industry, which his father had followed in part, and devoted his energies to fruit culture, in which he achieved a pronounced success. In 1913 Mr. Harris retired and took up his residence in the village, where he is now living. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent Bank, the La Crosse Telephone Company and the Cumberland Fruit Package Company. Since his retirement he has served in various town offices, including those of village recorder, assessor and school clerk, in which last mentioned position he is now serving. In politics he is an independent Democrat. He is now conducting a store at La Crescent handling

a line of merchandise, candies, ice cream, fruit and the like. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Harris was married at Baraboo, Wis., Jan. 25, 1882, to Dora G. White, eldest of the two children of Alvin C. and Mary (Courtright) White. Her parents were natives of eastern states, the father born in New York in 1826 and the mother in New Jersey in 1828. On coming west they settled first in Illinois, then in Wisconsin, later in Kansas, and finally, about 1884, in Minnesota. The father died in January, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of two sons and one daughter: Ralph, now at Sunnyside, and John, who resides at home, a veteran of the United States service in the great war, and Vinnie M. Cook, who resides at home.

Thomas Finn, one of the leading stock farmers of La Crescent township, residing in section 1, was born at Fox Lake, Wis., Feb. 1, 1853, son of Patrick and Mary (Cain) Finn. The parents were both natives of Ireland. The father, Patrick Finn, born in County Limerick in or about the year 1818, when a young man emigrated to the United States, locating first in Massachusetts, where for five or six years he was engaged in railroad work. Then coming west, he settled in Wisconsin, taking a farm, but in 1863 removed to Pine Creek Valley, Houston county, Minn., where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives as farmers. Their son Thomas, who was the second born in a family of nine children, attended school in Pine Creek Valley, and lived and worked on the home farm until reaching the age of thirty years. He then bought his present farm of 280 acres, which he has since operated, giving particular attention to the breeding of Durham cattle, Chester White and Poland-China hogs, and other good stock, in which branch of the farming industry he is doing a profitable business. He has served as town supervisor several terms. In politics he is a Democrat and in religion a Roman Catholic. June 1, 1883, Mr. Finn was united in marriage with Honora Farrell, daughter of Bartholomew and Norah (Casey) Farrell, she being the second born of their nine children. Her parents were natives, respectively, of County Cork and County Clare, Ireland. The father on coming to this country settled in Vermont, where he was married, and then with his wife, and accompanied by a brother, came west to Houston county, settling first at Toledo Mill in Pine Creek Valley, and later buying land and establishing a farm in La Crescent township, on which he and his wife resided for the rest of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Finn seven children have been born, Mary, John, George, Morris, Annabel, Margaret and Roger. Morris was in the United States service three months at Camp Dodge. Margaret is a teacher.

Helmer K. Ike, a prominent farmer and respected citizen of Black Hammer township, residing in section 27, was born in this township Aug. 11, 1876, son of Knut and Maren Ike. The parents came to America at an early date, and the father, now nearly eighty years old, is living on the old homestead in this township. They had five children: Cornelius, deceased; Helmer K., subject of this sketch; Martin; Carl, now a farmer at Wild Rose, N. D.; and Sarah, wife of O. E. Dahl, who is working Mr. Ike's farm. Helmer K. Ike acquired his education in the district school, which he attended as he had opportunity up to the age of fourteen years. Outside from school

THOMAS FINN AND FAMILY



hours he had to work hard on the home farm, being his father's assistant up to the age of twenty-one years. On May 27, 1898, he was married to Anna Maria, daughter of Thor E. and Anna Maria (Otterness) Holum, of Black Hammer township, her mother having been one of the first white children born in this section. In the year following his marriage Mr. Ike rented the Vinge farm in Black Hammer township, he and his wife having in the meanwhile resided on his parents' place. He operated the Vinge farm until the fall of 1901, at which time he bought the Orested farm in section 27, four and a half miles north of Spring Grove Village, on which he is now living. The property was improved, but the buildings were poor, consisting of a small frame house and a few sheds. Mr. Ike has added sixty-one acres to the original area and now has 125 acres, the farm being well fenced and well tilled. In 1910 he built a frame barn, 32 by 56 by 16 feet in size, with a full nine-foot stone basement; and in 1915 he erected a modern two-story, ten-room house, provided with furnace heat and other conveniences. He has also made other improvements, and has running water in all his buildings. One hundred acres of his land are under the plow, the rest being in timber and pasture. He is raising Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, having fullblooded sires, and is doing a prosperous business. He also owns stock in the Spring Grove Creamery, Stock & Grain Co., and the Equity Shipping Association. In politics a Republican, he has served for the last ten years as town clerk, and has for years been a member of the school board of his district. His residence is one of the most beautiful in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Ike are the parents of three children: Melvin, born Sept. 17, 1899, who graduated from Spring Grove high school in 1918; Theodore, born Nov. 17, 1901, and Clara, born April 8, 1906, the two latter residing on the home farm. Mr. Ike and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Congregation of Black Hammer, of which he is a trustee.

Erick Karlsbraaten, the founder of a good farm in section 21, Black Hammer township, lying six and a half miles from Spring Grove Village, was born in Norway, Feb. 2, 1853, and died on his farm in this township, June 21, 1912, at the age of fifty-nine years. He was a very young child when he came with his parents to the United States. In September, 1872, he was married to Kari Rask, who was born in Norway, June 28, 1844, and who had come with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Rask, to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1857. In 1874, the second year after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Karlsbraaten bought their first land in section 21, Black Hammer township, a wild tract which forms a part of the present farm. For some years their only dwelling was a dugout with pole and sod roof, but they labored hard to improve their lot, clearing the land and erecting better buildings according to their progress. They also in time bought more land, building up the farm to its present area of 280 acres, besides purchasing a tract of 100 acres not far away from the homestead. The buildings which they erected include a comfortable seven-room frame house; a barn 32 by 64 by 18 feet, with full stone basement of nine feet, for horses and cattle; a granary, two machine sheds, poultry house, etc., all being in good condition. Mr. Karlsbraaten was a steady, industrious man and a

respected citizen of his township. In politics he was a Republican. He was a prominent member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. His wife, who survives him, is still residing on the old home farm. Their children were as follows: Olaus, now living in Spring Grove Village; Maria, wife of Knute Dahle of Black Hammer township; Martin, a carpenter living at home; Ingeborg, deceased; Hannah, who lives on the home farm and keeps house for her mother and brother, Elling; and Elling E., who is operating the farm, and who is unmarried.

Elling E. Karlsbraaten, who is operating the old Karlsbraaten farm in section 21, Black Hammer township, was born in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota, Nov. 3, 1872, son of Erick and Kari (Rask) Karlsbraaten. He was about two years old when his parents moved to the farm in Black Hammer township on which he is now living, and where his early years were spent amid somewhat primitive surroundings, the family residence being a dugout. This, however, was in time replaced by a comfortable dwelling. In the work of clearing the land and cultivating it, and erecting good buildings, Elling E. assisted his father, and has had much to do with the general improvement of the estate, which now contains 280 acres, besides another tract of 100 acres in the vicinity. Since his father's death the subject of this sketch has operated the farm, his mother residing with him. It is well equipped with all the necessary teams, tools and machinery, and is stocked with graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, each herd having pure bred sires. The present house is a fine modern residence, with beautiful surroundings, and the farm is well fenced with all the buildings in good condition. Mr. Karlsbraaten is doing an extensive and profitable business and ranks among the leading men of his township. He is a member of the town board, having been supervisor for two terms, and in politics is a Republican. He is a member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

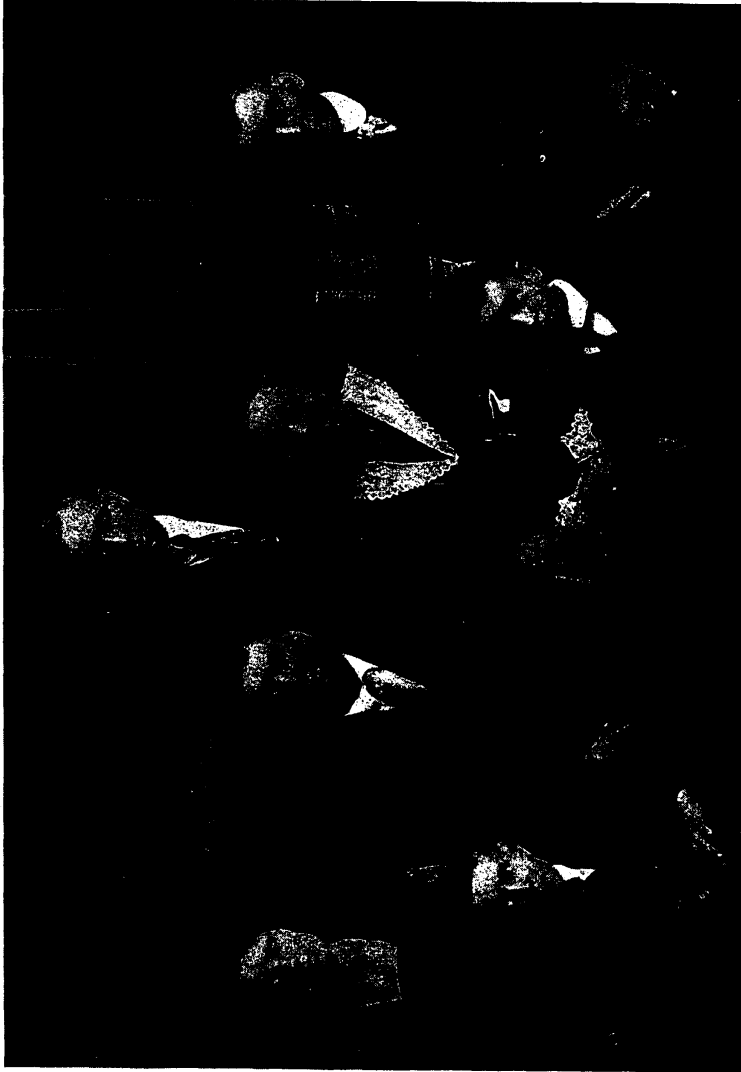
Erick Ellestad, for many years a substantial farmer of Wilmington township, was born in Norway, and came to America in youth. For some time he worked as a farm hand in Wilmington township, and on March 24, 1874, married Guri Erickson, daughter of Torkel and Amelia (Krausag) Erickson. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ellestad moved onto what is now the William Gjergingsen farm in Wilmington township. There they toiled and labored together for many years, and there raised their large family of children. A Republican in politics, Mr. Ellestad took an active part in the affairs of his neighborhood, served on the town board and in other local offices, and was especially prominent in church affairs. In 1903 the family moved to Spring Grove Village where Mr. Ellestad died Jan. 22, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Ellestad were the parents of nine children: Henry, Tollef, Amelia, Gerhard, Carl, Emma, Clara, Gena and Nellie. Henry was born Feb. 20, 1876, and now operates his mother's farm in Black Hammer township. Tollef was born Jan. 22, 1877, and operates a farm near Holt, Minn. Amelia was born Aug. 28, 1879, and is the wife of Andrew Weissness, a farmer of Charleston, N. D. Gerhard was born Dec. 16, 1882, and is now a farmer at Keene, McKenzie county, N. D. Carl was born Feb. 1, 1885, and works on his mother's farm. Emma was born Nov. 10, 1886, married

Gerhard Gilbertson of McKenzie county, North Dakota, and died Feb. 10, 1911. Clara was born Jan. 1, 1889, was educated at Faribault, and lives at home. Nellie, born Feb. 12, 1892, and Gena, born Dec. 25, 1893, both died in infancy. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Spring Grove, in which they have all taken an active part. Guri Erickson, now Mrs. Erick Ellestad, was born at Pine Creek, Alamakee county, Iowa, October 23, 1855, daughter of Torkel and Amelia (Krausag) Erickson, both of whom came to America from Norway as children. Losing her mother when she was two years old, the child Guri was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Haagensen, of Black Hammer township, who proved faithful and loving foster parents. Mr. and Mrs. Haagensen were among the pioneers of Black Hammer township, and purchased the 174 acres where their foster daughter now lives when Franklin Pierce was president of the United States. They both died in Fillmore county, she in September, 1896, and he in June, 1903. While still in Spring Grove Village, Mrs. Ellestad purchased the homestead of her foster parents, and placed her son, Henry, in charge, moving there herself some time after her husband's death. This farm of 174 acres, five miles northwest of Spring Grove Village, is well fenced, well tilled, and highly productive, 115 acres being under the plow and the remainder in timber and pasturage. The operating equipment is good, and the buildings are excellent. When Mrs. Ellestad purchased the place there was standing on it a substantial and comfortable frame house built over a half century ago, as well as a good frame barn on a full stone nine-foot basement, granary and other buildings. She and her son have added a stave silo, poultry house, machine shed, granary and other buildings. In the summer of 1919 she erected a new modern frame house of twelve rooms. In addition to carrying on general farming and raising the usual crops, a specialty is made of pure blood and grade short horn cattle and Poland-China swine, some fifty or sixty hogs being shipped annually. Mrs. Ellestad is a hard working, highly respected woman, justly proud of her fine family and farm. She is much interested in early history, and has preserved the log buildings erected in the fifties by her foster-parents.

Ole A. Stenehjøm, who established the fine Stenehjøm farm in Black Hammer township, was born in Norway, May 18, 1848, son of Ammond and Kari Stenehjøm. He was only a year old when he accompanied his parents to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1854. Then coming to Houston county, Minnesota, they settled in Wilmington township, their first dwelling here being a hut or shack of poplar poles, with a sod roof. Being very poor they worked hard to improve their condition, and their son, Ole, had to make himself useful at a very early age, getting little schooling. In 1869, while still residing with his parents, Ole assumed the responsibilities of domestic life on his own account by marrying Anne Ellestad, and until 1872 they made their home on a part of the Stenehjøm farm in Wilmington township. In the latter year, however, he purchased 160 acres in sections 22 and 28, Black Hammer township and moved onto the land, where he immediately began improvements. A subsequent purchase of fifty-two acres enlarged his farm to an area of 212 acres, which is its size today. When he took possession of his original purchase, but twelve acres

had been broken, and Mr. Stenehjem hired help to grub and break more of the land, also buying a small log house in the vicinity, which he moved onto it, and in which he and his family lived for many years. With oxen and horses he continued the work of improvement, his wife often helping him in the field, and success finally crowned their united efforts, so that the farm is now one of the best in the county. In 1899 Mr. Stenehjem built a fine two-story brick house, surrounding it with beautiful evergreens planted by his own hand, and among the buildings he had previously erected were a good frame barn, a granary, machine shed, corn cribs and ice house, all of which are now in good condition. The farm is also well fenced, and the tools, machinery and other equipment are of the best. On Feb. 22, 1903, Mr. Stenehjem passed from this life's activities to the life beyond the grave, his loss being deeply regretted throughout the community. His widow, who survives him, is still residing on the old homestead, the farm being now operated by her son, J. Selmer. Born in Norway, Oct. 22, 1847, she came to this country at the age of ten years, and has now attained that of seventy-one, being still in reasonably good health. Mr. Stenehjem, who was a Republican in politics, served the town in various official capacities. He was a prominent member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church. To him and his wife the following children were born: Maria, now Mrs. Hans Trehus of Wilmington township; Albert, deceased; Emma, wife of H. M. Habberstad, of Kindred, N. D.; Peter, of Esmond, N. D.; Hogen O., of Plentywood, Mont., where he is engaged in the banking business; Clara, residing at home; Anna, now Mrs. Olof Drovdal, of Anagard, N. D.; Inga, wife of Adolph Soleum, a farmer of Black Hammer township; and J. Selmer, who is operating the home farm.

J. Selmer Stenehjem, who is operating the old Stenehjem farm in sections 21, 28 and 29, Black Hammer township, being its present proprietor, was born on this farm, Nov. 26, 1891, son of Ole A. and Anne (Ellestad) Stenehjem. The parents were natives of Norway who were married in Houston county in 1869, residing on a farm in Wilmington township until 1872, when they removed to Black Hammer township and gradually built up the farm on which the subject of this sketch is now living. The latter was educated in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 15 years, and in the Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin, Minn., where he was a student in 1910 and 1911. He has resided on the home farm except for one year, and gave material assistance to his father in its development. Since the father's death in 1903 he has been engaged in operating it, his mother residing with him. The estate now contains 212 acres, and has an excellent set of buildings, including a fine, two-story brick house and good frame barn. Mr. Stenehjem is a breeder of pure Red Poll cattle, and has also a fine herd of graded Shorthorns, and another of Poland-China hogs. His operating equipment is first-class and includes the most modern machinery. Progressive and enterprising, he has won a place for himself among the prosperous and well to do citizens of his township. In addition to his direct farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Creamery and the Equity Shipping Association of



GEORGE WRIGHT AND FAMILY

Spring Grove. On June 2, 1917, Mr. Stenehjem was married to Georgiana, daughter of Ole G. and Gubrid Nelson of Hatton, N. D. They have one child, Julian Sidney, who was born Feb. 17, 1918. The family are members of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

George Wright, who carries on extensive agricultural, threshing and portable sawmill operations in Houston and Fillmore county, is a fine example of the modern farmer and business man. One of the most active men in his community, he is respected and honored, his work has been successful, and he is doing his share toward the upbuilding of the community in every way. Living in a community almost entirely made up of people of another nationality, his character has won for him the recognition and position which he now enjoys. During the recent world war his work won for him an enviable reputation as being in the front ranks of American citizenship. George Wright was born in Black Hammer township, in which township he still resides, Feb. 18, 1863, son of Thomas T. and Elizabeth Wright, who were born in Ireland, came to America at an early age, were married in Pennsylvania and in 1858 came to Houston county, where the father died in the sixties and where the mother, at the good old age of 85, still lives with her bachelor son, William, on the Fillmore county line. Early left without a father, George Wright started to shift for himself at the age of 12 and has since devoted his life to hard work. After his marriage in 1888 he settled on the Bailey farm in Yucatan township. About two years later he moved to the Brill farm in the same township, where he lived six or seven years. It was in 1897 that he bought 120 acres of land in Black Hammer township, on which a few improvements had been made. On this farm he still lives. Eighty acres are under the plow. He later purchased another farm in the same township. Of this farm 30 acres are under the plow and the remainder in timber and pasture. The farm, which he and his mother jointly own and which he also operates, consists of 80 acres in Fillmore county and 80 acres in Black Hammer township, and of this 140 acres are under the plow. In addition to these three farms he also operates 200 acres adjoining his farm on the east. His operating equipment is all good. He raises the usual diversified crops, breeds large numbers of Poland-China swine, has a good herd of some 125 Poll-Angus cattle and owns about 25 horses. In addition to this he has two threshing outfits which he successfully conducts each fall, and he also has a portable sawmill outfit which he operates successfully in the two counties.

Mr. Wright was married in August, 1888, to Jane Lee, daughter of Knut Lee, of Black Hammer township. This union has been blessed with three children: Frances, Arthur R. and Henry. Frances was born May 10, 1889, and first married Charles Kallis, by whom she has two children who are now being reared in the Wright home. She is now Mrs. Andrew Johnson, of Riceford, Minn. Arthur R. was born Oct. 25, 1892, and assists his father in operating his farms. He married Ida Tellefson, daughter of Peter and Anna Tellefson, and has two children. Henry was born Oct. 27, 1897, and also assists the father. The family attends the Preble Catholic church in Fillmore county.

Olaus Harstad, whose fertile farm of 200 acres lies in Yucatan Valley, section 18, Black Hammer township, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, July 21, 1871, son of Jonas and Brinil Harstad. His parents, coming from Norway in 1869, settled near Riceford, Houston county, and resided there many years, subsequently moving to Fillmore county and later to the farm in section 18, Black Hammer township, Houston county, on which the subject of this sketch now lives. The latter attended district school up to the age of 15 years and remained at home with his parents. He assisted his father to buy the farm, of which in 1916 he became sole proprietor. Of its total area of 200 acres 100 are now under cultivation, the balance being in pasture and timber. The house is a comfortable frame structure, while the barns are built of logs. One of the latter was erected in 1917. The situation is picturesque, the farm being surrounded by high bluffs. Mr. Harstad is doing a successful business, his stock consisting chiefly of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. He is also a stockholder in the Yucatan Creamery Association. Among his buildings is a garage for the housing of his Ford auto. Mr. Harstad was married, May 31, 1900, to Olava B., daughter of Peter and Anne Tollefson, of Black Hammer township. He and his wife have three children: Benora, born Aug. 13, 1906; Pauline, born July 8, 1911, and Olga, born Sept. 3, 1915. The family are members of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Ole C. G. Otterness, a thriving farmer residing on the old Otterness homestead in Black Hammer township, section 15, was born on his present farm, in June, 1862, son of Guttorm and Briitha (Frandel) Otterness. The parents, natives of Norway, were among the early settlers in this township, beginning as pioneer farmers when very poor, but finally building up a good farm. The father, who was born Feb. 3, 1823, died April 16, 1887; the mother, born June 9, 1829, died Aug. 21, 1897, surviving her husband a little over ten years. They were worthy and industrious people and much respected. Several of the original log buildings erected by Guttorm Otterness are still standing on the farm. Of the nine children in the family, five are now living, namely; Iver, residing on a neighboring farm in this township; Martha, now Mrs. James Winjun; Jane, wife of Ole Lee; Ole C. G., and Carrie married to Ole J. Winjun, all being residents of Black Hammer township. Ole, who acquired his education in the district school, has always lived on the home farm, which contains 157 acres. Of this area he has 95 under cultivation, all the land being good and well fenced. The present farm residence is a substantial nine-room frame house, and among the other buildings are a frame barn, 26 by 60 by 18 feet, with a leanto for cattle, 12 by 60; a granary, machine shed, corn cribs and similar structures, all of which are in good condition. The farm is conducted on a profitable basis and Mr. Otterness is recognized as one of the successful and enterprising men of his township. He has served several terms as a member of his district school board, in politics being a Republican. With his family he is a member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Otterness was married in June, 1895, to Ingebor, daughter of Elling and Sigri Veum. She was born in Riceford.



PETER ONSTAD AND FAMILY

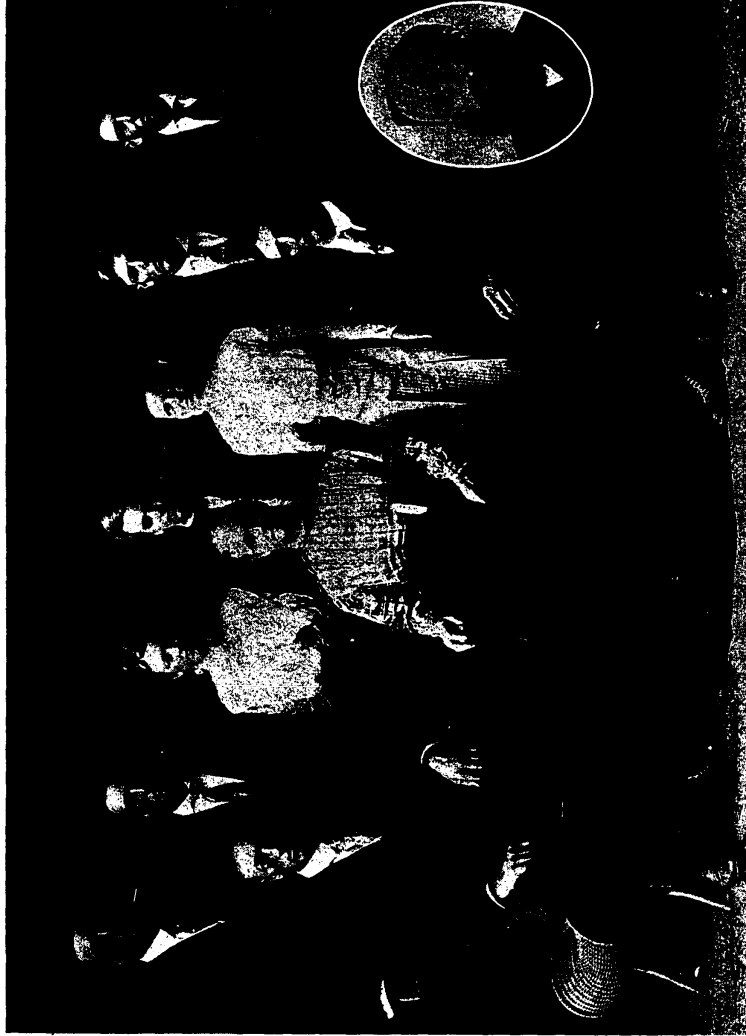
Spring Grove township, Nov. 16, 1866, but at the time of her marriage was residing with her parents in Black Hammer township. Mr. and Mrs. Otterness have four children: Guttorm, born May 22, 1896, who is operating the home farm for his father; Sarah, born Nov. 25, 1897, who graduated from the Houston Normal School and is now teaching in Houston county; Benora, born Oct. 20, 1899, and Olga, born Sept. 3, 1901, who, as well as Sarah, are residing on the home farm.

Peter C. Onstad, residing in section 25, Black Hammer township, proprietor of one of the best farms in the southern part of Houston county, was born in section 23, this township, June 20, 1880, son of Christen P. and Oline (Solberg) Onstad. He was reared on his parents' farm, known as the Oak Grove Stock Farm, also a fine estate, on which he obtained a thorough knowledge of agriculture. Up to the age of 15 he attended district school, and resided at home until 1901, when, at the age of 21, he went to Pierce county, S. D., where he homesteaded 160 acres of land. In 1903 he returned home and rented the old Solberg farm in section 25, Black Hammer township, operating it under rental for five years. While living on that farm he was married, Nov. 22, 1905, to Jorgina, daughter of Ole and Nettie Suldahl, of Black Hammer township, her parents having come to this county about 1868 from Norway, settling on a farm in Black Hammer township where they lived until 1912, when they moved to Spring Grove village where the mother died in the fall of 1918, the father now making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Peter Onstad. In 1908 Mr. Onstad bought his present farm of 215 acres, of which he now has 140 acres under cultivation, and which lies three miles north Spring Grove village. It is a very productive farm, well fenced, and well watered, and with the buildings in excellent condition. The latter include a good eight-room frame house, with a separate summer kitchen; a frame barn, 40 by 60 by 16 feet in dimensions with full stone basement, and a complete James equipment; a stave silo, 14 by 32; machine shed, 30 by 30; hoghouse, 24 by 60; granary and buggy shed, 24 by 30, and poultry house 14 by 36 feet in size. The farm is well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, besides other good stock, Mr. Onstad keeping pure-bred sires both in cattle and swine. He is doing a large and successful business and is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Co-operative Creamery, of which he has been treasurer for the past six years; the Spring Grove Hospital and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., being also a member of the Equity Shipping Association. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he having been treasurer of the Black Hammer Congregation for some years. Mr. and Mrs. Onstad are the parents of seven children: Mildred, born Nov. 23, 1907; Christian Orlando, Oct. 8, 1908; Rosalie Constance, Oct. 27, 1911; Oswald Sylvester, Nov. 9, 1912; Paul Jerome, Oct. 25, 1914; Arnold Henry, Oct. 13, 1916; and Lyla Virginia, born April 22, 1919.

William C. Glasrud, who owns and operates a farm of 240 acres in Black Hammer township, residing in section 21, was born on this farm March 20, 1890, son of Peter and Sigri (Qually) Glasrud. His parents were among the pioneers of Houston county, the father coming to America in

1853, and residing until 1856 in Yorkville, Wisconsin, when he came to Houston county, Minn. In 1872 Peter Glasrud bought the farm on which his son William C. now lives. He died in 1892, being survived by his wife, who is now living in Spring Grove village. William C. Glasrud acquired his education in the school of his district and in Spring Grove village, being a student in the village school for two years. He has always remained on the home farm, which he has operated on his own account since 1908. Besides being one of the oldest, it is also one of the best in the township, the land being rich and the buildings in good condition. The equipment is also adequate and of modern type. In his stock raising operations Mr. Glasrud gives the preference to Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. In addition to this property, he owns another farm, one of 200 acres, a few miles north of his own location, 75 acres of it being under cultivation, which he is renting out to a tenant. He is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Creamery and hospital. Industrious and progressive, he is respected for his abilities and is popular as a man and citizen. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Glasrud was married Dec. 31, 1912, to Lillian Virginia, daughter of A. J. and Randi Johnson of Spring Grove township. He and his wife are members of the Black Hammer Congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Fritz H. Engelhart, for many years a prominent resident of this county, first of Yucatan township, and then of Black Hammer township, was an honest hard-working man, had his part in the developing of the county, and left a heritage of honor to his large family of children. He was born Sept. 26, 1845, in Hasbergen, Amt-Haja, Hanover, Germany, and there received his schooling. As he approached the age of military induction, he left his native land, and for four years worked in a sugar house in England. Then he came to America and worked two or three years as a farm hand in New York State. It was in 1867 that he came to Houston county, where for a while he was employed as a farm hand in Yucatan township. Here he met Adelia Cutting, a daughter of Enos and Adelia (Cutting) Adams, who had come from Erie county, New York, and located in Yucatan township with the earliest pioneers. After marrying this young lady, Mr. Engelhart bought a farm of 120 acres in the same township. But in 1885 he sold out, and purchased 120 acres of partly improved land in section 1, Black Hammer township. Beginning with nothing, the industry and frugality of this couple built up a good place. At first they lived in temporary buildings, but as time progressed they built a comfortable one and a half story frame dwelling, upright and wing. Here Mr. Englehart labored and wrought until his death on April 10, 1910. Thus left a widow with twelve children, Mrs. Englehart took up the burdens of operating the farm and raising her family. With the aid of her children she operated the place successfully and continued the improvements started by her husband, still further developing the place by erecting a good frame barn, a granary, a machine shed and other necessary farm buildings. In 1913 she rented the farm to her son, Bay, who now occupies a part of the homestead. The Engelhart farm is located eight miles northwest of Caledonia and eight miles north of Spring Grove. It is well equipped and well stocked, and aside



CHRISTEN P. ONSTAD AND FAMILY

from general farming a specialty is made of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. The twelve children of Mr. and Mrs. Engelhart are: Bay, John, Alice, Jane, Adelia, Mary, Fritz, Florence, Enos, Wanda, Claus and Esther. Bay, as noted, operates the home farm. John is a carpenter and lives at home. Alice, who is a graduate of the advanced courses of the Winona Normal School, is the wife of Bern Clemmenson, of Black Hammer township. Jane is the wife of Emil Heidtke, of Wykoff, Minn. Adelia is the wife of Robert Rowe, an evangelist with headquarters at Spokane, Wash. Mary is the wife of Tollif Brevig, a farmer of Black Hammer township, whose place is a mile north of the Engelhart homestead. Fritz is a thrifty farmer of the same township. Florence is the wife of William Brossard, a farmer of Pleasant Lake, N. D. Enos is with the colors and has seen service in France. Wanda is the wife of Edward Brandt, of Wykoff, Minn. Claus and Esther are at home. Mrs. Engelhart is one of the most energetic women of the community, a hard worker as she always has been, and she is highly honored for her accomplishment in raising so splendid a family, a real asset to the county. Mr. Engelhart was originally a member of the Lutheran church, but after his marriage became a Presbyterian, which church has since been the family faith.

Christen P. Onstad, who spent his life in Black Hammer township, succeeding to the farm of his parents in section 23, was born on the above mentioned farm, May 19, 1856, son of Per and Randi Onstad. The parents, who came from Norway in 1850, homesteaded 160 acres, the land being then wild, and built a log house, which was their home for a number of years. Later the father, who had been a carpenter in Norway, built a substantial house, for which he hewed the timber himself and which, with some additions, is the family dwelling-place today. He died on March 27, 1876, his son, Christen P., then becoming owner of the farm. The latter, who was educated in the district school, took an active part in the development of the farm and made many improvements on it. By an additional land purchase he increased its area to 320 acres and put all in a state of cultivation except twelve acres. It is now one of the model stock farms of the county, the equipment being of the best and the buildings substantial and well lighted. Mr. Onstad served his township as supervisor, assessor and in other capacities, in politics being a Republican. His death, which occurred March 6, 1900, removed from life's activities one of the most useful and respected citizens of Black Hammer township. He was a prominent and consistent member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Mr. Onstad was married, June 27, 1879, to Oline Solberg, daughter of Helge E. and Kari Solberg, of Black Hammer township, this county. Eleven children were the fruit of this union, namely: Peter Cornelius, born June 21, 1880, now a prosperous farmer in this township; Henry Orlando, born Sept. 15, 1881, who died April 2, 1883; Rhoda Alete, born May 3, 1883, now Mrs. Haakon Stenehjelm, of Plentywood, Mont.; Henry Orlando (second), born Sept. 22, 1884, now living on a part of the home farm; Carl Johann, born Jan. 27, 1886, a prosperous farmer in Black Hammer township; Arthur Julius, born July 31, 1887, who is now operating the home farm on rental from his mother, with whom he shares the profits; Edwin Gerhard, born

Dec. 17, 1888, a farmer in Aznoe, Mont.; Ida Otine, born Sept. 8, 1890, who is a teacher residing at home; Nina Christina, born Jan. 8, 1892, who died in infancy; Timan Melvin, born April 2, 1893, now living in Montana; and Nora Alvina, born Feb. 6, 1895, is residing at home, the latter being a school teacher. After her husband's death Mrs. Onstad, with the aid of her children, operated the farm, which is known as Oak Grove Stock Farm, until 1912, making many improvements on it. The buildings she erected include a modern frame barn, 32 by 70 by 14, on a full nine-foot stone basement with cement floor, James stalls and mangers and other up-to-date equipment, together with a cream room, a hog house, 18 by 40 by 8 feet, with cement floor; a granary, 18 by 24 by 10; machine shed, 18 by 36 by 10; double corn crib, 18 by 24, with an eight-foot drive; a stave silo, a garage and a steel windmill. The buildings are all in excellent condition, and the farm is a model estate of its kind with beautiful surroundings.

Arthur Julius Onstad, a prominent farmer of Black Hammer township, was born in section 23, this township, July 31, 1887, son of Christen P. and Oline (Solberg) Onstad. He was reared on his parents' farm and up to the age of 17 attended district school. Then going to Houston village, he entered the store of his uncle, J. P. Onstad, who was engaged in a general mercantile business and worked for him one year as a clerk. At the end of that time he returned to the home farm and resumed agricultural work. In 1912 he rented the farm from his mother and is now operating it on shares, owning one-half the stock, tools, teams and other equipment. Industrious and enterprising and a thorough master of agriculture in all its branches, he is showing good ability as a manager, making the farm yield a satisfactory profit. He is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital, and takes an active interest in all movements for the benefit of the community in which he lives. Religiously he is a member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church, and in politics is a Republican.

On April 3, 1917, Mr. Onstad was married to Agnes Susanna, daughter of Anton and Randi Johnson, of Spring Grove township. He and his wife have one child, Randi Oline, who was born March 22, 1918.

Adolph Boardman, an early settler in Houston county, who established a farm in section 8, Black Hammer township, was a native of Quebec, Canada, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1867, locating in Houston village, where he followed his trade, which was that of a blacksmith. He was accompanied by his wife Mary, who was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, and whom he had married in Boston, Mass. In 1875 Mr. Boardman gave up his shop and moved to Black Hammer township, buying 80 acres of partly improved land in section 8. His career as a farmer was but short, for he died in 1878, leaving his wife with six children: Edward, now living in Minot, N. D.; Adelia, deceased; Louis, a resident of Canton, Minn.; Peter, residing at Overly, N. D.; Louisa, now Mrs. Henry Simpson, of Black Hammer township; and George A., who is now proprietor of the old homestead. After Mr. Boardman's death his widow became the wife of Terence Munyon, whom also she has survived. She is residing with her son, George A., on the nome farm.

George A. Boardman, an enterprising representative of the farming industry in Black Hammer township, residing in section 8, was born on his present farm, Nov. 1, 1875, son of Adolph and Mary Boardman. When he was 3 years old his father died, but his mother and the children continued on the farm, and until the age of 16 he attended the district school. From that time on he was self-supporting, but attended school for two years more in Tyler, Minn. On Nov. 28, 1899, he married Ellen, daughter of Patrick and Ellen Callahan, of Tyler, her parents having removed to that place from Albany, N. Y. In 1903 Mr. Boardman returned to Houston county and bought the old home farm in section 8, Black Hammer township, where he has since remained. He also rents an adjoining tract of 60 acres belonging to his mother, who lives on the farm with him. About 90 acres of his land are under the plow, and he is raising graded Holstein cattle and Poland-China swine with profitable results. He has made some important improvements on the place, having erected a frame barn, 24 by 82 by 16 feet, with an eight-foot full basement; a tile silo, 12 by 40; a modern corn crib and hog house, 12 by 54, with the crib above and hog house below, and with cement feeding floor 24 by 52; also a machine shed and poultry house combined, 18 by 50; and a stone cream house, 12 by 12 by 8 feet in size. His teams, tools and other equipment are also of good quality. In addition to his interest in the farm Mr. Boardman owns stock in the Yucatan Creamery. In politics he is a Democrat, and in religion a Catholic, worshiping with his family with the Prebble congregation in Fillmore county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Boardman: Leo, Jan. 23, 1901; Florence, July 6, 1904; Celia, Nov. 10, 1906; and Rose, May 27, 1910.

Oscar K. Bagley, who for the last fifteen years has been engaged in the mercantile business at Black Hammer, in Black Hammer township, and is also the owner of a good farm property, was born near Mabel, Fillmore county, Minn., Sept. 23, 1873, son of Ole O. and Ingeborg (Texley) Bagley. His parents were born in Norway. The father, Ole O. Bagley, came to America in 1843, locating first at Koshkonong, Rock county, Wis., whence in 1857 he removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he bought a tract of government land, paying \$1.25 an acre, and began the work of improving it. In 1862 he enlisted in the army and served against the Indians at New Ulm and elsewhere during the great outbreak of the savages that year, and afterward against the Confederates, his service lasting three years. After his return home he resumed work on his farm, which he developed into a good piece of agricultural property, finally retiring from active industry. He is still living, being now a resident of Mabel. His wife died Nov. 17, 1915. Oscar K. Bagley, after acquiring the elements of knowledge in the district school, attended for two winters the Valder Business College at Decorah, Iowa, completing the business course. With that exception he remained at home, working on the farm. On Jan. 22, 1896, he was married to Martha, daughter of Iver and Kari (Lunde) Berquam, of Caledonia township, Houston county, and he and his wife began domestic life on a farm at Springwater, Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1899 he removed to Newberg, Fillmore county, Minn., where for three years he was engaged in the grocery business until April 1, 1903, when he came to Black Hammer, buying out the

mercantile business of H. B. Hanson, which he has since conducted with profitable results. In 1911 Mr. Bagley bought the Onstad farm, just east of Black Hammer church, in sec. 22, an improved farm of 100 acres, of which 85 acres are under cultivation, though the buildings are but ordinary. It is, however, a productive farm, and he has it leased out to a tenant, retaining the pastureland, which he uses in grazing the stock which he buys, fattens and ships to market. A Republican in politics, Mr. Bagley has served as township treasurer for the last four years, and is also treasurer of his school district. An industrious and enterprising man, he has been successful and is highly esteemed throughout the community. He and his wife are the parents of eight children: Irving, born Jan. 31, 1897; Clara, Oct. 25, 1898; Edna, Jan. 2, 1901; Milton, July 16, 1905; Milo, Oct. 18, 1907; Victor, June 6, 1910; Ruth, Oct. 23, 1912; and Viola, June 26, 1916.

Simon O. Hauge, a highly respected and successful farmer of Black Hammer township, was born in Norway, Dec. 25, 1859, the son of Ole and Ella (Norberg) Hauge, who brought him to America when he was a baby and settled in Badger Valley, this county. Later they bought 80 acres on Sheldon Ridge, in Sheldon township. Simon O. helped his parents in their pioneer endeavors and attended school until he was about 15 years of age. After his marriage he continued on the home farm until 1884. Then he went to Hamlin county, South Dakota, and homesteaded a quarter section of land. But successive crop failures there turned his footsteps once more homeward and he resumed his work on the home farm. In 1897 he purchased 200 acres in sections 5 and 6, Black Hammer township. No buildings had been erected and only a few acres improved. The farm is now one of the best in the community. It is located fourteen miles from Houston village and twelve miles from Spring Grove, Houston and Rushford. One hundred acres are under the plow and 100 acres in pasture and timber land. The buildings which Mr. Hauge has erected are all in good condition and include a comfortable eight-room house, a frame barn, 40 by 60 by 10, on a full stone, eight-foot basement; a granary, 16 by 30 by 8; a poultry house, 30 by 16 feet; a double corn crib, 18 by 30 feet, with an eight-foot drive between; a machine shed and garage, 24 by 84 by 10; a woodshed, 18 by 24 feet; and a hog house, 16 by 30 by 8 feet. The farm is well tilled and productive and well equipped with tools and machinery. Aside from successfully raising the usual crops, Mr. Hauge has a fine herd of some fifteen pure bred Poll-Angus cattle, the milk and cream of which he sells to the Yucatan Creamery Association, of which he was at one time manager and of which he has been for some time a director. He also has a fine drove of Poland-China swine.

Mr. Hauge was married March 14, 1879, to Hattie G. Weisland, daughter of Gunder and Annie Weisland, and this union has been blessed with twelve children, of whom eight are living. They are: Ole, Ella, Gunder, Andrew, Gena, Thomas, Sarah and Rinus, living; and Hannah (first), Hannah (second), Alvin and Martin, deceased. Ole was born Dec. 25, 1880, married Helma Clauson, of Alamakee county, Iowa, lives in Pekin, N. D., and has four children. Ella was born Nov. 1, 1882, married Iver Gustad, resides in Houston, and has eight children. Gunder was born April 28, 1884, married Carrie Engen, lives in Buxton, N. D., and has two children.



SIMON O. HAUGE AND FAMILY

Andrew was born Dec. 29, 1885, and lives in Bucyrus, N. D. Martin was born Dec. 8, 1887, and died June 28, 1919. Hannah (first) was born Dec. 8, 1892, and died when 2 years of age. Gena was born May 16, 1893, married Conrad Buross, lives in Fillmore county, and has one son. Hannah (second) was born April 5, 1894, and died June 15, 1898. Thomas was born Jan. 21, 1896, and lives at home. Sarah was born Nov. 8, 1898, married Christian M. Westby, and lives in Yucatan township. Alvin was born March 24, 1902, and died in infancy. Renus was born July 17, 1903, and lives at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hauge are both much interested in education, and Mr. Hauge has served on the school board, in which capacity his judgment and good sense have been of much service. Both are also prominent in the affairs of the South Fork Congregation of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which Mr. Hauge is a trustee.

Austin Burtness, one of the pioneers of Black Hammer township, was born in Norway, Nov. 14, 1828, and came to the United States in 1848, when in his twentieth year. His first location in this country was at Rock Prairie, Wis., where he had two brothers, but from there he went to St. Paul, in which city he resided for some years. In 1857 he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and bought a tract of wild government land in section 27, Black Hammer township, for which he paid \$1.25 an acre. Here, in pioneer fashion, he built a small log house and began the task of developing a farm, persevering with good success until his death at the age of 60 years on April 29, 1889. Mr. Burtness married Helene Leren, who was born in Norway, March 19, 1831, and who came to America in 1851. She is now living at Harmony, Minn., and the old homestead is the property of their son, H. A. Burtness.

Helge A. Burtness, a well known and respected farmer of Black Hammer township, residing in section 28, was born on his present farm, Jan. 8, 1862, son of Austin and Helene (Leren) Burtness. In common with most farmers' sons in early days, he acquired his education in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 15 years. He was also well trained in agriculture, assisting his father until the latter's death, at which time he purchased the home farm, then containing 142 acres. Since then he has increased its area to 202 acres, of which 140 are under cultivation, the rest of the land being in pasture and timber. The property is in first-class condition, the farm being well fenced and the soil very productive, while the buildings are substantial and of modern type. The latter include a comfortable two-story, ten-room frame house, a good barn, granary, corn crib, machine shed, shop and garage. One pleasing feature of the farm is a fine apple orchard. The stock consists chiefly of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. With two others Mr. Burtness owns a threshing outfit, threshing for themselves and their neighbors generally. In addition to his direct farming interests Mr. Burtness is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Creamery, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Spring Grove Equity Shipping Association and the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics a Republican, he has served for some twenty years or more as a member of the town board, of which he is now chairman, was town assessor for three

years, and has also for many years been a member of the school board. In 1885 Mr. Burtness was married to Carrie Bergsrud, daughter of Helge and Marit Bergsrud, of Black Hammer township. He and his wife are the parents of eight children: Helen L. M., born May 21, 1887; Austin H., Dec. 29, 1889; Henry M., July 1, 1892; Minerva E., July 31, 1894; Lloyd O., Feb. 2, 1899; Selma C., Aug. 21, 1901; Julia O., April 11, 1904; and Thora A., May 18, 1907. Austin H. married Julia Storlie, a daughter of K. C. Storlie, of Spring Grove. Henry M. served in France during the great war in the Medical Corps, having enlisted in June, 1918. Mr. Burtness and his family are members of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Erick Gunderson Pladsen, who became a factor in the development of Black Hammer township by developing a good farm from wild land, was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood and married Inger Torkelson. In 1876, with his wife and two children, he emigrated to Minnesota, settling in Black Hammer township, Houston county, where he bought 80 acres of wild government land in section 12, made a small clearing and erected a small log house. He was very poor, but had a yoke of oxen, with which he began the improvement of his place, both he and his wife working hard. Making gradual progress, he was able in time to purchase another tract of 80 acres adjoining his farm on the west, and also to erect comfortable buildings, including a frame house, a barn, granary, machine shed and other out-buildings, also putting up a steel windmill. He also brought a considerable portion of his land under cultivation. On this farm he died in November, 1911, a well known and respected citizen of his township. His wife is still living, being now (1918) 68 years of age. They were the parents of eleven children, the four eldest born in Norway, where Gunder, the first born, died. The others were: Gunder (second), now a farmer at Isabel, S. D.; Torkel, deceased; Bertha, now Mrs. Frank Robbins, of Stockelle, Mont.; Albert, now proprietor of the old home farm; Andrew, a farmer in Buffalo Springs, N. D.; Matilda, now Mrs. Christ Grondal, of Isabel, S. D., where her husband is engaged in farming; Bernt, now working around Spring Grove, Minn.; Olaf, deceased; Theoline, a resident of Minneapolis; and Edward, now in the United States service.

Albert Pladsen, a well known farmer and prominent citizen of Black Hammer township, where he is operating the old Pladsen farm established by his parents in section 12, was born on this farm, Feb. 9, 1881. He has always resided on it, assisting his father until the latter's death in 1911, since which time he has operated it on his own account. It became his property a year or two ago and he now has about 100 acres under the plow, and in addition to grain is raising Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. The farm is well provided with good buildings and is well fenced. The land is very productive, and Mr. Pladsen's full equipment of tools and machinery, together with his expert knowledge of agriculture and stock raising, enables him to work it to its full capacity. He has made some valuable improvements on the place and is enjoying a prosperous career, owning a good Maxwell automobile. In politics he is a Republican. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical church of Black Hammer township.



JOHN P. HOILAND AND FAMILY

Peder S. Hoiland, a pioneer, was born in Voss, Norway, Sept. 15, 1828, and was there married. In 1858 they came to America and located at Koochinong, Wis., where he had a brother, Lars. In 1860 Mr. and Mrs. Hoiland set out for Houston county, driving an ox team and a few young cattle. Coming directly to Spring Grove they bought 120 acres in section 27, from Andrew Bjonstua. A small log house had been built on the place and a few acres had been broken. Into this cabin they moved with their daughter, Margaret, now Mrs. T. A. Thompson, of Lac qui Parle county, Minnesota, whom they had brought with them from Norway. Here they lived and labored for many years, developing a farm from the wilderness. In 1899 they sold the place to their sons, John P. and Stork, and purchased a farm in section 16, in the same township, to which they moved. There they lived until Mr. Hoiland's death, May 5, 1901, when his wife moved back to the old home where she died in February, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Hoiland were the parents of ten children. The oldest daughter has already been mentioned. Stork died in 1903. Karine is the wife of Amund Bergh of Rossea county, Minnesota. Olaus lives on the old home farm. Emma died in 1892. Martin lives on the home farm. John P. owns the home farm. Three died in childhood.

John P. Hoiland was born on section 27, Spring Grove, where he still resides, March 5, 1861, son of Peder S. and Margarite Hoiland, the early settlers. He was reared on the home farm which he assisted in grubbing, breaking and developing. In 1899 he and his brother, Stork, bought the place, John P. taking the south eighty. No buildings had been erected on this tract, until two years before, when in anticipation of this move, he had built a small frame house 14 by 24 by 12. In 1913 he replaced this with a two-story frame dwelling of nine rooms, 24 by 28 by 16 feet. In 1907 he built a good frame barn, 30 by 50 by 18 feet. He has a granary, 14 by 20 by 10 feet, a machine shed, 18 by 24 feet, a work shop 10 by 12 by 8 feet, a good corn crib, and other buildings. To his original purchase, Mr. Hoiland has added two adjoining forties, so that he now has a good farm of 160 acres, seventy-five of which are under the plow. The farm is unusually productive, and is worked with intelligent care. The teams, tools, machinery and equipment are of the best and everything about the place bespeaks the thrift and energy of the owner. Aside from raising the usual crops, he has a herd of some thirty graded Red Poll cattle, and about one hundred head of Duroc-Jersey swine. A man of much public spirit, he has become a shareholder in the Stock & Grain Co. of Spring Grove and in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery there. Mr. Hoiland was married June 18, 1887, to Marit, daughter of Hans and Martha (Lere) Qven, of Spring Grove township, where she was born July 24, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Hoiland have three children, Andrine Marie, Peter and Hannah. Andrine Marie was born Aug. 26, 1887, and married Ole Swenson. She and her daughter, Annie Odella, born March 30, 1908, made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Hoiland until she married Benjamin Keume, and took up her residence on Looking Glass Prairie, in Iowa. Peter, born Aug. 5, 1891, works with his father. Hannah, born Nov. 23, 1900, attends the Spring Grove high school. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Spring Grove.

Embrick Benson (Benrud), one of the earliest settlers in Spring Grove township, who developed there a fine farm of 279 acres, was born in Sigdal, Norway, June 24, 1829. In 1842, when he was a boy about thirteen years old, his parents came with their family to the United States, settling at Muskego, Wis., where they remained until 1850. They then removed to Washington Prairie, Allamakee county, Iowa, where in 1854 the subject of this sketch was married to Kjersti Ruen. She was born in Hadiland, Norway, June 4, 1833, and had come to America in 1850, her family settling in Racine county, Wisconsin, whence, like the Benruds, they had removed to Allamakee county, Iowa. At the time of his marriage Embrick Benson Benrud moved with his wife to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, taking a tract of wild land in section 13 one and a half miles southeast of the village. There they remained until 1899 when they removed to Spring Grove Village. Of the wild tract on which he settled Mr. Benrud developed the farm of 279 acres above mentioned, which is today one of the best farms in this part of the county. Their early accommodations were crude and primitive, but in time he erected a comfortable two-story, frame house, a good frame barn, and other buildings. After retiring from the farm he and his wife resided in the village for over eleven years, being among its most honored residents. There also they celebrated their golden wedding. Early in February, 1911, both were taken sick and on February 10 Mr. Benrud passed away, his wife being united with him in death but nine days later. For fifty-eight years they had lived happily together, and not for long were they separated. Nine children were born to them, namely: , Gunder, now deceased; Annie, now Mrs. O. B. Nelson of Spring Grove township; Peter, who resides at Verona, N. D.; Clara, who married Peter Qually; Eddie, wife of Gustav Gilbertson of Spring Grove township; Helene, now Mrs. Charles Smerud of Solway, Minn.; Hustava, now Mrs. Ole Hendrickson, of Chaseburg, Wis.; and Adolph, who is the present proprietor of the old homestead.

Adolph Benson, a leading representative of the farming interests of Spring Grove township, residing in section 13, is proprietor of one of the best farms in the southern part of Houston county, a farm established by his parents sixty-five years ago, when the seeds of civilization were being planted here by the first white settlers. His parents were Embrick and Kjersti (Ruen) Benson (Benrud), of Norwegian birth, who on coming young to this country with their respective families, had settled first near Racine, Wis., thence removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, and from there, where they were married, had come to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota. Adolph, who was the youngest of his parents' nine children, attended the district school up to the age of fifteen years and daily assisted his father in the work of the farm, where he has always resided. In 1898, a year before his parents' retirement and removal to the village of Spring Grove, he bought the property, and has since conducted it on his own account, engaged successfully in general farming, including dairying and stock raising, in all of which branches of agricultural work he is proficient. Of an enterprising and progressive spirit, he has made a number of improvements on the place, having improved the



GUEL E. OVESTRUD AND FAMILY

house and barn and built corn cribs, a feed house, machine shed and other necessary structures. The barn now measures 34 by 60 by 16 feet, having a full eight-foot basement, while the house is a two-story building of eleven rooms. The farm is in a good state of cultivation, and is well stocked with grade Hereford cattle and Poland-China swine. Mr. Benson having a herd of from thirty to thirty-five of the former, including ten or twelve milch cows, while of the latter he has from 100 to 125. He is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. On May 18, 1898, he was united in marriage with Maria, daughter of Ole K. and Margaret Blehrud of Spring Grove township. Their only child, Emil, was born March 8, 1899, and is residing on the home farm. Mr. Benson and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican. The son of hardy and industrious pioneer settlers, he has worthily maintained the family traditions and has advanced in worldly circumstances through persevering industry. Neither are his interests wholly selfish, for he has always been ready to lend a helping hand to whatever was for the good of the community in which he resides, and as such is a respected citizen of his township.

Guel E. Ovestrud, who died on his farm in section 26, Spring Grove township, on Jan. 16, 1913, was well known throughout the southwestern part of Houston county as a successful farmer and worthy and reliable citizen. He was born at Orfordville, Wis., Nov. 5, 1853, son of Erick and Mary (Trosteun) Ovestrud. He acquired his primary education in the common schools of Wisconsin and was later a pupil for some time at St. Olaff College at Northfield, Minn., subsequently teaching school for several terms. In 1879 he came to Spring Grove, Houston county, and entered the employ of T. T. Bergh, with whom he remained for some time. Afterwards he was engaged in the farm machinery business for a period and also spent ten years as a stock buyer. On May 15, 1880, Mr. Ovestrud married Berget Sagdalen, daughter of Knut and Margaret Sagdalen of Spring Grove township, and he and his wife began domestic life in Spring Grove village. In 1895 he bought his father-in-law's farm in Spring Grove township, three and a half miles south of the village, in section 26. It was his wife's birthplace, and was a good farm of 160 acres, with a comfortable two-story residence, a good barn and other buildings. Its location was but two miles north of the Iowa State line. Mr. Ovestrud had previously had some experience in mercantile business, having been clerk for a time in a general store at Northwood, Iowa, and conducted a restaurant in Spring Grove in addition to the other occupations above mentioned, but he now devoted all his attention to farming in its different branches, including dairying and stock raising. His cattle were grade Shorthorns, and his swine of the Poland-China breed, and he kept improving his herds by the use of full-blooded sires. He also improved the farm in various ways, and his buildings and operating equipment were adequate and of modern type. His activities were continued up to 1910, when he suffered a paralytic stroke, after which until his death he was an invalid. He was a man widely known

and highly respected, and was a useful and prominent member of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, to which his family also belonged. At one time he was manager and secretary of the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company, holding that position at the time he took up his residence on his farm, and continuing to do so for several years, driving to and from town. His political principles were those of the Republican party. He and his wife were the parents of eight children: Eddie, born Jan. 3, 1882, who died in infancy; Edmund, born Nov. 5, 1884, who was graduated from the Spring Grove high school, and the University of Minnesota, and is now principal of a public school at Hills, Minn., spending his summers on the home farm; Clarence, born Sept. 8, 1886, now a farmer residing at Bow Bells, N. D.; Melvin, born March 17, 1889, who was graduated from the Spring Grove high school and the University of Minnesota and is now a mechanical engineer; Mathilda, born May 22, 1891, who died in infancy; Millie Belinda, born Jan. 31, 1893, who was a pupil for three years in the Spring Grove high school and is now residing at home with her mother; Geneva Eliza, born March 16, 1895, who was graduated from the Spring Grove high school and is now a teacher; and Ernest, born March 10, 1897, who has operated the home farm since he was fourteen years of age.

Albert E. Vik, a successful young business man of Spring Grove Village, was born in Spring Grove township, Jan. 14, 1885, son of Endre A. and Kjerste (Traan) Vik. He received his preliminary education in the district schools, and his higher education in the Breckenridge Academy at Decorah, Iowa, and in the Valder Business College in the same city, where he took the full commercial course. In the spring of 1903 he entered commercial life in the employ of his uncle, K. A. Vik, who had a store at Decora. The next year he returned to Minnesota and started work in the general store of Ole Lees at Newhouse. In 1907 he determined to try his fortunes in North Dakota, but after a few months came back to his native township of Spring Grove. In April, 1908, he established a restaurant and confectionary business in Spring Grove Village. Two years later he sold out and went to North Dakota, where he homesteaded 160 acres of land near Esmond. There he built a small house and barn, and cultivated the requisite number of acres. In January, 1914, he rented this land and returned to Spring Grove. Here he discovered that the business he had established had passed through three hands. This he purchased and still conducts. He also retains possession of his North Dakota farm, which he rents. He is doing a good business, and is regarded as one of the popular young men of the village. Mr. Vik was married, June 10, 1908, to Minnoe Landson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Landson, of Spring Grove township. This union has been blessed with three bright children, Morris Carlton, born Nov. 4, 1911, Alvin Manuel, born July 17, 1914, and Ernest, born March 5, 1918.

Endre A. Vik, agriculturist, musician and church worker, was born in Norway, Sept. 7, 1855, son of Arne N. and Ragnel Vik. He received a good education in his native land, being trained especially in music. At the age of twenty-two he determined to try his fortunes in the new world. Accordingly, with a steamship ticket and \$1.50, but with courage and resolution,



MR. AND MRS. OLE TOLLEFSRUD
HENRY TOLLEFSRUD AND FAMILY

he boarded a boat for the New World. June 18, 1877, he landed in New York, and by the aid of his fellow countrymen, made his way westward. When he reached Decorah, Iowa, he had been without food for three days. Friends there assisted him on his way to Newberg, in Fillmore county, this State, where he worked as a farm hand for four years. He then came to Riceford and worked on the farm for Rev. E. P. Jenson one year. His musical ability then attracted the attention of Rev. E. P. Jenson, of Riceford, who took him into his home as an assistant about the church and parsonage. In 1885 he purchased ninety-eight acres of partly improved land in sections 7 and 8, Spring Grove township. In the meantime he, in December, 1882, had married Kjerste Traan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Traan, and on their advice borrowed money and built a comfortable home which he and his family now occupy. He also bought a splendid team of horses, which he planned would be a help for years to come. But both horses sickened and died, entailing a serious loss. Badly hampered by this loss, but undiscouraged, he and his wife set out to recoup their losses. By frugality, industry, and intelligence, they prospered, and won their place as substantial and respected citizens of the community. Sixty acres of their farm is now under the plow, and general farming is successfully conducted. From time to time suitable buildings have been erected, and in 1914 they constructed a sightly and commodious barn which now adorns the property, a frame structure with full basement. The farm is well equipped with tools and machinery. But in winning this material success Mr. Vik has not forgotten the higher things of life. For nearly a quarter of a century his voice has been a factor in religious worship in Riceford, Newburg and Black Hammer Norwegian Lutheran churches. Not only this, but he is also a musician of ability with both the organ and the violin, and this ability he has transmitted to his children, several of whom are vocal and instrumental musicians whose talents have added greatly to the religious and social life of the community. Since early boyhood Mr. Vik has been a deep Bible student and is an authority on many theological subjects. It is therefore natural that he should be a prominent member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and that he should many times represent that organization in Synodical gatherings and conferences. In the cause of religion he has been generous both in means and service. Mr. and Mrs. Vik are the parents of six children, Gustav A., Albert E., Anna Randina, Elena Christina, Sarah Georgina and Emma Bethena. Gustav A. lives in Fillmore county. Albert E. is in business in Spring Grove Village. Anna Randina is at home as is Elena Christina. Sarah Georgina is now Mrs. Alfred Haugstad of Spring Grove Village. Emma Bethena is now Mrs. Julius Haugstad of Isabella, S. D.

Henry O. Tollefsrud, proprietor of one of the best farms in Spring Grove township, situated in sections 26 and 27, was born on the original homestead, which it includes, Sept. 14, 1865, son of Ole and Louise Tollefsrud. The parents were natives of Norway who came to Houston county, Minnesota, at an early date, taking a tract of wild land in section 26, Spring Grove township. This land they developed into a good farm on which they both finally died, the father, who was born April 28, 1831, at the age

of seventy-two years, on Oct. 19, 1903; and the mother, who was born March 7, 1827, and who for sixteen years previous to her death was a sufferer from rheumatism, on Nov. 15, 1906, at the age of seventy-nine. Their children, eight in number, were: Ole, Arne, Henry O., Tollef, Marie, Christine, Julia and Tella. Marie is now the wife of Gemevald Ingvalson, Christine the wife of Ole Hanson, and Tella the wife of O. K. Wold, of Mabel. Julia is residing on the home farm. Henry O. Tollefsrud acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school, which he attended up to the age of fifteen years. His industrial education was very thorough and comprised an initiation into all the mysteries of farm life and labor, in which he soon became expert. He has never wandered away from the scenes of his youth but has remained on the home farm, which he assisted to develop, and which is now his property. He has much improved the original place, however, and has increased its area, in 1890 buying 195 acres of land, of which he has 150 under the plow. An old frame house, formerly used by the family as a dwelling for about ten years, is now converted into a machine shed, as in 1901 Mr. Tollefsrud built a modern two-story frame house of eight rooms, with a detached summer kitchen, which makes a very comfortable home. He has also erected a frame barn, 32 by 86 by 16 feet, with a full eight-foot basement and concrete floors; a granary 14 by 18; a well house, engine house, corn crib and tool house, while he has a good general operating equipment. For the past fifteen years he has been a breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle, of which he now has from twenty-five to thirty head, and he also raises Poland-China and Chester-White hogs. Always a hard worker, Mr. Tollefsrud has made progress in the world and has become prosperous. In addition to his direct farming interests, he is a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company and the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of Spring Grove. In politics he is non-partisan, having formerly been a Republican. The American Society of Equity numbers him among its members. Mr. Tollefsrud was married Dec. 20, 1890, to Christine, daughter of Knute and Berget Wold. She died in 1892, after having been the mother of two children; namely: a daughter, who is now Mrs. Ben Bergrud of Winneshiek county, Iowa; and one who died in infancy. On Sept. 15, 1898, Mr. Tollefsrud married Oline, daughter of Ole and Thore Olsgard, of Spring Grove township. The children of this marriage are: Leonard Kornelihu, born Oct. 2, 1899; Oscar Olvin, born March 9, 1901; Henry Oberlin, born Dec. 22, 1902; Henry O., born April 15, 1904, and Louise Theoline, born Feb. 7, 1907. Of these children Henry Oberlin died in infancy. The others are living, Leonard K. being now a student in the Spring Grove high school. Mr. Tollefsrud and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church, and are people who occupy a respected place in the community of which they are members.

Helge T. Haugen, a prosperous farmer residing in section 1, Spring Grove township, on the farm formerly owned by his father-in-law, Ben. E. Henderson, but which is now his own property, was born in Wilmington township Houston county, Minn., Oct. 27, 1868, son of Torger and Kjerste Haugen. The parents, natives of Norway, were among the early settlers

in this county. Helge T. Haugen attended the district school up to the age of fifteen years, and for some years after that continued to reside with his parents. He worked for others until his marriage, which took place Nov. 8, 1893, uniting him with Ingre Helga Amelia, daughter of Ben. E. and Anna (Olson) Henderson. He and his wife began domestic life on a forty-acre farm in Wilmington township, which, however, they later sold, and until 1897 operated rented farms. In that year Mr. Haugen bought his father-in-law's farm in section 1, Spring Grove township, a farm of 102 acres, on which he and his wife are now living, Mr. Henderson residing with them for several years. Mrs. Henderson died in 1887. Mr. Haugen has now seventy-five acres of the land under the plow and is cultivating it with profitable results, the rest being in timber and pasture. He is living in the original log house built by Mr. Henderson, which is a very comfortable dwelling, and is provided with running water, as also is the barn, the latter being a structure 30 by 66 by 20 feet in size. Among the other farm buildings are a corn crib, 18 by 24; two tool sheds, 14 by 24 and 18 by 24; granary, 18 by 24; and poultry house, 12 by 30. All the buildings are in good condition and the farm is well fenced. Its location is in a beautiful valley one and a half miles north of Spring Grove village. Mr. Helge is successfully raising Shorthorn and Red Poll cattle and Poland-China swine. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company, and the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and the Hospital, both of the same place. Politically he is a Republican and he and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Honest, industrious and thrifty, he is respected in the community and recognized as a good and reliable citizen. He and his wife are the parents of two children, Benjamin Tillman and Harold Alton. Benjamin Tillman, who was born Oct. 24, 1895, after attending the district school, spent two years in the high school. Beginning industrial life in a drug store as clerk, he has been for the last three years an employee of the Onsgard State Bank at Spring Grove. Harold Alton, born Jan. 29, 1908, is residing on the home farm.

Ben E. Henderson, one of the old pioneers of Spring Grove township, who is still in good health and active for one of his years, was born in Ring Ger Aget, Norway, Oct. 9, 1843, son of Helge and Kari Henderson. In his sixteenth year, in the spring of 1859, he accompanied his parents to America, the family landing at Quebec, Canada, after a seven week's voyage, and coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota. On arriving here, or soon afterwards, they settled on a farm of forty acres just north of Spring Grove village, where they remained until about 1875. The parents subsequently died at the home of their son Ole in Spring Grove township, the mother, July 17, 1887, and the father Jan. 13, 1889. Their family numbered in all six children: Ole, Mari, Kjerste, Inga, Ben E. and Gunhild, of whom Ben E. and two sisters are now living. Ben E. Henderson, who had attended school in Norway, was a well grown boy when he arrived in Houston county, and soon found work as a farm hand. In that occupation he continued until 1866, when he was married, Oct. 7, to Anna Olson, daughter of Helge and Anna Olson. In the same year he bought forty acres

of land in section 1, Spring Grove township, of which tract ten acres were broken, and on this he built a log house, which is still standing, and he and his wife began domestic life in this primitive residence. To this farm he has since added until he now has 102 acres in it. He also owned a farm in Black Hammer township, and in 1908 took a homestead in Haaken county, South Dakota, later buying another quarter section of 160 acres, so that at the present time he owns a half section there. For some ten or fifteen years Mr. Henderson was engaged in the marble business in Rushford, Minn., in partnership with Joseph Peasley, but finally sold his interests to his partner and returned to his farm, which he had rented out in the meanwhile. His principal work while in that business was as salesman, Mr. Peasley attending to the manufacturing of the goods. On Oct. 14, 1887, Mrs. Anna Henderson died on the home farm, but Mr. Henderson continued to reside on it until 1907, when he sold it to his son-in-law, Helge T. Haugen. The next two years he spent in South Dakota, but returned to Spring Grove, this county, in 1909, having finally retired from farming. Mr. Henderson is a Republican in politics, and on one occasion he ran for the office of county treasurer on the Democratic ticket, being defeated by only seven votes though the county is strongly Republican. He is a prominent member of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, which he has served in various capacities. He still resides on the old farm now owned by his son-in-law, and on which he erected good buildings. Of the land seventy-five acres are under the plow. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, as follows: Caroline, born Feb. 14, 1868, who died Dec. 17, 1868, at the age of ten months and three days; Caroline (second), born March 5, 1869, who became the wife of Bernt Ness, but died March 17, 1890; Anna Helme, born Feb. 16, 1872, now deceased; Ingre Helga Amelia, now the wife of Helge T. Haugen, proprietor of the old Henderson farm; Hannah Christine, born Dec. 15, 1874, who is the wife of Peter Bergrud of South Grove; Annette, born Oct. 27, 1877, who died at Vermillion, S. D., Oct. 24, 1886; and Adoline Brocilia, born Feb. 25, 1879, who died Oct. 24, 1886. As one of the oldest pioneers of Houston county now living, and a man who has always done his full duty as a citizen, Mr. Henderson is widely known and highly esteemed. Few men of his years can be found so strong and active, which is doubtless due to the inheritance of a good constitution and the healthful, though strenuous life he has led, free from dissipation or excess.

Thor B. Kolsrud, one of the extensive farmers of Spring Grove township, is proprietor of the Hillsdale Stock Farm, three miles south of Spring Grove, as good a place as can be found in the community. He is doing his share in the development of the county and is highly regarded by all who know him. Born August 4, 1860, the son of Bear and Joroud (Olestaater) Kolsrud, he was reared on the home place in section 26, Spring Grove township, and educated in the district schools, also studying a few months each in Spring Grove Village and in Decorah, Iowa. When he was but eighteen his father died and the care of the farm descended to him and his brother, Gilbert, then sixteen years of age. In the fall of 1885 a division of the property was made, Thor B. taking 170 acres in sections 25 and 26,

the southern half of the old home. Since then he has purchased 240 acres more, making a fine farm of 410 acres. Some years ago he built a brick house, 26 by 30 feet, two stories, to which he has since added a wing 20 by 20, thus giving him a comfortable slightly thirteen-room house. He also built a barn 40 by 60 by 20 feet, with a full stone basement of eight feet. In 1912 he built a swine house, 26 by 80 feet, with a cement feeding floor. Among his other buildings are a stone silo, 14 by 38 feet, and a machine shed 16 by 50 feet, together with a shop, 12 by 14 feet. The farm is well equipped with teams, tools, machinery and implements and is well fenced. About 200 acres are under the plow, and the remainder in pasture and timber. For the past fifteen years Mr. Kolsrud has been a breeder of registered Hereford cattle, and now has a herd of thirty pure bred and forty good grades. His drove of Poland-China swine headed by several pure blooded sires numbers about 100. Mr. Kolsrud has stock in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., in the Spring Grove Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and in the Spring Grove Hospital. He has been the treasurer of his school district for fifteen years. Mr. Kolsrud was married April 12, 1883, to Mary Kroshus, born April 11, 1860, daughter of Andrew and Thurine (Hackness) Kroshus, of Spring Grove, and this union has been blessed with seven children: Josephine Adelia, born Feb. 3, 1884; Theoline Belinda, born Aug. 5, 1889; and now wife of Henry Rank of Black Hammer township; Bernard, born Sept. 27, 1891; Arthur, born Jan. 21, 1893, and died in infancy; Anna Marie, born June 9, 1894, and now a teacher in North Dakota; Amos, born June 6, 1896; and Oscar, born Sept. 5, 1899. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Bear Kolsrud, the pioneer, was born in Norway in 1816, and was there married in 1848 to Joroud Olestaater, who was born in 1820. In 1848 they set out with their two daughters, Gertrude and Anna, and found their way to Rock county, Wisconsin, where they stopped for a short time. From there they started for Houston county. The trip was made in true pioneer style, the ox cart which brought their goods being a primitive vehicle with wheels sawed from logs, and with a wooden axletree. They drove two cows, and the wife walked most of the way, carrying a baby. Upon their arrival in Spring Grove they had but seventy-five cents. They settled on forty acres of government land in section 26, and moved into a dugout. In this dugout the twins, Anna and Gumbjor, were born. These twins died of typhoid at the age of ten years. Bear Kolsrud devoted the remainder of his life to the development of his farm. He added to his possessions until he owned 410 acres, on which he made many improvements. After a useful life he died in 1878. His wife died in 1907. They were the parents of three sons and five daughters, all of whom are dead except Thor B.

Andrew P. Kroshus, one of the earliest pioneers of Spring Grove township, was born in Norway, and was there reared to young manhood. Then resolving to try his fortunes in the New World he set sail for America and landed after a long voyage of fourteen weeks aboard a sailing vessel. Coming at once to Wisconsin, he found employment in the Putnam sawmill at Muskego, some eighteen miles from Milwaukee. There, in addition to board and room his monthly wages were \$6 the first year, \$11 the second

year, \$16 the third year and \$24 the first four months of the fourth year. He was offered \$30 to remain, but having saved practically all his earnings he decided to start farming. Accordingly in the fall of 1853 he set out on foot and after a walk of 275 miles, found a friend, John Kroshus, living in Spring Grove township. He bought John's claim of 200 acres for \$150, and remained with him that winter, getting out rails, and making a few improvements. In the spring he walked back to Muskego, married, bought a yoke of oxen and an old wagon, and brought his wife back here. He gradually increased his holdings until he was the owner of 313 acres of good land. He died Nov. 12, 1882. Thurine Haakeness, the wife of Andrew P. Kroshus, was born in Norway, June 18, 1834, and was brought to this country by her parents, who set sail from Christiania, Norway, in a small sailing vessel loaded with iron, April 14, 1840, and landed at New York, Oct. 14, 1840, after a voyage of six months. From New York they went by rail to Albany, then by Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by the lakes to Milwaukee, where they were met by friends who took them to Muskego in an ox cart. That fall, in company with Torger Aastensen Luraas, they built a single room log cabin, 14 by 14 feet. Mr. Haakeness had but twenty-five cents when he reached Muskego. Mr. Luraas had but \$6. But they had brought tools and axes with them from the old country, and with these set out with a will to better themselves. The first winter, the two families of fourteen people lived in the single room. In the spring of 1842 each family purchased a forty-acre tract of land. In 1853 the cholera epidemic swept the community, and carried away Mr. and Mrs. Haakeness, after they had secured a pledge from the daughter Thurine that she would look after her brother. Mrs. Kroshus died in February, 1916.

Olaus A. Kroshus, an influential and energetic farmer of Spring Grove township, was born Jan. 28, 1858, on the home farm in section 27, son of Andrew P. and Thurine (Haakeness) Kroshus. He received his early education in the district schools, and had the advantage of two winters at the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. With this preparation he taught school in his home district for six winters. In 1887 he married and moved onto 120 acres which he had secured from his father, in sections 28 and 34, and on which he had built a small frame house. To the operation and development of this farm he has since devoted his attention. To his original holdings he has added until he owns 289 acres, nearly all under the plow, and in addition to this he has 640 acres in North Dakota. The farm is well equipped with tools, implements and machinery. The modern two-story frame house was built in 1910, and the farm buildings consist of comfortable barns, granary, tool sheds, swine house and the like, together with a good garage. Mr. Kroshus carries on general farming and raises the usual crops. He has a herd of some fifty head of graded Shorthorn cattle, and a drove of some 125 Duroc-Jersey swine. A prominent man in his community, Mr. Kroshus served several terms as town assessor, and he has been on the school board some thirty years. He has stock in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co. and the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, both of Spring Grove, and is a member of the American Society of Equity. Mr. Kroshus was married March 31, 1887, to Christine Sagdalen, of Spring Grove township,

OLAUS A. KROSHUS AND FAMILY



daughter of Knute and Margerite Sagdalen, early settlers. This union has resulted in six children, Andrew, Cora, Elmer Oberlin, Mabel Thurine, Geneva Evelyn and Carleton Orlando. Andrew was born June 28, 1888, and works with his father. Cora was born Nov. 30, 1889, graduated from the Southern Minnesota Normal College at Austin, Minn., and is a bookkeeper for a firm in that city. Elmer Oberlin, who was in the automobile business in Spring Grove Village, died Jan. 9, 1919. He was born in August, 1893. Mabel Thurine was born Dec. 1, 1896; Geneva Evelyn was born in July, 1900, and Carleton Orlando was born July 20, 1906. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Spring Grove.

Andrew K. Roverud, who was a resident of Spring Grove township for thirty-seven years, and was widely known as an industrious and successful farmer and reliable citizen, was born in Norway, Sept. 29, 1847. When twenty years old he accompanied his parents to Minnesota and they settled in Spring Grove Township, Houston county, taking a tract of wild land in section 2, on which a log house had been built. On this place Andrew spent the rest of his life, in his younger days assisting his father to develop the farm, which in time became his property. Later in life he erected a number of new buildings, including a good frame barn, granary, machine shed, stave silo and residence. The last mentioned, built in 1902, was a neat and commodious frame house of two stories, consisting of an upright and wing. In the fall of 1904 Mr. Roverud sold the farm to his sons, Conrad T. and Henry S., and it subsequently came into the sole possession of Conrad, who is now the proprietor. He continued to reside on it, however, until his death, which occurred Jan. 27, 1905. Mr. Roverud was married June 19, 1882, to Mrs. Bertha Elida Risty, widow of Ole Risty. The children of this union were as follows: Conrad T., born April 15, 1883, now proprietor of the home farm; Henry Sylvester, born Jan. 26, 1885, who is now living in Spring Grove township; Ida Georgine, born Jan. 17, 1887, who for some time kept house for her brother Conrad and then married Casper Sandeger, of Iowa; Gerhard Antonius, born Feb. 2, 1889; Mollie Josephine, born Feb. 4, 1891, who is now Mrs. Alvin Anderson, of Spring Grove township; Arnold Emil (first), born March 9, 1893, who died Feb. 5, 1895; Arnold Emil (second), born Feb. 15, 1895, now living on a farm at Humbolt, Minn.; and Edward Cornelius and Knute, who died in infancy. Mr. Roverud was a successful stock and grain farmer, whose labors added to the general agricultural wealth of the county, and in his own township he was esteemed as a reliable and useful citizen. His wife is still residing on the farm with her son Conrad.

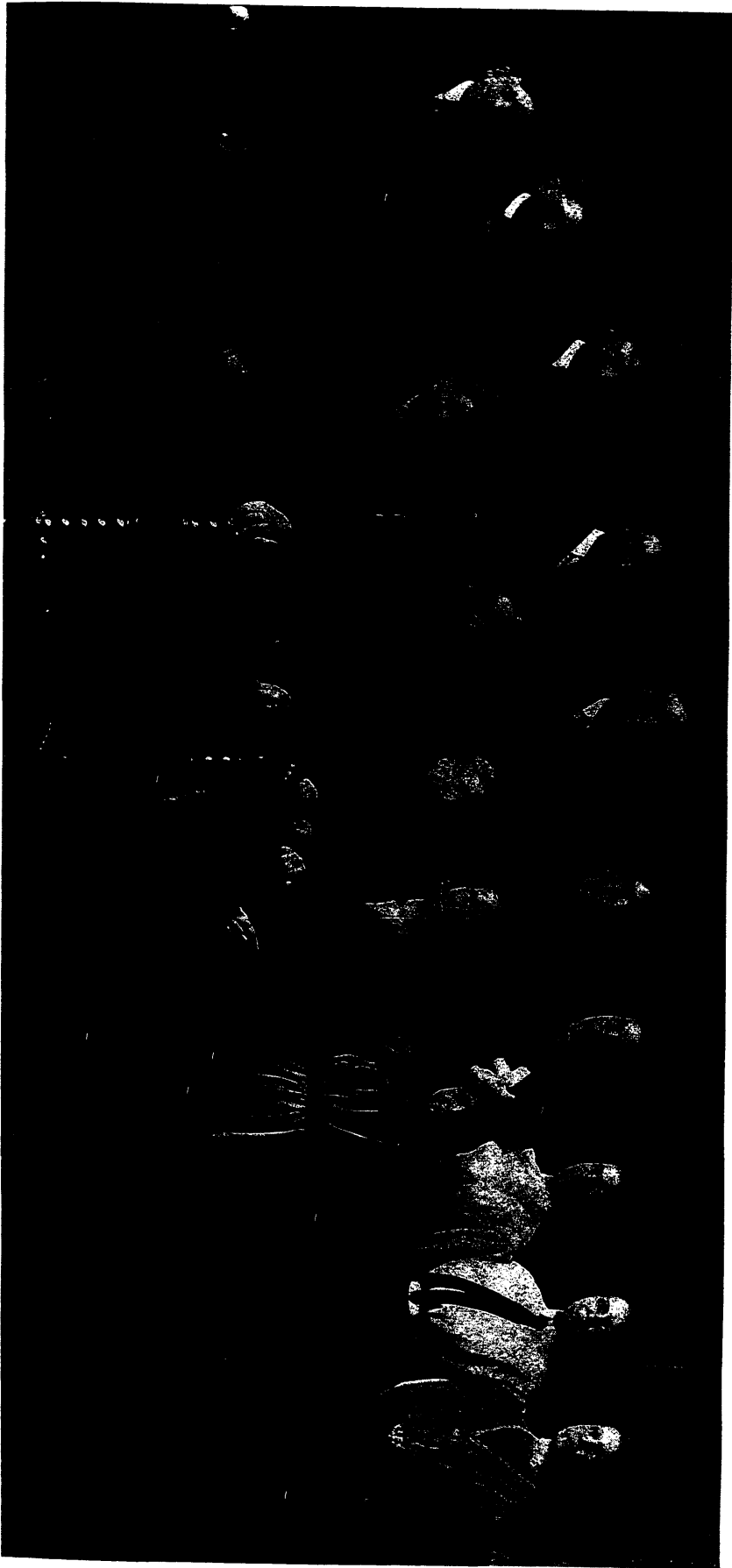
Conrad T. Roverud, proprietor of an excellent farm in section 2, Spring Grove township, two miles north of Spring Grove village, was born on this farm, April 15, 1883, son of Andrew K. and Bertha Elida Roverud. From his early years he was associated with his father in the development of the old homestead, which he bought in partnership with his brother, Henry S., in the fall of 1904. In 1909 the partnership was dissolved, Conrad buying his brother's interest, since which time he has been the sole proprietor. The farm contains 197 acres, of which area 150 acres are now under the plow.

To the substantial buildings erected by his father he has added, in 1916, a modern cement-block hog-house, 26 by 60 feet in size, with hip roof and cement floor. As a general farmer and stock breeder he is making good progress, breeding registered Shorthorn cattle, of which he has a herd of 25 to 30; also having a herd of about 27 Angus feeders, and a herd of 50 to 75 Poland-China hogs. He is a shipper of full-blooded sires through the north and west. His farm is well fenced and in a good state of cultivation, the land being fertile and productive. The buildings stand on elevated ground and command a beautiful view, the surroundings being picturesque. Mr. Roverud's equipment includes a fine automobile, and his teams, tools and machinery are fully adequate to all the purposes of modern and scientific farming. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Spring Grove Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and the Spring Grove Hospital, of which last mentioned institution he is a director. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he having been a trustee of the Spring Grove congregation for the last three years.

Mr. Roverud was married, June 17, 1918, to Anna M. Hensrud, a graduate nurse of Spring Grove. They have one child, Elida Mathilda, born June 2, 1919.

Hans E. Lageson, for many years an active farmer in Spring Grove township, but now living retired in Mabel, Fillmore county, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, Dec. 26, 1851, son of Elling and Martha Leageson. The parents, born near Margried, Norway, came to America in the spring of 1851, locating first in Dane county, Wisconsin, and coming thence to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1867. They settled on what is now the Peter A. Foss farm in section 33, Spring Grove township, but which was then merely a tract of wild land. With hardly any resources they began the arduous work of pioneer farming, in which they were assisted by their son, Hans E., who was already a strong boy of 16 years when they arrived in this county. He had had but little schooling, as even in Dane county he had been obliged to spend most of his time working on the farm, and his opportunities were no better here, as there was even more for him to do. However, at the age of 17 he began working out as a farm hand and was employed in that manner for several years. On Dec. 18, 1876, he married, his bride being Isabelle, daughter of Bendik and Annie Larson, of Wineshiek county, Iowa, in which state she was born, March 17, 1856. After his marriage Mr. Lageson worked his father-in-law's farm for awhile; but in 1877 he moved to Houston county and bought 80 acres of partly improved land in section 31, Spring Grove township. This farm he worked until 1882, when he sold it to William Sinclair and moved to the Sever Hanson farm in section 34 of the same township. Later he sold this farm also and bought the Everett farm, consisting of 160 acres of improved land in section 32, Spring Grove township. Though improved, the buildings on the place were very ordinary, consisting chiefly of an old frame house and some straw sheds. Here he lived until 1910, and during his occupancy of the estate he made valuable improvements on it, erecting a comfortable frame house of two stories, with upright and wing, and containing nine rooms,

HANS E. LAGESSON AND FAMILY



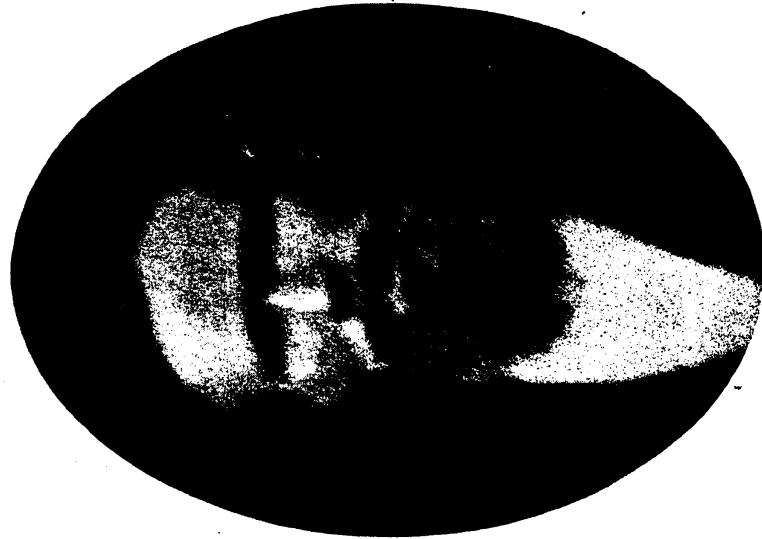
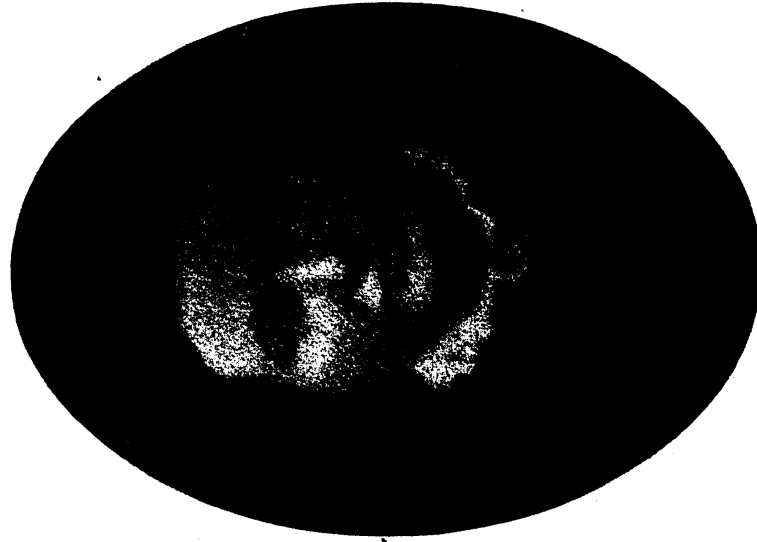
with a summer kitchen; also a frame barn, 40 by 56 feet; granary, machine shed and other buildings. His equipment was also good, and as a general farmer he was successful. His stock consisted chiefly of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. In 1910 Mr. Lageson retired, selling a part of his farm to Ole Tollefsrud, a neighbor. The balance of 120 acres he sold to his son, Gustave, in 1914. He still, however, owns a 40-acre tract in Spring Grove township, and is a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery, of Mabel, and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. In politics he has always been a Republican, while religiously he and his family are members of the Mabel congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Lageson fourteen children have been born, thirteen of whom are now living: Albert, born May 31, 1877, is engaged in business at Mabel; Elizabeth Marie, born Sept. 20, 1878, resides with her parents; Bena Henrietta, born March 7, 1880, is housekeeper for her brother, Gustave; Gustave, born Jan. 15, 1884, owns a part of the old homestead, which he rents to his brother Herbert, he himself operating a farm in Fillmore county; Sophia Matilda, born Feb. 10, 1885, resides at home with her parents; Leonard, born Sept. 16, 1887, is a business man of Mabel; Anna Louise, born June 20, 1889, is living at home; Gertrude Aletta, born Feb. 4, 1891, is assisting her sister Bena keep house for their brother Gustave; Herbert, born Feb. 13, 1893, is a farmer in Spring Grove township; Bendik Algenus, born Oct. 3, 1894, has been a musician in the United States army but is now residing at home; Frances Idella, born Sept. 23, 1896, is a student in the Mabel High School; Elmer James, born July 8, 1898, and Franklin Mauritz, born May 25, 1901, are also students in the Mabel High School; Gustave (first), born Feb. 19, 1883, died Feb. 25, 1884.

Oscar R. Tollefsrud, a representative of a well known and respected family of Spring Grove township, where he is operating a farm of 120 acres in section 32, was born in this section and township, March 29, 1889, son of Ole O. and Gurine Tollefsrud. He acquired his education in the district school and resided at home, except for one summer, when he worked for his brother Clarence. In 1908 he rented from his father a farm of 120 acres in sections 28 and 29, Spring Grove township, which he operated subsequently for five years. Then, being ready to establish a home of his own, he was united in marriage, June 25, 1913, to Emma Larson, daughter of Nels and Georgina (Kjome) Larson, of Spring Grove township. In the same year he bought his present farm in section 32, containing 120 acres, of which he has 100 acres under cultivation. The land is productive and his buildings include a good five-room frame house, consisting of an upright and wing; a frame barn, 32 by 56 by 16 feet in size, with a full stone basement of eight feet and concrete floors; a granary, 16 by 24 by 12 feet; a hog house with cement feeding floor, 12 by 24, and a machine shed, 16 by 30 feet. The farm is only three and a half miles from Mabel village and five and a half miles southwest of Spring Grove village. Mr. Tollefsrud is engaged in breeding Hereford cattle from Shorthorns, having now about 25 to 30 head; and also raises Poland-China hogs, having full-blooded sires for both his herds. He has a good operating equipment and is making steady

progress, his wealth increasing from year to year. He and his wife are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican.

Albert M. Lien, a prosperous representative of the agricultural interests of Spring Grove township, residing in section 19, was born in section 21, this township, Aug. 27, 1882, son of Lars and Mattie Lien, the parents being natives of Norway and farmers by occupation. Albert M. was educated in the district school and remained on the home farm until arriving at the age of 20 years. In December, 1902, he married, his bride being Julia, daughter of Knute K. and Anna Storlie, of Spring Grove township. At the same time he began his career as an independent farmer on the Martin Hoiland farm in section 27, Spring Grove township. There he remained but one year, however, as in the spring of 1904 he moved to the Ed Quinrud farm in section 21, where he remained until 1907. On Jan. 2 that year he bought his present farm of 103 acres in section 19, an improved farm with good buildings, the latter including a comfortable two-story, ten-room frame house; a frame barn, 31 by 48 by 16 feet, with a full eight-foot basement; a granary, 18 by 18, together with a hog house, corn crib, woodshed, poultry house and buggy shed. Mr. Lien, besides making improvements in the house, has built a tool shed, 16 by 32 feet in size, and now has 90 acres of his land under the plow. During the summer of 1918 Mr. Lien built a new modern barn, 31 by 84 by 14 feet, and eight-foot basement. The barn has cement floor and full modern equipment. The old barn has been torn down. The farm soil is fertile and in a good state of cultivation, and the place has a good equipment, including three work teams, an automobile and all necessary tools and machinery. In March, 1919, Mr. Lien purchased the 77 acres adjoining his original farm, with house, barns and other buildings standing thereon, so that he now owns 180 acres of as good land as is to be found in the township. Mr. Lien gives considerable attention to stock raising, having at present a herd of about 25 grade Black Poll cattle with a registered sire, and a herd of 50 Poland-China hogs with a full-blooded sire. Physically equipped for hard work, he is pushing his business and making good progress on the road to fortune. His farm is situated three and a half miles northeast of Mabel and six miles southwest of Spring Grove village, which latter place he makes use of as his market. Up to 1916 Mr. Lien was a Republican, but since then has been a non-partisan. He and his wife are the parents of five children, born as follows: Elvina Marinda, June 8, 1903; Luther Clifford, July 25, 1905; Norton Milford, Nov. 29, 1908; Harris Carlton, Jan. 4, 1913; and Frances Luella, Jan. 22, 1916. Mr. Lien and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Ole G. Gilbertson, a well known and respected resident of Spring Grove township, who is operating two adjoining farms in section 5, was born in section 27, this township, Nov. 9, 1885, son of Gilbert and Mary (Lee) Gilbertson. Acquiring the elements of knowledge in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 14, he subsequently spent a winter in a school at Decorah, Iowa, another winter in one at Mabel, Iowa, and in



MR. AND MRS. OLE LEE

1906 went to St. Paul, where he was a pupil for some time in the engineering school and agricultural college. In 1908, having returned to Houston county, he leased the Ole Lee farm in section 5, Spring Grove township, formerly belonging to his maternal grandfather, who had settled on it in 1854. In the following year Mr. Gilbertson married Alina Haagen, daughter of Ole and Inga Haagen, of Black Hammer township, and he and his wife began domestic life on the Ole Lee farm. In 1914 he leased the C. P. Onsgard farm in the same section, and in the year following removed to it, but is operating both farms. The northeast corner of the Onsgard farm almost touches the southwest corner of the Lee farm, the two farms being separated from direct connection only by a road. They are provided with adequate buildings and a good equipment, and Mr. Gilbertson is meeting with good success in the breeding of Brown Levis cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, having full-blooded sires for his herds. Since 1910 he has also operated a J. I. Case threshing outfit, for which he finds plenty of profitable work each season. In all he operates 350 acres of land. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Gennat, born Oct. 17, 1910; Ernest, born Aug. 12, 1913; and Irene, born Nov. 20, 1915. Mr. Gilbertson and his family are members of the Riceford congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. Sigrid Lee, widow of Ole Lee and one of the oldest pioneers of Houston county now living, resides with him and his wife on the farm.

Ole Lee, one of the earliest settlers in Spring Grove township, now passed away, was in his day a man widely known throughout the southwestern part of Houston county and was highly esteemed as a citizen of sterling character. He was born in Norway, Aug. 20, 1825, and came to America in 1846, landing at New York on Aug. 10. Making his way quickly to Milwaukee, he there procured an ox team, with which he journeyed to Rock county, Wisconsin, arriving Sept. 4. In that locality he spent eight years, engaged in farming. Then in 1854 he came to Houston county, Minnesota, buying 80 acres of land in section 5, Spring Grove township. The township lines not having then been clearly established, however, Mr. Lee supposed himself to be a resident of Black Hammer township, and his neighbors being under the same misapprehension, he was twice elected chairman of the Black Hammer town board. After the township lines had been properly surveyed he was elected as a member of the Spring Grove town board, on which he served for several years. In the meanwhile he purchased additional land and continued the development of his farm, in time erecting a comfortable frame house and other buildings. The same farm now has an area of 270 acres, 120 acres being in Spring Grove township and the remainder in Black Hammer. For a number of years Mr. Lee used oxen for his farm work, as did all the other early settlers, horses being hard to procure and also requiring more care than oxen, and therefore being less fitted to pioneer conditions. The oxen, though slow, were hardy and patient animals and answered the needs of the pioneer farmer. During the Civil War period Mr. Lee was drafted for military service, but procured a substitute, which cost him \$300, a sum of money then hard to

procure. Had he been a single man he might have gone as a soldier, but he already had a wife and several children, having been united in marriage, March 4, 1854, to Sigrid Christianson, who was born in Norway, April 7, 1836, and who had accompanied her parents to Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1848, as a girl of twelve years, and later, in 1850, to Winneshiek county, Iowa, adjoining Houston county, Minnesota, on the southwest. Her parents later removed to Becker county, Minnesota, where they died. For a number of years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lee with their growing family resided in the log cabin which was their first residence on the farm, but later removed to the frame house already mentioned. Although not physically strong and suffering for years from rheumatism, Mr. Lee made steady progress and at the time of his death in 1895, was the owner of a good farm. He served faithfully and efficiently in public office when called upon, and politically was aligned with the Republican party. A member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he was one of the founders of the Riceford congregation, which he helped to support according to his means, and was prominently active in its work along religious and social lines. He was recognized by all as an honorable man, faithful to his obligations in all the relations of life, and a kind husband and father. His wife is one of the few original settlers of Houston county still living and is now over 80 years old. They had eight children, three of whom died very young. The others are as follows: Leve, now Mrs. Olaus Daaken, of Red River Valley, Minn.; Ole, a merchant at Newhouse, Spring Grove township, this county; Mary, now Mrs. Gilbert Gilbertson, residing at home with her mother; Isabelle, wife of Nels Viker, of Fillmore county, Minnesota; Helena, wife of H. Olsgard, of Spring Grove township; Sarah, wife of Hans Jacobson, of Caledonia; and Christine, of Bagley, Minn.

Clarence O. Tollefsrud, proprietor of a good farm of 150 acres in section 32, Spring Grove township, which is the old homestead of his parents, was born on this farm, Jan. 11, 1878, son of Ole O. and Gurine Tollefsrud. This place has always been his home except for one year, which he spent on the farm of an uncle. His education was acquired in the district school and in the school at Mabel, which he attended for one winter. Having received a good practical training in agriculture in its various branches, in 1909 he rented the farm from his parents and, after operating it three years under rental, bought it in 1912. He has now 110 acres under the plow, the rest of his land being in pasture and timber. The farm is productive, well fenced and well cultivated, and the improvements include the buildings enumerated as follows: A good two-story, eight-room frame house; a frame barn, 32 by 50 by 18 feet, with a full eight-foot basement; a machine shed, 16 by 30 by 8 feet; granary, 16 by 24; poultry house, 12 by 14; workshop, 12 by 14; an old log corn crib built many years ago; and a sheep shed, 14 by 24 feet. Mr. Tollefsrud raises Hereford cattle and Poland-China swine, having full-blooded sires for his herds, and also keeps Belgian horses, besides having a small flock of Shropshire sheep. Industrious and thrifty, he is doing a profitable business and ranks among the successful farmers of his township. He and his wife, Amanda, whom he married May 4, 1911, have had five children, one of whom died in infancy.



ANDREW JOHNSON AND FAMILY

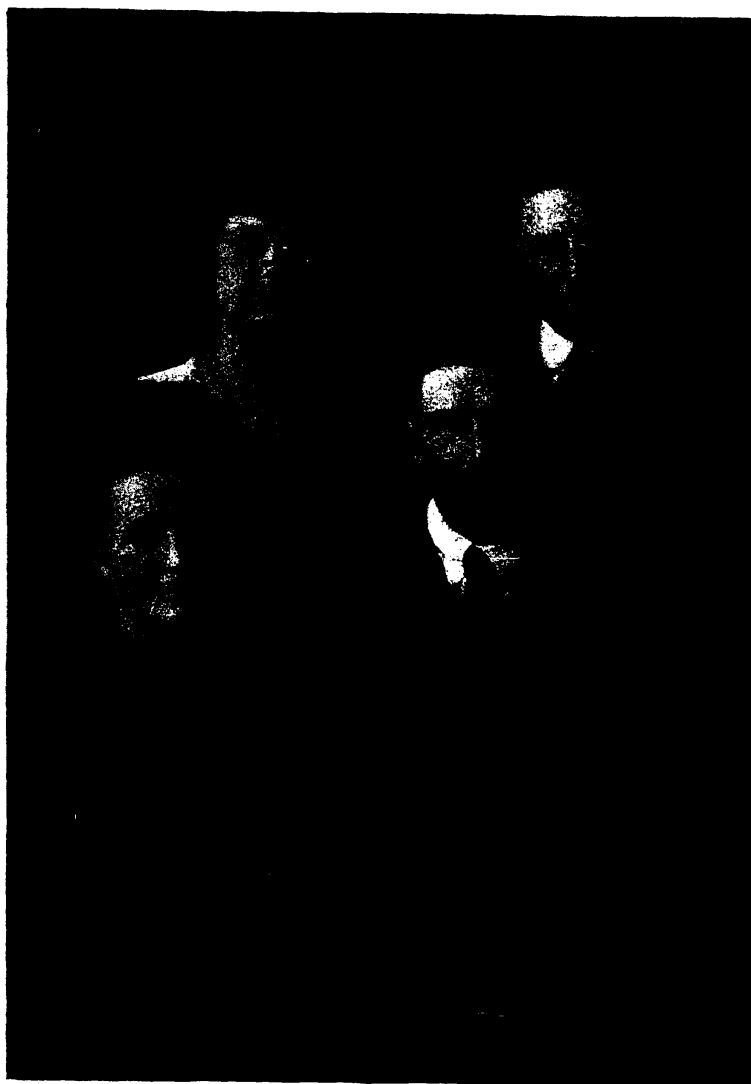
Those living are: Gladys Leona, born April 23, 1912; Amy Clarisa, born July 24, 1914; Verna Eldora, born May 14, 1916; and Eloen Arland, born April 21, 1918. Mr. Tollefsrud and his family are members of the Mabel congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Politically he is a Republican.

Andrew Johnson, a well known and respected citizen of Spring Grove township, residing in section 33, where he has a good 80-acre farm, was born in Valdres, Norway, March 4, 1864, son of John and Ingeborg Skaaren. He was but a few months old when his parents emigrated to the United States, accompanied by three children, Endre, Lars and Andrew, and settled immediately in Decorah, Iowa, where they remained for a year. Of these children Endre is now deceased, while Lars is still a resident of Iowa. Two other children were later born in the same state, Martin and Mary. From Decorah the family moved to Highland township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, the place on which they settled being only six and one-half miles southwest of Spring Grove village, Houston county, Minn. There the father, John Skaaren, died a few years ago, but the mother is still residing on the old farm. Andrew Johnson in his boyhood attended the school of that district as he found opportunity, for as his parents were poor he had to contribute his share of the general effort made by the family to improve their fortunes, and so to his lot fell more work than study. He remained at home until attaining his majority and then, feeling himself competent to support a family, he married, March 16, 1885, Louisa, daughter of Sivert and Martha (Larson) Gullickson, of Spring Grove township. That same spring he rented a farm near Mabel, in Fillmore county, where he and his wife began housekeeping. Their residence there, however, lasted but a year, as in the spring of 1886 Mr. Johnson bought his present farm of 80 acres in section 33, Spring Grove township, Houston county, on which stood a log house, while 25 or 30 acres of the land had been broken. With this beginning he started industriously to develop his farm and improve his fortunes, and his career has since been one of steady progress. Though his farm is not a large one, the soil is fertile, and he now has a good set of buildings and a modern operating equipment. The original log dwelling has given place to a comfortable, one and a half story frame house, while in 1916 he built a frame barn, 30 by 50 by 14 feet, with a stone basement and cement floors, and a modern equipment for hitching cattle and calves. There is also a cream separator room and two box stalls. In 1917 he put up a triple-wall silo, 12 by 22 feet, and among the other structures he has erected are a tool shed, 22 by 28 feet, with a granary in one end; a corn crib, steel windmill and hog house. His stock consists chiefly of grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, which he is raising on a profitable basis. He is a member of the American Society of Equity. Formerly a Republican, he recently became a non-partisan. He and his wife have been the parents of eight children: Sivert, born March 5, 1886, who is now a farmer living near Pinewood, in the northern part of Minnesota; Eddie, born Dec. 9, 1888, also residing near Pinewood; Isabella, born Oct. 22, 1889, who is keeping house for her father, Mrs. Louisa Johnson having died Sept. 27, 1901; Annie, born Jan. 7, 1892, residing at home; Olof, born May 24,

1893, also at home; Henry, born July 18, 1895, who resided at Pinewood, Minn.; and Mabel and Cora, twins, born Sept. 23, 1897, of whom Cora died at the age of two years, and Mabel is now residing on the home farm. Mr. Johnson and his family are members of the Highland (Iowa) congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. This family gave two sons to the United States service during the great war, both being with the army in France. Henry took part in some of the heaviest fighting and was with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Oscar L. Holum, who for the past fifteen years has owned and operated a farm of 160 acres in section 24, Spring Grove township, three and a half miles southeast of the village, was born in Norway, March 30, 1868, son of **Andreas and Caroline (Olson) Holum**. The father was born in 1847 and the mother in 1844. They came to the United States in 1871, when the subject of this sketch was three and a half years old, and in addition to himself, a sister, **Oliva**, came also from Norway. The first settlement of the family was made at Lansing, Iowa, where they remained for a year. Then they removed to Brownsville, Houston county, Minn., where they spent two years, at the end of that time removing to Spring Grove township, living a mile and a half northeast of Spring Grove Village, and the father working out as a day laborer. In 1878 the parents bought a farm at Sheldon, Minn., and to that place the family moved. There the mother is now living, a widow, **Andreas Holum** having died Aug. 3, 1909. They had in all eight children: **Oscar L.**, the subject of this sketch; **Axel**, who died in Norway; **Oliva**, now Mrs. **Iver Sylling** of Wilmington township; **Matilda**, wife of **Ingvald Doley**, of Wilmington township; **Nettie**, wife of **Andrew Johnson** of Alban, Minn.; **Mari**, who resides with her mother at Sheldon, Minn.; **Caroline and Constance**, who are now deceased. **Oscar L. Holum** acquired his education in the common schools of Sheldon, Minn. He remained at home until 1890, and then coming to Wilmington township, Houston county, worked for three years, from 1890 to 1893, for **Jacob Johnson** as a farm hand. On Jan. 8, 1893, he was married to **Oline**, daughter of **Ole and Randi Roppe** of Spring Grove township, and he and his wife began domestic life on a farm of 200 acres at Sheldon, of which farm 100 acres were already under cultivation. After operating that place for a year, Mr. Holum sold it and rented a farm in Spring Grove township, which place he operated for eight years. He then bought his present farm of 160 acres in section 24, of which he now has 110 acres under the plow, and where he is carrying on diversified farming, keeping grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. He has an adequate equipment, which includes a Ford auto, and is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Holum have two children: **Caroline**, born Nov. 28, 1893; and **Olaf**, born Sept. 22, 1895, both of whom are residing at home, **Olaf** being engaged in assisting his father on the farm.

Ole Amundson Bergh, a pioneer of Spring Grove township, was born in Ness Hallingdal, Norway, and was married in the spring of 1843 to **Marie Anderson Langaar**. In 1850 they set out for America, and after a



OSCAR L. HOLUM AND FAMILY

tedious voyage of ten and a half weeks aboard a sailing vessel, landed in New York. From there they found their way to Rock county, Wisconsin, near Oxfordville, where they secured eighty acres of land. But hearing of better land to the westward, Mr. Bergh in the fall of 1851 set out for this region. On Looking Glass Prairie, Winnishiek county, Iowa, he found a piece of land which suited him, and returned to Wisconsin for his wife. But fearful of the Indians who were then numerous, Mrs. Bergh refused to come until the following spring, when news came to them of the signing of the Indian treaties, relinquishing all Indian rights to this region. Accordingly, in the spring of 1852, with his brother, Tolef A., and their wives, he set out with an ox team, his household supplies and several cows. Journeying by way of Prairie du Chien and Decorah, they reached Big Canoe, Iowa, where they left their families. Finding the land in Looking Glass Prairie taken, the two men continued to Houston county, and each selected a claim in Spring Grove township. Then they went and brought their families here. Ole A. Bergh squatted on eighty acres in what is now section 16, two miles southwest of the village. He built a pole house, broke some land, and started to put up hay for the winter. In the fall he built a log cabin. Thus the pioneer life of the family in Minnesota was started. In 1859 the small cabin was replaced with a substantial two story, hewn log house, with a good cellar. Later the inside of this cabin was sheeted and the outside clapboarded, and a frame addition built, giving a comfortable family home. On March 1, 1860, by the advice of a friend, he preempted the eighty acres on which he had squatted, and also the adjoining eight acres. The patent, signed by President James Buchanan, is still in the family. Mr. and Mrs. Bergh lived and labored together on this place the remainder of their lives, he dying Dec. 16, 1885, and she Nov. 7, 1894.

Andrew O. Bergh, who was one of the prominent and influential citizens of Spring Grove township, spent the whole span of his years on the farm where he was born. He was born in a log cabin thereon Aug. 1, 1854, son of Ole Amundson and Marie Anderson (Langaar) Bergh, the pioneers. He was educated in the district schools, and also had the advantages of two winters in the Elwell Business College at La Crosse. At his father's death he bought one half of the home farm, which then consisted of 360 acres, of which some 175 acres had been improved. To the development of this farm he continued to devote his attention, building a two-story frame house of nine rooms, upright and wing, with several modern improvements including a furnace. His farm buildings are in the best of condition, and include a frame barn 30 by 60 by 18 feet, a swine house, 16 by 26 feet, and a double corn crib, 20 by 24 feet, with an eight-foot drive between. One hundred and twenty acres are under the plow, and the balance in pasture and timber. The farm is well equipped with tools and machinery. Aside from the usual diversified crops, Mr. Bergh made a specialty of graded Shorthorns of which he had a herd of about thirty and of Duroc-Jersey swine, of which he had a herd of some sixty. Mr. Bergh was a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co. and the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, both of Spring Grove. A thorough believer in education, he

served several years on the school board. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Bergh was married July 8, 1876, to Margaret Odegard, daughter of Erick and Karine Odegard, early settlers. She died March 21, 1897, leaving ten children, Edward, Olaf, Adolph, Clara, Albert, Amanda, Henry, Hilda, Nina and Margaret. Edward was born Dec. 25, 1876, and now lives in Minneapolis. Olaf was born July 16, 1878; Adolph was born April 3, 1880, and died Nov. 3, 1894; Clara was born Feb. 3, 1882, and died May 17, 1909; Albert was born June 20, 1884; Amanda was born Nov. 15, 1886; Henry was born Sept. 15, 1888; Hilda was born Jan. 12, 1891, and married Albert Halsath of Alberta, Canada; Nina was born Sept. 15, 1895; Margaret was born March 18, 1887, and died Sept. 15, 1909. Mr. Bergh was married June 5, 1905, to Marie Odegard, sister of his first wife, who now makes her home in the village of Spring Grove. Mr. Bergh died March 6, 1919. The farm is now being carried on by Henry and Albert, their sister Nina keeping house for them.

Henry Wold, one of the leading agriculturists of Spring Grove township, is conducting an excellent farm, and is taking his part in the development of the region in which he lives. He is a native of this township, having been born in section 32, Sept. 27, 1872, son of Knudt and Berget Wold. He attended district school in his neighborhood, and attained his higher education at the Valder Business College at Decorah, Iowa. In 1895 he and his brother, Peter A., rented the home place, and in 1899 he and his brother, Peter A., bought 201 acres in section 30, over the hill from the father's farm. In 1909 Henry disposed of his interests to Peter A. and purchased the old homestead of 220 acres in section 31. To the development of this place he has since devoted his attention. It is located seven miles southwest of Spring Grove Village and four miles southeast of Mabel. One hundred and sixty acres are under the plow, and there is a good equipment of tools and machinery. The family dwelling is a comfortable two-story house of ten rooms. The farm buildings consist of a barn built in 1914, 36 by 74 by 20, with a hip roof, and an eight-foot stone basement with a cement floor, a swine house, a granary, and a stave silo. On this place Mr. Wold carries on diversified farming and stock breeding. With a Hereford sire he is breeding into the Hereford stock from high graded Shorthorns, and has a splendid herd. He also has a drove of some seventy-five Poland-China hogs. Mr. Wold is a member of the American Society of Equity and a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Mabel. He is a prosperous, hard working man, and thoroughly deserves the success with which he has met in life. Mr. Wold was married in 1909, to Emma, the daughter of Mathias and Mary Tomeraasen, formerly of Benson, Minn., now of Willmar, Minn. This union has been blessed with five children, Bernice Marjorie, born March 11, 1912; Ruby Viola, born Feb. 26, 1914; Verna Iona, born June 2, 1915; Hildus Eugene, born March 22, 1917; and Orlin Eleanor, born Sept. 1, 1918. The family attends the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at Mabel.

Charley M. Langland, for the last thirteen years assistant cashier of the State Bank of Spring Grove, president of the Commercial Club of the village, and the owner of a good farm of 200 acres in Winneshiek county,

Iowa, was born in Pleasant township, that county, on the farm mentioned Nov. 25, 1870, son of Mons and Maria (Johnson) Langland. The parents were natives of Norway, whence have come so many hardy settlers of this region. Both came to this country when young, the father at the age of fourteen and the mother at that of four years, and both families settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, though in different townships, the Langlands locating in Pleasant township while the Johnsons took a farm in Highland. After their marriage the parents of the subject of this sketch began farming in Pleasant township, and in time developed a farm of 120 acres on which both died, the father June 4, 1899, and the mother July 20, 1891. They were members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Charley M. Langland acquired his primary education in the district school, which he attended until reaching the age of nineteen years. Then in 1889, in the fall, he became a student at Breckenridge Institute, Decorah, Iowa, and pursued his studies there during the winters of 1889 and 1892, his summers being spent on the home farm. In the spring of 1892 he began teaching school, an occupation in which he continued for seven years, the last two years of that time in Spring Grove village school, where he taught from the fall of 1896 to the spring of 1898. His vacations were spent in working on the home farm, and in the winter of 1895-96 he improved his education by attendance at the Valder Normal and Business College at Decorah, Iowa. In the fall of 1898 he again entered the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah and was a student there until the following spring, with the intention of taking a University course. But his father's health having begun to fail a year previously and not improving, he returned home and took charge of the farm, which he operated until the fall of 1899. He was then appointed deputy auditor of Winneshiek county, the duties of which office he assumed Sept. 18, 1899, and in which he continued until March, 1903. He then resigned and went back to the home farm, which he bought two years previously, his father's death having occurred, as previously narrated. In 1902 he had also bought an additional tract of eighty acres adjoining the farm on the west, which increased his landed property to 200 acres. The name of Valley View Farm, which he gave to the place, was the first recorded farm name in Winneshiek county. The place is well provided with buildings of modern type, including a two-story frame house; a frame barn 30 by 70 by 14 feet in size, with a full basement of nine feet and cement floors; a granary, 26 by 26 by 10 feet; machine shed, 22 by 48; poultry house, 12 by 30, on the "Minnesota model"; a triple-wall silo, 14 by 32, and corn cribs. The farm, now leased to a tenant, is well stocked with Hereford grade cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, with full blooded registered sires for each herd. On Oct. 1, 1906, Mr. Langland came to Spring Grove to take the position of assistant cashier in the State Bank of this village, in which he is still serving. Here he has made his power felt as an able business man, and is now serving as president of the Commercial Club and also of the Spring Grove high school board. He is a director and stockholder in the bank, and also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Hospital, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, of which he is treasurer, and in the Twin City Fire Insurance Company of Minneapolis.

Always a Republican in politics, while living in Winneshiek county, Iowa, he served at different times in public office, being for a while clerk of his township, deputy auditor of the county for three and a half years, and two years as a member of his school board. Mr. Langland was married Sept. 12, 1911, to Clara Elizabeth, who was born at Fergus Falls, Minn., April 21, 1884, daughter of Hans T. and Karen Hills. The children of this union are: Corine Minerva, born Sept. 23, 1912; Maurice Howard, born Jan. 12, 1914; Richard Alexander, born July 3, 1917; Joseph Thomas, born Feb. 16, 1917; Lois Elizabeth, born Dec. 23, 1918. Mr. Langland and his family worship with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he being a member of the Highland congregation of that religious body in Winneshiek county, Iowa, which he formerly served as treasurer for nine years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Langland are taking an active part in the progress and welfare of the community in which they reside.

Knudt O. Wold, one of the earliest settlers of Spring Grove township, was born in Christiana-Stift, Dec. 22, 1830, and was there reared to young manhood. In 1850 he came to America and lived for a while with a brother in Wisconsin. In 1852 he came to northeastern Iowa, and a few months later to Spring Grove township, then a wilderness almost entirely uninhabited. He staked a claim near the present village of Spring Grove, but during a temporary absence his claim was jumped by a newcomer, and not being of a pugnacious disposition, Mr. Wold moved over the line into Winona county. Here he built a log cabin and prepared for pioneer life, but this claim also was jumped. Then he decided to get still further into the wilderness, so he took a claim near Springfield, in Jackson county, this State. But upon the Inkpaduta outbreak he became discouraged at this venture and came back to Spring Grove township and secured land in section 31. He cleared and developed this land, and by hard work created a good farm. Then he bought a tract of land in section 30, which he afterward sold to his sons, Henry and Peter A. After a long and useful life he died January 1, 1907, and was widely mourned as a good husband, a considerate father, and a respected citizen and neighbor. He was a man of sincere religious beliefs and was active in the affairs of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at Mabel. Mr. Wold was married as a young man to Mary Anderson and by this marriage there were four children, Ole, Theodore, Marie and Matilda. Ole lives in Mabel in Fillmore county, this State. Theodore lives in Enderline, N. D. Marie is Mrs. Christ Espelund, of Northwood, Iowa. Matilda, now deceased, was the wife of Henry Helgeson. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Wold married Berget Burtness and by this union had eleven children, Christina, Henry, Peter A., Carl, Elginus, Adolph, Rudolph, Oscar, Beatha, Osella and Leonard. Peter is a farmer of Spring Grove township. Henry A. owns the home farm. Carl lives at Elbo Lake, Minn. Elginus lives in Minneapolis. Adolph has served in the United States Infantry. Beatha is the wife of Charles Cady, of Mabel. Osella lives with her mother in Mabel, Minn. Leonard has served with the Aviation corps in France. Christina and Rudolph are deceased. Oscar lives in Montana. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Peter A. Wold, an energetic and successful farmer of Spring Grove township, was born on section 32, in the township where he still resides, Dec. 10, 1874, the son of Knudt O. and Berget Wold, who were born in Norway, came to America in the sixties and settled in Spring Grove township, where they were worthy and respected citizens. Peter A. Wold attended district school until he was about fifteen years of age. He was reared to farm pursuits on the home place and in 1895, with his brother Henry, rented the homestead. In 1899 he and the same brother, Henry, bought from their father a tract of 201 acres in section 30, in the same township, just across the hill from the home place. This partnership continued until 1909, when Peter A. bought out his brother's interest and became sole owner and proprietor. When the brothers started to operate this farm a log house and an old frame house and old frame barn were on the place. In 1902 the brothers erected a good barn, 42 by 60 by 16 feet, with full stone eight-foot basement. After securing the farm in 1914, Peter A. remodeled the old frame house into a comfortable residence and constructed a stave silo, 16 by 32 feet. The farm is now one of the most sightly in the township. The house is surrounded with evergreen trees set out by the owner, and everything about the place bespeaks thrift and care. In 1914, at the same time that Mr. Wold made the improvements on the farm in section 30, he purchased a tract of 200 acres in sections 28 and 29, Spring Grove township, to which he moved. This place is two miles east of the old homestead. The buildings on this place were in fair condition, but only fifty acres had been broken. To the development of this farm Mr. Wold has since devoted his attention. He has an excellent equipment of tools and machinery and intends to make the place one of the best in the township. Aside from carrying on general farming and raising the usual diversified crops, Mr. Wold specializes in cattle, horses and swine. For some years he raised Shorthorn cattle, but is now grading to Herefords, having a herd of some sixty or seventy head. His drove of Poland-China swine, numbering about 75, is headed by several full-blooded sires. Mr. Wold is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, of Mabel. He is also a member of the American Society of Equity. In politics he is a Republican, but has never cared to seek public office. He is a hard working, industrious man, highly regarded by his neighbors and associates.

Mr. Wold was married, Feb. 14, 1905, to Clara Thomeraasen, daughter of Mathias and Mary Thomeraasen, then of Benson, Minn., now of Willmar, Minn. This union has been blessed with seven children: Blanche, Perley, Myron, Vernon, Russell, Glennis and Arlien.

Bjorn Anderson Kvelve, though never a resident of Houston county, was a man with an interesting history. The subject of this sketch was born in Vikedal, Norway, June 3, 1801, his parents being peasants. After he had grown to manhood he became the owner of a small farm in the vicinity of his birthplace, and also of a small coasting vessel, dividing his time between farming and coast trading, carrying fish and other commodities to Stavinger and bringing back various merchandise. In Stavinger he came into contact with a body of Quakers, in whose doctrines he became

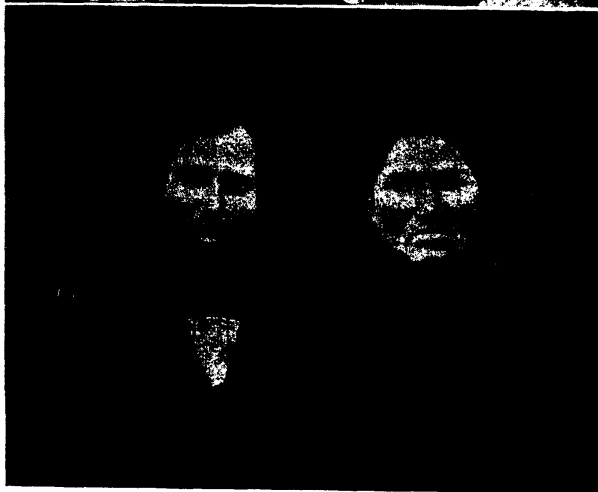
interested and with whom he identified himself in religious communion. As this was in the second decade of the last century, he was still but a young man, between 20 and 30 years of age, but being a born agitator, he made himself conspicuous by his advocacy of the Quaker doctrines, which, as they differed so widely from the religious faith of the great majority of the people, made him unpopular and got him into some trouble. He also found himself mixed up in more unpleasantness when, in July, 1831, he married Abel Catherine Von Kroh, who was born in Sandeid, Vikedal, Norway, Oct. 8, 1809, and whose parents, belonging to a prominent military family, were opposed to the match. Less than five years later, however, Bjorn Anderson Kvelve cut loose from all these disagreeable associations, becoming the leader of a large company that in the spring of 1836 sailed from Stavinger, Norway, for America. Here in the United States he and his wife found that no one cared what their religion was nor what had been their respective social positions in their native land, so long as they showed a desire to work and conducted themselves like decent people. They first located in Rochester, N. Y., but in 1837 came west as far as the "Fox River Settlement," in La Salle county, Illinois, where they remained until 1840. Then in June of that year Anderson Kvelve went to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he bought 80 acres of government land in Albion township and built a log cabin. In the following year he brought his family to the new home, his wife being the first white woman to make her residence in that township, and their daughter Martha was the first white child born there. This daughter is now Mrs. Lewis Johnson, of Goodhue county, Minnesota. The education of the older children was begun by their father, who later engaged private teachers for them. Thus matters went along, the parents working hard at developing a farm, until 1850, when the scourge of cholera—in those days more common than now—struck the community, and among the victims were the subject of this sketch and one of his sons. There were ten children in the family, the son Bruun, or "Brown," not having yet been born. All, including the mother, took the disease, but all, with the exception of the father and the son above mentioned, recovered. The coffins for the dead were made by Ole Teigen, a neighbor, who attended to the funeral ceremonies. In the following April was born the son Bruun, now known as Brown Anderson, a prominent citizen of Spring Grove village, Houston county, Minn. Four years later the mother married Englebret Amundson, a native of Norway, who had been in her employ for some time previous. This union resulted in one son, Albert, now a practicing physician in Cambridge, Dane County, Wis. Mrs. Englebret Amundson died about 1883. Of the eleven children by her first marriage, eight are now living.

Brown Anderson, a prominent business man of Spring Grove village, where for the past thirty-eight years he has successfully conducted a restaurant and confectionery business, was born in Albion township, Dane county, Wisconsin, April 7, 1851, son of Bjorn Anderson Kvelve and his wife, whose maiden name was Abel Catherine Von Krogh. His parents were Norwegian immigrants who, on coming to the United States in 1837, had settled first in Rochester, N. Y., and then in La Salle county, Illinois,

whence they had removed to Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1840. In the fall of 1850 the father and one of his sons fell a victim to cholera, the father thus never seeing his son Bruun, now known as Brown Anderson. The latter at the age of 14 went to live with a sister near New Lisbon, Wis., and remained with her for four years. Then going to Decorah, Iowa, he entered the Lutheran college there and three years later was graduated from the teachers' department. He also took up salesmanship, at which he was employed in different lines for a year or more. When about 23 years old he came to Houston county and engaged as clerk with Nicholas Koob, of Caledonia, with whom he remained for three years. About the end of that period he began domestic life, being united in marriage, March 11, 1876, with Caroline Henri, of Black Hammer township. She was born in Norway, Jan. 8, 1853, daughter of Ole and Martha Henri. The father dying in his native land, the mother had come to Minnesota with her six children—three sons and three daughters—Caroline then being about 6 years old. About the time of his marriage Mr. Anderson left the employ of Mr. Koob and for awhile thereafter was engaged in the music business. He then opened a restaurant in Caledonia, which he conducted for a short time, afterwards serving as deputy sheriff and turnkey under Sheriff Walter Goergen. These occupations were merely tentative, but in March, 1881, he found the right groove when he came to Spring Grove and opened on Main street the restaurant and confectionery business which he has since conducted, having always remained at the same location. In this line of work he has been successful and is now one of the prosperous and influential business men of the village, owning a comfortable home on Maple avenue. He has for a partner his son Albert, who now shoulders much of the work. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children, of whom eight are living. The record in brief is as follows: Martha Catherine, born Dec. 7, 1876, who is now the wife of Nelius Hendrickson, a general merchant of Sattre, Iowa; Bernhard O., born March 23, 1878, now a jeweler at Kindred, N. D.; Albert, born April 6, 1880, who, as already mentioned, is in business with his father; Anna Maria, born March 4, 1882, who died in July, 1888; Carl A., born Oct. 10, 1883, now in the agricultural implement business at Fallon, Mont.; Andreas Emil, born Dec. 14, 1885, who is a jeweler and optician at Towner, N. D.; Inga Matilda, born Jan. 4, 1888, now Mrs. William A. Bandel, station agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad at Hebron, N. D.; James Frederick Otto, born Sept. 15, 1890, who is engaged in the grocery and crockery business in Spring Grove; and Rudolph Bruun Martin Kvelve, born Jan. 1, 1892, an accomplished violinist, who entered the United States Army in 1917 and saw active service in France. Mr. Anderson and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, those at home attending the Spring Grove congregation. In politics Mr. Anderson is a Democrat. During his long residence in Spring Grove he has gained an established reputation as a reliable business man and public-spirited citizen, taking an interest in whatever is for the good of the community, of which he is one of the prominent members, and his surviving children have grown to useful manhood and womanhood, reflecting credit on the family name.

Nels Olsgard, one of the energetic and successful farmers of Spring Grove township, was born in the township where he still resides, March 12, 1871, one of the eleven children of Ole and Thora Olsgard. Ole Olsgard was born in Norway in 1830, and there married his wife, Thora, who was born in the same country in 1835. Their children were Henry, Rachel, Ole, Teman, Leva, Oline, Peter, Nels, Ida, Mary and Belinda, all of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Olsgard came to America in 1867, and located at once in Wilmington township, this county. After a year there they moved to section 32, Spring Grove township. Only a few improvements had been made, but a small log cabin had been built. In this log cabin the family made their home. But one night the cabin burned to the ground, and the family sought shelter at the home of Arne Solberg. Then a comfortable two-story log house was built. Later this was replaced with the present slightly frame dwelling. Ole Olsgard died Nov. 3, 1898, and his widow moved to Spring Grove village where she died in March, 1918. Nels Olsgard, the subject of this sketch, was born in the home of Arne Solberg, while his family found temporary shelter there. He received his early education in the district schools of his neighborhood, and also had the advantages of courses in the Breckenridge Institute and the Valder Business College, both at Decorah, Iowa. Since then, with the exception of one summer spent in North Dakota, he has remained on the home farm. To the original tract of 120 acres he has added 120 acres, so that he now has a fine farm of 240 acres on which he carries on general farming and dairying. In 1914 he built a modern barn, 34 by 76 by 16 feet, with a full-stone, nine-foot basement, provided with cement floors, with James equipment and furnishing space for thirty head of cattle and twelve horses. The cream separator room is twelve feet square. The farm also has two machine sheds, granary, calf shed, swine house, and a lean-to feeding shed with cement floors. Thus equipped, Mr. Olsgard carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of cattle, swine and horses. He has about fifty high grade Hereford cattle and about 100 Duroc-Jersey swine, both of which herds have full-blooded registered sires. His horses are of a high grade Belgian breed. The equipment of the farm is of the best, and located as he is, six miles southwest of Spring Grove village and five miles east of Mabel, he finds a ready market for all his products. His place is kept in the best of condition, and is a tribute to the care and thrift of its owner. Mr. Olsgard was married Feb. 5, 1908, to Lena Tollefsrud, daughter of Ole and Gurine Tollefsrud, of Spring Grove township, who was born in the same cabin as himself. Both are active in the social affairs of the community, and both are deeply interested in the work of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Spring Grove.

Knute Onsgard, one of early settlers of Spring Grove township, now deceased, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married to Berget Vibe. Having little expectation of attaining to comfortable circumstances in their native land, in 1860 they emigrated to Minnesota, coming directly to Spring Grove township, Houston county, where they bought 160 acres of wild government land, situated two and a half miles west of the village. With very limited resources they began in



MR. AND MRS. NELS OLSGARD
MR. AND MRS. OLE OLSGARD

a humble way, living in a small log house and developing the land with the aid of oxen. Progress was slow but steady and in time a flourishing farm occupied the place of the original wild tract. On this place Mr. Onsgard died Feb. 2, 1901, having several years previously sold the farm to his son Martin K. His wife survived him 15 years, finally moving with her son to the village, and dying at his home there March 24, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Onsgard had eight children: Ingeborg, now residing in Spring Grove village, the widow of Dr. Thore E. Jensen; Kari, who married Ole Gullingson, of Detroit, Minn.; he died in 1914; Gure, who married Gul Traaen; Bella, deceased, who was the wife of Teman Evenson; Christian, now a physician in Rushford, Minn.; Lauritz, a physician in Houston, Minn.; Martin K., a merchant in Spring Grove village; and Marie, a resident of Great Falls, Mont., and the widow of Herman Gunvalson.

Martin K. Onsgard, one of the leading merchants of Spring Grove, dealing in boots, shoes, dry goods and groceries, who is also the owner of a fine farm in Spring Grove township, was born on the farm mentioned, situated two and a half miles west of the village, Aug. 30, 1868, son of Knute and Berget (Vibe) Onsgard. He acquired his education in the district school, which, however, he attended but for a limited period, becoming industrially active at an early age as his father's assistant on the farm, and he continued to act as such until about 1897, when he purchased the property, his parents continuing their residence thereon. In 1901 the father died, but the mother continued to reside with her son Martin, who operated the farm until 1906, when he rented it to a tenant and moved to the village, where he lived retired until the following year. He then bought a restaurant, which he conducted until the fall of 1908, when he sold it to Albert Vik. In March, 1909, he opened his present store on Main street, in partnership with Helmer Holje, but having bought his interest in 1911, he has since been the sole proprietor, and has established himself as a successful merchant, keeping a stock of up-to-date goods and giving good value to his customers. Before leaving the farm he had brought it into excellent condition, having 160 acres under the plow, with good herds of grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, the herds having full-blooded sires. He had also improved some of the buildings and erected others, which, as they now stand, include: a good, two-story house of 12 rooms; a frame barn 30 by 50 by 14 feet in size, with a full stone basement of 8 feet; a granary 18 by 24; milk house 10 by 10; machine shed 20 by 24; double corn crib 18 by 24, with an 8-foot drive between the cribs; and a hog house 24 by 44, with a cement feeding-floor. In addition to the interests already mentioned, Mr. Onsgard is a stockholder in the Root River Electric Co. He is a member of the village council and is usefully active in everything that concerns the good of the community in which he resides. He was married, Dec. 23, 1899, to Tena, daughter of Hans and Eli Forsyth, of Money Creek township, Houston county. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican.

James Gustav Landsom, who owns and operates a well improved farm in section 20, Spring Grove township, was born in this township, Nov. 19,

1881, son of John Olsen and Mary (Dukleth) Landsom. The parents were early settlers here, establishing a farm in section 20 soon after the close of the Civil War, in which the father served as a Union soldier. He died in Texas in 1894, after a short residence in that state, but the mother is still living being now a resident of Spring Grove village. James Gustav Landsom, who was one of a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom a son and two daughters died in infancy, was brought up on the home farm, on which he remained until arriving at the age of 16 years. He then accompanied his brother Ole to El Campo, Texas, remaining there about two years and a half, or until October, 1899, when he returned home and for a while was associated with his brother Andrew in operating the farm for their mother, Ole being still in Texas. In the spring of 1901 James G. bought from Andrew a farm of 121 acres, situated a mile and a half west from the old homestead, which had some improvements, including a small frame house and a barn. That place, after working it for a while, he later sold to B. O. Garness, and for five or six years subsequently worked as a farm hand, also for several years operating his mothers' farm. In 1910 he bought another farm, which he operated for six years, coming to his present farm, which he bought of C. P. Glassrud, in the spring of 1916. It contains 80 acres of land well improved; a five-room frame house, consisting of an upright and wing, and its other improvements at the time he bought it included a tool shed, granary, small frame barn and steel windmill. In 1917 Mr. Landsom erected a hip-roof barn, 32 by 56 by 14 feet, with block basement and cement floors, fitted out with a James equipment, and having room for 30 cattle and six horses. He also built a good corn crib and has otherwise improved the place. For his herds of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine he has full-blooded sires, while his general equipment is good and his farm productive. Mr. Landsom was married Nov. 28, 1912, to Mary Tweeten, daughter of Ole and Mary Tweeten of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and who was born March 19, 1879. On this union two children have been born: Margaret Marcella, born Aug. 5, 1915; and Julian Odell, born Jan. 3, 1917. Mr. Landsom and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Landsom inclines toward the principles of the Republican party, though not bound by strict party lines.

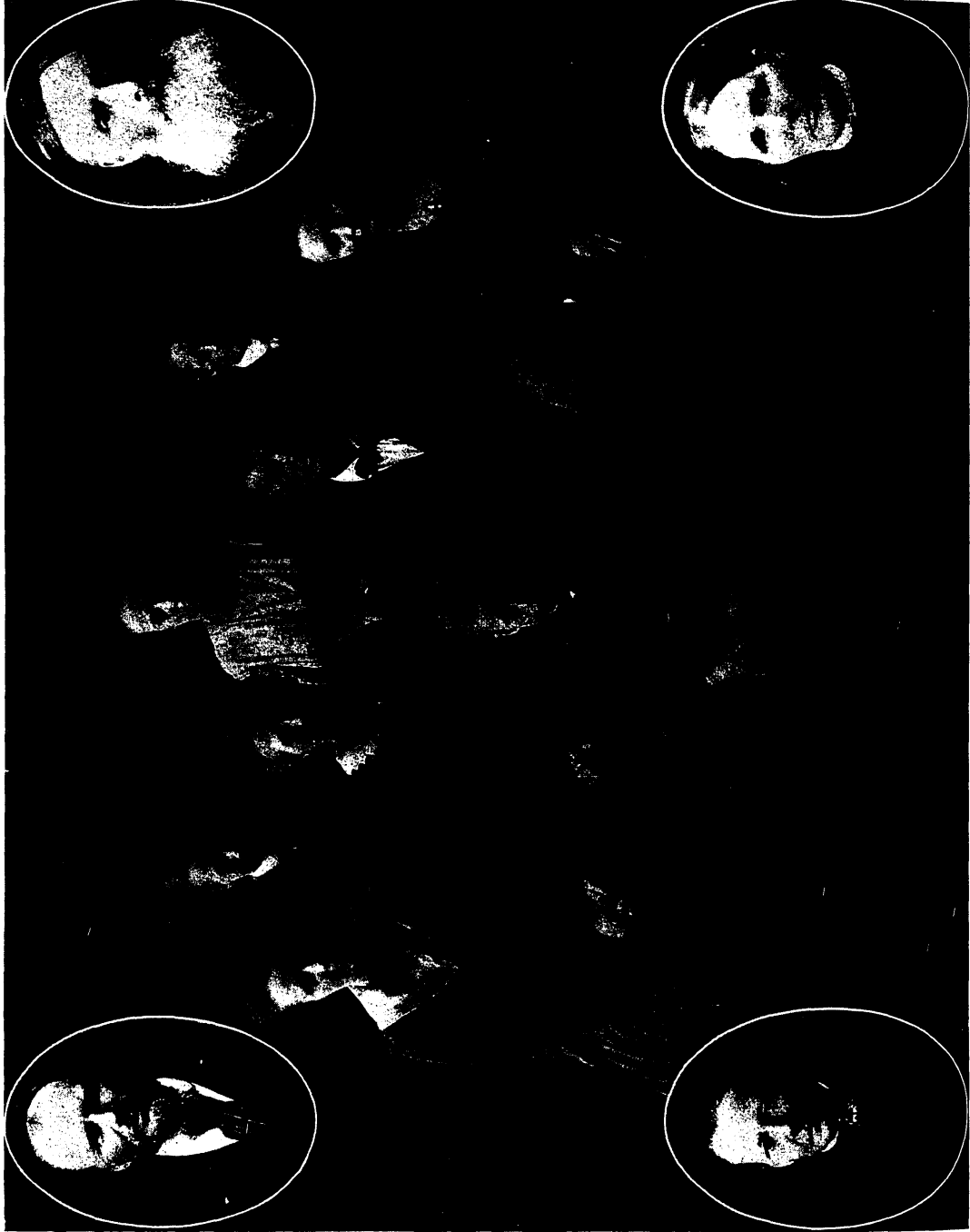
Arne O. Myhro, who with the exception of a few years was for nearly half a century a resident of Spring Grove township, where he developed an excellent farm, was born in Hallingdahl, Norway, May 24, 1848. At the age of nine years, or in 1857, he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, his father buying 130 acres of wild government land in sections 8 and 9, Spring Grove township, just west of the village. Thus the boyhood days of the subject of this sketch were passed amid pioneer scenes, and it soon fell to his lot to drive the oxen and do the various chores inseparable from farm work, his responsibilities increasing as he grew older. Occasionally when work was slack on the farm he was permitted to attend the district school. Thus he grew to manhood working for his parents until he attained his majority. He was then married,

March 20, 1869, to Anna, daughter of Benjamin and Jorend Kolsrud, of Spring Grove, and began domestic life on the parental homestead, which he then purchased. About 1901, however, certain lands being thrown open to settlement in what is now the state of North Dakota, he went there and homesteaded 160 acres near Harvey, and he and his wife resided on that farm for five years, during which time he developed the place, breaking the land, and erecting a comfortable frame house, a barn and other buildings. In 1906 he returned with his family to Spring Grove and began the improvement of the old homestead, though still retaining his Dakota farm, which he owned at the time of his death. On the former place, which he now made his home, he erected a two-story frame house of ten rooms; a barn 36 by 52 feet in size; a toolshed 24 by 40; corn cribs, a hog house, poultry house, and other necessary buildings. He also put 120 acres of the land under the plow and in time transformed the place into one of the best farms in the township, doing general farming and dairying. His teams and general equipment were first class, and he took special pride in his fine work horses. He also raised a good grade of cattle, keeping from 18 to 20 milch cows, and usually having from 20 to 25 young cattle on hand, besides a fair-sized herd of swine. Mr. Myhro continued on this farm until his death on Aug. 19, 1908. He had won a reputation as a successful farmer and a reliable citizen interested in the welfare of his community, and was a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. He was survived by his wife some five years, her death taking place Dec. 9, 1913. Their remains now rest in the West Cemetery close by their farm. Their children were as follows: Olaus A., now manager of the Spring Grove Grain & Stock Co.; Aasine, now deceased, who was the wife of H. Hellerund of Flora, N. D.; Jorgeine, now the wife of Ed Quarve, a farmer of Spring Grove township; Bernt, deceased, formerly a farmer at Hettinger, N. D.; Marie, wife of Martin Storlie, a farmer of Loma, N. D.; Josephine married G. Torrison, of Seattle, Wash., and is now deceased, her husband, formerly in the mining business, being now retired; Albert, a farmer and hardware merchant at Hamburg, N. D.; Gina, wife of Gust Carlson of Flora, N. D.; Amanda, wife of Arthur Glasrud, a farmer of Spring Grove township; Oscar, who is engaged in farming in the same township; Amos, who is living on the old homestead in this township; Julia, wife of Ingeman Mueller, a meat dealer of Spring Grove; and Sarah, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove high school and the Minnesota University and is now a teacher. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, those at home or in this vicinity, being members of the Spring Gorge congregation.

Olaus A. Myhro, manager of the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., and who is also the owner of an improved farm in Spring Grove township, was born on a farm in this township, July 29, 1871, son of Arne O. and Anna (Kolsrud) Myhro. He was early brought up to agricultural work in its various branches, but attended the district school, No. 55, up to the age of 18 years, and subsequently was a pupil for two years at the Decorah (Ia.) Business Institute. On April 3, 1895, at the age of 24 years, he was married

to Lou Quarve, daughter of Levor and Christi Quarve of Spring Grove, and he and his wife began housekeeping on a farm of 160 acres in sections 15 and 16, Spring Grove Township. There Mr. Myhro continued until the death of his wife, which occurred Sept. 9, 1909. His home life being thus broken up, he went to Fessenden, North Dakota, becoming clerk in the department store of T. L. Quarve, in whose employ he remained for a year. In August, 1910, he returned to Spring Grove, and in the same fall took a position with the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., as manager, which he has since retained. He still owns his farm, which is situated a mile and three-quarters west of the village. It is a well improved piece of property, 110 acres of the land being under the plow, and the buildings including a two-story, nine-room frame house; a frame barn, 38 by 72 by 18 feet, with a full stone basement of 9 feet, and cement floor and James stalls; these and the other buildings being all in good condition. The farm, which is operated by a renter, is well stocked with grade Hereford cattle, including a full-blooded sire; and with Duroc-Jersey swine. Mr. Myhro also owns 160 acres in Northern Minnesota, which land he leases, it being all under cultivation. He owns stock in the company of which he is manager, and also in the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery of Spring Grove, and has made a good reputation as an able business man. A Republican in politics, he has taken an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and has served seven years as chairman of the town board, having also been school clerk for several years. By his first wife, Mrs. Lou Myhro, whose death has been mentioned, he had two sons: Arthur, born Feb. 11, 1897, and Luther, born Aug. 19, 1900, both of whom are now living. Both graduated from the Spring Grove high school, and Arthur also took a business course at the Lutheran Academy at Albert Lea, Minn. Mr. Myhro was married secondly, April 6, 1911, to Anna Hoegh, daughter of Charles and Theoline Hoegh of Spring Grove village. He owns a comfortable home in the village, and he and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Martin Jetmundson, a pioneer of Spring Grove township, who passed from the scene of his earthly labors but little more than two years ago, was born in Norway, Jan. 18, 1829. At an early age he became acquainted with farm work, and was thus occupied for a number of years in his native land, though he also worked for one year in a warehouse and for two years in a store. In 1858, at the age of 29, he came to the United States, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he spent three years. In 1861 he removed to Minnesota and was employed here for some time at farming, and also for a while as a clerk. In 1862 he returned to Wisconsin and was there married to Julia Olson, whom he brought with him to Houston county. In the following year Mr. Jetmundson began his career as proprietor of a farm, purchasing 180 acres in section 32, Spring Grove township, he and his wife establishing their first home in a log house. There they resided together, developing and improving their farm, assisted in time by their children, until separated by death, Mrs. Jetmundson passing away first, Oct. 21, 1901. Mr. Jetmundson survived his wife a little more than 15 years, continuing to reside on the old homestead until his own death, Jan.



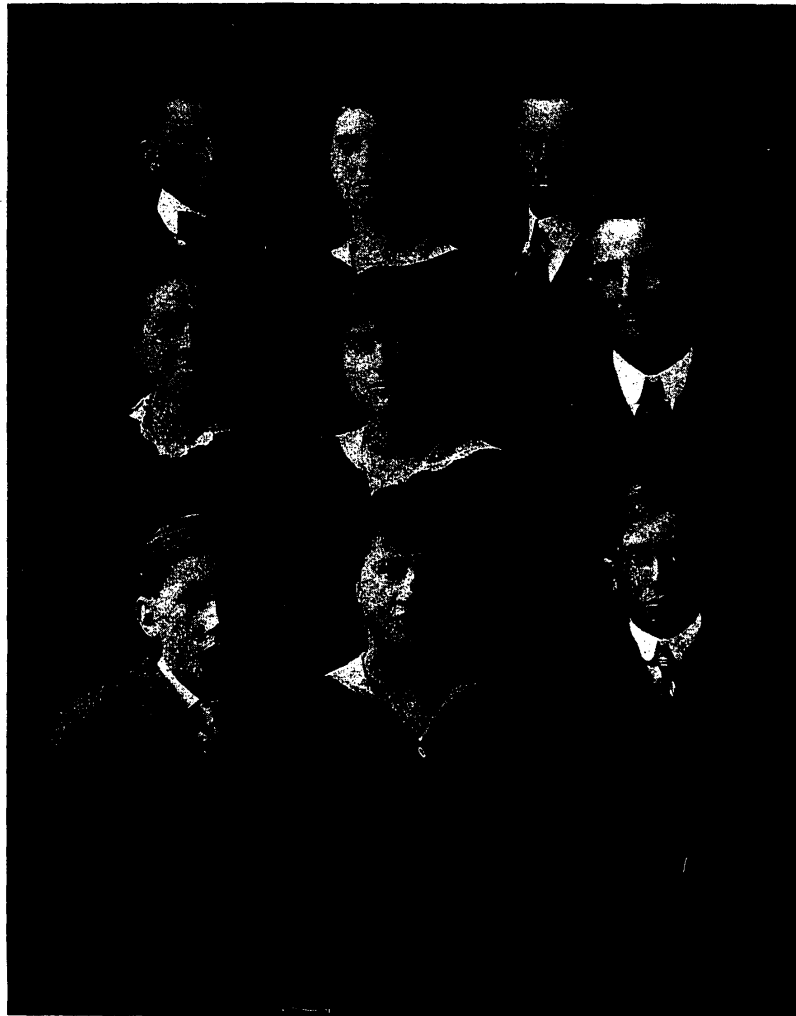
MR. AND MRS. MARTIN JETMUNDSON—MR. AND MRS. PETER A. NESS
OCEANUS JETMUNDSON AND FAMILY

11, 1917. They were the parents of seven children: Joseph, Enoch, Oceanus, Lorenzo, John, David and Ole, all of whom are living and prosperous. The old farm is now owned by the son Oceanus.

Oceanus Jetmundson, who owns and operates a good farm of 334 acres in Spring Grove township, residing in section 32, was born on a part of his present farm, Feb. 26, 1866, son of Martin and Julia (Olson) Jetmundson. His parents had taken the place but three years or less before his birth, so there was still much pioneer work to be done when he was old enough to be of assistance to his father. He was educated in part in the district school, also spending two winters in the Valder school, and one in Breckenridge Institute. On the home farm he obtained good practical experience in the raising of grain and stock, dairying, and other branches of farm work, doing his part in helping to develop the place. In 1906, some five or six years after his mother's death, which took place in October, 1901, he bought the farm, then consisting of 180 acres, and has continued to reside on it. Having in 1908 purchased an adjoining tract of 154 acres, its present area is 334 acres, a considerable part being under cultivation. In other respects also it is thoroughly up to date, Mr. Jetmundson having made many valuable improvements on it. Among them, he has remodeled the frame house and barn built by his father, the house being now a good two-story structure of 14 rooms, gas lighted, and provided with running water. The barn, measuring 34 by 96 by 18 feet, with a full stone basement 9 feet in height, and cement floors, is provided with a modern James equipment for 75 head of cattle and 15 horses, and is also gas lighted. Among the other buildings are a stave silo, 16 by 45 feet; a cream house, 12 by 12; garage, 14 by 18; poultry house, 14 by 32; machine shed, 26 by 30; hog house with cement feeding floor, 26 by 60, with a feed room attached, 24 by 60, and a corn crib, 5 by 60 feet. Mr. Jetmundson put in his gas system in 1916. He has now a herd of from 60 to 75 Shorthorn cattle, and one of 90 to 100 Poland-China hogs, with full-blooded sires for each herd. The farm is well fenced with woven wire and compares favorably with any of equal size in this part of the county. A Republican until 1916, Mr. Jetmundson then became a Non-partisan. On June 23, 1897, he was married to Annie Amelia, daughter of Peter and Elenie (Rosendahl) Ness, of Spring Grove township, and who was born August 19, 1875. The children of this union, all residing at home, are as follows: Elenora Josephine, born Feb. 18, 1900, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove high school; Palma Matilda, born June 4, 1902; Olga Amelia, Aug. 28, 1904; Marcus Jeffrey, Sept. 21, 1907; Tilford Arthur, Oct. 30, 1908; and Leslie Orlando, May 21, 1911. Mr. Jetmundson and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In addition to his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., and the Mabel Co-Operative Creamery, and is a member of the American Association of Equity.

Asle Halverson, a widely known and highly esteemed resident of Spring Grove village, where for some ten years or more he has lived retired, was born in Ness-Hallingdal, Norway, Aug. 14, 1847, son of Halvor and Berget

(Aselson) Halverson. He resided in his native land until reaching the age of 19 years, and then, in 1866, with two sisters, Ingeborg and Carrie, and the latter's husband, Nels Rierson, he came to America, landing at Quebec after a voyage of five and a half weeks on a sailing vessel. There they were detained about two weeks on account of Fenian disturbances, but at the end of that time came directly by rail to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., arriving here June 26, by which time Asle Halverson's cash resources had diminished to ten dollars. The sister Ingeborg subsequently married George Quarve of Spring Grove township, but died a number of years ago; while Carrie (Mrs. Nels Rierson) died here in 1916. Asle soon after arriving here found work as a farm hand, and was thus engaged for six years. In the meanwhile, however, in 1867, his father died in Norway and the mother, left a widow, came to America in that year and took up her residence with her daughter, Mrs. Rierson, with whom she remained until her death in 1899, at the venerable age of 94 years and six months. Asle Halverson, after his six years of farm work, in the spring of 1871 became clerk in the general store of Nels Hendrickson in Spring Grove. With Mr. Hendrickson he remained two years and then, in 1873, started in business for himself in Amhurst, Fillmore county, Minn., where he conducted a general store and, under President Grant's administration, was made postmaster. In 1878 Mr. Halverson sold his store and business there and returned to Spring Grove, where he formed a partnership with Nels Hendrickson in a general store. That partnership was dissolved a year later and in the spring of 1880 Mr. Halverson engaged in business again alone and so continued until February, 1898, when he sold out to L. A. Bye and bought the farm of Peder Lommen, two miles northwest of Spring Grove village, which he operated until 1907. He then sold the farm to his son Alfred and retired, taking up his residence in Spring Grove village, where he owns a comfortable home. In former years Mr. Halverson took an active part in public affairs. He first aligned himself with the Republican party, but left it at the time of the Blaine-Cleveland campaign to enter the ranks of the Democracy. He served one year as assessor in Fillmore county, being at the same time school clerk. While living on his farm he was for three years a supervisor of Spring Grove township; while as a resident of the village he served as assessor for two years, and as trustee and mayor. In 1898 he was nominated for district representative but failed of election. He, however, reduced the usual Republican majority of 800 in the county to less than 500, and received 48 votes in the village, which, aside from his candidacy, polled but 12 Democratic votes. From 1878 to 1882 Mr. Halverson was a justice of the peace in the village. For many years he has been a prominent member of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, having served it in various capacities. He was a member of the building committee on the second church edifice in 1893 and was treasurer of the congregation for 17 years. In the middle seventies of the last century Mr. Halverson was united in marriage with Anna Oline Brenney, daughter of Otto and Anna Brenney, of Amhurst, Fillmore county, Minn. She died in Spring Grove March 2, 1910. The children of this union were as follows: Otto Helmick, born Feb. 25, 1874,



ALBERT A. FOSS AND FAMILY

who died Feb. 3, 1886; Agnes, born Feb. 11, 1875, who died May 22, 1877; Ida, born Jan. 16, 1877, who is keeping house for her father; Alfred Bernhard, born April 5, 1879, who in 1907 bought his father's farm; Agnes Othelie, born Nov. 15, 1880; a daughter who died in infancy; Pauline, born Dec. 26, 1884, who died the day of her birth; Johan, born Nov. 16, 1885, who died young; Otto Helmick (second), born in 1888, who also died; and Henry Oscar, born June 13, 1890, who died April 6, 1897. It will thus be seen that Mr. Halverson has survived both his wife and many of his children. He is a man who has faithfully fulfilled the public and private obligations of life and stands high in the regard of his fellow citizens.

Alfred B. Halverson, a prominent representative of the farming interests of Spring Grove township, was born in Spring Grove village, April 5, 1879, son of Asle and Anna (Brenney) Halverson. He was educated in the village school, which he attended up to the age of 19 years. He then spent a year in his father's store as clerk, and subsequently for two seasons worked in Fillmore county as a farm hand in the employ of Oscar Pederson. He then re-entered his father's employ and worked in the store in Spring Grove village until 1901. In that year his father purchased the Lommen farm in section 3, Spring Grove township, and Alfred B. became a worker on it. In 1907 he bought the farm, an old improved place of 210 acres, and has since been successfully engaged in its cultivation, doing general farming and dairying. He has a herd of from 30 to 40 Shorthorn cattle and one of 50 or 60 Poland-China swine, and possesses a good general equipment for modern farming. About 160 acres of his land are now under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture, and the soil is fertile and produces abundant crops. The buildings on the farm include a good, two-story, brick house of eight rooms; a good frame barn which Mr. Halverson has enlarged to the size of 30 by 106 by 16 feet, and which has a full eight-foot stone basement; a granary 30 by 30, with a lean-to on either side 16 by 30 feet each, for tools; a hog house 12 by 60; poultry house 12 by 32; also a woodshed, garage and summer kitchen. Mr. Halverson married Johanna, daughter of John J. and Casperine Lommen of Spring Grove village. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Asle, born Oct. 2, 1906; John, born Oct. 22, 1911; and Harold, born Feb. 12, 1915. Mr. Halverson is independent in politics and has served in the office of justice of the peace. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co. and the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery of Spring Grove. He and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Albert A. Foss, one of the substantial farmers of Spring Grove township, residing in section 28, where he is operating successfully a good farm of 160 acres, was born in section 33, this township, Oct. 29, 1866, son of Andrew and Anna Foss. In his boyhood he attended district school No. 76, and began a life of practical agriculture on the old homestead established by his parents, who were pioneers in this locality. With them he remained until he was 18 and then, in 1884, went to Decorah, Iowa, where he became a student in the Breckenridge Institute, remaining until the spring of 1885.

Then returning to the home farm in Spring Grove township, he rented it of his father and operated it until the spring of 1886. During that summer and until September he drove a cream route. He then re-entered the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah and continued his studies until June, 1887. That summer he helped his father on the farm and in the fall took a western trip, returning late in the same season. In the spring of 1888 he again rented his father's farm and operated it until the spring of 1890, when he went to the farm of his brother Brady in section 28, with whom he worked in partnership until the fall. That same summer, on July 30, he was married to Eliza Sneklerpladsen, who was born May 4, 1868, daughter of Hans and Gunhild (Livdahl) Sneklerpladsen, of Wilmington township, this county. In the fall of 1890 Mr. Foss and his wife took up their residence on the farm of her father in Wilmington township to keep house for him and look after the place. In April of the following year he bought from his father-in-law what is now the C. A. Blegen farm in section 36, Spring Grove township, where he and his wife made their home for two years, or until the winter of 1892-93, when they came to their present farm in section 28, which Mr. Foss bought of his brother Brady. For some years they lived in the old log house which was built on the place in 1873 by its former owner, Berge Hoiland, but in 1906 Mr. Foss built his present residence, a two-story house of 11 rooms, consisting of an upright and wing, the upright measuring 28 by 30 feet and the wing 16 by 18 feet. It is heated by furnace, provided with running water, and is a very comfortable residence. Among the other buildings which Mr. Foss has erected and which add greatly to the value of the property are: a frame barn, 30 by 60 by 16 feet, with a full stone basement of 8 feet; two machine sheds, one 16 by 28 and the other 16 by 20; twin corn cribs, 24 by 26, with a 14-foot drive; a hog house, 10 by 36 with a cement feeding-floor, 30 x 32; a granary, 16 by 28, and a poultry house 16 by 16. The farm is well fenced with woven wire and is divided into six lots. As a breeder of Black Poll cattle and Duroc Jersey swine, Mr. Foss is having good success, and he also raises an average amount of crops, having 135 acres of his land under the plow. He has taken rank among the enterprising citizens of his township, and besides being a member of the American Society of Equity, is a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company and the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery of Mabel. His fraternal society affiliations are with the American Brotherhood of Yeomen at Spring Grove, and he and his family belong to the congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at that place. In politics he has been a Republican since casting his first vote. Mr. and Mrs. Foss are the parents of seven children, born as follows: Harry Arnold, May 21, 1891; Genora Aurora, Oct. 19, 1893; Dinah Luella, April 18, 1895; Ephraim Alexander, May 10, 1898; Viola Henrietta, April 9, 1900; Ralph Norman, May 10, 1902; and Norton Carleton, Sept. 11, 1904. Genora Aurora is now the wife of Lloyd Leisenberg, a traveling salesman residing at Mason City, Iowa. Dinah Luella, formerly a student at the Young Ladies' Seminary in Red Wing, Minn., graduated as a trained nurse from the Asbury Hospital at Minneapolis in 1919. Viola H. and Ephraim A. graduated from the Spring Grove High School, and the former has also

taken courses in Luther College and in the preparatory school at Decorah, Iowa. Ralph N. and Norton C. are still pursuing their studies. This family was called upon to make the Supreme Sacrifice during the Great War. Harry A., one of the most popular young men in the community, served in France in the Infantry with the 78th Division, proved his worth as a good soldier, and was killed in the last drive which ended the war, thus giving his life in the cause of Liberty and Democracy. His memory will long be cherished as an inspiration to the younger generation.

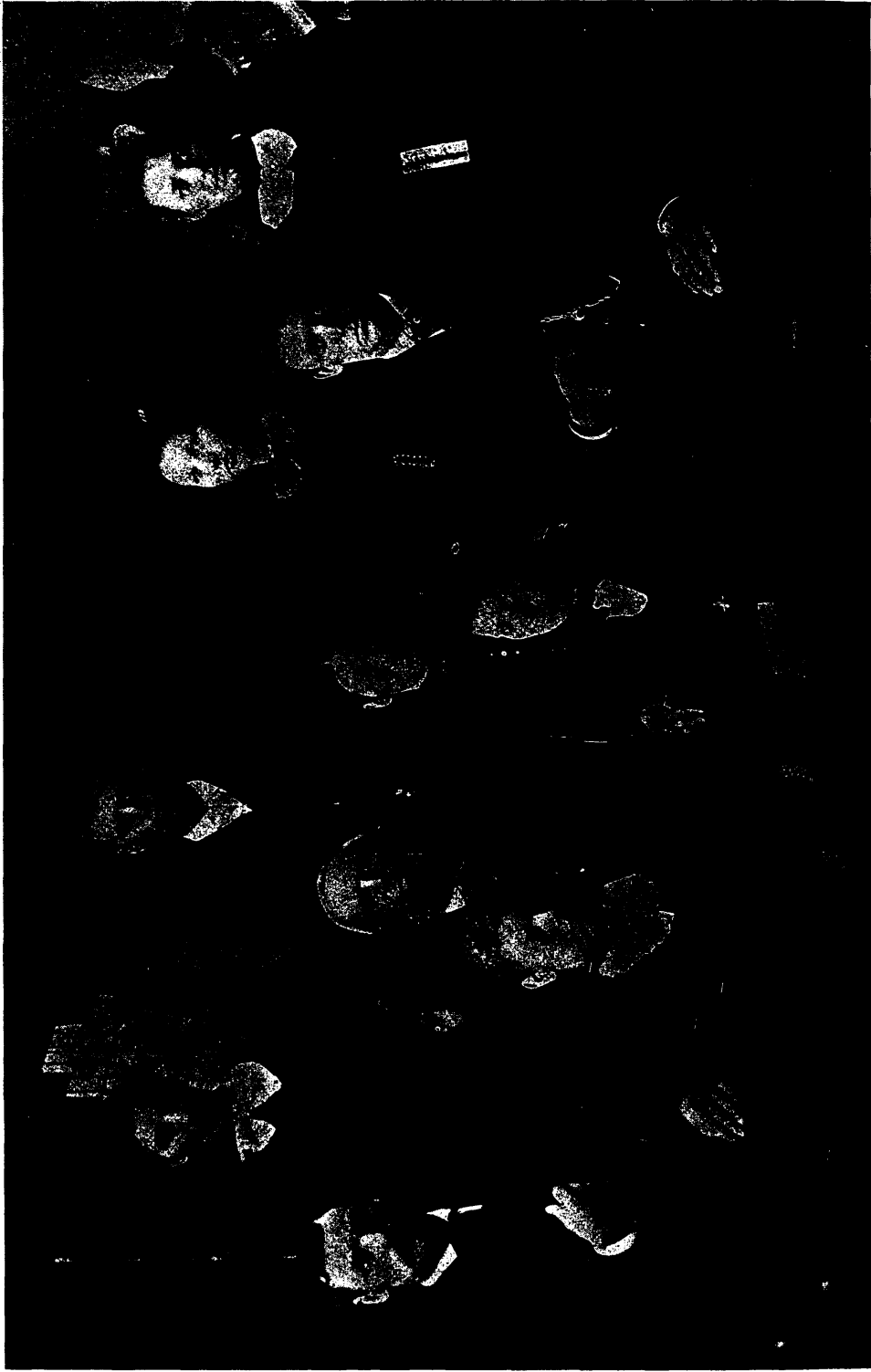
Andrew Grinager, one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmington township over half a century ago, was born in Hadiland, Norway, Sept. 22, 1826. In his native land he learned the trade of carpenter, and in time was married to Marn H. Ness, who was born in the same locality, April 17, 1822. In the summer of 1864, with his wife and three sons, Lars, Hans and Andrew, he left Norway for America, and landed at Quebec after a voyage of seven weeks. By steamboat and rail the family came west to Lansing, Iowa, this trip occupying three weeks, and from Lansing to Wilmington township. Soon after a daughter, Betsey, was born to them there. For seven years the father, Andrew Grinager, worked in this vicinity at his trade of carpenter. Then in 1872 he engaged in farming, buying 80 acres of wild land in section 33, Wilmington township, where he had to grub a space on which to build a small log house of one room. In that dwelling he and his family resided for about ten years, but at the end of that time he was able to erect a small frame house, and in 1898 he built a much better one. All the members of the family worked together to develop the farm, and in time they got 75 acres under the plow, and had erected a number of substantial buildings, including a frame barn, 20 by 42 feet, with a lean-to for cattle of 16 by 42 feet; a double corn crib, 18 by 18, with an 8-foot driveway; a tool shed, granary, hog house, feed house and carpenter shop. In 1893 the father sold the place to his son Lars, who still operates it. Mrs. Andrew Grinager died on the farm March 25, 1906, her husband passing away a year and three months later, on June 19, 1907. They were industrious and frugal people, well respected, and were useful members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Politically he was a Republican. Their sons Hans A. and Andrew A. are now associated together as contractors and builders in Wilmington township, residing in section 33, and their daughter Betsy is the wife of M. Severin of the same township.

Lars A. Grinager, proprietor of the old Grinager homestead in section 33, Wilmington township, but now retired, was born in Hadiland, Norway, Oct. 8, 1852, son of Andrew and Marn (H. Ness) Grinager. He was in his thirteenth year when, in the summer of 1865, he accompanied his parents and two brothers to America, coming from Quebec, their landing point, to Lansing, Iowa, and thence to Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn. He had received some schooling in his native land and attended district school for a very limited period here, his services being needed by his father on the farm, which had to be developed from a tract of wild land. Here he has since resided, having purchased the farm in 1893. It has an area of something over 100 acres, with a good set of buildings and he now leases

it out. He retired after a prosperous career, and is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association. On Feb. 16, 1883, Mr. Grinager married Ingeborg H., daughter of Halvor and Kjerste Wermager, her family being near neighbors of the Grinagers. Mr. and Mrs. Grinager are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. They are among the older residents of the township and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Hans A. and Andrew A. Grinager, who under the firm name of Grinager Bros., are engaged in business as contractors and builders, residing in section 33, Wilmington township, are the sons of Andrew and Marn (H. Ness) Grinager, and were born in Norway, Hans A. on Dec. 23, 1857, and Andrew A. on Nov. 20, 1863. They came to this country with their parents and their brother Lars in the summer of 1865, settling in this county and township, where their father worked the first seven years as a carpenter, in 1872 taking a farm in section 33, Wilmington township. In the development of that farm the brothers took an active part, having previously attended school for awhile. Hans, who learned the carpenter's trade, at the age of 26 set up in business for himself, and when Andrew was 24 he began an apprenticeship to it under his brother. Ever since then they have worked together, making their home with their brother Lars on the old farm of their parents. They have erected many buildings in Wilmington township, and adjacent parts of Houston county, also in Iowa, and on several occasions have filled contracts in North Dakota. Expert workmen at their trade, they have won a good reputation and have prospered, each being now well to do. Hans, in addition to his direct business interests, owns a good farm of 80 acres in the vicinity of the parental homestead. They are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics they are aligned with the Republican party.

John J. Akre, proprietor of a well equipped blacksmith's shop in the village of Spring Grove, was born near Highlandville, in Pleasant township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, March 27, 1872, son of John and Martha (Sarvold) Akre. The parents were both natives of Norway, the father born June 5, 1829, and the mother Sept. 29, 1836. Both came to this country in 1861, and were married in Big Canoe, Winneshiek county, Iowa, by Rev. C. Clauson, July 5, 1862. In the same county they took a tract of wild land, containing 120 acres, which they subsequently developed into a good farm, bringing 90 acres under cultivation, and erecting good buildings, including a frame house and barn. The father died June 6, 1904, and the mother Dec. 6, 1902. Their family numbered eight children, four sons and four daughters: Martin, now engaged in the creamery business at Highlandville, Iowa; Ole, who is pastor of a Norwegian Lutheran church at Hinsdale, Mont.; John J. the subject of this sketch; Jonas, now on the old home farm in Iowa; Inga, wife of James Cowan, a farmer in North Dakota; Hattie, wife of Krog Ovre, a farmer of Mercer, N. D.; Anna, a twin sister of Hattie, and now Mrs. Peter J. Bidne, of Highlandville, Iowa, her husband being a butter maker; and Bella, who is the wife of Mark Vossenberg, a farmer of Mercer, N. D. John J. Akre resided on his parents' farm until



LEVOR TIMANSON QUARVE AND FAMILY

attaining his majority, his education being acquired in the district school. In 1893 he started to learn the blacksmith's trade with E. T. Reed, of Decorah, Iowa, and at the end of three years was a finished blacksmith. Thus practically equipped for an independent career, he established himself in business at Locust, Iowa, where he remained until 1900, when he moved to Bee, Houston county, Minn. Here he erected a house and conducted a shop until 1913, in which year he came to Spring Grove and established his present business in general blacksmithing and wagon woodwork. He rents his shop, a one-story building, 24 by 60 feet in size, located on Main street near the hotel, and has built up a good trade, being the only man in this locality who does gas welding, either of steel, malleable or cast-iron pipe. He is a Republican in politics and has served as village constable, but gives his chief attention to his growing business. On Feb. 28, 1898, Mr. Akre was married at Locust, Iowa, to Nellie, daughter of Ole Juve of that place. He and his wife are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. They have a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the county and enjoy a deserved popularity. Mr. and Mrs. Akre have one daughter, Martha, who was born Oct. 28, 1914.

Levor Timanson Quarve.—The transformation of an unproductive wilderness into a flourishing and civilized region, marked out with fruitful farms, dotted here and there with schools and churches—the evidences of that higher culture that goes beyond material prosperity—and with growing villages, the centers of trade and commerce and social activities, is not the work of a day, but rather one of many years, participated in by many individuals, initially inspired by the hope of self-advancement, but gradually broadening in scope and reciprocally and collectively beneficial. To have been an active and potent factor in such a work—a part of the onward and upward movement of humanity—has been the happy lot of the subject of this sketch, Levor Timanson Quarve, now living retired in the village of Spring Grove, and known to all the older inhabitants of the southern part of Houston county, as one of its original pioneers. Mr. Quarve was born in Naes, Halingdahl, Norway, Dec. 26, 1830. His parents, who were wealthy farmers, conscientiously performed their parental duties, doing their utmost to rear their children in the principles of sound morality and make good men and women of them. Their son Levor attended school but four days in his native land, his long hours of industry being employed chiefly in the herding of cattle. When he was 18 years old, the family emigrated to the United States. The voyage was a long one, lasting many weeks, and the ship encountered tempestuous weather. Such minor discomforts might have been borne, but a greater misfortune was in store for them, as the father was taken seriously ill on shipboard and died a few days after their landing at New York. He was but 53 years old, having been born in 1795. Leaving one son, George, in New York, the bereaved mother brought the other children west to Rock county, Wisconsin, where they had friends who had preceded them to this country, and where George soon joined them. In that locality they remained for several years, and there Levor T. improved his education, learning writing and arithmetic. In the

fall of 1853, in company with his brother George, he set out to find a good piece of land on which to settle and lay the foundation of a future prosperity. Such land was easy to find in Rock county if money had been no object to him, but of the latter commodity he had very little and could not hope to buy an improved farm. It was necessary to begin at the beginning, take wild land that could be procured at a nominal price, and develop it by long years of toil. With that object in view he explored localities in northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota, and finally found what he sought in Spring Grove township, Houston county, this state, the tract being located two miles west of the site of Spring Grove village, though at that time the village was non-existent. There, at the age of 24 years, he settled in the spring of 1854. There were but five white men within a considerable area, namely, T. A. Berg, O. A. Berg, Knut Kielan, Fengal Flaaten, and a man by the name of Boo. This Mr. Boo, who seems to have been of an acquisitive disposition, claimed to own all the land in this vicinity, and not only that, but practically the entire county. On this assumption he tried to prevent others from settling unless they bought their land from him. Mr. Quarve, however, disregarded his claims and took possession of the tract he had selected, and not long afterwards Mr. Boo disappeared from this part of the country. With his mother and his brother George, Mr. Quarve established a home, building a large log house, which is still standing on the Olaus Myhro farm, and then plunged into the hard work necessary to change the virgin soil into fields of cultivated grain and suitable pasture for cattle. This was a work of time, but in time was well accomplished. About two years after he had entered upon it, or on May 21, 1856, he took a wife in the person of Kriste Knudson Berg, of Orfordville, Rock county, Wis., a young lady whose solid worth he well knew from previous acquaintance. She was the daughter of Knut and Ragnil Berg, natives of Norway. Her father had died on the ocean voyage to this country and her mother when Kriste was ten years old. To Orfordville Mr. Quarve went to obtain his bride, and thence he brought her to Houston county, taking the train to Belvidere, Ill., then striking out to the Mississippi River, where they took a boat to Brownsville, Minn., from which place they made the journey on foot to the farm in Spring Grove township. Mr. Quarve's mother continued to reside on the farm until her death, which occurred Nov. 27, 1881, when she was in her ninetieth year, having been born in January, 1791. By the time of his mother's death Mr. Quarve had acquired no less than 840 acres of land, of which amount he had 540 under cultivation, a splendid record of agricultural achievement seldom equalled in this region. Moreover his activities were not confined to his own personal aggrandizement, for many times during his active career he showed himself possessed of public spirit in the promotion of worthy enterprises. While the great Civil War was in progress he secured many volunteers for the defense of the Union, and gave liberally of his time and means for that cause. He was also active in the establishment and support of schools and churches and everything tending to advance the religious, educational and moral welfare of the community. It is said of him that he "worked day and night" in his efforts to establish the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in

Spring Grove, and in the erection of its first church edifice, as well as in that of the larger and better buildings that succeeded it, and besides contributing largely to its support, he served the congregation as one of its most efficient trustees and in other capacities. Until 1895 he continued to reside on his farm, and then, feeling it time to retire from active work, he sold the place and built a comfortable residence on the Black Hammer road, half a mile from the business center of Spring Grove village, where he has since made his home. Here on Dec. 10, 1910, his wife, who had been his faithful and loving helpmate for 54 years, passed to her final rest, and since then his two unmarried daughters, Olave and Ella, have presided over the household. Though up to recent years a strong and robust man, Mr. Quarve finally began to show the effects of age. In 1914 his eyesight began to fail, and since 1916 he has been almost totally blind. He still keeps up and about, however, having the loving care of his daughters and the warm sympathy of numerous old friends and acquaintances, some of whom occasionally drop in for a few words of cheer. Of the 11 children born to him and his wife, five are now living, their record and that of those deceased being in brief as follows: Timon, born March 17, 1857, now a merchant in Fessenden, N. D.; Knute, born Nov. 22, 1858, who has been an invalid from infancy and resides with his father and sisters; Erick, born July 2, 1861, who died in infancy; Olave, born July 25, 1863, now at home with her father; Caroline, born April 1, 1865, who married Christian Storlie, and died Jan. 21, 1913; Edward, born May 2, 1869, who is a prosperous farmer in Spring Grove township; Karl, born July 23, 1872, who died in infancy; Live, born Dec. 23, 1873, who married O. A. Myhro and died Sept. 2, 1909; Matilda, born April 23, 1876, who died in infancy; Ella, born Aug. 7, 1878, who, as previously stated, is helping to care for her father; and another child who died in infancy. Thus briefly sketched is the history of this worthy pioneer whose life work forms part of the warp and woof of Houston county's development, closely interwoven with that of other hardy settlers here, many of whom have already passed away, but the result of whose labors will forever endure.

Christian K. Storlie, a prominent representative of the agricultural community in Spring Grove township, residing in section 18, was born in section 4, this township, May 9, 1862, son of Knute and Anna Storlie. His parents were pioneer settlers in this locality, and Christian himself had an opportunity in his early years to become acquainted with pioneer methods of agriculture in helping his father develop the home farm, upon which he resided until reaching the age of 35 years. His education was obtained through attendance at the district school up to the age of 15 years. On June 25, 1891, Mr. Storlie was united in marriage with Ragnhild Caroline Quarve, a schoolmate of his, who was born April 1, 1865, and whose parents were near neighbors of the Storlies. Mr. and Mrs. Storlie began domestic life on their present farm, which Mr. Storlie at first rented from his father-in-law, but which he bought in 1897. It was an improved farm of 120 acres, of which 110 acres are now under the plow. The soil is good and the farm well fenced and provided with good buildings and equipment. In 1902 Mr. Storlie built a fine two-story, ten-room house, with a detached

kitchen, and which is one of the best farm houses in the county. He continued the work of improvement in 1914 by erecting a modern frame barn, 35 by 56 by 14 feet in size, with a full stone basement of eight feet and cement floor. He has also a granary, 18 by 20 feet; a corn crib, 6 by 30; poultry house 10 by 18; machine shed, 14 by 40, and a feed house, 10 by 10. Mr. Storlie also owns a good Overland automobile. His farm is well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. Industrious and thrifty, he has made good progress in life and is numbered among the well to do citizens of his township. For six years he has been a widower, his wife having died Jan. 31, 1913. They were the parents of eight children; born as follows: Alma Levina Clarisa, Nov. 28, 1895; Kenneth Levi, May 8, 1898; Anna Magdalena, March 5, 1900; George Levard, Jan. 29, 1902; Ruth Alvina, Nov. 10, 1903; Teman Cornelius, Feb. 16, 1906 (died in infancy); Erick Tillman, Oct. 29, 1908; Caroline Lucille, Jan. 30, 1913. All the children are residing at home, the eldest daughters presiding over the household. Mr. Storlie and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church and take a prominent part in its religious and social activities.

Peter S. Bergrud, proprietor of a good farm of 160 acres in section 13, Spring Grove township, was born in section 22, this township, April 22, 1870. When he was a year old his parents moved to the farm in section 13 on which he now resides and where he was reared. Here the father, who was born in Norway, died in 1906, the mother having previously passed away, in 1895. They had been married in this country, and were steady hardworking people. Peter S., who assisted his father in developing the farm, in his boyhood days attended the district school, which he left at the age of 15 years. He then attended the Decora institute at Decora, Iowa, for five winters. Then turning his attention to farm work, he remained at home until he was 20. In 1892 he went to Fargo, North Dakota, where he worked two years as a farm hand, but in 1894 returned to Spring Grove township, Houston county, and rented the home farm, which he bought in 1901. It is favorably located one mile southeast of Spring Grove village, and of its total area of 160 acres, Mr. Bergrud has 125 under the plow. The productive soil makes it a desirable piece of property, and it is also provided with a good set of buildings, including a comfortable frame house, a frame barn, corn cribs, poultry house, granary and machine shed. Besides raising the usual crops, Mr. Bergrud is a successful breeder of Red Poll cattle, having two herds, one of registered and the other of grade animals. He is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Co-operative Creamery and the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company, and has taken his place among the progressive and prosperous farmers of his township. Over 22 years ago, on June 7, 1896, Mr. Bergrud was united in marriage with Hannah Henderson, who was born in Spring Grove township, this county, a little northeast of the village, Dec. 15, 1874, daughter of Benjamin and Anne (Bjore) Henderson, and he and his wife began housekeeping on the farm on which they now live. They have three children: Addie Minerva, born April 18, 1897, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove high school; Ruth Balinda, born June 25, 1901, who is a student in the high school; and Sigmund Benjamin.



DR. AND MRS. THOR E. JENSEN

born Aug. 18, 1911. Mr. Bergrud and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In the summer of 1919 Mr. Bergrud erected just outside the village limits a modern house of ten rooms, fitted out with electric lights, and heated with hot water.

Thore Erlemoen Jensen, M. D., who died at his home in Spring Grove, April 6, 1915, was widely known throughout the greater part of Houston county, and even in the neighboring state of Iowa as a type of the good physician, and as such was greatly beloved. His career and personality justified the esteem in which he was held. He was born in Tolgen, Norway, March 5, 1840, son of Jens and Marit (Peterson) Erlemoen, his parents being farmers by occupation. With them he came to America in 1853, the family stopping for a brief period in Wisconsin, but reaching Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., the same year. They arrived here with very slender resources, but managed to secure a tract of wild, government land in section 10, two miles west of Spring Grove village, on which the father built a small log house. The subject of this sketch was then a boy of 13, and was one of four children—two boys and two girls—all born in Norway. All are now deceased, except Kjerstine, an unmarried lady now residing in Spring Grove village. Thore had attended a common school in Norway, and in Houston county he went to school for a short time, though his attendance was not prolonged, as he had to assist his parents on their pioneer farm. Being resolved to obtain an education, however, he spent as much time as possible in reading, especially along scientific lines. Having chosen the medical profession as the sphere of his future activities, in 1872 he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he entered a medical school, from which he was graduated in 1874. Then returning to Spring Grove, he opened an office in the village and began a notable career that lasted practically without intermission for nearly 40 years, and which left an impress on this region that will not easily be effaced. For years he was the only practicing physician in this locality, his territory extending as far as Houston on the north and Decorah, Iowa, on the south. Always anxious to increase his knowledge and efficiency, after a few years' practice he went to New York City and took a post graduate course at the N. Y. Post Graduate School. As a pioneer physician he endured many hardships, spending much of his time on the road in all kinds of weather, hastening to minister to the patients who had need of him, and no matter how onerous the service, he never neglected a duty. To do this required great endurance, but he possessed it, being of a strong sturdy type. To most of his patients and their families, he was not only a physician but a sympathizing friend, and was loved by the children and young people, as he was esteemed by the old. In such manner he faithfully performed the important duties of his almost sacred calling, until about four years before his death, though he had been ailing for several years before his practical retirement. Even then there were many who would not give him up as their physician, but came long distances to consult him when he could no longer visit them at their homes. During his first few years of practice Dr. Jensen owned and conducted a drug store, being associated during the latter part of that period with

Elling Reiersen as partner, but he finally sold his interest in the drug business to Mr. Reiersen and gave his entire attention to the medical and surgical practice. The good he accomplished could hardly be over estimated. Wherever he went he inspired hope and radiated sunshine, human sympathy and happiness; and when he at last passed from life's activities the news of his death brought a sense of personal loss to hundreds of homes throughout this region. Almost at the beginning of his professional career, on Oct. 10, 1875, Dr. Jensen was united in marriage with Ingeborg Onsgard, who was born in Norway, Nov. 3, 1853, daughter of Knute and Berget (Vibe) Onsgard, and who had accompanied her parents to Houston county, Minesota, when seven years old. As the daughter of pioneer farmers in Spring Grove township, she did much to help her parents establish their new home, and when old enough drove the oxen many a day while her father held the breaking plow. She survives her husband, who left her in comfortable circumstances, and resides in a new modern cottage near her married daughter, Mrs. Nels Kjome, in Spring Grove. At one time Dr. Jensen owned a fruit ranch near Red Bluff, Calif., but sold it before his death. He owned, however, a comfortable and commodious residence in the south part of the village. His home life was ideal and was the more dear to him from his frequent enforced absence from the domestic circle due to the demands of his profession. Dr. and Mrs. Jensen were the parents of three children; James C.; Bergette Matilda; and Inga Theoline. James C., a physician at Hendricks, Minn., who graduated from Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, in 1899, from the medical course at the University of Minnesota in 1903 and took post graduate work at the New York Post Graduate School. Bergette Matilda is the wife of Nels Kjome of Spring Grove; and Inga Theoline is residing with her mother in the village.

Edward Guttormson, a substantial and industrious citizen of Spring Grove township, was born on section 33, Black Hammer township, Feb. 19, 1873, son of Knut and Mari Guttormson, the pioneers. He was educated in the district school and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. In 1902 he purchased 80 acres from his father in Spring Grove township, section 4. In 1912 he bought 120 acres more, forty of which is timberland. He has good teams, tools and equipment, and successfully carries on general farming, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co. and in the Spring Grove Hospital. Mr. Guttormson was married June 7, 1912, to Rebecca Amondrud, daughter of Martin and Anna Amondrud, of Black Hammer township, and they have two children; Edwin, born May 30, 1904, and Clifford born March 26, 1913.

Knut Guttormson, a pioneer, was born in Norway, July 23, 1823. In 1848 he came to America, and for a while lived in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin. There he was married, his wife, Mari, who was born Dec. 26, 1829, having come to that vicinity with her parents when about eighteen years old. In 1854, Knut Guttormson and Tolliff Haagensen and their families set out for Houston county. They jointly purchased 160 acres of wild Government land in section 33, Black Hammer township, and put up a log cabin in which they lived the first year. Then they dissolved partnership, Knut

Guttormson taking the north eighty acres. By working early and late, Mr. and Mrs. Guttormson developed a good farm, and added to their acreage until they owned 254 acres, eighty of which was in Spring Grove township. In 1877 they erected a substantial frame dwelling, then one of the best in the neighborhood. The lumber was all hauled from Houston village, the nearest railroad point. On this farm, Mr. and Mrs. Guttormson spent the remainder of their days, he dying March 29, 1905, and she Nov. 26, 1916. They were the parents of nine children; Torgen (deceased), Guttorm (deceased); Mari, now Mrs. Johannes Brakke, of Jackson county, Minn.; Guttorm (deceased); Torgen, deceased wife of Ilislaus Mueller, of Spring Grove; Olava and Gunhild who live on the home farm, Olaf a prosperous farmer of Esmond, North Dakota, and Edward, of Spring Grove township.

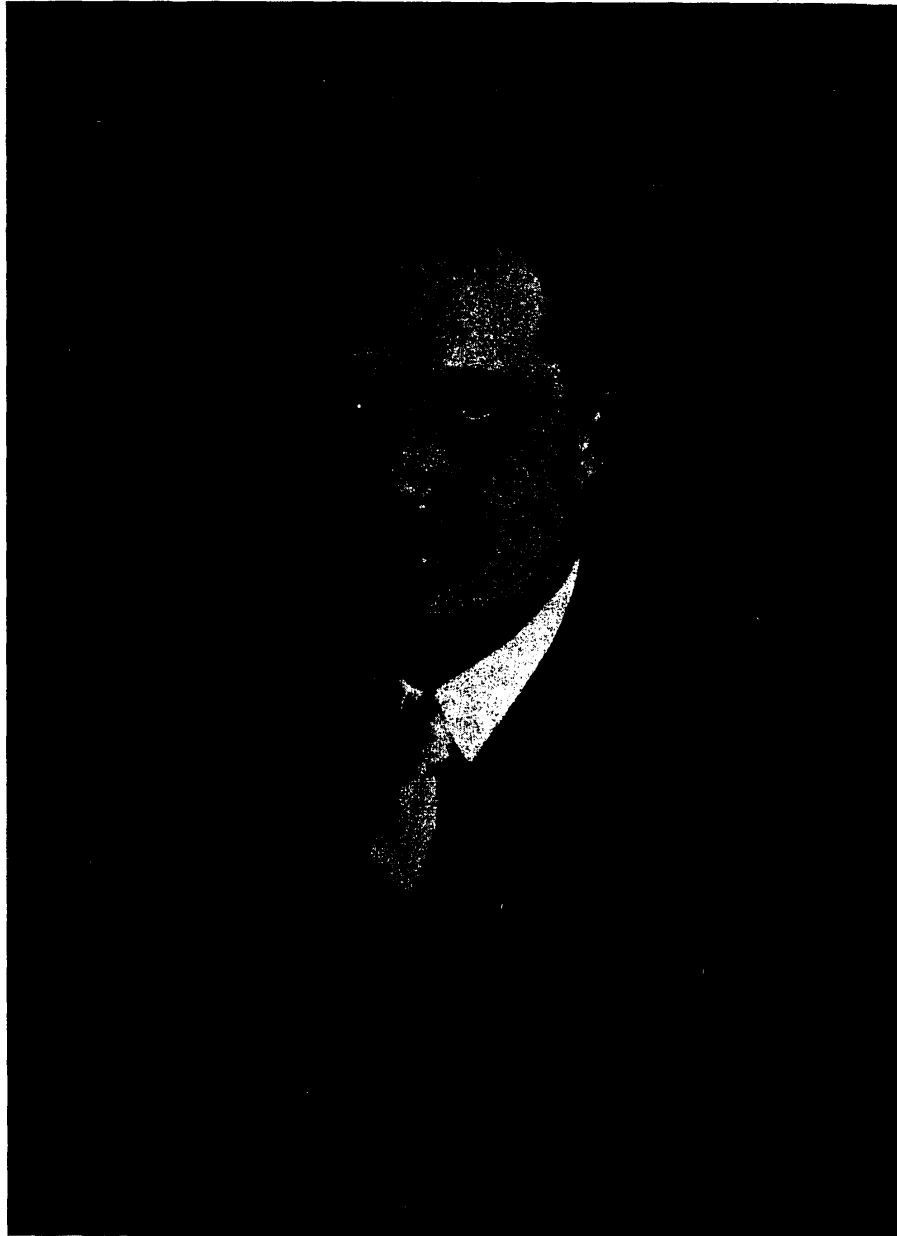
Amos Arnold Myhro, who occupies a prominent place among the younger farmers of Spring Grove township, residing in section 8, was born on the farm he now owns and operates, July 27, 1891, son of Arne O. and Annie Myhro. His parents were early settlers in this county and he was the youngest member of the family. He acquired his primary education in district school No. 55, and during the winters of 1909-10 and 1910-11 was a pupil in the Lutheran Academy at Albert Lea, Minn., working on the home farm during the summers. Here the father finally died and was survived by his wife until 1913, when she also passed away. Before her death, and in the same year, the subject of this sketch rented the farm from her and has since operated it on his own account. He is cultivating 120 acres of productive land, and has a fine herd of grade Shorthorns, and another of Hereford cattle, besides some 75 or 100 Duroc-Jersey swine, with full-blooded sires for both cattle and hogs. His buildings are also in good condition and he has an adequate and modern operating equipment. Though young in years, he is thoroughly experienced and is making his farm pay. A Republican in politics, he has served for some time as clerk of his school district, and is a man who takes an interest in progressive movements and everything calculated to benefit the community in which he resides. On March 7, 1916, Mr. Myhro was united in marriage with Oline Vinge, who was born in Black Hammer township, Houston county, June 28, 1886, daughter of Ole and Maria (Onstad) Vinge. He and his wife are the parents of one child, Norman, who was born Jan. 10, 1917. Mr. Myhro was reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and he and his wife are members of the Spring Grove congregation.

Ben L. Onsgard, who for the last 13 years has been proprietor of the Spring Grove Herald, was born near Beloit, in Rock county, Wisconsin, Sept. 29, 1871, son of Ole and Engsburg (Myhre) Onsgard. The parents settled in Rock county early in the sixties on their arrival from Norway. There, after developing a farm, the father died in October, 1885. The mother, who survived him, is still living at Beloit, having now attained the venerable age of 89 years. They had 12 children of whom three sons and two daughters are now living. Of these all with the exception of Ben. L., are now living in Wisconsin. Ben. L. Onsgard was educated in the common schools of Rock county, Wisconsin, and at Stoughton Academy, Stoughton, Wis., where he was a pupil for one year. At the age of 18 he

began to learn the jeweller's trade at Beloit, and was subsequently engaged in it for two years at Blooming Prairie, Minn. In 1889 he came to Spring Grove and worked in a jewelry store here for S. H. Ellestad for about two years. He then purchased the stock of Mr. Ellestad and conducted the same store until 1911, when he sold the stock to Ove Hoegh. Some years before giving up that business, however, he had entered the journalistic field, having in 1906 purchased the Spring Grove Herald, a weekly newspaper published in English, of which he has since been proprietor, and which now has a circulation of 1100, including many subscribers in the Dakotas. From 1906 to 1911 he conducted both the jewelry and newspaper business. Mr. Onsgard is in the employ of the state as county oil inspector. His politics are those of the Republican party. Since 1900 he has been a member of Spring Grove Camp, No. 4492, M. W. A., and has been its secretary for the last ten years. He is also a charter member of the local branch of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, having joined the lodge in 1906 on its organization. The Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. at Spring Grove numbers him among its stockholders. Mr. Onsgard was married, Oct. 12, 1904, to Anna Erickson, daughter of Mickel and Engeborg Erickson, of Spring Grove village, and he and his wife are living in the house in which she was born. They have been the parents of five children: Morris, born Aug. 25, 1905, now a student in the Spring Grove high school; Owen, born Sept. 21, 1907; Burnell, born Nov. 19, 1909; Iola, born Jan. 19, 1911, who died in infancy; Inez, born Dec. 23, 1912, and Kenneth, born June 22, 1916. Mr. Onsgard and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Gunvald Ingvalson, who is now living retired on a small farm in section 27, Spring Grove township, was born in Norway in 1850, and came to this country in 1870, a youth of 20 years. He was subsequently married in Black Hammer township, Houston county, Minn., to Mari Tollefsrud, and began farming on a tract of 40 acres in that township, where he remained for about twelve years. He then moved with his family to Highland township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he made his home until 1916. In that year he returned to Houston county and took up his residence in section 27, Spring Grove township, where he and his wife are taking life easily, having a small but comfortable house and ten acres of land. Mr. Ingvalson is now 67 years old and Mrs. Ingvalson 62. They have had a family of twelve children, of whom five are now deceased. Those surviving are: Ole Cornelius, a prosperous farmer in section 20, Spring Grove township; Bernt, Leonard, Gunild, Louise, Gustine and Alfina. Gunild is now the wife of Sever Sacquitne of Winneshiek county, Iowa; Gustine is Mrs. Bernard Peterson of Blooming Prairie, Minn., and the other daughters are living at home with their parents.

Ole Cornelius Ingvalson, proprietor of a good 80-acre farm in section 20, Spring Grove township, was born in Black Hammer township, Houston county, Minn., Feb. 16, 1882, son of Gunvald and Mari (Tollefsrud) Ingvalson. He was educated in district schools, which he attended up to the age of 15 years. When he was about 11 his parents moved to Highland township, Winneshiek county, Iowa. He resided with them until he was 17,



O. B. NELSON

and subsequently worked as a general farm hand until 1905, when he opened a restaurant in Mabel, Minn., and was thus occupied for two years. He was then engaged for one year in the agricultural implement business. On March 25, 1908, Mr. Ingvalson was united in marriage with Emma Louise Grindelund, daughter of Stone and Ingri Grindelund, of Highland, Winneshiok county, Iowa, and at about the same time he began housekeeping on the Oscar Tollefsrud farm, in section 29, Spring Grove township, Houston county. There, however, he remained but two years, as in 1910 he purchased and moved to the Lee Copeman farm of 80 acres, adding thereto 40 acres in 1919, where he is now living, and which is situated in section 20, Spring Grove township, five miles southwest of Spring Grove village. Here he is profitably raising Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, besides carrying on other farming occupations. He has a good five-room frame house, a frame barn, machine shed, poultry house, hog house, and other buildings, all in good or fair condition. His equipment also includes two working teams, with all necessary tools and machinery. As a stock raiser, dairyman and general farmer of good ability Mr. Ingvalson is favorably known in his township and the vicinity. Formerly a Republican, in 1916 he became a non-partisan. Religiously he was reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church and belongs to the Spring Grove congregation. He and his wife are the parents of four children: Ilyn, born Aug. 7, 1910; Grant, July 27, 1912; Leslie, July 6, 1915; and Ervin, July 6, 1917.

O. B. Nelson, a member of the firm of Nelson & Johnson, of Spring Grove, ranking among the leading hardware dealers in Houston county, is a man who has taken a high place both in business and public life, having formerly represented this district in the State Legislature. He was born in Spring Grove township, Feb. 8, 1854, son of Nels Olson Blexrud and his wife, Anna (Skiftem) Blexrud. The parents came from Norway in 1850, settling first in Rock county, Wis., where they remained two or three years, their home being near the city of Beloit. In the summer of 1853 they drove with an ox team to Houston county, Minn., and bought government land in Spring Grove township, one mile north of the village. Their journey was broken by a few weeks' stop at Calmar, Iowa, the river being crossed at McGregor. After developing a good farm in Spring Grove township, both parents died, the mother surviving her husband seven years. O. B. Nelson was born in the log house which his father first erected on the farm. His primary education was acquired in the district school, but he later attended the State Normal School at Winona for four terms, and afterwards the Madison Business College at Madison, Wis. From the age of 21 to that of 24 years he was engaged chiefly in teaching school in Spring Grove and the vicinity. Then he took up the study of telegraphy and became agent at Newhouse for the Chicago & Milwaukee Railroad, later holding a similar position at Mabel, Minn. After remaining with the railroad from 1879 to 1882, Mr. Nelson went to Clark, in Clark county, South Dakota, where he sold hardware and agricultural implements as a member of the firm of Snell & Nelson, his partner being Mr. Snell of Mabel, Minn. He remained there until 1887 and then sold out and returned to Spring Grove. Here he

bought a half interest in a hardware business with T. T. Bergh, which was conducted under the style of Bergh & Nelson until 1888, when Mr. Bergh sold his interest to O. B. Tone. In 1906 Mr. Tone sold his interest to I. D. Johnson, Mr. Nelson's present partner, and the firm has since conducted business as Nelson & Johnson. The concern has retained the same location ever since Mr. Nelson and Mr. Bergh became associated together. A large stock of heavy and shelf hardware is carried, and there is also a furniture department in connection with the store. The firm enjoys a large patronage and its business is steadily increasing. Mr. Nelson was one of the organizers and has been president of the Spring Grove State Bank since 1904. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company and the Root River Electric Company, and is a man who has long taken a prominent part in promoting useful enterprises in this part of the county. Though public spirited he is unostentatious and is highly respected and esteemed by his fellow citizens. In politics Mr. Nelson has always been a Republican. He served for years as township assessor and clerk and has been president of the village council, and in 1907 and 1909 he was representative from this district in the State Legislature. A member of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which his father was one of the founders; he served for years as a member of its board and as treasurer. Mr. Nelson was married in April, 1879, to Anna, daughter of Embrick and Kjersti (Ruen) Benson of Spring Grove township. Mrs. Nelson is an active and useful member of the same church as her husband and is a lady who has many friends in this community.

Nels Husemoen, who died on his farm in section 27, Spring Grove township, Nov. 8, 1916, had been a resident of this township nearly all his life and had made his mark as a successful agriculturist. He was born in Nes Hallingdal, Norway, Oct. 1, 1865, son of Gilbert and Marget Husemoen, and came to Minnesota with his parents when six years old, the family settling directly in Spring Grove township, Houston county. In 1877 the parents bought 160 acres of wild land in sections 27 and 28, on which they erected a log cabin and began the development of a farm. Here young Nels grew up and when old enough contributed his share of labor to the upbuilding of the family fortunes. His education was obtained in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 15 years. On July 28, 1888, Mr. Husemoen was united in marriage with Caroline Qvern, daughter of Hans and Martha Qvern of Spring Grove township, and who was born in Norway and came to this country with her parents at the age of ten years. He and his wife began housekeeping on her present farm in a two-room log cabin, in which they resided until 1900, in which year Mr. Husemoen built a modern two-story frame house of nine rooms, consisting of an upright and wing, the former 16 by 28 and the latter 16 by 20 feet, with hot water heat and gas illumination. In 1909 he built a frame barn 36 by 60 by 14 feet, with a hip roof and a full stone basement of eight feet, cement floors and swing stanchions for 20 head of cattle and eight horses. He also built a tool shed 20 by 48; a log house 16 by 48, with two wings 16 by 20 on each side and cement floors; a granary 16 by 28 by 14; poultry house 12 by 14; a shop 12 by 12; well house 12 by 14; cream house 10 by 12; stave silo 12

by 35, corn crib 10 by 30, double summer kitchen 14 by 18, and garage 10 by 12. Mr. Husemoen successfully raised grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, keeping full-blooded sires for his herds to improve the stock, and at his death had 100 acres under the plow, the balance of the land being in pasture and timber. The farm is now operated by his widow with the assistance of her eldest son, Gustav, and is a productive and profitable piece of agricultural property. Mr. Husemoen was a Republican in politics and was a member of his district school board, but not otherwise active in public affairs. He was an industrious, persevering man, well liked and respected, and up to the last two years of his life enjoyed good health. He and his wife had the followed named children: Gustav, born March 18, 1889, now operating the home farm; Hannah, born Dec. 22, 1893, who married C. Grayburn of La Crosse; Manda, born June 7, 1896, now Mrs. Eugene Miner of Spring Grove township; Annie, born Dec. 11, 1899; Christian, born May 18, 1902; Maline, born Jan 6, 1905; Clarence Morton, born Oct. 17, 1907; Maurice Gerhardt, born Aug. 1, 1910; Florence Jeanette, born Jan. 15, 1913; and Esther Irene, born Aug. 23, 1915.

John Johnson Lommen, one of those intrepid pioneers who laid the foundations of the present wealth and prosperity of Houston county, was born at Valdres, Norway, Nov. 18, 1831. He grew to manhood in his native land and at the age of 13 years had lost both his parents. After that he had little chance for schooling, as he had practically to support himself. One of his brothers, Cjermund, who had emigrated to the United States, having sent home a favorable report of this country, especially the northwest, three other brothers, Peder, Tosten and Thomas, together with John, determined to come here also, and accordingly in 1851 they set out, and in due time safely arrived. All of these brothers are now deceased. The first three years of John Johnson Lommen in this country were spent in the Wisconsin pineries. Then in 1854 he came to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minn., and bought a tract of wild land in section 3, two miles northwest of what is now Spring Grove village. In the following year, on June 20, 1855, he married Marit Orsdatter Ristey, the ceremony being performed in Knute Keland's first log hut. This marriage was probably the second to be celebrated in the township, that of Hans Nielson Myhra and Mary B. Anderson having taken place in February of the previous year. It resulted in five children, three of whom are now living, namely: Jorend Foskerud, of Wentworth, S. D.; Ole, of Spring Grove village, and Marit Narum of Shevlin, Minn. The mother of these children died April 24, 1867, and in the following year, on April 5, Mr. Lommen married Kasperinde Erickson Oium, who was of Norwegian parentage. Of this marriage six children were born: Martin, Edward, Peter, Anton, Tosten and Johanna, the last mentioned of whom is now the wife of Alfred B. Halvorson, residing on a farm adjoining the old homestead in Spring Grove township. In the meanwhile Mr. Lommen was improving and developing his farm and bringing it into good condition by breaking the land and erecting buildings. His early years on the place were full of hard work with little immediate compensation, but he was waging a successful battle

with the forces of nature and in time obtained the mastery. He resided there until 1903, when he felt it was time to retire, and, selling the farm to his son Peter J., he took up his residence with his wife in Spring Grove village, where the rest of his life was spent. In 1909 he suffered a paralytic stroke, an indication of his approaching end, which came at last Oct. 21, 1911. His wife survived him until Sept. 29, 1913, when she too passed away. She was then in her seventy-ninth year, having been born in Norway, May 28, 1835. They were people of sterling character, industrious and neighborly, and for many years active supporters of church and school.

Peter J. Lommen, the proprietor of a well improved and productive farm of 173 acres in section 3, Spring Grove township, was born on the farm he now owns and operates, Aug. 23, 1872, son of John J. and Kasperinde Erickson (Oium) Lommen. He acquired his education in the district school, and until he was twenty-one years old remained on the home farm assisting his father. After that he worked out for a while as a farm laborer. On Oct. 21, 1895, Mr. Lommen was united in marriage with Ingeborg, daughter of Gjermund and Aagot Lommen of Wilmington township. On July 3, 1896, his wife was injured in a runaway accident near Spring Grove, and died two days later leaving no children. In the following year, on Aug. 5, 1897, Mr. Lommen married Maria Ronningen, daughter of Frederick and Anna Ronningen of Caledonia township, Houston county, and who was born in Norway, Oct. 25, 1874, and came to America with her parents at the age of seven years. In the spring of 1898 he rented the C. Lommen farm in Black Hammer township, which he operated until the spring of 1904. He then moved to Spring Grove village, where he built a house in which he and his wife resided for a year. In the spring of 1905 he traded his village property for his father's old farm in section 3, Spring Grove township, and took up his residence on it. It already had some good buildings, including a log house, log granary, a frame barn, 32 by 60 by 18 feet in size, with a full stone basement of nine feet, and since then Mr. Lommen has improved the barn, and erected a number of other buildings. These include a frame granary, double corn crib, machine shed, cook house for hog food, and a modern, two-story ten-room house, gas lighted, heated with hot water, and with a laundry in the basement. He has 140 acres of the farm under cultivation, the balance of thirty-three acres being in pasture and timber, while his equipment of teams, tools and machinery is of the best kind. In addition to raising bounteous crops, he is a successful breeder of grade Shorthorn cattle, keeping twenty-five to thirty head, with some twelve or fifteen milch cows, and he has a herd of fifty to sixty Poland-China swine. His other business interests include those of a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company and the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery. Of Mr. Lommen's second marriage ten children have been born: James Ignatius, Dec. 16, 1897; Clarence Ferdinand, Feb. 5, 1899; Cora Adella, Nov. 28, 1900; Harry Mentol Percival, Jan. 11, 1903; Thomas Oswald, Nov. 3, 1904; Stella Dorothy, Oct. 27, 1906; Ruth Matilda, Nov. 30, 1908; Olga Georgiana, Oct. 12, 1909; Nels, who died in infancy; and Thora Belinda, April 1, 1914. Cora Adella is now a third-year pupil in the Spring Grove high school. James I. and Clarence F. in 1918, took a year's training



OLAUS C. VAALER AND FAMILY

in the agricultural college at St. Paul. Mr. Lommen and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican.

Christopher Vaaler, one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Spring Grove township, now deceased, was a native of Norway, from which country he came to the United States as a young man in 1853. He first located at Rock Prairie, near Beloit, Wis., but remained there but a brief time, coming thence to Fillmore county, Minnesota. He soon came to Houston county, buying 200 acres of government land in section 12, Spring Grove township, about one mile east of where the village now stands. In his native land he had followed the occupation of a timber hewer, and it was therefore no hard task for him to chop down a few trees and build himself a log house, after which he began the work of clearing and developing the land. He had come to this country a single man but was soon united in marriage with Rangel Johnson, who died, however, about 1864. By her he had two sons and one daughter: Olaus C., the present proprietor of the old home farm; B. C. Vaaler, now living at Mohol, Calif., and a railroad man by occupation; and Kaarn, now Mrs. Christ Steneroden of Red Wing, Minn. Mr. Vaaler in time developed and improved his farm into a valuable piece of property. His early years on the place were strenuous and full of hard work, though now and then lightened by an unexpected bit of good fortune or some humorous incident. There were many Indians in the neighborhood in those days, and on one occasion when Mr. Vaaler was engaged in hewing logs for a building, using a large old-fashioned broad-axe, finding the axe dull, he paused in his work and went into the cabin to grind it. It happened that an Indian had just previously gone into the cabin to warm himself, and the Red Man on seeing the axe took it for a monstrous tomahawk and thinking himself in danger of his life made a rapid exit from the cabin and took to his heels as fast as he could, in a moment being out of sight. Some time after his first wife's death Mr. Vaaler contracted a second marriage, of which union two sons and two daughters were born. Of these children one son, Karl, is now a prosperous farmer in Fillmore county, and one of the daughters, Rosalia, is now Mrs. Gust Gubrud of Bagley, Minn. Mr. Vaaler continued on his farm until his death, which occurred Dec. 28, 1888. He was a man well known and respected, one of that grand army of pioneers coming from various parts of the world who built up the great Northwest and established the reign of law and civilization in what had before been a wilderness inhabited only by wild animals and savage men, and as such deserves recognition and remembrance.

Olaus C. Vaaler, now serving in his second term as postmaster of Spring Grove, is one of the leading citizens of his township, which he has served in various offices, and has also had a successful career as a farmer. He was born in Spring Grove township, on his parents' farm one mile east of the village, Aug. 6, 1856, son of Christopher and Rangel (Johnson) Vaaler. His early education was acquired in the common school of Spring Grove, after which he became a student in the State Normal School at Winona, Minn. Relinquishing his studies at the age of nineteen years, he turned his attention to the development of the old home farm, which he finally

purchased. After it became his property he effected various improvements, rebuilding the house and erecting a number of other buildings. The house is now a comfortable frame residence consisting of an upright and wing, one and a half stories in height and containing eight rooms. The buildings erected by Mr. Vaaler include a frame barn, 30 by 70 by 14 feet in size, with a full nine-foot stone basement, cement floor and James equipment; silo, 14 by 30; granary, 18 by 30 by 12; tool shed, 20 by 30 by 10; two corn cribs, 7 by 30 by 10 each; a cream and separator house, 8 by 10; poultry house, 12 by 20 by 8, and a hog house 8 by 30 by 6 feet. All are in good condition and 135 acres of the land are under the plow. Mr. Vaaler remained on the farm until 1913, giving special attention to the raising and improvement of Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China swine and Belgian horses, keeping full-blooded sires for all his stock. Being then appointed postmaster of Spring Grove, he turned the farm over to his son Walter O., and moved to the village, where he owns a comfortable home. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Creamery Association, of which he was one of the organizers, serving as its president until 1913; also in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Association, of which he was auditor for some years; and in the Root River Electric Light Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. Politically a Democrat, he has taken a prominent part in local affairs and has served a number of terms in each of the important offices of supervisor, town treasurer, town assessor, and chairman of the town board. In 1897 he was a candidate for the State Legislature but was defeated. On April 11, 1878, Mr. Vaaler was married to Sophia Sannes, daughter of Ole and Semeve Sannes of, Wilmington township, Houston county. Her parents also were pioneer settlers in this county, her father being an industrious and thrifty man, so careful of his oxen that on one occasion, it being a very hot day in summer, he carried a plow on his back a distance of seven miles, from Caledonia village to his farm, rather than drive his oxen in the heat. Mr. and Mrs. Vaaler have had a family of eleven children: Olaf O., born Jan. 13, 1879, now proprietor of a general store and postmaster at Desert, N. D.; John O., born April 22, 1881, who lives in La Crosse and is a traveling salesman for T. T. Bergh & Co.; Celia, born Oct. 23, 1883, who is residing on the home farm; Lars O., born March 22, 1886, now a meat dealer at Scranton, N. D.; Christopher O., born Sept. 7, 1888, who graduated from the Spring Grove high school and the Minnesota University and is now a school principal at Wolverton, Minn.; Rosabelle, born June 29, 1891, and is now a teacher, being a graduate of the Spring Grove high school and the Winona Normal school; Walter O., born Feb. 21, 1894, now in charge of the old home farm; Otto O., born Oct. 18, 1896, who is clerk in a general store and assistant postmaster at Desert, N. D.; Stella, born Oct. 10, 1899, a graduate of the Spring Grove high school, who has taken up nursing in the La Crosse Lutheran Hospital; Minnie Viola, born Jan. 29, 1902, who died Feb. 6, the same year; and Martha, born May 6, 1903, who is a student in the Spring Grove high school. In 1912 the wife of Mr. Vaaler's son John O. died leaving two daughters and a son, Inga, Ida and Olaus. Of these children Olaus and Inga are now living with their grandfather, Mr. Vaaler, while Ida is being taken care of by her maternal grandmother.

Andras B. Foss, who with one exception is the oldest man now living in Spring Grove village, is one who has had a notable history, not only as a pioneer of Houston county, but also as a gold seeker in California in the thrilling and romantic days of the early fifties. The story of his life, if told in detail, would furnish material for an interesting novel of fair-sized dimensions. Here, however, the main incidents only can be given. Mr. Foss was born near Bergen, Norway. April 24, 1826, son of Brengel Anderson Foss, his father being a baker by occupation. He had scant opportunities for obtaining an education and his material prospects in his native land were not promising. As he grew to manhood his eyes turned to America as a land of opportunity, and here he resolved to seek his fortune. Accordingly in the month of May, 1849, at the age of twenty-three years, he set out for the United States and after a voyage of seven weeks and four days landed at New York on July 4. From that city he went by railroad to Albany, from Albany to Buffalo by the Erie Canal, and from Buffalo by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee. His objective point was Janesville, Wis. where he had a cousin who had come to America in 1847, and whom he might have accompanied but for his reluctance to borrow money from his father to pay for his passage, he preferring to earn it and leave no debts behind. On his arrival at Milwaukee he found himself practically without money. However, he set out from Milwaukee on foot headed for Janesville and had covered twenty-two miles when he arrived at a little place called Georgeville. There he met an Irish farmer named Joseph Lennon who engaged him for a half month to help in the haying at fifty cents a day. For him he worked eleven days, at the end of which time his hands were so blistered from the use of the scythe that he was unable to do any more. Although he had but two days more to serve to make up the half month, the farmer meanly refused to pay him anything, so he went on his way penniless. He managed, however, to reach Janesville, where he found his cousin, who was a bricklayer and who hired him to mix mortar and carry the hod at one dollar a day. During the following winter, when mason work was out of the question, he did whatever he could find to do for his board and lodging. In the spring of 1850 he found work on the farm of Levi St. John near Janesville, receiving ten dollars a month wages, and remained until the fall. He then went to Plattville, Wis., where he had a cousin who was a contractor, for whom he worked until winter set in. The winter of 1850-51 he worked again for his board and room, without wages. While thus engaged he met an American just returned from California, who told wonderful stories about that far-off and almost unknown territory and of the recent discoveries of gold there which had already sent a thrill of excitement throughout the civilized world and started hosts of adventurers on the road to the new El Dorado. Mr. Foss was both young and human, and these stories made a strong impression on him and aroused in him likewise the spirit of adventure. His cousin, Mons K. Foss, was equally impressed, and they, with five others—Americans—formed a company determined to brave the perils of the overland journey across the plains and risk their lives to make their fortunes. Accordingly they made a pool, each member putting in \$100, and in addition, they elected a boss or commander of the expedition. They also

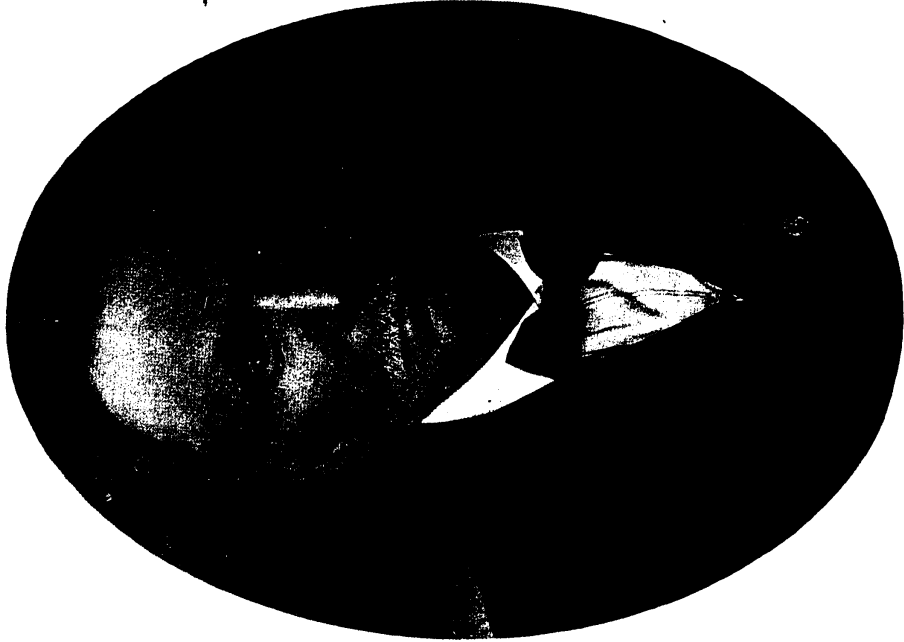
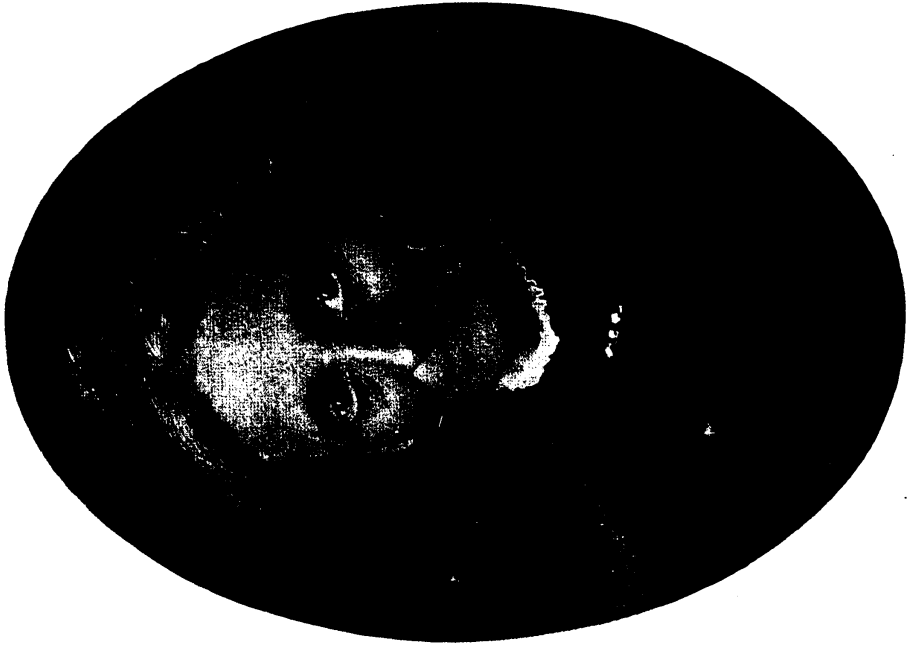
provided themselves with two wagons and five yoke of oxen. In April, 1851, the long and dangerous journey was begun, and was made without any particular incident to the second great desert, 300 miles this side of the Rocky Mountains. The oxen stood the trip well, and though some Indians were encountered, they gave the party no trouble. On reaching the edge of the desert mentioned they traded their oxen for mules, and crossed it on mule back in four days and nights. They then entered Salt Lake City to secure supplies, and after leaving that place traversed the Mormon Pass over the Rockies. While on this part of the journey some Indian guides joined themselves uninvited to the party, which caused its members some apprehension, due to stories which they had heard both in regard to the Indians and the Mormons, but after remaining with them a day and a night the Indians disappeared and they saw no more of them. Two of the company, however, foolishly insisted on riding ahead of the others, with the result that one was shot, which was the only casualty they suffered. They often encountered bands of Indians numbering 500 or more, and occasionally they joined other caravans of emigrants and accompanied them for a while until for choice or by accident they separated. On June 10 they reached the Rockies, and soon after arrived at their stopping place in California, known then by the suggestive name of Hangtown, but later as Placerville. They were now beyond the pale of civilization, the only law in operation being the miners' regulations for dealing with crime, the court being presided over usually by Judge Lynch. At Hangtown Mr. Foss and his cousin hired out to mine at four dollars a day and board, remaining there and at Cold Springs until the spring of 1852. Then with his cousin he spent some time in prospecting in the vicinity of Hangtown, but without much success. Resolving on a change of location they set out for Sacramento, and on arriving there proceeded up the Sacramento River by steamer to Marysville, a mining town, and from there to Parker's Bar, another camp three miles above, where there were rich diggings. There they bought a share in a mine for two hundred dollars. Soon afterwards Andras B. Foss went to a point about forty miles north, where, as one of a company of sixteen men, all equal partners, he bought a share in another mine, each member's assessment being one hundred dollars. To accomplish their operations successfully they built a dam and flume to turn the water so they could search for gold in the river bed below. This flume was 400 feet long and was covered with canvas, and it being late in the fall when it was finished, they were able to do but two weeks' mining before the rainy season set in, the work netting each man but six dollars a day, an amount which, considering the fearfully high price of all necessities, was insignificant. To save loss and months of weary waiting, they resolved to sell their works and disposed of them to some Chinamen for \$2,000. Almost as soon as this transaction was effected the rains came on with such violence that everything was washed away and the Chinamen completely ruined. But they were not the only sufferers, as Mr. Foss almost immediately afterwards lost all his money in a "freeze-out" game, and returned to Parker's Bar, where his cousin had established a miner's boarding house, poor in pocket but rich in experience. Finding there was no money to be made at Parker's Bar, and his cousin being equally

unsuccessful, the two set out for Downeyville, forty miles from Sacramento, where they found the mining poor. By this time the subject of this sketch had discovered that it was not easy for him to acquire sudden wealth, and made up his mind to return to Wisconsin and seek it by the slower but surer method of agriculture. His cousin having also had enough of California, they set out for San Francisco, where in three weeks they secured passage by boat to New Orleans, the fare being \$150 apiece, steerage. An eight-days' trip down the coast brought them to Acapulco, where they took on supplies, and then, after another eight days, they were landed in Nicaragua. They crossed the Isthmus partly on mule back and partly by boat journey across Lake Nicaragua, the mule hire costing them \$5 apiece. On this part of the journey they had to traverse the river from the lake until they reached the rapids, where they made a portage, went by a steamer which they found below to the second rapids, then made another portage and took a second steamer to the eastern coast, where they boarded a Gulf steamer and in three days found them in New Orleans. The next stage of their journey was made up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, the fare being \$12 apiece. They then proceeded to Dubuque, where they crossed the river to New Galena, Ill., and from there traveled on foot to Janesville, which place they reached just three years after leaving it. In the fall of 1853 Andras B. Foss started out to find land on which to settle, going from Janesville to McGregor, Iowa, from McGregor to Decorah, being accompanied by his cousin and both making the journey on foot. At Locust Prairie, Iowa, he bought 160 acres of wild land on which he built a shack and some straw sheds, and began to make improvements, leading a bachelor's life. On June 20, 1855, he married Anna Solberg, daughter of Andros and Gerhardt Solberg of Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minn., and he and his wife resided on the Iowa farm, which lay close to the Minnesota state line, until 1860. Then Mr. Solberg died and Mr. Foss sold his Iowa farm and bought that of his deceased father-in-law, to which place he and his family moved. It was located in section 32 and there he remained until the spring of 1887, during which time he made extensive improvements on the place, increasing its area to 340 acres and erecting good buildings. He then rented it out and moved to Spring Grove village, erecting a two-story, square brick house on West Main street. Later he built another residence on an adjoining lot, which is the one in which he and his wife made their home until her death, Sept. 3, 1918. Mr. Foss is now ninety-three years old. There is one older citizen in the village, and he has the advantage of Mr. Foss by but eight months. As a man who has had a remarkable history, and who has remained unspoiled by either bad or good fortune, Mr. Foss is widely known and highly esteemed. He was one of the founders of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he has ever since been a member, serving for years as a trustee. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children: six daughters and five sons, all living, well and strong. Barbara Maria, now Mrs. N. H. Nelson, her husband being a retired farmer and banker of Mabel, Minn.; Gertina Andrene, widow of Thorvold Doely of Elbow Lake, Minn.; Johana Christina, wife of C. M. Walhus of Winneshiek county, Iowa; Brady, who is now farming in Cuba;

Albert, a prosperous farmer of Spring Grove township; Martha Malina, wife of T. A. Kroshus of Spring Grove township; Peter A., living on the old homestead in Spring Grove township; Julia Louisa, wife of Anton Walhus of Winneshiek county, Iowa; Edward J., of Spring Grove village; Anna Sophia, wife of Frank Joerg, of Spring Grove village, and Leander A., of Robinson, N. D.

E. J. Foss, an enterprising and successful business man of Spring Grove village, handling the Ford automobiles and also engaged in the insurance business, was born on a farm in Spring Grove township, Houston county, Feb. 6, 1876, son of Andras B. and Anna Foss. He was educated in the common schools and at Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, where he finished a three years' course about 1894. Up to the age of 19 years when not at school he resided on the home farm with his parents, and during that period acquired some knowledge of agriculture and stock raising. In 1895 he began learning telegraphy and railroad station work at the Spring Grove depot of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, and a year later became station agent and operator at Newhouse, the first station west of Spring Grove. That position he held for thirteen years, being also engaged for several years in buying and shipping stock and grain for several grain elevator companies and for the last few years on his own account. In 1910 Mr. Foss moved to Spring Grove and engaged in the handling of Ford autos, a business which he had started as a side issue two years previously. He has since continued in it and is now conducting a garage and salesroom. In addition to this he has been for years agent for the Equitable Life Insurance Company, of Des Moines, Iowa. One of the hustling, energetic business men of the community and honorable in all his dealings, he has advanced steadily on the road of prosperity and is the owner of a comfortable residence. He is also a stockholder in the Harroun Auto Company and the Root River Electric Company. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Foss was married, June 14, 1901, to Louisa, daughter of Knute K. and Anna Kieland, of Spring Grove township. He and his wife have been the parents of four children: Adolph K., born Nov. 18, 1902, who died March 4, 1918; Owen, born Oct. 27, 1905, who is attending the Spring Grove High School; Anna, born in 1912, who died in the following year; and Norman W., born December 11, 1915. Mr. Foss and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Torger Johnson Tendeland, one of the earliest pioneer settlers in Spring Grove township, long since passed away, was born near Stavanger, Norway, about 1813. In the same neighborhood in the year 1818 was born Bertha Larson, who subsequently became his wife. In 1849, some five or six years after their marriage, with two children, Bertha Maria, then 4 years old, and Johanas, aged 2, they set out for the United States and after a long voyage landed at New York. From that city the family went by railroad to Albany and thence by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, where they tarried for a few months. At last they took passage by a lake steamer for Milwaukee, but before the steamer had left Buffalo harbor another child, Lauritz T., was born to them on board. With this increase to their family



MR. AND MRS. L. T. JOHNSON

they arrived in Milwaukee and from there journeyed by wagon and ox team to Jefferson Prairie, near Beloit, Rock county, Wis. There they remained until the spring of 1852, Mr. Tendeland working at anything he could find to do. They then extended their travels towards the northwest until they reached Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn. Here Mr. Tendeland bought 200 acres of wild government land, of which 80 acres was grub land and the rest prairie. He had very little money and he and his family had to live economically with no comforts and sometimes hardly the necessaries of life. The first dwelling he erected was a log shack, 12 by 14 feet in size, which was the family home for some years. The farm was located in section 15, just west of the present limits of the village of Spring Grove. During the first year they suffered a severe misfortune, their sheds and all their hay being destroyed by fire, and the little house being the only building left. But in spite of this they persevered with hope for the future, Mrs. Tendeland often assisting her husband in the field work. In time a good frame house replaced the old log shack and a frame barn was also erected, together with other necessary buildings. Three other children came to enlarge their family circle, but they were not destined long to survive. Diphtheria, that terrible scourge which the doctors of early days knew not how to cure, visited the township and carried off four of the children—Johanas, at the age of 14; Guri and Raagnel, at the age of 9, and Gabriel, aged 5. This left but two survivors, Bertha Maria and Lauritz, both of whom are now living. On Dec. 23, 1873, the father of the family also died after a brief sickness. Almost up to the time of his death he had been a strong and rugged man. He had done his part as a pioneer and was respected in the community for his industrious habits and steady character. One of the founders of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he served it for a number of years as a trustee and helped to build its stone edifice. Mrs. Tendeland survived her husband some years, dying in 1878. Their remains now rest in the old cemetery in Spring Grove village. At the mother's death the two surviving children, Bertha Maria and Lauritz T., inherited the farm, which they operated together until Lauritz bought his sister's interest, and he has since remained its proprietor. Bertha Maria is now Mrs. Embrik Stringer, of Waukon, Minn.

Lauritz T. Johnson, a well to do farmer residing in section 15, Spring Grove township, was born at Buffalo, N. Y., July 8, 1849, son of Torger Johnson Tendeland and his wife Bertha, whose maiden name was Larson. His birth took place on a steamer in Buffalo harbor just as his parents were setting out on a lake journey to Milwaukee. From there he accompanied them to Rock county, Wisconsin, and several years later to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, where he was brought up and reared to manhood on the farm on which he is now living. This he inherited with his sister, Bertha Maria, on the death of his mother—his last surviving parent—in 1878. Subsequently buying his sister's interest, he has since remained the sole owner of the farm, on which he has effected various improvements, having enlarged the house and erected additional buildings. His barn measures 30 by 60 by 16 feet, and rests on a full stone

basement of 8 feet, and among the other buildings are corn cribs, a nog house, machine shed, poultry house and spring house, all in good condition. He has also a good equipment and his farm is very productive, it being one of the most fertile in this part of the county. He had 135 acres of meadow and plow land, the balance being in pasture and timber, while his stock includes grade Red Poll cattle and Poland-China swine, he having of the former some 15 to 20 milch cows and 30 to 40 young cattle. For both cattle and hogs he has full-blooded sires, endeavoring constantly to improve his herds. Mr. Johnson was also one of the organizers of the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and for years has been one of its directors. Politically he has always been a Republican and has taken an active part in the affairs of local government, serving at different times in various offices. For the past twenty-eight years he has been town clerk, for three years clerk of Spring Grove High School, for a number of years he served as town supervisor, and he has also been town assessor and justice of the peace. Mr. Johnson was married, April 3, 1874, to Bergita Regina Nelson, who was born in Norway, April 9, 1855, daughter of Peter and Martha (Johnson) Nelson. After her father's death in his native land she accompanied her mother to this country, being then 17 years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson thirteen children have been born, as follows: Petra Theoline, born Sept. 19, 1875, now the wife of Gust H. Kyllingsted, a farmer of Spring Grove township; Bertha (first), born Sept. 4, 1877, who died in infancy; Bertha (second), born Aug. 9, 1878, now the wife of John Matthi-son, a civil engineer of Hamilton, Mont.; Richard Tedeman, born Dec. 12, 1880, who is residing on the home farm; Ida Maria, born Dec. 26, 1882, who graduated from the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, Wis., and the Carter Business College at Duluth, Minn., and is now bookkeeper and stenographer in the department store of Harper Bros. at Enderlin, N. D.; Gena Laurenze, born Dec. 17, 1884, who graduated from the Ladies' Seminary at Red Wing, Minn., and is now Mrs. Ernest Ruesch, of Kremlin, Mont.; Lucy Rebecca, born March 27, 1886, now the wife of James F. Wall, superintendent of the Portland cement works at Morgan Park, near Duluth, Minn.; Peter Gerhard, born Aug. 23, 1888, who died Dec. 2 the same year; Manda Amelia, born Oct. 8, 1889, who after graduating from the Spring Grove High School, studied in the Winona Normal School, was a teacher for six years and is now Mrs. Magnus Nalley, of Albert Lea, Minn.; Ruth Lillian, born Jan. 3, 1894, who is the wife of Theodore B. Smerud, of Elkader, Iowa; Frances Mildred, born March 9, 1896, who graduated from the Spring Grove High School and is now a student in the Winona Normal School; and Pearl Geneva, born April 24, 1898, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove High School and a student in the Winona Normal School. Mr. Johnson and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, those at home or in this vicinity attending the Spring Grove congregation. He is one of the two pioneers of this section still living.

Helmer J. Sylling, proprietor of a flourishing farm of 165 acres in section 9, Spring Grove township, was born in this township on a farm four miles south of the village, Aug. 19, 1871, son of Juul and Bertha Sylling, his

parents being pioneers of this locality. He acquired his primary education in District School No. 88, and in 1894 completed a business course in Valders Normal College at Decorah, Iowa. The next two years were spent on his parents' farm. On March 12, 1896 he was married to Caroline, daughter of Jorgen and Olaus Quarve, of Spring Grove township. Having rented the Hermanson farm south of town, he and his wife took up their residence on that place, which he operated until the spring of 1899. He then moved to Eddy county, North Dakota, where he bought 160 acres of land, of which 60 acres had been broken, although there were no buildings. The latter defect he remedied by erecting a small frame house, also a board barn to shelter his teams and stock. He also broke 80 acres more of the land, and until 1910 was engaged in raising flax and wheat there. Then selling the place, he returned to Spring Grove and bought his present farm of 165 acres in Spring Grove township, two and a half miles west of the village, which was formerly the Paul Hanson farm. It was an improved place with a two-story frame house, consisting of an upright and wing, and a good frame barn and granary, 14 by 22 by 10 feet in size. To these buildings he has added a machine shed, 14 by 22 feet. He has now 130 acres of the land under the plow, and besides raising good crops is successfully breeding grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China and Duroc-Jersey swine, keeping full-blooded sires for improving his herds. Of cattle he has at present some 35 to 40 head, including 10 or 12 milch cows, and of swine from 125 to 150 head. Mr. Sylling is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Hospital and is recognized as one of the enterprising and successful men of his township. He is a Republican politically and is now serving as treasurer of school district No. 55. While living in North Dakota he was for five years town assessor. He and his wife have five children: Bertha, born April 8, 1897; Genora, born Aug. 12, 1899; Jeanette, born Dec. 26, 1901; George, born Jan. 8, 1904; and Harriett, born Dec. 1, 1907. Bertha, who was graduated from the village high school, was for three years engaged in teaching. She married Rudolph Tweeten, of Wilmington township, May 26, 1918, and has one son, Harland. Genora, Jeanette and George are attending the village high school. The religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Spring Grove.

Juul Sylling, for many years an active and respected farmer of Spring Grove township, but now deceased, was born in Grans, Preslegeld, Haland, Norway, Dec. 24, 1832. In 1862 he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in Wilmington township. For some years he lived with his parents and helped them to develop their farm. On Nov. 4, 1870, he married Bertha Blexrud, a native of Norway and daughter of Lars and Annie Blexrud, of Wilmington township. Buying 80 acres of wild land in section 27, Spring Grove township, he erected a small dwelling on it, in which he and his wife took up their residence, and he began at once to develop a farm, the area of which was soon increased to 160 acres by the purchase of another 80-acre tract. In time he succeeded in getting 130 acres of his land under the plow, and had also erected a good set of buildings. Among these was a fine, large brick house, consisting of an upright and wing, the brick for which was made on the farm by a German hired

for that purpose by him and his brother Andreas, who owned an adjoining farm and built a brick house at the same time. He also erected a frame barn, 32 by 52 by 16 feet in size, with a full stone basement and other necessary buildings. His farm was well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, and he had also a good equipment of teams and machinery. All this was not accomplished without much hard work, and for many years Mr. Sylling was a very busy man. He was a prominent member and liberal supporter of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. His death, which took place in a hospital at La Crosse in May, 1911, deprived the township of one of its most worthy and esteemed citizens. His wife, now past 70 years, still resides on the old home farm. They were the parents of six children: Helner J., now a farmer in Spring Grove township; Christian J., a resident of Spring Grove village; George J., farming the old homestead; Albert J. and Lars J., farmers of Wilmington township; and Annie, now the wife of Hans Bekkemo, of Spring Grove township.

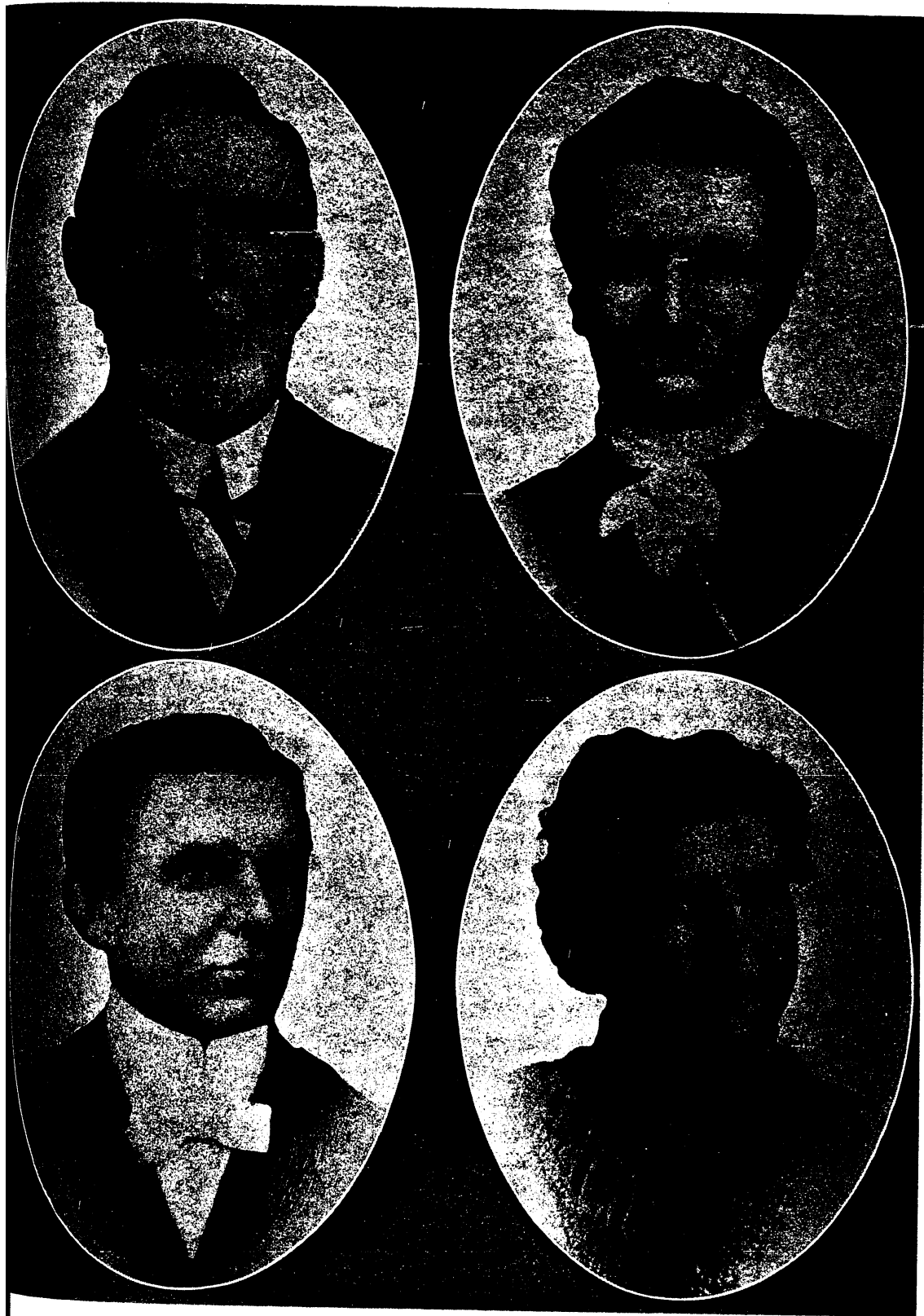
Christian J. Sylling, a well to do resident of Spring Grove village, stock buyer for the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, who is also the owner of considerable landed property, was born on a farm in section 27, Spring Grove township, Feb. 22, 1877, son of Juul and Bertha (Blexrud) Sylling. He acquired his primary education in the district school and subsequently attended for one year the Normal School at Decorah, Iowa. Then returning to his parents' farm, he worked on it until 1899, when he rented the Svarkebraaten farm not far from his home and began operating it independently. In the following year, or on July 8, 1900, he was united in marriage with Louise Larson, daughter of Ole Tufsrud and Gunhild Larson, of Highland township, Winneshiek county, Iowa. After a two years' residence on the Svarkebraaten farm, Mr. Sylling moved in 1902 to Spring Grove village, where he learned the creamery business and became manager of the creamery there. After awhile, finding the plant not large enough to accommodate its patrons, he bought the necessary machinery and supplies and started a creamery at Sheldon, eight miles to the north, which was run as a branch institution to handle the surplus cream. Mr. Sylling was connected with the Spring Grove Creamery for seven years, at the end of which time he sold out his interests and began buying stock for the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, an occupation in which he has since continued. In the same year he bought the Nils Tvito farm of 160 acres in section 23, Spring Grove township, two and a half miles southwest of the village. This is an improved farm with 120 acres of the land under cultivation. Its buildings include a good two-story frame house; a frame barn, 28 by 56 by 16 feet, with a lean-to of 20 by 56 feet for stock, and with cement floors and modern equipment; a stave silo, 12 by 32 feet, having a capacity of 80 tons; a hog house, 12 by 80 feet, with a cement floor 12 by 80; a poultry house, 16 by 22; and a cream house, 10 by 14 feet. On the farm is a herd of 50 Hereford cattle, including 10 milch cows, and another herd of 100 Poland-China hogs, the herds having pure-bred sires. This farm is now being operated by a renter, Mr. Sylling having no time to give it his personal attention. In addition to this property he owns 80

acres of improved land in Winneshiek county, Iowa, situated about eight miles south of Spring Grove. This tract, which he bought in 1913, he uses for stock pasture, there being no buildings on it. As buyer and shipper for the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, in which he has a financial interest, Mr. Sylling is kept busily employed. He is also a stockholder in the Root River Electric Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. His religious affiliations are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and for two years, 1914 and 1915, he served as mayor of Spring Grove, proving a popular official. To him and his wife seven children have been born: Geneva Beatrice, Aug. 15, 1902; James Oberlin, April 8, 1905; Gladys Amanda, March 26, 1907; Charlotte Luella, Sept. 14, 1909; Harold Leonard, April 22, 1911 (died Nov. 4, 1918); Alfred Gerhard, May 22, 1914; and Lucille Ione, Feb. 14, 1916. The four eldest are attending school in Spring Grove.

Timan Gilbertson, a former resident of Spring Grove township and village, who through his own exertions rose from a condition of poverty to one of comparative affluence and is still living, though now a resident of a distant state, was born at Nes Hallingdal, Norway, March 15, 1837. The father died in Norway and his widow subsequently became the wife of Halgrim Paulson Frysager. When the subject of this sketch was 10 years old the family emigrated to the United States, settling at Rock Prairie, Wis., whence in 1854 they came to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, settling on a farm not far from the village. Mr. Frysager was a man of forceful character and soon became a prominent member of the community. Young Timan was reared on the farm and early trained to habits of industry, attending school but two weeks in this country. In February, 1857, when nearly 20 years old, he married Anne Nelson Kjos, the ceremony taking place in the log cabin built by his stepfather. Both were very poor, the bride's sole effects consisting of a few articles tied up in a small bundle and the clothes she stood up in. But Mr. Gilbertson was not the man to remain poor all his life. Energetic and thrifty, he set to work at once to improve his fortunes. Buying of his stepfather the latter's farm in section 9, two miles south of Spring Grove village, he began its cultivation, making use of oxen for draught animals. During the seventeen years that elapsed until his removal to the village in 1874, he erected a number of buildings, including a substantial log house, 16 by 16 feet in size, to which he later added a frame wing, 16 by 16, and a stave barn, 30 by 40 by 14, which is still standing. By 1882 he had become the owner of more than 500 acres of land. Previous to that, in 1879, he erected a large brick hotel in Spring Grove village, on the west side, which was for years liberally patronized by the traveling public and which is now occupied by his son Amos as a residence. This place he operated as a hotel until the present "Florence" hotel was built further downtown. On moving to the village Mr. Gilbertson took up his residence in the Hinkley house, now occupied by the son Amos, previously mentioned, as a carpenter and cabinet-making shop. He gave to three of his sons a farm of 200 acres each in Spring Grove township and also presented two of his daughters with 160 acres each in North Dakota, one being situated near Fargo and the other near

Hoople. For a number of years he served as a supervisor of Spring Grove township, as well as in other local offices, and in 1871 was elected to represent his district in the state legislature, in which he served during the session of 1871-72 under the administration of Governor Austin. Politically he is a Democrat. While engaged in farming his market was at Brownsville, thirty miles distant, from which place he hauled all the material for the buildings on his farm and also for the hotel he built in the village. He was a prominent member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in which he took an active part, being a member of the building committee for the old stone church and also of that organized for the erection of the first brick structure. Some years ago Mr. Gilbertson and his wife went to Parkland, Wash., where he bought a tract of land, which he platted and where they are now living, the Pacific Lutheran Academy being located in the immediate vicinity. Both have attained the age of 80 years, there being but one month's difference in their respective ages, and both are hale and hearty and in the enjoyment of good health. Their career has been one of wonderful prosperity and good fortune, except that of their twelve children but four are now living. Of these Hannah and Gustaf are now in the state of Washington; Ingeborg resides at Horace, N. D., and Amos resides at Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn.

Amos Centennial Gilbertson, a well to do resident of Spring Grove village, who is the owner of valuable property there and also of a fine farm in the township, was born in the Hinkley House in this village, now used by him as a carpenter and cabinet shop, Sept. 7, 1876, son of Timan and Anne Gilbertson. He acquired his early education in the district and village schools, and from 1894 to 1896 was a student at the Pacific Lutheran Academy, in Parkland, Wash. In the spring he went to North Dakota and started farming near Fargo, where he remained until the fall of 1898. He then returned to Spring Grove, Houston county, but went on almost immediately to Decorah, Iowa, where he took a business course at Breckenridge College. In the spring of 1899 he came back to Houston county and took a farm in the township, five miles west of the village, which he operated until the spring of 1911. This farm, which he now has rented out to a tenant, is situated in sections 17 and 18 and is a fine property of 200 acres, of which 150 are under the plow and in a good state of cultivation. It is provided with a comfortable two-story frame house, consisting of an upright, 16 by 16, and wing, 14 by 14; also a frame barn, 32 by 80 by 14 feet in size, with a full stone basement of 8 feet; a granary, 20 by 24; machine shed, 26 by 42; a stave silo, 14 by 34; a poultry house, 14 by 26, and a steel windmill. It is also well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. Since giving up the farm Mr. Gilbertson has resided in the village, owning 10 acres within the corporation limits, also a large two-story brick house, built by his father in 1879 for a hotel and where he has a well equipped shop for carpenter and cabinet work. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and is numbered among Spring Grove's prosperous and respected citizens. Mr. Gilbertson was married, Oct. 31, 1900, to Elmina Sophia, daughter of Gunerius and Sophia Olson, of Hoople, N. D. They have had eight children: Carleton T., July 24, 1902,



MR. AND MRS. TIMAN GILBERTSON
MR. AND MRS. AMOS C. GILBERTSON

who died in infancy; Arnold Gerhard, born Oct. 17, 1903, died Aug. 8, 1918; Amy Lillian, born Oct. 9, 1906, died in 1907; Edna Sylvia, born July 11, 1909; Lillian Theresa, born Aug. 3, 1911; Walter Reuben, born Aug. 6, 1912; Tilman Carl, born June 3, 1914; and Alice Sophia, born March 22, 1916. Mr. Gilbertson and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Hans A. Sylling, for many years a leading citizen of Spring Grove township, regarded as one of the foremost men in the community and whose influence was strongly felt in public affairs, was born in Wilmington township, this county, June 5, 1865, son of Andreas Hanson and Kjerste (Ostensen) Sylling, and died Jan. 18, 1918. He was brought to Spring Grove township by his parents as a boy and here attended the district schools. He also had the advantages of two winters at St. Olaf's College at Northfield, Minn. He was reared to farm pursuits by his father and devoted his life to that work. In the spring of 1892 he purchased the home farm, on which he made many improvements. In 1908 he erected a good frame barn, 44 by 64 by 16 feet, with a nine-foot basement and cement floors and other improvements. He also put up a silo, 14 by 30 feet; a tool house, 18 by 35 feet, and other ample buildings. His equipment was of the best, and he made a close study of farm life and farm conditions. His hobby was the raising of horses. He had full-blooded sires, and his drove consisted of three matched pairs in addition to the young horses. His swine, numbering about 75, were of the Poland-China, Duroc-Jersey and Chester White breeds. His cattle, of which he kept about thirty, were Herefords. Mr. Sylling was a stockholder in the Spring Grove Grain & Stock Company, in which he was formerly director. He was also a shareholder in the Honey Co-operative Creamery Company at Bee, Minn., and in the Independent Harvester Company. His fraternal relations were with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Spring Grove. He served in various public capacities in his township, and was supervisor for many years as well as treasurer several times. Mr. Sylling was married, Oct. 12, 1895, to Tilla Thorine, daughter of Ole and Helga Svartebraaten, of Spring Grove township. This union was blessed with five children: Alvin Olander, Helma, Clara, John Henry and Helga. Alvin Olander was born Aug. 28, 1896. He served in the United States Army in France. Helma was born March 17, 1898, and graduated in 1917 from the Spring Grove High School. Clara was born March 13, 1900, and graduated in accounting and stenography in the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, Wis. John Henry was born Aug. 20, 1901, and is on the farm with his father. Helga was born Jan. 24, 1904. The family faith is that of the Spring Grove Evangelical Lutheran church, in which Mr. Sylling was a prominent and active member and liberal contributor.

Andreas Hanson Sylling, an early settler, was born in Norway, July 13, 1830, and there married Kjerste Ostensen, who was born Nov. 14, 1823. With their two children, Gudbaur (Julia), now Mrs. N. T. Hendrickson, of Cheyenne, N. D., and a baby who died soon afterward, they set out for America in 1862. They landed in New York, came from there by railroad to Dubuque, Iowa, and thence took a boat for Brownsville, this county,

where they were met by a brother-in-law, Gilbert Myrah, who took them to Wilmington township. This was on April 2, 1862, nearly fifteen weeks from the time they had left the old country. After living in Wilmington for awhile they sold out and came to Spring Grove township, where they secured a quarter section of land in section 35, partly improved. A log and frame house combined, a log granary and straw sheds constituted the buildings. Mr. Sylling continued to grub, break and improve the land until he had an unusually good place. In 1887 the log and frame house was replaced by a slightly brick structure, 28 by 32 by 20 feet. Later a one-story kitchen, 14 by 14 feet, was added. The brick was made on the farm itself. The house was at that time considered the best in the township. Mr. Sylling died Aug. 7, 1892, and his wife April 13, 1906.

Nels Tveito, an early settler in Houston county, who is still living, though not at present a resident of the county, was born in Norway in 1843 and came to the United States in 1852, when 9 years old, with relatives. His first residence in this country was in Allamakee county, Iowa, on Pine Creek Prairie, where he remained for one year. In 1854 he came to Houston county and was a resident of the county uninterruptedly until 1864, in which year he attained his majority. He then enlisted for service in the Civil War, but at the end of his career as a soldier returned to Houston county and settled in Spring Grove. In 1867 he was united in marriage with Kari, daughter of Elling and Leva Ellingson, of Spring Grove township, and soon after that event purchased 120 acres of wild land in Black Hammer township. He remained on that place but two years, however, and then went to Redwood county, Minnesota, taking up 160 acres of prairie land near Walnut Grove. After a four years' residence there he sold out his interests and returning to Spring Grove township, Houston county, bought 160 acres in section 23, on which the only building was a log cabin. There he remained for about thirty-seven years, during which time he developed the place into a good farm, with a comfortable frame house, a frame barn, granary, machine shed and other buildings. In 1910 Mr. Tveito sold his farm to C. J. Sylling and moved to Spring Grove village, where he resided until 1913 in a house of his own. He then sold that property and since then has spent his time between Esmond, N. D., and Thief River Falls, Minn., being now retired from active life. His wife died in Spring Grove in 1907. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom nine are still living, namely: Elling, now a prosperous farmer of Spring Grove township; Leve, wife of Andre Gilbertson and a resident of North Dakota; Martha, now Mrs. Ole Ostby, of Thief River Falls, Minn.; Regina, now Mrs. Lars Kjose, of Spring Grove township; Clara, wife of Elmer Benies, of Thief River Falls, Minn.; Annette, wife of Magnus Thorson, of Goodredge, Minn.; Nellie, wife of Peter Halverson, of Goodredge, Minn.; and Nelius, of Middle River, Minn.

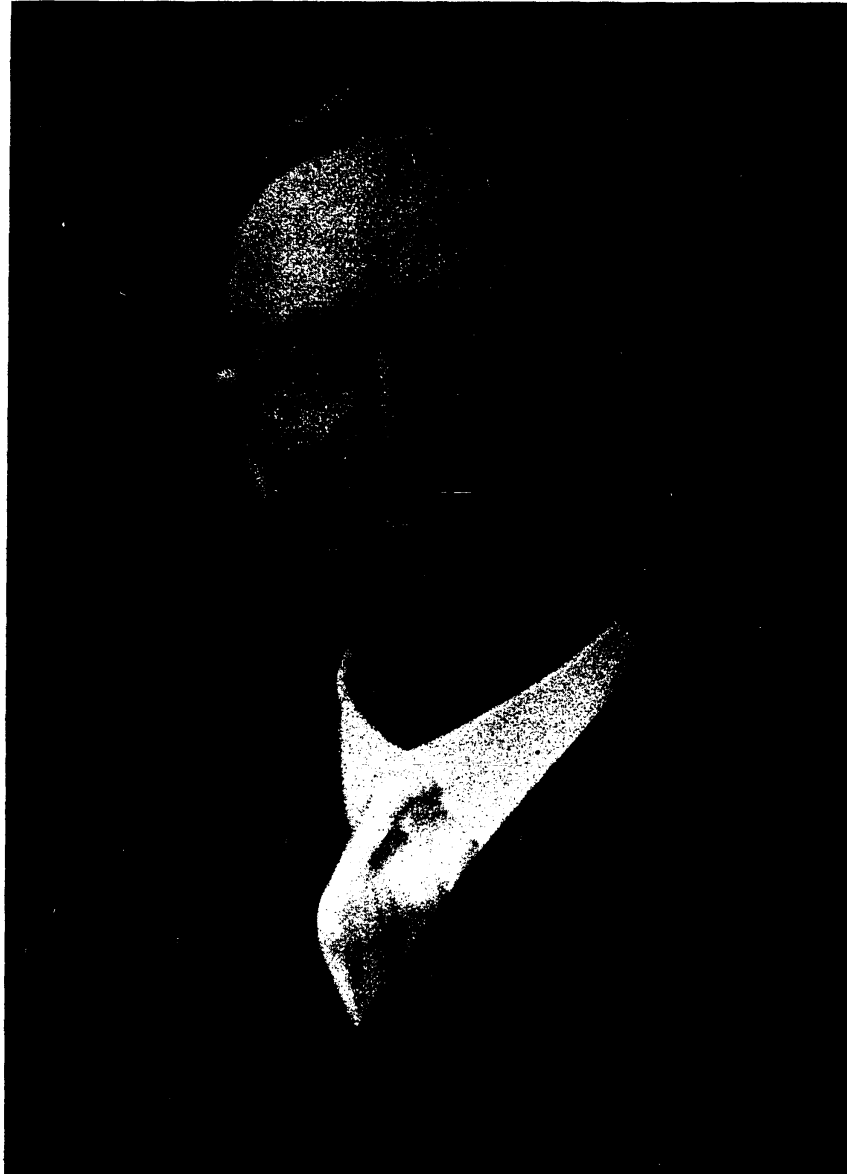
Elling Tveito, a well to do farmer and highly respected citizen of Spring Grove Township, residing in section 14, is a native of Houston county, having been born in Black Hammer township, Dec. 22, 1868, son of Nels and Kari (Ellington) Tveito. He acquired a district school education and resided with his parents until reaching the age of 30 years. In 1898 he

bought 120 acres of land in section 35, Spring Grove township, and was engaged in farming there until 1901, when he sold the place and bought an improved farm of 310 acres in sections 14 and 23, Spring Grove township, which is the one on which he now lives. Among the improvements are a good two-story frame house; a frame barn, 32 by 66 feet in size; a machine shed, 18 by 50; a granary, 18 by 24, and a stave silo, 14 by 32 feet. Having sold 40 acres of his farm, Mr. Tveito now has 270 acres, of which 170 are under the plow, the balance being in pasture and timber. His farm is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, each herd having a full-blooded sire, and he is following stock breeding, besides other branches of farming, with profitable results. He is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and the hospital, both of Spring Grove. An industrious and enterprising man, he has made good progress on the road to fortune and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of his township. Mr. Tveito was married, April 6, 1898, to Anna Theoline, daughter of Andrew and Thure Kroshus, of Spring Grove township. His family circle has been enlarged by the birth of seven children, six of whom are now living, the record being as follows: Nels Augustus, born Feb. 11, 1900, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove High School; Andrew Millard, born Sept. 3, 1902; Cora, born April 28, 1904, who died in infancy; Thomas Elmer, born June 2, 1905; Mabel Clarabelle, born May 10, 1907; Maurice Theodore, born Oct. 2, 1909; and Frances Thurine, born Jan. 5, 1912. Mr. Tveito and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. His political principles are those of the Republican party.

Peter A. Foss, one of the leading agriculturists of Spring Grove township, whose fine farm of 280 acres is situated in section 33, was born on this farm, April 11, 1871, son of Andrew and Anna Foss. His parents were among the early settlers in this township. Peter attended school in his home district and later spent two winters in the Spring Grove village school. From the age of sixteen to that of eighteen he worked out as a farm hand, but for the most part his hours of industry were spent on the home farm, which he helped his father to improve. Until the age of twenty-three he acted as his father's assistant, and then in the fall of 1894 he rented the farm, which he bought in 1902, and operated until 1905, when he rented it to his brother Albert. From that time until 1910 his time was spent on the farm of his brother Eddie near Flora, N. D., in the development of which he took a vigorous part. He then returned to the old home in Spring Grove township, Houston county, where he has since remained, and of which he now has 160 acres under the plow, the rest of the land being in timber and pasture. Here, besides raising the usual crops, he is doing a good business as a stock raiser, giving particular attention to the breeding of grade Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China swine and Shropshire sheep. He is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of Mabel, Fillmore county, Minn.; the Farmers' Elevator Company of Flora, N. D.; and a Wisconsin woolen manufacturing company. He is also a member of the American Society of Equity. Form-

erly a Republican in politics, he is now a non-partisan. As a general farmer Mr. Foss has had a successful career, and his farm is well equipped with buildings and all necessary machinery. His residence is a two-story, frame house, 24 by 32 feet in size, with basement, kitchen and dining-room; his stock barn is a substantial frame structure with a full eight-foot stone basement, measuring 32 by 50 by 14 feet, and with the addition of a lean-to for cattle measuring 16 by 32 feet, while he has also two tool sheds, three corn cribs and other outbuildings. The farm is situated five and a half miles southwest of Spring Grove village, which is a convenient market for him. Mr. Foss was married in March, 1896, to May Alice, who was born in 1872, daughter of James and Mary Brown of Riceford, Minn. Of this union three children have been born: Forrest, in 1897, who died in 1898; Augustus, in October, 1899, who is now helping his father on the farm; and James Leander, in 1901, who is also living at home and helping with the farm work. Mr. Foss and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Jesse Scofield, one of the pioneers of Caledonia township, now deceased, came to Houston county in the spring of 1855, a single young man, from Berrien county, Michigan. One mile west of Caledonia village was a grub farm with a frame house on it, which place Mr. Scofield, having had some experience in farming, purchased and began to improve. A few years later, when he had made some progress, he was married, July 17, 1859, to Almira Paddock, who was born at White Oak Springs, Wis., April 8, 1843, and had come to Caledonia township, Houston county, with her parents on Sept. 1, 1853, when in her tenth year. Less than two years after their marriage the Civil War broke out, and circumstances ordained that Mr. Scofield should leave his home and serve for a while as one of the defenders of the Union. He was one of the fortunate ones who returned safely after having done his duty as a soldier, and he immediately resumed the work of improving his farm. This task in time was well accomplished as he made it into one of the best eighty-acre farms in this part of the county, bringing his land into a high state of cultivation and erecting a comfortable frame house with barns and outbuildings. He was a Republican in politics and served in some minor offices, but never sought public distinction, preferring the peaceful avocation of farming and the joys of a quiet home life. In 1888 he sold his farm and retired with his wife to the village of Caledonia, where after five years of peaceful leisure, he died suddenly and without any immediate warning of heart failure, on Sept. 17, 1907. His widow is still living at the old home in Caledonia. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Scofield were the parents of six children: Charles J., born Aug. 8, 1860, now a well known business man and banker of Spring Grove; Jane, born Oct. 14, 1862, who died in infancy; Edward J., born Oct. 18, 1864, who is an attorney residing at Elbow Lake, Minn.; Lillie J., born March 24, 1867, now Mrs. Frank E. Newberry, who is engaged in the photographic business at Clarksville, Iowa; Mary, born July 9, 1872, who died in infancy; and Bertha, born May 24, 1874, who is now Mrs. William R. Garrett of Orange, Calif. Mrs. Scofield, though now seventy-four years old, is still in the enjoyment of good health, and spends her winters with her daughter in California.



C. J. SCOFIELD

Charles J. Scofield, one of the leading citizens of Spring Grove who has made a name for himself as a successful banker and business man, was born on a farm in Caledonia township, Aug. 8, 1860, son of Jesse and Almira (Paddock) Scofield. He was educated in the public school and at Belden Academy in Caledonia, completing his studies at the age of about seventeen years. Remaining on his parents' farm until the spring of 1879, he then began working as clerk in the general store of Sprague Bros., where he remained until the firm closed out their business in the spring of the following year. On that occasion Mr. Scofield entered the employ of J. P. Lommen, who also kept a general store, and acted as clerk for him until the fall. He then went to Minnesota Lake, Minn., where he worked in a similar capacity during the following winter in the general store of N. W. Vance. In the spring of 1881 Mr. Scofield returned to Caledonia and again entered the employ of J. P. Lommen, with whom he remained until December, 1881. In the spring of 1882 he went to Colorado, where he spent some time prospecting for silver, returning home, however, in July, and resuming work as an employee of Mr. Lommen, with whom he staid this time until January, 1889, when he assumed the duties of county auditor, to which office he had been elected in the fall of 1888. His service proved so satisfactory that he was four times re-elected, serving for five terms, or for a period of ten years. At the end of that time Mr. Scofield became connected with the "Houston County State Bank," now the First National Bank of Caledonia, and remained with it for one year. He then resigned and became a salesman for the International Harvester Company, under S. L. Wright of the Winona branch, his territory comprising Houston and Fillmore counties. In 1904 Mr. Scofield came to Spring Grove and organized the State Bank of Spring Grove, becoming its cashier, with O. B. Tone as president, and this position he has since retained. On April 26, 1886, he was united in marriage with Eliza Dabold, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena (Birch) Dabold, of Hokah, Minn., and he and his wife began housekeeping in Caledonia, where he owned a good residence, going to and fro between Caledonia and Spring Grove after the organization of the bank in 1904. In 1907 he built a comfortable home in Spring Grove and moved here with his family. Mr. Scofield organized the Hokah State Bank of Hokah, Minn., and became its president, which office he now holds. He was also one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Harmony, Minn., and one of its directors for the first year, but resigned to give an opportunity to local men. He is still, however, a stockholder in the institution. Since 1881 he has been a member of the Blue lodge of Masons at Caledonia, and since 1882 a member of the Chapter. He also belongs to the local lodges of Modern Woodmen of America and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Politically he is a Republican. He worships with and assists in supporting the Methodist Episcopal church in Caledonia, of which his wife is a member. Mr. and Mrs. Scofield are the parents of two children: Archibald C., born May 2, 1891; and Theodore Roosevelt, born Nov. 23, 1900.

Archibald C. Scofield, assistant cashier in the State Bank of Spring Grove, was born in Caledonia, Minn., May 2, 1891, son of Charles and Eliza (Dabold) Scofield. He acquired his literary education in the local schools,

including the high school, and in 1913 was graduated after a year's course from the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse. He entered the bank in the fall of that year and as assistant cashier has since proved himself a capable and popular young business man. He owns a comfortable residence in the village. On Jan. 24, 1913, Archibald C. Scofield was married to Bessie Bishop, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Sturmer) Bishop, of Cassville, Wis. He and his wife have two children: Vera E., born Jan. 1, 1914; and William A., born Feb. 9, 1915. The Methodist Episcopal church of Caledonia numbers Mr. and Mrs. Scofield among its active members.

Charles Hoegh, now living retired in the village of Spring Grove, of which village he was formerly president, and who was also the proprietor of a flourishing hardware and agricultural implement business, was born in the northern part of Norway—the "Land of the Midnight Sun"—near the Kaabjord copper mines, on Dec. 1, 1845. His parents were Ove Gulberg and Anna (Scheldrup) Hoegh, the father being a physician for the mining company. Later in life Dr. Hoegh became superintendent of and physician for the lepers of northern Norway, the country being divided for that purpose into two districts, north and south, with physician and superintendent for each. Dr. Ove Gulberg Hoegh died in his native land in 1864, having many years survived his wife, who passed away when the subject of this sketch was a year and a half old. Charles Hoegh was educated in the common schools of Norway, which he attended until he was fourteen years old. After that he spent two years and a half in Schleswig, Germany, returning home at the age of seventeen. From that time until 1866 he was employed in a general store in North Norway. With four years' experience of mercantile life, he came in May, 1866, to the United States, landing at Quebec, Canada, from which city he came directly to La Crosse, Wis., where he remained for six months. In the fall of the same year he came to Brownsville, Houston county, where he obtained a position as clerk in the store of C. H. Justin. By 1870 he had saved enough to go into business for himself and accordingly formed a partnership with John Cluss and engaged in the hardware business in Brownsville, under the style of Hoegh & Cluss. In 1874 this partnership was dissolved and the stock divided, and Mr. Hoegh came to Spring Grove, where he opened a hardware store which he conducted as sole proprietor until 1903. He then sold his stock and business to G. G. Ristey and engaged in the agricultural implement business, which he conducted until 1914, in which year he retired. Since then he has resided in the village in the enjoyment of a competence acquired by many years of industry, and is a respected and influential citizen. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company of Spring Grove. A Republican in politics, though not strongly partizan, he has served four terms as president of the village. Mr. Hoegh was united in marriage, Aug. 3, 1869, with Theoline, daughter of Christian and Karine Thompson of Wilmington township. He and his wife are the parents of four children: Anna, born Aug. 22, 1871, now Mrs. Olaus Myhre of Spring Grove; Inga, born June 27, 1874, who is the wife of Dr. M. Ravn of Merrill, Wis.; Ove, born July 14, 1877, now proprietor of a jewelry business in Spring Grove; and Nanna, born June 4, 1885, who graduated from the Spring Grove high school, and

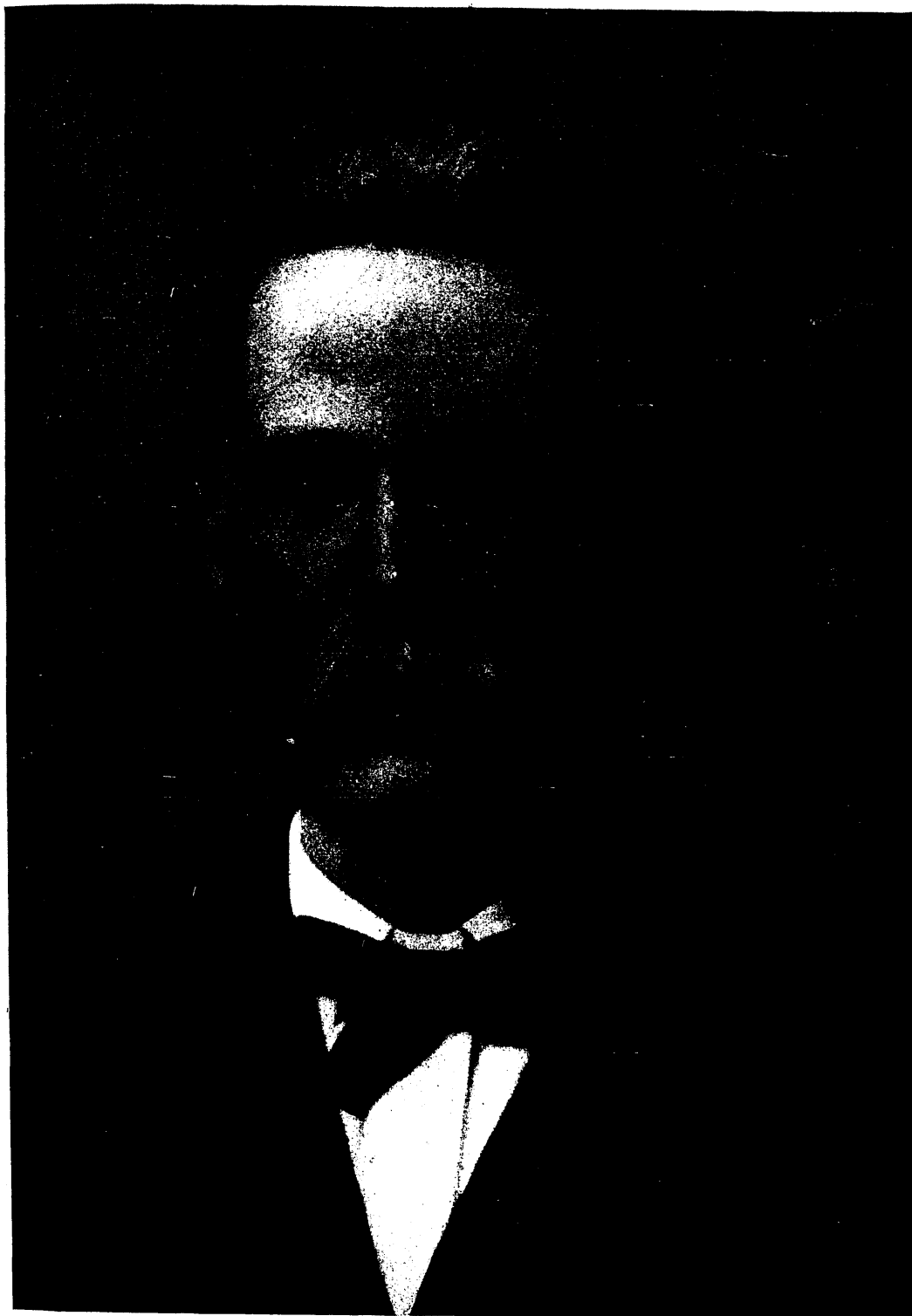
is teacher of English in the high school at Wausau, Wis. Mr. Hoegh, though he came alone to America, had brothers and sisters who also emigrated to this country. His brothers Knute and Oscar came after him, and both became physicians, Knute settling in Minneapolis, where he is still engaged in practice. Oscar, who settled in La Crosse, Wis., died in June, 1917. The sisters who came were: Ragnhild, now Mrs. T. Tillisch, of Merrill, Wis., and Valborg, who married Dr. Ravn of Merrill, but died in 1902.

Ove Gulberg Hoegh, proprietor of a flourishing jewelry business in Spring Grove village, was born in the building in which he is now conducting business, July 14, 1877, son of Charles and Theoline (Thompson) Hoegh. He acquired his primary education in the village school, which he attended up to the age of fifteen, and was then for two years a pupil at Gale College, Galesville, Wis. Subsequently until he was nineteen, he resided at home with his father, and then went to Watertown, S. D., where he remained four years as shipping clerk in the wholesale grocery of T. Tillisch. He then returned to Spring Grove and for a while was occupied in his father's store. Then going to Peoria, Ill., he entered the Bradley Polytechnic School there, where he learned the trade of watchmaking. In 1903 he engaged in the jewelry business in Spring Grove, and in 1907 increased his scientific knowledge by taking a course in optometry, the conduct of which business he combines with that of a jeweler. In 1911 he bought out the stock of B. L. Onsgard and today is proprietor of a fine and well appointed store and has a profitable trade. In politics a Republican of broad tendencies, he has taken a more or less active part in local affairs, having served several terms as a member of the village council, and is prominent in the business and social life of the community. He was reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and he and his family worship with the Spring Grove congregation. Mr. Hoegh was married June 17, 1908, to Clara, daughter of Clarence E. and Mary (Rathman) Lyman, of Caledonia, this county. Their children are: Elizabeth, born Aug. 21, 1909; and Karl Lyman, born Sept. 30, 1911.

Baldwin N. Onsgard, one of the rising and progressive young business men of Houston county, cashier of the Onsgard State Bank, was born in the village of Spring Grove, Jan. 23, 1887, son of Nils O. and Guri (Trostem) Onsgard. After completing the regular course in the public schools of his native village, in 1903 he entered the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, where he pursued special studies to fit him for a business career. In the following year he entered the private bank of his father at Spring Grove, then known as the Bank of Spring Grove, but now as the Onsgard State Bank, where he applied himself to learning the banking business. His work in this capacity was temporarily interrupted when in 1907 he went to Valparaiso, Ind., where he took a special law course at the Northern Indiana Law School. In 1910 he entered the State University of Minnesota, at St. Paul, Minn., where he also took a special law course. In January, 1911, he was elected cashier of his father's bank, which position he has since retained, having proved his ability as a financier and built up a solid business reputation. He has identified himself closely with general

local interests, is now serving as treasurer of the Commercial Club, and since 1912 has been treasurer of the Spring Grove Board of Education. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. Onsgard was married Aug. 9, 1911, to Martha Carlson, of Minneapolis, Minn., who was born July 3, 1886, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Carlson. Of this union there is one child, Baldwin Alden, who was born May 29, 1916. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Lutheran church.

Nils O. Onsgard, founder of the Onsgard State Bank of Spring Grove, and for many years one of the most prominent business men in this part of the country, was born in Hallingdal, Norway, May 21, 1837. He was eleven years old when he came to the United States with his parents, the voyage lasting ten weeks. On the same vessel and at the same time came his future wife, Guri, with her parents, Ole and Kari Guelson Trostheim, she, however, being then a baby a year and a half old. During the voyage it fell to his lot to take care of her for much of the time, and, whether he liked the task or not, it was faithfully accomplished. After arriving in this country the two families settled on farms near Orfordville, Wis., and Nils O. Onsgard and Guri Trostheim grew up in the same locality. On July 17, 1864, they were married at Orfordville, and until the spring of the following year resided with Mr. Onsgard's parents. Mr. Onsgard at that time was working at the trade of stone mason, which he had learned in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1865 he and his wife came to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., where they first began independent housekeeping. Soon after arriving here Mr. Onsgard formed a partnership with Nels Hendrickson in the general mercantile business. It was through Mr. Hendrickson, a previous acquaintance of his, that Mr. Onsgard had come to Spring Grove, and the partnership with him was continued to 1870, when Mr. Onsgard entered into the farm implement business, in which he continued until 1879. In that year he formed a partnership with H. E. Kieland, with whom he operated a general store until 1890. In that year he organized a private bank in the rear end of his store, which he called the Bank of Spring Grove, and which was conducted as a private institution up to 1907 when it was organized as the Onsgard State Bank, with himself as president. This office he retained up to the time of his death on Aug. 14, 1914, and his management of the institution was conducted on sound, conservative business lines that inspired confidence, while lending stability to the financial interests of the community. The bank occupied quarters in Mr. Onsgard's store for only three years, as in 1903 he erected a good brick bank building, adjoining the store on the south and facing Wilmington avenue. He also built a large and beautiful residence on Maple avenue which was then the best house in the village, and is now occupied by his widow. For more than twenty years Mr. Onsgard was village postmaster, and for many years served as village treasurer. Though a natural money-maker, he was a man of honor and integrity and sound common sense; also, when occasion called for it, helpful and charitable to others, and by no means a worshiper of wealth. He was a close student of public questions and a man of strong opinions, generally in the right. His social obligations in life, as son, husband, father and friend, were always creditably discharged. The stable and rapid progress



NILS O. ONSGARD

of the business community of Spring Grove and vicinity in particular owed much to his efforts. For about a year before his death he had been in declining health, but on July 17, 1914, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding, an event which comparatively few married people are privileged to enjoy. A little less than a month later he passed away, his life work ended. Mr. Onsgard was politically a Republican. He was a member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and for years was a trustee of the Spring Grove congregation, not only being a faithful official but also a regular attendant at the services. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom five survive him. The one deceased was Barba Caroline, who was born in 1855, became a student at St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minn., and died in 1873 at the age of eighteen years. The survivors are: Carrie, born Dec. 31, 1866, now Mrs. Peter T. Newhouse of Spring Grove; Oline, born July 14, 1872, wife of attorney O. K. Dahle of Caledonia and president of the Onsgard State Bank of Spring Grove; Nellie, born July 1, 1877, now Mrs. Oscar E. Hallan of Spring Grove; Oliver, born April 4, 1882, cashier of a bank at Rolette, N. D.; and Baldwin, born Jan. 23, 1887, who is the present cashier of the Onsgard State Bank of Spring Grove.

John M. Walhus, widely known as an enterprising and successful merchant of Spring Grove village, proprietor of an up-to-date general store, was born near Highlandville, Winneshiek county, Iowa, Sept. 29, 1858, son of Mikkel and Ingeborg Walhus. The father was born in Hadeland, Norway, in 1830, and died in Spring Grove, Minn., May 9, 1907, at the age of seventy-six years. The mother, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, in 1834, and came to America with her parents at the age of seven years, is now living with her daughter Lise in Spring Grove. The family numbered nine children: John M., the subject of this sketch; Lars, now a retired farmer in Bremen, N. D.; Christian, residing in Winneshiek county, Iowa; Anton, living on the old home farm in Winneshiek county; Martin, a farmer, stock buyer and auto dealer of Mabel, Minn.; Lise, previously mentioned, who lives in Spring Grove; Marie, residing in Worth county, Iowa, the widow of Hans Hoveland; Karene, who married Ole Weium, a Lutheran pastor, whom she survives; and Margaret, wife of Rev. A. O. Langhough, a Lutheran pastor now stationed at Eleva, Trempealeau, Wis. John M. Walhus in his boyhood attended the district school near the parental homestead in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Bidding farewell to that temple of learning at the age of sixteen, he then entered Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa, which he attended for a term or two, and after that took a short course in the John R. Slack Business College at Decorah. Thus mentally equipped, in September, 1884, he came to Spring Grove and began work as clerk in the general store of Nels Hendrickson, acting in that capacity for two years. At the end of that time, or on April 3, 1886, Mr. Walhus was united in marriage with Ingeborg Hendrickson, daughter of Nels and Berget Hendrickson, her father being his recent employer, with whom he now entered into partnership under the firm name of Hendrickson & Walhus, at the same time buying a one-third interest in the business. The concern flourished until April, 1901, when Mr. Hendrickson retired and the

business was sold. In the same summer Mr. Walhus built his present brick store on the corner of Maple and Wilmington avenues, in Spring Grove village, which he opened in the fall, well stocked with boots and shoes, dry goods and groceries, and which he has continued to conduct, it being now one of the principal stores in the village. In 1886, the year of his marriage, Mr. Walhus erected a comfortable house on Maple avenue, where he and his wife have since made their home. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. Active and enterprising, he has through honorable methods built up a good business and is numbered among the leading merchants in this part of the county. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Walhus have had nine children, of whom four—Martin (first), Bessie, Venzenora and Arnold—died in early childhood. The survivors are: Josephine Belinda, born May 18, 1887, who resides at home and is acting as clerk in her father's store; Martin (second), born Jan. 12, 1889, who was graduated from Spring Grove high school, and later, in 1903 as doctor of dental surgery from the University of Minnesota, and is now practicing as a dentist in Caledonia; Nora Louise, born March 10, 1894, who was graduated from Spring Grove high school in 1914, and as a trained nurse from the Lutheran Hospital at La Crosse in 1917, on Oct. 1, 1918, entered the hospital at Fort Snelling, Minn., as army nurse; Bessie Vienna, born Jan. 18, 1896, who was graduated from the Spring Grove high school in 1915; and Inga Caroline and James Arnold, twins, who were born Sept. 24, 1903, and are now high school students. Mr. Walhus and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Lars M. Quinnell, in former years a prosperous agriculturist of Wilmington township, was a Norwegian by birth, and a ship carpenter by trade, who came to the United States in 1856, settling in La Crescent, Minn. On the same boat on which he crossed the ocean were Mr. and Mrs. Eskel Quinnell and their children, their daughter Anne, then six years old, who in time became his wife. With her father, Eskel Quinnell, Mr. L. M. Quinnell bought a farm in Wilmington township, Houston county. His marriage to Miss Quinnell took place Jan. 1, 1869. She was then in her nineteenth year, having been born Oct. 7, 1850. Buying his father-in-law's interest in the farm, Mr. Quinnell gave his whole time to its development and erected a good set of buildings, including a two-story, eleven-room brick house. There he remained until 1893, when he retired from the farm and took up his residence in Spring Grove village. Three years later he was killed in a thresher accident, being crushed by the engine. His wife, who survived him, is now a resident of Spring Grove. They were the parents of seven sons and two daughters, of whom two sons and one daughter are now living, namely: Emil, a prosperous merchant of Spring Grove village; Martin, who is a farmer in North Dakota, and Johanna, now Mrs. Jacob Evenson of McKenzie, N. D.

Emil L. Quinnell, proprietor of a flourishing mercantile business in Spring Grove village, who has also served repeatedly in public office, was born in Wilmington township, March 14, 1877, son of Lars M. and Anne Quinnell. His primary education was acquired in the local schools, and he



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES W. WHEATON

afterwards attended the village school and the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, where he was graduated when about twenty-two years old. In the spring of 1899 he went to Hickson, N. D., where he became clerk in the general store of A. M. Hoveland, remaining there until Christmas. He then returned to Spring Grove and entered the employ of N. T. Newhouse, general merchant, with whom he remained until the fall of 1904. After resigning his position with Mr. Newhouse, he was married Sept. 14, 1904, to Josephine Halseth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Halseth, of Hester, Iowa, and who had been conducting a millinery store in Spring Grove since 1899. In company with Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Clauson, who had been recently married, they took their wedding trip to St. Louis, and attended the World's Fair. Then entering into partnership with Oscar Clauson he began his career as an independent merchant, the firm handling groceries, boots and shoes and dry goods. The partnership was continued until the fall of 1916, at which time Mr. Quinnell bought Mr. Clauson's interest and has since been the sole proprietor of the business. His store is one of the best and most popular in the village and through honest dealing and courteous treatment of his customers he has built up an excellent trade. He is also a stockholder in the Root River Electric Company, the Spring Grove Hospital and the Horsebreeders' Association. Mr. Quinnell is also the owner of the old "home farm" in Wilmington township, which he purchased in 1914 and which has an area of 200 acres. It is a well improved place, well provided with good buildings. These include a large, two-story, eleven-room brick house; two frame barns, one 34 by 68 by 16 feet in size, with full stone basements, and an addition of 16 by 34 feet, for a colt barn and poultry house; the other a stock and hay barn, 20 by 40 by 14 feet; a machine-shed 24 by 50; three corn cribs, a hog house with cement floor, which he built in 1915; also a granary, 16 by 24 by 10, with a seven-foot stone basement. There is also a fine water system supplying running water to every building on the farm. About 155 acres of the land are under cultivation. This farm is operated by a tenant to whom Mr. Quinnell has leased it, his business in the village engrossing his whole personal attention. For three or four years he has been a member of the Commercial Club, serving as secretary, and is also chief of the volunteer fire department. He has also served as village clerk and assessor and for several terms as justice of the peace, in fact, taking an active part in all affairs pertaining to interests of the general community. Mr. Quinnell is a member of the American Brotherhood of Yeomen, Lodge No. 1539, at Spring Grove, of which he has been foreman for two or three years, being a charter member of the lodge. He also earned the special trip to Des Moines, Iowa, one year for securing the greatest number of members. His fraternal affiliations also include membership in Camp No. 9244, M. W. A., of Spring Grove. In politics he is a Republican. He and his wife are the parents of one child: Laura Annette, who was born July 6, 1908, and is now a student in the Spring Grove high school.

Charles Wheaton, a pioneer settler in Caledonia township, long since passed away, was a native of New York State, where he was reared and married, and before coming west owned and operated a farm in Carroll township, Chautauqua county, and also for some years was engaged in

mercantile business in that county. In 1856 he turned his attention to settlement in the northwest. A friend of his, named Enos Smith, who was a lumberman, had bought a tract of 280 acres in Caledonia township, Houston county, Minnesota, lying in section 26, on which was a log house with bark roof. Seven acres of the land had been broken. A payment of \$500 had to be made on the farm, and Mr. Smith told Mr. Wheaton that if he would settle on the place and make the \$500 payment he would join him there later and repay him the money, and in the meanwhile he could work the land for his own benefit. Having agreed to this proposition, Mr. Wheaton sold out his interests in New York State and set out with his wife Jane and their four living children, Eliza Jane, Mary L., Sally Ann and Charles J., for Minnesota. Proceeding by rail to Davenport, Iowa, then taking boat from that place to Brownsville, the most convenient town on the Mississippi River, they continued on their journey until they reached the farm. They found it all prairie land, except that here and there was a small grove. Having a span of horses, Mr. Wheaton began work on the place. Some time afterward Mr. Smith arrived and told Mr. Wheaton that, having met with financial losses, he could not repay him the \$500 the latter had paid on the property, but instead would turn over the farm to him. Mr. Wheaton, seeing no other way of getting his money back, accepted the offer, and from that time, though not a strong man, worked energetically to develop the place. For about two years he and his family lived in the log hut, and then he built a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling with a lean-to, which was his home until his death on May 25, 1875. He had sold 21 acres of his farm to his brother Samuel, who had followed him from New York, and the rest of it, previous to his death, he divided into four parts, which he transferred respectively to his children. Mr. Wheaton was a man of varied accomplishments, being for one thing a great hunter, and in New York and Minnesota he killed during his life over 1,500 deer. He also possessed musical ability, and his violin, now more than 100 years old, is preserved by his son, Charles J., now of Caledonia village. Mrs. Wheaton survived her husband fifteen years, passing away Oct. 15, 1890. They had been the parents of six children, two of whom had died in New York State. Of the others, who have already been mentioned, Charles J., who was a prosperous farmer in Caledonia township, is now living retired in Caledonia village; Eliza Jane became the wife of Amasa Mason, of the well-known Caledonia family of that name, and her husband was subsequently killed by a train, Mrs. Mason herself dying some years ago; Mary L. is now Mrs. J. F. Bingham, of Caledonia; and Sally Ann is the widow of Benjamin B. Webster and at present resides in Tennessee.

Charles J. Wheaton, for many years a prosperous general farmer of section 26, Caledonia township, was born in Carroll township, Chautauqua county, New York, June 4, 1846, son of Charles and Jane (Fitch) Wheaton. He was about 10 years old when he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, and settled with them on the farm in section 26, of which he later became proprietor and of a part of it the owner. He had attended common school for several years in New York State, and his education was continued in the local schools here, in select and public schools



in Caledonia, and later in Bryant & Stratton's Business College at St. Paul. In the meanwhile during the summers he worked on the home farm, of which he became active manager at an early age. On Sept. 1, 1870, Mr. Wheaton married Lucy A. Pope, daughter of Gershom and Marie (Taylor) Pope, who were near neighbors and old acquaintances, having been former residents of Carroll township, Chautauqua county, New York, and the subject of this sketch and his wife were schoolmates. The Popes had come to this region in October, 1854. After his marriage Mr. Wheaton took his wife to his parents' farm. About a year later his father divided the farm among the surviving children, of whom there were four, Charles J. and three sisters, and Charles J. received as his share 80 acres. He had previously, when 19 years old, bought 40 acres adjoining, and he had also 14 acres of timber about three-quarters of a mile to the west. He operated this farm, except for one year which he spent in La Crosse as manager for W. N. Fay & Co., merchants and auctioneers, until his retirement in 1918. From 1866 to 1876 Mr. Wheaton also wrote fire and life insurance. In 1882 he built the present house on the farm, which is lighted by gas and provided with furnace heat and other modern improvements. He is a stockholder and director in the Caledonia State Bank, a stockholder in the People's Co-operative Stock & Grain Company of Caledonia, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, the South Prairie Telephone Company, of which he has been secretary for sixteen years, and is also a stockholder in the Root River Light & Power Company. Though not a member, he has been affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church for the last twenty-five years, serving for various periods as a member of its governing board, choir master, trustee and treasurer. He has also been an ardent worker in the temperance cause and in other movements of high moral import calculated to benefit humanity or the community in which he lives. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Odd Fellows and Good Templars. To the former he has belonged for twenty years, passed through all the chairs, and represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge, besides acting for years as district deputy. He has also passed all the chairs in the Good Templars' lodge. Mr. Wheaton enjoyed a prosperous career as a farmer and built up his farm to a high state of productiveness through his own exertions. He and his wife are popular members of the community, taking an active part in its social and philanthropic activities. In 1918 they retired from the farm and are now enjoying the afternoon of life in ease and comfort, surrounded by a large circle of friends. In the fall of 1918 he sold his farm for \$200 per acre, it being the first farm in this community to sell at that price.

Capt. Gershom Pope, after whom Pope's Prairie in Caledonia township was named, was born in Cooperstown, Otsego county, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1810, son of Jedediah and Lucy (Angel) Pope. His parents had moved to that place from Carroll township, Chautauqua county, New York, where they were married. Gershom grew up amid the picturesque scenery of one of the most beautiful parts of the Empire State, and after attaining to manhood followed for some years the occupation of a lumberman. On August 23, 1840, he married, and after that event continued to reside in his native state until 1854, when he came to Minnesota. Leaving Dunkirk, N. Y., on

the steamer Niagara with his wife Maria, two daughters, Emily Jane and Lucy Ann, and an adopted son, George W. Lore, he disembarked with his family at Toledo and proceeded thence by rail to Chicago. There he and his family separated for a time, his wife and the children going by rail and boat to Brownsville, Minn., and then continuing their journey by team to Caledonia township, while he, with a wagon and span of horses, and accompanied by a dog, drove to Brownsville and thence to their place of settlement on South Prairie, to be later known as Pope's Prairie, where he arrived two weeks after his family. Two of his brothers, Jedediah and Timothy, the latter a doctor, came in the spring of 1854, took land and then returned east for their families, whom they brought back with them, in the party being an invalid sister-in-law of the subject of this sketch. Late in the year, about winter time, Mr. Pope secured on a land warrant 160 acres on Portland Prairie, on which he built a log house with a sod roof. The country was very wild; there was an abundance of deer and wolves, and also many Indians. Mrs. Pope's two daughters that winter counted more than 100 deer that came within sight of their cabin, and on one occasion saw a herd of 25 being chased by wolves. Mr. Pope remained in that location until the spring of 1855 only, when he sold his claim for \$1,600 and moved five miles to the northeast, buying a tract of 240 acres lying in Wilmington and Caledonia townships, about four miles south of Caledonia. This also was a wild tract and was purchased for \$1.25 an acre. Here he built first a log house, a small structure with a bark roof, in which he and his family lived until the fall of 1855, when he erected a board house, batted, which was their home during that winter and for twenty-one years thereafter, it being at various times improved and enlarged. This place, now the Stadtler farm, he sold in 1877 and bought a small piece of land containing three acres, a short distance to the west, and on which he built a comfortable house and a full complement of outbuildings. There he took up his residence with his wife and subsequently lived retired until his death on May 5, 1885. His remains now repose in Evergreen Cemetery, Caledonia. After her husband's death Mrs. Pope lived alone for awhile, but subsequently made her home with her daughters, Mrs. Edwin Stuart and Mrs. Charles J. Wheaton. She was born at Jamestown, N. Y., Aug. 31, 1819, and died at Mrs. Stuart's residence in Caledonia, Minn., Oct. 17, 1903. The only children of Mr. and Mrs. Pope were the two daughters mentioned above: Emily Jane, born June 4, 1841, who married Edwin Stuart and is now deceased, and Lucy Ann, born Dec. 13, 1847, who married Charles J. Wheaton. Mr. Pope was a worthy and industrious citizen, and by the time of his death had improved about 200 acres of his land, following general farming. He was affiliated religiously with the Methodist Episcopal church in Caledonia, to which he gave of his means and served as a trustee. He was of a kind-hearted disposition and was highly respected. Though he never had any sons, he reared five boys, taught them habits of industry and put them in the way to make their own living.

Thorvald Thoresen, now living retired on a competency in Spring Grove village, is a man who has attained success in life through hard work and determination, and although not actually a pioneer of Houston county,

was among its early settlers. He was born near Christiana, Norway, March 9, 1852, son of Alf and Kjersti (Gulbransen) Thoresen, the father being a liveryman by occupation. Thorvald remained in his native land until 21 years old, acquiring his education in the common school. Then, being his own master, he resolved to seek his fortune in the "New World," and accordingly, early in the fall of 1873, he set out for this country alone, arriving in Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., Nov. 3. Here he found employment on a farm two miles east of the village, and during the winter, anxious to acquire a knowledge of the English language, he attended the local school. In the spring of 1874 he entered the employ of Henry Williams, an American farmer living near Newhouse, Spring Grove township, with whom he remained three years. During the winter of 1874-75 he again attended the district school, and his size and age, together with his very imperfect knowledge of English, at first afforded amusement to the younger children. This, however, though somewhat embarrassing at times, he did not mind much, especially as the teacher took pains to help him, as also did the Williams family and other Americans with whom he came into contact, and with this assistance he made gradual but steady progress. In the fall of 1876 he found himself in a position to begin independent farming, and accordingly rented a farm of 200 acres belonging to the estate of A. C. Onsted in Black Hammer township, north of Spring Grove village. At the same time he decided to begin domestic life, and having made the acquaintance of Marie Lunde, daughter of Amund and Sigrid Lunde, of Wilmington township, and found her to be just the woman with whom he would be willing to share the joys and sorrows of life, he paid her his addresses, and being accepted, was united in marriage with her on Dec. 3, 1876. On the Onsted farm in section 26, Black Hammer township, he and his wife remained until the spring of 1880. Then, being constantly on the lookout for opportunities to advance his fortunes, he went to Trail county, North Dakota, and bought a relinquishment of the claim of one Ellet Olson, near Mayville, seventy miles northwest of Fargo. It was a tract of 160 acres, of which 13 acres had been broken, and there was a log shack on the place, 8 by 14 feet in size. In this shack he and his wife took up their abode, with their infant son Alfred and daughter Sophia, and there they resided for the first year. Then Mr. Thoreson built a small frame house, a sod barn and a straw barn. He and his family remained there five years, by the end of which time he had 140 acres under the plow. He had also in the meanwhile bought another relinquishment of 160 acres in Briggs county, North Dakota, near Cooperstown. In the fall of 1886 Mr. Thoresen sold the Griggs county place to his brother Karl, and also rented to him the Trail county place, and in the following spring he returned with his family to Houston county and bought the Ole Blakstad farm of 80 acres in section 26, Black Hammer township, two miles north of Spring Grove village. On this farm there was a log house, a tobacco shed, small granary and small barn. Enlarging the tobacco shed by adding a lean-to on each side, he converted it into a barn, 48 by 52 feet in size. Having conducted farming operations there until 1891, he then made another removal, trading his farm in Trail county, North Dakota, for an improved

farm of 140 acres in section 8, Wilmington township, Houston county, on which was a small house. On this farm he made various improvements, erecting a frame barn, 32 by 60 by 16, with a lean-to 14 by 18 feet; a granary, 16 by 20, with a lean-to 14 by 20, for machinery; and a hog house, 18 by 24. Then in 1912 he built a modern frame barn, 32 by 60 by 16, with a full stone basement of 8 feet and cement floors. This work, very thoroughly done, marked the culmination of Mr. Thoresen's activities, as in the fall of the following year, finding himself in possession of a competency, he found a tenant for the farm and retired with his wife to Spring Grove village, where he owns a comfortable residence, with three acres of land. He is also the owner of 160 acres in northern Minnesota, twenty-five miles east of Thief River Falls, and a tract of six acres at Groveland, near Goodrich, in the same county. Altogether he owns 420 acres in this state, and besides these landed interests is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, the Spring Grove Hospital, the Root River Electric Company and the Farmers' State Bank of Goodrich, Minn. For the past ten years Mr. Thoresen has not been in the best of health, and in 1917 he underwent an operation, from the effects of which he has not fully recovered. In politics he is an independent Republican, and religiously a member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, worshiping with the Spring Grove congregation. While residing in North Dakota he was trustee of the congregation there. He and his wife have been the parents of four children: Alfred, born in Black Hammer township, Aug. 30, 1877; Sophia, born in the same township, in September, 1879; Magnus, born in Trail county, North Dakota, Dec. 19, 1881; and Tora, born in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota, Dec. 3, 1885. Alfred, who is unmarried and lives at home, is a prosperous young business man who operated a well-equipped feed mill of 700-bushel capacity, but is now engaged in the implement business. Sophia is the wife of Albert Morken, a farmer of Black Hammer township. Magnus is a merchant in Goodrich, Minn. Tora is now Mrs. Halvor Olerud, of Wilmington township.

Mons H. Fladager, who may well be called the father of the village of Spring Grove, and who was for nearly half a century one of its most active and leading citizens, was born in Valdres, Norway, June 7, 1826, son of Henrik Fladager. In his native land he learned the painter's trade and worked at it there until 1858. Then, early in that year, he came to America, locating first in Manitowoc, Wis., where he stopped and built a small wood-turning factory, which he operated until the fall of 1859. In that year he made his appearance in Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn. At that time but two families occupied the site of the present village—those of William Hinkley and Robert McCormick. The greater part of this site was a tract of forty acres which had been sold by Embrick Benson to William Fleming, who sold it to Peter Halverson. Mr. Fladager purchased it from Mr. Halverson, together with a small log hut which stood on it, 16 by 18 feet in size, which had been used as a tavern by Mr. Fleming. In this little building Mr. Fladager opened a general store, which he operated until 1864, when he erected a two-story frame building on what is now the corner of

Main street and Maple avenue, and into this latter building he moved his store in the fall. Later by an addition at the rear he increased the size of the building to 18 by 60 feet, the living apartments for himself and family being upstairs. In 1866 he built a frame residence, consisting of an upright and wing, on Main street, which building was occupied for some time after his death by his wife, three sons and a daughter. In 1879 the railroad came to the village and Mr. Fladager, quick to take advantage of the opportunity, platted out his land into lots that are now the site of the business section of the village, together with a part of the residence section. Two years later, in the summer of 1881, he erected on Main street a single-story brick building with a full basement, 24 by 75 feet in dimensions, into which in the fall he moved his stock and established a new store. At or about the same time he tore down the original frame building and built on its site a two-story, double-front store building, 44 by 50 feet, that is now occupied as a men's clothing and ladies' ready-to-wear store by his two sons Henry and Peter. His own business he carried on in the brick store until his death, which occurred April 8, 1905, after a life full of activity, forty-six years of which had been spent in the village of Spring Grove, in the development of which he had been one of the most potent factors. In pioneer days he served as township treasurer. At one time he served as deputy postmaster under Embrik Knudson, who was one of the earliest postmasters of the village. This was in 1861-62, Mr. Knudson having succeeded James Smith, the first postmaster, about 1856. During President Cleveland's second administration (1893-1897) he was appointed postmaster, but declined the office. In politics he was always a Democrat, but not especially active as a politician, preferring to devote his time to his business and social interests. Few men, if any, did more to build up the community. He encouraged many of his fellow countrymen to settle here and secure village or farm lands, and some of the older residents here today credit him with the advice or assistance they received in making a successful start in life. He was also one of the founders of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he was a member to the end of his life. His remains now rest in the new cemetery west of the village. In May, 1863 Mr. Fladager married Jorend Lommen, daughter of Peter J. and Riste Lommen. Mr. and Mrs. Fladager were the parents of seven children: Henry, born March 9, 1865, now in partnership with his brother Peter in the clothing and ladies' ready-to-wear business in Spring Grove; Peter, above mentioned, born Sept. 5, 1867; Inga, who is housekeeper for her mother and her brothers Peter and Arnold; Edward, born in 1869, who died in 1887; John, born in 1875, who died in 1887; Martin, now in the department store business as a member of the firm of Langlie, Olson & Fladager of Lanesboro, Minn.; and Arnold, who resides with his mother, his sister Inga, and his brother Peter in Spring Grove. The two sons Edward and John, above mentioned as deceased, were carried off by the typhoid epidemic which raged in this village and vicinity in 1887, which was also the year of a great drouth and crop failure.

Henry and Peter Fladager, who under the firm name of Fladager Bros., are conducting one of the leading stores in Spring Grove village, dealing in

men's clothing and ladies' ready-to-wear clothing and millinery, are sons of Mons H. and Jorend (Lommen) Fladager, and were born in this village, Henry on March 9, 1865, and Peter on Sept. 5, 1867. The present business was started by Henry in 1892 in the second frame building erected by the father, located at the corner of Main street and Maple avenue; and it was conducted by him alone until after the father's death, when Peter became a member of the firm, since known as Fladager Bros. At that time improvements were made in the store and the business expanded, ladies' and misses' ready-to-wear clothing and millinery being added to the original stock. The store now occupies a double-front building on Main street of 44 by 50 feet, and is one of the best of its kind in the county. It is well patronized by the inhabitants of the village and the surrounding country, and the trade has rapidly increased. The younger brother, Peter, is unmarried. Henry Fladager was married June 22, 1887, to Caroline Hendrickson, daughter of Nels and Bergit Hendrickson, of Spring Grove, pioneer settlers of this county, and the young couple began housekeeping in apartments over the store, which stood on the site of Henry's birthplace. These apartments they continued to occupy for four years, when he erected a frame residence of seven rooms on Pleasant street. This was later sold and a new and larger residence erected in the Hendrickson addition in the east part of town. Five children have been born to them, namely: Edith, born April 2, 1888, who conducted the millinery department in the store until her marriage to Gilbert Aseth, a farmer; Bertha, born August 2, 1889, who was graduated from the Spring Grove High School and later from the Winona Normal School, also taking a special course in 1915 at Columbia University, and who was engaged in teaching until her marriage to C. W. Muir, superintendent of schools at Manitou, Colo., where she now lives; Natalie, born Dec. 27, 1890, who enjoyed the same educational advantages as her sister Bertha, followed teaching for a number of years, but is now living at home; Maurice, born July 2, 1894, who was graduated from the Spring Grove high school, and was a clerk in Fladager Bros. store until April, 1918, when he enlisted in the U. S. aviation service, being later transferred to the motor field artillery; and Harold, born Nov. 16, 1895, who died March 5, 1897. The two brother's, with Henry's family, are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Henry Fladager has served several terms as a member of the village council and as village treasurer, both he and his brother being Democrats politically. Sons of one of the most notable pioneers of the village, an early owner of most of the land on which it stands, and by whom a large part of it was platted, they have worthily maintained the family traditions, and the name of Fladager is one of the best known and most respected in this part of the county.

Michael M. Sullivan, who owns and operates a good farm of 240 acres in section 2, Mayville township, was born in Union township, Houston county, Minn., Feb. 27, 1873, son of John P. and Hannah (O'Connor) Sullivan. The parents, natives of Ireland, were married in the United States, the father coming to this country in 1849 and settling in Virginia, where he worked as a laborer. He came to Houston county in 1857, buying land from

the government, and from that time until his death he was engaged in farming, working hard and seeing that his children had as good an education as he could give them. He died in 1891, being survived by his wife, who is now 81 years old and resides with her son Michael, who was the youngest of their three children. The first born was Margaret, who died at the age of three years; and the second born, James J., who is now a resident of Albert Lea, Minn. Michael M. Sullivan, besides attending district school, was a pupil for one year in the Caledonia graded school. After becoming industrially active he assisted his father up to the age of 18 years, at which time he took the management of the farm, which he has since operated, except during two years which he spent in Chicago. He has 240 acres of land, of which 100 acres are cleared. He has erected all the buildings, the barn being a large modern structure, and the whole place well improved and adapted to all the purposes of general farming, which Mr. Sullivan carries on, though giving his chief attention to stock raising. He is a shareholder in the Farmers' Co-operative store and in the elevator at Caledonia, and is widely recognized as one of the enterprising and successful men of his township. In its growth and prosperity he takes an active interest, and is at present serving as town clerk, having formerly been school clerk of his district.

Nicklaus Michael Stadtler, an enterprising grain and stock farmer of Mayville township, residing in section 5, was born in Houston county, Minn., April 13, 1879, son of Michael and Frances (Dobracke) Stadtler. The parents were born in Germany, but were married in America, the father settling near La Crosse, Wis., when a young man. He was engaged in farming until his death. He and his wife Frances had nine children: Nicklaus Michael, Francisca, Anna, Theresa, Michael, Roman, Bernard, Matilda and Charles, all of whom are now living. By a previous marriage Michael Stadtler had five other children, Frank, Margaret, John, Nellie and Kate, who are also living. Mrs. Frances Stadtler, mother of the subject of this sketch, is still living in Houston county. Nicklaus Michael Stadtler attended district school until 18 years old, helping his mother on the farm until reaching the age of 22. Then for two years he was engaged in gathering cream on a cream route and carrying it to the factory. After that he rented two different farms in succession, operating the second until 1909, when he bought the farm on which he now resides, and which was then in poor condition, the only buildings being an old house and granary. Since taking possession of the place he has made steady improvements and now has an excellent set of buildings. In 1914 he built a new 7-room house of modern construction; also a hog house, corn crib, chicken coop and windmill. His barn, built in 1917, measures 32 by 60 feet, and is also a modernly constructed building with concrete basement. The farm has an area of 120 acres, of which about 90 acres are cleared, the rest being in timber. Mr. Stadtler does mixed farming, giving particular attention to stock raising, his cattle being of the Shorthorn breed, and he is now making preparations to engage in dairying. He is also a shareholder in the co-operative creamery. He has served on the school board in two different districts. On June 20, 1905, Mr. Stadtler was married to Anna Boden, who

was born in Houston county, Nov. 3, 1880. Her parents, who were natives of the Duchy of Luxemburg, were farming people, but are both now deceased. Their children were: Kate, Mary, Frank, Jennie, Anna, John and Theresa. John is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Stadtler four children have been born: Leo, May 1, 1906; George, Feb. 22, 1908, and Florence and Lawrence (twins), Jan. 12, 1910. All are attending school. The family attend St. Peter's (German) Catholic church at Caledonia.

Matt F. Weis, who owns and operates a farm of 120 acres in section 31, Mayville township, was born in Houston county, Minn., April 2, 1869, son of Frank and Katherine (Speilman) Weis. The parents, who were born and married in Germany, came to the United States in 1867, settling in this county, where they engaged in farming. Both are now deceased. They had seven children: a daughter who died infancy; John, who is living; another daughter who died in fancy; Matt F., subject of this sketch; Margaret, who died at the age of 18 years; and Katherine and Mary, who are living. Matt F. Weis in his boyhood attended the district school and assisted his father to operate the home farm until arriving at the age of 23 years. From that time until he was 27 he worked out for wages. He then married and rented from his father-in-law the farm on which he now lives, buying it in 1910. It contains 120 acres, of which 100 acres are cleared, the rest being in woodland. Mr. Weis has built the present barn, house and outbuildings, having laid out \$4,000 for improvements. The house is modern and equipped with furnace heat, while the barn measures 30 by 60 feet, with stone basement. Mr. Weis carries on general farming, including dairying and stock raising, and has a full-blooded bull. Each year he ships a number of cattle and hogs to the market, obtaining good prices for all his products. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator at Calendonia. For six years he has served as school director. On Sept. 1, 1896, Mr. Weis was united in marriage with Mrs. Josephine Flaherty, who was previously the wife of John W. Flaherty, by whom she had one child, Viola Julia, now the wife of Earl Kauffman of La Crosse. Mr. and Mrs. Weis have two children: Frank Joseph, born Aug. 24, 1897; and Justina Veronica, born July 20, 1902. Mrs. Weis was born on the farm on which she is now living. The family attended St. Peter's Catholic church at Caledonia.

Hubert Greisch, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Mayville township, where he is operating a farm of 340 acres, was born in Houston county, Minn., July 1, 1861, son of Joseph and Rosolina (De Schaubert) Greisch. The parents were natives of Belgium, where they were married; coming to America in 1857 and settling in this county, where they engaged in farming. Both are deceased, the father dying some thirty years ago and the mother in 1916. They had three children: Margaret, now deceased; Katherine, and Hubert. Hubert Greisch acquired his education in the district school and at St. John's College at St. Cloud, where he became a student at the age of 13 years. When not engaged with his books he worked on the home farm, assisting his father until the latter's death, and after that assisting his mother until she, too, passed away. Since then he has been proprietor of the farm, which contains 340 acres, of which 200



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FREIBERG

acres are cleared, the rest being in timber. Mr. Greisch does general farming, giving special attention to dairying and the raising of swine. He has erected all the buildings on the farm, rebuilding the house two years ago. The barn, measuring 64 by 36 feet, is provided with a stone basement and is covered with galvanized iron. Mr. Greisch is also a shareholder in the co-operative creamery at Caledonia. He was married in Caledonia, this county, Feb. 4, 1890, to Katherine Bonert, who was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, Jan. 1, 1861, son of Johann and Theresa (Kode) Bonert. Her parents, now deceased, were farmers who spent their lives in their native land. They had two children: Anna, now living in Germany; and Katherine, now Mrs. Greisch. Mr. and Mrs. Greisch have three children: Joseph N., born Aug. 20, 1892, and now residing in Caledonia; Katherine Lavina, born Feb. 5, 1895; and Henry John, born Sept. 12, 1899. The two latter are residing at home.

William Freiberg, proprietor of a blacksmith's shop and farm implement business in the village of Eitzen, and one of the leading officials of Winnebago township, has been a resident of Houston county for more than half a century. He was born in Germany, Feb. 23, 1849, son of George Freiberg. His parents lived and died in their native land, where William resided until 1865, when he came to the United States and to Houston county, Minnesota, locating first in Brownsville, where he worked for two or three years. He had begun to learn the trade of blacksmith while in Germany and worked at it in Brownsville and other places until 1874, when he came to Eitzen village and opened a shop just across the road from his present place of business. He prospered as a blacksmith and a few years later added a line of farm implements. In 1912, owing to long continued hard work, his health broke down and he had to undergo a serious operation. Since then he has had to let his son do the hard work of the shop, though he still remains in it attending to the lighter details. Through industry and frugal habits he has amassed a competency and now owns a comfortable home, as well as a good business. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Savings Bank of New Albin. A Republican in politics Mr. Freiberg has served as town treasurer for the past 15 years and has been treasurer of his school district for 14 years. With his family he belongs to St. Luke's Evangelical church at Eitzen, being prominent in church and community work. Mr. Freiberg was married Nov. 23, 1880, to Mary, daughter of Christian and Mary Bunge, her parents being among the pioneer settlers of this section. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Freiberg, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are: Edmund, now in partnership with his father; Albert, cashier in the Farmers' Savings Bank of New Albin; Ella, a student in Caledonia high school; George, now in the United States military service; and Ruth, a graduate of the Caledonia high school, who is residing at home.

John W. Sheehan, an enterprising farmer of Mayville township, residing in Section 30, was born in Winnebago township, Oct. 20, 1858, son of Michael and Bridget (Corcoran) Sheehan. Both parents were born in Ireland, the father in County Clare, and the mother in Tipperary county. They were married in their native land, and on coming to America settled

in Houston county, Minnesota, being numbered among the pioneer farmers here. They had six children: Michael, Patrick, Julia, John W., Thomas and Joseph, of whom Michael, Julia and Thomas are now deceased. By a previous marriage the father, Michael Sheehan, had another son, Martin, who is also deceased. John W. Sheehan was reared to manhood on the home farm, attending district school until the age of 18 years, but only during the winter months. Until attaining his majority he assisted his father and then started in for himself, buying a farm of 100 acres in Winnebago township, which he operated for 15 years, or until his buildings were destroyed by fire. After that he operated rented farms in that locality until he came to Mayville township and rented the farm on which he is now living. Here he does general farming, including dairying and stock raising. He is renting out a part of his farm in Winnebago county, using the rest to feed his cattle on. He is also a shareholder in the Wilmington creamery and the Caledonia Co-operative Store. Mr. Sheehan was married at Caledonia, Minn., Jan. 9, 1879, to Margaret Higgins, who was born in Winnebago township, this county, Aug. 15, 1863, daughter of Dennis and Mary (Couley) Higgins. The parents were born in Ireland, but were married in Kentucky. They were among the pioneer settlers in Houston county. They had three children: John, Ellen and Margaret. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Higgins married Owen Eugene McDonald, by whom she had two children, Rose and Bridget, the former of whom is now deceased, as also is the mother. Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan have had twelve children: Patrick, John, Mary, Catherine, Anastasia, Julia, Ethel, Raymond, Robert, Francis, Emmet, and Leslie. Patrick, born Feb. 2, 1880, is now a farmer in Caledonia township; John, born June 25, 1882, is a plumber at St. Paul; Mary, born June 27, 1884, married Michael Stadler; Catherine, born Oct. 11, 1886, married Theo. Breckheimer; Anastasia, born April 15, 1888, married Ignacius Imhoff; Ethel, born July 7, 1892, is a school teacher; Raymond, born Jan. 23, 1894, is now with the United States army in France; Robert, born Oct. 16, 1896, died in February, 1898; Francis, born Feb. 20, 1900, is residing on the home farm; Emmet, born May 10, 1902, and Leslie, born Aug. 20, 1904, are attending school. All these children have been given good educational opportunities and three of them have been school teachers. The family attend St. John's Catholic church at Caledonia.

August Wiegrefe, one of the leading farmers of Winnebago township, was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 6, 1850, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Bonate) Wiegrefe. The parents both died in Germany, the mother when her son August was only six years old, and the father when he was 16. August acquired his education chiefly in a parochial school in Germany, residing in his native land until 1869, when, at the age of 19 years, he came to the United States, landing at New York after a rough voyage. Thence he proceeded west to Chicago, and from the latter city by way of La Crosse to Brownsville, Houston county, Minn., where he hired a man with a team to take him to Portland Prairie, Winnebago township, not being able to find the way alone. He had but little money, and for the first five years in this county worked as a farm hand, practicing economy and saving his earnings. In 1874 he bought 360 acres in sections 22 and 27,



Winnebago township, the land being little improved, as but a few acres had been broken, and there were no buildings. Mr. Wiegrefe grubbed a site for a house on section 27 and erected a small log building, in which he subsequently lived for 17 years, during which time he cleared a good deal of his land and put it under tillage. In 1891 he built a substantial frame house one and a half stories in height and containing seven rooms—a very comfortable home, in which he is still residing. He has now a good set of frame buildings, including a barn, granary, hog house, machine shed, poultry house and corn cribs, and his farm is well fenced. One hundred and ninety-five acres are under the plow, the balance of his land being in timber and pasture. His stock consists chiefly of Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Shropshire sheep, of all of which he raises a considerable quantity, his principal market being New Albin, Iowa, which lies six miles to the southeast, though sometimes he makes use of Caledonia, eleven miles to the north. Though never rugged, Mr. Wiegrefe has always been a hard-working man, but during recent years he has taken life more easily, contenting himself with managing the farm, which is now actively operated by his sons Albert and Herman. He is a stockholder in the New Albin Stock and Grain Co., of which he has also been a director for some years, and also owns stock in the Eitzen creamery. A Republican in politics, he served for a number of years as a member of the town board, frequently as chairman, and for the last few years has held the office of town assessor. He and his family are members of the German Evangelical congregation at Eitzen, which he has served for years as trustee and president. Few citizens of Winebago township, if any, are more highly respected, or stand higher socially. Mr. Wiegrefe was married March 3, 1874, to Dorothy Cordes, daughter of William and Marguerite (Benhoefer) Cordes, of Winnebago township. She was born in Germany, April 5, 1853, coming to America with her parents when nine years old. Mr. and Mrs. Wiegrefe have had nine children: William, born March 5, 1875, a prosperous farmer of Wilmington township; August, born Jan. 21, 1877, now a well to do farmer in Wilmington township; Maria, born April 4, 1879, now deceased; Louisa, born April 4, 1881, who is deceased; Albert, born March 1, 1883, who is helping to operate the home farm; Alvina, born July 8, 1885, now Mrs. August Fruechte of Winnebago township; Anna, born Dec. 20, 1886, who is keeping house for her parents; Herman, born May 4, 1890, who is assisting his brother Albert on the farm; and Emma, born Jan. 27, 1893, now Mrs. Louis Fruechte of Wilmington township.

John M. Hjellming, who owns and operates a farm of 160 acres in Mayville township, where he is making good progress as an agriculturist and stock raiser, was born in Sweden, Dec. 20, 1865, son of Axel and Charlotte Hjellming. The parents, also natives of Sweden, were there married, the father being a bricklayer and farmer by occupation. With an elder brother Axel Hjellming came first to the United States and engaged in farming, being followed by his wife and children four years later. Both are now deceased. Their children were Charles, now residing in Dakota; John M., subject of this sketch; Hulda, who is married and living in La Crosse; Theodore and Tillie, who are unmarried; and a daughter who died

in infancy. John M. Hjellming was eleven years old when he came to this country. He attended school in Sweden, which was nearly all the education he received. Until 22 years old he assisted his father on the home farm, after which he worked out, but still resided at home. Later he rented 40 acres of land, which he farmed for one year before his marriage, continuing to operate it for three years after that event. Then he engaged in railroad work and was thus occupied for eight years. At the end of that time he rented the farm on which he is now living, in section 22, Mayville township, buying it about the year 1900. Sixty acres of it are cleared, the balance of 100 acres being in bluff and woodland. Mr. Hjellming does general farming, including dairying, and raising cattle and hogs for the market. He was married Jan. 23, 1894, to Katherine Denfel, who was born in Freeburg, March 3, 1871, daughter of Lawrence and Matilda (Schatz) Denfel. Her parents, natives of Germany, were married in Houston county, Minn., where they engaged in farming. Mr. Denfel died some 30 years ago, but his wife is still living in Freeburg. Their children were Max, Katherine, Lizzie, Lena, Anna, Joseph, and two—a boy and girl—who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Hjellming are the parents of eight children: Matilda, wife of John Wagner; Hedwig, wife of M. Wagner; Georgina, who is single; Edwin, who died Oct 2, 1917; Olga, single; and Alfred, Hugo and Lawrence, who are attending school.

Ingvald Ingvaldson, proprietor of a farm of 212 acres in Mayville township, was born in Wilmington township, this county, Feb. 28, 1886, son of Ingvald Ingvaldson Twet and wife, the parents being natives of Norway. Ingvald, Sr., came to America fifty years ago, locating in Houston county, Minn., where he died in 1901, after an industrious career in agriculture. He is still survived by his wife. They had a family of nine children, of whom the five eldest are now deceased. Those living are Ida, Ingvald, Albert, and Minnie. Ingvald, Jr., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the district school, and trained to farming on the parental homestead, on which he lived until attaining his majority. He then worked out for a year, and then returned and worked the home farm for seven years. In 1916 he took possession of the farm on which he now lives, and which contains 212 acres, 180 acres being cleared. It is well improved with fine buildings, and Mr. Ingvaldson is doing a profitable business as a general farmer, paying particular attention to stock raising. He was married, in Caledonia, this county, Jan. 10, 1914, to Constance Anderson, who was born in Moss, Norway, Aug. 27, 1886, daughter of Ole Anderson and wife, and who was six years old when she came to this country with her parents, both of whom are now living. She was the third born child of the family, the three others being Hulda, Axel and Carl, of whom the last mentioned is now deceased. Her father, an expert mechanic, was formerly a carpenter by trade, but is now engaged in farming in Mayville. Mr. and Mrs. Ingvaldson have two children, Gladys Wilhelmina, who was born May 24, 1914, and Helen Violet, June 28, 1919. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Peter Anderson Dahle, who owns and operates a farm of 95 acres in section 18, Winnebago township, was born in Norway, Aug. 23, 1842, son



PETER A. DAHLE AND FAMILY

of Andrew and Mary (Peterson) Dahle. The parents were natives of Norway, where they were married, coming to the United States in 1869. The father was a farmer, and after arriving in Houston county, took the farm in Winnebago township which his son Peter now operates. His progress was somewhat slow, however, as he was badly handicapped by rheumatism, from which he suffered for 13 years until death finally relieved him. He and his wife had eight children. Andrew, Peter, Knute, Peter A., Ingrie, Carrie, Ratchael, and another daughter named Ratchael who died young. The first Ratchael married John Higgins. Ingrie married Nick Blexrud. Andrew, the first Peter, and Knute are deceased. Peter A. Dahle was 28 years old when he came to America, landing in Quebec. From there he came directly to Houston county, locating in Wilmington township, where for four years he worked out by the month. He then began working the home farm, on which he has since resided. Of its total area of 95 acres, about 45 acres are under the plow, the balance being in woodland and pasture. Mr. Dahle has erected all the buildings himself, and the place is now well improved. He does mixed farming, giving special attention to the raising of cattle and swine, and is conducting a profitable business, being also a shareholder in the co-operative creamery. He has served as school director and road overseer. Mr. Dahle was married in Spring Grove, Houston county, to Mrs. Ratchael Sherdahl, who was born in Norway, April 14, 1854, daughter of Andrew and Bernt (Olson) Anderson. The father died in Norway, and the mother subsequently came to this country, dying in 1899. Their daughter Ratchael was their only child. Mr. and Mrs. Dahle have two children: Mary Dahle Anderson, born May 6, 1894, who was married June 30, 1919, to Carl Laumb; and Albert Oscar Dahle, born Feb. 19, 1896, both of whom are residing on the home farm.

Frank Ratonde, who owns and operates a farm of 160 acres in section 15, Mayville township, where he is making good progress as an agriculturist and general stock raiser, was born in Pommern, Germany, Sept. 26, 1863, son of Frederick and Matilda (Weist) Ratonde. Neither of his parents ever came to America. The mother is now deceased, but the father, a blacksmith by trade, is still living. They had twelve children: Frank, subject of this sketch, was the only member to come to this country; Emil, deceased; Ida, who married George Fredindorf; Herman; Gustave, deceased; Minnie and Carl, twins, the former of whom married a Mr. Saline, and the latter died at the age of five years; Paul and William, twins, both of whom died in infancy; Anna, who also died in infancy; Max, who is living in Berlin; and Otto, who died in infancy. Frank Ratonde attended school in Germany and also learned the blacksmith's trade there. At the age of 25 he came to the United States, proceeding west to St. Paul, and from that city a few days later to Houston county, Minn. For seven years after arriving here he was engaged in railroad work. After that he rented land, farming and working out at intervals, and for four years operated a rented farm on shares. He then rented the farm on which he now lives, buying it in 1911. Of its total area 100 acres are cleared, the rest being in wood and pasture. Mr. Ratonde has erected all his present outbuildings and is now contemplating the erection of a new residence, and making other improve-

ments. He has drilled a well, which gives him an ample supply of good water. He does mixed farming, including dairying, and raises cattle, swine and sheep, sending a number to market each year. He is also a stockholder in the co-operative creamery at Caledonia. On Sept. 26, 1890, Mr. Ratonde was united in marriage at Hokah, this county, with Emelie Bolduan, who was born in Hokah, Minn., Dec. 12, 1870, daughter of Frederick and Wilhelmina (Voss) Bolduan. Her parents were natives of Germany, in which country they were married, subsequently coming to the United States. The father worked at the cooper's trade in Germany, and also for a while after coming to Houston county, Minnesota, but for the most part he has been engaged in farming. He and his wife are both living. They had nine children: Frederick W. A., Ernest, Emelie, Lizzie and Henrietta, twins, Charles, Huldina, Joseph and Tillie. Lizzie, Henrietta and Joseph are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Ratonde have been the parents of eleven children: Herman, born July 19, 1891; William, July 29, 1893; Esther, Jan. 9, 1896; Frank, July 1, 1898; Paul, Aug. 12, 1899; Emma, March 5, 1902; Anna, March 3, 1904; Matilda, Aug. 7, 1905; Estella, Oct. 6, 1907; Charles, May 17, 1910, and Leona, Aug. 6, 1912. Frank is now deceased. Esther is the wife of August Schroeder. The other members of the family are residing on the home farm, those of suitable age attending school. One of the sons of this family, Herman, has a most remarkable war record, being one of those heroes whose exploits have become a picturesque episode in the country's history. He entered the service May 28, 1918, and was honorably discharged June 28, 1919. Six months of this period was in France. At first a member of Co. E, in a regiment of the 77th (New York) Division and after transferred to Co. D, he was with the famous "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne Forest, an honor shared by but one other in this region. For six days he was without food or drink. Wounded and gassed he was disabled for three weeks. His record has reflected honor not only on himself and family, but upon the county from which he came.

Fred Becker, who is now living retired on his farm of 160 acres in sections 35 and 36, Winnebago township, after a long career of successful industry along agricultural lines, was born in Essen, Germany, July 10, 1845, son of Christian and Sophia Becker. When nine years old he accompanied his parents to America, they settling in Dupage county, Ill., where they spent the rest of their lives, and where Fred grew to manhood. As his parents were very poor, he had but slight opportunity for gaining an education, and had to be practically self-supporting from the age of 14 years. For his farm work he received only \$4.50 a month. In his twenty-fifth year, May 25, 1870, he was married in Dupage county, Ill., to Mary Gartner, who was born in Germany March 13, 1851, daughter of Henry and Dora Gartner. For five years after his marriage he operated a rented farm in Dupage county, and at the end of that time found himself in possession of a team and \$50 in cash. Not satisfied with this degree of progress, he resolved to seek cheaper land and, if possible, obtain a farm of his own. He therefore gave up his Illinois farm, and in the spring of 1875 came with his family to Houston county, Minnesota, buying 80 acres of

FRED REICHER AND FAMILY



wild railroad land in section 35, Winnebago township, near the Iowa state line. On this he cleared a site and erected a small frame house, of which he and his wife, with their two children took possession. The material for this dwelling he hauled from New Albin, Iowa, and while engaged in hauling the second load, he got lost in the woods and for some time wandered around on foot until he located the place where he had deposited his first load. The country at that time was full of wolves and it was not safe to stray far from home after nightfall. In his first pioneer efforts Mr. Becker was ably assisted by his wife, who donned overalls and worked with him in building the new home and clearing the land. To his original 80 acres he subsequently added 80 more, this being in section 36, thus bringing his farm up to its present size of 160 acres, of which over 100 are under the plow, the land being well tilled and very productive. He and his family resided in their original dwelling until 1906, in which year he built a more commodious frame house. In 1903 he had built a frame barn, 30 by 50 by 18 feet, with a nine-foot basement, and he has lately erected a new granary, feed mill and workshop, and has a steel windmill. The entire equipment of the farm is of the most modern type. Mr. Becker personally operated the farm until 1914, in which year he rented it to his son Gustav, but still makes his residence on it. It is well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Duroc swine. In addition to his interest in this property, Mr. Becker is a shareholder in the New Albin Stock and Grain Co., and the Farmers' Savings Bank, both of New Albin, also of the Co-Operative Creamery at Eitzen. In his early days in the county he and his wife suffered many hardships, having to pay 12 per cent interest or more on loans, and sustaining severe losses from the chintz bugs, which ate up his crops, but they have both survived those experiences and are today prosperous and enjoying good health. They are members of St. John's German Evangelical church of Allamakee county, Iowa. In politics Mr. Becker is a Republican, and for thirty years served as school treasurer. To Mr. and Mrs. Becker five children have been born: Louis, Feb. 20, 1871, now residing in Eitzen village; Emma, Sept. 21, 1873, who is the wife of Herman Kruse of Eitzen; Lena, Sept. 14, 1878, now Mrs. August Wuennekee of Crooked Creek township; Matilda, Feb. 20, 1880, who is the wife of August Welsand of Faribault, Minn.; Freda, now Mrs. Ferdinand Pottratz of Eitzen village; and Gustav, who, as already mentioned, is operating the home farm under rental. Gustav married Eliza Pohlman, and has one child, Clarence, born March 22, 1918.

Otto H. Freuchte, who is engaged in the work of agricultural development in Winnebago township, as proprietor of a farm in section 31, was born in section 33, this township, May 24, 1868, son of Henry and Sophia Fruechte. Reared on his parents' farm, he acquired an average education in the common school of Eitzen, later taking a short course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College of Chicago, Ill. Marrying, on Feb. 18, 1892, Emily, daughter of Frederick and Christine Thies of Wilmington township, this county, he rented his father's farm, which he worked to the close of 1895. In the following spring he bought 120 acres in section 31, Winnebago township, which was an improved farm two miles northwest of Eitzen

village, having a frame barn 40 by 60 feet, with half basement, a granary and corn cribs, besides other buildings. Mr. Fruechte has himself made more extensive improvements, having built a two story, nine-room frame house, consisting of an upright and wing; a machine shed, 24 by 40 feet, with a hog house in the basement; a wood house 12 by 20; poultry house 12 by 26; a garage 12 by 18, and a stave silo, 12 by 36. His teams, tools and operating equipment are all of the best, and the entire farm is in a good state of cultivation, the land being very productive. The farm is also well stocked with high grade Shorthorn cattle and Holsteins, and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Through his enterprise and industry Mr. Fruechte has made good progress on the road to fortune and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. He owns a large Overland automobile, and is a shareholder in various local enterprises, including the Farmers' Co-Operative Co. of Eitzen, the Eitzen Co-Operative Creamery, the Caledonia Stock and Grain Co. and the Eitzen State Bank. He and his wife are the parents of five children: Frances, born Dec. 13, 1892; Herbert, June 22, 1897; Edwin, Nov. 5, 1900; Lulu, July 20, 1902, and Raymond, Jan. 3, 1911. Mr. Fruechte is a prominent member of the German Evangelical Congregation at Eitzen, to which his family also belong.

Victor Johnson, proprietor of a large farm and other valuable property in Winnebago township, and who also owns and conducts a store in Winnebago village, is one of the enterprising and well to do citizens of the township who has worked his way up from a condition of comparative poverty by industry and close attention to business. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, March 2, 1871, son of Isaac and Helen (Olander) Johnson. The parents were natives of Sweden who came to the United States at an early day, accompanied by their eldest child, Erick. Two other sons and three daughters were subsequently born to them in this country: Victor, subject of this sketch; Mary, who is now living in La Crosse; Florence, residing in Minneapolis; and Martha, who is now deceased. Victor Johnson attended the common schools up to the age of 15 years, but his parents being poor, he had to help support himself at an early age. For many years he worked out for others, his highest wages being \$18.00 a month. At last he began farming for himself on rented land, his sister Martha keeping house for him. On Jan. 26, 1910, he married Mary Sophia, daughter of Frank and Katherine Sophia of La Crosse, and he then rented what was known as the Tim McCarthy farm in Winnebago township. In the spring of 1912 he bought 680 acres in sections 23, 24, 26 and 14, Winnebago township, of which land he now has 300 acres under the plow, the rest being in timber and pasture. He has reconstructed the building on his place and in 1916 built a circular barn. He also owns three dwelling houses and a store building, which stand on his estate, and conducts the store in addition to his agricultural work. His farm is especially well adapted to stock raising, to which he is devoting a considerable part of his attention, breeding pure blooded Black Poll and Shorthorn cattle, to the extent of 175 to 200 head annually; also 75 to 100 Duroc-Jersey hogs, besides having a fine flock of Shropshire sheep. Of his cattle he ships two or three carloads yearly to St. Paul or Chicago. His farm is well fenced and his tillable land



VICTOR JOHNSON AND FAMILY

very productive. Among his buildings is a panel silo 16 by 36 feet. In addition to his interests already mentioned, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative store at New Albin. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson five children have been born: Walter, Oct. 26, 1911; Mabel, May 20, 1913; Chester, June 26, 1915; Catherine, May 20, 1916, and Laura, May 20, 1917. The family are members of the Swedish Baptist church, and are people of high social standing in the southern part of Houston county.

J. H. Herman Meyer, proprietor of the old Meyer farm in section 34, Winnebago township, lying in the rich agricultural district known as Portland Prairie, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 22, 1853, son of Christopher and Katrine Meyer. After attending school in his native land, at the age of 13 years he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, reaching Portland Prairie May 2, 1866. The family numbered seven, there being in addition to himself, four younger children, namely: George, now living at Iowa River, Iowa; Charles, who is deceased; Fred, a resident of New Albin, Iowa, and Emma, now Mrs. August Kruse of Winnebago township. Subsequently another daughter was born, Martha, who is now the wife of Henry Schroeder of Wilmington township. After residing at their first location on Portland Prairie for about four years, the father bought 80 acres of land, nearly all wild, in section 34, Winnebago township, on which was a log house, and here they remained, Mr. Meyer finally accumulating 680 acres of land. J. H. Herman Meyer attended school during the winters up to the age of 23 years, and except for two summers during which he worked out as a farm hand, he continued to reside on the home farm, which has ever since been his home. He now has 150 acres under the plow, the rest of the land being in timber and pasture. The soil is productive, and the farm is well fenced and provided with good buildings and equipment. The live stock raised are chiefly Black Poll cattle and Duroc and Poland-China hogs. In 1908 Mr. Meyer retired from active work, renting the farm to his son George, but at present it is operated on shares by his son Otto. The house is a two-story building, consisting of upright and wing. Mr. Meyer is a stockholder in the New Albin Stock and Grain Co. and the Eitzen Creamery. He has served his township in various official capacities, and, with his family, is a member of the German Evangelical Congregation at Eitzen. Mr. Meyer was married Feb. 21, 1870, to Dora Meyer, who resided in the vicinity of Eitzen village. He and his wife have had nine children: Bertha, born Nov. 27, 1879; Anna, Feb. 23, 1881; George, Aug. 2, 1883; Emma, March 21, 1885; Matilda, Nov. 22, 1887; Otto, March 28, 1888; Walter, Oct. 18, 1891; Elsie, March 29, 1893, and Louis, March 31, 1899. Bertha is now the wife of Fred Schroeder of Eitzen. Anna is the wife of August Busitzky of Fillmore county, Minn. George is a prosperous farmer of Winnebago township. Emma is the wife of Martin Dierson of Jefferson township. Matilda is the wife of Louis Ransenberger of Allamakee county, Iowa. Otto, who spent four years in the Northwestern university at Watertown, Wis., who was working on the home farm, died Dec. 16, 1918. Walter is in the United States service in France. Elsie is now Mrs. Henry Ransenberger, a resident of Iowa. Louis, whose education was begun in the common school, at the age of 13 years entered the

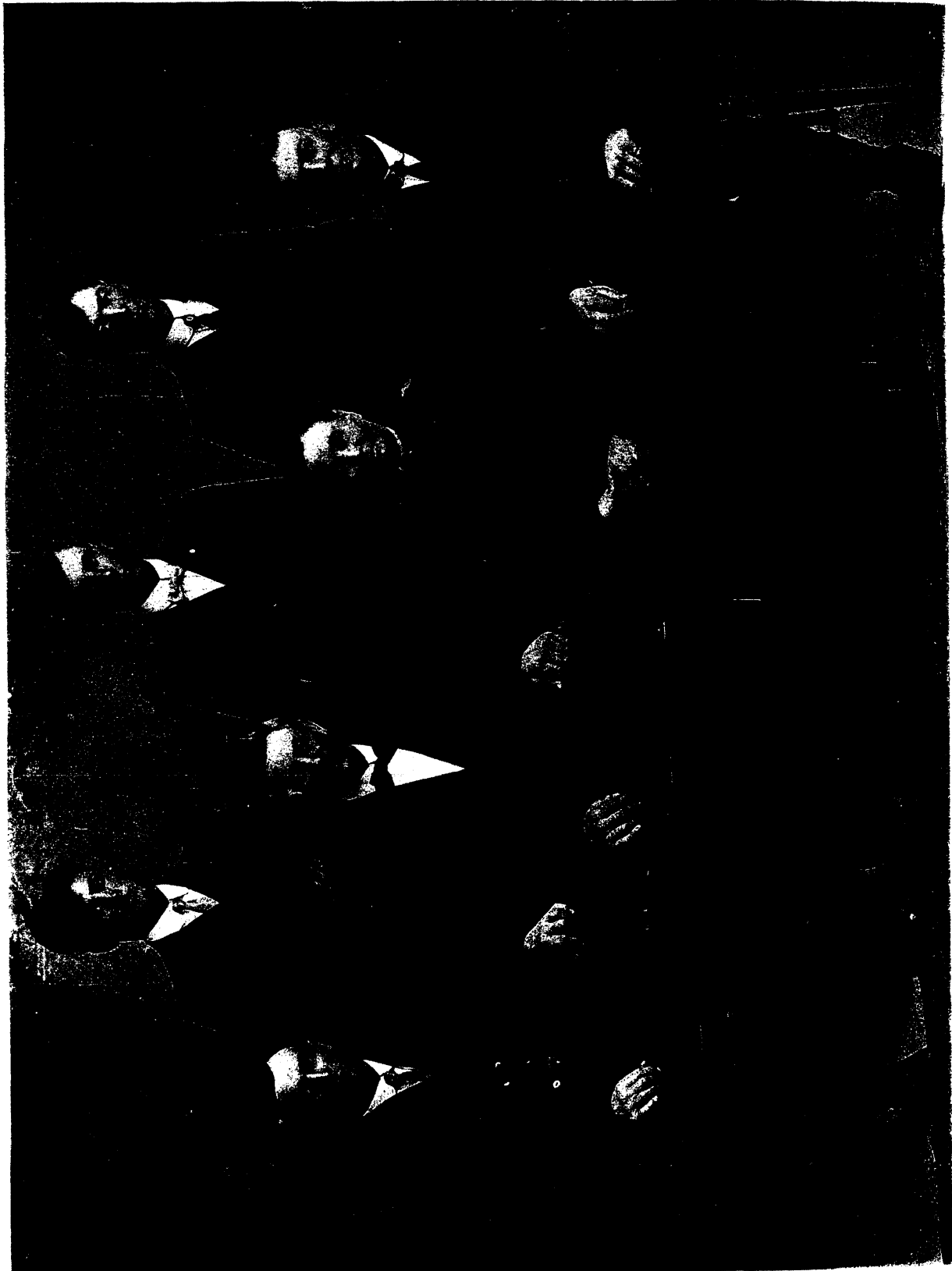
Lutheran college at New Ulm, Minn., and was a student there for four years or until 1916. Then until 1917 he studied at Concordia College, St. Paul, after which he spent three years in theological study at St. Louis to fit himself for the vocation of a Lutheran pastor.

William Gallagher, one of the pioneer improvers of land in Winnebago township, of which he was for many years a well known and respected citizen, was born in Ireland, where he grew to manhood. In 1855 he came to America and in New York State was married to Mary Hughs. Coming west to Illinois, they lived there for seven years, and then, in 1862, came to Houston county, Minnesota, buying a tract of 160 acres of wild land in section 11, Winnebago township. On this tract Mr. Gallagher built a two-room log house and with the aid of horses began the work of development. Houston county was then almost a wilderness, as the first white settlers had come in but a few years previously, and there were as yet few or no well developed farms. Mr. Gallagher was energetic and industrious and made the best of his opportunities, proving himself a good pioneer farmer. With the assistance of his wife he made progress, cleared and cultivated his land, and in time was able to erect a comfortable frame house. He also by additional purchases increased the size of his farm to 264 acres. After an active and in the main a successful career, he died in 1912, his wife having previously passed away in 1903. They were the parents of eight children: Anna, now Mrs. James Carl of Winnebago township; Margaret, wife of Richard Dunn of the same township; Mary, wife of Thomas Burns of Fosston, Minn.; Katherine, wife of John Kemp of Clarissa, Minn.; Elizabeth, now deceased, who was the wife of George Johnson of Clarissa, Minn.; John, now proprietor of the old home farm in Winnebago township; Ellen, wife of Thomas Doolen of Winnebago township; and Bridget.

John Gallagher, an extensive farmer residing in section 11, Winnebago township, and operating the old pioneer farm established by his parents 58 years ago, of which he is now the owner, was born in this township, May 27, 1868, son of William and Mary (Hughs) Gallagher. He has always resided on his present farm, which in his younger days was but partially improved, and to the improvements of which he has himself largely contributed. In his boyhood days educational advantages were limited, but he attended the district school and acquired a knowledge of the common branches of study. His father having died in 1912, and his mother being previously deceased, in 1913 he purchased the interests of the other heirs to the farm and has since been the sole owner. The farm contains 524 acres. He has now 250 acres under the plow and has made some valuable improvements, including the erection of a modern frame barn, 36 by 100 by 20 feet in size; a machine shed 30 by 42; two granaries, one 16 by 24 and the other 18 by 36, with other necessary buildings. Mr. Gallagher has a good operating equipment, including grade Percheron horses. His farm, which is eight miles from Caledonia, and 11 miles from New Albin, is well stocked with high grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and for all his produce he finds a ready and profitable market. Mr. Gallagher is a Roman Catholic in religion and a member of Freeburg parish. In politics he is a Republican, but his political activities have been hitherto confined to casting his

JOHN GALLAGHER AND FAMILY





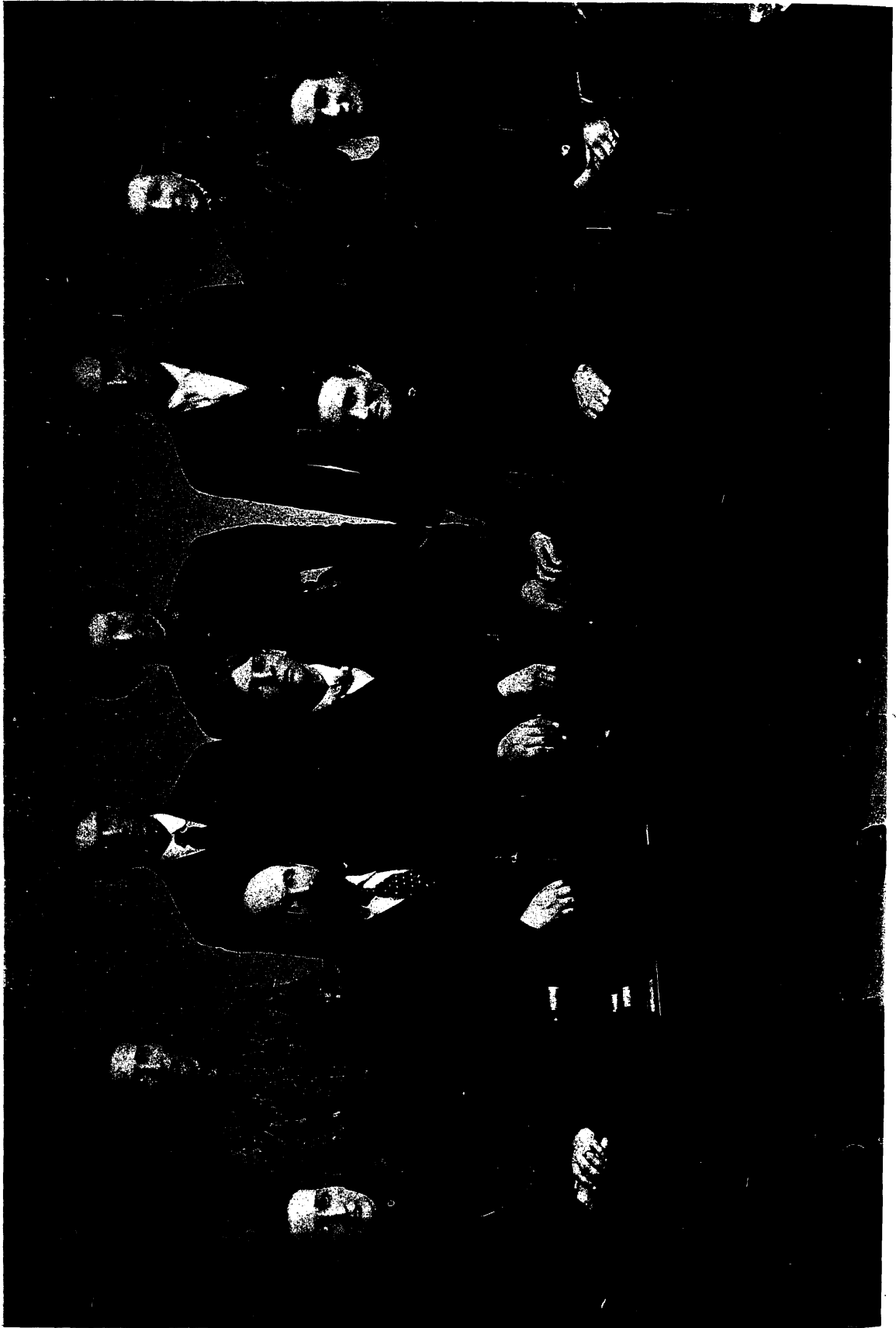
FRENCH, PIERSON AND FAMILY

vote, except that he has served as treasurer of his school district. He is a stockholder in the Caledonia Stock and Grain Company. An industrious worker and good farm manager, he has met with success and is numbered among the substantial citizens of his township. Mr. Gallagher was married, Jan. 22, 1895, to Alice Burns, who was born Aug. 31, 1866, daughter of John and Catherine Burns of Caledonia township, this county, and who has been a faithful helpmate and equally hard worker with her husband. They have two children, William and John, both of whom are residing on the home farm.

Deters & Paus, proprietors of the Eitzen Auto and Implement Company, of Eitzen, Minn., are men of enterprise and ability, natives of the same neighborhood, born in the same year, and whose lives have run largely upon similar lines. Alfred H. Deters was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, April 21, 1885. He received a common school education, and remained at home until 1910, after which he followed garage and factory work and farming until 1917, when he formed his present partnership with Mr. Paus. He was married in July, 1918, to Clara Kruse of Eitzen. Mr. Paus was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, Sept. 13, 1885, and, like Mr. Deters, was educated in the common schools. After beginning industrial life he was engaged in farming until 1912, when he opened a blacksmith shop in Eitzen, later, as above mentioned, becoming Mr. Deters' partner. He was married, Oct. 14, 1916, to Emma, daughter of Barney and Mary Deters, of Eitzen, and they have one child, Milton, born Oct. 10, 1917. The firm of Deters & Paus have built a fine garage, constructed of cement blocks, and measuring 50 by 70 feet. They sell Ford autos, keep a general line of farm machinery, and also do general blacksmithing. Beginning June 1, 1917, they have since made satisfactory progress, both being energetic and capable men, and of wide acquaintance. They are Republicans politically, and having been reared in the faith of the German Evangelical church, are members of that congregation at Eitzen.

Henry Diersen, one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Winnebago township, residing in section 12, is also prominent as a citizen, having served repeatedly in public office. He was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 9, 1853, son of Peter and Katrina (Stein) Diersen. When he was four years old his mother died, and the father, though poor, subsequently married again. Of the first marriage, besides Henry, there was another son, Peter, and of the second marriage a daughter, Doris, was born. Owing to his father's slender means, Henry had to contribute to his own support at the early age of nine years, earning a little money by doing odd jobs as he could find opportunity. Still he managed to keep up school attendance with more or less regularity up to the age of 15. Until he was 20 he remained in his native land, working hard and steadily, but making little progress on the road to fortune, and realizing that he must have better opportunities to make anything worth while of his life, he resolved to cut loose from home ties and start a new career in the United States. Unaccompanied, for his brother and stepsister remained in Germany, where the father died, he set out, landed in this country, and made his way to Peru, Ill., in the vicinity of which place he worked for five years as a farm

hand. There also for one winter he attended English school. In 1878 he came to Houston county, Minn., locating at Eitzen, where he resided for two years, continuing to work as a farm hand. During the seven years that he had now been in this country, he had been saving his money, spending little or nothing except for necessities. This prudential economy had brought its due reward and enabled him to assume the responsibilities and enjoy the comforts of domestic life. Accordingly, on Dec. 18, 1879, he was united in marriage with Magdalene Burmeister, daughter of John and Louisa Burmeister, of Cabbage Ridge, Winnebago township. That winter he and his wife resided at the Burmeister home, and in the meanwhile Mr. Diersen looked around for a suitable farm on which to begin independent operations in the spring. In section 12, Winnebago township, he found a small farm of 80 acres, with 24 acres of the land broken, and with a small frame house and granary. As the land was good and the place suited to his means, he bought it early in 1880 and in the same spring began operations, he and his wife establishing their home in the little house. Mrs. Diersen not only proved a good housekeeper, but also demonstrated her ability as a farm hand, working in the fields with her husband, and together they improved and developed the place, until the demands of an increasing family obliged her to devote all her attention to her household duties. Mr. Diersen now has 437 acres, of which 160 are under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture. Though rough, the land is fertile and produces good crops. Mr. Diersen, however, derives the greater part of his income from stock raising, his son Louis being now the active manager of the place. The present buildings include a good two-story frame house, two large barns, a granary, corn cribs, hog house, machine-sheds, cream house, mill house and garage, all being substantial, of modern type, and electrically lighted. The yard surrounding the house has also been beautified, the fences kept in good condition, and the entire farm presents visible evidence of careful and industrious management and resultant prosperity. Mr. Diersen's stock consists chiefly of Black Aberdeen cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, all graded animals, though he also has some excellent horses. His operating equipment is complete and of modern type, as he is not the man to be satisfied with anything short of the best. His farm is 11 miles from Caledonia, and equally distant from New Albin, either place being a convenient market. In the latter he has financial interests, being a stockholder in the New Albin Co-operative Creamery and in the Farmers' Mercantile Company. He and his wife are the parents of five sons, all grown to manhood, energetic and prosperous, and to each of whom Mr. Diersen has given a good start in life. They are as follows: John, born Jan. 13, 1881, is a farmer in Caledonia township; Martin, born Sept. 30, 1882, has a good farm in section 18, Jefferson township; Herman, born Oct. 2, 1886, is farming in Winnebago township; Arthur, born Aug. 26, 1888, is a farmer and thresher, his place being just north of the home farm; Louis, born Sept. 2, 1893, and lives on the home farm, which, as already mentioned, he is now engaged in operating. John married Lisette Kruse, and has four children, Paul, Carl, Albert and Esther. Martin married Emma Meyer, and has six children, Ada, Ervin, Elmer, Harry, Arthur and Leslie. Her-



man married Alwina Burmeister, and has two children, Ferdinand and Marvin. Arthur married Martha Stegen and has one daughter, Selma. Louis married Victoria Pieper. Mr. Diersen, his wife and family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran church, in the support of which they are liberal, and which he has represented as synodical delegate. Politically a Republican, he has served his township several terms as supervisor and assessor, and as a public spirited citizen has always been ready to promote any practical enterprise for the welfare and advancement of the community in which he lives, as well as for the county generally.

George F. Munkel, proprietor of the old Munkel homestead in section 7, Winnebago township, was born in this township, April 11, 1891, son of Adolph and Anna Munkel. His parents, natives of Germany, are still living. They had eight children: Adolph, Dena, Barney, Ulrich, Alvin, Ida, Emma and George F., all of whom are living. George F. was educated in the district schools and assisted his father on the farm until he had reached the age of 21. He then married and rented a farm in Wilmington township, which he operated for one year. Then, in 1914, he bought the home farm and has since resided here. He has 101 acres, of which 50 acres are cleared, the rest being timbered. It is Mr. Munkel's intention to clear the entire farm, and he is proceeding steadily with the work. He has rebuilt all the buildings, moving the house, and has erected several outbuildings. His farming operations are largely devoted to stock raising, including Black-pollled cattle, swine and horses; and he is also a shareholder in the Stromberg No. 2 Telephone Co. Mr. Munkel was married, April 9, 1913, in Freeburg, Houston county, to Grace Cavin, who was born in Winnebago township, July 4, 1896, daughter of Patrick Cavin and wife. The father, a native of Kentucky and a blacksmith by trade, was engaged in farming in this county, but is now deceased. His wife, who was born in Houston county, is still living. They had ten children: Julia, Nellie, John, Mary, Agnes, Leo, Leona, Roy, Grace, and Floyd. To Mr. and Mrs. Munkel two children have been born: Earl Milton, Jan. 24, 1914; and Gladys May, Aug. 23, 1915.

Fred Deters, one of the wealthiest citizens of Winnebago township, the owner of valuable farm lands, both in this township and elsewhere, is a man who has attained prosperity through his own enterprise and ability. He was born in Westphalen, Germany, Sept. 7, 1855, son of John and Bernadina (Meiners) Deters, and came to the United States with his parents at the age of 9 years, arriving in Houston county, Minnesota, July 8, 1864. The family settled immediately on Portland Prairie, the parents buying a farm near Eitzen, Winnebago township. It was but a small place of 40 acres, but before his death, John Deters had acquired 280 acres of land. His wife Bernadina died in 1874. Fred Deters attended common school for a while in Eitzen village, and for seven years was associated with his father in the development of the home farm. On March 17, 1879, he married Louisa, daughter of Barney and Maria (Stenkel) Brinker, of Allamakee county, Iowa, and brought his bride to his parents' farm, on which they spent their first year of domestic life. In the spring of 1880 Mr. Deters moved onto a farm of 120 acres, belonging to his father, in sec-

tion 30. Winnebago township, and for four or five years operated it as a renter, subsequently purchasing the place. Then in 1893 he bought an improved 80-acre farm in the same section, the buildings on which, however, were only fair. These he has improved or replaced by new ones, and his land being united has now a fine farm of 270 acres, of which 250 are under the plow and both well tilled and well fenced, the fencing being hogproof. The house, which he has enlarged and improved, is a two-story upright with wing, and contains 13 rooms. It is well painted and stands in a fine yard, there being an abundance of shrubbery. Mr. Deters also built a frame barn, measuring 40 by 90 by 18 feet, with full 8-foot stone basement. He has also a hog house, 22 by 52, with cement floors; a granary, machine shed, poultry house, wagon shed and garage, all the buildings being in good condition. The farm is very productive and is near convenient markets and shipping points, it being eleven miles south of Caledonia, and nine miles northwest of New Albin, Iowa. Mr. Deters also owns a well improved farm of 240 acres near Beltrami, in Polk county, Minn., and a 280-acre farm in Alberta, Canada, besides having land interests in the state of Washington. Though still residing on his farm in Winnebago township, it is now rented to one of his sons, Mr. Deters himself being practically retired, but makes annual visits to his property in the various localities, exercising a careful supervision over it. The winter of 1917-18 he and his wife spent in California at the home of a son, being from home five months. In addition to the interests already mentioned, he is also a shareholder in the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery, the Caledonia Stock and Grain Company, the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Company of Eitzen, the Mutual Iron Mining Company of Duluth, and the Western Mortgage & Loan Company of Minneapolis. In politics he has always been a Republican, and for a number of years was town supervisor, also serving as chairman of the board. In church matters he has also been prominent and is still active, he and his family belonging to the German Evangelical congregation at Eitzen. Mr. and Mrs. Deters are the parents of eight children: Alfrida, born Feb. 12, 1880, who is the wife of August Wiegrefe, of Wilmington township; Rosina, born May 21, 1881, who is now Mrs. William Wiebke, of Caledonia City; August, born Nov. 23, 1883, who is expert mechanic in an auto garage at Ventura, Calif.; Malinda, born April 3, 1885, now Mrs. Edward Freiberg, of Eitzen Village, her husband being a blacksmith and dealer in agricultural implements; Alfred, born April 21, 1887, a farmer in Winnebago township; Martha, born June 17, 1889, who is now Mrs. Roy Smith of Roseau county, Minn.; Jennie, born Feb. 15, 1893, now Mrs. Henry Nolte, of Polk county, Minn.; and Elmer, who is now engaged in operating the home farm. Mr. Deters has just erected on his old home farm, a beautiful modern bungalow, comfortable and sightly, where he and his good wife will spend the afternoon of life after a busy career filled with worthy effort.

Elmer Deters, who is engaged in operating the Deters farm of 270 acres in Winnebago township, was born in section 30, this township, July 16, 1895, son of Fred and Louisa (Brinker) Deters. In his boyhood he attended school in the village of Eitzen, near which the parental farm is lo-

cated. He has always remained on the homestead, and acquired a knowledge of agriculture and stock raising under his father, one of the leading farmers of Winnebago township. In the spring of 1917 he bought the stock, tools and teams of his father and has been engaged in operating the farm, carrying on general farming, and raising cattle and hogs for the market with profitable results. He was married Feb. 17, 1917, to Hilda, daughter of Albert and Martha Kuehn, of New Albin, Iowa, and he and his wife have one child, Helen, who was born Feb. 7, 1918. He and his family are members of the German Evangelical congregation at Eitzen, and in politics he is a Republican. Energetic and enterprising, he has made a good start on his own account, and has every prospect of a successful future.

Werner Schroeder, a well to do farmer of Winnebago township, engaged largely in stock raising, his residence lying in section 4, was born in Germany, May 26, 1874, son of Christopher and Marie (Garve) Schroeder. He was but a year old when he accompanied his parents to the United States, the family locating on a farm not far from Eitzen, this county. Both father and mother are now deceased. Their children were: Henry (1), William, Henry (2), Katie, August, Herman, George, Frederick and Werner, of whom William, Henry (2) Frederick and Werner are the only ones now living. Werner in his boyhood attended school in Eitzen and was trained to agriculture on the home farm, assisting his father until arriving at the age of 20 years. Then after working out for a year, he rented the farm of William Meyer (his father-in-law), operating it for two years, after which he bought the farm on which he now lives, which then had an area of but 80 acres. About 1911 he increased its size by buying an additional tract of 120 acres, and in 1917 purchased 80 acres more, so that his present farm has an area of 280 acres, of which 110 are cleared, the rest being in cut-over woodland. Mr. Schroeder has made a number of valuable improvements on the property, having rebuilt some of the old buildings and erected others. He has a barn 28 by 60 feet, with stone basement, and his home is a good modern residence. As a general farmer and stock raiser he has achieved notable success, his cattle being of the Black Polled variety, and of these, as well as hogs, he ships a number to market yearly. In addition to these interests he is a shareholder in the co-operative creamery at Caledonia, the stock and grain company, the elevator at Caledonia, and the Farmers' Telephone Co. For five years he has held the office of school clerk. Mr. Schroeder was married in Eitzen, this county, to Dora Meyer, who was born in Germany, June 8, 1877, daughter of William and Katherine (Westermann) Meyer, and who accompanied her parents to Houston County, Minn., in 1882, when five years old, they taking a farm near Eitzen, where the mother is now living. The father is now deceased. The family included four children: Dora, Mary, Walter and Martha, of whom Walter is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder eleven children have been born: Arthur, Nov. 29, 1897; Elsie, July 24, 1899; Martha, Sept. 11, 1901; Robert, Sept. 7, 1903; Hulda, Oct. 5, 1905; George, Jan. 3, 1908; Herbert, May 1, 1910; Ruth, May 13, 1912; Mary, May 26, 1914; Victor, June 12, 1915; and Esther, Aug. 2, 1917. Of these, two are deceased: Robert, who

died at the age of 16 months, Jan. 3, 1905; and Mary, who died on the day of her birth. All the others are residing at home, and Arthur is assisting his father on the farm.

Henry Wiebke, who was for a number of years one of the best known and most prosperous farmers of Winnebago township, but is now deceased, was born in Germany, Feb. 20, 1848, a son of poor parents who emigrated to the United States when he was seven years old, or about 1855. The family settled first in Illinois, from which state they came to Houston county in or about the year 1860. Here Henry was reared to manhood and had about a year's schooling in addition to what he had received in Germany. In 1869 he began farming for himself, buying 100 acres in section 30, Winnebago township. The land was partly improved, there being a small house on it, and a frame barn, 32 by 54 by 16 feet, with a full stone basement of 8 feet. Mr. Wiebke subsequently bought 80 acres adjoining, thus having a farm of 180 acres, which he made one of the best on Portland Prairie. To the original house he built an ell, 30 by 80 by 16 feet, on an eight-foot stone basement; also a poultry house, 16 by 24; a machine shed, granary and corn crib combined, 20 by 32; a scale house, 12 by 16 feet, and other outbuildings, the scale house also serving as a garage. Not yet satisfied, in 1915 he erected a two-story modern frame house, equipped with wash rooms, toilets and bath, with kitchen and laundry in the basement, and with a modern lighting system—it being one of the finest farm houses in this section. He had under the plow the entire acreage of the farm, and for years was a breeder of pure-blooded Aberdeen Angus cattle, Poland-China hogs, and other high grades of stock, winning a high reputation both as a general farmer and stock raiser, and also as a man of enterprise and public spirit, being highly respected throughout this part of the county. In addition to his home farm he also bought at a later period, 80 acres in Jefferson township, 65 acres in sections 5 and 6, Winnebago township, another 65-acre tract in section 6, Winnebago township, and 157 acres in Mayville township, owing in all 541 acres. He was also a shareholder in the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery and the Co-operative Stock and Grain Company of Caledonia. Mr. Wiebke was a strong, rugged man and always a hard worker, and died March 2, 1916, after only a few days' sickness. In the previous January he had moved into his new house. Mr. Wiebke was first married Nov. 3, 1871, to Dorothy Kruse who died May 1, 1885. Of this union five children were born: Melinda, born Sept. 21, 1872; married August Lager and died Dec. 14, 1917; Henry was born Oct. 8, 1873; William, March 20, 1876; George, Aug. 21, 1882; and Lydia, Oct. 13, 1884. The last mentioned is now Mrs. Henry Poppie of Hauge Ridge, north of Caledonia. Mr. Wiebke's second marriage occurred Nov. 29, 1887, when he was united with Mary, daughter of Fred and Christina Juergens, of Cook county, Ill., the date of her birth being Nov. 4, 1862. The children by this union were: Alma, born Sept. 11, 1888; and Addie, born March 22, 1891, both of whom are unmarried and residing on the home farm; Elsie, born June 27, 1893, now Mrs. Otto Voigt of Winnebago township; Leroy, born Feb. 29, 1896, is now married and farming in the county; Herbert, Dec. 6, 1899, and Fremont, July 23, 1901, are as yet unmarried and are now

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operating the home farm, owning the stock, tools and equipment. Their mother also resides on the farm, and the children of Mr. Wiebke's first marriage reside within a few miles and are all well to do. The family attend the German Evangelical church at Eitzen, of which they are members and of which Mr. Wiebke was a strong supporter.

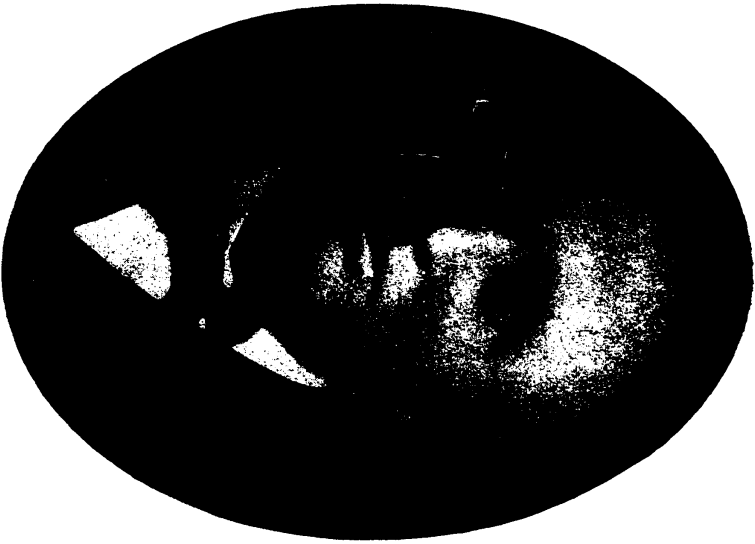
Henry Deters, the father of Frank F. Deters, was born in Germany, and was married in Illinois in 1855. He and his wife, Mary, came to Allamakee county, Iowa, in the same year, taking a tract of land in Union City township, near the village of Eitzen, on which they built a log house and started poor, but in time developed a good farm and became prosperous. Both are now deceased. They had nine children; Henry, deceased; Frank F., of Winnebago township, Houston county; Louisa, now Mrs. Henry Luehr of Wilmington township; Louis, now on the old home farm in Allamakee county, Iowa; Herman, deceased; Emma, wife of William Dresselhaus of Decorah, Iowa; Otto, who met an accidental death, being injured with a hay fork while working on the farm; William, residing in Houston county; and Rosina, who is deceased.

Frank F. Deters, a prominent farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Winnebago township, who has also other extensive land interests, was born on a farm in Allamakee county, Iowa, near the village of Eitzen, Feb. 20, 1858, son of Henry and Mary Deters. He was there reared, attending the common school up to the age of 15 years. Remaining on the home farm until 1880, he was then married, Oct. 7, 1880, to Louisa, daughter of Fred and Christina Thies, of Eitzen, Minn. He then rented the farm that he now owns and operates, lying just on the edge of Eitzen village, which was improved but had poor buildings. Here he has since built a good two-story double house of 14 rooms; a large stock and grain barn, 34 by 76 by 18 feet, with full stone basement eight feet high, and well equipped; a horse and hay barn, 30 by 44 by 18 feet; a block tile poultry house, 14 by 22 feet; a machine and buggy shed combined, 20 by 33 feet; besides other necessary buildings, all of which are in fine condition. His farm lies in two sections, there being roughly speaking 114 acres in section 32 and 40 acres in section 31, or an exact total of 153.98 acres. The land is very productive, and is well fenced and well tilled, there being 140 acres under the plow. Mr. Deters also owns 80 acres of wild land in Marinette county, Wisconsin, and a fine ten-acre timber tract in Allamakee county, Iowa. His home farm lies on the famous Portland Prairie, and is well stocked with Shorthorn and Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs, and he operates it in association with his son, Franklin H. He is also a stockholder in the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery and the Caledonia Co-operative Stock and Grain Co. A man of ability and enterprise, he has attained a high measure of success. Mr. and Mrs. Deters have one child, the son Franklin H. above mentioned, who was born Aug. 20, 1881, and who has always remained on the home farm. He attended a commercial school at Eitzen, and was also a pupil for two years at Breckenridge Institute, Decorah, Iowa. On December 2, 1903, he married Rosa, daughter of August and Mary Franzen, of Dupage county, Ill. He and his wife have had four children: Roy, born Sept. 21, 1904; Fremont and Earl, twins, born Sept. 17, 1906, of whom Earl

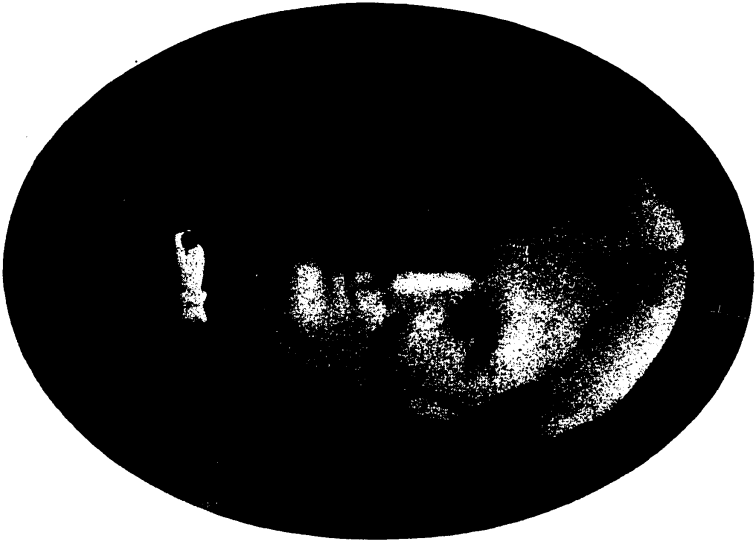
is now deceased; and Edgar, born March 17, 1910. Mr. Deters and his sons are both Republicans in politics and both have rendered service as town and school board officials. The two families have individual membership in the German Evangelical church of Eitzen.

August F. Fruechte, one of the leading farmers of Winnebago township, residing in section 33, was born on the farm on which he is now living, Nov. 30, 1877, son of Henry and Sophia Fruechte. His education was acquired in the common school in Eitzen village, the Winona Normal School, and the Minnesota Agricultural School at St. Paul. His residence, when not pursuing his higher education, has always been on the home farm, which in 1907 he rented of his father and is now operating for his mother, he, himself owing the stock, tools and teams. His operating equipment is of the best, and he also owns a large Overland auto. He is a breeder of high grade Shorthorn cattle, keeping from 70 to 75 head; Poland-China hogs and Shropshire sheep, of each of which kinds of stock he keeps from 100 to 150 head. Thoroughly versed in all the details of grain and stock farming, he is enjoying a prosperous career and is a highly respected citizen of his township. He is also a stockholder in the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery, the Eitzen State Bank, and the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Co. of Eitzen, being secretary of the last mentioned organization. Dec. 15, 1909, Mr. Fruechte was united in marriage with Alvina, daughter of August and Dorothy Wiegrefe, her parents being residents of this locality. He and his wife have three children: Martha, born Sept. 28, 1910; Dorothy, Aug. 2, 1912; and Elsie, Jan. 30, 1918. Mr. Fruechte and his family are members of the German Evangelical church at Eitzen. His political principles are in general those of the Republican party, though he exercises freedom in casting his vote.

Henry Fruechte, the founder of one of the best farms on Portland Prairie, Winnebago township, but now deceased, was born in Hanover, Germany, April 21, 1838, son of John H. and Dorothy (Meyer) Fruechte. He was educated in his native land, attending the common and parochial schools and also an agricultural college, coming to America in the spring of 1860 a trained farmer. For one year he worked as a farm hand at Bensonville, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. In the spring of 1861 he came to Houston county and bought 160 acres of wild land, partly grubbed and part prairie, in section 33, Winnebago township. During the summer of that year, however, he worked for a Mr. Evans. In the fall he returned to Bensonville, where he attended English school during the winter of 1861-62. In the spring of 1862 he returned to Houston County and did some grubbing on his land, also building a small frame house. Thus prepared for domestic life, he again returned to Bensonville, where he was married, Oct. 9, 1862, to Sophia Franzen, daughter of John H. and Elizabeth Franzen. Immediately after his marriage he brought his bride to his Houston county farm, and together they began the work of developing the land and building a home. Though beginning with few resources, they made gradual progress and in time became prosperous. Before his death, which occurred April 21, 1915, Mr. Fruechte had acquired 450 acres of land—the present area of the farm—and was also the owner of two other farms in the western



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part of the state, each of 320 acres. On his home farm he had erected a fine set of buildings, including three frame barns, one 33 by 104 by 14 feet, with full stone basements for horses and cattle; another 24 by 60 by 12, for cattle, and the third 24 by 50 by 10, for stock. Among his other buildings were a machine shed, 22 by 60 feet, a granary 16 by 24; a hog house, with cement feeding floor, 20 by 50, and a poultry house 16 by 24 feet, together with corn cribs and other outbuildings. He also erected a comfortable house of two stories, and beautified the grounds about it. The farm is well tilled, about 300 acres being under the plow, and the land being very productive. Mr. Fruechte marketed his products at New Albin. He was a breeder of high grade Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs and graded Percheron horses. He was a man of sturdy physique and his last sickness was very brief. In addition to his direct farming and landed interests, he was a stockholder in various local enterprises, including the New Albin Stock & Grain Co., the New Albin Savings Bank, the State Bank of Eitzen, and the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery. In politics he was a Republican and served his town in various official capacities for a number of years. He was also prominent in church work, with his family belonging to the German Evangelical congregation at Eitzen. Mr. Freuchte was survived by his wife, who was born Jan. 28, 1843, and who is still active and in good health. They had ten children, whose record in brief is as follows: Herman H., born Jan 7, 1864, now a farmer in Allamakee county, Iowa; Rosina, born Aug. 30, 1865, who is the wife of William L. Korthauer, of Verdi, Minn.; Otto H., a farmer in section 31, Winnebago township; Henry W., born Oct. 23, 1871, who is farming in Allamakee county, Iowa; Louisa, born July 25, 1873, now Mrs. Frank Thies of Wilmington township; Louis H., born March 31, 1875, who died Aug. 26, 1877; August, a farmer in section 33, Winnebago township; Emma, born Feb. 1, 1881, now Mrs. William Wiegrefe of Wilmington township; Franklin, born Nov. 10, 1884, who is cashier of the Eitzen State Bank; and Martha, born Sept. 8, 1887, who died March 18, 1892.

Gustav Schroeder, a prosperous representative of the farming interests of Winnebago township, operating a farm of 131 acres in section 7, was born in Caledonia township, Houston county, Minn., May 20, 1884, son of William and Emelia (Brenker) Schroeder. The father was born in Germany and emigrated to this county, where he is still engaged in farming. His wife, a native of the United States, is also living. They had eight children: Gustav, Otto, William, Alvina, Edwin, Ella, Henry and Albert. Gustav Schroeder in his boyhood attended district school and assisted his father on the home farm until 15 years old, when he began working out for wages. He was thus occupied until 1909, when he married. He then rented a farm, which he worked for seven years, at the end of that time buying the farm on which he now lives. Of its total area of 131 acres, 62 acres are cleared and Mr. Schroeder is still engaged in clearing the land. He does mixed farming, giving his chief attention to stock raising. Among his general improvements, he has erected several outbuildings and drilled a good well. He is a director in the school board of his district, and is the president and a shareholder in the Stromberg Telephone Co. No. 2. He

also holds shares in the Caledonia Co-Operative Elevator Co. and in the Wilmington Co-Operative Creamery Co. Mr. Schroeder was married in Houston county, Jan. 18, 1909, to Matilda Kruse, who was born in Winnebago township, this county, June 22, 1885, daughter of August and Emma (Meyer) Kruse. The parents were born in Germany but married in the United States. They are still engaged in farming in this county. They have had six children, Lizetta, Matilda, Herman and Carl (twins), and two others who are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder are the parents of four children: Clara, born Dec. 31, 1910; Lillie, Aug. 26, 1912; Arnold, April 4, 1915, and Carl, Jan. 30, 1918. The family attend the Lutheran church at Eitzen.

Andrew Anderson, an enterprising and successful farmer of Mayville township, residing in section 8, was born in Norway, Feb. 3, 1845, son of Andreas Olson and his wife, Oleana, his father being a working man. Neither of his parents ever came to America, but lived and died in their native land. They had seven children: Olaus, now deceased, who was a farmer in Wisconsin; Mary, who is a widow living in Wisconsin; Andrew, subject of this sketch; Anton and Ole, of Mayville township; Sophia, who is still living in Norway, as well as Hannah, both being married; and a son who died at the age of two years. Andrew Anderson attended school in Norway and subsequently served two months in the Norwegian army. He worked at different occupations in his native land, and on coming to the United States located first at Red Wing, Minn., where he resided for seven years working most of the time on farms. He then bought land in Pierce county, Wis., and was engaged in farming there for one year. Then, about 1880, he bought the farm on which he now lives, containing 120 acres, later homesteading 40 acres more, or 160 in all. Only 40 acres of the whole amount were cleared but he now has a cleared area of 120 acres, the balance being in woodland and bluffs. He has erected all the buildings himself and his place is now well improved. He does mixed farming, mainly dairying and the raising of swine, which, with cattle, he ships to the market. Formerly he was a member of the Farmers' Co-Operative Elevator Co. He has made good progress and is now one of the prosperous citizens of his township. Mr. Anderson was married in Red Wing, Minn., March 3, 1877, to Carrie Ahlburg, who was born in Norway, July 2, 1854, daughter of Hanson and Mary (Arneson) Ahlburg. Both parents died in this country, the father dying of sunstroke while employed as a railroad man. After his death his widow married Christopher Olson. By the first marriage she had seven children: Anna Mary, born May 8, 1840; Ole Christian, April 3, 1842; Laura Fredericka, Nov. 9, 1844; Anton, June 18, 1848; and Carrie, July 2, 1854. Two more died in infancy. Of the second marriage five children were born. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of five children: Albert, born Dec. 23, 1878; Emma, Dec. 5, 1882; Carl, July 28, 1881; Hilda, June 2, 1887; and Arthur, June 17, 1893. Albert is a newspaper man and postmaster at Clear Brook, Minn. Emma is married and living in Houston county. Carl and Arthur are residing at home. Hilda is in Green Bay, Wis. Mr. Anderson and the members of his family who are residing at home attend the Norwegian Lutheran church at Caledonia.



ANDREW ANDERSON AND FAMILY



THOMAS HOULIHAN

Peter Holter, a prosperous farmer of Winnebago township, residing in section 18, was born in Houston county, Minn., in January, 1883, son of Ole and Esibel (Twite) Holter. The parents were natives of Norway, both coming to this country when young, the mother at nine years of age. They are now engaged in farming near Cook, Minn. They have had eight children: Severt (1), Severt (2), Alfred, Peter, John, Olaf, Edward and Henry. All are living except the first Severt, who died in infancy. Peter Holter acquired his education in the district school and assisted his father on the home farm until attaining his majority, when he started in for himself. Marrying at the age of 23, he lived for six years on a farm owned by his wife, and for the next six years rented a place. He then moved back to the home farm, on which he is now living, and which contains 80 acres, of which about 30 acres are cleared, the rest being in woodland. He has himself cleared a part of the land and erected all the buildings, rebuilding the house. His barn, having a stone basement eight feet high, measures 50 by 30 feet. He has also built fences and made other improvements. Mr. Holter married in Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., Jan. 17, 1906, Mrs. Reirson, who was born March 16, 1873, daughter of Hans Smastad and wife. Her mother is now dead, but her father is now living at the age of 88 years. Out of a family of ten children, Mrs. Holter is the only one now living. Mr. and Mrs. Holter have five children: Pearl Alvine, born Aug. 16, 1906; Ida, born July 24, 1908; Arthur, born Feb. 1, 1910; Hazel, born Sept. 16, 1912; and Robert, born Sept. 5, 1914. Four children were born of Mrs. Holter's first marriage, namely: Nels, Jan. 6, 1896; Harry, Oct. 17, 1898; William, Jan. 12, 1900; and Eddie, April 7, 1902. All these children of suitable age are attending school, and all are residing on the home farm except Nels, who is living in Houston county. Mr. Holter and his family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church at Wilmington.

Thomas Houlihan, one of the early settlers in Mayville township, now deceased, was born in Ireland, and came to the United States with his parents when ten years old, the family settling in Jo Daviess county, Ill., and the father finding employment on the railroad. There Thomas attended school and grew to manhood. At the close of the Civil War he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and was married in Caledonia to Margaret Dean. Taking a tract of land in Wilmington township, he began the task of developing a farm, working hard and making gradual improvements, and in this he continued for practically the rest of his life, his burden being partly lightened by the assistance of his sons. He died March 20, 1917, having attained the advanced age of 72 years and 3 months. His wife Margaret was but 29 years old when she died, about 1882. They were the parents of five children, Kate, Mary, Patrick, Anna, and Michael F., the last mentioned of whom is now operating the old home farm in section 4. His sister Kate, who was born Nov. 6, 1871, resides with him. Mary, born May 15, 1875, is a resident of Milwaukee. Patrick, born in 1877, is an employee of the Tri-State Telephone and resides in St. Paul. Anna, born in January, 1879, is the wife of E. J. Radandt, a furniture dealer of Wausau, Wis.

Michael F. Houlihan, a prosperous farmer of section 4, Mayville township, is a native of Houston county, having been born in Wilmington town-

ship, July 15, 1873, son of Thomas and Margaret (Dean) Houlihan. His parents were early settlers in Mayville township, where they bought the farm which he is now conducting. When he was nine or ten years old his mother died, but he continued to reside on the farm with his father, attending district school during the winters, and picking up a good knowledge of agriculture when not engaged with his books. Besides assisting his father, he occasionally worked out on other farms, but his main efforts were directed towards the improvement of the parental homestead on which he has resided since his youth, and which he has personally operated since his father's death in March, 1917. The farm contains 80½ acres and is all cleared. Mr. Houlihan does mixed farming, giving special attention to dairying and the raising of swine. His cattle are of the Shorthorn breed, his swine being Duroc-Jerseys and every year he raises a number of each kind of stock for the market, carrying on a profitable business. His buildings are modern, having been erected during the last 15 years. In addition to his direct farming interests he is a shareholder in the Mayville Star Telephone Co., of which he was treasurer for eight years. He is a Catholic in religion, and with his sister Kate, who resides with him, he attends the Catholic church at Caledonia.

Helmer Oscar Buxengard, a general farmer operating 119 acres in section 6, Winnebago township, was born in Houston county, Jan. 1, 1884, son of Mr. and Mrs. Swen Buxengard. The parents, natives of this county, are now retired farmers living in Caledonia. They have had four children: Helmer Oscar; Mary, now deceased; and Clara and Amanda, who are living in La Crosse. Helmer Oscar was educated in the district school, and was trained to agriculture on the home farm, on which he assisted his father, though occasionally working out, until three years ago. He then rented the farm from his father and has since operated it on his own account. About 80 acres are cleared, the rest being in bluff and woodland. Mr. Buxengard does general farming, raising both grain and stock. He has also an acre of ginseng under cultivation. He is making good progress and is a shareholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Caledonia and the creamery at Wilmington. On April 15, 1916, he was married in Caledonia, to Clara Annetta Viegan, who was born in Iowa, May 7, 1883, daughter of Halvor Viegan and wife. Both parents were born in Norway, the mother coming to this country when a babe. Mr. Viegan was a schoolmaster before his marriage but afterwards engaged in farming. He is now deceased. He and his wife had three children: Clara Annetta, now Mrs. Buxengard; John Gerhardt, living in West Beaver, this county; and Hilda Julia, wife of Arthur Sears. Mr. and Mrs. Buxengard attend the Lutheran church at Wilmington.

Philip Bung, a representative farmer of Mayville township, residing in section 33, was born in this township, Oct. 11, 1881, son of Frank and Helen (Schweback) Bung. The father was born in the town of Beason, Duchy of Luxemburg, and the mother in the same Duchy. The former came to this country at the age of eleven years, and became a farmer in Mayville township, Houston county, continuing in that occupation until his death. His wife, who survived him, is now residing in Caledonia. They

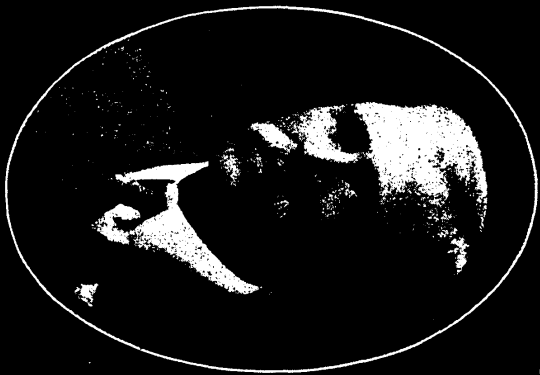
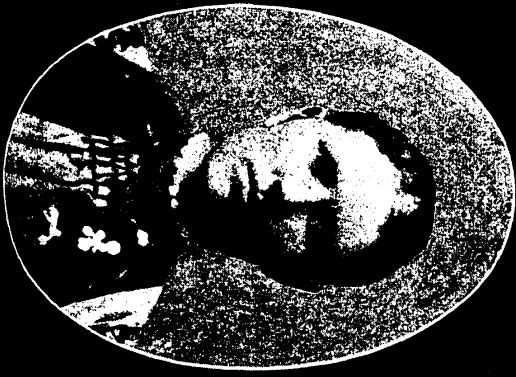
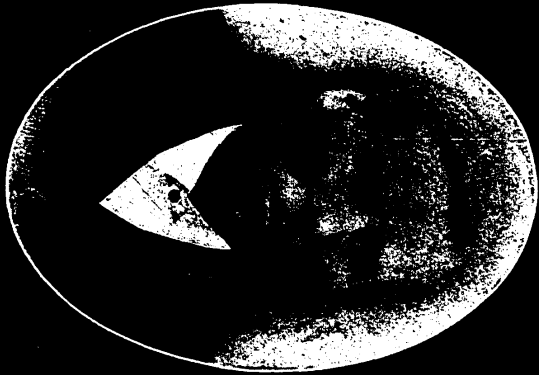
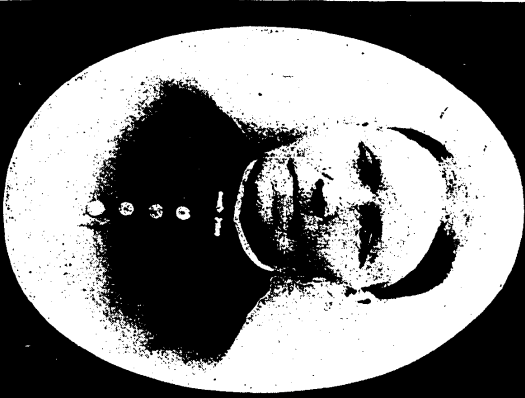
had seven children: Margaret, James, Katie, Philip, Nicholas E., Cecelia, and Anastasia. Cecelia is now deceased. Philip Bung was educated in the district school, and until he was 25 years of age assisted his father on the home farm. He then married and for six years thereafter operated rented land, in October, 1912, buying the farm on which he now lives. It has an area of 208 acres, of which 135 acres are cleared, the rest being in woodland. Fifteen acres were cleared by himself. He has also made some valuable improvements on the place, having built a new barn, 32 by 80 feet, with 18-foot posts and hip roof; also a hog barn and other outbuildings, and in addition he has improved the house and thoroughly fenced the entire farm. He raises both grain and stock, giving special attention to the breeding of swine. He is also a shareholder in the co-operative creamery at Caledonia, and has served one term as treasurer of his school district. Mr. Bung was married, Jan. 22, 1907, to Cecelia Ernster, who was born in Mayville township, Houston county, May 4, 1883, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Koll) Ernster. Her parents were natives of Luxemburg, the father being a farmer. Both are now deceased. They had twelve children, of whom seven are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Bung are the parents of five children, born as follows: Arnella, Dec. 4, 1907; Leona, June 2, 1910; Cordula, Oct. 12, 1913; Aloysius, May 28, 1916; and Arnold, Dec. 12, 1917.

Olaus O. Sanness, proprietor of one of the best farms in Wilmington township, located in section 28, was born in section 21, this township, Dec. 5, 1862, son of Ole and Celia Sanness. The father was born near Christiania, Norway, and was one of the pioneer settlers in this part of Houston county, locating on land that is now the farm of E. O. Steneroden. He was a man of sturdy type and became prominent in the community, being one of the founders of the Wilmington Congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church, to which he was a liberal contributor. He died in 1898, and his wife in 1892. They had four daughters and one son, namely: Olive, now Mrs. E. O. Steneroden of Wilmington township; Bergit, wife of Andrew Dahle of Caledonia township; Marie, wife of Ed Ostern of Wilmington township; Sophia, now Mrs. O. C. Vaaler of Spring Grove; and Olaus O., who was the youngest member of the family. Olaus O. Sanness was reared on the home farm, on which he had to make himself useful at an early age, but attended district school during the winters until he was 18 years old. In March, 1881, he married Margit, daughter of Nels and Ingre Hefty of Wilmington township, at which time he began farming for himself on the E. O. Steneroden farm. A year later he bought 180 acres of improved land of Erick Steneroden, 160 acres of which lay in section 28 and 20 acres in section 32. The buildings consisted of a log house and some straw sheds for cattle. This place he has since made his home, but has greatly changed its aspect by the numerous improvements he has made, especially in the erection of suitable buildings of modern type. These include a substantial, two-story, ten-room house; a frame barn, 32 by 70 by 18 feet in size, having a full stone basement of eight feet; a granary, machine shed, carriage house, three hog houses, with a cement feeding floor 20 by 32 feet; a double corn crib, with an eight-foot driveway between; a woodshed, summer kitchen with two rooms, and a garage for his five-passenger Dodge auto-

mobile. The farm is also well fenced and provided with good wells. In addition to raising the usual grains, Mr. Sanness is a breeder of grade Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has been successful in every branch of his extensive business. He has served for a number of years as school director, being a Republican in politics. In addition to his direct farming interests he holds stock in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co.; the Honey Creamery, the Independent Harvester Co., and the Spring Grove Hospital. Mr. Sanness' first wife, Mrs. Margit Sanness, died in 1888. She had been the mother of two children: Cecelia, born Jan. 5, 1883, now Mrs. William Bergrud of Wilmington township; and Olga, born Nov. 7, 1885, who died at the age of two years. On May 15, 1894, Mr. Sanness was married to Nellie Ostby, who was born Nov. 11, 1871, daughter of David L. and Johanna Ostby of Wilmington township. Of this union nine children have been born, namely: Julia Elida, Jan. 19, 1896, who is a student in the Minnesota Agricultural College at St. Paul; Dina Olgo Mathilda, born April 9, 1898; Minnie Emelia, born Sept. 4, 1900; Oscar Neuman, Dec. 11, 1902; Stella Helmine, Nov. 29, 1904; Ruth Selmine, Dec. 25, 1906; Arnold Lewis, April 24, 1909; Ole Norton, May 4, 1911; and Selmer Tilford, May 10, 1913. All are residing at home. Mr. Sanness and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Congregation of Wilmington, of which he has been a trustee for the last twelve years.

Edward A. Blegen, proprietor of one of the pioneer farms of Houston county, situated partly in section 31, Wilmington township, and partly in Allamakee county, Iowa, was born in the section above mentioned, Sept. 2, 1856, son of Andrew E. and Ingebor (Rosendahl) Blegen. His parents being among the first settlers in the county, his boyhood days were spent amid primitive scenes, of which the picturesque Red Man was for a number of years a prominent feature. Although obliged to work on the home farm at an early age, he was allowed to attend school during the winters until 18 years old. From the age of 23 to that of 26 he worked out as a farm hand. In 1885 he rented the old home farm and in the same year was united in marriage with Karine, daughter of Andrew and Thure Kroshus, of Spring Grove township, and who was born Jan. 1, 1863. For four years after renting the farm, Mr. Blegan went to North Dakota for the threshing season. In 1890 he bought his father's farm, consisting of 82 acres in section 31, Wilmington township, and 65 acres across the state line in Allamakee county, Iowa, the farm being all in one piece. One hundred acres are now under the plow, with the balance in pasture and meadow. Among the buildings on the farm when he took possession of it was a good frame house of eight rooms, consisting of a two-story upright with wing. In 1909 he built a frame barn 34 by 66 by 16 feet, with a full stone basement of eight feet, and cement floors. He has also erected a machine shed, 16 by 32; a granary, 16 by 26; a hog house, 12 by 52, with a cement feeding floor on two sides, and a stave silo, 14 by 32, built in 1912. His teams, machinery, and other equipment are thoroughly adequate and of good quality. For the last twelve years Mr. Blegan has kept a herd of Jersey cattle, numbering from 30 to 35 head, including 15 or 20 milk cows. He is now breeding registered Angus cattle, having full-blooded sires, and has a drove of 85

MR. AND MRS. ANDREW E. BIEGEN
AND
MR. AND MRS. A. RICHARDSON AND SONS



to 100 Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is carrying on a profitable business and through enterprise and industry has become prosperous. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., the Spring Grove Co-operative Creamery and the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics he is a Republican. On Nov. 16, 1903, Mr. Blegen lost his wife, who passed away on the home farm. Seven children had been born to them: Alford, born April 6, 1890, who died July 9, 1916; Amos Lauerer, born Sept. 16, 1891, who is now a farmer at Scoby, Mont.; Ignus Theodore, born Dec. 24, 1893, who is a contractor at Scoby, Mont.; Thinka Sophia, born Sept. 3, 1897, who is keeping house for her father; Oscar Maurice, born Oct. 8, 1895; John Edwin, Oct. 22, 1899, and Henry Bernhard, Jan 1, 1903. Two of the sons in this family served in the Great War. Theodore saw nearly a year's service in France with Co. D, 22nd Engineers, and assisted in erecting the famous Pershing Stadium near Paris. Oscar M. served six months in France in Co. A, 102nd Infantry, with the 26th Division, this being the famous New England division which established such a notable record.

Andrew E. Blegen, one of the early pioneers of Houston county, now living retired on the farm he established in 1857 in section 31, Wilmington township, was born in Haland, Norway, May 25, 1832. His parents were farmers and he was early trained to agricultural work, obtaining very little schooling. At the age of twenty-one, being then his own master, he resolved to seek his fortune in America, and accordingly left home, and after a long voyage of nearly three months in a small sailing vessel, landed at Quebec, Canada, from which city he came directly to Argyle, Lafayette county, Wis. There, in October, 1856, after a two or three years' residence, he was married to Ingeborg, daughter of Ole and Margaret Rosendahl, of that place, and in the following year they came together to Houston county, Minnesota, with an ox team and all their household possessions, which were not many. Few of the pioneers began under more discouraging conditions, as, in addition to the wildness of the country, the principal inhabitants of which were the Indians, they had very little money, and Mr. Blegen was unable to speak English. For most of that year he and his wife lived in Spring Grove township, he working out at grubbing, or whatever he could find to do. In the same year, however, he bought a tract of government land in section 31, Wilmington township, which was covered with stumps and needed grubbing. On it he built a small log house, 12 by 14 feet in size, into which he and his wife moved with their possessions. It was near winter and there was little chance to do anything towards improving his land until the next season, but as he and his wife had to live, he split rails that winter for one dollar a hundred, splitting some 3,000, besides 700 fence stakes, and also hauled rails from Bear Creek, Iowa. Later he worked at grubbing for L. T. Johnson's father, and found it very hard work, as he had not the proper tools. His earnings were small and he was often discouraged, but was supported in large measure by the religious faith taught him by his mother in his childhood, and by the aid and companionship of the wife. Among his various experiences, he had to drive his oxen twenty-two miles to the mill in Iowa, and also hauled grain to Lansing, that state, a distance of twenty-eight miles, and to Decorah, Iowa, and Brownsville,

Minn. In the winter he hauled dressed hogs to La Crosse, thirty-eight miles away, receiving three cents a pound for them. His supplies he obtained from a store in Spring Grove village. Wheat brought thirty-five cents a bushel at Houston, a distance of twenty-eight miles from his farm, the buyers often taking advantage of the farmer by registering less than the actual weight. Another disadvantage was the high rate of interest, as he had to pay forty per cent per annum on a sum of \$100 which he borrowed to make his first payment on his land, and had he borrowed it for a shorter time it would have cost him sixty per cent. Even this was not all, for the chintz bugs often destroyed most of the wheat crop, leaving only about two and a half bushels an acre. They were sometimes in fear of the Indians, but never received any harm at their hands. In spite of these hardships and losses, Mr. Blegen made gradual, if slow, progress, and by 1876 was able to build a comfortable frame house, which was joined on to the original log structure, making a two-story upright of eight rooms, and wing. Other buildings were also erected by himself and his son, Edward A., who is now operating the farm, and form a complete set, all in good condition. Mr. Blegen also helped to organize the first district school, which, before a regular school building was erected, was held successively in different places, usually for a week at each place. In 1885 he retired from active work, renting the farm to his son, Edward A., though continuing his residence with his wife in the old log portion of the house, where he is still living. Here Mrs. Blegen died, Oct. 10, 1910, her loss being mourned by her husband and family, and regretted by the entire community. Though now in his eighty-seventh year, Mr. Blegen still enjoys good health, both in mind and body. He is widely known and respected both for his personal qualities, and as one of the few remaining pioneer settlers of Houston county. In politics he has been a Republican practically since the formation of that party, while his religious affiliations are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. It is also interesting to note that he helped to build the home for the first pastor of this congregation, laying the first timber, and also helped to build the old stone church, the second, and the present church.

Nels Ellestad, an enterprising and successful farmer of Wilmington township, residing in section 19, was born on his present farm, Dec. 1, 1862, son of Haagen and Margit (Gundgaard) Ellestad. His parents had then been residents of this locality for ten years, having come from Norway in 1852 directly to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn. Having \$200 the father invested in a homestead claim of 120 acres in sections 19 and 20, three and a half miles southeast of the village, of which tract five acres were broken. There was also a small log house on the place, in which the subject of this sketch was born, it being for fifteen years the family dwelling. Hard working and thrifty, the parents prospered, so that in a few years Haagen Ellestad had money to loan. He and his wife both attained an advanced age, being about ninety when they died, Mr. Ellestad in 1907 and Mrs. Ellestad in 1911. Their son Nels always remained with them. In his boyhood he attended the district school until about sixteen years old, and from that time on he took an active part in the development of the farm.



HANS A. SUNDET AND FAMILY

On June 12, 1897, he married Emma, daughter of Nils and Kari Tveito, of Spring Grove township, and set up housekeeping on the old homestead, which he had purchased in 1891. Here he has since remained, having 143 acres, of which ninety are under the plow. In 1900 he built a brick veneer house of one and a half stories, containing nine rooms. His frame barn, 30 by 52 by 18 feet, with a nine-foot full stone basement, was erected in 1898, and he has altogether a good set of substantial outbuildings. The farm is beautifully located and the soil is very fertile. Mr. Ellestad does general farming, keeping a good herd of graded Hereford cattle, and another of Poland-China and Duroc swine. In addition to this farm, he also owns half a section of land near Midland, S. D., and is interested in several local enterprises, including the Bee Creamery Association, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., and the Spring Grove Hospital. He is a member of the Norwegian Evangelical church at Spring Grove. Mrs. Emma Ellestad died in March, 1909, leaving three children: Minerva, Newman and Rinaldo. Minerva, who was born Feb. 27, 1898, after graduating from the district school was a student for one winter in the Minnesota State Agricultural College. Since her mother's death she has been the housekeeper of the family. Newman, born June 3, 1901, and Rinaldo, born Aug. 5, 1903, are both living on the home farm.

Asle Sundet, one of the early settlers of Wilmington township, now deceased, was a native of Norway, from which country he came with his wife Aasa and five children to Iowa, locating first in Winneshiek county on land not far from the Houston county line. The family resided there but a very short time, however, when they moved to Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn., Mr. Sundet buying eighty acres of wild land in section 32, on which he built a log house and some straw sheds for cattle. He and his wife were very poor and for a number of years had to work hard and unitedly to make a bare subsistence. In time they increased the size of their farm by the purchase of fifty additional acres and became somewhat more prosperous. Mrs. Sundet died in 1870, her husband surviving her until July 27, 1891, when he, too, passed away. Their children were as follows: Christian, now deceased; Ingeborg, now Mrs. Amund Nelson, of Fountain, Minn.; Christie, now Mrs. Ed Woyen of Spring Grove village, Houston county; Christian (second), who is a farmer at Hixon, N. D.; Mari, now Mrs. E. A. Livdahl of Spring Grove; Ture, wife of B. J. Bergrud of Winneshiek county, Iowa; Hans A., now proprietor of the old home farm; and Elling, who is farming at Viking, N. D.

Hans A. Sundet, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Wilmington township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Sept. 27, 1862, son of Asle and Aasa Sundet. His parents being poor, he had few opportunities for acquiring an education and attended school but for a short time, working outside of school hours on the home farm, on which he has always resided. In 1890, the year before his father's death, he bought the property, and has since made some important improvements on it, having built a comfortable eight-room house, lighted by acetylene gas; a summer kitchen and woodshed combined, 12 by 18 feet; a frame barn, 20 by 40 by 16; a double corn crib; a hog house with cement feeding floor;

a machine shed, granary and garage. He also has a fine steel windmill. His farm, containing 132 acres, is well fenced, and the teams, tools and equipment are all of the best type. Mr. Sundet breeds high grade Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs, having full-blooded sires, and is doing a prosperous business, being one of the substantial citizens of his township. In addition to his direct farming interests, he is a stockholder in various local enterprises, and others, including the Honey Creamery at Bee, Minn.; the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co.; the Spring Grove Hospital; the Independent Harvester Co., of Plano, Ill., the Equity Shipping Association of Spring Grove; and the Wilmington Fire Insurance Co., of which he has been treasurer for thirteen years. A Republican in politics, he has served twelve years as clerk of his school district. Mr. Sundet was married Feb. 5, 1890, to Anna, daughter of Salva and Matte (Nelson) Reitan. She was born Jan. 23, 1869, and spent her earliest years in Winneshiek county, Iowa, the Reitan family being neighbors of the Sundets, but went to Wild Rice, N. D., with her parents at the age of seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Sundet have five children: Arthur Sedwin, born Aug. 20, 1893, now a farmer in Spring Grove township; Leander Carlot, born June 17, 1897, now working on the home farm with his father, and the owner of a milk route connected with the Honey Creamery; Elva Miranda, born May 23, 1900, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove high school; and Myrtle Adelia and Huldah, residing at home. In addition to his farm Mr. Sundet owns a modern residence in the village of Spring Grove, where the family expect to live after retirement from farm labors.

John G. Hagen, one of the early Norwegian settlers in Wilmington township, was born near Christiania, Norway, in 1848, and came to this country in 1865. For some years he worked as a farm hand, especially at grubbing, and continued for a while in straightened circumstances. On March 13, 1873, he married Bertha, who was born in the same locality in Norway as himself, and in the same year. In order to get to this country she had borrowed \$20 to help pay her passage, and had to work out after arriving here to earn money to pay the debt. Mr. Hagen, soon after his marriage, bought forty acres of land in section 33, which tract is a part of his present farm, and building a small log shanty, he began clearing his farm with the help of oxen. Both he and his wife worked hard, often side by side in the field. Later they purchased forty acres more, which tract they also cleared in addition to the original forty. After living on the place until 1908 they sold it to their son Michael, and bought a little home in Bee village, where they have since resided, being now about seventy years of age.

Michael Hagen, proprietor of the old Hagen homestead in section 33, Wilmington township, half a mile north of the Iowa State line, was born on this farm, March 26, 1883, son of John G. and Bertha Hagan. The dwelling in which he first saw the light was a small pioneer log house, and, his parents being poor, he was obliged to make himself useful at an early age, though during the winters he attended the district school until he was sixteen. After assisting his father until he was twenty-three, he was then married, March 23, 1910, to Sophia Myhre, daughter of Knute Myhre,



MR. AND MRS. MAGNUS MAGNUSSON

of Wilmington township, and began an independent career by renting the Ole Gubrud farm, lying not far from his present home. Two years later, in 1912, he bought his parents' old homestead and moved on to it. Here he has since remained, the farm being a good one, and much improved from the work he has done on it. It is well fenced and most of the land is under cultivation. He has also rebuilt the house, and erected a frame barn 30 by 50 by 14 feet on a full stone basement of eight feet; and has also built a hog house, poultry house and machine shed. His teams, tools and other equipment are also adequate and up to date. He is engaged in general farming and has a good herd of grade cattle, besides raising annually fifty or sixty head of Duroc and Poland-China hogs. He is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen, the latter of whom was born in Wilmington township, Feb. 23, 1885, are the parents of one child, James, who was born Dec. 24, 1911. Mr. Hagen has two brothers and one sister. One brother, Gilbert, who was born in 1876, resides in Allamakee county, Iowa, only about a mile from the old home, being near the state line. Julius, the other brother, is a farmer near Esmond, N. D. The sister, Emma, born in 1881, was married in April, 1912, to Alfred Thorson, of Spring Grove village. Mr. Hagen and his family, together with his parents, are members of the Waterloo Ridge congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Magnus Magnusson, a well known and prosperous business man residing at Bee, in Wilmington township, was born in Folgerohavn near Bergen, Norway, May 12, 1869, son of Magnus and Inga Magnusson. The father died in Norway in 1874, being survived by his wife and eight children. Of these children four came to America: Margrithe, now Mrs. Halvor Degerness, of Gary, Minn.; Johan and Berent, who located at Great Falls, Mont., and Magnus, the subject of this sketch. It was in 1886 that Magnus came to this country, having been preceded by his sister Margrithe. Locating at Gary, Minn., he remained there nine years, and there learned the butter-maker's trade. During that period, in 1892, he attended the State Dairy School at St. Paul. From Gary he went to the neighboring town of Strand as butter maker. In 1894 he came to Bee, Houston county, and became connected with the creamery here, which had just then been organized, and he has remained here ever since, except for a period of ten months, during which he was absent on a visit to his old home in Norway, leaving here in December, 1896. While in England, on his way to his native land, he met and became acquainted with Maglie Arneson, daughter of Arne and Christie Arneson of Hatlestrand-Hordonger, Norway, who was accompanied by her brother, and the three journeyed together to Bergen. On his return trip he met Miss Arneson again in Liverpool and they became engaged. In September, 1897, she came to Bee, where they were married on Oct. 9. Although he continued to hold his position as butter maker at the creamery, Mr. Magnusson in 1899 bought forty acres of land in the vicinity, all but six acres of which had been broken. There was also a log house of two rooms on it, one room being upstairs and the other down. In this dwelling he and his family resided until 1917, keeping eight cows, which paid all expenses, his wages as butter maker being so much to the good. He also added to his

land four acres adjoining the village. On July 14, 1917, Mr. Magnusson purchased the building and stock of the Bee Mercantile Company, a general store with a large stock, of which he has since remained the proprietor, also continuing his work in the creamery. His residential quarters are now in the same building as his store. On his land he has erected a frame barn, 26 by 42 by 12 feet, with an eight-foot stone basement for cattle and horses; also a garage 12 by 18 feet. Energetic and enterprising, he has been successful and is now numbered among the prosperous and respected citizens of his township. He and his family are members of the Waterloo Ridge congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, the church building being located in Allamakee county, Iowa, about two miles from Bee village. To Mr. and Mrs. Magnusson have been born four children: Inga, born Sept. 3, 1898, who is a graduate of the Spring Grove high school, and is residing at home; Christine, born Jan. 26, 1900, who is clerk and assistant manager of her father's store; Bernt, born July 10, 1901; and Rebecca, born Oct. 5, 1904. Mr. Magnusson's friends take considerable pride in his record as a butter maker, his work in fact having done a great deal toward establishing the record which this region enjoys as a dairy section. Among his cherished possessions are three medals, one gold and two silver, awarded as first and second prizes in contests conducted by the National Creamery Butter Makers' Association, for the best butter made from gathered cream in the United States.

Ole K. Myhre, one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmington township, was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood and married. With his wife Sigri and several children he came to America in 1849, landing at Quebec from a sailing vessel, after a long voyage. From that port they proceeded to Stephenson county, Ill., where they remained two years, removing in 1851 to Paint Creek, near Waukon, Iowa. Two years later they came to Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn., settling on land in section 27 that is now the K. O. Myhre farm. This they grubbed, cleared and cultivated, erecting the original farm buildings. Mr. Myhre was not spared to see the full fruits of his labors, as he died about 1863, but the work of development was continued by his children. His wife survived him nearly half a century, dying at the home of her son, Ole O. Myhre, in section 21, Wilmington township, July 1, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Myhre had eleven children—nine sons and two daughters, as follows: Christie, born in Norway, who married E. H. Burtness, of Wilmington township, and is now deceased; Margit, born in Norway, who died in this county; Lars, who died in Norway; Knute, now living in Wilmington township; Ole O., previously mentioned; Swen, deceased; Lars, a farmer of Buxton, N. D.; Asle, a farmer of Rhineholtz, N. D.; Andrew, a farmer of Wilmington township; Olaus, deceased; and Martin, who is farming at Buxton, N. D.

Ole O. Myhre, one of the thriving farmers of Wilmington township, residing in section 21, was born in Stephenson county, Ill., Jan. 26, 1851, son of Ole K. and Sigri Myhre. In the year of his birth his parents moved to near Waukon, Iowa, and then, two years later, to Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn., locating in section 27. There he was reared, attending a Norwegian school up to the age of fifteen years, and an English school

during the winters for three years after that. Until 1875 he worked out as a farm hand, and then, in the spring of that year, bought 120 acres of improved land in section 21, Wilmington township, which was the nucleus of his present home. There were no buildings on the place, but he bought a small log house, 13 by 13 feet in size, and moved it onto the land. With this improvement to begin with he entered upon the work of developing a farm, gradually adding to his land until he owned 400 acres, all improved, and all in one piece except for a division by a roadway. He has since sold some of this land to two of his sons, his son Oliver obtaining 103 acres on the west, and his son Olaf 120 acres adjoining Oliver's on the north. The balance of about 181 acres constitutes his present farm, the buildings on which include: a good two-story eight-room frame house, of modern construction; a frame barn, 30 by 60 by 20 feet, with a lean-to for cattle, 14 by 60; a granary, 26 by 28 by 14; double corn cribs, 20 by 20, with an eight-foot drive; a machine shed, carriage house and garage, 18 by 60; a hog house, 8 by 50, with a cement feeding floor and cook house; a cream separator house, ice house and summer kitchen. All the buildings are painted and in good condition, and are conveniently located with beautiful surroundings, while the farm land is in an advanced stage of cultivation, with hog-tight fencing wherever needed. The estate as a whole forms one of the best farms in southern Minnesota. Mr. Myhre's equipment is also first class, and includes, besides modern machinery, a fine automobile. He is engaged in diversified farming, giving particular attention to stock raising. His cattle are red graded Shorthorns, and he keeps from fifty to sixty Duroc-Jersey hogs, having full-blooded sires for each herd. He has attained a high degree of prosperity, and aside from his direct farming interests, is a stockholder in the Honey Creamery at Bee; the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co. and the Spring Grove Hospital. He is also president of the Wilmington Farmers' Fire Insurance Co., and is one of the most prominent and influential men in his township. As such he has been often called upon to serve in public affairs. He has been clerk of his school district thirty-three years, was town clerk six years, chairman of the town board six years, assessor three years, supervisor two years and county commissioner eight years. In politics he is a Republican. With his family he is a member of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, which he served as trustee for three years, as treasurer twelve years and as reviser fifteen years. He was also a member of the dividing committee which set off the original church into the four congregations of Spring Grove, Riceford, Black Hammer and Wilmington. In all these multifarious duties of a public nature which Mr. Myhre has performed he has shown good business capacity and integrity and has won the confidence of his fellow citizens. Mr. Myhre was married, March 24, 1876, to Margit, daughter of Ole and Margit Engen of Wilmington township. They have had the following children: Sigri, born Jan. 2, 1877, now Mrs. A. O. Engene, of Wilmington township; Olaf, born Nov. 25, 1878, who died March 10, 1882; Marie, born June 26, 1881, who died June 6, 1882; Marie (second), born May 19, 1883, now the wife of Alfred Quinnell, a farmer of Northfield, Minn.; Sophia, born March 13, 1885, who is residing at home;

Olaf (second), born July 9, 1887, who studied at the Minnesota Agricultural College and is now a prosperous farmer in Wilmington township; Oliver, born Nov. 20, 1889, who was a student for two years in the Southern Minnesota Normal school at Austin, Minn., and is now a successful farmer in Wilmington township; Martin, born March 31, 1892, who is now working the home farm, which he has rented for the past two years; Hilda, born June 12, 1895, who attended the Minnesota Agricultural College, and is now clerk in a store at Caledonia; and Selma, born May 26, 1898, who was a student in the Minnesota Agricultural College, and is now residing at home.

Hans Ellingson, one of the pioneers of Wilmington township, was a native of Norway, in which country he grew to manhood and was married to Aase Erickson in 1850. In 1854 he set out for the United States with his wife and three children, Gunild, Elling and Allen. On the voyage over Elling died and was buried at sea. With their remaining two children Mr. and Mrs. Ellingson proceeded west to Rock Prairie, near Beloit, Wis., where they resided for two years. In 1856 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, Mr. Ellingson buying 200 acres of unimproved land in section 31. He began at once to improve the place, and soon afterward another child, Guri, was born to him. In 1858 his wife Aase died, and he remained a widower until 1864, when he married Gunild Livdahl, who proved a good helpmate. Together they grubbed and developed the farm and in time built a substantial frame house of six rooms; a frame barn, 30 by 50 feet; a log granary and log corn crib, and other outbuildings. Mrs. Gunild Ellingson died on the farm in 1878, being survived by her husband, who passed away July 8, 1899. In addition to the daughter Guri, already mentioned, they had five others: Aase, now deceased; Elize, now Mrs. A. A. Foss, of Spring Grove township; Julius H., the present proprietor of the old homestead; Gena, deceased; and one other, who died in infancy.

Julius H. Ellingson, proprietor of the old Ellingson farm in Wilmington township, residing in section 31, was born on this farm, Dec. 24, 1870, son of Hans and Gunild (Livdahl) Ellingson. Being the only surviving son of his parents, he had to begin work on the farm at an early age, though he attended school up to the age of 14. In 1891 he bought the home farm from his father, who was a widower, but who continued to reside on it until his death in 1899. A year or two later, on Feb. 18, 1893, the subject of this sketch married Emma Flessa, daughter of Adam and Wilhelmina Flessa, of Allamakee county, Iowa, and they began domestic life on the Ellingson homestead, where they have continued to reside. To the original area of 120 acres Mr. Ellingson added an adjoining tract of the same size and 20 acres adjoining, which gives him a farm of 260 acres, of which 180 acres are under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture. He has also erected a number of buildings, including a two-story, ten-room, modern frame house, with furnace, gas light and running water, built in 1908; a frame barn, 31 by 65 by 16 feet, with an eight-foot stone basement, erected in the same year; a creosoted stave silo, a granary, double corn crib, hog house with cement feeding floor, machine shed, garage, tool house and poultry house. He also has a good well and a steel windmill, and his entire



JULIUS ELLINGSON AND FAMILY



OLE S. JOHNSON AND FAMILY

equipment of tools, teams and machinery is of the best. Mr. Ellingson carries on diversified farming with good success. He raises graded Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, having in each herd a blooded sire, and is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Honey Creamery, of Bee, Minn.; the Grata de Grat, a Belgian stallion, and the Spring Grove Hospital. He is also a member of the Spring Grove Equity Shipping Association. In politics he is a Republican. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Harry J., born Nov. 26, 1893; Minnie J., Jan. 14, 1896; Alvin, Nov. 8, 1898; James, July 1, 1903; Grant, Aug. 25, 1906; and Carlton, March 1, 1910. Harry J. is now proprietor of the Ed Woven farm in Wilmington township. Minnie J. is the wife of E. E. Livdahl, of Spring Grove township. The others are residing on the home farm. Mr. Ellingson and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter.

Carl Oliver Wermager, a well known farmer of section 22, Wilmington township, was born in Fillmore county, Oct. 20, 1886, son of Ole and Mari Wermager, the parents both being natives of this county, to which the grandparents came at an early day. Ole Wermager after his marriage bought 291 acres in section 22, Wilmington township, building on his farm a frame house and barns. From here he moved to Fillmore county, but later sold out there and removed to a large farm at Crookston, Minn., where he subsequently died. His wife Mari died in Fillmore county about 1898.

Carl Oliver, who was not strong in his youth, attended district school to the age of 15 years, and resided at home until he was 18, working out as a farm hand. He was married, Nov. 11, 1911, to Oline, daughter of Knute and Guri Buxengaard, of Wilmington township. In 1915 he bought 118 acres of the old home farm, where he is now residing, having 80 acres under the plow. The farm lies nine miles southwest of Caledonia and seven miles southeast of Spring Grove. Mr. Wermager has a good equipment and is profitably raising grade cattle and Poland-China hogs. He is an industrious worker and is enjoying a prosperous career. In politics he is a Republican. To Mr. and Mrs. Wermager three children have been born: Marie Gedelia, April 3, 1912; Clara Odella, April 12, 1913; and Odine Kenneth, July 15, 1917. The family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church, which is situated near their home, on a corner of the old Wermager homestead.

Ole S. Johnson, a highly respected citizen of Wilmington township, residing on a farm in section 9, though now retired from active work, was born in Soknedalen, Ringereke, Norway, Jan. 13, 1843. Reared to manhood in his native land, he was there married, June 21, 1872, to Marie Ringrud, of Aadalen, Ringereke, Norway, who was born there Dec. 17, 1846. In 1880 Mr. Johnson, with his wife and four children, Johann, Mathilde, Bolette and Olava, came to Houston county, Minnesota, and engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which he has had a successful career. When he began he had but few resources, but through industry and sound

judgment he has accumulated a competency. On retiring he rented the farm to his son-in-law, John W. Rud, husband of Olava. It is provided with a good two-story frame house and good barns, and is one of the best farms in this vicinity, lying four miles southeast of Spring Grove village. It is well equipped with a good grade of stock. Though Mr. Johnson had few educational opportunities, he has through individual exertion acquired a good education. Since coming to this country he has made two trips to Norway, over which country he has traveled extensively, and through observation, reading and practice, he has developed a more than average degree of literary ability and has made a good reputation as an author. He has also shown much public spirit and has done many things to benefit the community in which he lives, especially in promoting the interests of his own countrymen. In politics he is a Republican, and in recent years has taken a warm and active interest in the temperance cause. Mr. Johnson has written and published a history relating to the emigration of the Norwegians to America and to Spring Grove and the active part taken by them in the development of Spring Grove and township, and Black Hammer and Wilmington townships.

Christopher Stegen, proprietor of a good farm of 100 acres in section 23, Wilmington township, was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 26, 1861, son of Christ and Katherine Stegen. He attended school in his native land up to the age of 14 years. When he was 15 his father died and after that he worked out as a farm hand until he was 20, at which time he came with his mother to the United States, settling near Eitzen village, Houston county, Minn. Here he worked out two years for different farmers, and after that five years for George Watson, on section 24, Wilmington township. On Feb. 21, 1889, Mr. Stegen was married to Emma, daughter of Henry and Mary Schoh, of Winnebago township, and he then began domestic life on his present farm in section 22, which he had bought in 1887, and which then contained but 80 acres. By an additional purchase he has increased its size to 100 acres, and has also developed it into a farm, as when he took possession but a small portion of the land had been broken and there were no buildings. In the first year he erected a frame house, built some sheds for temporary use, and fenced the farm, and he has since then made many other improvements. His house is now a comfortable frame dwelling of seven rooms; and he has also a frame barn, 24 by 36 by 18 feet; a granary, hay stable, horse barn, hog house, and a machine shed and horse stable combined, the machinery being housed above and the horses in the basement. Mr. Stegen's land, of which he has between 80 and 90 acres under the plow, is rich black prairie soil, very productive. He is successfully and profitably raising graded Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire hogs, having full-blooded sires, and is also a shareholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association. In politics he is a Republican, and religiously he and his family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Stegen three children have been born: Martha, on May 2, 1890, who is now the wife of Arthur Deersen, a farmer of Wilmington township; Anna, born May 22, 1893, wife of Fred Skarboszewski, butter maker in the Eitzen Creamery;



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE M. WATSON
GEORGE L. WATSON AND FAMILY

and Bertha, born April 20, 1900, who is residing at home and continuing her studies.

George Morton Watson, for many years one of the most prominent farmers and stock raisers of Wilmington township, but now deceased, was born in New Portland, Somerset county, Me., April 25, 1839, a son of John Watson. He came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1864, locating in Wilmington township, where he worked for some time as a farm hand. On Dec. 25, 1867, he married Lucy Arnold, whose father, Amos Arnold, came to this region from Laurel Hill, R. I., in 1864. For several years Mr. Watson operated the farm for his father-in-law and then purchased it. It includes altogether 240 acres, of which 200 acres, constituting the farm proper, lies in section 24, Wilmington township, the other 40 acres being timber land just across the line in Winnebago township. It is known officially as Fairview Stock Farm, and was greatly improved and raised to a high standard of cultivation by Mr. Watson. Among the buildings he erected were the large two-story frame house of ten rooms; two frame barns, one measuring 30 by 100 by 18 feet, and the other 30 by 70 by 18; a double corn crib, 26 by 70, with a ten-foot drive; a machine shed, 24 by 40; and a horse barn, 32 by 48 by 18, with a half-basement for hog fattening. He also put in two good wells with steel windmills.

For forty years Mr. Watson bought, fed and shipped cattle, during the latter part of that period to the extent of thirty-five to forty loads annually, and his reputation as a successful stock raiser spread all over this part of the country. His farm was always kept in the finest condition, and his equipment was thoroughly modern and complete. In addition to this property he also owned an 80-acre farm a mile west, which he later sold to Christ Stegen, and was a shareholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company and the People's Stock & Grain Company, of Caledonia. After a long, enterprising and prosperous career he died in 1917, at the age of 78 years, highly honored and deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends. His wife is still residing on the farm with their only son, George L.

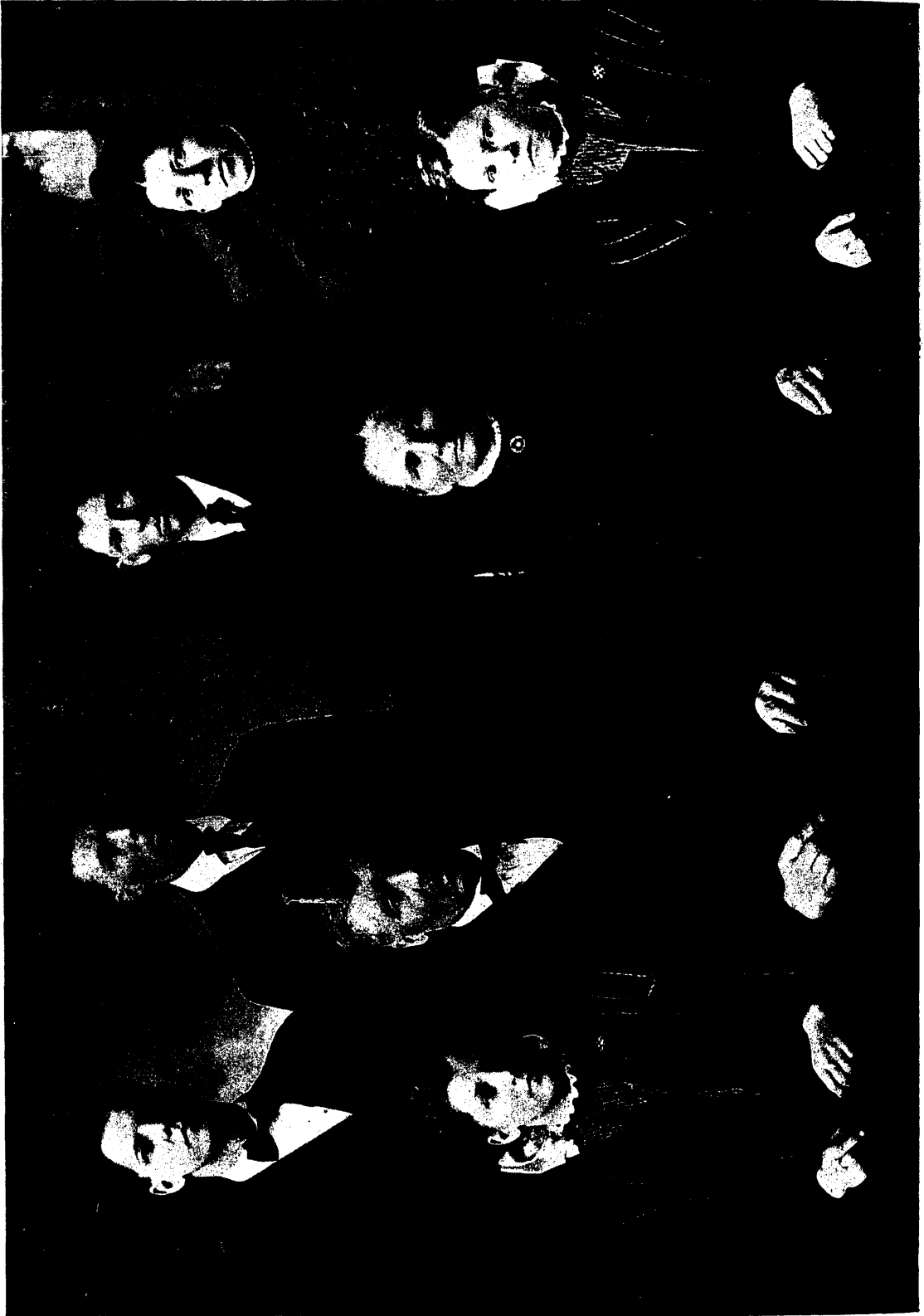
George Leander Watson, proprietor of Fairview Stock Farm in section 24, Wilmington township, was born on this farm, Oct. 7, 1879, son of George Morton and Lucy A. (Arnold) Watson. From his early youth he was associated with his father in the management of the place, which is one of the best stock farms in the southern part of Houston county, and since the father's death in 1917 he has operated it alone. Of the total area of 240 acres he has 195 under the plow, the rest being in timber and pasture.

Mr. Watson carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Red Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, having full-blooded sires at the head of each herd. It is to the breeding of hogs for the market, indeed, that Mr. Watson is devoting more and more of his attention. In addition to the extensive improvements made during his father's lifetime, he has erected a number of buildings to keep abreast of the increased demands of modern conditions. One of these is a garage for his five-passenger automobile. In 1919 he erected a frame hog house, 22 by 50 feet, with six-foot studs. The building is thoroughly sanitary, with a cement floor, and fully furnished with James equipment, there being a

feeding platform of cement, 24 by 35 feet, and a corn crib, 35 by 10 by 6 feet. Energetic and enterprising, and possessing a thorough knowledge of farming in all its branches, Mr. Watson is enjoying a successful career, and is numbered among the most prosperous citizens of the township. In the county he is also well known, and is a director in the Houston County Agricultural Society. A Republican in politics, he has served as a member of the school board of his district. On Oct. 16, 1892, Mr. Watson was married to Matilda Johnson, daughter of Anton and Thor (Blexrud) Johnson, of Blooming Prairie, Minn. She was born in Norway and came to this country with her parents when 3 years old. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Watson: Gertrude, May 10, 1903; Arthur Leander, Nov. 30, 1906; and Helen Olive, Sept. 1, 1914. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Portland Prairie M. E. church.

Herman Schoh, who owns and is scientifically operating a fine farm of 105 acres in section 24, Wilmington township, was born in Winnebago township, Houston county, Minnesota, Dec. 8, 1872, son of Henry and Mary (Brinkman) Schoh. The parents were born in Hanover, Germany, the father in 1828 and the mother in 1834. The former came to America at the age of 18 and the latter at that of 13 years. After their marriage they became farmers in Winnebago township, where Henry Schoh died in 1906. His wife is still living. Herman Schoh attended the district school to the age of about 17 years, and resided on his parents' farm until he was 22 or 23. He then learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked from 1894 to 1904, when he gave it up to engage in farming, purchasing his present farm of 105 acres of improved land in sections 23 and 24, Wilmington township, which was known as the "Cord Metcalf farm," and is one of the oldest in the county. It is well fenced and has a good set of buildings, including a comfortable eleven-room frame house of one and a half stories, a frame barn, hog house, granary and carriage house. There is also a steel windmill and an excellent well, with a reservoir furnishing pressure, so that water is piped to all the buildings. Mr. Schoh also has a good equipment of teams, tools and machinery. He is engaged in diversified farming, keeping graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, with pure-bred sires for each herd. He is also a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company. Mr. Schoh was married April 27, 1904, to Augusta, daughter of Christopher and Gade Burmester, of Allamakee county, Iowa. He and his wife are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church, and are prominent in social circles. In politics he is a Republican. Mrs. Schoh was born in Germany and when 5 years old came to America in 1882 with her parents, who settled in Iowa, where the father died January 1, 1883; the mother survived till November 9, 1910, when she too passed away. They were the parents of three children: William, Herman and Augusta, wife of Herman Schoh.

Ole C. Steneroden, one of the first settlers in Spring Grove township, but now deceased, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood. United in marriage with Beret Sundet, he and his wife came to America in 1852, landing at Quebec, Canada, and proceeding thence to Rock Prairie, near Beloit, Wis., where they remained for about two years, coming to



ERICK O. STENERODEN AND FAMILY

Houston county, Minnesota, in 1854, the year the county was organized. There were then few white settlers here, and the civilization of this region had hardly begun. Mr. and Mrs. Steneroden were very poor, but succeeded in buying a claim in Spring Grove township, one mile east of the present village. Though suffering many early privations, in time they prospered and were among those who helped to build the Norwegian E'vangelical Lutheran church in Spring Grove. Mr. Steneroden died Oct. 7, 1900, and his wife Aug. 3, 1911. They were among the original pioneer settlers of the county and had witnessed its growth and development from an untamed wilderness to a highly civilized and wealthy section of the state. Their children were: Christian (first), Guri, Erick O., Christian (second), Elias, Gurine, Elsie and Ole. The first Christian died young. The second of the name is now a resident of Red Wing, Minn. Elias is a farmer in Saskatchewan, Canada. Gurine, who was the wife of O. G. Myhre, of Huntly, N. D., died Dec. 18, 1917. Elsie and Ole are also deceased.

Erick O. Steneroden, proprietor of Maple Grove Farm in section 21, Wilmington township, of which township he is one of the leading citizens, was born in Spring Grove township, one mile east of Spring Grove village, Jan. 10, 1855, son of Ole C. and Beret (Sundet) Steneroden. The previous year had witnessed the organization of the county, which was yet a wilderness with few white settlers. Here and there, however, a district school had been established, or was established in the succeeding years, and one of these young Erick attended up to the age of 19, though latterly during the winters only, as during the rest of the year his services on the farm were too valuable to be dispensed with. Nor did his education stop here, for he later attended three terms at the State Normal School at Winona and took a course of one year in the Wallace Business College at La Crosse. In the summer of 1876, being then 21 years old, he went to work as clerk in the general store of Nicholas Koob at Caledonia and remained there a year. The next important event in his life was his marriage, April 11, 1878, to Oline, daughter of Ole and Soneve (Tudahl) Sanness, of Wilmington township, and who was born on his present farm, Jan. 5, 1856. He now gave up the career of a merchant for that of a farmer, beginning in section 28, Wilmington township, where Olaus Sanness now lives. Buying the place, he operated it for five years, at the end of which time he sold it back to Mr. Sanness, who still lives on it. Mr. Steneroden now bought his present farm of 220 acres in section 21, which was, as already mentioned, his wife's birthplace. The land was improved and there was a frame house and barn. His own improvements, however, have been more thorough and comprehensive. The house, which he remodeled in 1902, is now a modern two-story residence of an upright and two wings, and containing nine rooms. His other buildings include a frame barn, 30 by 82 by 14 feet in size, with a full stone basement of eight feet, and modern equipment; a hog house, 8 by 40, with cement feeding floor in front, 10 by 40; a granary, 18 by 28 by 14; machine shed, 14 by 50; double corn crib, 20 by 20 with a ten-foot drive; blacksmith shop, 14 by 20; feed cooking house, 10 by 10; a hayshed, 20 by 40, and other necessary buildings. The farm is well fenced, 170 acres being under the plow, and the rest in timber and pasture.

Mr. Steneroden has seven fine work horses, and his tools and machinery are all modern and of the best quality. He is carrying on diversified farming, giving particular attention to stock raising. For more than ten years he has been a breeder of graded Hereford cattle, keeping a herd of from 35 to 40 head; also of Duroc-Jersey hogs, having full-blooded sires for all his stock. His horses are graded Percherons and Shires. He is also a shareholder in the Honey Creamery at Bee, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital, and for the past thirty-six years he has been secretary of the Wilmington Farmers' Insurance Company. Mr. and Mrs. Steneroden are the parents of the following children: Bessie Elise, born Dec. 20, 1878, now Mrs. Henry Bye, of McGregor, N. D.; Sophia, born in 1880, who died in infancy; Oscar Gerhard, born Nov. 9, 1881, now deceased! Olaus, born July 1, 1883, residing on the home farm; Syvert Gerhard, born Feb. 14, 1885, now cashier in the State Bank of Hamburg, N. D.; Edwin Gerhard, born July 3, 1892, now living at home; Vina Ovidia, born July 20, 1896, now a trained nurse at Red Wing, Minn.; and Minnie Gurine, born July 26, 1898, who married Willie Gerhard Myhre, of Wilmington township, Sept. 1, 1918. Mr. Steneroden and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he has been secretary for a number of years. A Republican in politics, he served his township many years as supervisor, treasurer and clerk, in which last named position he has done most efficient work for thirty-eight years. This family was one of those which gave a son to the service of the United States, Edwin G., a member of Company M, 54th Pioneer Infantry, having been a soldier about a year not only in this country and France, but also in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Ole E. Robele, a retired farmer widely known and respected, residing in Wilmington township, where he developed a large and flourishing farm now divided among his children, was born at Rock Prairie, near Beloit, Wis., Aug. 11, 1853, son of Endre and Leve Robele. From the Norwegian settlement at that place the family came in 1854, when Ole was but a year old, to Houston county, taking land on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 14, Wilmington township. There were but two or three families then in the neighborhood and the country was practically all wild and occupied by Indians, who, however, gave the settlers no trouble. The Robeles had but little money, but on their 80-acre tract they built a log cabin, after living for some months in a covered wagon, and then they started to grub and clear the land. There were then but two children in the family, Ole E. and an older brother, Knute, who is now a retired farmer living at Grand Forks, N. D. As the father prospered he bought other land adjoining until he was the owner of about 500 acres. In the meanwhile other children were born, namely: Tollef, who is now a retired farmer living near the subject of this sketch; Serin, who is the wife of Nicolai Doley, of Wilmington township; Bernt, who is a farmer in section 14, Wilmington township; and Oline, wife of Ole Rask, a banker of Sisseton, S. D. These children as they grew up assisted their parents in developing the homestead, the boys helping their father in the field work, and the girls their

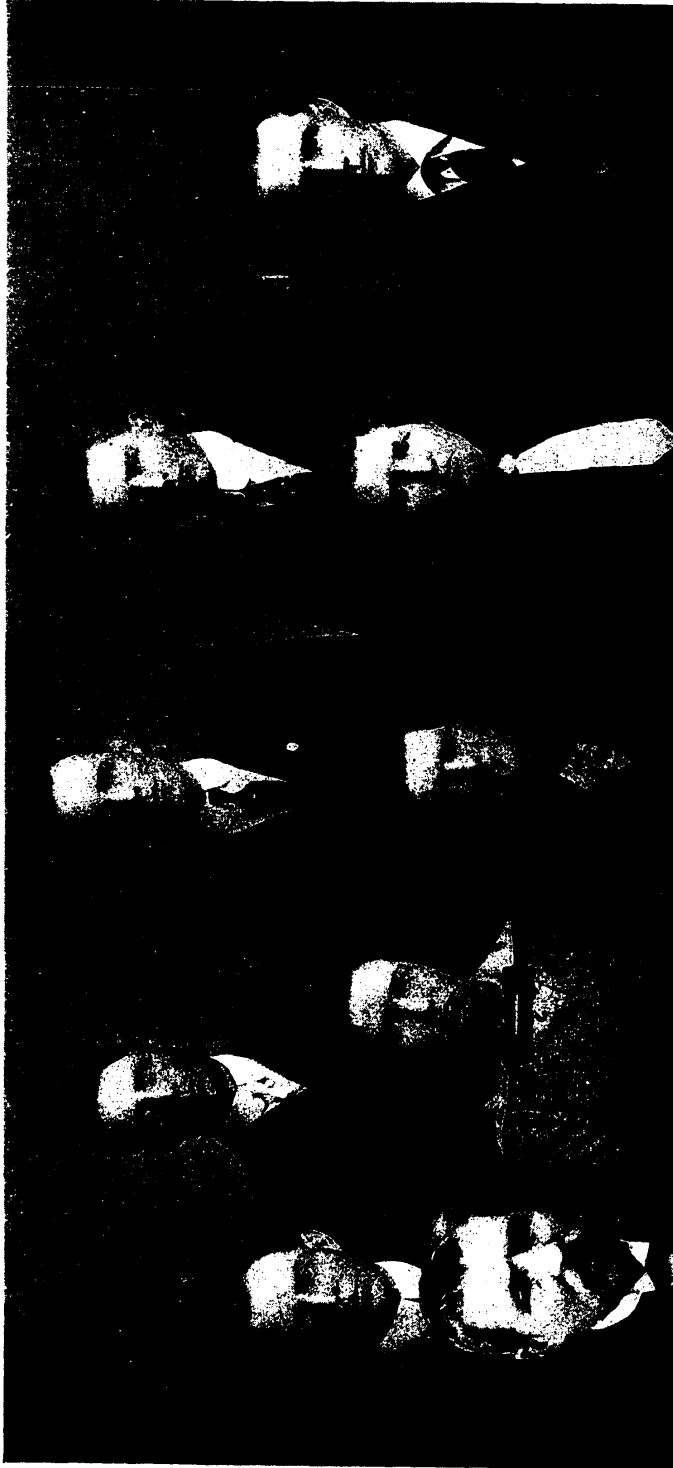


OLE N. GJERDINGEN AND FAMILY

mother in the care of the home. In time the old people passed away, Endre Robele dying at the age of 75 years on the farm he had created in section 14, and his wife at the age of 89 at the home of her son, Ole E., then and now in section 14. Ole E. had worked as his father's assistant until arriving at the age of 23 years. He then took a wife in the person of Lucretia Newhouse, born Dec. 1, 1854, daughter of Tollef and Kari Newhouse, of Spring Grove township, the marriage being celebrated July 3, 1876. For two years subsequently he operated the home farm, where he and his wife resided. Then in 1878 he bought 160 acres (the home lot) from his father, the latter building and moving into a house near by. For seventeen years he operated that farm and then, in 1895, bought 100 acres additional in sections 14 and 23, Wilmington township, which was known as the Knute Dahle farm, where he and his family now took up their residence, it being provided with a frame house, frame barn and granary. To these improvements he added others, in 1900 building a fine, two-story, twelve-room frame house, furnace-heated, and provided with running water, and he continued to improve and enlarge his property until he had 320 acres of fine farm land with numerous buildings, all substantial and well kept, and with a good operating equipment. As a stock raiser he gave his attention to breeding grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, a branch of farming which he conducted very successfully, having pure-blooded sires for his herds. In 1913 Mr. Robele retired, selling his equipment to three of his sons and renting them the land, which they bought in 1918, each thereby acquiring a good farm with all necessary buildings. Since then he has made his permanent home with his son Edwin in section 14. His wife died Jan. 1, 1910, and was buried in the cemetery at the old Wilmington church. Mr. Robele was one of the organizers of and is now a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association, and also owns stock in the People's Co-operative Stock & Grain Company, of Caledonia. He was formerly for a number of years an officer of his school district, and politically is a Republican. He is a prominent member of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, which for years he served as a trustee. Few men in his township have done more to advance its agricultural interests, and few are better known or more highly respected. To Mr. and Mrs. Ole E. Robele were born the following named children: Andrew, now a traveling salesman living in Minneapolis; Theodore, a traveling salesman residing in Spring Grove, Minn.; Margido, a farmer in Wilmington township; Edwin, who is living on the old home farm in section 14; Carl, a farmer in section 2, Wilmington township; Oscar, on the home farm in section 23; Luida, wife of Louie Evenson, a farmer in section 16; Otto, William and Alma, who are deceased, the latter dying at the age of 21 years.

Ole N. Gjerdingen, one of the most prominent citizens of Wilmington township, who does an extensive business as a stock farmer, was born near Hadland, Norway, Sept. 16, 1854. In the summer of 1867, when in his thirteenth year, he accompanied his parents to America, landing in Quebec after a voyage of about three months in a sailing vessel. By steamer and rail the family came on to Houston county, Minnesota, reaching Spring

Grove June 27, and locating in the village, which at that time was very small. The father, however, found work at his trade, which was that of a carpenter, while Ole N., the subject of this sketch, was employed for two years on neighboring farms. After that he worked for two years with his father. Then going to New Albin, Iowa, he entered the employ of a builder and contractor, with whom he finished learning the carpenter's trade. At the age of 20 he began working at the trade for himself in Spring Grove and the surrounding territory, and did a considerable amount of building across the state line in Iowa. His parents, after a residence of nine years in this country, returned to Norway, where the father died two years later. After his death the mother came back to America and lived with her children until her death in 1906. These children, six in number, were all born in Norway. One of them, Hans, is now in the hotel business at Halsted, Minn., while the other three now living, in addition to Ole, are Mrs. O. P. Landsverk, residing half a mile south of her brother Ole's farm; Mrs. Lina Bergrud, of Spring Grove; and Mrs. Peter Benson, of North Dakota. Dec. 20, 1877, Mr. Gjerdingen was married to Bolita, daughter of Peter N. Landsverk, of Wilmington township, and soon after his marriage bought 60 acres of land in section 13, Spring Grove township, half a mile north of his present location, and there he and his wife began their domestic life. For 25 years he worked at his trade, at the end of which time he bought the beautiful farm in section 18 on which he now lives, and which was formerly the property of his father-in-law, who purchased the land from the government. Since taking possession of this place he has increased the area of the farm to 260 acres, of which over 200 are under the plow. In 1904 he built a comfortable frame house of two stories, an upright and wing, and containing seven rooms; and in the same year built a tool shed, 24 by 60 feet in size. In 1917 he erected a modern frame barn, 34 by 86 by 16 feet, on a full eight-foot stone basement, and which is thoroughly equipped with the James system of stalls and mangers. All the buildings are in good condition and the general equipment of the best. The farm is favored with a rich black soil resting on a good subsoil and is highly fertile. Mr. Gjerdingen gives considerable attention to stock raising, a branch of farming in which he has been highly successful. He has a fine herd of Hereford grade cattle, breeding from 40 to 50 head each year, while his output of Poland-China swine amounts to from 200 to 300 a year. Politically he is a Republican. He and his family are prominent members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, which he has served as trustee and in other important offices for years. He and his wife Bolita, who was born Nov. 3, 1852, have been the parents of five children, born as follows: William, Jan. 16, 1878; Clara, Oct. 4, 1880; Peter, Aug. 25, 1883, is also deceased; Inga, Sept. 26, 1887; and Oscar, Nov. 21, 1890. Of these children, Inga died in her tenth year, April 29, 1897. Clara, who became the wife of Carl Bye, died April 15, 1907, leaving two children: Charlotte, born July 28, 1904, and Clara, born March 16, 1907. On Dec. 22, 1918, Mr. Gjerdingen retired from active farm labor and moved to Spring Grove, his son Oscar now renting the farm.



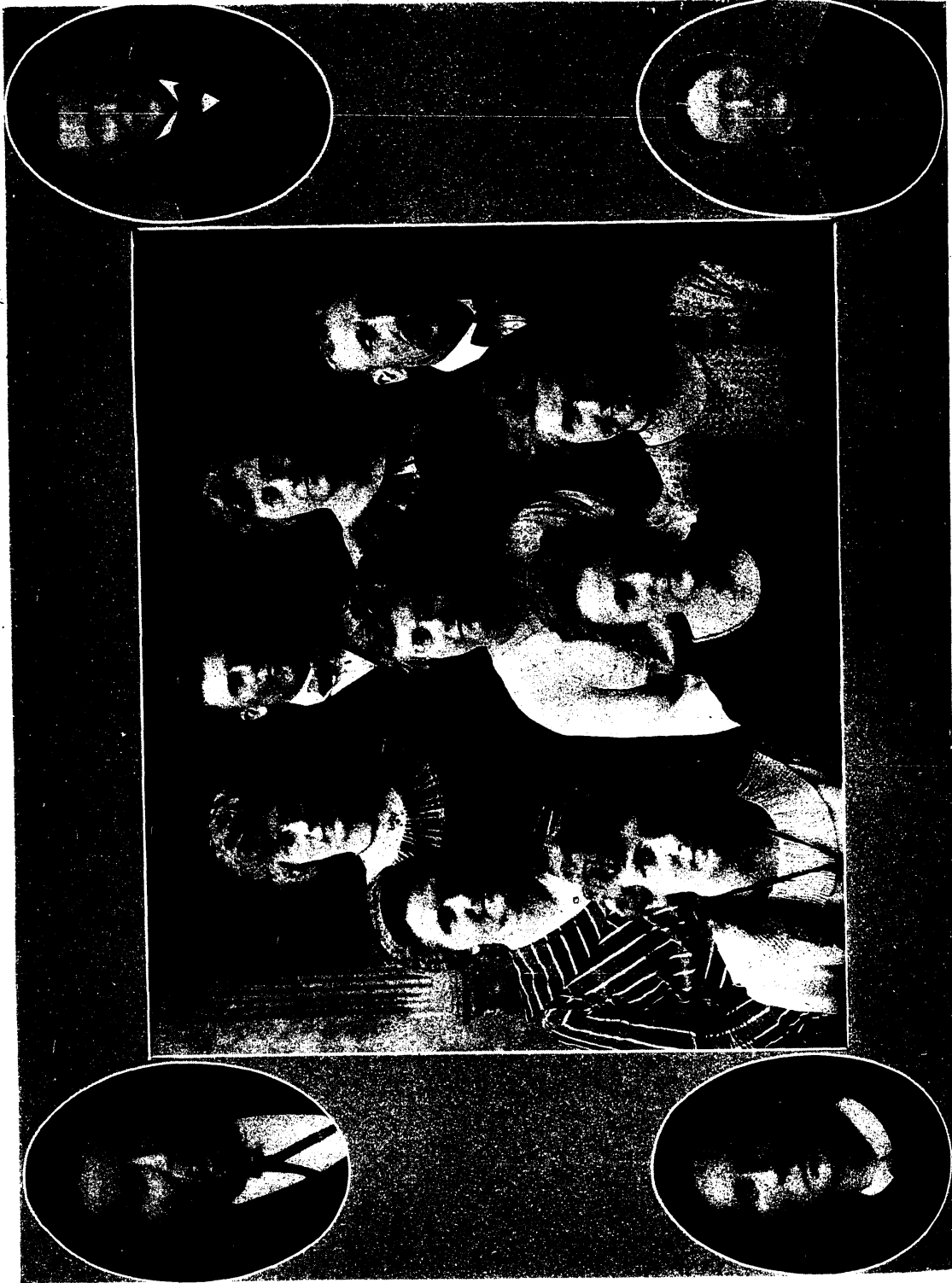
NICOLAI QUINNELL AND FAMILY

Herbert L. Lapham, a well known and respected resident of section 13, Wilmington township, who in addition to his own farm of 60 acres is operating the old home farm of his parents near by, was born on Portland Prairie, near his present place of abode, Aug. 13, 1869. His parents, Levi L. and Sarah (Healy) Lapham, were natives of Rhode Island and Massachusetts and were among the early Rhode Island settlers in this vicinity. Here he was reared to manhood and trained to agricultural pursuits, in which he has since continued. His own farm, though small, is one of the best of its size in the county, being well equipped as to buildings, tools and machinery, and having a good fertile soil. Mr. Lapham breeds graded cattle and hogs, making a specialty of pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and his operations, including, as they do, the management of the old home farm, are quite extensive. He is also a stockholder in the People's Co-operative Stock & Grain Company, of Caledonia. Mr. Lapham was married at Pope's Prairie, Houston county, Oct. 6, 1892, to Flora I. Taylor, daughter of Winston and Sabrina Taylor, who came from New York State and settled on Pope's Prairie in 1855, the father dying in 1911 and the mother in 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Lapham have been the parents of six children: Florence J., born Oct. 30, 1893, and died June 16, 1894; Lola L., born Aug. 1, 1895; Grant T., born Feb. 5, 1898; Glayds H., born April 7, 1903; Bernice, born June 12, 1895; and Eloise, born Oct. 4, 1907. The son, Grant T., served in the great war with the Coast Artillery and saw three months of active service in France, participating in the Battle of Chateau Thierry, in the Argonne, and along the Meuse River. One of the daughters, Lola L., graduated from the rural school course in the Winona Normal School in 1918. The family stands high in the community as staunch Americans in ideals and sympathies. Their home, always open to their friends, is a center of hospitality and culture, and every member of the family is doing his or her share toward material progress along social, religious, patriotic, educational and agricultural lines. During the war the daughters helped with the farm work and established an enviable record for helpfulness and patriotism. The family are members of the Portland Prairie M. E. church, situated near the old home.

Mrs. Karen Quinnell, proprietor of a fine 240 acre farm in Wilmington township, residing in section 3, was born in this township, Feb. 1, 1863, daughter of Halvor and Kjersti Wermager, who were pioneers of Houston county. She was educated in the district school and resided at home until arriving at the age of 17 years, when, on Feb. 6, 1880, she was united in marriage with Nicolai Quinnell, an energetic young farmer. They began home-making on a farm in section 9, Wilmington township, but two or three miles from her old home, but resided there only one year, when Mr. Quinnell bought a farm of 120 acres in Spring Grove township, which is now the Ole Helgeson farm. That farm was their home for eleven years, at the end of which time Mr. Quinnell sold it and purchased the Mat Meighen farm of 160 acres in section 3, Wilmington township, to which he and his wife moved. To its area he added 80 acres, thus increasing it to the size of 240 acres, which it is today. Here Mr. Quinnell died Oct. 23, 1899, after an active and successful career as an agriculturist, and with the well-

earned reputation of a good neighbor and sterling citizen. Since his death Mrs. Quinnell has managed the farm successfully, her present assistant being her son, Louis Arnold. All the land is now under cultivation, the farm is well stocked with graded cattle and Poland-China swine, while the operating equipment is of the best. Mrs. Quinnell is also a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. Her religious affiliations and those of her family are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Quinnell the following named children were born: Eddie William, born Dec. 9, 1880, now a prosperous farmer residing near the old home; Clara Mathilda, born June 17, 1882, wife of Albert Renslan, a farmer of Caledonia township; Julius Henry, born Jan. 25, 1884, who is a farmer in this vicinity; Carl Nelius, born March 3, 1886, who is also a farmer; Johan Helmer, born Jan. 1, 1890, who is employed in a lumber office at Spring Grove; Ingebord Louise Josephine, born June 2, 1892, now the wife of Oliver Myhre, a farmer of section 20, Wilmington township; and Louis Arnold, born Oct. 24, 1894, who is operating the home farm for his mother. Besides rearing this family of seven children to useful manhood and womanhood, Mrs. Quinnell has proved herself a woman of good business ability and has taken a high place among the successful farmers of her township.

George H. Meyer, proprietor of one of the best farms on Portland Prairie, located in section 25, Wilmington township, was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 25, 1864, son of Jeorgen and Elizabeth (Heitman) Meyer. He was but a year and a half old when he accompanied his parents to America, they reaching this country in April, 1866, after an ocean voyage of three weeks. Coming directly west, they settled in Lansing, Allamakee county, Iowa, where during the first year the father worked as a farm hand for Henry Deters. In 1867 they took a farm in that county, on which the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood, residing at home until the age of 22 years. In the meanwhile he had learned the carpenter's trade. In 1886 he went to Nebraska on a prospecting tour, remaining there two years. Then, not caring to settle in that state, he returned home, and for about six years followed the carpenter's business, building many houses and barns in the immediate vicinity of his present farm. While thus engaged he rented twenty acres of this farm, together with a house which stood on the land, and in 1894 he bought the farm, containing 120 acres in sections 24 and 25, Wilmington township. A granary and an old frame house stood on the land, and the house he occupied until 1903, in which year he built the modern two-story, ten-room frame residence that he now occupies. He has in addition built a frame barn, 32 by 70 by 18 feet, with a nine-foot stone basement, for horses and cattle; a garage and machine shed combined, 20 by 30 by 10; a granary, 18 by 28; a double corn crib, 24 by 30, with a ten-foot driveway; a hog house, 16 by 32, with a poultry house above, with a cement feeding floor, 16 by 32 (the first one built in the community), and a second machine shed, 12 by 30 feet. The entire farm is under cultivation and is very productive. The stock consists of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, Mr. Meyer keeping pure-bred sires. Hog-tight wire fencing—some 600 rods—extends over the entire farm where needed, and



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL MINER—MR. AND MRS. JORGEN GRONNA
HANS G. MINER AND FAMILY

is supported by cement posts, which Mr. Meyer manufactures both for his own use and for sale. He also occasionally does carpenter work when not busy on his farm. His equipment is of the best and includes an underground cream and water-cooler through which water runs to all his buildings. In addition to the interests already mentioned, he is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery and the People's Co-operative Stock & Grain Company, of Caledonia. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Meyer was married, Feb. 11, 1890, to Minnie Brinker, who was born March 29, 1867, daughter of Barney and Mary (Slengel) Meyer, of Allamakee county, Iowa. He and his wife have six children: Emma Elizabeth, born Dec. 18, 1891, who is residing at home; Paul Otto C., born Nov. 24, 1893, who is an auto salesman and garage proprietor at Caledonia; Elsie Louisa Dora, born June 22, 1897; Louis August, Feb. 25, 1901; Henry Frederick, March 8, 1903; and Albert August William, June 2, 1908. Mr. Meyer and his family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, and are people of high social standing with a wide circle of friends.

Hans G. Miner, proprietor of a picturesque and productive farm of 120 acres, lying chiefly in Wilmington, but partly in Spring Grove township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, June 11, 1866, son of Daniel and Ellen (Hanson) Miner. The father was a native of Allegany county, New York, and the mother of Norway. They settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1855, and for many years were engaged there in agriculture. Both parents are now deceased, Daniel Miner having died in Spring Grove village, Houston county, in 1897, at the home of his son Eugene, and his wife on the old home farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa, of which her son Charles was then proprietor. Hans G. Miner, who acquired his education in the common schools, was brought up to agricultural pursuits and early became a practical farmer. His parents' farm not being far from the state line, he became acquainted with Christine Gronna, daughter of Jorgen and Guri (Peterson) Gronna, of Wilmington township, Houston county, and to her he was married Dec. 3, 1891. He then took up his residence on the Gronna farm in section 31, which subsequently became his property, and here he has since resided. During the first two years of their domestic life he and his wife resided in a log house, after which Mr. Miner built a frame house of six rooms, which was the family dwelling until 1915. He then erected the modern two-story frame house in which he is now living. To the original area of 80 acres he has added 40 more adjoining it on the west, but which is in Spring Grove township. He has also built a frame barn, 32 by 50 by 16 feet, with a full stone basement of eight feet, machine sheds, corn sheds, garage and other necessary and useful structures. The house is surrounded by fine evergreen trees, set out by himself and wife, and the appearance of the place is picturesque and homelike. A good spring which flows all the year round affords water to every part of the farm, which is well stocked with graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, the herds having full-blooded sires. All the buildings are painted and the operating equipment is complete and of modern type. Mr. Miner is a member of the Equity Shipping Association of Spring Grove, and a

stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Honey Creamery at Bee and the Spring Grove Hospital. He and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. For a number of years he has served as treasurer and secretary of the school board of his district. Mr. and Mrs. Miner are the parents of seven children, born as follows: Della, Aug. 17, 1892; Grace, May 20, 1894; Eugene, March 17, 1896; Amy, Aug. 8, 1897; Clara, May 26, 1899; Viola, Oct. 28, 1901; and Myrtle, March 10, 1904. All the children are residing on the home farm except Eugene, who is a farmer in Wilmington township, and Amy, who lives in Spring Grove. Mr. Miner was one of a family of eight children: Marie, James, Absolom, Martin, Eugene, Hans G., Charles and Emelia. Marie and Absolom are now deceased. James is a farmer living near Toronto, S. D. Martin is a resident of Freeport, Iowa. Eugene is a resident of Spring Grove, Minn. Charles is residing on the old homestead in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Emelia is proprietor of a millinery business in Spring Grove, Minn.

Jorgen Gronna, an early settler in Wilmington township, where he developed a farm and was known for a number of years as an industrious and worthy man, was born in Norway in 1820. He was married in his native land to Guri Peterson, who was born there in 1821. On emigrating to the United States they settled first at Pine Creek, Iowa, but after residing there a short time came to Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota, and bought a tract of 40 acres of wild land in section 31, on which they built a two-room log house, afterward adding 40 more acres. With the aid of oxen they cleared this land and in time developed a farm. This work was not accomplished without difficulties, as they started very poor and for years Mr. Gronna was a cripple, but in spite of that he persevered, his wife working by his side in the field, and in due time their patient industry met with its reward. Each had an attractive personality, Mr. Gronna being a good husband and kind father, as well as an agreeable and helpful neighbor, while his wife was a model housekeeper, wife and mother. Reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, they were active members of the Spring Grove congregation, contributing liberally to its support, and helping to build both the first and second church edifices. In time they ceased from their labors, Mr. Gronna passing away first, in 1892, and his wife in 1904. They had had a large family, four of their children being born in Norway, of whom two died in infancy, the other two being Ole and Knute. Those born in this country were: Asle J., now a senator from North Dakota, residing in Washington, D. C.; Gumberjor, wife of Frank Carlson, of Spokane, Wash.; Randi, now Mrs. Orfred Piprew, of North Dakota; Sigvart, residing in South Dakota; Christine, wife of Hans G. Miner, now occupying the old Gronna farm; and Magdeline, who is deceased.

Stengrem Johnson Bergrud, an early settler in the southwestern part of Houston county and founder of a good farm, was born in Segedahoven, Norway, in 1830. He came to America in 1848, at the age of 18 years, and finally settling in Houston county, Minnesota, bought 160 acres of land in section 19, Wilmington township, and 40 acres in section 24, Spring Grove township,

the two tracts adjoining each other, which gave him an undivided farm of 200 acres. The land was partly improved, some 20 or 30 acres being broken, and there was also a small frame house on it. In August, 1865, he married Margit Svartebraten, who came from the same part of Norway as himself, and they worked together to develop the farm, clearing in time about 80 acres, erecting a new frame house of five rooms and adequate outbuildings. In this work they were assisted by their son, Willie S., who in 1900 purchased the property. Stengrem Johnson Bergrud died on his farm May 3, 1915, being survived by his wife, who is still living on the old homestead. He was a successful man and was prominent in the affairs of the community, being one of the organizers of the Spring Grove, Wilmington & Black Hammer Farmers' Insurance Company. Mrs. Bergrud was born April 18, 1843, and accompanied her parents to this country. They settled first in Muskegon, Wis., thence removing to Skeepland, that state, and two years later to Winneshiek county, Iowa, whence they came to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, locating on the Peter Bergrud farm. Mr. and Mrs. Stengram Johnson Bergrud reared a family of six children, namely: John, born Aug. 7, 1868, now a farmer in Hundah, N. D.; Theodore, born Dec. 24, 1870, who is a carpenter in Barrett, Minn.; Claus, born Nov. 12, 1872, now a farmer in Maddock, N. D.; Peter, born April 17, 1874, who is a farmer in Braman, N. D.; Willie S., born Aug. 18, 1876, proprietor of the old home farm; and Julius, born June 3, 1879, who is a carpenter at Anagard, N. D.

Willie S. Bergrud, a prosperous farmer and well known and respected citizen of Wilmington township, residing in section 18, on the farm established by his parents, was born on this farm Aug. 18, 1876, son of Stengrem Johnson and Margit (Svarlebraaten) Bergrud. His education was acquired in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 18 years, though during the summers from the age of 12 he had to work on the farm, which he continued to do steadily until he was 16. After that he occasionally worked out for others, continuing to do so at intervals for about six years. He then gave his unremitting attention to work on the old homestead, assisting his father until 1900, in which year he purchased the property, and has since operated it on his own account, his mother residing with him. In 1912 he rebuilt the house, which is now a modern two-story residence of eleven rooms, and a summer kitchen. Among the other buildings he has erected are a good barn, machine shed, hog shed, poultry house, double corn crib, sheep shed and garage for his five-passenger Dodge auto. The farm is well fenced, 80 acres being under cultivation, and the equipment being adequate and of modern type. Mr. Bergrud raises Hereford cattle, Poland-China hogs and Shropshire sheep, having full-blooded sires for each kind of stock. He is also a shareholder in the Honey Creamery Company, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics he is a Republican, and for the last ten years has served as school treasurer. His religious affiliations are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter.

On June 6, 1903, Mr. Bergrud was united in marriage with Theoline

Cecelia, daughter of Olaus O. and Margit Sanness, of Wilmington township. He and his wife have had seven children: Odin Centennial, born Jan. 3, 1904; Minerva Viola and Myrtle Sadella, twins, born May 19, 1906; Edwin Carlton, born Sept. 13, 1908; James Norton, born May 5, 1912, who died in infancy; and Ervin Palmer, born Aug. 13, 1914.

Carl and Edwin Burtness, who under the firm name of Burtness Bros., are engaged in scientific stock farming in section 14, Wilmington township, are the sons of Elling and Kristi Burtness, and were born in this township, Carl on April 30, 1882, and Edwin on Jan. 20, 1888. In early youth both brothers attended school in district 85, and Carl was subsequently a pupil at Brickenridge Academy at Decorah, Iowa, where he studied for two years, in 1903 and 1904 attending the Minnesota Agricultural School. Edwin, after graduating from the common school, attended Gale College at Galesville, Wis., and afterwards spent three years in the Minnesota Agricultural College, being graduated in 1911. The farm which they are now operating is the old home farm of their parents, on which both have resided since their birth, except that Carl spent one year on a wild homestead in Minnesota. The farm was rented by them in 1910. It contained 120 acres, lying in sections 14 and 15, Wilmington township. In 1917 they bought 120 acres adjoining, in Wilmington township, giving them a total area of 240 acres, of which 200 acres are now under the plow. Though they raise abundant crops, all their grain is turned back onto the farm in the shape of feed for the stock, the raising of which is their main line of business. They have between 90 and 100 head of cattle, about 25 of which are pure-blooded Guernseys, their specialty being the raising of pure-blooded cattle and hogs. Their only sales are of cattle, hogs and cream, and they buy feed rather than sell it. Among the buildings on the farm are a barn, 30 by 80 by 16 feet, with an eight-foot basement of stone; a feed room and dairy room, each 10 by 14, attached to the barn; a tile silo, 14 by 40, with a capacity of 125 tons; a corn crib, 14 by 30 by 11; a tile hog house, 20 by 40 by 8, with a cement floor, and also a cement feeding floor, 30 by 48; a machine shed, 20 by 40; feed room, 10 by 14; and a garage, 12 by 18. The house is a comfortable eight-room dwelling, with a separate summer kitchen. All the buildings are lighted by electricity, and the barn is fitted throughout with the most modern appliances, including a two-unit milking machine. The operating equipment, which is of the best, includes a fine auto, and the farm is well watered and beautifully situated. The brothers are unmarried, their two sisters keeping house for them. They are stockholders in the Wilmington Creamery Association, the People's Co-operative Stock & Grain Company, of Caledonia, and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, and are numbered among the most prosperous farmers of Wilmington township, where they enjoy a wide popularity. Their religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of Wilmington.

Elling H. Burtness, an early settler in Houston county, who carved from the wilderness a good farm in sections 10 and 11, Wilmington township, was born at Nes Hallingdal, Norway, Sept. 29, 1837, son of Helge Pederson Burtness. His mother, whose maiden name was Live Magermoen, died in



MR. AND MRS. ELLING H. BURTNES

Norway, and in 1859 the subject of this sketch, with his father, came to the United States, locating at Orfordville, Rock county, Wis. In 1860 they came to Black Hammer township, Houston county, Minn., walking from Decorah, Iowa. Elling had had but a limited school education but had improved his mind considerably through reading, always keeping well supplied with papers and books. After residing in Black Hammer township till 1865, engaged in agricultural pursuits, he came to Wilmington township, where he took a tract of land, only partly cleared, which he subsequently developed into the farm above referred to—one of the best and most productive in the county. In common with the other early settlers he made use of oxen until the advancing civilization of the county rendered horses more available. For nearly half a century—lacking but two or three years—he was a resident of Wilmington township, his death taking place on his farm, Feb. 15, 1913. As a raiser of stock he had good success, keeping for the most part high grade Shorthorn cattle, with a few registered animals, while his hogs were of the Poland-China breed, of which he raised large numbers, generally marketing a carload or more both of cattle and hogs each year. Though he took no part in the affairs of local government, he was a man widely known and respected throughout the southern part of the county, and was a prominent member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Wilmington, assisting in building both the original and the new edifices of that congregation. In politics he was a Republican. Aside from his direct farming interests he was a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., the Caledonia Stock and Grain Co., and the Wilmington Co-operative Creamery. Mr. Burtness was married, Dec. 29, 1866, to Kristi Myhre, born in 1844, daughter of Ole and Sigrid (Rudningen) Myhre, and who at the time of her marriage was residing on what is now the Knute Myhre farm in Wilmington township. Mrs. Burtness survived her husband barely more than six months, dying at the old home, Aug. 18, 1913. They were the parents of fourteen children: Live was born in 1867, and is now Mrs. J. P. Kopang, of Wilmington township. Sigrid, born in 1868, is keeping house for two of her brothers on the home farm. Helge, born in 1870, lives in Wilmington township. Olaus, born in 1872, was for many years treasurer of Houston county and is now assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Caledonia; Peter E., born in 1874, is a farmer and banker in St. Louis county, Minnesota. Theodore, born in 1877, is likewise a farmer in St. Louis county, Minn. Emma (first), born in 1879, died in 1888. Theoline and Elida (twins) were born in 1880, the former now living in Wilmington township, and the latter having died in 1907. Carl, born in 1882, and Edwin, born in 1888, are prominent farmers of Wilmington township. Emma Christine was born in 1891, graduated as a trained nurse from the La Crosse Lutheran Hospital in 1915, and enlisted in the United States Red Cross service, spending six months in the United States and six months in Base Hospital No. 62, in France. The others died in early childhood.

Andrew O. Myhre, an enterprising and successful farmer of Wilmington township, residing in section 14, was born in this township, May 29, 1859, son of Ole K. and Sigri Myhre. His parents, natives of Norway, were.

among the pioneer settlers in this locality, and in early days were very poor. Andrew was sent to the district school, where he acquired the elements of knowledge. At the age of thirteen he began to work out, his first employer being Swen Aslesen, a neighbor, and he continued as a farm hand until reaching the age of twenty-two. In April, 1881, he married Sophia Dahle, who was born in Wilmington township, March 26, 1860, daughter of Knute and Marie Dahle. In the same year he bought 140 acres of partly improved land in section 14, Wilmington, where he now lives, having 110 acres under cultivation, all being good land. When he took this place there were no buildings on it, but he has since erected a complete set, including a comfortable frame house of eight rooms, surrounded by evergreens and shrubbery; a frame barn 30 by 54 feet; another barn, 20 by 40, for calves and young cattle; a machine shed, 18 by 40; mill house, 12 by 32; hog house, 12 by 32, with cement feeding floor, 16 by 32 outside; double corn crib, 22 by 32, with a 10-foot driveway; and a poultry house, 16 by 16 feet. He also has a good windmill. The farm is well stocked with high grade Short-horn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and the operating equipment is of the best. As a general farmer Mr. Myhre is doing a profitable business, and he is also a stockholder in the Wilmington Co-operative Creamery, the Caledonia Co-operative Stock & Grain Co., the First National Bank of Caledonia, and the Caledonia State Bank. For some years he served as clerk of the school board, in politics being a Republican. He and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter. To Mr. and Mrs. Myhre twelve children have been born, whose record in brief is as follows: Ole, born Jan. 14, 1882, who died in infancy; Ole Wilhelm, born Feb. 18, 1883, now a farmer in Wilmington township; Carl Alfred, born Feb. 8, 1885, also a farmer in this township; Martin Julius, born March 18, 1887, who is a bank cashier at Polson, Mont.; Celia Louisa, born Jan. 29, 1889, now Mrs. Peter Engen, her husband being a farmer in Wilmington township; Albert Stephen, born Feb. 27, 1891, also farming in this township; Manda Christine, born Feb. 5, 1893, who is the wife of Clarence Fossum of Pequot, Minn.; Ella Cecelia, born Feb. 8, 1895, wife of Oscar Roble, a farmer of Wilmington township; William Gerhard, born May 29, 1897, who died in infancy; William Gerhard (second), born June 15, 1898, who is farming part of his father's place; Styrk Edwin, born May 27, 1901, who is living on the home farm; and Neuman Theodore, born May 23, 1904, who is also at home.

Henry E. Burtness, proprietor of Pleasant Hill Farm in section 10, Wilmington township, was born on his parents' farm in section 15, this township, Dec. 3, 1870, son of Elling H. and Kristi (Myhre) Burtness. He completed his district school studies at the age of seventeen and at the age of nineteen attended Breckenridge Academy in Decorah, Iowa. Then returning to his parents' farm, he worked on it as his father's assistant until 1900, when he bought from his father 120 acres of the farm. There was a house and barn on the place and the land was under cultivation, so that he was able to begin independent farming immediately. By the subsequent purchase of forty more acres of land he has increased the area of his farm to 160 acres, of which he has 115 acres under the plow. He has also made



HENRY E. BURTNES AND FAMILY

other important improvements which have made his place one of the model farms of Houston county, a condition enhanced by the fertility and productiveness of the soil. His fences are hog-tight, and he has replaced the original dwelling by a fine two-story frame house of twelve rooms, built in modern style and electrically lighted and hot water heated, the house and grounds being surrounded by Norway fir trees as a wind-break, all the trees having been set out by himself. Among his other buildings—all, like the house, electrically lighted—are a granary, garage, machine shed, hog house, poultry house and tile silo, each in excellent condition. He has also good wells and a steel windmill, while his general equipment, which includes a traction engine, is of the best modern type. The farm is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle, of which he has from forty to fifty head, together with a herd of seventy to eighty Duroc-Jersey hogs. With each herd is a pure-bred sire. Aside from his direct farming interests, as above described, Mr. Burtness is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Co., of which he has been secretary since 1903, and a part of the time treasurer; the Peoples Co-operative Stock & Grain Co., of Caledonia; the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., and the First National Bank of Caledonia. A Republican in politics, he served his township several years as supervisor and chairman of the board, and for the last fifteen years has been treasurer of his school district. Mr. Burtness was married Oct. 16, 1912, to Julia, daughter of Edward and Anna (Thorson) Selness, of Allamakee county, Iowa. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Elling Hjalmar, born Dec. 31, 1913; Inar Rolfe, born June 26, 1915, and Arthur, born Oct. 4, 1917. The family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which Mr. Burtness is a liberal supporter.

Ole A. Myhre, who owns and operates a farm of 103 acres in section 15, Wilmington township, was born Feb. 18, 1883, in this township, son of Andrew and Sophia (Dahle) Myhre, the parents being of Norwegian descent. He was educated in the district school, which he attended up to the age of seventeen years, during the winters, and was afterwards a pupil at Breckenridge Academy at Decorah, Iowa, for two winters. Until the age of twenty-one he remained on the home farm, after which he worked out for a year. He then rented his present farm of 103 acres from his father, working it from 1905 to 1912. In the meanwhile, on June 2, 1905, he was married to Johanna, daughter of Andrew and Caroline Fossom, of Wilmington township. She died Aug. 20, 1911, leaving two children: Arnold, born Jan. 8, 1907, and Stella, born June 15, 1909, both now living. In 1913 Mr. Myhre with his two children lived on his father's farm. On March 25, 1914, he married Louise, daughter of Embrick and Gertrude Morken, of Wilmington township, of which union also two children have been born: Gilma, Jan. 20, 1915; and Gertrude, Sept. 17, 1916. In 1917 Mr. Myhre bought the 103-acre farm in section 15 from his father, and has since been engaged in operating it. It is well improved, having an adequate set of buildings, good fences and equipment, and the land is well tilled and productive. Mr. Myhre also owns a good auto car. Industrious and enterprising, he has made good progress and is numbered among the substantial farmers of his

township, which he has served two terms as treasurer. In politics he is a Republican, and in addition to his service on the town board, he has been treasurer of his school district for the last five years. As a stock raiser he gives his attention to the breeding of Guernsey cattle, graded, and Poland-China swine. He and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Tob Olson Tweten, an early settler in Wilmington township, was born in Norway, and came to the United States with a party in 1844, landing in New York, after a voyage of seventeen weeks. In the party was his future wife, Ingeborg, and her parents, with two small children. Both her parents dying at sea, the children—one two years and the other seven weeks old—were left to the care of this young woman, then twenty-one or twenty-two years of age. She and Mr. Tweten proceeded to Muskego, Waukasha county, Wisconsin, where they were married. After a time they moved to Pine Creek, near Lansing, Iowa, where they bought a farm, but owing to the difficulty of procuring water, they subsequently sold it and came to Houston county, Minnesota, buying land in Wilmington township. It was but slightly improved, but there was a small log house, in which they took up their residence. They now had two children of their own, Betsy and Ole, who had been born in Iowa, of whom Betsy is now deceased, Ole being a resident of Spring Grove village. Subsequently five others were born to them, namely: Hans T., now a prominent farmer of this township; Sarah, deceased; Anna, widow of Arne Moen, of Seattle, Wash.; Jacob, living in Roleth, N. D.; and Mary, deceased. Mr. Tweten died on his farm May 20, 1867, being survived by his wife, who finally passed away in the fall of 1888 at the home of a daughter in North Dakota. They were worthy people who suffered many hardships, but did their part in helping to develop the resources of the township in which they made their home.

Hans T. Tweten, one of the leading citizens of Wilmington township, proprietor of an excellent farm of 240 acres, his residence lying in section 4, was born in section 27, this township, Aug. 16, 1855, son of Tob Olson and Ingeborn Tweten. He was reared on the home farm, attending district school until the age of sixteen years. On his father's death in 1867 he bought a portion of the farm which he operated for four or five years. On Nov. 22, 1875, he assumed the responsibilities of domestic life, being united in marriage with Randena, daughter of Oscar and Valborg Qunnell of Wilmington township. For a while after his marriage Mr. Tweten operated a part of his parents' estate, consisting of eighty acres in section 20, but soon after he bought 120 acres in section 4, where he is now living. It was then a farm but slightly improved, the residence being a log house, but he has since developed it into a fine piece of agricultural property, having by additional purchases increased its area to 240 acres and erected an adequate set of buildings. The latter include a frame barn, 30 by 80 by 22 feet; a tool shed 20 by 60; poultry house 12 by 36; granary 14 by 26; double corn crib 20 by 46, with an eight-foot driveway; a stone hog house 12 by 50, with cement feeding floor, 14 by 50; and another hog house 14 by 26. His teams, tools and equipment are also first class, and the farm is well fenced and in a high state of cultivation, 200 acres being under the

HANS T. TWETTEN AND FAMILY



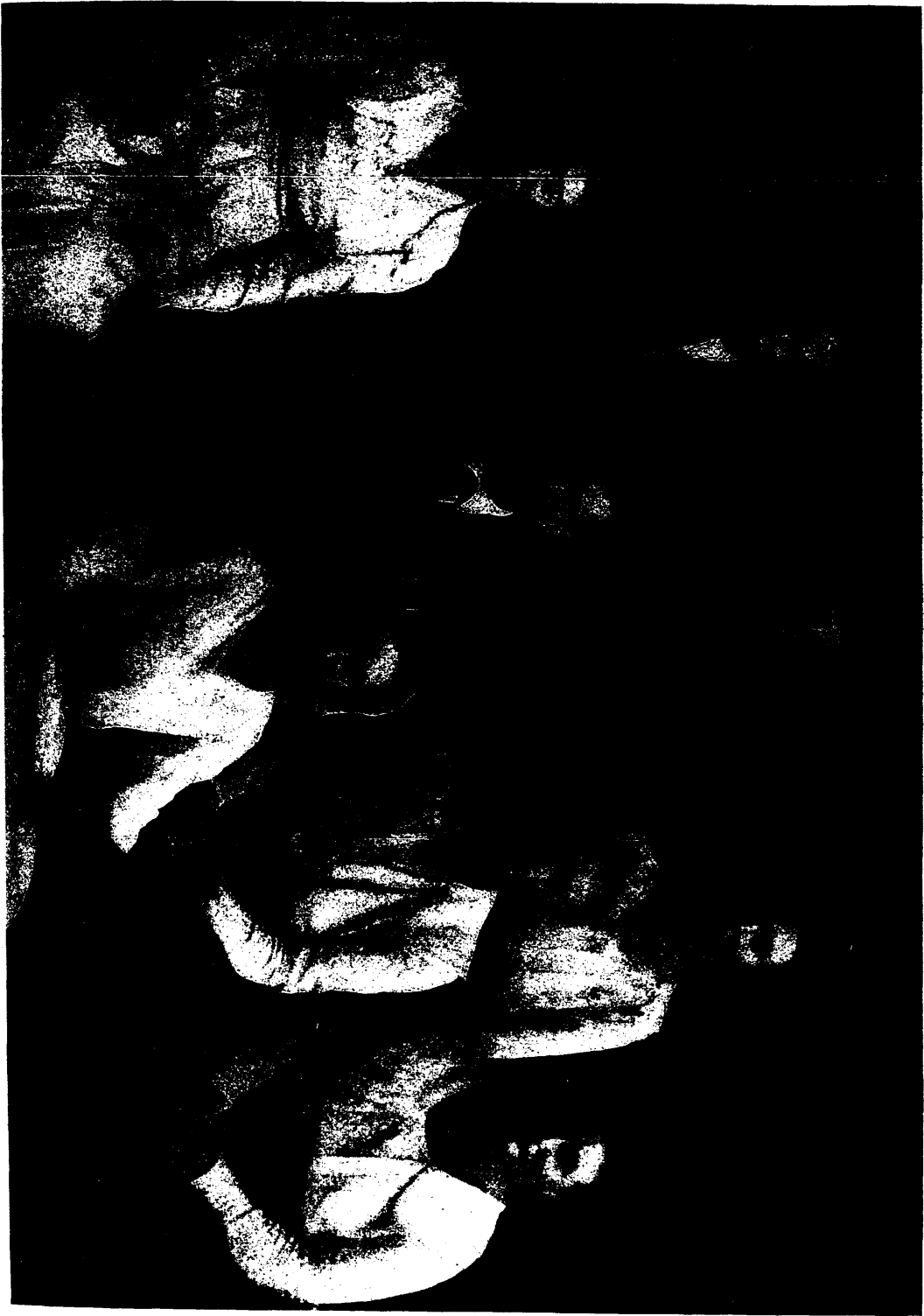
plow and the rest in timber and pasture. Mr. Tweten is engaged in diversified farming, including stock raising and dairying. For the last eighteen years he has been engaged in raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle, having at present a herd of thirty full blooded and twenty of high grade. He also breeds full blooded Poland-China hogs, from 100 to 150 yearly. Of late, however, he has been practically retired, exercising a general supervision over the farm and leaving to his son the active operation. He formerly owned large land interests in South Dakota, but has sold them. In politics he is a Republican, and formerly served several terms as a member of the town board, for a number of years also acting as school clerk. His mother having been one of the founders of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, he was the first child christened in that congregation, being then a year old, at a meeting held in the home of Olaus Somers. He has since served the church as a trustee and as one of its liberal supporters. On April 21, 1913, Mr. Tweten sustained a bereavement in the death of his wife, Mrs. Randena Tweten, who had been to him a faithful helpmate. They had had seven children whose record in brief is as follows: Ida, born Jan. 28, 1876, who is now the widow of Andrew Kjome and resides near Spring Grove village; Emil, born March 11, 1878, who is a farmer at Solway, Minn.; William, born Feb. 22, 1881, who is manager of a lumber yard at Mabel, Minn.; Hannah, born Oct. 6, 1884, who is housekeeper for her father; Rudolph, born April 11, 1888, now residing on the home farm; Anna, born July 7, 1891, who is the wife of Carl Ruak, a butcher at Taylor, Wis.; Bertha, born Jan. 24, 1895, who is a trained nurse in the Augustana Hospital in Chicago.

Albert C. Bunge, who during the last ten years has developed a good farm in section 13, Wilmington township, was born in Eitzen village, Winnebago township, Houston county, May 30, 1878, son of Christian and Dora (Wuemeke) Bunge. The parents were married in this locality, the father having come to this country from Germany when a boy. He is now dead but his wife is still living. Albert C. was educated in the Eitzen school and at Beloit Academy, Beloit, Wis., which he attended for two years. He then spent one season on the road as a salesman, and for a few months resided in Chicago with an uncle. After that he attended the Minnesota Agricultural College for two winters. Then returning to the home farm at Eitzen, he became associated with his father, whom he assisted until the latter's death, after which he managed the farm for a time. In 1908 Mr. Bunge bought his present farm of 200 acres, 162 acres lying in section 13, Wilmington township, and sixty-eight acres in section 18, Winnebago township, all being tillable land. On the Wilmington section there was an old frame house, and some straw sheds for cattle. The improvements Mr. Bunge has since made include the erection of a good set of buildings, namely: a house, frame barn, tool shed, granary, hog house, corn cribs, and tile silo. He has also good wells and a steel windmill. The house was erected in 1916 and is a beautiful, modern, two-story, eleven-room residence, with hard and soft water, both hot and cold, and bath and toilets. It is electrically lighted, as also are the barns. Mr. Bunge has 180 acres under

the plow and is engaged in diversified farming along scientific lines, keeping Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. For the past ten years he has bred registered Shorthorns. His teams, tools and equipment are of the best. Aside from his direct farming interests, he is a shareholder in the Peoples Co-operative Stock & Grain Co. of Caledonia. On Oct. 16, 1907, Mr. Bunge was married to Mathilda, daughter of George and Minnie Deters, of Winnebago township. Of this union five children have been born: Paul G., Anna, Laura, Norma and Wilma. The family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church.

William M. Shisler, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Wilmington township, residing in section 11, was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, May 12, 1868, son of Martin and Nancy (Asbury) Shisler. The parents came to Houston county, Minnesota, when the subject of this sketch was about fourteen years old, but remained only a year, subsequently returning to Wisconsin. William M. accompanied them there, but later came back to Houston county and as a farm hand entered the employ of Charles Albee of Portland Prairie, Wilmington township, remaining with him until the fall of 1890. He was then married, Nov. 12, to Evelyn, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Albee) Metcalf. She was born in Winnebago township, Feb. 20, 1868, her parents afterwards moving into Wilmington township. For the first six or eight years after his marriage Mr. Shisler rented and worked farms in Winnebago and Wilmington townships, and also the John Robinson farm just across the line in Allamakee county, Iowa. In 1898 Mr. Shisler bought 160 acres of improved land in section 11, Wilmington township, on which was a frame house, barn and granary, which is in all essential respects his present farm, though he has improved it since taking possession, his farm buildings and general equipment being all of good quality. The soil, of which he now has 115 acres under cultivation, is also good. Mr. Shisler's stock consists chiefly of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, his herd of the latter numbering from eighty to one hundred head. Included in his equipment is a good Overland auto car. In addition to his direct farming interests he is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association and the Co-operative Stock & Grain Co. of Caledonia. In politics he is a Republican. He is affiliated religiously with the Portland congregation of the M. E. church. To him and his wife six children have been born, as follows: Myrtle, Sept. 23, 1891, who is now the wife of Phil Noben, a farmer of Caledonia township; Grace Vera, born June 20, 1893, who is residing at home; Archie Cornelius, born May 6, 1895, who served his country in the war with Germany; Lila Bernice, born April 26, 1897, residing at home; Kenneth Leroy, born June 10, 1902, who is a student in the Caledonia high school, and Leona Licinda, born Aug. 26, 1905, who resides at home with her parents. The military service of Cornelius in the recent war was as a member of the heavy artillery, with which he took part in several engagements, and, after the signing of the armistice, he was in the Army of Occupation with the Rainbow Division. He was honorably discharged in May, 1919.

William F. Deters, proprietor of Portland Prairie Stock Farm, lying partly in Wilmington and partly in Winnebago township, was born in



WILLIAM SHISLER AND FAMILY



A. B. JOHNSON AND FAMILY

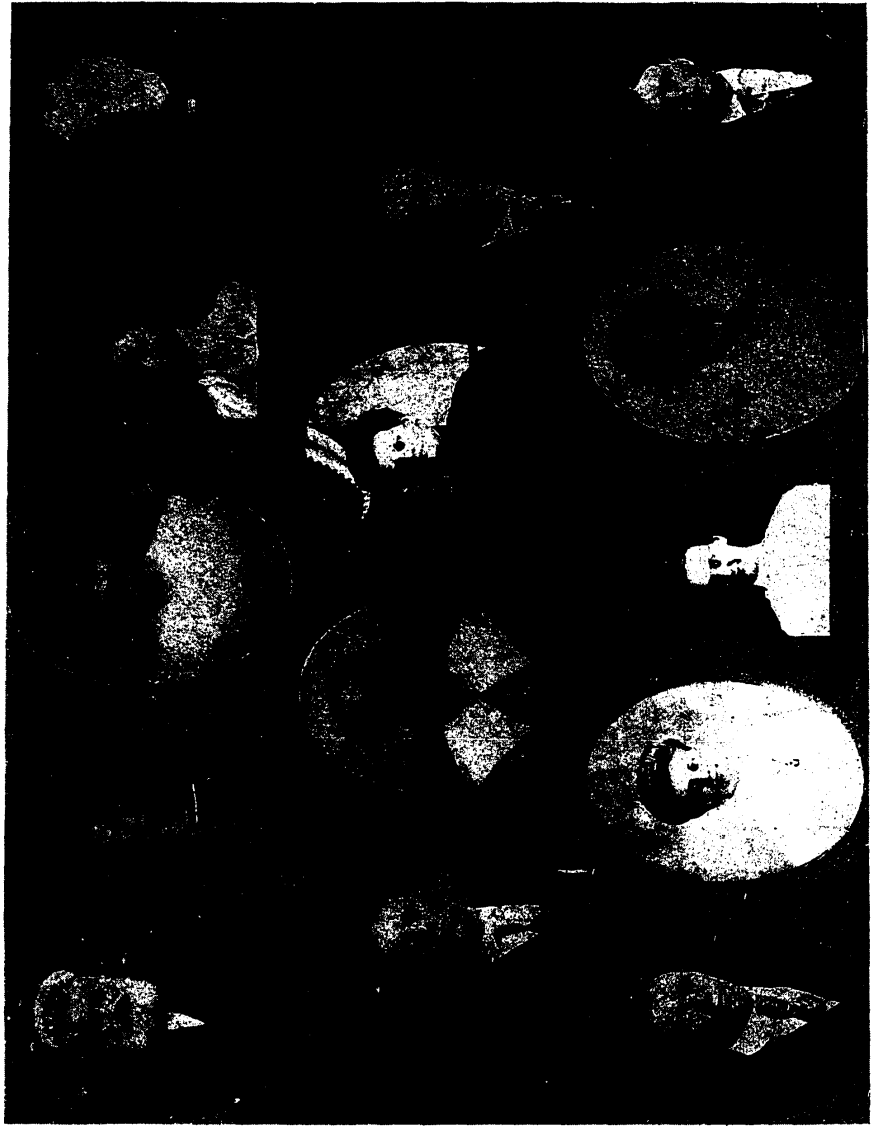
Allamakee county, Iowa, just south of Eitzen village, on Aug. 2, 1875, son of Henry and Mary (Buchholtz) Deters. He obtained a fairly good education after leaving the district school, attending Breckenridge Academy at Decorah, Iowa, for two winters, and afterwards pursuing a business course for two terms at Waukon, Iowa, where he completed his studies in 1894. From the spring of that year until the fall of 1897 he worked on the home farm, which he subsequently operated in partnership with his brother, Louis H., until the spring of 1903. He then bought fifty acres in section 13, Wilmington township and eighty-two acres in Winnebago township, the two tracts constituting the old Busitzky farm, of which 110 acres were then under the plow. In 1904 he bought an adjoining tract of forty acres in section 19, Winnebago township, and in 1908 another forty-acre tract adjoining on section 13, Wilmington township. Of his farm of 212 acres in one body, he has 150 now under the plow. The soil is of excellent quality, and there is a good set of farm buildings, provided with modern equipment. In 1915 Mr. Deters built a two-story, twelve-room house of tapestry brick, which he fitted up with hot and cold water, baths, and a hot water heating system, furnishing heat not only to the house but also to other buildings on the farm. The house is lighted throughout by the "Blaugas" system, but is wired for electric light. The situation is picturesque and commands a fine view of the surrounding country. Mr. Deters follows diversified farming according to scientific methods, making stock breeding his specialty. Since 1904 he has been engaged in raising registered Shorthorn cattle, and he also breeds Poland-China hogs, having full-blooded sires for each herd. One of the leading stock farmers in the southern part of the county, he is president of the Houston county Agricultural Society, and is a shareholder in the Wilmington Creamery Co., the Eitzen Creamery Co., the Peoples Co-operative Stock & Grain Co. of Caledonia, and in the Eitzen State Bank of Eitzen, Minn., of which he is president. Enterprising and prosperous, he is one of the leading citizens of his township and is well and favorably known throughout the county. Mr. Deters was married Nov. 18, 1903, to Anna M. Bunge, who was born Dec. 13, 1874, daughter of Christian and Dora (Bunge), of Eitzen, Minn. He and his wife have four children: Martin B., born Feb. 15, 1906; John L., Nov. 20, 1909; Ruth L., May 10, 1912, and Martha M., Oct. 31, 1916. The family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran church.

Hans Johnson, a pioneer settler of Wilmington township, now deceased, was a native of Norway who came to this country in 1860. About 1862 he bought a tract of forty acres in section 10, Wilmington township, to which he later added forty acres more, and of the eighty he developed an improved farm, which in 1898 he rented to his son, Alfred B., who purchased it in 1900 and is now the owner. Mr. Johnson died Feb. 14, 1916, after a long career of agricultural activity, having worthily performed a pioneer's part in the development of the county. His wife, Jorend, who came from Norway at about the same time as he did, survived him until Jan. 2, 1919, when she too passed away.

Alfred B. Johnson, proprietor of a good farm of 160 acres in section 10, Wilmington township, was born on a part of his present farm, March 1,

1877, son of Hans and Jorend Johnson. In his boyhood he attended the district school, and as he grew older assisted his father to develop the home farm, on which he has always resided with the exception of about three years spent in Kanabec county, Minnesota, and in Caledonia as clerk. In 1898 he rented the home farm, containing eighty acres, from his parents, and two years later, in 1890, it became his property by purchase. Since then he has doubled its size, and now has 120 acres under the plow, the rest being in pasture and timber. He has added to the buildings, having in 1916 erected a modern frame barn, 34 by 80 by 14 feet in size, with a full eight-foot, cement-block basement, and it is equipped with a complete James system of pens, stanchions, mangers, box-stalls and crane litter carrier. The farm is in a high state of cultivation and yields a good return in crops, in addition to which it is well stocked with a good grade of cattle and Poland-China swine. Mr. Johnson's operating equipment includes a good automobile, and in addition to his interest in the farm he is a stockholder in and president of the Wilmington Co-operative Creamery Co., and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. A man of mark in his township, he has served two years as supervisor and the same length of time as town treasurer, in politics being a Republican. On Nov. 23, 1901 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Ingebor, daughter of Knut and Guri Buxengard of Wilmington township, where her father was an early settler, having resided on the same farm for sixty-three years. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson has been enlarged by the birth of eight children, born as follows: Harry Kenneth, July 3, 1903; Gilbert Jorgen, June 14, 1906; Tilman Johan, Sept. 17, 1907; Olaf Burton, Aug. 6, 1910; Alice Isabelle, May 25, 1912; Ividia Dorothy, June 25, 1914, and Sylvia Mathilda, Aug. 22, 1916, and Orlando Clarence, born Sept. 22, 1918. The family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

William Schroeder, a successful farmer of Wilmington township, residing in section 23, was born in Hanover, Germany, Nov. 27, 1857, son of Christopher and Mary (Garfe) Schroeder. At the age of seventeen he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, they settling at Eitzen in Winnebago township. He was then unable to speak English, but found work as a farm hand, being employed one year by Mr. Cardess, and then for two years by Mr. Albee, who allowed him to attend school two years in order to learn English. At the age of twenty he went to the Robinson farm near Eitzen and on the Iowa state line, on which he worked as manager for four years, his employer being Mrs. Robinson. This farm contained 300 acres and its management involved a large amount of hard work. In this and other agricultural employment he made steady progress, giving satisfaction to his employers and improving his own condition until he found himself able to assume the responsibilities of domestic life, and on May 4, 1883, was united in marriage with Amelia, daughter of Barney and Mary Brinker, who lived in Allamakee county, Iowa, near Eitzen village. After continuing in general agricultural work for some years in others' employ, Mr. Schroeder in 1891 bought eighty acres of land in section 23, Wilmington township, the tract being a partly improved farm,



OLE J. TOSTERUD AND FAMILY

with forty-five acres of broken land, a small log house, and a combined granary and stable. To this farm he has since added thirty acres, making a total of 110, of which ninety are under the plow, the balance being in pasture and timber. He has also greatly improved the place by the erection of new buildings, including a comfortable house; a frame barn, 32 by 70 by 16 feet, on a full stone basement of eight feet; a granary 20 by 32 feet, built in the barn; a poultry house, three corn cribs, a hog house with cement floor and two feeding floors, a feed cook house for hogs, an ice house, smoke house, machine shed, wood house and a garage for his five-passenger Dodge car. All the buildings are painted and in good condition, while his teams, tools and other equipment are of the best. Mr. Schroeder's stock consists of Red Poll and Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, each herd having a full blooded sire. His other business interests include those of a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Co. and the Peoples Co-operative Stock & Grain Co. of Caledonia. In politics he has always been a Republican, and with his family is a member of the Etizen congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder eight children have been born: Gustav A., born May 20, 1884, now a farmer of Winnebago township; Otto, Nov. 19, 1886, who is a farmer in Wilmington township; William F., born Aug. 16, 1889, who for the last four years has been manager of the Farmers Co-operative Store at Eitzen; Elvina, born May 30, 1892, wife of Otto Meyer, a farmer of Winnebago township; Edwin, born Nov. 26; 1894, who is a farm hand; Ella, born April 23, 1896, who is housekeeper for her brother Otto; Henry, born June 16, 1899, who is associated with his father in working the home farm; and Albert, born July 28, 1903, who is a student residing at home. Mr. Schroeder has three brothers, Henry, Fred and Werner, all of whom are farmers in this vicinity.

Ole J. Tosterud, the owner of a good eighty-acre farm in section 11, Wilmington township, who has been a resident of Houston county for over thirty-five years, was born in Norway, May 11, 1847, son of Jens and Inga Johnestaater. His educational advantages were limited to the common school, while industrially he was trained as a farmer. On Dec. 28, 1874, he was married in his native land to Maren, daughter of Ole and Helene Johnson Bammerud. For eight or nine years after his marriage he continued to reside in Norway, during which time four children were born to him. The family was very poor, the parents being able to save nothing, although Mrs. Tosterud in her spare time did weaving to add to their income. After a while they realized that their only future hope lay in emigration to a land of greater opportunities, but the expense of the journey was still an obstacle. However, they succeeded in borrowing enough from their friends and relations for this purpose, and in 1883 they left their native land with four children: Elsie Marie, born Feb. 15, 1876; Jens, born June 29, 1878; Oscar, born Dec. 17, 1880; and Inga, born March 29, 1883, the last mentioned, of course, being a baby in arms. Coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, they first settled on Portland Prairie, Winnebago township, Mr. Tosterud finding work as a farm hand. The wages for such labor in those days were not large and Mrs. Tosterud wove carpets to help pay their way. After remaining on their first farm until 1890

they removed to the Sigri Engen farm in section 14, Wilmington township, where they remained three years, removing from that place to the Ole Engen farm, where they stayed two years, and then, in 1895, taking the Elling Burtness farm, where they spent one year. In 1896 Mr. Tosterud bought eighty acres of wild land in section 12, this township, on which he built a small house and took possession. Here he has since remained and has improved the farm. The land is rough but productive and is now nearly all under the plow, the children having helped to clear it. Mr. Tosterud has erected all necessary buildings, including a barn, granary, poultry house of frame construction. In 1917 the house was remodeled and enlarged and is now a comfortable six-room dwelling. It is located on a prominence in one of Wilmington's many pretty valleys, and is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. The village and market of Caledonia lies seven miles to the north. Mr. and Mrs. Tosterud have worked hard for many years, but have met with their reward and are now enjoying a well earned leisure, as in 1908 Mr. Tosterud leased the farm to his son Julius, who owns one-half of the stock and equipment. In addition to the four children who accompanied the parents from Norway, the following were born in this county: Helen, born Dec. 30, 1884, now Mrs. Walter Restveldt of Fargo, N. D.; Julius, born Oct. 7, 1886, who is operating the home farm; Martin, born May 8, 1888, who in 1918 graduated in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, enlisted in the Medical Department of the U. S. army, and served with the Army of Occupation in Germany; Minnie, born Aug. 22, 1890, now Mrs. John Opsal of St. Paul, Minn.; Agnes, born Aug. 7, 1892, who resides in Fargo, N. D.; Emma and Tilla (twins), born Jan. 22, 1895, of whom Tilla died March 13, 1899, and Emma is residing on the home farm; Clara, born May 10, 1897, who graduated from the Central high school at St. Paul in 1918, and is now at home; and Tilla (second), born June 23, 1899, who is also at home, attends the Caledonia high school. All the children have received good educational advantages and the family is one of the most respected in this locality. Their religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Wilmington.

Hans P. Wermager, who is one of the successful farmers of Wilmington township, operating a 165-acre farm in section 30, was born at St. Hillaire, Red Lake county, Minn., Nov. 20, 1884, son of Peter Wermager and his wife Guri, whose maiden name was Guri Sned Kerpladen. The parents, who were married in Wilmington township, began domestic life in section 31 on a farm that belonged to Mrs. Wermager's father. Later he took a claim of 160 acres at St. Hillaire, and moving there, remained several years. Then selling out, he returned to Houston county and bought 120 acres of his father-in-law's old farm in section 31, which he operated until 1898. He then sold it and bought 125 acres of improved land of Julius Bondley in section 30, on which was a good two-story frame house and a frame barn 30 by 70 by 16 feet and basement. This place he operated until 1908, when he sold it to his son Hans P., and has since been retired, residing with his children. His wife died Aug. 2, 1900. Their children now living are: Hans P., the subject of this sketch; Ole, a farmer in Wilmington town-

ship; Christine, wife of Henry Stoen, a farmer of Gary, Minn.; Gusta, now Mrs. Oliver Hauge of Caledonia, Minn.; Clara, wife of John Tilleraas, a farmer of Gary, Minn.; and Selma, whose husband, Alfred Skaare, is also a farmer at Gary. Hans P. Wermager, who was educated in the district school, has spent nearly all his life since he came to Houston county on the farm which his parents established, except that at the age of 17 he worked one summer for Lauretze Wolden, a farmer in the vicinity of his home. On July 2, 1908, he married Julia Thompson, daughter of John and Ingebor Thompson of Allamakee county, Iowa, and in the same year purchased his present farm from his father. He has remodeled the house and barn and now has a good set of buildings, including a stock and grain barn, 30 by 70 by 16 feet in size, with a 9-foot stone basement and cement floor; a machine shed, 32 by 50; single corn crib, 8 by 30; a poultry house, hog house, cream house and garage. The farm is favored with a fine soil and has a rolling surface, and about 100 acres are now under the plow. Mr. Wermager is profitably engaged in general farming, keeping grade Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, with full-blooded sires for his herds. His yearly shipment of cattle amounts to 30 to 35 head, and of hogs from 80 to 100 head. He has an excellent operating equipment, and the village of Spring Grove, four and a half miles distant, affords a convenient market. In addition to his direct farming interests he is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., the Bee Creamery Association and the Spring Grove Hospital. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Grant Palmer, born Jan. 19, 1910; Irene Jeanette, born Oct. 31, 1914; and Orville Herman, Nov. 2, 1915. The family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Spring Grove.

Gulbrand Gubrud, one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmington township, was, like so many of the hardy pioneers of this section of the Northwest, a native of Norway. Born Dec. 14, 1827, he came to the United States as a young man in 1852, and for some time was a resident of La Crosse, Wis.; working for wages at whatever he could find to do. After a while he crossed the river into Houston county, Minn., and in Spring Grove became acquainted with Malinda Skiflun, who, like himself, had been born in Valdars, Norway, though she was 12 years younger, having been born in 1838. When 11 years old she had set out from Norway with her parents bound for the United States, but during the long voyage of many weeks, both her father and her mother had died at sea. She, however, came on to Rock Prairie, Wis., and then to Spring Grove, Minn., to visit friends. Here, when she was about 18 years old, she met Mr. Gubrud, and after an acquaintance leading to mutual esteem, they were married in 1856. Mr. Gubrud, having now assumed the responsibilities of domestic life and having two to provide for, with the likelihood of a family in the future, thought it time to begin the establishment of a home, and boldly but wisely resolved to obtain his living from the soil. As there were then practically no improved farms in the county, and he couldn't have purchased them if there had been, he did the next best thing and bought 160 acres of wild land in section 4, Wilmington township, on which he built a log house as the first requisite, and then began the strenuous work of breaking his land and developing a farm. In

time this work was well done and before their death he and his wife had increased their land holdings to about 800 acres. In the meanwhile a numerous family had grown up around them, though of their 15 children four died young. Of the eleven who attained maturity, eight are now living: Gustav, of Gagley, Minn.; Elias, who lives at Kindred, N. D.; Ole, of Holt, Minn.; Maria, now Mrs. H. Hallum, of Fargo, N. D.; Olava, wife of John Gran of Black Hammer township; Sophia, wife of John Fossum of Bremen, N. D.; Sara, now Mrs. N. Morken of Maddock, N. D.; and Anna, wife of Carl Rustad of Cartwright, N. D. In 1897 Mr. Gubrud rented the farm to his son John, who operated it under rental until 1901 and then purchased it. Since John's death in 1913 it has been operated by his wife and children. Of the other children of Gulbrand Gubrud who grew to maturity, a daughter, Christine, died in Spring Grove, May 21, 1912, and a son, Andrew, died Feb. 19, 1918, in Fargo, N. D. Gulbrand Gubrud died in March, 1898. Mrs. Gubrud is now living with her children in North Dakota.

John Gubrud, who was for a number of years an active and successful farmer residing in section 4, Wilmington township, was born on his parents' farm in this township—the one of which he was afterwards the owner—Feb. 14, 1865. In his youth he attended the district school to the age of about 15 years, and when not engaged with his studies was acquiring his industrial education as a helper on the home farm, which he aided his father in developing. In 1897 he rented the property and subsequently operated it under rental until the spring of 1901, when he purchased it. In the year that he rented the place, on Sept. 16, he married Bolethe Johnson, daughter of Ole S. and Maria Johnson of Wilmington township, and brought his bride to his father's farm. From that time until his death Mr. Gubrud was a hard worker and did much to improve the farm, increasing its cultivated area, building fences and erecting new buildings. He also became the owner of 160 acres of land in South Dakota, which he subsequently sold, and was a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Creamery. He served as treasurer of his district school board, in politics being a Republican, and was a member, with his family, of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and a liberal contributor to its support. His useful activities were ended by death on March 29, 1913, and the news of his passing caused general sorrow throughout the community. The farm has since been operated successfully by his widow, with the assistance of her son. It now includes 208 acres, of which 135 are under the plow. Among the buildings erected by Mr. Gubrud were: a two-story, frame house, consisting of an upright and wing, and containing eight rooms, with a summer kitchen detached; a frame barn, 36 by 80 by 18 feet, with a full basement of 8 feet; and a granary, 28 by 38, with a machine shed attached thereto. These buildings are all painted and in good condition, the general equipment is fully adequate, the tools and machinery being of modern type, and the farm is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, the cattle usually numbering from 30 to 40 head, while from 100 to 150 hogs are raised annually. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. John

JOHN GURRUD AND FAMILY



Gubrud are as follows: Ove Gerhard, born Aug. 28, 1898, who after attending the Minnesota Agricultural College for two winters, is now working on the home farm; Milliard, born Feb. 4, 1900, who also attended agricultural college and is employed on the home farm; Morris, born Aug. 31, 1901; Johan Bennie Carlton, born Feb. 9, 1903; Olava Mathilda, born Jan. 6, 1907; and Arnold, born March 25, 1909. All the children are residing at home with their mother. It is interesting to note that Millard Gubrud enlisted Oct. 30, 1918, in the S. A. T. C., at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and received his honorable discharge, Dec. 11, 1918.

Juul Sylling, for many years an active and respected farmer of Spring Grove township, but now deceased, was born in Grauns, Prestegeld, Hadland, Norway, Dec. 24, 1832. In 1862 he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in Wilmington township. On Nov. 4, 1870, he married Berthe Blexrud, a native of Norway and daughter of Lars and Annie Blexrud of Black Hammer township. Buying 80 acres of wild land in section 27, Spring Grove township, he erected a small dwelling on it, in which he and his wife took up their residence, and he began at once to develop a farm, the area of which was soon increased to 160 acres by the purchase of another 80-acre tract. In time he succeeded in getting 130 acres of his land under the plow, and had also erected a good set of buildings. Among these was a fine, large, brick house, consisting of an upright and wing, the brick for which was made on the farm by a German hired for that purpose by him and his brother Andreas, who owned an adjoining farm and built a brick house at the same time. He also erected a frame barn 32 by 52 by 16 feet in size, with a full stone basement, and other necessary buildings. His farm was well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, and he had also a good equipment of teams and machinery. All this was not accomplished without much hard work and for many years Mr. Sylling was a very busy man. He was a prominent member and liberal supporter of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. His death, which took place in a hospital at La Crosse, May 26, 1911, deprived the township of one of its most worthy and esteemed citizens. His wife, now past 70 years, still resides on the old home farm. They were the parents of six children: Helner J., now a farmer in Spring Grove township; Christian J., a resident of Spring Grove village; George J., on the home farm; Albert J.; Lars J., a farmer of Wilmington township; and Annie, now the wife of Hans Bekkemo, of Spring Grove township.

Lars J. Sylling, whose well cultivated farm of 200 acres in Wilmington township is situated in section 4, and about half way between the two villages of Spring Grove and Caledonia, was born in Spring Grove township, April 17, 1875, son of Juul and Berthe (Blexrud) Sylling. His early years were spent on his parents' farm, which he helped his father to improve. On Feb. 17, 1900, he began domestic life, being united in marriage with Christine, daughter of Ole and Gunhild Larson, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. In the same year, accompanied by his wife, he went to Cheyenne, Eddy county, North Dakota, where he bought 240 acres of unimproved land, and began its improvement by the erection of a small shack for a

dwelling. There he remained for ten years, during which time he broke all but ten acres of his land, built a good two-story frame house, a large frame barn and other substantial buildings. While residing there he also served several terms as a member of his town board. In 1910 Mr. Sylling sold the farm and returned to Houston county, where in the same year he bought his present farm in section 4, Wilmington township, which was known as the Heyche farm. He has improved this property by the erection, in 1913, of a large frame barn, with full stone basement, and now has a good set of buildings and operating equipment. He is engaged in general farming and dairying, and is successfully breeding Shorthorn cattle, having the nucleus of a fine herd, Duroc swine and Shropshire sheep. In politics Mr. Sylling is a Republican, and a man who takes an active interest in whatever makes for the welfare of the community in which he lives. He is now serving as chairman of the Wilmington town board, in which office he has shown ability and a good comprehension of local conditions and requirements. With his family he belongs to the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Sylling five children have been born: Gina, Aug. 3, 1901; Julia, Oct. 19, 1903; Cora, July 14, 1907; Alma, Oct. 6, 1912, and Leonard, Feb. 2, 1915. The three elder children were born in North Dakota and the two younger in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn. Gina and Julia are now students in the Spring Grove high school.

Barney J. Schoh, a well known and popular representative of the farming industry in Wilmington township, was born in Winnebago township, Houston county, Sept. 9, 1869, son of Henry and Mary (Brinkman) Schoh. The parents, who were natives of Germany, after settling in Houston county were for some time very poor, but young Barney was allowed to attend school during the winters up to the age of 17 years. During the rest of the time he worked on the home farm, and remained on it until Jan. 5, 1897, when he was married to Annie Schulze, daughter of John and Katherine Schulze of Allamakee county, Iowa. In the same year he bought 120 acres of improved land, but with poor buildings, in Hancock county, Iowa, where he and his wife began domestic life. In the fall of 1899 he sold that farm and bought 80 acres in Wilmington township, on which tract was a log house and granary. To this in 1908 he added 45 acres more, now making an acreage of 125 acres. On to this farm Mr. Schoh and his family moved in the spring of 1900, and for three years they lived in the log house, which in 1903 Mr. Schoh replaced with a substantial frame house, with upright and wings. Until 1908 he got along with straw sheds for his cattle, but that summer he built a good frame barn 32 by 66 by 16 feet in size, with a full eight-foot stone basement for horses and cattle. He has also built a steel machine shed 24 by 50, with a hollow tile hog shed below and a cement feeding floor 20 by 40. The buildings are all in good condition and conveniently located, and the surroundings are picturesque, the farm house commanding a good outlook. About 100 acres are now under cultivation, and aside from the productiveness of the soil, the farm is well stocked with Shorthorn and Red Poll cattle and Poland-China and Duroc swine. Mr. Schoh is a shareholder in the Wil-

Wilmington Creamery Co. He is a Republican in politics and for six years served as town supervisor. He and his wife have one child, Alvin H., who was born Sept. 27, 1897, who is living on the home farm, assisting his father. The family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church.

Gjermund Johnson Lommen, one of the hardy pioneer settlers of Wilmington township, now deceased, was born in Norway, Dec. 21, 1824. He grew to manhood in his native land, coming to the United States in 1849 and settling in Dane county, Wis., where he remained until 1853. He then came to Houston county, Minn., locating in section 16, Wilmington township; a few months later, however, he moved to section 7, and bought land. The development of his place dated from his marriage at Decorah, Iowa, Nov. 15, 1856, to Aagot, daughter of Ole and Marit Lommen. She had come to this country at the age of 20 years with a younger sister and some friends from Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Lommen now began pioneer farming, their dwelling being a log hut. The land was wild, but they had an ox team and were young and hopeful and ready to face privation. Like the other pioneer settlers, they had many hardships to endure, but worked hard and made the best of circumstances, and in time their labors and endurance brought them a fair reward, and they found themselves in possession of a well developed farm, with a comfortable frame house, a barn, granary and other buildings, forming, with what money they saved, a sufficient competency for their declining years. Mrs. Lommen was the first to pass away, her death occurring April 14, 1893, on the old homestead in section 16. She had never been strong and during the last few years of her life suffered from asthma. She had attained the age of 64 years. Her husband survived her somewhat less than ten years, dying at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. B. N. Blehrud, on the old home farm, Nov. 1, 1902. Their remains now rest in the cemetery at Spring Grove. Mr. Lommen was always a Republican in politics. He was prominent in church affairs, he and his wife members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Though strict in his home, he was just and generous hearted, and quick to forget a fault. To him and his wife eight children were born: Jorend, born Sept. 12, 1857, who died Dec. 17, 1866; Marit, born Nov. 23, 1858, now Mrs. John B. Nelson (Blehrud); Sigrid, born Aug. 18, 1860, now Mrs. A. L. Ramstad, of Hickson, N. D.; Ingeborg, born March 17, 1862, who married Peter Lommen and is now deceased; John, born Jan. 30, 1864, who died in 1870; Oline, born July 25, 1865, who died Dec. 21, 1866; Jorend Oline, born Aug. 10, 1867, and Olaf, born July 8, 1872, both of whom died in infancy.

John B. Nelson (Blehrud), who owns and operates an improved farm of 200 acres in sections 7 and 18, Wilmington township, his residence lying in section 7, was born in Spring Grove township, Nov. 10, 1855. He was educated in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 13, and remained at home with his parents until the spring of 1877, when he went to Trail county, North Dakota and homesteaded 160 acres of wild land. On it he erected a board shack, in which he took up his residence, and during his first year there he broke 20 acres. Remaining there until the spring of

1879, he then sold it and during the following summer worked as a farm hand four miles south of Fargo, N. D. In the fall he returned home, where for about a year he operated a well drill, and subsequently drove a cream route in Wilmington and Spring Grove townships. In the spring of 1882 he went to Clark county, South Dakota, where he bought 160 acres of practically wild land on which there were no buildings. Having made arrangements to have 40 acres broken by hired help, he returned to Spring Grove township, Houston county, where he spent the winter of 1882-83. In the next spring he went back to his farm in Clark county, S. D., which lay 15 miles southeast of the city of Clark, and there he remained until the spring of 1891. He then returned again to Houston county and bought the old home farm in section 1, Spring Grove township, residing on it for six years. In April, 1897, he bought his present farm of 200 acres in sections 7 and 18, Wilmington township, which was an improved farm known as the German Johnson homestead, 130 acres being under the plow. There was also a frame and log house, a frame barn 30 by 50 feet in size, with a stone basement, and a granary 24 by 24 feet. In 1904 Mr. Nelson built a two-story house of 12 rooms, hot water heated, and with other modern improvements; and in 1915 a frame barn, 40 by 80 by 16, with a full cement basement of eight feet, and fitted up with the James system. His general equipment is adequate and of the best quality. He is engaged in general farming and dairying, raising graded Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and keeping full-blooded sires for each herd. In addition to this farm, he owns another, of 160 acres, in Section 1, Spring Grove township, which he rents to a tenant. His total property holdings thus amount to 360 acres, all being good land. He is also a shareholder in the Stock & Grain Company of Spring Grove, and takes high rank among the enterprising and prosperous citizens of his township. His religious affiliations are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson was married May 30, 1888, to Marit Lommen, who was born in section 7, Wilmington township, Nov. 23, 1858, daughter of Gjermund and Aagot Johnson Lommen. The children of this union are: Agnes Aurora Blexrud, born in Clark county, S. D., Oct. 1, 1890, who after graduating from the high school in 1910, taught school two years, and is now residing at home; Nora Josephine, born in section 1, Spring Grove township, Houston county, Aug. 19, 1892, who graduated from the Minnesota Agricultural School in 1913, and is also at home; and Gotthard, born Aug. 13, 1894, who attended the Minnesota Agricultural School one winter and is now on the home farm, assisting his father.

Frederick Meitrodt, the founder of one of the good farms of Wilmington township, in section 26, known as Royville Stock Farm, but who is now deceased, was born in Germany, where he was reared to manhood. In 1863 he came to the United States, a young man, and for a year worked as a laborer in Cleveland, Ohio. Then, having made up his mind to settle on the land, he came to Houston county, Minnesota, buying 80 acres on Portland Prairie, in section 26, Wilmington township. About the same time he was united in marriage with Johanna Smith, and together they developed a farm, Mr. Meitrodt building a small frame house, a frame barn, and other

outbuildings. He also cleared a considerable part of his land, and cultivated it, and in time he and his wife became prosperous. They were among the founders of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church. Both died on the old homestead, Mr. Meitrodt on Dec. 2, 1899, and Mrs. Meitrodt on March 18, 1906. They were the parents of four children: William, now farming in Caledonia township; Anna, now Mrs. George C. H. Meyer, of Wilmington township; Gustav and Adolph, twins, the latter of whom died May 24, 1894, while Gustav is now proprietor of the old home farm.

Gustav Meitrodt, proprietor of Royville Stock Farm, in section 26, Wilmington township, was born in this township, Nov. 10, 1868, son of Frederick and Johanna (Smith) Meitrodt, his parents being German settlers. His education was acquired in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 17 or 18, though during the last few years of that period his attendance was chiefly in the winter months, as at other times he was obliged to make himself useful on the farm. Remaining at home until 1887, he then went to Lincoln, Neb., where he worked two years as a common laborer. After his return to Wilmington township he worked as a farm hand for a year, and then, in 1890, took possession of his father's farm, which he has since been engaged in operating. Among his improvements, he has erected a good two-story, nine-room frame house, a frame barn, machine shed, granary, garage, hog house and other buildings, and is the owner of a good auto car. His farm is also provided with good wells and a steel windmill, and is well fenced, nearly all of the fencing being "hog-tight." Of his land, he owns 130 acres in one body, and 15 acres of timber near by, the latter being situated in Allamakee county, Iowa. One hundred and fifteen acres are under cultivation. Mr. Meitrodt is engaged in diversified farming, and for the past 18 years has been a breeder of registered Short-horn cattle and Duroc swine. Through industry and good judgment, he has been successful, and has taken his place among the prosperous citizens of his township. He is a stockholder in the Caledonia Co-Operative Grain & Stock Co., the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Co., the Caledonia State Bank, and the Wilmington Creamery Co., having been one of the organizers of the last mentioned company. On May 18, 1899, Mr. Meitrodt was united in marriage with Augusta, daughter of Leonard and Emma (Brinker) Ranzenberger, of Allamakee county, Iowa, and who was born July 6, 1876. The children born of this union are as follows: Ida, Jan. 21, 1900; Roy, June 22, 1904; Martin, July 7, 1908, and Anna, May 21, 1912. Ida was married, May 8, 1919, to Walter Thiele, and they reside in Winnebago township. Mr. Meitrodt and his family are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church, of which he is a liberal supporter. Though of German antecedents, he is a loyal American.

Gilbert J. Hagen, until recently one of the active and successful farmers of Wilmington township, was born in the southern part of this township, Aug. 8, 1876, son of John G. and Bertha Hagen. His parents were early Norwegian settlers here, but came separately to the county, being married in Caledonia. They are now retired and are living at Bee village in this township. Gilbert J. had but scant opportunity for obtaining an educa-

tion, as his parents for a number of years were quite poor, but he attended the district school for a short time at intervals. He was only 12 or 13 when he began work, being employed partly on the home farm, but to a larger extent working out for other farmers. On March 25, 1915, he was married to E. Emelia, daughter of Ludwig and Maria Erickson, of Wilmington township. Until 1917 he worked his father-in-law's farm, and then rented the Olaus Hefty farm in sections 22 and 23. In the spring of 1918 he moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, just over the state line from the old home in Wilmington township. Always a hard-working and thrifty man, Mr. Hagen has accumulated a fair competency. He has a good farm at his present location, and is successfully raising Hereford cattle and Duroc swine. For years he was a stockholder in the Bee Mercantile Company, but sold his interest in it in the fall of 1917. In addition to his own farming interests Mr. Hagen also worked his father's farm for three years. He and his wife, the latter born in Wilmington township, July 8, 1886, are the parents of one child, James Leander, who was born Sept. 8, 1917. The family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter.

Guttorm G. Tyrebakken, one of the hardy pioneer settlers who helped to develop the natural resources of Wilmington township, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married. Although very poor, he and his wife managed to save enough to pay their passage to the United States, and arrived in New York after a voyage of twelve weeks. From that city they came directly to Wilmington township, Houston county. This was in the year 1854, when there were very few white settlers in the county, though white immigration had begun. The Indians, however, were very numerous. Buying 80 acres of wild land, Mr. Tyrebakken built a small log shanty and one or two sheds and began the work of clearing his farm, with the help of oxen. His subsequent career was that of a typical pioneer, hard work being the rule for him and his wife during the early years. But gradual progress was made, the farm much improved, and prosperity finally attained. Faithful to their early religious training, they assisted in building the first Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Wilmington, of which they were useful members. Mr. Tyrebakken died in the year 1900, his demise being due to heart failure. He passed away suddenly at Spring Grove, where he had gone to consult a physician. His wife survived him eight years, dying in 1908 on the old homestead. They were the parents of three sons and four daughters: Guttorm and Turgen, who are living on the home farm with their brother Carl, its present proprietor; Ole, a farmer in Norman county, Minnesota; Cecil, deceased; Oline, who married Christ Christiansen of La Crosse; Carl, above mentioned; and Christine, wife of James Jaspersen, of Tabor, Alberta, Canada.

Carl Guttormson, proprietor of an excellent farm of 170 acres in section 35, Wilmington township, which is one of the pioneer farms of Houston county, was born on this place Aug. 20, 1869, son of Guttorm G. Tyrebakken and wife. At the time of his birth his parents had been settled on the farm for fifteen years, having arrived here from Norway in 1854. Here he was reared to manhood, attending district school up to the age of 16, while his



CARL GUTTORMSON

time out of school hours was spent largely in assisting his father. He has never left his boyhood home, and on his father's death in 1900 he bought the property and has since operated the farm on his own account. He has 170 acres of land, of which 125 acres are under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture land. The soil is rich and productive, and Mr. Guttormson has added materially to the general improvements, having built two frame barns, 26 by 50 by 16 and 28 by 50 by 14 feet, with 8-foot basements, and a lean-to 16 by 50 feet, both with modern equipment; also a corn crib and machine shed. Other buildings were erected by his father with his assistance. Mr. Guttormson breeds Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, of the latter from 75 to 100 yearly. He is doing a prosperous business and is a stockholder in the Honey Creamery Co. of Bee, Minn.; the Equity Stock & Grain Co. of Spring Grove, and was formerly a stockholder in the Bee Mercantile Co. He is a member of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church. So far he has not married, his sister Turgen keeping house for him.

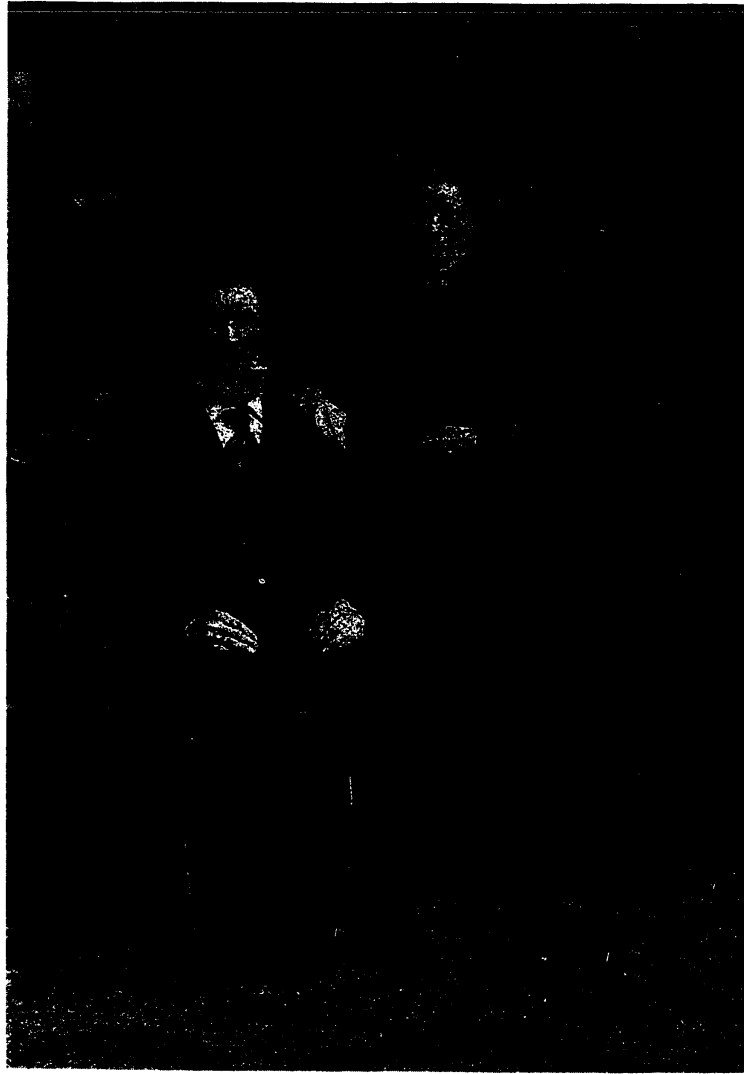
Jgorgen Schulze, an early settler in Wilmington township, where he cleared land and developed a farm, was born in Germany, Dec. 29, 1832. He grew to manhood in his native land, where in 1856 he was married. His wife Katherine was born March 3, 1834. In 1865 they came to the United States, landing at New York, whence they proceeded directly to Houston county, Minnesota, arriving here with but nine dollars in cash. With this small capital they began pioneer farming in section 36, Wilmington township, and, after some early privations, by hard work succeeded in developing a farm, with good buildings and a fair equipment. After nineteen years of steady effort, Mr. Schulze died on the homestead, Nov. 8, 1884, and was survived by his wife, who is still residing on the farm. They reared nine children: John, now in Lyons, Neb.; William, who has spent considerable time in traveling and has not yet settled in a permanent home; Ida, now Mrs. Christ Bisping, of Shadron, Nebr.; Louisa, the widow of the Rev. J. M. Maisch, and a resident of Milwaukee, Wis.; Alfred, of Loveland, Colo.; Minnie, now Mrs. Sam Paus, of Scoby, Mont.; Emma, residing with her mother, and who now owns and takes care of the old home, except 40 acres that were purchased by her brother, Otto C.; Otto C., above mentioned, who is operating an 80-acre farm; and Herman, who is engaged in the auto and garage business at New Albin, Iowa.

Otto C. Schulze, a well known farmer and prosperous citizen of section 36, Wilmington township, was born in this township and section, Feb. 1, 1874, son of Jgorgen and Katherine Schulze. He was reared on his parents' farm, on which he became industrially active at an early age, attending school but little. At the age of 22 years he began farming for himself, renting the Robinson farm in the vicinity of his home. This farm he worked for three years, at the end of that time renting another farm in Fairmont, Minn., which he operated for two years. Afterwards for three years he worked a rented farm in Breckenridge, Minn. Then returning to Houston county, Minnesota, he bought 40 acres of the old home farm in Wilmington township, and has since purchased another tract of 40 acres, thus having a farm of 80 acres, with improved land and an adequate set of

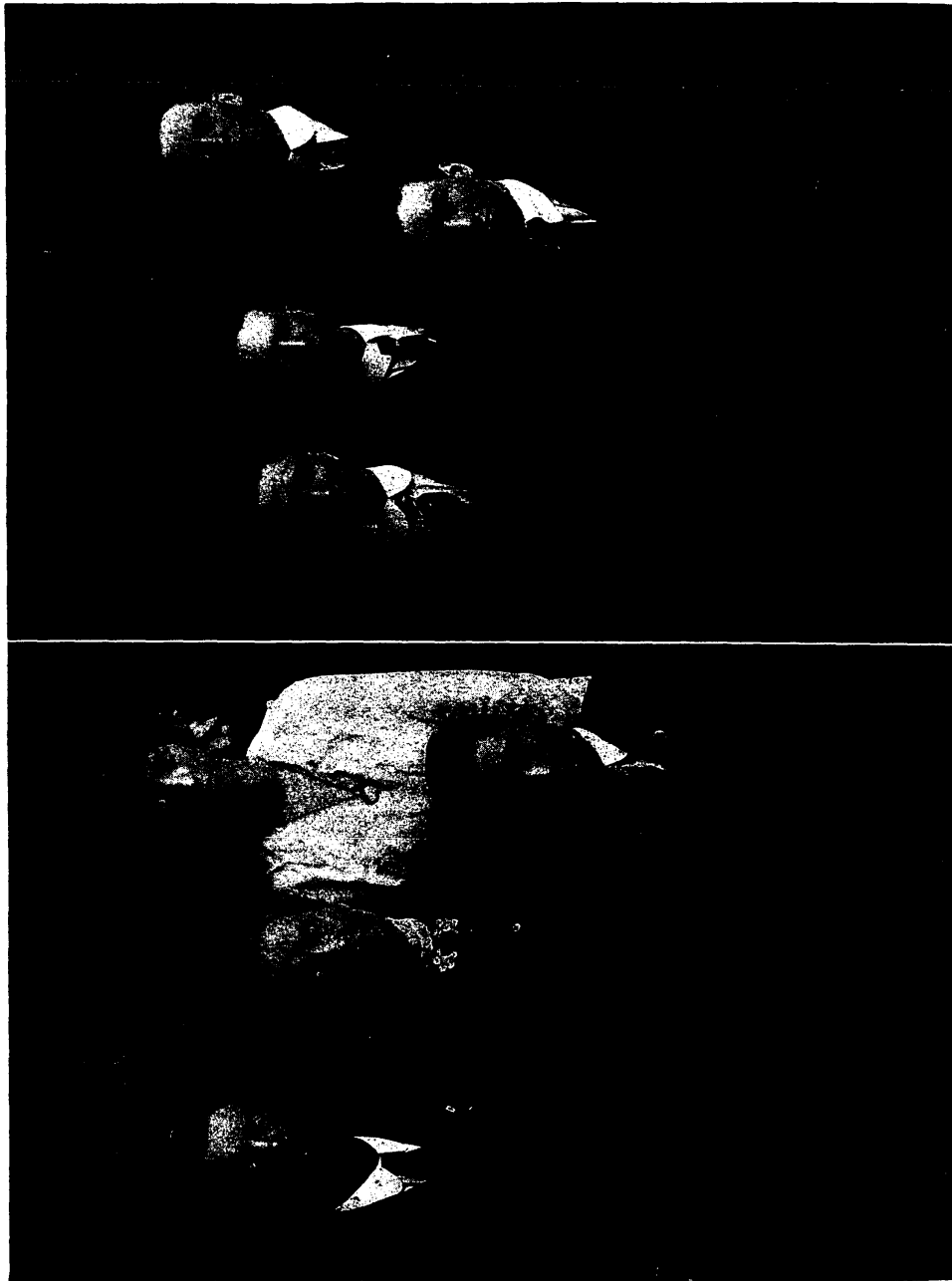
buildings. Mr. Schulze is engaged in general farming, keeping graded cattle and Poland-China hogs. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church. Mr. Schulze was married Dec. 5, 1896, to Dora, daughter of Henry and Dora Kohlmeyer, of New Albin, Iowa, and who was born March 28, 1875. Eight children have been born of this union, as follows: Elwin H., born Oct. 21, 1897, who is a farm hand; Verona Minnie, born April 3, 1899, residing at home; Floy J., born March 9, 1901, who is a farm hand; Freeman B., born Dec. 20, 1903, a student; Howard C., born March 7, 1904; Dora E., August 27, 1908; Harold J., Aug. 5, 1912, and Clarence L., Dec. 19, 1915, who are residing on the home farm.

Gilbert Selland, proprietor of Pine Grove Stock Farm, in section 35, Wilmington township, was born on this farm, Nov. 18, 1872, son of Nels and Guri Selland. In his boyhood he attended district school three months each winter, being obliged to work for the rest of the year on the home farm. Though not as robust as the other members of the family in his younger life, today he is comparatively well and strong. He has always remained on the place, purchasing the property in 1902, and is engaged in diversified farming. In 1910 he began breeding registered Shorthorn and Durham cattle, of which he has sold quite a number, though keeping on hand a herd of about 35 head. He also raises from 50 to 75 graded Poland-China hogs yearly, having a full blooded sire. Since the farm became his property Mr. Selland has made some valuable improvements on it, having remodeled the house and erected a number of buildings. Among the latter are a frame barn, 30 by 56 by 18 feet in size, with a full stone basement of eight feet; a machine shed 18 by 40; double corn crib, 18 by 22, with an eight-foot driveway; a stave silo, 14 by 31, and a hog house 13 by 30 feet. In addition to this farm he also owns a half section of farm land in Geraldine, Mont., which is partly improved and which he rents out, making a yearly trip there. He is a stockholder in the Honey Creamery at Bee, this county, also in the Spring Grove Hospital and Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co. Mr. Selland has never married, his mother and sister keeping house for him. In politics he votes for the man rather than with the party, and religiously he is a member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at Wilmington.

Nels Selland, who founded the farm in Wilmington township now operated by his son Gilbert, was born in Hardanger, Norway, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, at an early day, settling in Wilmington township. Here he met and married Mrs. Guri Leveson, the widow of Ole Leveson. Two weeks after his marriage he enlisted for service in the Civil War, serving for 14 months or until the end of the great struggle. Then returning home he bought 160 acres of wild land in section 35, Wilmington township, eight miles southeast of the present village of Spring Grove, and set to work to develop a farm. He was a strong man, over six feet in height, and a good worker. His first dwelling was a small log structure, which he built and in which he resided until 1886, when he built the house now standing on the farm, consisting of a story and a half upright, with wings of one story. He also built a granary, his barns being hay and straw pole



MR. AND MRS. NELS SELLAND



ALFRED ALBEE AND FAMILY

sheds for his cattle and teams. Aided by his wife and children, he grubbed and cleared the land well and succeeded at last in developing a good farm, on which he resided until his death, March 18, 1912, at the age of 84 years, 2 months and 12 days. His wife, who still resides on the old homestead, has attained the age of 87 years. They had six children: Olaus; Dorothy, now Mrs. Claus Nelson of Wilmington township; Gustave, a farmer in Windmere, N. D.; Gilbert, residing on and operating the home farm; Helen, now Mrs. Nels Oftedahl, her husband being a farmer in Twin Valleys, Minn.; and Nicolai, who is deceased.

Edwin F. Luehr, proprietor of a model farm in Wilmington township, near the Iowa state line, was born in this township, August 3, 1888, son of Henry and Louisa (Deters) Luehr, his parents being prosperous farmers of German origin. His education was continued in the district school up to the age of 18 years, after which he pursued a business course at Charles City, Iowa, and when about twenty attended the Minnesota State Agricultural College for a short term. Up to 1913 he worked with his father on the home farm, and then, in the spring of that year, rented of his father the farm he now resides on, which he purchased in the spring of 1914. Of its total area of 220 acres, 160 acres are in section 33 and the other 60 in section 34, the land being all improved. He has also added 56½ acres near by, having an area of 276½ acres. The buildings are also substantial and of modern type, and include a good frame house of eight rooms, consisting of a two story upright and two wings; a frame barn, 30 by 50 by 16 feet, resting on a full nine-foot stone basement, and with a lean-to, 24 by 30 feet, for cattle; a hog house, 20 by 70, with cement floor; a corn crib, 6 by 70, with cement troughs and feeding floor in front; also granary, carpenter and blacksmith shop, poultry house, ice house, machine shed, well house, silo and garage. He has fine wells, the water being raised by pumps to an elevated reservoir, so has running water through the house, to which he has added a summer kitchen with a modern laundry in the basement. He can also pipe water to all his buildings. His equipment is also very complete and includes a traction engine. Mr. Luehr does diversified farming, including stock raising and dairying. He breeds full blooded Roan Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and is doing an excellent business both as a grain and stock raiser. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Luehr married Selma Bunge, daughter of Christian and Dorothy (Weneke) Bunge, her father being a merchant and farmer of Eitzen. She was born Sept. 12, 1889, and was educated in the common school of Eitzen, and the State Normal School at Winona, also taking a commercial course, subsequent to which she worked several years as clerk in her father's store at Eitzen. They are members of the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church. Mr. and Mrs. Luehr have one child, Lowell, who was born April 11, 1916.

Alfred Albee, a well known farmer and respected citizen of Wilmington township, residing in section 25, was born in this township, July 22, 1862, son of Charles F. and Sarah (Paine) Albee. His parents were among the best known pioneer settlers in this part of the county, having arrived here from Rhode Island in 1854, and he was reared to manhood on their

farm, acquiring his elementary education in the district school, and later attending an academy in Minneapolis. Until the age of 27 years he remained with his parents on their farm in section 13, and was then married, Sept. 25, 1889, to Charlotte G., daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Gilchrist) Ratcliffe. He began domestic life on the parents' old farm in section 25, which he rented for two or three years. About 1886 he bought the Jerry Shumway farm of 80 acres in section 25, and nine miles south of Caledonia, where he is now living. On the place was a comfortable house but no barns. This defect he remedied by erecting a good frame barn, 32 by 70 by 16 feet, with an ell, 20 by 40 by 16, all on a full stone basement of eight feet. He also built a double corn crib, 31 by 32, with a 15-foot drive, where he shelters his wagons; and in 1911 he built a hollow-tile silo 14 by 37 feet in dimensions. Having added 40 acres to this farm, it now has an area of 120 acres, all good land and under the plow. Mr. Albee raises graded Shorthorn cattle and Duroc swine, keeping pure-blooded sires, and his equipment is modern and of the best class. He is also a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company and the People's Co-Operative Stock and Grain Co. of Caledonia. In addition to the farm already described, Mr. Albee bought an improved farm of 100 acres, four miles southwest of Caledonia, on the Caledonia and Spring Grove road, which his son, Charles Benjamin, is now operating. Politically he gives his adherence to the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Albee have been the parents of six children, namely: Charles Benjamin, previously mentioned, who was born Jan. 28, 1891; Alfred Leonard, born Aug. 27, 1894, who with his brother, Edgar Jay, born Sept. 22, 1898, served their country in the war with Germany, but are both now home; Ralph Halstead, born Nov. 29, 1900; Mabel Carlotta, born May 24, 1903, and Donald Ratcliffe, born Nov. 4, 1906. The last three mentioned are residing on the home farm with their parents. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Portland Prairie M. E. church.

Dedrich Thiele, a well known and respected resident of Winnebago township, where for a number of years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, was born in Germany, and came to the United States alone at the age of 14 years, locating at Elmhurst, Ill., whence two years later he removed to Allamakee county, Iowa. After working as a farm hand for some years, he was married about 1878 to Anna Lager, a native of this country, and with his wife and family he came to Winnebago township, Houston county, in 1895, and took a farm. There he and his wife are still residing, having 160 acres in section 30 and 40 acres in section 29, the two tracts being contiguous so as to form an undivided farm, which is provided with substantial buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Thiele are now practically retired, the farm being worked by their two sons, Edward and John. They have had in all nine children, namely: Theodore W., a prosperous farmer of Wilmington township; Alfred, telegraph operator at Hazel Green, Wis.; Louis, who is a farmer in Wilmington township; Walter of Winnebago township; Edward and John, above mentioned; Emma, now Mrs. Ferdinand Voigt, her husband being a farmer in Caledonia township; Matilda, wife of Alfred Deters, a farmer of Winnebago township; and Anna, wife of Alfred Meiners, a farmer of Allamakee county, Iowa.



CARL G. MORKEN

Theodore W. Thiele, who is successfully engaged in agriculture and stock raising in section 36, Wilmington township, was born in Union City township, Allamakee county, Iowa, May 2, 1880, son of Dedrich and Anna (Lager) Thiele. He was about 15 years old when he came with his parents to Winnebago township, Houston county, where he continued to attend school during the winters up to the age of 19 years. From the age of 18 he worked out as a farm hand for four years and then engaged in carpenter work, which he followed for about three years. In 1905 he returned to his father's farm in Winnebago township and remained on it for two years, and for three fall seasons was also engaged in threshing. In 1908 he bought his present farm in section 26, Wilmington township, containing 80 acres, all under the plow except one acre. He has a good frame house and frame barn, with a double corn crib, hog house, granary and workshop. In 1915 he rebuilt the house, which now contains ten rooms and is a comfortable two-story residence. A machine-shed and poultry house were also erected by him, and in addition to these improvements the farm is well fenced and under good cultivation. Mr. Thiele carries on diversified farming, keeping Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, including blooded sires. His teams, tools and equipment are also of the best quality. On June 17, 1909, Mr. Thiele was united in marriage with Louisa B., daughter of Leonard and Emma (Brinker) Rauzenberger of Waterloo township, Allamakee county, Iowa, and who was born May 25, 1885. He and his wife have one child, Benjamin D., born Sept. 10, 1910. They are affiliated religiously with the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church.

Carl G. Morken, who is the owner of one of the rich and productive farms of Wilmington township, containing 180 acres and situated in section 34, it being known as "Oakland Farm," was born in Tronjen, Norway, Nov. 1, 1864, son of Gundar and Sara Morken. When he was two years old his parents brought him to the United States, settling in Iowa, not far from the Minnesota state line. Three years later his mother died and the father went back to Norway, Carl G. being adopted by a cousin of the father's who lived in the vicinity. Of his father he subsequently lost trace and does not know today whether he is living or not. With his parents by adoption, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Morken, Carl G. continued to reside and was treated by them as though he were their own son. When he was 14 they settled in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota, and here he attended the common school to the age of 16. For two years more he lived with Mr. and Mrs. Lars Morken, and then began working out as a farm hand in Wilmington township, being employed for two seasons by E. O. Steneroden, on a farm two miles north of our subject's present location. Altogether he worked out on farms in this vicinity for five years. At the age of 23 he went to Cumberland, Barron county, Wisconsin, where he was employed at lumbering for a year and a half. After that he worked the same length of time as clerk for Ole Ritan, who kept a general store in Cumberland. In the fall of 1890 Mr. Morken went to North Dakota, where he engaged in threshing, returning to Wilmington township early in the winter. For the next six years he hauled cream for the Wilmington Creamery. In 1896 he began

farming on his own account, buying a farm containing 80 acres of improved land eight miles south of Caledonia, in Winnebago township. There he remained until 1904, when he purchased his present farm of 180 acres in section 34, Wilmington township, and moved on to it, at the same time selling his Winnebago farm. On his new property was a frame house and a barn 32 by 56 feet in dimensions, with a full stone basement of eight feet. This barn Mr. Morken rebuilt in 1910, and it now measures 32 by 76 feet on the same foundation. He has also erected a modern, two-story, eight-room frame house, with dormer chambers on the east and west sides. He has also a fine tile-block silo of 14 by 36 feet, together with a hog house, machine sheds, granary, corn cribs and other buildings, all in good condition. The house is fitted with modern plumbing, hot and cold water and other conveniences, while the barn is equipped with a complete James system of stalls, stanchions and carriers. Both house and barn are lighted by electricity. It will thus be seen that Mr. Morken's farm is up to date in all its appointments. It lies just north of the Iowa state line, the surface being undulating, and the soil a black loam, with a clay and rock subsoil, and is one of the most beautiful farms in this section. All of the land is under cultivation except about 20 acres, which are in timber. While engaged in the active operation of the place Mr. Morken followed diversified farming, breeding grade Red Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, his herds having full-blooded sires, and he gained a high place among the successful and prominent men of his township and county. In 1914 he leased the farm to his son Oscar, and retired from active work, though he continues to reside on the place. A Republican in politics, he has for a number of years taken an active part in the affairs of local government. For some years he served efficiently as town treasurer and is now chairman of the town board. Mr. Morken was first married to a daughter of Ole Ofstedahal of Wilmington township. She died Sept. 2, 1913, after having been the mother of two children, Oscar and Melvin, the latter of whom lived but one year. On Jan. 3, 1917, Mr. Morken married Lena Ofstedahal, a sister of his first wife. He and his family are religiously affiliated with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, being members of the Wilmington congregation, of which he is a liberal supporter. Aside from his interest in the farm, he is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. Oscar Morken, who after attending the common school, was a pupil for one year in the Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin, and also attended for a year the Minnesota Agricultural College, is now one of the prominent young farmers of Wilmington township. On Sept. 1, 1915, he was married to Stella Olsgard, daughter of Helger Olsgard of Spring Grove township, Houston county.

Knute O. Myhre, proprietor of one of the best farms in Wilmington township, consisting of 220 acres in section 27, and who is also the owner of other property, was born July 4, 1849, his parents being among the earliest settlers here. On their arrival in the county they took the land where he now lives, or a part of it, and here he has always resided. His education was limited, as his parents were poor and he had to assist them at an early age, helping to grub and clear the farm. In 1870, on attaining

his majority, he bought the property, the value of which he has since greatly increased. Among the buildings he has erected are two frame barns, one 32 by 66 by 18, and the other 26 by 50 by 16 feet; a granary 18 by 24 by 9; machine shed, 18 by 36 by 9; hog house, 26 by 40; a double corn crib, 22 by 32, with a ten-foot drive; and a poultry house, 14 by 20 by 10. Mr. Myhre brought 150 acres of his land under the plow, with the farm well fenced, and with a good operating equipment. He bred Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs successfully and with profitable results, being thus actively engaged until 1915, when, having accumulated an ample competence, he leased the farm to his son, Ole K., and retired, still continuing, however, to reside on it. It is beautifully situated five miles southeast of Spring Grove village. In addition to this property he owns 60 acres in section 27, on the Iowa state line. He is interested in the educational and religious development of the community in which he lives, being a faithful member of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, and was instrumental in building both the old and new church edifices. His business interests aside from those derived from his farm are those of a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company, the Honey Creamery at Bee, and the Spring Grove Hospital. Mr. Myhre was married, June 17, 1875, to Ellen, daughter of Ole and Leif Tollefson of Pine Creek, Iowa. He and his wife are the parents of nine children: Sarah, now Mrs. Andrew Lerhol of North Dakota; Lizzie, Anna and Ole K., residing at home, the last mentioned being proprietor of the farm; Olaf, of Wilmington township; Sophia, who married Michael Hagen; Emma, now Mrs. Abraham Wisland; Carl, of Wilmington township; and Albert, who died of influenza while serving his country in France.

Ole K. Myhre, a well known farmer and respected citizen of Wilmington township, residing in section 27, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Sept. 27, 1880, son of Knute and Ellen (Tollefson) Myhre, the parents being of good Norwegian stock. He acquired his education in the district school, which he attended from the age of 12 to that of 18 years, the rest of the time being mainly occupied with work on the home farm. On April 3, 1910, he was married to Theoline, daughter of Ole and Guri Engene of Wilmington township, and immediately after his marriage bought a quarter section of unbroken land near Ray, Wilkins county, North Dakota, and with his wife took up his residence on it, building a frame house and granary and barn. There he resided until 1915, during which time he broke 100 acres of the land. He then returned to Wilmington township, Houston county, making his home on his father's farm, which he has since rented, owning the stock, teams and tools. His farm is well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and he keeps full-blooded sires to improve the herds. He has made good progress and is numbered among the successful young farmers of Wilmington township. He and his wife are the parents of four children: Ella Genora, born Dec. 23, 1910; Olga Charlotte, Nov. 30, 1912; Clifford Arnold, Feb. 21, 1915; and Oscar Tilman, Jan. 12, 1917. The two eldest were born on the Dakota farm. Mr. Myhre and his family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Wilmington. In politics he is a staunch Republican.

Ole Engene, who half a century ago became a pioneer settler in Wilmington township, and who died in 1905 after a life of useful activity, a widely known and respected citizen, was a native of Halingdal, Norway, where he grew to manhood and was married to Guri Flaget. By trade he was a shoemaker, but seeing no prospects of acquiring a competence in his native land, in June, 1867, he and his wife, with their son Amund, then about a year old, took passage on a sailing vessel for America. After being five weeks on the ocean they were landed at Quebec, and came west by boat and cattle train to Lansing, Iowa, where they remained for a year, the father working at his trade of shoemaker. In 1868 they came to Wilmington township, Houston county, where Mr. Engene worked the first year for Asle Swenson at grubbing and similar work, he and his family living in a log cabin near the present home of his son Albert O. In 1869 he bought 120 acres of grub land, of which only six acres had been broken, and began to develop it. He and his family lived in the log house until it burned down in 1884, when Mr. Engene built another, which now forms a part of the house in which his son Albert lives. For a number of years he used oxen for his draught work, hauling his grain to Brownsville, Minn., and to Lansing, Iowa. He also bought and developed 40 acres more land, adjoining his original tract, and in the evenings and when stormy weather prevented outdoor work he mended shoes for his neighbors, both he and his wife working hard to advance their fortunes. In 1898 he bought another 120-acre tract on section 26, Wilmington township, near the original farm, and also 40 acres of woodland, for timber and pasture, in Iowa, which tract also was located near his home. In 1900 he sold his original farm of 120 acres to his son Albert O., and moved to his farm in section 26, where he died Nov. 22, 1905. Since his death his widow, who lives on the farm with two daughters and a son, the son working the farm, has erected a number of buildings on it, which include a two-story frame house with upright and wing, a frame barn, 32 by 72 by 16 feet in size, and a machine shed. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Engene were as follows: Amund, born Jan. 6, 1866, who was a successful farmer at Kindred, N. D., where he died Jan. 22, 1912; Barbara, born May 26, 1868, who is the wife of T. H. Benson, a farmer in the same locality; Caroline, born in August, 1871, now Mrs. O. H. Benson of Margo, Saskatchewan, Canada; Albert O., born April 2, 1873, a prosperous farmer on the old home farm in section 35, Wilmington township; Peter, a farmer in St. Louis county, Minn., who also owns a large farm in Kindred, N. D.; Ole, born in April, 1878, who is a farmer at Esmond, N. D.; Anna, born July 11, 1880, wife of N. O. Monson of Roslyn, S. D., her husband being a general merchant; Randina, born Feb. 8, 1882, who is residing with her mother in section 26; Nicolai O., born in March, 1885, who is operating his mother's farm in section 26, Wilmington township; Theoline, born Sept. 27, 1887, now Mrs. Ole K. Myhre of this township; and Elida, born June 25, 1889, who resides with her mother.

Albert O. Engene, who has a good farm of 155 acres in section 35, Wilmington township, the property having formerly belonged to his parents, Ole and Guri (Flaget) Engene, was born in this township, April 2, 1873. As a boy he attended school in his home district, was later a pupil at



ALBERT O. ENGENE AND FAMILY

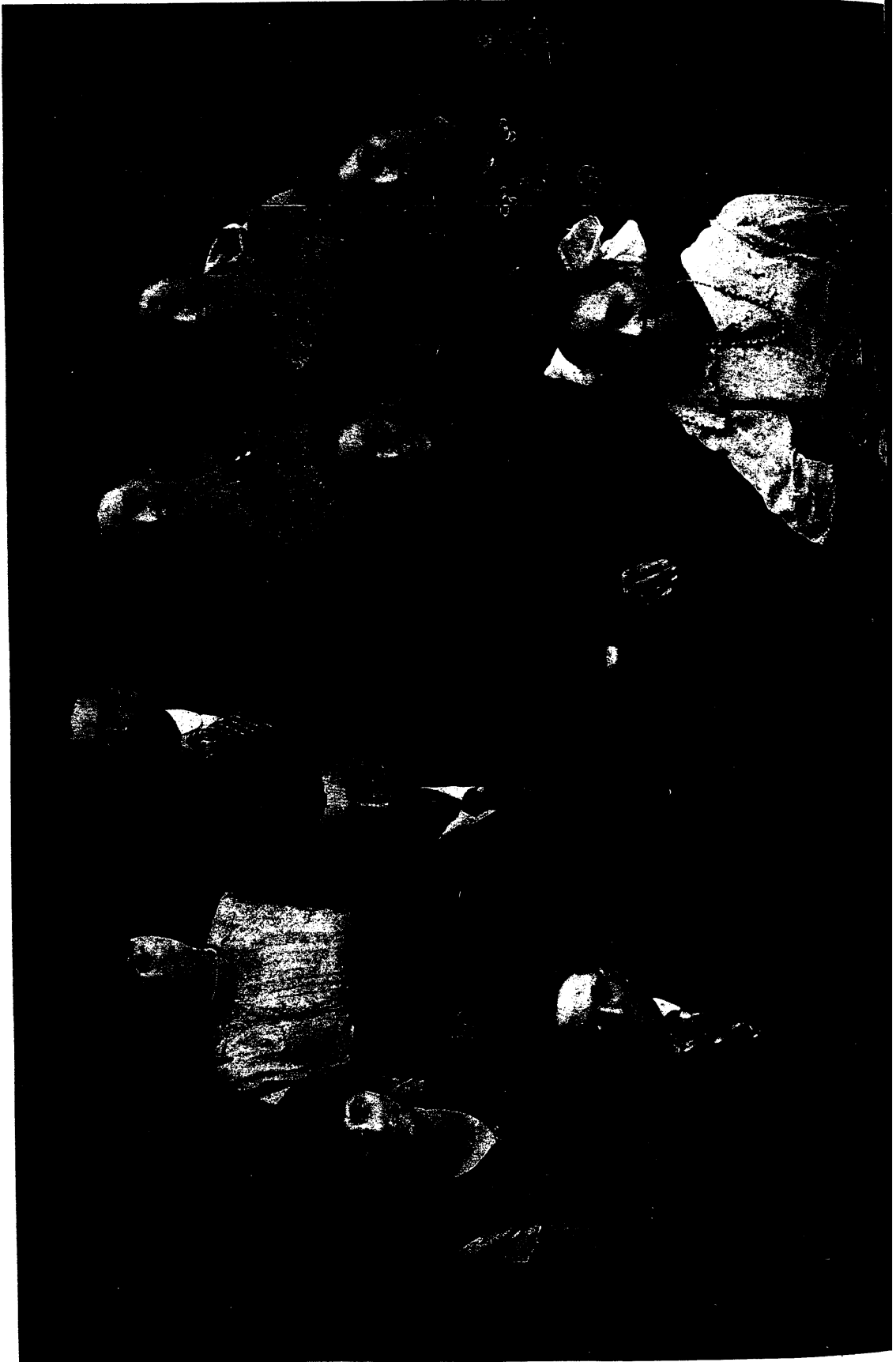
Decorah Institute at Decorah, Iowa, and was subsequently graduated in the business course from the Concordia Lutheran College at Moorhead, Minn., the year of his graduation being 1894. Until 19 years of age he resided at home, then worked one year as a farm hand in the vicinity, and afterwards spent three years at Kindred, N. D., where he farmed during the summers and attended school one winter. On June 4, 1897, he was married to Sigrid, daughter of Ole O. and Margit (Engen) Myhre, of Wilmington township, and began housekeeping on his father's land in section 26. For five years after his marriage he hauled cream for the Honey Creamery at Bee. In 1900 he bought of his father the latter's farm of 120 acres in section 35, also 35 acres from his father's last farm, making a total area of 155 acres, and here he has since made his home. He has 100 acres of the land under the plow, the balance being in timber and pasture, and has greatly improved the place by the erection of new buildings. These include: a frame barn, 30 by 52 by 16 feet, with a stone basement of 9 feet, cement floor, and modern equipment on the James system; a granary 14 by 30, with a basement and lean-to; a machine shed, 14 by 30; garage, 13 by 16; hog house, 8 by 50; with a cement floor and cement feeding floor; a corn crib, 6 by 40; cattle shed, 16 by 46 by 8, and a tile-block silo 12 by 34. He has also remodeled the house, which is now a comfortable five-room dwelling. The land produces good crops, and Mr. Engene is also successfully raising grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, keeping full-blooded sires. His ample equipment includes a five-passenger Chevrolet car. In addition to these interests, Mr. Engene is a stockholder in the Honey Creamery Association, the Spring Grove Hospital and the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., and is one of the prosperous and influential citizens of his township. A Republican in politics, he has for a number of years performed useful service as a public official, having been supervisor two terms, treasurer three years, and is now serving in his second year as assessor. Of the Honey Creamery he has been a director for 14 years. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Gena Matilda, born Feb. 28, 1898, who after graduating from the eighth grade of the common school, was a pupil for one year in the Minnesota Agricultural College, and is now living at home; Manda Selma, born Oct. 19, 1899, who enjoyed the same educational advantages as her elder sister; Oliver Melvin, born Oct. 18, 1901, and Ole Knute, born June 22, 1904, who are graduates of the common school; Selmer Amund, born Aug. 1, 1906, and Alma Emelia, born June 22, 1909, both of whom are attending school. Mr. Engene and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Wilmington township, Houston county.

Ole P. Wolden, one of the pioneers of Wilmington township, who died but a few years ago, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood and married Helene M. Lyshoung. In 1853 he came to America, locating first in Illinois, whence he came with his family to Houston county, Minnesota, about two years later, in 1856, and in company with John Bondely, bought eight "forties" of wild land in Wilmington township, five miles south of Spring Grove village. Here, building a log house, he began to clear and improve his land, and in time developed a farm which is now one

of the best in the township. Mr. Wolden died in 1915 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. G. Myhra, on the outskirts of Spring Grove village. He came of a long-lived family, his father having died at the age of 69 years in Allamakee county, Iowa, soon after arriving from Norway in 1854. During most of his life he was an active and vigorous man. His wife died March 6, 1896, in Allamakee county at the age of 104 years. In addition to the daughter above mentioned, they were the parents of six sons: Osianus, who died soon after the close of the Civil War in 1865; Peter, who was a farmer in Walcott, N. D., where he died in 1888; Andrew, who also farmed in North Dakota, but who died on the home farm in 1880; Gulbrand, who died a number of years ago; Osianus (second), who died some years ago in Harvey, N. D.; and Lauretz O., now proprietor of the home farm.

Lauritz O. Wolden, who is engaged in operating the old Wolden farm in Wilmington township, residing in section 30, was born on this farm, Jan. 4, 1860, son of Ole P. and Helene M. (Lyshoung) Wolden. He acquired his education in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 17 years, and with the exception of a year and a half, which he spent in Spring Grove villege, he has always lived on the home farm, of which he is now the proprietor, his parents being deceased. Of its total area of 195 acres he has 100 under the plow, the balance being in timber and pasture. Mr. Wolden has a good set of modern buildings. His house is a two-story frame structure of eight rooms. In 1904 he built a horse barn, 30 by 32 by 22 feet in size, and in 1914 a stock and grain barn 30 by 56 by 16 feet, on a full stone basement of eight feet, with cement floors. The barns erected by Mr. Wolden's father were destroyed by fire in the spring of 1914. Mr. Wolden's farm equipment is all of the first class and the farm is well stocked with high grade cattle and hogs. Among his business interests aside from his farm are those of a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., the Spring Grove Hospital, the Bee Creamery Association, and the Busted Land Company of Montana, owing a 4000-acre tract. In politics Mr. Wolden has always been a Republican. He served his township a number of years as supervisor, being chairman of the board one term, and has held various offices in his school district, No. 70, rendering efficient service in all public positions. He is a member of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, to which he gives liberal support, and of which he has been a trustee for a number of years. Mr. Wolden was married April 10, 1889, to Olene M. Grangaard, daughter of Michael T. and Carrie Grangaard. Of this union four children have been born: Hilda K., Jan. 13, 1890, who is the wife of Prof. William W. Miners, formerly of the Southern Minnesota Normal School, but now residing in St. Paul; Oscar M., born July 14, 1892, who enlisted in March, 1917, in the aviation service of the U. S. army and served 14 months, when he was honorably discharged; Leander O., born July 9, 1897, and Alma T., born July 4, 1903, both of whom are living on the home farm.

Jurgen Meyer, now residing on the farm in section 36, Wilmington township, which he established nearly 45 years ago, was born in Germany, where he grew to manhood. In the province of Hanover he was married to Katrina Mowhinkel, and in 1866, several years after their marriage, with



their son George C. H., who was their only child, they emigrated to the United States. Landing at New York, they continued their journey westward to Houston county, Minnesota, where they arrived in debt to the extent of \$150 for their passage money. Locating first on Portland Prairie, Winnebago township, Mr. Meyer worked out as a farm hand by the day or month for some five years, during which time he did a large amount of grubbing. In 1871 he and his family removed to Wilmington township, for three years renting land in section 36 from Katrina Kessler. In 1874 Mr. Meyer bought 80 acres of partly improved land in the same section, the buildings consisting of a small log house and some straw sheds for cattle. This land, with the help of his wife and son, he grubbed and developed, and in course of time erected on it a six-room frame house and a log stable and sheds. It has remained the family homestead where he and his wife and son still reside. Though now advanced in years, Mr. Meyer being 85 and Mrs. Meyer 84, they are still enjoying reasonably good health, the result of plain and healthful living and a sound heredity on both sides.

George C. H. Meyer, proprietor of a good farm of 250 acres, lying partly in section 36, Wilmington township, Houston county, and partly in Allamakee county, Iowa, was born in Germany, April 24, 1864, son of Jurgen and Katrina (Mowhinkel) Meyer. In his boyhood he attended English school for 15 months, and a German school from the age of 14 to that of 19. As he was his parents' only child, he naturally became his father's assistant. He is now the owner of 250 acres of good land, 160 lying in Wilmington township, and 90 in Allamakee county, Iowa, the two tracts adjoining each other; and in addition he rents and works the old home farm. He also owns 150 acres in western Kansas, near Garden City, which tract he leases to Mr. Meyer carries on general farming, and is a successful breeder of Northhorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, of the latter raising from 75 to 100 head annually. His buildings are all frame and include two barns, he having a good frame house and barn on the Iowa side of the line. Mr. Meyer is also a stockholder in the Eitzen Creamery, the Eitzen Mercantile Co.'s store, the Farmers' Elevator Co. of Caledonia, of which he has been president for the last 13 years; in politics he is a Republican. On Dec. 27, 1887, Mr. Meyer was married to Anna, daughter of Fred and Johanna (Smith) Meitrodt of Wilmington township, and who was born June 25, 1864. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Meyer: Julius, born Oct. 20, 1888, who died Aug. 4, 1899; Elsa, born Feb. 22, 1890, who died Sept. 25, 1891; Emma E., born July 24, 1891, now Mrs. Otto Deters of Wilmington township; Leo G., born May 2, 1893, who is living on the home farm; Huldah, born March 26, 1895, who died Oct. 15, 1896; Ella B., born June 23, 1896, now a clerk in the employ of the Eitzen Mercantile Co.; Anna, born Oct. 30, 1898, now living at home; Lilly, born Aug. 11, 1900, now a talented music teacher; Lucy E., March 27, 1903; Herbert J., April 25, 1905; and Hannah Dorothy, April 3, 1907, all living on the home farm. Mr. Meyer and his family are members of the German Evangelical church at Eitzen.

Peder Anton Glasrud, who as a boy of six or seven years settled with his parents in Wilmington township, Houston county, was born in Thoten,

Norway, Oct. 13, 1846, son of Christian J. and Bertha Maria Glasrud. Both parents were natives of Norway, the father born May 31, 1813, the mother Feb. 27, 1816. In 1853 they emigrated to the United States, accompanied by their children, then numbering five or six, and made a temporary settlement at Yorkville, Wisconsin. In the same spring they came on to Winneshiiek county, Iowa, where they remained until 1856. Then removing to Houston county, Minnesota, they settled on land in section 16, Wilmington township. A few years later the Civil War broke out, in which the father, Christian J. Glasrud, served during almost its entire period. While he was away his two eldest sons, Johanes and Peder Anton had charge of and operated the farm. There were seven children in the family, namely: Helena Maria, born March 5, 1837; Johana Karina, born Aug. 13, 1839; Johanes, born Aug. 18, 1843; Peder Anton, born Oct. 13, 1846; Joergina, born Aug. 13, 1849; Claus C., born May 5, 1853; and Gustav C., born May 5, 1857. After the father's return from the war matters resumed their normal course. Peder Anton worked on the home farm until his marriage on Nov. 7, 1872, to Sigrid Quale of Wilmington township. He then engaged in farming in Black Hammer township and was thus occupied until his death in 1892 at the age of about 46 years. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, namely: Christian Bernard, now a prominent business man of Spring Grove village; Julia, deceased; Theodore, residing in South Dakota; Peter, an implement dealer in North Dakota; Adolph, a traveling salesman, now living in Fargo, N. D.; Edwin, a resident of Spring Grove township; Arthur, also in Spring Grove township; William, who lives on the home farm in Black Hammer township; Matilda, now Mrs. Knute Lee of Spring Grove village; and Gertrude, who is deceased.

Christian Bernard Glasrud, one of the leading business men of Spring Grove village, dealing in agricultural implements and handling fire and tornado insurance, was born in Black Hammer township, Houston county, March 29, 1873, son of Peder Anton and Sigrid (Quale) Glasrud. After beginning his education he attended the common school in Black Hammer township until 13 years old, and during the winter of 1886-87 was a pupil in the Caledonia village school. During the following summer he worked on the home farm, and in the fall of the same year entered Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, where he remained for a college year. In the summer of 1888 he was again on the farm, and there he remained until 1896. During that time, in 1892, his father died and for the four following years Christian, with his mother's assistance, managed the farm. In the fall of 1896 he rented what is now the Helmer Itle farm in Black Hammer township, which he operated for four years, or until the fall of 1900, when he rented and moved to the P. A. Lommen farm, two and a half miles northwest of Spring Grove village. While living on that farm, on April 7, 1901, he was married to Malinda Samueline, daughter of Peder and Carrie Seglem, of Choice, Fillmore county, Minn. In the latter part of April, 1902, Mr. Glasrud bought the Valten Valtensen farm in section 34, Black Hammer township, and on the second of May the same year moved onto it. This was an improved farm with 115 acres under the plow, and with a fairly good frame house. To improve the place still further, Mr. Glasrud proceeded to erect

some needed buildings, putting up a frame barn, 24 by 60 by 18 feet in size, with a leanto on each side of 14 by 60 feet; a double corn crib, workshop and woodshed. There he remained until 1911, in which year he rented the place to a tenant, and removing, in February, to Spring Grove village, here engaged in the harness business, in which he continued for four years. In 1915 Mr. Glasrud traded his harness business for an 80-acre farm near Newhouse, Spring Grove township, but sold this farm within 30 days. Early in 1916, in company with a Mr. Vaaler, he engaged in the meat business in Spring Grove, under the firm name of Glasrud & Vaaler. At the end of the first year he sold his interest, and in January, 1917, bought the agricultural implement business of G. C. Glasrud, which he is still conducting. He also handles automobiles, which he began to do as early as 1914, and sells fire and tornado insurance, in all of which lines he is building up a good business. As a dealer in agricultural implements he is the leading merchant in the community. In addition to this he is conducting an implement business in Lanesboro, Fillmore county, managing it from his home office. He owns and occupies a large, two-story house in the village of Spring Grove conveniently situated near the place of business, which is on Wilmington avenue. One of the potent factors in the business life of the community, Mr. Glasrud has taken an active part in advancing local interests, and in 1915 and 1916 was president of the Spring Grove Commercial Club. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Spring Grove Co-operative Creamery, the Root River Electric Company, and the Spring Grove Hospital. Politically he has always been a Republican, and while living in Black Hammer township, was chairman of the town board for several years, and also served some years as school treasurer. His religious affiliations and those of his family are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. For six or seven years formerly he served as trustee of the Black Hammer congregation. To Mr. and Mrs. Christian B. Glasrud eight children have been born, as follows. Sigrid Carlina, Nov. 12, 1901; Julia Odella, Nov. 1, 1903; Gina Maria, Jan. 5, 1905; Peter Anton, Dec. 14, 1907; Borghild Miranda, March 20, 1911; Olga Joergina, March 5, 1913; Helen Corine, Nov. 9, 1915; and George Raymond, born Oct. 22, 1917.

The Haugen Brothers, Christopher, Carl, Edwin and Ole, who are associated together in the operation of a farm of 178 acres in section 5, Wilmington township, are sons of Torger Haugen, one of the pioneer settlers of Houston county. Torger Haugen was born in Norway, Feb. 10, 1831, and came to America at the age of 20 years, joining the Norwegian settlement at Rock Prairie, near Beloit, Wis. In 1853 he came from there to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., and for some years worked as a farm hand, earning very small wages. In 1862 he was married to Kjersti Helgeson Ellingsbraten, who was born in Norway, Feb. 20, 1838, and who had emigrated with her parents to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., in 1859. Having purchased a farm in Spring Grove township, he erected a log house, in which he and his wife took up their residence, and began making improvements. He had hardly made a fair start, however, when the Indian insurrection broke out, and the news of the attack on New Ulm,

Hutchinson, and other places caused the greatest excitement and apprehension throughout this and adjoining states, the more so as the Civil War was then in progress and many of the younger and more able-bodied men had enlisted or been called upon to serve against the Confederates and were already fighting on distant battlefields. Volunteers were called for to serve against the Sioux, and for the sake of the pay offered, for he was poor, and also perhaps from a sense of duty, Mr. Haugen enlisted and set out for the scene of conflict, leaving his wife on the farm. He remained a soldier until the close of the Civil War in 1865, and on his return home first made the acquaintance of his son Christopher, then about two years old, who had been born April 26, 1863. Instead of resuming work on his original place, Mr. Haugen bought a new farm in sections 5 and 8, Wilmington township, about two and a half miles east of what is now Spring Grove village, and to this place he moved with his wife and son. It was a wild tract of 160 acres, and before him lay many years of hard work necessary to develop it into a good farm, but he at once settled down to the task and kept up his work until it was accomplished, and so thoroughly that it was recognized as one of the best farms in the township, the land being highly productive and the buildings adequate and substantial. Naturally Mr. and Mrs. Haugen endured many privations in early days, having begun with practically nothing but their hands and an ox team. There were times when provisions were scarce, or hard to procure, and sometimes there was a crop failure, or their crops were ravaged by insect pests; but in spite of these handicaps and misfortunes they persevered, and their patience and industry in time brought their due reward. In 1895 Christopher, the eldest son took over the operation of the farm and was its manager until 1905, in which year, on March 15 the father, Torger Haugen, passed away. The farm at that time had an area of 138 acres, and was provided with a good set of buildings. Around the parents had grown up a family of six children, five sons and one daughter, not counting two other children who had died in infancy. The birth of Christopher has been already mentioned. The other surviving children were: Carl, born Oct. 15, 1873; Edwin, born Sept. 5, 1875; Ole, born Aug. 18, 1877; Clara, who married Andrew Ness but is now deceased; and Helge, now a prosperous farmer in Spring Grove Township. After the father's death the three brothers, Carl, Edwin and Ole, became associated with Christopher in the operation of the farm, and have since conducted it under the business name of Haugen Brothers, their mother having charge of the household until her death June 13, 1919. Today the farm contains 178 acres, 150 being under the plow. The fences and buildings are in good condition, the latter including a one and a half story frame house; a frame barn, 34 by 70 by 18 feet in dimensions, on a full stone basement of nine feet; a granary, 20 by 28 by 14; machine shed, 20 by 32, with corn cribs and other necessary structures. The brothers are profitably engaged in general farming and stockraising, having a fine herd of grade Hereford cattle, numbering some 40 to 50, a herd of 60 or 75 Poland-China hogs, and about 15 grade Belgian horses. They own two automobiles and have an excellent general equipment and, in addition to their direct farming interests, are stockholders in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., the



MRS. AND MRS. HENRY, MRS. AND MRS. HENRY, MRS. AND MRS. HENRY, MRS. AND MRS. HENRY

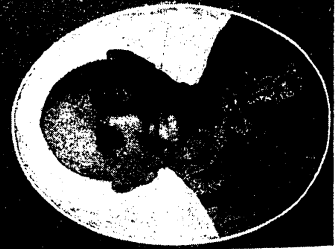
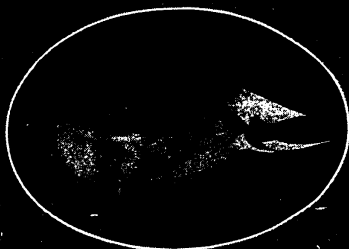
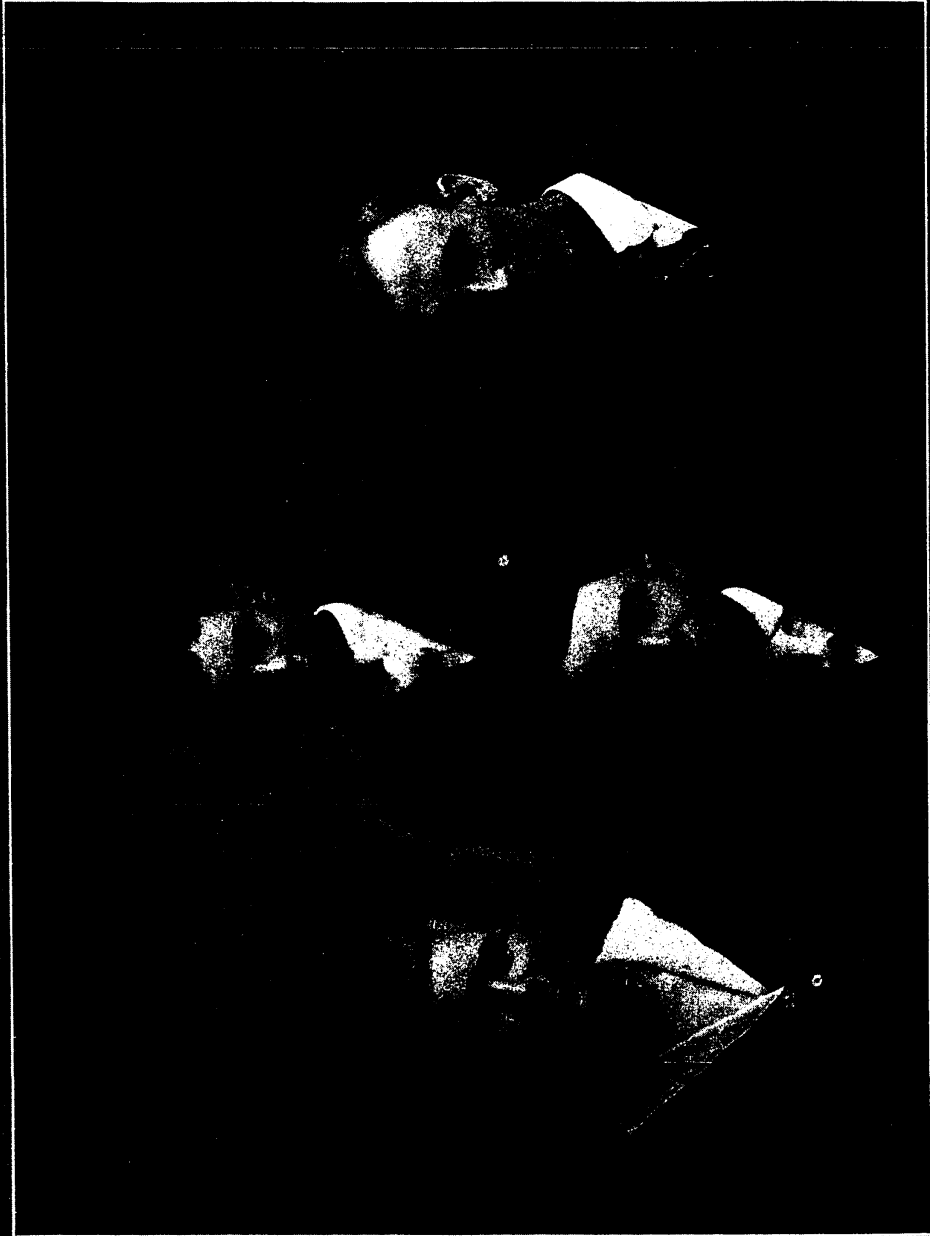
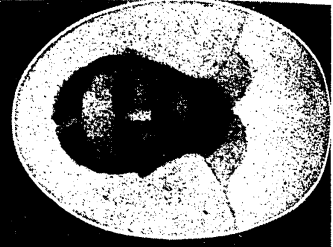
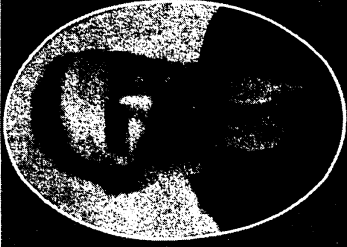
Spring Grove Creamery and the Spring Grove Hospital. Trained in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, they are influential members of the Spring Grove congregation.

Herman Seekamp, who is pursuing a prosperous career as a general stock farmer in section 1, Money Creek township, was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, Jan. 20, 1868, son of Henry and Matilda (Ellers) Seekamp. The father was a native of Germany who settled in New York City, but who at an early day came to Houston county, Minn., and located in the northwest part of Money Creek township, where he engaged in farming, and where he and his wife are now living retired. In former years he frequently held local office. He and his wife have been the parents of ten children, of whom Herman was the second in order of birth. The latter learned his letters and acquired the basis of a common school education in the McCloud school in Money Creek township. He resided on the home farm until his marriage, at which time he began farming for himself at the present location, having 343 acres of valuable land well provided with four sets of buildings and all necessary equipment. He has made a gratifying success as a stock raiser, and is also a shareholder in the Money Creek Creamery, the Houston Elevator, and the Independent Harvester Co. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious creed is that of the Lutheran church, of which he is a member. Mr. Seekamp was married Feb. 17, 1898, to Emma Neeb, who was born in Richfield, Wis., Oct. 21, 1875, daughter of Henry and Charlotta (Alenbacher) Neeb. Her parents were natives of Germany, who on coming to this country located near Rushford, Wisconsin, where their first home was a log house and their chairs blocks of wood. From those primitive conditions they afterwards made progress until they were in the enjoyment of comfortable circumstances. Mr. Neeb died about 1912, and his wife is now living in Winona county. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Seekamp has been enlarged by the birth of seven children, all of whom are residing at home, namely: Cora, Bertha, Frederick, Anna, George, Edward and Dorothy. Cora was born, Aug. 3, 1898; Bertha was born Oct. 14, 1899; Frederick was born March 2, 1901; Anna was born Aug. 5, 1902; George was born Feb. 9, 1905; Edward was born July 1, 1907; and Dorothy was born July 9, 1911.

Rev. Paul Lorenz, pastor of Zion Lutheran church in the village of Eitzen, was born in Milton township, Buffalo county, Wis., April 4, 1880. Up to the age of 14 years he attended district school, and at that of 17 became a student in the Northwestern University at Watertown, Wis., where he remained six years. In the fall of 1903 he entered the Lutheran Seminary at Wauwatosa, Wis., where he completed his theological studies in 1906, in the latter year becoming pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran church at Prairie du Chien, Wis. From there in the fall of 1908 he came to Eitzen, Minn., to assume the duties of his present charge, which covers a wide field. Mr. Lorenz was married, July 2, 1907, to Ida L., daughter of Carl and Caroline (Gnerlich) Schuenke, of Juneau, Dodge county, Wis. Of this union four children have been born: Paul, August 1, 1909; Theophilis, March 4, 1911; Martin, July 19, 1915; and Malita, April 16, 1916.

William J. Pohlman, one of the leading citizens of Crooked Creek township, proprietor of a good farm of 232 acres, his residence being in section 26, was born in Jefferson township, Houston county, Minn., Jan 15, 1883, son of William and Elizabeth Pohlman. He was reared in his native township, in his boyhood attending district school No. 78, and remained at home until 22 years old. From 1905 to 1911 he worked out as a farm hand, saving a considerable part of his earnings, so that in the spring of the year last mentioned he was able to purchase his present farm, an improved property with a frame house, two barns and granary, all in good condition. He has still further improved the buildings and has erected others, including an ice and well house, a hog house and machine shed, and his operating equipment is also up to date, his tools and machinery being fully adequate and of modern type. Though his land is somewhat rough as to surface, it is productive, and Mr. Pohlman has 100 acres of it under the plow. He has increasing herds of cattle and hogs, with sufficient horses for draught purposes. The farm gives ample evidence of Mr. Pohlman's practical ability, and he takes high rank among the enterprising and successful men of his township. In politics a Republican, he has served as a member of the town board and is now holding the offices of assessor. He has for years taken an active interest in everything that concerns the welfare of the community in which he lives and has been liberal in the support of local enterprises. Mr. Pohlman was married April 26, 1911, to Dorothy, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Beneke, of Jefferson township, this county, and has one child, Sarah, who was born April 10, 1915. He and his family are affiliated religiously with the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church, and attend the meetings of that denomination at Caledonia.

Fritz Almquist, who though not a resident of Houston county, was connected by marriage with a well known family of Money Creek township, was born in Munsen, Sweden, Oct. 4, 1853, son of August and Helena Almquist. His parents died in Sweden, and in that country he attended school, for a part of the time at Stockholm. At the age of 14 years he came to this country to join a brother in Clay county, Minnesota, and there his school education was completed. After living a year with his brother, he went to Rolag in the same county, where he was clerk for one year in a store. At the end of that time he went to Hawley, also in Clay county, where after a while he engaged in mercantile business. Later he sold his store and became manager for another firm, continuing in that position until his death on March 6, 1906. For some time he held the office of recorder at Hawley, and was one of that town's best known and most respected citizens. In politics he was a Democrat, and, religiously, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Almquist was married June 4, 1890, to Ellen Olson, who was born at Money Creek, Houston county, Minn., daughter of Tosten and Margaret (Anfinson) Olson, of Money Creek township, this county, the former of whom died April 19, 1918, and the latter April 6, 1905. After her husband's death Mrs. Almquist returned to Houston county, taking up her residence in the village of Houston, where she expects to make her home for the future. She has recently sold her property in Hawley, Minn., and has come into possession of the estate of



MR. AND MRS. SWEN LARSON SWENSON—MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. BENSON
ELMORE O. BENSON AND FAMILY

her father. She and her husband were the parents of four children: Alvin Thomas, Lyla Margaret, Charlotte Helena and Leona, all of whom were graduated from the Houston high school and the Winona Normal School. Alvin, who also graduated from Upper Iowa University, and was for some time a teacher, is now in the United States service as a member of the Fifth Engineer Corps. The daughters are all teachers, Lyla M. at Bertha, Minn., Charlotte at Blue Earth, Minn., and Leona at Leroy, Minn. Mrs. Almquist belongs to the Rebeckah branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to which her husband also belonged, he being a charter member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Hawley.

Charles A. Benson, one of the first settlers in Houston township, who died a few years ago, was born in Sweden, April 19, 1840. With his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Benson, he came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1853, they settling with other Swedes on the east bank of the south fork of Root River, in what is now section 3 south, Houston township. Here on their arrival they took up their residence in a tent, but soon had a more substantial abode. The father took land and developed it, and in due course of time died. Charles A. attended district school and was reared on the home farm. In the early sixties he went to the Pacific coast in search of gold, travelling through Colorado and California. After two years he returned and assisted his parents on the home place, in time developing a farm of 177 acres, besides acquiring an adjoining tract of 80 acres. A man of industry and enterprise, he was held in high regard by his fellow citizens, and at various times was called upon to serve in town office. He married Cornelia Anderson, who was born in Sweden, Dec. 24, 1849, and who is now residing in Houston with Mrs. C. W. Anderson. They were the parents of four children: Ida, Bertha, Amy and Elmore O. of whom Elmore O. is now operating the old home farm. Mr. Benson's death occurred in April, 1915, and with him passed away another old settler whose life was practically contemporaneous with the history of Houston county.

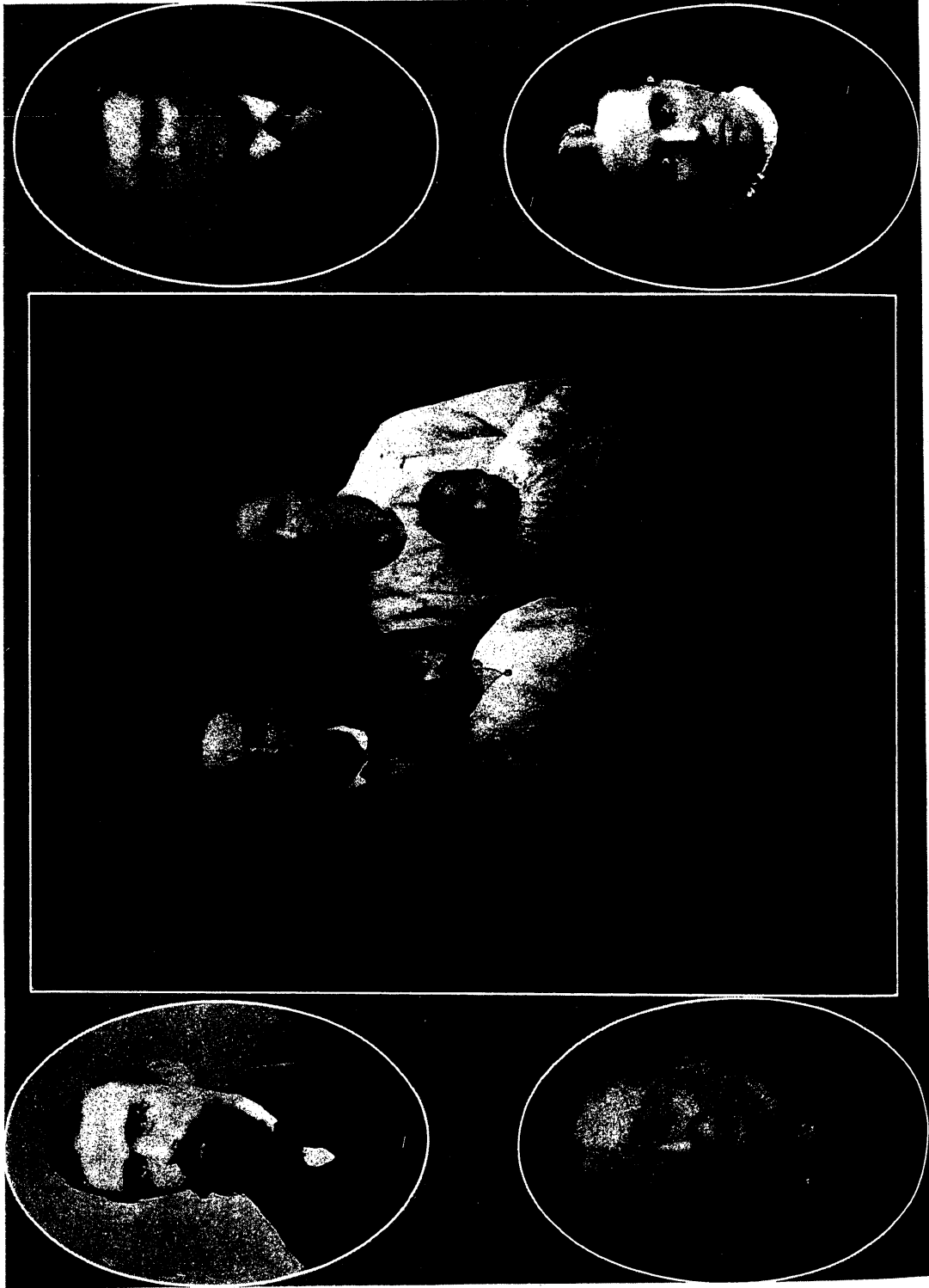
Elmore O. Benson, one of the leading farmers of Houston township, proprietor of the old Benson homestead in section 3 south, was born on the farm on which he now lives, on Nov. 15, 1876, son of Charles A. and Cornelia (Anderson) Benson. He attended district school in his home neighborhood and also in Houston, and assisted his father until 21 years old, after which he had the practical management of the farm, which he is still operating to the extent of 177 acres, the balance of the estate being rented out. He does general farming, raising for the market both crops and stock, and is a member of the Houston Shipping Association, and a shareholder in the local creamery company and the Security State Bank of Houston. His farm is provided with all modern improvements, the buildings, fences and other appurtenances being in the best condition, and the estate forming a valuable piece of agricultural property. Mr. Benson is independent in politics. In the spring of 1919 he was elected township assessor, and he has previously served efficiently as a member of the school board of his district. Mr. Benson has taken considerable interest in the early history of the locality. One of his cherished possessions is an Indian hatchet, which he dug up on his farm, where it was reposing at a depth of three

feet. It is supposed to have been buried there with its maker or owner, as three Indian graves have been found practically on the same spot. On April 16, 1903, Elmore O. Benson was united in marriage with Effie Swenson, and they have two children, Charles Arvid, born Oct. 12, 1906, and Samuel Rodney, born April 2, 1909. Mrs. Benson was born in Sweden, Aug. 4, 1875, daughter of Swen Larson Swenson, born May 19, 1841, and his wife, Olena Carlson, born June 25, 1841. This family settled in Swede Bottom, this county, in 1881, and now live in Houston. The children are: Charles J., Carrie, Effie, Ellen, Hannah and Alfred. Mrs. Benson is a lady of wide education, having received her training in the Houston High School and the Winona State Normal School, and was an efficient teacher for eight years.

Michael Houlihan, a thrifty and enterprising farmer of section 12, Wilmington township, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, Sept. 16, 1853, son of Patrick and Katherine (Moore) Houlihan. He was but three years old when he accompanied his parents to America, and after a residence with them in Illinois, and later in Iowa, he found himself at the age of 12 years in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn. Here his parents bought 80 acres of land in section 12 that forms a part of his present farm. Here he grew to manhood, and for a short time in his boyhood attended school. On June 22, 1886, Mr. Houlihan was married to Ellen Norton, daughter of Dennis and Mary Norton of Sheldon township, where she was born Jan. 13, 1859. In the year of his marriage he bought his parents' farm, which he has since been engaged in operating on his own account. Having purchased an adjoining tract of 38 acres, he now has a farm of 118 acres, with 75 acres under the plow, the balance being in timber and pasture. His other improvements include the erection of a number of good buildings, including a comfortable, eight-room frame house; a frame barn, 24 by 40 by 16 feet, with a lean-to 16 by 40 feet for cattle; a second barn, 16 by 20, for cattle; a granary 16 by 18, and a garage 9 by 14. The operating equipment is good and the farm is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and mixed Duroc and Poland-China swine. Mr. and Mrs. Houlihan have had eight children: James M., John T., Edward J., George P., Mary A., Paul V., Robert H., and Leo F. James M. was born April 3, 1887. John T. was born June 25, 1888, and died May 25, 1914. Edward J. was born Oct. 2, 1889. George P. was born March 8, 1891. Mary A. was born March 27, 1893, and is now a trained nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, at Minneapolis, Minn.; Paul V. was born March 3, 1895. Robert H. was born Nov. 8, 1897. Leo F. was born Nov. 18, 1900. The family enjoys a unique record for loyalty. It is the only family in the county that furnished four sons to the United States service during the Great War, and indeed one of the few of the whole country. James M. enlisted Aug. 26, 1918, in Detachment 28, Depot Brigade, and was discharged in February, 1919. Edward J. enlisted in Co. G, 132nd Infantry, Feb. 24, 1918, and served one year in France, seeing active service in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. George P. enlisted May 27, 1918, and served nine months in Co. D, 127th Infantry. He saw active service in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Paul V. enlisted May 27, 1918, and served a year in France, taking part in the Battle of St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-

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MR. AND MRS. REINHOLD MANN AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. LUDWIG MANN—MR. AND MRS. EMIL KRUEGER

Argonne and the Mabaele-Taue offensive. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. In politics, Mr. Houlihan is a Democrat.

Patrick Houlihan, who for 35 years was a well known and respected citizen of Wilmington township, where he developed a farm, was born in Ireland, where he grew to manhood. There he was married to Katherine Moore and they resided in County Kerry until about 1856 when they emigrated to the United States. For awhile he and his family resided in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. About 1858 Mr. Houlihan became employed in railroad construction work on the railroad between McGregor, Iowa, and Austin, Minn. Later he located in Decorah, Iowa, and helped to build the line between that place and Calmar. In 1865 he came with his family to Houston county, Minn., and engaged in farming, buying 80 acres of land in section 12, Wilmington township, that is now included in the farm of his son Michael. Some of the land on the place had been cleared and there was a log house and some cattle sheds on it. There he resided, operating and improving the farm until 1886, when he sold it to his son Michael on the latter's marriage. He continued to reside on the place, however, until his death, which occurred on May 11, 1900. He had been a widower for some years, his wife having passed away in 1894. They were the parents of three sons, Thomas, Edward and Michael, all of whom were born in Ireland.

Reinhold Mann, proprietor of a good modern farm in section 28, Union township, was born in the village of Hokah, Houston county, March 6, 1881, son of Ludwig and Emelia (Kriese) Mann. The parents were natives of Germany and the father was a soldier in the German army during the war with Austria. He came with his family to America in the seventies, locating in this county. For seven years he worked in the mill at Hokah, but the rest of his life here was spent in agriculture, at first on a rented farm, but later on the farm now owned by his son Reinhold, which he purchased. He and his wife had nine children: Emil, Adolph, Ida, Alvina, Louis, Reinhold, Emma, Minnie and Charles. Emil, Adolph and Louis are now deceased. Reinhold Mann in his boyhood attended the local schools, his time out of school hours being for the most part spent in helping his father on the home farm, on which he has since resided. On his marriage at the age of 29 he rented a part of the homestead and three years later purchased the farm from the heirs. The present house was then standing, but he has made some notable improvements, having erected a barn, 40 by 100 feet, with stone basement, partly cemented and provided with ventilators. It is modern in style and substantially built. He has also erected several outbuildings, including a machine-shed and a hog house, a granary with a basement adapted to the purposes of a garage and storeroom. Besides carrying on general farming very successfully, he is part owner of a threshing outfit and owns elevator and telephone stock. Mr. Mann was married May 29, 1910, to Hulda Krueger, who was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, Jan. 18, 1884, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Krueger. The father engaged in farming in Houston county, though at times working out. He and his wife had six children: Arthur, Frederick, Hulda, Emma, Albert and John. After his death his widow married Ferdinand Kliskie, by whom she had six children: Anna and Mary (twins), Elsie, Louis, Arthur and Ruth. Of

the children in the two families, all are now living except Albert and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Mann are the parents of two children: Violet Ruth, who was born Jan. 27, 1917, and Arlyn Reinhold, born May 14, 1919.

William Orr, one of the pioneer settlers of Mound Prairie township, now deceased, was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and was a young man when, in 1845, he emigrated to America, settling in the state of New York. After remaining there for a time, he made a trip to the Northwest, finding employment at lumbering in the woods and in river work on the Mississippi. Returning to New York, he was there married to Mary Crowe, and then brought his young wife to Houston county, Minnesota. At the first land sale in Brownsville he bought a tract of wild land in Mound Prairie township and he and his wife took up their residence there. After making some improvements on his original tract, he moved to another farm near by, where he made his permanent home, dying there about 1903, his wife having died a few years previously. During his active career he served in various town offices. He was survived by six children.

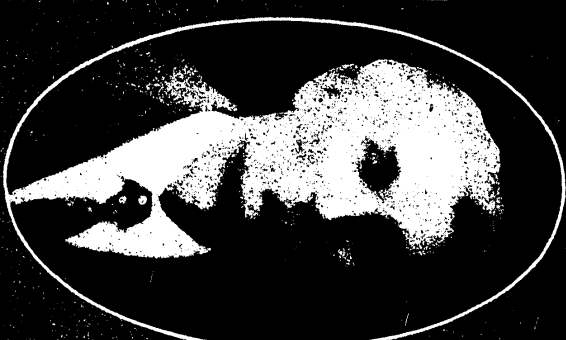
Joseph Orr, now deceased, for many years a prominent citizen not only of his own township of Yucatan, but also in the general affairs of the entire community, did the county good service as chairman of the county board, and left a splendid reputation for integrity and ability. He was a native of this county, born in Mound Prairie township, Oct. 29, 1855, second of the six children of William and Mary (Crowe) Orr, who were among the earliest settlers in that township. He was educated in the district school, and was reared to farm pursuits, remaining with his parents until thirty years of age. He then purchased a farm in Yucatan township, adjoining the one where his son now lives. There he resided for eleven years, improving and cultivating the place in many ways. Subsequently he returned to Mound Prairie township, and there farmed for awhile. Then he came to the present Orr farm in section 22, Yucatan township. To the cultivation of this farm he devoted the remainder of his life. This farm, consisting of 200 acres, is one of the best in the township. He carried on general farming, and made a specialty of stock raising, being numbered among the most enterprising and prosperous citizens of the county. Mr. Orr early became interested in public affairs and affiliated himself with the Republican party. After serving in minor offices he became chairman of Yucatan township, and in this office established such a good record that he was elected a member of the county board, of which in time he became chairman. He died April 8, 1919, and his death was sincerely mourned.

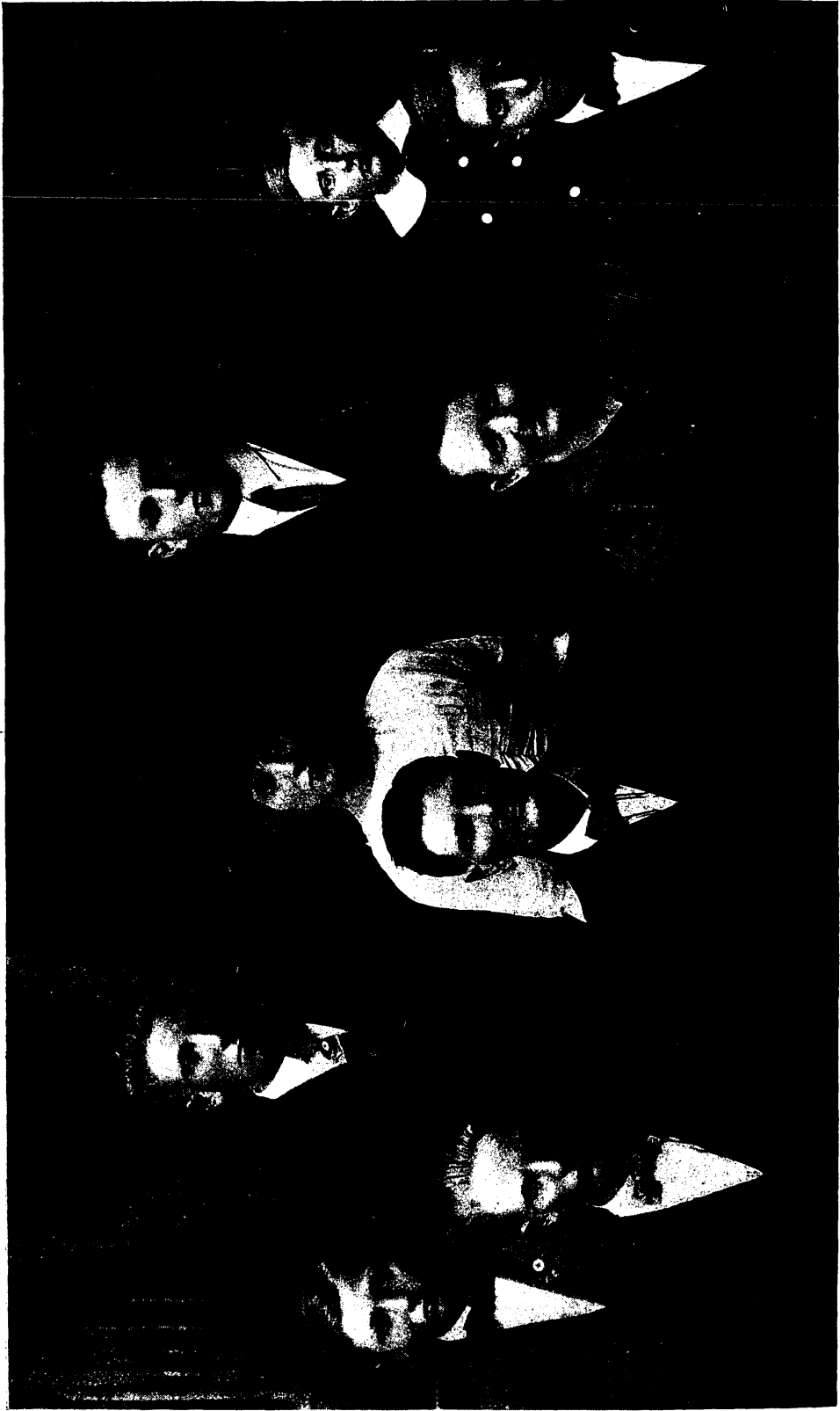
William Bernard Orr, farming the Orr place, section 22, Yucatan Township, represents the third generation of sturdy agriculturists in Houston county. He was born in this county, July 16, 1890, and after passing through the district schools, took a course at the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, Wis. He then farmed with his father until the latter's death, April 8, 1919, when he rented the place. He successfully carries on general farming and is regarded as one of the rising young men of the community. Mr. Orr married Gusta Dahl, born May 25, 1889, daughter of Andrew and Martha Dahl, early settlers of this county. This union has been blessed with three children: Benora, born July 22, 1914; Allan, born

MR. AND MRS. TORRETT GIBB

WILLIAM BERNARD GIBB AND FAMILY

MRS. AND MRS. ANDREW DAHL





ALFRED J. ANDERSON AND FAMILY

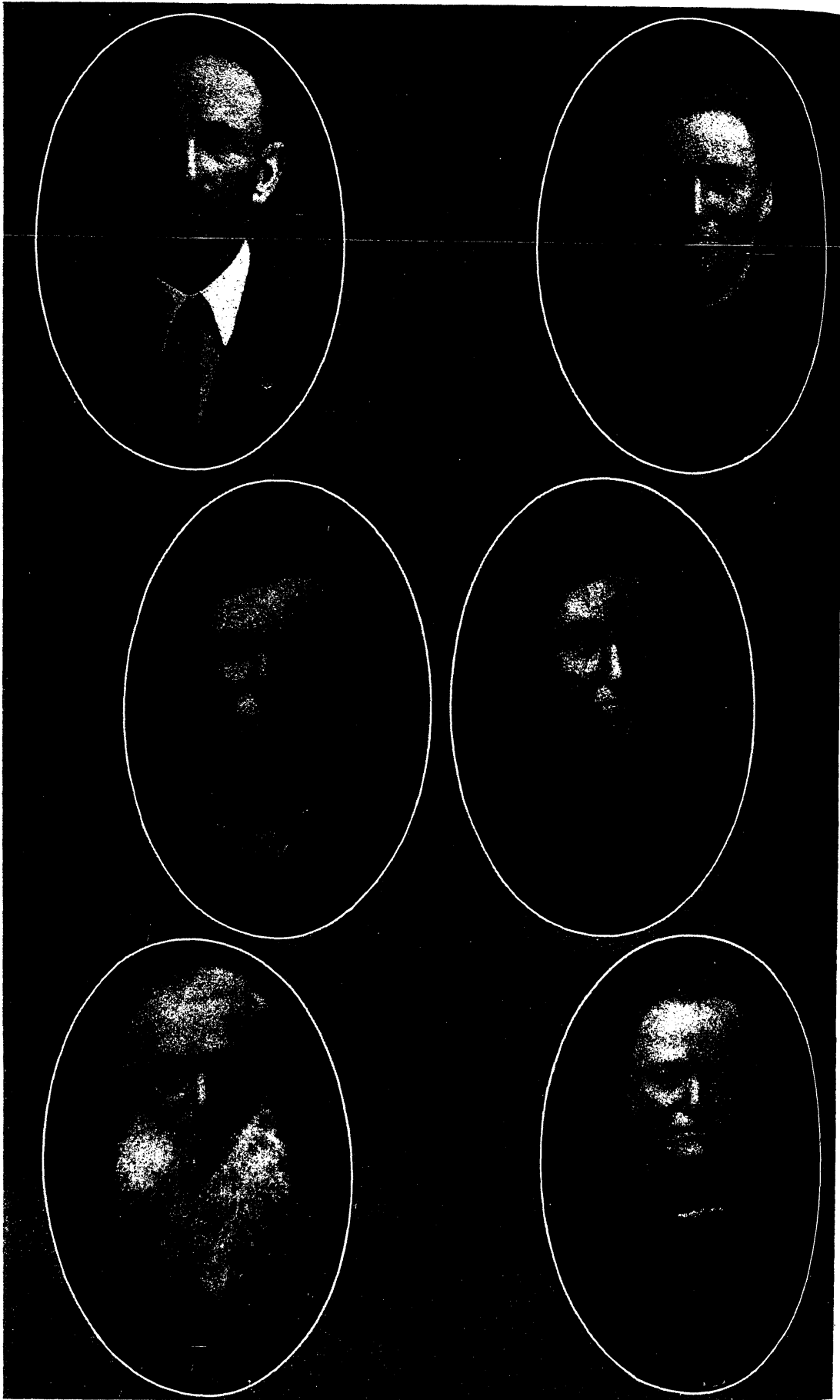
June 23, 1916; and Alys, born May 23, 1918. Like his father before him, Mr. Orr is associated with the Masonic body.

Mr. Orr was married, Sept. 7, 1888, to Harriet H. Comstock, who was born in Yucatan township, daughter of Julius W. and Maria Comstock. Her parents, natives of Broome county, New York, were early settlers in Houston county, where both died, the father after holding various local and town offices. Mrs. Harriet H. Orr was born Sept. 30, 1868, and died May 11, 1906, after a happy married life of seventeen years. She was the mother of three children: William Bernard, Marian and Frank.

Alfred J. Anderson, who is assisting in the general improvement and development of Houston county as a raiser of stock, his farm of 180 acres lying in sections 11 and 12, Houston township, was born in Halland, Sweden, Sept. 22, 1867, son of John B. and Hannah Lena (Carlson) Anderson. The family came to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1873, settling on a farm in this township, where the father died in 1898. The mother is still residing on the homestead. They had eight children, of whom Alfred J. was the eldest. He was educated in the school of his district and began working out when 11 years old, being thus occupied for a number of years, or until his marriage. For three years he worked as a car conductor. Later he rented a farm in Houston township, operating it for ten years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm, a well improved piece of property, with good modern equipment, the improvements having been made largely by himself, on which he is breeding Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. He has met with a good measure of success and is now numbered among the well-to-do citizens of his township. He is also a stockholder in the Houston Creamery. He is the present treasurer of his school district, in politics being a Republican, and is a member of Camp No. 1962, M. W. A., at Houston. Mr. Anderson was married, June 24, 1893, to Bertha May Williams, who was born near Christiania, Norway, Dec. 4, 1874, daughter of Peter and Inga Williams. Seven children have arrived to brighten and enlarge their family circle: Charles Walter, Ethel Irene, Harold Clayton, Melvin Curtis, John Alton, Paul William and Roger Maynard. Charles Walter was born Dec. 24, 1893. He enlisted May 27, 1918, in Company F, 162d Infantry, and trained at Camp Lewis and Camp Kearney. He went to Europe in August, 1918. He was then transferred to Company L, in an infantry regiment of the 26th Division. He was discharged April 26, 1919, and is now at home. Ethel I. was born Aug. 21, 1896, is the wife of Irwin Johnson, a farmer of Houston township, and has one daughter, Ruby Irene. Harold C. was born March 15, 1898. Melvin C. was born May 31, 1901. John A. was born Nov. 28, 1902. Paul W. was born March 24, 1906. Roger M. was born March 9, 1911. The parents of Mrs. Anderson came to this country from Norway in 1882, and for seven years resided in Iowa, the father following the occupation of contractor and builder. Subsequently they removed to Minneapolis, and thence to a farm at Eagle Bend, Minn., where Mr. Williams died in the spring of 1913. His wife is still residing on the farm. Of their three children Bertha May was the second in order of birth.

Daniel Vance, who for a long period in former years was a well known and respected citizen of Money Creek township and village, was born in Caledonia county, Vermont, Aug. 31, 1818. He grew up in his native state and as a young man learned the carpenter's trade, becoming proprietor of a shop and conducting business on his own account. On one occasion his shop was destroyed by a cyclone. While still a resident of Vermont, Mr. Vance was married to Angelina P. Clark, also of good Vermont stock, born April 2, 1822. Three children were born to them in their native state. In December, 1852, Mr. Vance joined in the rush of gold seekers to California, leaving his family behind in Vermont. While seeking his fortune in the far distant state, where he spent less than a year, his daughter Elizabeth died, and on learning of her death he at once returned home. In 1864 he and his wife lost their third child. For three years longer they remained in Vermont, and then in November, 1867, they came to Minnesota with their son, Charles H., locating in Money Creek village for the winter. In the following spring they settled on a farm in the township, which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vance for many subsequent years, or until their retirement from active work, when they settled in the village. There they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Vance dying April 1, 1905, at the age of 76, and his wife on Feb. 24, 1907, when nearly 75. In addition to making a good record as a farmer, Mr. Vance took an active part in church and school work, serving for a number of years as treasurer of the school board. His knowledge of the carpenter's trade also proved useful, as he was employed to build the M. E. parsonage, which he did in a substantial and thorough manner. In his later years, on the farm he worked in partnership with his son, Charles H., who finally became proprietor of the homestead.

Charles H. Vance, a prominent citizen of Money Creek township, was born in Caledonia county, Vermont, Oct. 15, 1855, son of Daniel and Angelina P. (Clark) Vance. He was educated partly in his native state and partly in Minnesota, coming to Houston county with his parents when about 12 years old. Besides attending the district school in Money Creek township, he was a pupil for a short time in the Winona High School. From the time he was 14 years old he was his father's assistant on the home farm, finally becoming a partner with him, and later the property passed into his hands. In May, 1907, on account of impaired health he disposed of his holdings here and moved to Colorado, where he resided for about six years, being in the employ of the Great Western Sugar Company. He then returned to Money Creek township, this county, to take care of an aunt. While on the old homestead he was largely engaged in raising full-blooded stock, being one of the first farmers in the valley to enter that line of business. He was the first vice-president of the Creamery Association, and served as school treasurer for a number of years, besides occasionally holding other local offices. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been a Prohibitionist in politics since the time of Governor St. John, of Kansas, who was a presidential candidate in 1884. At an early date he joined the order of Good Templars. Mr. Vance was married, Oct. 18, 1877, to Josephine B. Crosby, who was born in Money Creek village, Houston county, Minn., daughter of Joseph Emerson and Jane (Vance)



MR. AND MRS. FELIX HAFNER
MR. AND MRS. LORENZ HAFNER
MR. AND MRS. JOHN REINART

Crosby. Her father was born in Rumney, N. H., Nov. 17, 1813, and her mother in Vermont, Aug. 12, 1820. They were married in the East and resided in Vermont for a number of years subsequently. In 1854 Mr. Crosby came to Minnesota to preempt land, and after finding a satisfactory location in Money Creek, Houston county, returned to Vermont for his family, whom he brought with him to the new home. Their first dwelling here was the log house in which Mrs. Vance was born, and of which they took possession in 1855. Mr. Crosby continued farming here for practically the rest of his life. He and his wife have both passed away.

Felix Hafner, proprietor of a farm of 220 acres in section 13 La Crescent township, was born in this township Jan. 13, 1862, son of Lorenz and Mary Meier Hafner. The eldest in a family of eight children, he was educated in the convent school at Hokah, this county, and resided on his parents' farm for the most part until his marriage. He then rented the home farm from his father for one year, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of 220 acres, which is well improved, and where he is carrying on general farming, chiefly raising grain. He is enjoying a prosperous career and is a stockholder in the Hokah State Bank and the La Crescent State Bank, and a director and stockholder in the Hokah Farmers State Bank. He has been one of the town supervisors during most of the time for the last 16 years, and is now serving in that office, and for the last nine years has served as school treasurer. He is a member of the Catholic church and in politics is independent. Mr. Hafner was married April 14, 1891, to Katie Reinart, daughter of John and Lena (Friedman) Reinart, her father being a native of Austria and her mother of the state of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hafner are the parents of nine children: John, Lawrence, Sophia, Margaret, Elizabeth, William, Lena, Francis and Albert. John married Anna Reinhart, and they live in Hokah and have one child, Euthalia. Lawrence saw service in the Great War with the Engineer Corps in France. Sophia married Joseph Wermerskirchen, lives in Montana, and has one child, Vernon.

Lorenz Hafner, a former resident of Houston county, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, Aug. 10, 1829. In 1855 he came to this country locating at Peoria, Ill., where he worked in the coal mines during the winter. In the spring he bought 40 acres of land near Milwaukee, Wis., but later came to Houston county, Minn., buying a farm in Mound Prairie township, where he remained for a year or two. He then sold it and bought a farm in Pfeiffer Valley. In 1862 he sold that place and went to Mexico, but after a short stay there he returned and purchased a farm on South Ridge, which he operated until his retirement, when he removed to La Crosse, which place was his home subsequently until his death. He married Mary Meier, a native of the Duchy of Luxembourg, and they had a family of eight children.

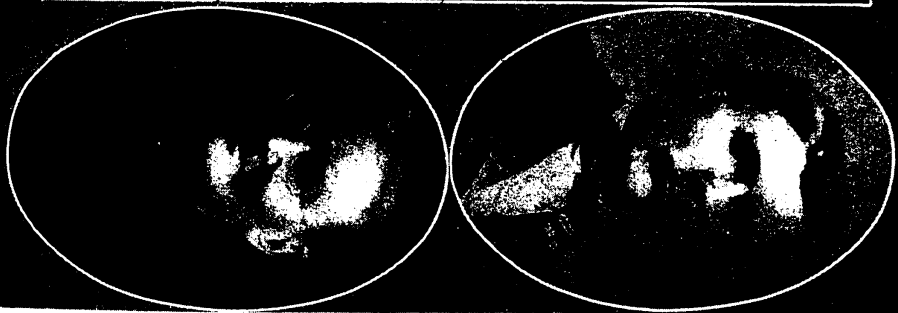
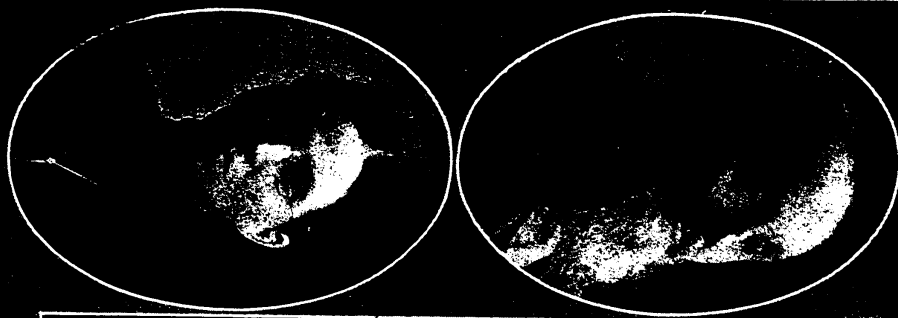
Peter Newhouse, president of the Newhouse Lumber Company, of Spring Grove, Minn., was born in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn., in 1853, his parents being natives of Norway who settled here at an early day. After growing to manhood he became connected with the lumber industry, in which he has been engaged for many years, formerly being traveling salesman for southern and western lumber concerns. In the

spring of 1916 the Newhouse Lumber Company of Spring Grove was organized, with Peter Newhouse as president, the other two incorporators being John Gorder, of Holman, Wis., and Ole Horsted, of Dakota, Minn. The company, having erected buildings and stocked their yard, began active operations in the fall, with Tilford N. Newhouse, son of the president, as superintendent and manager. In addition to lumber they carry a large stock of all kinds of building material. The concern, though young, is flourishing and has excellent future prospects. Peter Newhouse married Carrie Onsgard, a native of Spring Grove, this county, and they have been the parents of six children, namely: Tilford N., now deceased; Burwell; Lysander, who is deceased; Geneva, now Mrs. John Dahlgren, of Missoula, Mont.; Lillian, deceased, and Persis, who is residing at home with her parents.

Tilford N. Newhouse, now deceased, former superintendent and manager of the Newhouse Lumber Company of Spring Grove, was born at Newhouse, Fillmore county, Minn., May 29, 1888, son of Peter and Carrie (Onsgard) Newhouse. He acquired his primary education in the schools of Mabel and Spring Grove, and in 1904 entered college at Valparaiso, Ind., where he pursued his studies for a year. In 1906 he was graduated from the Wisconsin Business College of La Crosse. In the meanwhile, when not actually engaged in study, he had become associated with his father in the lumber industry at Spring Grove and Lanesboro, Minn., thus acquiring his first knowledge of the business. In 1906, after graduating from the business college, he became bookkeeper in the Onsgard State Bank at Spring Grove, and in 1908 took a bank position at Roseau, Minn. In the following year he went to Sultan, Wash., where he worked in a lumber mill, but in the winter of 1909-10 he returned to Spring Grove, retaining, however, his connection with the same line of business, traveling as a salesman and working for a while in the lumber yard of Knute Olsen of Mabel. In the spring of 1916, on the formation of the Newhouse Lumber Company, he became its superintendent and manager, his father being president. As a capable business man he made his mark, and was also popular in the social circles of the village. On June 9, 1912, Mr. Newhouse was united in marriage with Leona, daughter of Harvey and Minnie Franklin, of Kalispell, Mont., and they began domestic life at Mabel, Minn. Their only child is Peter, who was born in Camas, Mont., Jan. 15, 1914. Mr. Newhouse died March 30, 1919, and his death was sincerely mourned.

William H. Eberhard, one of the leading citizens of Mound Prairie township, a well-to-do farmer now serving as county commissioner, was born in this township, Sept. 30, 1873, son of Henry Philip and Maria Louisa (Corlett) Eberhard. He was educated in the school of his district and at Winona Business College, and resided with and assisted his parents until 21 years old, after which he engaged in various occupations, operating threshing machines and doing sawmill work until his marriage. On beginning domestic life he settled on his present farm—the old homestead of his parents—containing 40 acres, and also owns 30 acres more, all of which he is operating as a general stock and grain farmer. In the spring of 1918 he also planted an orchard of twelve acres, mostly with wealthy apples, of

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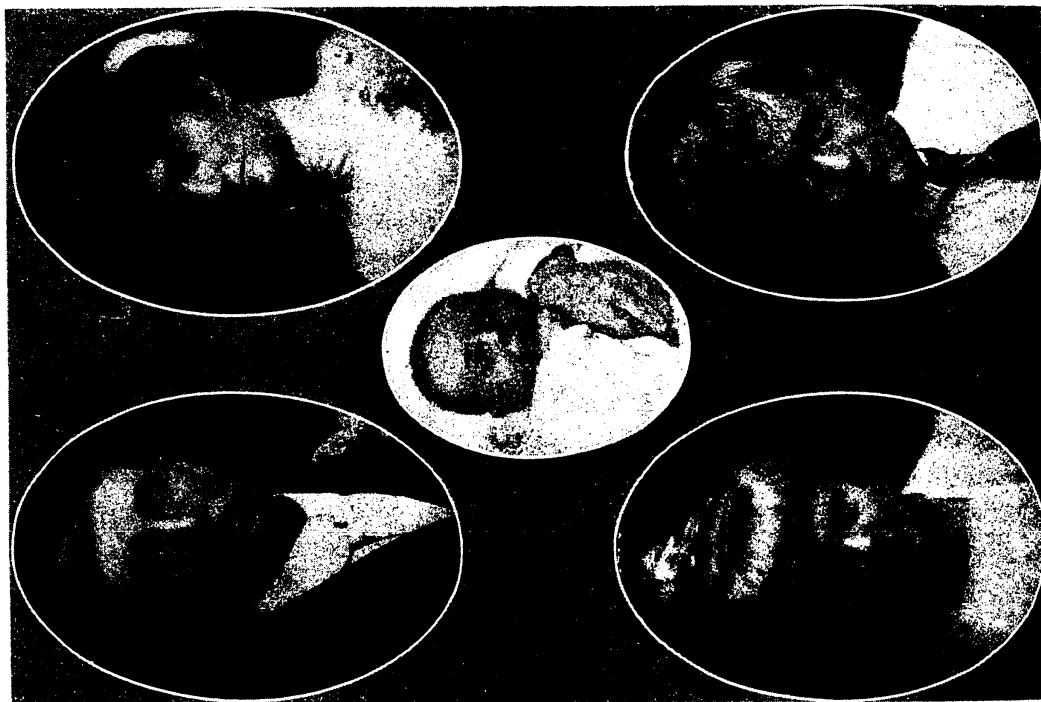
which he intends to make a specialty. His place is well improved with good buildings and a complete equipment of modern tools and machinery, and he is today numbered among the most prosperous citizens of his township. He is a stockholder in the Security State Bank of Houston and in the Houston elevator, and a director and treasurer of the Mound Prairie Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. A Republican in politics, he has devoted some portion of his time to the public interests and is now serving as county commissioner from the First District, having previously served 20 years as town clerk. He is also a member of the school board. Mr. Eberhard was married Sept. 26, 1904, to Sarah Hegland, who was born in Mound Prairie township, Dec. 17, 1876, daughter of Knudt Henry and Carrie (Sanden) Hegland. He and his wife have three children, Philip Henry, Clara Louise and Evelyn Carrie. Mrs. Eberhard's parents were born in Norway and came to Houston county, Minn., a few years later than the Eberhard family, settling in Crystal Valley, Mound Prairie township, where the father, Knudt H. Hegland, died in May, 1915. The mother now resides in Houston. During his active career Mr. Hegland was one of the prominent men of this township, serving for some time as a member of the town board, and also on his district school board. He and his wife had eight children, of whom Sarah (Mrs. Eberhard) was the third in order of birth.

Andrew K. Dahle, proprietor of a good 80-acre farm in section 2, Wilmington township, was born in this township, Dec. 16, 1857, son of Knute and Margit Dahle. The parents, who were natives of Norway, were among the first settlers in this section. They came here poor, but secured land and began farming, and after many years' hard labor were finally successful, their farm in section 23, this township, being developed into a fine piece of agricultural property. It was on that farm that the subject of this sketch was reared and grew to manhood. His youthful days were mostly spent in work, as he had little chance to attend school. On Dec. 22, 1878, he married Bergit, daughter of Ole and Senal Sannes, of Spring Grove township, and he and his wife began housekeeping on the home farm near Wilmington village, where they remained for twenty-five years. In the spring of 1903 Mr. Dahle bought 80 acres of improved land in section 2, Wilmington township, and he and his family took up their residence on it. The improvements included a substantial set of farm buildings, and he now has 60 acres of the land under the plow. He is engaged in general farming, and has good herds of Red Poll Angus cattle and Poland-China hogs; also a good operating equipment, which includes an automobile. The farm is productive and profitable, and Mr. Dahle has also financial interests as a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Association. For two years he has served as town treasurer, in politics being a Republican. He and his wife have been the parents of eight children: Marie, born Feb. 14, 1883, who died unmarried in January, 1916; Oscar, who is a carpenter residing in Spring Grove village; Clara, now the wife of Mat Steigen, a farmer of Sheldon township; Alfred, who entered the army to serve his country in the war with Germany; Selma, now Mrs. William Unger, of Minneapolis; Bertha, residing in Minneapolis; William, who is a farm hand in the employ of E. O. Steneroden; and Neuman, who is a farm hand residing at home. Mr.

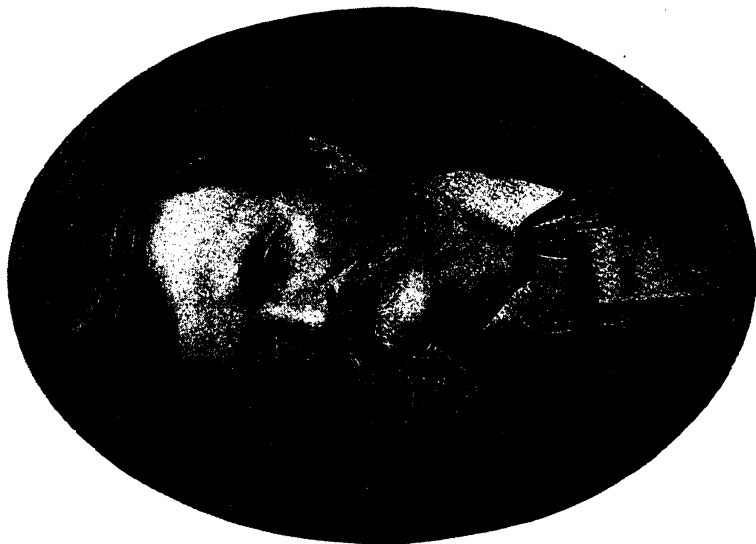
Dahle and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Harvey Chapel, in early times a farmer of Money Creek township, and later a stock buyer and shipper, and for over forty years a resident of Money Creek, was born in Tioga county, New York, March 1, 1838. When 9 years old he accompanied his parents to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he was reared to manhood. In 1854, at the age of 16, with a companion, he walked from his home in Dodge county to Money Creek township, Houston county, Minnesota, and two years later, in 1856, he came here and bought government land, remaining six weeks. In the following year he came again, returning home after the harvest. The fall of the next year, 1858, saw him united in marriage with Julia Wydhoff, who was born near Berlin, Germany, in 1840. In 1859 he brought his wife to his farm in Money Creek township, and they took up their residence in a log house which he erected and in which they made their home for three years. Mr. Chapel then moved with his family to Wisconsin, and was enrolled in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, but before entering the service he was attacked by typhoid fever, which left his lungs in so weak a condition as to unfit him for army life, and he was accordingly discharged. After being away from Houston county for three years he returned and resumed residence on his farm, where he remained until about 1870. From that time until 1903 his home was in Money Creek village. In the year last mentioned he moved to Houston village, where he subsequently resided until his death on March 2, 1912, at the age of 74 years and 1 day. At the time of his demise he was the owner of 300 acres of land, in addition to town property. For a number of years during his active career he gave a portion of his time to public affairs, serving twelve years as constable, one term as a member of the board of county commissioners, and holding school office almost continuously. In early life he was a member of the Grange. Prior to the Civil War he became a charter member of the Masonic Lodge at Houston, and he was one of those who organized the lodge of that order at Money Creek. His wife survived him two years, dying Feb. 20, 1914.

Royal Henry Hawkins, in former years proprietor of the farm known as Hickory Hill Ranch, in section 20, Money Creek township, but now deceased, was born in the state of New York. He was a boy of 7 or 8 years when he accompanied his parents to Wycena, Columbia county, Wis., where he grew to maturity. From there, while the Civil War was in progress, he enlisted as a private in the 10th Wisconsin Regiment, in which he served over three years, being mustered out just before the close of the war. Being captured in battle, he spent several months in Libby prison. On his return home he married and for the next six years continued to reside in Columbia county, Wisconsin. He then located on a farm near Viola, in Olmsted county, Minnesota, where he resided for seventeen years, moving to Houston county in 1889. Here he settled on the farm above mentioned, in section 20, Money Creek township, which was his subsequent home until his death on Thanksgiving Day, 1912. It was he who gave to the place its name of Hickory Hill Ranch. During his active career he served in various local offices, both in Wisconsin and in Houston county, Minnesota. By his wife,



JOHN A. CARLSON, JR., AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. ROYAL H. HAWKINS



Jane Purves, who, like himself, was born in New York State, he was the father of ten children: An unnamed infant (deceased), Charles A., Medea E., Mary A., Rebecca J., Royal Henry, Emma L., Eva, Clarence E. and William.

John A. Carlson, Jr., who is engaged in operating the old Carlson farm in section 17, Money Creek township, was born in Sweden, June 30, 1881, son of John and Severina Christina Carlson. He was a young child when his parents settled in Money Creek township, this county, and his education was acquired in District School No. 9. His first industrial experience was gained on the home farm, on which he worked until reaching the age of 17 years. After that he worked for others at intervals until he was 21, after which he worked out continuously until his marriage. He then bought his father's farm, of which he has since been sole proprietor. It is a well improved piece of property, and under his competent management is yielding good financial returns. Mr. Carlson is a good example of the self-made man, having carved out his own fortune through enterprise and unremitting industry, and without extraneous assistance. He is a stockholder in the Houston Elevator, the Money Creek Creamery and the Farmers' Telephone Company, of which last mentioned institution he was one of the original directors and president for three years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and in politics is a Republican.

Mr. Carlson was married on Thanksgiving Day, 1911, to Eva Hawkins, who was born at Viola, in Olmsted county, Minn., Oct. 17, 1879, daughter of Royal H. and Jane (Purves) Hawkins, who settled in Money Creek township, Houston county, in 1889. Mrs. Carlson received her early education in the district schools and in the Houston High School. For twelve years she was a most efficient teacher, and the pupils of those years still hold her in loving and grateful regard. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have three children: Ralph Arthur, born Feb. 10, 1913; Idella Christian, born Aug. 22, 1915; and an infant.

Paul G. Bunge, who owns and operates a fine farm of 240 acres in Wilmington township, was born in Winnebago township, Houston county, Minnesota, April 3, 1887, son of Henry and Minnie (Speckhahn) Bunge, the parents being natives of Germany. His early education was acquired in the district school, after which, from the age of 16 to that of 17, he attended Elmhurst Seminary, at Elmhurst, Ill. When 20 years old he went to Des Moines, Iowa, and became a student at Highland Park College, taking an engineering, traction and blacksmith course. At the end of that time he went to Alberta, Canada, where he bought 320 acres of land, but subsequently sold it and returned home. With his brother, Ed H., he operated the father's farm in Winnebago township for a year. On Feb. 2, 1910, he married Lillie, daughter of Henry and Louisa Luehr, of Wilmington township, and in the same year rented his father-in-law's farm, known as Oak Park farm, which he bought in 1913 and on which he is now residing. It was an improved place of 240 acres, with an eleven-room frame house, a frame barn, 32 by 70 by 16 feet, and other buildings. Since buying the property he has enlarged the house and modernized the interior, and built an addition to the barn, 38 by 70 by 16 feet, the structure being now

T-shaped and resting on a full nine-foot basement. His other buildings include a granary, a double corn crib with a nine-foot drive, a combined machine shed, workshop and garage, a laundry, ice house, hog house with cement feeding floor, and a creosoted stave silo. His equipment is of the best and includes a five-passenger Overland auto. Two hundred acres of his land are under cultivation, the soil being very fertile, and the farm is well fenced with hog-tight wire fencing. Mr. Bunge carries on general farming, breeding Hereford cattle and Duroc swine, having full-blooded sires for his herds. He is doing an excellent business and is numbered among the most enterprising and successful young farmers of his township. For some years he was a shareholder in the Bee Mercantile Company. He is now a member of the Equity Shipping Association, and politically belongs to the Non-partisan League. His religious affiliations are with the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical church, of which he and his family are members. Mr. and Mrs. Bunge are the parents of three children: Esther, born Sept. 13, 1912; Selma, July 30, 1915; and Paula, March 31, 1918.

Otto M. Luttchens, one of the leading stock farmers of Houston county, residing in section 23, Jefferson township, was born on his present farm Nov. 10, 1880, son of Henry and Magdaline Luttchens. As a boy up to the age of 15 years he attended the Jefferson village school. He has always remained on the home farm, and from his early years was accustomed to herd cattle, growing up, as it were, in the saddle. Since 1898 he has practically operated the farm and has continued in the cattle business started by his father. He is a breeder of pure Aberdeen-Angus cattle, also high-grade cattle of other breeds, and also buys and feeds them for the market, shipping at least three carloads annually, besides one carload of hogs. In this business he has been eminently successful and has found it profitable. On his farm is an artesian well, 480 feet deep, with a four-inch pipe, and every building is provided with running water and is lighted by electricity. He now has under construction a new modern eight-room residence, 32 by 40 feet, with full basement under the entire house. It is fitted with all the comforts and conveniences of modern life, with toilets, running water, a vapor heating system, and many other appliances. As his farm is but three miles north of New Albin, Iowa, Mr. Luttchens has naturally become interested in several of the business enterprises of the latter place, and is a stockholder and director in the Farmers' Stock and Grain Company, and a stockholder in the New Albin Savings Bank, the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Company and the Co-operative Creamery Association. For the last fifteen years Mr. Luttchens has served as clerk of his school district. In politics he has been a Republican since he cast his first vote. His religious affiliations are with the New Albin congregation of the German Evangelical church, of which he has been president for a number of years. Above all, he is a loyal American, true to the country of which he is a native, though of foreign ancestry, and a believer in its institutions and high destiny as one of the great world forces in the elevation of mankind. Mr. Luttchens was married, Dec. 18, 1901, to Matilda, born March 8, 1880, daughter of William and Elizabeth Pohlmann, of Jefferson township. To

him and his wife, who has been his faithful companion and helpmate for seventeen years, the following children have been born: Ervin, Nov. 2, 1902; Esther, Dec. 5, 1904; Armin, May 13, 1907; Clarence, Dec. 7, 1910; Otto, Jr., Aug. 13, 1912; and Lester, July 15, 1915. All are living except Esther, who died in her ninth year, Oct. 4, 1913, and Clarence, who died Sept. 17, 1916.

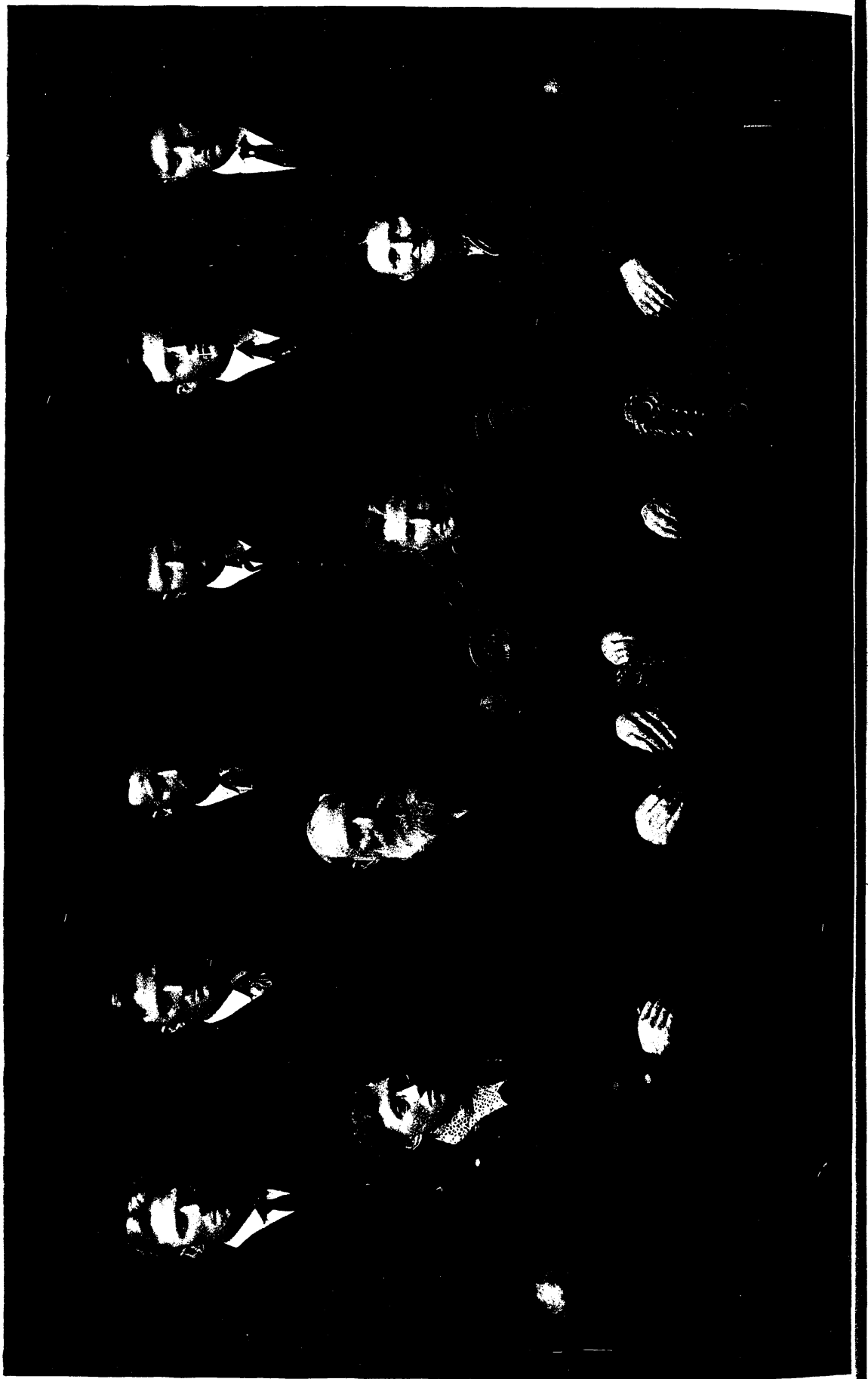
Henry Luttchens, one of the early settlers in Jefferson township, who in early days endured many privations, but who is now living retired and in good health on the farm in section 23 which he established about 40 years ago, and of which his son Otto is the present proprietor, was born in Hanover, Germany, June 3, 1829, and is therefore now in his ninety-first year. He was the child of poor parents, and for the first 40 years of his life resided in his native land engaged in laborious occupations and receiving but small remuneration. Then, having no hope of ever acquiring a competence in Germany, he resolved to make a new start in life, and accordingly, in 1869, he came to the United States, proceeding west to Lansing, Iowa, which place he reached with twelve dollars in cash, the sum total of his pecuniary resources. From Lansing he came on to Dorchester, Allamakee county, Iowa, where he remained for three years working as a farm hand. In the fall of 1872 Mr. Luttchens crossed the state line into Houston county, Minnesota, and settled in Jefferson township, where for the two following winters he cut cordwood for Peter Hahn, on section 23, at 50 cents a cord. During the next three winters he worked in the pineries of northern Wisconsin. In 1877 Mr. Luttchens married Magdaline Schaffer of Dorchester, Iowa, and in the same year struck out for himself as an independent farmer, buying 160 acres of wild land adjoining Peter Hahn's place on the north. The tract cost him \$1,200, which, as he had not the cash, he had to pay in installments, besides a high rate of interest. This burden proved a handicap to him for some years; but it was not the only one. The only building on his land was an old log house which was scarcely habitable, at least in cold weather, and during the first winter, therefore, he and his wife lived in Mr. Hahn's woodshed. Their housekeeping conveniences were as scanty as it would be possible to conceive. In place of chairs they had two small boxes to sit on, while a larger one served them for a table. Their bedstead was made of poles cut from the woods, while a more or less ample supply of prairie hay took the place of a mattress. Under these inauspicious circumstances Mr. and Mrs. Luttchens began domestic life on their heavily mortgaged farm, and it was several years before conditions were much improved. Their land was very rough and covered with timber, only 59 acres being tillable after clearing. Mr. Luttchens, as he could hardly depend on crops for his living, began the raising of stock, but a Mississippi River flood swept away most of his hay, and in the winter he had to cut honeyweeds on the low land to keep his cattle from starving and to save the little hay he had left for March and April feeding. But instead of these hardships and misfortunes discouraging him, Mr. Luttchens only worked the harder and he and his wife endured their lot with unconquerable patience until fortune began to smile upon them. His cattle increased in number until he was raising from 50 to 75 head annually, besides those which he bought and shipped

to the Chicago market. He also raised 25 to 30 horses annually, receiving better prices for his stock with advancing years. For a few years during the early period he kept some sheep, and his wife washed and carded the wool, spun it into yarn, and sold it to help provide for home needs. After clearing as much of his land as was tillable, Mr. Luttchens purchased more, thus increasing the size of his farm, and he furthermore improved it by erecting a comfortable frame house, together with a commodious frame barn and other outbuildings. His wife, though never very strong, was a hard worker, and proved a loving and helpful companion to him until her death in 1898 after 19 years of married life. They had had three children, Henry, Lena and Otto, of whom the two first mentioned are now deceased. About 20 years ago, or about the time of his wife's death, Mr. Luttchens turned the farm over to his son Otto, with whom he now lives, and who is operating it on a profitable basis. He is one of Jefferson township's most respected citizens, as in his day he was one of its most active workers, having well earned the repose and leisure he now enjoys. Politically he has always been a Republican, and for many years has been a prominent member of the New Albin (Ia.) congregation of the German Evangelical Church, to which his son also belongs, and in the good work of which Mrs. Luttchens during her lifetime took a helpful and leading part.

Henry Vollenweider, who is engaged in the cultivation of apples and small fruits of the berry kind in section 3, La Crescent township, was born in Wintertur, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, Feb. 17, 1878, son of John Heinrich and Liesabeth (Hatt) Vollenweider. The father, born in the same canton, Jan. 3, 1839, was a machinist in a large manufactory having 4,000 employees. He was married in his native land to Liesabeth Hatt, who was born March 6, 1848. Henry was the third born of their four children. The eldest son, Carl, having emigrated to the United States, the rest of the family followed him in June, 1893, locating temporarily in La Crosse, Wis., but soon afterwards moving to Shelby township, La Crosse county. After a brief location there, they moved across the river to La Crescent township, Houston county, where from February to November, 1895, they lived on a rented farm. They then took the farm of 55 acres which the son Henry is now operating as a fruit and berry farm, though with the intention of hereafter devoting his chief attention to apples. This farm for a number of years the family operated together, the business being transacted then as now under the name of Henry Vollenweider. In 1912 John Heinrich, the father, died, but his wife is still living, residing a part of the time with her son Henry, and at other times with her sister in Cincinnati. Henry Vollenweider is a member of the Woodmen's lodge at La Crescent, and in politics is independent. He is a member of the Salzer Memorial church at La Crosse. Mr. Vollenweider was married Aug. 31, 1904, to Henrietta Schwarz, daughter of Henry and Bertha (Kutzborski) Schwarz. He and his wife have six children: Wesley, born June 17, 1905; Esther, born Dec. 17, 1906; Milton and Marguerite (twins), born June 10, 1908; Henry, born Sept. 16, 1909, and Wilbert, born Aug. 7, 1911. Henry Schwarz, father of Mrs. Vollenweider, was born in Austria, Feb. 13, 1859, of German-Bohemian parents, and was brought to America when five years old. By trade he was



MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. VOLLENWEIDER
HENRY VOLLENWEIDER AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. HENRY SCHWARTZ



a wood carver and was with the firm of Segelke & Kolhaus, of La Crosse, for 35 years. His wife Bertha was born in La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 23, 1861, and died in Denver, Colo., July 20, 1917, to which place they moved some eleven years ago, and where Mr. Schwarz is now residing.

John Holger, who is residing on a farm of 240 acres in sections 30 and 31 north, Yucatan township, which farm he developed from wild land, was born in Estherdahl, Norway, Feb. 11, 1846, son of John and Carrie Johnson. The parents, natives of the same district, never came to America, both dying in Norway. John, who was the elder of their two children, attended school in his native land. Up to 1869 he resided with his father, who was a carpenter. Then he came directly to Fillmore county, Minnesota, locating in Norway township. At that time he was unable to speak English, but he found Norwegians in the vicinity and soon obtained work in the harvest fields binding wheat. For a year he worked on farms and then engaged in station work for the West Wisconsin Railway. From that road he went after a year to the Great Northern, for which he worked one year, and then spent two years in the employ of the Wisconsin Central. At the end of that time he married and purchased his present farm, which was unimproved, so that he had to grub out the site where his house now stands. In the period that has since elapsed he has made many notable improvements, having erected substantial and modern buildings and brought his tilled land into a high state of cultivation. The actual operation of the farm is now in the hands of his sons. Mr. Holger is a stockholder in the Rushford creamery and elevator and in the Farmers' Telephone Company. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Rushford, and in politics is independent. For a number of years he served on the school board. In September, 1874, Mr. Holger was united in marriage with Anna Hanson, who was born in Nonstadt, Norway, May 2, 1851, daughter of Hans and Gulbfor (Thompson) Hovelson, she being the fourth born of their five children. Of this union eight children have been born: Gena, wife of Halvor Anderson, of Rushford township, Fillmore county; Hans J., who married Andrena Lunde and resides at Harmony, Minn.; Alaus M., who is operating the Rushford power plant, and who married Helga Sumbly; Richard, who is a carpenter residing at home; John Oscar, who is assisting to operate the home farm; Joseph C., who is studying at the Agricultural Department of the State University with a view to teaching agriculture; and Selmer, who is helping his brother John O. to operate the home farm. Joseph C. gave twenty-one months of his life to the service of his country. He enlisted Sept. 7, 1917, in Company F, 351st Infantry, was made a corporal Sept. 17, 1917; was promoted to sergeant, June 1, 1918; spent ten months in France, and was discharged June 6, 1919.

Elisha Cook, a sturdy pioneer settler in Wilmington township, now deceased, was born in Nova Scotia in 1815. Growing to manhood in that eastern province, he became, like many of his countrymen who lived on the coast, a fisherman and sailor, and during his career on the sea he visited many important ports in various parts of the world. He also married Maria Scott, who was born in Nova Scotia in 1825. At last tiring of the precarious life of a mariner, he resolved to seek his fortune on shore, and

in 1854, with his wife and two children, Anna and Susan, he came west to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on a tract of wild land in section 16, Wilmington township. Here he began pioneer farming, building a log hut, which in after years was succeeded by a substantial frame house, and, clearing his land, in time established a comfortable home, with barns and outbuildings and all the appurtenances of a civilized homestead. His wife died in 1886, and he survived her many years, finally passing away in 1904, at the age of about 89 years, having never been sick until a short time before his death. In addition to the two daughters already mentioned, who are now deceased, Mr. and Mrs. Cook had seven children born in Wilmington township, namely: Henry (first), who died young; William Henry (second); and Maria, all of whom are now dead; Charles and William J., farmers of Mayville township; and Warren, who is dead.

William J. Cook is one of the prosperous farmers of Mayville township, owning and operating with his brother Charles the 80-acre tract known as the Nick Engen farm, in sections 20 and 29. William J. Cook was born on the Cook homestead, in section 36, Wilmington township, Sept. 27, 1861, son of Elisha and Maria Cook, who settled here in 1854. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and was taught farming by his father. At the age of 19 he went to Nebraska, where for six years he was employed as a farm laborer. Then he returned to the home farm. In 1909 he went to California, and spent four years in operating a fruit farm. But home ties again called him back, and the year 1913 saw him again operating the home farm. In October, 1918, he sold the old homestead and purchased with his brother Charles his present place. Industrious and thrifty, he is doing a good business as a general farmer, having a good farm and equipment, and being also a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company and the Caledonia Co-operative Grain & Stock Company. In politics he is a Republican, while, though not a member, he helps to support the Portland Prairie M. E. church, in the faith of which he was reared.

Anton Noel, one of the earliest settlers on the site of the village of Freeburg, in Crooked Creek township, was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, and came to the United States. For some time he followed the occupation of a riverman, running one of the early steamboats on the Mississippi river, and making his home at Dubuque, Iowa, where he married Mary Hilkin, who, like himself, was a native of Luxemburg. Finally, about 1867, he came with his family to Crooked Creek township, Houston county, and located on the site of Freeburg, securing 130 acres of land, and purchasing his residence—an old log house—from Mr. Littlefoot. His only neighbors at the time were William Oxford and George Powlesland. Later Mr. Noel bought 80 acres more, included in the present village site, and engaged in farming, in time erecting good buildings. He was one of the early local officials, serving on the town board and frequently as a member of the school board. He and his family were Catholics, and before a church was built mass was often held in the Noel house. He was one of those who helped to build the church, and for a number of years served on its official board. His death took place at Freeburg when he was about 68 years old.

His wife, who survived him, died at about the age of 88 years. They had some twelve or fourteen children, of whom ten are now living. Their respective names, so far as they have been preserved, were: Kate, Anna, Paul, Lizzie, Francis, Matt, Mary, George, Nick, Andrew and Lena. Paul is now a resident of Freeburg, and Matt of Reno, this county, while George is proprietor of the old homestead and is engaged in farming.

George Noel, proprietor of the old Noel farm at Freeburg, Crooked Creek township, was born in a frame house on the farm he now owns, April 8, 1868, son of Anton and Mary (Hilkin) Noel. His education was acquired in a frame schoolhouse which stood on the site of the present school, while his industrial training was attended to by his father, whom he helped to cultivate the home farm. At the age of 21 he began an independent career, leaving home and working out for various farmers in different localities, being away for three years. After his return he operated the home farm for eighteen years, and at the end of that time engaged in the mercantile business, conducting a general store for five years. He then returned to the old home farm, which contained 205 acres, and increased its area by purchasing a tract of 118 acres more, this giving him a farm of 323 acres, which he has since operated with profitable results, making various improvements in the property. He is also a stockholder in the Freeburg State Bank. For several years he served as supervisor on the town board, and has also been a director on the school board. In October, 1918, he assisted in organizing the Equity Shipping Association, an organization which under his management is meeting with much success. Mr. Noel married Elizabeth Deufel, daughter of Lawrence Deufel, of Houston county. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Herbert, who served in the United States Army during the Great War, and Anton and Crescenta, who are living at home. The family are members of the Catholic church.

Frank Thery, a well known and prosperous citizen of Mayville township, operating a farm of 240 acres, his residence lying in section 32, was born in the village of Boegen, in the Duchy of Luxemburg, Nov. 16, 1866. His parents were Henry and Susan (Romnes) Thery, the father being a shepherd. Both died in their native land. They had five children: Frank, subject of this sketch; Mary, Adelia and Barbara, who are still in Luxemburg; and Frank H., making the second Frank in the family. Frank, the first of the name, acquired a common school education in his native land, and also a knowledge of the French language, which he speaks fluently. At the age of 21 he came to the United States, leaving Luxemburg, Feb. 8, 1888, spending fourteen days on the ocean, and arriving in Caledonia, Houston county, Minn., March 4. After visiting friends previously settled in this region, he began work as a hired hand, and was thus occupied for six years, during which time he practiced economy and saved some money. At the end of that time he married and rented the Koehl farm in this vicinity, operating it for six years, and afterward another farm for five years. But after being three years on the latter he bought the farm on which he now lives, in section 32, renting it out for one year, and then working it for a year in connection with his other farm, after which he moved onto it.

At the time of his purchase it contained 160 acres, to which he has since added 80 acres more. Of the total area of 240 acres, 195 are cleared, the rest of the land being still timbered. An enterprising man, Mr. Thiery has greatly improved the estate by the erection of a barn, corn crib and granary, besides other outbuildings. The barn is of modern construction and rests on a stone foundation. He does mixed farming, giving particular attention to the raising of stock, and is also a shareholder in the co-operative creamery at Caledonia and the local telephone company. He is also interested in several agricultural and stock breeders' associations. Mr. Thiery was married in Caledonia, Feb. 12, 1895, to Mary Esch, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, Feb. 22, 1867, daughter of Herbert and Margaret (Lesch) Esch. The Esch family came to this locality from Luxemburg and engaged in farming here. Herbert Esch was a private in the Civil War from 1864 to 1865 and was a hard working, substantial citizen. He and his wife are now dead. Their children were: Elizabeth, Kate, Pater, Katherine, Mary, Elizabeth (second), Joseph and John. Kate and Katherine are now deceased, but the others are living, John being a resident of St. Paul. To Mr. and Mrs. Thiery eight children have been born: Jennie, on Sept. 24, 1892; Margaret, Dec. 1, 1895; Elizabeth, April 13, 1897; Veronica, May 13, 1898; Susie, June 2, 1899; Philomenia, Aug. 22, 1903; Henry, Aug. 17, 1904; and Ignatius, Feb. 5, 1912. Of these children Jennie married William Wagner and resides in Caledonia township. Mr. Thiery and his family attend St. Peter's Catholic church at Caledonia.

Edward Johnson, the founder and developer of a good farm of 120 acres in Paradise Valley, Money Creek township, was born in Stavanger, Norway, March 4, 1836, son of Edward and Isabella (Germanson) Johnson. He was in his twenty-fifth year when he came to the United States and settled in La Crosse, Wis., where he resided for about three years. At the end of that time he took a homestead in Blue Earth county, but on account of the Indian uprising in the early sixties he returned to La Crosse. There he married Isabelle Germanson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, in October, 1842. At the time of his marriage he became an employe in the Pauley lumber mill and continued so for two or three years. Then he came to Money Creek township, Houston county, and took a tract of wild land in Paradise Valley, section 20, which he began to clear and develop. Here he has since remained, residing now with his son, George Otto. For sixteen years he served as trustee of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Houston. His wife died Dec. 3, 1914. Of their family of eleven children the son, George Otto, above mentioned, was the eighth in order of birth.

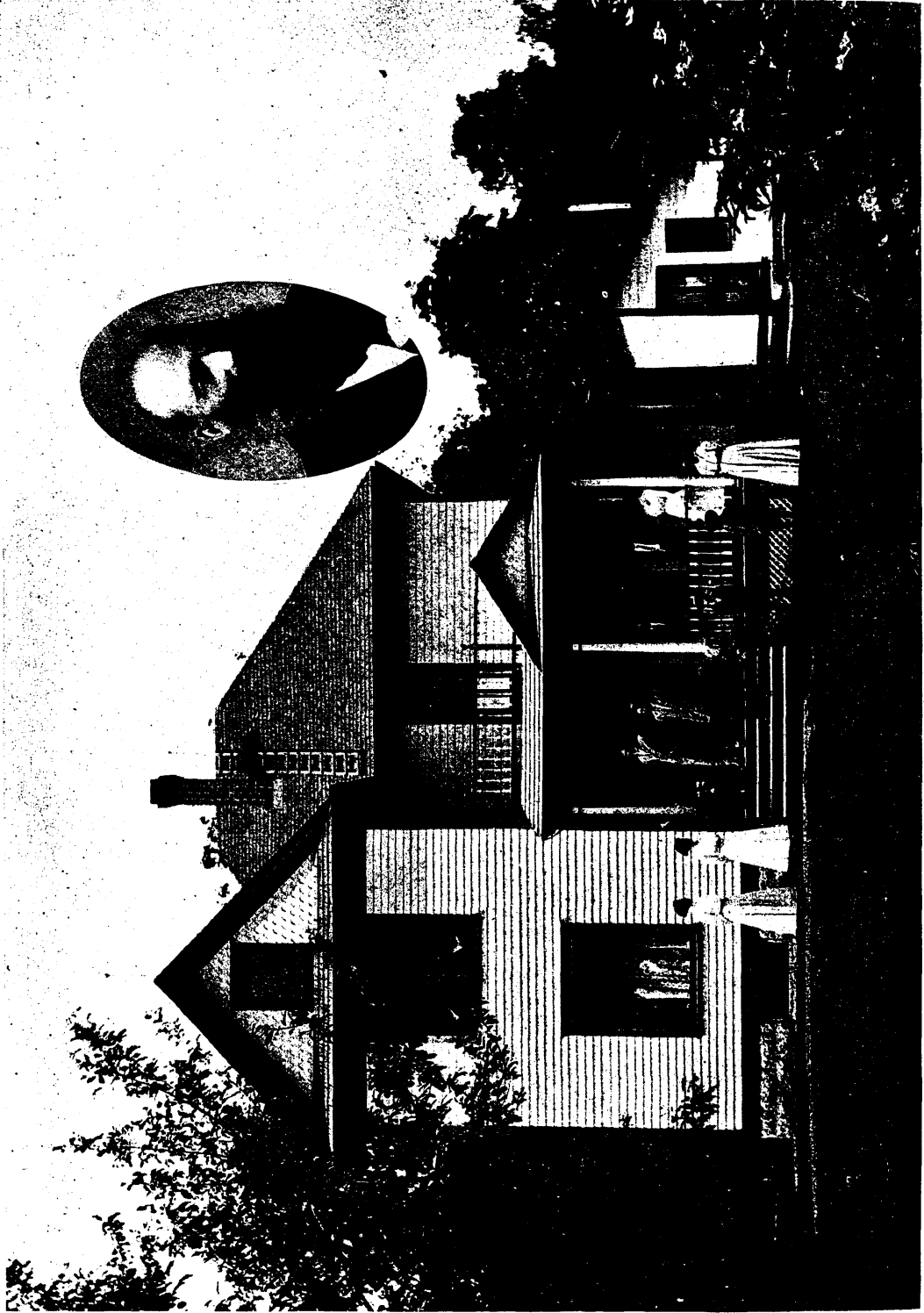
George Otto Johnson, who is operating a general stock farm of 120 acres in section 20, Money Creek township, which is the homestead established by his father many years ago, was born in this township, Sept. 8, 1880, son of Edward and Isabelle (Germanson) Johnson. He acquired his education in the district school and until the age of 23 years was his father's assistant on the farm, at the end of that time becoming his partner. He is now operating the farm himself, giving his chief attention to stock raising, breeding up in Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs of the large type,

MR. AND MRS. OLE MOEN

GEORGE OTTO JOHNSON AND FAMILY

MR. AND MRS. ED. JOHNSON





SYVER M. BJORGE FAMILY AND RESIDENCE

and keeping a number of sheep. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Exchange of Houston and the Farmers Telephone Company and a director and stockholder in the Money Creek Creamery. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Johnson was married Sept. 4, 1910, to Olena Moen, who was born in Houston Township, daughter of Ole and Galena (Thompson) Moen. Her parents were both natives of this county, the father born about 1862. His first wife Galena dying when their daughter Olena was 4 years old, he contracted a second marriage, and now lives in Laresboro, Minn., where he is engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have four children: Geneva Bessie, born March 18, 1911; Eldis Otis, born May 4, 1914; George Edward, born June 10, 1916, and Edella, born April 28, 1918.

Syver Munson Bjorge, who was for a number of years engaged in agricultural work in section 6, Yucatan township, but is now deceased, was born in Veldre, Norway, Sept. 9, 1847, son of Muns and Martha Bjorge. The parents, who never left their native land, died over 30 years ago. Syver attended school in Lillehammer, Norway, and when a boy of 16 began teaching school. In 1876 he came to the United States, arriving in this country May 19, and proceeding directly to Preston, Fillmore county, Minn. He was then unable to speak English, but was engaged to teach the parochial school, and was thus occupied for several years. During that period he also found time to take a course at Monona Academy, Madison, Wis. After his marriage in 1882 he engaged in agricultural work, and in 1888 took the farm in section 6, Yucatan township, where the rest of his life was spent. The place was then but slightly improved, but in time he developed it into a good farm with substantial buildings, neat fences, and a full equipment of implements and machinery. On this place he died March 13, 1903. During his active career as a citizen of the township he occupied a prominent place among his fellow townsmen, serving as town assessor for a number of terms, and as a member of church and school boards. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Rushford, and was independent in politics. Mr. Bjorge was married Feb. 9, 1882, at Lanesboro, Minn., to Bergette Bye, who was born near Preston, Fillmore county, daughter of Ole and Randine (Sveum) Bye. She was the sixth born of her parents' eight children and was educated in Fillmore county. To Mr. and Mrs. Bjorge nine children were born, as follows: Marie C., now a teacher at Rushford, who has taught school for a number of years in both English and Norwegian in Houston and Fillmore counties; Rudolph L., who is farming near Mabel, Minn.; Martin A., a farmer residing near Harmony, Minn.; Olov C., who is farming near Van Hook, N. D.; Borghild S., a teacher in Fillmore county; Anna P., who is teaching near Canton, Fillmore county; Lawrence J., who is residing at home; Clarence O., who died at the age of 14 years in 1914, and Gynther Adolph, who is residing at home and attending school. The parents of Mrs. Bjorge, Ole and Randine (Sveum) Bye, were both born in Ringsager, Norway, where they were married. They were among the early settlers in Preston township, Fillmore county, Minn., taking wild land which they developed into a farm. Later they removed to Koshoning, Wis., where they remained three years. They then returned to Preston, where they spent the

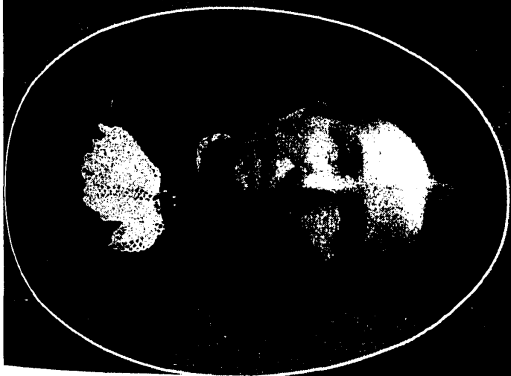
rest of their lives, Mr. Bye dying in 1869. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1893.

Frederick Frey, one of the early farmers of Mound Prairie township, was born in Germany, Oct. 5, 1821. He received his education in his native land, and when a young man came to Minnesota, settling in Mound Prairie township. In 1864 he married Caroline Redman, who was born in Germany, March 29, 1842, and who had come to this country at the age of 21 years. A man of good qualities and sterling worth, and an energetic farmer, Mr. Frey followed agricultural pursuits in Mound Prairie township until his death, which occurred Nov. 2, 1889. For several years subsequently his widow managed the farm, with the help of her sons. She is now living with her son George in La Crosse, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Frey were the parents of eight children: Hannah, born May 28, 1866; Ella, Oct. 3, 1868; George, Feb. 8, 1870; Augusta, July 24, 1872; Caroline, July 21, 1874; Theodore, June 7, 1876; Emil, March 29, 1878, and Philip, April 25, 1880.

Peter Fitting, who was for over half a century a well-known farmer and respected citizen of Mound Prairie Township, was a native of Germany, born in 1836. He was a child of six years when in 1842 he was brought by his parents to the United States. They located near Hartford, Wis., where he grew to manhood and was educated. After leaving school he learned the butcher's trade, which he followed in Chicago until 1863. Then coming to Houston county, Minnesota, he settled in Mound Prairie township, where he was engaged in farming. Industrious and thrifty, he became in time an extensive land owner, and helped to increase agricultural values in the community. In 1860 Mr. Fitting married Margaret Frey, who was born in Germany in 1839, and who died Dec. 5, 1916. They were the parents of nine children: Elizabeth, John, Ella, Margaret, Philip, Mary, Theodore, William and Laura, all of whom are living except Elizabeth.

Philip Fitting, who is now living practically retired in the village of La Crescent, after a life of agricultural activity, in addition to some years spent in the stock business, was born in Mound Prairie township, Oct. 1, 1872, son of Peter and Margaret (Frey) Fitting, he being the sixth born of their nine children. His education was acquired in the South Ridge School and at the Winona Business College. Reared to agricultural pursuits, at the age of 24 years he rented his father's farm on South Ridge, operating it for four years. He then bought a farm near Houston, but remained there only one year, at the end of that time buying a 240-acre farm on Pine Creek, which he operated until 1908. He then removed to La Crescent village, later selling his farm, and for six or seven years was engaged in stock shipping from the village, being also connected with the La Crescent Canning Company. Financially independent, he is now enjoying the fruits of his former industry. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank, the Sterling Machine Co. and the Pine Creek Valley Creamery. For 17 years he has been a member of the order of Modern Woodmen. In politics he is an independent Republican. Mr. Fitting was married Jan. 1, 1896, to Augusta Frey, daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Redman) Frey, and they have one child, Phyllis Fern, born Aug. 21, 1910.

PHILIP EGGING AND FAMILY





THE BROWN FAMILY

Christopher Meyer, an early settler in Winnebago township, where he broke land and developed a farm, was born in Germany, where he married Katherine Rober. About 1868 or 1869 he emigrated with his family to the United States, settling in Allamakee county, Iowa, not far from the line of Winnebago township, Houston county, Minn. After a stay of two years in that locality he crossed the line into Winnebago township and took 160 acres of wild land in section 36, erecting some small buildings. During many years thereafter he was busily engaged in developing the place, breaking and clearing the land and erecting good frame buildings, and here he resided until his death, June 26, 1894. He was an industrious farmer and good neighbor and was highly respected. His wife, who was born Oct. 12, 1838, is still living on the farm and is active today at the age of 81 years. Their children were Henry, John, Mary, who is now Mrs. William Wuennecke, of Crooked Creek township; Otto, Magdalena, who is now Mrs. Herman Haar, of Union City township, Allamakee county, Iowa; Dorathea, who is the widow of John Timmerman, and Anna, now Mrs. Fred Wuennecke, of Crooked Creek township.

Henry B. Meyer, one of the leading farmers of Winnebago township, residing in section 36, was born in Germany, Nov. 2, 1862, son of Christopher and Katherine (Rober) Meyer. He was 6 years old when he accompanied his parents to Allamakee county, Iowa, where he lived for two years, at the end of which time the family removed to the farm in Winnebago township, Houston county, on which he is now living. Here he was reared, in his boyhood attending the district school, and as he grew older assisted his father on the farm, which he bought in 1896. Since then he has made many improvements on it, having erected a good set of frame buildings, including a one-and-a-half story, eleven-room house; a barn, 34 by 60 by 18 feet; a second barn, 33 by 50 by 16 feet, on a full eight-foot stone basement, with a granary built in; a machine shed, 22 by 40 by 10; a poultry house, 14 by 20; a corn crib, 6 by 24; a summer kitchen, 12 by 20; and a steel windmill. The farm is well fenced and is very productive, and is stocked with graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Meyer's equipment also includes a good Overland automobile. He has been a member of the district school board for years, in politics being a Republican. In addition to his direct farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Eitzen Co-operative Creamery and the New Albin Stock & Grain Company. Mr. Meyer was married, Jan. 8, 1896, to Sophia, daughter of Gerhard and Katharine Meiners, of Allamakee county, Iowa. He and his wife have four children: Edna, born Jan. 19, 1897; Clara, April 5, 1899; Frances, Aug. 3, 1903; and Paul, June 12, 1906. Edna, who is residing at home, was educated in the Eitzen school and in the Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin, Minn., and has been a teacher for the last four years. Clara, also living at home, is a graduate of the Eitzen schools and completed her studies at the Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin, Minn.

Henry Luehr, one of the leading representatives of the agricultural industry of Wilmington township, residing in section 34, his estate of 300 acres being known as Mt. Zion farm, was born in Hanover, Germany, April 4, 1851, son of Henry and Katherine (Harus) Luehr. He attended school in

his native land, and when he was 16 years old his father, who was a soldier, advised him to go to America rather than enter the army. Accordingly, in 1867, he crossed the Atlantic, and proceeding west to Reedsburg, Wis., made his home there for one summer with relatives, subsequently removing to Dorchester, Allamakee county, Iowa. One year after his arrival in this country his parents, with two sons, John and Fred, came over and joined him, the parents buying a farm near Dorchester. The other members of the family—six children—died in Germany. Both parents died on their farm at the age of 67 years, the father Nov. 1, 1885, and the mother April 28, 1900. Henry remained with them until 1874. In that year, at the age of 23, he began independent farming, buying 120 acres in section 34, Wilmington township, Houston county, Minn. It was a partly improved farm, having a log house and a frame barn, and was previously the property of Amos Lapham. There Henry Luehr resided for four years, working both that farm and his father's, which was situated but three miles away. At the end of that time he married, his bride being Louisa, daughter of Henry and Mary Deters, who resided in Allamakee county, Iowa, near the village of Eitzen. Mr. Luehr then settled on his present farm, or rather on a part of it, as he has since built it up to its present area of 300 acres, of which 50 are in timber, the rest being improved. He has erected thereon an excellent set of buildings, beginning in 1879, when he built the large two-story frame house, consisting of upright and wing, with a detached summer kitchen; and since then he has put up barns, a granary, corn cribs, tool house, garage, and other outbuildings, all being now in good condition, so that the farm is now one of the best in the township. It is also equally good in its equipment, Mr. Luehr using tractors as well as teams in its operation. He carries on diversified farming, including stock raising and dairying. His cattle are graded animals of the Shorthorn breed, while his swine are of the Poland-China variety. For years he has shipped a carload of cattle annually and from 100 to 150 hogs. In politics he is a Republican. In addition to his direct farming interests, Mr. Luehr owns stock in the Bee Creamery, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Spring Grove Hospital and the First National Bank of Caledonia. He and his wife have had nine children: Otto, born Nov. 5, 1879, died in infancy; Emma, born Jan. 28, 1882, who was married, Jan. 25, 1907, to Rev. Walter Bunge, of Rochester, Minn.; Lillie M., born March 21, 1886, who was married Feb. 3, 1911, to Paul Bunge, a farmer of Wilmington township; Edwin F., born Aug. 3, 1888, who is proprietor of a farm adjoining that of the subject of this sketch, and was married Aug. 28, 1913, to Selma Bunge, by whom he has one son; Henry W., born May 23, 1891, a farmer residing near Rochester, Minn., who was married Feb. 15, 1917, to Arvilla Lenz; Huldah M., born Aug. 31, 1893, residing at home; Eleanora, born July 5, 1895, who died in infancy; Ella Louisa Matilda, born July 30, 1897, and Franklin, born March 11, 1899, both living on the home farm, the latter taking a prominent part in its management and cultivation. Mr. Luehr, with the resident members of his family, belongs religiously to the Eitzen congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he was a trustee for several years, contributing of his means to its advancement. He is one

of the most prosperous residents of his township and enjoys a high social position.

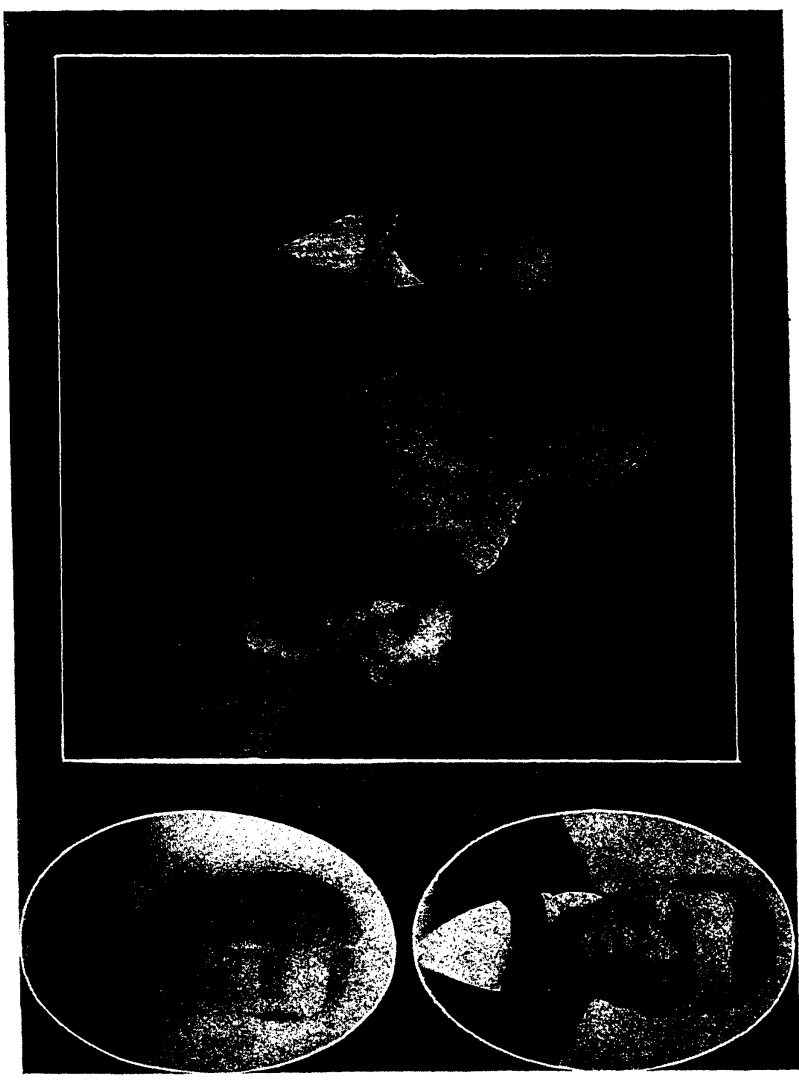
Arne Engen, who developed a farm in section 14, Wilmington township, where he resided for twenty years, or until his death on Jan. 21, 1890, was born in Norway, Jan. 1, 1847. As a young man he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and on his birthday, Jan. 1, 1870, was married to Sigri Halvorson, daughter of Knute and Guro Halvorson. Taking land in section 14, Wilmington township, he set to work to develop a farm, and had a good farm of 121 acres when death called him from his labors. His widow being left with a family of four children, the eldest of whom, a girl, was only 13, and the youngest, Peter, but two, was obliged to rent out the farm for awhile, but her son Knute, on coming of age, took charge of it. On his death in 1915 another son, Ole, rented the place. But he soon died, and another son, Peter A., took over the management, first buying Ole's interest in the stock and later his mother's, and continued to make a home for his mother. Aug. 28, 1919, he bought the place. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Arne Engen were as follows: Margit (first), born Nov. 15, 1871, who died July 21, 1882; Guro, born April 15, who died Aug. 1, 1882; Pauline, born Jan. 8, 1875, who died Aug. 2, 1882; Sarah, born Jan. 21, 1877, now Mrs. Charles Eden, of Caledonia; Ole (first), born Jan. 31, 1879, who died in March, 1882; Knute, born March 5, 1881, who died in 1915; Margit (second), born Dec. 15, 1883, now Mrs. Peiper, of Palisade, Minn.; Ole (second), born Nov. 21, 1885, who died in 1915; and Peter A., born June 1, 1888, who is now the proprietor of the home farm. As will be seen from the above record, of the nine children five died young, the three first born being carried off within ten days—a great domestic affliction—while Ole, the second of the name, passed away in his thirtieth year.

Peter A. Engen, a representative agriculturist of Wilmington township, who is operating a good farm of 121 acres in section 14, was born in this township, June 1, 1888, son of Arne and Sigri (Halvorson) Engen. He was quite a young child when his father died, and the oldest living child in the family being a girl of 13, the mother rented out the farm, and it was operated by others for some twelve years. In the meanwhile Peter A. was acquiring his education, attending first the district school and afterward for two winters the Valder Business College at Decorah, Iowa. During the winter of 1905-6 he was clerk in a department store at Duluth, Minn. In the spring of 1906, however, he resumed agriculture, going to Anamoose, N. D., where he worked on a farm and in the fall was engaged in threshing. He then returned to Wilmington Township and for some time was employed in carpenter work. In the meanwhile in 1902 his brother Knute had come of age and taken charge of the home farm, where the family was now living. In 1915, however, Knute died, and Ole took up the management. But Ole's death soon followed that of Knute, occurring in the same year, and Peter A. then purchased his mother's and brother's interest in the stock and equipment and took over the management of the farm, which he has since operated and which he purchased Aug. 28, 1919. Of its total area of 121 acres, 105 are now under the plow, and the buildings are all in good condition. Mr. Engen has proved himself a good practical farmer, one of the

leading branches of his work being the breeding of graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. He is a Republican in politics, but has hitherto confined his political activities to casting his vote. In 1917 Mr. Engen was married to Cecelia Myhre, daughter of Andrew and Sophia Myhre, who were neighbors, residing less than a mile away, and the wedding trip was from her home to where they began domestic life together. Mrs. Engen was educated in the public schools and at the Winona State Normal School, and was a teacher for eight years before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Engen are the parents of two children: Sigrid M., born May 1, 1918; and Arleine S., born June 28, 1919. The family worships at the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church in Wilmington.

John Dretvig, the founder of a good farm in sections 21 and 22, Spring Grove township, which is now owned and operated by his son Albert J., was born in Norway in 1835. As a young man he came to the United States on the same vessel with Ole Suldahl, another Norwegian emigrant. He was united in marriage in Winneshiek county, Iowa, to Olive Nytroen. There he and his wife resided for some years, but were unable to make much progress. About 1882 with their son Albert, then about 5 or 6 years old and who was their only child, they came to Houston county, Minnesota, and took a tract of land in section 19, Spring Grove township, where they endeavored to establish a home. Bad fortune, however, still pursued them, as a succession of crop failures forced Mr. Dretvig to give up that farm and remove to sections 21 and 22, where he bought 113 acres, with some small improvements, including a frame house. Here he met with greater success, clearing his land and in time erecting a good two-story frame house of nine rooms, consisting of an upright and wing. He also built a frame barn, granary, two machine sheds, poultry house, corn crib, a woodshed and a milk and cream house. Subsequently Mr. Dretvig sold 21 acres of the farm, leaving it with its present area of 92 acres. Of this 70 are now under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture. In 1892 Mrs. Olive Dretvig passed away on the home farm. Mr. Dretvig survived her about fifteen years, dying in 1907. He had been retired from active work for about nine years, having rented the farm to his son in 1899, and shortly before his death he transferred the property to him.

Albert J. Rood, the present proprietor of a good farm in sections 21 and 22, Spring Grove township, which was established by his parents, was born Oct. 5, 1876, son of John and Olive Dretvig Rood. He was educated in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 15 years, and remained at home with his parents, whose only child he was, assisting his father to develop the farm. Renting the farm from his father in 1899, he was married on June 29, the same year, to Helene Marie, daughter of Jacob and Ingaborg Rosten, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1899, just previous to his father's death, he became the owner of the farm, which he is operating successfully, giving particular attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, having full-blooded sires for his herds. In addition to a good set of buildings, he has a full and adequate equipment of tools, teams and machinery, the farm being a well-improved piece of agricultural property. Mr. Rood is a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock &



ALBERT J. ROOD AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. JOHN DRETVIG

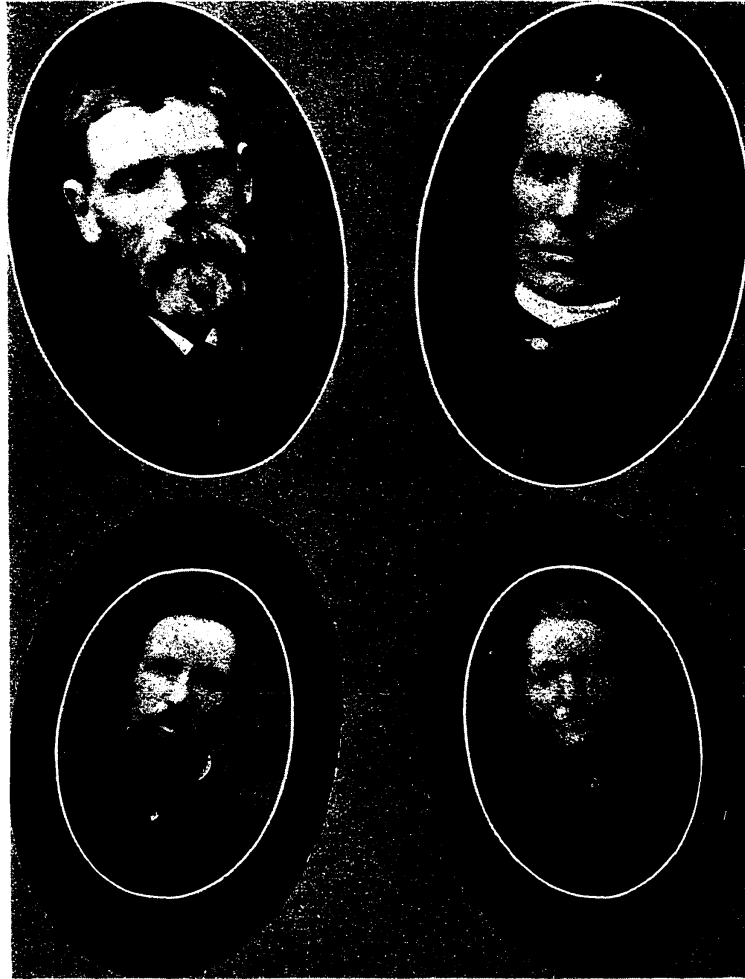
Grain Company, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, of the same place, and the Spring Grove Hospital, being also a member of the American Society of Equity. Previously a Republican, in 1916 he became a nonpartisan. He and his wife are the parents of one child, Olive I., who was born Oct. 3, 1904. Mr. Rood and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Carl Wilhelm Gjerdingen, who for many years owned and operated a productive farm of 137 acres in section 19, Wilmington township, three miles southeast of Spring Grove village, was born in this township, in section 30, Jan. 16, 1878, son of Ole N. and Bolita Gjerdingen. The first 27 years of his life were spent on his parents' farm. He was then married, Sept. 24, 1905, to Henrietta Emelia, daughter of Nels and Ingre Hefty, of Wilmington township, and about the same time he bought and commenced operating a farm of his own. On this place 115 acres are under the plow. The buildings include a good two-story frame house of nine rooms, a frame granary, barn, tool shed, hog house, poultry house and corn crib. A system of running water is provided for the buildings, and the farm is well fenced and provided with a full operating equipment of high quality. It is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc swine, with full-blooded sires for the herds. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Gjerdingen has acquired stock in the Spring Grove Hospital. He has served for the last six years as treasurer of his school district, and in politics is a Republican. Energetic and enterprising, he has made good progress in business affairs and is numbered among the prosperous men of the community. He and his wife have one child, Ole Bernhard, who was born April 12, 1906. The family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. In March, 1919, Mr. Gjerdingen retired from active farming and removed to the village of Spring Grove, where he now resides.

Nels Hefty, one of the original pioneers of Houston county, for many years a resident of Wilmington township, was born in Hallingdal, Norway, Oct. 1, 1833. He came to America at the age of 19, landing in this country with but \$25 in cash. His first settlement was made in Illinois, but in 1854, having by that time saved \$200, he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and bought 160 acres of wild land near the old Wilmington Church, where he built a small log house and barn. With this for a nucleus he proceeded to develop a farm, subsequently erecting frame buildings, including a house and two barns, besides others. He also increased the area of his farm by the purchase of 120 acres adjoining, making 280 in all. In early days he hauled his grain and other products to Brownsville, Minn., and Lansing and New Albin, Iowa, making use of ox teams. His labors were a factor in the development of the county, helping to change it from a wilderness inhabited only by savages into the flourishing and wealthy section of the state which it is today. Like nearly all of the original pioneers, Mr. Hefty has passed to his reward, dying at Spring Grove, March 27, 1908. He retired in 1902 and moved to Spring Grove village, where his final years were spent in the quiet enjoyment of a fair competence, won by long and unremitting industry and the exercise of a prudent frugality, though he was not back-

ward when called upon to aid a worthy cause, giving both of his time and means. One of the founders of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Wilmington, he served as trustee for several years and took a prominent part in its good works. Mr. Hefty was married in 1859 to a Miss Sigerdson, who was born in Telemarken, Norway, Feb. 25, 1840, and who when ten years old came to America with her parents and two brothers, one of whom, Reier, now lives in Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hefty were as follows: Ole, born Feb. 15, 1860, who died in infancy; Inger Olina, born July 1, 1863, who died at the age of 6 years; Margit, born Dec. 31, 1865, who married Olaus Sannes of Wilmington township and died in 1892; Inger Oline (second), born Sept. 27, now Mrs. Edward Evenson of Wilmington township; Theodore Olaus, born Sept. 28, 1870, who resides at Wolcott, N. D.; Ingeborg Maria, born Jan. 13, 1873, now Mrs. Peter Dille of McIntosh, Minn.; Tilla Cecelia, born April 13, 1876, who died unmarried in 1893; Henrietta Emelia, born June 22, 1881, now Mrs. C. W. Gjerdingen of Wilmington township, and Nora Elida, born Nov. 3, 1886, who is the wife of Almer Frederickson of McIntosh, Minn. The mother of these children, now 80 years old, is residing with her daughter, Mrs. Gjerdingen.

Gerhard A. Roverud, one of the proprietors of the Spring Grove Lumber Company, and a leading citizen of the village, was born in Spring Grove township, two miles north of the village, Feb. 2, 1889, son of Andrew K. and Elida M. Roverud. From the age of seven years to that of 15 he attended the district and village schools, finally graduating from the eighth grade on a state examination. While going to the village school he resided on his parents' farm, walking back and forth most of the time, and doing the farm chores at night and early in the morning, his time being thus fully occupied. His summer vacations he spent working full time on the farm. After his graduation in June, 1904, he remained with his parents until the fall of 1905, when he went to work as a farm hand in Black Hammer township, and was thus occupied for a year. Then in the fall of 1906 he rented a farm in that township, which he operated until Christmas, 1908. That winter he entered the Lutheran Academy at Albert Lea, Minn., taking the business course, from which he was graduated in June, 1909. A month after his graduation he took a position with H. J. Blexrud, a general merchant of Caledonia village, with whom he remained until Jan. 1, 1910. He then entered the employ of N. T. Newhouse, a general merchant of Spring Grove, as clerk, and continued with Mr. Newhouse until May 15, 1911. In September of the year last mentioned Mr. Roverud bought an interest in the Spring Grove Lumber Co. with N. O. Onsgard and M. K. Storlie, and has since been connected with this concern, which is one of the most prominent of its kind in southern Minnesota. He is also a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co., the Root River Electric Co. and the Minneapolis Realty Co. As one of the leading business men of the village, he has taken an active part in promoting its general interests, and is a useful member of the Commercial Club. He has also served two terms as a member of the village council, and in politics is a Republican. He owns and occupies a substantial and comfortable residence. Mr. Ro-



MR. AND MRS. KNUT WILHELMSON
MR. AND MRS. C. A. SUNDET

verud was married Dec. 26, 1912, to Celia Madeline Newhouse, daughter of N. T. Newhouse, his former employer. They have one child living, Norvin Arthur, who was born June 1, 1914. Mr. Roverud and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, which he has served as trustee and auditor, holding the latter position at the present time. A man of good business ability, he has done his share towards making Spring Grove what it is today, one of the most flourishing villages of its size in this corner of the state.

Knute Wilhelmson, one of the hardy Norwegian settlers in Spring Grove township in the latter sixties, was born in Norway, June 29, 1836. He grew to manhood in his native land and there learned the trades of stone mason and plasterer. In 1866 he came to the United States, and in the following year was married in Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minn. With his wife Ingebor he took a rented farm adjoining Spring Grove village on the south and established his home in a small log house, beginning the cultivation of the land. After remaining at that location for a few years, he bought a farm of 78 acres in section 23, Spring Grove township, two miles south of the village, the property being partly improved, as 25 acres of the land had been broken, and there was a log house and a log stable on it, both having straw roofs. This place he made his permanent home, increasing the cultivated area of his land, and in time erecting some good buildings, including a frame barn, 30 by 50 by 14 feet, with a full stone basement of eight feet, and a granary, 16 by 22 by 12 feet, besides log and straw sheds. When not busy with his farm work he took contracts for masonry and built many stone basements for farmhouses, besides erecting some of the brick store buildings now standing in Spring Grove village. After having enjoyed a fairly prosperous career, Mr. Wilhelmson died on his farm Oct. 7, 1893, at the age of 57 years. His wife, who was born in Norway May 5, 1838, survived him a little more than seven years, passing away Jan. 1, 1901. They were the parents of five children: Anna, now Mrs. George Melbostad, of Winneshiek county, Iowa; Julius Wilhelm, the present proprietor of the old homestead, which he has enlarged and improved; Bernt, a railway employee residing at Staples, Minn.; Bollitta, now Mrs. Albert Smerud, of Perley, Minn., and Christina, wife of Hans Bjertness, of North Dakota.

Julius Wilhelm Wilhelmson, a thriving farmer of section 23, Spring Grove township, proprietor of the farm established by his parents some 45 years ago or more, was born in a log cabin on a farm previously occupied by the parents, in the immediate vicinity of Spring Grove village, Jan. 11, 1871, son of Knute and Ingebor Wilhelmson. Not long after his birth the family moved to the farm on which the subject of this sketch is now living, in section 23, and in this vicinity he was educated, attending the district school until reaching the age of 17 years. Before he was that old, however, he had begun to assist his father in the development of the home farm, on which he gained a practical knowledge of agriculture in its different branches. In 1898, some five years after his father's death, and two or three years before that of his mother, he bought the farm, of which he still remains sole proprietor. When it became his property it contained

78 acres, to which he has added by purchase a tract of 32 acres adjoining, thus making its present area 110 acres, of which 70 are under cultivation, the remainder consisting of timber and pasture land. The soil is fertile and produces good crops. Of an enterprising and progressive spirit, Mr. Wilhelmson has added to the number of buildings on the place, in 1911 erecting a modern, two-story frame house, consisting of an upright wing and containing seven rooms. In 1912 he continued his building operations, putting up a stave silo, 12 by 24 by 6 feet in size, and following it with two poultry houses, 10 by 12 and 12 by 16; a machine shed, 22 by 36; a shop, 12 by 16; pump house, 10 by 10; buggy shed, 12 by 16; hog house, 10 by 36, and a garage, 12 by 16, in which he houses his fine automobile. Some good buildings had been put up on the original farm by his father, and on the 32-acre tract which Mr. Wilhelmson himself purchased there is a good frame house, a frame barn, well house and granary, so that his place is now well provided with buildings. He has also a good working equipment, and in addition to raising various crops, is doing a successful business as a breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle, having a registered bull; graded Shorthorns, of which he has now a herd of 25 or 30, with full-blooded sires; a good grade of swine, and full-blooded White Wyandotte fowls, of which he keeps from 150 to 200. A part of his business consists of dairying, for which he uses from 10 to 15 milch cows. In addition to these self-operated interests, Mr. Wilhelmson is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Company, the Bee Co-operative Creamery, the Spring Grove Hospital, and the Spring Grove Belgian Horsebreeders' Association. A Republican in politics, he has been supervisor on the town board two terms, being chairman of the board for one term. Mr. Wilhelmson was married, Nov. 16, 1899, to Gena, daughter of Christian and Ingebord (Ellingson) Sundet, of Wilmington township, Houston county, and who was born March 23, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelmson have three children: William, born March 11, 1901; Ingeman, born Jan. 8, 1904, and Inga, born Jan. 12, 1908. The prosperous circumstances in which Mr. Wilhelmson now finds himself, though due largely to his own exertions, illustrates the manner in which most of the flourishing communities in the Northwest have been built up—by the strenuous labor and patient endurance of privation by the native or foreign born pioneer settlers who have developed the land from the primeval wilderness, raising crops and erecting barns and farm buildings, and at their death passing the work on to their children, who have continued it with splendid results. Mr. Wilhelmson's own parents started in debt, even for their passage money across the ocean, and it was many years before they found themselves in comfortable circumstances, and he, himself, in his youth, shared in their labors and privations. He is now reaping the fruits of their toil and his own and is numbered among the most prosperous and influential citizens of his township. He and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, in which he has served almost constantly as an official.

Swen Aslesen, who died at his home in section 27, Wilmington township, Dec. 5, 1906, was one of the leading representatives of the agricultural interests of this township, and for many years one of its most prominent

and popular citizens. He was born in Norway in 1849, and was a child when he came to America with his parents, and a brother, Ole, who is also now deceased. The first settlement of the family in this country was made at Pine Creek, in Allamakee county, Iowa, where, however, they remained but a few years, crossing the state line into Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota. Here, in section 27, the father homesteaded 160 acres of wild land on which were no buildings, and, being very poor, he split rails many winter days for fifty cents a day. At other times he cleared his land, and in time built a small frame house and a frame barn. Here young Swen grew to manhood, with little opportunity for attending school, but learning much about agriculture and the care of stock. No notable event interrupted the regular current of his life until his marriage, Dec. 4, 1870, to Kari Garness, daughter of Bjorn and Cecelia Garness, and who came to this country with her parents when five years old, growing up in Fillmore county, Minn. For the first two years after his marriage Mr. Aslesen rented the home farm from his father, but in 1873 he bought it. It had been then increased to 180 acres, and had the house and barn already mentioned. Besides improving the house, Mr. Aslesen erected other buildings and further developed the place into one of the best farms in the township. Besides raising the usual crops, he was a successful breeder of Black Angus Poll cattle, Clydesdale horses, Shropshire sheep and Poland-China hogs. In addition to his Wilmington township farm, Mr. Aslesen bought 160 acres of wild land at New Ulm, Minn., and had it cleared and developed, this land still belonging in the estate. He also bought 160 acres near Aberdeen, S. D., and 160 acres near Brotton, S. D. That near Aberdeen, however, he sold before his death, at which time he was the owner of 620 acres. His widow, though suffering much from rheumatism, with the aid of her three sons, John, Anton and Martin, operated the farm until the fall of 1917, when she left it to take up her residence in Spring Grove village. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Aslesen are: John O., born Feb. 7, 1880, who has always remained at home except for six years, which he spent on the South Dakota farm and is now a carrier on Route No. 4 out of Spring Grove; Anton, born Feb. 24, 1885, who has remained on the home farm where he is now living; Theo, born in January, 1890, who married Morris Meyers, and died May 6, 1918, at her home in Lewistown, Montana; Clara, born July 1, 1892, now residing in Montana; Martin, born Jan. 15, 1894, who remained at home until the farm was rented out in 1917 and is now engaged in prospecting at Fertile, Minn. Mr. Aslesen was a member and liberal supporter of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, to which his family also belong. He was a progressive citizen, interested in everything concerning the good of the community in which he lived, and his loss was greatly regretted throughout Wilmington township and the vicinity.

Ole P. Lansverk, who became a resident of Wilmington township in 1857 at the age of seven years, and for a number of years was one of its prominent and useful citizens, was born in Muskego, Wis., June 8, 1850, son of Peder N. and Kari Lansverk. The parents were natives of Norway, the father born Oct. 2, 1820, and the mother April 27, 1824. They were married in their native land and came to the United States in 1845,

settling in Muskego, Wis. In 1857 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in section 30, Wilmington township. Thus their son Ole P. found himself in the locality in which he spent the rest of his life. Here he grew to manhood, and was married, July 5, 1873, to Karan Gjerdingen, who was born in Norway, Oct. 26, 1847, and who come from that country alone at the age of 18 years to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn. A strong and vigorous girl, she had worked the first summer in the harvest field for Ole Svartebraaten, west of the village, earning \$2.00 a day. Mr. Lansverk himself was never strong, but in spite of this handicap he made a success of his life. On his marriage he purchased 140 acres adjoining the Gjerdingen farm and began domestic life in a log house. This he subsequently rebuilt and improved, and in time he developed his farm, among his other activities setting out an orchard. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers' Fire Insurance Company, and performed useful service in raising funds for the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa, a work facilitated by his personal popularity. At the time of his death, which occurred May 23, 1899, he was not quite 49 years old. He and his wife were the parents of seven children: Peter, born March 22, 1869, now a prosperous farmer of Cheyenne, N. D.; Clara Wilsine, born May 22, 1876, who died in infancy; William Cornelius, born Sept. 26, 1878; Kari Ovidia, born Oct. 27, 1880, now Mrs. Teddy Olson of Kilbourn, Wis.; Ida Natalia, born Jan. 25, 1883, now Mrs. Martin Ike of Black Hammer township; Carl Nelius, born June 27, 1885, who is a farmer in Spring Grove; and Nils Oscar, born Jan. 9, 1888, who is engaged in operating the home farm. Mrs. Lansverk, who resides on the farm with her son Oscar, is still strong and in the enjoyment of good health. She kept her children together after her husband's death and has had the satisfaction of seeing them all but Clara W. grow to useful manhood or womanhood.

Arthur J. Flynn, in former years a well-known merchant and leading citizen of Caledonia, who for nine years served as judge of probate for Houston county, was born in Waterford county, Ireland, July 27, 1843, son of Arthur and Anastasia (White) Flynn. The father, who was a cooper by trade, died before Arthur J. was born, and when the latter was 2 years old death also deprived him of his mother. He and the only other child of his parents, a twin-brother named John, were taken care of by their grandparents, John and Catherine White, who about five years later brought them to the United States, the family landing at New York, May 1, 1850. On the subsequent death of John White, in Chicago, his widow, Catherine, went to live with her daughter, Johanna, who was the wife of John Hurley, and it was Mr. Hurley, with Thomas White, an uncle of Arthur, who brought the family to Houston county, Minnesota. The journey was a long one, being made in a wagon drawn by oxen, but Union township, this county, was finally reached, a piece of wild land selected, and a log house built. Here the grandmother, Mrs. Catherine White, lived out the rest of her life. The Hurley family in later years moved to the village of Caledonia. Arthur J. Flynn attended district school, and as he grew older worked on farms. That he made progress in his studies may be inferred from the fact that during the winter of 1861-62 he taught school in his

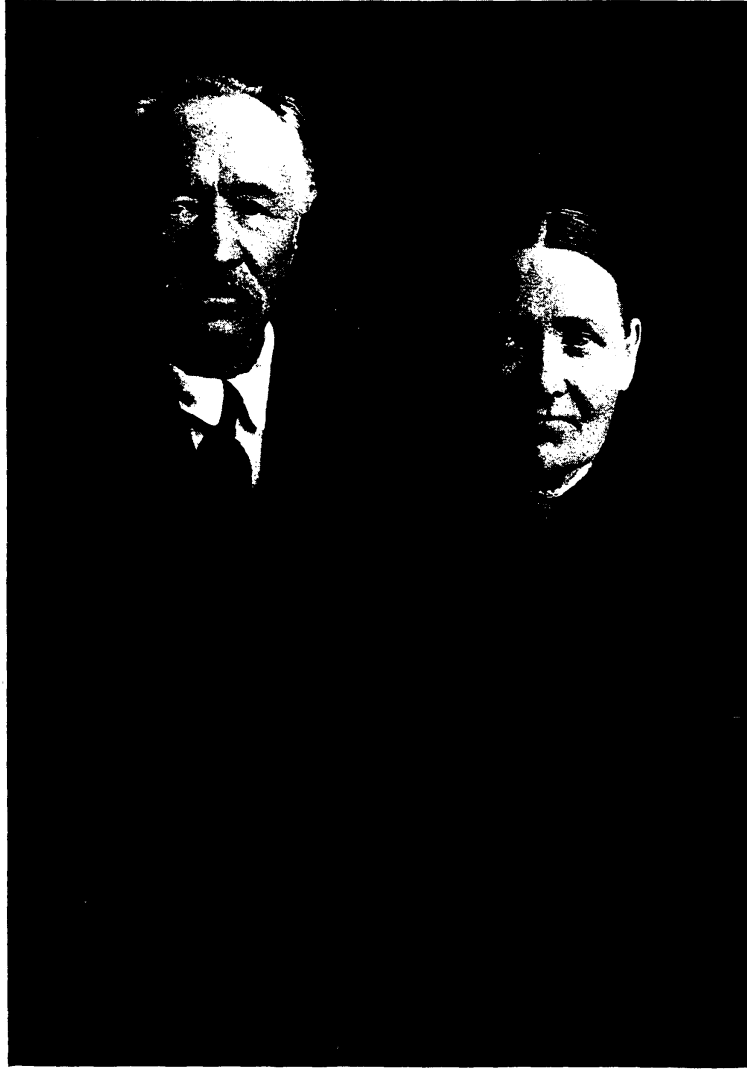
district. It was an unsettled time, however, with the Civil War in progress, and on Sept. 27, 1862, young Flynn showed his loyalty to the country which had adopted him by enlisting in Company A, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, commanded by Capt. E. M. Wilson, in which he served until Oct. 20, 1863. In March, 1864, he went to Chicago, where he learned the tinner's trade, which he followed until December, 1868. On the 26th of that month he was married in the Catholic church at Caledonia to Mary Theresa Murphy, who was born in Waterford county, Ireland, March 19, 1850, daughter of Pierce and Margaret (Phalen) Murphy. With his newly wedded wife Mr. Flynn then settled in Lanesboro, Fillmore county, Minn., where he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with Ed Kevin. There he remained until 1874, in which year he sold his interest in the business to his partner, and returning to Houston county, opened a hardware store in Caledonia, of which he was the proprietor for a number of years, until he finally sold out. A staunch Democrat in politics, Mr. Flynn had begun to take part in public affairs while still a resident of Lanesboro, becoming the first recorder of that village on its incorporation, to which office he was twice re-elected. In October, 1871, he was nominated for county coroner of Fillmore county, but was defeated. In 1877, some three years after settling in Caledonia, he was elected village trustee; and in the following April became village clerk, serving as such for many years by successive re-elections. By 1879 he had become so well and favorably known throughout the county that in the fall of that year he was elected judge of probate, in which office he served for nine years, or until 1888. He also rendered good service on the school board of Caledonia, and as a member of the State Democratic Central Committee. A Roman Catholic in religion, he was a faithful member of his church, belonging also to the Catholic society of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of "Billy" Mattison Post, G. A. R., which he served as commander. Mr. Flynn was a man of cheerful disposition and courteous manners, and his death, which occurred in May, 1916, was an event deeply regretted in the community of which he had been for many years one of the most popular citizens. His widow is still a resident of Caledonia. Mr. and Mrs. Flynn were the parents of five sons and three daughters, a brief record of the children being as follows: Arthur Pierce, who graduated in law, died at the early age of 29 years; Margaret is the wife of Charles Leighton, of Austin, Minn.; George F. is a traveling man residing in La Crosse; Anastasia is engaged in the millinery business; Pierce, who was a railroad conductor, died at the age of 37 years; Robert, a physician of La Crosse, served in the U. S. Army during the great war as a lieutenant in the Medical Corps; William E. is an attorney of Caledonia.

Pierce Murphy, a pioneer of Sheldon township, was a native of Waterford county, Ireland, in which country he grew to manhood. There he married Margaret Phalen and they resided in County Waterford until 1850, when, seeking to better their condition, they emigrated to the United States. They were accompanied by their family of three sons and four daughters—Michael, William, Nicholas, Margaret, Ellen, Alice and Mary T., the last mentioned, who later became the wife of Arthur J. Flynn,

being then 3 months old. After a voyage of seven weeks they landed in this country and proceeding west, settled in Chicago. Later they removed to Beloit, Wis., and from that place came in 1858 to Sheldon township, Houston county, where they located on a tract of wild land, built a log house, and with the help of oxen started to develop a farm. This task was in time accomplished and Mr. Murphy became a prosperous and respected citizen of the county. The last nine years of his life were spent in Caledonia, where he died at the age of 76. His wife died at the age of 86. Their two youngest children, Edward and John, were born in this country. The family were members of the Roman Catholic church.

William Edward Flynn, county attorney of Houston county, who is engaged in the practice of law in the village of Caledonia, was born in this village March 6, 1889, son of Arthur J. and Mary (Murphy) Flynn. His elementary education was obtained in the graded and high schools, and he was graduated from the law department of the Minnesota State university in the class of 1911. Locating in Minneapolis, he became connected with the law firm of F. H. Ayers, working for one year as an assistant, after which he was taken into partnership. Mr. Ayers dying in March, 1913, Mr. Flynn subsequently practiced alone in Minneapolis until October, 1916, when he came to Caledonia and opened an office here, where he has since successfully practiced his profession. He was elected to his present position as county attorney in the fall of 1918, and for some time he has served as village attorney. He is the present Grand Knight of the Caledonia Lodge of the Knights of Columbus, and is a member of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. E. His civic affiliation is with the Caledonia Commercial Club. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

Frank Lorenz, a prominent farmer and one of the leading citizens of Hokah township, residing in section 31, was born in this township, April 2, 1880, son of Anton and Elizabeth (Brokes) Lorenz. The parents were born in Bohemia, the father July 13, 1847. He came to Hokah, Minn., in 1866 at the age of 19 years, and subsequently settled on a farm here, which he cultivated until his death. His widow still resides at the old home. Frank was the second born in a family of eight children. He was educated in the Hokah convent, where he was employed for two years from the time he was 18 years old. For four years thereafter he worked out, but resided on the home farm. On his marriage he rented a farm in La Crescent township, which he operated for two years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of 147 acres in section 31, Hokah township. Here he has erected a good modern barn, with other buildings, and is engaged in general farming with profitable results. In 1915 and 1917 he won the title of Corn King by his exhibits at the County Corn Show held in Houston. He is a shareholder in the Hokah Grain & Stock Company and in the Hokah Farmers' State Bank. As a public spirited citizen Mr. Lorenz has interested himself to a large extent in affairs of his township and has served as supervisor since 1910. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church, and in politics is independent. He was married in February, 1904, at the Hokah convent, to Caroline Vogel, daughter of Frank and Frances (Dibbel) Vogel.



MR. AND MRS. ANTON ANDERSON

He and his wife have three children: Joseph, born Nov. 19, 1904; Alice, Aug. 9, 1908; and Angeline, May 10, 1915. The son, Joseph, was born in La Crescent, and the two daughters in Hokah. The parents of Mrs. Lorenz were born in Germany, Frank Vogel coming to Hokah, Minn., when a boy. He is still living and is engaged in agriculture in this vicinity. His wife, Frances, came to America at the age of 20 years. They have had nine children, of whom their daughter Caroline was the sixth in order of birth.

James Dean, a well-known and respected citizen of Money Creek Township, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, Aug. 22, 1858, son of James and Katherine (Hennessy) Dean, who were natives of the same Irish county. The family emigrated to the United States in 1872 or 1873, coming directly to Houston county, and locating on the farm in section 11, Money Creek township, which the subject of this sketch now owns. Here the father died a widower in 1880, his wife having passed away a few years previously. James, Jr., who was one of the younger members of a family of five children, acquired his education in District School No. 89, Money Creek township. He began working out at the age of 17 years, and so continued until his marriage in March, 1885, to Anna Layne, who was born at Galena, Ill., daughter of John and Hannah (Shortell) Layne. He then bought 40 acres of land adjoining the old Layne homestead, to which he added from time to time until he had brought the farm up to its present dimensions of 200 acres. The death of his wife, which occurred Oct. 12, 1909, was a heavy bereavement, and two years later he turned the management of the farm over to his son, though still residing on it, and became deputy for the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. He is a stockholder in the Rushford Creamery. He has five children: Josephine, Katherine, John, Margaret and James. Josephine, wife of Robert Randall, a farmer in Money Creek township, has two children, Helen and Lucile. Katherine, the wife of Orlando St. John, resides near Money Creek village. John, who is living on the home farm, married Hannah O'Brien and has two children, Meriland and Bernard. Margaret is the wife of F. P. Burk, a veterinary surgeon of Madelia, Minn., and has one child, Frances Margaret. Her brother James resides with her. Mr. Dean is a Catholic in religion and in politics is independent. He is affiliated fraternally with the I. O. O. F., Canton and Rebekah Lodge at Hokah, the Modern Woodmen of America at Houston and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Money Creek.

Anton Anderson, a resident of Mayville township since 1896, where he has developed a good farm of 55 acres from wild land, was born in Norway, Jan. 26, 1856, son of Andreas and Olena Olson. His education was acquired in his native land, where he grew to manhood and learned and followed the carpenter's trade. Coming to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1892, he first located in Caledonia, where he was engaged in carpenter work for about four years, or until 1896, when he bought his present farm in section 8, Mayville township. The land being then wild, he had to break it and do much hard work in grubbing and clearing, but this work shows results in a fine and profitable farm, well provided with good buildings. It is now managed by his sons, Mr. Anderson himself being practically retired. Mr.

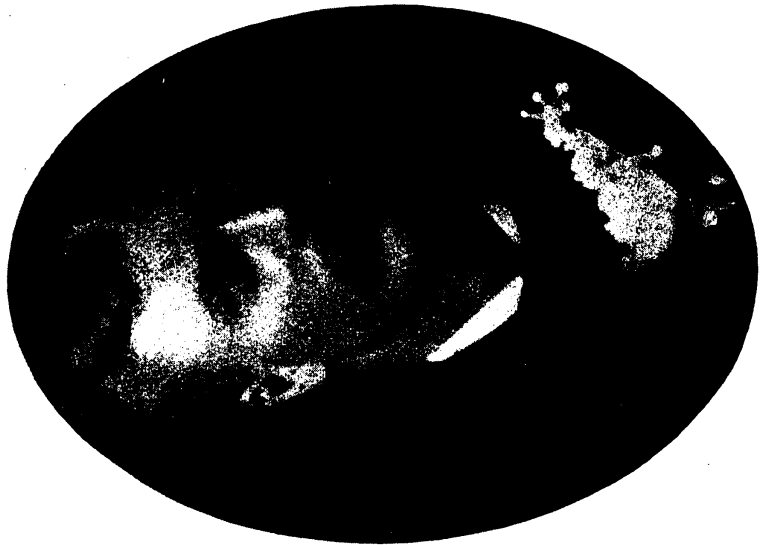
Anderson was married in Norway, in 1880, to Mary Peterson, who was born in that country July 12, 1858. Of this marriage seven children have been born, all of whom are now living, namely: Nettie, born July 6, 1881, now Mrs. Johnson and residing in California; Carl O., born Sept. 7, 1883; John, born March 4, 1890; Christ, Feb. 12, 1892; Olga, Jan. 7, 1896; Amelia, Sept. 27, 1898; and Helmar, Aug. 21, 1901. All but Nettie are living on the home farm. Christ served nearly two years in the United States Army in the world war. Mr. Anderson and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and among the most respected residents of this part of Houston county.

Louis Helm, Sr., a well-to-do resident of Hokah, of which village he is one of the leading citizens, was born in Germany, September 8, 1851, son of Fritz and Dorothy Helm. The father having died in Germany in 1860, Louis, with his mother, and sister Freda, emigrated to Canada, and for four years resided in Toronto. It was during the time of the American Civil War, but in 1865 the war came to an end, and in the following year, 1866, the family came to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Mayville Township, Houston County, where the subject of this sketch acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture, a business that he followed for over 30 years, for 27 years of that time being foreman and general manager of the A. D. Sprague farms, including Mr. Sprague's large farm in Mound Prairie Township. Subsequently he bought a farm for himself in Union Township, where he resided, becoming prosperous and influential, and serving six years as chairman of the town board. In 1898 he made his residence in Hokah village, but about the same time he bought 400 acres in Hokah Township, sections 27 and 28, 100 acres of the tract being improved land. He has continued the improvements on an extensive scale, having built a fine residence and other buildings, all being in excellent condition. His home in the village is also a desirable piece of property. On the farm his sons conduct an extensive stock raising business, keeping full-blooded Hereford cattle. Mr. Helm is a stockholder and director in the Hokah State Bank and the Hokah Stock & Grain Co. For 18 months he was the local representative of the Sears-Roebuck Company of Chicago. In politics a Republican, he served as chairman of Hokah Township for one year and was also one year supervisor, and for 23 years he served as deputy sheriff. Since 1894 he has been a member of Morning Star Lodge No. 29, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Helm was married February 2, 1871, to Caroline Schutz, who was born in Germany, December 15, 1849, daughter of Jacob and Minnie Schutz. She emigrated to Canada with her parents in 1854, and ten years later came to Houston County, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Helm, Sr., are the parents of seven children: Anna, who married Andrew Senness of Union Township, and has five children; Alice, Roy, Eva, Arthur and Florence; Louis, Jr., a prominent farmer of Hokah, who married Tillie Boldnan and has two children, Clarence and Erma; Lydia, now Mrs. John Minzer of Hokah, who has one child, Beulah; Libbie, who is the wife of Gust Leitzau, of Union Township, and the mother of four children, Ralph, George, Dorothy and Grace; Fred, who is a farmer; Nels, who is a bridge foreman on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway west of Mobridge, S. D.; and John, who is a farmer.





MR. AND MRS. JOHN O. JORDIE
CHARLES A. MANN AND FAMILY



Louis owns a farm of 90 acres, Fred one of 185 acres and John one of 80 acres, in Hokah Township.

Ludwig Mann, who came to Houston County in the seventies and achieved an enviable reputation as an extensive landowner, successful farmer and useful citizen, was born in Germany, and as a young man was married to Emelia Kriese, likewise a native of that county. His education was obtained in the schools of his native village, and his military reputation was achieved as a soldier in the German army, when, in 1866, Prussia and her allies under Wilhelm I. were engaged in war with Austria and her allies. A few years after this war he brought his family to America and found his way to Houston County, where he worked for some seven years in a flour mill at Hokah. After this he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, first renting land for a while, and then purchasing land in Union Township. By hard work and frugality and ably assisted by his family, he gradually improved his farm, and added to his property, until at the time of his death he owned a fine place, now divided into two farms, one of 204 acres being owned by his son Charles, and one of 316 acres owned by his son, Reinhold. Mr. Mann was a substantial man of solid worth, and his death, in 1910, was sincerely mourned. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Emil, Adolph, Ida, Alvina, Louis, Reinhold, Emma, Minnie and Charles A., of whom Emil, Adolph and Louis are now deceased. His wife died May 2, 1915.

Charles A. Mann, one of the more progressive and influential farmers of Houston County, owns a highly improved farm of 204 acres in section 28, Union Township, and is doing more than his share toward developing the county into one of the foremost agricultural regions of the state. He was born in Hokah, this county, Sept. 2, 1887, received a thorough education in the public schools, and was reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, in Union Township. After his father's death he rented 204 acres of the home place, and four years later, in 1914, purchased it, being now the sole owner and proprietor. Being a man of ability and good judgment, coupled with modern ideas and a willingness to work hard, he has made many improvements on the place, and today is numbered among the leading and up-to-date farmers of the present generation. He has thoroughly fenced the entire farm, remodelled the residence, and erected a suitable set of outbuildings, including a smoke house, a power house, a garage and a hen house, as well as other suitable structures. He has just completed a new modern barn, 36 by 102 feet, with full double basement wall of cement blocks lined with tile, which gives it strength, warmth and dryness. The roof is decorated with three large revolving cupolas which are connected with an enclosed or boxed in ventilating system reaching from the cupolas to the basement. This system provides for entire sanitation, furnishing clean, fresh air to the stock at all times, and carrying off the foul air. The barn is equipped with all the latest modern equipment, including the James patent stanchions. The water system is furnished from his deep well, having a natural flow to the barn. This barn, with its roomy spaces and modern separator room, is one of the most modern, best equipped and up-to-date barns in the county, bespeaking as does everything else about

the place, the thrift and good judgment of its owner. Mr. Mann follows general diversified farming, and breeds the stock that he deems the best of their kind for dairy and market purposes. Busy as he is with his farm, he has not forgotten his public duties, and is serving efficiently as treasurer of school district 108. His business interests include stock in the Farmers Elevator at Caledonia. Mr. Mann was married Oct. 27, 1914, to Anna Gurina Jordie, who was born in Union Township, this county, Aug. 16, 1894, daughter of John and Julia (Holte) Jordie, and this union has been blessed with one son, Burdette Charles, born July 27, 1915.

John O. Jordie, now living retired in Houston City, after an active and successful career as a farmer in this county, was born in Norway, Oct. 14, 1860. He was about six years old when in 1866 he came to the United States with his parents, who settled at Stoughton, Wis., where he attended school. Coming to Houston County in 1887, he located first on Caledonia Ridge, in Sheldon Township, buying a farm there. Two years later he sold that farm and bought one of 160 acres in Union Township, a place on which he remained for 16 years and brought into fine condition. He then sold it and bought one of 260 acres on Caledonia Ridge, Sheldon Township, which he also thoroughly developed, and on which he resided until 1915. Then retiring from active work, he built a fine cottage in Houston, where he now resides with his wife, the farm being operated by his sons Helmar and Michael. Mr. Jordie was married Jan. 29, 1887, to Julia Knutson Holte, who was born in Norway, April 3, 1867, and came to America with her parents at the age of one year, they settling in this county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jordie are as follows: Helmar, born March 30, 1890, who is married, and by his wife Lydia has one child, Hilton J.; Alma, born Oct. 17, 1891, who married Martin Runnegen, and has one child, Maynard A.; Michael, born April 29, 1893; Anna, born August 16, 1894, who is the wife of Charles Mann, and has one child, Burdette; Josephine, born July 24, 1897, who married Carl Runnegen, and has one child, Regnald C.; and Ella, born Feb. 8, 1899, who married Olof Gresby. Mr. Jordie is a stockholder in the Caledonia creamery. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, attending what is known as "the Stone Church" in this vicinity. They are people of standing and influence in their community, each individual member of the family having an honorable record.

N. E. Dorival, for many years a prominent citizen of Houston County, was born in New York State in 1835, the son of John Dorival, who was born on the Island of San Domingo, was brought to the United States as an infant, and spent his life in New York State. N. E. Dorival was reared in his native state, and came to Houston County in 1860, settling on a farm. He had a long and active career in public affairs. The first winter he spent in Minnesota he spent as an assistant clerk in the house of representatives. In 1866 he was elected county auditor, serving two terms, after that was register of deeds, and for a number of years was a justice of the peace. During the latter years of his life he was engaged in the machinery and insurance business. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal Church. He was affiliated with the lodge and chapter of Masonry, serving as secretary of his lodge for a number of years, while in politics he was one of the

best known Democrats in Houston County, and was held in high esteem by all classes of citizens. He died in 1900. Mr. Dorival was married in Houston County to Ellen Eaton, who was born in New York State in 1846, daughter of Eber Eaton. This union was blessed with six children: Mary, Edward, John, Gurth, Charles A. and Grace. The Eaton family has been in America for many generations, having originally come from England. Several members of the family participated in the Revolutionary War on the side of the colonists. Eber Eaton was born in New York State, and was a pioneer settler in Houston County, Minnesota, in 1854. He followed farming and died in Houston County. In the early days he had gone out to California as a gold seeker.

Charles A. Dorival, judge of probate of Houston Township for the past ten years, is one of the leading citizens of the county, and comes of a family that has taken a prominent part in its affairs. He is a man of broad sympathies and understanding, with a wide experience in human nature both as a barrister and jurist, and his activities along various lines have had their share in shaping the county's destinies. He was born in Caledonia, Feb. 18, 1880, the son of N. E. and Ellen (Eaton) Dorival. He was reared in Caledonia, and after passing through the common schools, was graduated from the Caledonia High School in 1898. Then he studied law with Capt. W. H. Harries, and was admitted to the bar in 1903. In this profession he met with marked success. In 1909, Gov. John A. Johnson appointed him judge of probate, and to that office he has since been successively elected. In this capacity he has proved his merit and won the regard of his fellow citizens, as proof of which, in the old days of partisan politics in county affairs, he was elected as a Democrat, although the county is strongly Republican. For several years he served as secretary and treasurer of the County Democratic Central Committee. One of his most notable achievements is his work during the Great War. In August, 1917, he was appointed secretary of the local exemption board, and served faithfully and efficiently in this capacity throughout the conflict. His standing in his profession is shown by his membership in the American and Minnesota State Bar Associations. He is also a prominent Mason, being past master and present secretary of Caledonia Lodge No. 20, A. F. & A. M., and high priest of the Caledonia Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. His other fraternal relations are with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen.

Herbert E. Wheaton, journalist and educator, editor and proprietor of the Houston County Chief, published at Hokah, and former principal of the Hokah school, was born in Janesville, Waseca County, Minnesota, April 1, 1871, son of Hudson and Fanny F. (Boehm) Wheaton, both born in New York State, the former Feb. 16, 1840, and the mother, June 23, 1847. The father, who was a substantial, respected citizen, came to Houston County in 1859, at the age of nineteen, and worked for many years as a car painter in Caledonia. In the late sixties, he moved to Janesville, this state, but in 1872 returned to Caledonia, and here lived until his death, April 9, 1896. Herbert E. was brought to Caledonia by his parents, and was there reared, receiving his elementary education in the public schools. From early boyhood he was interested in educational and literary work, and to better pre-

pare himself for work along these lines he entered the Wisconsin State Normal School at La Crosse, where he was graduated. He then entered the educational field, and after teaching for several years, became principal of the Hokah School in 1910. Two years later he resigned. During these years he had never quite forgotten his taste for newspaper work acquired during his boyhood work with the printing shops and newspapers of Caledonia, and on June 15, 1913, he re-entered this field by purchasing the Houston County Chief. His editorial work and business management has made this paper one of the leading in the county, and his fearless policy has had a strong influence on public affairs throughout the vicinity.

Mr. Wheaton was married Jan. 18, 1898, to Louise E. Wiegand, and this union has been blessed with four children: Herbert Hudson, now principal of the high school at Kendall, Wis., and an officer of the Home Guards there; Gladys Fanny, a normal school pupil, and Mary Louise and Dorothy, residing at home. The parents of Mrs. Wheaton, Ernest and Mary (Doering) Wiegand, were born in Germany, and came to the United States as children. After their marriage they settled on a farm near Caledonia. There, Mr. Wiegand died in 1876, and his widow subsequently married.

Robert Lewis, whose name is inseparably connected with the early history of Houston County, was one of the pioneers of Caledonia Township, and did much to impress upon the life of his community the stamp of his own solid worth and character. He was born in Hertfordshire, England, of substantial people, the son of Samuel and Sarah (Carter) Lewis, who in 1847 brought him to a farm near Wheaton, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. There Robert Lewis grew to manhood and married. In 1855 he packed his household goods, and with an ox team and two cows set out for the Mississippi Valley country. The river was crossed at Galena, and in time they came in sight of their new home in section 27, Caledonia Township. At that time there were but few settlers in the county, and the surroundings were very wild, still inhabited by roving Indians. A small log cabin had been built on the place, with a sod roof and dirt floor. For a time the family lived in their covered wagon, while Mr. Lewis got out shingles for the roof, and planks for the floor. The family lived a true pioneer life, enduring all the hardships and privations incident to life in a new country. Mr. Lewis cleared the land, and then gradually broke it, erecting new buildings from time to time until he had an excellent place. Only two years after he arrived here, he became interested in the possibilities of fruit growing. Accordingly he decided to secure some apple trees. With this purpose in mind, he walked to Brownsville, took a boat to Galena, and from there went by rail to Chicago, where he secured twenty-four young apple trees about six feet high. These he had shipped to Brownsville, from which place he carted them to his farm with his ox teams. These were the first cultivated apple trees in Houston County, and from them he raised the first cultivated apples in Houston County, selling them to his grateful neighbors for \$2.00 a bushel. One of these original trees is still standing. But it was not only in building up his own farm that he was interested. He earnestly desired for his community good educational and religious facilities. He helped organize the Methodist Episcopal Church,



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT LEWIS





WILLIAM H. CHAPPEL AND FAMILY

sang in its choir, was prominent in its Sunday school, and for many years was a member of its official board. He organized the first school in the district, and gave for the schoolhouse site the land upon which the present schoolhouse, one of the best brick buildings of the kind in the county, still stands. Of this district Mr. Lewis was an official almost all the remainder of his life. Mr. Lewis died Aug. 29, 1910, and his death was sincerely mourned by the entire community. His good wife passed away Aug. 30, 1903. Mr. Lewis was married April 26, 1855, at Wheaton, Ill., to Mary A. Carter, daughter of Morris and Susan Carter, both of whom were natives of Hertfordshire, England. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had two children. - Albert M. lives on the home place. He married Zena Paddock, of Caledonia. Lucie married Jay E. Ratcliffe, of Wheeling, West Virginia, who died Oct. 11, 1915.

Albert M. Lewis, better known as Bert Lewis, is one of the leading citizens of Caledonia Township, which he has seen develop from a wilderness into the prosperous farming community which it is today. He was born on the farm where he now lives, Jan. 30, 1857, the son of Robert and Mary (Carter) Lewis, the pioneers. He was reared on the home place, and attended the district school which his father organized, finishing with courses at the Caledonia Academy, then superintended by W. D. Belden. He helped his father develop the home farm, and now conducts and owns it. He carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying on a profitable basis, and is one of the successful and respected men of the community. His business holdings include stock in the Co-operative Stock and Grain Co. of Caledonia, as well as the Caledonia Co-operative Creamery.

Mr. Lewis was married Oct. 7, 1896, to Zena Paddock, of Caledonia, and of this union there are four children now living: Ellsworth E., Walter L., Lucie I. and Alpha G. Ellsworth E. was born April 15, 1899, received a good education, and on April 16, 1917, enlisted in the United States Army, serving one year or more, guarding German prisoners in France. He was appointed corporal in March, 1918, and sergeant in July, 1919. Walter L. was born Sept. 7, 1900; Lucie I. was born Feb. 5, 1905; Larkie A. was born Sept. 24, 1904, and died in infancy; and Alpha G. was born Nov. 18, 1909.

William H. Chapel, who is now living practically retired on a farm of 23 acres adjacent to the Village of Money Creek, is a man who has had an active and successful career as farmer and stock raiser. He was born in Dodge County, Wisconsin, Oct. 24, 1857, son of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel. He resided at home for most of the time until 22 years old, though previous to that he owned stock and operated land to some extent. After that he engaged in independent farming in this county, and at the age of about 26 years bought 100 acres of practically unimproved land in section 12, Money Creek Township, to which tract he subsequently made additions until he had 187 acres. Of this he grubbed 100 acres and continued his improvements until October, 1916, when he transferred the farm to his eldest son. He also acquired the tract of 23 acres on which he is now living, and which he is operating as a farm merely to keep employed. While living in section 12 he gave his attention largely to breeding Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs, and also some horses. He was one of the original founders and chief promoter of the Money Creek Creamery, being its presi-

dent for seven years, and is a stockholder in the telephone company, of which he has been president for a number of years. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Yeomen's Lodge at Money Creek and the camp of Modern Woodmen of America at Houston, of which latter he is a charter member. He formerly served for some time in the office of constable, and in politics is an independent Democrat. Mr. Chapel was married, Dec. 31, 1883, to Mary C. Layne, who was born at Galena, Ill., daughter of John and Hannah (Shortall) Layne. She was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, of whom five are now living. In her girlhood she attended school in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Chapel eight children have been born: Charles, Jocie, George, William, Albert, Fred, Leona May and Julia Alvina. Fred, who was born April 22, 1894, died in July, 1916. George, William and Albert were all in the United States service during the late war, George and Albert serving for about one year, and George taking part in some hard-fought battles, but all returned home safely, having met with no casualties. Charles married Mabel E. McLeod, of Rushford, and is now farming on the Chapel homestead in section 12, Money Creek Township. He has one child, Kenneth Allen. Jocie and Julia Alvina are residing at home with their parents. Leona May is the wife of Abraham Kingsley, a farmer at Stockton Ridge near Winona, and has one child, Glenn Frederick.

John Layne, a former resident of Money Creek Township, where he made some agricultural improvements, was born in Missouri. In early life he removed from his native state to near Galena, Ill., settling on a farm about six miles west of that city. For a while he engaged in mining, but his chief occupation throughout his life was agriculture. After residing for about 25 years on his farm near Galena, he removed to Houston County, Minn., taking land on Vinegar Hill, in Money Creek Township. There were few improvements on it, but he added to them and in time built up a good farm, on which he died Dec. 2, 1886. He married Hannah Shortall, a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, whose death occurred in 1874. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are now living.

Levi Kathan, who owns and operates a farm of 130 acres in section 19, La Crescent Township, was born in the Township of Dunham, near Montreal, Canada, Aug. 17, 1851, son of Earl Wood and Harriet (Shufelt) Kathan. The parents, who were natives of Canada, removed to Vermont in 1851 and remained there three or four years, subsequently returning to Canada, where they spent the rest of their lives. Levi, who was the fifth born of their ten children, was educated in Canada, where he resided until he was 14 years of age. He then went to Missouri, where he worked on farms and later at railroading until about 1865, when he began working in the woods and lumber mills of Sauk County, Wisconsin. From there he came to Houston County, Minnesota, at the time the tracks of the Southern Minnesota Railroad were being constructed to Houston, or in 1866, and worked on the road and its extensions for the next four years. After that he engaged in farm work for D. J. Cameron, and was so employed until his marriage in February, 1873, to Sarah Lang, daughter of Abraham and Frances (Smallcorn) Lang, natives of Somerseshire, England. He then took a farm near Faribault, but subsequently returned to Houston County

and took his present farm in La Crescent Township. On this property, in 1912, he built a large, modern residence, while his barns, outbuildings and equipment are all adequate to the requirements of modern farming, which Mr. Kathan is carrying on successfully. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Sarah Kathan died July 19, 1915, deeply regretted by all who knew her. She had been the mother of ten children: Calvin, who is on the home farm; Walter and William, who served with the United States Army in France; George; Earl Wood, a resident of Hokah; Fannie, who is keeping house for her father; Hattie, now Mrs. Richard Wheeler of South Dakota; Grace, residing in Minneapolis; Mayme, wife of J. M. Hickey of Minneapolis; and Maud, residing at home.

Jacob C. Paulson, whose recent death on Feb. 15, 1918, deprived the Township of Yucatan of one of its widely known and esteemed citizens, was born in Schleswig, Denmark, June 26, 1852, son of Knud and Dorthea Paulson. He attended school in his native land and remained there until reaching the age of 17 years, when, saying goodbye to his parents, he set out for the United States. On his arrival here he located in Winona, Minn., where he found work in a stone quarry, being engaged in that line of occupation for some seven years. Then, on Oct. 30, 1876, he was united in marriage with Anna Dorthea Larson, who was born in Norway, fifth of the six children of Lars Christopherson and his wife, Anna Gulbrandson. Coming to America in 1866, her parents with their family located in section 19, Yucatan Township, this county, taking a tract of wild land which has since been developed into a good farm. On his marriage Mr. Paulson came to Houston County and settled on the farm of his wife's parents, where he took hold of the improvements and continued the operation of the place, as a general farmer, in which work he was engaged at the time of his death. Just previous to that event he had sold 20 acres of his land, having had 130 acres. He was a stockholder in the local creamery and the elevator at Rushford. A Republican in politics, he served on the school board of his district for many years, and was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Highland Prairie. To Mr. and Mrs. Paulson twelve children were born: John, who is proprietor of a neighboring farm in this township; Carl, residing at home; Hjalmar, a farmer in Montana; William, who is farming on Oak Ridge, Yucatan Township; Anna, wife of M. Johnson of Fillmore County; Mary, wife of Christ Olson, a farmer at Bobells, N. D.; Oscar, who is farming at Harsey, N. D.; Ida, wife of Charles Olson, a farmer of Nashua, Mont.; Edwin, a farmer; Laura, wife of Bennie Wold; and Christian and Emma, who are residing on the old homestead with their mother.

John Crain, formerly a well known and respected resident of Yucatan Township, but now deceased, was a native of Ireland, and came to the United States when a young man, locating first near Hartford, Wis., where he resided for a number of years. For 23 years he was engaged in railroad work, but finally engaged in farming in Yucatan Township, this county, residing here until his death in 1903. He served in various township offices and proved his worth as a reliable citizen and good neighbor. He married

Maggie O'Connor, also a native of Ireland, who died in 1913, surviving her husband about ten years. They had a family of nine children.

Steve Crain, proprietor of a good farm of 210 acres in section 4, Yucatan Township, was born in Houston Township, this county, Feb. 22, 1871, son of John and Maggie (O'Connor) Crain. He attended school at Oak Ridge, this township, and was reared to manhood on his parents' farm. When 26 years old he went to North Dakota, where he was engaged in farm work at intervals, the rest of his time being spent at home in assisting his father. Later he settled on the farm on which he now resides, where, in addition to the usual crops, he is breeding up to Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs, paying particular attention to the stock raising branch of his business. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company, of which he is also now the vice-president. In politics he is independent, while his religious affiliations are with the Roman Catholic Church at Houston. One of the prosperous citizens of his township, he is esteemed for his industrious habits, the excellent management of his farm, which is a well improved piece of property, and for his agreeable qualities as a neighbor.

John A. Frank, who is engaged in the farm implement business in Caledonia, in company with his brother Peter, was born on a farm in Caledonia Township, April 2, 1889, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Esch) Frank. He was reared on the home farm and acquired his education in the district school. Like the other boys in the family, his first industrial experience was along agricultural lines, but his brother Hubert starting a grocery business in Caledonia village, he became his partner and so remained for seven years. At the end of that time, or about five years ago, he severed his partnership connection with Hubert and became the partner of his brother Peter in the implement business, which they have since conducted in Caledonia, and in which they have made gratifying progress. They carry a full line of farm implements of recognized merit, and have shown an enterprise and integrity in their business which have already given them an enviable reputation as reliable dealers.

John A. Frank married Elizabeth Wilvert of South Dakota, and they are the parents of one child, Leroy.

Henry Frank, a settler of former days who took part in developing the agricultural resources of the county, was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg about 1844, and came to the United States at the age of about 21 or 22 years. He had been brought up to farm life and on arriving in this country settled first in Iowa, where he remained for about ten years, or until reaching the age of 32. He then came to Houston County, Minn., and for some years worked out on farms in the vicinity of Houston, after which he rented a farm in the township and operated it on his own account. Later he bought a farm in Caledonia Township, where he made his permanent home, and on which his wife is still living. Here he died Sept. 2, 1913, at the age of 69 years, after a life of useful activity as an agriculturist. He was a man respected by his neighbors and was a faithful member of the Catholic church. He and his wife had 13 children: Hubert, Peter, Nicholas, Tony,

John, Joseph, Margaret, Mary, Florence, Anna, and three others who died young. Joseph died at the age of 14 years. All attended the district school and grew up on the home farm, where Nicholas and Tony are still living with their mother. Hubert subsequently engaged in the grocery business in Caledonia, his brother John being for some years associated with him, but he is now conducting business alone. He married Anna Staddler of Houston, and has four children, Joseph, Lawrence, Herman and Evela.

Ole Evenson, who in former years took active part in the agricultural development of Houston and Yucatan Townships, but has long since passed away, was born in Telemarken, Norway, in 1836. There he grew to manhood and married Berget Targerson, who was born in February, 1848. Emigrating to the United States, they arrived in Houston County, Minnesota, in 1866, first settling on a farm near Houston, but later removing to section 32 north, Yucatan Township, where Mr. Evenson established the farm that is now operated by his son Christian. On this place he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1883. His widow, who still survives him, is now residing with a son in this township. They were the parents of eight children.

Christian Evenson, who is operating a good farm of 240 acres in section 32 north, Yucatan Township, which is the homestead established by his father many years ago, was born on this farm, May 27, 1874, son of Ole and Berget Evenson. His education was acquired in the district school, and was neither continuous nor prolonged, as at the early age of ten years he was obliged to become industrially active, working out for others. For one man he worked five years, after which he hired out his services to other farmers, being thus occupied until two years after his marriage. He then began independent farming in Holt Township, Fillmore County, operating a farm there for two years, after which he was engaged for an equal length of time in the feed mill business at Peterson, that county. Then he returned to farming in Holt Township, spent two years at it, and then sold his place and for one year resided on his mother's farm, which he helped to operate. The next twelve years were spent in operating various farms, the first one being in Yucatan Township, on which he remained two years; the next, the Hovda farm, which he operated for three years; then the farm on which he now lives, for one year; after that the Orr farm for three years, then another farm in Yucatan Township, on which he resided for three years, at the end of which time he came to the home farm on which he now lives. Here he carries on general farming, raising both crops and stock, and also operates a threshing outfit, in which he is a stockholder. He has made good progress on the road to prosperity, and has a well improved place, with good buildings and modern machinery. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Evenson was married in November, 1897, to Anna Nereson, who was born in Sheldon Township, this county. He and his wife are the parents of eight children: Obert, Oscar, Cara, Bernice, Adolph, Sidney, Norma and Gaile, all residing at home.

Dwight A. Buell was born at Caledonia, Minnesota, March 16, 1859, a son of David L. and Hattie M. (Bushnell) Buell. His father was born

in New London County, Connecticut, in 1831, and died in 1906; and his mother, in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1830, and died in 1904. The Buells and Bushnells are of English origin. Two children now survive their parents, the daughter being Miss Hattie L. Buell, now at La Crosse, Wis. She is a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute. Dwight A. Buell spent his boyhood in Caledonia, attended school there and at the University of Minnesota. He studied law at Ann Arbor and was admitted to the bar at Caledonia in October, 1882. He was elected county attorney in 1884, and held the office one term. Since 1888 he assisted his father in the farm machinery and other business at Houston, Minnesota, and has found but little time to devote to the practice of law, and at present is looking after his farming and other interests.

David L. Buell, one of the early pioneers of Houston County, was born in New London County, Connecticut, May 26, 1831, and studied in the schools of his native place and at Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, and after leaving school he devoted his time to teaching school and the study of law until coming west, in the spring of 1856. He was married, Feb. 10, 1856, to Hattie M. Bushnell, of Middletown, Connecticut, and they soon thereafter came to Houston County, Minnesota. He was elected register of deeds in 1858, holding the office two terms, and was admitted to the bar at Caledonia in May, 1863, and practiced law from 1863 to 1870, and was also, part of that time, engaged in farming. David L. Buell had marked ability as a lawyer, and practiced until his farming and other interests caused him to retire from active practice. He farmed extensively from 1870 for years, and was engaged in the banking business and dealing in farm machinery at Houston, Minnesota, from 1886 until his death in 1906. He was the recognized leader of the Democratic party of Houston County for a number of years, and was elected county attorney in 1863, and was a member of the legislature of 1863, and of the state senate in 1866, 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1879.

Frederick Peterson, a former resident of Houston Township, who took an effective part in the agricultural improvement of the township, was born in Sweden, where he grew to manhood and married Anna Ericksdatter. They came to Houston County, Minnesota, in 1868, and established a home in Houston (Lower Town), where they lived for twelve years. At the end of that time they removed to a farm in section 27, on which Mr. Peterson made improvements, and on which he died Nov. 10, 1902. His wife is now living in Chicago with her daughter. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, one of whom, William, is now proprietor of the old homestead.

William Peterson, proprietor of the old Peterson homestead in section 27, Houston Township, was born in this township, Jan. 23, 1869, son of Frederick and Anna (Ericksdatter) Peterson. He attended school in Houston Township and village, and resided on the home farm, assisting his father until the time of his marriage, when he assumed its management and has since operated it, carrying on a general stockraising business. He also holds shares in the Farmers Telephone Company. The farm contains 160 acres and is well provided with substantial buildings and modern equip-



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW LEWIS SENN



ment, and is a well paying piece of property. Mr. Peterson is a Republican in politics.

He was married April 8, 1897, to Gena Olson, who was born in Crystal Valley, Houston Township, daughter of Aslak and Anna Olson, early settlers and well known farming people in Houston Township. Of this marriage eight children have been born: Fred Edwin, Edna Josephine, Elmore Theodore, Erna Amelia, Alice Marie, Eddie Tillman, Florence Louise, and Norman Leonard.

Andrew Senn, one of the leading citizens of Mound Prairie Township, where for many years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, was born in Ashton Township, Fond du Lac County, Wis., July 24, 1859. He was only four years old when he accompanied his parents to Houston County, and two years later his father died. He was brought up on the home farm, on which he worked until he finally bought land in Mound Prairie Township and engaged in farming on his own account. He has developed a good farm of 180 acres, which he is still operating. He is at present serving in the office of town supervisor, and is also a director of School District No. 62. In March, 1886, Mr. Senn was married to Elizabeth Schild, who was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 23, 1867, and who was brought to this country by her parents when a babe. They have been the parents of eight children, namely: Andrew L., a well known farmer of Mound Prairie Township; Joseph H.; Clara E., now Mrs. Christian Lufi, of Mound Prairie Township; Ella R., wife of Alfred Johnson, of Houston Township; Anna M., wife of Paul Krueger, of Watertown, Wis.; and Edgar F., Ruth E. and Philip V.

Andrew L. Sean, a prominent representative of the farming interests of Mound Prairie Township, was born in Bush Valley, this township, Dec. 28, 1886, son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Schild) Senn. He was the eldest of his parents' eight children, and was educated in District School No. 62 in this township. He remained on the home farm with his father, occasionally working for others, until he was 28 years old. Then renting a farm in Mound Prairie Township, he conducted it from Oct. 1, 1915, to March 1, 1918, when he moved to his present farm in section 5 south, which he had purchased the previous March, 1917. It consists of valuable land, and is well improved with good buildings and fences, and a full equipment of modern machinery and implements. The place is a part of the Old Crowe homestead and is a well developed and productive farm. Mr. Senn carries on general farming, raising grain and stock, and is doing a prosperous business. He is a shareholder in the Hokah Stock and Grain Company, and in the shipping association of Houston. He served four years in the office of town assessor, in politics being an independent Republican. He is a member of the Rush Valley Baptist Church. Mr. Senn was first married, Aug. 26, 1915, to Marie A. Redmann, who was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., daughter of Gustav and Mary (Walter) Redmann. She died Feb. 17, 1918, leaving one child, Everett Andrew, who was born Dec. 6, 1917. Mr. Senn married, secondly, March 4, 1919, Alice K. Gstalder, who was born Feb. 3, 1892, daughter of Hubert and Mary (Lorman) Gstalder. Her parents, who for about 35 years were farmers in Mound Prairie Township, now reside in the

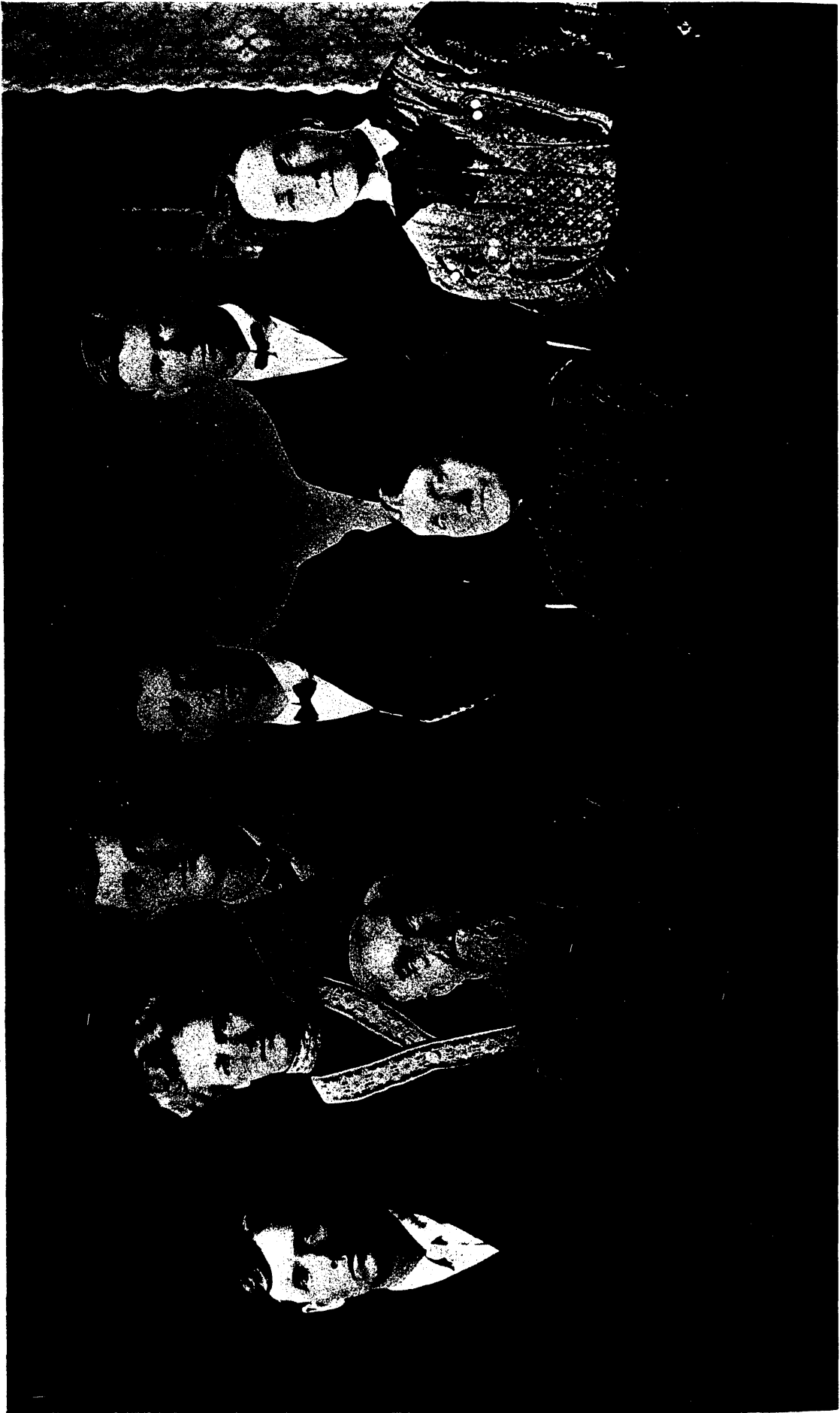
Village of Hokah. They have had eight children: Henry, of Hokah; Julia, now Mrs. William A. Heintz, of Sheldon Township; John, residing on the old homestead in Mound Prairie; Alice K., wife of Andrew L. Senn; Ida, who died, Jan. 4, 1919; Louisa C., now Mrs. Fred Kruckow, of Sheldon Township; Louis and Esther E., both residing at home.

Mrs. Marie Augusta Redmann Senn, who passed away at a hospital in La Crosse, on Feb. 17, 1918, was the wife of Andrew L. Senn, of Mound Prairie Township, and previous to her marriage had gained a high reputation as one of the most efficient teachers in Houston County. She was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1886, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. Gustav Redmann, both of whom are now deceased. She attended school in New York City until she came west at the age of twelve years, in the spring of 1898, taking up her residence with her uncle, August F. Redmann, and his family, in La Crescent village. There she attended school for a few years. Her uncle then moved onto a farm in Pine Creek, and while living there she attended school in District No. 4. In March, 1901, she came to Kroehler's in Day Valley, and for a few terms went to school in District 11. One term also she attended in District No. 10, in Looney Valley, residing at the E. P. Amidon home. Her education was further advanced in the Caledonia and Houston high schools, and the Winona Normal School, during the summer terms, where she qualified herself for the work of teaching. In that work she was subsequently occupied for twelve terms, teaching her first term in the southeastern part of the county, the second in District 84, Winona County, the third and fourth in Crystal Valley, District No. 24, the fifth and sixth in District No. 94—the Loretta School on South Ridge—the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth in Day Valley, District No. 11, and the last two terms in District No. 62, Bush Valley. On August 26, 1915, she was married to Andrew L. Senn, of Mound Prairie Township, with whom she lived happily until her untimely demise, on Feb. 17, 1918, cast a gloom over the community where her noble sterling character had made her universally beloved. Mrs. Senn was a Christian of sincere faith and ever helpful disposition. She was reared in an atmosphere of piety and refinement, having been the daughter of a devout clergyman of the Evangelical Association. At the age of sixteen she joined the Tabor Evangelical Church of Oak Ridge, and ever afterward continued active in church work. As a teacher she was an inspiration to her pupils; as a friend she was ever loyal and gracious; and as a wife she fulfilled the highest ideals of family life. She left one small child, Everett Andrew, born Dec. 6, 1917.

Severin Johnson, who is engaged in the automobile and garage business in Houston, was born in Sweden. He was a young man when he came to the United States, and first went to Connecticut, where for a time he worked as a quarryman. With the object of bettering his condition, he then came to Houston County, Minnesota, and on arriving here located in Swede Botton, where he worked for one year on a farm. Afterwards he engaged in farming elsewhere, in 1890 removing to the farm in Houston Township that is now occupied by his son Charles E. Johnson. After cultivating it until 1910, he turned it over to his son and engaged in his present



MARIE A. (REDMANN) SENN



ABRAHAM WILSON AND FAMILY

business in Houston, where he has met with good success. Mr. Johnson married Hannah Carlson, a native of Sweden, and they have been the parents of seven children.

Charles E. Johnson, well known in Houston Township as an enterprising and prosperous stock raiser, proprietor of the old Johnson homestead of 280 acres, was born in Houston County, Jan. 1, 1882, son of Severin and Hannah (Carlson) Johnson. He was the second born child in a family of seven, and was educated in District School No. 5, this township. Residing at home until twenty years of age, he then began working out, and continued to do so until 1910, when his father turned over the homestead to him, and he has since been engaged in operating it as a general stock farm, in which enterprise he is meeting with good success. Among his other business interests are those of a shareholder in the Houston Creamery Company and the Farmers Elevator and Telephone companies. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and in politics is a Republican.

Mr. Johnson was married March 23, 1910, to Henrietta Olson, who was born in Houston County, daughter of O. M. and Tilda (Haupt) Olson. Her parents were born in Minnesota, and her father is now a farmer in Mound Prairie Township, and a stockholder in the Houston Creamery. He is also one of the supervisors of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of three children, Harold Henry, Laura Marjorie and Lorene.

Edward Wilson, a general farmer, proprietor of the old Wilson homestead in section 1, south, Houston township, and sections 31, 32 and 36, Mound Prairie township, in which latter township his residence is situated, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Oct. 14, 1877, son of Abraham and Guro (Kittelsson) Wilson. The father was a native of Sweden, born Oct. 4, 1833, who came to Houston county when a young man, settling on the land which now for the most part constitutes the present Wilson farm, which he developed and improved, and on which he resided until his death, Feb. 1, 1911. He first married Sarah Thompson, by whom he had three children: John (born July, 1860), Emma and William, of whom the two latter are now deceased. His second wife, Guro, who was born in Norway, March 24, 1845, is now residing with her son Edward. The children of Abraham and Guro Wilson were: Sarah, born Aug. 17, 1870; William, Aug. 25, 1872; Alfred, May 30, 1875; Edward, Oct. 14, 1877; Lizzie, Nov. 21, 1881; and Samuel, born Oct. 13, 1884, and died in March, 1888. Lizzie is now Mrs. H. O. Sanden. Edward Wilson in his boyhood attended school in Crystal Valley. He has always resided on the home farm, the management of which came into his hands when he was 17 years of age. It now contains 201 acres of valuable land and is highly improved, the buildings and equipment being modern and kept in fine condition. Mr. Wilson is operating the farm on a profitable basis and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. His sister, as well as his mother, resides with him, the former having charge of the household. The family attend the "Stone" Norwegian Lutheran church in Houston township, and Mr. Wilson is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Houston. In politics he is an independent Republican.

Ole Erickson, who was an early settler in the northern part of Houston county and for a number of years was engaged in the work of agricultural improvement on various farms, was born in Gubrandsdalen, Norway, Dec. 19, 1846. While a young man and still single he emigrated to Canada, when he came to Houston county, Minnesota, locating first in Looney Valley, Houston township. After remaining there two years he took a farm in the same township, west of Houston village, which he operated for five years. His next agricultural operations were carried on in Sheldon township for two years, after which he resided for a year in Houston. He then returned to his former farm west of the village and from there moved to an 80-acre farm in section 36, west. When he took this place it was but slightly improved, but he subsequently brought it into good condition and resided on it until his death, Oct. 16, 1916. He was married in Minnesota to Sophia Olson, who was born in the same locality of Norway as himself, on April 25, 1848. She is now residing with her son Julius on the old homestead.

Julius Erickson, who as a general farmer is engaged in operating the old Erickson farm in section 36, west, Houston township, was born at Houston, this county, April 23, 1889, son of Ole and Sophia (Olson) Erickson, he being the eighth born of their nine children. He acquired his education in the schools of Houston township, attending the Houston High School, and his life up to the age of 20 years, after he became industrially active, was spent on the home farm, where he acquired a knowledge of agriculture in its different branches. He then worked out for other farmers for four years, but subsequently returned to the old homestead, which has been his place of residence and activity ever since. As a general farmer he is doing a good business and making the land yield satisfactory returns, raising both crops and stock. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Lutheran church. He is one of the four survivors of his parents' nine children, the others being: Anna, wife of J. C. Peterson, of Rushford; Obert, a farmer in Houston township; and Alfred, a farmer in the same township, his farm being one mile west of that of Julius.

Alfred Inglett, one of the pioneer settlers of Winnebago township, now passed away, was a native of England, where he grew to manhood, entered the government service, and married Sarah Holliday. With five children they came to Minnesota in 1864 and for four years operated a rented farm in Houston county. In 1868 Mr. Inglett bought 120 acres of wild land in section 1, Winnebago township, a tract destitute of buildings, on which he erected a small log house. A sturdy and industrious man, he made good progress and at the time of his death had 80 acres under the plow. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, six born in England and three in the United States. Alfred was born Feb. 18, 1856, and is now farming in Lyon county, Iowa. Edward was born Oct. 17, 1857, and is now farming in Fillmore county, this state. Sarah was born June 20, 1859, and is the wife of Elliot Stearns, of Hubbard county, this state. George was born Aug. 25, 1861, and died in England. Frances was born April 13, 1863, and is the wife of Ivan Stearns, of Becker county, this state. Emily, born Feb. 14, 1865, is dead. Cecil T., born May 10, 1869, is a leading farmer of



CECIL F. INGLETT AND FAMILY

Winnebago township, this county. Harriett, born Oct. 5, 1871, is the wife of B. Winneschloger, of New Albin, Iowa. Ella M., born Feb. 18, 1876, is dead.

Cecil T. Inglett, who is engaged in general farming, including dairying and stock raising, in Winnebago township, his residence being in section 1, was born in a small log house on the farm he now owns and operates, on May 10, 1869, son of Alfred and Sarah (Holliday) Inglett. He was educated in the district school and has always resided on the parental homestead, on which he acquired his knowledge of agriculture in its various branches. This farm, which then consisted of 120 acres, he has since increased to 350 acres. To his enterprise and progressive spirit it also owes much of its present flourishing appearance, as he has made some of the principal improvements on the property, including the erection of a modern two-story, nine-room frame house; a barn, 34 by 80 feet in size; a granary and engine room combined, 24 by 28 feet; a hog house, 18 by 30 feet, with a cement feeding floor, 16 by 30; a machine shed, 18 by 40; garage, 12 by 18; poultry house, 14 by 28; well house, 12 by 20, together with corncribs and other outbuildings. The farm as a whole is one of the best in Winnebago township and is located ten miles from Caledonia and eleven miles from New Albin, Iowa, the former place being Mr. Inglett's market. In addition to what stock he raises Mr. Inglett is a buyer and shipper of high-grade cattle and hogs. He has a good operating equipment, including a fine Dodge automobile, and has been very successful in his business. He is a Republican in politics, and for a number of years has served as clerk and treasurer of his district school board. He is a prominent member of Caledonia Lodge, No. 20, A. F. & A. M., and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. The Methodist Episcopal church of New Albin, Iowa, to which he and his family belong, finds in him a liberal supporter. Mr. Inglett was married, June 23, 1891, to Mary Haas, who was born Sept. 20, 1872, daughter of John and Anna Haas, of Freeburg, Crooked Creek township, this county. This union has been blessed with five children: Everett, born Oct. 13, 1892; Alfred, born June 6, 1894; Robert, born July 17, 1901; Leslie, born Dec. 26, 1907; and Melvin, born May 26, 1911.

Mr. Inglett suffered severely in the tornado of June 6, 1906, one of the worst catastrophies to visit the southeastern part of Houston county, entailing a great loss of property and causing the death of three persons, one woman and two children, besides severely injuring several others.

The tornado, accompanied by a drenching rain and traveling in the direction of east-northeast, visited the northeast corner of Winnebago township and the southeast corner of Crooked Creek township, between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon, dying away across the Mississippi in Wisconsin.

The first serious damage was done at Louis Kreuger's farm on section 1, Winnebago, where it destroyed barns and other buildings and swept away a small addition to the dwelling house. It also took the roof off Mrs. Richard Dunn's barn and destroyed the granary and corncribs near by.

At Cecil F. Inglett's all the buildings were torn into fragments, the barn and floor of the house being carried a distance of more than half a

mile. Every member of Mr. Inglett's family except his aged father was injured. The most seriously injured was the son, Alfred, then 12 years old, who had his skull fractured in two places. When found the boy was lodged under the wheel of the windmill, which Mrs. Inglett, with the strength of desperation, raised to rescue him. The 14-year-old son, Everett, had his arm and shoulderblade fractured and was cut severely over an eye. Mrs. Inglett was badly bruised, and the 4-year-old son, Robert, slightly so. Mr. Inglett also suffered numerous injuries.

The next place struck was that of George F. Lampert's, on section 6, township 101-4, Crooked Creek, where the granary and orchard were damaged. On the same section the schoolhouse was entirely wrecked, the barn, windmill and roof of the dwelling of John Plembling were destroyed, and the house of L. Yohe badly wrecked and his barn demolished. Mr. Plembling himself had an unusual escape. He was near the schoolhouse when the wind carried the building into the air and threw it onto his team, wrecking the wagon and killing one of the horses.

On section 31, township 102-4, Philip Goetzinger's buildings were damaged and the windmill torn down. On the Elizabeth Schottz farm, on section 32, all the buildings were destroyed. The storm then passed alongside of John F. Brenner's place in the same section, tearing only a few shingles from the buildings. Trees were uprooted and broken down and many were carried for some distance.

But the storm passed this place, only to strike another home in the same section with a most appalling tragedy. Approaching the home of Peter Meyer in the shape of a funnel-like cloud, 200 feet in length and 100 feet in diameter, it swept up the buildings and distributed them over the landscape, leaving in their ruins the dead bodies of Mrs. Meyer, aged 34, and the two children, Joseph, aged 8, and Nicholas, aged 3, and the unconscious form of Mr. Meyer. The youngest boy was killed in his father's arms. When the storm approached Mr. Meyer picked up the youngster and with the other two members of the family hastened toward the cellar. Then came the crash. When Mr. Meyer regained consciousness he was still holding in his arms the body of the little fellow who had been killed by a piece of flying timber. Seven or eight rods away was the dead body of his wife. The other son was nowhere to be seen. Failing to find him, Mr. Meyer walked to the home of John F. Brenner, a neighbor, who summoned other aid, and in time found the terribly mangled body of young Joseph under a portion of the demolished roof of the house. The bodies were removed to the home of Joseph Becker and three days later the funeral was held in the Catholic church at Freeburg, hundreds of people gathering from near and far to do honor to the departed and express sympathy for the bereaved husband.

At Michael Kenney's farm, in section 33, the house and windmill were damaged and the barn moved about a foot. A little further east the roof was lifted off William Wunnecke's barn. Then the tornado proceeded eastward, crossing the Mississippi and continuing its destruction of life and property at Stoddard and vicinity in Wisconsin.

A little earlier in the day another tornado had entered Spring Grove

without, however, doing the great damage of the later one. It started about six miles southwest of Hesper, Iowa, and took a northeasterly direction, tearing down houses, barns, outbuildings and trees, and injuring a number of people. Upon entering Spring Grove it tore down the outbuildings of Eric Larson and stripped the shingles from his house. At Ole Helgeson's all the buildings except the house were torn down. At Theodore Kroshus' place the barns and other outbuildings were destroyed, the windmill was wrecked and a part of the dwelling unroofed. By the time the storm reached the village of Spring Grove it had spent its force and little damage was done there.

These tornadoes showed the usual vagaries of such storms. Buildings were picked up, whirled high in the air and scattered over the ground. Giant trees were uprooted, carried about as though they were twigs and then hurled to earth. Grain straws were driven inches into oak trees. Some trees were as nearly riven as though with a saw and left standing. Sometimes milk and canned goods were undisturbed in cellars after the whole house had been demolished.

The storm over, the afflicted ones started at once to rebuild and in a few years there was little evidence except splintered trees to tell of the great disaster which had overtaken them.

Mr. Inglett had no insurance, and of the money collected for the sufferers he received but \$50, with \$25 from the M. W. A. of New Albin, Iowa. After the disaster he started in again and soon had a good set of buildings and in a few years had achieved a full measure of deserved prosperity.

Dennis Dever, who added to the agricultural wealth of Houston township by establishing a good farm in section 27, was born in County Mayo, Ireland. Coming to this country when a young man, he was married in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Anna Anderson, who, like himself, was a native of County Mayo in the Green Isle. They came at once to Houston county, Minnesota, and here for about twenty-two years Mr. Dever was engaged in railroad construction work. In 1891 he moved onto the farm above mentioned, which at that time was only partially improved. Here he continued until his death in October, 1895, by which time he had erected buildings and made considerable progress in cultivating his farm. His wife survived him for over nine years, passing away March 9, 1915. They were the parents of four children: Patrick and John, who are now operating the farm; Bridget, who died in childhood; and Mary, who is residing on the homestead with her brothers.

John Dever, who in company with his brother Patrick is engaged in operating the old Dever farm in section 27, Houston township, was born in the village of Houston, this county, May 6, 1871, son of Dennis and Anna (Anderson) Dever. He was educated in Houston and assisted his father on the home farm until 19 or 20 years of age, at which time he took charge of it and is now operating it with the assistance of his brother, the two being partners in the business. It contains 120 acres of good land, and he has added considerably to the improvements. General farm-

ing is carried on successfully, and the two Dever brothers are numbered among the well-to-do farmers of the township. John Dever is a member of the Houston Shipping Association and a stockholder in the Houston State Bank and the local creamery company. He also owns a farm of 120 acres in Houston, which is operated by tenants. He and his brother and their sister Mary, who resides with them, are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Dever is a Democrat in politics, but confines his political activities to casting his vote.

Iver G. Iverson, as public citizen and business man, is exerting an influence on the affairs of the county that is being widely felt and will long endure. He has made of his business as lumberman a beloved profession, he has recognized the possibilities of service to his fellowmen in that business, and sightly buildings in his home village of Houston and comfortable, commodious homes and roomy, substantial barns throughout the county testify to the inspiration of his work. His fame in his business has extended far beyond his county and state, and leading publications have made of his artistic lumber yard and untiring devotion to the highest architectural ideals the subject of extended articles, holding him up as a model to all others engaged in the same line of business. Mr. Iverson was born in Romsdale, Norway, in 1879, son of Peter and Mary Iverson, natives of Norway, both born in 1849. In 1880 the family came to America and located at La Crosse, where a year later young Iver G., as a lad of 12 years, entered upon his career by securing employment in the lumber mills. He was hard working, frugal and progressive, and thoroughly interested in his labors. As he grew to manhood he determined to enter the lumber business for himself. His ambition in this regard was realized when in 1904, in company with A. Peterson, whom he afterward bought out, he started a lumber yard at Houston, handling lumber and all kinds of building material. The standing which he now enjoys has been the result of the gradual unfolding of his ideas. One of his first thoughts was that a lumber dealer, urging the importance of good buildings on others, should himself maintain a yard that would in some measure express the ideas that he was preaching. Accordingly he turned his attention to beautifying his lumber sheds. At that time the sheds were of a miscellaneous character, much like the average lumber yards in other villages. With this unpromising material, by a clever arrangement of the connecting roofs and with flower boxes, flowering plants, bungalow siding and stucco work, and artistic windows and doors, he has evolved a shed which is bungalow-like in appearance, a real addition to the architectural beauty of the village. The equipment is of the latest design, and the office would do credit to a large banking house. With this yard as an exhibit Mr. Iverson has been preaching the necessity of better buildings and better homes. He not only sells lumber and building material, he advises the purchaser to the best use of that material, and while not a professional architect, his training has been such that he is always able to make a pleasing reality of the ideas that the purchaser has of any building under consideration. As one purchaser builds a more artistic home, another desires one, and the result is that the whole architectural tone of the rural districts of the county has been



I. G. IVERSON

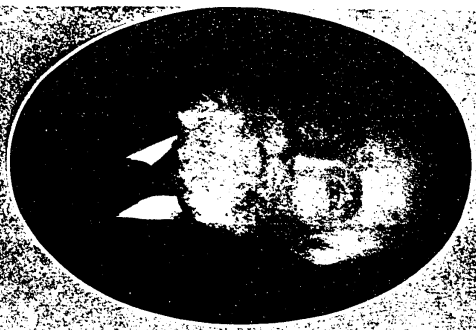
raised. In the village itself not only the Houston Signal Office, the new Village Hall and other notable buildings, but also a number of artistic homes stand to his credit. In 1919 Mr. Iverson established a department of the Houston Signal which has proven a wonderful source of advertising and also an inspiration to progress. This is a two-column piece of literature, called the Community Booster, printed in imitation of a miniature newspaper on the front page of the Signal. The Booster contains little items regarding building progress in the county, comments on public affairs, boosts all good projects and even originates some, and also presents a collection of clever jokes and quaint philosophy. In civil affairs Mr. Iverson has also taken a deep interest; he did much loyalty work during the war, and he stands for everything that is for the best of the community. His business interests outside the village include an interest in the firm of Larson & Iverson, lumber dealers of Altura, Minn. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order and the family faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Iverson was married, Nov. 29, 1906, to Clara Hanson, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hanson, natives of Norway and retired residents of La Crosse. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson have three children: Paul, Carl and Rolf Leigh.

Knute A. Lee, an enterprising and prosperous business man of Spring Grove village, where he owns and operates a large feed and sale stable, was born in Black Hammer township, Houston county, Minnesota, March 6, 1879, son of Aad K. and Hannah (Severson) Lee. The father, a native of Norway, came to America with his parents when a babe, the family living for awhile in Wisconsin, and then coming to Black Hammer township, this county. When grown to man's estate he married Hannah Severson, who was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and about 1882, when the subject of this sketch was 3 years old, they moved to Spring Grove village. Here Knute A. Lee attended school until about 16 years old. From that time until he was 20 he worked as a farm hand. When 21 he became mail carrier on mail route No. 1 from Spring Grove and continued in that position for nine years. While thus occupied on Sept. 1, 1906, he married Mathilda, daughter of Peter and Sigrid Glasrud, of Black Hammer township, and he and his wife began domestic life in a home in the village. In 1909 Mr. Lee gave up the mail route and from that time until the spring of 1911 was engaged in buying and shipping horses. He then went to Lemmon, S. D., where he bought 80 acres of unbroken land adjoining the village, a tract that he still owns. In the fall of the same year he returned to Spring Grove, where during the following winter he conducted a restaurant. This he sold in the spring of 1912 to Albert Vik and bought the City Dray Line, which he is still operating. In the following year, 1913, he built his present large feed and sale stable, a two-story building, 34 by 100 feet, resting on a full stone basement of 9 feet, and with a capacity of 50 horses. This business grew to such an extent that in 1917 Mr. Lee had to erect a second building, 30 by 44 feet in size, and he has continued to enjoy an increasing patronage. He owns a comfortable residence on Black Hammer street, a two-story house of upright and wing and containing seven rooms, which he built in 1899. He is also a stockholder in the Root River Electric

Company. Energetic and wideawake, he has made a success as a business man and takes a keen interest in whatever makes for the good of the community in which he lives. He and his wife are the parents of five children, who were born as follows: Sylvia Henrietta, June 10, 1907; Barbara Marie, March 15, 1909; Juliette Belinda, April 19, 1912; Margaret Catherine, March 16, 1914; and Knute William David, March 19, 1916. Mr. Lee and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church. Mrs. Lee, who was born in Black Hammer township, July 19, 1884, comes of a family who have long been respected residents of that locality.

Edmund Evans, for several years proprietor of the Silver Tower Fruit Farm, now known as the Walnut Heights Fruit and Dairy Farm, was born in Blackthorne, Oxfordshire, England, in September, 1819. On April 10, 1849, he was married to Ann Ayers, also a native of Blackthorne, England, and in the year of their marriage they sailed for the United States and settled in the state of New York, where they resided until 1852. They then removed to Indian Territory, where Mr. Evans was employed by the government in the agricultural department of Spencer Academy, a Presbyterian mission institution located on the Choctaw reservation. He held that position until 1859, when on account of his wife's poor health he returned with her to New York state. Early in 1860 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, and for a short time resided in La Crescent village. From there they moved to a farm in section 11, Mound Prairie township, where they established a home, Mr. Evans carrying on general farming and fruit raising. As a fruit grower he was not only the first in his vicinity, but was also one of the earliest in the state and as such became widely known, while in general agriculture he was equally successful. In course of time he increased the area of his farm to 360 acres and resided on it until his death in 1898. Mrs. Evans died Sept. 28, 1915. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Edwin F., William J., Sarah R., Henry C., Arthur, Mary Jane A., Sheldon J., Walter T., Albert E., Julia A. and Rose L. Mr. Evans was a member of the Presbyterian church of La Crescent.

Walter T. Evans, a well-known farmer, dairyman and fruit grower, owning and operating the Walnut Heights Fruit and Dairy Farm, section 11, Mound Prairie township, was born on his present farm Sept. 17, 1865, the eighth child of the eleven children of Edmund and Ann (Ayers) Evans. He was educated in the district school and at Gale College, Galesville, Wis. He worked at home assisting his father until 1898, when he bought the farm and has since been its proprietor. It is a well improved piece of property, having an area of 280 acres. In addition to general farming and dairying Mr. Evans has made a reputation as a successful grower. His buildings, machinery, residence and surroundings give ample evidence of his thrift and prosperity. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics is a Republican. On June 12, 1902, Mr. Evans was married, at Mound Prairie, this county, to Anna Lehmann, daughter of Charles and Anna (Senn) Lehmann. Of this union three children have been born: Kenneth Walter, March 23, 1903, who is a student at the La Crosse High School; Mildred Florence, Dec. 18, 1906; and Marion Leone, Oct. 11, 1910.

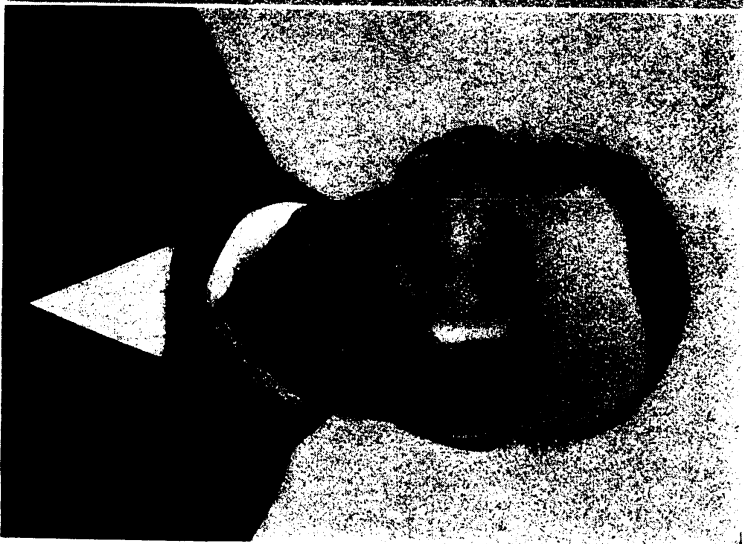


Charles Lehmann, who was a prosperous and substantial farmer of Mound Prairie and at one time one of the most extensive stock raisers in the community, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Jan. 27, 1844. In 1854 he and his sister were brought to America by his father. After a year in New York he came to Chicago and in 1857 took up his residence in Mound Prairie, this county. In 1863 he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minn. Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war, showing marked valor in the battles of Nashville, Tupelo and Mobile. After being honorably discharged he returned to Mound Prairie and devoted his time to building up a fine farm. He was a prominent man in the community, was for some years chairman of the township board and served in other local offices. He helped to organize the Mound Prairie Fire Insurance Co. and was its president until he retired in 1912. In that year he removed to Sykes county, Montana. He died Jan. 11, 1914, while visiting his old home in Mound Prairie. He was married in 1867 to Anna Senn, and had five children: Carl, Anna, Mary, Florence and Josephine.

Knute Storlie, an early settler in Spring Grove township, who aided in developing its agricultural resources, was born in Hallingdahl, Norway, in the fall of 1830. He remained in his native land until 22 years old and then in 1852 came to America, locating at Rock Prairie, Wis., where he remained for two years, engaged in farm work. In 1859 he came to Houston county, Minnesota, and bought 160 acres of government land in sections 9 and 10, Spring Grove township, two and a half miles west of the village. It was a wild tract, but Mr. Storlie built a log house and began the work of improvement. In his early farm work he, in common with the other pioneer settlers, made use of oxen for draught purposes. After awhile he built a frame house and a small barn, but being of a cautious disposition and afraid to venture into debt, he refrained from borrowing money and hence failed to improve his farm as fast as some of those who took more risks. However, he finally got 100 acres of his land under the plow, but, owing to his having sold 40 acres of the original farm, it now contains but 120 acres. Mr. Storlie married Anna Bunswold, who died on the home farm in 1893. He survived her twenty-four years, continuing his residence on the home farm until a few years ago, when he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Albert Lien, of Spring Grove. At her home he died, Dec. 28, 1917. Of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Knute Storlie, two died in infancy. The others were as follows: Knudt, Ole and Christian, who are prosperous farmers in Spring Grove township; Gurine, wife of O. Tolleffrud, a retired farmer of Mabel, Minn.; Luia, who married N. Narveson, of Spring Grove, but is now deceased; Martin K., now engaged in the lumber business in Spring Grove; Olaus, a farmer and hotel proprietor of Eau Claire, Wis.; Helmer, who is residing on and operating the old home farm in Spring Grove township; Julia, wife of Albert Lien, a farmer of Spring Grove township; Julius, a resident of Spring Grove; and Gena, now deceased, who was the wife of Henry Lien, a farmer of Spring Grove. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Martin K. Storlie, one of the proprietors of the Spring Grove Lumber Company, a well-known and flourishing business concern, was born on a farm in sections 9 and 10, Spring Grove township, this county, March 13, 1870, son of Knute and Anna (Bunswold) Storlie. He acquired his elementary education in district school No. 55 and later attended Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa, completing a three years' course in 1888. After that until 1891 he was engaged as a farm laborer and then went to Revillo, S. D., where he was employed for a year and a half as clerk by William Storlie. In 1893 he returned to Spring Grove and in that fall entered the general store of A. Halverson as clerk, being thus employed until the following year. Then buying the interest of Lars Budahl in his lumber business in Spring Grove, he became associated as partner with N. Narveson, the firm conducting business under the style of Storlie & Narveson. In 1896 Mr. Narveson sold his interest to Olson & Newhouse, of Mabel, Minn., and the firm became that of Storlie, Olson & Newhouse, which it remained until 1896. Mr. Newhouse then sold his interest to Nils Onsgard, a banker of Spring Grove, and the style of the firm was changed to Onsgard & Storlie, the two proprietors conducting the business until 1912, when, on the admission of Gerhard Roverud as a third partner, the present Spring Grove Lumber Company was formed and has since remained unchanged as to name. In the same year that the company was formed the C. L. Coleman yard was purchased and the two concerns consolidated. In 1914 Mr. Onsgard died and his interest was taken over by his widow, who remains as one of the company, each partner owning a one-third interest, with Mr. Storlie as the acting manager. The concern is one of the substantial business enterprises of Spring Grove, and as one of its owners Mr. Storlie is numbered among the prosperous citizens of the village, where he owns a comfortable one-and-a-half-story residence of seven rooms. He also owns 150 acres of land just on the edge of the village, as well as 160 acres near Balta, N. D. Though unostentatious, he is a good business man and takes a keen interest in the prosperity and advancement of the community in which he resides. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Storlie was married, June 28, 1897, to Maria, daughter of Haakon and Astri Narveson, of Spring Grove township, of which the Narvesons are one of the pioneer families. Mr. and Mrs. Storlie have one child, Esther, who was born Dec. 7, 1900, and is now a high school student. The family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

J. Henry Haar, a substantial citizen of Wilmington township, was born in Cook county, Illinois, near Chicago, Dec. 4, 1850, son of George and Mary (Cobbe) Haar, natives of Germany. After coming to America in 1849 they lived in Illinois for fourteen years and in 1863 came to Allamakee county, Iowa, where they farmed the remainder of their days. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools and was reared to farm pursuits. In 1880 he went to Nebraska and there remained for ten years. Then he again farmed in Allamakee county for two years. In 1892 he came to Wilmington township. He farms the old Albee homestead and is regarded as a successful and useful citizen. He is a stock-



MR. AND MRS. HENRY HAAR



DR. JOHN ALBEE—MR. AND MRS. CHARLES ALBEE

holder in the Wilmington Creamery, for which during eight years he hauled cream. Mr. Haar was married, Jan. 7, 1914, to Alice Albee, the daughter of Charles F. and Sarah (Payne) Albee. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Charles Fenner Albee, one of the notable pioneers of Houston county, who died at his home in section 25, Wilmington township, Dec. 26, 1898, was born in Burrellville, R. I., Nov. 1, 1822, son of William and Charlotte Albee. In his native state he learned the carpenter's trade, and was married, April 22, 1847, to Sarah, daughter of James and Mary Payne, of Burrellville, R. I., in which place she was born Aug. 8, 1825. In the spring of 1854 Mr. Albee, with several other settlers from Rhode Island, came to Houston county, Minnesota, locating on Portland Prairie, Wilmington township. With a brother-in-law, Jeremiah Shumway, he purchased a farm on which was a small log house but few, if any, improvements. The following winter was severe and their cattle, having no shelter, suffered greatly. In the meanwhile Mr. Albee had been joined by his wife and their two first-born children, Edgar and Emily, who came from Rhode Island in the summer of 1854. On the farm above mentioned they lived for two or three years, and then Mr. Albee sold his interest in it to Mr. Shumway. Coming to section 25, he bought 200 acres of prairie land at \$1.25 an acre and built a small frame house, which was at that time one of the best on the prairie. There, with his family, he passed through all the vicissitudes of pioneer life. The Albee home was the headquarters for all the New Englanders who came here to locate, Portland Prairie being largely a Rhode Island settlement, the majority of the pioneers having come from Burrellville in that state. In the early days game of many kinds was plentiful here. Mr. Albee was an excellent shot and by the use of a fine gun, still preserved in the family, managed to augment the family meat supply. Wolves also were plentiful, and on one occasion Mr. Albee was attacked when on an errand of mercy carrying fresh meat to a sick neighbor. Not only did Mr. Albee build himself a good house and develop a good farm, but he also did carpenter work for his neighbors, and the majority of the pioneer frame buildings on the prairie were built by him. The floods and severe winters in the early days made marketing and buying difficult, the nearest market being Lansing, Iowa, and at times the family was on the verge of starvation. Early in their experience a cholera outbreak also occurred, which called into requisition Mr. Albee's skill as a carpenter in making coffins, but he himself was attacked by the disease and was obliged to superintend unskilled workmen from his sick bed. In the same season his residence was unroofed by a cyclone. On his farm in section 25 Mr. Albee in 1873 built a substantial frame house in which his daughter, Mrs. Henry Haar, now lives. He also erected other necessary buildings and developed the land into a good farm, and besides thus advancing his personal and family interests he took an active part in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church on Portland Prairie and the erection of its edifice, and was prominent in every movement for the good of the community. At his death he had accumulated a competency and was one of the best known and most respected citizens in the southern part of Hous-

ton county. Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Albee have been already mentioned. The complete list is as follows: Edgar, born in Rhode Island, Oct. 24, 1848, who died June 4, 1866; Emily, born in Rhode Island, Dec. 26, 1853, now Mrs. Z. D. Yeaton, of Chicksha, Okla.; Alice, born (in Wilmington township) Dec. 13, 1857, now Mrs. Henry Haar and residing on the old Albee homestead; Maria, born Dec. 20, 1859, wife of D. D. Smith, of Ventura, Calif.; Alfred, born July 22, 1862, who is living on a part of the old home farm; Olive, born April 29, 1864, now Mrs. Charles Carville, of Crawford, Colo. The mother, Mrs. Sarah Albee, died Aug. 21, 1909, having survived her husband about ten years and eight months.

Dr. John W. Albee, pioneer physician, was one of the notable characters in the early days of southern Houston county. Kindly, considerate, greatly beloved, he was the friend of every family for many miles around, and his ministrations of comfort and healing, often at great personal sacrifice, endeared him to thousands. He was born in Burrillville, R. I., Feb. 14, 1827. He received his early education and worked in a store there until he joined his brother, C. F. Albee, in the west in 1856. Soon after his arrival at Portland Prairie, this county, he began the study of medicine. This profession he practiced until advancing years caused his retirement. Well known and universally respected, he was affectionately called "Doctor John" by three generations, and his death in 1900 was mourned by the entire community.

Cornelius A. Blegen, who is pursuing a successful career as a farmer and stock raiser in Spring Grove township, residing in section 36, was born in Wilmington township, Houston county, Minnesota, June 27, 1869, son of Andrew and Ingëbor (Rosendahl) Blegen. He was educated in the district school and resided with his parents, who were farmers, until his marriage, which occurred May 25, 1893, his bride being Christine Gorra. She was born in Quandahl, Winneshiek county, Iowa, Sept. 28, 1872, daughter of Hans and Aliva (Hegseth) Gorra, the parents being natives of Norway who came to this country in 1857. In the year of his marriage Mr. Blegen bought his present farm of 117 acres in section 36, Spring Grove township. The improvements were slight, the only building being an old frame house. During the quarter of a century that has elapsed since Mr. Blegen took possession of the place he has made some notable changes for the better, having erected a number of good buildings, thoroughly fenced it and got some 70 acres of the land under the plow. The buildings include a good ten-room frame house, consisting of an upright and wing and provided with bath, hot and cold water and other conveniences; a frame barn, 32 by 64 by 16 feet in dimensions, with a full eight-foot stone basement for horses and cattle, the basement having a cement floor; a hog house, 20 by 45 feet, with a cement feeding floor, 10 by 40; a granary, 16 by 18; poultry house, 10 by 18; and a machine shed, 18 by 40. The farm is situated four and a half miles south of Spring Grove village and half a mile north of the Iowa state line. It is stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, Mr. Blegen having full-blooded sires for his herds. When he bought the farm at the time of his marriage he possessed three horses and a wagon and was proprietor of a milk route which he had been driving for four



years. He is now an independent farmer of means, the owner of a fine farm, and with a business increasing from year to year, not to mention the fact that he is also a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of Spring Grove and the Spring Grove Hospital—a notable advance in worldly circumstances, due to his own enterprise, industry and perseverance, with the valuable assistance of his wife and elder children. His family numbers three sons and four daughters, who were born as follows: Ida Louisa, Aug. 25, 1894; Harry Amos, April 25, 1896; Olga Claudina, March 4, 1898; Annie Constance, Dec. 3, 1902; Cora Karine, July 30, 1906; Leonard Oliver, March 12, 1910; and Gustav, Jan. 7, 1914. All the children are residing at home. Harry Amos is a graduate of the Wisconsin Business University of La Crosse. Mr. Blegen and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. He has three brothers and a sister living, namely: Edward, Maria, Olaus and Julius. Another brother, Lauritz, is deceased.

Carl T. Trehus, proprietor of Little Giant Farm in section 23, Wilmington township, was born in section 22, this township, Sept. 12, 1871, son of Thomas and Mathia (Hanson) Trehus. The parents were natives of Norway, who on coming to the United States settled first in Illinois, whence they came to Houston county, locating in section 23, Wilmington township. Carl T. Trehus acquired a common school education and remained on the home farm until 18 years old. After that for five years he worked at the carpenter's trade. Then at the age of 23 years he bought of his father 40 acres of land without buildings in section 23. From this modest beginning he has built up an excellent farm. The purchase of an additional 50 acres of land has brought the area of the farm up to 90 acres, of which 70 are now under the plow, the farm being also well fenced. For a residence Mr. Trehus erected a modern nine-room house with gas illumination and hot and cold running water. To replace the gas he has lately installed an individual electric plant of the Cushman system, which furnishes the light for his house, barns and other buildings, though he still retains his gas plant for use in case of an emergency. He has also erected a frame barn, 24 by 40 by 16 feet, for straw and hogs, to which he has added a lean-to, 16 by 40, for a machine shed and garage; another machine shed, 14 by 70; a hog house, 24 by 40, with cement feeding floor; a second hog house, 6 by 22, for brood sows; two other brood houses, 6 by 6 by 4; a poultry house, 14 by 64, which is one of the finest in the county; and in 1915 he built a modern frame barn, 32 by 64 by 14 feet, on a cement-block basement 8 feet high. This barn has a thorough modern equipment of James stalls, stanchions, litter carrier and other appliances, and is lighted by gas, with running water all through. There is also a milk separator house in connection. A good well furnishes excellent water, which can be conveyed to every part of the farm, the pumping being done by a Little Giant steel windmill. The farm stands on the highest point in Wilmington township and is situated eight miles southeast of Spring Grove village. Mr. Trehus is a successful breeder of registered Red Poll cattle and Poland-China swine, and since 1910 has also been engaged in breeding registered Shrop-

shire sheep. He is also a breeder of Barred, White Rock and Rose Comb White Leghorn chickens, Bronze turkeys and Toulouse geese, having been a fancier of poultry and other feathered animals since he was a child. In addition to his direct farming interests he has for some years been a windmill salesman throughout this section, and is a stockholder in the Wilmington Creamery Company, the People's Stock & Grain Company of Caledonia and the Spring Grove Equity Shipping Association. Wideawake and enterprising, he has made good progress on the road to fortune, and is numbered among the prosperous and well-to-do citizens of his township. Politically he is a Republican. On Dec. 9, 1893, Mr. Trehus was united in marriage with Sophia, daughter of Hans and Jane Johnson, of Wilmington township, and they began housekeeping in Spring Grove village, where they resided for one year. They are the parents of ten children: Minnie J., born Feb. 7, 1895, now Mrs. O. G. Ellingson, of Spring Grove; Henry Theodore, born Aug. 26, 1896, who enlisted in the U. S. army in September, 1917, and re-enlisted in March, 1919, for one year in the 50th Infantry; Dewey Adolph, born Oct. 26, 1898; John Edwin, born Sept. 23, 1900; Clara Selena, born April 17, 1903; Stella Genette, born May 15, 1905; Ida Matilda, born March 3, 1907; Bollete Odella, born Jan. 5, 1909; Nora Theoline, born Nov. 6, 1911; and Elmer, born Sept. 16, 1914. Mr. Trehus and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

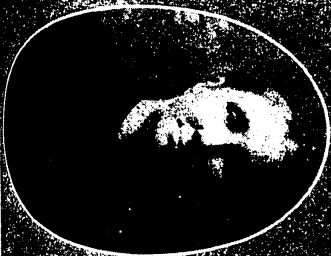
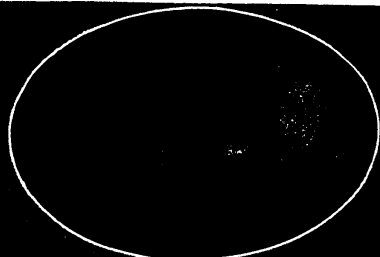
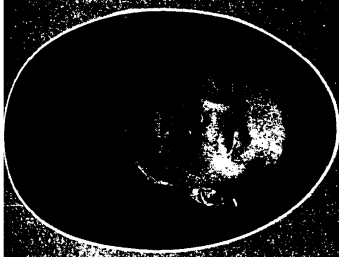
Anton J. Johnson, a widely known and well-to-do citizen of Spring Grove township, the owner of three fine farms, that on which he resides being situated in section 10, about one mile northwest of Spring Grove village, was born in Valdres, Norway, Dec. 23, 1855, son of John and Engebor (Widsle) Johnson. In 1860 the father died, and the mother with three small children, Nels, Carrie and Engebor, emigrated to the United States, settling in Decorah, Iowa. Anton J., who was the eldest child in the family, was left behind until he could earn enough money to pay his passage, as his mother had not the means to pay for all. He was then 5 years old and was taken charge of by his grandparents. For a limited period he attended the common and parochial schools and became industrially active as soon as he was old enough to work. His first earnings amounted to but one dollar a month, and as he needed many things besides food and shelter, and his pay increased very slowly, it was a number of years before he found himself in a position to join his mother and the other members of the family who had preceded him to the land of promise. In May, 1870, he made the journey, taking passage in a sailing vessel. His money only lasted until he reached Chicago, but in that city he found work, remaining there, however, but a short time and then going on to Ossian, Iowa. At the latter place he entered the employ of Thomas Halverson, a farmer, with whom he remained for three years, or until the spring of 1873, when he found work on another farm. In the fall of that year he entered the Western College, conducted by the United Brethren denomination at Western, Iowa, and was a student there for two years. Then at Cedar Rapids, in the same state, he entered Coe College, where four years later he was graduated from the scientific course at the age of 24 years. Returning to Cedar Rapids, he

obtained a position there as a teacher in the public schools, but a year later entered the employ of the T. M. Clair Packing Company of that place as a bookkeeper, in which position also he remained for a year. At the end of that time Mr. Johnson came to Minnesota and bought an improved farm of 160 acres near Grand Meadow, in Mower county. This farm he operated for about six years and then renting it, moved to Preston, Minn., where he engaged in the life insurance business and also purchased a residence. After remaining in the insurance business in Preston for three years he traded his Mower county farm for the Rierson farm, one mile west of Spring Grove, Houston county, on which he resided for three years. He then bought the farm on which he now lives, a farm of 80 acres in section 10, one mile northwest of Spring Grove village, and which was an improved farm with a fairly good frame house and a frame barn. Here he has since remained and has now 55 acres of the land under the plow. He has also set out a fine orchard of 600 trees, bearing select varieties of fall and winter fruit. In 1910 he built a fine modern frame house of two stories, with twelve rooms, and all the usual conveniences to be found in the most modern residence. He has also a good frame barn for stock and grain, and a modern horse barn, 28 by 28 feet in size, which he built in 1917. In addition to this property Mr. Johnson owns two other fine farms in Spring Grove township—one a farm of 220 acres seven miles southwest of Spring Grove village, and the other a 90-acre farm one mile north of the same village. All three farms are under a fine state of cultivation, being among the best in the county. Mr. Johnson is engaged successfully in general farming and dairying, besides fruit raising. He has a fine herd of grade Shorthorn cattle and another of Poland-China hogs, all full-blooded, while his teams, machinery and other equipment are first-class. In addition to the interest already mentioned he is a stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company at Plano, Ill., and in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company of Spring Grove. On June 14, 1881, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Randi Narveson, who was born on the farm on which she and her husband now live, daughter of Haaken and Artri Narveson. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson began domestic life on their farm in Mower county. They have been the parents of nine children, of whom death has deprived them of three. The record in brief is as follows: Ingebor Henrietta, born May 2, 1882, who is residing at home; Arthur M., born Aug. 13, 1884, who died May 30, 1888; Sigrud, born Sept. 12, 1886, who died May 25, 1888; Agnes Susanna, born Dec. 12, 1888, who is now Mrs. Arthur Onstad, of Black Hammer township, this county; Lillian Virginia, born Feb. 7, 1890, now the wife of William Glasrud, of Black Hammer township; Ruth Estella, born May 2, 1893; Haaken Arthur, born June 27, 1896, and Grace Irene, born April 9, 1898, all three of whom are residing at home; and Edna Viola, born in June, 1900, who died Feb. 10, 1901. Mr. Johnson was reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, but when he entered the United Brethren College at Western, Iowa, he united with that religious body. On coming to Minnesota, however, where he could worship with his mother church, he united with it again and he and his family are now members of its congregation in Spring Grove. In politics he is independent,

and while a resident of Mower county served his township as assessor, clerk and supervisor, and was also a justice of the peace for several terms. He is a man of good education, refined, ambitious and enterprising, and is a respected and influential member of the community in which he now resides. His mother, previously mentioned, is no longer living. After coming to Minnesota she married Christ Olson, of Mower county, and they afterwards moved to St. Hilaire, Red Lake county, Minn., where her death occurred.

Albert Witt, one of the early settlers in Mound Prairie township, who took an active part in its agricultural improvement, finally establishing a good farm in section 8, was born in Pommern, Germany, Nov. 1, 1833. He there married Theresa Cool, born June 6, 1835, and in 1869 they came to Houston county, Minnesota, settling on land in Mound Prairie township. It was some time before they found a permanent location, as they moved from their first place to Day Valley, residing there about a year, then for two years on Pine Creek and later moving to a tract of 80 acres of wild land, which Mr. Witt partly improved, living on it three years. He then bought the tract in section 8, where he made his permanent home and which he developed into a good farm, where his son, Christian B., is now living. He died October 2, 1902, having been retired for some years previously. His wife died December 15, 1901. During his active career Mr. Witt served for a number of years as a member of the school board of his district, and was a man of good standing and influence in the community.

Christian B. Witt, who owns and operates the old Witt farm in Mound Prairie township, was born in Pommern, Germany, Dec. 3, 1864, son of Albert and Theresa (Cool) Witt. He was only 4 or 5 years old when he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota. The eldest of their three children, he attended school in this township, where the family settled, and after residing successfully in several locations, finally took the farm on which he is now living and which he assisted his father to develop. At the age of 28 years he rented the place and so operated it for a number of years subsequently. He then bought the homestead, which has since remained his property, and is now a fine, modern farm of 336 acres, with good buildings and full equipment for general farming. Most of the more modern improvements on it have been introduced by himself, and he is enjoying a prosperous career as a general farmer, raising both grain and stock. He is also a shareholder in the Houston elevator. A Republican in politics, Mr. Witt has devoted some of his time to public affairs in his township, having served as road supervisor and as a member of the school board for a number of years, being its present clerk. On December 21, 1891, Mr. Witt was united in marriage with Emma Redmann, who was born in Mound Prairie township, June 30, 1872, daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Dalkey) Redmann. He and his wife have been the parents of ten children, who were born as follows: Alvera M., July 30, 1893; Clarence F., Jan. 13, 1895; Benjamin G., Oct. 1, 1896; Miranda M., May 6, 1899; Arthur D., Dec. 2, 1900; Mabel C., June 19, 1903; Lloyd E., Feb. 3, 1905; Ezra, Jan. 24, 1907; Verna A., May 24, 1912; and Alice E., April 17, 1914. Alvera M. is the wife of John Boldt, of Mound Prairie township, and has







JOHN C. HARLOS AND FAMILY

one child, Donald Arthur. Clarence F. and Benjamin G., after doing their country good service during the great war, have received their honorable discharge and are now at home on the farm. Ezra died in infancy. Mr. Witt and his family are affiliated religiously with the Evangelical Association.

Nicholai Overby, who is prosperously engaged in general farming in section 29, Yucatan township, was born in Norway, June 5, 1881, son of Knudt and Helen Overby. Brought to America when a child by his parents, he attended district school on Oak Ridge, this township, and early began to make himself useful on his parents' farm, at the age of 14 working out for others. He also learned the stonemason's trade, which he followed until 1914, at which time he again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, renting his present farm of 125 acres, on which he raises both crops and stock, making the property yield good financial returns. He is also a shareholder in the Rushford creamery. In July, 1905, Mr. Overby was married to Ida Thorson, who was born in this township, daughter of Nels and Anna (Silling) Thorson, she being the eldest of eight children. Her parents, early settlers in Houston county, have resided since 1906 in Morton county, North Dakota, the father, a farmer, being still in active life. Mr. and Mrs. Overby have three children: Orvin Justin, Carl Norman and Ella Georgina, all living at home.

Daniel Harlos, who as the founder of a good farm in section 17, Mound Prairie township, was a factor in the development of the agricultural resources of Houston county, was born near the river Rhine, Germany, Jan. 9, 1828. His early youth was spent in his native land and it was in the early fifties that he came to the United States, locating in Manitowoc county, Wis. There he remained for four or five years, coming to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1866 or 1867. Taking a tract of land with practically no improvements, he set to work to develop a farm, a task in which he was finally successful, and he made it his home for the rest of his life, passing away Aug. 8, 1908. Mr. Harlos was married in Wisconsin to Margaret Heinrich, who was born in the same part of Germany as himself, Aug. 21, 1832, and who died in 1901. Their children were: Henrietta, Jacob (deceased), Mary, Fred, John C. and Margaret Henrietta (deceased). Mary is now Mrs. Frank Blumentritt. Margaret is the wife of Theodore Moldbauer.

John C. Harlos, proprietor of a good stock farm of 220 acres in section 17, Mound Prairie township, where he is a well known and popular citizen, was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, December 5, 1863, son of Daniel and Margret (Heinrich) Harlos. Coming to Houston county with his parents when a boy, he grew up on the home farm, assisting his father until his marriage, and then locating on his present farm, on which he has made all the modern improvements. He has been successful as a general stock raiser, and still exercises supervision over the farm, the active operation of which, however, he now leaves to his sons. He is a member of the Evangelical church and in politics is independent. He has rendered efficient service as supervisor of roads, but otherwise has not been particularly active in public affairs, devoting his attention to his business interests. Mr.

Harlos was united in marriage, July 4, 1888, to Clara Moldenhauer, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., daughter of Frank and Christine (Dahlman) Moldenhauer. Of this union eight children have been born: John F., May 29, 1889, now residing at home; Laura, born November 7, 1890, who is the wife of Henry Mades; Olga, born January 19, 1893, who is the wife of Ubran Schild, a farmer of Mound Prairie township; Edward J., born April 29, 1895, and now veteran of the United States military service; Clara, born July 21, 1897, who died August 21, 1897; Theresa, born January 1, 1899, who died February 22, 1901; and Irvin and Herbert, twins, born June 23, 1901. Frank and Christine (Dahlman) Moldenhauer, the parents of Mrs. Harlos, were born in Pommern, Germany, and on emigrating to the United States, located in La Crosse, Wis., Mr. Moldenhauer engaging in railroad work. They later moved to Rose Valley, Winona county, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm, Mr. Moldenhauer dying February 3, 1908, and his wife May 6, 1914. Their children were: Theo, Matilda, Emma, Theresa, Clara, Augusta, Anna and Frank. Matilda is now the wife of Michael Ready; Emma married H. Senn; Theresa married Jacob Hartman; Clara, who was educated in Winona county, is now Mrs. John C. Harlos; Augusta is the wife of Max Loescher, and Anna the wife of William Husmann.

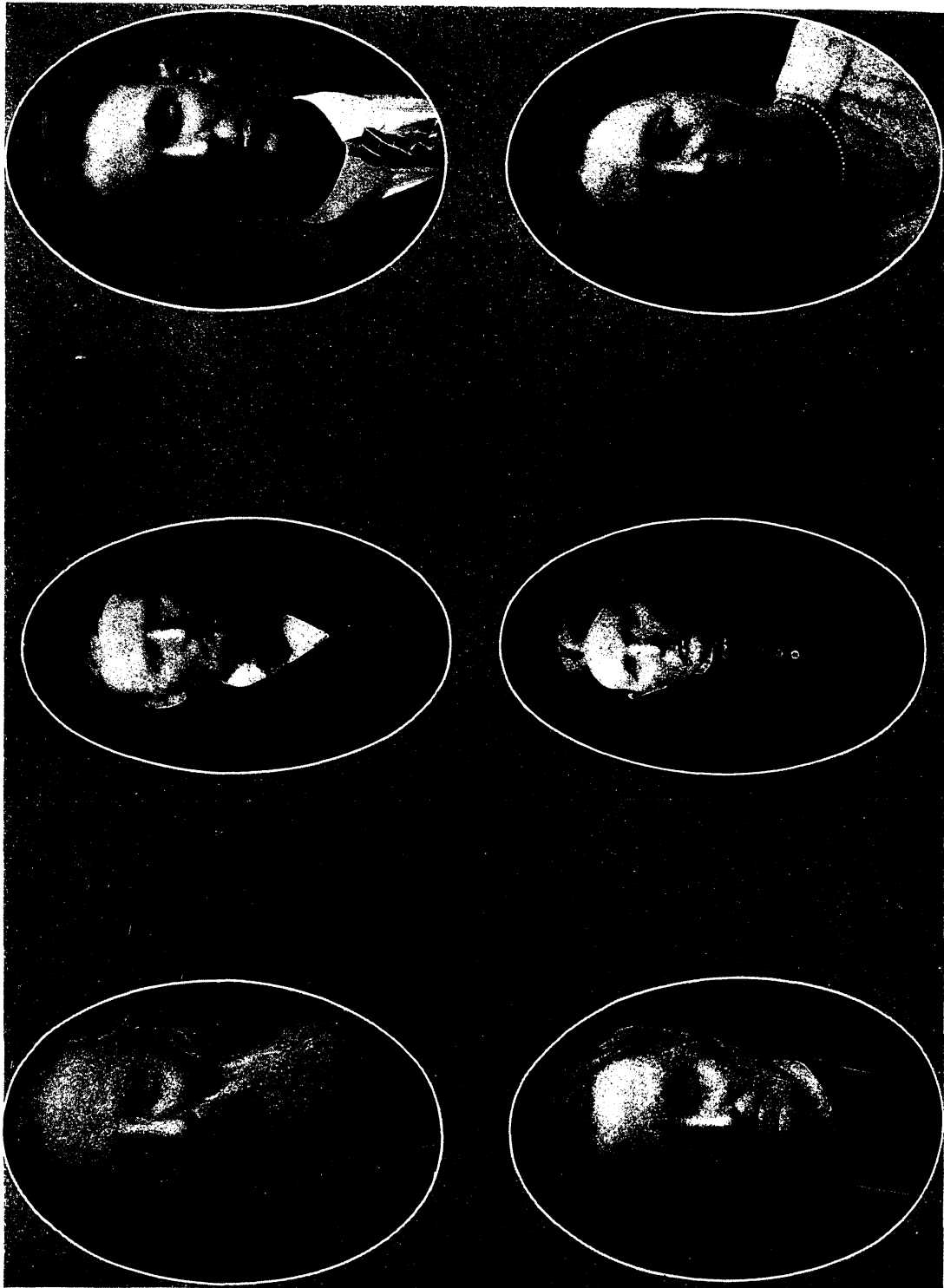
Amond Nelson Lindahl, who settled at an early day in Spring Grove township, where in time he developed a good farm, was a native of Norway, where he grew to manhood and married Ture Sundadt. In 1861, with his wife and six children, Gunil, Elsie, Nels, Beret, Erick A. and Amond, Jr., he emigrated to the United States, landing, however, at Quebec, Canada, whence he came directly to Houston county, Minnesota. The first land he took was a tract of 40 acres in section 24, Spring Grove township, but after staying a year on that place he bought 40 acres in section 40, Wilmington township, just across the road from where his grandson, Edwin, lives. This was wild land without any buildings, and accordingly his first task was to build a shack, in which he and his family resided until the fall, when Mr. Lindahl built a comfortable frame house. A poor man when he arrived here, he worked hard and made steady progress, like the other pioneer settlers using oxen for his draught work. Later he slightly increased the size of his farm by the purchase of an additional tract of nine acres. He continued his labors for 13 years, when they were brought to an abrupt termination by his death, as the result of a runaway accident, on August 26, 1874, at the age of 58 years. His wife lived to the age of 80 years, passing away June 11, 1901. In addition to the children mentioned who accompanied them from Norway, two others, Knute and Albert, were born to them in Spring Grove township. Gunil, Amond, Jr., and Albert are deceased. Elsie is now Mrs. Elling Ellingson of Spring Grove village. Nels is a farmer in Davenport, N. D. Beret is the wife of Bent Tingelstad of Silverton, Ore. Knute is a farmer in North Dakota. Of those deceased, Gunil and Amond died young. Albert grew to manhood, became a farmer in North Dakota, and being elected to the legislature of that state, died while serving during the session of 1915-16. Erick A. is now a prosperous farmer of Spring Grove township.

Erick A. Lindahl, a retired farmer residing in the village of Spring Grove, who is the owner of a good farm of 200 acres in Spring Grove township, was born in Norway, Nov. 20, 1853, son of Amond Nelson and Ture (Sundadt) Lindahl. As a child of eight years, in 1861, he accompanied his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, and for a few years subsequently attended school in Wilmington township. His hours of industry were spent in assisting his father on the home farm. On March 24, 1877, a vigorous young man of 23, and a good practical farmer, he married Mari Sundet, daughter of Asle and Ose Sundet, of Wilmington township, but continued for awhile to reside on his parents' farm. In 1876 he had bought 80 acres of unimproved land in section 25, Spring Grove township, just across the road from the home place. Later he purchased his parents' farm of 49 acres in Wilmington township, also 10 acres to the north of his Spring Grove land, and a tract of 61 acres adjoining said land on the southwest, making 200 acres in all. Of this farm he grubbed and developed 80 acres, and there are now 120 acres of it under cultivation, the balance being in timber and pasture. Mr. Lindahl also erected a number of buildings. In 1891 he built a comfortable, two-story, frame house, consisting of an upright and two wings, and, in the same year, a frame barn, 30 by 64 by 16 feet in dimensions, with a full stone basement, cement floor and modern equipment. He also erected a steel windmill, a granary, poultry house, hog house with cement feeding-floor, double corn crib, and a milk and separator house. His equipment of teams, tools and machinery was also of the best, while his farm was well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine. In 1914 Mr. Lindahl rented the farm to his son Edwin, but continued to reside on it for several years longer. In 1917 he built a neat and comfortable residence in Spring Grove village and in the following spring moved to town, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his former industry. He is a stockholder in the Honey Co-operative Creamery at Bee, this county, having been its secretary ever since its organization 23 years ago; and a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain company, of which he has been a director for many years. For many years he has been a man of mark and influence, not only in his township but throughout the county. He has served 16 years as town supervisor, being now chairman of the town board. He is also a prominent member, with his family, of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of which his parents were among the founders, and which he has served as trustee for a number of years. To Mr. and Mrs. Lindahl seven children have been born, as follows: Albert Nelius, born Dec. 31, 1877, now a farmer at Esmond, N. D.; Anna Marie, born Oct. 6, 1879, now Mrs. Albert Woyen of Esmond, N. D.; Adolph Theodore, born March 3, 1882, who is a hardware merchant at Climax, Minn.; Gina Elise, born Aug. 13, 1885, now Mrs. J. Hagen of Esmond, N. D.; Edwin M., born May 16, 1889, who is operating his father's farm; Thinka Sophia, born Feb. 7, 1893, and Clarence Ingeman, born Jan. 3, 1898, who are residing at home.

John B. Anderson, proprietor of a finely improved farm of 80 acres in section 2, south, Houston township, was born in Halland, Sweden, July

4, 1848, son of Andrew and Christine (Larson) Anderson. The parents were natives of the same district of Sweden, the father being a farmer by occupation. He died in his native land and in 1875 his widow came to America and until her death about 1911 made her home with her daughter at Red Wing, Minn. John B. Anderson, who was the elder of two children, acquired his education in Sweden, where he began working out for farmers when only nine years old, at the age of eleven performing work usually expected only of men. At the age of 21 he resolved to seek his fortune in the United States, but not having money enough to pay for his passage, he was obliged to borrow from his employer. With assistance he made his way to Minnesota, arriving here unable to speak English. The first summer he found employment at railroad work, and after that worked on farms. He then engaged in agricultural work on his own account, renting farms for a few years, and subsequently buying a tract of land adjoining his present property, where he resided for ten years. He then sold that place and bought his present farm of 80 acres, on which he has made fine modern improvements. Expert in all branches of farming, he is enjoying a prosperous career and is numbered among the well to do men of his township. He is independent in politics and has served one term as a director on the school board of his district. Mr. Anderson was married in July, 1877, to Anna Christina Anderson, daughter of Lars and Helena Anderson. Her parents, natives of Sweden, came to Houston, Minn., in 1875. Both are now deceased. Mrs. I. B. Anderson was the eldest of their four children, and was educated in Sweden. She and her husband are the parents of one child, Row W., who was born June 10, 1892, and who is residing at home. He was educated in Houston county and is a practical farmer and one of the popular young men in this community.

Ole Germanson, one of the pioneer settlers of Houston county, now living retired in Houston village, was born in Telemarken, Norway, June 5, 1839. In 1851 he came with his parents to America. His father, German Olson, died six weeks after their arrival, and the surviving members of the family settled first in Dane county, Wis. In 1854 Ole came with his mother, a brother and sister, to Houston county, Minn., settling in Crystal valley. The brother, who was then 23 years old, died two weeks after their advent in this county. In 1869 Ole bought 80 acres of wild land in Paradise valley, Money Creek township, which he grubbed and cleared, also building a residence and outbuildings. In time he increased his original acreage until he had a fine farm of 160 acres, on which he resided until 1910, developing the land and continuing to improve the place. He then sold it to his son Henry, who is now the proprietor, and bought another farm in the same valley, of 80 acres, from his son-in-law, John England, it being located in Houston township. About four years later he sold this second place and bought a house in the village of Houston, where he has since lived retired. Mr. Germanson was married November 7, 1869, to Anna Benson, who was born in Norway, January 22, 1853, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ewen Benson. She came to America in 1867 with an aunt and uncle, Gunder and Anna Halver-son, and they all located in Houston county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Germanson were: Tilda A., who died at the age of 18 years; George



MR. AND MRS. OLE GERMANSON
MR. AND MRS. OLE HAROLDSON

Edward, who died at the age of 22 years; Emma O., who married John England and died in 1904; Henry O., of Money Creek township; Josie M., now Mrs. John Tuininga; Anna Elizabeth, wife of Oscar Traff; Tilda (second), now Mrs. Ira Paris; and Edna, now Mrs. Harley J. Sholes.

Henry O. Germanson, proprietor of the old Germanson homestead in section 20, Money Creek township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, August 6, 1881, son of Ole and Anna (Benson) Germanson. He is the eldest of his parents' five surviving children. As a boy he attended District school No. 9 in Money Creek township, and remained on the home farm assisting his father until he married. He then rented the farm for a year, at the end of which time he bought it, and has since carried on the business of a general farmer here, raising grain and stock with profitable results. He has 160 acres of good land and the farm is well improved and provided with substantial buildings. He is a member of St. Peter's church at Houston, and in politics is a Republican. Enterprising and thrifty, he has been successful, and is now numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. He belongs fraternally to the order of Yeomen. Mr. Germanson was married March 30, 1910, to Tomine Haraldson, who was born on Oak Ridge, Yucatan township, this county, May 6, 1878, daughter of Ole and Gunber Haraldson. Her parents, who are now deceased, were born in Telemarken, Norway, and were early settlers in Houston county, the father being a land owner and farmer. They had six children: Carrie, now Mrs. Prentes A. Pope; Anna, wife of Halver J. Lee; Harry; Tomine, now Mrs. Henry O. Germanson; Claudina and Matilda.

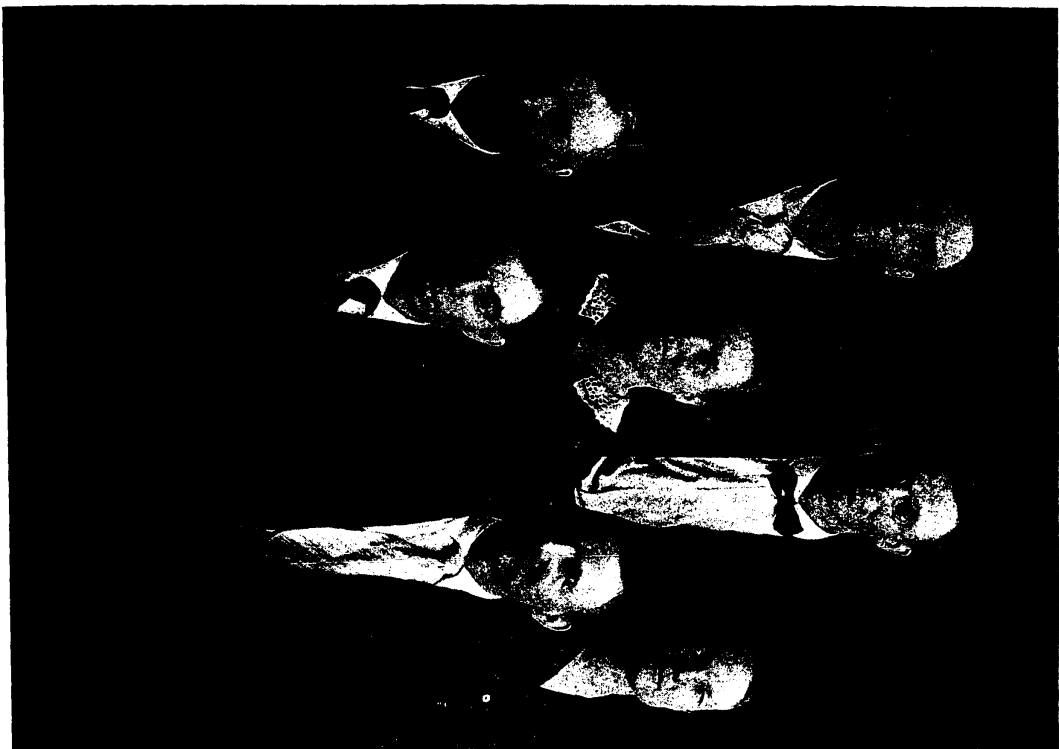
Daniel Doering, a successful general farmer operating 120 acres in section 34, Sheldon township, was born in Hesse, Germany, Aug. 25, 1868, son of Henry and Kathrine (Faulk) Doering, who were natives of the same German state. The family, including Daniel, came to the United States in 1869, settling in Sheldon township, this county, where Henry Doering was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, Dec. 11, 1881. His wife died July 8, 1906. Daniel Doering, who was one of the younger members in a family of ten children, acquired his education partly in District school No. 14 in Mound Prairie township, and partly in a private school. He worked for his father until he was 35 years old, and then bought a farm in Mound Prairie township, which he operated for 14 years. At the end of that time he removed to his present place in section 34, Sheldon township, where he has 120 acres of good land, well provided with buildings, and is carrying on a thriving business as a general farmer, raising both stock and grain. He has served on the school board for a period of eleven years, and is a member of the Lutheran church. His political principles are those of the Republican party. Mr. Doering assumed the responsibilities of domestic life on June 17, 1907, when he was united in marriage with Augusta Schwartz, who was born in Germany, daughter of William and Minnie Schwartz. Her parents never came to this country, but were still living when last heard from. Mr. and Mrs. Doering have four children: Minnie Kathrine, Howard William, Robert Henry and Marion Leona.

Henry Beneke, who founded and developed one of the good farms of Jefferson township, was born in Germany, January 9, 1840. He was edu-

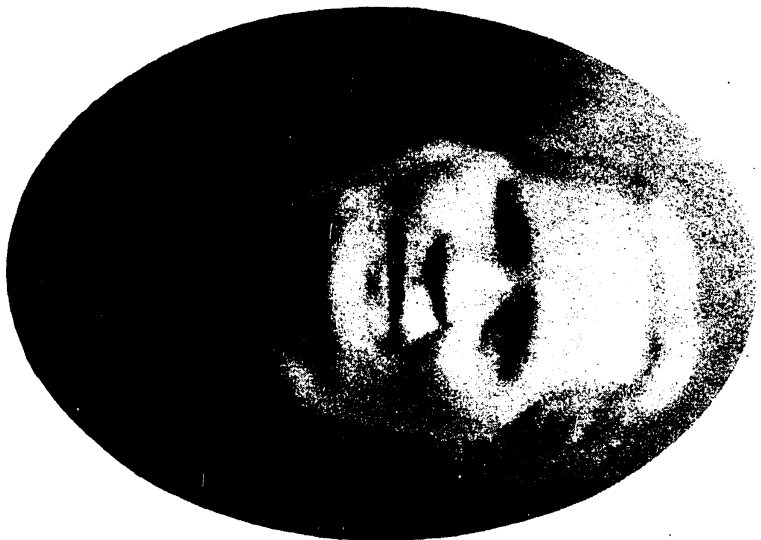
cated in his native land, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1883 he came to the United States, locating in Allemakee county, Iowa, where he worked out until the following year. He then came to Jefferson township, Houston county, and bought 120 acres of wild land in section 33, which he broke and grubbed, erecting a house and in time various out-buildings. As he advanced in prosperity he purchased more land until he had 260 acres, all in section 33 except 40 acres, which lay in section 34. He followed general diversified farming, and was thus occupied until his death, which took place July 8, 1911, previous to which for a number of years he had been a prosperous and influential citizen. Mr. Beneke was twice married. By his first wife, Catherine, he had two sons, William, born January 9, 1871, and now a prosperous farmer in Jefferson township; and Henry, who is farming in Allemakee county, Iowa. He was married secondly to Elizabeth Backhouse, who was born in Germany, May 16, 1853, and by her he had five children, as follows: Herman, born October 22, 1879, who is residing at home; Lena, born July 2, 1884, who is now Mrs. George Heimerdinger, of Crooked creek township; Dora, born November 28, 1888, now Mrs. William J. Pohlman, of Crooked creek township; Adolph A., born December 10, 1890, who is conducting the home farm; and Alfred, a twin brother of Adolph A., and now a prosperous farmer of Union City township, Allemakee county, Iowa. The family are members of the German Evangelical church.

Adolph A. Beneke, one of the prosperous and representative young farmers of Houston county, located in Jefferson township, was born on the farm where he now lives, December 10, 1890, son of Henry and Elizabeth Beneke. He grew to manhood on this farm, in his boyhood attending the district school. He follows general farming, giving special attention to stock raising, and aside from this property, he owns 40 acres adjoining in section 33, which he operates in connection with the home farm. Ambitious, enterprising and industrious, he is making good progress, and is a stockholder in the Eitzen creamery and in the Farmers' elevator at New Albin, Iowa.

John A. Cebrowski, the owner of two good farms in Union township, one of 160 and the other of 80 acres, on which latter, in section 31, he now resides, was born in Germany, Feb. 6, 1858, son of Andreas and Rose (Kirchstein) Cebrowski. The parents were farming people who never came to America, and the father is now deceased, the mother being living. They had six children: Henry, Emil, Franz, a son who died in infancy, and two others, including the subject of this sketch, who was the youngest. John A. Cebrowski was educated in the schools of his native land, coming to the United States at the age of 25 years. From New York, where he landed, he came directly to Houston county, Minn., finding work in the mill at Hokah, where he was employed for twelve years. He then bought a farm in Union township, containing 160 acres, on which he lived for 15 years, and which his son William is now operating. Twelve years ago he bought the farm on which he now resides, and which has an area of 80 acres, all of it being cleared. He is engaged chiefly in stock raising, in which he is doing a profitable business. He has always been an enterprising



HENRY BENEKER AND FAMILY



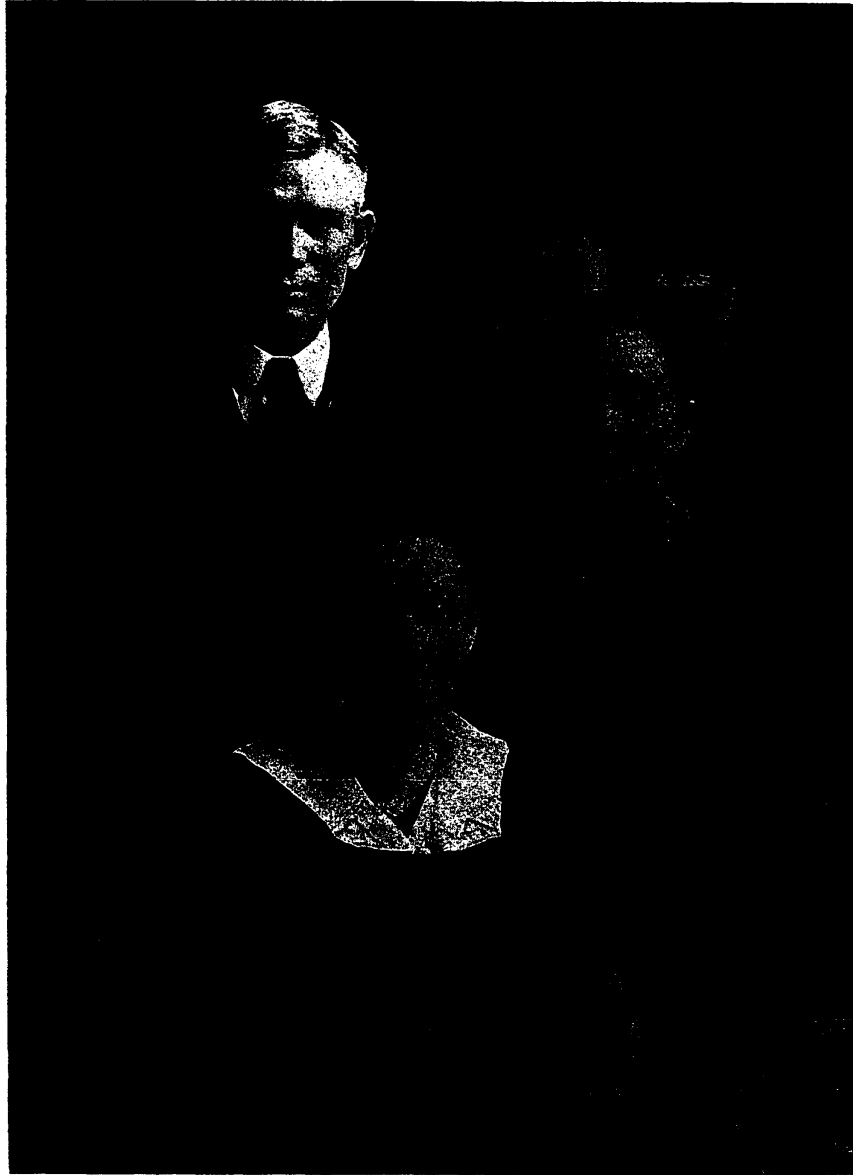
and industrious man, and on his other farm he erected all the buildings. He is a shareholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Caledonia and in the local telephone company. On July 13, 1882, Mr. Cebrowski was married to Alvina Kreise, who was born in Germany, Aug. 24, 1858, daughter of Michael Kreise and wife. The parents both died in their native land. Their children were: William, Michael, Julius, Daniel, Emelie and Alvina. Mr. and Mrs. Cebrowski have four children: Louis, born March 28, 1883; William, born April 3, 1885; Emil, April 22, 1888, and Herman, Nov. 19, 1891.

John Olsen Landsom, one of the hardy pioneer settlers of Spring Grove township, who was also a veteran of the Civil War, but who passed away some 25 years ago, was born in Lax Viken, Norway, in April, 1832. As a single man he came from his native land to Minnesota in 1862, settling at once in Spring Grove township, Houston county. He then enlisted as a soldier and was sent to the South, where he met the enemy and was taken prisoner, being confined in the notorious Libby prison for eight months, at the end of which time he was exchanged. At the close of the war he returned to Houston county and took possession of a tract of 80 acres of new land in section 20, Spring Grove township, which he had bought while in the army, having sent money from the South to a friend, John Hallan, with instructions to purchase the property for him. On this land he built a small board house, and began the development of a farm, a sister keeping house for him for two years. He then married Mary Dukleth, who proved a worthy helpmate to him and they advanced together along the road to prosperity. After they had made some progress Mr. Landsom erected a frame barn, 26 by 32 by 18 feet in size, hauling the lumber from Brownsville, 30 miles east on the Mississippi river. He got 75 acres of his land under the plow and improved his residence, increasing its size and making it into a comfortable home. This house stood until it was destroyed by fire Feb. 18, 1911. About Christmas time, 1893, Mr. Landsom went to El Campo, Texas, to which place his two sons, Andrew J. and Ole, had preceded him by several months. His death took place Sept. 29, 1894, in a hospital at Houston, that state, and there also he was buried. He was then in his 62nd year. His wife, who was born Sept. 29, 1850, is still living, being now a resident of Spring Grove village. Their children were: Ole, who returned from Texas in 1901 and is now a prosperous merchant in Barnesville, Minn.; Andrew J., the present proprietor of the old home farm in section 20, Spring Grove township; James Gustav, a farmer in Spring Grove township; Oscar E., who is engaged in farming in Ray, N. D.; Minnie, wife of Albert Vik, a confectioner of Spring Grove village; and two, Oline and Oscar (first) who died in infancy.

Andrew J. Landsom, a well known and respected citizen of Spring Grove township, residing on a farm in section 20, which was established by his parents soon after the close of the Civil War, was born on this farm April 1, 1876, son of John Olsen and Mary (Dukleth) Landsom. Here he was reared to manhood and acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture. Here also he remained until 1893, when, a young man of 17 years, he accompanied his brother Ole to El Campo, Texas. In July of the following

year he returned to harvest the crop on the home farm. The father, who had followed the two brothers to Texas, died in Houston in September, 1894. Ole remained in Texas until 1901, when he returned to Minnesota and is now a merchant in Barnesville, this state. Andrew J. Landsom, finding that his mother needed his help, remained on the home farm, of which he took charge, operating it until 1903, in which after October, 1899, he was assisted by his brother James Gustav, who had also gone to Texas but had then returned after spending two and a half years there. In 1903 he bought a farm of 121 acres of improved land in section 19, Spring Grove township, a mile and a half west of the old homestead, and known as the Nels Lien Farm, which place was his home for some six or seven years. That it might be a home in the fullest sense, he assumed the responsibilities of domestic life, being united in marriage, Jan. 13, 1904, with Belinda Josephine, daughter of Ole and Thore Olsgard, of Spring Grove township. Early in 1911 Mr. Landsom sold the Lien farm to his brother James and bought the old home farm in section 20, but just as he and his wife were about to take possession of the house it took fire and burned down, Feb. 18, 1911. To save time, as the spring was approaching and he wished to get an early start with his crops, he built a granary, into which he moved April 4, 1911, and in which he resided with his wife until October, when they moved into a frame house of one and a half stories, 28 by 28 feet in ground dimensions, which he had built during the summer as he had found opportunity. This house, which is his present residence, contains six rooms, and is furnished with hot water heat and electric light, being thoroughly modern in its equipment. In the summer of 1912 Mr. Lindsom built a frame barn, with full stone basement and modern equipment, 32 by 56 by 16 feet above basement, with hip roof, the basement having a height of eight feet. Connected with it is a hollow tile silo, 14 by 34 feet. He has also provided himself with all other necessary outbuildings, including a good hog house, while his teams, machinery and tools are of the best and most useful kind. Seventy-five acres of his land are now under the plow. His stock consists chiefly of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and as he keeps full-blooded sires, he is improving his herds from year to year. Though Mr. Lindsom has had to work hard from boyhood, his education having been limited to attendance at the district school, he has pursued a successful career and is now in a prosperous condition in life, well to do and respected. He is the owner of a good automobile and is a shareholder in the Spring Grove Stock and Grain company and the Co-operative Creamery. He and his wife are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical church. Politically Mr. Landsom is a Republican.

Dewitt Clinton Webster, the leading representative of the horticultural interest of Houston county, residing on a farm of 50 acres on the outskirts of the village of La Crescent, and who was for a period of 20 years engaged in the railway mail service, was born at La Crosse, Wis., March 13, 1874, son of Everett B. and Emma (Harris) Webster, the father being a native of New York State. Dewitt C. Webster became interested in horticulture through association with his grandfather, John S. Harris. He came to La Crescent township, Houston county, with his parents when two



DEWITT C. WEBSTER AND FAMILY

years old, and subsequently attended school here. Later, while in the mail service, he developed the farm on which he now resides, and during that period he devoted himself exclusively to the cultivation of apples and small fruits. Since 1911 he has exhibited his products regularly at the Minnesota state fairs and has taken more premiums on fruits than any other exhibitor since entering the field. In 1911 he was awarded a cup at the Northwest Land Products Exposition, held at St. Paul, for the best bushel of apples grown in Minnesota that year; and for three consecutive years he was awarded the cup at the Houston County Corn Show at Hokah. He is a member of the State Horticultural Society, and his farm is now the State Horticultural Trial Station for new varieties of fruit. He is a stockholder in the La Crescent State Bank. Mr. Webster has built for himself, at a cost of \$7,000, one of the finest residences, if not the finest, in Houston county. It is in the bungalow style, contains nine rooms, each having a closet, is provided with a large sun porch, and is finished with hardwood throughout, with solid panel doors, inlaid with white wood and ebony. The basement has cement floors, and there is a root cellar, coal and fuel rooms and laundry. The house is covered with specially made, bran stained, cyprus siding, while the upper story is partially finished with white stucco, which has a very pretty effect. The building is of a beautiful architectural design, and thoroughly modern in all its fittings, having steam vapor heat, an individual electric light plant on the Delco system, hot soft water and bath. Mr. Webster was married October 9, 1900, to Clara B. Eberhard, daughter of Henry Philip and Maria Louise (Corlett) Eberhard. Her father was born in Germany and her mother in Rochester, N. Y. They were early settlers in Houston county. Mr. Webster belongs to Morning Star Lodge, No. 29, A. F. & A. M.; also to Evening Star Chapter, O. E. S., No. 71 of La Crescent, of which his wife is a member. They have one child, Gladys.

John Shartall, who is now living retired on a farm in section 10, Money Creek township, was one of the pioneer settlers in this township, and is a man of wide and varied experiences. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1841, his father's name being Patrick Shartall, and his mother's family name Holden. The family came to America in 1851, locating in Jo Davies county, Illinois, not far from the city of Galena, where they engaged in farming, the parents spending the rest of their lives there. John Shartall was one of the youngest in their family of nine children. He attended the school of his district and when he grew old enough to work, assisted his father on the home farm. While still a young man he left home and went west to Colorado and Montana, where he engaged in mining. After three years of that occupation in that then wild country, he returned to Illinois and for awhile worked in the lead mines in the vicinity of Galena, also at times helping his parents on the home farm. He then came to Minnesota, being one of the first settlers in Money Creek township, Houston county, where he established the farm on which he is now living, which was then but a tract of wild land. His first dwelling here was a rude log house, but from that early beginning he progressed until he had developed a good farm of 160 acres with an adequate set of buildings, on which place he is still

residing, though practically retired from active work, his son Arthur relieving him from all attention to the details. In religion Mr. Shartall is a Catholic and in politics is independent. Mr. Shartall married Margaret Kerns, who was born near Galena, Ill., her parents being natives of Ireland, and the father a farmer and miner by occupation. In early days, before the building of the Union Pacific railroad, he crossed the plains and mountains to California, but later returned and died in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Shartall have had eight children: Ella, wife of William Hicks; John, a resident of Winona; Minnie, wife of Niles McAlister, residing in Winona; Hannah, now Mrs. Francamp and a resident of Michigan; Rose, wife of Arthur Ives, who is operating the home farm; Agnes, a resident of Winona; Charles, and one child who died in infancy.

Sever Danielson, a general farmer residing in section 14, Wilmington township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, March 27, 1871, son of Daniel and Margarite Jorgensen. With his parents, who were farmers, he came to America in 1876, the family residing for a while near the village of Houston, Minn., and then moving to a 40-acre farm in section 35, Wilmington township. There were eight children in his parents' family, the eldest being George, who is now living retired after 30 years' service in the U. S. regular army. Sever was the second born, and after him came Marie, now Mrs. Bochardt of Seattle, Wash.; Samuel, who is a farmer in Kindred, N. D.; Martin, a farmer of Melville, N. D.; Edward, who is living on the old home farm; Gustav, a farmer in Caledonia township; and Daniel, who is deceased. During his first three years here Sever resided with Askel Quinell, after which he returned to his home. His parents being poor, he had to work hard, but for several winters attended the district school. When old enough he worked out as a farm hand. On April 13, 1904, he was married to Margarite Rask, daughter of Peter and Kjersti (Engen) Rask of Wilmington township, and he and his wife began their home life on the Joe Winkelman farm as renters. After remaining there three years, they moved to the Differding farm in Caledonia township, which was their home for a year and a half. In 1910 they rented their present place, the Engen farm, in sections 11 and 14. The land had been improved but there were no buildings, and Mr. Danielson accordingly erected a small frame house, later putting up a circular tile barn, with full basement and a dairy room; also a granary. The farm, which contains 95 acres, is all under the plow, and in addition to this property Mr. Danielson owns a tract of 20 acres in Winnebago township, making his holdings 115 acres in all. He has good herds of cattle and hogs, and a full operating equipment, and is doing a prosperous business, his market being Caledonia, seven miles to the north. He and his wife have had three children: Peter Selmar, born Jan. 29, 1905; Martin Delbert, born Sept. 11, 1907; and Carleton, who died in infancy. Mr. Danielson is a Republican in politics, and he and his family are members of the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

David Ender, Jr., was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, June 18, 1888, son of David and Margaret (Schild) Ender. The third born of their ten children, he was educated in the district schools and was reared



MR. AND MRS. JOHN ENDER

to farm pursuits by his father. At the age of eighteen he began to work for neighboring farmers. Then for about six years he was engaged in farming pursuits on a farm which he rented near La Crescent. In 1917 he opened a garage and harness business at Hokah. In politics Mr. Ender is an independent voter. In religion he adheres to the belief of the Lutheran church. Mr. Ender was married April 5, 1911, to Martha Selke, daughter of Frederick and Christina (Hettman) Selke, and this union has been blessed with one child, Arnold David. Mr. and Mrs. Selke were born in Germany and came to La Crescent as young people, and taking a farm in that township. Mr. Selke died about 1893.

David Ender, Sr., a respected farmer of Mound Prairie township, was born near Beaver Dam, in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, Feb. 14, 1854, and was brought to Mound Prairie township, this county, when about ten or eleven years old. He was here reared, and as a young man married Margaret Schild, who was born in Berne, Switzerland, July 14, 1864, and was brought to Mound Prairie township by her parents when she was about fifteen years of age. They then settled on their present farm, where they have been successful, and where they are held in high regard by their neighbors and friends.

John Ender, one of the leading business men of Hokah, senior partner in the Hokah Hardware Co. and also connected with other important interests, was born in Mound Prairie township, this county, Oct. 17, 1880, eldest of the ten children of David and Margaret (Schild) Ender. He was educated in the district schools and worked on the home farm until about twenty years of age. Then, with Charles Pilger, he started a sawmill in Bush Valley, and they operated it for four years, one season of which Mr. Ender was engaged in railroad work in Minneapolis. In 1894 he came to Hokah and entered into partnership with G. J. Hoffman in the general mercantile and hardware business, under the firm name of Hoffman & Ender. In 1912 they sold the general merchandise department of their business to Rieley & Rieley. The hardware and implement line continued to prosper and increased, and in time a lumber yard was added. Jan. 1, 1917, P. J. Buehler became a partner, and the firm name was changed to the Hokah Hardware Co. In the meantime Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Ender were associated together in several other enterprises, including the Hokah creamery, the Hokah Midget mill, and the Hokah electric light plant. On Jan. 1, 1919, Mr. Ender disposed of his interests in these industries to Mr. Hoffman and took over Mr. Hoffman's interests in the Hokah Hardware Co. Among his other holdings is stock in the Hokah State bank. Busy as he is with his private affairs, he has found considerable time for efficient public service. For several years he was treasurer of the village, and he is now village trustee and a member of the school board. His religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Ender was married Oct. 25, 1904, to Anna Pilger, daughter of Philip and Theresa (Miller) Pilger, and he and his wife have had three children: Alden, born July 10, 1909; Clarence, born May 20, 1914; and Adeline, born Sept. 13, 1917. The parents of Mrs. Ender were both born in Germany, the father June 16, 1821, and the mother April 20, 1839. They settled on a farm near Hokah, this county, about 1866, and

resided there for many years, being prosperous and highly respected residents of the community. Mr. Pilger died in January, 1914, and his wife survived him but little over a year, passing away April 14, 1915.

Andre T. Trehus, who died on his farm in section 8, Wilmington township, June 24, 1900, was well known throughout the township as a thrifty, industrious and successful farmer and reliable citizen. He was born in section 23, this township, Feb. 11, 1861, son of Thomas A. and Martha (Haugstad) Trehus. His education was limited to a brief attendance at the district school, but he broadened this by close observation and experience and made his way in the world and established a comfortable home for his family. Until he was 20 years old he remained on the home farm, which he helped to cultivate, but also during the latter part of that period occasionally worked out as a farm hand. On Oct. 5, 1881, he was united in marriage with Aleve Severine O., daughter of Ole O. and Sigri Qualle, of section 8, Wilmington township. He and his wife began domestic life on a farm in section 20, this township, and remained there until 1892. In that year he bought the Qualle farm in section 8, containing 220 acres, of which he afterwards sold 60 acres. It was all improved land and there was a good seven-room frame house on it and a frame barn. To these buildings Mr. Trehus added a double corn crib, hog house, poultry house and other necessary structures. He continued his improvements until his death, gaining a good reputation as a practical farmer, and when he passed away he left his family in possession of a good estate. He also took an active interest in everything calculated to benefit the township and county in which he lived and supported every worthy cause where his aid was requested. Politically he was a Republican. Since his death his widow has operated the farm with the assistance of her sons. Until the spring of 1918 Thomas and Emil were the active managers, and since 1918 Thomas and Arthur. One hundred and forty acres are now under cultivation and the farm is well stocked with grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. To Mr. and Mrs. Trehus seven children were born, as follows: Ida, born March 10, 1882, now the wife of Hans Wolstad, a farmer of Wilmington township; Ole Edwin, born June 8, 1884, who died after a long illness Dec. 25, 1911; Anna Cecelia, born Oct. 13, 1886, now Mrs. Ingeman Doley of Anagard, N. D.; Thomas Arthur, born Dec. 2, 1888, who resides on the home farm; Emil Alfred, born Oct. 12, 1892, a resident of Spring Grove township; Geneva Johanna, born Feb. 23, 1894, wife of Reginald Watts of Washburn, Wis.; Sylvester Melvin, born Jan. 9, 1896, residing at home. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

William Harris, a prominent farmer of Money Creek township, operating 216 acres in sections 1 and 12, was born in Oneida county, New York, in August, 1857, son of John and Margaret (Wright) Harris. The parents, both natives of Ireland, were married in New York state, where the father as a young man engaged in the dairy business. He was killed by a runaway team in 1867, and his widow subsequently married a Mr. Holliday, a farmer, with whom she removed to Columbia county, Wisconsin, and later to Winona county, Minnesota, where she died. Her second husband, who moved to



CHARLES VOSS

Money Creek township, Houston county, is also now deceased. William Harris in his youth attended district schools both in New York state and Columbia county, Wisconsin. He began working out at the age of fifteen years, helping on farms, chopping wood during the winters and engaging in similar occupations until his marriage in 1891. After that he worked three years in a machine shop in Winona, and at the end of that time engaged in farming at Pine Creek, where he resided for 14 years. He then bought his present farm, containing 216 acres of valuable land, with good buildings, where he is successfully breeding Brown Swiss cattle, Poland-China hogs, and other stock, and has attained a position among the prosperous farmers of his township. He is also a stockholder in the Money Creek creamery and the Farmers' elevator at Houston. In politics he is a Republican, and his fraternal society affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America at Houston. Mr. Harris was married April 8, 1891, to Alta May Emily, who was born in Winona county, Minnesota, daughter of William and Nancy (Berry) Emily. He and his wife have two children: Vera Helen and Everett William, the latter of whom is assisting his father on the home farm. Mrs. Harris's parents were both American born. Her father served four years in the Civil war as a private in the Second Minnesota regiment. His active career was for the main part that of a farmer, but he is now living retired in La Crosse. He formerly held various local offices, being one of the prominent men of his community. His wife died in 1909. Their daughter Alta May was the second born of their four children.

John G. Voss, a well known and successful farmer of Hokah township, was born in Germany, December 18, 1850, and came to America in 1869, locating in Bush Valley, Houston county, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm hand. Later for a while he followed the cooper's trade in Hokah village, and was also for several years a section hand on the railroad. In February, 1912, he moved onto his present farm, where he has since carried on agricultural pursuits with good financial results, and is now numbered among the substantial and influential citizens of his township. Mr. Voss was first married to Hannah Dabold, by whom he had four children, Emma, George, Gertrude and Julia, of whom Gertrude is now deceased. Emma is the wife of Austin Cook and has four children, Ruth, John, Jane and Robert. George married Elsie Whited, and has two children, Edward and Margaret. Julia is now Mrs. Warren Spurrier and has four children, Alma, Ethel, Esther and Jesse C. Mrs. Hannah (Dabold) Voss having died, Mr. Voss married for his second wife Lena Westphal, who also died after becoming the mother of six children, namely, Arthur, Gilbert, Charles, Orinda, Florence and Minnie, of whom Arthur, Charles and Orinda are now deceased; Gilbert served in the U. S. navy during the recent war; Florence, who was graduated from the Hokah public schools, and the La Crosse State Normal school in the class of 1917, is now a proficient teacher; and Minnie is a student in the Hokah public school. Mrs. Lena (Westphal) Voss died and Mr. Voss married for his third wife her sister, Mrs. Fredericka (Westphal) Papenfuss.

Charles Voss, son of John G. Voss, was one of those brave and noble young Americans who were called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for

their country. On July 26, 1918, he enlisted in the Fourth Pioneer infantry and subsequently trained at Camps Wadsworth and Stuart Lee, after which he was sent to France. There he died Oct. 9, 1918, of pneumonia, two days after landing, following an attack of Spanish influenza developed on the transport. He was a few months over 21 years of age, having been born in Hokah May 30, 1897. Memorial services were held in the Methodist church in Hokah, the full house demonstrating the high esteem in which he was held. The following sympathetic letter from his army chaplain was received by his parents: "My Dear Mr. Voss: These are days when chaplains have a sad duty to perform. It is that of telling the home folks that their loved one has been mustered out of their country's and life's service by that Grim Commander whom none of us can disobey. Your son, Charles Voss, private in supply company, 4th Pioneer infantry, was called to his eternal reward at 12:20 a. m., Oct. 9, 1918, from this camp hospital (Camp Montoir) in Base Section No. 1. His death was due to pneumonia, following an attack of Spanish influenza developed on the transport coming to France. We laid his body to rest this afternoon in the beautiful American cemetery No. 21 in this base. To you, bereft so soon of the lad you offered for your country's service, I extend my deepest sympathy and with it these words: "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." Tenderly yours, Walter B. Hilton, Chaplain, First Lieut. Engineers, A. P. O. 701, American E. F., France.

Helmer Loken, a well-to-do general farmer of Yucatan township, who is operating a good farm of 200 acres in section 1, was born on his present farm, Aug. 5, 1879, the son of Hans H. and Waren (Holgren) Loken. Hans H. Loken was a furniture maker by trade, but devoted most of his life to farming. He came to Houston county in 1878, and lived here for many years. In 1904 he returned to a farm near Manistee, Mich., where he died in 1914, and where his widow is still living. Helmer Loken attended the district school on Oak Ridge in his native township, and at the age of eighteen started working out as a farm-hand. Six years later he rented the home farm, and as his means permitted, purchased it. He has a well improved farm, and carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying. He is an independent voter, and is much interested in public affairs, though not caring to mingle actively in politics. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Loken was married Dec. 17, 1910, to Mary Halverson, daughter of Targe and Mary (Oset) Halverson, and this union has been blessed with five children: Marcella, born May 24, 1912; Henry, born Sept. 8, 1913; Tilbert, born April 2, 1915; Elvin born Oct. 17, 1916; and Harris, born March 15, 1919. It is interesting to note that all Mr. Loken's brothers and sisters are still living, the children in his father's family being George, Oscar, Hans, Telmer, Fred, Edward, Arthur, Helga and Martin.

Targe Halverson, a well-known and respected farmer of Yucatan township, was born in Norway, Nov. 20, 1837, and came to America in 1865, settling in Yucatan township, this county, where he took land and developed a good farm. He is an honorable hard-working man and stands well in the community. He and his wife are the parents of nine children:

Sarah, Mary, Tina, Alma, Olga, Clara, Mabel, Gena and Nina, all living except Olga.

John Fishel, one of the pioneer settlers of Brownsville township, now deceased, was born in Ohio, where he became a farmer. He married Rachel Holliday, a native of Pennsylvania and later they came west to Houston county, settling on land in Brownsville township, at a time when Caledonia was an insignificant hamlet containing but a few small houses. On the land he took Mr. Fishel remained until his retirement from active work in 1901, or for more than half a century, during which time he labored hard and developed the place into a well equipped and profitable farm. On retiring he moved to Hokah, where his death occurred in 1911. His wife, who still survives, is now residing with her son Charles R., in section 19, Mound Prairie township.

Charles R. Fishel, an enterprising farmer and dairyman, residing in section 19, Mound Prairie township, was born in Brownsville township, Houston county, Minn., June 3, 1879, son of John and Rachel (Holliday) Fishel. His education was acquired in District school No. 33, in his native township, and until the age of 22 years he was engaged in assisting his father in the improvement and cultivation of the home farm. He then left home and went to Hazelhurst, Wis., where for two years he was employed in a large box factory. He then engaged in farming on his own account, and so continued for several years with some intermissions, making two trips west, each in the fall, and being employed one fall at bridge work. He then purchased a farm two miles south of Hokah, Houston county, but after operating it for two years, sold it and entered the employ of the Hoffman & Ender Hardware Co. of Hokah, with whom he remained for three years. Having bought a tract of land in Florida, he then made a trip to that distant state to inspect his property, which he still owns, and on his return purchased the farm of 87 acres on which he is now residing, and where he is making extensive improvements. He is breeding up in Jersey cattle and is doing a good dairy business, also giving some time to other branches of farm work, and is making good progress on the road to fortune. He is a member of Camp No. 3263, M. W. A., at Hokah. Independent in politics, he is serving as school clerk and highway overseer. Mr. Fishel was married Dec. 13, 1904, to Grace Wooley, daughter of Frank and Henrietta (Fischer) Wooley, of Hokah, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Fishel have four children, Floyd Franklin, George Ralph, Eunice Julia Louise and Clarence Melvin. The family attend the Presbyterian church.

Richard Duxbury, a pioneer settler of Fillmore county, Minnesota, was born in Newton More, Lancashire, England, November 14, 1833, son of William Duxbury and Ann (Whittaker) Duxbury. He had six brothers and three sisters, all of whom came to the United States with their father and mother about 1848, landing at Salem, Massachusetts, where they resided for three or four years. The mother died there. Thence they moved to the vicinity of Janesville, Wisconsin, where William Duxbury engaged in farming and spent his last years. Richard came to Minnesota in 1857 and in 1859 was married at Harmony, Fillmore county, to Miranda M. Barnes, who was born in Wisconsin, March 19, 1841. She was a daughter of

Moses Barnes, a native of Massachusetts, who settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota, in 1853, and late in life moved to Marshall, Lyon county, where he died. Richard Duxbury was a farmer during all his active life. He served in the Civil War with the Union forces as a volunteer, a private in the Second Minnesota Light Artillery under Major Hutchkiss. He was a republican in politics, a thoughtful reader, and a lover and student of English history. He was a member of the Episcopal church. His wife was reared a Baptist. He died November 20, 1907, at St. Paul, having survived his wife eleven years and six months. They were parents of ten children, seven of whom are living, Lorinda, wife of Albert H. Daniels, residing at Pine City, Minnesota; Francis A. Duxbury, a lawyer, at Caledonia, Minnesota; L. N. Duxbury, a farmer in Fillmore county; Lodema, wife of F. M. McGowen, Los Angeles, California; W. R. Duxbury, a lawyer in St. Paul; F. R. Duxbury, a real estate dealer at Pine City, and Leslie of Worthington.

Francis A. Duxbury, the dean of the Houston County Bar, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, April 11, 1862, son of Richard and Miranda M. (Barnes) Duxbury. His father was a farmer and he worked at home on the farm until he was man grown. His schooling was limited to the common schools. As a young man he taught in the common and village schools of Fillmore county for a period of ten years and gained the reputation of a good teacher. While thus engaged he devoted his spare time to the study of law and general reading and in 1895 passed the examination of the State Board of Law Examiners and was admitted to the Bar. He has been in active practice of the law at Caledonia for twenty-four years and has made continued progress and notable success. He is the senior member of the firm of Duxbury & Duxbury, lawyers, in association with his son, Lloyd L. Duxbury. Mr. Duxbury was for many years a member of the Caledonia High School Board and during the recent war with Germany was Chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee for Houston county. In 1915 he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention from the First Congressional District. He represented his district in the State Senate for two terms beginning in 1910. As a Free Mason he is Past Master of Caledonia Lodge No. 20, Past High Priest of Hokah Chapter No. 16, and is affiliated with the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine. He is a member of the Modern Woodman of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and for several years has served as a member of the Law Committee of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota A. O. U. W. He is president of the Caledonia State Bank. On October 18, 1884, Mr. Duxbury was united in marriage to Susan A. Addison, whose father, John Howcraft Addison, was one of the pioneer farmers of Fillmore county, having settled there in 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Duxbury have two sons, Lloyd L., born April 19, 1886, and Leland S., born November 14, 1888. Lloyd L. is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and of Harvard Law School, and is now in active practice with his father. Leland S. is also a graduate of the Minnesota university and the Harvard Law School and is now Chief Examiner for the State Securities Commission at St. Paul.

Lloyd L. Duxbury, lawyer, residing in Caledonia, was born in Fillmore county, Minn., April 19, 1886, son of Francis Adelbert and Susan A. (Addi-



F. A. DUXBURY



MR. AND MRS. OLE ANDERSON

son) Duxbury. He is unusually well equipped for his profession having graduated from the Caledonia high school, and from the academic department of the University of Minnesota in the class of 1908. In 1911 he was graduated from the law school of Harvard university, and in April of the following year was admitted to practice. Since that time he has been associated with his father as a member of the law firm of Duxbury & Duxbury, with offices in Caledonia. He has been very successful in his professional work and has a high standing in the county and state as a lawyer. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, belonging to Caledonia Lodge No. 20 A. F. & A. M., also to Camp No. 2936 M. W. A., of the same village. He is a member of the Acacia Fraternity of Harvard university and was President of the Chapter while attending the law school. Mr. Duxbury was married September 11, 1915 to Valerie S. Coon, of Brookline, Mass. They have one son, Myles Addison, born June 14, 1916.

Ole Anderson, who owns and operates a good 50-acre farm in Mayville township, where he has resided for the last 28 years, was born in Norway, May 28, 1853, son of Andreas and Olena Olson. He attended school in his native land and after beginning industrial life was engaged for some time in boat building. In 1892, at the age of 40 years, he came to the United States, and proceeding west to Houston county, Minn., bought his present farm in section 8, Mayville township, though it was then but a tract of wild land. The present flourishing aspect is the result of his own exertions, and to bring this about, he had to break, grub and clear the land, besides erecting his house and outbuildings, all of which work was well done. As a general farmer he has achieved success and has added to the agricultural productiveness of his township. Mr. Anderson was married April 18, 1880, to Caroline Olson, a native of Norway. They have had four children: Hulda, now Mrs. Phillip Krick of Union township; Axel, residing on the home farm; Constance, now Mrs. Ingvald Ingvaldson, of Mayville township; and Carl, who died at the age of four years. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and the surviving members of their family belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mrs. Anderson was born June 4, 1858.

Ole K. Rauk, now living retired in the village of Spring Grove, after a long and successful career as a farmer, was born in Hellingsdal, Norway, March 12, 1843, son of Knute and Berget (Aslesen) Rauk. In 1859 the parents left their native land for America, with five children, Hans K., Halgrem, Asle, Ose, and Ole K. Landing at Quebec after a voyage of five and a half weeks on the ocean, they came directly to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in Spring Grove, where the father found employment, working about two years for others. In 1861 he bought 20 acres of wild land in section 35, Spring Grove township, and erected on it a small log house, which was the family dwelling for 20 years, after which a small frame house was erected. Both parents died on the farm when about 75 years old, the father's death preceding the mother's by a year. Ole K., who was the second youngest member of the family, had attended a common school in Norway, and for a brief time was a pupil in the school of his district in Spring Grove. But his opportunities in the latter direction being very

limited, he was accustomed to study at home when he had a few minutes to spare, giving special attention to arithmetic, as being a branch of knowledge likely to prove of most use to him in business affairs. The first year after the arrival of the family in the township he began working out in order to help his parents. By 1867 he had saved a little and bought 40 acres of land. A year later he bought 80 acres more, all wild. Then he bought the old home place of 20 acres and kept on purchasing land until he had 197 acres in one piece. In the meanwhile he was cultivating and improving it, among the buildings he erected being a good, two-story, frame house consisting of an upright and wing; a frame barn, 30 by 60 by 15 feet in size, with a full stone basement of 9 feet; a granary, 16 by 20 by 12; machine shed, 16 by 30 by 8; and a woodshed, 12 by 14 by 10. His son has since erected a stave silo of 14 by 30 feet. A few years ago Mr. Rauk retired, selling a part of his farm to his son Edward, and took up his residence in Spring Grove village, where he owns a good house and has a comfortable home. For the past two years he has been confined to his bed with rheumatism, but bears this misfortune with patience, supported by the loving companionship of his wife, who has been his faithful partner in many years of toil, and by his faith in a future life, being a devout member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. It is now nearly 53 years since Mr. Rauk began domestic life, being united in marriage with Gunehild, daughter of Elling and Guinil Ellingson of Spring Grove township. Their union has been blessed by the birth of eight children: Gunehild, born July 11, 1865, now Mrs. Andrew Tyrebakken of Wilmington township; Knute, born Dec. 1, 1869, who is living in Harvey, N. D.; Bertha Caroline, born May 31, 1873, now Mrs. C. J. Schansberg of Spring Grove village; Edward, born May 31, 1879, who owns and resides on the old farm in section 35; Emma, who died in infancy; Emma Otelia, born April 3, 1882; Albert Julius, born Nov. 6, 1884; Carl Oliver, born Nov. 6, 1888; and Ginard, born Oct. 24, 1891. Emma Otelia is the wife of J. J. Billigmeier, of Alberta, Canada. Albert Julius and Ginard are the owners and proprietors of a general store at Beaver Creek, Minnesota. Carl Oliver is in the meat business at Taylor, Wis., with Tilford Schansberg, under the firm name of Schansberg & Rauk. Mrs. Rauk, who was born in Norway, June 14, 1844, and is therefore now in her seventy-fifth year, is still active and able to take care of the home, being a smart and careful housekeeper. She and her husband are highly esteemed within a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Ole B. Tone, who died at his home in Spring Grove village, in March, 1917, was for a number of years one of the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of Houston county, an able and influential business man, and at one time a member of the state legislature. He was born at Ness Hallingdal, Norway, April 14, 1847, being a member of a family which numbered 14 children. When he was a year old he was brought by his parents to America, they settling at Rock Prairie, near Orfordville, Wis. There as he grew up he acquired a limited education in the common school. When only 15 years old he enlisted for service in the Civil War as a member of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry and was a soldier for three years. At the

end of the war he returned home, and in the spring of 1867, with Naarve Roen, came to Houston county, Minnesota, looking for a business location, and took up his temporary residence with George Temanson of Spring Grove township. That fall he engaged in business with Mr. Roen at Riceford, this township, and the partnership was continued until the summer of 1869, when it was dissolved. After that, for several years Mr. Tone was variously employed, residing with a Mr. Oatman at Riceford. There in the spring of 1873 he opened a general store, of which he was proprietor until 1879, when he sold it to John Rauk. During that period he also served as postmaster. For about a year after he had disposed of his store Mr. Tone was engaged in the real estate business. He had by this time acquired a considerable amount of prominence and popularity, which led to his election on the Republican ticket, in the fall of 1880, as representative to the state legislature, in which he served one term, from Jan. 4, 1881, to March 4, 1882. After that he pursued a mercantile career for awhile, buying and selling, and still residing with Mr. Oatman. In January, 1885, Mr. Tone went to Orfordville, Wis., where on the twenty-second of that month he was united in marriage with Randa, daughter of Erick and Mary Ovestrud of that place. Bringing his bride to Spring Grove, he began housekeeping over Hendrickson's store, but that summer built a commodious, two-story frame house on Maple avenue, into which he moved with his wife in the fall. A shrewd business man, he continued buying and selling various kinds of property up to 1889, in which year he bought the hardware business of T. T. Bergh of Spring Grove, becoming a partner in it with O. B. Nelson under the style of Nelson & Tone. In this occupation he remained until 1907 when he sold his interest and retired. In the same year he was appointed village postmaster, which office he held until 1912. He then resigned it in order to become president of the Spring Grove State bank, which was then just being organized, and in which position he continued up to the time of his death, which was due to heart failure. Mr. Tone was also interested in the Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Orfordville, Wis., and the People's State bank of St. Paul. A man of strong convictions, he was a power in the business community, and had a wide acquaintance not only in this section but throughout various parts of the state, and to some extent in Wisconsin. He had an indomitable will, yet was just and even tender-hearted and generous. His wife Randa, who was born at Orfordville, Wis., May 20, 1858, died at the age of 51 years Sept. 27, 1909, her death, like his own being due to heart failure. They were both, with their children, members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. The children were as follows: Cora, born Feb. 22, 1886, now Mrs. John Schansberg of Spring Grove; Beldin, born Jan. 13, 1888, who resides in St. Paul, Minn.; Elmer, born Nov. 28, 1889, now in the mercantile business at Hamblin, Montana; Mandy, born Feb. 4, 1892, a student in a Minneapolis Business college; Owen Ralph, born Dec. 17, 1895, who served in the United States army during the Great War; Phebe, born Jan. 9, 1900, who is studying nursing at La Crosse; and Owen R., born Jan. 27, 1895, who died in infancy.

Christian J. Schansberg, of the firm of Schansberg & Muller, meat dealers of Spring Grove, was born in Coon Valley, Vernon county, Wisconsin, Feb. 16, 1871, son of John and Bergete (Steenberg) Schansberg, early Norwegian settlers in that locality. He studied in the district school in Coon Valley, spent two winters as a student at Lanesboro, Minn., and then took the full course at a business college in La Crosse, Wis. In the meantime he had worked summers on his father's farm. In the fall of 1889 he came to Caledonia, in this county, and in 1893 to Spring Grove, where he is now a prominent citizen. Mr. Schansberg has taken a prominent part in public affairs, and has done good work as a member of the village board. In politics he is a Republican. He worships at the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Schansberg was married June 20, 1901, to Bertha Caroline Rauk, daughter of Ole K. and Gunhil Rauk, of Spring Grove township, and this union has been blessed with two children: Gladys Beola, born Aug. 31, 1902; and James Orlando, born Oct. 18, 1906. The family residence, built in 1907, at the corner of Wilmington street and Hendrickson is one of the finest in the village, furnished with steam heat and other modern conveniences.

John J. Schansberg, of the firm of Schansberg & Muller, meat dealers of Spring Grove, was born in Coon Valley, Vernon county, Wisconsin, Jan. 8, 1879, son of John and Bergete (Steenberg) Schansberg. He was educated in the district schools and learned farming from his father. In 1896 he came to Spring Grove, and here has since remained. He is a successful business man, and occupies a substantial position in the community. In 1898 he purchased the old Ole B. Tone homestead, on Maple avenue, in Spring Grove village. This home, Mr. Schansberg has remodeled into a handsome, comfortable residence, with all modern improvements, and here he and his family are pleasantly located. On May 10, 1910, Mr. Schansberg married Cora Tone, the daughter of Ole B. and Randy (Ovstrud) Tone, the former a prominent banker and business man of Spring Grove. This union has been blessed with three children. Jerome C. was born April 22, 1916, and Ruth Borgel was born Dec. 7, 1918. One died in infancy. Mr. Schansberg was reared in the faith of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church and is affiliated with the Spring Grove congregation.

Schansberg & Muller, the firm consisting of the brothers, Christian J. and John J. Schansberg and J. F. Muller, conduct an extensive meat and provision business in Spring Grove, and have one of the leading business establishments of the village. The business here had its beginning in 1893, when Christian J. Schansberg, who since 1889 had been employed by the Caledonia firm of Schansberg, Solberg & Co., came to Spring Grove and with C. H. Schansberg, S. J. Solberg and J. J. Solberg, of that firm established the Spring Grove company of the same name. June 20, 1901, C. H. Schansberg and S. J. and J. J. Solberg retired from the firm, and Christian J. Schansberg formed a partnership with John J. Schansberg under the firm name of Schansberg Brothers. In 1916, J. E. Muller was admitted to the firm, and the company assumed its present name. In 1910 Christian J. and John J. Schansberg purchased the Knute Gilbertson place, two miles

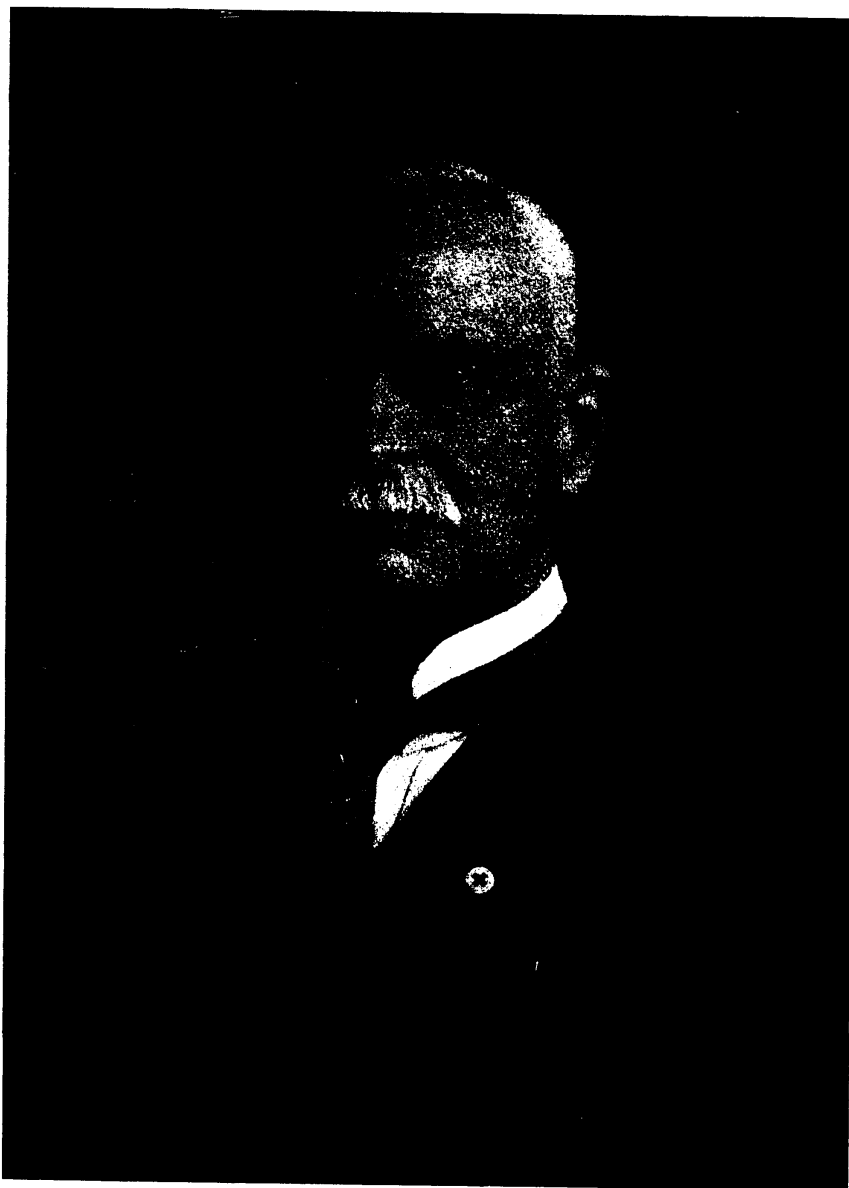
south of the village. This is a valuable piece of property containing 143 acres, of which 100 acres are under the plow. The farm is well equipped, and the excellent set of buildings include a two-story stone house, one of the oldest in the community, but in good condition; a frame barn 30 by 70 by 16 feet, with full stone basement; a swine house 12 by 60 feet with cement feeding floor; corn cribs, a machine shed, granary and stave silo. This farm is prospering under the care of a tenant, while the owners devote their time to their business interests in Spring Grove. In addition to this, they own forty acres joining the village limits on which is their abattoir and buildings for the housing of their employes. Each also owns a pleasant home in the village.

Col. William H. Harries, for many years one of Houston county's most distinguished citizens, commonly known as Captain Harries, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, Jan. 15, 1843, and came to La Crosse, Wis., in 1855. April 18, 1861, he enlisted in Co. B, 2d Wis. Vol. Inf., and made an admirable record as a gallant and loyal soldier. He was promoted through the various ranks, and on Dec. 21, 1864, was commissioned captain of Co. F, Third United States Volunteers, which formed a part of the corps commanded by General Winfield S. Hancock. Capt. Harries participated in many of the important engagements of the war. In the Battle of Antietam he was severely wounded through the left lung, this being his only serious injury. He received his honorable discharge April 17, 1866. Returning to Wisconsin, Capt. Harries began the study of law, and later entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, graduating in 1868 with the degree of LL.B. Within the summer of the same year he established himself at Caledonia, and was admitted to the Minnesota bar May 6, 1868. He served four years as county attorney. He was president of the village, a member of the board of education and served in other public capacities. His reputation grew, and in time he was elected as a Democrat to the Fifty-first Congress. In 1884 he was appointed collector of internal revenue for the state of Minnesota and served four years. Then he resumed his practice in Caledonia. In 1901 he was appointed one of the trustees of the Minnesota Soldiers' home; in 1907 he became secretary of the board, and in 1911, commandant of the home. From this position he has but recently retired. Col. Harries has been prominent in G. A. R. affairs. In 1901 he was department commander of the Minnesota Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has also been commander of the Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He has also been honored with many high positions in the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery of the Masonic order. Sept. 15, 1870, Capt. Harries married Anstis L. Dunbar, daughter of William F. Dunbar, the first state auditor of Minnesota. She died July 7, 1881, leaving three children: Mrs. J. Frank Smalley, Paul W. and Mrs. Walter E. Krick. On July 15, 1882, Capt. Harries married Hattie H. Dunbar, the sister of his first wife. She died in 1895, leaving three children, Estella, Beatrice and Donald D.

James J. Belden, one of the notable pioneers of Houston county, and one of its earliest public officials, who was for nearly 60 years a resident of the village of Caledonia, was born in Wethersfield, Conn., Sept. 13, 1822,

and died in Caledonia, Minn., Sept. 18, 1913. At the age of 15 years he removed to Meriden, and later to Hartford, Conn., in which latter place he learned the tinsmith's trade. In 1849 he removed to South Hadley Falls, Mass., and there on Jan. 10, 1850, was married to Anstis F. Dunbar, a native of that state. There he remained for about four years and then, in 1854, came with his family to Houston county, Minnesota, arriving in Caledonia, April 10. Here he bought 160 acres of government land located within what are now the corporate limits of Caledonia city, and opened a shop, and later built a store building which he used for many years, the latter standing on the site now occupied by the drug store of his son, W. D. Belden. Putting in a stock of hardware, Mr. Belden conducted his store and also followed the tinsmith's trade until 1888, and retired to his home on his farm until the year of his wife's death, which occurred Oct. 3, 1902. After that bereavement he took up his residence with his daughter Evaleen in apartments over the B. F. R. drug store, the building which he owned, and there he continued to reside until his death, Oct. 18, 1913, at the age of 91 years. A man of keen intelligence and high and forceful character, Mr. Belden's exceptional qualifications were early noticed by his fellow citizens, not only in Caledonia, but throughout the county, and he had not been here more than a year when, in 1855, he was elected to the office of county treasurer. In 1856 he was elected clerk of the district court, to which office he was afterwards elected for two more terms. He was also for many years deputy clerk and at various times served as village and school trustee. At the time of his death, in addition to the store building previously mentioned, he also owned 40 acres of the original claim on which he settled in 1854. Mr. Belden's active career as one of the leading business men of Caledonia covered a period of about 48 years, and he saw the village develop from a few scattered houses into the flourishing community it is today, a transformation in which he, himself, was a leading factor. Honorable in all his dealings, and strict in the performance of duty, whether of a public or private character, he died one of the best known and most respected citizens in Houston county, one whose memory will long endure. To Mr. and Mrs. James J. Belden were born three children: William Dunbar, now one of the leading citizens of Caledonia, where he is engaged in the drug business; Evaleen, who is employed in her brother's store as assistant pharmacist, and James E., who died at the age of 11 years.

William Dunbar Belden, one of the leading business men of Caledonia, proprietor of a large and flourishing drug business, and who has for a number of years been a live factor in public affairs, was born at South Hadley Falls, Mass., Dec. 13, 1850, son of James J. and Anstis F. (Dunbar) Belden. He was a child in his fourth year when he accompanied his parents to Caledonia, Minn., and here he was subsequently reared, acquiring his early education in public and private schools, including the high school. Later he attended the Caledonia Collegiate institute and in 1871 entered the University of Minnesota, where he pursued more advanced studies. He returned to Caledonia and founded the Caledonia academy, one of the first institutions of its kind in the state, providing a preparatory collegiate course, which led up to the university course. This institution he conducted for eight



W. D. BELDEN

years, or until 1880, when, on account of ill health, he went to Colorado and spent six months in the mining districts. Then returning to Caledonia, he purchased the drug business of Mr. Coe, whose store was located where Molitor's furniture store now stands. This he conducted until 1885, when he sold it and removed to Waseca, Minn., where he was engaged in the drug business until the spring of 1889. Then once more returning to Caledonia, he started his present drug business. In the following year, 1890, he bought the Argus newspaper, which he conducted subsequently until 1897. In 1903 Mr. Belden organized what is known as the Belden-Fullerton-Rhines Medical Company, incorporated, he, himself, being the president and general manager. It was conducted as a corporation until Dec. 31, 1918, when Mr. Belden purchased the outstanding stock and became the sole proprietor. He is now carrying a full line of drugs, stationery and toilet articles, making a specialty of prescriptions. As early as 1876 Mr. Belden was appointed county superintendent of schools, but never served, as before he took office the legislature had made the position an elective one. He has, however, served efficiently on the board of education. From 1894 to 1897 he was deputy collector of revenue for the First Congressional district. He was the first president of the Caledonia Commercial club, serving as such for several terms, and has been a member of its executive committee since its organization. With commendable public spirit, in 1910 he began the agitation for a new city hall, and being elected a member of the council in the following year, he threw his influence and vote in favor of the movement, which, after gathering way, resulted in the present beautiful city hall, a building fully adequate in size and equipment to the needs of a population of several thousand. Mr. Belden also took a patriotic part during the recent war with Germany. He has been vice president of Houston Chapter of the Red Cross, and was chairman of its shipping branch for the whole county. As chairman of the Houston County Loyalty league he also did much to promote loyalty and patriotism throughout the county, and his efforts had their full share in accomplishing the results which gave the county its reputation for doing its share in every way possible toward winning the great conflict. On Sept. 5, 1883, Mr. Belden was united in marriage at Waseca, Minn., to Mrs. Sarah W. Jennison, whose family name was Welch. Of this union four children have been born: William W., June 22, 1884; Anstis, July 6, 1886; James E., April 6, 1891; and Arvilla, Sept. 8, 1896. The first born, William W., is now postmaster of Caledonia. Anstis, who was graduated from the Caledonia high school and the Winona State Normal school, and for some time followed the occupation of a teacher, is now the wife of C. A. Patchin, superintendent of schools at Worthington, Minn., where Arvilla, who received the same education as her sister, is now a teacher. James E. Belden, well known salesman, acquired his education in the Caledonia high school, the University of Decatur, and the University of Minnesota. For some years he has been district sales manager for Brown & Bigelow of St. Paul, dealers in advertising specialties, making his headquarters in Chicago. He has won a high reputation as a salesman, being familiarly known to his employers and business associates as "Twenty Thousand Dollar Jim," as he far exceeded the average of good salesmanship,

estimated at about \$20,000 a year, by doing that much business in the month of January, 1918, alone. This was the largest month's business ever recorded on the books of the firm; hence his sobriquet of "Twenty Thousand Dollar Jim" is one reflecting high credit on himself, and one of which his parents and friends are justly proud. The subject of this sketch and his family are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a Democrat, but his political activities have been exercised with a view to the general good and with minor regard to party affiliations.

Andrew Honaas, proprietor of a cement block factory, and general cement contractor, of Spring Grove, was born in Caledonia township, Aug. 5, 1872, son of Andrew Peterson Honaas and his wife, whose maiden name was Guirene Butne Haug. The parents were born and married in Norway and emigrated to the United States in 1869, coming directly to Houston county and buying 80 acres of land in section 30, Caledonia township, on which almost the only improvement was a log shack. There, after some 12 years of strenuous farm work, the father died on Jan. 15, 1882. There were five children in the family: Andrew, the subject of this sketch; Peter, the second son; Ole, who died at Le Roy, Minn., in 1898; Anna, now Mrs. William Lloyd, of St. Paul, Minn.; and Gustina, who is unmarried and resides in St. Paul. Some time after the death of the father, his widow married a Mr. Melbraaten of Spring Grove township. She died in the spring of 1909. Andrew Honaas, direct subject of this article, was educated in the schools of Caledonia township and Spring Grove village, and the Winona Business college, where he completed the full course in 1889. He then returned to Spring Grove and to the farm of his stepfather, Mr. Melbraaten, where he remained for three years. In the spring of 1895 he went to Grand Meadow, Mower county, Minnesota, where he was employed in miscellaneous occupations until the spring of 1896. Then going to Crookston, Minn., he entered the employ of the Red River Lumber Co. as tally man and lumber grader and was there until the fall of 1901. After his return to Spring Grove he remained for a year on the Melbraaten farm three miles south of the village. Then buying his mother's village property and renting other land, he engaged in the raising of tobacco, which occupied him for several seasons. After that he entered the employ of C. J. Sylling as manager of the creamery cooper shop, and was with him until 1906, when he resumed tobacco raising and continued in it up to the spring of 1916, when he established himself in his present business. In this line of industry he is making satisfactory progress, and is respected as a wide-awake and honorable business man. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove hospital and takes a helpful interest in everything calculated to benefit the community in which he lives. For the past six years he has served as clerk of the Spring Grove high school. In politics he is independent. Mr. Honaas was married Dec. 30, 1896, to Ella Christine Almaasbak, who was born in Norway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Almaasbak, and who came alone to this country in 1893, her parents remaining in their native land. At the time of her marriage she was a resident of Harmony, Minn. After some nine years of married life her health began to fail and she took a trip to Norway in the hope that it might benefit her. It failed to do so,



WILLIAM E. McNELLY AND FAMILY

however, but she survived five years longer, passing away at her home in Spring Grove on Sept. 15, 1910. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Honaas; Glenora Belinda, born in Crookston, March 7, 1898, who is keeping house for her father; Anna Clarissa, born March 4, 1903, who is now in her third year in the Spring Grove high school; and Alpha, born June 19, 1908.

Elmer O. Kroshus, proprietor of Spring Grove Garage in the village of Spring Grove, was born in Spring Grove township, about four and a half miles southwest of the village, Aug. 29, 1893, son of O. A. and Christine Kroshus. His education, begun in the district school, was continued in the Spring Grove village school and in the high school, each of which he attended for a year. Until reaching the age of 18 he resided on his parents' farm, acquiring a good practical knowledge of agriculture. He then went to work at the carpenter's trade, at which he spent three years in the employ of contractors, being for a part of the time with Hallan & Roble and afterwards with Carl Errikson. He then engaged in auto repair work and after acquiring a sufficient knowledge of that business, in the spring of 1917 opened the Spring Grove garage, which he is now conducting as sole proprietor, doing repair work and carrying auto supplies, including oils and gasoline. He has already built up a large business and won a reputation as one of the enterprising and successful young men of the village. Mr. Kroshus was married Feb. 13, 1917, to Ruby, daughter of Gulik G. and Mathia Risty, of Spring Grove. He and his wife have one child, Marcellus Oberlin. Mr. Kroshus is a Republican in politics. He and his wife are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

William E. McNelly, a respected citizen of Wilmington township, who owns one of the finest places on Portland Prairie, was born in the township where he still resides, Dec. 20, 1857, son of John and Nancy (Schumway) McNelly. His early education was acquired in the common schools and at the Brownsville high school, and he later attended the Caledonia academy under the superintendence of W. D. Belden. After that he taught school for eight years in Houston county. In 1884 he began farming for himself in section 25, Wilmington township. Ten years later he bought 120 acres in section 36. To this he added 70 acres but later sold 40 acres, so that for many years his farm consisted of 150 acres. This place he brought to a high stage of development, having 100 acres under the plow and the remainder in timber and pasture. In 1918 he sold this place to Otto H. Deters, and acquired the nearby farm of August F. Guhl. This farm consists of 180 acres and includes the John McNelly homestead of 80 acres, the old Joseph Winkelman homestead of 80 acres, and 20 acres of timber. The land is as good and well kept up as any in the county, and has a new barn, the largest and best of any in this part of the county. As a general farmer he has made good progress, and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. In addition to his direct farming interests he is a stockholder in the People's Co-operative Elevator Co. of Caledonia; the Wilmington Co-operative Creamery Co., and the First National Bank of Caledonia, having for years been a director of the bank. McNelly is also a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

of Portland Prairie, which he has served as a trustee and in other offices. A Republican in politics, he served as town assessor for six years and has been a member of the school board for more than 30 years. On Oct. 19, 1879, Mr. McNelly was married to Samantha Wright, daughter of Charles and Mary (Metcalf) Wright of Wilmington township. She died Feb. 9, 1890, leaving four children: William Oscar, born June 4, 1881; Chester Leroy, June 12, 1883; Mary Etta, Sept. 21, 1885, and Charles Eugene, July 31, 1888. William Oscar is now county attorney of McLeod county, Minn., being a graduate of the law department of Minnesota university. He resides in Hutchinson, that county. Chester Leroy, who is an agricultural school and college graduate, is now agricultural agent for Dodge county, and resides at Dodge Center, Minn. Mary Etta graduated, like Chester, from the Minnesota Agricultural school at St. Paul, and is now the wife of George Briggs of Grantsburg, Wis., her husband being agricultural agent for Burnett county, that state. Charles Eugene, who was a student for two years in the Minnesota Agricultural school, is now a prosperous farmer near Buhl, Idaho. On June 3, 1891, Mr. McNelly was united in marriage with Jessie P., daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Gilchrist) Ratcliffe, of Mt. Hope, Allamakee county, Iowa. There are two children of this marriage: Frank Ratcliffe, born April 5, 1892, graduated from the Minnesota Agricultural school and now lives at home. He enlisted in the United States service for the Great War, March 11, 1918. Served in France over six months, and was discharged March 31, 1919. Irving Benjamin was born Oct. 11, 1893, graduated from the Agricultural school and the School of Engineering of the University of Minnesota, enlisted in January, 1918, in the Aviation Corps, became a second lieutenant, and is now located at Bruno, Minnesota.

John McNelly, a resident of Houston county for over 60 years, and during the greater part of that time one of its leading citizens, was born in County Down, Ireland, March 25, 1830. At the age of 18 he emigrated to the United States, locating in Norwich, Conn., where he remained for seven years, working first as clerk in a store and later as a traveling salesman. In 1855 he came west to Houston county, Minnesota, settling in Wilmington township, where he made his subsequent home. He was present at the organization of the town and was chosen as its first clerk. Subsequently he served in other local offices, including that of county commissioner. In 1874 and 1875 he was a member of the House of Representatives at St. Paul, and in 1876 was elected state senator for two years. A man of more than ordinary intelligence, taking a lively interest in public affairs, he served his constituents faithfully and won in a high degree their confidence and respect. After a long illness, he passed away at his home in Wilmington township, April 21, 1918, aged 88 years and 26 days. Mr. McNelly was first married, Feb. 15, 1852, to Nancy Shumway, who died a few years later. On Nov. 11, 1869, he was married to Alida Henderson, who also died a few years after her marriage. On Oct. 25, 1893, Mr. McNelly married Charlotte Cas, who also preceded him in death. He is survived by eight children, 32 grand children, and 27 great grandchildren. The surviving children are: Mrs. Ella E. Graves, of Sioux City, Iowa; William



JOHN D. HAPPEL AND FAMILY

E. McNelly, of Wilmington, Minn.; Mrs. Anne M. Lusk, of Bigelow, Minn.; Mrs. Etta Ripley, of Fergus Falls, Minn.; John H. McNelly, of Duluth, Minn.; Mrs. Eugenia E. Guhl, of Canada; Mrs. Mabel E. Bunge, of Miloma, Minn., and Robert J. McNelly, of St. Charles, Iowa.

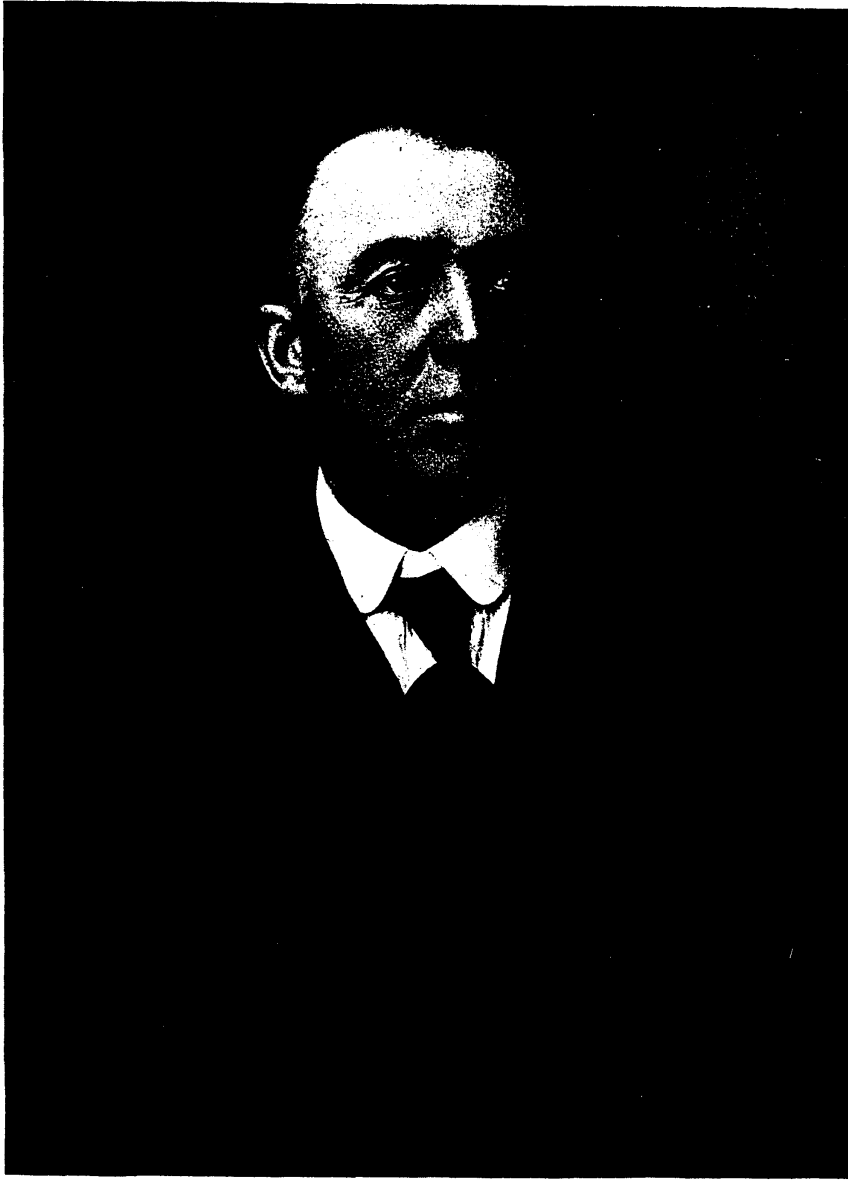
George Stroud, a representative citizen of Spring Grove township, was born in Alamakee county, Iowa, and came to this county with his parents in 1860, locating on section 7, Spring Grove township. He was one of a family of nine, his four brothers and four sisters now making their home in Fillmore county. July 20, 1898, he married Marie Stainer, daughter of Andrew and Sarah Stainer, of Fillmore county, and began homemaking on a part of his parents' farm. He now owns 120 acres, 85 of which are under the plow. In 1895 he erected a comfortable frame house and in 1909 built a frame barn 32 by 50 by 20 feet with a hip roof. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of Poland China swine, of which he has a drove of about seventy-five. Mr. and Mrs. Stroud have six children: Grace, born Aug. 31, 1896, now Mrs. Johan Bloomingdahl, of northern Minnesota; Della, born July 11, 1898, now Mrs. Grant Boyd, of Waukon, Iowa; George, born Dec. 5, 1900; Elsie, born June 27, 1905; Geneva, born Oct. 11, 1909; and Hazel, born Feb. 28, 1914.

John D. Happel, a prominent farmer of Brownsville township, owning 276 acres of good agricultural land, was born in Mound Prairie township, Houston county, Minnesota, Dec. 6, 1871, son of Jacob and Martha L. Happel. He acquired his education in the Day Valley district school, and his agricultural training on his parents' farm, on which he remained until arriving at the age of 22 years. For about six years thereafter he worked out, and then, at the age of 28, for one year rented a farm in Mound Prairie. For two years subsequently he operated a feed and sawmill in Looney Valley, near Houston, but at the end of that time sold out and moved to the Tom Sheehan farm in Brownsville, which he rented for two years. Then in 1906 he bought the farm he now owns, of 156 acres in sections 20 and 21, Brownsville, an improved place on which he has, however, made further improvements and where he has followed general and diversified farming with marked success. In 1916 he bought 120 acres more, in sections 17 and 22, making his entire estate to consist of 276 acres in all, which he is operating to the best advantage and with satisfactory financial results. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' elevator and the Hokah State bank, and is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Germania Aid society of Brownsville. Mr. Happel was married April 5, 1900, to Mary Wohlers, who was born in Brownsville, Feb. 3, 1878, daughter of Henry and Minnie (Deptner) Wohlers. Of this marriage five children have been born: Clarence H., Jan. 14, 1901; Luella M., Sept. 4, 1902; Elmer J., Nov. 24, 1904; George W., Feb. 20, 1911; and Norman R., Nov. 2, 1917.

Peter Johnson Lommen, one of the first Norwegian settlers of Spring Grove township, was born in Valdres, Norway, Sept. 24, 1822. At the age of 15 he began to learn the trade of shoemaker in the city of Christiana, but within two years had to return home on account of failing health. He then engaged in agriculture and was thus occupied in his native land until 1851, in which year he emigrated to America. Locating first in Dane county,

Wisconsin, he remained there until June of the following year, when he came to Houston county, Minnesota, taking a tract of land in section 3, Spring Grove township. This place he made his home until his death, by industry and thrift developing it into a fine farm of 290 acres. After having won a high place as one of the representative farmers and esteemed citizens of the community, he passed away in 1886, his loss being universally regretted. Mr. Lommen was twice married, first to Jorend Olsen Riste, who died in 1862. She left seven children: Jorend, now Mrs. Mons Fladager, of Spring Grove; Mary (Marit), wife of Ole Langlie, of Lake Preston, S. D.; John P., a merchant of Caledonia; Ole, a farmer in North Dakota; Elizabeth, deceased; Tosten, a farmer of Benson county, North Dakota; and George, a farmer and merchant of Fessenden, N. D. For his second wife Mr. Lommen married Maria Arntsen, who is also now deceased. Of this union there were four children born: Christian, who is now dean of the medical department of the South Dakota State University; Andrew, a physician practicing at Lanesboro, Minn.; Sarah, now Mrs. Ning Eley, of Desplaines, Ill.; and Ingeborg, who is a teacher in the University of Iowa.

John P. Lommen, who has the distinction of being the first white child born in Houston county, his birth having occurred on his father's farm in Spring Grove township, Dec. 12, 1852, was a son of Peter J. and Jorend (Olson Riste) Lommen. On that farm he grew to manhood, his education being acquired in the school of his district. In 1874, having attained his majority, he left the parental homestead and went to Lanesboro, Fillmore county, where for a year he was clerk in a general store. In 1875, returning to Houston county, he formed a partnership with O. B. Olson, and on May 1 they opened a general store in Caledonia, which they operated under the firm name of Olson & Lommen until 1880. The stock was then divided and the partnership dissolved, Mr. Olson going to Preston to engage in business, while Mr. Lommen remained in Caledonia. In 1882 Mr. Lommen purchased the store building and in the following year rebuilt and enlarged it, and it is now one of the largest in the village, being a solid brick structure measuring 52½ by 60 feet, with two stories and basement, two apartments and double windows. At the time he made these improvements Mr. Lommen put in a full line of general merchandise, including dry goods and farm machinery. In 1899 he incorporated the business as J. P. Lommen Company, at the same time becoming president of the company, which position he still retains. During the years of his heaviest trade he carried a stock valued at about \$35,000 and did a business of over \$100,000, a result achieved by industry and capacity, united with a scrupulous honesty in all his transactions. In addition to his important mercantile interests Mr. Lommen is the owner of a large farm of 320 acres in the Red River Valley, which he operates with the assistance of his son, and also has extensive real estate holdings in the village of Caledonia. For eight years he served as a member of the village council, a part of the time as president, and he has always manifested a keen interest in every practical movement for the benefit of the community in which he resides, as well as of the county in general. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. Mr. Lommen was mar-



J. P. LOMMEN

ried, Oct. 29, 1875, to Sarah Quarve, of Spring Grove. She died in October, 1902, leaving seven children: Georgiana, Josephine, Peter, John S., William, Lucille and Harold. Georgiana, who was graduated from the Caledonia High School, the Winona State Normal School and the Minnesota State University, is now a teacher at the University farm. Josephine, who acquired her education in the Caledonia High School and the Winona State Normal School, has for several years been a primary teacher in the Caledonia schools. Peter, who was educated in the Caledonia High School, is residing at home. John S., whose literary and professional education was acquired in the Caledonia High School and the Chicago Dental College, and served with the United States forces in France. William also attended the Caledonia High School, subsequently became foreman in the motor testing department of the Twin City Tractor Company, and served in France with the American forces. Lucille, after leaving the Caledonia High School, was graduated as a nurse from the Lutheran Hospital at La Crosse and for some time was superintendent of the health department of that city. She is now superintendent of nurses at the Lutheran Hospital. Harold, who was educated in the Caledonia High School and St. Paul College of Law, is now a practicing attorney. It will thus be seen that all of Mr. Lommen's children have received a good mental training and are doing useful work of a high character, reflecting credit on their upbringing.

Mr. Lommen has many interesting stories to tell of his boyhood in the early days. As a youngster in those far-distant times he endured such hardships as the present generation has little conception of. In spite of his present broad information acquired by observation and reading, he had but little early education, such schooling as he was able to obtain being acquired during the few winter months when work was dull on the farm in a small frame building on practically the present site of the High School at Spring Grove. When he was only 10 years old he was able to plow alone with a yoke of oxen. At the age of 12 years he hauled his first load of grain to Brownsville. Grain was also hauled from here to Lansing, Iowa; La Crosse, Wis., and Rushford, Minn., many of which trips Mr. Lommen accompanied. The experience endured on these journeys he will never forget. Camping under the wagons where night overtook them, sometimes spending several days away from home, driving the oxen over the rough trails, often stuck in the deep prairie mud or in the muck of the swamps, beset with mosquitoes and other pests, the boy learned to endure privations and acquired that sturdiness of health that has since stood him in such good stead. Wheat in those days brought but little money and what little was obtained was usually spent for lumber and provisions for the little pioneer home, many of the millers paying only in trade. At the age of 16 he started to operate a threshing machine, run by horsepower. He worked from before sunrise until after dark, then, tired out, going sometimes three or more miles for the purpose of watering the horses. One fall he worked until after Christmas. The crew slept on the straw piles, and one night awoke to find themselves covered with a foot of snow. But such work was building up the country, and Mr. Lommen and his friends

lived to see a pioneer region develop into one of the most progressive and highly improved farming communities in the upper Mississippi Valley.

John Rank, formerly a well-known farmer and merchant of Riceford, who later engaged in agriculture and stock raising in Houston township, but is now living retired in La Crosse, was born near Berlin, Germany, Aug. 4, 1827. At the age of 21 he married Christina Krause, a native of the same locality as himself, born Nov. 10, 1830, and with his bride set out for America. Locating first in Portage county, Wisconsin, he worked out and attended school during the winter. After a brief residence there he removed to Onalaska, La Crosse county, where he also worked for others for a short time. Then moving to Riceford, Minn., he settled on a farm, which in time he increased to an area of 800 acres, also owning and operating a threshing outfit. In addition to this he engaged in the general mercantile business, conducting a store for many years. As each of his sons married he gave them a farm, except Peter H., whom he gave the store at Riceford when he moved to Houston township in 1888. Here he took a farm and engaged in stock buying, which was his main business for twelve years, at the end of which time he moved to Houston village. At the age of 80 years he retired and took up his residence in La Crosse, where he is now living in the enjoyment of good health. During his active career he served at various times on the local school board. He and his wife have been the parents of seven children: Peter H., John (deceased), George, William, Edward, Charles and Emma (deceased). Mrs. Rank died Dec. 12, 1916.

Charles A. Rank, who for a number of years was one of the enterprising farmers of Houston county and a citizen held in high esteem, was born at Riceford, Minn., May 12, 1870, son of John and Christina (Krause) Rank. He attended school at Riceford and also the Houston High School. After the removal of the family to Houston township in 1888 he took charge of the farm and was thus occupied, while his father was engaged in stock buying, until two years after his marriage, which occurred Jan. 10, 1892, his bride being Anna M. Chapel, daughter of Harvey and Julia (Wydhoff) Chapel. After two years' domestic life on the home farm he settled on a farm of 140 acres in section 8, Money Creek township, and engaged in agriculture and stock raising on his own account, making a specialty of the latter branch of industry. In course of time he increased the size of his farm to an area of 490 acres, which amount he owned at the time of his death on June 22, 1914, and to which his widow has since added 80 acres more. An active and enterprising man, he was one of the founders of the Money Creek Creamery and was a stockholder in both of the Houston banks. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Gale C., Genevieve E., Ralph Elsworth and Helen Viola. Gale C., who is a farmer in Money Creek township, married Laura Marie Wells, of Dodge Center, Minn., and has two children, Roland Charles and Ruth Marie. Genevieve E. is the wife of Arthur Ronnenberg, a farmer residing three miles west of Money Creek, and has one child, Caryl Arthur. Ralph Elsworth and Helen Viola are living on the home farm with their mother. All these children



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES RANK AND RESIDENCE

have received a good education and a careful home training, their mother having always been solicitous that they should be qualified to take a creditable place in society and be well equipped for all the duties of life. Herself a woman of unusual determination of character and business ability, she has capably managed the farm since her husband's death, besides, as above mentioned, increasing its area, and her home is one of the most modern and completely equipped in Houston county. She is a member of the Red Cross Society in Houston, and also of the Ladies' Aid Society, of which she was formerly president.

Matheias O. Myhre, a respected farmer of Black Hammer township, residing in section 7, was born in Gulbrandstahl, Norway, Dec. 22, 1866, son of Ole and Anna Myhre. At the age of 3 years he accompanied his parents to Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, the father working out for three years for Ole H. Hanson. In 1872 the family moved to Black Hammer township, where Matheias was reared to manhood, attending district school up to the age of 14 years. The household was a large one, numbering nine children, of whom the first three, John, Matheias O. and Ole, were born in Norway, and the others in Black Hammer township, Houston county. Those native born were: Lena, now Mrs. G. G. Arnsten, of Black Hammer township; Bertha, wife of Elling Karlsbratten, of Esmond, N. D.; John, deceased; Clara, wife of A. K. Dahle, of Black Hammer township; and Olaus and Tina, who are deceased. Matheias O. remained at home until 22 years of age. In December, 1893, he was married to Sophia, daughter of Peter and Gunil Moen, of Black Hammer township, and has since been engaged in agriculture and kindred occupations on his own account, owning a small farm in section 7 and also operating a portable sawmill and threshing outfit. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Black Hammer congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. He and his wife have been the parents of eight children: Gertrude, who is now Mrs. Clarence Hoff, of Yucatan township; Owen, who died Oct. 18, 1898; Innie C., died April 21, 1909; Sarah J., died March 23, 1904; Sarah J. (second); Peter; Juleman, died Nov. 15, 1909; and Ina C., who is residing at home.

Michael McCormick, who settled in Money Creek township, Houston county, at an early date and for awhile conducted agricultural operations in that township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to the United States in early manhood. In Caledonia, Houston county, he was married to Mary Gallagher, a native of County Mayo, Ireland, and they took land in Money Creek township and engaged in farming. After being thus occupied for awhile they left the county, taking 40 acres of timber land in Pleasant Hill township, Winona county. There being no buildings on the tract, they erected a log house and Mr. McCormick began the improvement of the place, with the aid of a yoke of oxen. There he and his wife made their home for the rest of their lives and finally died, each at the age of 72 years. They were Catholics in religious faith and were among the earliest members and active workers of the Catholic congregation in Pleasant Hill township. He also served as a member of the school board. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick had in all eight children, three of whom died in infancy.

Of these two were daughters—Catherine and Anna. Those who grew to maturity were: Mary, Christie, Matthew, James F. and Margaret.

Matthew McCormick, who has charge of the dray business for the Standard Oil Company's plant at Caledonia, was born in Pleasant Hill township, Winona county, Minnesota, March 4, 1872, son of Michael and Mary (Gallagher) McCormick. His early years were spent on the farm of his parents, where he was engaged in agriculture. Then coming to Houston county, he engaged in farming on shares on a farm of 480 acres in Black Hammer township and was thus occupied for twelve years, raising a good grade of cattle, sheep and hogs. At the end of that time he moved to Caledonia township, buying a tract of 80 acres, on which he followed agriculture for three years, finally, however, selling 40 acres of his land. Of the other 40 acres he is still the owner. About six years ago Mr. McCormick engaged in the dray business, securing the patronage of the Standard Oil Company, with which concern he is still connected. A Catholic in religion, he helped to build the parochial school connected with St. John's Catholic church of Caledonia. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. While living in Black Hammer township he served as path master.

Mr. McCormick married Rose McDonnell, who was born in Hokah, this county, daughter of Michael McDonnell. He and his wife have three children: Helen Rose, Mary Angeline and Leo Matthew.

Moses Emery, soldier of the Civil War, former clerk of court, former postmaster at Caledonia, prominent fraternity man and one of the county's most useful and active citizens, is now engaged in the coal and fuel business in Caledonia, where he is doing an excellent business and where he is held in high regard by all his townsmen. He was born in Morgan, Orleans county, Vt., April 10, 1847, son of Joshua and Sally (Hadley) Emery. Joshua Emery, a carpenter and farmer, brought his family to Minnesota in 1855 and settled in Rushford, Fillmore county, five years later coming to Money Creek, this county, where both died. They were honored, respected people, highly regarded by their neighbors and friends. Their ten children were as follows: Martha (deceased); Stephen, who died in 1862 while serving in the Civil War; Sarah, Betsy, Moses, Mary, George, Phoebe, Louisa and Belle. The son Moses was a boy of 7 when he came to Minnesota and of 12 when he came to Houston county. In July, 1864, then a youth of but 17 years, he enlisted in Company K, 11th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until July, 1865, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Money Creek. Feeling the desirability of a better educational equipment, he enrolled as a student in the High School at Winona, which he attended two years. Then he went to Rushford, in Fillmore county, and clerked in a store there the year that the Southern Minnesota railroad was being constructed to that place. Subsequently locating in La Crescent, this county, he became purchasing agent and salesman for the Toledo Woolen Mills at La Crescent, Minn., and later salesman for Pratt & Hall, Chicago shoe dealers, and remained in their employ two years. In 1875 he engaged in the general mercantile business at Money Creek, this county, and the same year was appointed postmaster.



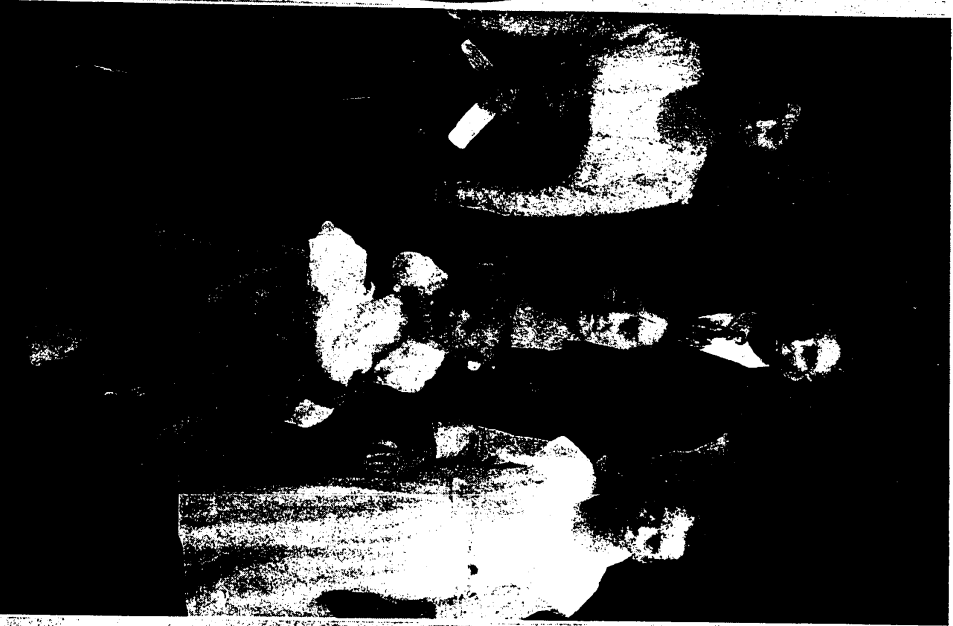
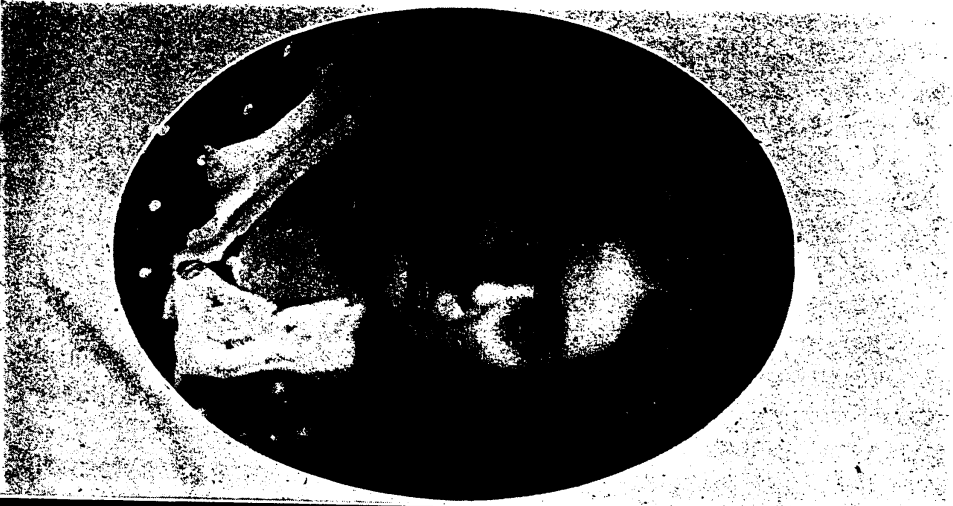
MR. AND MRS. MOSES EMERY

In the fall of 1886 he was elected county clerk of court. He took office the following January and in April, 1887, moved to Caledonia. About 1891 he opened a clothing store in Caledonia. By re-election he served as clerk of court for eight years. In 1897 he became postmaster at Caledonia. In this capacity he established the first three rural delivery routes in southern Minnesota, emanating from the Caledonia office, and before the close of his term he had established three more. After retiring from the postmastership Mr. Emery and his wife made a trip to Montana to visit their daughter, Gertrude, who with her husband resides on a ranch near Glendive. After a six months' stay there they went to South Dakota and remained a year and a half, proving up on a homestead on the newly opened Cheyenne Indian reservation, on which they lived for two years, or until they had proved up on their property. Then returning to Montana they resided in that state about a year. In the fall of 1912 they returned to Houston county, and in 1914 Mr. Emery engaged in his present business as coal and fuel dealer. In addition to the offices mentioned Mr. Emery has served in several other positions, such as town clerk and member of the town board in Money Creek township. He was also postmaster at Money Creek village, making in all over twenty-five years that he has served as postmaster in this county. For more than half a century he has been a member of the Masonic order, having joined Mystic Circle Lodge, U. D., A. F. & A. M., at Houston in 1868, and during all that remarkably long period he has been an active and useful member of the order. For many years he has belonged to Caledonia Lodge, No. 20, A. F. & A. M., of which he is past master. He also helped to organize Oriental Lodge, No. 84, at Money Creek, and Eagle Butte Lodge, No. 174, at Eagle Butte, S. D. Mr. Emery was married, Feb. 9, 1875, to Anna Webster, who was born in Hayesville, Ohio, in March, 1856, daughter of William and Martha (Thompson) Webster. This union has been blessed with three children: Leslie W., Gertrude L. and Hazel M. Leslie W. was born May 7, 1876, and is now a grain buyer at Spencer, Iowa. He was married in November, 1902, to Sophia Langen, and they have four children, George, Donald, May and John Webster. Gertrude L. was born Nov. 10, 1882, and was married in October, 1907, to W. S. King, of Burns, Mont. She has two children, William and Virginia A. Hazel M. was born April 22, 1886, and was married in September, 1909, to D. C. Mero, assistant cashier in the Sprague State Bank at Caledonia. She has one child, Eugene Emery. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian church.

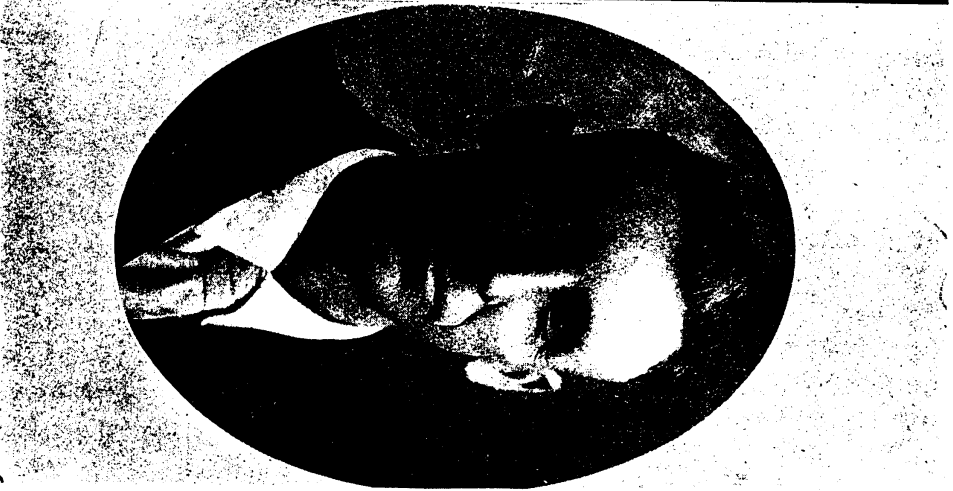
Nels Nelson, who was formerly engaged in the work of agricultural improvement in Houston township, but is now deceased, was born in Sweden, where he grew up and was married. With his wife Carrie he emigrated to Norway and later in 1885 to the United States, coming directly to Houston county and settling in the southern part of Houston township. There he took land and engaged in farming, which was his occupation until the closing years of his life. His death took place in October, 1901. His wife now resides with a son in Amery, Wis. In the family there were seven children, of whom there are now living three, Charles, Gust and Alfred D.

Alfred D. Nelson, an enterprising and successful farmer, residing in section 18, Money Creek township, was born near Christiana, Norway, March 6, 1872, son of Nels and Carrie Nelson, natives of Sweden, who moved to Norway and in 1885 came to America and settled in Houston township, this county. Alfred D. thus became a resident of this county when he was 13 years of age. He attended the district school in Storer Valley and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. At the age of 19 he rented a farm for himself in Mound Prairie township. Five years later, with his brother, he purchased a farm in Houston county and resided on it another five or six years. At the end of that period he purchased his present farm. This place contains 160 acres of valuable land, which Mr. Nelson has continued to develop and improve. He remodeled the house, ornamented it with pebble dash, added a large sun porch, well screened, and supplied it with a hot-air heating plant, an electric lighting equipment and other conveniences. He has also constructed and remodeled his other buildings. For the comfort and convenience of himself and family he has acquired a six-passenger Buick automobile. He successfully carries on general farming, keeps good graded Holstein stock and does a prosperous business. He has equipped his farm with the latest tools and equipment and does much of his work with the aid of a Case tractor. A Hinman milking machine furnishes him with facilities for milking his twenty-five cows. At Houston he is president of the Houston Creamery Company and a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator, and he is likewise a stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company branch at Plano, Ill. His fraternal relations are with the Yeomen. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson was married in November, 1900, to Sena Henderson, who was born in Houston county, daughter of Julius Henderson. Her parents, natives of Norway, were early settlers in Houston county. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, all of whom are residing at home, namely: Ella Gladys, Henry L., Cora, Olive, Albin and Eileen Avis.

Ole O. Tollefsrud, who developed a fine farm in Spring Grove township, of which he was a resident for most of his life, was born in section 32, that township, Oct. 31, 1859, son of Ole and Leszczie Tollefsrud. His parents, who had arrived from Norway in the spring of that year, settled in section 26, Spring Grove township, on the farm on which he was reared to manhood. As they were poor and the country wild, he had but limited educational opportunities, being obliged to work at an early age, and remained on the home farm until his marriage. That event occurred Feb. 21, 1883, when he took for his bride Gurine, daughter of Knute and Annie Storlie, of section 9, Spring Grove township. Buying a farm of 150 acres in section 29, in that township, of which seven or eight acres had been broken, he began farming on his own account, he and his wife making their home in a three-room log house, which continued to be their dwelling place for more than twenty years. Working together they cleared their land and in time built a good two-story frame house of eight rooms, with a detached summer kitchen; a frame barn, 32 by 50 by 18 feet, with full basement; a machine shed, 16 by 30; a granary, 16 by 24, and other neces-



ALFRED D. NELSON AND FAMILY



sary buildings. In 1906 Mr. Tollefsrud bought 120 acres in sections 28 and 29, half a mile north of the old home, and improved the place by the erection of good buildings, renting it to his son Oscar from 1908 to 1913, when the latter bought it. He also bought twenty acres adjoining and which lay in the village of Mabel. In addition to this property he was the owner of eleven city blocks in Austin, Minn. In 1912 Mr. Tollefsrud sold the old home farm to his son Clarence and moved to Mabel, where he owned a good house. There he died in 1916 after a sickness of eight months, having previously enjoyed good health. He had always been a hard working man and had enjoyed a career of great prosperity, in addition to the interests already mentioned, being a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, of Mabel, and the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. In politics a Republican, he served his district on the school board for a number of years. His religious affiliations were with the Mabel congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. A good husband, kind father and faithful friend, he was also a useful and public spirited citizen, always ready to lend his aid to a worthy cause, whether for the moral or material welfare of the community, and was highly respected and esteemed by his fellow citizens. His wife, who survives him, is still a resident of Mabel. The children born to them were as follows: Clarence Olaus (first), born Jan. 27, 1884, who died March 27, 1884; Lena Albertina, born Feb. 8, 1885, now the wife of Nels Olsgard, a farmer of Spring Grove township; Clarence Olaus (second), born Jan. 11, 1887, who is now on the old farm; Oscar Reginus, born March 29, 1889, now farming in Spring Grove township; Olga Gustine, born June 5, 1891, wife of Gust Larson, of Spring Grove township; Anna Clarine, born Aug. 8, 1893, wife of R. B. Gullings, of Minneapolis; Leonard Elginus, born Sept. 7, 1896; Mabel Genova, born Jan. 17, 1898, now the wife of Thomas A. Trehus, of Spring Grove; Lilly Viola, April 30, 1901; Richard Odine, Sept. 25, 1903, and Milford Alvin, June 13, 1906, who are residing at home in Mabel and attending school.

Dr. J. W. Browning, a prominent Canadian physician, was born in Somerset, England, in 1845, the son of William Joseph Browning, an English watchmaker, who brought his family to Canada in the early fifties. Dr. Browning received his degree from the Victoria University of Toronto and has since practiced his profession successfully in Exeter, in the Province of Ontario. As is the custom with physicians in many Canadian towns, he is also the proprietor of a drug store. He is interested in public welfare and has served as president of the County Reform Association of his county. He was married as a young man to Nellie Cash, who was born in Ontario in 1848 and died in 1875, the daughter of David Cash, a native of Wales, who for many years was a Canadian manufacturer. To this union were born two children: Addie, now Mrs. (Judge) George Mahaffy, of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, and William E., a physician and surgeon of Caledonia, Minn. After the death of his first wife Dr. Browning married Elizabeth E. McDonnell and to this union there have been born five children: H. J., a physician in Manitoba; Percy H., connected with the Dominion Rubber Company at Toronto, Canada; Eva May, wife of George

Hawkins, of Exeter, Ontario; Earl F., a hardware merchant at Niagara, Canada; and Hazel L., wife of Ollie Becker, of Hamburg, Ontario.

William E. Browning, M. D., proprietor and house physician of the Caledonia Hospital, an institution in which the people of Houston county generally take a justifiable pride, is also widely known as a public spirited citizen, interested in and an active promoter of whatever is calculated to benefit the community in which he resides. Born at Exeter, Ontario, Canada, July 31, 1873, he is the son of Dr. J. W. and Nellie (Cash) Browning, and descends from a family noted for the number of its members who have achieved success in the medical profession. It was natural, therefore, that after receiving his literary education in the schools of his native village he should enter McGill University at Montreal, from which he was graduated in 1899. His medical education was further perfected by a few months of practice with his father, and in December of the year of his graduation he came to Caledonia and opened an office. His determination, even while in college, was to some time be at the head of a hospital of his own, and this ambition was realized when in 1903 he established the Caledonia Hospital, then a small institution but whose growth made necessary the erection of the present splendid and commodious structure five years later. Of this important institution he has continued to be the proprietor and house physician. His professional ability, combined with good business management, has caused it to take high rank among similar establishments in this region. Dr. Browning has long been an active member of various medical societies. He served for several years as president of the Houston and Fillmore Counties Medical Society, was formerly vice-president of the Southern Minnesota Medical Society, and is likewise a member of the Minnesota State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the British Medical Society and the Association of Railroad Surgeons of America, and holds a fellowship in the American College of Surgeons. He is president of the local pension board, Caledonia health officer and local surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway. Aside from his professional associations Dr. Browning has identified himself closely with the general interests of the community in which he lives and Houston county at large. For a number of years he was vice-president and for two years was president of the Commercial Club of Caledonia, having also served that club for some years as chairman of the roads committee. His interest in permanently improving rural highways is also shown by his work in the capacity as president of the Houston County Automobile Association. He has been chairman of the Houston County Chapter of the American Red Cross since its organization at the beginning of the war, and a member of the American Medical Corps. His intellectual interests extend far beyond the range of his profession and include a broad knowledge of several other sciences. At his downtown office, on the second floor of the Abbott Block, may be seen what is considered by many to be one of the best collections of Indian relics and curios and rare fossils in the state, a collection that has proved a source of entertainment and instruction to his friends, patients and other visitors. He is also a philatelist and numismatist of no mean acquirements, and his collection of stamps and coins, one



W. C. Browning.

of the most complete private exhibitions in the Northwest, has been gathered from practically all the civilized countries of the world. Dr. Browning is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic order. He is past master of the Blue Lodge of Caledonia and the past high priest of the local Chapter, also belongs to the Commandery at Preston, is a 32° K. C. C. H. in the Consistory at Winona, and is a member of the Mystic Shrine at St. Paul. By his marriage to Dorothy J. Gould in 1900 he has one son, E. Reginald.

The Caledonia Hospital, of which Dr. William E. Browning is resident physician and proprietor, is one which might well be a source of pride to any town or community. Few establishments of the kind anywhere have a more complete equipment or more attractive surroundings. To a large group of patients who find it necessary to report to hospitals or sanitariums, the surroundings and the atmosphere are of greater importance in effecting a cure than the purely mechanical equipment. This fact has been kept in mind by Dr. Browning ever since he established Caledonia Hospital in 1903. The present building, erected in 1908, is a handsome three-story structure, with ten acres of land forming a part of the estate, and is as far removed as possible from the associations and appearance of an institution, and yet it is constructed with modern fireproof features and equipment of the best establishments of its kind. With its outer walls completely overgrown with ivy, approached by a curving driveway, and the grounds adorned with shrubs and flowers, the aspect is such as to suggest rather the atmosphere of a beautiful country home than a hospital. Among the details of construction may be noted a hydraulic elevator, hot water and steam heat, a private gas plant for lighting and heating, five large bathrooms, tile floors and walls, marble partitions and other approved arrangements, all of them measuring up to the best standards of sanitation and convenience. The service of the Caledonia Hospital affords not only the useful facilities found in such institutions, but is especially designed to minister to the comfort and home feeling of patients and promote their complete cure, and in this respect is equal to that of the best sanitariums in the country. The hospital has accommodations for twenty patients, and the staff consists of one hospital trained graduate physician as interne; the superintendent, Mrs. C. M. Cochrane, R. N., who has been in charge of the institution since its organization, and three regular nurses, while others are employed as needed. While Dr. Browning is proprietor of the hospital, its equipment and facilities are at the service of other legitimate physicians, and it is therefore in all essential respects a public institution and of much importance to Caledonia and the vicinity.

William Beneke, who owns and operates an excellent farm of 320 acres in sections 29, 30 and 32, Jefferson township, was born in Germany, Jan. 9, 1871, son of Henry and Dorathea Beneke. When he was 5 years old his mother died, and his father subsequently married Elizabeth Backhouse, and in 1883 brought William and his brother Henry to America. William had attended school in his native land until about 12 years old, and after coming to this country he attended an English school for about three months. After working on the home farm with his father until about 22

years old he went to North Dakota, where he remained two years. Then returning he spent one year at home, at the end of which time he bought 120 acres in section 32, the land having an old building on it, but there being few other improvements. From that small beginning he has developed his present farm of 320 acres, provided with a fine residence, barns and outbuildings, the estate as a whole being one of the best farms in Jefferson township, an example of successful industry that has won the admiration of all his neighbors. He breeds Black Poll Angus cattle and Poland-China swine, and is a stockholder in the Eitzen Creamery and the Stock & Produce Company of New Albin, Iowa. At times he has served in public office, having been town clerk five years, town supervisor six years and town treasurer one year. He is a trustee of St. John's Evangelical church, of Union City, Iowa. Mr. Beneke was married, April 24, 1897, to Mary Meyer, a native of Winnebago township, Houston county. They are the parents of nine children: Ella, Edwin, Alma, Freda, Hilda, William, Louis, Olga and Norma.

John Ostern, one of the earliest settlers in Wilmington township, was born near Christiania, Norway, and grew up in his native land, where he married Karen Engebretson, a native of the same locality. In 1851 he came to the United States, first settling in Pine Creek, Iowa, where he and his family remained for one year. In 1852 they came to Houston county, settling on wild land in Wilmington township. The principal inhabitants of the county at that time were the Indians, as very few whites had then settled here. Mr. Ostern's tract consisted of 80 acres, on which he built a small log cabin and began the labor of grubbing with a yoke of oxen. After he had begun raising produce he used to haul it to Brownsville or to Lansing, Iowa, the trips being long and difficult, not only on account of the distance but also, and chiefly, because of the poor roads. For a number of years he and his wife were very poor, but they persevered, and after Mr. Ostern had grubbed all of his original 80 acres he bought another 200-acre tract. Later as his circumstances improved he built a larger and more comfortable log house, which forms a part of the present residence, occupied by his son, Edward J. Ostern. After a long and industrious career Mr. Ostern died in January, 1898, at the age of 67 years. He was survived by his wife, who passed away March 15, 1910, aged 77. They had a family of eight children: Mary, now deceased, who was the wife of Ole Vermager, of Mabel, Minn.; Edward J., previously mentioned; Hans, now a farmer in Delmar, N. D.; Marn, now deceased, who was the wife of John Anderson, of Allamakee county, Iowa; Hanna, now Mrs. Hans Braaten, her husband being a farmer in Anagard, N. D.; Olaus, who is farming in Wilmington township; Christ, now deceased; and Theodore, who is a resident of Anagard, N. D.

Edward J. Ostern, a well-known and prosperous general farmer of Wilmington township, residing in section 29, was born in section 28, this township, son of John and Karen (Engebretson) Ostern. He was educated in the district school, which he attended up to the age of 15 years, and worked on the home farm, assisting his father until his marriage, Feb. 25, 1878, to Marie, daughter of Ole and Soneve Sanness, her parents being

neighbors of the Osterns. He then began farming on his own account, buying 100 acres of his father, the tract of land being provided with a log house and straw sheds. From that beginning he has developed his present farm of 160 acres in sections 28 and 29, and is also the owner of 17½ acres of timber near Bee village, in section 33. One hundred acres of Mr. Ostern's farm is under cultivation, the rest being in timber and pasture. The soil is productive and the farm well fenced. Mr. Ostern has remodeled the house, having sheeted and sided the original log portion and added a frame wing, and it is now a very comfortable residence. He has also built a frame barn, 36 by 50 by 16 feet, together with other buildings, including a granary, double corncrib, poultry house, hog house, summer kitchen and woodshed, all of frame construction and painted. His equipment is also complete and of modern type, while his stock consists chiefly of graded Shorthorn cattle, Duroc and Poland-China hogs and Shropshire sheep. In addition to the profit derived from his farm he is also a stockholder in the Honey Creamery, the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company and the Spring Grove Hospital. In politics he is a Republican, while religiously of the Wilmington congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Ostern ten children have been born: John, April 7, 1881; Olaf, May 20, 1883; Sophia, Jan. 14, 1886; Martin, Dec. 22, 1888; Henry, May 8, 1890; Melvin, Dec. 19, 1893; Cora, May 15, 1894; Emil, Aug. 23, 1896; Bertha, Nov. 23, 1898; and Ole, June 23, 1901. John is now a prosperous farmer at Elgin, N. D.; Olaf, a carpenter by trade, is residing on the home farm; Sophia is the wife of Julius Bergrud, a carpenter of Elgin, N. D.; Martin is in the employ of the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company; Henry is a farmer in Wilmington township; Melvin is helping his father on the home farm; Cora is the wife of Henry Peterson, a farmer of Mabel, Minn.; Emil died at Camp Grant, Ill., Oct. 11, 1918; Bertha is now Mrs. Albert Holin, of Black Hammer township; Ole, who has graduated from the eighth grade of the common schools, is still on the home farm. The family is one highly respected throughout this part of the county.

James McManimon, founder of the old McManimon farm in section 8, Yucatan township, who died in November, 1900, was born in New York State and was a boy when he came to Houston county, where he later engaged in farming. For a few years he resided in Houston township, but later settled on the homestead above mentioned, which was then wild land. This he subsequently improved into a good farm of 300 acres. His widow has now 180 acres in the homestead, which is operated by her son Leo. She was born in this county near Hokah, her maiden name being Bridget Harihan.

James Francis McManimon, a general farmer, operating 140 acres of land in section 8, Yucatan township, was born in this township July 8, 1886, son of James and Bridget (Harihan) McManimon. He was the second born in their family of seven children, and attended school in District No. 18, Yucatan township. Until the spring of 1915 he resided on the home farm, which he helped to cultivate and improve. He then bought his present farm, which adjoins the old homestead and contains 140 acres of valuable land, and which he is operating successfully as a general stock and grain

farm. He is a member of the Catholic church of Houston and of the Knights of Columbus at Caledonia. Independent in politics, he has served efficiently as a member of the town board. Mr. McManimon was married, Nov. 4, 1916, to Helen Ryan, who was born in Money Creek township, Houston county, daughter of Michael Ryan. Her father, who was a farmer, is now deceased, but her mother is living in Money Creek township. Mrs. McManimon died May 7, 1917, after a short married life of six months.

De Costa Rhines, M. D., a leading physician and citizen of Caledonia, was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, Jan. 18, 1858, son of George W. and Julia (Lincoln) Rhines. After completing his school attendance in the Jackson (Mich.) High School in 1882 he entered the Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago, Ill., and was graduated in the class of 1884. He immediately opened an office and began practice at Rives Junction, Mich., but in July of the same year (1884) came to Houston, Minn., where he practiced his profession until 1898. During his residence there he was for several years a member of the city council, serving one year as its president. In 1899 he came to Caledonia and bought out Dr. Freeman and here he has since remained. He has won a high reputation as an able member of his profession and has built up a lucrative practice, both in the city and country. From 1903 until Jan. 1, 1919, Dr. Rhines was a member of the Belden-Fullerton-Rhines Medical Company, and for several years he served as county coroner. He is a member of the Houston and Fillmore Counties Medical Society, serving also on its board of censors; also of the Minnesota State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. As a public spirited citizen he has identified himself closely with local interests. He was for two years president of the village council of Caledonia, was for some time a member of the board of education, and is at the present time an active and efficient member of the Commercial Club. He was also chairman of the second, third, fourth and fifth Liberty Loan committees. Politically he is independent. Dr. Rhines' fraternal society affiliations are with the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. As a Mason he belongs to Caledonia Lodge, No. 20, of which he is past master; also to the Caledonia chapter and Winona Consistory. His business interests include those of a stockholder in the Caledonia State Bank. Dr. Rhines was married in Jackson county, Michigan, March 15, 1883, to Addie M. Peterson. Two children have been born of this union: Ray N., Feb. 11, 1885, and Hazel L., July 15, 1889. Ray N., who married Marie Shuler, is now manager of the mechanical department of the Northwestern Newspaper Company at Billings, Mont. Hazel L., who was graduated from the Winona State Normal School and was for several years a proficient teacher, is now residing at home.

Olaus J. Ostern, who owns and operates a good farm in section 20, Wilmington township, was born in this township, Aug. 7, 1869, son of John E. and Karen Ostern. After beginning his studies he attended the district school regularly up to the age of 12 years, and after that during the winters until he was 16, most of his time outside of school hours being devoted to work on the farm. On Oct. 11, 1894, he was married to Caroline Smerud, daughter of Lars and Guro Smerud, of Wilmington township, and



DR. D. C. RHINES

he and his wife began housekeeping on a farm of 120 acres in section 20, which he had bought of his father-in-law and which is now the Oliver Myhre farm. There was a small frame house on it, but no barn. There he resided for ten years, at the end of which time he sold it to Nicolai Nelson and returned to his parents' farm, where he spent the next four or five years. Mr. Ostern then bought 80 acres adjoining the first farm on the north, it being all improved land, with a comfortable frame house, a small stable and other buildings. Besides improving the house he has erected a frame barn, 24 by 40 by 16 feet in size, with a lean-to of 14 by 40 for cattle, also a corncrib and machine shed. All the buildings are painted and in good condition, and the farm equipment is complete and of modern type. Sixty-five acres of the land are under the plow, the rest being in pasture and timber. Mr. Ostern carries on diversified farming with profitable results. The stock consists chiefly of grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, the herds having full-blooded sires. In addition to the profit he derives from his farm, Mr. Ostern is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company, the Spring Grove Hospital and the Honey Creamery at Bee, of which he was one of the organizers. He and his wife have been the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are now living: John Alfred, born Dec. 3, 1894; Louis Gerhard, born Dec. 27, 1901; Minerva Cedella, born March 11, 1903; Odin Carlton, born Sept. 21, 1906; Alma Otella, born March 12, 1907; Morris Tilford, born Nov. 3, 1913; and Gilma Elida, born April 15, 1915. Mr. Ostern and his family are religiously affiliated with the Wilmington congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

Harvey Snure, at one time a resident of Hokah and for a number of years one of the leading citizens of Houston county, which he represented in the State Legislature, was born in Canada, Dec. 23, 1841. At the age of 14 he went to Chicago, where he remained until coming to Hokah in 1865. Here he entered the employ of the railroad on the Southern Minnesota division, but later engaged in business with W. F. Weber in Hokah as a dealer in hardware and farm machinery. In 1880 he was elected to the State Legislature, but resigned in the following year to become county treasurer, at the same time moving to Caledonia. After holding the office of treasurer until 1904 he went to St. Paul, where he entered the state auditor's office, in which he is now serving. Mr. Snure married Lilla Weber, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, April 28, 1849, and they have been the parents of four children.

Frank H. Snure, county treasurer of Houston county, was born in Hokah, Houston county, Minn., Oct. 31, 1875, son of Harvey and Lilla Snure. In his boyhood he attended public school in Caledonia, where his father was then serving as county treasurer, and after leaving school he became assistant in the office of register of deeds there. In December, 1897, he went into the Bank of Caledonia, with which he was connected for nine consecutive years, obtaining a good insight into banking methods. After that he spent two years in North Dakota, working in banks at Casselton and Blanchard, and going from that state to Wayzata, Minn., where he was connected with a bank for seven years. At the end of that

time, or in 1915, he returned to Houston county, locating at La Crescent, and entered into business as a general merchant in partnership with his brother George, but a year later purchased his brother's interest. He is at present county treasurer, an office filled by his father for twenty-three years—from 1881 to 1904. While at La Crescent he served as village clerk. In this latter office he had experience while living in Wayzata, also being a member of the school board there. He is a Republican in politics and was a member and one of the trustees of the Presbyterian church in La Crescent. Mr. Snure was married, Aug. 17, 1904, to Achsa Burgess, daughter of Thomas C. and Florence (Doe) Burgess. He and his wife have three children: Achsa, Frank and Florence. Thomas C. Burgess, father of Mrs. Snure, was born of Scotch parents in New York City, Oct. 2, 1853, and his wife in Milford, Me., in 1853. In the spring of 1883 he came west to Minneapolis, where he was freight solicitor for the Chicago, Great Eastern, Grand Trunk & Pacific railroad, with which he was connected ever since graduating from the high school, a period covering forty-eight years. He died March 17, 1919. He and his wife have had five children, of whom Achsa (Mrs. Snure) was the third in order of birth.

Alexander Quenett, one of the pioneer settlers of Money Creek township, long since deceased, was born in Steuben county, New York, where he married Clarinda Gelucia, a native of the same county. They removed to Pennsylvania and in the fall of 1857 came from the latter state to Houston county, Minnesota, taking land in Money Creek township, where Mr. Quenett began the work of improvement. After residing there a short time the Civil War broke out and in 1862 Mr. Quenett enlisted as a soldier. He was one of those brave defenders of the Union who went out never to return, as he died while in the service, leaving the work he had begun to be taken up and finished by others. His widow continued her residence in Houston county for the rest of her life, dying in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Quenett had six children.

Will Quenett, proprietor of a farm of 180 acres in section 19, Sheldon township, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, May 20, 1857, son of Alexander and Clarinda (Gelucia) Quenett. His parents removed to Houston county in the year of his birth, and a few years later his father died while serving as a soldier in the Union army, leaving the mother with six children to struggle along on a new farm in Money Creek township. Young Will attended district school for a short time, but had to contribute to his own support when but 10 years old, beginning work as a herd boy for farmers. Later he learned the cooper's trade and on his marriage took up his residence in Houston, where he followed his trade for about twelve years. At the end of that time he engaged in agricultural work, taking his present farm a year later. As a general farmer he has met with good success and is enjoying a well earned prosperity. He also owns residence property in Houston, to which place he expects some time to retire when he has finished his career of usefulness on the farm. Politically he is an adherent of the Democratic party. Mr. Quenett was married, Jan. 1, 1885, to Mary O'Connor, who was born in Sheldon township, daughter of Owen and Winifred (Mulligan) O'Connor, who were pioneer



TARGE LEWIS AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. JOHN LEAVIS—MR. AND MRS. HALVOR BAKER

settlers in this township, both being natives of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Quenett have three children, James Francis, Agatha Ella and Wilfred Ambrose, and an adopted daughter, Myrtle Anna, whom they have reared from infancy. James Francis is now operating a large farm in Caledonia township, his sister Agatha Ella residing with him. Wilfred Ambrose is a veteran of the United States military service.

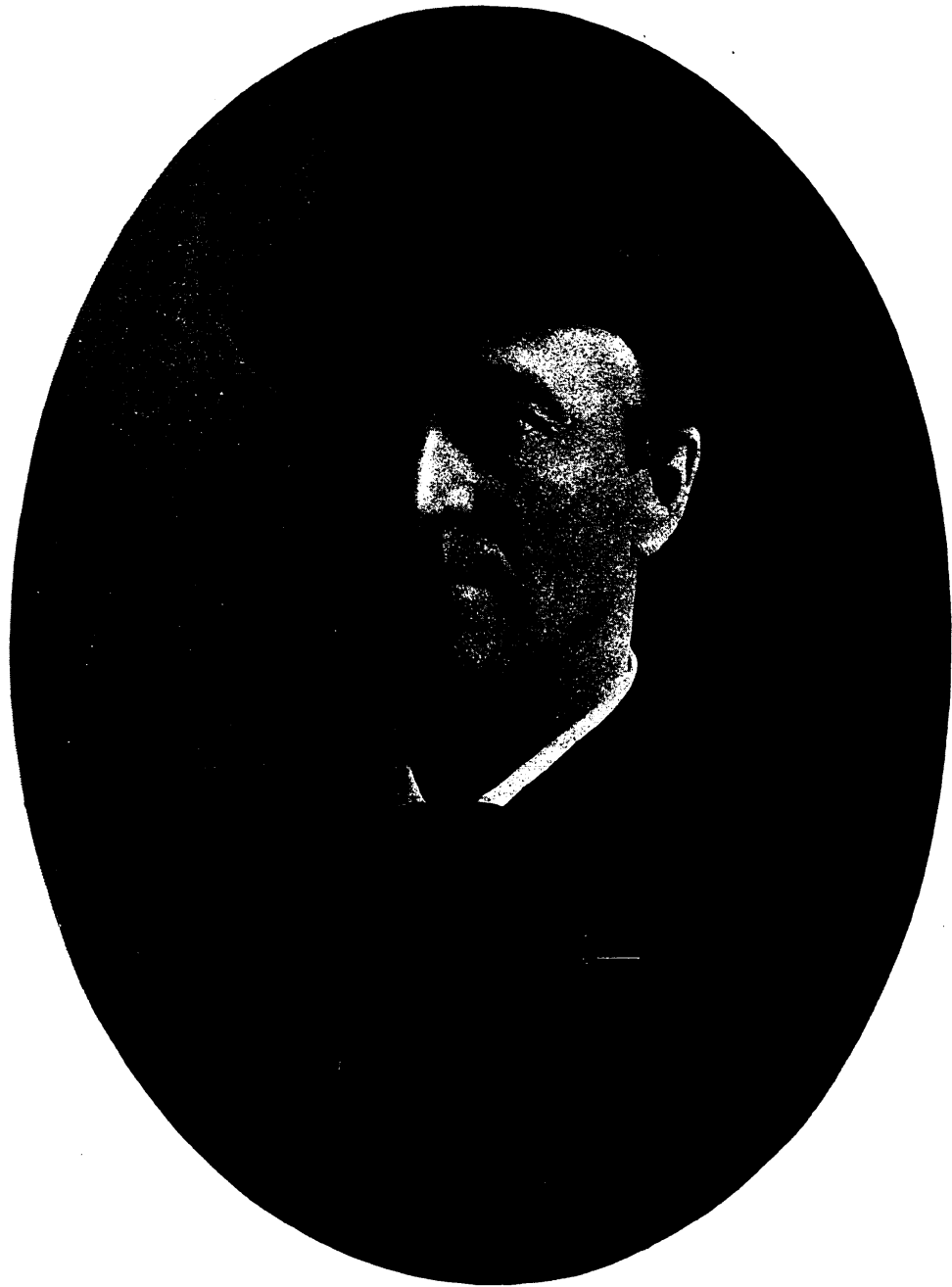
Targe J. Lewis, proprietor of the old Lewis homestead in section 10, Yucatan township, was born in this township, April 14, 1885, son of John and Signe (Gadsteid) Lewis. He attended school on Oak Ridge in this township, and after a good agricultural training on the home farm at the age of 19 he rented it and has since resided here. He has 320 acres of valuable land and has added to the improvements, the estate being now operated by him as a general stock farm. He has met with good success and by hard work and application to business has placed himself among the prosperous farmers of his township. He is also a shareholder in the Rushford elevator. In politics a Republican, he is now serving as treasurer of the school board, while his religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Lewis was married, Feb. 10, 1915, to Julia Baker, who was born in Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., March 29, 1891, daughter of Halvor and Osloug Baker, who were natives of Telemarken, Norway. He and his wife have two children, Helen Alletta and Gehard Joseph.

Harry Pearley Kumm, head butter maker and general manager of the Houston creamery, was born two miles south of Spring Valley, in Fillmore county, Minn., Oct. 20, 1886, son of August and Amelia (Klebesadel) Kumm. The parents were natives of Germany, but were married in Minnesota, the father coming to this country in 1867 when 19 or 20 years old. He and his wife settled in Fillmore county, where he now owns land and is engaged in farming. Harry Pearley Kumm was the fifth born of his parents' eight children. He attended school in Spring Valley and at the age of 14 years began working out. When somewhat more advanced in years he entered the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota, where he was graduated from the dairy course. His first position as creamery helper was at Spring Valley, where he remained for six years. He then took a position as butter maker at Cascade, Mont., and afterwards at Elizabeth, Minn. From the latter place he went to the State Creamery for a short time, then spent two years at Mabel, Minn., from which place he came to Houston to assume the duties of his present position, in which he has shown a high degree of proficiency. Mr. Kumm is also a musician, a good performer on the clarinet, and was formerly instructor of the Spring Valley Harp Orchestra. He belongs to Camp No. 262, Modern Woodmen of America, at Spring Valley. In politics he is independent, and he attends the Methodist Episcopal church. He was married, Jan. 4, 1918, to Ruth Diana Bischoff, of Minneapolis, and this union has been blessed with a daughter, Eleanore Lorraine, born Oct. 14, 1918.

Edwin N. Newhouse, county auditor of Houston county, was born in the village of Caledonia, this county, Oct. 11, 1886, son of Nels T. Newhouse. After graduation from the Spring Grove High School in 1903 he

entered the La Crosse Business University, where he took his diploma in 1905. After that for about seven years he worked for his father in a store at Spring Grove. In 1914 he was elected county auditor on the Republican ticket, with a plurality of over 600, and has since served in that office, his record having been fully satisfactory to his fellow citizens throughout the county generally. During the great war he trained for several months in an officers' training camp. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Caledonia, and of the Modern Woodmen of America at Spring Grove. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Charles W. Metcalf, one of the earliest settlers in Houston county, was born in South Hampton, Mass., on May 21, 1829. His youth and early manhood were spent in his native state amid historical scenes and with salutary moral and religious surroundings. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, in which he continued all his life, except for a short period to be hereafter mentioned. In the spring of 1854, a young man of about 24 years, he joined the tide of westward emigration, knowing that in the western and northwestern states and territories he should find a richer and more fertile soil and be able to acquire land at a nominal cost. Another cause influenced his move to the West. He was married, Sept. 25, 1853, to Sarah Stewart, whose parents, Edwin and Lucy Stewart, were of East Granby, Conn., had moved to Houston county, Minnesota, in 1853, and whom he and his young wife wished to join. In the spring of 1854 the youthful couple arrived in this county and took 120 acres of wild land in section 24, Caledonia township. The tract was a part of the wilderness, there being as yet no roads. Mr. Metcalf started farming with few resources save those of a stout heart and willing hands, and it may be added as equally important the very helpful co-operation of a devoted and courageous wife, who cheerfully braved the perils and hardships of frontier life and did her full share in the development of their home. Their log house, erected by Mr. Metcalf, was one of the first in the section and, like all the other pioneer settlers, Mr. Metcalf used oxen in breaking his land. Time went on and the Civil War broke out. About that time (May, 1862), perhaps owing to hardships endured, Mrs. Metcalf's health became impaired. Believing that a change of air and scene was necessary, her husband resolved to give up the farm for a while and, with his family and a few others, which then included two children, Lewis and Fannie, set out in wagons and on horseback in the spring of 1862 for Colorado—a somewhat hazardous trip at that time, but which was safely accomplished. There for some time Mr. Metcalf worked in the mines, and his wife, in the bracing air of that region, and with less hard work to do, gradually recovered her health. When it was fully re-established they resolved to return to Houston county, and again in December, 1865, traversed the long distance in a wagon, having with them at this time their two children. After an absence of three years and seven months, they once more came in sight of their pioneer home in Caledonia township and gladly resumed work amid the old familiar scenes. After a while Mr. Metcalf opened a meat market, but conducted it but a short time, as he soon found it more



T. T. BERGH

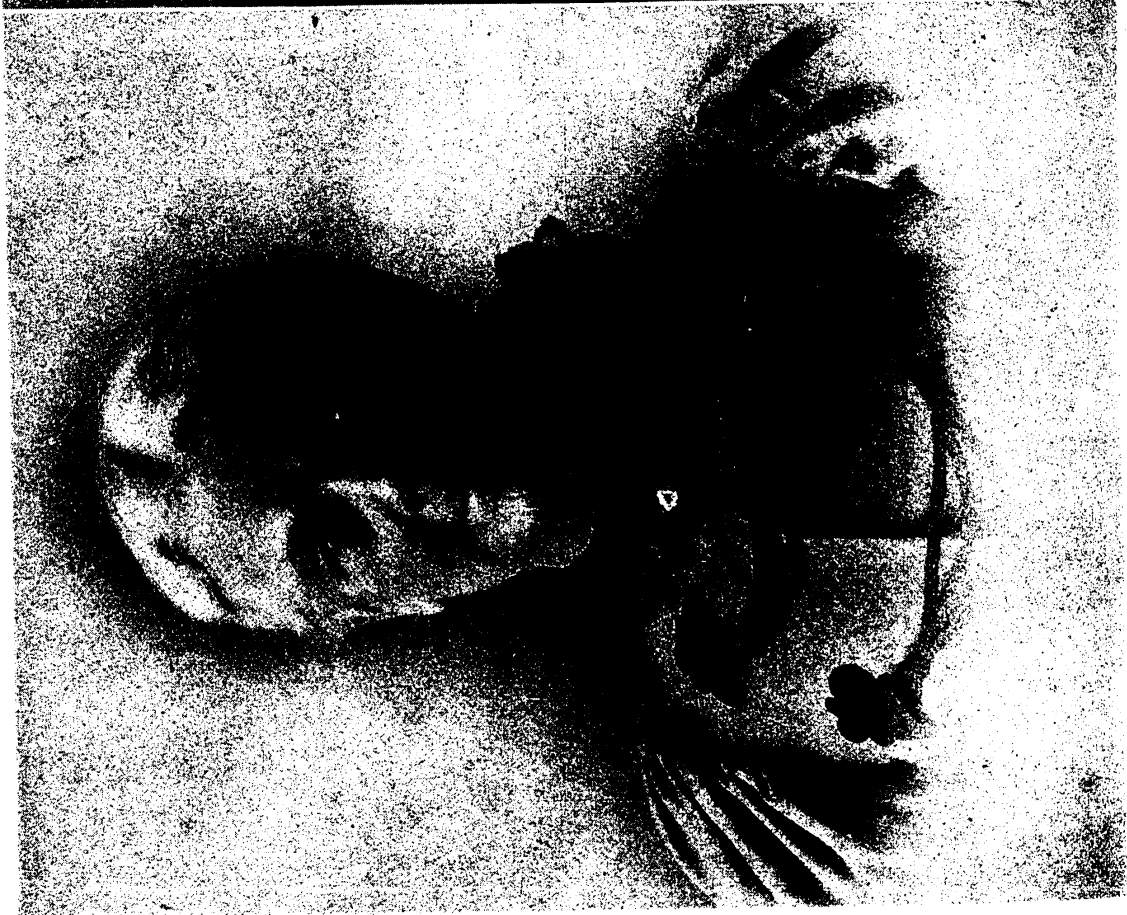
profitable to attend to the development of his farm, which his son Lewis, when he came in possession in after years named Cloverdale. In time he acquired more land and erected good frame buildings, raising good stock in addition to crops. He was a lover of good horses and owned some of the best in his locality. His wife's parents, Edwin and Lucy Stewart, owned an adjoining farm and close neighborly intercourse was carried on between the two families. But at last the final summons came to Mrs. Metcalf in July, 1882, who was born Feb. 2, 1833, at Ludlow, Mass., and she passed to the land beyond. Thus bereaved, Mr. Metcalf found that the old home had lost much of its attractiveness for him, and, being no longer young, he at last gave it up and took up his residence in the village of Caledonia, where he spent his last days. He and his wife were attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their four children Lewis is now dead, Fannie is the wife of L. A. Chattelle of Caledonia, Flora the wife of G. E. Andrews of Caledonia township, and Charles L., a prominent citizen of Caledonia, is now clerk of court for Houston county.

Charles L. Metcalf, clerk of the district court of Houston county, was born on his parents' farm in section 24, Caledonia township, this county, Aug. 5, 1872, son of Charles W. and Sarah (Stewart) Metcalf. After attending the public schools of Caledonia, he served an apprenticeship to the printer's trade and for several years was associated with P. J. Smalley in the office of the Caledonia Argus. After that he became proprietor of a livery stable in Caledonia, which he operated for five years. He then engaged in the buying of grain, being located at Spring Grove for one season, but at the end of that time, resuming newspaper work, was foreman for three years of the Caledonia Journal, and during two years of that time he served as village clerk. Then in 1907 he was again attracted to the journalistic field, becoming manager of the Spring Grove Herald, which position he held for three years, two months and ten days. In 1910 he was elected on the Republican ticket as clerk of the district court, beginning his duties Jan. 3, 1911. He has since continued in that office, having been re-elected in 1914, and again in 1918 by a majority over his opponent of 1,612 votes, a sufficient proof that his service has been satisfactory to the people of the county generally. He is a shareholder in the State Bank of Caledonia. Fraternally he belongs to the Blue Lodge and Chapter of the Masonic order, to the Woodmen of America, the Order of Yeomen, and the Odd Fellows' lodge at Hokah. On Dec. 21, 1898, Charles L. Metcalf was united in marriage with Hattie Belle Vance, daughter of W. A. and Abbie (Symes) Vance, her parents being natives of South Ryegate, Vermont, of old Vermont ancestry, her father being a brother of Judge David E. Vance, late probate judge of Winona county. Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf have one son, Charles Vance Metcalf, who was born Dec. 1, 1900.

Thore T. Bergh, a well-to-do resident of the village of Spring Grove, who conducts business in La Crosse as a dealer in musical instruments and automobiles, was born on a farm in Spring Grove township, Houston county, Minnesota, May 14, 1854, son of Tolef A. and Gunhild (Helde) Bergh. The parents came to this country from Norway in 1848, settling first at Orfordville, Wis., where they remained until 1852. Then coming

to Houston county, they settled on a tract of wild land in sections 16 and 17, Spring Grove township, which in time they cleared and developed into a good farm, well cultivated, fenced, and provided with neat and substantial buildings. There the father died, Jan. 14, 1912, and the mother March 19, 1910, after having raised themselves from poverty to comparative affluence. Thore T. Bergh, after acquiring his primary education in the common schools, took a course at the Wisconsin Business University in La Crosse, from which he was graduated at the age of 21 years. In the meanwhile during the summers he had worked on the home farm, on which he continued to reside for a year after his graduation as a business student. In 1876 he began work as a salesman, selling sewing machines throughout this section, and he continued in that business, with intervals spent on the farm, up to 1879. On Oct. 10 that year he was united in marriage with Christie, daughter of Ole and Carrie Guelson, of Orfordville, Wis. On his return from his wedding trip he took his first journey on the Reno-Preston branch, that road having in the meantime been built to Spring Grove village. That same year Mr. Bergh opened a store in the village of Spring Grove, devoted to the sale of hardware and agricultural implements. In 1903 he established himself in his present business on the corner of Fourth and Jay streets, in La Crosse. Under the name of the Bergh Piano Company he deals in automobiles and musical instruments, carrying a full line of Hudson and Dodge Brothers motor cars, Goodyear and Miller tires, accessories and supplies, Vose pianos, autopianos, Edison diamond disc phonographs and Edison amberolas. His trade covers five or six counties and is constantly increasing. He has, however, maintained his residence in Spring Grove, where on Maple avenue in 1883 he built a beautiful brick house which he now owns. He is also an extensive land owner. He is the sole owner of the home farm of 360 acres in Spring Grove township, and also of an 80-acre farm in the same township. He is a stock fancier and takes great interest in the breeding of blooded stock. He is a stockholder in the Spring Grove Stock & Grain Company. A Republican in politics, he has served his township and village in various public capacities. He and his family are members of the Spring Grove congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Bergh have been born six children: Thomas, born Dec. 20, 1882, who resides in La Crosse and is associated with his father in business; Gena, born Dec. 30, 1880, widow of Thomas Quinnell, now residing at home; Clara, born in 1883, who died in childhood; Olga and Orrin, both of whom are deceased; and Clara (second), born May 25, 1897, who is residing at home with her parents.

Gustave H. Lageson, a well-known citizen of Spring Grove township, proprietor of a stock farm in section 32, was born on his parents' farm in this township, of which his own forms a part, Jan. 15, 1884, son of Hans E. and Isabelle (Bendik) Lageson. In his youthful days he attended school in district No. 56, continuing his studies at intervals, as he found opportunity, up to the age of 19. For three years longer he resided with his parents, and then, in the spring of 1906, rented the Tomeraasen farm in section 28, Spring Grove township, which he operated until the fall of 1909. About that time he had thoughts of going to some more western state, but during the win-



MR. AND MRS. LEVI L. LAPHAM

ter of 1909-10 resided on his parents' farm in section 32, which he rented in the spring, working it under rental up to January, 1914. He then bought 80 acres of the farm, on which were some good buildings, including a frame house, consisting of a two-story upright and wing, and summer kitchen; a frame barn, machine shed and granary. His sisters Bena and Gertrude remained on the farm with him as housekeepers, his father retiring from active work. Mr. Lageson has a good equipment, and his farm is all in a state of cultivation, the soil being rich and productive. It is located six miles southwest of Spring Grove, and five miles east of Mabel, both places being convenient markets. Mr. Lageson raises a good grade of Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, having full-blooded sires for his herds so as to constantly improve the stock. Industrious and thrifty, he has made good progress in improving his circumstances, and, in addition to his regular farm equipment, owns a good automobile. In politics he is non-partisan, though with leanings to the Republican party. Religiously he belongs to the Mabel congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. He is also a member of the American Society of Equity.

P. V. Ryan, the efficient editor and publisher of the Caledonia Argus, was born in Spring Creek, Warren County, Penn., Sept. 8, 1869, and moved with his parents to Iowa in 1873. He came to Caledonia in 1879. In 1895 he established the Kilkenny (Minn.) Gleaner, and published it two years. Since 1897 he has been editor and publisher of the Argus. Mr. Ryan has been a leader in public affairs and his efforts have always been for the best interests of the village and county. The respect in which he is held by his fellow citizens is shown by the fact that in 1917, 1918 and 1919 he was elected mayor of the village. In this capacity he has given most excellent service and the municipal affairs have prospered under his guidance. As mayor during the war period he did all in his power to assist in various patriotic endeavors. In politics Mr. Ryan is a Democrat, in which party he has a high local standing, being a member of the Democratic State Central Committee from this county. His paper enjoys a good circulation, and exerts a strong influence on the life of the community. Mr. Ryan was married Oct. 11, 1898, to Anna A. Murphy, of Kilkenny, Minn., and they have seven sons.

Levi Lincoln Lapham. Among the pioneers from New England to settle on Portland Prairie were "Link" Lapham and his wife Sarah. He was born in Burrilville, R. I., April 11, 1829. He was brought up on the farm, received the education of the public schools and then went to college a term or two. He learned the carpenter's trade, and with his two brothers went to Canada and worked in Toronto. Afterwards he returned to "the States" and worked in a grist mill being built by Davis Healy, of Dudley, Mass. Here he met Sarah Cargill Healy, oldest daughter of Davis Healy. She was born in Dudley, May 20, 1834. She was graduated from the Dudley Academy at Dudley Hill, after which she taught school, receiving \$1.75 per week for her services and "boarded 'round." She also learned the "dress-makers' and tailors' trade." However, being an unusually successful teacher, she taught school until 1857, when she was married to Mr. Lapham, Jan. 13. They were both descendants of the old New England families, and

many of their forebears were numbered among the Revolutionary heroes, Mrs. Lapham being a direct descendant of Miles Standish, John Alden and Roger Williams. Immediately after the wedding they came to Chicago, where he was employed as foreman in a sash and blind factory. They bought some lots and began to erect a home on Dearborn street. The great "financial crash of '57" forced them to leave Chicago and all they had accumulated and turn their faces to the west. They found work in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this time in a sawmill and chair factory, but the financial panic soon reached Cedar Rapids and again they were obliged to seek new fields for employment. With two cows and a pair of oxen hitched to a "prairie schooner" containing a small calf and a few household goods, they were ready to start for Pike's Peak, for the lure of rich gold finds was strong upon them, when a letter from his brother Amos came, urging them to come to Minnesota to see him before starting on their perilous journey across what was then known as the "Great American Desert." Changing their course to the north, they started for Minnesota. Living on wild game, drinking from brooks and ponds, sleeping under the stars in the open, with their blankets wrapped about them, they followed the north star. Reaching Portland Prairie, they found quite a settlement of New England people who, like themselves, had been driven farther and farther into the wilderness. This was in 1860. Although a single nickel was all the money they possessed, they bought a hundred acres of rich Minnesota land and decided to stay and fight it out right here. "Fever and ague" or "the shakes" was common, and typhoid, diphtheria and scarlet fever took their dreaded toll of lives in this new country. Home-made coffins were made by Mr. Lapham, lined and trimmed in the Lapham kitchen by the skillful fingers of Mrs. Lapham. A doctor was often from ten to twenty-five miles away when most urgently needed. At such times Mr. Lapham often mounted "Old Luke," a long-limbed, balky, sorrel horse noted for her speed and endurance, and rode her sometimes thirty or forty miles for a doctor. The rebellion broke out and many of the Portland boys went at their country's call. Mr. Lapham volunteered and Mrs. Lapham was left alone to meet the rigors of a Minnesota winter. With a "straw barn" the stock was quite comfortable, and she kept herself and babies from freezing by bringing fuel from the woods and chopping it up herself. There were no telephones, nor telegraphs, and mail sometimes once a week, but more often once a month. Those were days and nights of agonized waiting and watching for news from the front. At last the glad news of Lee's surrender came, and one by one "the boys came marching home again." There was a happy reunion in the little gray house in the edge of the woods, where Mrs. Lapham had kept the home fires burning. At the time of the Indian scare the neighbors met at the Lapham home and everything meltable was run into bullets, for they meant to fortify Arnold's Bluff and fight for their homes and families. Mr. Lapham was a great lover of horses and soon owned a herd of thirty or more animals, two of which took prizes at the state fair. His only dissipation or extravagance was a driving team which must out-travel and "outlook" anything else of the kind in the country. He didn't want, as he expressed it, "to take anybody's dust." His dog was his constant companion. In 1879

they moved out of the old house into the new, which was the brick house which now stands on the homestead. In 1906 he built a larger and more convenient barn and afterwards added a silo, for at this time he was building up a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle of which he was justly proud. The spring after he was eighty-six he planted an orchard of fifty apple trees, that others might enjoy the fruit. He possessed a natural power which enabled him to accurately diagnose, relieve and often cure cases of illness, not only of animals, but of human beings as well. He was a great lover of his home and his family, and very loyal to his neighbors and friends. His heart was profoundly tender and sympathetic. A kitten with an injured paw or a bird with a broken wing appealed to him and not in vain. He was a wise counsellor, an impartial judge, honest, fair and generous in all his dealings with others, and was perfectly fearless, both physically and morally. He had a most lively interest in the world's doings, was well read on all the topics of the day, and although a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, he read both Democratic and Republican periodicals. When eighty-five years old he was the only man in his precinct to appear at the polls that year at the primary election. No worthy cause passed unaided. He was loved and trusted by little children, and animals knew him and came at his call. Never having used liquor or tobacco, his mind and body had the strength and vigor at eighty-six of most men 20 years his junior. His was a life of service, for he lived in his house by the side of the road and was a friend to man. Mrs. Lapham was an active member of the M. E. church at Portland Prairie, and taught a Sunday School class as long as she was able to attend service. She was always ready to help where help was needed. There was no home in the neighborhood that had not known her help and sympathy in time of sickness and trouble. Side by side with her husband she shared his toil, struggles and hardships as well as his joys, success and triumph. After an illness of several years' duration, she closed her life work at the age of seventy-seven years, April 26, 1911. Mr. Lapham survived her only five years. It had always been his desire to "die in the harness," and his wish was granted Jan. 2, 1916. Four children were born to them: Frances Payne, Jan. 8, 1861; Cora, April 20, 1863; George Henry, April 13, 1866; and Herbert Lincoln, Aug. 13, 1869. They left their children the priceless heritage of a good name, which is more than riches, and the golden memory of worthy and noble lives well spent.

CHAPTER XIII

MODERN VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

Houston County has six incorporated villages, Caledonia, with a population (in 1910) of 1,372; Houston, with a population of 700; Spring Grove, with a population of 620; Hokah, with a population of 400; La Crescent, with a population of 372, and Brownsville, with a population of 361. Brownsville was incorporated in 1858, Caledonia in 1870, Hokah in 1871, and Houston in 1874, all by the State Legislature. Spring Grove was incorporated in 1889 and La Crescent in 1903. There are also several flourishing villages which are not incorporated, notably Reno, Money Creek, Eitzen, Freeburg, Riceford and Newhouse. Other hamlets are Bee (Bergen), Winnebago Valley (Watertown), Yucatan, Sheldon, Pine Creek Valley and Mound Prairie Station.

The early history of these places has much in common with the history of the townships in which they are included, and this history has already been told in this work. The object of this chapter is to tell of their present development and importance.

CALEDONIA

Caledonia, the county seat of Houston county, is the metropolis of southeastern Minnesota, and is probably the most sightly village of its size in the State. Its public buildings, including a municipal building erected as a community center, and the court house and jail, are models of their kind; the two large schools, public and parochial, are widely famed; the churches are stately and most admirably adapted to their purpose; many of the residences almost approach the dignity of mansions; the well kept streets and neat lawns give an air of culture and beauty; the business houses are progressive and modern; and the people are hospitable and wide-awake, taking a sincere interest in everything that pertains to the best interests of their community. Not far away is the County Alms House and Farm, the building being a model of beauty and utility, while the farm is well tilled and productive. Such municipal improvements as waterworks, electric lights and sewers add to the comfort of daily life. Surrounding the village on all sides is a rich agricultural region, dotted with substantial farm houses, schoolhouses and churches, and the people of the country and village are in perfect accord.

Caledonia is in almost the center of the county, being but a few miles from the actual center. It is on the eastern edge of Caledonia township, a few of the houses being in Mayville township. It is near the head of Crooked Creek valley, high and dry on a rolling prairie, 550 feet above the river.

Among the notable features of the village are three strong banks, two good newspapers, two elevators, a feed mill, a grist mill, a creamery, a public library, a public theater, a moving picture theater, good hotel and restaurant service, a quota of high-minded professional and business men, and excellent trading facilities in the various stores. There is good telephone and telegraph service, good railroad connections, and excellent shipping accommodations.

The Court House square occupies a convenient location near the business center of the village. The square is beautified with native trees, flowering shrubs and plants, and is crossed with well-kept walks. A picturesque fountain adds beauty to the surroundings, and artistic cement lamp posts are set at convenient places. Both court house and combined jail and sheriff's residence are all built of ornamental stone. The court house, the third to occupy the property, was built in 1883, the combined jail and sheriff's residence was erected in 1875. The beautiful alms house two miles away was erected in 1893.

The municipal building, owned by the village and constituting the community center, is the result of a dream long cherished by many leading citizens. Set back from the street, and fronted by a pretty stretch of grass, it is a model of fire proof, modern construction.

The prime mover in awakening the people to the need of such a building, and one of the most energetic workers in carrying the project to a successful conclusion, was W. D. Belden, who has been here since the earliest days. It was he, who, in 1912, knowing the urgent necessity for the present needs and future good of the village, after thinking much upon the subject and feeling deeply the importance of a building of such a character for a center of usefulness to the community, first laid the project before the Commercial Club, and from that date until the building was formally opened he never faltered in his purpose. He has furnished for this book, the following story of its inception and consummation.

In the early days there were no places of amusement or community center. Until the churches were built, church services and other public meetings were held in the little old school house. Later, they were held in the old court house which was built over the county jail and which accommodated more people. Then a second court house was built which gave a larger seating capacity and it became the public hall. This building was replaced by the present creditable structure which was the largest public hall in Caledonia and was used for all large public gatherings until 1912 when the city hall was completed.

During the winter of 1911 there had been much talk among the more progressive men of the community of the need of some sort of social center, some place in which the people could get together under better conditions than those enjoyed. There were several organizations that needed a better place in which to carry on their work. The old building used as a city council room, voting room, fireman's hall, and public library, was too small for any of their purposes, poorly lighted, badly heated, dirty and with no accommodations fit for any of the purposes for which it was used and, in fact, a disgrace to a town of the size and importance of Caledonia.

There was an urgent demand for something better and more commodious. Deeply feeling all this, W. D. Belden laid the proposition before the executive committee of the Caledonia Commercial Club, an organization that has always promoted and used its influence for every cause that has been for the betterment of conditions and to whom one could appeal with confidence if his cause was one of public benefit and interest. This committee reported favorably upon the proposition and the committee was instructed to furnish suggestive plans in detail and get an estimate of the cost and to suggest a suitable location.

The committee met and appointed W. D. Belden a committee of one to go to La Crosse and consult an architect and get an outline plan and an estimate of the probable cost of such a building not to exceed \$20,000. This was done and reported to the club, which approved of the proposition and plans as presented.

But while the Commercial Club could propose such a building the money for its construction would have to be got by the issue of bonds which would have to be voted for by the people. Whether the people would stand for such a tax was a serious question and the election of a council favorable to such a proposition was also necessary.

The Commercial Club had become interested in the project and was determined if possible to put it through. To this end they attended the caucus and placed a majority of candidates on the ticket in favor of the enterprise.

When organized, in the village council there were three in favor of such building as proposed by the Commercial Club and two in favor of less costly and commodious one.

The question was submitted to the voters as to whether bonds not to exceed \$20,000 should be issued for such a purpose, which proposition prevailed by a small majority. Later the city council submitted a proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$15,000 for the erection of a city hall, which met much opposition from the non-progressive, selfish portion of the community, but fortunately there were a majority of the citizens who had a vision of the usefulness and need of such a building and sufficient public spirit to carry the proposition.

With this limited amount and what could be had from the saloon licenses the council went to work to secure the best possible building with the small amount at their disposal. The council was composed of T. A. Beddow (president), Wm. Schauls, J. V. Meyer and W. D. Belden. The village clerk, C. S. Trask, also had one vote in the council. J. E. Mason of Minneapolis was the architect. This building contains an auditorium with a seating capacity of about 600, with a stage 20x50, fitted with an asbestos curtain and other stage appointments which cost \$600. Athletic equipment is provided for basketball, and many exciting contests are played here.

On the lower floor is a library room 30x48, with toilet and storage closet. It has been furnished with tables and shelving by the Library Association and public entertainments and now contains a large, well-selected lot of books and current magazines and is well patronized. There is also a council room about 20 by 20 and a general purpose room 20 by 24

used for a justice court room, meetings of the Commercial Club, fire company and band practice, and other gatherings not large enough to require the use of the auditorium. There is a basement room 48 by 48 where the city caucuses and elections are held and banquets served.

This building, exclusive of the stage scenery and seats, was built for about \$18,000 and can not be duplicated for less than \$50,000 today. This the council accomplished by devoting a great deal of time to the supervision of the work and seeing that the village got full value for every dollar put into it.

While the building is not as large as the village may require in a few years, or as the promoters desired, it was as much as could be had for the money allowed the council, and has demonstrated its usefulness and vindicated the foresight and vision of those who promoted and put the project of such a building through.

It has proved its worth in every way, it is a most decided asset to the village; it is widely known and highly praised by strangers, and is more than appreciated by all who have had occasion to avail themselves of its many and excellent facilities.

Connected with the building are the municipal waterworks, the imposing water tower, topped with a high-powered light, being a conspicuous feature of the landscape. Here also are facilities for electric power, though the municipal plant is no longer used.

The waterworks were first installed in 1894, and the equipment has been gradually augmented. The plant is now in charge of Thomas Abbotts, brother of Sheriff William Abbotts, and descended from one of the county's most prominent pioneers. In the early days the streets were lighted with kerosene and later by gas. The municipal electric plant was installed in 1903, but in 1916 a contract was made with the Root River Power & Light Co., which now furnishes electricity for municipal, commercial and residential purposes. The sewer system was inaugurated in 1917, and now furnishes sanitation for the principal parts of the village.

Caledonia has a volunteer fire department of 45 members, subject to the call of both bell and whistle alarm. The village has a good hook and ladder truck, and two hose carts, with 1,200 feet of 2½-inch cotton-jacket hose.

The municipal water supply is adequately furnished from two deep wells, one 8-inch and one 10-inch volume. The water is pumped by deep well pumps, one of 7,800 gallons and one of 2,500 gallons per hour to a standpipe 110 feet high and 10 feet in diameter, having a capacity of 2,200 barrels and a gravity pressure of 47 pounds. The pumping station was also used for power for the electric light plant until the present arrangement was reached by which the electric power is received from outside.

The street waterworks system includes about three blocks of 8-inch mains, seven blocks of 6-inch mains and fifteen blocks of 4-inch mains. There are 22 double hydrants and 8 dead ends.

There are seven churches in the village: The Presbyterian, the Norwegian Lutheran, the Methodist Episcopal, the Episcopal, the Evangelical

Lutheran, St. Peter's Roman Catholic and St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic.

Methodist Episcopal services were held as early as 1854 in the log cabin of James J. Belden, half a mile southwest of town, by Rev. Mr. Wing. A class was soon organized consisting of Lewis Herring, Mr. and Mrs. John Paddock, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Haight, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Armstrong and Lucy Stewart. Soon Rev. Benjamin Christ was appointed to Brownsville and held services at the log house and tavern of James Hiner in Caledonia. The next year the Caledonia Circuit was organized, consisting of Caledonia, Brownsville and Hokah, and such appointments as Hackett's Ridge, Pope's Prairie, Winnebago Valley and Portland Prairie were soon added. Rev. John Hooper was assigned to the circuit. Other pioneer pastors were Rev. J. L. Dyer, Rev. E. Haight, Rev. J. Cowden, Rev. John Ellingwood, Rev. Isaac Wendell and Rev. Nahum Taintor, all serving before the Civil War. The first church building was erected in 1866, and the present building erected on the same site in 1896.

The Presbyterian church was organized May 17, 1863, by Rev. James Frothingham, a Princeton graduate, Rev. E. W. Rice, a missionary, assisting. The meeting was held at the Court House. Peter H. Thomas, Mrs. Frances Thomas, John Craig, Mrs. Elizabeth Craig and S. Jefferson handed in their letters from other societies. John Craig was organized as elder June 26, 1863. The next day Emily Pope, Sarah Hazeltine, Elizabeth Smith and Mrs. James Frothingham, all of Caledonia, were received into membership, with Mrs. J. S. Prentiss and Ruth Prentiss, of Spring Grove, from the Hokah congregation. Jan. 9, 1864, D. L. Buell and Mrs. Harriett Buell were received into membership. Among the early pastors before the eighties were Rev. William T. Hendron, Rev. Mr. Radcliffe, Rev. Mr. James and Rev. William G. Westervelt. The Sunday school for many years in those pioneer times was in charge of William D. Belden, with David T. Buell in charge of the Bible class and Fannie F. Dunbar as organist. The church was the first Protestant church in Caledonia, built in 1864, and in 1895 was sold to the German Lutherans, who now occupy it. In 1895 the present Presbyterian church was erected, and in 1897 the adjoining manse was built.

St. John the Baptist church had its origin with early priests from older communities, who visited the devout in this region as early as 1855 and said mass in the cabins of the pioneers, also performing marriages and christenings. Prominent among these was that sturdy pioneer missionary, the Rev. Michael Pendergast, the echo of whose footsteps is still heard in the religious work of the whole Northwest. A small church was built and in time this gave place to a larger structure. The present building was erected in 1899. The first pastor was the Rev. Father F. Essing.

St. Peter's church has its early history coincident with the Church of St. John the Baptist. In 1873 the German-speaking members of the parish separated from the older body and formed St. Peter's church. The building was completed that same year. It is a beautiful building of stone

with a lofty spire. The pastoral residence was erected in 1902. It is a sightly and commodious home, surrounded by thick shrubbery, walks and lawns, beautified by a rustic fountain, the resting place of native birds of all descriptions. The Sisters' home, housing the Sisters of Notre Dame, is of chaste and pleasing design, while the parochial school provides every facility for the instruction of the young. The first pastor was the Rev. Fr. Charles Koeberl.

The German Evangelical Lutheran church had its beginning with services held in the homes of people of that faith. The church was acquired in 1895 from the Presbyterians. The Norwegian Lutheran church was built in 1895.

The Episcopal church was organized in the home of a few faithful members in the middle sixties. In 1868 the present church was built under the pastorate of the Rev. William R. Powell.

The Independent School District of Caledonia was originally District 42 in the county system. The first teacher was Reuben Rollins, who taught in a log cabin on Kingston street, first erected as a store by the pioneer, Samuel McPhail. The first attempt to build a schoolhouse was in the fall of 1854, when J. J. Belden presented a lot on Belden's hill and he, with William F. Dunbar and others, put up the walls of a building intended for school purposes. Mr. McPhail, desiring to secure every advantage for his village of Caledonia, offered to build a schoolhouse on the edge of the village toward the Dunbar place that would be convenient for both village and country children. This edifice was accordingly built and opened and the partly constructed cabin abandoned. The enrollment increased during the next few years and in 1864 there were no less than 110 pupils crowded into the little room. Undaunted by this, however, the teacher not only gave the pupils the usual graded studies, but also encouraged them in various patriotic endeavors. But the people realized the need of better accommodations and this year a new schoolhouse was erected.

The Independent District took the place of the county district in 1880. In response to a call issued by O. J. Weida, A. D. Sprague, Daniel Hainz, A. J. Flynn, C. W. Metcalf, D. G. Sprague and W. H. Harries, a meeting was held March 8 of that year, with W. H. Harries as temporary chairman, E. P. Dorival as permanent chairman and A. J. Flynn as clerk. The final vote on the new organization was 22 in favor of the proposition and 12 against it.

When the new board was organized it consisted of D. L. Buell (president), A. J. Flynn (clerk), W. H. Harries, P. J. Smalley, J. H. Cooper and E. P. Dorival. April 14, 1880, A. H. Belding was appointed first principal under the new system.

The first schoolhouse, as mentioned, was built in 1854 and was probably the first in the county. In 1864 it gave space to a larger building. In 1885 a large building was constructed, at that time the largest and best in the county. But in time even this was inadequate. In 1904 the present building was completed. It was the finest schoolhouse built in the state that year. Of beautiful design, with two commanding towers, it embodies all the latest developments along the line of modern school construction.

It houses the graded schools and the high school, and is fully supplied with every facility for all the instruction usually given in such an institution. The staff is adequate, the school board is broad-minded and progressive, and the young people of Caledonia are being well prepared for the duties and responsibilities that life is to bring to them.

Prominent in the story of the educational development of Houston county is the Caledonia Academy, where so many of the men and women of today received their higher education. The Caledonia Academy was authorized by an act of the legislature approved March 1, 1856. The trustees named in the act were Samuel McPhail, James J. Belden, C. W. Thompson, J. R. Bennett, John J. Darbor, Alexander Bachelor, J. M. Smith, Charles Metcalf, Stephen Baglay, Samuel J. Thomas, Hugh Brown, B. W. Barfield, A. D. Sprague, James Cavanaugh and C. Cunningham. It was not, however, until several years afterward that it was put in operation.

An Academy building was erected in 1869 by Rev. W. R. Powell, rector of the Episcopal church, who conducted a Collegiate Institute for one year.

His successor in the pastorate abandoned the school for about one year, when, as it did not meet his expectations, it was again abandoned. In the fall of 1871 and the winter of 1872, E. W. Trask took hold of the enterprise.

In the autumn of 1872, Prof. William D. Belden assumed the management of the institution, and proceeded to reorganize the institution in accordance with the requirements of the times. Two regular four-year courses were prescribed. One was for those who expected to go no further in school. The other was a classical course for those who expected to enter a collegiate course, particularly reference being had to the State University, the classical department of the academy being designed as a connecting link between the common school and the university, which at that time was unprovided for by the State. The school went on with considerable success until 1875, when the building was thoroughly repaired and improved at an expense of about \$1,000. In the equipment was included a telescope of sufficient power to show the rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, and the mountains on the moon. Many of the graduates of the academy taught school in the county and elsewhere, while several went to the State University. The attendance was satisfactory, the number in 1878 being fifty-five. The first commencement was held in 1877, when the following class graduated with honor: H. F. Arnold and H. P. Shumway, Wilmington; Eva S. Belden and Hellen B. Coe, Caledonia; and M. J. Taylor, Mayville. The class of 1878 was: Frances V. Burns, Evangeline P. Burns, and Hattie H. Dunbar, Caledonia; Fannie P. Lapham, Winnebago; M. T. McGinnis and Samantha L. Wright, Wilmington.

In the class of 1879 were Charles E. Heath, Fred A. Wright, and Fred R. Williams. In the class of 1880 were Jennie Gibbs and Gilbert Drowley. At this time, there being public schools intermediate between the district school and the university, the academy was discontinued, and was later converted into a public school.

During the time the academy was under the charge of Professor Belden, the following named assistant teachers were employed for longer or shorter

periods: Larkie Lapham, Mrs. White, Kate Randolph, and Eva S. Belden. The members of the learned professions in town, and the leading citizens, were interested in its success. Dr. Castle, W. H. Harris, P. J. Smalley, and others, delivered addresses in connection with the commencement exercises on the various occasions. This collegiate institute, while it remained in active operation, was an honor to its founders and to its principal, a matter of pride to the citizens, and an Alma Mater the memory of which is cherished with pride by all who had the advantages of passing through its doors as students in the days of their youth.

W. D. Belden, who was at one time a student in the Caledonia public schools, then became a prominent educator, and has since continued his interest in the proper instruction of the coming generation. In regard to the foregoing facts, he has the following to say of events which came under his personal observation.

The first attempt to establish a school was made in the fall of 1854, my father, James J. Belden, having donated the ground for same on his claim in the western part of the present village on the Belden Hill. The neighbors had joined and got the logs laid up ready for the roof when Mr. McPhail, proprietor of the town site, wanted the building located within the town plat and a compromise was made and a small frame building was erected on the southwest corner of the block now occupied by St. John's parochial school. This building is now owned by Mrs. John Boltz, and is situated opposite the post office just west of the Argus office.

This building was used for ten years when the number of pupils had increased to an enrollment of 110. In the winter term when the attendance was the largest, two teachers were employed, but in the spring term one teacher took care of them all. We scholars, for the writer was one of them, had to sit three in a seat with a row all around the building without any desk in front of them. Of course, we were not supposed to whisper. In the warm weather we were allowed to go out doors to 'study' but sometimes we forgot the rule. We had a good time anyway, even though we did not progress very fast in our books.

In 1864 the conditions had become so intolerable that the district was forced to erect a new building, consisting of two rooms. The more advanced scholars were sent upstairs and the primary and lower grade scholars went in the lower room and two teachers took care of the whole number of scholars, which was no snap as the writer knows from personal experience, having been principal for some four successive terms. This building is now owned by Edward Houlihan, who bought it and moved it to its present site on North Kingston street.

After a few years a third building providing for several departments was erected. This building was on the present site of St. John's parochial school, and was torn down to make room for it.

In 1881 there were only four departments: grammar, first and second intermediate and primary. The salaries paid the primary and first intermediate teachers were \$35, second intermediate \$40, and the grammar \$45 a month."

In the sixties teachers were not plentiful and the requirements were

not very exacting. At first no certificates were required, any one who chose to do so could teach provided some school board would hire. Then a law was enacted creating the office of county superintendent of schools, and requiring any one wishing to teach to hold a certificate of examination by him. The writer took such an examination which was oral and lasted about fifteen minutes, and passed successfully. Most any one who could read and write and know the multiplication table could pass. Of course, the wages were small, many teaching for only \$15 and \$20 per month.

Before the public school became a high school there were several private schools which furnished some advanced studies, the most notable of these were:

1. A private school conducted by Professor Emmons, a graduate of Yale and at that time considered one of the best educators in the State, who did much for those who were fortunate enough to get the benefit of his most excellent training. But he gave up the work on account of his poor health after a year or so.

2. The Caledonia Collegiate Institute, an Episcopal parochial school, was started in 1869 by Rev. W. R. Powell, which was an excellent school while it lasted, but for want of sufficient patronage and financial backing it also was given up.

3. The Caledonia Academy was, at the urgent request of many of the leading citizens, established by W. D. Belden in the fall of 1872. This school furnished a four-year course similar to the present high school course, so that its graduates could enter the State University. This school was conducted until 1880 when the State high school course was introduced and the demand for such a school was supplied by the public school.

The post office was established in Caledonia in 1854. Before that the people received their mail at Brownsville, and it was brought to Caledonia by anyone who happened to be making the journey. When the post office was established regular mail routes were organized, and in the early sixties the people were receiving mail three times a week. The office became a money order office on Sept. 9, 1867. The list of early postmasters until the eighties is somewhat obscure, but probably the postmasters have been: Samuel McPhail, William McKee, Peter H. Thomas, A. S. Lindsey, R. S. Williams, C. G. Ward, J. C. Prentiss, H. K. Belding, John Dorsch, Wells F. Dunbar, O. G. Wall, James Wertz, John B. Neff, Otis E. Comstock, E. P. Dorival, William Calleran, A. J. Flynn, Moses Emery, E. C. Hellickson and W. W. Belden who is now in office.

The three banking houses in Caledonia are the Sprague State Bank, the First National Bank and the Caledonia State Bank.

The Sprague State Bank is the oldest institution of its kind in the county. In the early days, several of the merchants accepted deposits and issued checks on La Crosse banks. But for the most part, money which was sent out of the town was forwarded by means of postal orders. June 1, 1875, A. D. Sprague and J. E. Easton established the bank of Caledonia, a private institution. In 1908 the bank was incorporated as the Sprague State Bank, with Ellsworth A. Sprague as president, Arthur D. Sprague as vice-president and Robert D. Sprague as cashier.

The farmers co-operative movement is represented in Caledonia by the Farmers Co-operative Creamery, the Farmers Co-operative Co. (operating a general store), and the Caledonia Co-operative Stock and Grain Company. The latter company has an elevator and stock yards. Not many miles away is the Wilmington Co-operative Creamery, which has Caledonia for a shipping point. The other Caledonia elevator, aside from that mentioned, is one owned by E. A. and R. D. Sprague. Fred Kruger has a feed mill and the Graf grist mill does considerable business. There are no extensive manufactories, though wagon making, iron working, and the manufacture of cement block and brick is at times carried on to some extent.

The two newspapers in Caledonia are the Caledonia Journal and the Caledonia Argus. The field in previous years has also been occupied by other papers.

The Houston County Journal had its inception in the month of November, 1865, the editors and proprietors being James G. McGrew and Sam Wall, who issued it until May 1, 1866. It was then purchased by the Journal Printing Company, composed of John Craig, Thomas Abbotts, James Smith, George T. Patten, A. D. Sprague, C. A. Coe, Eugene P. Dorival, and J. W. Cook. On December 4, 1866, the names of Smith and Wall were run up as editors. A. F. Booth took charge as editor on November 18, 1873. In February, 1878, the paper was sold by Mr. Booth to O. E. Comstock. On August 3, 1881, J. Ostrander came into the firm and the paper was published under the firm name of Comstock and Ostrander. P. A. Kroshus acquired the paper in March, 1883, and three years later changed the name to the Caledonia Journal. May 1, 1890, he sold to Blexrud & Solburg, with E. K. Roverud as editor. A few years later Mr. Roverud bought out Blexrud and Solburg, and has since been both editor and publisher. The Caledonia Journal has always been Republican in politics, although its support of President William H. Taft, in 1912, after its editor had been a Roosevelt delegate at large in the Chicago Convention, was almost negligible. The Journal is now stronger than ever in its political faith, and has been especially strong in its fight against pernicious socialism and the Non Partisan League.

The Caledonia Courier was started in Caledonia, April 8, 1877, by George B. Winship, who, as elsewhere stated, had learned his trade in the office of the short-lived "La Crescent Plaindealer." It was a seven-column folio, published at \$2.00 a year, and was a really good paper, well edited and well printed. After conducting it for a little more than two years, Mr. Winship, finding the field restricted, and with no immediate prospects of improvement, went to Dakota and began the publication of the "Grand Forks Herald," a first class daily.

The Houston County Argus. In the middle and later seventies a young man named Edward S. Kilbourne was publishing at New Albin a little paper called the Spectator. The paper suspended publication about the beginning of the summer of 1879. The proprietor then went to the Red River valley looking for a location but found that conditions were not yet favorable. So he returned to this region, and in August, 1879, established the Houston County Argus. He continued it until May 12, 1880, when it

was sold to H. D. Smalley & Co., by whom it was published until November 4, the same year. H. D. Smalley then withdrew, leaving it in the hands of P. J. Smalley, who conducted it on independent Republican principles. It was a seven-column folio, printed and conducted in a highly creditable manner, and had a circulation of about 600, about sixty of its subscribers living outside the county. P. J. Smalley was succeeded by W. D. Belden, in December, 1890. December 1, 1897, P. V. Ryan and W. E. Krick bought the paper. December 1, 1901, Mr. Ryan bought out Mr. Krick, and is still the efficient editor and publisher.

The early history of the village of Caledonia is coincident with the history of the township already given. Ralph L. Young came with his family in 1851 and settled in the southern part of the township. In 1852, Anthony Huyck and Peter L. Swartout settled a mile and a half from the village. They were jolly bachelors and many an amusing tradition centers about their actions. They were big souled men of unfailing courage, well fitted to meet the rigors of pioneer life. In 1852, Samuel Armstrong and Joseph Pendleton took claims. The same year came William F. Dunbar, who looked over the land with the idea of bringing out a colony from Massachusetts.

The real founder of the village was Samuel McPhail, who came to Brownsville in 1851 and to Caledonia in 1853, where he platted the village. The advance guard of the Massachusetts colony came that year. They landed at Brownsville, and then made their way to Caledonia. They were soon followed by many others.

Among the prominent settlers of 1853 and the next few years may be mentioned Edwin H. Steward, John Dunbar, Henry Parmalee, Henry Burnett, Hugh Brown, James Hiner, L. W. Paddock, Nelson Haight, Eugene Marshall, J. W. Finn, Jacob Webster, Daniel Herring, Hiram Abbey, James Wing, John Burns, Thomas Burns, Michael Mead, Charles Metcalf, J. J. Belden, A. D. Sprague, Daniel Kerr, Jedediah Pope, Milton B. Metcalf, Oliver Dunbar, Wells E. Dunbar, Patrick Jennings, Reuben Rollins, Henry M. Rollins, Robert Lewis, Amasa Mason, Daniel Hainz, Elkana Huyck, Jesse Scofield, William H. Bunce, and others.

When Samuel McPhail settled here in June, 1853, he erected a log store and a log dwelling. He opened a small store in the store building but in 1854 was succeeded by Ara D. Sprague, who for many years, on the present site of the Sprague State Bank, conducted the only mercantile business in town. The business grew rapidly as the county settled up. "The Log Cabin" situated back of the present site of the Caledonia House was a large log building owned by James Hiner, and was for many years the only hotel in the village. Afterward Oliver Dunbar opened a hotel on the present site of the Williams House. The village was platted in the spring of 1854 for Samuel McPhail by Eugene Marshall, first county surveyor, and afterwards cashier of the Sprague-Easton Bank. The first school was taught in 1854 by Reuben Wells. The first preaching was held that year at the home of James J. Belden.

The pioneers have many interesting stories to tell of life in those distant times. Many of the settlers had been neighbors in New England. They

lived here almost as one family. Confronted though they were by all the hardships, living in crude homes, with little literature except what they had brought with them, with no outside entertainment, they nevertheless managed to mingle sociability and enjoyment with their strenuous endeavors. They had their dances and their candy pulls, their singing schools and spelling schools, their straw rides and sewing bees, and paid due attention to church and school affairs.

Wild game was abundant, and some of the pioneers were skilled hunters. Deer, elk and bear added to the family larder. A few Winnebago Indians still lingered in the neighborhood. Among the best known were Porter and Lightfoot and his son, Little Priest.

The nearest grist mill at first was on Canoe Creek in Iowa. In 1855 a sawmill was built in the northern part of the township, and a few years later a grist equipment was added to it.

The nearest market was at Brownsville. The settlers often had to go as far as Lansing, Iowa, however, to obtain what they needed. Grain was hauled to Lansing and to points as far as Winona.

One of the greatest difficulties was the lack of an adequate water supply. Some families had to walk long distances to get a jug of water for drinking purposes, and cattle had sometimes to be driven miles to be watered. A common method was to cart hogsheads from a creek by means of oxen. Many amusing stories are told of these trips. Sometimes in an emergency housewives were compelled to melt snow for household purposes. A little later cisterns were provided, and many times dams were built to hold flood waters. Now, however, wells give the farmers a more than adequate supply.

W. D. Belden, who came here as a boy, has many interesting memories of those far-distant days. He has been a constant resident of the village since it had three or four buildings and has been an active factor in its growth since. In speaking of the early days he has said:

"It is interesting to the younger generation to know that the early settlers lived in log houses, the chinks and openings between the logs being filled in with narrow strips of wood held in place and plastered up with clay at first, but soon after with lime mortar. Lime kilns soon were made, in which the lime rocks found near by were burned, and with sand also available, good mortar was to be had.

"The log cabin situated back of the present site of the Caledonia House was a large log building and was the first and only hotel the village had for a few years, and was owned by James Hines.

"At that time the only outlet for shipment of products out and merchandise in was by way of the Mississippi River, either at Brownsville or La Crosse, all freight having to be handled from one of these two points by team over unworked roads. Brownsville was then the most important and flourishing town in the county. There was practically no home market for farm produce such as vegetables, butter, eggs or milk, as nearly every one had a garden and raised their own vegetables, kept some chickens, a cow and a few hogs for their own consumption. Eggs were sold at 3 cents a dozen, butter at 10 to 12 cents a pound, dressed hogs at 5 to 6 cents a

pound, and oats at 15 cents a bushel. Not until the railroad came here in 1879 were hogs marketed alive as now.

"The first few years most of the farm work was done with oxen. For many years cattle were permitted to run at large, even in the streets of Caledonia. At first the farms were enclosed with rails piled up in a zigzag way, called a 'Virginia worm fence;' then by 'post and rail fence,' and a little later with post and boards, lumber being so cheap at that time as to make a four-board fence quite economical. Later this style of fencing gave way to wire fencing, which is now generally used.

"Before the Civil War and for some time after, the principal products of the farms were wheat and oats, with a small acreage of corn for home consumption. Later the wheat seldom yielded sufficient to make it a profitable crop and farming became more diversified, with the result that the farmers in this county are among the most prosperous in the country."

By reason of its position Caledonia early became a great thoroughfare for traffic from the Mississippi River to points west. Thousands of early settlers bound for southern Minnesota landed at Brownsville and made their way through Caledonia to their chosen locations. Many also came up across the prairies from Iowa. There were times when the village presented the sight of two almost continuous caravans of ox teams, one stream bound from Brownsville to western settlements, and the other stream consisting of people hauling produce or going after supplies to Brownsville. Many of these travelers stayed over night at Caledonia, and it therefore early became a business point of importance.

The town continued to prosper through the fifties, sixties and seventies. The railroad through here was opened for business Oct. 1, 1879.

The year after that found Caledonia a still more active business center. In that year there were three lumber concerns in Caledonia, which also sold general building material. These were the firms of Trask & Blair, C. Clark and Edwards & Osborne. The last mentioned was a La Crosse firm, John Tarr having charge of the yard at Caledonia. There were seven general stores, kept respectively by Sprague Brothers, M. Carpstein, Jacob Bouquet, John Boltz, John P. Lommen, E. P. Dorival and Nicholas Koob. W. D. Belden, Mrs. Julia O'Connor and F. & M. W. Bacon sold drugs and notions; A. H. Belding sold books, stationery, sewing machines and notions; A. D. Sprague and A. J. Flynn were hardware dealers; Mrs. E. Spettle kept a bakery; Fred Mersch and Charles Brickman were wagon makers and repairers; A. B. Clark and John Gavin were blacksmiths; Mike Schmidt was a horseshoer and general jobber; Hudson Wheaton was a carpenter and builder; Daniel Hainz and Thomas Ryan were shoemakers, both keeping stores; J. J. Belden handled stoves and tinware; Peter Roberts was a harnessmaker, and Joseph Eden a tailor; Mrs. P. M. Hainz and Mrs. E. B. West were milliners; O. J. Weida kept a meat market; Mary Keegan and Maggie Zenner were dressmakers; Peter Steenstrup was a jeweler; Anton Zimmerhoke kept a barber shop, and Peter Mead a restaurant and confectionery; Christian Klein was a jobber and builder; Peter Arnoldy was proprietor of the brewery started in 1873 by Peter Wagner, which he purchased in 1880. He brewed about

400 barrels of lager the first year. There were three physicians in the village, Dr. H. D. B. Dustin, Dr. William McKenna and Dr. George Nye. The attorneys were James O'Brien, H. W. Harries, P. J. Smalley and C. S. Trask. Wells E. Dunbar and E. P. Dorival were insurance agents. There were thirteen saloons, some of which kept pool and billiard tables, and were with hotel facilities for transient guests. The regular hotels were the Barnes House, an old institution kept by Spafford Williams; the De Soto House, kept by J. T. Hurd; the New York House, established in 1875, of which Peter Styer was the proprietor, and the Northwestern Hotel, established six years and kept by John Krane. There were saloons in connection with the two last mentioned hotels. In addition to the above mentioned enterprises there were in the village the usual proportion of carpenters, painters, glaziers, paperhangers and other artizans.

Since then the village has enjoyed a settled prosperity and the prospects for the future are of the brightest. The farm land in this vicinity is constantly increasing in value, new methods are constantly being introduced, and as the prosperity of the village and country are one, the friends of the village are looking forward to its continued growth and prosperity.

Caledonia was organized as a village in accordance with an act of the state legislature, approved Feb. 25, 1870; and the first election was held on Monday, May 2, the same year. M. M. Wooden and Thomas Abbotts were judges of election. N. H. Kemp was chosen moderator, and Nicholas Koob was appointed clerk. Forty-five votes were cast and each of the following persons received a unanimous vote for their respective offices: Trustees, D. L. Buell, Thomas Abbotts and Nicholas Koob; justice of the peace, M. M. Wooden; treasurer, T. W. Burns. The trustee appointed Nicholas Murphy as village clerk. Michael Lally was appointed surveyor of highways. D. L. Buell was appointed president of the board of trustees. The first ordinance was in relation to drunkenness and disorderly conduct, fixing the penalty between five and twenty-five dollars. The second ordinance related to licenses, fixing the fee at \$40. The third related to the obstruction of streets. The fourth to the hitching of horses, oxen or other draft animals to trees, gates or fences. The fifth provided a pound, and the sixth regulated the laying down of sidewalks.

The town of Caledonia, whose interests center in the village dates its organization back to May 11, 1858. The original meeting was called to order by Samuel McPhail. Nelson Haight was chosen moderator, and Eugene Marshall clerk. The whole number of votes cast at that election was 126. The officers elected were: Supervisors, Stephen Bugbee, chairman, John Dorsch and Oliver Dunbar; town clerk, Truman B. Neff; assessor, William McGinnis; justices of the peace, Thomas Abbotts and J. Webster; collector, William W. Willis; overseers of the poor, Samuel Armstrong and Jediah Pope; road supervisors, James H. Williams and Peter L. Swartout.

SPRING GROVE

Spring Grove is one of the prettiest and most thriving villages in southern Minnesota. The traveler alighting from the train is confronted with a

beautiful triangular park, over which towers the imposing architecture of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, with its quaint evergreen-bordered church yard, while from the apex of the park sweeps the main business street, with its two substantial banks on either side, and their attendant business houses. The residence section is perhaps the most beautiful in the county, for there is probably not a village in the state of even twice its size that has so many beautiful homes, artistic in architecture, modern as to comforts, and surrounded with beautiful lawns, evergreen trees predominating as arboreal ornaments.

The population is almost entirely of Scandinavian birth or ancestry, as is that of the rich agricultural region surrounding the village, and to the thrift of these people is due the prosperity of village and country. Since the earliest days, the history of the village and countryside has been almost identical with that of the church, the only one in the village.

The village has the one church, two banks, a live newspaper, two elevators, a creamery, a telephone company, electric light service and water works, and a feed mill, a hotel, two moving picture theatres, one of which is also a dramatic opera house, and a widely famed hospital, as well as the usual professional men and business houses.

The farmers co-operative movement is represented by the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Association, and the Spring Grove Stock and Grain Co. This is also the shipping point for the Yucatan Creamery Association, not far away. The Wilmington Township Mutual Life Insurance Co. also has Spring Grove as its address.

Spring Grove village was incorporated late in 1889. Nov. 2, 1889, thirty-four citizens, Asle Halverson, Lars Budahl, O. B. Nelson, O. B. Tone, Lars O. Dokken, G. E. Overstrud, E. Ellingson, J. M. Walhus, Andrew B. Foss, Andrew Lee, Otto Brenne, O. C. Hagen, H. M. Gjerdinger, Knud Olsen, S. H. Ellestad, Ole O. Roppe, Jr., Charles Hoegh, F. Bartholomew, H. N. Hendrickson, H. Hanson, N. P. Newhouse, P. Olsen Fallang, Gilbert Askum, Christian Olsen, Andreas Nikkelson, Hans S. Lee, Teman Gilbertson, Iver Seby, Magnus Johnson, Hans J. Ellefsrud, C. Muller, Nels Hendrickson, J. Muller, and E. A. Flaskerud petitioned the county board asking for the incorporation of a village to embrace the south half of section 11, township 101, range 7, and the north half of the north half of section 14, an area of 480 acres, the population of which on Oct. 31, 1889, was represented as 369 persons. It was set forth that of this territory, parts in the southeast quarter of section 11 had been platted by Mons Fladager, July 12, 1877, and Jan. 22, 1884.

O. B. Tone, one of the signers, was at that time chairman of the county board. On motion of H. R. Briggs at the regular session of that body, the petition was granted and the preliminaries placed in charge of Mr. Tone. An election was duly held Dec. 17, 1889, in charge of Lars Budahl, Ole O. Roppe, Jr., and H. N. Hendrickson, at which 75 votes were cast, 53 being in favor of the proposition and 22 opposed.

The first annual election was held Dec. 31, 1889, in charge of Ole C. Steneroden and E. Ellingson as judges and J. M. Walhus as clerk. Thirty-

four votes were cast and there was but one candidate for each office: President, Charles Hoegh; trustees, N. Olson, O. B. Nelson and Asle Halverson; recorder, S. H. Ellestad; treasurer, H. N. Hendrickson; justices, L. Budahl and F. Bartholomew; constables, J. J. O'Brien and O. G. Myrah.

The first meeting of the new board was held Jan. 14, 1890. Dr. C. K. Onsgard was the first health officer. O. G. Myrah was the first street commissioner. Later in the year a number of sidewalks and cross walks were ordered. Thus the wheels of the village government were set in motion.

The presidents of the village have been: 1889, Charles Hoegh; 1894, A. Halverson; 1897, T. T. Bergh; 1899, Truls Paulson; 1903, Charles Hoegh; 1906, O. B. Nelson; 1907, Truls Paulson; 1908, Asle Halverson; 1909, G. C. Glasrud; 1914, C. J. Sylling; 1916, G. C. Glasrud; 1918, C. J. Sylling.

The recorders have been: 1889, S. H. Ellestad; 1897, H. L. Quanrud; 1898, C. J. Schansberg; 1903, F. E. Poerg; 1907, Helmer Ostle; 1908, E. O. Clauson; 1914, Ove Hoegh; 1917, E. L. Quinnell. March 9, 1910, John Vaaler was elected clerk, but refused to serve, and Mr. Clauson continued.

All the early elections were practically unanimous the candidates receiving all, or within one or two of all, of the votes cast. Up to 1895, the greatest number of votes cast at any election was 34. In that year, owing to the water bond question, 63 votes were cast. But then interest waned, and in 1899, only 31 were cast. In 1900 there were 59 votes, the successful candidate for mayor having nine votes cast against him. The first real contest came in 1901 when Truls Paulson received 24 votes for president and Charles Hoegh 23. In 1902, Paulson received 58 votes and Hoegh 24. The next year out of 121 votes cast, Hoegh received 119. In that year, 1903, was the first contest for recorder, F. E. Joerg receiving 87 votes and H. L. Quanrud 34. In 1904, the total vote dropped to 42 and there were no contests. The license question coming up in 1905, there were 137 votes cast, but the only contest for an office was over the position of recorder, F. E. Joerg receiving 88 votes and Ove Hoegh, 50. On the license question, 33 votes were for license and 100 against. Again in 1906, the only contest was over recorder, F. E. Joerg receiving 69 and Helmer Ostle, 48 votes. In 1907 came the first contest for trustees, Ole Hendrickson receiving 21 votes against A. O. Roppe's 58 for a position on the board. The next year, Asle Halverson was elected president with 58 votes against Henry Fladager, who received 33. In 1909, when the voters were divided over the question of selling Lot No. 56, there was a close contest for all the offices except that of justice. The proposition to sell was carried by a vote of 39 to 26. Interest waned the next year, only 35 votes were cast and there were no contests. In 1911 there were contests for president and trustees but none were close.

In 1914 there were contests for mayor and trustees and clerk, but none were close except for clerk, Ove Hoegh defeating E. O. Clausen by a vote of 69 to 61. In 1915 there were no contests except for assessor, O. F. Karlsbratten receiving 33 and Charles Hoegh 25 votes. In 1916 there were no close contests, all except two being unanimous. The closest was

for clerk, Hoegh receiving 54 and Clauson 27 votes. Glassrud had 71 votes for president, and Sylling 12. In 1917 the only contest was for mayor, G. C. Glasrud receiving 51 and J. N. Ristey 48 votes. In 1918 there were no close contests. For president, E. J. Foss received 26 votes against 40 for C. J. Sylling. In 1919 the election was unanimous.

Fire protection was established in 1891, when the village purchased land from Ole O. Roppe, erected an engine house and secured equipment consisting of 2 hand fire engines, trucks, platforms, hose and pails. As a preventive of fires, Ole O. Hagen was appointed to the position of chimney inspector. The village now has fire equipment consisting of three hose carts, a small hook and ladder truck, 700 feet of good 2½-inch hose and a bell alarm. There is a volunteer fire department of 25 members.

The first public well in Spring Grove dates back long before village days. Mons Fladager blasted a seventy-foot well, and lined it with masonry, that being long before the days of the drilled wells. A windmill was placed over this and troughs extended to the street, thus providing water for public use. The first steps toward establishing the village waterworks were taken on Sept. 19, 1894, when land was purchased from Lars Budahl for \$350, for the purpose of establishing a water supply. March 12, 1895, by a vote of 56 to 9, the voters authorized the issuing of \$3,000 bonds. It was decided to have a plant operated by a windmill, but as the work progressed it was found necessary to have a deeper well and establish a gasoline engine pumping station, with tower and tank. The complete system with mains and hydrants was completed in the early spring of 1896 at a cost of \$3,927. The system has since been extended.

The waterworks are conducted on an elevated tank system, with an 1,800 barrel tank on a 60 foot tower. The water supply comes from two deep wells, the pumping power being furnished by a gasoline engine. The pressure is 30 to 35 pounds. The village has about 3,000 feet of six-inch mains, 16 double hydrants, and 4 dead ends.

Jan. 3, 1898, it was voted by the council to light the village streets with kerosene lights. April 17, 1901, it was voted by the council to introduce a gasoline system. In the meantime in 1892, the contract having been let Dec. 9, 1891. March 18, 1893, S. G. Reque was authorized to draw up plans for an electric light plant. A vote was taken on March 10, 1903, by the citizens on the question of issuing bonds of \$5,500 for the purpose, and a favorable decision was reached by a vote of 70 to 50. But on June 16, 1903, the council rejected all bids, and the proposition was abandoned. March 12, 1912, bonds of \$7,500 were voted for a city hall, electric light plant and extended water works. The work was completed that year. The city hall is a slightly brick structure of one story, housing the plant and the council chamber, and lock up, and providing shelter for the fire apparatus. The same year a new city well was provided. Aug. 31, 1915, a contract was made with the Root River Power & Light Company for service for a period of fifteen years. At the same time \$1,750 was voted to improve the local plant, so that the village now has excellent light service for street, commercial and residential purposes.

The Root River Power & Light Co. with home offices at Preston and

power plant at Brightdale Park, supplies the village of Fountain, Preston, Harmony, Canton, Prosper, Mabel, Spring Grove, Caledonia and Houston. The officers are: president, Tollef Sanderson; vice-president, A. G. Olson; secretary-treasurer, S. A. Langum. A. H. Hanning is the general manager.

One of the beauties of Spring Grove already mentioned is the public park, a triangle of land lying west of the stately church. The eastern part of this park was presented to the village by the church. In 1914 the village erected a bandstand. In the meantime, a number of lots had been sold at the western apex. In 1916, these lots were occupied by several buildings. At the apex was a cellar hole, the store of T. T. Bergh having been torn down. East of this was a long building, extending from street to street, at an angle. It was vacant, the north end having previously been occupied by the Onsgard State Bank and the south end by the Olson & Kieland general store. Next east of this store was the blacksmith shop of H. P. Dahl. In the spring of 1916, Rev. Alfred O. Johnson and Albert Hallan appeared before the council representing the Church Auxiliary Board, the young peoples' society of the church, and presented a proposition by which that body agreed to present the village with \$3,400 toward purchasing these lots, removing the buildings, filling up the holes, and converting the entire triangle into a park. The proposition was accepted, the buildings were removed and the ground levelled, the remainder of the expense being met by the village. The shrubbery which adorns the park was put in by the Ladies' Improvement Club. This club, officially named the Community Improvement Society, was organized April 4, 1917, with these officers: president, Mrs. C. M. Langland; vice-president, Mrs. Ove Hoegh; treasurer, Mrs. J. N. Ristey; secretary, Mrs. C. J. Helland.

The village has a sightly and commodious school building with graded and high school courses, one of the most efficient schools in the county. The first school in the vicinity was a Norwegian school. In 1857, a frame school house was built, about 18 by 24 feet. Here school was taught sometimes in English and sometimes in Norwegian. This building, across the road, east of the present school was the community center, serving as general meeting place, town hall, and school house. In 1872, a two story building was erected, giving place in recent years to the present structure. The building is well located, in the midst of spacious lawn, with ample accommodations for play grounds, athletic apparatus and the like.

The Spring Grove Hospital fills a need long felt in the community. Seeing the necessity of such an institution, Rev. Alfred O. Johnson, at the solicitation of a number of leading citizens, called a meeting early in 1916, and plans were perfected which resulted in the incorporation, Feb. 15, 1916. A suitable location on the northern outskirts of the village was purchased May 12, 1916, and the building was started at once. The institution was opened Jan. 8, 1917, in charge of Emma Larson. She was succeeded Dec. 14, 1918, by Miss Erlanson. The original officers and trustees are still serving. They are: Alfred O. Johnson, president; Dr. G. M. Helland, vice-president; J. N. Ristey, secretary and treasurer; J. J. Jetson, M. S. Nelson, P. L. Bergsgaard, H. A. Burtness, O. A. Kroshus, all of Spring Grove, and H. E. Burtness, of Caledonia. The hospital is pleasantly located

on a commanding crest, is equipped with all modern facilities, is well attended, and is doing splendid work of healing and comfort.

The post office was established in 1854, through the exertions of James Smith, who was appointed postmaster, and the office was opened at his house, which was a tavern at that time. It was he who gave the name of Spring Grove. He continued to hold the place until about two years afterwards, when Embrick Knudson was appointed, and he removed the office to his house near the old Hinkley place. In 1861, Mons Fladager was appointed deputy, and kept it in his store for about a year, when Mr. Prentiss succeeded to the position and removed the office to his hotel, the old Hinkley store. After a time Dr. T. Jenson was appointed postmaster. He appointed J. C. Tartt as deputy, who took the office into his store in the east part of the village, near the old McCormick place. The office was kept in this way up to 1865, when Nels Olson Onsgard was commissioned. Then came Truls Paulson and next O. E. Kieland. Mons Flatager was then appointed by the Cleveland administration without solicitation, but he refused to serve, and T. I. Doely, who had circulated a petition, was appointed. He was followed by O. B. Tone, who was succeeded by O. C. Vaaler, who is still serving.

Spring Grove had a newspaper nearly forty years ago. In the spring of 1880 an enterprising young man, Sven H. Ellestad, started a small folio, 10 by 24 inches, and called it the Spring Grove Posten. He was editor, proprietor, publisher, and printer. Schmidt Nilson, who became interested in its success, contributed most of the editorial work to its columns. It had a local habitation in a small frame building back of T. T. Bergh's hardware store. His press was a small one, and is said to have cost \$180. The paper flourished for a while, but the circumstances did not prove propitious, and the publication was discontinued, the subscription list being taken over by the Decorah Posten.

The Spring Grove Herald was started as the Spring Grove Weekly by W. H. Smethurst. The office was located in the Haaken & Haaken building, where Ellingson's restaurant now is. The paper had quite a struggle for existence, and was finally purchased by Frank Bartholomew, now at Winnebago City. He moved it to the corner building now occupied by the Fladager Brothers. Then he built a two-story building with the printing establishment down stairs, and an opera house up stairs. In April, 1893, this building caught fire, and in spite of the heroic efforts of the volunteer fire department, with the fire pumps, this building, the implement warehouse next door, and the church, were all destroyed. It was only by strenuous work that the rest of the business section was saved. But undaunted Mr. Bartholomew printed a fire issue, and operated in a shack until the spring of 1895, when he sold it to O. K. Dahle, who built the present one-story building on the same site, and edited the Herald until he was elected county attorney four and a half years later. It was then conducted by Geo. W. Drowley as lessee, for a time, and later sold to George H. Kuster, then principal of the local schools. He sold to Albert Olson, who in turn disposed of it to E. L. Berg. It was then transferred to B. L. Onsgard, the present owner, who has been in possession since 1906. During this period, the

Herald has been edited by various parties as lessees: Charles L. Metcalf, three years and until he was elected clerk of court and O. O. Kjomme during the years 1914 and 1915. With these exceptions, the paper has been ably conducted by Mr. Onsgard himself, and under his management has enjoyed a large circle and important influence.

The two banks are the State Bank of Spring Grove and the Onsgard State Bank.

The Onsgard State Bank had its beginning in the seventies when Nels Olson Onsgard, then a store keeper, began to handle the financial affairs of his customers as a personal accommodation, selling them drafts, arranging loans and the like. In 1890, this business was organized as the Bank of Spring Grove, and established in the rear of the store. Later a brick addition was built, facing northward on the other street. Sept. 6, 1907, the Onsgard State Bank was incorporated, with Nels O. Onsgard as president, O. K. Dahle as vice-president, O. N. Onsgard as cashier, and B. N. Onsgard as assistant cashier. In 1911, O. N. Onsgard became vice-president, B. N. Onsgard cashier and O. E. Hallan, assistant cashier. In 1915, after the death of Nels Olson Onsgard, O. K. Dahle became president, the other officers remaining as before. In 1917, P. T. Newhouse succeeded O. N. Onsgard as vice-president. On Nov. 1, 1918, B. T. Haugen became second assistant cashier. The officers are now: president, O. K. Dähle; vice-president, P. T. Newhouse; cashier, B. N. Onsgard; assistant cashier, O. E. Hallan; second assistant cashier, B. T. Haugen. The institution moved to its sightly new banking house, Feb. 7, 1916. This building is well equipped for its purpose, having aside from the main banking room, a consulting room and an officers' room, with other conveniences. The bank has a capital of \$25,000, surplus and undivided profits of \$15,622.96; loans and discounts of \$266,758.18; total deposits of \$388,054.81; and immediate cash reserve of \$53,463.70, according to the report of Dec. 31, 1918. The bank aims to give to its patrons every service compatible with conservative banking judgment. Realizing that in the development of the rural districts lies the future of the village, it is helping in that development in every way possible, and impresses on the farmers that the banking house is their real financial headquarters, where consultation may be had on all subjects pertaining to their mutual interests.

The State Bank of Spring Grove was incorporated Nov. 1, 1904, by C. J. Scofield, of Caledonia; O. B. Tone, O. B. Nelson, Mons Fladager and Dr. Trond Stabo, of Spring Grove; and E. J. Scofield, of Elbow Lake. Nov. 10, these gentlemen, as directors, met and chose O. B. Tone as president, O. B. Nelson as vice-president, and C. J. Scofield as cashier. In the meantime, a bank building, a sightly structure of brick, a real ornament to the business street of Spring Grove, and in every way excellently equipped for its purpose, had been erected. Doors were opened on Dec. 12, 1904, in sole charge of the cashier, C. J. Scofield. The capital stock was \$15,000 and the surplus \$5,000. The institution since then has enjoyed a well deserved growth. From a staff of one the working force has increased to four. Oct. 1, 1906, Charley M. Langland became assistant cashier; in January, 1916, Archie C. Scofield, son of the cashier, became second as-

sistant cashier; and on June 5, 1918, M. C. Ike became bookkeeper. O. B. Tone, the first president, served until his death, March 14, 1917, and at the January meeting of 1918 was succeeded by O. B. Nelson, and Mr. Nelson was succeeded as vice-president by Peter Fladager who, after the death of his father, Mons Fladager, in 1906, had become a director at the January meeting of 1907. In January, 1914, Charley M. Langland succeeded Dr. Trond Stabo as director. But in January, 1918, Dr. Stabo again became a director. So with the retirement of O. B. Tone and Mons Fladager, both deceased, and the addition of Charley M. Langland and Peter Fladager, the directorate is the same as originally constituted. In 1905, the first full year of business, the bank had deposits of \$56,002.36, and loans and discounts of \$44,112.27. In 1910, the deposits were \$205,434.35, and the loans and discounts \$176,976.19. In 1915, the deposits were \$313,852.46, and the loans and discounts \$339,032.46. The bank is in close touch with farming conditions, and aims to be a farmers bank in every particular. It endeavors to assist the farmers in their financial affairs, looking after their investments and giving advice at all times. It has also taken an important part in distributing helpful literature, encouraging business methods in agriculture, and lending its best assistance in the progress of the community. According to the report, at the end of 1918 the bank had a capital of \$15,000; surplus and undivided profits of \$14,785; loans and discounts of \$289,092.97; total deposits of \$393,678.76; and immediate cash assets of \$69,859.96.

The creamery industry is an important one in Spring Grove. The first creamery in Spring Grove was started by Nels Olson Onsgard, merchant and banker. The successive owners were then: Graham & Tollefson; Ole N. Kjome, Sylling & Larson, Gaare & Sylling; and Nels Kjome, the latter of whom sold to the co-operative company. The Spring Grove Co-operative Creamery Co. was incorporated Jan. 28, 1909, by Knute H. Rauk, P. C. Onstad, O. C. Vaaler, Albert Bergsrud, Magnus Thoreson, Peter Kinneberg and K. E. Kieland. K. H. Rauk was the first president. The present officers are: president, Henry Roverud; vice-president, C. B. Doety; secretary, Carl Haugen; treasurer, Peter Onstad; directors, Knute H. Rauk, O. A. Kroshus and John N. Schmidt.

The vicinity of Spring Grove was selected as the site of a village in 1852 by James Smith, and at once became a famous stopping place for the heavy stream of pioneers coming from Brownsville, or up over the Iowa prairies and bound for the rich farm lands to the westward and northward. He put up a house and a store on the eastern part of section 11, and began to accommodate travelers. In 1855, he sold his store to William Hinckley. Hinckley bought land of Embrick Knudson, and erected and opened a store a half a mile west of Smith's place. About this time Embrick Benson sold to William Flemming forty acres on which most of the village is now located. Flemming opened a hotel, called the "Pumpkin Tavern." About this time Smith platted a village which never materialized. He soon sold to Robert McCormick who kept a public house. Nick and Jesse Demering opened a saloon near the "Pumpkin Tavern," but soon sold to a Mr. Badger, of Wisconsin, who put in a stock of merchandise. This building

with its contents was soon burned. Tartt & Smith from Dorchester, Iowa, then opened a store but remained only a short time. In the meantime the forty first owned by Benson and then by Flemming had passed into the hands of Peter Halverson. In February, 1860, he sold to Mons Fladager, the real founder of the village. Mr. Fladager opened a store in the "Pumpkin Tavern" building. In 1864, he erected a store on the site of the old Badger building. In 1881, he completed a brick block. The same store is now occupied by his sons. Mr. Fladager platted the present village. When he arrived here there were but two people, William Hinckley, keeping a general store, and Peter McCormick, keeping a hotel.

In the meantime, the surrounding country had been settled by sturdy Norwegian pioneers, the vanguard coming in 1852. Of the first colony, there now remain but two: Mrs. Mons Fladager, who was Jorend P. Lommen, daughter of Peter Lommen, and L. T. Johnson. The early township history has been related. The interests of the township center in the village, the town hall being located but half a mile to the westward. This building was erected in 1896, has suitable sheds, and in the yard a commanding flag pole has been erected. Nearby is the beautiful cemetery where so many of the pioneers repose.

This cemetery is the third in the vicinity. The first was on the southeast corner of section 10, on the farm of H. N. Narveson. At that time it was expected to erect the church there. Some thirty or forty people were laid to rest here, the first being Hans Ostensen Melbranter. After the church was built, a cemetery was platted in its yard after the ancient custom. This cemetery, surrounded by a beautiful hedge, is still in existence, and here many of the noble pioneers are buried, though it is not now in use. The present cemetery is a beautiful sweep of ground on a height about a mile from the village.

HOUSTON

Houston, the metropolis of northern Houston county is located in the picturesque Root River Valley, not far from where that stream is joined by its south fork. Its railroad service is furnished by the southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.

The town is in an unusually flourishing condition, and its business section presents a scene of prosperity and industry. The high school building, the combined village hall and community center, the office of the Houston Signal and the People's Telephone Exchange, the two banks, the Iverson Lumber yard and several new store buildings are all architectural features which contribute greatly to the general air of thrift and success. The residences are also comfortable and commodious, with sightly lawns, well cared for, and furnished with modern conveniences. A live Commercial Club of which A. C. Evanson is president and C. F. Schonlau is secretary keeps well abreast of the times, and does its share toward maintaining the general prosperity.

Houston is noted as the shipping and trading point of as rich an agricultural region as is to be found in southern Minnesota. From up and down

the Root River valley, and from the rich valleys leading into it, come the prosperous farmers to do their shopping, their banking and their shipping. The co-operative movement is here represented by the Houston Creamery Co., the Houston Co-operative Elevator Co., and the Farmers' Co-operative Shipping Association. It is also the headquarters of the Mound Prairie Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. Houston is the shipping and receiving place for Money Creek and for several smaller hamlets. Its principal exports are dairy products, stock, small fruit and grain. In former days it was the site of several mills, but all that is now left of this enterprise is the mill of the Redding Flour and Feed Co. a mile and a half east of Houston, on the railroad and the south fork of the Root River.

The village has two banks, a newspaper, two elevators, two lumber yards, a village hall, a park, a creamery, two cement sand block establishments, stock yards, waterworks and electricity.

The village of Houston was organized April 7, 1874, in accordance with an act of the legislature of the state, approved Feb. 9, 1874. The first officers elected were: H. Rasmussen, president; A. P. Johnson, E. A. Brown and P. Errikson, trustees; D. F. Case, clerk; O. A. Johnson, marshal; I. Abrahamson, treasurer; E. A. Horner, justice of the peace, and G. C. Turner, assessor. At this election D. C. Dyer was moderator; D. C. Sherman, inspector, and P. Downing, election clerk.

Houston's village hall and community center, which is the pride of the village, and of the whole northern part of the county, is the result of an ideal long cherished by many of the leading citizens. The old village hall, as erected some years ago, was built along the lines usually followed in such a building, and was suitable for the ordinary purposes of such a structure. But as the village grew, and modern ideas were introduced, and the community began to take on a more sightly architectural appearance, many of the citizens felt that the time was ripe for the erection of a building which would be a true community center, furnishing not only a protection for the fire apparatus, a meeting place for the council, and an election place, but also an adequate auditorium, suitable for graduations, musicales, theatrical performances and large public gatherings of all sorts. After the usual agitation, the matter was brought to a vote, May 6, 1912, when by a ballot of 73 for to 63 against, the citizens decided to issue bonds to the amount of \$4,500. At that time A. T. Rowland was president of the council; C. J. Swenson, A. P. Omodt and Henry Larson, the trustees; G. L. Schonlau, the clerk; and these men were all actively concerned in the progress of the work. The architect was I. G. Iverson, to whose credit stand many of the other artistic buildings of the community, and he gave to the work his personal supervision. Captain Samuel B. McIntire acted as attorney and did much toward bringing the project to a successful conclusion. Martin Nelson, of Rushford, was the contractor; A. T. Rowland installed the heating plant; T. E. Trondson & Son did the painting and decorating; D. A. Comstock and his father did the plumbing. The Ladies' Civic Club, the Business Men and the Dramatic Company raised \$700 for the scenery, seats and piano. The hall was officially opened with a dramatic production by Houston's best local talent.

The building, which is of steel and cement construction, presents a most artistic appearance, and is truly an ornament to the community. The exterior walls and columns are finished in soft gray tones of rough cast cement plaster, and trimmed with a plain cornice in rich brown. The main room, including the permanent elevated stage is 36 by 90 feet. The stage measures 36 by 20, leaving an auditorium 36 by 70 feet. Over the rear of the hall extends a balcony, 36 by 14 feet. The entrance measures 18 by 10 feet, and the council room 30 by 14 feet. The dressing rooms occupy a space 36 by 6 feet. Underneath the stage and council rooms are located rooms for fire apparatus, furnaces and fuel.

In the earliest days, the people of Houston obtained their water from the natural waterways. In time wells were dug and cisterns built. Later drilled wells were installed, furnishing the people of the village with an excellent supply. The first efforts toward a public supply were taken on April 23, 1904, when the village voted \$5,000 bonds for the installation of a system. The system has since been developed. Still further developments are expected in the future. The service now consists of a White compressed air system of distribution, an ample supply of water being obtained from a flowing well. The pump, having a capacity of 200 gallons a minute, is driven by a gasoline engine. The pumping station is a brick structure, adjoining the village hall, with which it corresponds in exterior finish and decoration. The street system consists of 1,100 feet of six-inch mains, 2,200 feet of four-inch mains, and seven double hydrants.

Electricity for street lighting and business and residential purposes is furnished by the Root River Power & Light Co., with headquarters at Preston. The service reached Houston in 1918, and is being made available to an increasing number of patrons. From 1904 to 1918, the streets were lighted by gas from the gas plant installed at the same time as the waterworks. Still earlier the street lights had been supplied with gasoline and still earlier by kerosene.

The village park, which was platted with the village, occupies a full block. It is a favorite picnic place, and provides an out-door assembling place for celebrations and anniversaries. It has some excellent trees and shrubbery and is provided with a grandstand.

Houston has no organized fire department. But it is adequately provided with fire protection. In the basement of the village hall is a hook and ladder truck, and two hose carts, together with 1,000 feet of hose, for which the waterworks system supplies sufficient pressure.

The town hall, a fire proof structure, excellently suited for its needs, is located just east of the village line.

Houston is usually fortunate in its educational equipment, having one of the best school systems in this part of the state. The first school was taught in an old shanty once used by Joel Marsh in the lower town, on the bank of the river near the present bridge. When the village was moved, the school followed the business houses, and in time a two-room house was erected on the southern margin of the village. Several years later, the building was doubled and four teachers employed. Later an additional teacher was secured. In 1908, the present beautiful and com-

modious building was erected. It covers the usual graded and high school studies. In addition to this it has a most excellent Normal department which is turning out some good teachers. Courses are also given in Manual Training and Domestic Science. District No. 16, to the north of village, has consolidated with the local district, the children being brought to school in a bus. Among the many who have labored for the interests of the educational system in Houston, special mention should be made of Captain Samuel B. McIntire, who was a member of the board from 1872 to his death in 1917.

A post office was established as early as 1857, A. Marsh being the first postmaster. In 1866, the post office, like all other business activities of the place, was moved to the newer location, being transferred, building and all, while Mr. Marsh was yet postmaster. His successors were L. A. Tennison, D. F. Case, F. N. Goodrich. In 1871, when Mr. Case was in charge, the office was made a money order office, the first order being issued Aug. 3. The successors of Mr. Goodrich have been Samuel B. McIntire, W. A. Vance, Isaac Goodwin, C. F. Schonlau and G. A. Comstock, who is now serving. There are six rural routes served from this office. No. 1 was established in 1902, M. J. Taylor, carrier; No. 2 was established in 1902, K. P. Field, carrier; No. 3 was established in 1903, K. O. Senness, carrier; No. 4 was established in 1903, Thomas Lane, carrier; No. 5 was established in 1904, John Sanden, carrier; No. 6 was established in 1915, J. M. Kerrigan, carrier.

The Houston Valley Signal was established Aug. 17, 1882, by T. McConnell. April 26, 1883, the son, Charles A. McConnell, was received into partnership and the firm became McConnell & Son. Oct. 11, 1883, C. F. Schonlau bought an interest and the firm became McConnell & Schonlau. March 6, 1884, Mr. Schonlau became the sole owner. In 1910, he received his son, Gerard L. into partnership, and the firm became Schonlau & Son. The paper, the office building and the business methods pursued in the printing department are models of their kind, and have received wide praise. The beautiful fire proof building is one of the architectural ornaments of the village, and is the best newspaper office and printing shop in southeastern Minnesota. A simple, but most effective, filing and cost system, devised by Mr. Schonlau himself, solves the problem of efficiency and easy reference, in a way seldom attained in a journalistic and printing office. The paper itself is newsy, and has always stood for the best interests of the village, the community, and the county at large.

The two banks in Houston are the Security State Bank and the Houston State Bank, in which latter is consolidated the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank and the Citizens' State Bank. In earlier times, D. L. Buell did a banking business under the name of the Bank of Houston, and D. C. Dyer under the name of the Exchange Bank.

The Security State Bank of Houston opened for business Nov. 21, 1911. The first officers were: John Q. Briggs, president, A. C. Evanson, vice-president, A. T. Rowland, C. F. Schonlau and J. J. Sliter. L. H. Briggs was the cashier and N. E. Forsyth the assistant cashier. These officers still remain in charge of the institution. A beautiful new building which

will be one of the finest banking houses in southeastern Minnesota has just been completed. According to the statement at the close of business May 1, 1919, the bank has a capital and surplus of \$20,000; undivided profits, \$2,836.79; loans and discounts of \$197,174.41; total deposits of \$381,395.62; and cash assets including moneys due from other banks, of \$114,963.19.

The Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, of Houston, now consolidated with the Houston State Bank, was started July 10, 1905, with a capital of \$10,000.00. The incorporators were: Knute T. Thompson, John D. McMillan, Ole P. Gaustad, Solvie S. Vathing, Anton Forsyth, and D. C. Dyer. The first officers were John D. McMillan, president, Anton Forsyth, vice-president, and Ole P. Gaustad. At the time of the consolidation with the Citizens' State Bank, in the Houston State Bank, Dec. 28, 1908, the officers were: J. D. McMillan, president, C. J. Swenson, vice-president, George Vating, E. S. Kingsley, Knud Omadt, N. A. Redding and J. F. Anderson. Knute T. Thompson was the cashier and A. P. Omoldt the assistant cashier.

The Houston State Bank, with which is consolidated the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, was incorporated at the Citizens' State Bank, Dec. 22, 1902, by James C. Kelly, of Yucatan; John Q. Briggs, Thomas Rowland, Jens P. Onstad, De Witt C. Dyer, Adolph E. Johnson and Knute T. Thompson, of Houston; Harvey Chapel, of Money Creek; Herbert C. Garvin and Theodore Wold, of Winona; and William J. Naylor, of Owatonna. The first officers were Theodore Wold, president, John Q. Briggs, vice-president, H. C. Garvin, Charles T. Olson, James C. Kelly, Thomas Rowland, and Jens P. Onstad. The bank opened for business, Feb. 16, 1903, with William J. Naylor as cashier, in the building later occupied by the Security State Bank. June 11, 1904, the business had so increased that L. Hollis Briggs was employed as bookkeeper. From the beginning, the directors planned to have a banking house owned by the institution itself. In the summer of 1905, a building was started, and on Nov. 6, of that year, the doors of the present sightly bank were opened. The building has continued to prove itself well adapted to its purpose, with a large banking space, and with several private rooms for consultation and business. The safe and the safe deposit vaults are models of substantial and secure construction. In 1906, another vice-president was added in the person of James C. Kelly. In 1907, L. Hollis Briggs was promoted from bookkeeper to assistant cashier. April 29, 1908, Messrs. Garvin, Wold and Olson sold their stock to local interests, and retired from the directorate. At that time James C. Kelly became the president, Mr. Briggs remaining the vice-president and Mr. Naylor the cashier. The directors in addition to the president and vice-president were: A. C. Evanson, Henry Hanson, A. J. Von Arx, Thomas Rowland and Jens P. Onstad. Dec. 28, 1908, the bank was consolidated with the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, and the capital increased to \$25,000. Jan. 2, 1909, a new board was elected. Mr. Kelly remained as president and Mr. Briggs as vice-president. Knute T. Thompson became cashier and A. P. Omoldt assistant cashier, L. Hollis Briggs remaining in a similar capacity. The new board, in addition to Mr. Kelly and Mr. Briggs, consisted of A. J. Von Arx, Knud Omoldt, N. A. Redding, E. J.

Kingsley and C. J. Swenson. At this time the name was changed to the Houston State Bank. April 24, 1909, C. J. Swenson was added to the list of vice-presidents. Oct. 28, 1911, John Q. Briggs, vice-president, and L. Hollis Briggs, assistant cashier, resigned, and withdrew their interests. Thomas Rowland took Mr. Briggs' place as vice-president. July 1, 1912, William McMillan became bookkeeper. In 1916, Mr. Rowland retired as vice-president, and in 1917, E. J. Kingsley was elected to that office. April 15, 1919, after the death of Mr. Thompson, A. P. Omodt became cashier. The official force of the bank now consists of James C. Kelly, president; C. J. Swenson, vice-president; E. J. Kingsley, vice-president; A. P. Omodt, cashier; William McMillan, assistant cashier; Palmer Johnson, bookkeeper. The directors are: James C. Kelly, B. E. Lilly, S. M. Rowland, E. J. Kingsley, N. A. Redding, C. J. Swenson, and A. E. Johnson. According to the report rendered at the close of business May 1, 1919, the bank has a capital of \$25,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$25,166.87; loans and discounts of \$412,493.16; total deposits of \$621,019.11; and total cash assets including moneys due from banks of \$139,446.46.

Houston has been a dairy center since the early days. Long before creameries were thought of, the thrifty housewives brought to Houston their butter and exchanged it with the storekeepers for merchandise. In fact considerable homemade butter is still shipped from this point. Milk and cream are also still shipped out in large volume. The first creamery in the county was probably started in Houston, when the Polar Creamery Co., Hostvet & Horn, owners, with creameries in Rushford and Lanesboro, opened a branch here in 1884, in charge of Jacob Wold. In 1887, A. Nash was placed in charge, and he has since continued to be connected with the creamery business here, being now a shipper. The creamery of this company was on the hill south of the village and was called the "Side Hill Creamery." The building was so constructed that the ice could be slid into it from the upper side hill. The creamery did a good business, having some twenty men engaged in hauling cream. But various causes prevented its ultimate success, and in 1892 it went out of business. The Houston Creamery Co. was then organized, and a creamery erected at the eastern edge of the village. This creamery with enlargements and improvements is still the Houston Creamery.

Houston was platted by Mons Anderson, a leading La Crosse merchant. He purchased two quarter sections from David Johnson and Lars Johnson. David Johnson's claim was originally taken by W. Webster, who sold it to Mr. Johnson in 1853 for \$30. On this tract the present village is located.

The early history of the village has already been related. The village was originally started about a mile east, at what is now known as Old Houston. The first store there was opened in 1854 by Ole Knudson, who brought his goods on a keel boat from La Crosse. Others soon followed, and the place soon became a flourishing hamlet. Some of the old buildings there, now used as sheds or storerooms, still testify to the prosperity that was once found there. But when the railroad was put through, the present location of the village was chosen. The first to move was Andrew Forsyth,

in the early fall of 1866. He was followed soon afterward by Isaac Abrahamson, E. A. Horner, A. P. Johnson, D. C. Dyer and others. It is interesting to note that D. C. Dyer still conducts the leading mercantile establishment in the village, while Mr. Abrahamson, though retired, is still one of its most respected citizens.

The moving once begun, it was not long before the old village was entirely deserted, and the efforts of the populace were given over entirely to building up the new settlement.

The village of Houston had a vigorous early growth, three years after its establishment containing about 35 buildings, including three store houses, two shingle factories, turning out from three to five thousand shingles a day, two carpenter shops, a chair factory and cabinet shop, a cooper shop, blacksmith shop, one steam sawmill, a corn mill, a turning lathe and broom factory. Other enterprises were also projected, and the people were getting ready to build a good school house. Timber was then abundant, and land was selling at from \$5.00 to \$25.00 an acre.

In 1882, sixteen years after the coming of the railroad and the removal of the village to its second and permanent location, it contained about 39 or 40 business enterprises, including three hotels. Among the older merchants, several of whom started in the lower village, were: D. C. Dyer, general store, established 15 years; E. A. Horner, dry goods, boots and shoes, millinery and fancy goods, established 16 years; L. R. Hall, general store, established 18 years; A. P. Johnson, general store, established 12 years; Isaac Abrahamson, general store, established 20 years; L. A. Tension, hardware, tinware, agricultural implements, and undertaking, seven years established. The Cottrell House, opposite the depot, John Cottrell, had been established eleven years. The two other hotels were: the Minnesota Hotel, on Cedar street, T. R. Parish, proprietor; and the Sherman House, Alonzo B. Smith, proprietor. Among the other merchants were: Field & Briggs, general store, in business seven years; C. Rasmussen, general store; F. N. Goodrich crockery, glassware, stationery, notions and toys; E. O. Loken, five and ten cent store, tinware, shoemaking, etc.; Charles Hollengren (lower village), blacksmithing and wagon works; Charles Hanson, wagon works; C. O. Olson, wheelwright; Mikkle N. Berg, watchmaker; John B. Gerard, blacksmith; J. Vincent, lumber; Lafayette Whitehouse, livery stable; W. W. Cargill & Bro., grain and provisions; David L. Buell, warehouse; E. E. Webster, lime; Ever Jacobson, harness; S. D. Drake, harness; Thomas Ryan, and S. S. Wenson, boots and shoes; A. Landergren, tailor; James Haley, meat market and feed store; Whitehouse Bros., restaurant and groceries; Thomas Rowland and James Rowland and Christian Jacobson, saloons with billiard tables; Asbjorn Olson, saloon and cigar store; Chris. Nelson, saloon; Anna Huber, saloon. There were two lawyers, C. D. Ramsdell and Samuel B. McIntire; and two physicians, G. Erdmann, and E. M. Sheldon.

The churches of Houston are the Norwegian Lutheran, the Episcopal the Presbyterian, the Roman Catholic, the Norwegian Lutheran and the Bethany Evangelical Free Churches. Not far away are the Swedish Baptist and the Norwegian Lutheran (Stone) Church. Of these the Swedish

Baptist church is the oldest in the community, the first of its kind in the state. It came into existence, Aug. 18, 1853, with a membership of nine, under the leadership of Rev. F. O. Nelson, the members of the congregation being the pioneers of Swede Bottom, who had arrived the previous year. In 1854, a cholera plague swept the community, and this congregation lost five members, Mrs. Ole Benson, Mrs. Lars Johnson, Mrs. Abraham Anderson, Mrs. Johannes Anderson, and a young son of Abraham Anderson.

The Mound Prairie Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. was incorporated March 1, 1884, and commenced business March 26, 1884, with thirty-two original members carrying insurance of \$44,700.00. The first officers were Charles Lehmann, president, A. J. Van Arx, secretary, Jacob Klein, treasurer, Fred Burow, J. A. Eberhard, Lorenz Hafner and Andrew Orr. Charles Lehmann remained as president until June 7, 1910, when he resigned and was followed by George H. Onstine. In 1915, Albinus Lilly was president, after which came Mr. Onstine again. In 1917, the present president, O. T. Findreng took office. Jacob Klein remained as treasurer until 1890, when he was followed by J. C. Kelly. A. J. Van Arx was secretary until his death in 1916, when Mr. Kelly took his place, Mr. Kelly being followed as treasurer by W. H. Eberhard. The present officers are: president, A. T. Findreng; vice-president, Philip Schwebach; treasurer, W. H. Eberhard; secretary, J. C. Kelly; directors, W. J. Von Arx, E. J. Kingsley, George F. Lampert, H. F. Pagel and H. W. Klein.

A comparison of the various financial reports of the company shows an interesting growth in the business done. At the end of the first year, 1884, there had been issued 64 policies. The premiums received amounted to \$350.69, which, after deducting the expenses and losses paid of \$155.60, left \$291.09 in the treasury. At the end of 1900, there were 1,360 policies in force. At the beginning of that year the company had \$1,561.06 on hand. During the year it received \$2,800.03 in premiums, and \$39.91 in interest, making a total of \$4,394.00 out of which the expenses and losses amounted to \$4,027.88, leaving a balance of \$366.12. At the close of 1910, there were 1,730 policies in force. At the beginning of the year the company had \$2,329.32. During the year it received \$5,719.83 in premiums and \$61.80 in interest, making a total of \$8,110.95, out of which \$5,502.67 was paid in expenses and losses, leaving a balance of \$2,208.28. At the close of 1918, there were 1,858 policies in force. At the beginning of the year the company had \$6,116.01. During the year it received \$11,057.80 in premiums and \$185.17 in interest, making a total of \$17,358.98, out of which \$6,995.13 was paid in expenses and losses, leaving a balance of \$10,363.85.

During its thirty-five years of existence the company has levied only five assessments.

LA CRESCENT

La Crescent, a pretty village, where centers so much that is interesting in the story of Minnesota's historical and economic development, is one of the most important fruit growing regions in the State. Its rich soil, its sunny slopes, its favorable contour, and its location all contribute

to its importance. While it is still a small village, it is already the home of several important industries and with the extension of a trolley system from La Crosse, will become as important as a suburban residential district and possibly as a manufacturing region, as it is now as an agricultural region.

Situated somewhat back from the Mississippi, from which it is separated by a series of sloughs, marshes and lagoons which teem in luxuriant water foliage and flowering plants, and occupying the gently sloping terraces which terminate on the sunny slopes of picturesque hills, the village is free from floods, and still has all the advantages that can be given by nearness to that great thoroughfare. The dike road which joins the mainland to the La Crosse high wagon bridge, guides through La Crescent, all the road traffic flowing into La Crosse from southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, and brings from far east and west the tourists, who find here a convenient crossing place.

To these sweeping terraces came Peter Cameron in 1851, with his dream of a great city. Here, a little later, came the Gillettes, who platted a village. Here in 1856, came the advance guard of the Kentucky Company, whose stockholders likewise had dreams of a great city. Here they platted their future metropolis. Eastern newspapers teemed with its possibilities, great men of the nation vied with each other in buying at fabulous prices lots in this new Utopia. But the wonderful ambitions of the promoters were never realized, and the lot ownership merely remained to harass the tax collectors, and to retard the growth of the town. Indeed it is only in recent years that the titles to the property by resident owners has all been cleared, and now all the land is owned by the La Crescent citizens themselves.

But while these plans for a great metropolis were meeting with failure, there was one dream that was being realized. John S. Harris was a lover of the out-of-doors. He was also a fruit and vegetable fancier. He came to La Crescent in 1856, and while southern promoters were platting and picturing the wonderful lots, in the swamps, on the terraces and up the sides of the hills, he quietly established the Sunnyside Gardens, and started raising fruits and vegetables. He probably did more than any other man to encourage the growing of fruit in the State of Minnesota. And in doing so he brought to La Crescent its present importance. The dream of a great city faded, but his dream of a great fruit and vegetable growing region has more than been fulfilled. Mr. Harris' own son, Frank I. Harris, and his grandson, DeWitt C. Webster, probably ship more berries than anyone else in the State, and there are many others in the same business. The slopes of the hills are covered with fruit trees, the fertile acres of level stretches of the terraces are covered with berry vines and bushes and truck vegetables, and the truck gardens extend far into the sunny valleys and rich ridges. Not only are fruit and fresh vegetables supplied to the cities in large quantities, but a canning factory devoted exclusively to tomatoes, cans the products of the great acreage of that refreshing product.

From the time the strawberries are ripe in the spring, until the last apples and tomatoes are harvested in the fall, the territory surrounding the village is a scene of busy activity, the fruit pickers, who come by the

hundreds from La Crosse, forming a picturesque sight as they go about their duties of harvesting.

In addition to its fruit and vegetable culture, La Crescent is known as the home of the Smith Grubber Co., (N. W. Smith, president; F. R. Smith, secretary; manufacturers of stump pullers), whose advertising and whose product carries the name of the village near and far; and the sterling Machinery Co. (J. W. Welch, president; Phil Fitting, secretary) has a big business in cement block making machinery. J. W. Welch is proprietor of a well digging industry, which has also made the village well done. He has done work through this region in Minnesota and Iowa. For several decades he has taken careful observations, and his conclusions are eagerly sought by learned societies interested in geology.

There are three churches in the village, the Catholic, the Presbyterian and the Methodist Episcopal. The public school has been long noted for its excellent work under trained and experienced instructors. The La Crescent Shipping Association is important in the business activities of the town. The creamery, the Pine Creek Valley Creamery, ships from La Crescent, but is located some distance away.

The railroad facilities are excellent. It is on one of the main lines of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the line to La Crosse branching off a little to the northward, and the Southern Minnesota a little to the southward. A good hotel furnished accommodation to traveling men and tourists, and the business houses are adequate. For pleasure purposes, Pettibone Park, the famous La Crosse municipal park, with its great trees, its playgrounds, and its bathing beach, are but a little distance away.

The La Crescent State Bank was organized Sept. 10, 1912, and opened for business Nov. 25, 1912. As the result of the work of J. W. Welch, a leading business man of La Crescent, and L. H. Gardner, cashier of the New Albin Savings Bank, capital of \$10,000 had been subscribed by some forty-five business men and farmers, not more than five shares being allotted to one man. After the money had all been subscribed, the original meeting was held July 22, 1912, Masonic Hall, with Mr. Welch as chairman and Mr. Gardner as secretary. The first officers were: J. W. Welch, president; A. J. Cameron, vice-president; Albinus Lilly, George Kinny and L. H. Gardner. Levi L. Atkinson was cashier. The store which had been occupied as a mercantile establishment by J. M. McCaffrey for some fifteen years previous was remodeled into a model bank building, with a comfortable banking room, a director's room, a safety-deposit vault and an adequate safe. Before the bank opened, Mr. McCaffrey was named as cashier, and he has since remained in active charge of the bank. It is constantly growing and has proved a great convenience to the people who formerly had to do their banking across the river in another State at La Crosse.

The La Crescent Canning Co., Inc., is a large and growing institution, and is more than doing its share toward spreading the fame of La Crescent as a leading region for the growing of small fruits and vegetables. The plan had been operated for several years, when in 1909 it was given new life by coming under the ownership of A. J. Cameron, John L. Cameron and Philip Fitting. They purchased the plant, remodelled it throughout,

installed new machinery, laid cement floors, instituted sanitary precautions, and otherwise greatly improved the plant and equipment as well as decidedly enlarging its capacity. In 1916, it was incorporated with a capital of \$15,000 with Allen J. Cameron of La Crescent township as president; John L. Cameron, of La Crosse, as secretary; and Philip Fitting, of La Crescent, as treasurer. They are doing a splendid business, specializing in the La Crescent Brand of tomatoes, putting some up under their own name and some under the jobber's name. The officials are men of high standing and good judgment, their product is large, and they are utilizing many acres of rich land and thus giving employment to many people and adding to the wealth of the village and township.

W. H. Parks, who came to La Crescent as a boy, has written some interesting reminiscences of La Crescent. He says:

The winter of 1855-56 my step-father, H. Gleason, and my mother came by team from Blissfield, Mich., to the town of Manton, now the village of La Crescent. We crossed the mighty Father of Waters from La Crosse to Manton on the ice, Christmas Day, 1855. The town plat of Manton nearly all belonged to Harvey and William Gillett, who lived in a log house, the only house in the village. William Gillett was the first postmaster, and the mail he kept in his trunk until called for. The Gilletts built the first frame house in the hamlet in 1857, if my memory serves me right. Harvey Gillett built the second frame house, the "Minnesota Hotel." H. Gleason bought the place and ran a hotel there for many years. The general store was built and run by J. A. Anderson and a partner named Crocker. Afterward it was bought by Farnham & Hanscom. The first school was taught by a lady from Ohio named Nancy Ambler. The pupils were William, Estalla and Benjamin Mercer, Larkie Lapham and the writer. In the near future there was a large sawmill erected on the river bank, about eighty rods north of where the present railroad bridge is, and was a great source for employment from La Crosse. About that time, a company of Kentuckians came up the river and made a trade with the Gillett brothers for their interest in the townsite, two steamboats and some other property. This company established its general office on the lot where the residence of the Houston county surveyor now stands, and had several residences built in the village. The first railroad grade and bridges were completed in La Crescent in 1864 by the Southern Minnesota, formerly called the Root River Valley Railway Co. Injunctions and financial difficulties stopped the work for several years. Finally about two miles of the north end of the grade was abandoned, and a new grade was built across the low lands to the Mississippi River opposite the south end of La Crosse, and the traffic was transported by boat to connect with the railroad running east from about midway between the north and south part of La Crosse. The western terminus of the line was Rushford for some time, and finally was completed to Lanesboro, where it remained for some years. The first resident attorney in La Crescent was O. T. Gilman. The first blacksmith was Charles Sperry. The first wagon maker was named Case. The first newspaper was published by E. A. Purdy. The first drug store was kept by James Ayers. Many of the old time farmers used to haul their grain fifty or

sixty miles from the west to La Crescent by ox team before the Southern Minnesota was built, taking four or five days for the trip. In 1862, the time of the great Indian Uprising, hundreds of settlers became frightened and put their families in their wagons and rushed to La Crescent to get across the river for safety. The first resident physician in La Crescent was Dr. H. T. Fox, from Lexington, Ky. He was an army surgeon in the Civil War and after the war returned to La Crescent and resumed his practice until his death in 1875. S. E. Truesdell built a large hotel on the bank of the river along in the sixties, and J. C. Burbank established a stage line from La Crescent to St. Paul. Twelve and fourteen coaches used to leave the hotel every noon, as well as many other teams carrying the freight, mail and express over land in summer and on the ice in winter, on the river. Joseph M. Garner superintended the transfer of mail and baggage and express from the stages to La Crosse in the winter and endured many hardships and narrow escapes on the treacherous ice in early winter and spring after the ice got really unsafe for traffic. A group of people from Kentucky consisting of Benjamin Mills and family, Edward Rice and mother, Mrs. Andrews and daughter, started an educational institution in what was then known as the La Crescent House. This female seminary was the best school for somewhat advanced students ever in the town. During the regime of the old Kentucky Company, previously mentioned as owners of the townsite, it operated a ferry boat, and a transportation line from the Minnesota side to La Crosse until a short time before the wagon bridge was built in 1889, and great was the tide of immigration until the railroad was finished from La Crescent to St. Paul in 1872. The railroad from Dubuque, Ia., was completed to La Crescent in 1872 and connected with the line to St. Paul. The first passenger train to arrive in La Crescent was at 4 o'clock p. m., Dec. 28, 1872. In 1876, the railroad bridge was completed across the Mississippi River.

La Crescent has now no newspaper but was the home of two pioneer journals.

The La Crescent Banner. When the village of La Crescent was enjoying the highest tide of prosperity, a newspaper was started called the "La Crescent Banner," the publisher of which was A. P. Swineford. The paper, a six-column folio, was issued from a small press in a not very well furnished office in the old double store of the Kentucky Company. It flourished but for a short time, however, the whole concern being soon removed to La Crosse.

Robert F. Howard, in the La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press of Jan. 5, 1919, says of this paper:

"In Louisville, Ky., there was founded a company called the Kentucky Company to found a city in Minnesota. As a part of their plan a newspaper was started to boom the prospective metropolis, bearing title of the La Crescent Banner, with the magnificent motto in bold capitals underneath. "Democracy Our Policy, the Stars and Stripes Our Banner." The editor, and for the purpose of the Kentucky Company, the proprietor, was A. P. Swineford, who when Grover Cleveland was elected president, became governor of the territory of Alaska. Mr. Swineford was an ambitious man;

a native of Indiana, who had exalted ideas of the possibilities of the press. He didn't have much ready money, but he had a tremendous amount of energy and sufficient self-assurance to combine the two and fill in the void left by the lack of capital. After abandoning the field at La Crescent, he startled the primitive population of La Crosse one morning in the autumn of 1859 with a circular announcing that he was coming among them to establish a morning paper to be known as the La Crosse Daily Union."

The La Crescent Plaindealer. The next candidate for favor in the journalistic line was the "La Crescent Plaindealer," which was started by E. H. Purdy, of Minneapolis, in 1860. It was a seven-column folio, well edited, and strongly Democratic in principle. In about two years it was sold to J. T. Ferguson, and was finally closed out in September, 1862, the editor having enlisted. It was in the office of the "Plaindealer" that George B. Winship, afterward the able editor of the "Grand Forks Herald," learned the printing business.

BROWNSVILLE

Brownsville, situated under the shelter of Wild Cat Bluff, is one of the old river towns of Minnesota, and was once the gateway to the rich regions of southeastern Minnesota. Here landed the people bound for preemption land further west, here came the provisions upon which those pioneers must survive, here was the land office where the settlers must secure their patents to their land.

The early history of this village has been related at length elsewhere. Its decline came with the building of the railroad which damaged its magnificent landing, and with the diminishing in importance of the steamboat traffic.

The village has a bank, the Brownsville State Bank, a newspaper, the Brownsville News, a hotel, a lumber yard, a sawmill, a village hall and usual business houses. It has Episcopal, German Evangelical, Lutheran and Catholic churches.

The farmers' co-operative movement is represented by the Farmers' Co-operative Co., which operates a general store.

Brownsville is on the La Crescent-Dubuque division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and ships farm products. Fishing is an important industry in the vicinity.

Brownsville was the location of several early newspapers.

The Southern Minnesota Herald, No. 1, volume 1, was dated June 23, 1855, at Brownsville. William Frazier Ross was the editor. The paper was owned by a joint stock company, which was organized the previous April. J. H. McKinney and J. R. Bennett, the land officers, Job Browb, Charles Brown and E. A. Goodell were the members. Mr. Ross, the editor, went to Cincinnati and procured the outfit. In politics the paper was to have been neutral, but at the fall election in 1855, H. M. Rice was running for Congress, and the land officers being the principal stockholders, and personal friends of Mr. Rice, the paper not unnaturally supported him, but toward the close of the canvass, the editor having been a Whig, turned around in

favor of the other candidate. At the end of the first volume the name of Mark Percival was associated as one of the editors; and with the issue of the seventh number, Charles Brown assumed the editorial chair. The paper was published until June, 1859, when it suspended.

Of the press used by this paper, Robert F. Howard, in the La Crosse Tribune and Leader-Press of Jan. 5, 1919, says:

"In slavery days, when the 'Underground Railroad' was established for the purpose of aiding runaway slaves to escape from the South to Canada, the main point of entrance of the runaways to the Northern States was at Cairo, Ill., across the river from Louisville, Ky. Here it was that Owen Lovejoy published his abolition paper, under the very shadow of the 'divine institution of slavery.' Here it was that the Kentucky mob was in the habit of making its periodical visits, under the cover of night, to the Illinois town, destroying the forms and mixed up the type in Lovejoy's little printing office; and here it was that on one occasion the journey was made in larger force than usual. The abolition editor was murdered, his type and presses thrown into the river.

"The old Washington hand press upon which Owen Lovejoy was wont to print his paper was not allowed to sleep in the bed of the Ohio River, however; it was fished out, taken to Brownsville, and was there used for a few months in the publication of a clientless newspaper. Later it was sold to Dr. A. P. Blakeslee and others of La Crosse, and was the press on which the National Democrat of that city was printed, which later furnished the mechanism through which the famous Mark M. (Brick) Pomeroy made his vigorous assaults upon the administration of Abraham Lincoln, whom he denounced as the 'widow maker,' and declared the war for the preservation of the union to be a failure.

"But this is not all of this strange circumstance. The man who did the press work for Owen Lovejoy on that old Washington hand press in Cairo, followed its fortunes to Brownsville and to La Crosse, and was the foreman of Pomeroy's office, and of Blakeslee's office before him, in those old days of conflict between the anti-slavery and the pro-slavery parties. And that foreman and pressman was a colored man named Joseph Taylor. He was in Lovejoy's printing office when the Kentucky mob made its assault, but made his escape, watched the proceeding from a safe vantage, and it was he that pointed out the place where the old press sank beneath the waters of the river, and assisted in its recovery.

"A tall, well proportioned man was Joseph Taylor. Painstaking and faithful, he was accounted one of the best pressmen and printers that made the pilgrimage between Dubuque, Ia., and St. Paul, Minn., in the early sixties. His appearance at the door of any of the printing offices in the intervening hamlets was the signal for the 'regular' to take a rest and give 'Old Black Joe' an opportunity to work. His favorite place of business, however, was in the office of the La Crosse Democrat, 'twisting the Devil's tail' on the old Lovejoy press which had been initiated into usefulness down in Cairo in advocacy of the freedom and rights of his race. He lived to see the cause for which Lovejoy died come to its full fruition, and he had the privilege accorded him of casting his first vote, as a gray haired old

darkey, for Abraham Lincoln's re-election. He did not live long to enjoy the right of suffrage. He entered the army during the closing hours of the war and contracted a disease which cut short his career when long looked for peace came.

"The old Washington hand press that figured so prominently in the underground railway management, and later in the interests of the slaveholders' rebellion, stood for years in the office of the La Crosse Democrat. It was at one time owned by Governor George W. Peck of Milwaukee, when he was the publisher of the La Crosse Liberal Democrat, but it has long since gone to the junk pile and had its identity obliterated.

"Originally it was highly ornamented with brass trimmings, but these were lost beyond recovery when it was thrown into the river at Cairo, Illinois."

The Free Press. On December 15, 1865, Charles Brown started the Free Press alone, and ran it with credit to himself and honor to the town up to May 21, 1869, volume 4, No. 21, when its subscription list was transferred to the Western Progress.

The Western Progress. This was a newspaper with a decided literary turn, published by Mrs. Bella French and Richard O. Thomas. It was a neat, well printed sheet that worked hard in the interest of Brownsville and Southern Minnesota. In April, 1870, Mr. Thomas withdrew and went to La Crosse, and the next month, a more promising field having opened in Spring Valley, Fillmore county, the whole establishment was removed there. Mrs. French afterwards published a magazine, "The Busy West," in St. Paul, and subsequently did some excellent historical work in Wisconsin. She later became a resident of Austin, Tex., and the editor of the "American Sketch book," a pioneer magazine of the "Lone Star" State.

HOKAH

Hokah, a thriving village on the line of the Southern Minnesota, occupies a commanding position near the mouth of the Root River valley, and has some of the most picturesque surroundings of any village in this part of the State, and its future possibilities are many.

Its people are progressive and intelligent, believers in education and in business progress, and the appearance of the village reflects their spirit.

The story of the early days of this interesting village has already been told. In the days of the railroad shops it bid fair to become a large city. Then the shops moved away. Later, with the building of extensive dams, and the construction of mills, prophecies were made that the place would become a great milling center. But floods which washed out the dams, and litigation which embroiled the owners, together with the diminishing of the wheat crop in this vicinity, and the growth of the great mills at the head of Mississippi navigation ruined this hope likewise.

But through it all, the people have held on, undaunted, and in recent years there has come a new impetus of business and progress, founded upon the solid rock of the increasing wealth and importance of the farming region for which the village furnished the shipping point.

The village has two papers, the Houston County Chief and the Hokah Tribune; two strong banks, the Farmers' State Bank and the Hokah State Bank; a grain elevator, a sawmill, a hotel and a creamery, as well as a telephone exchange. The creamery is owned by the Hokah Creamery Co., the elevator by the Hokah Grain and Stock Company, and the Hokah Shipping Association is equipped with excellent stock yards. The Hokah Telephone Exchange has local, rural and long-distance service. The Beatrice Creamery Co. has a shipping station here. The Hoffman Flour Mill is operated by water power and two miles southwest is the Bernsdorf Feed Mill.

The village owns a hose house and has a volunteer fire department of 30 men. There are two hose carts, with 1,000 feet of good 2½ inch hose. A bell is provided for a fire alarm.

The waterworks system consists of a reservoir of 150,000 capacity located on a hill 100 feet above Main Street. The water is pumped by a gasoline engine, giving a gravity pressure of 50 pounds. The village has one mile of 6-inch and 8-inch mains, and nine double hydrants.

The I. O. O. F. Hall provides a public hall.

There are four churches, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church, Zion's Lutheran Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Hokah Chief as originally established was started in 1856 or 1857, but the exact date is not known, as the early files were not preserved. After a time it was suspended, but on April 26, 1859, it was revived by H. Ostrander, a practical printer from New York State, who, in early life was associated with Thurlow Weed, one of the leading journalistic supporters of Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams. Mr. Ostrander was an indomitable worker, and a man who knew no compromise of principle, but who attacked every wrong he saw regardless of its connections or associations. His paper was Republican, and in those trying days just before the Civil War, when party passions were at fever heat, he battled nobly for the Union and became a terror to its enemies. He saw the triumph of the cause for which he fought, but on May 23, 1865, scarcely more than a month after the end of the war, the paper was discontinued for want of support and patronage.

Other former papers are the Hokah Herald and the Hokah Blade.

UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES

Money Creek is a hamlet in Money Creek valley which dates back to the earliest days, having been selected by John Campbell as a mill site in 1853. He platted the village and a store and tavern were erected. The village has a good school building and two churches, the Baptist and the Methodist, the latter of which is the prettiest rural church in southeastern Minnesota. There is a good store and a blacksmith shop. A mill does gristing, and not far away is a good creamery. The place attains some importance as being on the main thoroughfare from Winona to La Crescent.

Eitzen is a flourishing village near the Iowa county line in Winnebago township. Situated on the road between New Albin, Ia., and Spring Grove and Caledonia, routes that in the early days were much traveled, it early attained considerable importance. The village started about 1865, when Conrad Laufer began keeping travelers at his tavern. In 1867 Charles Gilbert put in a small stock of goods, and the same year C. Bunge, Jr., opened a store in an old log cabin. The hamlet attained considerable importance which diminished with the building of the railroad. But in recent years it has taken on new life. It now has a postoffice in charge of Bertha Bunge, the Eitzen State Bank, a good school, German Evangelical and German Lutheran churches, the Crystal Co-operative Creamery, a feed mill and several business places. A daily stage brings passengers and mail from New Albin, Iowa.

Riceford, in northwestern Spring Grove township, near the Fillmore county line, was platted in the early days and once bade fair to become an important place. At one time it had several mills, to which the people came from miles around. But the coming of the railroad carried the business to other places, and the village now consists of a school, a church and a store, with several residences.

Newhouse, in Spring Grove township, was established on the Reno-Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul as a convenient shipping point for the farmers in that vicinity. It has a railroad depot, grain elevators, a store and several residences.

Reno, formerly called Caledonia Junction, is important as the junction of the Reno-Preston branch with the La Crescent-Dubuque division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It has a hotel, a store, and a school, in addition to the railroad equipment. In the early days there were sawmill activities across the slough, but all that now remains are the dilapidated buildings.

Freeburg had its beginning with the arrival of William Oxford from Boston in 1852. The village is located on his land. George Powlesland, who came the same year, was not far away. It is in section 30, Crooked Creek township, on the Reno-Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It has a Roman Catholic church, a creamery, a bank, a feed mill, a postoffice, and several business houses.

Wilmington, located in the township of that name, has a store and a creamery, and a church is not far away.

Bee, formerly called Bergen Postoffice, is located in Wilmington township, and has a mill and a store.

Winnebago Valley, once called Watertown, has a mill, two stores and a school.

Yucatan has a store, a creamery and a school.

Sheldon has a Presbyterian church, a school, a store and an empty mill.

Pine Creek Valley has a mill, a creamery and a blacksmith shop. It is in La Crescent township.

Mound Prairie Station has a postoffice, a station and a store.

CHAPTER XIV

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

Houston county is distinctly an agricultural region. Even the villages are dependent on the farmers for their support and maintenance, and there are no industries that are not directly connected with the agricultural interests. In these villages in addition to the learned professions and the mercantile trade, the principal activities center in the creameries and elevators, the lumber and fuel yards, and in shipping stock and produce.

The first settlers came here with the purpose of securing farms, and their descendants and successors have followed the same occupation. But a vast amount of work has been necessary to bring the county to its present state of high improvement. While conditions here are ideal for agricultural endeavor, nevertheless there were many discouragements and misfortunes with which to contend, and many obstacles to overcome. The gophers, the blackbirds, the pigeons and the prairie chickens were deadly enemies to the crops from the earliest days. Then, too, the climate presented difficulties, for although the settlers for the most part had previously had considerable experience as farmers, they had farmed under different climatic conditions. Those who came from the eastern states were accustomed to a longer growing season, and the early frosts here were a condition to which they must become accustomed. Those who came from the various parts of Europe, likewise, had many readjustments of methods to make before becoming successful tillers of the soil in this new country.

The first settlers found in Houston county a rich, unbroken virgin soil, a land that had had none but nature's care from time immemorial. Century after century, year after year, the grasses grew in all their richness, and the prairie and hill side flowers bloomed to waste their fragrance on the spring, summer and autumn air. No foot trod the hills and valleys and prairies save that of wild beast or bird, or the red hunter and warrior. No plowshare turned the green sod, nor was it torn by the iron tooth of the harrow, from the time that the soil was first laid down. The Winnebago squaws had here and there a small corn patch but as they had no permanent villages here, such instances were rare.

The county presented to the eye of the early comers a wide diversity of soil and surface. There were stretches of prairie, plateau and meadow land, ridges, bluffs, valleys and flat bottom lands, with sometimes a sandy and marshy stretch subject to spring overflow. The sun shaded sides of the ravines and tops of some of the bluffs or ridges between them, fairly well stocked with timber, largely of the full-grown kind, with groves of trees of smaller growths where the bluffs began merging into the swells of open prairie. There were several varieties of oak in the heavy timber tracts, occasionally a hickory tree and a few other kinds, the white oak

being the predominant variety. There was but little pine anywhere in the county, while the chestnut so common in the states from which many of the settlers had come was entirely lacking. The sides of the bluffs that were high and steep were usually bare of trees, though on the opposite sides of the ravines, scrub oaks, poplar and birch often occurred thickly.

The border prairie groves contained oaks of different varieties and size, but largely consisted of poplar and wild cherry. These last two named usually attained at those times only a thickness of three or four inches, when from some cause they died out and fell. These groves also contained wild plum trees, of about the size of small peaches. Wild crabapples are sometimes found along the borders of the groves. Patches of hazel brush usually extended long or short distances outward from the groves, and in these scrub oaks and single trees sometimes obtained a foothold.

The wild prairie grass grew a foot high or more, spangled with the prairie rose and such other flowering plants whose roots or seeds survived the prairie fires. Amid the grass the wild strawberries grew in abundance. The dandelion now so common was not in evidence, being brought into the county in unclean seed.

The first two problems which confronted the early settlers were sustenance and shelter. The wagon in which the family came, a tent, a log house or a bark cabin, provided shelter for the people while a straw barn protected the animals. The houses were of various descriptions depending on the taste, experience, and ability of the owner. Some were little more than dugouts, a crude construction of logs supplementing a hole excavated in the side of a hill. Others were more pretentious, with well hewed logs chinked with mortar, and whitewashed outside and plastered or papered inside. Occasionally there was a chimney made of stone, and sometimes even of brick brought across country with great effort, but more often the stove pipe was continued through the roof as the only means of carrying off the smoke. Some of the cabins were built almost without metal, wooden pegs serving the purpose of nails, and leather or ingeniously contrived pieces of wood taking the place of metal hinges. Some were fortunate in having glass for windows, others used oiled paper or cotton cloth. The floor was usually of trampled earth, the roof was sometimes of shakes, sometimes of brush thatch and sometimes of straw. The cabins for the most part consisted of one room in which the family lived, cooked, ate and slept, and entertained such wayfarers as happened along at nightfall. Sometimes a loft was provided, where the children slept, and through the chinks watched the starlight or shivered as the rain beat through or the snow drifted in.

In constructing the barns, crotched poles were placed eight or ten feet apart in three rows, the center row being the highest. Large poles were run in the tops of the crotches, and poles or fence rails were used for rafters. Leaning poles and fence rails were then set leaning all about the outside. Thus the frame was made for the stack of straw which was placed around it at threshing time, the stack usually being continued on one side or the rear for the cattle to forage in. Sometimes the stable had a fence of posts and poles built around it, within three feet of the sides and

ends, and the straw was stamped into the spaces between, making a straw wall for the sides and ends. Before enough land was broken to raise enough grain to produce the straw, prairie grass hay was used in its place. Some of the settlers left the entrance open, with only a few rails to bar the entrance. Others had a door made of boards. The tops of these straw and hay barns or sheds were rounded up like the top of a rick of hay, so as to shed off the rain. In such sheds, horses, cattle and poultry were wintered. A few pioneers built log stables, but for the most part they were thatched with straw and hay as the others.

Before crops could be raised it was necessary to break the tough prairie sod which had never hitherto known the attention of the husbandman. To do this, a breaking plow, drawn by from four to six yoke of oxen was required, the neighbors often pooling their interests and helping each other. By this method something like two acres could be broken in a day.

After breaking a small tract, the settlers started raising such food-stuffs as were needed for their own tables. Usually the first crop consisted of rutabagas, potatoes or some other root crop. Wheat, however, was the great staple for several decades, though some years the price was so low as hardly to pay the cost of transportation to market. The wheat had to be sown by hand, dragged in by oxen, cut with cradles, and pounded out with flails. The waterpower being abundant, small grist mills and flour mills were early established. A few bought flour, but the general custom was for the farmers to take their grain to mill and have it made into flour, the miller taking out a stated portion for his services.

It has been a matter of wonderment to the later generations, that in a region where wheat was the principal crop, there were so few granaries. To supply this deficiency various makeshifts were resorted to. One method was to build bins of fence rails, line them inside with straw, and fill them up with the wheat as threshed. Another method was to build bins of scantling and pine boards, blocked up a foot or more above the ground, but in either case roofed with a round packing of straw.

The cleaning of wheat for market or for seeding was attended with considerable inconvenience. Several methods were used, but there was one particular method that was most customary. A wagon body was lifted from the wheels and placed on the ground near the bin. The fanning mill was placed inside of it, and the wheat run from the bin as needed into a pail or half bushel measure. At intervals as cleaned and collected in the wagon body it was shoveled into cotton woven sacks, which for several years could not be obtained at less than a dollar a sack. Each sack held two bushels and eighteen of them made a fair load. The cleaning work over, the wagon body was placed back on the wheels, and the axles having been greased, the sacks were loaded into it, and preparations made for the trip to market. Usually this trip to market was made by several settlers in a neighborhood gathering a party and going together, taking several days coming and going, camping where night overtook them, and sleeping on the ground, their wagons their only protection against the elements. The people from Portland Prairie and vicinity took their wheat to Lansing, those in the

northern part of the county took it to Winona, while others, conveniently located, found a market at Brownsville. A part of the crop was marketed in the fall, but many trips being required much of it remained stored in bins until the following spring.

Corn was planted in a much different manner than at present. The work was done with hoes, the planter sometimes trusting to the accuracy of his eye, or sometimes using a line, or going over the ground first with a marker. The summer battle with the weeds being over with in cultivating the crop, it was left to mature, and in the fall it was cut and shocked, either ten or twelve hills square to the shock. Through the fall it was hauled up about as needed and husked out to be fed to the hogs, oxen and horses, and the fodder to the cows. The main work of the autumn until the ground froze up was fall plowing, after which as much corn as possible might be hauled in from the fields, but the last of the shocks usually did not get hauled away until early in the spring.

The insect pests were not strongly in evidence in the days of the earliest settlement. The most serious among the early pests was the Colorado beetle, better known as the potato bug, which put in its appearance in 1865. Its ravages were practically unchecked except as the children could pick them from the plants, until 1870, when the Paris-green method of killing them was introduced. Since then they continue to make their annual appearance, but the use of poisons and sprays has reduced them so that they are now considered as a nuisance rather than as a serious menace.

Situated as the county is on the banks of the Mississippi, furnishing an excellent landing place for boats, the rats early began to make their appearance here. Snakes have always been plentiful, and in the early days were a serious menace to the Houston county husbandman. The grasshoppers were more or less in evidence from the beginning, but while they increased somewhat in 1873, when they began to become a plague in various parts of the State, they did little material damage in Houston county. In 1879 the chinch bugs made their appearance, and their ravages were great for the next few years.

The improvement that has been brought about in tools, implements and machinery, presents an interesting subject of study. A plow, a scythe, a pitchfork, a hand axe, a shovel and a hoe constituted about all the equipment of the average pioneer. "Stone boats," flat contrivances which were dragged along the ground as a method of conveyance, crude harrows and hand rakes, V shaped or brush drags, and rough cradles and flails were all made on the spot.

The first machines that came into use were operated by horse power. Some were run by as many as four or sometimes five span of horses, walking around in a circle and attached to the arms of a low machine largely composed of iron gearing, placed back about three rods from the threshing machine, the two being connected by a shaft in loose jointed sections so it could be slanted from a low level where the horses stepped over its covering, gradually up to the shaft of the cylinder of the thresher, at which point beveled gearing communicated the power to the whole machine. They

were provided with straw stackers, so that the straw could be piled as high as desired for use as covering for sheds, though oftentimes it was burned. The driver with a long lashed whip stood on a platform just above the gearing of the horse-power and which covered it over, thus keeping everything in motion. Occasionally a stop had to be made to mend a broken belt, or to adjust something else about the outfit that had gone wrong, but a genuine breakdown seldom occurred. It took about a dozen men and boys to attend to everything, three or four men going with the outfit, and the others being gathered in the neighborhood. After the outfit had been pulled away there was a ring of at least twenty-four feet in diameter left where the teams had circled around and much grain was left scattered on the ground where the pitching, threshing and measuring had been done. The harvesting and threshing made busy times for the women and their daughters, for they had much cooking to do for the extra help.

A few years before the Civil War broke out, a threshing machine run by a tread-power was introduced. This was little besides a cylinder, concave and fan. It had no straw staker and one man stood at the rear with a fork and threw the straw back. In a short time a machine run by horse-power and tumbling rod, and equipped with a straw carrier and measuring device was invented, and gradually came into use in Houston county. Haying was done with a scythe, hand rake and pitchfork.

Not long after the Civil War, reapers began to be used, great heavy clumsy machines, likely to clog in heavy grain and requiring two men to operate them. One man drove and the other was strapped to a post set in the center of the platform and removed the grain with a rake as it was cut.

A little later, better machinery began to come into use, and many farmers found their labors lightened by the use of combined reapers and mowers. These machines were usually drawn by three horses, two abreast, and one on the lead ridden by a small boy. This was done to avoid injury to the unbound gavels which would result from driving three horses abreast.

The next evolution was in the nature of a harvesting machine which required three men to operate. One drove, and the other two bound the grain as it was elevated to them. This was succeeded by the self binder.

The old horse power threshers were gradually improved until now the farmers have the modern steam threshers with wing feeders, automatic elevators and weighers, and wind stackers. Harrows, disks, cultivators, drills and seeders have come into general use, and the farmers of the county are keeping thoroughly in pace with the modern march of agricultural improvement.

The story of agriculture in Houston county has been one of almost unbroken success, and even the decline of the wheat crop, at one time so lamented, brought its compensation in necessitating the introduction of dairying, stock raising and diversified farming.

From the very first the crops were good, and during the first few years, the soil yielded in abundance. The first bad year was in 1857, when conditions were not favorable for growing, and the country suffered a financial panic, making it difficult for the farmers to obtain money to pay the preemption price of \$1.25 an acre for their land, or to purchase supplies.

Then ensued the hard winter of 1857-58 when the people subsisted on little more than unsalted game and corn meal, often ground by hand at home in the coffee mill. Many of the settlers during this hard winter were saved from starvation by being fortunate in getting deer meat. Some of the herds broke corrals for themselves in the snow, where, when they were found by the pioneers, they were as easily handled as cattle. Others of these animals broke through the hard crust with their sharp hoofs and, being unable to extricate themselves, perished by the hundred.

In 1858 and 1859 the crops were better, and when Governor Alexander Ramsey issued his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1860 the soil of Houston county had brought forth its increase in abundant measure.

The Civil War caused a severe setback to Houston county agriculture. At the outbreak of the war, the county was already well settled, and the pioneers were on the road to success and prosperity. Improved land was worth from \$5 to \$10 an acre, and more land was being broken each year. The average cultivated field consisted of some twenty or thirty acres, of which wheat was the principal crop; corn, potatoes and oats being next. Other vegetables and grains were used principally for home use. In the midst of this prosperity, the war called the flower of the county's manhood to the front, and the old men, and the women and children, with only a sprinkling of able bodied men, were left to operate the farms as best they could.

After the war, farming took on a new impetus. More land was being broken each year, and the wheat acreage was all the time increasing. Year after year the wealth of the land was harvested in wheat, and year after year the fertility of the soil was being drawn upon with no thought of replenishing it.

With the passing of the years, events were impending which were to bring about a decided change in Houston county agriculture. Disaster was approaching the wheat growers. The result was hastened by the weather conditions in 1878. For three days, when the wheat was in the milk, there were alternate hours of rain storms and periods of extreme heat, which resulted in baking the kernel and stopping further growth. When the wheat was harvested, it weighed but about thirty pounds to a bushel, instead of the sixty pounds that wheat should weigh when matured. Only about \$3.00 an acre was realized and much distress followed. The other crops were good that season, but the acreage of everything except wheat was comparatively small.

Undaunted, the farmers tried again the next year, but the reign of wheat as the principal crop was over. The yield per acre decreased, and the farmers consequently decreased their acreage. The land had been robbed of humus, nitrogen and phosphorus. Chinch bugs and weeds began to choke out the wheat. Grain rust devastated whole fields.

The settlers were thus in bad shape. Money was hard to obtain. Money lenders profited by the farmers' misfortunes and loaned money at a usurious rate of interest. Farmers who had purchased machinery and tools on credit were unable to pay. Wheat had been about the only money crop. Such other crops as were raised in excess of the immediate needs of the

family were sometimes taken to the stores, but were exchanged only in trade. With the diminishing of the wheat yield, the farmers had no source of cash revenue. Many were compelled to gather up their personal belongings, and journey further westward, there to repeat the sad experiment of trying to take from the land continually without putting anything back. But others, strong in the faith, hung to their homesteads, and cast about for some solution of the problems of sustenance and profits.

This solution was found in diversified farming, dairying and stock raising. At the present time the county is one of the leading dairying, stock and swine raising districts in the State, and the sheep industry is also important. Corn and fodder are the leading crops, and potatoes and small grains come in for their share of attention. A little tobacco is grown. Coincident with the other farming districts in this region, the county has had its experiments with hops, sorghum and sugar beets. Bees have been raised with considerable success, and as this is a famous clover region the government and state are encouraging the increased production of honey.

The raising of fruit and garden vegetables is also important, both for home use and for the market. It is possible that the first cultivated apples in the state were raised in Caledonia township, by Robert Lewis, who brought the trees all the way from Chicago.

John S. Harris, of La Crescent, was a pioneer in the growing of small fruits and berries, and market vegetables, being one of the fathers of horticulture in this state. He was one of the founders of the State Horticultural and State Agricultural Societies. At the State Fair held at Red Wing in 1864 he was an extensive exhibitor, and in 1866 he made at the State Fair at Rochester the largest exhibition of Minnesota grown fruit ever shown up to that time.

It was due to his efforts, to its soil and contour, and to the nearness of the flourishing city of La Crosse, that La Crescent is now one of the leading small-fruit and market-vegetable growing sections of the state. Many La Crescent people, including his son, Frank I. Harris; and his grandson, DeWitt C. Webster, has followed in his footsteps.

Strawberries, currants, gooseberries, black and red raspberries, blackberries, are shipped in large quantities, as well as apples, plums and other fruits. Spring vegetables are raised in large quantities. Tomatoes have become an important crop, a large canning factory there canning this product exclusively.

Small fruit and truck raising are also important in several other parts of the county, Houston in particular counting its strawberry industry as of considerable importance.

The United States census and various reports contain some interesting facts in relation to Houston county agriculture. In 1860 less than a fourth of the land in an average farm was under cultivation, there being in the farms of the county that year, 20,126 acres of improved land and 72,146 of unimproved. Oxen were still the general beasts of burden, there being 1,118 working oxen in the county and but 563 horses. There were 1,522 milch cows, and 1,480 bulls, steers and calves. Hog raising was of some

importance, there being 4,050 swine in the county. The sheep numbered 720. The year was an excellent one for corn, 143,825 bushels being raised. Wheat, the staple crop, measures 108,518 bushels, while 63,553 bushels of rye were raised. Potatoes were important, measuring 48,917 bushels, while there were 381 bushels of peas and beans, and 2,876 pounds of tobacco. The sheep produced 2,549 pounds of wool.

Statistics are not available for all the early years. But in 1867 the estimated number of acres of wheat was 29,941 producing 521,172 bushels, an average of 17.40 an acre. The average good farmer at that time was getting as much as twenty bushels to the acre and sometimes better. The prices, too, were fairly good for the times, though the markets were far away, and transportation difficult. The people in the northwestern part of the county took their wheat to Winona. Those in the eastern part, and in fact throughout the county, took it to Brownsville or some other boat landing in the county. A few, especially those on Portland Prairie, took their grain to Iowa points. Usually the trip to market was made by several settlers in a neighborhood making up a party and making the journey together, taking several days coming and going, camping where night overtook them and sleeping on the ground, their wagons their only protection against the elements.

In 1870 the number of acres planted to wheat in the county was 36,747, yielding 559,682 bushels, an average of 15.23 an acre. But the crops were yearly taking from the richness of the soil, and the farmers were giving nothing back to it. The new fields were yielding abundantly but the old ones were gradually decreasing in productiveness, so that while the acreage was increasing the crop was diminishing. In 1871 there were 39,380 acres yielding 549,496 bushels, an average of 13.75 an acre. In 1876, with most decided increase in acreage there was a noticeable decrease in the crop. There were 59,003 acres sowed, yielding 499,805 bushels, an average of 8.50 an acre.

In 1879, the year following the wheat failure, the wheat acreage in Houston county was 55,820, with a crop of 543,898 bushels, an average of 9.76 an acre. In 1891 there were 12,102 acres devoted to wheat, yielding 181,562 bushels, an average of 15 bushels an acre. In 1910 there were 3,545 acres, yielding 65,500 bushels, an average of about 18.47 bushels an acre. With the outbreak of the World War, the loyal farmers considerably increased their wheat acreage and the high prices of the present year have caused a continuation of this acreage, though owing to weather conditions the yield has been considerably diminished.

The most recent census figures available concerning agriculture in Houston county are those of 1910, which are herewith given:

Number of all farms, 1,912 (in 1900, 2,132).

Color and nativity of farmers. Native white, 1,130; foreign-born white, 782.

Number of farms, classified by area. Under 3 acres, 4; 3 to 9 acres, 24; 10 to 19 acres, 23; 20 to 49 acres, 94; 50 to 99 acres, 325; 100 to 174 acres, 727; 175 to 259 acres, 426; 260 to 499 acres, 256; 500 to 999 acres, 29; 1,000 acres and over, 4.

Land and farm areas. Approximate land area, 364,800 acres. Land in farms, 327,094 acres. (Land in farms in 1900, 331,986 acres.) Improved land in farms, 174,020 acres. (Improved land in farms in 1900, 168,810 acres.) Woodland in farms, 133,396. Other unimproved land in farms, 19,678. Per cent of land area in farms, 89.7. Per cent of farm land improved, 53.2. Average acres to each farm, 171.1. Average improved acres to each farm, 91.0.

Value of farm property. All farm property, \$16,836,250. (All farm property in 1900, \$9,944,080.) The per cent increase in farm values in ten years was 69.3. Value of land alone, \$10,708,007. (The value of land alone in 1900 was \$6,619,250.) Value of buildings alone was \$3,304,145. (Value of buildings in 1900, \$1,575,760.) Value of implements and machinery, \$584,016, (\$360,500 in 1900). Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees, \$2,240,082. (Value of domestic animals, etc., in 1900, \$1,383,570.) Per cent of value of all property in land, 63.6. Per cent of all property in buildings, 19.6. Per cent of all property in implements and machinery, 3.5. Per cent of all property in domestic animals, poultry and bees, 13.3.

Average values. Average value of all property per farm, \$8,806. Average value of land and buildings per farm, \$7,329. Average value of land per acre, \$32.74. (Average value of land per acre in 1900, \$19.94.)

Domestic animals (on farms and ranges). Farmers reporting domestic animals, 1,889. Value of domestic animals, \$2,178,443.

Cattle. Total number, 37,389. Dairy cows, 14,837. Other cows, 4,021. Yearling heifers, 5,423. Calves, 6,118. Yearling steers and bulls, 4,761. Other steers and bulls, 2,229. Total value, \$732,661.

Horses. Total number, 8,827. Mature horses, 7,799. Yearling colts, 885. Spring colts, 143. Total value, \$1,019,662. Mules. Total number, 73. Mature mules, 72. Yearling colt, 1. Total value, \$9,007.

Swine. Total number, 43,935. Mature hogs, 22,523. Spring pigs, 21,412. Total value, \$365,909.

Sheep, total number, 12,781. Rams, ewes and wethers, 8,304. Spring lambs, 4,477. Total value, \$51,169. Goats, Total number, 11. Total value, \$35.

Poultry and Bees. Number of poultry of all kinds, 145,052. Total value, \$58,288. Number of colonies of bees, 1,028. Total value, \$3,351.

Farms operated by owners, 1,514. (1,736 in 1900.) Per cent of all farms in the county operated by owners, 78.2. (Per cent of all farms in 1900, 81.5.) Land in farms operated by owners, 253,414 acres. Improved land in farms operated by owners, 134,160 acres. Value of lands and buildings in farms operated by owners, \$10,834,892. Degree of ownership. Number of farms operated by owners, consisting of owned lands only, 1,335. Number of farms operated by owners which also include with the owned land some hired land, 179. Of the men in the county owning and operating farms, 812 are native born Americans, and 702 foreign born. Farms operated by tenants. Number of farms operated by tenants, 390. (385 in 1890.) Of all farms in the county 20.4 per cent are operated by tenants. (18.1 per cent in 1900.) Land in rented farms, 71,667 acres. Improved

land in rented farms, 39,126 acres. Value of land and buildings in rented farms, \$3,079,360.

Form of tenancy. Share tenants, 168. Share cash tenants, 7. Cash tenants, 142. Tenure not specified, 73. Of the people renting farms in the county, 311 are native born Americans and 79 are foreign born.

Farms operated by managers. Number of farms operated by managers, 8. (9 in 1900.) Land in farms operated by managers, 2,013 acres. Improved land in farms operated by managers, 734 acres. Value of land and buildings in farms operated by managers, \$97,900.

Mortgage debt report of farms operated by their owners. Number free from mortgage debt, 992. Number with mortgage debt, 517. Number on which no mortgage report was made, 5. Mortgage debt report for farms consisting of owned land only. Number reporting debt and amount, 430. Value of their land and buildings, \$2,937,680. Amount of mortgage debt, \$954,340. Per cent of value of land and buildings mortgaged, 32.5.

Farm expenses. For labor. Number of farms from which reports were obtained, 1,184. Cash expended for labor on these farms, \$164,707. Rent and board furnished for labor, \$56,025.

For feed. Number of farms reporting on this question, 543. Amount expended, \$30,577.

Principal crops. Corn, 30,816 acres; bushels, 1,215,563. Oats, 29,748 acres; bushels, 849,657. Wheat, 3,545 acres; bushels, 65,500. Emmer and spelt, 158 acres; bushels, 3,698. Barley, 22,555 acres; bushels, 566,612. Buckwheat, 113 acres; bushels, 1,817. Rye, 304 acres; bushels, 5,351.

Hay and forage. Total, 38,708 acres; tons, 67,052. Timothy alone, 7,659 acres; tons, 12,554. Timothy and clover mixed, 28,512 acres; tons, 49,576. Clover alone, 601 acres; tons, 1,083. Alfalfa, 9 acres; tons, 33. Millet or Hungarian grass, 34 acres; tons, 74. Other tame or cultivated grasses, 131 acres; tons, 194. Wild or prairie grass, 1,310 acres; tons, 2,303. All other hay and forage, 452 acres; tons, 1,235.

Special crops. Potatoes, 1,349 acres; bushels, 172,090. All other vegetables, 306 acres. Cane, sorghum, 5 acres; tons, 27. Sirup made, 260 gallons.

Orchard fruits. Apples, 40,714 trees; 33,295 bushels. Peaches and nectarines, 13 trees; 2 bushels. Plums and prunes, 1,629 trees; 373 bushels. Cherries, 618 trees; 42 bushels. Grapes, 7,507 vines; 18,619 pounds.

Small fruits. Total number of acres, 54. Total number of quarts, 65,385. Strawberries, 24 acres; 37,629 quarts. Raspberries and loganberries, 20 acres; 22,088 quarts. Nuts, 299 trees; 9,995 pounds.

CHAPTER XV

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

On July 7, 1849, Alexander Ramsey, the first Minnesota territorial governor, issued a proclamation, dividing the territory into seven council districts and ordering an election. The settlers scattered on the west bank of the Mississippi river at Jefferson and Brownsville in Houston county, were included in the first district, which was described as follows: The St. Croix precinct of St. Croix county, and the settlements on the west bank of the Mississippi south of Crow village to the Iowa line.

1849. The first territorial legislature met on September 3 and adjourned November 1. The first district was represented in the council by James S. Norris, of Cottage Grove, and in the house by Joseph W. Furber, of Cottage Grove, and James Wells, from the head of Lake Pepin.

1851. The second territorial legislature met January 1 and adjourned March 31. The first district was represented in the council by James S. Norris, of Cottage Grove, and in the house by John A. Ford, of Red Rock, and James Wells from the head of Lake Pepin.

By the apportionment of 1851, the original division of the territory into counties having been made in 1849, the counties of Wabasha and Washington, with the precincts of St. Paul and Little Canada (Wabasha county to be one representative district), were made to constitute the fourth district. Wabasha then included Houston county.

1852. The third territorial legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 6. The fourth district was represented in the council by Lorenzo A. Babcock, of Sauk Rapids and St. Paul, and in the house by Fordyce S. Richards, of Reed's Landing.

1853. The fourth territorial legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The fourth district was represented in the council by Lorenzo A. Babcock, and in the house by James Wells. This legislature created Fillmore county, March 5, 1853, and Houston county, which had been a part of Wabasha county since Oct. 27, 1849, became a part of Fillmore county. But the boundaries of the fourth district, until the apportionment of 1855, remained as established by the apportionment of 1851.

1854. The fifth territorial legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fourth district was represented in the council by William Freeborn, of Red Wing, and in the house by O. M. Lord of Minnesota City. This legislature created Houston county, February 23, 1854, defining the boundaries of the county as they remain to the present day. But as stated, although Houston county was established by this legislature, the boundaries of the fourth district remained until 1855, the same as defined by the apportionment of 1851.

1855. The sixth territorial legislature assembled January 3 and ad-

journed March 3. William Freeborn represented the fourth district in the council, and Clark W. Thompson, of what is now Houston county, in the house. Mr. Thompson was a Canadian who came to Minnesota in 1853 and engaged in milling in Houston county until 1861. He was a member of the Republican wing of the Constitutional Convention. He was superintendent of Indian affairs for the Northern superintendency from 1861 to 1865, and afterwards engaged in railroad construction. He died in 1885 on his farm at Wells.

By the apportionment of 1855 Houston, Fillmore and Mower counties became the eighth district.

1856. The seventh territorial legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. The eighth district was represented by Clark W. Thompson of Houston county and Benjamin F. Tillotson, of Fillmore county, in the council; and by W. B. Gere, of Fillmore county, Samuel Hull, William F. Dunbar, William B. Covell and Martin G. Thompson in the house.

1857. The eighth territorial legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 7. Clark W. Thompson and Benjamin F. Tillotson again represented the eighth district in the council. The representatives in the house were William B. Gere, D. F. Chase, W. J. Howell, John M. Berry and M. G. Thompson. An extra session of this legislature assembled April 27 and adjourned May 23, 1857.

March 3, 1857, congress passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a state constitution. Each council district was to be represented in this convention by two representatives for each councilman and representative to which it was entitled. The constitutional convention, consisting of 108 members, was authorized to meet at the capital on the second Monday in July to frame a state constitution, and to submit it to the people of the territory. The election was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. July 13, the delegates met, but a disagreement arising in the organization, the Republican members organized one body and the Democrats organized separately. Each of these bodies, claiming to be the legally constituted convention, proceeded with the work of forming an instrument to be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them, and by means of a committee of conference, the same constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people, Oct. 13, it was ratified.

The eighth district, consisting of Houston, Fillmore and Mower counties, having two councillors and five members of the house, was entitled to fourteen delegates. Of the fourteen declared elected, thirteen were Republican and one Democrat. The Republicans were: Alanson B. Vaughn, C. W. Thompson, John A. Anderson, Charles A. Coe, N. P. Colburn, James A. McCann, H. A. Billings, Charles Hanson, H. W. Holley, John Cleghorn, A. C. Butler, Robert Lyle and Boyd Phelps. The Democrat was James C. Day. But the seats of Coe and Lyle were contested, and while they were seated in the Republican wing, their Democratic contestants were given seats in the Democratic wing. On the general Democratic ticket in Houston county, one of the three divisions of the eighth district, O. W. Streeter received 378 votes, and his Republican competitor, C. A. Coe, received 329

votes. But the returning board, being Republican, alleged irregularities in Streeter's vote and issued the certificate to Coe. The Democratic wing of the Convention, after the split, admitted Streeter. The Democrats also late in the session, August 11, admitted Thomas H. Armstrong from Mower county. On the face of the returns, Robert Lyle received a majority of thirty-one over Armstrong, but the Democrats claimed that the pool book at Austin showed that thirty-nine residents of Freeborn county, outside of the eighth district, had voted for Lyle, thus leaving Armstrong a majority of eight legal votes. With three members in the Democratic wing and thirteen in the Republican wing, the eighth district had sixteen delegates in the Constitutional convention instead of the fourteen to which it was entitled. Several of the members from this district took an active part in the work of the convention. On the question of allowing negroes to vote, Messrs. Colburn, Holley, Cleghorn and Phelps voted in favor of the proposition and C. W. Thompson against it. On the question of a compromise between the two wings, Day, of the Democratic wing, remained bitterly opposed to the last. Messrs. Holley and Billings of the Republican wing voted against the adoption of the final joint draft of the constitution, but finally affixed their signatures to it.

By the apportionment of 1857, set forth in the state constitution adopted October 13, 1857, Houston county was constituted the tenth district, with two senators and three representatives.

1857-58. The first state legislature assembled December 2, 1857. On March 25, 1858, it took a recess until June 2 and finally adjourned August 12. The state was admitted May 11, 1858. It will, therefore, be seen, that, although this legislature is called the first state legislature, nevertheless it assembled in territorial times. The tenth district was represented in the senate by James C. Day and O. W. Streeter, and in the house by Edmund McIntyre, J. B. Le Blond, and Daniel Wilson.

1858-59. No session was held in the winter of 1858-59, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-58, which was believed to render unnecessary another one following so soon, the legislature of that year having so provided by enactment.

1859-60. The second state legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. The tenth district was represented in the senate by E. H. Kennedy and Frederick Gluck, and in the house by J. A. Anderson, C. A. Coe and George Timanson.

By the apportionment of 1860, Houston county became the thirteenth district. It was assigned one senator and one representative.

1861. The third state legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned March 8. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by Thomas McRoberts, and in the house by J. B. Le Blond.

1862. The fourth state legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 7. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by Charles H. Lee, and in the house by D. L. Buell.

On account of the Indian outbreak in 1862, an extra session was called by the governor. It assembled Sept 9 and adjourned Sept. 29.

1863. The fifth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned

March 6. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by Charles H. Lee, and in the house by D. L. Buell.

1864. The sixth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 4. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by Daniel Cameron and in the house by Thomas Conniff.

1865. The seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by Daniel Cameron, and in the house by F. N. Goodrich.

1866. The eighth state legislature assembled January 2, and adjourned March 2. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by D. L. Buell, and in the house by J. P. Shaller.

By the apportionment of 1866 Houston county was still the thirteenth district. It was to have one senator and two representatives.

1867. The ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by D. T. Temple, and in the house by B. S. Andrew and E. H. Kennedy.

1868. The tenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by George F. Potter, and in the house by J. P. Shaller and Isaac Thompson.

1869. The eleventh state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by G. F. Potter, and in the house by Tosten Johnson and Isaac Thompson.

1870. The twelfth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The thirteenth was represented by D. L. Buell, and in the house by W. E. Potter and Nathan Vance.

1871. The thirteenth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 3. The thirteenth district was represented in the senate by D. L. Buell, and in the house by Timan Gilbertson and Tosten Johnson.

By the apportionment of 1871, Houston county was constituted the first district, with one senator and four representatives.

1872. The fourteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. The first district was represented in the senate by D. L. Buell, and in the house by W. F. Weber, John P. Smith, P. Rosendahl and L. R. Hall.

1873. The fifteenth legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 7. The first district was represented in the senate by E. Thompson, and in the house by Tosten Johnson, A. Beard, M. L. Cooper and P. H. Rosendahl.

1874. The sixteenth legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The first district was represented in the senate by E. Thompson, and in the house by William McArthur, M. J. McDonald, E. W. Trask and David Taylor.

1875. The seventeenth legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The first district was represented in the senate by J. H. Smith, and in the house by John McNelly, William M. Snure, M. J. McDonald and E. N. Goodrich.

1876. The eighteenth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The first district was represented in the senate by J. H. Smith,

and in the house by W. E. Potter, M. J. Donnell, John McNelly and E. D. Northrup.

1877. The nineteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The first district was represented in the senate by John McNelly, and in the house by Anthony Huyck, William G. McSpadden, M. J. McDonnell and John A. Eberhard.

1878. The twentieth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The first district was represented in the senate by John McNelly, and in the house by Edmund Null, Andrew Bye, Christof Evanson and Charles Fetzner.

1879. The twenty-first legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The first district was represented in the senate by D. L. Buell, and in the house by Anthony Demo, J. M. Riley, W. E. Dunbar and E. F. West.

1881. The twenty-second legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The first district was represented in the senate by J. B. Shaller, and in the house by H. H. Snure, O. B. Tone, H. F. Kohlmier and Lewis Redding.

An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the legislation at the regular session relating to the state railroad bonds, which was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The session commenced October 11 and closed November 13.

By the apportionment of 1881, Houston remained the first district, with one senator and two representatives.

1883. The twenty-third state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The first district was represented in the senate by James O'Brien, and in the house by T. Paulson and E. Potter.

1885. The twenty-fourth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The first district was represented in the senate by James O'Brien, and in the house by Ole S. Olson and Alex. McLaren.

1887. The twenty-fifth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The first district was represented in the senate by Tosten Johnson, and in the house by George F. Potter and C. Bunge, Jr.

1899. The twenty-sixth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The first district was represented in the senate by Tosten Johnson, and in the house by John McNelly and James C. Kelly.

By the apportionment of 1889, Houston county remained the first district, with one senator and one representative.

1891. The twenty-seventh state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 20. The first district was represented in the senate by J. C. Kelly, and in the house by Anthony Demo.

1893. The twenty-eighth state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The first district was represented in the senate by J. C. Kelly, and in the house by John J. Hohl.

1895. The twenty-ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The first district was represented in the senate by E. K. Roverud, and in the house by Con Metcalf.

1897. The thirtieth state legislature assembled January 5 and ad-

journing April 21. The first district was represented in the senate by E. K. Roverud, and in the house by H. R. Briggs.

By the apportionment of 1897, Houston county remained the first district, with one senator and one representative.

1899. The thirty-first state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The first district was represented in the senate by E. K. Roverud, and in the house by W. M. Selby.

1901. The thirty-second state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 12. The first district was represented in the senate by E. K. Roverud, and in the house by James E. Bosworth. An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the report of the tax commission created by the act of 1901. The extra session convened February 4, 1902, and adjourned March 11, 1902.

1903. The thirty-third state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 12. The first district was represented in the senate by O. G. Laugen, and in the house by James E. Bosworth.

1905. The thirty-fourth state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The first district was represented in the senate by O. G. Laugen, and in the house by Iver G. Otterness.

1907. The thirty-fifth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 24. The first district was represented in the senate by J. Q. Briggs, and in the house by O. B. Nelson.

1909. The thirty-sixth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 22. The first district was represented in the senate by J. Q. Briggs, and in the house by O. B. Nelson.

1911. The thirty-seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 19. The first district was represented in the senate by F. A. Duxbury, and in the house by F. L. Farley.

An extra session was called for the purpose of enacting a state-wide direct primary law applicable to all state officers, a corrupt practice act and a reapportionment law. The extra session convened June 4, 1912, and adjourned June 18, 1912.

1913. The thirty-eighth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 19. The first district was represented in the senate by F. A. Duxbury, and in the house by A. C. Johnson.

By the apportionment of 1913, Houston and Fillmore counties were made the first district, with one senator and one representative at large. Each county had one representative.

1915. In the thirty-ninth state legislature the first district was represented in the senate by F. A. Duxbury, and in the house by Ralph J. Parker, John J. Sliter and S. D. Baker. John J. Sliter was the representative from Houston county.

1917. In the fortieth state legislature the first district was represented in the senate by F. A. Duxbury, and in the house by Ralph J. Parker, C. W. Hale and John J. Sliter.

1919. In the forty-first state legislature the first district was represented in the senate by John W. Hopp, and in the house by Ralph J. Parker, John J. Sliter and C. W. Hale.

CHAPTER XVI

COURTS AND LAWYERS

Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor of Minnesota, arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1849. June 1, of the same year, by proclamation, he declared the territory fully organized. June 11, he issued a second proclamation, dividing the territory into three temporary judicial districts.

The first Supreme Court of the territory, appointed by the president, consisted of Aaron Goodrich, chief justice, and David Cooper and Bradley M. Meeker, associate justices. Each of these Supreme Court judges was to sit as a district judge in one of the three judicial districts into which the territory had been divided.

Judge Cooper held the first court for the third district at Mendota, Aug. 27, 1849. Henry H. Sibley, afterward governor, was foreman of the grand jury. Judge Cooper, a gentleman of the old school, then but twenty-eight years of age, delivered a most scholarly and finished charge, which for many years was quoted as an authority on the duties of jurors. He also delivered an address of a more personal nature to the lawyers assembled. No business was transacted by this court. It is said that of the members of the jury, only three could write their names, and that eleven could not even understand the English language. The court was held in a large stone warehouse belonging to the fur company.

Before further terms of the court were held, the first territorial legislature convened. On Oct. 27, 1849, the territory was divided into nine counties. Accordingly the judicial districts were arranged to conform to the new county divisions. Under the new arrangement the first district was made up of the counties of Washington, Wabasha and Itasca, these counties then embracing the eastern border of the territory. Judge Cooper was assigned to this district, and therefore continued as judge of the area now embracing Houston county.

Under this division, Judge Cooper held his second court at Stillwater, in February, 1850. At this court the first murder trial in the territory was held, a thirteen-year-old boy being sentenced to ninety days in the guard-house at Ft. Snelling for shooting a companion, the charge being manslaughter.

March 5, 1853, Fillmore county was organized, including, generally speaking, practically the present counties of Winona, Olmsted, Fillmore and Houston. The newly created Fillmore county was assigned to Judge Cooper's district, but his term expired within a month of the time the county was created.

In the meantime, Aaron Goodrich had been succeeded as chief justice by Jerome Fuller, who served from November, 13, 1851, to December 16, 1852. Henry Z. Hayner, who served as chief justice from Dec. 16, 1852, to April 7, 1853, never presided at a term of the supreme court.

April 7, 1853, William H. Welch was appointed chief justice and Moses G. Sherburne and Andrew G. Chatfield, associate justice. Andrew G. Chatfield was assigned to the district south of the Minnesota and west of the Mississippi.

The judicial history of what is now Houston county has its beginning with May 28, 1853, when a list of grand and petit jurors for the June term of the District Court of Fillmore county (then including Houston county), was drawn at Winona in the presence of John Iams, sheriff, and George M. Gere, a justice of the peace. These twenty-four names were ordered entered for the grand jury: H. B. Stoll, James Toms, Myron Thoms, Nathan Brown, Willard B. Bunnell, H. Carroll, Henry C. Gere, George M. Gere, William T. Luard, George H. Sanborn, Harvey Hubbard, Isaac Hamilton, O. S. Holbrook, William B. Gere, S. A. Houck, S. A. Putnam, H. B. Waterman, E. B. Drew, O. M. Lord, T. K. Allen, Egbert Chapman, A. A. Gilbert, Robert Taylor and A. P. Hall.

Forty-nine names, one more than required, were entered for the petit jury: Edwin B. Gere, John Evans, Erastus H. Murray, Edwin Hamilton, William H. Stevens, John C. Laird, Alex B. Smith, John Emerson, Erwin Johnson, John Burns, Frank Curtiss, George W. Clark, J. Scott Clark, Allen Gilmore, H. K. Thompson, Isaac W. Simonds, Jeremiah Tibbetts, Asa Pierce, Squire J. Bennett, H. J. Harrington, William F. Hewett, Henry Herrick, Warren Rowell, James Kincaid, Esquire Isaac Day, A. T. Pentler, James Campbell, Edward Thompson, Peter Gorr, O. H. Houck, J. S. Denman, Charles Bannon, S. E. Cotton, Henry Stradling, William H. Coryell, Hiram Hull, John W. Bentley, D. Q. Burley, J. Nicklin, J. Wright, J. D. Follett, R. Thorp, Louis Krutzly, Henry W. Driver, C. R. Coryell, Alex. McClintock and the Messrs. Fortune, Fletcher and Webster, first names not given.

Both venirees were issued to Sheriff Iams, June 11, 1853, and were returnable June 27, 1853.

The first session of the district court of Fillmore county (then including Houston county), assembled at the old Winona House, on Front street, in Winona, June 27, 1853, but as the judge was not present, an adjournment was taken until the next day, when a large party of men and women from St. Paul, including Judge Chatfield, and Attorneys L. A. Babcock and H. L. Moss, arrived by boat. June 28, the first court in Fillmore county (then including Houston county), was organized at Winona, with Andrew G. Chatfield on the bench. Andrew Cole was appointed district attorney. W. B. Gere was clerk. Little business was transacted.

Feb. 7, 1854, Fillmore county, of which Houston county was still a part, together with Goodhue, Washington, and Chicago, was constituted the first judicial district, and assigned to Chief Justice William H. Welch. Feb. 23, 1854, Houston county was created with its present boundaries. It remained in the first district until the organization of the state.

William H. Welch was born in Connecticut about 1812. He was graduated from Yale College, and later from the Yale Law School. In 1850, he settled in Minnesota, making his residence in St. Anthony. He was

judge of probate in Ramsey county. He was chief justice of Minnesota from 1852 to 1858, and was thus judge of the district embracing Houston county until the state organization. Later he removed to Red Wing, where he died, Jan. 22, 1863. He held his first court in Houston county, Aug. 20, 1855, and his last, Sept. 18, 1857.

The first court in Houston county was held in Caledonia, Aug. 20, 1855. On the bench was William H. Welch, territorial chief justice, sitting as judge of the First Judicial District. The following grand jurors answered to the call: Thomas Conniff, Harvey Gillette, John Campbell, John Montgomery, Eliakim Laffin, Embreck Knudson, Edwin Stewart, Henry Burnett, Levi West, William F. Dunbar, Edwin Butterfield, James Merts, Burton Andrews, Ralph L. Young, Eli Baker and John J. Dunbar. This not being sufficient, there were called in addition, Samuel McPhail, Samuel Surface, Samuel Armstrong, Hugh Brown, Eugene Marshall and Henry Parmalee. Samuel McPhail was chosen foreman.

The petit jurors were: William James, Daniel Herring, Knud Knudson, Lawrence Lynch, Enoch C. Young, James Hiner, John S. Looney, John Trip, Anthony Huyck, Ole Amerson, Knud Johnson, Aaron S. Taylor, Gilbert Nelson, Thomas Dunbar, Peter Johnson, Jacob Webster, Charles W. Metcalf, David Lynn, John Brown, James J. Belden, S. R. Ball, Augustus Parmalee, M. B. Metcalf, William Oxford, Russell H. Thurber, William D. Gibbs, Charles Garnes, Nelson Olson, George Larson, and Hagan Narveson. Of these, Knud Knudson, Ole Amerson, Gilbert Nelson, George Larson, William James, John S. Looney, Knud Johnson, Nelson Oleson, Peter Johnson and Franklin Willard were excused. Bench warrants were issued in two cases of perjury for false statements made in entering lands, and in one case of selling liquor to Indians.

June 23, 1856, Michael Burke and Martin Rohan, both previously Irish subjects of the United Kingdom, were admitted to citizenship.

The session opening Sept. 14, 1857, with Judge Welch on the bench, was one of considerable importance. There was quite a large docket, a number of attorneys were present, and many aliens were admitted to citizenship. The attorneys present were: Morton S. Wilkinson, of St. Paul, William Dennison, of La Crosse, and Edwin Flint, also of La Crosse. On Sept. 15, John H. Smith, John J. Moreland and Wyman Trask were admitted as lawyers on motion of Morton S. Wilkinson; and Sept. 17, Samuel McPhail and W. H. Lapham were admitted as lawyers on motion of Morton S. Wilkinson and Orville T. Gilman.

Citizenship was granted to the following: Sept. 14, 1857, Patrick Jennings and Robert McCormick of the United Kingdom; Theodore and Nicholas Fish of Holland, and Lewis Mohler of Hanover. Sept. 15, Philip Deemer, William Schwinden, and Mathias Schwinden of Prussia, and Michael Scanlon, Michael Ryan and Edward D. Kelly of the United Kingdom. Sept. 16, John Schwinden of Prussia, Peter Klels and John Waggoner of Holland, and Cornelius McLaughlin, Matthew McGinness, Michael Guinness and Patrick Guinness of the United Kingdom. Sept. 17, Ole Olson and Amund Asjbornsen of Norway and Sweden, and John Crotty, Jeremiah Cunningham, Simon Carroll, Daniel Sullivan, George Powlesland and Wil-

liam Powlesland of the United Kingdom. Sept. 18, James Kenney, Edward Caffrey and Daniel Hayes of the United Kingdom.

After the organization of the state, May 11, 1858, when Houston county was placed in the Third District, Thomas Wilson became judge of the district, taking office May 24, 1858, and serving until July 1, 1864. He held his first term of court in Houston county, Nov. 1, 1858, and his last May 17, 1864.

Thomas Wilson was born in Tyrone county, Ireland, May 16, 1827, and died at St. Paul, April 3, 1910. He came to the United States when twelve years old, and was graduated at Alleghany College in 1852. He was admitted to the bar at Meadville, Penn., in 1855. In the same year he came to Minnesota, settling in Winona. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1857, and, as previously mentioned, was judge of the Third Judicial District from 1858 to 1864. He was associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1864, and its chief justice from 1865 to 1869. In 1881, he was a representative in the legislature, a state senator from 1883 to 1885, and a representative in congress from 1887 to 1889. He removed to St. Paul in 1892, and until his death was general council of the C., St. P., M. & Omaha Railway Company.

He was succeeded as judge of the Third District by Lloyd Barber, who took office Sept. 12, 1864. Judge Barber held his first term of court in Houston county, Nov. 8, 1864, and his last Oct. 17, 1871.

Lloyd Barber was born at Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1826. In 1846, he came west to Illinois, but soon returned to New York. In 1852, he visited St. Paul, Minn., but again returned to the East, where for six years he taught school and studied law. In 1857, he was admitted to the bar and practiced in Bath, N. Y. Coming west again in 1858, he located in Rochester, Minn. In 1862, he was appointed county attorney of Olmstead county, and on Sept. 12, 1864, he was appointed judge of the Third Judicial District, being elected to the same position in the fall. The district then consisted of Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Olmstead counties. Judge Barber retired from the bench Dec. 31, 1871. In 1874, he opened a law office in Winona, where he practiced for nearly 35 years. His death occurred May 8, 1915.

The next judge of the Third District was Chauncey N. Waterman, who took office Jan. 1, 1872, and served until Feb. 18, 1873.

Chauncey N. Waterman was born in Rome, N. Y., in 1823. He was graduated at Hamilton College, N. Y., in 1847. After taking a law course at Harvard University, he practiced with C. H. Berry at Corning, N. Y., and with him came to Winona, Minn., in 1855. The partnership continued until 1872, when Mr. Waterman was elected judge of the Third Judicial District. Thirteen months later he died of pneumonia. Judge Waterman held his first term in Houston county, May 7, 1872, and his last Dec. 27, 1872.

On Jan. 1, 1873, Houston county was placed in the Tenth Judicial District. Sherman Page, who had been elected judge of the district at the fall election of 1872, held his first term in Caledonia, May 6, 1873.

Sherman Page, who was judge of the Tenth Judicial District from

1873 to 1880, was a native of Vermont. After coming west he lived for awhile in Lancaster, Wisconsin, but came to Mower county, Minnesota, from Decorah, Iowa, and took up his residence in Austin. He was a man of imposing presence, a shrewd, forcible and pleasant speaker, and a sarcastic and vigorous writer. He was also possessed of a remarkably well trained mind, but unfortunately was of an arrogant and self-sufficient disposition, which could not fail to arouse antagonism, and create bitterness and turmoil. His career in Mower county from 1867 to 1881 is still referred to as "The Page Era," and was a period in which the county was divided into two hostile camps, that of his friends and that of his enemies, the latter forming the larger faction. His character as a private citizen was reflected in his conduct on the bench. His enemies complained that he decided cases to suit his prejudice rather than on the principles of law and justice. In the fall of 1878, the lower house of the legislature prepared articles of impeachment against him, and he was put upon his trial in May, 1878, before the senate sitting as a court of impeachment. The charges consisted largely of "wrongful, malicious and oppressive conduct while judge." The prosecution lacked the requisite number of votes to convict him, and he was acquitted. After his impeachment he was again a candidate for election, but was defeated by Hon. John Q. Farmer. But the fight was not ended. Sometime thereafter he was shot at while reading in his home. Again the courts were occupied with Page matters. But the alleged assailant was acquitted and the Page influence waned. In 1882, Judge Page removed to California.

After Judge Page's impeachment, J. S. Pillsbury, on March 14, 1878, appointed temporarily to the bench of the Tenth District, Hascal R. Brill, of St. Paul, a judge of the Second District. Judge Brill was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, Aug. 10, 1846, and came to Minnesota in 1859. He studied at Hamline University and at the University of Michigan. He settled at St. Paul and was admitted to the bar in 1869. In 1875, he was appointed judge of the court of Common Pleas. He was a judge of the Second District from 1876 to 1901. He held his first term in Houston county, May 7, 1878.

Judge Page, after his acquittal, resumed his seat on the bench and held court in Houston county, Oct. 15, 1878. He held his last term in October, 1879. His successors on the bench of the Tenth District were: John Q. Farmer, Jan. 10, 1880, to January, 1893; John Whytock, January, 1893, to Nov. 26, 1898; Nathan Kingsley, Nov. 26, 1898, to June 2, 1916; and Samuel D. Catherwood, June 12, 1916, to the present time.

John Quincy Farmer, who held his first term in Houston county, May 4, 1880, was born in Burke, Vt., Aug. 5, 1823. He was admitted to the bar in Ohio in 1851. In 1864, he came to Minnesota, settling in Spring valley. In 1866-68, he was representative in the legislature, being speaker of the house during the last two years. He was state senator in 1871-72, and judge of the Tenth Judicial District from 1880 to 1893. He died on a railway train in August, 1904. Judge Farmer was an admirable man, loved and admired by everybody. It has been said that he was not a student. He was. He was a student of human nature; he possessed good common

sense; he had a good grasp of the law; he was well equipped by experience, precept and example to perform the work imposed upon him, and his decisions were generally sustained by the appellate courts.

John Whytock was born in New York in 1835. He studied law in his native state and was admitted to the bar in 1860. In the same year he moved to La Crosse, Wis. In 1861, he enlisted in the army, and served three years and eight months, until the surrender of Lee, when he resigned with the rank of major. He thereafter moved to Little Rock, Ark., where he resided for ten years, during which time he held successively the offices of state attorney, United States attorney, and circuit judge. In 1876, he settled at Albert Lea, Minn., where he engaged in the practice of law. He held the office of county attorney of Freeborn county for two terms. In 1892, he was elected judge of the Tenth District. In November, 1898, while holding court at Preston, Fillmore county, he was taken ill and a few weeks later died at his home in Albert Lea. Judge Whytock was in every sense a fair-minded judge, and well equipped for the position in a legal and intellectual sense, but owing to his imperfect hearing he always seemed to work at a disadvantage.

Nathan Kingsley was born at Sharon, Conn., Sept. 10, 1850. In 1858, his father moved west, settling on a farm in La Salle county, Illinois. In March, 1869, Mr. Kingsley came to Minnesota and worked on a farm until the following year, when he learned the miller's trade. He was admitted to the bar at Preston, Fillmore county, in November, 1876, and in February, 1877, began the practice of law at Rushford, that county. In December, 1878, he moved to Chatfield, Fillmore county, and opened an office there. At the November election, in 1880, he was elected county attorney of Fillmore county, and held the office four years. In April, 1887, he moved to Austin, in the same county. He was appointed judge of the Tenth District by Governor Clough to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Whytock, and assumed the duties of the office, Nov. 26, 1898. In 1900, he was elected district judge, and served until his resignation in 1916. He died soon afterward. Judge Kingsley was possessed of a keen and discriminating mind, a judicial temperament, and that degree of impartiality essential to the position and the making of an ideal judge. He served to the entire satisfaction of the bar and the people of the district, and was commended for his diligence and prompt disposition of all cases and matters presented to him or coming before him for judicial action.

Samuel D. Catherwood was born in Freeborn county, Minn., Nov. 12, 1859. He was admitted to the bar in 1888, and immediately began the practice of law at Austin. He was county attorney of Mower county for three terms. He is an active member of the State and American Bar associations. On June 12, 1916, Judge Catherwood was appointed to succeed Judge Nathan Kingsley, who had resigned. He was elected judge of the Tenth District at the November election of 1916.

The attorneys practicing before the district court of Houston county from the organization of the court up to the close of the Civil War, were: Morton S. Wilkinson, Hokah; William Dennison, La Crosse; John J. Moreland, Brownsville; Edwin Flint, La Crosse; Wyman Trask, Caledonia; John

H. Smith, Brownsville; Orville T. Gilman, La Crescent; W. H. Lapham, La Crescent; Samuel McPhail, Caledonia; W. H. Tucker, La Crosse; Samuel Cole, Chatfield; John O. McNulty, Brownsville; M. G. Thompson, Brownsville; S. S. Burton, La Crosse; E. Fox Cook, La Crosse; John J. Cole, La Crosse; Daniel S. Norton, Winona; George W. Padelford, Hokah; Frederick L. Seely, Brownsville; Hugh Cameron, La Crosse; Albert W. Bishop, La Crosse; Joseph W. Losey, La Crosse; G. W. Hill, Caledonia; A. S. Lindsey, Caledonia; Capt. E. H. Kennedy, Houston; George F. Potter, La Crescent; David L. Buell, Caledonia; Thomas H. Conniff, Caledonia; B. F. Montgomery, La Crosse; James S. Lyndes, La Crosse; W. S. Burroughs, La Crosse.

From the close of the Civil War until Centennial Year, the new names which appear among the lawyers practicing before the Houston county district court are those of: William H. Stogdill, La Crosse; M. Wheeler Sargeant, Winona; Gilbert I. Wetenhall, Brownsville; Richard A. Murray, Hokah and Rushford; Capt. W. H. Harries, Hokah and Caledonia; J. E. Atwater, Rushford; C. D. Ramsdell, Houston; George R. Willett, Decorah; William H. Yale, Winona; James O'Brien, Caledonia; George Gale, Jr., Galesville; William Mitchell, Winona; Angus Cameron, La Crosse; Richard Lester, Caledonia; P. J. Smalley, Caledonia; M. P. Wing, La Crosse; John R. Jones, Chatfield; Richard A. Jones, Rochester; Angus Cameron, La Crosse; William Gale, Winona; Thomas Wilson, Winona; T. J. Widvey, La Crosse; Guilbrand J. Lomen, Caledonia; E. N. Donaldson, ; Oliver Wheaton, Caledonia; C. S. Trask, Caledonia,

In the succeeding years, the lawyers living in the county have been fewer in number, and have for the most part been located in Caledonia. Lawyers from neighboring counties have continued to practice here. Among the local lawyers of the past thirty years may be mentioned: W. R. Duxbury, Caledonia; W. G. Drowley, Caledonia; George E. Dyer, Caledonia; Aaron Brayton, La Crosse; Bert. Van Luven, Caledonia; Capt. S. B. McIntire, Houston.

The present bar of Houston county consists of F. A. Duxbury, L. L. Duxbury, O. K. Dahle, W. A. Deters, William E. Flynn, Charles A. Dorival and C. S. Trask, of Caledonia; J. C. Raymond, of La Crescent; and Dwight A. Buell, of Caledonia.

CHAPTER XVII

HOUSTON COUNTY MASONRY

(By Charles A. Dorival)

A history of Masonry in Houston county and of its founders would be in a measure a history of the county, for the stalwart pioneers who founded the county and who created this beautiful and prosperous community from a wilderness of hills and prairie, also founded our lodges, and their instructive tongues transmitted to us, their descendants, unimpaired the excellent tenants of our institution.

Grand Master Moses Sherbourne in his address before the Fourth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1856, relates that "In May last (1855), I received the petition of several brothers residing in this territory opposite La Crosse, in the State of Wisconsin, for permission to join the Lodge at La Crosse." This permission was granted, but does not have appeared to have satisfied the Masons of Houston county, for on February 22, 1856, dispensation was granted by Grand Master A. C. Pierson for the establishment of a lodge at Hokah, and on January 8, 1857, charter was granted to this Lodge as Hokah No. 17.

In 1857, this lodge was visited by the Grand Master, and he reports that several members were in attendance whose residence was 15 miles distant, that not only were they in attendance at that meeting, but that they were generally punctual at all meetings. Their example should be imitated by our present members.

C. G. Wyhoff was the first Master of this lodge, and other Brothers prominent in its organization and early history were C. W. Thompson, Edward Thompson, B. F. Pidge, D. L. Clements and S. J. Printiss.

In March, 1860, the Charter, clothing, jewels, and furniture of the lodge were destroyed by fire, and at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge we find that the Grand Lodge dues were remitted and a new charter granted without fee. In these days Hokah lodge was one of the strong lodges in the state, and its members were honored by elective and appointive offices in the Grand Lodge.

With the removal of the railroad shops and mill from Hokah the lodge began to decline, and in the report of the Grand Master in 1906, we find that the District Deputy reports that there had been no meeting of the lodge for 5 years. Investigation of the Grand Master disclosed that the lodge returns showed two restored during the year and one withdrawn. Examination of the returns for 1904, showed that 17 members were stricken from the roll that year. The Grand Master relates writing to the secretary, and receiving a reply stating that the last meeting of the lodge was held December 23, 1904, at which time the names of 17 members

were stricken from the roll. The constitution of the Grand Lodge provides that the failure of a Lodge to hold a meeting for one year shall be cause for forfeiture of its charter, and on June 25, 1906, the charter of this, the pioneer lodge of the county, was surrendered. The last officers of the lodge were: L. T. Lyon, Master; J. D. Becker, Senior Warden; and W. S. Moe, Secretary.

The next lodge organized was Caledonia, No. 20, dispensation for the formation of which was granted in 1857. The lodge held its first meeting, as a Lodge, U. D., on Friday evening, Oct. 2, 1857, in the room over the north end of Ara D. Sprague's store, located on the present site of the Sprague State Bank.

At this meeting there were present William B. Burfield, W. M.; William F. Dunbar, S. W.; Robert S. Williams, J. W.; Samuel McPhail, A. D. Sprague, William W. Willis; and as visiting brothers, James Hiner and Eugene Marshall of Hokah Lodge, No. 17. A full charter was subsequently granted by the Grand Lodge, dated Jan 7, 1858. The first applicant for the degrees conferred in Masonry was William D. Gibbs, who, after the usual preliminary steps was duly elected, and was initiated Nov. 17, 1858.

At the first election of the Lodge on Jan. 21, 1858, the following officers were elected: R. S. Williams, Worshipful Master; W. B. Burfield, Senior Warden; J. J. Belden, Junior Warden; W. D. Gibbs, Secretary; Ara D. Sprague, Treasurer; and Samuel McPhail, Senior Deacon. These officers were duly installed by C. W. Thompson, Worshipful Master of Hokah Lodge, No. 17.

In July, 1871, the Eastern Star Degree was conferred on a number of the wives and daughters.

For a complete history of this Lodge, see article by W. H. Harries, in Grand Lodge Report, 1905, pages 154-159.

On Nov. 15, 1858, G. M. Purson granted dispensation for the formation of Lodge at La Crescent, and the next session of the Grand Lodge on Oct. 26, 1859, charter was issued to Morning Star Lodge, No. 29, at that place, with Capt. J. C. Day as Master and J. O. Sawyer as Senior Warden. Others active in the formation of the Lodge were Herman Gleason, Capt. E. H. Kennedy and Geo. F. Potter. This Lodge is still alive and vigorous.

Soon after the formation of the Lodge at La Crescent the Civil War broke out and the growth of Masonry was halted and disorganized. A striking illustration of this condition is the fact that no session of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was held during the year 1863.

An example of Masonic charity which will forever be well cherished occurred in 1867, when in response to an appeal from G. M. Nash for contributions for relief of suffering in the southern states, Caledonia Lodge No. 20 contributed \$31.50, and Morning Star No. 29, La Crescent, \$49.50. When one considers that the Great War had just ended and that the contributions were made for the relief of those who had recently tried to dismember the Union, it affords a great lesson in Masonic charity.

The Masons at Houston appear to have had some difficulty in organizing, as Grand Master Purson in his address to the Grand Lodge in 1861

reports that "application for a dispensation was made for a new lodge at Houston. Although the applicants were personal friends and the application was recommended by two lodges, I felt compelled to decline to grant the request, because there are three lodges in the county and one would probably be materially injured by the establishment of a new lodge, and because of the sparse population surrounding the proposed location I doubted the ability of the brethren to sustain a lodge for any length of time."

No further effort appears to have been made until 1867, when Bro. E. H. Kennedy, representing Morning Star Lodge No. 29, at the session of the Grand Lodge, presented a petition of the brethren residing at Houston for dispensation to open a lodge at that place and dispensation was so granted Oct. 23, 1868, and the lodge was chartered as Mystic Circle No. 79 on Jan. 15, 1869, with the following officers: E. H. Kennedy, Master; Eugene Marshall, S. W.; W. S. Case, J. W., and F. N. Goodrich, secretary. The lodge at Houston was not, however, over its troubles, as its hall was destroyed in 1870, and for over a year no meetings were held. The Grand Lecturer and Visitor expressed dubiousness as to whether a lodge could ever be maintained at that place, and, in fact, for four or five years it remained practically dormant. The Grand Lecturer in the same report complimented the now defunct Hokah Lodge, which shows how times have since changed.

Though efforts for a lodge were previously made at Houston, the Brownsville Lodge antedates them in organization and number of charter. Dispensation was granted for a lodge at this place on Nov. 19, 1866. The report of the Committee on U. D. Lodges in 1867 does not give this lodge a very flattering report of its work and recommended that it be continued under dispensation. It was finally chartered as Brownsville Lodge No. 73 on Jan. 15, 1869, with the following officers: J. B. Le Blond, Master; J. M. Riley, S. W.; Wm. M. Wycoff, J. W.; and E. B. Strong, secretary.

The lodge at Brownsville was never strong in numbers, having been founded at about the time of the decline but had in its membership some very well informed Masons. It decayed with the decay of the town and on May 12, 1905, its membership had shrank to sixteen, several of whom were non-residents, and on that day surrendered its charter. The members of this lodge, as with the defunct Hokah Lodge, largely became members of the lodge at La Crescent. The last officers of the lodge were: C. E. McCan, M.; J. C. Beck, S. W.; W. F. McCan, J. W.; E. M. Winslow, secretary.

Orient is one of the most interesting lodges of the county, into whose history it would be well to go deeper than the length of this paper or the material at hand would permit. Situated in a rural community, it is unique in the county and there are probably only one or two such lodges in the State. It is strong and vigorous, new life having taken the place of its founders. It owns its own place of meeting and a visit to the lodge is a great pleasure. Dispensation was granted for its establishment Dec. 9, 1869, and it was chartered Jan. 11, 1871, as Orient Lodge No. 84, with twelve members, its first officers being: Master, I. H. Goodwin; Senior

Warden, Nathan Vance; Junior Warden, Harrison Wood; Secretary, W. E. Barber.

The earliest statistics I have been able to procure as to membership I find in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for 1869 and are as follows: No. 17, Hokah, 48; No. 20, Caledonia, 36; No. 29, La Crescent, 44; No. 73, Brownsville, 14; No. 79, Houston, 25; total, 167.

The proceedings of 1870 give a list of the members of all the lodges in the State, and as a matter of interest I have incorporated the names herein.

Hokah Lodge No. 17: Clark W. Thompson, Edward Thompson, Oreb Parker, Anthony Demo, Cyrus G. Wykoff, D. L. Clement, John N. Klene, David House, B. F. Pidge, J. H. McMillan, L. S. Keeler, Geo. O. Evans, Wm. F. Weber, Waller Krick, Michael Wilhelm, Hosea A. Wightman, Wm. E. Smith, John C. Snure, Sam J. Prentiss, Martin Diem, Lewis C. Foote, John Currie, Horatio Selfridge, Donald Currie, Benjamin Locke, Lemuel Rossiter, Levi T. Lyon, Wm. Snure, James Thompson, Andrea P. Coulter, Frederic Oben, John G. Craig, Chas. R. Townsend, Harvey H. Snure, Albert J. Snure, John Hallmeyer, Wm. H. Harris, Worthington A. Prentiss, Richard M. Clements, Wm. H. H. Dunham, James McDowell, Lorenzo D. Maxwell, Westy Luddington, Eugene Perkins, Wm. C. Pidge, Augustus B. Lyon, Wm. M. Wycoff, Milton W. Selby, Jacob F. Fleischer, Wm. Purshall, Richard A. Murray, Columbia French, Lewis L. West, Geo. H. Willis, Norman Webster, D. A. McArthur and Charles E. Massey. Total, 57.

Caledonia No. 20: Wm. F. Dunbar, Chas. A. Coe, James J. Belden, Jacob Webster, Ara D. Sprague, Daniel Gates, Joshua Rollins, Thomas W. Burns, Edward Nule, James O. Phillips, E. P. Dorwal, N. E. Dorwal, Wm. McGuines, Fernando S. Laffin, Winston Taylor, Bailey B. Webster, Alonzo A. Preston, Wm. Angus, P. P. Wall, Theobald Krick, Daniel Hainz, M. M. Wooden, Aaron Beard, John Polley, Edwin H. Stewart, D. G. Sprague, John O'Connor, Nicholas F. Damron, Millon B. Metcalf, R. F. Judd, Henry M. Rollins, Ora N. Ferrin, Joseph Green and James B. Southworth. Total, 34.

Morning Star No. 29: L. R. Hall, R. N. Anderson, Thos. McRoberts, Herman Gleason, H. D. Gurley, W. W. Buck, Chas. Guynup, Nathan Brown, W. H. Carroll, B. S. Grant, O. D. Grant, John Fumga, Jr., John J. Johnson, P. H. Grant, J. H. Wheelock, Thos. Fletcher, James P. Bissett, Chas. H. Workman, H. Fosset, Alex Steadman, Wm. Steadman, Daniel Steadman, and John A. Anderson, Geo. F. Potter, J. A. Higgins, James P. Berry, Henry T. Fox, John Fumga, Sr., J. A. Sawyer, W. R. Anderson, S. C. Dick, L. Van Loon, F. Minke, Thomas Minshall. Total 34.

Houston No. 79: F. N. Goodrich, Edward D. Brown, Charles Tiffany, E. McIntire, Wm. E. Barber, Moses Emery, Neils Scherlie, Cortland Fitch, Isaac Thompson, Ole G. Hogan, Thomas Rhodes, Chas. Emery, Henry McGowan, DeWitt C. Dyer, Andrew L. Tennison, Henry I. Airon, Oscar Ainsworth, Gilbert M. Corey, Joshua Emery, Nathan Vance, E. H. Kennedy, W. S. Case, Eugene Marshall, Albon P. Mann. Total, 24.

Brownsville No. 73: J. B. La Blond, Thomas McMichael, Harrison H. Selfridge, Harvey Bell, Chas. Mehl, Phillip J. Schaller, John H. Smith,

Jos. Habercorn, Henry Shron, Geo. Hoffman, Jesse Bell, Fred Gluck, J. M. Riley, Valentine Richard, Jacob Walters, Christopher Clark, John C. Beck, and E. B. Strong. Total, 18.

Total in county, as previous year, 167.

This carries the record down until all the lodges in the county had been organized. The growth of Masonry in the county was slow from this period until the past few years. The returns for 1905 show a membership in the active lodges in the county as follows: Caledonia No. 20, 61; Morning Star No. 29, 49; Mystic Circle No. 79, 44; Orient No. 84, 16; total 170—a very small increase in thirty-five years. Since 1905 all the lodges in the county have experienced a remarkable growth, considering the fact that the population of the county has decreased during the period since that date. The returns for 1915 show: Caledonia No. 20, 96; Morning Star No. 29, 56; Mystic Circle No. 79, 72; Orient No. 84, 31; total, 255; increase in ten years, 170.

The defunct lodges at Brownsville and Hokah can have contributed but little to this growth as Morning Star No. 29, the only lodge gaining any members through their discontinuance, gained but seven members during the period.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

(By Rev. Alfred O. Johnson)

Before sketching the history of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Houston county, it might possibly not be amiss to preface with a brief survey of the origin of the Lutheran Church in general.

This church, the largest Protestant church in the world, receives its name from Dr. Martin Luther, the great reformer of Germany, who was born Nov. 10, 1483, and died in 1546. The name was originally given to the adherents of the principles and teachings of Luther by his opponents, the Papists, and thus through usage came to be the designation of a large part of the Protestant Church.

Martin Luther was born and grew to manhood in the Roman Catholic Church. His father, Hans Luther, a poor miner, had planned that his son should enter the legal profession, but Providence willed otherwise. During his student days young Martin was awakened to a deep anxiety for the welfare of his soul. In order to quiet the accusations of his conscience he entered an Augustinian Monastery and became a monk of that order. As a monk, he tried in every way to find peace with his God, by labors, fasting, prayers and penances. But his efforts brought him no relief. Not until a devout old monk admonished him to believe in the "forgiveness of sins," did he begin to find a ray of light. About this time he found an old Latin Bible chained to the wall of the monastery, and he began reading the precious message. Day by day his soul found peace in the message that "man is justified by faith, without the deed of the law," and with the greatest avidity he continued to study the comforting truths. Nothing was sweeter to his troubled conscience than to learn that forgiveness is a free gift to everyone who believes, through the blood of the Redeemer Jesus Christ, and that it cannot be won by all our efforts.

Born of spiritual anguish and conflict, the two cardinal principles of Protestantism became more and more plain: First, that the Bible is the only true guide of faith and conduct; and, second, that we are saved by the grace of God alone and not by the deeds of the law. On these two truths the so-called Lutheran Church is built.

What really led, however, to the break between Luther and the church in which he was reared and had found peace, was the sale of Indulgences by the Roman monk, John Tetzel. Among others, he had been sent out to sell Indulgences for the benefit of the church then building at Rome, St. Peter's. When he reached Wittenberg, where Luther labored as professor at the university and pastor of a congregation, and began his traffic, Luther protested most vigorously. It was then he wrote the "Magna Charta" of

Protestantism, his famous "95 theses," which he posted on the door of the church at Wittenberg, according to the custom of the times. This act, which has been considered the first real inception of the Reformation, took place on the evening of the 31st of October, 1517.

From this time on rapidly succeeding events made wider and wider the breach between the Papal church and the Protestants led by Luther, until the Lutheran Church was an established fact.

In the course of a few weeks the theses of Luther were translated into every continental language and spread over the entire civilized world, and the principles there held forth were received with the greatest eagerness.

Lutheranism spread rapidly from country to country. Nineteen years from the date of the posting of the theses, one of the Scandinavian countries, Denmark, had already adopted Lutheranism as the state religion.

Two brothers, Olof and Lars Pehrson, of Sweden, had studied at Wittenberg and were filled with enthusiasm over the Evangelical doctrines, as they were called at the time. Returning to their native land, they began to preach the new truths and so successful were they in their labors that in 1544, twenty-nine years after the beginning of the work of Luther, Sweden had become officially a Lutheran country.

Norway, at that time a province under Denmark, did not take so kindly to the new teachings. A monk, Anton by name, began preaching in Bergen in 1528, but the bishop very soon put a stop to his work. When Lutheranism was made the state church of Denmark, it was also introduced into the province, Norway, but the people clung to the Roman Church and often maltreated the ministers of the new faith that were sent to them. Not until about one hundred years later, when the King, Christian the Fourth of Denmark, began to improve the school system of Norway, and through this medium introduce Lutheranism, was the opposition gradually overcome.

In time the Scandinavian countries became probably the most purely Lutheran countries in the world, and at the same time, and probably on account of that fact, these countries have always stood in the forefront of the nations of the world in the matter of popular enlightenment. Including imbeciles, the percentage of such as cannot read or write is less than one per cent of the total population.

The Lutheran Church, the church built firmly on the doctrine of free grace through Jesus Christ for every penitent sinner, based on the immovable foundation of the Bible, and standing for the widest and freest popular education, is the church in which the Norwegian emigrants who settled in Houston county in the middle of last century were born and reared, and this fact will explain a great many things in the history of their subsequent development.

Norwegian Emigration. The emigration of the old pioneer Norwegian settlers in America from their native country due mainly to two reasons: First, though in a very limited degree, it was due to religious intolerance. In the second place, and principally, it was due to the exceedingly hard economic conditions obtaining in Norway at that time, especially among the rural population. The condition of the Norwegian "husmand" was little better than that of a serf. Even with the utmost diligence and fru-

gality it was impossible in many instances for a man to feed and care for a family. Therefore, when an opportunity presented itself for this sorely tried person to better his conditions, even though it was fraught with dangers and hardships, he resolutely set out to do it.

In the second decade of last century there was founded in Stavanger, Norway, a small society of Quakers. This society was founded by one Lars Larson, who had been taken prisoner by the English during the war of Denmark with England. He was kept prisoner from 1807 to 1814, when he was released. He spent two years more in England, during which time he became a Quaker. In 1816 he and a number of companions, who also had been won to the faith of the Quakers, returned to their native city and won a number of converts for their new faith. This new society was not kindly received either by the inhabitants nor the authorities of Stavanger, and they were often subjected to petty persecution. In 1821 two men, Kleng Person and Knud Olson Eide, probably sent by the Quakers, came to this country to investigate conditions. After a stay of three years, Kleng Person returned to Norway with a story of conditions so glowing that it resulted almost immediately in the organization of a party of emigrants made up mostly, if not entirely, of the members of the Quaker Society of Stavanger. In 1825 this company, in a sloop called "Restorationen," arrived at the hospitable shores of America, and became the advance guard of an army of sturdy Norsemen, who found their way hither to conquer and subdue the wilderness and make it blossom as a garden.

After the arrival of this company of emigrants, who settled in Orleans county, New York State, the majority of Norwegians passed by the East and settled in the great Middle West, which has become preeminently the home of the Norwegians. The second Norwegian settlement in America was founded in La Salle county, Illinois, and is known as the Fox River Settlement. This settlement, founded in 1834, also owes its existence to that important personage in the history of the early Norwegians, Kleng Person.

As time passed the tide of emigration flowed stronger, and each succeeding wave swept on past the preceding one. Each new settlement came to be a temporary stopping place for the emigrants, who then continued westward and founded others. The third permanent settlement, according to Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson in his "Norwegian Immigration," was founded in Chicago in 1836.

The fourth was the famous Jefferson Prairie settlement in Rock county, Wis., founded by Ole Knudson Nattestad; the fifth, the Muskego settlement in Waukesha and Racine counties, Wis.; the sixth, the Koshkonong settlement in Dane county, Wis., in 1840.

After this time the intrepid immigrant found his way to the wilds of Iowa and Minnesota.

The first Norwegians to reach the territory now known as Houston county came from settlements further south. Later on the first pioneers were joined by others coming either from settlements in Wisconsin or directly from Norway. Gradually they became grouped into distinct set-

tlements, and these settlements constitute four clerical charges and comprise today practically all of the people of Norwegian blood in Houston county. These charges given in the order of their organization are: The Spring Grove charge, served by Rev. Alfred O. Johnson; Wilmington charge, served by Rev. H. J. Wein of Caledonia; Black Hammer charge, served by H. H. Frost, and the Houston charge, served by Rev. B. B. Ostrem. An historical sketch of these charges will give a complete survey of the development of the Norwegian Lutheran churches in Houston county. The history of these charges follows:

Spring Grove, by Rev. A. O. Johnson. Sixty-eight years ago the prosperous district around Spring Grove was a wilderness in which the Chipewewa Indian had his hunting ground and pitched his tent while he hunted and fished.

The first white man to come to the region now known as Spring Grove village and town was an American, James Smith by name. He came from Pennsylvania in the spring of 1852 and preempted a half section of land in the eastern part of the present village, where he built a house. In the fall of the same year he went to Lansing, Ia., where he found work in a printing office during the winter, returning in the spring to his claim in Spring Grove. In 1854 he married Elizabeth Landrum from Illinois and thus established the first family within the confines of Houston county. In their home the religious work in the county may be said to have had its inception, Mrs. Smith beginning a Sunday School in her own home for the settlers that began to come in.

Mr. Smith secured the establishment of a post office over which he was appointed master and to which he gave the name that it still bears, Spring Grove.

The first Norwegian to settle in Spring Grove township was Torger Johannesen Tendeland from Stavanger, Norway. He arrived in May, 1852, from Wisconsin, where he had spent three years. With a team of oxen and a covered wagon he transported his family and all of his worldly possessions from Wisconsin to Highlandville, Ia. There he left his family and his wagon and started on foot northward in quest of a future home. He reached the place, which later on became his home, but finding that the trees had been blazed by others, he dared not take the place he liked, but continued his search. After a visit to his family he returned again and, finding that the land of his choice was not yet claimed, he ventured to settle on it. In the meantime several other Norwegians had arrived and settled north and west of him. There were Haakon Narvesen, Fingal Flaten, Knud K. Kieland and Truls Haga, all from Sigdal, Norway; Peter and John Lommen, Knud Bergo, Even Hoime, and Ole K. Riste from Valdres; and Ole Berg, Tollef Berg, Knut Vold and Ole O. Ulen, from Hallingdal. In 1853 the following arrived from Hallingdal: Hans Melbraaten and his son Engebret, Knut Gulbrandsen, Ole C. Stenerodden, Levor and Jorgen Quarve. Engebret K. Opheim and Ole C. Sagadalen; from Ringerike, Nels O. Blixrud, Knut Blixrud and Ole Halbakken; from Hadeland, Anders P. Kroshus; from Osterdalen, Jans Ellemoen and family, of which one son, Thore, became the much loved and respected doctor of the neighborhood until his

death in 1915. From Solar came Ole Kolberg; Gjermund J. Lommen, from Valders, and Gunder Traaen from Nummedal.

The arrivals in 1854 were: Elling Kieland, Engebret Enderud, Lars Halstenrud from Sigdal, Bjorn Kolsrud from Hallingdal, Gulbrand and Andres Rud from Gulbrandsdalen, Hans Rosendal and family, Hans and Gulbrand Myrah, and Anders Kjos from Hadeland, Herman and Sebjorn Dustrud from Nummedal and Amund G. Lunde and Ole T. Skotland from Ringerike.

1855 brought Even Haugen, Ole and Anders Stensrud, Ole J. Svarte-braaten, Elling Snekkerpladsen, Hans, Knut and Amund Livdalen, Asle Sundet and Ole Bjertunes from Krodsherred, Helge Bergsrud from Ringerike, Knud Sagadalen from Hallingdal, Hans H. Bakke from Gulbrandsdal, Anders B. Foss from Bergen and Ole Wendelbo Olson from Sogn.

These and possibly a few others whose names are not available are the charter members of the church in Spring Grove and vicinity.

The majority of them had lived a few years in Wisconsin before seeking their fortunes farther west, and had had an opportunity there to hear the Word of God expounded by some of the few ministers that had come over from Norway. But after they came to Minnesota there were no ordained pastors to minister to them.

They had brought with them in their emigrant chests their Bibles, hymnbooks, catechisms and their postils, always at that time an essential in their equipment. These books, priceless treasures to many of them, were brought out on Sundays, father reading a sermon, while the family devoutly listened. Also occasional lay services were conducted by Jens Ellemoen.

Cornelius Narveson was the first school teacher. Faithfully he labored, going from place to place, conducting school in the farm homes, wherever he might and where he could obtain sustenance and a little compensation. He was one of the old type, to whom his work was a sacred calling, and the inculcation of knowledge, religious and secular, the most important of all things.

But these blessings, the religious books, the lay services and the work of a faithful teacher, great as they were, did not fully satisfy the demands of these simple, devout people who were accustomed from their childhood to the regular preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments by men ordained to the ministry. More than ever, in the hardships of pioneer life they called to mind the tolling of the church bells, solemnly calling them to worship, the singing of hymns, the words of admonition, the christening and confirmation of their children, and they longed for the old church customs. When, therefore, they began to receive visits from the pioneer clergymen, who had left home to serve their countrymen in the West, there was unspeakable joy in the heart of many a pioneer.

According to the testimony of early settlers the first of these noble men to visit Spring Grove was Rev. V. Koren, for fifty-seven years one of the leading figures in the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, and at that time stationed near Decorah, Ia. He had arrived at Washington Prairie,

in Winneshiek county, at the close of 1853, and was given all of the territory west of the Mississippi as his field.

In January, 1854, he visited Spring Grove for the first time and conducted full services at the home of Jorgen T. Quarve. Later visits were made by Rev. Nils Brandt and others, but it was the Rev. Mr. Koren who most often came to the settlers of Spring Grove and conducted services mostly in the homes of Jorgen and Timan Quarve.

In 1855 Mr. Koren preached under a large oak tree on the farm now owned by Peter Bergerud, where eighteen children were christened, some of them so large that they walked to the baptismal font. Among those baptised that day were Mrs. O. B. Nelson, John N. Blexrud and Lars Johnsrud. June 19 the same year three couples were married by Mr. Koren in the home of Knut Kieland, Anders Foss and Anna Solberg, Dyre Linaas and Ingeborg Vold, John Lommen and Marit Riste. The next day, June 20, a meeting was held, also in the house of Knut Kieland, and the congregation formally organized under the name of "The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norwegian Ridge."

That same year the congregation became a member of the recently organized "Norwegian Synod," convened in its second general meeting at Spring Prairie, Columbia county, Wis., in October.

Owing partly to the great lack of men who were willing to leave the settled conditions of Norway for the precarious living among the emigrants in America, and partly to the slender means of the new colonists around Spring Grove, several years elapsed before this community had a resident pastor, being served in the meantime by the Revs. Koren, Brandt, A. A. Sheie and others.

The winter of 1856 and 1857 was one of exceptional severity. Snow began to fall the latter part of October and continued to fall more or less every day for three months, until it is said to have reached a depth of eight feet on the level. To reach the mill or market for provisions was out of the question and the settlers were compelled to subsist on their meager store of provisions, which in many cases consisted chiefly of wheat and corn ground in a coffee mill. A good Samaritan to them was Engebret Melbraaten. He was the owner of a little dappled horse that he provided with snow shoes that enabled it to walk on the top of the drifts, and with this outfit he helped to supply the most pressing needs of the community.

In the beginning of February Providence mercifully sent them a change of diet. A few days of mild weather melted the snow, when cold weather again came and formed a crust strong enough to sustain a man but not a large animal.

Deer, which had been very numerous during the past, were caught in the ice crust and became an easy prey to both man and beast. They were killed in large numbers by the famished settlers, whose larders were thus filled with the choicest meats.

In 1856 a call was sent by the newly organized congregation to Rev. F. C. Clausen of Norway. At that time Ole Wendelbo Olson was the secretary of the congregation, and according to his son, Ole S. Olson, wrote the call.

A notice in "Kirketidende," No. 3, for 1857, containing the following announcement, will give an idea of the conditions of the call: "Vacant charges in America: Norwegian Ridge, Minnesota, and Big Canoe, Iowa. Salary \$400.00 and the usual incidentals." Later on in 1857 the Rev. Mr. Clausen accepted the call, entering upon his voyage to America August 22 and arriving in the fall of that year.

His home the first year of his ministry here was a little log house west of town, but later on he moved into a frame house 18 by 26, which the congregations had erected on the land owned by them a little to the east of the present parsonage.

Rev. Clausen's field was very large. It extended "from beyond the Root River to beyond the Little Iowa River."

In 1858 the building of a church became a live question, but work was not actually begun until 1860. Hans Nilson Myrah took the contract for the building and did most of the work himself. It was built of stone, 35 by 60 feet, exclusive of the tower and sanctuary, both of which were frame. A bell weighing 707 pounds, quite a respectable size for those times, was hung in the belfry. When the mason work was finished and the structure under roof, it was used for some time in an unfinished state.

In 1861 connections were severed with the Big Canoe and Root River congregations and the Rev. Mr. Clausen was left with Spring Grove, Wilmington and Black Hammer.

After having used the church until 1867, work was again resumed and the building completed, so that it could be dedicated on Nov. 5, 1868. At this memorable service Rev. H. A. Stub preached the introductory sermon, using as his text Acts 7, 13-14, and the dedication sermon was delivered by Rev. V. Koren preaching on Joshua 24, 21-24. The Revs. F. C. Clausen and Tobias Larson assisted.

At the time of the dedication of its church the Norwegian Ridge congregation consisted of 140 families, Wilmington and Black Hammer of about thirty families each, making the main congregation even at that time one of the largest, if not the largest, in America. Probably it was for that reason that the Norwegian Church held its general meeting in Spring Grove in the summer of 1869.

After thirteen years of strenuous service Rev. F. C. Clausen died in 1870, deeply mourned by his congregations. He was a quiet, retiring but extremely conscientious and kindly man.

After his death calls were sent in vain to several clergymen in Norway. Finally the call was sent to and accepted by the Rev. Styrk Sjurson Reque in 1871. In the meantime the charge was served by H. A. Stub, T. Larson and others.

The first church building served as a house of worship until a rather tragic episode gave birth to the idea of building a new and larger church. One of the side walls of the church had sagged outward. It was reinforced by a timber prop and was probably entirely strong and safe, but, nevertheless, it began to be generally whispered about that the church was not safe, and considerable apprehension was felt on that score.

On Sunday, June 6, 1875, confirmation services were to be held and

this fact had brought together a large audience that more than filled the church. Improvised benches had been made in the gallery by laying planks on supports. While the gathering was waiting for the minister to arrive and the services to begin, one of the planks in the gallery snapped. Some one cried out that the church was falling and the people, already nervous about the church walls, lost all reason, and a panic ensued that for a time threatened dire results. Through windows and doors they threw themselves in unreasoning fear, those farther behind crowding onto those in front until men, women and children were one struggling mass of humanity. In the melee some were severely injured by being trampled under foot, others cut by glass in climbing through the windows. Fortunately, however, none was fatally injured, though some suffered for years, and in one case at least for life from the injuries sustained.

The pastor arrived, the situation was explained, the audience calmed down and services were conducted as usual and for some time yet the church was used for regular services. However, the panic, together with the fact that the church was too small, led eventually to the building of another church, begun in the summer of 1876.

This church was built of brick on a site about 300 feet south of the old church. It was of Gothic design, built in the old conventional "cross church" style and was one hundred feet two inches long and forty-six feet eight inches wide in the nave, with transepts projecting ten feet on either side, the whole surmounted by a spire 145 feet high. It was provided with a gallery running along three sides of the church and had a seating capacity of 950 persons. It occupied the most commanding site in the village, facing down the main road to the west and was the most conspicuous object for miles in every direction. The cost was approximately \$16,000.00. It was dedicated July 11, 1877.

1881 witnessed the second meeting of the General Synod to be held at Spring Grove.

This meeting was historical from the fact that it witnessed the opening of the famous controversy on the doctrine of predestination, which eventually divided in two parts.

The church building, dedicated in 1877, and the pride of the community, was not destined to stand very long. One of the saddest days of the community was April 3, 1893, when this church was destroyed by fire.

About 400 feet northwest of the church stood an opera house, cheaply built and roofed with tar paper. In the evening fire was discovered in this building, which soon was beyond control, owing to a strong northwest wind and absolute lack of fire protection. Large sheets of burning tar paper were blown directly onto the shingle roof of the church and when morning came the rising sun looked down on the charred ruins of the House of God. A few things of the church were saved, among them being the beautiful altar painting, by Gaustad, which was saved when Sven Ellestad cut it from the frame.

Depressed but undaunted, the congregation at once took steps to restore the church, utilizing the same foundation and partially the same walls. The new church is a replica of the old one with a few changes.

Instead of the old lofty spire, the new church is adorned with a lower belfry, and the gallery was built only in the rear of the new church. With so much vigor was the work prosecuted that the new and latest church could be dedicated on Dec. 7 of the same year.

Again in 1899 the Synod held its general meeting here for the third time. At this time the general body was so large and cumbersome that none but the largest congregations with spacious churches could accommodate its meetings. And the meeting of 1899 taxed the hospitality of this congregation.

During all this time the congregations were faithfully served by the Rev. Mr. Reque. In 1876 the work became so taxing that it was found necessary to provide a helper for him and the Rev. Reier Larson, then stationed at Red Wing, Minn., was called as assistant. He was not destined to serve long in this capacity. He suffered from weak lungs and was taken away by tuberculosis on Oct. 27, 1878.

In the spring of that year the Rev. Mr. Reque had been granted a vacation in order to visit the country of his forefathers, Norway. He returned in the fall and took up his duties again.

The work proving too much for the strength of one man, even though that man was a physical giant, Rev. Eskild P. Jenson was called as assistant pastor in 1880 and served as such until 1895, when a division of the charge was effected and he assumed entire responsibility of the Black Hammer and Riceford congregations.

Again some years later the expansion of the work necessitated help and Rev. Hans J. Weip became assistant in 1903, living at Spring Grove, until the call was again divided, when Mr. Wein became pastor of the Wilmington and Caledonia congregations.

A tract of land comprising sixty-five acres had constituted the parsonage property, but in 1895 all the land south of the residence building, a parcel which now is the site of many of our most beautiful residences, was sold, and in 1906 the balance, with the exception of three acres around the buildings, was disposed of.

Thirty-nine years was the measure of the service of Mr. Reque in Spring Grove. What he has done for the community and what influence he has wielded can not be measured by human standards. He was in every way a man and he performed a man's work.

Two achievements will probably stand out in bold relief in any survey of his work.

Shortly after his arrival he applied himself to the Herculean task of turning public opinion against the saloon, which he found exerting a cursed influence in the neighborhood. And after five years of fearless work he succeeded in ridding the town of the liquor traffic in 1876, and Spring Grove has since been known as a saloonless town.

The other achievement, which is a splendid testimonial both of his popularity and his diplomacy, was that he was able to preserve his congregations intact until his death, particularly at the time of the Predestinarian controversy, when congregations, and even families, were being split up in the bitterness of feeling that was engendered.

As a consequence of these things Spring Grove presents a spectacle unique in this country and possibly in the world, a village of perhaps 800 inhabitants and a contiguous population of about the same number with only one church and no saloons.

In January, 1910, Mr. Reque slipped at his home and fell, fracturing his hip. He was taken to the hospital and given all possible care. By the middle of the summer he had recovered sufficiently to officiate for a few weeks, but was again stricken and died on August 20, 1910, at the age of almost seventy-four, weary after a task well and faithfully performed. His successor, Rev. Alfred O. Johnson, of Chicago, Ill., was installed on Dec. 4, 1910, and still serves the congregation.

It may be of interest to know that the first boy born of Norwegian parentage was a son of Peter Lommen, named John. The first girl was Mary Bergh, a daughter of Tollef Bergh. She was born Oct. 29, 1852, but died a month afterward and was buried on her father's farm.

The first couple married was Helge Bergsrud and Marit Brenden. The first to die was Maren Rud, wife of Anders Rud. She was buried on the farm of Andrew Hallan. The first one buried in the first cemetery, in the corner of Anton Johnson's land, just north of the present town hall, was Marit Vold or Mrs. Riley. The funeral party consisted of four men, Knut Vold, Dyre Linaas, Anders Kroshus and Engebret Melbraaten, whose dappled horse equipped with snowshoes and an improvised sleigh had brought the body over the drifts to the cemetery.

The first person buried in the cemetery adjoining the church was Hans Melbraaten and the first in the West End cemetery was Halvor A. Lee, who for many years served as a school teacher, both secular and parochial, in the neighborhood.

From a small beginning this congregation has grown to be one of the largest among the Norwegians in the United States and counts today in the neighborhood of 1,500 souls.

Scattered all over the northwest may be found sometimes whole settlements of people from Spring Grove, where the influence of the work done in this congregation is felt.

Black Hammer Congregation, by Rev. H. H. Frost. About five miles north of Spring Grove lies Black Hammer. Emigrants began to settle here in the early fifties. Other nations were represented, but the large majority of the people were Norwegian immigrants. The first white child born in this community was of Norwegian parents: Anna Marie Otternes, a daughter of Guttorm Otternes and wife, Brita. She was born in the fall of 1854. The first death was the daughter of Lars Skaheim, which occurred the same year.

The first Norwegians who settled in Black Hammer had no other religious service than what they got by going in to Spring Grove, where the Revs. V. Koren and N. Brandt preached a couple of times each year, and occasional lay services conducted by a colporteur by the name of Peter Mehus. The first service conducted by a regularly ordained minister was held by Rev. F. C. Clausen at the home of Knut Eik in 1857. He had arrived at Spring Grove from Norway that same year.

It became more and more apparent to the settlers that it was absolutely necessary to have in their midst a church where they might gather for regular services, and in 1868 the following men headed a movement to build a church at Black Hammer: Guttorm O. Otternes, Jens O. Otternes, Jens O. Winjum, Johannes Berquam, senior and junior, Knut Eik, Torkel Aagesen, Peter Onstad, Ole Bjorgo, Elling Karlsbraaten, senior, Torsten Johnson Lommen, Osten Bortnes, Tolleif Haakensen and Lars Svartaas. Some of these men drove to La Crosse for material and the work was begun that same year. The church cost \$4,000 including furniture and a bell weighing over 800 pounds.

This church stood until 1890, when a new church of brick, which is a credit to the congregation, was erected.

After the death of Rev. F. C. Clausen in 1870, Rev. St. S. Reque was called as his successor and began his labors here in 1871—labors that continued through a period of a number of years.

His field was so large that it soon became evident that an assistant was necessary, and as such was called in 1876 Rev. Reier Larson. His labors here were brief. He was taken away by death two years afterward.

In the year 1880, Rev. Eskild P. Jensen was called and together with the Rev. Mr. Reque labored until the charge was divided in 1895. Since this time Black Hammer congregation, together with Riceford and Trinity congregation at Newburg, constituted a separate charge. Mr. Jensen became the first regular pastor of this independent call and served as such until his death in 1905.

Mr. Jensen's health was very feeble towards the end of his life and he was obliged to leave the work to a great extent to assistants.

In June of the year of his death, Rev. K. A. Kasberg was called as pastor and remained until 1912, when he accepted a call from Pierre, S. D. Since that time Rev. H. H. Frost has been the pastor of the congregation.

Black Hammer congregation has through these years been spared from internal dissensions and the work has gone steadily onward.

Ever since the early days it has been a member of "The Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America" and has shown great loyalty towards this church body, bearing its share of the church's burdens.

In this connection must be mentioned the ladies' aid and the young people's society, who each year have donated considerable sums to the different activities of the church.

Riceford Congregation, by Rev. H. H. Frost. In the western part of the township of Spring Grove lies the village of Riceford, receiving its name from H. M. Rice, from St. Paul, who visited the place in 1856.

For a considerable time its population was mixed as to nationality. In early days the village of Riceford gave promise of becoming a town of some little importance owing to its waterpower for milling. But when the railroad, which was built through the southern part of the county, did not reach Riceford, it was obliged, like so many other inland towns, to give up its dream of future greatness and in the seventies began a steady decline.

From its earliest history it appears that several church bodies have

attempted to begin work here, Methodists, Adventists, Quakers and even Catholics. A number of persons were baptised in the creek that flows through the village.

When, however, the Norwegian population little by little became a large majority, the Lutheran church became thereby the main church and grew strong. A Norwegian Lutheran congregation was organized and became associated with Spring Grove and thereafter was served by the pastors living there.

The services were held in the schoolhouse until a church was built in 1877 at a cost of \$3,000. In 1880 a parsonage was built one-quarter of a mile from Riceford.

Thus the first pastor to live within the limits of the congregation was Rev. E. Jensen, who had just been called as an assistant to Rev. S. T. Reque.

This congregation has since the earliest days been associated with "The Norwegian Synod" and throughout the years has displayed a great deal of interest for the church body it belonged to, and here also have the ladies aid and the young people's society taken an active part both in the local and general church activities.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of Houston, better known as the "Stone Church," on account of the material of which its picturesque house of worship is constructed, was founded by that pioneer of Lutheranism in this region, the sainted Right Rev. V. Koren. He visited Houston in 1855 and organized the present church, as well as several in Fillmore county at the same time. In 1859 it was decided to have a local pastor, and a call was extended to Rev. N. E. Jensen, who came from Norway and took charge of the Highland Prairie and Rushford congregations in Fillmore county and Houston in this county. He also had a number of other preaching places. Rev. Jensen delivered his first sermon in Houston in a blacksmith shop in the old Lower Town. Later services were held in private residences, schoolhouses, and such other places as were available. The parsonage was built at Highland Prairie. In 1863 the Houston congregation decided to build a church, but Civil War was raging and times were hard, and it was not until 1869 that the present slightly stone structure was erected. It stands on the open prairie, and with its tall spire is a landmark seen for miles around. Its large bell can be heard far in the surrounding country, and in its cemetery repose the departed faithful who for so many years gathered there to worship. Rev. Jensen, a most eloquent preacher, served ten years from 1859 to 1869. Then he retired and moved to Houston, where a short time later, he died. He was succeeded by Rev. Kr. Magelssen. The charge then consisted of the congregations at Rushford, Houston, Highland Prairie, Cedar Valley, Elstad, Whalan, Newberg, and several preaching places. In 1873 the charge had become so large that it was divided, and a new charge was formed of the Houston and Rushford congregations. A call was extended to Rev. E. Jaastad, of St. Louis, who preached his first pastoral sermon in the Stone Church Aug. 10, 1873. The parsonage, owned by both congregations, was at Rushford. Rev. Jaastad remained for thirty-five years, and would have served many years more had his health permitted. But in the three decades and a half of hard and faithful work

he had given his best of his health and strength and he longed for rest in the afternoon of life. At a meeting held April 3, 1907, a call was extended to Rev. B. B. Ostrem as helper for one year. Later Rev. Jaastad resigned, and on Dec. 2, 1907, a call was extended to Rev. B. B. Ostrem, the helper, to become pastor. He accepted, and took charge of the congregations July 1, 1908. In the meantime, Feb. 10, 1908, it had been decided to separate from the Rushford congregation, of which Rev. Jaastad remained as pastor. When the separation was made, the Houston people sold their share in the Rushford parsonage to the Rushford people, and proceeded to build one of their own. This beautiful residence was occupied by Rev. Ostrem and his family in November, 1908. The present officials of the congregation are as follows: President, Rev. B. B. Ostrem; clerk, O. P. Gausstad; treasurer, S. S. Vathing; trustees, Adolph Anderson, Marcus Lee, Ole S. Sanden, O. T. Amundson, K. K. Kragnes, Ole Lee, Nils Dahle, Henry Hauge and T. T. Halvorson.

St. Peter Norwegian Lutheran Church of Houston. (Data furnished partly by Rev. B. B. Ostrem.) In 1856 Rev. A. A. Scheie came to Newburg, in Fillmore county, and there purchased a farm, and became a founder of organized Lutheranism in his community. July 26, 1856, he organized the congregation at Houston. The first members were Peter Erickson, in whose house the meeting was held, Sebjorn S. Haukland, Martin Christianson, John Anderson, K. Salveson, Bernt Jacobson and Isaac Abrahamson. The first officers were: President, Rev. A. A. Scheie; secretary and treasurer, John Anderson; trustees, Knut Salveson, Peter Erickson, and Sebjorn S. Haukland; deacons, Knut Salveson, Martin Christianson and Peter Erickson. In 1860 Lars Dahl and Tennis Hanson joined. In 1861 Peter Olson and Mickael Johnson joined, and gradually the membership was increased.

The early meetings were held in the home of Peter Erickson and in Taylor's Hall. The first steps toward building a church were taken on Dec. 18, 1876, when it was voted to raise funds for the purpose. Mons Anderson, who platted the village and presented the public park, offered a site, as well as A. P. Johnson, whose offer was accepted. In 1883 the work was started, and in 1884 the church was ready to occupy. Additions and alterations were made from time to time, and the church was dedicated in October, 1890.

Fifteen pastors have served this congregation since its organization in 1858. A. A. Scheie from 1858 to 1870; P. Asbjornson, 1870-1875; A. C. Schonhovd, 1875-1876; Paul G. Ostby, 1876-1878; J. A. Berg, 1878-1879; Peder Nelson, 1880-1888; Chr. Ytrehus, 1888-1893; M. O. Hanson, 1893-1897; E. Jaastad, 1897; John Granskou, 1897-1899; M. N. Knutson, 1901-1904; A. Wright, 1905; T. T. Haverstad, 1905-1909; L. S. Marwick, 1910-1912, and B. B. Ostrem, from 1912 up to the present time.

The officers of the congregation at present are: President, B. B. Ostrem; vice-president, I. G. Iverson; secretary, Gust. Thornson; cashier, Arnold Omodt; deacons, Peder Iverson and Ole Eliason.

The trustees are: I. G. Iverson, chairman; Ole Gordon and Tannis Tennison.

The congregation comprises 120 souls and is in a healthy condition.

Looney Valley Congregation. At Looney Valley there is a small congregation of Norwegians, comprising in the neighborhood of 100 souls. It has always been served from Houston and is today under the care of Rev. B. B. Østrem. Unfortunately there are no available data regarding its early history.

Wilmington Norwegian Lutheran Church, by Rev. H. J. Wein. The early history of Wilmington Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation is in some respects the same as that of Norwegian Ridge Norwegian Lutheran Church. It was organized in 1855. From 1855 to 1857 a few services were held in the farm homes by Rev. V. Koren. In 1857 Rev. C. F. Clausen became the permanent pastor and served as such until his death, Oct. 23, 1870. During the first ten years of his pastorate in the congregation services were held in the homes and in the schoolhouses. In May, 1868, a church, 30 by 55, was begun and it was dedicated in the same year on November 4 by Rev. V. Koren. The other pastors present were: H. A. Stub, Tobias Larsen, Nils Brandt and C. F. Clausen. The church cost about \$4,000, a sum that meant much for the pioneers of those days. Among the early settlers in the Fifties and Sixties who became members of the congregation were: Thomas E. Trehus, "Gamle" Ole Hefte and his sons, the older and the younger Ole, and Nils; Halvor Wermager, Ole Buxengard, Knut Hougen, Ivar Kinneberg, Amund Stenehem, Ole Sannes, Ole Myhre, Asle Siwenson, Christen Ofstedahl, Endre Roble, Knut Dahle, Tov Tweten, Knut Skalet, Osten Olsgaard, Ole Ofstedahl, Ole Engen, Ole Rask, Erik Larson, Ole Renslo, Hans Johnson, Ole Engene, Nils Selland, Guttorm Tyribakken, John Ostern, Andreas Haugstad, Ole Haugstad, Lars Quinnell, Eskil Quinnell, Engebret Solandsen, Elling Burtness, F. Smestad and four brothers, Aslak Moen, Reier Rudsvigen and Tollef Newhouse and others.

After Rev. C. F. Clausen's death, Rev. St. S. Reque was called. He preached his first sermon in Wilmington Sept. 27, 1871. He and assistant pastors served the congregation until Jan. 1, 1909. The assistant pastors were: Reier Larson, 1876-1878; E. P. Jensen, 1880--1894; and H. J. Wein, 1903-1909. In 1872 the congregation numbered 277 souls. The officers in 1871 were: Secretary, T. Tandberg; treasurer, P. O. Bye; trustees, Ingebret Solandsen, Peter Bye, Thomas Trehus, Knud Dahle, Ingvald Tvedt; presenter and teacher, T. Tandberg.

The early pioneers did not forget the importance of religious instruction for their children. Some of the teachers in the early days were: Borreson, Engebret Iversen, "Gamle" Simon, Thorbjorn Haavde, Torger Taudberg, Johan Hagen, 1873-1877; Gunnar Solvold, 1878-1879.

J. P. Kopang was called as permanent teacher in 1880 and is the congregation's teacher, organist and precentor at the present time. He has been a true and faithful servant in the Lord's vineyard. From 1894 to 1903 Rev. St. S. Reque had no assistant. He served Spring Grove, Wilmington, Caledonia and Jefferson congregations. The field was entirely too large for one pastor. In October, 1902, Spring Grove and Wilmington called Rev. H. J. Wein of Milwaukee, Wis., as assistant pastor with the understanding that he was to serve Wilmington, Caledonia and Jefferson. He entered upon his duties as pastor in Wilmington, Feb. 15, 1903.

During the years the congregation increased in membership so that the church built in 1868 was getting too small, and as the congregation had been growing towards the north and east from the church it was decided to build a new church in a more central location. The new church was built in 1908 at a cost of \$21,288. It was dedicated on June 6, 1909. More than 1,800 people were present at the dedication services conducted by Rt. Rev. O. P. Vangsnes and assistants. In 1913 a \$1,800 pipe organ was installed. The pastor secured a donation of \$900 from Carnegie Foundation, the balance was given by the Young People's Society and the Ladies' Aid Societies. The organ was dedicated June 14, 1914, by Rev. J. A. O. Stub.

The question of forming a separate parish was discussed in 1907, and at the annual meeting in 1908 Wilmington was released from Spring Grove congregation; and at a special meeting Dec. 30, 1908, it was decided by Wilmington, Caledonia and Jefferson congregations to form one parish and call Rev. H. J. Wein as their permanent pastor. On Jan. 1, 1909, Rev. St. S. Reque preached his last sermon in Wilmington as their pastor, and on the same day Rev. H. J. Wein did the same in Spring Grove as their assistant pastor.

Wilmington congregation has now a membership of 460 souls. A considerable number of the younger members have gone north and west, where land is cheaper than it is here. This fact explains why the congregation has not increased in number of members during the past ten or fifteen years. It owns four-fifths of the parsonage located in Caledonia. The parsonage was bought in 1913. There is no debt on the church property. Wilmington is a liberal contributor to the cause of missions, schools and to charity. The Young People's Society and Ladies' Aid Societies are very active in church work. The congregation organized an auxiliary of the American Red Cross and all the funds raised by the Y. P. S. during the past year were given to that work. Twenty-eight young men and one Red Cross nurse entered the service of their country. Of these one died in the United States and one in France. The officers of the congregation are: Secretary, E. O. Steneroden; treasurer, H. E. Butrness; teacher, organist and precentor, J. P. Kopang; trustees, Gerhard Morken, A. J. Sylling, A. Fossum, Rudolph Turten and Nicolai Nilson.

Emanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Caledonia, by Rev. H. J. Wein. Emanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Caledonia was organized Feb. 17, 1893. The following signed the constitution on that date: E. K. Roverud, Knud Johnson, P. B. Oualy, Peter Steenstrup, H. J. Blexrud, J. P. Lommen, C. K. Blexrud and S. J. Solberg. The officers are: Secretary, E. K. Roverud; treasurer, J. P. Lommen; trustees, Knud Johnson, S. J. Solberg, Peter Steenstrup. These and a few more families built a church 26 by 38 in 1894 at a cost of \$1,664. It was dedicated Nov. 15, 1894, by Rev. Kr. Magelssen, assisted by Rev. K. Seehuns, and the pastors who served the congregation, viz: Rev. St. S. Reque and E. P. Jensen.

The congregation was small in numbers but it had the right spirit and was not afraid to sacrifice something for the spiritual upbuilding of young

and old. Until it secured its own house of worship, services were first held in the homes and later in a rented church. A Sunday school had been organized long before the church was built. The congregation was served by Rev. E. P. Jensen and Rev. St. S. Reque until Rev. H. J. Wein took charge in February, 1903. Owing to the many congregations Rev. St. S. Reque and Rev. E. P. Jensen served, they were not able to hold more than about ten services each year in Caledonia. The congregation was not formally connected with any other congregation until 1909, when it together with Wilmington and Jefferson formed one parish and called its present pastor. Before that time it was served by the pastors of the Spring Grove and Wilmington parish, and as before mentioned, for some time by Rev. E. P. Jensen. Beginning with the year 1903 more services were held each year and the use of the English language increased. During the last ten years practically all catechumens have been confirmed in the English language. The congregation has had a slow but steady growth in membership. In 1893, the membership was about 40, in 1903, 62, and in 1918, 140. In 1907, the congregation joined the Norwegian Lutheran Squad. In 1909 it, together with Wilmington, bought a beautiful parsonage in which it has a one-fifth interest. There are no incumbrances on the church property.

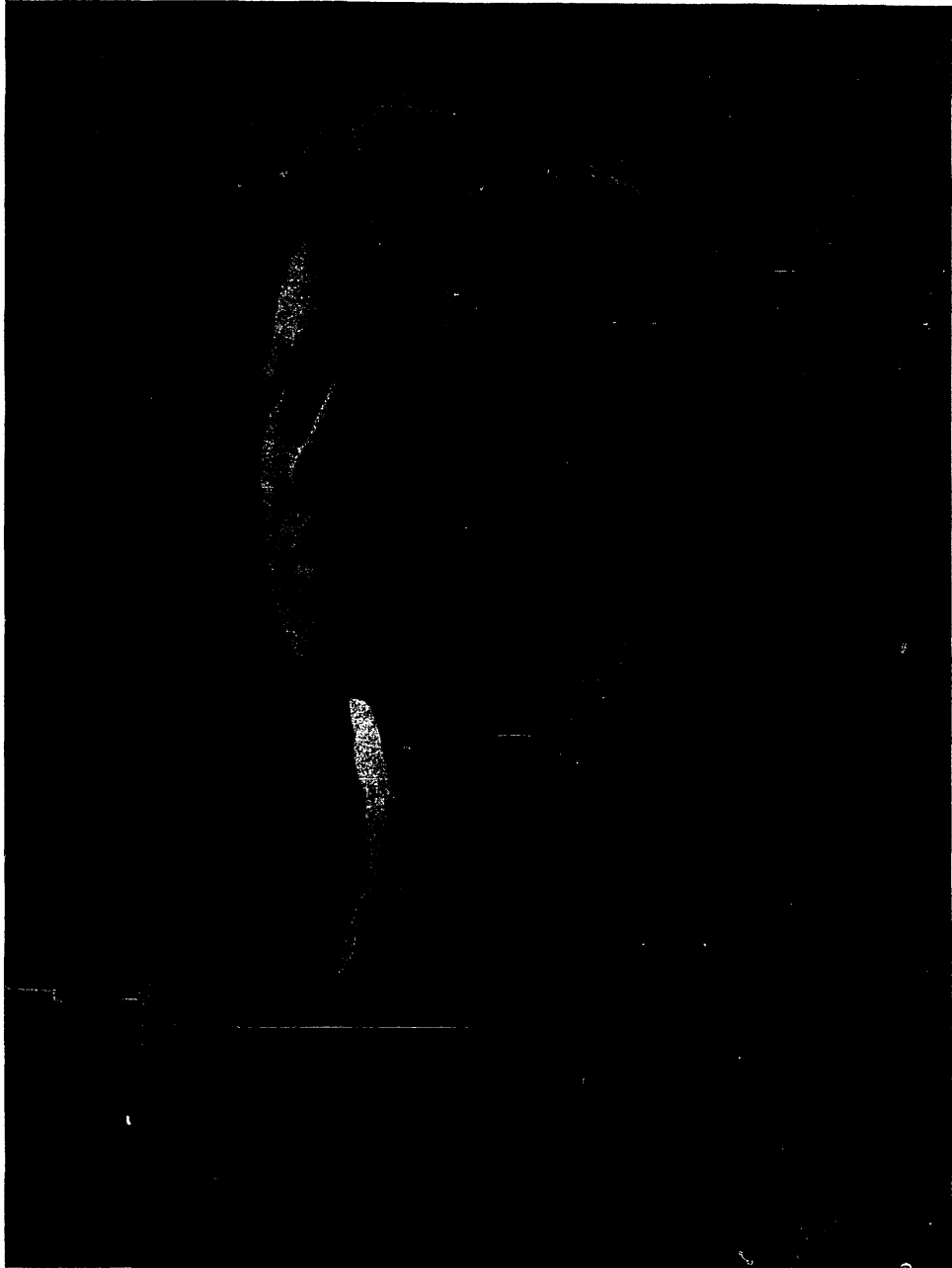
It ought to be mentioned that the Ladies' Aid Society has been a source of power and encouragement to the congregation, and especially so in the early days of its history, when there were few members. While practically all have been and are doing their share in the work of the church, some have rendered unusual services during a period of many years as organists and Sunday school teachers. What has been said of Wilmington, with regard to contributions to church work outside of the local congregation, also applies to this congregation. Eight of its young men are in the U. S. army.

E. K. Roverud has held the office of secretary since the congregation was organized; likewise J. P. Lommen that of treasurer. Trustees are: O. E. Burtness, J. P. Lommen, Andrew Anderson. Organists: Miss Adelia Roverud and Miss Marie Wein.

Jefferson Norwegian Lutheran Preaching Place, by Rev. H. J. Wein. In the late sixties or early seventies a few families from Norway settled in Jefferson township. Pastors from Spring Grove held services there five or six times a year until Rev. H. J. Wein came to Spring Grove in 1903. After that year from eight to twelve services have been held each year in the homes of the members. No congregation has been formally organized and there is no church building. There are about 36 members. They show much interest in church work and are liberal contributors to the different activities of the Lutheran church.

The parents take much pains to instruct their children in the Word of God. It is doubtful that a Lutheran church ever will be built in Jefferson, but beside the services held in the homes. The Jefferson people often attend services in Wilmington and Caledonia in the summer. Mr. Claus Grace is secretary. Beside the Grace families, M. Olsons, Oliver Anderson, John Swenson and John Moes are members. Jefferson congregation has three members in the army.

Rev. Styrk Sjurson Reque, for 39 years the faithful and efficient pastor of the Spring Grove and neighboring congregations, was a native of Norway, being born in the district of Voss on the 27th day of November, 1836. His parents were Sjur Styrkson Reque and Anna Gjenne. They emigrated to this country in 1845 and made their first home near Leeds, Columbia county, Wis., a little inland hamlet about 20 miles north of Madison. Three years later they moved to the famous Koshkonong settlement in Dane county, where the son Styrk received his preliminary education, such as the community afforded. Later he continued his studies at the Madison high school from 1857 to 1860, and at the University of Wisconsin from 1860 to 1861. From 1862 to 1865 he attended the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., where he received his divinity training, and upon graduating from this school he was ordained to the ministry. His first charge was at Roche a Cree, Wis., where he also served congregation at Kilbourn City, Lemonweir, Lewiston and Greenwood. While serving here he made an extensive missionary trip through Texas and Minnesota. After serving here for six years, he accepted a call extended to him from Spring Grove and vicinity in 1871. Their pastor, the Rev. F. C. Clausen, had been called by death the year before. In this charge he remained until his death in 1910. When he became pastor at Spring Grove, the charge extended over the greater part of the southwestern quarter of Houston county, and it soon became apparent that one man could not possibly satisfy the demands placed upon his strength. In 1876, therefore, an assistant was called in the person of Rev. Reier Larson. His time of service, however, became short. He succumbed to tuberculosis in the fall of '78 much beloved, especially on account of the gentleness of his nature. In 1880, Rev. Eskild P. Jenson became assistant in the charge, residing about half a mile east of Riceford, where a parsonage had been built that year, and having charge more particularly of the Riceford and Black Hammer congregations. These congregations were released in 1895 from their connection with Spring Grove, and together with a congregation at Newburg, Minn., became an independent charge under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Jenson until his death in 1905. Two years after his death, in spite of the curtailing of the field, the work had grown to such proportions that this fact, together with the necessity of getting a man who was thoroughly at home in the English language, led to the calling of Rev. Hans J. Wein as assistant pastor. He served in that capacity until the year 1908, when the call was again divided and the Rev. Mr. Wein took charge of the whole eastern part of the call, comprising Wilmington, Caledonia and Jefferson congregations, the latter a little congregation near Freeburg, Minn. In the latter part of January, 1910, Mr. Reque fell on the pavement outside of his home and sustained a fracture of the hip. He was taken at once to a hospital and given the best of care. He recovered sufficiently to return home and take up the work again during the summer. This, however, was very burdensome, as he was obliged to use crutches. Again he was stricken with some internal trouble caused by his injury, and from this trouble he never rallied, passing away at his home on the 20th of August, 1910. Mr. Reque was a man of commanding personality. Physically he was a giant in



REV. ALFRED O. JOHNSON

build and strength. Added to this was a clear mind, splendid poise, moral and physical courage and Christian consecration. Such a personal equipment will explain the splendid work performed by him during the 39 years of his ministry here. When he took up the work his charge contained probably not over 200 families, while the same field at the time of his death contained over 500 families. During 39 years he kept all his congregations intact. Not once did the hydra of dissension raise its head, and today his field may look back upon a history that has known no internal strife. And that in spite of the fact that the Norwegian Lutheran church of this country during that time had three times passed through the agonies of bitter doctrinal controversies. In 1876 the saloons, up to that time a curse and a disgrace to Spring Grove, were voted out, and no one questions the contention that the change was due to the fearless and untiring work of the strong and energetic pastor. Far beyond the confines of his charge has the influence of Mr. Reque extended. Each spring a number of emigrants from this community have wended their way westward, and as a rule, wherever they have gone the influence of the pastor who had baptized them, taught them, confirmed them, and married many of them, went with them. In many instances they settled in groups, and there are today congregations composed very largely of people from Spring Grove and vicinity who cherish the memory of their former pastor. It is not without interest to know that the records of Spring Grove congregation show that during his ministry the following ministerial acts were performed: baptized, 3,081; married, 629 couples; buried, 1,079, and confirmed, 2,052. After the death of Rev. Mr. Reque, the Rev. Alfred O. Johnson, then located in Chicago, accepted the call extended to him by the congregation. On December 4, 1910, he entered upon his duties and still serves the congregation. Rev. Reque was married July 2, 1866, to Cecelia Anderson, who died May 30, 1900. This union was blessed with nine children: Dr. Sever Reque, of Westby, Wisconsin; Anna, now Mrs. Fred Mueller, of Iota, Wis; Dr. Peter Reque, of Brooklyn, who has served as captain in the Medical Corps of the American Expeditionary Force in France; Dr. William A. Reque, a physician of Menomonie, Wis.; Sara, now Mrs. Oscar Omlie, of Spring Grove; S. Gerhard, an electrical engineer of Allentown, Penn.; Lars, a pharmacist, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Otto, in the United States Mail service at De Forest, Wis.; and Walter who has been a lieutenant in the United States Army.

To the foregoing article compiled by Rev. Alfred O. Johnson, the publishers of this work have added the following biography of the author:

Rev. Alfred O. Johnson, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church at Spring Grove, Minn., was born at Zumbrota, Minn., May 12, 1871, son of Hans and Julia (Strand) Johnson. He is of Norwegian ancestry. His grandfather, John Hanson, born in Norway, died at Red Wing, Minn., at the age of 86, while the maternal grandfather, Asle Strand, was for a number of years a farmer in Goodhue county, this state. Hans Johnson, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Norway in 1844, and was brought to America in 1853, while his wife was born in 1849 and came to this country

in 1855. They were married in Zumbrota in 1868. The father, who previous to the Civil War, had lived in Iowa, in 1862 enlisted in the 27th Iowa Infantry. He saw three years' military service, taking part in numerous campaigns and engagements, and at Mt. Pleasant, La., was wounded. This misfortune, together with the exposure due to lying on the battlefield for days at a time, brought on an affliction of the eyes which has since resulted in total blindness. After the war he engaged successfully in mercantile business at Zumbrota, and was elected clerk of Goodhue county, in which office he served for 12 years, but had to resign on account of his eyes. For the last 25 years he has lived retired. He has taken an active and influential part in Republican politics, and though largely self educated, is well informed and has had much experience with men and affairs. He and his wife are devout members of the Lutheran church. They became the parents of five children: Julius Melvin, a farmer near Bowman, S. D.; Alfred O.; Edwin Casper, a dentist at Cannon Falls, Minn.; Wilford Alpheus, a minister of the Lutheran church at Capron, Ill.; and Clara Oline, who married Rev. N. S. Magelssen, pastor of Highland Prairie congregation at Fillmore. Alfred O. Johnson was reared in Red Wing, acquiring his primary education in the public schools. He then entered the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, where he was graduated in 1891. His theological training was received in the Luther Seminary at Robbinsdale, Minn., and after graduating in 1894, he began his pastoral work at Morrisville, Wis., as assistant to the Rt. Rev. H. A. Preus, then president of the Norwegian Synod. In the following year he was called to the Church of Our Saviour at Chicago, and was pastor of that Norwegian Lutheran congregation until 1910. In the latter year he returned to Minnesota to take charge of the Trinity Lutheran church at Spring Grove, one of the largest Lutheran churches in the state, where he has done important work and won the confidence and high regard of the members. In politics he is an independent Republican, but all his time and energy are taken up by his church duties and his studies. As he is still in the prime of life he has the promise of many years of continued usefulness in his high calling. During the Great War, he was a leader in all patriotic endeavor, and was county director of the State Safety Commission until he resigned on account of ill health. His position is an ideal one in the community, he is truly the pastor of his people in all good things, and his voice and influence are ever raised in behalf of the best things, and sane progress, along all lines of civic and personal endeavor. Mr. Johnson was married, June 11, 1895, to Bertina Marie Olson, of Red Wing, Minn., whose father, Peter Olson, was a shoemaker in that city. Seven children have blessed their union, five of them now living: Paul Gerhard, a graduate of the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa; Bernard Alfred, also a graduate of that college; Harold Edward, who has graduated from the public schools of Spring Grove and is now a student at Luther College; Helen Marie, who died in Chicago in 1909, at the age of five years; Clara Ovedia, and Alfred O., Jr., who are attending school, and Helen Marie (second), who died in 1914 at the age of three years.