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HISTORY ...







HISTORY  
OF  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
AND  
HANCOCK COUNTY  
IOWA

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION  
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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ROBERT CLARK

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## ROBERT CLARK.

No history of Winnebago county would be complete without extended reference to Robert Clark, whose name is inseparably interwoven with the story of development, progress and improvement here. It was he who perfected the organization of the county, serving as the first county judge. He laid out the town of Forest City, became its first postmaster and was connected with every phase of its growth and improvement from that time until his demise. The present generation is reaping the benefits of his labors and for future development he laid a foundation that is broad, deep and substantial.

New York claimed Judge Clark as a native son. He was born in Johnstown, Fulton county, June 5, 1825, a son of Duncan and Anna (Walker) Clark. When a young man of about twenty years he started for the west, making his way to Chicago, where he purchased forty lots of land now included within the central business section of that city. Some time afterward he disposed of his property there and became a resident of Rockford, Illinois, where he resided until about 1853, at which time he came to Mason City, Iowa, remaining there until 1855. It was in that year that Winnebago county received him into its citizenship. This was then a wild, western frontier region and much of the land was still in the possession of the government. He entered a large tract, began its development and was ever afterward closely associated with the growth and improvement of the county and with many of the prominent events which have molded its history. It was in October, 1857, that Robert Clark was chosen the first county judge of Winnebago county and in that capacity entered upon the duty of perfecting the organization of the county, dividing it into townships and developing the system of government. His native powers and sound judgment were brought to play in the performance of this task, which he accomplished in splendid manner. He seemed to understand not only the needs of the moment but to look beyond the exigencies of the present to the possibilities and opportunities of the future and his work was done with the idea of the continued development and improvement of the county. After laying out the town of Forest City he became the first postmaster there and also established the pioneer store of the town. He built the first residence in Forest City in 1856 and in 1858 the little hamlet was made the county seat. In 1861 he retired from the office of postmaster after four years' service, and in 1866 he was elected treasurer of Winnebago county, to which office he was re-elected until his incumbency covered ten years, being ended by death on the 12th of August, 1876, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy. In the meantime he had also conducted business as a real estate and collection agent and

his work in that connection proved the initial step toward the establishment of the Winnebago County State Bank, which has long been regarded as one of the most reliable financial institutions of this section of Iowa.

Mr. Clark was married November 22, 1856, to Miss Rebecca Ann Brentner, a daughter of George and Julia (Printz) Brentner, who were natives of Germany and of Virginia, respectively. The birth of Mrs. Clark occurred in Rockford, Illinois, May 7, 1836, and in Mason City, Iowa, she was married. She still survives her husband and has reached the eighty-first milestone on life's journey. Four children were born to them: Julia Ann; Brentner M.; Duncan R., a resident of Scooby, Montana; and Cora J., who passed away about twelve years ago, when forty years of age. The daughter Julia was one of the first white children born in Winnebago county, her natal day being September 19, 1857, and she is now the wife of John F. Thompson, president of the Winnebago County State Bank.

Upon attaining his majority Mr. Clark became a supporter of the whig party, and following its dissolution joined the ranks of the new republican party, of which he was ever afterward an earnest supporter. An exemplary Mason, he was the organizer of Truth Lodge, No. 213, F. & A. M., and continued as its master until he departed this life. Of him a contemporary writer has said: "His life was in harmony with the beneficent teachings of the craft, which recognizes the brotherhood of mankind and the obligation of the individual to his fellows. His was an honorable, upright career, one of great service to the community in which he lived, and his memory should be cherished and revered as long as Winnebago county has existence."

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#### L. S. ANDERSON.

For six decades L. S. Anderson, of Lake Mills, has been a resident of Winnebago county, having come here many years before the city of Lake Mills was laid out. He has a good trade as a coal dealer and his business interests are capably managed. A native of Indiana, he was born in Zanas, July 3, 1842, and is a son of John S. and Mary (Green) Anderson, also natives of the Hoosier state. The father engaged in cabinetmaking until his removal to Winnebago county, Iowa, at which time he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, including what became the town site of Lake Mills. Subsequently he purchased an eighty acre tract adjoining his original farm. He followed agricultural pursuits here until 1865, when he removed to Iowa Falls, where he engaged in the draying business for a few years. Still later he farmed successively in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, and eventually settled in Oregon just north of the California line. The last years of his life were spent at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lovisa Blair. He is buried in Lakeview, Oregon. The mother of our subject died in Indiana when he was but a child and the father was married a second and a third time. Of his nine children but three survive. Lovisa, now Mrs. Thomas O. Blair, of Reno, Nevada; Belle, who married William Frazier and resides near Reno; and L. S.

The last named attended the common schools of Indiana until he was fourteen years old and in 1856 came with the family to Winnebago county. He worked for

his father on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Center township. After farming this place for eight years he carried mail to Northwood for twelve years and subsequently was for five years a grocer in Lake Mills and for two years engaged in the livery business. During the last quarter of a century, however, he has been in the coal business and as the result of his energy and his careful attention to all the details of his business he has accumulated a competence.

In 1867 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Olive A. Hinman, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Hinman, natives of Vermont and early settlers of Lake Mills. Both are now deceased. Mrs. Anderson passed away July 22, 1902, and is buried in the Lake Mills cemetery. She was the mother of seven children, as follows: James A., who is married and resides in Alberta, Canada; Mabel, the widow of Joseph Keeler and a resident of Lake Mills; Frank S., who is married and lives at Verndale, Minnesota; June, now Mrs. R. W. Lloyd, of Verndale; John Milton, a dentist practicing in Minneapolis; Florence, also a resident of Minneapolis; and Harry, who died when three years old.

Mr. Anderson believes in the basic principles of the republican party but is also convinced that the qualifications of a candidate are likewise of great importance and often, especially at local elections, votes independently. He has held every town office save those of mayor and justice of the peace. He served as councilman and as a member of the school board and for several years was election judge. The fact that he has been so often chosen by his fellow citizens for positions of trust indicates the entire confidence which is justly reposed in his integrity and capability. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic blue lodge and Royal Arch chapter. His is the distinction of being the oldest living settler in the north part of the county, as he arrived here July 13, 1856, sixty-one years ago. He remembers well the pioneer conditions which prevailed at that time—conditions in marked contrast to those of the present—and he takes great satisfaction in the knowledge that as farmer and business man he has had a part in the development of the county. Although he is now almost seventy-five years of age he is still vigorous in mind and body and is still doing well his share of the world's work.

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#### EDWARD E. ASHER.

Edward E. Asher is prominently identified with agricultural and kindred interests in Winnebago county, being president of the Farmers Elevator at Forest City and the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres on section 27, Forest township, which pays to him a substantial annual tribute in rich harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, November 17, 1867, a son of William M., and Matilda (Atkison) Asher, who were also natives of the Prairie state, where they spent their entire lives. They had a family of seven children, of whom but two are now living.

Edward E. Asher was reared under the parental roof and to the public school system of Illinois is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed through the period of his boyhood. He early became acquainted with all kinds of

farm work and he has continued in active connection with general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life. Removing to Humboldt county, Iowa, he there resided until 1913, when he became a resident of Winnebago county and purchased the farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 27, Forest township, on which he now resides. This is splendidly improved land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, his practical and progressive farm methods resulting in the harvesting of large crops annually. He also handles live stock of all kinds and this branch of his business is likewise proving a very gratifying source of profit. Moreover, he is the president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Forest City and in addition to his home place he owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Humboldt county, Iowa, and is part owner of a farm in Missouri.

On September 21, 1891, Mr. Asher was united in marriage to Miss Emma M. Beahler, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of George and Delilah (Burton) Beahler, who were natives of Germany and of Illinois respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Asher have become the parents of five children: George and Lilla both deceased; Homer E.; Ray B.; and Mervyn. Homer spent two years in college and Ray is now in high school. The parents do everything possible to stimulate an interest in education in their children, recognizing its value as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. They are also rearing and educating a little girl, now eight years old. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Asher is one of the church stewards. His life has been guided by high and honorable principles and measures up to lofty standards of manhood and citizenship.

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#### J. R. BAGGS.

J. R. Baggs has for some years been prominently identified with educational affairs and is now efficiently serving as county superintendent of schools in Hancock county, his home being in Garner. He was born on the 22d of June, 1872, in England, of which country his parents, Nathaniel and Amelia (Pigeon) Baggs, were also natives, but he was only about a year old when the family came to America and located in Denison, Iowa.

At the usual age Professor Baggs began his education in the public schools of this state and later attended Des Moines College and the Sac City Institute, graduating from both. He also continued his studies in the Iowa State Teachers College and thus became well prepared for his chosen profession. He first engaged in teaching in the country schools of Crawford county and subsequently was connected with the Denison Normal School as an instructor. Professor Baggs also taught in the Sac City Institute and was superintendent of the Dow City public schools and also of the public schools of Corwith from 1903 to 1906. In the latter year he accepted the superintendency of the public schools of Garner, with which he was connected for four years, and in January, 1911, became county superintendent of the schools of Hancock county. He was reelected in 1916 and is now filling that responsible position in a most creditable and acceptable manner.

Professor Baggs was married in 1900 to Miss Ida Craft, of Denison, Iowa, and they have become the parents of four children, namely: Verona, John, Robert and William. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baggs are members of the Methodist Episcopal



J. R. BAGGS





church and he is also identified with the Masonic fraternity. He served in the Spanish-American war as a member of Battery A, Utah Artillery, and was in the Philippine islands for fourteen months. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the republican party and he takes an active interest in public affairs, doing all in his power to promote the moral and educational welfare of the community.

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### JASPER THOMPSON.

Jasper Thompson, of Forest City, banker, merchant, railroad builder and landowner, is now practically living retired but gives his supervision to his investments and business interests. The story of his life is a most interesting one, as it is the story of persistent endeavor under circumstances which oftentimes would have utterly discouraged and disheartened a man of less resolute spirit. There is no phase of pioneer life in Iowa with which he is not familiar. He came to the state sixty years ago with his father, mother and the other members of the family. They traveled westward from Ohio with an ox team and were fifty days en route. Upon Jasper Thompson devolved the support of his parents and in large measure of the family. Like many other pioneers, had they known the kind of country into which they were coming, they would never have undertaken the trip, but once here, the native adaptability, laudable ambition and progressiveness of Jasper Thompson were asserted in the struggle to subdue the western wilderness, and as the years went on he wrested fortune from the hand of fate, becoming one of the most successful and the most prominent citizens of his section of the state.

Mr. Thompson was born at Norton, Delaware county, Ohio, February 10, 1837, and is descended from the Spaulding and Chase families, prominent in Vermont and actively connected with New England history. His maternal grandfather, Abel Spaulding, joined the American troops under Captain Charles Nelson, in Colonel Benjamin Wright's regiment, in September, 1781, and remained a valiant soldier of his community throughout the Revolutionary war. He was afterward a pensioner of the government owing to his service with the colonial troops, and he died January 16, 1845, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife, Hannah Chase, was an aunt of Salmon Portland Chase, one of America's distinguished statesmen, who rose to the high position of secretary of the treasury under President Lincoln.

Jasper Thompson attended the country schools for a short time. He owes much to the educational training of his mother, a lady of culture and the old time puritan philosophy who did everything in their power to stimulate his desire for learning. In the school of experience, too, he has mastered many valuable lessons, so that he now gives out of the rich store of his wisdom for the benefit of others. On the 1st of November, 1857, he arrived in Iowa. As previously stated, the family started from Ohio, having with them forty dollars in Ohio scrip, and when their money was exchanged they got little out of it. The entire sum was gone long before they had reached the Mississippi river. Meeting a man who, accompanied by his two children, was driving oxen and horses to Iowa, Mr. Thompson made a bargain to drive the oxen and take the younger child with them, meeting the father near Eldora. For this service the man paid him in

advance. Mr. Thompson's father and mother and their other children left him at Davenport and went on to Clayton county, Iowa, to join an older brother. He found himself alone and with no finances. Returning to Eldora, he obtained a three days' job at plastering on the little wooden courthouse of Hardin county, for which he received three dollars per day. It was necessary that he secure further employment immediately and he started out in the country. At the first house, which was three miles out, he found work and made himself generally useful. While there he was asked if he could teach school and he promptly replied that he could without divulging the fact that he could barely read and write. From Mr. Edgerton, who became a colonel in the Civil war, he secured a sort of certificate to teach, which stated only, "If you are satisfied, I am." However, Mr. Thompson did not show his certificate. He received an appointment and proved a successful teacher. He arranged to teach for three months at twenty dollars per month and board and gave such satisfaction that the directors insisted that he should remain another month at thirty dollars and board. This was undoubtedly the turning point in his career. He had come to know himself and his power to overcome all obstacles to success. His indomitable spirit, his self-confidence and his willingness to work have rendered him a natural leader and have transformed him from a boy without education or money, and even without sufficient clothing to keep him warm, to a man of great influence who is a recognized leader of thought and action. Twenty-five years later he entered Eldora under very different circumstances. The people held a series of meetings in different towns to discuss the building of a railroad and Mr. Thompson was always made speaker. When the Eldora meeting was held, the chairman was Colonel Edgerton, who a quarter of a century before, when Mr. Thompson had applied to him for a school certificate and told him he could not pass the examination but could teach school, had written the exceptional certificate, "If you are satisfied, I am." In 1858 Mr. Thompson became a resident of McGregor, where he worked at the mason's trade until 1871, when he took up his abode in Forest City and became identified with its affairs as a general merchant, conducting his store with growing success until 1883.

In that year Mr. Thompson turned his attention to banking. He had no business training whatever outside of the farm until he had passed the age of thirty. His initial step in the commercial field was made as a peddler in carrying a pack from house to house in the sale of such notions as he could obtain on credit. It was not long, however, before he had saved from his earnings enough to enable him to purchase a horse and wagon and from that time on his success was assured because it was based upon indefatigable industry, laudable ambition, firm purpose and sound judgment. As his financial resources increased he established stores in various towns and became recognized as one of the representative merchants of his part of the state. He turned to railroad interests in 1879, when he organized and became treasurer of the Minnesota & Iowa Southern Railroad Company, which built the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad from Albert Lea to Angus. In 1883 he became connected with the banking business as a partner of his brother, J. F. Thompson, Hon. William Larrabee and others under the firm name of Thompson Brothers. He also became interested in the Winnebago County Bank, with which he was associated until July 1, 1896, when he organized the Winnebago County State Bank, of which he became the president, with J. F. Thompson as

vice president and B. J. Thompson as cashier. In 1886 this firm organized the Citizens National Bank of Britt, with Jasper Thompson, J. F. Thompson and Rodney Hill as general partners and ex-Governor Larrabee and others as special partners. In 1892 these gentlemen organized the Bank of Thompson, entering into a partnership similar to the one at Britt. In the same year they broadened the scope of their business activities by the organization of the Iowa Investment Company, and also established a bank at Buffalo Center. Their next important undertaking was the organization of the Chicago & Iowa Western Railroad Company, which built the Forest City extension of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway from Forest City to Estherville. Of this company Mr. Thompson became president and general manager and conducted its interests along the lines of continued prosperity and success.

In 1892 Mr. Thompson was elected president of the Winnebago County Agricultural Society and it was he who conceived the idea and caused to be erected the flax palace at Forest City. In 1893 he organized the Chicago & Iowa Western Land and Town Lot Company, becoming associated in this undertaking with President Ives of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, the Hon. S. L. Dows and others. This company owned many thousands of acres of land in Winnebago and adjoining counties. The town of Thompson was so named in honor of him as a recognition of his untiring and resultant efforts for the development of that section of the country. In all his labors he has looked beyond the exigencies of the moment to the possibilities and opportunities of the future, has carefully studied conditions and has so directed his efforts that the results achieved have been of great public benefit as well as a source of individual success.

On April 15, 1860, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Clara King, of McGregor, and they became the parents of five children, as follows: Frank, a fruit grower near Baker City, Oregon; Will, who died at the age of thirty years; Harry E., a physician of Forest City; Burt J., an attorney of Forest City; and May, the wife of Dr. E. D. Tompkins, of Clarion, Iowa. Burt J. Thompson completed a trip around the world in 1899. He was present at the military engagement at Manila from February 4th until February 23rd, being attached to a South Dakota regiment. He was with his brother, Dr. H. F. Thompson, who was serving as surgeon of that regiment with the rank of captain. He went to Manila with the regiment in August, 1898, and served throughout the campaign. They were in the hottest of the fight around Manila for several weeks and both brothers had their full share of fighting during that time.

Mr. Thompson has always given great credit to the pioneer women, and especially to his wife, for his own success. On March 29, 1917, he was called upon to mourn her loss, after they had long traveled life's journey together. She had indeed been a helpmate to him. Soon after his marriage he built a one room stone house on a squatter's lot. This was their first home and there their first child was born. Afterward Mr. Thompson engaged to build cellars for a barn and a house, in exchange for which he was to receive forty acres of land and board for himself and wife while the work was being carried on. This he accomplished with the help of Mrs. Thompson, who mixed and brought to him the plaster. This was their first landed possession and their united and intelligently directed efforts enabled them to add to their holdings from time to time until their landed interests were exten-

sive. Mr. Thompson believed in planting trees for protection, and at a conservative estimate he has been instrumental in the planting of a million trees in Iowa. In all things he had the sympathy and encouragement of his wife, who never murmured at the hardships and privations of pioneer life but assisted her husband in every possible way and made valuable contribution to his success.

The home of Mr. Thompson is one of the most beautiful residences of Iowa and contains a most wonderful museum with a very interesting collection of relics. In it is to be found a tusk from a prehistoric mammoth from Alaska, a turtle from the islands along the equator, a buffalo head from Montana and a large collection of ancient coins and money issued by the United States government and by the Confederacy. His collection of ancient coins embraces specimens of almost every coin issued and also of the earliest stamped from metal, some of them thousands of years old. His collection is probably as rare and as valuable as any in the United States, Mr. Thompson being assisted in getting it together by one of the best experts and authorities in this country, Henry Miller, of New York, and also by Sir John Evans, of England, the foremost publisher and authority on coins on the globe.

In 1904 Mr. Thompson retired from active business and the following year sailed from New York to the Azores and through the straits of Gibraltar to Italy. He visited Genoa, Naples, Corsica and other points and then proceeded to Alexandria, Egypt, and up the Nile for a distance of one thousand miles, taking numerous side trips as well. He visited various points in Greece and Smyrna and passed through the Dardanelles to Constantinople and on to the Black Sea and Odessa. He cruised among the Ionian islands and sailed to Brindisi, thence went to Naples and on to Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice and into France, where he visited various cities and points of interest, thence across the channel to England, and after visiting London and other points in that country sailed from Liverpool for America. During his travels he picked up many curios now to be seen in his museum, including a bulrush which he found near the spot where Moses was said to have been placed by his mother, among the bulrushes, in his infancy. He secured fine Oriental rugs with Arabic inscriptions, tapestries from India, a metal shawl from the interior of Africa, a beautiful copy of Van Dyke's *Repose in Egypt*, a terra cotta copy of *Diana at the Bath* and a French bronze of *Diana the Huntress*. Mr. Thompson has traveled as well all over North America and has picked up many interesting relics in this country. He has a most complete library and an interesting feature of his home is a park in the rear of the house with a sun dial in the center and an Alaskan Indian totem pole at the entrance.

While success has brought to him leisure for the enjoyment of those things in which he takes an interest, even since his retirement from business Mr. Thompson has concentrated his efforts by no means solely upon following out his inclinations for recreation and pleasure. He is given to the serious consideration of significant problems affecting the individual and the community at large. He has thought with those who study the signs of the times in regard to the desertion of the farms for the city by the young people and has sought the reason and the remedy therefor. It was in watching a young Swedish girl who was in his employ that he came to a conclusion that seemed to him the solution for the difficulty. He

noted her loneliness and felt that she wanted to meet and talk with other young people, that she wanted entertainment, education, culture and the idealistic things in life. He felt he had here found the key to the situation which he had been studying and immediately sought to bring about different conditions with the result that he has today invested seventy-five thousand dollars in a plan to promote the social life of the community. That sum represents his investment in a farm and clubhouse which he erected thereon at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. He employed an architect, who is also an artist, and the result was the erection of a building sixty-eight feet long and thirty-two feet wide, two stories in height, built of load-bearing tile with white stucco finish and cement slab porches. It was dedicated September 11, 1915. It is a building which in line carries out the wide sweep of the prairies and suggests in the gradual slope of the roof the gently undulating fields. The art of landscape gardening has been utilized in the adornment of the lawn and beautiful flowers add to the attractiveness of Community Hall, by which name Mr. Thompson has called the place. The institution is to be essentially a big farmers' club, to which all within traveling distance will belong. The farmers can meet there to hear a lecture on soil fertility and the wives and daughters may meet for social affairs. The building can also be used for a church and Sunday school, and the library has been equipped to suit the tastes of varied ages and dispositions. In the laboratory the farmer can make simple tests of his soil, his feeds and his seeds, and he can turn to enjoy the sports of the swimming pool, the tennis courts and baseball diamond. It is the plan to have moving pictures and good entertainment from time to time, besides lectures by experts from the State College on problems of farming and household work, and there will be every opportunity for the discussion of any question to which the members may wish to turn their attention.

One of the Des Moines papers, writing of this subject, said: "One can hardly learn of this experiment and become interested in it without finding interest also in its author. Jasper Thompson is a powerful, charming gentleman. At nearly eighty years of age he is strong and vigorous and keenly intellectual. He is the finished product of a long life spent on the land, planning and executing of big projects, world-wide travel, and constant thoughtfulness. His life experiences have given him a delightful philosophy which looks always toward the best there is in civilization. He regards his attempt at socializing rural life as one of the most important things he has ever done. To him it is a purely philanthropic enterprise. He is too old to care for the reputation he might gain personally by being the first to inaugurate such an effort. 'I feel that the people are waiting for this movement,' he said in the first interview he has consented to about his enterprise. 'The people do not know what it is they want but they want something. I feel that the real call to the land is the call of better social relations. Our civilization is based in the land. Our prosperity must emanate from out there in the fields. Build a great strong manhood and womanhood on the prairies and your villages, cities and towns will be great. We have tried to get at the right solution by putting our social center out in the country, where the farmers will feel that it really belongs to them and where they will make use of it. They don't like to go to social gatherings in town because they feel out of place. Whatever you may say, there is no getting around the fact that there is no close union in feeling between

town and country. But once you start social gatherings in the country you will see a change. The farm people will naturally feel at home out there, and town people who visit them there will feel at home because their daily social intercourse makes them freer and easier. By and by they will begin to see the advantages of farm life and you will have the current flowing back to the land. I don't know what will come of our experiment. I hope it will prove a success and that it will not be long till these country houses are scattered broadcast throughout the rural districts, furnishing the people that opportunity for social life and culture that they need." Such is the crowning effort of the life of Mr. Thompson, whose efforts, intense and determined, have brought him success—a success which he is thus sharing with others.

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#### JAMES C. WILLIAMS.

The demise of James C. Williams, which occurred in 1914, was felt as a serious loss in Lake Mills, for he was prominently identified with the business development of the city and also with its advancement along moral and civic lines. He combined the sound judgment, the power of quick and accurate decision and the enterprise of the successful man of business with good will and public spirit which found expression in much work for the general welfare. He was born in Quincy, Illinois, March 14, 1847, a son of Dr. Robert S. and Florence C. (McPhail) Williams, natives respectively of Westmoreland, Maryland, and Montgomery county, Illinois. The father studied medicine in a college at Steubenville, Ohio, from which he was graduated, and began practice at Quincy, Illinois, whence he removed to Caledonia, Minnesota, and there he remained until his death in 1870. The mother died soon afterward.

James C. Williams spent his boyhood and youth in Quincy, Illinois, and in Minnesota, and after his father's death operated the home farm in Minnesota for some time. Subsequently he clerked for his brother-in-law, A. D. Sprague, a merchant of Caledonia, but in 1872 he became a resident of Northwood, Iowa, where he engaged in the lumber business in partnership with O. V. Eckert, an association that was pleasantly maintained for more than four decades, or until the death of Mr. Williams, and the estate still retains the interest in the business. In 1881 the partners started a branch at Lake Mills but later disposed of their lumberyards and engaged in the implement and grain business. They operated a chain of elevators along the Rock Island line and handled enormous quantities of grain annually. In 1881 they established an implement and elevator business at Lake Mills, of which Mr. Williams became resident manager and which a few years before his death he converted into a corporation known as the Lake Mills Implement & Hardware Company. He became president and treasurer of the new concern, with L. E. Ludvig as manager, and he continued at the head of the company until his death. This concern is one of the largest of the kind in this section of the state and in addition to serving as its president Mr. Williams was vice president of the First National Bank and president of the Lake Mills Canning Company. He also had large farm holdings in Winnebago county, Iowa, in Minnesota and in the Dakotas and the supervision of all of his interests made demands upon his time and energy that would have taxed to the utmost the



*Stallman*





powers of a less able or less enterprising man. His opinion upon any business problem was listened to with great respect and it was recognized that he ranked among the foremost men of his county.

Mr. Williams was married in 1875 to Mrs. Nellie Dickson, who died three years later, leaving a daughter, Winifred M., who is now teaching physical culture at Kirksville, Missouri. On the 23d of April, 1902, Mr. Williams married Odella J. Blackiston, a daughter of William B., and Cecelia C. (Hayes) Blackiston, natives of Ohio. The father removed to Geneseo, Illinois, in 1858, and there resided until called by death on the 4th of November, 1894. He was a merchant by occupation but owned sixteen hundred acres of land in Winnebago county. The mother passed away in March, 1896. To them were born four children, namely: Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Laura A. Price, of Butler, Missouri; Mrs. Nora B. Chapin, of Canton, Illinois; and William P., who died at Madison, South Dakota, January 14, 1889. Mrs. Williams is a charter member of Lake Mills Chapter No. 452, O. E. S., and has been elected matron five times. She is also a member of the Saturday Afternoon Book Club, and the Taka Art Club. Mr. Williams supported the republican party at the polls, was a member of the town council at the time of his death and kept thoroughly informed as to public affairs. He held membership in the Lake Mills Business Men's Association and his work was of great value in carrying out the plans of that organization for the advancement of the city. In fact every movement seeking to further the interests of Lake Mills received his full support. He was for thirty years a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, a record of faithful and efficient service for the cause of righteousness seldom equaled. For years he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows but eventually demitted from that organization but continued active as a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. He contracted pneumonia while visiting the old home in Geneseo, Illinois, and passed away on the 15th of March, 1914, after an illness of only four days. His sudden death was a great shock not only to his family and immediate friends but to the entire community and the memory of his life is cherished by those who were privileged to know him well. He was upright and honorable in all things, was constant in his friendships and was always ready to place the good of the public above his personal interests. Mrs. Williams is still living in Lake Mills and is well known and highly esteemed in the community. While she retains her membership in the Congregational church in Geneseo, she succeeded her husband as a trustee of the Methodist church and is president of the board and, like him, takes a keen interest in the civic and religious advancement of Lake Mills.

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#### GUSTAVE A. KAHLER.

Gustave A. Kahler, a well known and highly respected farmer of German township, Hancock county, makes his home on section 17, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land which he is now carefully and systematically cultivating. He was born October 29, 1867, near Green Bay, Wisconsin, a son of Christian and Dora (Gade) Kahler, who were natives of Germany and came to America about 1847. They settled in Wisconsin, where they followed farming and both are now deceased.

It was upon the homestead farm there that Gustave A. Kahler was born, and in 1876 he became a resident of Iowa, making his way to Wright county, where he attended school to the age of fifteen years. His textbooks were then put aside that he might assist his father in the farm work, and for two years thereafter he remained upon the old homestead. He afterward worked for three years by the month and then returned to the old homestead where he continued for one year. On the expiration of that period he began buying horses and also breaking prairie. He purchased land at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and put in twenty acres of oats. In the fall he operated a threshing outfit and for three years he devoted the spring months to breaking sod and the fall seasons to threshing. His entire life has been one of industry and activity, and whatever success he has achieved has resulted entirely from his own efforts. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Emmet county, Iowa, and after cultivating it for a time sold it. Later he rented land in Emmet county for three years, after which he returned to Wright county, where he purchased the old family homestead, which he cultivated for four years. On the expiration of that period he sold that property and in 1902 came to Hancock county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 17, German township, constituting his present home place. Through the intervening period of fifteen years he has carefully and persistently carried on the work of the farm and his labors have resulted in making this a productive tract of land from which he annually gathers golden harvests.

Mr. Kahler was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Myers, a daughter of Fred and Kate Myers, who were natives of Germany and on coming to America settled first in Pennsylvania. They afterward removed to Iowa, establishing their home in Grundy county. Mr. and Mrs. Kahler have become parents of three sons and a daughter: Earl E., who married Lily Velau, a daughter of Charles Velau, and who engages in farming; and Ethel I., Raymond and Emmett C., all at home.

The family are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church. In his political views Mr. Kahler is a republican and for three years has filled the office of township trustee. He has also been school director, and he takes an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and progress of the community with which he is identified. From the age of fifteen years he has been an active factor in the world's work, earning his own livelihood throughout the entire period. He is a man of upright character and sterling worth and he has contributed much to the agricultural development of the county.

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#### LAMBERT B. BAILEY.

Lambert B. Bailey, of Garner, is one of the venerable citizens of Hancock county, having celebrated the eightieth anniversary of his birth on the 24th of January, 1917. He was born in Granville, Licking county, Ohio, a son of John A. and Nancy A. (Washbond) Bailey, who in June, 1864, came to Hancock county, Iowa, with their two sons, Lambert B. and Rolla E. The latter was killed by lightning July 28, 1876, while working in a harvest field.

Lambert B. Bailey attended the public schools and an academy of Granville,

Ohio, in the acquirement of his education and during his active business life devoted his time and attention to school teaching and to farming. He was a young man of twenty-seven years when he came to Iowa and throughout the intervening period he has lived in Hancock county, his time and energies being devoted to general agricultural pursuits.

Previous to this time Mr. Bailey had attempted to join the army, enlisting for service in the Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry. He was rejected on account of physical disability and in the fall of 1863 he was drafted for service, but was again rejected for the same reason, so that he never had an opportunity to go to the front. In 1866 he was called to public service in Hancock county, being elected to the position of county recorder, in which he served for two years. In November, 1868, he was elected clerk of the courts and served in that position for two years. In October, 1870, he was elected county recorder, was reelected in 1872 and at each biennial election up to and including 1884, so that he served altogether in that office for eighteen years, a notable period for length of service and characterized as well by marked fidelity to duty. No higher testimonial of his faithfulness can be given than the fact that he was again and again chosen for the office. He has always given his political support to the republican party since its organization, yet has never been an active partisan.

In November, 1864, in Waushara county, Wisconsin, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Frances A. Ocain, a daughter of Isaac and Cynthia Ocain. Their children are: Charles A., who married Mamie Tierney; Elwin R., who married Rena Cuppett; and George L., who wedded Grace Rosecrans.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Congregational church and fraternally Mr. Bailey is a Mason. He took the degrees of the lodge in 1868, of the chapter in 1884, and in the latter year also became a Knight Templar. He is widely and favorably known in Hancock county, where he has made his home for home than a half century and where he has so long filled public office. His fellow townsmen bear testimony to his worth and ability and no history of the county would be complete without mention of him.

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#### GEORGE A. BEMIS, M. D.

Dr. George A. Bemis, recognized as a capable representative of the medical profession practicing in Garner, where he opened his office in 1912, was born in Spencer, Iowa, April 27, 1884, a son of W. S. and Flora R. Bemis, the former a native of Independence, Iowa, and the latter of Janesville, Wisconsin. The paternal grandfather, George W. Bemis, was a native of Spencer, Massachusetts, and came to Iowa as a pioneer settler about 1860. He was very prominent in shaping the policy of the state and promoting its progress along many lines. As state senator he aided in framing its legislation and from 1878 until 1882 he filled the position of state treasurer. In fact he exerted a widely felt influence over political affairs and was ever actuated by a public-spirited devotion to the general good. His son, W. S. Bemis, studied law and for many years practiced at Spencer, Iowa.

George A. Bemis, after acquiring a public school education, attended the Culver

Military Academy and was graduated from the University of Iowa with the class of 1909. For two years he practiced at Hawarden and in 1912 removed to Garner, where he opened an office and has since successfully followed his profession. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations and keeps in close touch with the advanced thought and scientific investigations of the profession.

Dr. Bemis belongs to the Scabbard & Blade, to the Sigma Chi and the Phi Beta Pi, college societies and fraternities. In Masonry he has taken the Royal Arch degrees and he also has membership with the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Eagles and the Elks, loyally adhering to their teachings concerning mutual obligation and responsibility. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but he has never been an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs.

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### FRANK MARION HANSON.

Frank Marion Hanson, president of the First National Bank of Garner and a prominent figure in financial circles of the state through extensive connection with many banks in various parts of Iowa, belongs to that class of representative business men who are ever ready to meet any emergency with courage and whose ability enables them to successfully cope with complex situations. Iowa claims him as a native son. He was born March 28, 1873, at Cedar Falls, a son of James and Mary Hanson, who were natives of Denmark. They emigrated to the United States soon after the Civil war and made their way to Iowa, settling on a farm in Grundy county.

Reared under the parental roof, Frank M. Hanson attended the country schools until sixteen years of age and later became a student in the Waterloo (Iowa) Collegiate Institute, from which he was graduated on the 1st of June, 1891. In the intervening period he has made for himself a most creditable name and position in the banking circles of the state. He first entered the employ of the Citizens State Bank of Goldfield, Iowa, as bookkeeper on the 1st of October, 1892, and on the 1st of July, 1893, he became bookkeeper in the Iowa Valley State Bank at Belmond, Iowa, where he remained until September 1, 1896, acting for the last two years of that period as assistant cashier. He then resigned to accept a position with Leavitt & Johnson, private bankers, by whom he was employed during a part of the years 1896 and 1897. He next became cashier of the State Savings Bank of Klemme, where he remained for two years, when he organized the State Savings Bank of Kanawha, now the First National Bank. In that institution he continued as cashier from June 1, 1899, until July 1, 1905, when he resigned and accepted the cashiership of the First National Bank of Garner. Later he was promoted to the vice presidency and on the 1st of January, 1916, became president. In the meantime he had extended his connections and is now president of the State Savings Bank of Ventura, a director of the First National Bank of Kanawha, the State Savings Bank of Goodell, Iowa, and the State Savings Bank of Woden, Iowa, while in the Bank of Hayfield, Iowa, he is a partner. He is likewise a director of the Hancock County Abstract Company of Garner and presi-



FRANK M. HANSON



dent of the Oregon Timber & Investment Company of Garner. He is likewise interested in eleven hundred and twenty acres of land in Hancock county, near Garner, and has other financial interests.

On the 12th of September, 1906, at Kanawha, Iowa, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Ada Adell Huyek, her parents being John and Alice Huyek, who reside on a farm near Kanawha. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson now have two children: Morris Frank, born July 1, 1907; and Edna Genevieve, whose birth occurred on the 28th of April, 1911. Mr. Hanson and his family attend the Congregational church. His political endorsement is given to the republican party but he has never sought nor held public office. In fact, he has never had any desire for political positions, feeling that his time has been fully occupied with other interests. In fraternal circles he is well known, being now treasurer of Bethel Lodge, No. 319, A. F. & A. M., of Garner, which office he has filled for ten years. He is likewise a member of Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M.; Bethel Council, No. 33, R. & S. M.; and Antioch Commandery, No. 43, K. T., of Mason City. He is likewise connected with El Kahir Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Cedar Rapids, and he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Throughout his entire life he has practically concentrated his efforts along one line and it is this singleness of purpose which has constituted one of the strong forces in his success. He has comprehensive knowledge of the banking business and his pronounced ability is widely recognized by his colleagues and contemporaries throughout the state.

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#### MIKKEL J. HOLSTAD.

Mikkel J. Holstad, deceased, was for many years one of the leading farmers of Winnebago county, his home being on section 25, Norway township. He was a native of the land of the midnight sun, his birth occurring in Norway, November 5, 1837, and he was a son of John and Gjori Holstad, in whose family were five children. The parents never came to the United States, but on crossing the Atlantic Mikkel J. Holstad was accompanied by his brother, A. J., who bought land adjoining his farm and continued to reside there until 1900, when he returned to Norway, where he is now living.

Mikkel J. Holstad grew to manhood upon his father's farm but in early life learned the tailor's trade, at which he worked for some time. Later he operated the home farm in Norway, remaining there until 1867. In the meantime he married Miss Martha Thorsdatter Vold, whose parents were Thor and Solvei (Honsey) Vold. They came to America a few years after the Holstad family located here and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Mr. Vold followed farming until his death. Both he and his wife were buried in Ridgeway, Iowa.

In 1867, accompanied by his wife and two children, as well as his brother, Mr. Holstad came to the new world and took up his abode in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he remained one year. He then removed to Winnebago county and purchased the east half of the southeast quarter of section 26, Norway township, and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 25, whereon he made his home until his death, which occurred on the 9th of August, 1892. As

time passed he prospered in his farming operations and added to his farm the north half of the northwest quarter of section 36. His widow still resides on the old homestead. He was a republican in politics and was a member of the United Lutheran church.

Before leaving Norway two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Holstad, these being Thor or Thomas, who lives near Kiester, Minnesota; and Julia, who makes her home with her mother. The children born in America are John, born September 8, 1867; Edward, born February 3, 1870; and Sylvia, born May 8, 1872. John and Edward are engaged in farming in Rolette county, North Dakota, near Kelvin.

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#### P. P. MEDLANG.

P. P. Medlang, now successfully operating the old Holstad farm in Norway township, Winnebago county, was born on the 19th of May, 1873, and is a son of Peter E. and Inger (Olesdatter) Medlang, both of whom are now deceased. They spent their entire lives in Norway, where the father followed farming and also worked at the carpenter's trade. P. P. Medlang is the fifth in order of birth in a family of twelve children. He aided his father in the work of the home farm until nineteen years of age, at which time he and two sisters came to the United States and located in Northwood, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for one year. In 1900 he took charge of the Holstad farm and is still engaged in its operation. This place consists of the west half of the southwest quarter of section 25 and the north half of the northwest quarter of section 36, Norway township, and is a valuable tract. Its neat and thrifty appearance testifies to the industry and good management of Mr. Medlang, who thoroughly understands the occupation which he follows and is a man of good business ability.

In 1900 Mr. Medlang married Miss Sylvia Holstad, who was born on the 8th of May, 1872, and is a daughter of Mikkell J. and Martha Holstad, whose sketch appears above. By this union five children have been born but Selena died at the age of five years and was buried in the United Lutheran cemetery. Those living are Martha, Palmer, Inger and Thelma.

Mr. and Mrs. Medlang are members of the United Lutheran church and he casts his ballot with the republican party. For several years he has served as school director and has always taken a commendable interest in the welfare of his adopted country. Wherever known he is held in high esteem and he has many friends throughout Winnebago county.

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#### OLAF WESTERBERG.

Olaf Westerberg, who follows farming on section 5, Ellington township, Hancock county, and is meeting with excellent success in his chosen occupation, was born on the 7th of March, 1879, in Sweden, of which country his parents, John and Anna (Hockinson) Westerberg, were also natives. In 1882 the family came



to the United States and took up their abode in Hancock county, Iowa, where the father purchased a farm, but he and his wife are now living in Forest City. They have two sons, the older being E. J. Westerberg, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume.

Olaf Westerberg was only three years of age when brought to this country by his parents and upon the home farm in Hancock county he grew to manhood, his education being acquired in the district schools of the neighborhood. He was only fifteen years of age when his brother married and the responsibility of carrying on the home farm devolved upon him. Success has attended his well directed efforts and he is today one of the prosperous farmers of the community. After his marriage his parents removed to Forest City and he remained on the homestead, which he had purchased of his father the year previous. This place comprises one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 5, Ellington township, Hancock county, and he also owns eighty acres on section 8, one-half mile south of the home farm, all under excellent cultivation.

In 1901 Mr. Westerberg was united in marriage to Miss Anna Clauson, a daughter of Nels Clauson, of Forest City, who was one of the early settlers of Winnebago county. They have become the parents of two children, a son and a daughter, Arvid R. and Ruth E.

Mr. and Mrs. Westerberg are faithful members of the First Swedish Baptist church of Forest City and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. The republican party finds in Mr. Westerberg a staunch supporter of its principles and he does all within his power to promote the moral and material welfare of his community. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Forest City and is one of the substantial farmers of Ellington township.

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#### JENS M. TAPAGER.

Jens M. Tapager, who is a cashier of the First National Bank at Lake Mills, is a representative of the fine class of citizens which Denmark has given to the United States. His birth occurred on the 2d of August, 1871, and he is the son of Mikkel Kristensen and Maren (Dalgaard) Tapager. Mr. Tapager is the second child and was left motherless when a year and a half old. A number of years later his father remarried, and in 1889 emigrated to the United States, settling on a farm near Albert Lea, Minnesota, where he resided until his death in 1905 His widow is still living there.

Mr. Tapager attended the common schools until he was confirmed, and later took a liberal arts course in a private institution. He graduated in July, 1889, from the University of Copenhagen. For the next two years he taught in the government schools, and in 1891 emigrated to the United States, settling at Albert Lea, Minnesota. He entered the employ of the Albert Lea Creamery Company as engineer, holding that position at the time their plant was erected. After remaining with this company for two years, he came to Winnebago county and became buttermaker for the Logan Butter Factory, which was being built at that time in Logan township. After six years spent with this concern he moved to

Thompson, where in partnership with his brother, Morris Tapager, he purchased a hotel. He also managed the Thompson Creamery. He was in business at Thompson from 1899 to 1901. In the fall of 1901 Mr. Tapager with his family moved to Lake Mills, Iowa, he having accepted the position of assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank of that city. In 1905 he accepted a similar position in the First National Bank, and two years later became cashier, in which capacity he has since served. That the direction of the affairs of this institution has been in able hands is shown by the steady growth of the business of this bank in the intervening years, and by the high place which Mr. Tapager holds in the confidence of the general public.

On the 25th of August, 1894, Mr. Tapager was married to Miss Mary Willadsen, a daughter of O. L. and Dorothy (Kristensen) Willadsen, of Herning, Denmark. Mrs. Tapager's mother died when she was fourteen years of age, but her father is still living in that country. To Mr. and Mrs. Tapager have been born six children: Ethel, deceased February 28, 1901; Cyril, who was a student at the University of Minnesota, but joined the United State Marine Corps and left Minneapolis May 3, 1917, for Mare Island, California; and Roy Willard, Merle Ethelyn, Vernon James, and Virginia Mary, all at home.

Mr. Tapager is a standpat republican and supports loyally the candidates and policies of his party. He has filled the office of city treasurer since 1905, and his long service in that connection indicates his popularity. Furthermore, he has been president of the Lake Mills Commercial Club for the past two years. Mr. Tapager holds membership in the Lutheran church, and in all relations of life conforms his conduct to high ethical standards. The success which he has gained reflects great credit upon his enterprise and business ability, as he began his independent career empty handed.

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#### JOHN JOHNSON.

For almost a third of a century John Johnson has been a resident of Winnebago county, where he started out in life as a farm hand and was thus employed for eight years. He then purchased property and has since carried on general agricultural pursuits on his own account, being today one of the substantial farmers of his locality. He was born in the stift of Bergen, Norway, August 7, 1862, and was the fourth in order of birth in a family of eight children whose parents were John and Madle Nelson, farming people of that country. The parents never came to the United States and the father has now passed away. Seven of their children are yet living and those still in Norway are Nels, Mons, Haldor and Ole. Those in America are: Madle, the wife of Emil Larson, of Cherokee, Iowa; Nels, living in British Columbia; and John, of this review.

During his boyhood, which was spent in his native land, John Johnson had no special advantages to aid him in preparation for life's responsibilities and duties. He came to the United States alone when twenty-three years of age and made his way at once to Winnebago county. He had no capital and necessity rendered it imperative that he obtain employment immediately. He began working as a farm hand and spent eight years in that way, but he was desirous of

engaging in business on his own account and carefully saved his earnings, until about 1893 he was able to purchase a farm in connection with his brother-in-law, Emil Larson. After his marriage he took possession of the south half of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 12, Logan township, comprising a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. Upon this place he yet resides and through the intervening period he has worked a marked transformation in the appearance of the place, converting it into a valuable and productive tract from which he annually gathers good crops.

When thirty-two years of age Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Ada Anderson. They have become parents of seven children who are yet living, namely: Elmer, Cora, Melvin, Kenneth, Mabel, Joseph and Clarence. They also lost two children in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson hold membership in the Synod Lutheran church and he votes with the republican party, but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him. His time is fully devoted to his business affairs and today he is the owner of a finely improved farm because of his untiring activity and persistency of purpose. He has never regretted coming to America, feeling that he has here found better opportunities than he could have enjoyed in Norway, and having voluntarily chosen to become an American citizen, he has ever been loyal to the interests of his adopted land.

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#### MARTIN RASMUSSEN.

Martin Rasmusson, a well known farmer living on section 19, Crystal township, is one of Hancock county's native sons, born on the 24th of July 1884. His parents, N. P. and Anna (Madson) Rasmusson, were natives of Denmark, in which country they were reared and educated, but in 1881 they emigrated to America with the hope of bettering their financial condition in this country with its broader opportunities and natural advantages. On landing here they continued their journey westward to Hancock county, Iowa, where the father has since made his home, but the mother passed away in 1914. In their family were eight children of whom five still survive.

During his boyhood and youth Martin Rasmusson had the advantages of a common school education and when not busy with his text books assisted his father in the labors of the farm. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age and then began farming on rented land, being thus employed for eight years. Having lived economically and prospered in his labors, Mr. Rasmusson was able to purchase his present farm in 1910 and is now the owner of two hundred acres of very fertile and productive land on section 19, Crystal township, Hancock county, on which he has made many useful and valuable improvements. He is engaged in general farming but makes a specialty of the raising of stock of all kinds which he finds quite profitable.

In 1914 Mr. Rasmusson married Miss Rachel Davis, who was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa, and is a daughter of Henry and Luella (Johnson) Davis, natives of Wisconsin and Norway respectively. Her parents are now living retired in Crystal township, Hancock county, enjoying a well earned rest. To Mr. and Mrs.

Rasmusson have been born two children but the first died in infancy. The other, Anna Fern, was born April 3, 1916. Mr. Rasmusson supports the men and measures of the republican party and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of his community.

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REV. MARTIN HEGLAND, PH. D.

In the educational field the name of Dr. Martin Hegland, president of Waldorf College at Forest City, is well known. He is yet a comparatively young man but has already made for himself an enviable position in the field of Christian education and his work is reaching out through its influence and inspiration over a wide territory. He took charge of Waldorf College and its work on the 1st of January, 1915, being then thirty-five years of age. His birth occurred on the 20th of January, 1880, in Merton, Steele county, Minnesota, to which place his parents had removed on leaving Nedre Telemarkeu, Norway, their native country. They settled upon a farm upon which Dr. Hegland spent his boyhood and youth, acquiring his early education in the country schools, after which he entered upon the work of the eighth grade in the schools of Owatonna, Minnesota, where he later completed high school work, being graduated after taking the Latin-scientific course. He was president of his class in his senior year. After finishing his high school course he matriculated in St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota, where he pursued the study of the classics and during that period was an active member of the different college societies. He also served for two years on the editorial staff of the college paper and was editor-in-chief of the "Viking '04." As a representative of the senior class he won the Ware oratorical contest and as representative of the college won the state contest in competition with the different colleges of the state. Following his graduation from St. Olaf College he was elected superintendent of schools and teacher in the high school at Fertile, Minnesota, where he remained for three years, and while engaged in secular school work he continued an active worker in the church as superintendent of the Sunday school, as president of the Luther League and as teacher of the Bible class in the United Church congregation. His interest in church work led him to take up the study of theology at the United Church Seminary, from which he was graduated with the class of 1910, and while there he also studied at the University of Minnesota, specializing along the lines of English philology, education and history of philosophy. He won the M. A. degree in 1908 and during the summer vacation of that year he substituted for Rev. C. K. Solberg, of the Zion church in Chicago. During the following summer he was advance agent for the St. Olaf Band on their twelve weeks' trip to the Pacific coast, which included a visit to the Seattle Exposition, and in the summer of 1910 he filled the pulpit during the absence of the Rev. J. C. Roseland in the Covenant church of Chicago.

Dr. Hegland afterward became a student at Columbia University in New York city, where he specialized on education, pursuing the studies of history of education, educational philosophy and psychology, and educational administration and comparative education, the last two receiving particular attention. He was awarded the Foreign Fellowship by the university and went abroad to make a special study





WALDORF COLLEGE



REV. MARTIN HEGLAND, Ph. D.





of the school systems of the European countries. He also visited most of the colleges and universities in the eastern part of the United States.

Following his return from Europe, Dr. Hegland was called to the pastorate of the United Lutheran congregation at Grand Forks, North Dakota, and in 1913 was ordained to the ministry. The same year he submitted his thesis on the subject "The Danish People's High School," and the degree of Ph. D. was conferred upon him by Columbia University in 1914. At the annual meeting of the United Church in that year he was elected one of the associate editors of the "United Lutheran."

In the fall of 1914 he was called to the pastorate of the United Lutheran congregation of Forest City and to the presidency of Waldorf College and on the 1st of January, 1915, entered upon his duties. He is often called upon to speak on educational and religious matters and is a contributor to church publications.

Dr. Hegland was married in 1911 to Miss Georgina E. Dieson, of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, who was graduated from the high school there and later from St. Olaf College in 1904. She served as teacher and preceptress at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, from 1904 until 1907, and occupied the same position at St. Olaf College from 1909 until 1911. She also did some post-graduate work at the Columbia University and she is of great assistance to her husband in the performance of his duties in both the pastoral and educational fields. Dr. and Mrs. Hegland now have a little daughter, Anna Tonette, born June 13, 1915.

Dr. Hegland is concentrating every effort upon the upbuilding of the church and school. It would be tautological in this connection to enter into any series of statements showing him to be a man of broad scholarly attainments, for this has been shadowed forth between the lines of this review. He ever keeps in close touch with the trend of modern thought concerning all those questions which have to do with the welfare of mankind and are of vital significance to the country. While possessing a studious nature, he combines with it the intensely practical and is thoroughly alive to all those questions and interests which are engaging public thought and calling forth activity. He lives not in the past nor the future but in the present with its multiform duties and problems, and yet he looks beyond the exigencies of the moment to the opportunities and possibilities for good in later years.

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#### P. M. GRIESEMER.

A thoroughly progressive young business man is P. M. Griesemer, the president of the State Bank of Klemme. His plans are always carefully considered, and industry, perseverance and sagacity characterize his business moves. He was born near Garner, Hancock county, April 6, 1883, a son of Henry and Justina (Mayer) Griesemer, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. After attending the public schools and pursuing a course in a business college at Mason City, Iowa, he went to Klemme in 1902, when a young man of nineteen years, and secured the position of bookkeeper in the Bank of Klemme, which was organized and opened its doors for business on the 3d of November of that year, with a

capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. In February, 1904, it was reorganized as the State Bank of Klemme and its resources are now four hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Griesemer has continued with the bank through the intervening period of fifteen years, filling various positions and advancing step by step until in January, 1917, he was elected to the presidency. He has carefully studied every phase of banking and the policy that he has originated most carefully safeguards the interests of depositors and stockholders.

In his political views Mr. Griesemer maintains an independent course, casting his ballot according to the dictates of his judgment. He is a member of the Masonic lodge of Garner and also of Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., loyally adhering to the teachings of the craft which is based upon mutual helpfulness and mutual kindness. He is well known in the county in which he has spent his entire life, and the circle of his friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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#### JOSEPH E. HOWARD.

Although now living retired in Forest City, Joseph E. Howard has figured prominently in connection with its professional and public interests. The energy and enterprise which he has displayed in the conduct of business affairs are the qualities which have brought him well deserved success, enabling him now to rest from further labor in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. Iowa claims him as a native son. He was born in Fayette county, August 31, 1855, a son of Samuel and Jane (Alcorn) Howard, natives of Mercer county and of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, respectively. In 1854 they became residents of Iowa and in 1869 took up their abode in Forest City, where their remaining days were passed. Samuel Howard purchased a farm near the town and devoted five years to general agricultural pursuits upon that place. He then removed to the city and here lived until called to his final rest in May, 1907. For fifteen years he had survived his wife, who passed away in May, 1892, in the faith of the Congregational church, of which she was a devoted member. Mr. Howard gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and was classed with the valued and representative citizens of his district.

Joseph E. Howard after acquiring a public school education attended the State University at Iowa City, where he pursued a law course. He was admitted to the bar in 1878 and continued in the active practice of law for two years. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to the real estate business, in which he has since been actively engaged, and throughout the intervening period he has negotiated many important realty transfers which have figured as features in the steady growth and development of this section. He was also editor of the Summit for two years and was one of the owners of that paper in connection with G. S. Gilbertson for a decade.

It is not alone in business circles that Mr. Howard has figured, for he has again and again been tested in relation to public service and never has he been found wanting. At all times he has stood for progress and improvement in community affairs and his efforts to further the best interests of city and county have been

far-reaching and beneficial. In 1895 he was appointed clerk of the district court. He served for eight years as a member of the city council and for two terms as mayor of Forest City, while for eight and one-half years he filled the position of postmaster, retiring from that office on the 1st of July, 1907. At a boosters' meeting held recently one of the speakers in reviewing the progress of the city said that if Mr. Howard had been postmaster for four years longer he would have had Des Moines receiving mail by rural delivery from Forest City, which jesting remark indicates the great energy and initiative which Mr. Howard brings to everything that he undertakes to do. He was one of the organizers and proprietors of the first bank established in Buffalo Center, it being founded in 1892 under the name of the Bank of Buffalo Center. It is now known, however, as the First National Bank.

On the 2d of November, 1879, Mr. Howard was married to Miss Charlotte Elnora Skinner, a daughter of D. E. and Anna L. (Swan) Skinner, who came from Connecticut to the middle west, settling in Iowa at an early day after living for some time in Illinois. They established their home in Allamakee county, where Mr. Skinner followed the occupation of farming. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have become parents of seven children, as follows: Ina and Mabel, both at home; Jay E., who is engaged in the lumber business at Estherville, Iowa; Ethel, a teacher at Rock Rapids, Iowa; Dan S., who is in the mail service and resides at Forest City; Alice, who is engaged in teaching at Buffalo Center, Iowa; and Margie, also a teacher at Buffalo Center, this state.

The family are members of the Congregational church and do all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. In politics Mr. Howard has ever been a republican, giving loyal aid to the party because of his firm belief in its principles. In his fraternal relations he is a Mason, belonging to Truth Lodge, No. 213, F. & A. M., of which he is a past master, and to Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., at Garner. His life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft and he has given many tangible evidences of his belief in the brotherhood of man. While his interests are many, the activities of his life have been well balanced. His is a symmetrical character, one that has never been developed along certain lines to the dwarfing of his possibilities in other connections, and while he has carefully managed his business interests for the purpose of attaining legitimate success, he has at the same time utilized his powers and energies for the benefit of the community and has contributed much to public progress.

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#### JOHN H. TERHUFEN.

John H. Terhufen, who is engaged in general farming on section 19, German township, Hancock county, owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he has brought to a high state of development. He follows progressive methods in all his farm work, his land being devoted to the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Wiscousin numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Dodge county on the 9th of June, 1869, his parents being Henry and Minnie (Sette) Terhufen, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father is deceased and the mother is living in Klemme, Iowa.

John H. Terhufen acquired a common school education while spending his youthful days under the parental roof and was early trained to the work of the farm, his vacation periods being largely spent in the fields. After his textbooks were put aside he continued to work on the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when his father gave him five hundred dollars with which to purchase land, and he became the owner of a tract on section 25, German township, Hancock county, Iowa. His next purchase brought him land on section 22, German township and later he acquired one hundred and sixty acres on section 19, German township. This he bought about 1900 and he has since occupied the farm, which was formerly operated as a dairy farm, but which he now devotes to the cultivation of crops, raising corn, wheat and other cereals for which the soil is particularly adapted. His place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and his methods of tilling the soil are progressive, while he facilitates the work of the fields by the use of modern machinery.

On the 8th of August, 1894, Mr. Terhufen was united in marriage to Miss Emma Stille, a daughter of Henry and Louisa (Steinke) Stille, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Terhufen have become the parents of two sons, Howard A. and Glenn H., both at home.

The religious faith of the parents is that of the German Methodist Episcopal church and they are highly esteemed because of their sterling worth and many admirable traits of character. Mr. Terhufen is a school director and for four years has filled the office of township assessor. He is interested in all that pertains to the material, intellectual, political, social and moral progress of his community and is highly respected as a man of genuine personal worth as well as of good business ability.

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#### EUGENE SECOR.

Called to many positions of public honor and trust, Eugene Secor, of Forest City, has ever manifested his loyalty to the best interests of his community and his state and in everything that he has undertaken he has worked toward high ideals. Gifted by nature with strong mental powers, his career has been one of continued development, reaching out along those lines which make life fuller, richer and better. He was born in May, 1841, on a farm in Peekskill Hollow, New York, a son of Alson and Sarah C. (Knapp) Secor, who were farming people and spent their entire lives in the Empire state. The Secors were descended from French Huguenots who came to America in 1689.

Eugene Secor attended school in his native county and in 1862 removed westward to Iowa, settling in Forest City, his elder brother, David Secor, being at that time treasurer and recorder of Winnebago county and also postmaster of Forest City. After working for a time he resumed his studies, entering Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa. He had been there not quite a year when his elder brother enlisted for service in the Civil War, so that Eugene Secor was called back to take charge of his brother's office and the postoffice, as deputy, discharging the duties of those positions until the close of the war. After removing to the west he had learned the mason's trade but for many years was active in public office. At the first election for mayor in Forest City he was chosen to that office and his adminis-



EUGENE SECOR



tration was so satisfactory to his constituents that he was three time reelected, serving for four consecutive terms. He carefully administered the affairs of the new municipality and his administration was fraught with excellent results. Afterwards he was a member of the town council for many years. In 1869 he was elected clerk of the courts, having previously served as deputy, and filled that position acceptably for six years, being elected for the third term of two years without opposition. He was not a candidate for the fourth term. In 1876 he was called to the office of county auditor and served for four years, after which he refused to be again a candidate. He was also county coroner for two years and still higher honors awaited him in his election as a member of the twenty-ninth general assembly of Iowa, in which he served on several important committees and was chairman of the Horticultural committee. He was not a candidate for reelection. For many years Mr. Secor by appointment of the governor served as a delegate from Iowa to the Farmers National Congress. For six years he was a trustee of the Iowa Agricultural College and filled that position when it was an elective one by the state legislature. He was also a member of the board of trustees and of the executive committee of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, for twenty years, and holds an honorary degree of M. A. from that institution. For fifteen consecutive years he served as a member of the board of education at Forest City and with the exception of one year was throughout that entire period president of the board. His public service has been of the greatest benefit. Thoroughly understanding the various duties that have devolved upon him, he has ever been prompt and faithful in their execution and at all times has been guided by the utmost spirit of devotion to the general good. He was for twelve years president of the Winnebago County Farmers Institute and then declined reelection. He organized the Winnebago County Agricultural Society and was its first president, and it was in his administration that the property was bought and the first building erected. In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt to the position of postmaster of Forest City and occupied that office for five and one-half years. He was a charter member of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and was at one time president thereof.

All during the time that Mr. Secor served in these various positions of public honor and trust he also conducted a real estate and loan business in Forest City, and for the past forty years he has been widely known as a bee culturist, winning a world-wide reputation in this connection. He now has, however, only about twenty colonies of fine, pure Italian bees. Such is his standing along this line that in 1893 he was appointed the expert apiarian judge for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, a fact indicative of his wide study and knowledge of the subject. He is a member of the North American Bee-Keepers Society, of which he was at one time president, while for seven years he was its general manager and treasurer. He is a regular contributor to various agricultural and technical journals on subjects relating to bee culture and other phases of country life, and his opinions have become accepted as authority. He was editor of the bee keeper's department of the Northwestern Agriculturist of Minneapolis for many years and at one time held a similar position on the staff of a farm paper published at Cedar Rapids. He possesses considerable literary taste and talent, and his writings on various subjects appear frequently in the city papers as well as in the local press. From

his pen have also come various poems of worth, and many of his songs have been set to music. Another phase of his activity has been in the field of horticulture, and that he has attained prominence and success in that direction is indicated in the fact that he has been honored with the vice presidency and presidency of the Iowa Horticultural Society, of which he is now a director. He has been on the program at the conventions of the society for twenty years or more and articles from his pen appear in every volume of the published proceedings of the society. At the present time he is devoting his attention most largely to horticulture, making a specialty of ornamental trees and plants, particularly peonies. He owns a fine tract of land adjoining Forest City and calls his place The Shelter. His home is a beautiful residence, in front of which is a miniature park, and it indicates his artistic perception and taste in the field of landscape gardening. He is now a director of the Farm Property Mutual Insurance Association of Iowa, having its headquarters at Des Moines. He is engaged to some extent in breeding registered shorthorn cattle and for many years he was a director of a private bank, which was organized by himself and others in 1882 under the name of Secor, Law & Plummer, and which was later nationalized as the First National Bank.

On September 17, 1866, Mr. Secor was united in marriage to Miss Millie M. Spencer, who was born in Milan, Ohio, January 29, 1848, and died April 29, 1912. They became the parents of ten children but only four survived the mother: Willard, who succeeded his father in the Secor Company of Forest City, and whose death occurred in May, 1915; Alson, who is the editor of the paper called Successful Farming, published in Des Moines; Nina, at home; and Manly, who is engaged as a horticulturist at Tama, Iowa.

In his political views Mr. Secor has always been a republican and his efforts have been an effective force in promoting party successes. He was a delegate to the republican national convention in 1892. He belongs to the Methodist church, in which he has served for a long time as an officer. In May, 1892, he was a delegate from Northwest Iowa conference to the quadrennial general conference of the Methodist church at Omaha, Nebraska. In fact, his ability has called him to leadership in many lines in which his activities have been put forth. Thoroughness is characteristic of all that he does and the spirit of advancement and progress has guided him in every stage of his career, bringing him at last to a place where he stands as a recognized authority upon many questions that have to do with the material resources and development of the state. He has now passed the age of three score years and ten and is enjoying a well earned rest from business cares and responsibilities. Indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature, however, and he keeps busy with his horticultural investigations and literary work.

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#### HON. FRANK W. RUSSELL.

Hon. Frank W. Russell is a leading and influential citizen of Winnebago county. He represented his district in the thirty-fourth general assembly and has long been an active factor in guiding the political interests of this section. He is now actively engaged in farming, although he makes his home in Forest City, and in business as well as in politics his position is one of prominence. He was born in



Cook county, Illinois, January 4, 1859, a son of William and Ann (Barnes) Russell. The father was a native of Wakefield, New Hampshire, and represented one of the old colonial families that was represented in the Revolutionary war. The mother was the first white child born in Elk Grove, Cook county, Illinois, to which district her parents removed from Montpelier, Vermont, making the journey in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. This was about 1832, at which time the present site of Chicago was nothing but a swamp. It seemed very undesirable as a location, so the family went out twenty miles to secure what appeared to be more valuable land. Mr. and Mrs. Russell continued residents of Cook county throughout their remaining days. In the early years he was a railroad man and became a conductor on the Chicago & Northwestern, serving in that capacity on the first train to run over the Wisconsin division of the road. In later years his attention was given to farming.

Frank W. Russell was educated in the common schools of Cook county and in the high school of Arlington Heights, Illinois. He was reared to farm life and had the usual experiences of the farm bred boy who early becomes familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. After attaining his majority he continued on the old homestead and cooperated with his father in its further development and improvement until he reached his twenty-ninth year. It was on the 22d of February, 1888, that he was united in marriage to Miss Annie Fernald of Arlington Heights, Illinois, a daughter of John and Olive (Lord) Fernald, both natives of Maine. After the father's death in 1867 the mother married again and removed to Illinois. Still later she came to Forest City and in 1900 she passed away. The spring following his marriage Mr. Russell came to Iowa, taking up his abode on a farm in Newton township four and a half miles west of Leland. There he purchased two hundred and forty acres, on which he resided for twenty-two years. In the meantime, however, he had purchased an adjoining eighty acre tract, making his home farm one of three hundred and twenty acres. Upon this place he engaged in the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also made a specialty of the buying and feeding of stock. He fed all of the grain which he raised on his farm and became one of the best known live stock dealers in this section of the state. His business affairs were always carefully and wisely managed and conducted and in all of his undertakings he displayed sound judgment and keen sagacity. In 1910 he left the farm and removed to Forest City but continued to cultivate his land and is still numbered among the active agriculturists of this part of the state. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Thompson and for the past eighteen years he has served as the president of the Farmers Mutual Fire & Lightning Association of Winnebago county. His judgment is sound and his discrimination keen and what he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell worship at the Congregational church. They occupy a very enviable position in social circles and enjoy the good will and confidence of all who know them. In politics Mr. Russell is a republican. He was a member of the school board of Newton township for many years and when he removed to Forest City he was appointed a member of the city school board and in March, 1917, was elected to that office. At the November election of 1910 he was chosen

to represent his district in the state legislature, serving through the thirty-fourth general assembly with distinction and honor, his record being one which was entirely satisfactory to his constituents and reflected credit upon himself, showing him to be a man of progressive spirit and actuated by high civic ideals.

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### E. J. INDVIK.

E. J. Indvik, who is one of the prominent farmers of Linden township, Winnebago county, gives particular attention to the raising of high grade stock and has been a factor in the advancement of the interests of the county along that line. He was born in Norway, January 10, 1861, of the marriage of Johannes O. and Ingeborg (Hanson) Indvik. It was in 1872 that the family came to the United States and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and three years later removal was made to Winnebago county. The father purchased a farm in Mount Valley township and engaged in its operation until his death, which occurred the following fall. The mother continued upon that farm for about two years and in the spring of 1877 came to Linden township, where she lived until she passed away in 1911 at the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

E. J. Indvik, who was eleven years of age at the time of the emigration of the family to the new world, completed his education in the common schools of Iowa, but following the death of his father when he was fourteen years of age, assumed the burden of operating the home farm, as he was the oldest of the unmarried sons. For several years after the removal of the family to Linden township he, with the assistance of his younger brothers, operated rented land, but in 1881 he bought forty acres on section 23, Linden township, and deeded the tract to his mother. Later eighty acres was acquired and was deeded to Mr. Indvik of this review and his brother, H. J. Indvik. They farmed in partnership for a number of years, but early in 1892 dissolved their business connections. On subject then bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Linden township, and not long afterward was married. From time to time he has purchased additional land and now holds title to four hundred and eighty acres. The improvements upon the place are up-to-date in every respect and in his methods Mr. Indvik has shown himself practical and progressive. He specializes in breeding and raising high grade shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and finds a ready market for his stock. He also raises some grain to sell and has so wisely managed his affairs that he has gained financial independence. He is likewise interested in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Thompson and in the Farmers Elevator of Thompson and considers the stock which he owns in those concerns to be an excellent investment.

In June, 1892, Mr. Indvik was united in marriage to Miss Martha Bjelland, of Forest township, who, however, was born in Norway. She remained in her native country until young womanhood and then came to the United States. She has become the mother of four children, as follows: Isabelle S., who is a graduate of Waldorf College of Forest City and is a teacher in the district schools; Sidney J. and Ellen M., both of whom are attending Waldorf College; and Johan H., who is a public school pupil.

Mr. Indvik is a strong republican in politics and is now serving as a member of the board of township trustees. He is also on the school board and for a number of years was president of that body. He and his family are communicants of the Lutheran Synod and the work of that church is furthered by their hearty support. In all that he has done has manifested a tendency to advance the general welfare and has been a consistent and effective worker for progress along material, moral and civic lines. He numbers as his friends practically all his acquaintances and the high esteem in which he is universally held is the natural result of his ability and integrity.

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#### HANS E. EIEL, M. D.

Dr. Hans E. Eiel, an efficient and popular physician and surgeon residing at Buffalo Center, is also now filling the office of postmaster there. He was born in Center township, Winnebago county, February 4, 1876, of the marriage of John and B. Olina (Tvedesund) Eiel. On emigrating to America his parents first located in Mitchell county, Iowa, but two years later, or in 1870, removed to Winnebago county. The father purchased land in Center township and there he engaged in farming for many years but is now living retired with his daughter, Millie, the wife of Dr. J. E. Colby, of Lake Mills, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The mother's death occurred January 1, 1915.

Hans E. Eiel spent his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and after completing the work in the common schools attended a business college at Garner, Iowa. Later he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. P. A. Helgeson, of Lake Mills, and in 1895 matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa. He studied there for two years and for a similar length of time was a student in the Keokuk Medical College, from which he was graduated March 20, 1899, with the M. D. degree. After passing the state board examination he began practice in 1898 in Norman, Iowa, but remained there only a short time and in July, 1899, opened an office in Buffalo Center, where he has since remained. It was not long before his ability won recognition and his practice has grown steadily until it is now extensive and representative. He has served as health officer of Buffalo Center for a number of years and his work in that connection has been very effective in bringing about improved sanitary conditions. He owns three good farms, an eighty acre tract near Lake Mills, a farm of two hundred and thirty-two acres west of Buffalo Center and a quarter section of land seven and a half miles northwest of Buffalo Center. All of these places are well improved and he derives therefrom a good financial return.

Dr. Eiel was married in May, 1899, to Miss Sarah Skutle. Her parents, O. O. and Martha (Lee) Skutle, were born in Norway but came to America in the '50s and located in Wisconsin. After farming for several years the father removed with his family to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he followed agricultural pursuits until he retired in 1897 and took up his residence in Lake Mills, where he still lives. To the Doctor and his wife have been born three children: John Olaf, whose birth occurred in February, 1900; Merrill Orion, born in January, 1903; and Sylvia Helen, born in January, 1913.

Dr. Eiel is a democrat in politics and in 1915 was appointed postmaster of Buffalo Center, an office which he has filled with entire satisfaction to the community. He belongs to the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America and along professional lines is connected with the Winnebago County and Iowa State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Lutheran church. He is held in high esteem as a physician and as a man, and his personal friends are many.

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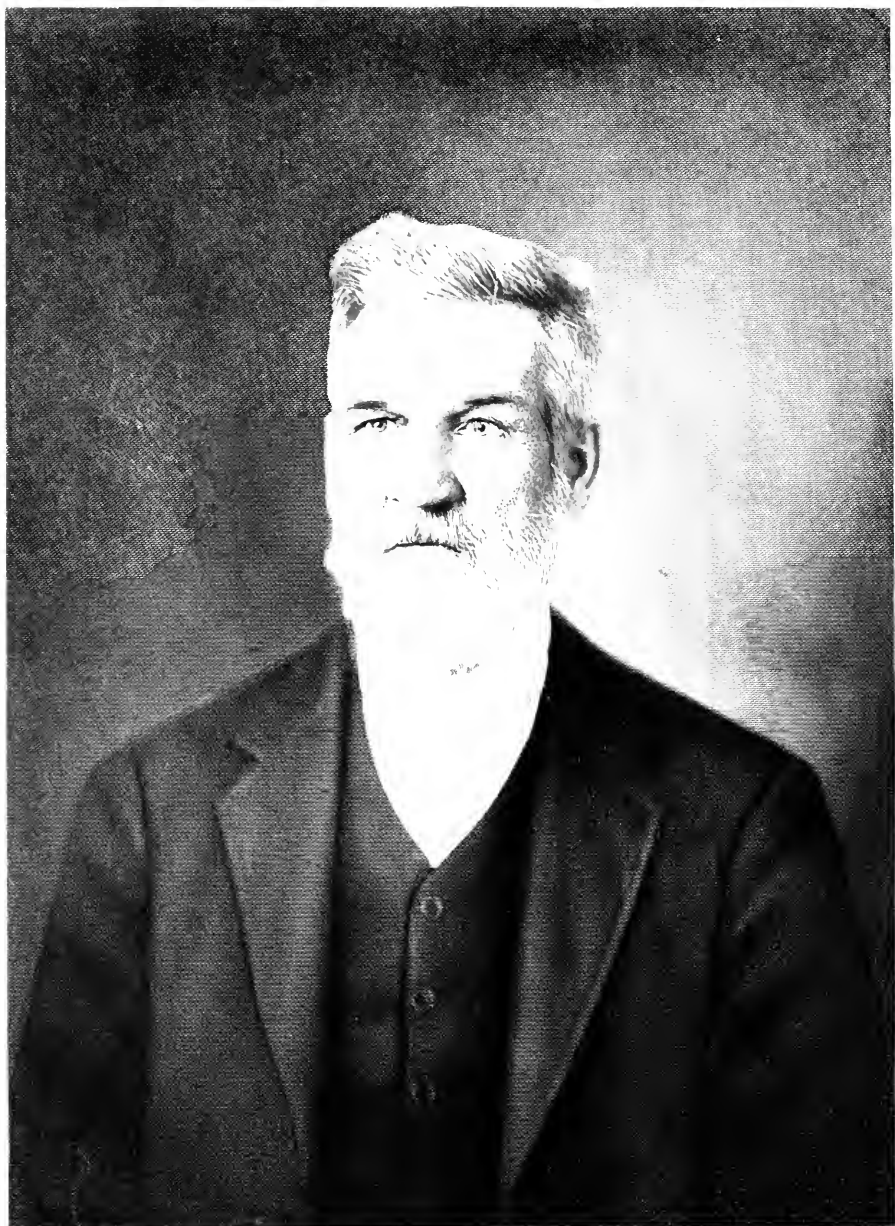
#### ERASMUS DARWIN HINMAN.

For many years Erasmus Darwin Hinman engaged in farming and stock raising in Winnebago county and so ably managed his business affairs that he gained financial independence. During the later years of his life he spent considerable time in California, but passed away in Lake Mills. He was born in Holland, Vermont, April 15, 1834, of the marriage of Ezra and Betsy (Sweetland) Hinman, also natives of the Green Mountain state. In 1862 the family removed to Worth county, Iowa, and subsequently to Winnebago county. The father was a farmer by occupation, but spent the last years of his life in retirement at the home of a daughter in Northwood, Iowa, dying there in 1868. The mother survived him for four years.

Erasmus Darwin Hinman was reared in Vermont and received his education in the schools of Holland and Derby, that state. He remained with his parents until 1856, when at the age of twenty-two years, he removed to Worth county, Iowa, where he took up a homestead, which in the course of time became one of the best improved farms of the locality. When he had resided in that county for only a short time he was honored by election as county treasurer, which position he filled for two years. At the end of that time he took up his residence in Lake Mills, Winnebago county, and not long afterward was elected county clerk and recorder, so serving for six years. He then left the county seat and returned to Lake Mills, and a short time later began farming in Center township, where in April, 1862, he had purchased a half section of land. As the years passed he steadily prospered and became the owner of most of the land in the north and west parts of Lake Mills. He made stock raising his principal business and on his place were to be found high grade horses, cattle and sheep. After many years of active labor Mr. Hinman retired in 1892 and later traveled to a considerable extent. He owned two orange groves in California and for thirteen years made his home in Pomona, that state, but a short time before his death returned to Lake Mills, where he passed away in August, 1907, when in his seventy-fourth year.

On the 13th of June, 1861, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hinman and Miss Ellen Russell, a daughter of Robert and Jane (Rusk) Russell. Her father was born in Scotland and her mother in Ireland, but they emigrated to America in early manhood and womanhood. The father's demise occurred in Chicago, Illinois, in 1834, and the mother's in 1888. Mrs. Hinman was born in Chicago, September 7, 1834, and received a good education. While her husband was serving as clerk and recorder of Winnebago county, she taught school and proved











very successful in that work. She had charge of the first school in Norway township. Having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman adopted a daughter, Ruth, who died on the 5th of December, 1893.

Mr. Hinman supported the republican party at the polls and took quite a prominent and influential part in local politics, serving as a member of the town council of Lake Mills for some time and also as justice of the peace. He was also very active in church work, both he and his wife being earnest and consistent members of the Methodist denomination, and he served as superintendent of the Sunday school and as choir leader. His religious faith was the guiding force of his life and his strict integrity won him the unqualified respect of all who came in contact with him. His business ability was also generally conceded and his public spirit was manifested in the support of all movements for the advancement of the general good. The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Hinman was very happy and congenial and they did all in their power to alleviate the sufferings of those around them, being extremely charitable and benevolent. Mr. Hinman gave the land for the Lake Mills grist mill and was always ready to assist those needing financial help, the poor always finding in him a friend. He assisted many men on the road to success and in his death the community realized that it had lost a valuable citizen. Mrs. Hinman has recently returned from California and purchased a home in Forest City, where hospitality now abounds and her many warm friends are always sure of a hearty welcome.

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#### GILBERT THOMPSON.

Agricultural interests of Winnebago county find a worthy representative in Gilbert Thompson, who owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land on section 10, Center township. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, April 1, 1865, and is a son of Thomas and Helga (Johnson) Thompson, both of whom were natives of Norway. They came to America in 1853 and settled in Dane county, where the father purchased land which he improved, residing thereon for twelve years. On the expiration of that period he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1865 and purchased school land in Center township for a dollar and a quarter per acre. This he improved and cultivated throughout his remaining days, his labors being ended in May, 1897, when he had reached the age of seventy-two years. His widow still survives and has now attained the notable age of ninety-four years.

Gilbert Thompson was but six weeks old when brought by his parents to Iowa, so that practically his entire life has been spent in Winnebago county. He was reared and educated in Center township, devoting the winter months to the attainment of knowledge as a public school pupil, while in the summer seasons he worked in the fields. He continued to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-five years, when he purchased land from his father and began farming on his own account. From time to time he added to the property until he now has an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres. He has divided this into fields of convenient size surrounded by well kept fences, has cleared and improved his land and now has one of the finest farms of Winnebago county, its neat and thrifty

appearance indicating his careful supervision and his practical and progressive methods. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Thompson is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills, in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company. In addition to tilling his fields he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle and his live stock interests constitute an important and profitable feature of his business.

In February, 1896, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Karina Shoutvet, a daughter of Austin and Anna (Vald) Shoutvet, who were pioneer settlers of Wisconsin. The father died in 1902, while the death of the mother occurred in February, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have become the parents of nine children: Hilma, Ada, Austin, Gerald, Melvin, Morris and Gladys, all of whom are living; Morris, who died at the age of four years; and Theodore, who died at the age of two.

The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and guide their lives according to its teachings. In politics Mr. Thompson is a republican but has never been a politician, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs, which are wisely and carefully directed and are bringing to him substantial and well merited success.

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#### WILLIAM H. RAMSAY.

William H. Ramsay, of Garner, was born in Illinois, April 5, 1867, a son of J. W. and Mary E. (Henry) Ramsay, both of whom are natives of Ohio. In the year 1860, however, they removed westward to Illinois, where the father took up the occupation of farming, and during his residence there he was called upon to fill various local offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He also turned his attention to merchandising while in that state. In 1894 he came to Iowa, settling at Garner, and he is now filling the position of state oil inspector.

William H. Ramsay acquired a public school education and entered upon the study of law at Paxton, Illinois, under the direction of J. H. Moffett. In 1889 he was admitted to the bar and for a time practiced in his native state, after which he removed to Iowa, settling at Indianola. In 1891 he became a resident of Nebraska, where he resided until 1896, when he came to Garner, Iowa, where he has since made his home and followed his profession. In 1899 he entered into partnership with F. E. Blackstone and the relation has since been maintained under the firm style of Ramsay & Blackstone. This is accounted one of the strong firms practicing at the Hancock county bar. Mr. Ramsay has given proof of the fact that he possesses an analytical mind and broad legal learning by the readiness with which he grasps the points in an argument. In presenting his own cause his reasoning is clear, his deductions sound and logical and, moreover, he never enters the court without having carefully prepared his cases.

On the 4th of November, 1891, Mr. Ramsay was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Swan, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Thomas and Jane (Haddon) Swan. Their daughter, Jane, is a graduate of Monmouth College and is now attending the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay

hold membership in the Presbyterian church and their lives are guided by its teachings. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for four years he has filled the office of mayor, giving to the city a businesslike and progressive administration characterized by needed reforms and improvements. For two terms he has served as county attorney and in that position has also made a most creditable record.

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#### JOHN W. COSTELLO.

John W. Costello, living on section 17, Avery township, Hancock county, has devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits and is now busily engaged in the further development of his farm, which has been brought to a high state of cultivation. He was born November 5, 1876, near Rockford, Illinois, but the greater part of his life has been spent in Hancock county, Iowa, where he arrived in 1882, when a little lad of but six summers, in company with his parents, Daniel and Margaret Lucy Costello, who were natives of Ireland. In early life they crossed the Atlantic and became residents of Illinois, establishing their home near Rockford. As stated, however a removal was made to Iowa in 1882 and the father, in 1883, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 17, Avery township, for which he paid ten dollars and a half per acre. He then bent his energies toward the development and cultivation of that tract of land and converted it into rich and productive fields. He has now departed this life, but his widow is still living at about the age of eighty years.

John W. Costello began attending the public schools of Iowa on coming to this state and pursued his studies as opportunity offered until he reached the age of seventeen. In the meantime, however, he had received instruction and training in farm work, for he early began to assist his father in the fields and soon became familiar with the best methods of planting and harvesting the crops. He has never sought to change his occupation but has continued one of the active farmers of his district and the home place is now highly cultivated, so that he annually gathers good crops.

Mr. Costello is a Catholic in religious faith and he holds membership with the Yeomen. In politics he is a democrat, which party he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as township trustee for two years and has filled the office of assessor for ten years, being prompt, capable and faithful in the discharge of his public duties, so that his fellow townsmen have marked confidence in him.

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#### ANDREW M. CLAUSON.

Andrew M. Clauson, a grain buyer of Forest City, operating an elevator along the tracks of the Rock Island Railway, is accounted one of the foremost business men of his district, being alert, enterprising and energetic. Forest City is proud to number him among her native sons. He was born November 17, 1883, of the

marriage of Nels C. and Hannah Clauson, who came to the United States in young manhood and womanhood. In this country they were married and for the past thirty-six years they have been valued residents of Forest City.

Andrew M. Clauson was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the schools of Forest City and in the Highland Park College, being graduated from the commercial department of that institution with the class of 1899. Following his graduation he was employed for five years by Charles Rippey, who operated a number of elevators at various points. Mr. Clauson acted in the capacity of bookkeeper and buyer on the road and gained comprehensive knowledge of the business while serving Mr. Rippey. Subsequently he was employed for two years on the Board of Trade and at the end of that time became associated with E. P. Jeska in organizing the firm of Jeska & Clauson. They purchased the Forest City elevator, which Mr. Clauson now owns independently, although the firm of Jeska & Clauson operated for eight years. In July, 1916, however, the latter became sole owner of the elevator and is now conducting a profitable business as a representative of the grain trade in Winnebago county.

In 1907 Mr. Clauson was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Hanson, daughter of Ole Hanson of Forest City. They now have two children, Arline and Donald. Politically Mr. Clauson is a republican and has served as town treasurer for two years but has given little thought to seeking or holding public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon other interests. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and are most highly esteemed in the community where they live, occupying an enviable position in social circles, while Mr. Clauson is well known as a representative citizen and progressive business man.

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#### TELLEF S. TWEED.

Tellef S. Tweed is well known in financial circles of Lake Mills as cashier of the Farmers State Bank and was formerly for a number of years a factor in the commercial development of the town as the owner of an implement store. He was born in Norway in February, 1862, and is a son of Swen and Bergit (Juva) Tweed. The father passed away in Norway in 1891 at the age of seventy-eight years after a life devoted to agricultural pursuits. The mother is still living in that country.

Tellef S. Tweed received his education mainly in Norway but also attended school for a short time in Forest City and Decorah, Iowa. In 1881, when about nineteen years of age, he came to the United States and located in Forest City. For four years he worked as a far hand and for six years was employed in an implement store at Forest City. In 1890, however, he removed to Lake Mills, Iowa, and for six years thereafter he traveled for the McCormick Harvester Company. At length he engaged in the implement business in Lake Mills on his own account, conducting a store for eight years. In 1905, however, he disposed of that business and purchased an interest in the Farmers State Bank, of which he became cashier. During the intervening twelve years he has proved his right to rank among the progressive and successful bankers of the state and the business of the bank has shown a steady growth as the result of his well considered policy. His

first concern has been the safety of the funds deposited with the bank, but he has also endeavored to make the institution serve the community in as many different ways as possible. In addition to his bank holdings he owns one hundred and twenty acres of improved land adjoining Lake Mills.

Mr. Tweed was married in May, 1890, to Miss Hilda Twito and they have four children, namely: Mabel B., who was born in October, 1891; Hazel T., born in August, 1893; Alma L., in September, 1896; and Selmer T., in August, 1901.

Mr. Tweed is a republican and has served for six years as a member of the school board, of which he was president the latter part of his term. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church and its teachings have guided his life in his business dealings as well as in private relations. His record is one of which he has just cause to feel proud, as his success has come solely as the result of his own foresight, energy and ability.

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#### JOSEPH HEJLIK.

Joseph Hejlik is the owner of two hundred and seventy acres of valuable land on sections 22 and 27, Garfield township, and at different times has held various other properties, but makes his home in Duncan. He has, however, contributed in large measure toward the agricultural progress and development of Hancock county. He was born December 19, 1849, in Tabor, Bohemia, a son of Frank and Kate Hejlik, who were also natives of that country, the former born in 1809 and the latter in 1811. In their family were three sons, of whom John died at the age of thirty years, while Frank is married and resides in Garner, the other son being Joseph of this review. There were also the following daughters of the family: Josie, the wife of Michael Malek, living in Garfield township, Hancock county; Kate, the wife of Frank Vandracek, of Spillville, Iowa; Mary, the widow of John Spalla, living at Ridgeway, Iowa, at the age of eighty-two years; and Barbara, who died in Bohemia.

Joseph Hejlik pursued his education in Voparan, Bohemia, but left school at the age of thirteen years, after which he worked as a farm laborer for a few pennies a day. He afterward quit that occupation in order to assist his father in buying and selling oxen on the market square and was engaged in that line of work until 1867. In that year he was married and the wedding journey of the young couple consisted of the voyage to the new world, where they arrived on the 4th of July, 1867. They made their way at once westward to Conover, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Mr. Hejlik worked as a stone mason and also part of the time at odd jobs. At the latter he received but a dollar per day and as a stone mason he was able to command two dollars per day. As soon as possible he invested in farm property. He had been a resident of Winneshiek county for six years when he purchased forty acres of land, for which he paid twenty-five dollars per acre. After occupying that farm for two years he sold the property and removed to Hancock county in 1875. He then purchased land on section 22, Garfield township, for which he paid four dollars per acre. About one-half of this was under water. The place comprised one hundred and sixty acres and is still in his possession. He at once began to drain, develop and improve it and from time to time he has

added to his realty holdings until his purchases in Hancock county have aggregated eight hundred and thirty-five acres. Of this amount he gave to his son Joe eighty acres, to his son John eighty acres and to his son Tony an equal tract. He also sold one hundred and sixty acres to his daughter Lizzie, who is now the wife of Frank Schonn of Hancock county, and another quarter section to his daughter Agnes, the wife of Joseph Kudej. He still owns two hundred and seventy acres on sections 22 and 27, Garfield township, and his farm property returns him a gratifying annual income.

Mr. Hejlik was married May 1, 1867, to Miss Anna Tusha, a daughter of James and Mary Tusha, natives of Bohemia, where they spent their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs. Hejlik celebrated their golden wedding on the 1st of May, 1917. In politics Mr. Hejlik is a democrat, having supported the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. Many years ago he served as school treasurer for six years and for ten years he was township trustee. He was also school director for six terms. He has membership in the Catholic church. While carrying on general agricultural pursuits he has extended his efforts into other fields by becoming a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Britt, Iowa, and in the Farmers Elevator at Garner. He has led a very busy life, being dependent upon his own resources from the age of thirteen years. Whatever success he has achieved has come to him as the direct reward of his persistent and earnest labor. He has ever been diligent and persistent and difficulties and obstacles have seemed only to stimulate him to further effort. He is indeed a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished.

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#### HON. JOHN E. WICHMAN.

Hon. John E. Wichman, an attorney of Garner, was admitted to the bar in 1884 and has since been actively engaged in practice in Hancock county. He was born in Galena, Illinois, April 16, 1859, a son of Fred and Eliza (Kemler) Wichman, both of whom were natives of Germany. Coming to the United States in 1844, the father settled at Galena, Illinois, and became a miner in that state. Previously he had been a sailor. He is now residing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, but his wife has passed away.

John E. Wichman acquired a public school education supplemented by study in the Northwestern German English Normal School of Galena. In 1879 he came to Hancock county and worked on a farm through the summer months but returned to Illinois to engage in teaching in the winter season. In 1881 he located permanently in Iowa and, desiring to become a member of the bar, began reading law under the direction of A. C. Ripley. He was afterward with H. H. Bush as a law student and in 1884 was admitted to the bar, since which time he has continuously practiced in Garner. He is most careful and thorough in the preparation of his cases and accurate in his application of legal principles to the points in litigation. His reasoning is clear, his deductions sound and logical. He has also figured prominently in banking circles in this part of the state and is now the vice president of the First National Bank of Garner, president of the



HON. JOHN E. WICHMAN





First National Bank of Kanawha, Iowa, and a director of the State Savings Bank of Ventura, all three of which banks he assisted in organizing.

In 1888 Mr. Wichman was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Prescott, of Cresco, Iowa, a daughter of Charles L. and Harriett Prescott. They have become parents of two children, Lois D. and Charlotte L. Mrs. Wichman is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Wichman belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has taken the degrees of lodge, chapter and commandery. He has done much to further public progress along many lines. For an extended period he served on the school board of Garner and also as a member of the library board. In 1886 he was elected the first county attorney of Hancock county, which position he filled until 1890, and later he was again called to that office and once more served for four years. Twice he has been mayor of Garner, has also been a member of the city council and on the 7th of November, 1916, was elected to the state legislature, in which he is now serving. He has ever exercised his official prerogatives in support of progressive public measures and has manifested a loyal and patriotic citizenship that has ever subordinated personal interests and partisanship to the public good.

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#### OLE A. ANDERSON.

For almost thirty years Ole A. Anderson was one of the prominent farmers of Winnebago county, owning and operating a fine farm on section 26, Norway township. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Norway in 1835, a son of Andrew and Anna Anderson, but when he was eighteen years of age the family came to the new world and located in Chicago, Illinois, where the mother and one sister died shortly afterward during an epidemic of cholera in that city and were buried in an old cemetery which now forms a part of Lincoln park. One brother died in the Civil War. In 1865 the father came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and here he made his home with his son O. A. Anderson until his death, which occurred in 1875. His remains were interred in the United Lutheran cemetery near Emmons.

In his native land O. A. Anderson was reared and educated, being eighteen years of age at the time of the emigration of the family to America. On coming to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1865, he purchased the west half of the southeast quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 26, Norway township, and to the improvement and cultivation of that place devoted his energies until called to his final rest on the 17th of September, 1892. He was buried in the Synod church cemetery in Norway township.

Mr. Anderson was married in Chicago to Miss Tone Halvorson, of that city, and to them were born eleven children, namely: Anna, now living in Chicago; Henry, on the home farm; Tena, the wife of John Petterson, of Chicago; Nellie, the wife of C. Hendricks, of Chicago; William, who died at the age of nine years; Agnes, the wife of Louis Lee, of Chicago; Andrew O., who now owns the home farm in Norway township; Josie, the wife of Albert Bendickson, of Norway township; and Martha, Mina and Emma, all at home with their mother on the farm. The family is one of prominence in the community and is identified with

the Lutheran church, to which Mr. Anderson also belonged. He voted the republican ticket and well merited the confidence and high regard in which he was held by all who knew him.

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### J. SHERMAN GETTIS.

Upon a farm in Newton township, Winnebago county, resides J. Sherman Gettis, who owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of highly productive land on sections 9 and 10, and he also controls other property. His home place is one of the best improved in the county and in its attractive appearance indicates the care and supervision bestowed upon it by the owner. Mr. Gettis was born in Tama county, Iowa, on the 26th of March, 1868, a son of M. C. and Sarah (Randall) Gettis, who were natives of Ohio. The father came to Iowa in 1848 when a youth of sixteen years and settled in Cedar county where he operated a sawmill, sawing some of the first railroad ties that were laid in the state. Later he removed to Tama county where he operated a sawmill until 1878. He then purchased land in Tama and Hardin counties and continued the cultivation of his fields until 1890, when he removed to Winnebago county where he cultivated a farm for seventeen years, or until 1907. He then retired and now resides upon a five acre tract of land east of Forest City, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years, but his wife passed away in 1878.

J. Sherman Gettis was reared and educated in Hardin county and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-three years. He then rented land near Forest City, upon which he lived for thirteen years, and on the expiration of that period he bought two hundred and forty acres on sections 9 and 10, Newton township, Winnebago county. This he set about improving and in addition to its cultivation he has control of the old Scanlon estate embracing two hundred and sixty-six acres on section 26, Linden township. His home farm is one of the best improved places in the county and in addition to its cultivation he also rents land and is farming altogether four hundred acres. His life is indeed a busy and useful one, for he neglects no part of his work. He is active early late and in cultivating his fields he employs the most progressive methods. He feeds from one to five carloads of cattle and from one to five carloads of hogs annually, having thus engaged in stock raising for the past twenty years. He also buys and ships a large amount of stock and he is one of the stockholders in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Thompson. In business affairs his judgment is sound and his discrimination keen, and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

In May, 1891, Mr. Gettis was married to Miss Maggie Scanlon, a daughter of Patrick and Johanna (Mulvahill) Scanlon, who were natives of Ireland and came to America at an early day. The father engaged in railroad building and was one of the pioneers of this section of the state. He bought land in Linden township and thereafter devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. He passed away in March, 1909, while his wife survived only until February, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Gettis have become the parents of six children: Sarah, who is the

wife of R. T. Norvet, of Forest City; Ethel, the wife of Harry Anderson, a farmer living near Leland, Iowa; Callie B., who is teaching school in Newton township; Patrick, at home; and Cora and Dora, twins.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Gettis has given his allegiance to the republican party and he is now serving for the second term as a trustee of Newton township. He has also been for eight years a member of the school board and believes in giving the young every opportunity for advancement along educational lines, that they may be well qualified for the practical and responsible duties of life. Fraternaly he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church, according to whose teachings his life has been directed, and Mrs. Gettis is a Catholic. He enjoys high regard, not only as a successful business man but as a patriotic citizen and as one whose life has at all times measured up to high standards.

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#### CHARLES D. SMITH.

Charles D. Smith, of Lake Mills, Iowa, has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years and is living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former well directed labor. He came to Winnebago county in early manhood and, being well pleased with the opportunities offered here, cast in his lot with that of this then new and undeveloped section and as the years have passed he has watched with pleasure the progress that has been made as the raw prairie and scattered settlers' homes have given place to highly improved farms and up-to-date, hustling towns and cities. He was born in Washington county, Vermont, November 26, 1832, a son of Alvin and Amanda (Barnett) Smith, also natives of the Green Mountain state. The parents removed to Winnebago county five years after their son, Charles D., had taken up his residence here and the father engaged in farming in the county until his death. He was long survived by his wife, who passed away in 1908. Both are buried in Sunnyside cemetery at Lake Mills. To them were born seven children, of whom three survive, namely: Charles D.; William D., who is living near Lake Mills; and Norman, of Spokane, Washington.

Charles D. Smith received a common school education in Vermont and when sixteen years of age began working for others, so continuing for a number of years. In 1856 he came to Winnebago county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Center township, to which he subsequently added by purchase, owning at one time five hundred acres. The greater part of his home farm has since been sold as lots but he still retains forty acres, upon which he raises the usual crops. He also owns other land, his total holdings at present being three hundred acres. While actively engaged in agricultural pursuits he ranked as one of the most businesslike and progressive farmers of the county and he brought his land to a high state of cultivation. He was also engaged in the milling business for a considerable period, having built a flour mill in Lake Mills in 1866 in partnership with S. D. Wadsworth. He is a director in the Farmers State Bank.

On the 26th of February, 1863, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Janet Smith, who was born in Canada in 1835 and who died on the 25th of March, 1915. She is buried in the Sunnyside cemetery. To their union were born six children,

namely: Walter C., who is living near Marshalltown, Iowa; Anna J., now the wife of Horatius Hastings, of Boston, Massachusetts; Emeline, deceased; Charles W., who is married and lives at Lake Mills; Bessie J., the deceased wife of A. J. Durgan, of St. Cloud, Minnesota; and Hattie, who died when young.

Mr. Smith is a democrat in politics and has filled a number of positions of honor. He was township trustee for a number of years, was county supervisor for eight years, was a member of the town council for ten years and was the first mayor of Lake Mills, serving for a term of two years. His official record is one that will bear the closest scrutiny, for he at all times discharges his duties with an eye single to the public welfare and with the same careful attention to all details that he gave to the management of his farm. His friends are found in all parts of the country and he receives the honor to which his long and well spent life entitles him.

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#### N. E. ISAACS.

N. E. Isaacs, who has made a highly creditable record as president of the First National Bank of Thompson, Iowa, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, July 23, 1872, a son of John and Carrie (Olson) Isaacs, natives of Norway. The father came to America when fifteen years old on a sailing vessel that required fifteen weeks to make the trip. He engaged in farming in Wisconsin for several years and then entered the drug business, but at the time of the Civil War he enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment and for three years and two months was at the front. In 1881 he removed to Forest City, Winnebago county, Iowa, and there conducted a general store for a long period. For two terms he served as county auditor and gave to the discharge of his public duties the same careful attention that he always devoted to his business interests. He is now living retired at Forest City at the age of seventy-seven years and his wife also survives. She was brought by her parents to the United States when a child of two years.

N. E. Isaacs was reared and educated in Winnebago county and after graduating from the Forest City schools went to Dixon, Illinois, where he took a commercial course. On his return to Forest City he worked for six months in the county auditor's office and then taught school for two terms in Norway township, after which he was for six months clerk in a department store in Madison, Minnesota. In 1894 he came to Thompson, Iowa, and accepted the position of book-keeper in a private bank here conducted by Thompson Brothers. He remained there for three years, during which time he was promoted to assistant cashier. On the 2d of January, 1897, however, he joined with F. W. Thompson, Hon. G. S. Gilbertson, Hon. C. H. Kelly and others in the organization of the First National Bank of Thompson and became the assistant cashier of the institution. In a short time he was made cashier, later became vice president and for a number of years has been president of the bank, which is capitalized for fifty thousand dollars, has a surplus of twenty-five thousand dollars and deposits of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The bank is housed in its own building, a fine modern structure on Main street. At the time of its organization the First National bought out the Farmers Savings Bank, which had a capital stock of ten thousand

dollars. Having been connected with the First National in an official capacity during its entire existence, Mr. Isaacs has played an important part in the formulation of its policy and in its development and there is no phase of its business with which he is not familiar. He keeps in close touch with the financial and commercial conditions in the bank's territory and seeks to make it of the utmost possible service to its patrons, while at the same time safeguarding the funds entrusted to it. He owns valuable farm lands in Winnebago county and is also a stockholder and treasurer of the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Creamery Company and a stockholder in the Opera House Association.

Mr. Isaacs was married in September, 1897, to Miss Josie Jacobson, a daughter of Hon. Jacob and Josie Jacobson, both of whom were born in Iowa. They are now, however, residents of Minnesota, where the father was a pioneer settler and where he has long been recognized as a leader in public affairs. For sixteen years he served as a member of the state legislature and at one time was the nominee of the republican party for governor, but was defeated by Hon. John S. Johnson, the democratic candidate. To Mr. and Mrs. Isaacs have been born seven children, namely: Carol, eighteen years of age; Ruth, fourteen years old; Roy, ten; Carmen, seven; Margaret, four; Milton, who was killed in an automobile accident when five years old; and Fern, who met an accidental death when a year old.

Mr. Isaacs is a staunch advocate of republican principles and loyally supports the candidates of that party at the polls. For twelve years he has served upon the town council and in that connection has worked constantly for the public interest. He is a member of the Congregational church and can always be depended upon to support measures seeking to advance the moral welfare of his community. As a banker and as a public-spirited citizen he has done much to further the advancement of Thompson and is deservedly held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

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#### NELS OLSON BERGAN.

Nels Olson Bergan, deceased, was one of the honored pioneers and representative farmers of Hancock county, his home being at Ellington township, where his family still reside. He was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 1st of April, 1853, and his parents were of Norwegian birth. In early life they came to this country and were among the pioneers of Wisconsin. Our subject was only a year old, however, when the family removed to Clayton county, Iowa, where he lived up to his twenty-first year, in the meantime attending the district schools as he found opportunity.

On the 7th of June, 1874, Mr. Bergan married Miss Jane Halvorson, a daughter of Lars Halvorson, who was one of the pioneer settlers of Clayton county and a sister of Ole Halvorson, a prominent farmer and old time resident of Ellington township, Hancock county. To Mr. and Mrs. Bergan were born ten children, of whom eight survive, namely: Ole N.; Lena, the wife of Thove Thoveson, of Ellington township, Hancock county; Lewis, a farmer of the same township; Anna, the wife of William Fogue, a farmer of Ellington township; Julia, the wife of Albert A. Olson, a farmer of the same township; Henry, at home; Benjamin, a

farmer of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa; and Emma, at home. The sons, Ole N. and Henry are now operating the home farm.

Immediately following his marriage Mr. Bergan brought his bride to Hancock county and that summer worked for wages, but in 1875 purchased forty acres of the home farm in Ellington township, where he continued to reside up to the time of his death. Some years after his first modest purchase he bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, so that the farm then consisted of two hundred acres, to which the family have added ten acres since his death. He also owned another farm of one hundred and forty acres on sections 23 and 24, Ellington township, and was numbered among the most successful and substantial farmers of his community. He was also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Forest City and the Farmers Elevator Company and Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Ventura.

After a useful and well spent life Mr. Bergan passed away on the 17th of February, 1917, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a member of the United Lutheran church, to which his wife and family also belong, and he well merited the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. For Forty-three years he was a resident of Hancock county and he therefore witnessed almost its entire development and in its upbuilding he bore an important part.

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#### ROBERT W. CLARK.

Robert W. Clark, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of Thompson, is a native of Kentucky, born July 25, 1851, and is a son of Robert and Marion (Laurie) Clark, who came to this country from Scotland—their native land—in 1840 and located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they spent two or three years. The father was a machinist by trade but also followed farming and on leaving Cincinnati removed to Kentucky, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for some time. Later he became a resident of Cumberland county, Illinois, where he purchased land and followed farming until life's labors were ended in November, 1882. The mother of our subject had passed away in September, 1855.

Robert W. Clark was reared and educated in Cumberland county, Illinois, and he remained with his father until he attained his majority, in the meantime becoming thoroughly familiar with all kinds of farm work. He then engaged in farming on his own account. Coming to Iowa in 1881 he located in Jasper county, where he engaged in the operation of rented land for a few years, and then purchased a farm, whereon he lived for three years. At the end of that time he removed to Hancock county, Iowa, where he farmed on rented land for nine years, and then became the owner of ninety-four acres of land four miles north of Thompson in Winnebago county, which he improved and cultivated for four years. On selling that farm he again rented land for two years and afterward bought his present place of fourteen acres inside the corporation limits of Thompson. Owing to an accident which required the amputation of his right leg, he has been compelled to abandon extensive farming operations. He is a stockholder of the Town Mutual Telephone Company.

In September, 1874, Mr. Clark married Miss Emily Potts, by whom he has had

five children, namely: Ruth, now the wife of C. E. Harden, of Buffalo Center, Iowa; Frances, at home; Bessie, a trained nurse now connected with the Central Hospital at Chicago, Illinois; Lewis A., a farmer of Cass county, Minnesota; and Maggie, who married H. F. Holle and died in September, 1912.

The family attend the Congregational church, of which Mrs. Clark and daughters are members, and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in Thompson. Mr. Clark also affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and casts his ballot with the republican party.

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#### R. E. HANSON, M. D. V.

Dr. R. E. Hanson, engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in Forest City, was born in Winnebago county, February 25, 1881, a son of N. P. and Pauline C. Hanson, both of whom are natives of Denmark. They came to the United States in the '70s and both are still living. The father is a blacksmith by trade and in following that pursuit provided for the support of his family, numbering a wife and six children, all of whom still survive, the family circle being yet unbroken by the hand of death.

Dr. Hanson was reared and educated in Winnebago county and supplemented his public school education by three years' study in the Ames Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa. He also spent a year as a student in a veterinary college at Chicago and was graduated in 1910. He then opened an office in Forest City, where he has since been located, and through the intervening period his practice has steadily grown in extent and in importance. In 1910 he was appointed to the position of assistant state veterinarian, a position which he has since continuously filled.

Dr. Hanson was married in 1914 to Miss Minnie M. Larson, a native of Winnebago county, and they have become the parents of two daughters, Margaret and Geneva. Dr. and Mrs. Hanson attend the Lutheran church and he gives his political support to the republican party. He is also a member of Forest City Lodge, No. 440, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the chairs, being recognized as a worthy representative of that order. His attention, however, is chiefly given to his professional duties and he has shown marked capability in his chosen line.

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#### ROLAND E. ROLANDS.

Roland E. Rolands, who is now carrying on agricultural pursuits with marked success, has spent his entire life on the old home farm on section 23, Norway township, Winnebago county, where he was born on the 10th of September, 1871, a son of Andrew and Ragnilda (Orvaldahl) Rolandson, natives of Norway. The father was eighteen years of age when he came alone to the United States and after spending a few years in Chicago, Illinois, came to Iowa. He first located in Winneshiek county, where he was subsequently married. There he purchased a farm and engaged in its operation until 1869, when he removed to Winnebago county, here becoming owner of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 23

and the west half of the northeast quarter of section 26, Norway township. Upon this place he continued to make his home throughout the remainder of his life. He died on the 17th of January, 1885, and was laid to rest in the Lime Creek Lutheran church cemetery. Although he came to this country in limited circumstances he prospered in his farming operations and became quite well-to-do through his own persistent efforts. Politically he was a republican and religiously was an earnest and consistent member of the Synod Lutheran church. His widow is still living and makes her home with her son, Roland, at the age of eighty-three years. In the family were ten children, of whom seven survive, but Roland and his brother John are the only ones now living in Winnebago county.

Roland E. Rolands, the youngest of the family, received a limited education in the early schools of his locality, which he attended as he found opportunity until sixteen years of age. His training at farm labor, however, was not so meager, and he assisted in the operation of the home place until twenty-six, at which time he received title to the west half of the southeast quarter of section 23 and the north half of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 26. Here he continues to make his home and has met with good success as an agriculturist.

In 1902 Mr. Rolands was united in marriage to Miss Anna Auson, a daughter of Iver and Ture Auson, who came to this country from Norway in early life and were married in the United States. They were among the early settlers of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and Mrs. Auson is still living on the home farm. Her husband is deceased and is buried in the United Lutheran cemetery near Emmons. Mr. and Mrs. Rolands have six living children, Edna, Iver, Ragnold, Thomas, Reuben and Clayton, while Russell died at the age of two years and was buried in the Lime Creek Church cemetery. The family hold membership in the Synod Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Rolands is identified with the republican party. Those who have known him from boyhood are numbered among his warmest friends and he has the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact either in business or social life.

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#### CHARLES H. LACKORE.

Charles H. Lackore, a banker and merchant of Hayfield, well known as a prominent and valued representative of the business interests of Hancock county, was born at Forest City, Iowa, August 12, 1862, and is one of the family of eight children, of whom five are yet living, born of the marriage of George W. and Mary J. (Ball) Lackore. The father was a native of New York and the mother of Indiana. They became residents of Forest City, Iowa, in 1852, removing there from Chicago, and afterward took up their abode upon a farm in Winnebago county. Subsequently they removed to Hancock county, where the father continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1910. His widow still survives at the age of seventy-four years.

Charles H. Lackore pursued his education in the schools of Forest City, passing through consecutive grades to his graduation from the high school, after which he attended college. Later he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he took up telegraphy and railroad work and was engaged along that line for eighteen years.



Subsequently he conducted a grain and coal business at Hayfield, Iowa, where he built the first elevator of the town. In 1902 he resigned from his railroad position and concentrated his efforts and attention upon the hardware trade and the banking business, in which he has since been engaged. Of the Bank of Hayfield he is the cashier and the active manager and head of the undertaking. His business affairs are wisely and carefully conducted. He is systematic in all that he does and displays sound judgment in solving intricate business problems. In addition to his financial and commercial interests at Hayfield he is identified with the agricultural life of this section of the state, being the owner of two farms of one hundred and sixty acres each, which are splendidly improved and which are now being operated by his sons.

On the 31st of December, 1890, Mr. Lackore was married to Miss Matilda Johnson, a native of Sweden, who came to America when but five years of age. They have a family of twelve children: Clarence M.; Earl R., a bookkeeper, now a resident of Indiana; Pearl G.; Harris; Norman; Clark; Gladys; Sylvia; Clayton; Mabel; and two that died in infancy. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Lackore gives his political endorsement to the republican party and has filled several local offices. He has been assessor and became the first postmaster of Hayfield, which position he filled for five years. He has likewise been one of the school directors and is now treasurer of the school board. He takes a very prominent and active part in public affairs of his community and is justly accounted one of the valued and influential citizens of his township and county. Moreover, in a business way he has achieved much, for he started out in life empty handed and by persistent effort and energy has reached the position which he now fills as one of the resourceful men of Hancock county.

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#### JEREMIAH J. LEEHY.

Jeremiah J. Leehy, interested in general farming on section 6, Concord township, Hancock county, has a productive tract of rich land which is now quite valuable, although he paid for it only twenty-two dollars per acre. The increase in land values is an indication not only of the settlement of the county but also of the practical and progressive methods which have been followed by its farmers in the development and cultivation of their fields. Mr. Leehy has led a life of industry and whatever success he has achieved and enjoyed is the result of his intelligently directed effort. He was born in Ireland, May 1, 1858, a son of J. J. and Johanna (Foley) Leehy, who in 1860 came to the new world with their family and settled in Waterloo, Jefferson county, Wisconsin.

There the son acquired a public school education and in his early youth he worked with his father on the home farm and at odd jobs. He was twelve years of age when he went east to Boston, where he remained for several years. He afterward purchased a ticket to San Francisco, for which he paid one hundred and ten dollars, and, making his way to the Pacific coast, he was there employed in a wholesale liquor house for four years. Returning eastward, he again took up his abode at Waterloo, Wisconsin, where he remained for two years and then came to Garner, Hancock county. For six years he engaged in farming upon rented land

and during that period he carefully saved his earnings until he had a sufficient sum to enable him to purchase property. Accordingly he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 6, Concord township, for which he paid twenty-two dollars per acre. He has also since become the owner of four hundred and eighty acres in Jackson county, South Dakota, of which he homesteaded three hundred and twenty acres and bought one hundred and sixty acres, so that altogether he owns six hundred and forty acres of very desirable land. For some years he operated a threshing machine and made money in that connection. He has gained a place among the substantial farmers of the county.

Mr. Leehy was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Lynch, a daughter of Richard and Bridget (Holland) Lynch, who were natives of Ireland. They crossed the Atlantic to Canada in 1847 and were married in Montreal in 1850. They came to the United States in 1853, establishing their home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they resided until their removal to Garner forty-five years ago, at which time there were only two houses in the town. Mr. and Mrs. Leehy have but one child, James T., who lives at home. Their religious faith is that of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. Leehy is a democrat. He has lived a life of industry, working hard in order to gain a start and then carefully directing his labors until his persistency of purpose has gained him a creditable position among the representative farmers of Hancock county.

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#### ANSON AVERY.

Prominent among the honored early settlers of Hancock county was Anson Avery, he and his wife being the first white family to locate in this county. He was born in Connecticut on the 2d of October, 1822, and in early life went to Cass county, Michigan, where he was united in marriage to Miss Lovina Philo, a native of Ohio, whose birth occurred in Upper Sandusky, January 22, 1831. In 1854 they left their old home in the Buckeye state and started for Iowa, traveling westward with ox teams and transporting their household goods in covered wagons. On reaching Hancock county they settled in what is now Avery township. At that time only a very few settlements had been made and the country was all wild and unimproved. During those early days the family endured many hardships and privations but as time passed Mr. Avery steadily prospered in his farming operations and became one of the prosperous citizens of the community. He was always a hard working, home loving man and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact either in business or social life. He died very suddenly on Sunday, November 22, 1903, while out in the pasture. His estimable wife, who shared with him the hardships of pioneer days, is still living and now makes her home in Goodell.

In the family of this worthy couple were six children as follows: Alice, the oldest, is the wife of Marshall Fuller and resides in Elberta, Arkansas. George, who was the first white male child born in Hancock county, now makes his home in Belmond, Iowa. Mary E., married A. W. Schmalle and lives in Garner. Their daughter, Mrs. Gladys A. Bennett, is now connected with the postoffice at Garner, and is a Daughter of the American Revolution, being eligible to that society through



MR. AND MRS. ANSON AVERY



her great-great-grandfather, Nicholas Haskins, who valiantly fought for the independence of the colonies. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Anson Avery. Louis G. Avery, the next of the family, is a farmer of Hancock county. Layton reared a family but is now deceased. Charles died in childhood.

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#### THOMAS EGAN.

Thomas Egan is proprietor of the Egan Hotel at Thompson but is, perhaps best known as an auctioneer, as he is in demand for the crying of sales throughout a large part of the states of Iowa and Minnesota. He was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, January 27, 1851, of the marriage of Thomas and Catherine (Godfrey) Egan, the former a native of Kings county, Ireland, and the latter of County Tipperary, Ireland. In 1828 the father crossed the Atlantic to America and for a short time lived in Halifax. He next removed to St. Louis, Missouri, whence in 1846 he went to Chicago, where he was engaged in railroad contracting. Still later he lived for a time in Galena, Illinois, and while there went to Chicago and return by stage, as there was then no railroad connection between the two places. On leaving Galena he removed to Jo Daviess county. He was engaged in grading on the Mineral Point Railroad in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, until the completion of that road and then purchased fifty-three acres of land in that county, on which he resided until his death in March, 1910, when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-three years. He had long survived his wife as her death occurred on the 8th of January, 1886.

Thomas Egan was largely reared and educated in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and remained with his parents until he was twenty-five years old. He then purchased a farm in that county but after operating his place for two years turned his attention to railroad contracting, which he followed off and on until 1891, although during three years of that period he devoted practically his entire time to agricultural pursuits. In October, 1891, he went to Mason City, Iowa, where he engaged in teaming for a short time. He also did some county grading at Clear Lake that fall and later in the year came to Thompson, Winnebago county, at which time there was only one store in the town. He purchased three quarter sections of land in this locality, but during the panic of 1893 lost his farm holdings. He then took up his residence upon land in the vicinity of Lake Mills and for two years engaged in farming and stock raising there. At the end of that time he became a resident of Thompson and for four years served as postmaster under appointment of President Cleveland. Since his removal to Thompson he has also done some railroad grading, including the work which he did in 1900 for the Rock Island on their line from Armstrong to Estherville. In 1909 he went into the hotel business and the Egan Hotel at Thompson has a reputation of being one of the best hotels to be found in the small towns of Iowa. For the past twenty-six years, however, a great deal of his time and attention has been devoted to auctioneering and he has cried sales all over Iowa and Minnesota, the demand for his service indicating his unusual efficiency in that business. He owns land in Sheridan county, North Dakota, and is in excellent financial circumstances.

Mr. Egan was married on the 24th of November, 1874, to Miss Catherine Reardon, and they have become the parents of ten children as follows: Mary, the wife of Luke Krynborg of Kineaid, Nebraska; Thomas and George, both of whom are residents of Des Moines, Iowa; James, who was killed in a railroad wreck; Ellen, who is a trained nurse and a resident of Thompson; Agnes, the wife of John Lloyd of Des Moines; Robert, who is living in Omaha; Joseph S., of Des Moines; and Clara and Vera, both of whom died in 1901.

Mr. Egan has supported the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and four times he has been his party's nominee for the office of county sheriff. In religious faith he is a Roman Catholic and in his conduct he has measured up to high ethical standards. He has a wide acquaintance and his dominant qualities are such that his personal friends are many.

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#### THOMAS H. TWITO.

Important business interests are carefully directed by Thomas H. Twito, an energetic, enterprising man, who has been connected with mercantile and agricultural interests in Winnebago county for a number of years. He is today occupying a farm on section 10, Center township, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. His residence in the county covers forty-three years and therefore he has been a witness of much of its growth and development. He was born in Muskego, Wisconsin, May 15, 1845, a son of Hans and Ausloug H. (Jacobson) Twito, who were natives of Norway, whence they came to the new world, the mother crossing the Atlantic in 1842, while Mr. Twito made the voyage in 1843. Traveling across the country to Wisconsin, he there purchased land which he cultivated and improved until 1855, when he sold that property and removed to Houston county, Minnesota. In that district he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he also brought to a high state of cultivation, giving his remaining days to its further improvement. Upon that place he passed away in February, 1866, at the age of fifty-five years, while his widow, who long survived him, reached the age of eighty-eight years, her death occurring July 16, 1913.

Thomas H. Twito was reared and educated in Wisconsin and in Minnesota, spending his youthful days on his father's farms, where he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. On attaining his majority, which he reached about the time of his father's death, he began farming on his own account on rented land and resided thereon for three years. He afterward went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he purchased land which he farmed for three years, and at the same time he engaged in threshing and in breaking land for others. Afterward he went to Emmet county, Iowa, where he followed farming, purchasing eighty acres, but the grasshoppers destroyed his crops and he sold his property there. In the fall of 1873 he arrived in Winnebago county and for eleven years thereafter was a resident of Lake Mills, during which period he engaged in the sale of machinery and farm implements. He then took up his abode upon a farm which he had purchased some years before. He has cultivated this tract altogether for thirty-three years. It comprises one hundred and thirty-nine acres of rich and productive land on section 10, Center township,

and is today a finely improved place. He had to clear about twenty-five acres of this land before he could cultivate it. Today the entire tract is converted into productive fields which respond readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon them. His methods are at once practical and progressive and his farm presents a very neat and attractive appearance. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company, in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and in the Lake Mills Lumber Company. His investments have been wisely and judiciously placed and bring to him good returns.

In March, 1870, Mr. Twito was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Olson, of Dane county, Wisconsin, and they became the parents of two children: Hilda, now the wife of T. S. Tweed, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Lake Mills; and one who died in infancy. The wife and mother passed away in 1871 and on the 14th of May, 1878, Mr. Twito wedded Maggie Hanson, of Racine county, Wisconsin. Six children were born of this marriage: Mattie, the wife of Jens Charlson, a resident farmer of Newton township; Amanda, Josie, Hans and Oscar, all at home; and Josie, who died in infancy. Mrs. Twito passed away October 7, 1916, and her death was the occasion of the deepest regret not only to her immediate family but also to the many friends whom she had won during the period of her residence in Winnebago county. She belonged to the United Lutheran church, of which Mr. Twito is also a member. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and for twenty-two years he has served as a trustee of Center township. He has also been a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. In fact his aid and influence are always given on the side of progress and improvement and those who know him entertain for him warm regard, recognizing that his life has at all times been an upright and honorable one.

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#### HANS BERGAN.

After many years devoted to agricultural pursuits Hans Bergan is now living retired in Forest City, Iowa, enjoying a well earned rest and the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Norway, on the 10th of February, 1841, and is a son of Hans and Beret (Lattestad) Bergan, who spent their entire lives in that country. He was educated in the common schools of his native land and remained at home with his parents until thirty-two years of age.

Having determined to try his fortune in the new world, where he believed that better opportunities were afforded an ambitious young man, Mr. Bergan came to the United States in 1873, though he had to borrow the money to pay his passage. He first located in Dane county, Wisconsin, and resided there until 1882, when he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and for six or seven years engaged in farming on rented land. Having lived economically he was then able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land in Newton township. This was a wild tract for which he paid six dollars and twenty-five cents per acre. Mr. Bergan built thereon a residence and farm buildings and as time passed placed his land under excellent cultivation, so that it became a very valuable tract. After operating that farm for about twenty-six years, he sold it in 1914 for one hundred dollars per acre and

then removed to Forest City, where he is now living retired, having a comfortable town residence surrounded by about five acres of ground.

On September 12, 1885, Mr. Bergan was united in marriage to Miss Ingeborg Homelin, of Winnebago county. She is a native of Norway and on coming to the United States in 1873 settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where she spent four years. At the end of that time she became a resident of Winnebago county, Iowa. She is a daughter of Ole and Carrie (Fikan) Homelin, the former of whom died in Norway in 1853. The mother came to the United States in 1874 and died in 1898 in Newton township, when eighty-five years old. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bergan are earnest and consistent members of the Lutheran synod and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Although Mr. Bergan came to the new world in debt he steadily worked his way upward to prosperity until he is now accounted one of the well-to-do men of his community, for he possesses good business ability and has never been afraid of hard work.

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#### GUNDER DYBENDAHL.

Among those who were at one time active in promoting the progress of Winnebago county but who have been called to their final rest, is numbered Gunder Dybendahl, who was born in August, 1856. He belonged to that class of worthy citizens that Norway has furnished to Iowa. Coming to America in his boyhood days he here lived a life of usefulness and activity which, however, was terminated in death March 7, 1896, when he was forty years of age.

Mr. Dybendahl was united in marriage in 1888 to Miss Lena Bjelland, who still survives. They became the parents of five children, all of whom are yet living: T. Andrew, who operates the home farm for his mother; Selma, who is the wife of S. L. Dahl, of Estherville, Iowa; Laura, at home; Sidney, who is connected in business with his brother Andrew, their attention being given to the development and further improvement of two hundred and forty acres of land; and Julia, who is at home. Mrs. Dybendahl still owns the old homestead farm of eighty acres which is situated on section 2, Linden township. To the property has been added various good buildings and a number of substantial and high class improvements. Mrs. Dybendahl is a member of the Lutheran church, to which Mr. Dybendahl also belonged. High and honorable principles guided him in all the relations of life and those who knew him entertained for him warm regard, for he always displayed those qualities which in every land and clime command the good will and confidence of one's fellows.

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#### WALTER S. BLACKWELL.

Walter S. Blackwell, county steward of the Hancock County Home at Garner, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, November 25, 1853, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Probasco) Blackwell, who were natives of Ohio. They were born near Columbus, Ohio, and in early life the father removed westward to Illinois. Walter



S. Blackwell acquired a common school education in Streator and in Ottawa, Illinois. He was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He became a resident of Hancock county in 1900 and during the intervening period he has several times been called upon to serve in public offices. He filled the position of county supervisor for four years and was trustee for twelve years. He has also been county steward for ten years, succeeding Charles Hunt in his present position. He has had charge of the Hancock County Home for ten years, or since the present building was erected, and he has done excellent work in this connection, applying businesslike methods, indefatigable energy and sound judgment to the management of the interests entrusted to his care.

On the 12th of October, 1876, Mr. Blackwell was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Lewis, a daughter of Nathan Lewis, of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, and they have three children. Arthur Lewis, the eldest, married Edith Slick and they reside at Savage, Minnesota. Lillian is now the wife of Edward Phillips, of Forest City, Iowa. Walter Kent married Iris Brown and is now engaged in the banking business at Goldfield, Iowa. There was also another son, Frank Pierce, who is deceased.

Mr. Blackwell belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge at Garner and is loyal to its teachings and purposes. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he has been an active worker in its ranks, doing all in his power to further its interests and secure its legitimate success. He has made a splendid record as an official by his loyalty and efficiency and he has the respect, confidence and high regard of many with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### J. ELMER TWITO.

J. Elmer Twito, of Lake Mills, has built up a large clientage as a real estate dealer and has handled many valuable properties, especially local lands. He was born in Forest City, May 30, 1878, a son of Jacob and Carrie (Halverson) Twi natives respectively of Wisconsin and Norway. The mother removed with her parents to Forest City at a very early period in the development of Winnebago county and the father also came here in pioneer times. He was well known and highly respected and for fourteen years held the office of county sheriff. On removing to Lake Mills he became an employe of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, with which concern he was connected until his death in July, 1904. He is buried in the North Side cemetery. The mother still survives.

J. Elmer Twito attended the public schools of his native town until he was eleven years old, when the family removed to Lake Mills, where he has since continuously resided. He was in school here until he was fifteen years old, when he began working as a clerk, and was so employed in various stores until 1901. In that year he engaged in the real estate business in partnership with his father and after the latter's demise was alone for a year. Subsequently he was associated in business with Daniel Lunoe, but in the early part of 1917 that partnership was dissolved and he is now in business alone. He makes a specialty of handling lands and is recognized as an authority upon land values in this section of the state.

His business returns him a good profit and he is in very comfortable financial circumstances.

In 1906 Mr. Twito was married to Miss Regina Sponem, a daughter of Tosten and Isabel (Kobbervig) Sponem, natives of Norway, who on emigrating to the United States located in Dane county, Wisconsin. There the father passed away and is buried and the mother is now located in Mount Vernon, Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Twito have been born eight children: James T., Irving C., Earl R., Bernice R., Gladys Viola, George Harold, Royden W., and Levona F.

Mr. Twito exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party where national issues are at stake, but otherwise votes for the man. He belongs to the United Lutheran church and gives his support to its work for the moral upbuilding of the community. He has made all that he has himself and possesses the self-reliance and initiative characteristic of the self-made man.

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#### LUDVIG JACOBSON.

Ludvig Jacobson is actively engaged in farming on section 1, Linden township, Winnebago county, and he displays the characteristics of industry, energy and thrift which have ever dominated the Norwegian people. He was born in Norway, April 10, 1863, and is a son of Jacob Erickson and Christina Talkenson, who were also natives of that land. They crossed the Atlantic to America in 1886 and made their way westward to Iowa, establishing their home in Story county, where they spent their remaining days. They had a family of ten children of whom two are now living.

Ludvig Jacobson was reared and educated in Norway, remaining in that country until he reached the age of nineteen years. He then determined to try his fortune in the new world, thinking that he might enjoy better opportunities on this side of the Atlantic than he could obtain in Norway. He made Story county, Iowa, his destination and there he remained for twenty-four years. He also spent four years at Crookston, Minnesota, but in 1909 he came to Winnebago county and purchased his home farm which is situated on section 1, Linden township. He carefully tilled the soil and as he prospered he added to his holdings by investing in one hundred and six acres on section 6, Forest township. He, therefore, owns today a valuable property of two hundred and sixty-eight acres, which is splendidly improved with good buildings. In addition to his substantial residence there are large barns and sheds that give ample shelter to grain and stock. He makes a specialty of raising cattle, hogs and horses, and this branch of his business constitutes an important source of his revenue. He uses the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and annually he gathers good crops.

In Story county, Iowa, Mr. Jacobson was united in marriage to Miss Kate Nelson, a native of Denmark, and to them have been born ten children: Emil, Carl, Engvil, Clara, the wife of Levi Hellen, of Minnesota; Anna at home; John, Lewis, Ludvig, Rasen, and Hannah. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, to which they give generous support while faithfully following its precepts. In politics Mr. Jacobson is a democrat but never seeks nor desires office, preferring

to give his undivided thought and attention to his business affairs. He certainly deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as his fortune has all been won since he came to America. Gradually he has worked his way upward, leading a most active life, and day after day he has cultivated his fields, cared for his crops and performed other farm work. His life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what can be accomplished through persistent purpose.

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#### ERNEST L. STILSON.

Ernest L. Stilson, of Hancock county, clerk of the district court, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, January 15, 1845, a son of Leonard and Arabelle (Powers) Stilson, the former a native of New York and the latter of Michigan. They were married, however, in Illinois. The mother died in Michigan and in 1866 the father removed to Iowa, settling at Clear Lake, where he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, although by trade he was a carpenter and builder and had previously been active along that line. He returned to Michigan after living for a time at Clear Lake, but in 1867 again came to Iowa, settling at Lake Mills, where he once more embarked in merchandising, remaining there until 1869. He afterward made his home in Forest City with his son Ernest, there residing until his demise.

In the public schools of Michigan, Ernest L. Stilson largely acquired his education. Prior to the Civil war, however, he returned to Illinois and there in August, 1862, in response to the country's call for aid, he enlisted as a member of Company H, Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered out in 1865 after almost three years of active service in defense of the Union. He was often in the thickest of the fight. He participated in the engagements at Guntown and Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the Red River campaign, in the battle of Nashville and the siege of Fort Blakely. In fact he was on active duty throughout the entire period of his connection with the army and made a most creditable military record.

After the war Mr. Stilson returned to Illinois and thence went to Michigan, where his father was then living. In the fall of 1866 he removed to Clear Lake, Iowa, but later returned to Michigan and was there married. In October, 1867, he established his home at Lake Mills, where he engaged in general merchandising in partnership with his father for a time. Later, however, he sold out and opened a hardware store in Forest City in 1869, there continuing actively and successfully in business until 1885. In that year he removed to Corwith, Iowa, where he opened the first bank of the town under the name of E. L. Stilson & Company. Subsequently the private bank was reorganized as a state bank, at which time Mr. Stilson became the president. In 1907 the bank cashier absconded, causing the institution to close its doors. His fellow citizens, appreciative of his worth and ability, elected him to the office of clerk of the district court in 1914 and in 1916 attested their approval of his capable service in office by reëlecting him to that position, which he is now filling.

On the 16th of October, 1867, Mr. Stilson was married to Miss Sarah E. Cooper, of Michigan, who passed away at Forest City, Iowa, in 1886. In 1888 he was joined in wedlock to Miss Celia Munson, of Forest City, and they still make their

home at Corwith. By his first marriage he had one son, Roy C., living in Corwith, and by the second marriage there is a daughter, Bernice W., at home.

The family attend the Baptist church, although Mr. Stilson is a member of the Methodist church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for two terms he filled the office of county recorder in the '70s, making a creditable record in this position as in the other offices to which he has been called. He is an earnest party worker because of his firm belief in republican principles. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has filled all of the chairs in the local lodge. In Masonry he has taken the degrees of lodge, chapter, council and commandery. He is likewise a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic and he has ever manifested the same loyalty in matters of citizenship that he displayed when upon southern battlefields he followed the stars and stripes.

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#### HON. CHRISTIAN N. FLUGUM.

One of the most prominent and influential farmers of Center township, Winnebago county, is Christian N. Flugum, whose home is on section 31. He was born on the other side of the Atlantic, his birth occurring in Norway, January 17, 1859, and he is a son of Nels and Martha (Eggum) Flugum, who brought their family to America in the spring of 1867 and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father taught school for six years. In the spring of 1873, accompanied by his wife and children, he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased land in Mount Valley township, which he at once began to clear and improve. In connection with farming he continued to engage in teaching and followed that profession for fifty-seven years. In 1914 he retired and is now living on the old home place in ease and quiet. He has attained the age of eighty-six years and receives the veneration and respect which a long, upright and honorable life should always command. He has been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in April, 1905.

Christian N. Flugum began his education in the schools of Wisconsin, being fourteen years of age on the removal of the family to Iowa. Later he attended school in Forest City and completed his education at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Being well fitted for a teacher's profession, he taught nine months of school each year for twelve years and during this time worked at the carpenter's trade during the summer season. In the fall of 1892, Mr. Flugum purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, Winnebago county, on which he located the following January and has since engaged in its operation. As a farmer he has met with marked success and has been able to add to his property from time to time until he now owns a half section of land in one body, improved with two sets of good buildings. He has also dealt in real estate, buying and selling farm lands, and has owned property in several different parts of the county.

On the 13th of December, 1892, Mr. Flugum was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Hermanson, a daughter of Elling and Brita Hermanson, natives of Norway and early settlers in Winnebago county. Both are living. Mr. and Mrs. Flugum have become the parents of nine children, namely: Edward, who is



HON. CHRISTIAN N. FLÜGGEN



now farming in Texas; and Norman, Charles, Joseph, Mabel, Bertha, Esther, Clarence and William, all at home.

Religiously the family is connected with the United Lutheran church, and politically Mr. Flugum has affiliated with the republican party since attaining his majority. His fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have elected him to official positions of honor and trust and he served as a member of the thirty-second general assembly from this district and also of the thirty-second extra session in 1907-08. For three terms he was township clerk of Mount Valley township and for a number of years served on the school board. He is now secretary and manager of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association of Winnebago county, which he helped to organize in 1886, with home office in Lake Mills, and with the exception of three years, while he was farming in the western part of Winnebago county, he has filled the former position since the company was incorporated. Mr. Flugum is also a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills; the Lake Mills Lumber Company; the Farmers Elevator Company of Leland; and the Leland Creamery Company. He is one of the directors of the Iowa Mutual Tornado Insurance Association of Des Moines and is one of its adjusters. This company has two hundred and twenty million dollars insurance in force at the present time. It will thus be seen that Mr. Flugum is recognized as a man of good business and executive ability and the success that has come to him is certainly well merited, as it is the result of his own industry, enterprise and good management.

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#### GILBERT SEVERSON.

Among the venerable and highly respected citizens of Hancock county is numbered Gilbert Severson, who for many years was actively identified with farming interests but is now living retired, his home being on section 11, Ellington township. He was born in Norway, January 17, 1839, a son of Severt and Gudberg (Gilbertson) Severson, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives. They had a family of six children, of whom five are yet living.

Gilbert Severson was reared and educated in Norway and in 1868, when about twenty-nine years of age, came to the new world. He severed home ties because he believed that better opportunities might be secured on this side of the Atlantic and he has never regretted his determination to come to the United States. Making his way westward to Iowa, he settled first in Winneshiek county, where he lived for a year, and in 1869 he removed to Hancock county, purchasing the farm which he now occupies. It was then a tract of timber land on which no furrow had been turned nor improvement been made. He at once began the task of preparing it for cultivation, clearing away the trees and the stumps and eventually placing his fields under the plow. The work of further development and cultivation has been carried forward year by year and he now has an excellent farm. His first home was a primitive little log cabin which he occupied for sixteen years, and then replaced by a more commodious and modern dwelling. He now owns altogether two hundred acres of land which returns to him a gratifying annual income. At

the present time he is leaving this place to the care of others and is enjoying the fruits of his former toil in a well earned rest.

In Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1869, Mr. Severson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Lien, a native of Norway, and they became parents of seven children: Julia, the wife of Hans Larson, of Forest City; Betsy, deceased; Severt; Mary, the wife of Barney Varberg, of North Dakota; Minnie, the wife of Samuel Wepald, living on the old homestead; Anna, a resident of Mason City, Iowa; and Tillie, the wife of Gilbert Benson. The wife and mother passed away in 1901 and was laid to rest in Ellington cemetery.

In his political views Mr. Severson is a republican and for fifteen years he filled the office of township trustee. He has always been loyal in matters of citizenship and has stood for progress and improvement along many lines. For an extended period he has been a faithful member of the Lutheran church and served as its treasurer for thirty years. Coming to the new world empty handed, he recognized its advantages and improved his opportunities. He did not expect to win success without labor but concentrated his undivided attention upon his work and is today reaping the rewards of his persistent toil.

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#### THOR J. MOE.

Thor J. Moe, a native of Norway, has gained the success which he sought upon his emigration to America and is now a prosperous business man of Lake Mills, being a member of the firm of Ulve & Moe, dealers in furniture and funeral directors. He was born December 11, 1863, and his parents were Jacob A. and Annie (Moe) Moe, lifelong residents of Norway, where the father engaged in farming.

Thor J. Moe was educated in the schools of his native country and in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was eighteen years of age when in 1881 he came to America and during the first ten years he spent in this country he resided in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he was employed as clerk and bookkeeper in a hardware store. In 1891 he removed to Lake Mills, Winnebago county, Iowa, and two years later formed a partnership with O. O. Ulve under the name of Ulve & Moe for the conduct of a furniture business. Their store was destroyed by fire in 1900, but they continued in business and erected a two story brick building on the principal business street of the town and now occupy the entire building, carrying a very large stock of high grade furniture. Their extensive trade is drawn not only from Lake Mills but also from the surrounding country and their rapid growth can be attributed to the policy of fair dealing to which they have always strictly adhered, to the excellence in design, material and workmanship of the furniture carried and to the large stock open to the selection of customers. They also have an undertaking department and do a large business in that line.

In August, 1894, Mr. Moe was united in marriage to Miss Malina Olson and they have three children, namely: J. Earl, who was born in April, 1895; Arnold N., born in September, 1896; and Morris, born in November, 1901.

Mr. Moe casts his ballot in support of the republican party, has served as a member of the town council for seven years and for eighteen years has been secretary of the school board, during which time his influence has been strongly felt in



the promotion of the interests of the public schools. He has been secretary of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for sixteen years and has many friends in that order at other points. In religious faith he is a United Lutheran. In all relations of life his course has been such as to win him the commendation and sincere respect of all right thinking people and, moreover, he holds the warm friendship of many.

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#### ALBERT FIELD.

Albert Field, who is now serving as justice of the peace at Forest City, has many times been called to office by his fellow citizens, who have thus given expression to the confidence which they have in his ability and his conscientious regard for the public welfare. He has been a resident of Winnebago county for many years and enjoys an unusually wide and exceptionally favorable acquaintance within its borders. He was born in Norway, February 9, 1855, a son of Sören H. and Olea (Johansen) Field, who in 1864 came with their family to the United States. For about eight years they lived in Racine county, Wisconsin, but in 1872 came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where the father purchased a quarter section of land one and a half miles west of Forest City for eleven hundred dollars with twelve per cent interest on deferred payments. After twenty years the land was clear of indebtedness and during that time many improvements were made upon the place. The father grew the first corn raised in the county west of Forest City and was at once progressive and practical in his farm work, becoming in time one of the substantial citizens of his township. He and his wife both died upon the home farm and their many friends deeply regretted their passing. The subject of this review and his brother Julius were the only children who accompanied their parents to Winnebago county and two brothers are still living in Wisconsin.

Albert Field received a common school education and remained at home until 1883, assisting his father to pay off the debt incurred by the purchase of the home farm. On the 4th of April of that year, however, he purchased eighty acres on section 16, Forest township, and removed to that place. He resided there for thirty-three years, or until 1916, although he had retired from active agricultural work a long period before he left the farm, renting the land to one tenant for ten years. He met with gratifying success in his work as a grain and stock raiser and accumulated a competence that ensures him all the comforts of life. In addition to his farm, which he still owns, although now a resident of Forest City, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company, both of Leland, and for one year was secretary of the Winnebago county Mutual Insurance Company.

Mr. Field is a staunch republican in politics and has taken a prominent part in party work. For years he has been recognized as a leader in local public affairs, served as township assessor for twenty-two consecutive years, was county supervisor for nine years and president of the school board of Forest township for seven terms. While living in Racine, Wisconsin, he was clerk in the postoffice under Postmaster Utley and long before he was of age he served in the militia for about three years. In November, 1916, he was elected justice of the peace of Forest City and follow-

ing the election removed to Forest City to assume the duties of the office. It has always been characteristic of him that the public welfare has been placed above private interests and his official record is one of which he may well be proud.

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#### LUTHER I. AASGAARD.

Luther I. Aasgaard, editor of the Winnebago Republican of Forest City, has throughout his entire life engaged in newspaper publication, working at the business in every capacity from that of office boy to editor in chief. He is a native of Freeborn county, Minnesota, his birth having occurred in 1878. His parents, A. L. and Maren Aasgaard, were early residents there and the father engaged in business in that state, but in 1888 removed with his family to Lake Mills, Iowa, where he established a hardware store. His wife is now deceased.

Luther I. Aasgaard was a little lad of but ten summers when the family came to this state. He acquired a public school education and when but eleven years of age began working at the printer's trade in the office of the North Star. He was afterward employed in various places and in March, 1895, removed to Forest City, where for a time he was connected with the Summit. Later he established a job printing office and subsequently began the publication of the Winnebago Republican, which was established in 1901, the first issue being brought from the press on Christmas day of that year. This is a weekly six-column quarto, all home print. The office was located on Main street, opposite the courthouse, and in 1914 Mr. Aasgaard erected his present building—a one story and basement structure twenty-two by one hundred feet. The front of the building is of patent brick and the equipment is most pleasing and attractive. The finishings of the main office are in solid South African mahogany. He utilizes a linotype machine and has the latest accessories of the printing art. He furnishes employment to four people and the circulation of the paper has been increased from sixteen hundred to twenty-one hundred. It is published in the interests of the republican party and his editorials are a clear exposition of the questions and issues of the day.

Mr. Aasgaard served for nine months as postmaster of Forest City under President Taft but has always concentrated his efforts and attention upon his business, and laudable ambition has carried him from a humble position in journalistic interests to a place in the front ranks of the newspaper publishers of his section of the state.

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#### T. K. CLEVEN.

T. K. Cleven, devoting his time and energies to general farming on section 9, Logan township, Winnebago county, is a self-made man whose prosperity is attributable entirely to his own labors. He was born in Valdres, Norway, March 16, 1867, and is a son of Knut and Ragnild T. (Haugen) Cleven, who were farming people, their son, T. K. Cleven, being their only child. The father died when he was but a year old, after which he was brought by his mother to the United States

when a little lad of three summers. They made the voyage in company with her parents, Tostin T. and Gure (Melby) Haugen, who went to the home of their son Gulbrand, then living upon a farm in Logan township, Winnebago county, Iowa, now owned by Mr. Cleven. Gulbrand Haugen had purchased his farm, comprising fifty-four acres on the northwest quarter of section 10, had cleared it and placed it under the plow and to it added many improvements. He continued there to engage in farming until his death, when he was laid to rest in Center township, where also repose the remains of his parents.

Mrs. Cleven and her son remained with her parents and her brother until T. K. Cleven had reached an age where he was able to work and provide for the support of himself and mother. He started out as a farm hand and while thus employed carefully saved his earnings until in 1891 he felt justified in making the purchase of a tract of land. He then secured eighty acres of the southeast quarter of section 9, Logan township, which he cleared and cultivated, and has since made his home upon that property. He is today regarded as one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of his locality and in addition to his home place he owns an interest in a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Marshall county, Minnesota, and also the old Haugen homestead. He was also at one time a director of the Vinje Creamery. His land has been brought under a high state of cultivation and he has added many modern and substantial improvements to his farm.

On June 18, 1898, Mr. Cleven was united in marriage to Miss Margareta Maria Johnson, a daughter of D. N. and Sarah Johnson, who were early settlers of Norway township. They have become the parents of six children: Daniel G., Rhinehardt T., Selmer L., Gilbert A., Louis S., and Selma R., all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleven hold membership in the United Lutheran church and are highly esteemed people of the community in which they live. In politics he is a republican and for eight years he filled the office of justice of the peace, rendering decisions which were strictly fair and impartial. He is now serving as secretary of the school board and at all times he is deeply interested in the welfare and progress of the community in which he resides, co-operating in many plans and measures for the public good. In a business way, too, he deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for his diligence and enterprise have been the basis of his success.

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#### AUGUST LAU.

August Lau, banker and merchant of Klemme, has in the conduct of his business interests displayed keen insight into existing conditions that has been one of the dominant forces in his growing success. He has always used his time and talents wisely and well, and steadily he has progressed. He was born April 20, 1853, in Germany, a son of Christian and Dora Lau, who came to America in 1857 and settled in Clayton county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for troops to defend the Union and joined a regiment of Iowa volunteer infantry, rendering active service upon the battlefields of the south. In after years he resided in Hancock county, where he spent his remaining days. His wife is still living in Klemme.

August Lau was but four years of age when brought by his parents to the new world, so that practically his entire life has been spent in Iowa. He acquired his education in Clayton county by attending the district schools during the winter terms, while in the summer months he assisted his father in the work of the home farm. He was thus engaged until 1875, when at the age of twenty-two years he came to Hancock county. He had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in German township two years before, and taking up his abode upon that tract he improved his fields, carrying on general farming and, to some extent, engaging in cattle raising. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and continued actively and successfully in farm work until 1896, when he leased his land and removed to Klemme. He then began dealing in coal, grain and livestock and conducted a successful business along those lines, his annual sales reaching a considerable figure. He became a stockholder in the First National Bank of Klemme and since 1907 has served as its vice president, largely directing its policy and shaping its activities.

Mr. Lau was united in marriage to Miss Anna Boehm, a daughter of Henry Boehm, a pioneer settler and farmer of Clayton county, Iowa. The children of this marriage are seven in number: H. C., who follows farming at Tracy, Minnesota; Frances, the wife of Fred Ritter, of Klemme; August, a farmer of German township; Malinda, the wife of Wesley Schuldt, who is engaged in farming in German township; Benjamin, of Minneapolis; and Minnie and Walter, both at home. The parents are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and their aid and influence are always given on the side of progress and improvement. Mr. Lau votes with the democratic party and has several times been called to office, serving as assessor, as supervisor, which office he now holds, as mayor, as justice of the peace and as school director. In the discharge of his duties he has ever been found prompt and faithful and his election has been the expression of confidence and high regard on the part of his fellowmen.

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#### ABRAHAM T. HAUGO.

Abraham T. Haugo is successfully engaged in business in Lake Mills as a real estate dealer, specializing in local and North Dakota lands, and is also the agent for the Studebaker cars. He was born in Norway on the 10th of March, 1874, of the marriage of Torjus O. and Anna (Midbo) Haugo, farming people of that country. In 1888 they removed with their family to the United States and located at what is now Joice, Worth county, Iowa. Not long afterward, however, the father purchased a farm in Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, which he operated until his death in 1894. The mother survives.

Abraham T. Haugo, who is the third in order of birth in a family of four children, attended school in Norway until he was fourteen years old and for a short time in Winnebago county. He worked for his father upon the homestead until he attained his majority and following his marriage he rented a farm in Grant township for four years. He next moved to Forest City, where he was connected with the real estate business for three years as an employe of the firm of Danniher & Mahen. From 1903 to 1910 he operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres

in Bristol township, Worth county, which he owned, and upon leaving that place he took up his residence in Lake Mills. He is there engaged in the real estate business with J. B. Conley, under the name of The Haugo-Conley Land Agency, and has given especial attention to local and North Dakota lands. He has gained a gratifying measure of success and his annual business has now reached large proportions. He is also agent for the Studebaker automobile and has proved an energetic and efficient representative of the company.

In 1896 Mr. Haugo was married to Miss Elizabeth Florentz, a daughter of Mathias Andreas and Henrietta Florentz, of Telemarken, Norway. To them were born eleven children, and Mr. and Mrs. Haugo have seven children, all at home, Anna, Erling, Lila, Henrietta, Teresa, Magna and Astrid.

Mr. Haugo votes the republican ticket, but has never sought office, as his private interests have made heavy demands upon his time. He belongs to the Lutheran church and its work has profited much from his hearty support. He began his independent business career without capital but as the result of his persistent and well directed efforts he is now one of the substantial men of his community.

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#### JAMES J. OTIS.

James J. Otis, was for forty-nine years actively engaged in farming and stock raising in Forest township, Winnebago county, and, while now living retired, he still resides upon the old homestead where he devoted almost a half century to the work of tilling the soil. He has passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in the state of New York on the 17th of October, 1834, his parents being William H. and Lovina (Edmonds) Otis, who were also born in the Empire state. They removed to Illinois in 1836 and took up their abode at Chicago when it was but a trading post, the city not being incorporated until the following year. The most farsighted could not have dreamed that a great city of two million and a half population would there be found in less than three-quarters of a century. Both Mr. and Mrs. Otis continued to spend their remaining days in Cook county and there they reared their family of eight children, three of whom are now living.

James J. Otis spent the period of his boyhood and youth in Illinois and on attaining his majority went to Michigan, where he worked in a lumber mill until he was thirty years of age. He then removed to Floyd county, Iowa, where he resided for two and one-half years and during that period he engaged in farming. He became a resident of Winnebago county in 1868 and his first purchase of land covered one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Forest township. His first house was a little slab shanty in which he lived for a year, but soon more modern improvements were added to the place. With characteristic energy he began to break the sod and till the fields and he now has a splendidly improved farm, having carefully and systematically cultivated his land until it is most productive. He afterward purchased more land and owned six hundred and forty acres, but later sold one hundred and sixty acres to his son, so that his present holdings comprise four hundred and eighty acres. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and

climate he always gave much attention to raising and feeding stock and that branch of his business proved very profitable.

Mr. Otis has been married three times. He first wedded Calista Van Order and they became the parents of four children, but all have passed away. Following the death of his first wife he wedded her sister, Emeline Van Order, and to them were born the following children: Laura, deceased; George, a resident farmer of Winnebago county; William; Anna, the wife of William Simmons; Ella, the wife of William Welman; Jesse and Frank, who are engaged in farming; Maggie, deceased; Lydia, the wife of Irvin Ambrose; Fred, who is engaged in the jewelry business; and Jerome, who follows farming. The present wife of Mr. Otis was formerly Mrs. Anna Soals and she has two sons, Albert E. and John A., who are farmers of this county.

Politically Mr. Otis follows an independent course, voting for the man rather than for party. He has served as school director for twenty years and was trustee for seven years. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His has been an active and useful life. He has worked hard and made good use of his time and his opportunities. Thus as the years went by he accumulated a comfortable competence that now enables him to live retired, enjoying a well earned rest, his capital being sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and comforts of life and some of its luxuries. He well deserves mention in connection with the history of Winnebago county, where he has so long resided. Through almost a half century he has been a witness of the growth and progress of this section of the state and has lived to see it converted from a pioneer region into a populous and prosperous district. He has always delighted in its progress and has coöperated in many movements leading to its upbuilding.

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#### J. O. OSMUNDSON.

J. O. Osmundson, vice president of the State Bank of Thompson, has had an influential voice in the management of that institution, which enjoys the full confidence of the community and whose affairs are in an excellent condition. He was born near Stevens Point, Wisconsin, January 1, 1866, a son of Erick and Johanna (Johnson) Osmundson, who removed from Norway to the United States and settled in Wisconsin at an early day in the history of that state. After farming near Stevens Point for a time the father removed with his family to the vicinity of Mount Horeb, the same state, whence in 1873 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa. He purchased a farm in Linden township and engaged in agricultural pursuits there until his death in 1879. He was buried in a cemetery in that township and his wife was laid by his side at her death in 1884. To them were born eight children, of whom six survive: J. O.; Ole, of Lake Mills; Henry, a resident of Walters, Minnesota; Susan, who is now Mrs. George Clark, of Pasadena, California; Inger, now Mrs. Charles Poole, of Pasadena; and Mabel, now the wife of Hal Brautner, of San Diego, California.

J. O. Osmundson attended the district schools and was for one winter a student in the Forest City high school. When but sixteen years old he purchased eighty acres of land in Linden township, making a cash payment thereon and paying the



RESIDENCE OF J. O. OSMUNDSON





remainder of the purchase price in installments. For a number of years he rented his land to others and for a time worked as a farm hand. Later he devoted the winters to teaching school, while in the summers he ran a threshing machine and broke land for others. When twenty-three years old he went to Forest City and for two years was a clerk in the law office of C. L. Nelson. At the end of that time he was appointed deputy sheriff, in which capacity he served for several years, and at the same time dealt in real estate to some extent but in 1896 removed to Thompson and became assistant cashier of the State Bank, with which institution he has since been connected. He has risen to the position of vice president and is active in the direction of its policy and the management of its affairs. It was organized as a private institution by Thompson Brothers, of Forest City, immediately after the founding of the town of Thompson and in 1896 received a charter as a state bank. Twenty years later, in 1916, the charter was renewed for a term of twenty years with the following officers: B. J. Thompson, president; J. O. Osmundson, vice president; G. Gordon, cashier; and H. W. Nelson, assistant cashier. It was capitalized at thirty thousand dollars and there is a surplus of eight thousand dollars, which indicates that its management is conservative and keeps constantly in mind the safeguarding of the interests of depositors and stockholders. The bank was opened in a wooden building but not long afterward the fine brick structure which it now occupies was erected.

Mr. Osmundson was married November 17, 1891, to Miss Carrie Olson, whose parents, Martin and Gurie Olson, were natives of Norway but became early settlers of Hancock county, Iowa. Both are deceased and are buried in Ellington township cemetery, that county. To Mr. and Mrs. Osmundson have been born nine children: Lulu, the wife of S. C. Larson, of Forest City; Ernest, at home; Cora; Floyd; Pauline; John; Sylvian, Mildred, and Helen.

Mr. Osmundson is a republican and is also a strong supporter of the prohibition movement. For one term he was mayor of Thompson and during that time much was done to advance the interests of the municipality. His religious faith is that of the United Lutheran church, and in all relations of life he has conformed his conduct to high ethical standards, thus winning the sincere respect of all with whom he has come in contact, while his personal qualities are such as to gain him the warm friendship of many.

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#### GUST BOEHNKE

Gust Boehnke, a prosperous farmer of Concord township, Hancock county, Iowa, was born on the 22d of September, 1865, in Germany, and is a son of Carl and Amelia (Bahr) Boehnke, also natives of that country. In 1884 the parents left the fatherland and came to America, taking up their abode in Hancock county, Iowa. The father purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Concord township, for which he paid twenty dollars per acre and throughout his active business life followed farming with good results. He has now reached the ripe old age of eighty-two years and his wife is seventy-two years of age. They are among the highly respected citizens of their locality.

Gust Boehnke is indebted to the public schools of his native land for the educa-

tional advantages he enjoyed during his boyhood, and when not in school he assisted his father in the work of the home farm until seventeen years of age. It was in 1883 that he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and for five years after his arrival worked as a farm hand in Hancock county, Iowa. During the following year he engaged in farming on his own account upon rented land and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Concord township, at fifteen dollars per acre. As much of the land was under water it had to be thoroughly drained and it was a difficult task to convert it into tillable fields, but he persevered in his labors and now has a fine farm under excellent cultivation. He has added to the original tract, buying one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Concord township, in 1911; two hundred acres on section 3 in 1913; and also eighty acres on section 18 in 1904. At one time he also owned about two hundred acres in Ransom county, North Dakota, but sold this in 1912. He is a progressive, up-to-date farmer and has met with most excellent success in his undertakings. He is a stockholder in the Concord Creamery Company and also in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company at Ventura, Iowa.

On the 5th of March, 1888, Mr. Boehnke married Miss Alvina Woiwood, a daughter of August and Wilhelmina (Rost) Woiwood, who spent their entire lives in Germany. To this union were born three sons and one daughter who are still living, namely: William R., who married Martha Jass, a daughter of Albert and Wilhelmina Jass of Hancock county; Gus H., who married Magdelene Hitzemann, a daughter of William Hitzemann of St. Paul, Minnesota; and Edward M. R. and Selma G., both at home with their parents. The son, Gus H., was educated for the ministry of the German Lutheran church, attending school in St. Paul for six years and in St. Louis for three years. He is now located in Saskatchewan, Canada, and preaches in six different places, traveling three hundred miles by team, as his different congregations are far apart.

The family are identified with the German Lutheran church and are held in high esteem by all who know them. In politics Mr. Boehnke is a republican and for ten years has efficiently served as school director in his district. He has recently been elected township trustee and is now filling that office in a most satisfactory manner.

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#### HARRY F. THOMPSON, M. D.

Dr. Harry F. Thompson, engaged in the practice of medicine in Forest City, was born in McGregor, Iowa, September 30, 1869, a son of Jasper and Clara K. Thompson. In 1871 the family removed to Forest City and here he acquired a public school education. Determining to make the practice of medicine his life work, he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago and was graduated therefrom with the class of 1894. He afterward practiced in various places until 1907. He was at Buffalo Center from 1900 until 1907, and in the latter year came to Forest City, where he has since devoted his attention and energies to professional duties. He has taken special post graduate work in children's diseases and obstetrics.

On the 3d of April, 1895, Dr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss

Katherine Gabriella Richardson, a daughter of G. H. Richardson, of Belmond, Iowa. Her death occurred in 1906 and in 1910 he wedded Louise Taylor, who was born in Alden, Iowa, a daughter of Peter Taylor. There were three children born of his first marriage, Clara Jeannette, Richardson Jasper and Katherine Cecelia, while by the second marriage there is a daughter, Helen Mar.

Dr. Thompson is a member of Nain Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., of Buffalo Center, of which he is a past master. In politics he is a republican. He served as coroner of Lyon county in 1896, was coroner of Winnebago county in 1912 and was again called to that office in 1917. There is an interesting military chapter in his life record. He served in the Spanish-American war with the First South Dakota Infantry, enlisting at Sioux Falls in 1898 as a private. He was on active duty and was mustered out in October, 1899, as first lieutenant and assistant surgeon. Professionally he is well known. He belongs to the Austin Flint Cedar Valley Medical Society, has several times been president and secretary of the Winnebago County Medical Society and belongs also to the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, thus keeping in close touch with the trend of scientific thought and investigation along medical lines.

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#### F. A. SAMUELSON.

F. A. Samuelson, residing on section 30, Mount Valley township, is today one of the leading cement contractors of Winnebago county. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Sweden, October 1, 1859, a son of Samuel Johansen and Marie Rebecca Swenson, who spent their entire lives in that country. There Mr. Samuelson was reared and educated, attending the common schools of his native land for some years.

Believing that he could better his financial condition in the new world, he came to the United States in the spring of 1883 and continued his journey westward to Iowa. After spending a couple of days in Fort Dodge he proceeded to Winnebago county, where he has since made his home. He had previously learned the stone mason's trade in Sweden and on his arrival here went to work at that occupation. At the end of two years he purchased twenty acres of land in Mount Valley township, which is today a part of his present farm, and erected thereon a residence which has since been his home. In the intervening years he has bought and sold considerable land but still owns the old home farm, which now comprises eighty acres under excellent cultivation. The place, however, has been operated almost wholly by hired help while Mr. Samuelson has continued to work at his trade of stone mason. For the past seven years he has been one of the prominent cement contractors of Winnebago county, having done much of the foundation and sidewalk work of Forest City.

Mr. Samuelson was married in Norway in 1881 to Miss Christina Larsdatter, by whom he has had twelve children, those still living being S. Martin, proprietor of a poolroom in Forest City; Ludwig G., at home; Gilbert, a farmer of Winnebago county; Frances A., at home; Christian, who assists his father in the cement business; and Algot N., attending school.

The family hold membership in the Lutheran church and are highly respected

by all who know them. In politics Mr. Samuelson is a republican and he takes a commendable interest in public affairs. His business life has been above reproach and he well merits the success that has come to him, as it is due entirely to his own untiring efforts and good management.

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#### MRS. JENNIE HAMMILL.

Woman has proven her capability in every position to which she has been called where intellectual alertness is demanded, and the citizens of Hancock county manifested their faith in one woman's capability at least when they elected Mrs. Jennie Hammill to the office of county recorder. She is a native of Illinois and a daughter of Andrew and Birthine (Jorgeson) Aageson, the former a native of Sweden and the latter of Denmark. They came to America in early life and were married in Illinois, whence they removed to Iowa in 1889, settling at Britt. The father was a tile and drainage contractor, recognized as one of the active and enterprising business men of that locality.

Mrs. Jennie Hammill pursued her education in the public schools of Britt, passing through consecutive grades to her graduation from the high school. She afterward took up the profession of teaching, which she successfully followed for ten years. Residents of the county recognized her business ability as well as her intellectual force and in 1914 she was elected to the office of county recorder, entering upon the duties of that position in the following January for a two years' term. In the fall of 1916 she was reelected, thus receiving public endorsement of her excellent service.

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#### ALBERT ROENFANZ.

Prominent among the successful farmers and stock raisers of Hancock county is numbered Albert Roenfanz, whose home is situated on section 25, Ellington township. He was born in Germany, December 7, 1869, and there spent the first fifteen years of his life, but in 1884 was brought to the United States by his parents, Carl and Henrietta (Steinke) Roenfanz. The family first located in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, but a year later removed to Hancock county, the father purchasing two hundred and twenty acres of land now comprised in the present home farm of our subject. He is still living and now resides with his son.

Albert Roenfanz began his education in the public schools of Germany and later attended the district schools of Iowa after the emigration of the family to America. He also acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits and in 1891 made his first purchase of land, becoming the owner of two hundred and eleven acres in Cerro Gordo county, just across the Hancock county line. After living upon that place for two years he sold it and bought the home farm in Ellington township, Hancock county, where he has since resided. Prosperity has attended his well directed efforts and he has added to his property from time to

time until he now owns six hundred and ten acres of very valuable and productive land.

In 1892 Mr. Roenfanz married Miss Clara Bohn, a daughter of William Bohn, one of the pioneer settlers of Cerro Gordo county, and to this union have been born five children, those living being Walter, Mabel and Alice, all at home.

For seven years past Mr. Roenfanz has been one of the large and successful cattle feeders of Hancock county and during the winter of 1916-17 fed four carloads which brought him twelve dollars and a half per hundred. He also sold a carload of hogs which brought him fourteen and a half and fifteen dollars per hundred. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company and the Farmers Elevator Company of Ventura and a stockholder and director in the First National Bank at Clear Lake, Iowa, and is recognized as one of the most successful business men of his community. His farm is one of the best improved places in Ellington township and stands as a monument to his thrift and enterprise. In politics he is a republican, and he and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

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#### K. J. ALDAL.

K. J. Aldal, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits on section 23, Norway township, has spent much of his life in Winnebago county and is a native son of Iowa. He was born in Winneshiek county, February 10, 1855, a son of John K. and Susan (Vata) Aldal, who were natives of Norway. They came to the United States in youth and the father made his way to Koshkonong, Wisconsin, where he afterward purchased a farm upon which he resided for several years. It was during his residence in that state that he was married. Removing westward to Winneshiek county he purchased a farm upon which he lived for about twelve years, and then went to Mitchell county, Iowa, where in 1864 he purchased land. Upon that place he continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred March 20, 1882. His widow survived for more than a quarter of a century, passing away on the 7th of May, 1908, the remains of both being interred at St. Ansgar, in Mitchell county.

K. J. Aldal pursued his education in the pioneer schools of Iowa until he reached the age of seventeen years after which he worked for his father until he reached the age of twenty-five, and during the last two years of that period he farmed the southwest quarter of section 24 and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 23 in Norway township, Winnebago county, the father having purchased this land in 1874. K. J. Aldal put all the improvements upon the place and after cultivating the land for his father for some time purchased the property and has since resided thereon. He has converted it into a rich and valuable farm which responds readily to his care and cultivation, producing excellent crops, so that his business is now one of importance in the community.

On the 13th of June, 1880, Mr. Aldal was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Nelson, a daughter of Torson and Susan Nelson, of Freeborn county, Minnesota, both now deceased, their remains being interred in the United Lutheran cemetery near Emmons, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Aldal have become the parents of nine children: John, who is living in Saskatchewan, Canada; Theodore, at home;

Stephen, who resides in Norman county, North Dakota; and Sylvia, Joseph, Minnie, Clarence, Mabel, and Sarah, all of whom are yet under the parental roof.

The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and are people of sterling worth who enjoy the confidence and warm regard of all with whom they are brought in contact. Mr. Aldal votes with the republican party but is not an office seeker, preferring to do his public duty as a private citizen. He is loyal to the best interests of the community and co-operates with all those forces which mean most in advancing the welfare of the community. In his business affairs he has displayed sound judgment as well as enterprise and industry and, starting out in life empty handed, he is today one of the substantial citizens of Norway township, owning one of the best farms in Winnebago county.

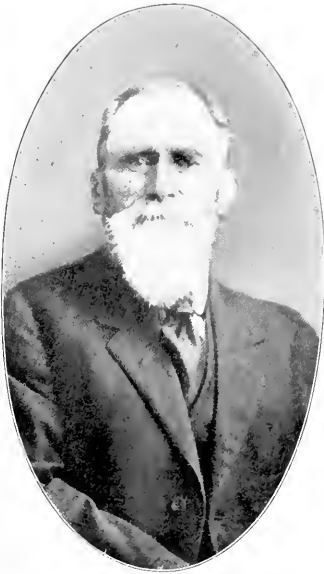
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#### LARS O. DAHLEN.

At the time of his demise Lars O. Dahlen had retired from his labors as an agriculturist and was living in Lake Mills, where he was held in the highest esteem, and his death was recognized as a loss to his community as well as to his family and intimate friends. He was one of the first settlers of Winnebago county, coming here from Wisconsin by prairie schooner in 1870, at which time conditions were far different from those obtaining at present. He was born in Norway, November 29, 1838, and was a son of Ole and Ragna Dahlen, farming people of that country, where they passed their entire lives.

Lars O. Dahlen was a pupil in the common schools of Norway until he was confirmed in the Lutheran Church and remained in that country until 1864, when he came alone to the United States, crossing the Atlantic on a sailboat which was thirteen weeks in making the voyage. He worked on farms in Columbia county, Wisconsin, for six years, or until 1870, when by prairie schooner he came to Winnebago county, Iowa. He purchased a quarter section of land in Center township and for thirty-seven years gave his undivided attention to the operation of that place, which he made one of the valuable farm properties of his township. He raised both grain and stock, and as he was industrious and progressive he received a good annual income. He organized the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was director and manager for a number of years, and was one of the organizers of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, the Lake Mills Creamery and the Center Telephone Company. In 1907, feeling that he had earned a period of leisure, he retired and purchased a fine home in Lake Mills, where he resided until his death, which occurred on the 20th of May 1915. He is buried in North cemetery at Lake Mills.

The marriage of Mr. Dahlen and Miss Magdalene Ljone was solemnized in Wisconsin November 27, 1869. She is a daughter of Ole and Jorund Ljone, who were born and married in Norway, but in 1847 settled in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. They died in that state, the father at the age of ninety-three years and the mother when in her seventy-first year, and they are buried in Lodi, Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Dahlen were born six children: Oscar L., who died at the age of nine years; Josephine M., the wife of George E. Johnson, of Mayville, North Dakota; Rachel J., who died at the age of thirteen; Oscar L., who is married and resides



MR. AND MRS. LARS O. DAHLEN





near Scarville, in Winnebago county; Martha O., at home; and Adolph R., who died at the age of eighteen.

Mr. Dahlen was a republican in his political belief and held a number of township offices, such as school director and trustee, the duties of which he discharged promptly, conscientiously and capably. He manifested the keenest interest in educational matters and the first school in Center township was held upstairs in the log cabin which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dahlen. Nothing that pertained to the development of the community was unimportant to him. He gave his hearty support to the work of the United Lutheran church, of which he was a communicant, and in fact all forces working for moral advancement profited by his aid. He was a man of sterling character and won and retained the friendship of practically all who came into close contact with him. His widow still lives in Lake Mills and in addition to the five acres on which the residence is situated she owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land in Center township. She has a wide acquaintance throughout the county and is highly esteemed.

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#### LARS N. THOE.

Lars N. Thoe, a widely known and highly esteemed retired farmer and merchant of Lake Mills, was born in Tysnes Bergen, Norway, April 14, 1848, the youngest of the five children whose parents were Nels and Martha Thoe. The father engaged in farming and both he and the mother passed away in their native country, where they are buried.

Lars N. Thoe attended the common schools until he was confirmed and in 1866, when eighteen years old came to the United States in company with his sister Ellen. He located in Madison, Wisconsin, where his brother, Zacharias Thoe, had settled a few years previously. After working upon farms in that locality for four years Lars N. Thoe came to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1870, and purchased a farm in Center township, to the operation of which he devoted a quarter of a century. He then removed to Lake Mills and established a general store in partnership with his son, Nels L. Thoe. Five years later he sold his interest in that business and retired from active life although he owns stock in the Union department store, of which he was one of the organizers and of which his son, Nels L., is now president. He was one of the organizers and a director of the Lake Mills Lumber Company and a director and vice president of the Lake Mills Canning Company. He holds title to four hundred acres of well improved land in Center township, which he rents.

Mr. Thoe was married May 9, 1870, to Miss Inger Moen, a daughter of Eric and Ragnel Moen. They removed with their family from Norway to the United States during the girlhood of Mrs. Thoe and the voyage was made on the same ship that brought Mr. Thoe to the new world. The Moen family first settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, but subsequently removed to Winnebago county, where both Mr. and Mrs. Moen passed away. They are buried in the Lime Creek Church cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Thoe have been born ten children: Nels L., an account of whose life appears below; Eric L., who is married and is living in Richland county, North Dakota; Martin J., a resident of Belmond, Iowa; Regina M., the

wife of Eugene Gilbert, of Albert Lea, Minnesota; Ellen at home; Edd S., and Louis E., both of whom are married and reside in Lake Mills; Emma L., now the wife of Earl Forrester, of Ventura, Iowa; Martha M., the wife of H. E. Norskow, of Belmond, Iowa; and Eveline, now Mrs. Elmer Hylbak, of Lake Mills.

Mr. Thoe is a prohibitionist and is firm in his belief that the liquor traffic runs counter to the best interests of society in many different ways and is therefore doomed. He was school director for six years, was treasurer of Center township for seven years and for nine years was township trustee, his long official service being evidence of the high esteem in which he is held. His religious faith is evidenced by his membership in the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church, in whose work he has taken an active part. The expectation of finding unusually favorable opportunities for advancement which led him to come to the United States has been realized and he has gained a competence which now enables him to live in ease and comfort. Upright and honorable in all relations of life, he holds in full measure the respect of all who come in contact with him and his personal friends are many.

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#### NELS L. THOE.

Nels L. Thoe occupies an important place in commercial circles of Lake Mills as president of the Union department store, whose large and varied stock makes literally true the company's slogan, "Everything to Eat and Wear." He is a native son of Iowa as his birth occurred in Center township, Winnebago county, on the 19th of January, 1871, and the pioneer conditions which then prevailed in that section are indicated in the fact that his birthplace was a log house with a sod roof. A sketch of his parents, Lars and Inger (Moen) Thoe, appears above.

Until he reached the age of sixteen years Nels L. Thoe attended the public schools and from that time until he attained his majority he assisted his father with the work of the home farm, save for two winters spent in study at the Breckenridge Business College of Decorah. When twenty-one years old he became clerk in a general store conducted by Olson & Wadsworth at Lake Mills and remained with them for five years, at the end of which time he and his father established a store in one of the rooms now occupied by the Union department store. The father and son engaged in business together for five years, after which they sold out, Lars Thoe retiring from active business at that time. The Union department store was organized and Nels L. Thoe was connected therewith for five years as an employe. At length he purchased stock in the business and has from time to time increased his holdings. He is president of the company, Ed Thoe is secretary and Karl Hylbak, treasurer, while the board of directors is composed of the officers and L. N. Thoe, and Irvin L. Thoe. The company was incorporated in 1902 and occupies both the first and second floors of the Union block, which was built in 1897 by L. N. Thoe, the firm of Jessen & Due and P. M. Joice. The slogan of the company is, "Everything to Eat and Wear," and the store is divided into five departments, in which are carried complete and up-to-date lines of dry goods, ready-to-wear clothing, groceries, tinware and crockery. The buying is done with the actual needs and preferences of their customers in mind; the stock

is displayed to the best advantage and a sale is never considered complete until the customer is satisfied. As would be expected, their trade has grown steadily and rapidly and their annual volume of business has reached a large figure.

In 1894 Mr. Thoe was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Brakke, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ingebrit Brakke, who were born in Norway but were married in the United States. They were early settlers of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and are buried in the Lime Creek Church cemetery, or, as it is sometimes known, Ostby's Church cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Thoe's children are four in number: Irvin L., who is associated with his father in business; and Irene, Laurette and Margaret, all at home.

Mr. Thoe supports the prohibition party at the polls, is a member of the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church and can at all times be counted upon to aid in every way possible movements calculated to promote the moral advancement of his community. The sterling principles to which he rigidly adheres, his initiative and his fine business ability have all aided him in gaining a high place in public esteem.

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#### PETER A. HELGESEN, M. D.

Dr. Peter A. Helgesen is discharging his duties as mayor of Lake Mills with marked capability and is also taking care of his large and representative practice as physician and surgeon. He was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, August 29, 1868, of the marriage of John and Ingebor (Dakken) Helgesen, natives of Norway, who located in Iowa county, Wisconsin, on their emigration to the United States. There at the time of the Civil war the father enlisted in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and was at the front for four years, thus proving the quality of his allegiance to his adopted country. At the close of the war he returned to Wisconsin and farmed there until his death in December, 1895, when he was sixty-six years old. The mother died in January, 1905, at the age of fifty-three years.

Peter A. Helgesen grew to manhood upon the home farm and received his early education in the district schools. Later he took a course in the Northwestern Business College and Academy at Madison, Wisconsin, and in 1887 he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, Illinois. Subsequently he became a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated in March, 1891. He soon afterward opened an office in Lake Mills, where he has since remained, and his skill as a physician and surgeon is recognized by both the general public and his professional colleagues. He is also a registered pharmacist and from 1900 to 1905 was interested in a drug store in Lake Mills. He still owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company, in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and in the Mutual Telephone Company.

Dr. Helgesen was married in 1889 to Miss Anna Dakken, who passed away in 1911 after an illness of fifteen years' duration. To them were born two children, as follows: Walter, a jeweler residing in Lake Mills; and Russell, who is a junior in the Lake Mills high school and has enlisted in Company D, Iowa National Guard. In August, 1912, Dr. Helgesen was married to Miss Maude E. Thomas, a graduate of the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls and a holder of the

M. D. I. degree. For several years she was principal of the Lake Mills schools, was later teacher of Latin and English in the Waterloo (Iowa) high school and principal of the Waukon (Iowa) public schools. She has one son, Harold L., three years old.

Dr. Helgesen is one of the leaders in local republican circles, was from 1912 to 1914 chairman of the county republican central committee and has many times been called to public office. For two years he was county coroner and during the greater part of the time since 1898 has been mayor, which office he is now filling. He understands well the interests of the city and has been very efficient in devising and carrying out plans for the advancement of its interests, while at all times his devotion to the public good has been above question. In his religious belief he is a Lutheran and fraternally he belongs to the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America. In addition to his large private practice he is surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and his professional connections include membership in the Winnebago County and the Iowa State Medical Societies and in the American Medical Association.

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#### EDWARD G. MCGREEVEY.

Edward G. McGreevey, cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank at Leland, has through his own efforts and capability risen to his present position of importance and responsibility in the business circles of Winnebago county. He was born in Wisconsin, February 22, 1867, and is a son of Edward and Mary (Hanlon) McGreevey, who were natives of Ireland and came to America in early life. They first settled in New York, but afterward removed to Wisconsin, in 1877 came to Iowa, establishing their home upon a farm in Winnebago County. Here the father passed away in 1906 and is still survived by the mother.

Edward G. McGreevey was one of a family of nine children, all of whom are yet living. He spent his boyhood days under the parental roof and obtained a public school education, which he supplemented by a high school course at Forest City, Iowa. He started out in the business world as a clerk in a store in Forest City, where he remained for a year and then went to South Dakota, where he was employed on a railroad for three years. He afterward removed to Montana, where he continued in railroad work for a year, after which he returned to Iowa and spent a similar period in merchandising. He next turned his attention to buying and shipping stock, which business claimed his time and energies for a few years, and later he devoted six years to buying grain, spending two years of that time at Leland and four years in Ogden. On the 1st of March, 1901, he took charge of the Farmers Savings Bank at Leland as cashier and has since been in control of this institution, which was organized in 1900 and which has been under his direction for sixteen years, its growth and success being attributable in large measure to his efforts, enterprise and business ability. For the last sixteen years he has also engaged in auctioneering and during that time he has cried many sales. He is treasurer of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company and of the Leland Farmers Elevator Company and is secretary of the Leland Mutual Telephone Company and of the Mount Valley Manufacturing Company. He is also the owner



EDWARD G. MCGREEVEY



of land in Nebraska and his realty holdings and his other interests are the visible evidence of an active, useful and well spent life.

On October 23, 1907, at Fort Dodge, Iowa, Mr. McGreevey was married to Miss Mina Anderson, a native of that city and a daughter of Christian and Mary (Brovold) Anderson, who came from Norway in early life and settled in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. McGreevey have become parents of two children: Edward H., eight years old; and Donald M. C., six years old, both of whom are attending school. Mr. McGreevey is a member of the Catholic church and belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. He gives his political support to the democratic party. His prominence and popularity in Leland are indicated in the fact that he has served for fourteen years as mayor, no other having ever occupied the position for so long a period. It is indicative not only of the confidence reposed in him but also a proof of the marked ability and fidelity which he has displayed in discharging his duties. He has also been secretary of the school board for several years and he is interested in every plan and measure for promoting the general welfare of county and state.

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#### JOHN ISAACSON.

John Isaacson, justice of the peace of Forest City, a veteran of the Civil war and a retired business man and farmer, has in many ways left the impress of his individuality upon the history of Winnebago county, where he has ever stood for those things which are most worth while in the life of the community. He was born in Norway on the 12th of March, 1840, a son of Knud and Mary (Berg) Isaacson, who came to the United States in 1855, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they resided until called to their final rest.

John Isaacson was a lad of fifteen when he left his native country and came with his parents to the new world. His education was largely acquired in the parochial schools of Norway, and after coming to the United States he also attended district schools in Wisconsin. His parents were in humble financial circumstances, owing money for their passage to America, and John Isaacson early became a wage earner. Almost immediately after his arrival in Wisconsin he secured work as a farm hand, which brought him seven dollars per month, a sum which he contributed to the support of the family. He had reached the age of twenty-two years when on the 15th of August, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the army as a member of Company H, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities. He enlisted as a private and was subsequently promoted to the rank of orderly sergeant, while later he was commissioned second lieutenant. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg from the 18th of May to the 4th of July, 1863, and assisted in the capture of Little Rock, where his command remained until March 6, 1864, and then joined the Seventh Corps under General Steele. He then took part in the celebrated Red River expedition and afterward was engaged in the battle of Okalona, Arkansas, on the 3d of April, 1864. He was also in the fight at Elkins Ford, Arkansas, which began the following day and continued until the 6th of April. At Moscow,

Arkansas, on the 13th of April, and at Camden on the 24th his regiment again engaged the enemy and was also under fire at Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas, on the 30th of April. The troops then returned to Little Rock, Arkansas, and were stationed there until some time in May, when they were transferred to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, but the same month returned to Little Rock, there continuing until February, 1865, when they proceeded down the Mississippi river to New Orleans, making their way afterward to Fort Morgan, Alabama. Mr. Isaacson with his command participated in the capture of Spanish Fort in April, 1865, and in the capture of Fort Blakely in the same month. In 1864 he was detailed home on recruiting service, being thus engaged for two months, during which period he was made first sergeant, and on the 25th of September of that year he was commissioned second lieutenant. He was mustered out of the service on the 25th of September, 1865, at Brownsville, Texas, after which he was sent north and was honorably discharged.

Prior to his enlistment Mr. Isaacson had secured eighty acres of land in Dane county, Wisconsin, and soon after his return he was married and settled upon his farm, there residing until June, 1881, when he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, establishing his home in Forest City, where he opened a store, being prominently identified with merchandising for nine years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and bought a farm of two hundred and sixty acres in Center township, to the cultivation of which he devoted his attention for two years. In 1892 he was called to public office, being elected county auditor, after which he returned to Forest City, entering upon the duties of his position on the 1st of January, 1893. By reelection he served for four years in that position, making a creditable record by the faithful manner in which he discharged his duties. Later he once more resumed farming and for eight years was identified with agricultural pursuits in Ellington township, Hancock county, but afterward sold out and returned to his Forest City home, which he has since occupied. He was again called to public office in 1912, when elected justice of the peace. He has been twice reelected and is now serving for the third term. In 1916 more than fifty cases were tried before him, about one-half of which were criminal cases, and in his official capacity he has also married sixteen couples. In 1906 he was appointed court bailiff and has continuously occupied that position to the present time. During the eight years that he resided on the farm in Ellington township, Hancock county, he was connected with the school board, five years as a director and three years as secretary to the board.

On Christmas Day of 1865 Mr. Isaacson was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Olson, of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, by whom he had fourteen children, eleven of whom still survive, as follows: Clara M., who is the wife of P. G. Kloster, of Forest City; Adelia M., who gave her hand in marriage to G. I. Koto, of Forest City; Carl A., who is engaged in the land business at Forest City; Newton E., the president of the First National Bank of Thompson, Winnebago county; George E., a Montana ranchman; Mabel A., the wife of C. E. Robinson, of Forest City; Amanda S., who is the wife of William F. Groves, of Viroqua, Wisconsin; Elpha F., the wife of Walter A. Forde, of Marysville, California; Sumner E., who is assistant cashier of the First National Bank at Thompson, Iowa; Reuben I., assistant cashier of the German State Bank at Hartley, Iowa; and Vernon V., who acts as assistant cashier of the Stanton State Bank at Stanton, North Dakota. On Christmas Day of 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Isaacson celebrated their golden wedding,



on which joyous occasion their children and grandchildren to the number of more than fifty gathered.

Mr. Isaacson has always been a staunch republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and fraternally he is connected with Hayden Post, No. 151, G. A. R., thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and they are among the most highly esteemed and respected couples of Winnebago county, where they have now long resided, witnessing its development from a frontier district into one of the populous and progressive counties of the state. At all times Judge Isaacson has been as true and loyal in discharging the duties of citizenship as when he followed the old flag on the battlefields of the south, marching with quick step as the stars and stripes led on. His step today may be slower but the same spirit of loyalty remains, and though an adopted son of the nation, America has no more faithful and vigorous supporter of her interests than Judge Isaacson.

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#### ANDREW E. BRANSTAD.

Since 1875 Andrew E. Branstad has been a resident of Winnebago county and has therefore witnessed almost its entire development and progress. He has seen towns and villages spring up and the wild land transformed into productive and valuable farms. As an agriculturist he has been actively identified with this development and he has also taken an important part in public affairs.

A native of Norway, Mr. Branstad was born August 10, 1859, and is a son of Endre and Dordy (Groitnes) Branstad, who came to the United States in 1873 and first located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, but after residing there for two years removed to Winnebago county. The father purchased eighty acres of land on section 1, Forest township, on which he resided up to the time of his death in 1911. The mother is still living and now makes her home in Leland.

Being thirteen years of age on the emigration of the family to the new world, Andrew E. Branstad had attended school in his native land, and for one term continued his studies in the schools of Winneshiek county. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until he attained his twenty-second year and then started out to make his own way in the world, working on a section of the railroad for three years. At the end of that time Mr. Branstad purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land one and a half miles southeast of Leland and turned his attention to farming, with which occupation he had become thoroughly familiar during his boyhood and youth. He converted the raw prairie into highly cultivated fields and made his farm one of the best in the locality. His first house was built of logs which had formed a building erected by John Springen immediately after the Civil war and in this dwelling Mr. Branstad lived for six years, at the end of which time it was replaced by a good frame residence. He continued to live upon his farm until the 1st of March, 1917, when he purchased his present home adjoining Leland, and now rents the home farm, consisting of two hundred and eighty acres, to his sons, Helmer and Carl.

Mr. Branstad was married June 15, 1885, to Miss Ingeborg Nerley, of Winneshiek county, Iowa, but a native of Norway, and to them have been born nine

children, of whom seven survive, namely: Edward G., and Gust E., both farmers of Polk county, Wisconsin; Dinah Ann, the wife of Levi Larson of the same county; Helmer D., who is on the home farm; Hazel, with her parents; Carl O., also on his father's farm; and Wilma O., now attending Waldorf College at Forest City, Iowa.

Mr. Branstad now votes independently and for many years has been an active worker for prohibition. He is a member of the town council of Leland and was a member of the first town council after the incorporation. As a public-spirited citizen he has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his town and county and has given his support to all worthy enterprises for the public good. He was one of the principal factors in the organization of the co-operative creamery built at Leland, which was the first co-operative creamery in Winnebago county, and he served as the first president, after which he filled the office of secretary for some time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Branstad are earnest and consistent members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and he was one of five men to organize the first church of that denomination in Leland. He has always taken an active part in church and Sunday school work, serving as superintendent of the Sunday school continuously since its organization. His life has been upright and honorable in every respect and he well merits the high esteem in which he is uniformly held.

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#### JENS BEN JENSON.

Jens Ben Jenson, living on section 9, Newton township, is a representative of the Norwegian element in the citizenship of Winnebago county—an element that has done much toward developing this district. He was born in Mitchell county, Iowa, March 2, 1862, and is a son of Jens and Mary O. Jenson. He was reared and educated in Mitchell and in Winnebago counties, being but nine years of age when in 1871 his parents removed to Winnebago county. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof until he had reached the age of nineteen, when he began earning his own living as a farm hand and was thus employed until 1892. He was thirty years of age when he purchased his present place of eighty acres on section 9, Newton township, on which he has now resided for a quarter of a century. He immediately took up the task of improving and developing the property and has since continued its cultivation with the exception of a period of two years when he rented his farm. His work is carefully and systematically carried on and everything that he does is characterized by good judgment and unflinching industry. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills and also in the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

On December 8, 1881, Mr. Jenson was married to Miss Mattie Martin, who passed away in August, 1886, and on the 24th of March, 1891, Mr. Jenson was again married, his second union being with Miss Julia Rusley, who departed his life in November, 1899. For his third wife he chose Ellen C. Anderson, whom he wedded March 24, 1902. To them were born two children: Joseph A., who was born June 5, 1903; and Elmer B., born in July 1911.

Mr. Jenson holds membership in the Lutheran church and he votes with the republican party, keeping well informed at all times on the questions and issues

of the day. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, esteem him as a man of genuine personal worth and good business ability. He has lived in the county for forty-six years and has therefore witnessed the greater part of its growth, progress and development. He can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when this was a pioneer district, and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

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#### WILLIAM C. WELLS.

William C. Wells, one of the prominent early settlers of Garner, now living retired at that place, comes from the old Pine Tree state, for he was born in Maine in 1827. When a young man he went to Michigan and later to Wisconsin, where he met the lady who afterward became his wife. In 1870 he came to Garner, Iowa, arriving here before the railroad was completed to this place, and here he embarked in the lumber business, which he carried on until his retirement from business.

In 1870 Mr. Wells was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Fitch, a native of Connecticut and a daughter of Gordon and Sarah (Gould) Fitch. On leaving the east her family also removed to Michigan and later to Wisconsin, where she engaged in teaching school for a time. Mrs. Wells passed away on the 11th of January, 1916, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells were born two children. The son, George, is now dean of the law school of the State University of Grand Forks, North Dakota. He married Miss Grace Gillette, of Toledo, Ohio, and they have a son, William G. Alice, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wells, married George Hahn, of Garner, who died in 1908, and she now makes her home with her father. She is a well educated lady and is serving as librarian of the public library of Garner. The family has long been one of prominence of this city and now in his declining years Mr. Wells is surrounded by a host of warm friends who hold him in the highest esteem.

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#### FRED R. CHASE

Among the progressive young farmers of Avery township is Fred R. Chase, who is living on section 22 and has been a lifelong resident of Iowa. His parents, William and Mary (Nelius) Chase, were natives of New York and of Iowa respectively and both have now departed this life. Fred R. Chase was reared under the parental roof with the usual advantages and opportunities that come to the farm bred boy. He attended the district schools until he reached the age of sixteen and then concentrated his entire attention upon farm work, in which he had already received considerable training, having assisted his father in the work of the fields through the summer months. He continued to farm for his father and for others in the neighborhood until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when, having carefully saved his earnings, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Ell township, Hancock county. For this tract he paid twenty-eight dollars

per acre in the month of March and in the fall of that year he sold it for thirty-three dollars per acre, thus realizing quite a handsome little sum on his investment. In 1900 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 22, Avery township, for thirty-six dollars per acre and this property he still owns. He carries on general farming and his fields present a neat and attractive appearance, indicating his careful methods and wise supervision of the work. He makes a specialty of raising chickens of the Rhode Island Red variety, having now two hundred and thirty-five hens and many young chickens.

On the 11th of October, 1897, Mr. Chase was married to Miss Elva Lange, a daughter of William and Mary (Arnold) Lange, the former a native of Indiana, while the latter was born in Germany. Mrs. Chase was one of a family of three children and by her marriage has become the mother of seven children. Clifford W., Gerald F., Marvel M., Dale D., Nettie A., Iola E. and Jessie A., all yet at home.

The parents hold membership in the United Brethren church and Mr. Chase has membership in the Yeomen lodge. His political endorsement has been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and while he has never sought nor desired political office he has served for seven years as a school director. Diligence and enterprise have been the determining factors in shaping his life and they have won for him a substantial measure of success, placing him among the representative farmers of his community.

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#### HANS LARSON.

Hans Larson, one of the foremost residents of Forest City, where he is engaged in the land business, was born in Norway on the 27th of February, 1860, a son of Lars and Leva (Larson) Larson, both of whom spent their entire lives in the land of the midnight sun. It was in 1880 that Hans Larson, then a young man of twenty years, crossed the Atlantic, landing at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of July. He made his way direct across the country to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he was employed during the summer months as a farm hand at eight dollars per month, while during the winter seasons he worked for his board. His passage money had been sent to him from Winnebago county by his cousins, Hans and L. T. Thompson, and this money he repaid soon afterward by his work as a farm hand. He was employed in that way for three years, at the end of which time he purchased a team of horses, rented land and started out independently as a farmer. From that point forward he has rapidly won success. He bent every energy to the development and improvement of his place and made his efforts count for the utmost in the attainment of prosperity. In 1885 he purchased eighty acres of land in Forest township, on which he took up his abode and there resided for twelve years. In the meantime he continued to purchase land whenever opportunity offered. He carefully saved his earnings and the money was invested in other property until he was the owner of some eight different farms in Hancock and Winnebago counties. In recent years he has sold some of this land, but he is still one of the large land holders of this section of the state and in addition he owns extensive interests in city property at Forest City and also has large





HANS LARSON



RESIDENCE OF HANS LARSON, FOREST CITY





land holdings in Texas, including a tract of four hundred acres near Houston which he has recently leased for oil development. He was emigration agent for several railroads of the Northwest and was the means of bringing many hundreds of settlers to North Dakota, Idaho and Washington. In 1897 he took up his abode in Forest City, where he has since resided, and he today owns and occupies its most beautiful home. In fact, he is justly accounted one of the most progressive and substantial residents of his part of the state. While he has been a progressive and enterprising farmer, the greater part of his wealth has been acquired through his successful speculations in land. He has displayed almost intuitive wisdom in recognizing the value of property and its possible rise, and land which he has purchased at a low figure has been sold at a good profit, bringing to him a gratifying return.

On May 15, 1885, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Johnson, of Forest township, Winnebago county, by whom he had eight children, six of whom still survive, as follows: John M. and Lena E., both of whom are graduates of the Waldorf Lutheran College; Minnie M., also a graduate of that institution; Harry; Ida, a high school student; and Alma. Clara passed away soon after completing her course in the Waldorf Lutheran College. Lena E. is now the wife of A. D. Hewitt and resides in Lemon, South Dakota, and Minnie M. married Dr. R. E. Hansen, of Forest City, but the other surviving children are still under the parental roof.

The parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Larson is a republican. He may truly be called a self-made man and he deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for his energy and industry have carried him into important relations. His life is an indication of what may be achieved when laudable ambition points out the way and persistency of purpose characterizes one's course.

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#### RASMUS O. HAUGLAND.

Rasmus O. Haugland, a retired farmer living in Lake Mills, has reached the advanced age of eighty-two years and receives the respect and honor to which his long, active and well spent life entitles him. He was born in Norway, October 18, 1834, of the marriage of Ole G. and Ingeborg (Gunderson) Haugland who in 1846 removed with their family to Dane county, Wisconsin, where both passed away and are buried. The father engaged in farming and also taught school in Norway. To them were born twelve children, of whom three grew to maturity and of whom our subject is the only one now living.

Rasmus O. Haugland began his education in the common schools of his native country and continued it in the schools of Dane county, Wisconsin, until he was sixteen years old. From that time until 1867 he worked as a lumberman, cutting timber along the Wisconsin river and taking the lumber down the Mississippi to St. Louis. In 1867 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Center township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and from that time until 1914 was continuously engaged in its improvement and cultivation. During that time his land, which had been in a raw state when it came into his possession, was brought to a high

degree of cultivation, many improvements were made thereon and his resources steadily increased, enabling him to retire from active life in 1914. He then took up his residence in Lake Mills, where he owns an attractive home. He helped organize the Lake Mills Creamery Company, the Lake Mills Lumber Company, the Leland Creamery Company, the Farmers Elevator Company at Leland and the Mount Valley Threshing Company at Leland. He still owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he rents, and twenty acres of timber land.

In 1867 Mr. Haugland married Miss Sarah Sunderland, a daughter of Ole H. and Anna Sunderland, natives of Norway, who on emigrating to the United States first located in Dane county, Wisconsin, but in 1866 removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, whence they went to Wright county, North Dakota, where they died and are buried. To Mr. and Mrs. Haugland were born eleven children, of whom four died in youth, while seven survive, namely: Emma, now Mrs. L. E. Peterson, of Forest City, Iowa; Anna, the wife of T. A. Thompson, of Center township; Oscar, who married and resides at Nashua, Montana; Edward, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Helmer, who is married and resides in Lake Mills; Emil, a traveling salesman of St. Paul, Minn.; and William, a resident of Forest City.

Mr. Haugland is a staunch republican and has done much effective work for his party. His first presidential vote was cast for John C. Fremont and he has lived under eighteen presidents in the United States and under two kings in Norway. He has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs and for one term was county supervisor, for four years justice of the peace and for a number of years school director. In religious faith he is a United Lutheran. He began his independent career with no capital save his energy, strength and sound judgment, and these qualifications have proved amply sufficient, as he is now one of the substantial men of the county. He has a wide acquaintance and holds a warm place in the regard of many.

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#### EDWARD R. HAUGLAND.

Edward R. Haugland is one of the most successful business men of Lake Mills and the meat market which he conducts is a model establishment of the kind, no expense having been spared to secure the most complete, up-to-date and sanitary equipment. He was born in Center township, this county, August 21, 1883, and is a son of Rasmus and Sarah (Sunderland) Haugland, a sketch of whose lives appears above. Until sixteen years old he attended the common schools and subsequently for seven years gave his time and attention to helping with the work of the home farm. When twenty-three years old he rented that place and operated it on his own account for three years, after which he went to Ward county, North Dakota, where he purchased a quarter section of land. Three years later he sold that place and returned to Winnebago county. For a year he was employed as a butcher by M. G. Johnson, of Lake Mills, and then engaged in the butchering business for himself in Rowan, Wright county, Iowa. Upon selling that business he, in partnership with M. G. Johnson, bought a meat market at Lake Mills from Bang & Mortenson. Two years later his brother, Helmer C. Haugland, bought

out Mr. Johnson's interest and the two brothers have since conducted the market, which is one of the leading business enterprises of Lake Mills. The sales room is finished in white and there is also a specially constructed cooling and freezing room supplied with the modern type of ammonia refrigerating system. They do their own killing and their methods of preparing the meat for the market are the best known. At every step the utmost care is taken to ensure absolute cleanliness.

Mr. Haugland makes his home with his parents. In religious faith he is a United Lutheran and his political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party, whose candidates he supports at the polls. In the management of his business he displays unusual progressiveness coupled with sound judgment and his continued success is assured.

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#### HARRY R. IRISH, M. D.

Dr. Harry R. Irish, of Forest City, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, October 4, 1860, a son of David and Harriett (Brownell) Irish, who were natives of Vermont. About 1854 they removed to the middle west, settling in Wisconsin, and in 1867 they established their home in Jasper county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1885. His wife passed away in 1890.

After acquiring a public school education Dr. Irish attended the Hazel Dell Academy at Newton, Iowa, and he began preparation for a professional career by reading medicine in the office and under the direction of Dr. J. R. Smith, of Kellogg, Iowa. Later he entered the medical department of the State University of Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1883. Immediately afterward he came to Forest City, where he opened an office, and here he has since remained, covering a period of more than a third of a century. His ability in his profession has brought him prominently to the front in this connection and he has long been accorded a very liberal patronage. He has been a constant student of his profession and his broad reading has kept him in touch with the trend of modern scientific investigation and discovery.

In 1887 Dr. Irish was married to Miss Alice Peirce, of Sanborn, New York, a teacher of Forest City and a daughter of Edward and Susan (Rose) Peirce. The former was a soldier of the Civil war and laid down his life on the altar of his country in defense of the Union. To Dr. and Mrs. Irish have been born a daughter and son: Leita, the wife of Henry Clausen, of Clear Lake, Iowa; and Thomas, who is now a student in the medical department of the State University. Fraternally Dr. Irish is connected with Truth Lodge, No. 213, F. & A. M., of which he is a past master, and he also belongs to the Woodmen Camp No. 717. In politics he may be called an independent democrat, for while he supports many of the principles of the party, he does not consider himself bound by party ties. He has filled the office of mayor of Forest City, to which he has given a beneficial and public-spirited administration, and that he is a stalwart champion of the cause of public education is indicated in his twenty-two years' service as a member of the school board. He has also been pension examiner. In addition to his large private practice he is acting as surgeon for the Rock Island Railway and he belongs

to the Winnebago County, the Iowa State and the American Medical Associations and also to the American Association of Railway Surgeons. His ability is pronounced and throughout his entire professional career he has neglected no duty or responsibility that has devolved upon him.

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#### OLE WHITE.

Ole White, who is now practically living retired on section 27, Ellington township, Hancock county, Iowa, claims Denmark as his native land, his birth occurring May 25, 1855. His parents, Rasmer and Prena White, were also born in that country, where they continued to reside throughout life. There Ole White was reared and educated, attending the common schools as he had opportunity. Believing that he could better his financial condition in the new world where competition is not so great, he came to America in 1873, at the age of eighteen years and first located in Michigan, where he spent two years. He then removed to Illinois, where he made his home for a number of years.

In the latter state Mr. White was married in 1880 to Miss Alice Gentry, by whom he has had five children, namely: Effie, now the wife of W. A. Carr; Lena, the wife of M. Rasmus; Wilson, who is operating the home farm; Prena, the wife of Clarence Drake; and Raymond, at home.

It was in 1899 that Mr. White brought his family to Iowa and, deciding that Hancock county would be a good location, purchased the northwest quarter of section 26, Ellington township. To the improvement and cultivation of that place he devoted his energies for several years with most gratifying results and continued to make his home thereon until recently, when he retired from active farming and turned the place over to his son, who is now operating it. Mr. White then removed to a forty acre tract on section 27, Ellington township, where he now resides, enjoying the fruits of his years of industry, surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living. He is a worthy member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics he is a progressive. He is one of the representative men of his community and wherever known is held in high esteem.

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#### A. F. SEGERSTROM.

Classed with the progressive and representative citizens of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, is A. F. Segerstrom, who is now engaged in farming on section 27, where he has a tract of land whereon he took up his abode in 1910. He had previously been connected with commercial pursuits and has ever occupied a prominent position in business circles of this section of the state. He was born in Worthington, Minnesota, July 24, 1875, and is a son of Nels and Bengta (Swenson) Segerstrom, both of whom were natives of Sweden, where they were reared and married. About 1867 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, establishing their home in Osage, Iowa, where they continued to reside until 1874,

when they became residents of Worthington, Minnesota. Mr. Segerstrom afterward spent twenty years in California and in later years he returned to Iowa, now making his home in Winnebago county.

At the usual age A. F. Segerstrom became a pupil in the district school near his father's home and afterward had the benefit of instruction in the Forest City high school. He came to Winnebago county with his mother in 1887, at which time they settled in Forest City. Soon after reaching his thirteenth year A. F. Segerstrom became an apprentice to the tinner's and plumber's trade in Forest City and for several years was thus employed, in fact was continuously engaged at his trade and in the hardware business for twenty-two years. In 1897 he established a hardware store, which he successfully conducted until 1910. He then retired from mercantile business on account of his health and took up farming, removing to his present place in Mount Valley township.

In 1909 Mr. Segerstrom was united in marriage to Miss Hilma Johnson of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, her father being O. K. Johnson, who came to this part of Iowa from Illinois in 1882, but is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Segerstrom have two children, Milton A. and Mildred E. Mr. Segerstrom exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He and his wife are members of the Swedish Baptist church, take an active interest in developing the work of the church, thus promoting the moral progress of the community, and for twenty years he taught a Sunday school class. He is interested in all those forces which work for public progress. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company and in the Farmers Elevator of Forest City and he has studied closely and intelligently questions which affect the business welfare and material development of the district. His has been an active and useful life characterized by honorable purpose and attended by success.

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#### NELS ERICKSON.

Iowa has drawn largely upon Norway for its citizenship and from the land of the midnight sun have come many who have done much to further the development and progress of the commonwealth. Actively identified with agricultural interests of Winnebago county is Nels Erickson, who resides on section 24, Norway township. He was born in Norway, June 3, 1849, a son of Erick Iverson and Martha Johansdatter. He attended the common schools of his native country until he reached the age of fifteen years and afterward worked for others in Norway until he had reached the age of twenty-three.

On attaining his majority Mr. Erickson was married to Ingaberg Olson, a daughter of Ole Anderson and Helena Christiansdatter. The former died when Mrs. Erickson was but fourteen years of age and the latter came to the United States when eighty-one years of age and lived with Mr. and Mrs. Erickson until a short time prior to her death, when she went to live with a daughter at Dows, Iowa, where she passed away at the age of eighty-seven. It was in 1872 that Mr. and Mrs. Erickson crossed the Atlantic to the new world and established their home in Franklin county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand for a few years. Later he purchased land in that locality and resided thereon until 1891,

when he sold that place and came to Winnebago county. He purchased the south-east quarter of section 24, Norway township, and forty acres of the northeast quarter of section 25, thus becoming owner of two hundred acres, which he has since cultivated and improved. He also extended the boundaries of his farm by purchasing an additional tract of two hundred acres just over the line in Worth county, but has since given this to his children. He owns a store building and stock of goods at Emmons, Minnesota, just over the boundary line. He is interested financially in the creamery company and the lumber company at Lake Mills and also in the Farmers elevator there and his business affairs are extensive and important, while his success demonstrates his ability and enterprise.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson have become the parents of six children, who are yet living: Emma, the wife of L. B. Stene, who was born in Norway and is now residing on a farm adjoining her father's; Henry, who is farming in Worth county; Matilda, the wife of Bert Anderson, of Worth county; Theodore, who is assisting in the operation of the home farm; Olga, the wife of Gus Hanson, of Emmons, Minnesota; and Enge, now the wife of C. C. Sibrud, of Emmons. The parents hold membership with the Synod Lutheran church and Mr. Erickson gives his political support to the republican party. He has never been an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his time and attention upon his business affairs, but was school director in Franklin county for four years. As the years have gone on he has won substantial prosperity which has come entirely as the legitimate and well deserved reward of his industry, perseverance and honorable dealing.

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#### C. C. MYRE.

A valued and enterprising citizen of Linden township, Winnebago county, was called from life when on the 5th of January, 1914, C. C. Myre passed away. He was truly a self-made man and his activity brought to him success which enabled him to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances. He was born in Norway, April 7, 1849, and when four years of age was brought to the new world by his parents. For a year the family lived in Wisconsin and in 1854 came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where both the father and mother passed away.

C. C. Myre was reared and educated in that county, meeting with the usual experiences of farm bred boys. There he was married in 1876 to Miss Breat Indvik, who was born in Norway and came to the United States with her parents in 1872. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Myre came to Winnebago county and took up their abode upon a farm. As the years passed by he carefully managed his business and prosperity enabled him from time to time to add to his holdings until his possessions in farm land aggregated seven hundred and twenty acres. He never allowed difficulties or obstacles to discourage him and his resolute courage and energy carried him forward to the goal of success.

Mr. and Mrs. Myre became the parents of seven children, of whom all are yet living namely: C. C.; John C.; Bertha, the wife of A. Dahl; Julia, the wife of Andrew Jacobson; Gena, the wife of Roy Thomas, of Mason City; Helmer C.; and Clarence, who is living on the old homestead. On the 5th of January, 1914, Mr. Myre departed this life, being then about sixty-five years of age, and he

MR. AND MRS. C. C. MYRE







was laid to rest in the West Prairie cemetery. He held membership in the Lutheran church and lived the life of an earnest Christian gentleman, being straightforward in all of his business dealings and honorable in all life's relations. Those who knew him entertained for him the warmest regard, and not only his immediate family but many friends mourned his passing. Mrs. Myre is also a member of the Lutheran church and she is widely and favorably known in her part of the county. She still owns the old homestead property of two hundred acres, situated on section 23 Linden township. It is well improved and returns to her a gratifying annual income as the result of the care and labor bestowed upon the place.

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### LUDVIG E. LUDVIG.

Ludvig E. Ludvig, president and general manager of the Lake Mills Implement and Hardware Company, is a business man of more than the usual initiative and ability as is evidenced by the importance of the company of which he is the head. He was born in Norway township, Winnebago county, February 11, 1879, and his parents, John A. and Brunhilde (Sanden) Ludvig, were natives respectively of Söndfjord, Norway, and of Wisconsin. In early life the father crossed the Atlantic to the United States and located in Winnebago county, Iowa, where he followed the carpenter's trade for a number of years. He then purchased land in Norway township, to the operation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He died in January, 1910, and the mother's death occurred in February, 1881.

Ludvig E. Ludvig was reared in Winnebago county and received his early education in its public schools. Later he attended the Luther Academy at Albert Lea, Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1899, and the succeeding year was spent upon the home farm. At the end of that time he became bookkeeper for Eckert & Williams of Lake Mills, so continuing until 1905, when he bought out the T. S. Tweed implement business, which he operated under the name of L. E. Ludvig & Company for five years. In 1910 he consolidated his interests with the business of Eckert & Williams, the new company being known as the Lake Mills Implement and Hardware Company, with Mr. Ludvig as secretary. He has ever since had the direction of the affairs of the company and in 1915 bought out the interest of Mr. Eckert, at that time becoming president of the company. He still holds that office and he is likewise treasurer and manager. The company deals in plumbing and heating supplies, buggies, wagons, harness, windmills, farm machinery of all kinds, automobiles and hardware and its stock is much larger than that usually found in a city the size of Lake Mills. Its annual volume of trade has reached a highly satisfying figure and its patronage is still showing a steady growth.

Mr. Ludvig was married June 27, 1901, to Miss Bertina Honsey, a daughter of T. G. and Turi (Wangness) Honsey, of Norway township, Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Ludvig have two children, namely: Bennett J., twelve years of age; and Homer T., aged seven. He casts his ballot in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party but has never had time to take an active

part in political affairs. He holds membership in the Lutheran church and gives his heartiest support to the promotion of its work. His successful management of his important business interests has brought him financial prosperity and has also made him a factor in the general commercial development of the city.

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#### OLE K. JUVLAND.

Ole K. Juvland, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 23, Center township, and is also actively identified with commercial interests in near-by towns, displays in his business career a spirit of marked enterprise and progressiveness combined with indefatigable energy. He was born in Norway, February 1, 1851, a son of Knute and Asave (Evenson) Olson, who were natives of the same country and there spent their entire lives.

Ole K. Juvland pursued his education in the schools of Norway and a year after attaining his majority bade adieu to friends and native country in order to try his fortune in America. Crossing the Atlantic in 1873, he made his way to Worth county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for ten years. On the expiration of that period he came to Winnebago county and invested his savings in eighty acres of land on section 23, Center township. It was then all covered with timber, but he cleared away the trees and brush and has since improved the tract, converting it into a fine farm. Later he bought another eighty acres and is now owner of one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, golden harvests annually rewarding him for the care he bestows upon his fields. He has ever been actuated by a progressive spirit in his business and has become financially interested in several commercial concerns, being a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company of Lake Mills, also in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Joice, Iowa.

In November, 1887, Mr. Juvland was married to Miss Gunhild Aslakson and they have become parents of four children: Alfred, Carl, Sophia and Signe, all yet at home. The religious faith of the parents is that of the United Lutheran church and to its teachings they loyally adhere. Mr. Juvland has given his support to the republican party since becoming a naturalized American citizen and he is loyal to the interests of his adopted country. Having elected to make this land his home, he has ever felt it to be his duty to protect its interests and he has always stood for those forces which are most worth while in matters of progressive citizenship.

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#### B. G. GUNHUS.

B. G. Gunhus, who is devoting his time and energies to farming and stock raising in Forest township, Winnebago county, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, on the 22d of June, 1876, a son of Gould G. and Julia (Kolve) Gunhus, both of whom were natives of Norway. There they resided until about 1848, when

they came to America and settled in Racine, Wisconsin. The father there secured a tract of land and his remaining days were devoted to general agricultural pursuits in that state. To Mr. and Mrs. Gunhus were born a daughter and a son, the former being Clara T., now the wife of K. B. Skuldt, of Wisconsin.

The son, B. G. Gunhus, was reared and educated in Wisconsin, where he supplemented his public school education by study in college. Through the period of his boyhood and youth he remained at home and afterward took charge of the old homestead. In 1907 he came to Winnebago county, where he purchased the farm upon which he now resides on section 34, Forest township, securing one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land, which he has since carefully developed and cultivated until it is now a splendidly improved property. He likewise owns about eighty acres in Newton township and is justly accounted one of the representative agriculturists of his part of the state. He is also one of the directors of the Farmers Elevator Company and its treasurer and is a stockholder in the First National Bank.

In 1898 Mr. Gunhus was married to Miss Anna Holland, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Holland, who were natives of Norway but in childhood came to America. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Gunhus have two children: Irene Gwendolyn, who is attending high school; and Gool Amound. The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and Mrs. Gunhus is an active temperance worker, holding membership in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In his political views Mr. Gunhus is a republican but is not an office seeker. He is loyal in the discharge of all of his duties of citizenship, however, and co-operates in those plans and movements which seek to promote the best interests of his county. He is leading a life of activity in the furtherance of his farming interests, knowing that honorable success is based upon individual effort and ability.

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#### E. F. KLUCKHOHN.

E. F. Kluckhohn, who since 1904 has been owner and publisher of the Garner Signal, was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, March 24, 1864, a son of Charles and Sophie (Friday) Kluckhohn, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to the United States in 1848. The father was a minister of the German Methodist church and in 1877 removed with his family to Garner. He had purchased a farm near the town and resided thereon for three years. He then established his home in Garner, where he engaged in dealing in hay and made a substantial place in business circles of the city. He continued to make his home in Garner until called to his final rest in 1900.

E. F. Kluckhohn acquired a public school education and afterward pursued a post graduate course in the Northwestern University and is also a graduate of the Central Wesleyan College at Warrenton, Missouri, from which he received the B. A. degree and which later conferred upon him the M. A. degree. He, too, devoted a number of years to the work of the ministry, preaching in the Congregational church for four years. On the expiration of that period he entered the journalistic field, purchasing the Graettinger Times at Graettinger, Iowa. He

owned and edited that paper for five years and afterward spent three or four years in connection with a paper in Garner. Later he became the owner of the Luverne News, which he published for a year, and then purchased the Whittemore Champion. In 1901 he became owner of the Garner Signal, which he has since published, making it one of the progressive newspapers of this part of the state. The Signal is the oldest paper in Hancock county and maintains a position of leadership not only in age but in all that speaks for modern progress in journalism. He has recently installed a new linotype machine and he has splendid equipment for doing all kinds of newspaper and job printing.

In 1894 Mr. Kluckhohn was united in marriage to Miss Emma Haas, of Grandview, Iowa, and they became the parents of three children, Grace, Paul and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Kluckhohn hold membership in the Congregational church and are active supporters of many forces looking to the moral development of the community. Fraternally Mr. Kluckhohn is connected with various organizations. He belongs to the lodge, chapter and council in Masonry and also to the Eastern Star. He likewise has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Mystic Workers, the Yeomen and the Royal Neighbors. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, which he supports through the columns of his paper and through individual effort, but he is not an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his individual interests. The Garner Signal, of which he is now owner and editor, was first established as the Hancock County Signal in 1871 by George R. Lanning as a weekly. It was afterward owned by W. C. Hayward and later by the firm of Hayward & Maben. The paper afterward became the property and was published by the firm of Bush & Knadler, from 1883 until 1904, when Mr. Kluckhohn became proprietor. It is an eight-page paper, much of it being home print, and it is devoted to the interests of the republican party and to the local welfare, being ever found as the champion of progressive party movements.

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#### LOUIS A. JENSEN.

Norway has made valuable contribution to the citizenship of Iowa, for many of the valued and substantial residents of the state have had their nativity or trace their ancestry back to the land of the midnight sun. Among this number is Louis A. Jensen, of Forest City, whose parents, Jens and Mary Jensen, were both natives of Norway. The former came to the United States in 1846 and the latter in 1845 and they were married in Illinois. Later they came to Iowa, casting in their lot among the pioneer settlers of Mitchell county, where Mr. Jensen took up the occupation of farming. In 1871 he removed with his family to Winnebago county, where both he and his wife spent their remaining days.

Louis A. Jensen was born in Mitchell county, Iowa, May 21, 1869, obtained a public school education and later made up his deficiency by a post-graduate course in the high school in Forest City. In 1896 he was elected to the office of clerk of the court and served in that position for eight years. While thus engaged he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1904. Since 1910 he has filled the office of county attorney for Winnebago



LOUIS A. JENSEN



county and has made a most excellent record in that position, carefully safeguarding the legal interests of this district. He is well versed in the principles of law and displays the utmost accuracy in the application of legal principles to the points in litigation. Mr. Jensen also has farming interests, being the owner of a tract of land south of Lake Mills which his father entered from the government upon removing to Winnebago county. Their nearest market at that time was at McGregor and they experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, while as the years went on they contributed to the work of general development, and Mr. Jensen has lived to see remarkable changes in the county and the conditions here existing.

On the 17th of July, 1891, Mr. Jensen was united in marriage to Miss Mary Sheldon, of Webster county, Iowa, a daughter of Ole Sheldon. Their children are: Marcellus, Christine, Lydia, Rachel and Constance. The son, a graduate of the law department of Drake University with the class of 1911, is now practicing with his father, at Forest City, Iowa, under the firm name of Jensen & Jensen. He wedded Mabel West, of State Center. The eldest daughter is a graduate of St. Olaf's College.

Mr. Jensen has always been deeply interested in the cause of education and has provided his children with excellent opportunities in that direction. He is now secretary of the Waldorf College Association, which position he has filled since the college was established, and of the school he was one of the organizers. He has also been a member of the school board of Forest City and does all in his power to advance educational standards. His political allegiance has ever been given to the republican party and his son is also an active worker in its ranks, being now chairman of the county central committee. The religious faith of the family is that of the United Lutheran church, to which Mr. Jensen loyally adheres, guiding his life by its principles. His activities are many and are manifest along those lines which touch the general interests of society and work for public progress and improvement.

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#### CLARK B. CORE.

A well spent life always brings its reward—if not in material success, in the good will, the confidence and high regard of those among whom the individual's lot is cast. To Clark B. Core, however, has come both the respect of his many friends and the substantial rewards of his intelligently directed labor, and now after long connection with farming and stock raising interests he is living retired in Forest City, where his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have called him to the office of city councilman. He was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1865, a son of Elias and Mary J (Kauffman) Core, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1869. In that year they removed to La Salle county, Illinois, where they purchased a farm between Ottawa and Streator, upon which they continued to reside until called to their final rest.

Clark B. Core was reared under the parental roof and in his boyhood days attended the public schools near his father's home. When twenty-one years of age

he started out to earn his own living but did not leave the old homestead, his father employing him as a farm hand for three years. During that period, in the fall of 1887, he and his brother Skiles invested in Iowa land, purchasing three hundred acres in Hancock county, a half mile south of Forest City, and in the spring of 1888 the two brothers made their way to their newly acquired possession. Clark B. Core remained for a month and then returned to the old home in Illinois and operated the farm through the summer of 1888. In the spring of 1889, however, he took up his abode in Hancock county, Iowa, but as he was not married at that time, he spent the three succeeding winter seasons at the old homestead in Illinois.

It was on the 18th of February, 1892, that Mr. Core wedded Miss Dorothy Robison, then a resident of La Salle county, Illinois, but a native of England. They began their domestic life upon the Iowa farm and have since been residents of this state. His brother Skiles has never married and has always made his home with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Core. They called their place the Fairview Stock Farm and while residing thereon made a specialty of handling live stock. They bred thoroughbred Percheron horses and in that business were very successful, raising some of the finest stock to be found in the state. To their three hundred acres of land was added an adjoining tract of one hundred and ninety acres, making theirs a farm of four hundred and ninety acres, and later they purchased still another tract of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1912 Mr. Core and his brother retired from active farming and removed to Forest City, where they have since lived. They had long been recognized as prominent representatives of agricultural and stock raising interests, and the careful management which they displayed in the conduct of their business affairs brought to them deserved and well merited success.

In his political views C. B. Core has always been a stalwart republican and for eight years he served as a school director. In the spring of 1916 he was elected a member of the city council of Forest City and is proving an able representative of the aldermanic board, exercising his official prerogatives in support of various plans and measures for the general good.

To Mr. and Mrs. Core have been born two children: Glen M., who is farming one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hancock county; and Mary J., who is a sophomore in the high school. The twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Core was made the occasion of a delightful reception and banquet. One evening a messenger arrived at their home bearing a note which read:

“ Tomorrow at eleven,  
A teamster, true and tried,  
Will drive up with his bob-sled,  
To take you for a ride.  
No questions ask—the driver's steady,  
So wrap up warm and be all ready.”

This of course indicated to them that something was going to happen but they knew not what. At the appointed hour they were taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Mahen, where complete arrangements for the celebration had been made, even to preparing the veil and the bouquet for the bride. The occasion was made a most enjoyable one by its informality and good cheer. Pictures were



placed about the room representing the bridal couple in all phases of life and the guests were asked to write poems concerning them. The following gives an account of their life work and is a fitting memento of a celebration that will never be forgotten by any in attendance:

“As unto the bow the cord is,  
So unto the man is woman,  
Tho she bends him, she obeys him,  
Tho she draws him, yet she follows,  
Useless each without the other.”

Lines from “Hiawatha’s Wooing,”  
Form the basis of this legend,  
Form the meter of this story;  
Founded ’tis on facts, not fiction.

Far back in the latter eighties  
From the country to the eastward,  
Far beyond the Mississippi  
Came a youth, who, with his brother,  
Bought a farm of many acres—  
Later named it Fairview Stock Farm.  
In the fertile Lime Creek Valley  
With its stream of sparkling water,  
Bordered by a mighty forest.  
Rolling prairies west and southward  
Near the town of Forest City.

Not much wealth this youth brought with him  
Measured in the terms of money,  
But a wealth of brawn and muscle,  
Common sense, grit and ambition.

On this farm to meet the payments  
Toiled he with strong hands and steady,  
Boarded with the wife and husband,  
Who had come to share his dwelling.

Sometimes when the snows of winter  
Lay upon the peaceful valley,  
On the fertile Lime Creek Valley;  
When the crops had all been gathered,  
Housed from cold the swine and cattle,  
Horses resting from their labors,  
East he journeyed to his people,  
Father, mother, sister, brothers,  
Stayed with them throughout the winter,  
Making glad his aged parents.

In the country of his boyhood  
At the home of John, his brother,  
Dwelt a jolly English maiden  
Young and fair, with figure graceful.

As he fondly gazed upon her  
To himself he thought and pondered  
She is not an idle maiden,  
She is not a useless woman,  
Hands are skillful, fingers nimble.  
Heart and hands they work together,  
She, to me, is queen of women.

And before the winter ended,  
Ere he for his home departed,

She had listened to his pleading  
 Promised ever to be faithful,  
 Until he could come to claim her,  
 Come back during the next winter,  
 Take her to his home and fireside  
 Near the town of Forest City.

Then, there came the time of planting,  
 Long, but happy days of springtime.  
 Even the wild bird's song seemed sweeter,  
 As he listened to its singing,  
 Listened to its warbling love songs.  
 In his soul a transformation  
 Proved that life was well worth living  
 Proved the truth of the old adage  
 "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."  
 Thru the long, hot days of summer  
 Still he toiled, tho often weary,  
 For he found by keeping busy  
 Shorter seemed the time of waiting.

Autumn passed; the yellow cornfields  
 Yielded him a golden harvest,  
 Which in time was stored for feeding,  
 Everything for winter ready,  
 For he was a thrifty farmer.

Quickly now, he started eastward,  
 Crossed again the Mississippi  
 Reached the old home of his boyhood,  
 Found the maiden for him waiting,  
 Found that she had grown more lovely  
 With the days of anxious waiting.

So on February eighteenth,  
 Five and twenty years today 'tis,  
 They were joined in holy wedlock,  
 Pledged their lives for worse or better,  
 Took the vows to love and honor,  
 Always to obey each other.

In a fortnight they departed,  
 Braved the later days of winter,  
 To their home arrived in safety,  
 To their home near Forest City.

Humble tho it was, she changed it  
 To a place of joy and comfort;  
 Welcome gave to guest or stranger,  
 Hospitality unbounded,  
 Well-cooked food and plenty of it,  
 Always filled the spacious table.

Tho she missed friends of her girlhood,  
 Oft was lonely, she complained not,  
 Always cheerful, always busy,  
 She ere long made lasting friendships.

Much she found to keep her busy,  
 Washing, mending, scrubbing, baking,  
 Many hungry mouths to cook for,  
 Often with no girl to help her;  
 Burdens bearing without number,  
 Burdens that at times seemed heavy,

And along with all the others,  
Took to board the district schoolma'am.  
Then for rest and recreation  
Calmly did the family sewing.

Many a sick-room has been brightened  
By her gifts of flowers or dainties.  
Flowers, she saves not for the casket,  
But gives them also to the living.

In all public enterprises  
They always took an active interest,  
Always have been generous givers,  
But for themselves few luxuries getting  
Until they could well afford it.

As the years kept coming, going,  
Soon the farm had all been paid for;  
Other acres have been added,  
Other buildings been erected,  
Prosperity has blessed their efforts.

For twenty years they toiled together,  
Twenty years on Fairview Stock Farm,  
Then they rented it and left it,  
Bought a home in Forest City,  
Where they live in peace and quiet,  
Enjoying fruits of honest labor.

Two happy-hearted children  
Came to bless this worthy couple,  
Early learned from both their parents  
Honest work is not degrading,  
Work well done is not disgraceful.

Glen is now a prosperous farmer,  
On the prairie to the southward,  
Where another home he founded  
With a neat and tidy helpmate.

Mary, now a high school maiden,  
Is the skillful chauffeur  
Guides the Paige with steady muscles,  
Drives it smoothly without friction,  
Saves her mother countless footsteps,  
The result of careful training.  
Cheers her many wintry evenings  
As they work with hook or shuttle,  
While the father, now a member,  
Honored member of the Council,  
Needs must leave his pleasant fireside,  
Go whenever duty calls him  
To attend the Council meetings,  
Where he speaks with words of wisdom,  
Aims to keep the wheels of progress  
Turning in the right direction.

Long-time friends today have gathered  
With sincere congratulations,  
S'prised them with a silver wedding,  
At the homestead of a neighbor,  
At a large and roomy farm home,  
Farther on, in Lime Creek valley;  
Wishing them a pleasant voyage  
As they journey down life's pathway.

Down the hill of life together,  
Hoping ere the journey's ended,  
Ere their life work is completed,  
By loyal friends again surrounded  
Will celebrate their golden wedding.

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#### MRS. KNUT E. GRUNHUVUD.

Mrs. Knut E. Grunhuud is living on section 23, Norway township, Winnebago county, and is one of the well known pioneer women of this section of the state. She has witnessed almost the entire growth and progress of the locality and can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when the homes were widely scattered and the work of improvement seemed scarcely begun. She was born in Norway, July 15, 1852, and is a daughter of Narve Ingebritson and Carrie (Halgrimson) Grunhuud. Her father was a farmer in Norway and in 1855 he brought his family to the United States, making his way first to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained for a year. In 1856 he came to Winnebago County, settling in Norway township, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 23. It was entirely wild and undeveloped, not a furrow having been turned nor an improvement made upon the place. It was covered with timber which he had to clear away before he could prepare his land for the plow. He added much to its productiveness by practical drainage systems, whereby the sloughs were drained and the land rendered productive. Upon the place he put up log buildings and in the early days the family shared in all of the hardships, trials and privations of pioneer life; but as time went on the labors of the father wrought a marked transformation in his land and its increasing productiveness brought to him substantial harvests. He passed away, however, April 9, 1863, and his was the first interment made in the cemetery at Emmons, Minnesota. His wife survived him for a little more than a year, dying on the 22d of August, 1864, when she was laid by his side. He had ranked with the leading farmers of the county and with the prominent citizens of the community. In politics he was a republican and in religious faith a Lutheran, becoming one of the organizers of the United Lutheran church. He thus left the impress of his individuality upon the moral as well as the material development of his district.

Mrs. Grunhuud pursued her education in one of the pioneer schools of Winnebago county. In fact, she was one of the first pupils in the first school of Norway township, with Ellen Hinman as the teacher. She spent her girlhood days upon her father's farm and was trained to the work of the household, so that she was well qualified to manage a home of her own at the time of her marriage. After the death of her parents she went to live with relatives in Clayton county, Iowa, and there she was married on the 11th of November, 1875, to Knut E. Knutson, whose parents had homesteaded in Clayton county, where they farmed until called to their final rest. It was after his marriage that Mr. Knutson changed his name to Grunhuud. The young couple began their domestic life in Clayton county, where they lived for two years, and in 1877 they removed to the old Grunhuud homestead, which he cultivated for the estate for five years. In 1882 he purchased the land and continued its further development and improvement until his death,

MR. AND MRS. KITT E. GREENHAYD





which occurred more than thirty-one years later. He put fine improvements upon the farm, making it one of the valuable properties of Norway township. In addition to substantial buildings he secured the latest improved farm machinery in order to facilitate the work of the fields, and his labors brought golden harvests.

In his political views Mr. Grunhuud was a republican and from time to time was called to serve in township offices. He was a devout member of the United Lutheran church and in that faith passed away on the 9th of August, 1913, at the age of seventy years.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Grunhuud were eight children but three have passed away, namely: Clara, who died in infancy; Henry, who passed away at the age of eight years and nine months; and Gerhard, who also died in infancy. Like the father, they are buried in the family lot in Lime Creek cemetery. The five children who survive are: Edward, who is employed in Mason City, but maintains his residence on the home farm; Carl and Norris, who operate the home farm; Clara, who is the wife of Edward Dakken, of Eau Claire county, Wisconsin; and Alma, at home. Several of the children are still living with the mother on the old homestead, which has now been occupied by the family for four decades. Mrs. Grunhuud is widely known in this part of Winnebago county, her place being one of the landmarks of the district, and she has lived to witness many interesting changes which have occurred, bringing the county up to its present standard of development and prosperity.

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#### J. CLARENCE ODDEN.

The Quality Store at Lake Mills is well known throughout Winnebago county as an up-to-date and thoroughly reliable establishment and its owner, J. Clarence Odden, has won a place for himself among the leading merchants of the city. He was born on the 14th of November, 1886, in Lake Mills, of the marriage of Charles and Martha (Olson) Odden, who located in Winnebago county on their removal to the United States from Norway. The father engaged in farming and was also a stone mason contractor and through his well directed activity gained a competence. He died in 1892 and is buried in the Winnebago Church cemetery in Center township. The mother survives and lives upon a farm three miles south of Lake Mills.

J. Clarence Odden, who is the oldest in a family of three children, attended the district schools until he was fifteen years of age and later was for two years a student in the University of Southern Minnesota, of Austin, Minnesota. For one year he worked as a bookkeeper in Omaha and for five years was connected with a clothing firm in Mason City, Iowa. In 1914 he bought out the general store conducted by M. O. Bakken in Lake Mills and he has since given his undivided time and attention to that business. He carries a complete line of furnishings and shoes and his grocery department is well stocked with staple and fancy goods. He has adopted as the name of his establishment The Quality Store and has made it his constant endeavor to give the greatest value possible for the price asked for his merchandise. He manages his affairs in a thoroughly businesslike and systematic manner and has a high standing in the commercial circles of the city.

In May, 1909, Mr. Odden was united in marriage to Miss Anna Erickson, a daughter of E. N. and Christina (Arneson) Erickson, who reside in Joice, Worth county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Odden have been born two children, Clarence Adelle and Kermit Wayne.

Mr. Odden supports the republican party at the polls and is now serving in the office of councilman, in which connection he supports earnestly all proposed measures that promise to advance the interests of the community. His public spirit is further evidenced in his membership in the Commercial Club, of which he is vice president. Fraternaly he belongs to Lodge No. 868, Loyal Order of Moose, and Aurora Lodge, No. 412, I. O. O. F., and his religious faith is that of the United Lutheran church. Through enterprise and good management he has already gained a gratifying measure of prosperity and his continued success seems assured.

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#### LARS B. STENE.

Lars B. Stene is numbered among the self-made men of Norway township, Winnebago county. He had no assistance at the outset of his career but has worked persistently and energetically, and step by step has advanced toward the goal of prosperity. He was born in Norway, December 18, 1867, and is a son of Bottolf and Ingeborg Stene, who were farming people of that land, where they spent their entire lives. They had seven children, of whom Lars B. was the youngest, and five of the number are still living.

Lars B. Stene remained a resident of Norway through the period of his boyhood and youth and came alone to the United States when twenty-seven years of age. He had been a horse buyer in his native country and on reaching the new world he sought employment as a farm hand. His brother, E. B. Stene, had come to America some years before and was living in Norway township, Winnebago county. It was this that caused Lars B. Stene to become a resident of Iowa. For a few years he made his home with his brother and then purchased a farm in Clay county, Minnesota, which he cultivated for two years. He afterward returned to Norway township and purchased the east half of the southeast quarter of section 13, and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 24, thus becoming the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of highly productive land, which he has since cultivated. His farm work is carefully conducted and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision and his practical and progressive methods. He is also a stockholder in the creamery at Emmons.

In 1899 Mr. Stene was united in marriage to Miss Emma Olliana Erickson, a daughter of Nels and Ingeborg (Olson) Erickson, of Norway township. They have become the parents of nine children, Nels Bernard, Ingeborg Idora, Millie Helena, Anna Matilda, Evelyn Luella, Mabel Jeanette, Ellen Olava, Melvin Erling and Lawrence Ernest, all of whom are yet at home. Mr. Stene and his wife are members of the Synod Lutheran church. His opinions concerning political questions and policy are indicated in the stalwart support which he gives to the republican party. He has served as road boss and has also filled the



office of school director. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their employment has steadily advanced, working his way upward through persistent effort and determination.

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#### J. W. KNADLER.

J. W. Knadler, now serving as deputy clerk of the district court, has been a resident of Garner since 1884. He is a native of Hancock county, born September 20, 1859, and is a representative of an old and honored pioneer family of this section of the state, being a son of Joseph and Margaret (Bolsinger) Knadler, natives of Germany. On crossing the Atlantic to the United States in 1855 they located in New York, where they spent three years, and then came to Hancock county, Iowa, where the father passed away six months later. In 1864 the mother married Jacob Ward, a farmer of this county, and they continued to reside here until their deaths.

In the county of his nativity J. W. Knadler grew to manhood, in the meantime attending the public schools in the acquirement of an education. In 1874 he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the Cerro Gordo Republican at Mason City and remained with that paper for two years. During the following eight years he was with the Mason City Express and in 1884 came to Garner and entered the employ of the Hancock Signal, which paper was established in 1870 by George R. Lanning. In 1886 Mr. Knadler purchased an interest in that journal, becoming a partner of H. H. Bush, and he continued to conduct the paper for eighteen years, selling out in 1904. He continued to work at the printer's trade until 1910, when elected clerk of the district court and entered upon the duties of that office. So acceptably did he fill the position that he was re-elected in 1912 and since his retirement from that office has served as deputy.

Mr. Knadler married Miss Lillian Minton, of Racine county, Wisconsin, who died in 1905. He is a member of the Methodist church and is also identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he is a republican and for several terms he served as city clerk of Garner. He is today one of the representative citizens of his native county and a man highly honored and esteemed wherever known.

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#### HERMAN W. BRIDGES.

Herman W. Bridges owns and occupies a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, German township, having become a resident of Hancock county in 1913. He has, however, been a life-long resident of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Mahaska county, December 17, 1874. His parents, John W. and Emma J. (Linsley) Bridges, were also natives of this state, having been born in Mahaska county. The father is still living at the age of seventy-two years, but the mother has been called to the home beyond.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Herman W. Bridges in the period of his boyhood and youth, which was devoted to the acquirement of an education in the district schools of Mahaska county and to work upon the home farm. He continued to assist his father in the plowing, planting and harvesting until he reached the age of twenty-five years, when he started out independently, renting a farm near Dows, in Wright county, Iowa, where he lived for eleven years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings so that he might eventually become the owner of land and in 1913 he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, German township, Hancock county. He has since devoted this place to general farming and the result of his labors is seen in the attractive appearance of the farm, which is most carefully cultivated. He has placed upon it improvements to the value of thirteen hundred and eighty-five dollars since locating thereon four years ago. He makes a specialty of the raising of horses and keeps high grade stock.

On the 11th of September, 1901, Mr. Bridges was married to Miss Elizabeth Fanselow, a daughter of Fred and Alvina (Betow) Fanselow, who reside at Dows. They are natives of Germany but in early life came to the new world and for many years have been residents of Wright county. Mr. and Mrs. Bridges have become parents of seven children, namely: Maude Z., Orville F., Faye, Glenn, Irene, Gladys and Cecil K., all of whom are yet at home and the family circle remains unbroken by the hand of death.

Mr. Bridges is a republican in his political views and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His religious faith is that of the German Methodist Episcopal church, to which he and his wife give loyal adherence and generous support. He is justly accounted one of the enterprising farmers of the community. He studies the question of crop production according to modern scientific methods and his work is carefully and systematically managed, bringing good results.

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#### OTTO A. HANSEN, M. D.

Liberal educational training well qualified Dr. Otto A. Hansen for the onerous and responsible duties which devolve upon him as a general medical practitioner of Forest City, where he has resided since 1896. He was born in Blue Earth, Minnesota, March 24, 1865, a son of Andrew and Martha (Kjos) Hansen, who were natives of Norway and came to the United States about 1854, settling first in Chicago, where they resided for but a short time, for the cholera was epidemic there and the grandmother felt a victim to the disease. The family afterward removed to Houston county, Minnesota, and the father, who was a carpenter by trade, later took up the occupation of farming in Faribault county, Minnesota, in the Blue Earth settlement, there residing up to the time of his demise.

Dr. Hansen acquired a public school education in Minnesota and afterward attended the State Normal School at Mankato. Determining upon the practice of medicine as a life work, he matriculated in the Iowa State University as a medical student and was graduated therefrom in 1896, at which time his professional degree was conferred upon him. For three years before his graduation

he practiced in Sioux City under the preceptorship of Dr. J. Hermann and on the 12th of March, 1896, he located in Forest City, where he has since remained. In the interval of twenty-one years he has built up an extensive practice and has constantly promoted his knowledge and efficiency through wide reading, study and investigation, as well as through practical experience.

In 1894 Dr. Hansen was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Donaldson, who passed away in 1902, and in 1909 he was again married, his second union being with Miss Bertha Moe, of Thompson, Iowa. By his first marriage he had a daughter, Adela, and the children of the second marriage are Olive, Conkling and Franklin.

Dr. Hansen holds membership in the United Lutheran church and in politics he maintains an independent course. He served for seven years, from 1903 until 1910, as coroner of Winnebago county, was health officer for many years, and has also been a member of the city council, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. For several years he was president of the Waldorf College Association. Along the line of his profession he has connection with the Hahnemann State Medical Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy. He is very conscientious as well as capable in the performance of his professional duties and holds high rank as a man and citizen in Winnebago county.

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#### W. KING WELLMAN.

W. King Wellman, of Lake Mills, engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years and gained a competence that now enables him to enjoy his ease. He has not been satisfied, however, to be without responsibility and has accordingly taken an active part in public affairs and is now the efficient assistant chief of the city fire department. He was born in Decatur county, Iowa, December 21, 1856, and is a son of B. F. and Eliza Jane (Tennis) Wellman, the former a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1860 they removed with their family to Forest City, Iowa, where they remained until the spring of 1861, when they removed to what is now Lake Mills, where the father bought forty acres of land, including the present site of the high school. He farmed that tract for four years and when he sold it received ten dollars an acre in gold, the highest price paid for land up to that time. In 1865 they returned to Forest City and after remaining there a year went back to Decatur county, where they resided for three years. At the end of that time they went again to Forest City and in 1875 the father bought land in Madison township, Hancock county, but later in the same year removed to Lake Edwards, where he passed away in 1876. He is buried in North cemetery at Forest City. The mother survives and is living in Forest City at the advanced age of eighty-five years. She is still in good health and is highly esteemed.

W. King Wellman, the oldest of a family of eight children, accompanied his parents on their various removals and received a common school education. He early began learning how to do the various kinds of work included in farming and assisted his father until the latter's demise. For seven years thereafter he remained with his mother and operated the homestead, but in 1883, in which year

he was married, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Norway township, Winnebago county, and for six years farmed that place. The following decade was spent in Lake Mills, but at the end of that time he bought another farm in Norway township which he cultivated for seven years. Since 1909, however, he has lived retired in Lake Mills and rented his farm. As a farmer he was at once practical and progressive and seldom failed to harvest good crops.

On September 29, 1883, Mr. Wellman was united in marriage to Miss Lydia A. Balch, a daughter of Joseph A. and Deborah (Jenkins) Balch, natives of Vermont. Her father fought in the Civil war with the Union troops and after the close of hostilities took up a homestead in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he engaged in farming for many years. For some time before his death, however, he lived retired in Lake Mills, passing away on the 17th of October, 1907. He is buried in North cemetery at Lake Mills. The mother survives and resides in this city.

Mr. Wellman votes the democratic ticket and for two years held the office of town marshal. He served as chief of the Lake Mills fire department for five years, from 1898 until 1903 and when he removed from his farm to the city in 1909 he was again elected chief, which office he held for five years more. He then resigned and became assistant chief, which office he now holds. He has done much to bring the department up to a high standard of efficiency. He is quite prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as he belongs to the subordinate lodge, the encampment and the Rebekahs, has passed all the chairs in the lodge, is a representative to the grand lodge, is district deputy and has the distinction of being the oldest member of the order in Lake Mills. He is also identified with the Masonic blue lodge and the Eastern Star. The principle of brotherhood which is at the basis of these organizations has found expression in his daily life and his sterling worth has gained him a host of friends.

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#### WILLIAM FRANK WOODCOCK.

William Frank Woodcock, who is the proprietor of a well patronized general store in Buffalo Center, was born in Kossuth county, four miles west of Algona, August 15, 1872, and is a son of William and Barbara (McKay) Woodcock, natives respectively of New Brunswick and Maine. They were among the first settlers of Kossuth county and the father took up under the homestead law the east half of the northwest quarter of section 12, range 95, township 30. He farmed until 1894, when he retired to Buffalo Center, where he passed away. He was buried in the first cemetery laid out in the town. Of the family five children survive and our subject is the fourth in order of birth.

William F. Woodcock completed his education at the age of sixteen and from that time until he was twenty years old assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, but in 1892 came to Buffalo Center with his brother, John W. Woodcock, in partnership with whom he engaged in the hay business for six years. Later he turned his attention to the real estate field and was active as a dealer in realty until 1908, when he bought out Charles Leibsohn, a general merchant of Buffalo Center. He has proved very successful in the management of his

store and his stock of dry goods, shoes, clothing and groceries is complete and well adapted to the needs of his patrons. His well earned reputation for reasonable prices has been an important factor in building up the large trade which he enjoys and his store is recognized as the largest and most important one in the town.

Mr. Woodcock was married in 1895 to Miss Catherine Breen, a daughter of Cornelius and Catherine Breen, who homesteaded land near Titonka, Iowa, in the early days of that section and later removed to Wesley, Iowa, where they lived retired. Both are deceased and are buried at Algona. Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock have two children, Leo and Arnold, both at home.

Mr. Woodcock supports the republican party at the polls but has never been an aspirant for office. He has filled all the chairs in the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, in which he is now trustee, and has also been a member of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and in the Modern Woodmen of America he has held all the chairs and is now serving as banker. He began his independent career without capital, but as the years have passed his resources have steadily increased until he is now in excellent circumstances and he takes justifiable pride in the fact that all he has is the direct result of his own industry and the wise direction of his business interests.

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#### O. I. OLSON.

The Scandinavian countries have contributed a valuable element to the citizenship of Winnebago county. Among the men of foreign birth living in Forest City is O. I. Olson, a native of Sweden, who for many years was prominently connected with general agricultural pursuits but is now living retired. He was born July 12, 1842, a son of Ole and Beulah Olson, who were also natives of Sweden, where they spent their entire lives, both having now passed away. In their family were eight sons, of whom four survive.

O. I. Olson was reared and educated in Sweden and came to the United States in 1880, at which time he made his way at once to Winnebago county, Iowa. For a time he worked at the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in his native land, but afterward purchased a farm of one hundred and eighty-nine acres in Newton township. Upon that place he lived for twenty-nine years and his labors and efforts converted it into a valuable and splendidly improved property equipped with all accessories of a model farm. Well kept fences divided the place into fields of convenient size and his land was carefully cultivated, producing excellent crops. He made a specialty of raising and feeding stock in addition to farming, but in 1913 he sold his place and removed to Forest City, where he has since lived retired, enjoying a rest that he has truly earned and richly deserves.

In 1869 Mr. Olson was married in Sweden to Miss Ingar Peterson, a native of that country, and they became parents of eight children, as follows: Olaf, William and Allen, all of whom reside in North Dakota; Oscar, of Winnebago county, Iowa; Neil and Albert, who also live in North Dakota; Tilla, who makes her home in Montana; and John, who is deceased. The wife and mother passed

away in 1914 and was laid to rest in the Forest City cemetery, leaving a husband and seven children to mourn her loss.

In politics Mr. Olson is a democrat, and while not an office seeker, he has served as school director. He stands for all those interests which work for the good of the community and, moreover, he is a self-made man whose life record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, for all that he possesses has been acquired since he came to the United States through the utilization of those opportunities which are here offered to every individual.

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#### FRANK L. WACHOLZ.

Frank L. Wacholz, postmaster of Forest City, is one of the widely known residents of Winnebago county, where he has figured in connection with various public offices and has at the same time been actively associated with its banking interests, while as a raiser of fine pacing and trotting stock his name is known throughout the country. Mr. Wacholz was born at New Hampton, Iowa, May 4, 1873, a son of Edward F. and Mary (Werner) Wacholz, the former born near Publitz, West Prussia, Germany, on the 19th of August, 1841, while the latter was born in New York city, August 10, 1844. Reared in his native land, the father served as a soldier in the war with Austria in 1866. In 1868 he came to the new world, landing at Baltimore, and after ten weeks spent on the Atlantic coast he made his way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from which point he proceeded westward, working on the Milwaukee Railroad. He was thus engaged as far west as Emmetsburg, Iowa. He was a blacksmith by trade and made as much advancement in that line as was possible. His wife was reared in Troy, New York, and later became a resident of Racine and of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1856 she came to Iowa, locating at New Hampton, Iowa, and both are yet living. There were two daughters in the family, of whom one survives, while the other passed away in 1915.

The only son, Frank L. Wacholz, pursued his education in the public schools of his native city until graduated at the age of sixteen years on the 14th of June, 1889. He then took up the study of pharmacy and for three years clerked in a drug store, but at the end of that time entered the First National Bank of New Hampton as bookkeeper. After a brief period he became bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Forest City, beginning in September, 1892, and subsequently he spent a year in the First National Bank of Britt, Iowa, as assistant cashier under the presidency of George W. Beadle. Returning to Forest City, he became deputy treasurer of Winnebago county under S. H. Larson, and later he again entered the First National Bank as assistant cashier, there remaining until March, 1911, when he sold his interest to John Olson, formerly with the Winnebago County Bank, and removed to Los Angeles. After seeing the glories of that wonderland he returned to Forest City in 1915 and on the 30th of January, 1917, was appointed postmaster, which position he is still filling. Mr. Wacholz has also held other local offices, including that of city treasurer, city clerk, secretary of the County Fair Association and county chairman of the democratic party.

Another line of activity which has claimed much thought, attention and



FRANK L. WACHOLZ





effort from Mr. Wacholz has been the breeding, raising and training of some of the fastest trotters and pacers of the world. He was the owner of Miss Densmore, the world's champion half mile track trotter, with a record of 2:07 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Don Densmore, the fastest pacer ever foaled in Iowa, with a record of 2:02 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and Densmore, famous for his great nine-heat race at Pittsburg, with a record of 2:10. All of the above were colts of Nina Densmore, with a record of 2:17, her colts having won more than sixty thousand dollars in prizes. Mr. Wacholz has always advocated the best blood lines in horses and cattle and brought to this county some of the famous Biltmore Jersey cattle.

On the 6th of June, 1893, Mr. Wacholz was married to Miss Eifa Juliet Plummer, the eldest daughter of B. A. and M. Jane Plummer. They have become parents of four children: Margaret, Maxine, Donald and Woodrow. Margaret was born on the present site of Waldorf College, February 6, 1898, and passed out of this life in Los Angeles, California, December 3, 1911. Maxine was born in Forest City, October 11, 1903, and passed out of this life December 18, 1904. Donald was born November 9, 1905, in Forest City; and Woodrow was born in Los Angeles, California, February 10, 1913. Such in brief is the history of Frank L. Wacholz, a well known and valued citizen of Winnebago county, whose activities along many lines have contributed to the development, progress and upbuilding of this section of the state and whose worth is widely acknowledged by all who know him.

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#### CHARLES J. DRUGG.

Charles J. Drugg is a resident farmer of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, his home being on section 28. He was born on the old Drugg homestead on section 33 of the same township, his natal day being July 4, 1876. His parents, Andrew and Mary Louise (Peterson) Drugg, were both natives of Sweden and were there reared and married. Immediately afterward they came to the United States, landing in New York city in the early part of December, 1869. They did not tarry on the eastern coast, however, but made their way at once into the interior of the country and spent the first winter in McGregor, Iowa. In the spring of 1870 they came to Winnebago county and Mr. Drugg purchased forty acres of the present home farm. It was then in the midst of a wild and undeveloped region, for the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun in this section of the state. He built a log cabin sixteen by sixteen feet and took up his abode on his new farm, beginning the arduous task of reclaiming it for purposes of civilization. It was not long before his labors wrought a marked transformation in the wild prairie tract, and afterward he bought an adjoining forty acres, making his present farm one of eighty acres, on which he has resided continuously for the past forty-seven years. The work of converting the raw prairie into productive fields was slow and laborious. Oxen were used in plowing and it was necessary to go to Albert Lea or to Mason City for supplies, to which points Mr. Drugg drove his ox team. There was comparatively little at that day to indicate the changes which were rapidly to occur and make this one of the populous and prosperous sections of the state. Mr. Drugg

certainly bore his full share in bringing about modern day conditions and he is now living at the age of seventy-eight years to enjoy the fruits of his former toil. He was born February 1, 1839, while his wife was born March 20, 1845, and has therefore reached the age of seventy-two years. Both have long been consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have ever enjoyed the confidence and good will of those with whom they have been brought in contact.

Charles J. Drugg was reared at home and at the usual age became a pupil in the district school near his father's place. He afterward had the benefit of instruction in the Forest City high school and when eighteen years of age he left the parental roof and for five years worked as a farm hand for Peter Seibert, of Hancock county. Subsequently he took charge of and operated the old home place and in 1901 he purchased his present farm, which lies just across the road from the old homestead. Since then he has operated both tracts of land and is leading a busy, active and useful life in which success has attended his intelligently directed efforts. Since his marriage he has resided upon his home farm and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates his careful supervision and thoroughly modern methods. There are good buildings upon his land and he has secured all the latest improved machinery and other facilities to promote the work of the fields. He is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Forest City, a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Forest City and in the Mount Valley Manufacturing Company of Leland.

On the 29th of December, 1914, Mr. Drugg was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary McGuire, a daughter of John McGuire, one of the well known farmers of Winnebago county, now deceased. They have become the parents of a daughter, Mary Louise.

In politics Mr. Drugg maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than for party, but he is never remiss in the duties of citizenship and co-operates in many well formulated plans for the public good. He is one of the representative farmers of Mount Valley township and his life record indicates what may be accomplished through determination and energy. He may well be termed a successful man and, moreover, the methods which he has pursued in the attainment of his prosperity are such as have gained for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been associated.

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#### W. T. KENDALL.

W. T. Kendall, deceased, established a store and served as postmaster on the site of Thompson before the town was platted and continued in his dual capacity as storekeeper and postmaster in the new town until his demise in 1898. He was born in Michigan in 1837 and on his father's side was descended from an old American family, while on his mother's side his ancestry was French. The father was a minister in Michigan until his demise, and the mother also passed away in that state.

W. T. Kendall received his education in the common schools and in early

manhood spent a few years as a railway station agent. Later he owned the steamboat High Water, which plied on Spirit Lake, Iowa, and which he commanded as captain for a considerable period. In the later '70s he removed to Forest City and conducted a hardware store there for a short time. In 1890 he established a general store in King township, Winnebago county, and he also acted as postmaster, so continuing after the town was laid out by Mr. Thompson, of Forest City. At length he sold all his stock save the furniture, but continued in business as a furniture dealer until he passed away in 1898. He also served as postmaster until his demise, and his record was one of efficient and public-spirited service.

In 1891 occurred the marriage of Mr. Kendall and Miss Anna T. Byer, a daughter of Joseph and Magdalene Byer, natives of Vienna, Austria, where they passed their entire lives. When seventeen years of age Mrs. Kendall came alone to the United States and for twelve years lived in New York. She was employed as a German governess in the families of several millionaires of that city and while acting as governess made five trips to Europe. On leaving the east she joined a brother and sister in Garner, Iowa, and lived with them until her marriage in 1891. She has two children. William Thompson, who was the first child born in the town of Thompson, for which he was named, is married and resides in Altoona, Iowa. May married C. W. Goslin, and they reside in Clarion, Iowa.

Mr. Kendall gave his political allegiance to the republican party, but aside from filling the office of postmaster never took an active part in public affairs. He was a representative of the Masonic fraternity, whose teachings concerning the brotherhood of man were exemplified in his daily life. Rosehill cemetery, in which he is buried, was chosen and named by him at the founding of the town and the money for purchasing the land was raised by Mrs. Kendall, who still serves as president of the Cemetery Association. She is a resident of Thompson, where she is held in high esteem. The demise of Mr. Kendall was deeply regretted throughout the county, for he had a wide acquaintance and a large number of loyal friends.

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#### DUANE R. SWEET.

Duane R. Sweet, a well known resident of Forest City, was formerly identified with farming interests in Winnebago county and his well directed efforts along that line brought him success. He was born in Adams county, Wisconsin, April 10, 1872, a son of A. J. and Mary (Pettis) Sweet. He was reared and educated in Hancock county, Iowa, and remained at home until he attained his majority, after which he purchased a farm in that county comprising two hundred and forty acres on section 2, Bingham township. His labors converted that place into a highly improved and productive tract. He made a specialty of the raising and breeding of stock and thereby he contributed much to his income and to his success. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator and in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company. He continued to remain upon his farm until March 1, 1917, when he retired and removed to Forest City, where he now owns and occupies a fine residence.

In January, 1889, Mr. Sweet was united in marriage to Miss Etta Carriel, a native of Hardin county, Iowa, and a daughter of Calvin and Lura (Furman) Carriel. The father was born in New York and the mother in Pennsylvania, and both are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Sweet have been born seven children, namely: Carriel, Marjorie, Marion D., Bernice, Allen and two who died in infancy. The parents attend the Baptist church and Mr. Sweet votes with the democratic party but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, carefully directed, have brought to him substantial and well deserved success.

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#### FARMERS NATIONAL BANK.

The Farmers National Bank was established in 1891 with G. E. Abbey as cashier. It was organized as the Farmers Savings Bank and was conducted under state law until 1906, when it was reorganized as a national bank, with C. K. Moe as president, G. E. Troeger as vice president, Isaac Sweigard as cashier and M. R. Pollock as assistant cashier. When Mr. Moe sold out in 1910, C. H. Nelson was elected to the presidency, with A. Kelly, as vice president, although Mr. Troeger remained a stockholder. In 1910 C. R. Sweigard became assistant cashier of the bank and in January, 1913, when Mr. Nelson sold out, Isaac Sweigard became the president, with C. R. Sweigard as cashier and F. E. Blackstone as vice president. These gentlemen still continue as the officers of the bank, which was capitalized for sixteen thousand dollars in 1891. The capital stock, however, has been increased to twenty-five thousand dollars and there is now a surplus of twenty-five thousand dollars. In 1916 the bank tore down its old building and erected a beautiful new structure at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. It is thoroughly modern in its architecture, equipment and furnishings. The bank occupies the entire new part, having an attractive directors' room upstairs, with also an assembly room for farmers' and trustees' meetings and a ladies' parlor. In fact, everything possible is done to promote the comfort and convenience of depositors and stockholders. There are safety deposit boxes and every possible burglar proof protection. The policy of the bank is a progressive one and yet the interests of depositors are safeguarded in every way, no unwarranted risks being taken.

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#### LEONARD E. SAMPSON.

Leonard E. Sampson, a resident farmer of Hancock county, his home being on section 33, Ell township, was born on the 24th of June, 1885, in Delaware county, Iowa, a son of William and Amelia (Schwichtenburg) Sampson, the former a native of Clayton county, Iowa, and the latter of Ohio. Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Leonard E. Sampson acquired a common school education, devoting the winter months to attending school, while in the summer seasons he worked on the farm. When nineteen years of age he put

aside his text-books altogether and devoted his entire time to farm work on the old homestead until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he rented land on section 33, Ell township, Hancock county. Here he has since made his home and in the conduct of the farm he has made a specialty of raising thoroughbred Poland China hogs. He also conducts a dairy business and sells cream.

On the 18th of March, 1914, Mr. Sampson was married to Miss Jennie Wichmann, a daughter of August and Frieda (Paul) Wichmann, who are natives of Germany and came to the United States in early life. The father was for many years actively engaged in farming but is now living retired at the age of seventy-one years, while his wife has reached the age of sixty-three years. They had a family of seven children. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, Paul E. and Irma.

The parents are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and are people of genuine worth, loyal to those principles which constitute honorable manhood and womanhood. Mr. Sampson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party but has never been an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his time and attention upon his business affairs, which, carefully directed, are bringing to him substantial success.

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#### GILBERT G. HERM, M. D.

Dr. Gilbert G. Herm, a well known and successful physician and surgeon practicing at Lake Mills, was born in Norway, November 18, 1870. His parents, Christopher Gullickson and Ingebor (Davidson) Synve, removed with their family from Norway to the United States in 1873, settling in Fertile, Iowa. The father farmed in that locality for three years and then purchased land in Logan township, Winnebago county, upon which the family took up their residence. He made many improvements upon the place and engaged in its operation until his death in 1894. The mother survived for about twenty years, dying in June, 1914.

Gilbert G. Herm was but two and a half years old when brought to the United States and received his early education in the schools of Winnebago county. Later he attended the Breckenridge school at Decorah, Iowa, and subsequently taught in Winnebago county for eight years, during which time he farmed in the summer months. In 1900 he entered the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, as he had determined to prepare himself for the practice of medicine, and in 1904 he received the degree of M. D. He practiced for three years at Searville, but at the end of that time removed to Lake Mills and purchased the practice of Dr. Christenson. It was not long before his efficiency in the treatment of disease was recognized and his professional standing is high. His practice has reached large proportions and he maintains his office in the beautiful residence which he erected on Main street.

In January, 1905, Dr. Herm was united in marriage to Miss Anna Langland and they became the parents of two children, namely: Ingebor C., whose birth occurred on the 10th of June, 1906; and Reuben C., born October 16, 1911. The mother passed away June 20, 1914, after an illness of two weeks.

Dr. Herm is a strong advocate of republican principles and has held a number of offices, having served for four years as clerk of Logan township, as justice of the peace for a considerable period and as health officer of Lake Mills. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Mystic Workers and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Lutheran church. He has made the interests of Lake Mills his interests and willingly co-operates with all those seeking to promote the welfare of the community.

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#### THOMAS WALPOLE.

Thomas Walpole, editor of the Thompson Courier, has been identified with newspaper work for many years and for almost six decades has been a resident of Iowa. He was born, however, at Groton, in Tompkins county, New York, on the 21st of September, 1855, a son of James and Julia (Murphy) Walpole. While comparatively little is known concerning the ancestral history of the family it has been learned that the name originated in Spain, from which country members of the family removed to France and in later generations from France to England and from England to Ireland. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Thomas Walpole, and the birth of his son James occurred at Drumsbanbo, County Leitrim, Ireland, on the 2d of February, 1832. In early manhood the latter emigrated to the United States and after living for several years in New York came with his family to Iowa. He farmed in both Delaware and Buena Vista counties and passed away in 1874. His wife was born in Cork, Ireland, on the 5th of August, 1832, and was a representative of one of the old and highly respected families of the Emerald Isle. To their union were born nine children, as follows: Thomas; John; James; Mathew; Mrs. John Howell; E. E.; Elizabeth; Mrs. C. S. Relyea and Mrs. W. H. Irving.

The boyhood and youth of Thomas Walpole were spent in Delaware and Buena Vista counties, Iowa, and after completing the work offered in the public schools there he attended for one term the Southwestern Normal School at Shenandoah, Iowa, and also took a business course at Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Indiana. Following the death of his father he operated the home farm for eight years and during that time devoted the winter months to teaching school. In 1882 he became superintendent of the schools of Alta, Iowa, and filled that position until 1884, when in partnership with A. C. Smith he purchased the weekly paper published at Alta under the name of the Advertiser. Subsequently his brother, E. E. Walpole, bought out the interest of Mr. Smith but later in turn sold out to C. H. Wegersley. Mr. Walpole of this review, however, was continuously connected with that publication until 1895, when he sold it and bought the Storm Lake Tribune, which he consolidated with the Pilot under the name of the Pilot-Tribune. He was associated in this venture also with A. C. Smith, and they made the paper a recognized force in the molding of public opinion in that section of the state. In 1904, however, Mr. Walpole became the sole owner of the Pilot-Tribune, and continued to publish it with gratifying success until 1910, when he sold it. He then located at Manson and purchased the Manson Journal which he owned and published until November, 1916, when he disposed of that paper and came to Thompson,

Winnebago county. He purchased the Thompson Courier and the large circulation of the paper is proof that it is a liberal, up-to-date and well edited sheet. He has a first class printing establishment and in addition to publishing the Courier does a large job business.

Mr. Walpole was married on the 11th of May, 1887, to Miss Minnie Darnell. Her father, William Darnell, fought in the Civil war as a member of the Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry and took part in many important engagements. He was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea and participated in the Grand Review at Washington. To him and his wife were born five children, as follows: Mrs. Walpole; Mrs. C. B. Mitchell; Mrs. W. N. MacChesney; Mrs. Joseph Donaghu; and Mrs. E. S. Ballou. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Walpole are four in number: Elsie, who is a graduate of the Northwestern University at Evanston; Fay, who is a graduate of the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, Iowa; and James W. and Eileen.

Mr. Walpole is a republican in politics and from 1888 to 1896 was county superintendent of schools of Buena Vista county, Iowa, while in 1898 he was made postmaster at Storm Lake, which office he held for many years, or until July 1, 1915. His official record was one of the conscientious and efficient discharge of his duties and received the commendation of all good citizens. He is a member of the Masonic order, of the Court of Honor, of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in religious faith is a Presbyterian. Although he has been a resident of Thompson for only a short time he has already established his position among the most highly esteemed residents of the town and his personal friends are many.

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#### PETER BOMAN.

Peter Boman, a representative farmer of Winnebago county, living on section 25, Forest township, was born in Sweden, February 18, 1866. His parents spent their entire lives in that country and there reared their family of four children, of whom two are now living.

Peter Boman spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native land and is indebted to its public school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He came to America in 1886 and settled in Forest City, Iowa, where he was employed at general work for two years; but ambitious to engage in business on his own account, he then began farming on section 25, Forest township, Winnebago county, and later purchased eighty acres on section 24 of the same township. From the beginning of his active connection with agricultural interests in this county he has prospered and is today the owner of one of the most valuable and best improved farms in his township. As prosperity has attended his efforts he has added to his holdings from time to time and is now the owner of eighty acres in Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, and one hundred and twenty acres in Ellington township, Hancock county, which he has also improved. He is likewise one of the stockholders in the Farmers Elevator at Forest City. In connection with the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is extensively and successfully

engaged in feeding stock and the careful management of his business interests is bringing to him most gratifying success.

In September, 1888, Mr. Boman was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Olson, a native of Sweden, who came to America when but eleven years of age. Six children have been born of this union: Albert R., who is married and now resides on one of his father's farms; Cheney C., who is also married and follows farming; Luella M., who after graduating from the Forest Club high school spent one year in study at Cedar Falls and is now teaching; John O. and Esther S., both at home; and Clarence R., who died at the age of eight years. Mr. Boman and his family are all members of the Swedish Baptist church and guide their lives according to its teachings. He may truly be called a self-made man, for through his own efforts and the assistance of his wife, who has indeed been a helpmate to him, he has won a handsome fortune and is today one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers of Forest township. His life record shows what may be accomplished through persistent and earnest effort. In his vocabulary there has been no such word as fail, and obstacles and difficulties in his path have seemed to serve but as an impetus for renewed effort.

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#### F. J. BROOKER.

F. J. Brooker owns and operates a splendid four hundred acre tract of land on sections 17 and 18, Linden township, Winnebago county, and also has other business interests, thus ranking among the most successful men of his locality. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, September 30, 1867, a son of Thomas and Lucinda (Wilber) Brooker, natives respectively of Kent, England, and of Vermont. In 1839, when about twenty years of age, the father came to the United States, and as the vessel on which the voyage was made was shipwrecked he became separated from relatives who were crossing on the same ship and did not see them again until about eighteen months later. He located at Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained until a short time after his marriage, when he removed with his bride to La Salle county, Illinois. Subsequently they removed to a farm in Livingston county, that state, and there they experienced the inconveniences and hardships incident to frontier life. The unsettled condition of that part of the country can be gathered from the fact that the nearest market town was Ottawa, thirty miles distant, and it was then a matter of no little difficulty to secure supplies which could not be produced upon the farm. In 1886 they removed to Ida county, Iowa, and in March of the following year came to Winnebago county. The father purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Linden township, and his remaining years were devoted to the operation of that place. He died September 8, 1892, but the mother survived for more than twenty-four years, as her death occurred on the 7th of January, 1917.

F. J. Brooker received his education in the public schools of Illinois. He began assisting his father with the farm work in early boyhood and as the years passed he became more and more proficient as an agriculturist. After attaining his majority he took charge of the operation of the home farm in Linden township, Winnebago county, and cared for his parents during their last years. In 1889,



E. J. BROOKER AND FAMILY





when but twenty-one years old, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Linden township, lying across the road from the home farm, and this place he cultivated, together with the homestead. Following the death of his father he purchased the home farm also, and later added to his holdings an eighty acre tract adjoining the home place on the south, so that he has altogether a farm of four hundred acres. The improvements upon the place are of the most modern type, the fertility of the soil has been conserved by scientific methods of cultivation and everything is kept in the best of repair. He derives a good income from the sale of his grain and stock and ranks among the foremost farmers of Linden township. He also owns eighty acres of land in Oklahoma, three and one-half miles from Avery and in the oil belt, being within twelve miles of spouting wells. He likewise owns stock in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Thompson and is a director of the Farmers Elevator Company at Thompson, of which he was for six years president.

Mr. Brooker was married on March 20, 1890, to Miss Ella J. Johnson, a daughter of Benjamin Johnson, of Forest City, who was an early settler of Winnebago county, coming here in 1869 from Sweden. Mrs. Brooker was one of the pioneer school teachers of Winnebago county. To Mr. and Mrs. Brooker have been born five children, as follows: Elsie E., the wife of L. C. Anderson, of Grant township, this county; Lottie E., a teacher of Humboldt county, Iowa; Ruth V., who is attending the state normal school at Cedar Falls; and Charlie F. and Alice M., at home.

Mr. Brooker is a stalwart advocate of republican principles and has been quite active in local affairs. For many years he has been a member of the board of trustees and he is also serving on the school board. His interest in matters affecting the general welfare is further indicated by the fact that for four years he was president of the Winnebago County Fair and Park Association. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and in its teachings are found the principles which govern their conduct. In all that he has done he has manifested sound judgment, executive ability and uncompromising integrity, and he is deservedly held in the highest esteem.

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#### PROFESSOR H. O. BATEMAN.

Professor H. O. Bateman, identified with educational and agricultural interests at Forest City, was born in Kaneville, Kane county, Illinois, March 22, 1862, a son of Marcus and Hannah (Ravlin) Bateman, who were natives of Rutland, Vermont, and of Kane county, Illinois, respectively. They were married in the latter place, to which the father had removed in young manhood, and in 1868 they came to Iowa, establishing their home in Black Hawk county, where the death of Mr. Bateman occurred in 1901. His widow still survives and is now residing in Waterloo, Iowa.

Professor Bateman had liberal educational opportunities. He attended Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, from which he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1888. Prior to this time he had taken up teaching as a profession and after his college days were over he resumed educational work and has contributed

much to the development of the schools of the middle west. He has been principal of the schools of Lisbon, North Dakota, also at Nora Springs, Iowa, and superintendent of the schools at Dysart, Iowa. In 1901 he came to Forest City as superintendent of schools and served in that capacity for six years. He was reared on a farm and during his long identification with educational work he continued to hold farming interests and keep in touch with agricultural development. In 1907 he retired from the schoolroom and has since given his attention wholly to the cultivation of his land. In his holdings he is associated with his brother, G. A. Bateman, of Minneapolis, and they are owners of seven hundred and twenty acres in Winnebago county, also five hundred and sixty acres in Black Hawk county, near Waterloo, and one thousand acres near St. Paul, Minnesota. They personally supervise the cultivation of the greater part of their vast holdings and keep in touch with the most progressive agricultural methods. In fact their work largely sets a standard for agricultural development in the localities where they own land.

On the 31st of August, 1892, Professor Bateman was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Kay, of Nora Springs, Iowa, a daughter of Edward and Sarah (Belamy) Kay, natives of England, who came to America when young and settled near Madison, Wisconsin, later removing to Iowa. Both have passed away. Prof. and Mrs. Bateman have a daughter, Dorothy K., who was graduated from the Forest City high school with the class of 1917 and will enter Cornell College in the fall. Mr. Bateman is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Sigma Nu, a Greek letter college fraternity, while he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and guide their lives according to its teachings. She is also a member of the Tourists Club of Forest City. His political allegiance has long been given to the republican party. For an extended period he has been recognized as one of the most substantial and valued citizens of the state, his life work contributing in large measure to its progress. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, recognize his marked ability and feel that he has ever held to the highest standards for the individual and also in community life.

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#### HANS JACOBS.

Hans Jacobs, whose time and energy are devoted to the operation of his excellent farm on section 3, Linden township, Winnebago county, was born in Norway, November 25, 1864. His parents, Jacob and Anna (Thorson) Jorgenson, came with their family to the United States in 1868 and after a year spent in Howard county, Iowa, located in Forest township, Winnebago county. The father purchased eighty acres of land and for about thirty-three years made his home upon that farm, his death occurring in 1901, when he was seventy-three years old. The mother survived for four years and died at the advanced age of eighty-one years.

Hans Jacobs was less than four years of age when brought to America and received his education in the district schools of Forest township, in the Forest City high school, in the Iowa State Normal College at Cedar Falls and in the

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames. When only eighteen years old he began teaching and during the next decade alternately taught and attended school and also during the summers did some farm work. At length he took charge of a farm belonging to his brother, Thomas Jacobs, and operated that place for two years. He then returned to the home place and gave his undivided time and attention to the cultivation of that farm. Following his father's death he removed to his present home farm on section 3, Linden township, which he had purchased the previous year. He gives a great deal of thought to the management of his work and is very efficient in his methods. He is progressive but at the same time has had sufficient experience in actual farm work to enable him to guard against taking up too quickly with untried and perhaps impractical innovations. He owns stock in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery and the Farmers Elevator Company of Thompson. It was on Mr. Jacobs' farm that a large meteorite fell about four o'clock in the afternoon one day many years ago with an explosion heard fifteen miles away.

Mr. Jacobs was married in 1897 to Miss Lizzie Isaacson, of Forest township, a daughter of Nels Isaacson, who removed to Winnebago county from Chicago about 1870. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have been born six children, of whom four survive, namely: Mabel A., who is a graduate of the Thompson high school and is teaching; and James N., Leonard H. and Emma G., all at home.

Mr. Jacobs supports the republican party at the polls, for four years was a member of the township board of trustees and for a number of years has been treasurer of the school board. A public office has been to him a public trust and his duties have been discharged with an eye single to the good of the community. He is recognized as a successful farmer, a public-spirited citizen and a man of the highest character. The rules which have governed his life are found in the teachings of the United Lutheran church, to which he and his family belong.

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#### RAYMOND F. SCHNEIDER.

Raymond F. Schneider, who in 1916 became owner and editor of the Democrat, published at Garner, his native city, brought to his new business connection the benefit of long experience in the newspaper field, having at different times been employed on various papers. He was born September 17, 1892, a son of John and Dora (Walk) Schneider, who in 1870 removed to Hancock county, where the father engaged in the draying and bus business.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, the son entered the public schools at the usual age and passed through consecutive grades to the high school. When his textbooks were put aside he began learning the printer's trade, at which he has worked from the age of sixteen years. For five years he was employed on the Garner Signal and in 1913 began conducting a newspaper at Emery, South Dakota, where he continued for a year. He then returned to the Garner Signal, with which he was later identified for a year and a half, when he entered the office of the Democrat and in 1916 purchased the paper, of which he is now owner and editor. The Hancock County Democrat was established in 1883 as a weekly paper. After a decade it became the property of W. M. Bracket, who was proprietor

and editor until January, 1916, when he sold out to Mr. Schneider, who has since installed a new lineograph and job press. The paper is a home print journal from eight to twelve pages and has a circulation of eleven hundred and fifty copies, largely in Hancock county. In its publication he keeps in touch with modern ideas of journalism and is doing excellent work along lines leading to substantial results.

On the 18th of March, 1916, Mr. Schneider was married to Miss Lella Bates, of Garner, a daughter of S. C. Bates. They are members of the Methodist church and are highly esteemed in the community where they live. In politics Mr. Schneider maintains an independent course and through the columns of his paper champions those measures and movements which he recognizes as of benefit to the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Mystic Workers and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His entire life has been passed in this section of the state, where he is now widely known. His course in business has not been marked by any spectacular phases but has been characterized by that steady and persistent progress which ultimately wins success.

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#### OLE L. HALVORSEN.

Ole L. Halvorsen, living on section 13, Ellington township, dates his residence in Hancock county from 1875, covering a period of forty-two years, in which he has witnessed nearly all of the changes which have brought the county to its present state of development and improvement. He was born in Norway, September 19, 1848, his parents being Lars and Ellen (Hanson) Halvorsen, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. Coming to America in 1852, they settled in Clayton county, Iowa, where their remaining days were passed, and there they reared their family of twelve children, eight of whom are yet living.

Ole L. Halvorsen was a little lad of only about four years when brought to the United States and his youthful experiences made him familiar with the pioneer development of Clayton county, where he assisted in the farm work through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he had the opportunity of attending school. He mastered not only the elementary branches of learning but also the studies taught in high school, and when his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his entire attention upon farm work on the old homestead, there remaining until he reached the age of twenty-seven. It was in 1875 that he removed to Hancock county and purchased the farm on section 13, Ellington township, upon which he has now remained for more than four decades. It is a tract of two hundred acres of rich and productive land which he has improved with excellent buildings and modern equipments such as facilitate farm work. He carries on the labor of the fields according to progressive methods of agriculture and annually harvests good crops as a reward for his care and labor. He is also a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator of Ventura.

In 1877 Mr. Halvorsen was married to Miss Clara Mickelson, a native of Norway, and they have become the parents of nine children: Mary, deceased; Lena, the wife of Carl Solsa, of Hancock county; Julia, the wife of P. G. Johnson; Vina and Lewis, at home; Mary, the wife of Don Foley, now of Colorado; Emma, the wife of John Osner; Clarence, a farmer; and Ella, at home.

Mr. Halvorsen exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party, and while he has never sought nor desired political office, he has served for some years as a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and they believe in all those forces which work for righteousness, truth and justice. They are recognized as leading residents of Ellington township and enjoy the confidence and warm regard of those with whom they have been brought in contact.

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#### ANDREW B. NESSET.

Andrew B. Nessel, who is engaged in general farming on section 13, Forest township, Winnebago county, has so carefully directed his business affairs that he is today one of the substantial citizens of his community. He was born in Waseca county, Minnesota, August 23, 1867, his parents being Jens and Johanna (Quam) Nessel, who were natives of Norway and came to America as boy and girl in 1835 on the same ship. Their marriage occurred in this country. For five years they lived in Wisconsin and on the expiration of that period removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Mr. Nessel carried on farming for five years. He then took his family to Minnesota and settled on a farm, on which he remained for a number of years, but at length returned to this state and became a farmer of Winnebago county, taking up his abode on the land on which Andrew B. Nessel now resides. Upon this place his remaining days were passed, but the death of his wife occurred in Minnesota. In their family were five children, of whom four are yet living.

Andrew B. Nessel acquired his education in the public schools of his native state and after attaining his majority he purchased land and engaged in farming there. Eventually, however, he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and bought the old Anderson homestead on section 31, Forest township, west of Forest City. This place was purchased in 1880 by Mr. Nessel's father-in-law, Steele Anderson, at which time Mrs. Nessel was but five years of age. After living on that farm for seven years Mr. Nessel sold it and bought a place on section 16 which he owned for eight years and on which he continued to reside for three years after disposing of it. He next took up his abode on the Nessel homestead on section 13, Forest township, where he now owns three hundred and thirty-nine acres, all of which is improved. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and annually gathers golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon his land. He also makes a specialty of feeding stock of all kinds and he likewise is one of the stockholders of the Farmers Elevator at Forest City, the Farmers Elevator at Leland and the Forest City Cooperative Creamery Company.

On October 12, 1892, Mr. Nessel was married to Miss Elizabeth Anderson, a native of Forest City and a daughter of Steele and Christina Anderson, who were born in Norway. Leaving the land of the midnight sun, they came to America in 1871 and took up their abode in Winnebago county, while at the present time they are residents of Mason City, Iowa. In their family were nine children, all of whom are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Nessel have become parents of three children: Jared A., who married Hazel Harris and has one child, Violet, and who follows

farming in Winnebago county, on Sunset View Farm; Stanley H., also a farmer; and Leo C. The first two are college graduates, having completed their studies at Waldorf College at Forest City. The family are most pleasantly located in an attractive home on the Oak Lawn Farm; another place which Mr. Nessel owns is known as the Sunset View Farm; and his farm of ninety-nine acres in Mount Valley township is named Hickory Grove Farm. Fraternally Mr. Nessel is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 110 at Forest City and he and his wife are identified with the Rebekah degree. They are also members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the teachings of which they loyally adhere. In his political views Mr. Nessel is a republican and for six years he filled the office of township trustee, while for a number of years he was a member of the school board. He is a public-spirited and patriotic citizen and one to whom the community can ever look for substantial aid in support of measures for the general good. The secret of his success is to be found in diligence and determination, combined with thorough reliability in all business transactions.

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#### SOREN H. LARSON.

Soren H. Larson, the efficient president of the Farmers State Bank of Lake Mills, Iowa, was born in Boone county, Illinois, March 14, 1857, a son of Halvor and Kari (Berg) Larson, the former a native of Siljord prestegjeld, Ovre Telemarken, Norway, and the latter of Sövde prestegjeld, Nedre Telemarken, that country. About 1850 the family emigrated to Boone county, Illinois, where the father worked as a laborer for some time. Later he invested his savings in land in that county and improved and operated his farm until 1864, when he removed to Winnebago county, Iowa. There he purchased land which he farmed until he retired from active life. His last years were spent at the home of his son, Soren H. His death occurred in May, 1909, when he was nearly eighty-five years old. The mother died in the same month, when nearly eighty-three years of age.

Soren H. Larson was reared and educated in Winnebago county, as he was but six years old when brought here by his parents. In 1881, in early manhood, he went to North Dakota with one of his brothers and his brother-in-law and there they farmed, ran a threshing outfit, dealt in horses and also conducted a country store and postoffice for three years. In 1887, however, Mr. Larson returned to Iowa and purchased the home place, which he operated until he was elected treasurer of Winnebago county in 1892, at which time he removed to Forest City, the county seat. Six years later, at the expiration of his term of service as county treasurer, he removed to Lake Mills and, in company with others, organized the First National Bank at that place and served as assistant cashier of that institution until 1902, when he became cashier. In the same year the First National Bank absorbed the P. M. Joice private bank. While connected with the First National Bank of Lake Mills he, with others, organized the First National Bank of Hannaford, North Dakota, in which he retained his interest for two years.



In 1905 he severed his connection with the First National Bank at Lake Mills and purchased an interest in the Farmers State Bank of Lake Mills, whose business policy he has since directed as president. It was organized in 1898, has a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars surplus and undivided profits amounting to twenty-five thousand dollars, and about four hundred and thirty thousand dollars in deposits. The other officers are: Ole Hovie, vice president; T. S. Tweed, cashier; and G. T. Tweed and Frank Streeter, assistant cashiers. The excellent condition of the finances of the institution is due to the sagacity and enterprise of the officers and to their fine spirit of co-operation, each seeking to co-ordinate his work with that of the others so as to further the best interests of the bank. Mr. Larson brings to his important work as president a detailed knowledge of banking practice, a thorough understanding of the basic principles of finance and resourcefulness in dealing with unusual situations.

In February, 1894, Mr. Larson was married to Miss Anna D. Bolstad, and they have three children: Kenneth H., born January 7, 1895, and Earl B., born September 19, 1896, both of whom attended St. Olaf College for two years and are graduates of the Minneapolis Business College; and Adeline S., born January 21, 1903, who is attending school.

In his political belief Mr. Larson is a staunch republican and he has served his community as a member of the town council and is now serving as treasurer of the school board. In those capacities he has made a highly creditable record, giving the same close attention to his official duties that he has always given to the management of his business affairs. His integrity has always been beyond question and his personal friends are many.

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#### R. W. CUFFEL.

R. W. Cuffel, who is living retired in Lake Mills after a number of years of well directed and successful labor as an agriculturist, was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, August 1, 1852. His parents, Albert and Rebecca (Newton) Cuffel, were born respectively in Ohio and in New York and in 1856 removed from Indiana to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where the father farmed for many years. At length he retired and from that time until his death resided with his daughter, Mrs. J. A. Rush, at Sunnyside, Washington. There both he and his wife died and were buried. To them were born eight children, of whom seven survive and of whom our subject is the fourth in order of birth.

R. W. Cuffel received a common school education but when sixteen years old put aside his textbooks and for five years thereafter devoted his entire time and attention to assisting his father on the home farm. By the time he attained his majority he was thoroughly familiar with all phases of farm work and for four years he was employed as a hired hand in the vicinity of Lake Mills. When twenty-five years old he went to Bremer county, Iowa, and purchased land, which he cultivated for a few years, later farming in Butler county for eight years. At the end of that time he bought land in Logan township, Winnebago county, but

after operating that place for five years rented it and took up his residence in Lake Mills, where he is still living. He is in excellent financial circumstances and his success is doubly creditable in that it is due solely to his own hard work and good management.

Mr. Cuffel was married October 10, 1881, to Miss Mary McCaffree, a daughter of Charles and Cynthia (Messenger) McCaffree, the former born in Kentucky and the latter in Indiana. They removed to Bremer county, Iowa, in territorial days and the father turned the first furrow within the limits of the county. Both passed away there and are buried near Waverly. They were well known among the early settlers and were held in the highest esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Cuffel have a daughter, Gertrude Blanche, who married H. B. Hill, of Lake Mills, by whom she has a daughter, Elaine, born September 16, 1914.

Mr. Cuffel exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party but has never been an aspirant for office. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church and do all in their power to further its work and extend its influence. His life has been characterized by quiet efficiency, by the strictest adherence to high moral standards and by strong and lasting friendships.

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#### VICTOR L. BELLMAN.

Victor L. Bellman, a well known general merchant of Thompson, Iowa, has spent his entire life in this state, his birth occurring in Dows, Wright county, on the 11th of September, 1874. His parents, Sven and Sophia (Donaldson) Bellman, were natives of Sweden but in early life came to the United States and first located in Michigan, where they spent four years. At the end of that time they removed to Wright county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming for twelve years, and then turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, conducting a store at Dows for a number of years. Later he engaged in the real estate business at that place. After a useful and well spent life he passed away in May, 1913, having survived his wife only a few months, as she died in January of the same year. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Reared in his native county, Victor L. Bellman is indebted to the public schools of Dows for the early educational privileges he enjoyed, and he remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. He then went to Garner, Iowa, where he conducted a store for two months, and on leaving there engaged in general merchandising at Germania for three years. For about fifteen years, however, he has owned and operated a store in Thompson and has built up an excellent trade in the town and surrounding country. He carries a large and well selected stock of goods and his liberal prices and fair dealing have gained for him a good patronage. Mr. Bellman is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Creamery Company of Thompson and has an interest in Wisconsin farm land.

On the 1st of January, 1901, Mr. Bellman was united in marriage to Miss Leona Sanders, and they have become the parents of two children, Opal, now fourteen years of age; and Merle, aged seven years. Mrs. Bellman holds member-

ship in the Methodist church, and Mr. Bellman takes an active interest in the moral and material development of his community. Mr. Bellman is also affiliated with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias and is a staunch supporter of the republican party. For three years he efficiently served as a member of the town council and is a stalwart champion of all measures for the public good.

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#### HANS P. JUHL.

Hans P. Juhl, the capable and well liked postmaster at Thompson, was born in Nysted, Denmark, March 25, 1881, a son of Christian and Margaret Juhl, who are still living in Nysted. The father is by occupation a farmer. Hans P. Juhl, who is the third in order of birth in a family of six children, attended the common schools in his native country until he was sixteen years old, after which he was variously employed until he was eighteen years of age, when with an uncle he emigrated to the United States, locating at Britt, Iowa, where another uncle, Nels Lorensen, was farming. He remained there for a year and subsequently worked for farmers in the locality of Thompson for two years. For a short time he followed the butcher's trade and later clerked in a clothing store in Forest City. In 1911 he came to Thompson and bought a restaurant, which he conducted until 1914, when he established a moving picture theater, which he disposed of in 1916. On the 1st of April, 1917, he assumed the duties of postmaster and has already given evidence that he is well fitted for the place.

Mr. Juhl was married in 1911 to Miss Helen Halvorson, a daughter of John and Anna Halvorson, natives respectively of Norway and Wisconsin. For a number of years the father conducted a general store in Thompson but is now deceased. The mother is still living here. Mr. and Mrs. Juhl have three children, John Harold, Robert Sidney and Paul Vincent.

Mr. Juhl is a staunch supporter of the democratic party and is well informed as to the questions and issues of the day. He is now serving as town assessor as well as postmaster, and all of his official duties are discharged promptly and efficiently. He owns a fine home in Thompson and is recognized as a successful and enterprising young man.

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#### FOREST CITY NATIONAL BANK.

The Forest City National Bank, an important element of business development in Winnebago county, was organized in July, 1895, with C. J. Thompson as president, G. S. Gilbertson cashier and Judge C. H. Kelly as vice president. In addition there were on the board of directors O. A. Olson, S. C. Gardner and T. G. Tweed, while Charles A. Isaacs became assistant cashier. The bank was capitalized for fifty thousand dollars and erected a building at the northwest corner of Clark and K streets. On the 12th of January, 1904, Mr. Thompson sold his interest in the bank and G. S. Gilbertson succeeded to the presidency, while B. H. Thomas was elected cashier. The other directors were C. H. Kelly, O. A. Olson, G. B. Anderson,

W. O. Hanson, H. R. Irish and C. A. Isaacs. In January, 1905, C. A. Isaacs became cashier and served in that capacity until September, 1912, when he withdrew from the bank, selling his interest. He was succeeded by R. W. Stephenson in the office of cashier. On the 7th of April, 1913, G. S. Gilbertson sold his bank stock and W. S. Wadsworth was elected president, while H. R. Cleophas became vice president. A further change in the presidency occurred January 12, 1915, when Hon. G. N. Haugen, congressman, was called to that office. Judge C. H. Kelly is the vice president, while Mr. Cleophas is cashier. O. E. Gunderson is the assistant cashier of the bank, while in addition to the president and the cashier the directors are F. D. Peet, G. I. Koto, John A. Peters and G. B. Anderson. These are all men of substantial worth and business ability. The persistent purpose, sound judgment and unfaltering enterprise of Mr. Cleophas are constituting important sources of the growth of the bank and he displays marked ability in administrative direction and executive control. Mr. Gunderson as assistant cashier is making good in his position and the clerical force of the bank is competent and courteous. In a word, the personnel of the bank has had much to do with its success. The officers and directors of the bank are all men of high standing and have had much experience in banking business. Hon. G. N. Haugen is president of the First National Bank of Northwood and is interested in several other banks of Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota, while Judge Kelly is vice president of the First National Bank of Thompson, Iowa, and of other banks in the state. F. D. Peet is president of the State National Bank of Iowa Falls and he, too, is interested in other banking institutions.

The Forest City National Bank has accumulated a surplus and undivided profits since April, 1913, of twenty-eight thousand dollars. At that time its deposits were only three hundred and five thousand dollars, while in April, 1917, the deposits had reached five hundred and two thousand dollars. The bank thus shows a steady growth in its business, which is conducted along most safe and conservative lines, but its policy does not hinder continuous progression.

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#### JOSEPH NEDVED.

Joseph Nedved is a resident farmer of Garfield township, Hancock county, living on section 32, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. He was born in Bohemia, March 7, 1864, and is a son of John and Mary (Borz) Nedved. The father died in Hancock county in 1904 and the mother is still living in this county. In their family were five sons, the brothers of Joseph being: John, Stenk, Frank and Charles, who are all married and reside in Garfield township, Hancock county.

Joseph Nedved acquired a common school education in Bohemia, where he remained until he reached the age of seventeen years. He then determined to try his fortune in the new world, believing that he might have better opportunities on this side the Atlantic. Accordingly on the 4th of June, 1881, he arrived in the United States and from the eastern coast made his way at once into the interior of the country. When he first came to Iowa he earned sixty cents per day at husking corn, four men being engaged to husk with one wagon. Land at that day sold



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH NEDVED



at from four to eight dollars per acre. One could pick any land desired at the top price of eight dollars. Mr. Nedved, however, had to earn the money before he could make a purchase, but ultimately became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Garfield township, Hancock county, for which he paid ten dollars and a quarter per acre. In his farming operations he has prospered and today he owns another tract of one hundred and sixty acres situated in German township. His fields are carefully cultivated and his industry and enterprise are bringing to him a substantial measure of success.

On the 28th of July, 1890, Mr. Nedved was married to Miss Anna Hoydar, a daughter of Frank and Mary Vonesh Hoydar, the former of whom died December 6, 1914, while the latter is still living in Hancock county. Mrs. Nedved was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, July 26, 1873, and by her marriage has become the mother of five sons: Edward B., who is married and lives in Iowa Falls, where he is operator on the Rock Island Railroad; James J., who is agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad at Parkersburg, Iowa; Joseph V. and George P., who are operating the home farm; and Raleigh S., who is attending the Britt high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Nedved are members of the Catholic church and for nineteen years he has been connected with the Modern Woodmen, of which he is a trustee. In politics he is a republican and is now serving for the second term of two years as township trustee. He was also school director for six years. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and by a life of industry and perseverance has made for himself a position among the substantial farmers of the locality.

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#### OLAF A. MOGEN.

One of the best improved and most attractive farm properties of Winnebago county is that owned by Olaf A. Mogen, whose place comprises three hundred acres on section 23, Center township. He has resided thereon for almost a third of a century and its neat and attractive appearance is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift. He was born in Norway May 17, 1854, and is a son of Aslok and Sigrid (Sovtstad) Olson, who were likewise natives of the land of the midnight sun and there remained until called to the home beyond. The father served in the regular army in Norway for about forty years and became a sergeant.

The youthful days of Olaf A. Mogen were spent in Norway and his education was acquired in its public schools. After attaining his majority, in 1880, he made the long voyage across the briny deep and settled first in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he spent one winter. He then again started westward with Worth county, Iowa, as his destination and there he secured employment at farm labor, devoting the summer months to the work of the fields, while in the winter seasons he taught school in Worth and Winnebago counties. In this way he finally earned the capital which enabled him to purchase land and he invested in three hundred acres on section 23, Center township, Winnebago county. This he set about clearing and

improving. He has cleared two hundred and seventy acres of his farm and today has one of the best improved places in the county, equipped with all the conveniences and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. It bears proof of the thirty-two years of labor which he has devoted thereto and each year he garners good crops as a reward for his effort. He is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills.

In February, 1884, Mr. Mogen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Knutson and they have become the parents of three sons, Andrew O., Conrad C. and Gustav Theodore, all of whom are farming in Center township.

Mr. Mogen's life has ever been actuated by high and honorable principles. He holds membership in the United Lutheran church and his position upon the temperance question is indicated by the stalwart support which he gives to the prohibition party. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, esteem him as a man of sterling worth and the course which he has followed might well serve as an example to others, while his life history also proves conclusively that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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#### SIMON A. SMITH.

Simon A. Smith, a retired farmer living in Lake Mills, has passed the seventy-ninth milestone on life's journey but is still in good health and takes a keen interest in all happenings of the day. He was born in Middlesex, Vermont, July 27, 1837, the third child in a family of six children whose parents were Simon and Amelia (Moore) Smith, natives of Massachusetts. He was the only one to come to Iowa and all of the others have passed away save his sister Sarah, now the widow of George Butler and a resident of Montpelier, Vermont.

The boyhood of Simon A. Smith was passed upon the home farm in Vermont and his education was acquired in the common schools. When sixteen years old he began working for others, following the carpenter's and painter's trades, and was so occupied until 1865, when he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and homesteaded land in Center township. He there raised grain and stock for many years and his well directed labors brought him a gratifying financial return. At length he rented the land and retired to Lake Mills and has since enjoyed a well earned rest.

On May 20, 1868, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Amelia Ruby, a daughter of Charles and Josephine (Wawada) Ruby, natives of Bohemia. On emigrating to America they located in Hartford, Connecticut, but after two years went to Chicago, where they remained a year. They then resided in Worth county, Iowa, for five years, after which they came to Winnebago county, then a pioneer district. Both have passed away and the father is buried upon the homestead, while the mother's remains are interred in the South cemetery at Lake Mills. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, namely: Millie Josephine, the wife of Clarence Tracy, of Vinton, Iowa; Benjamin Franklin, of Lake Mills; Carlos Wolcott, who died at the age of twelve years and is buried in the North cemetery; Harriet Hermina, the wife of A. J. Bragg, of Clear Lake; Ella Mable, at home; and Frederick Carlos, a wireless operator in the employ of the United States navy.

Mr. Smith votes for the candidates and measures of the republican party and



has always been a staunch supporter of its principles, which he believes to be best calculated to further the interests of the country. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both within and without that organization has many warm friends, for his life has measured up to high standards and he has always held friendship inviolable. For more than five decades he has resided in Winnebago county and has seen practically its entire transformation from a region of unbroken prairie to a highly developed agricultural district.

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#### HENRY DUSENBERG.

Henry Duesenberg, now successfully engaged in general farming on section 28, Concord township, Hancock county, has been a resident of Iowa since 1884 but his early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Germany, September 16, 1863, his parents being Conrad and Conradine (Potthoff) Duesenberg. The father died in Germany, and in 1885 the mother came to the United States, where she is still living at the age of seventy-eight years. She purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Floyd county, Iowa, for which she paid twenty-three dollars per acre, and in that county she still makes her home. She was again married, her second husband being Christian Hertz, of Charles City, Iowa.

Henry Duesenberg was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until 1884, when he resolved to try his fortune in the new world. For three years after coming to this country he worked as a farm hand and then rented a farm in Floyd county, Iowa, which he operated for two years. At the end of that time he turned his attention to shoemaking and harnessmaking in Klemme, Hancock county, where he worked at these trades for five years. The following two years were again devoted to agricultural pursuits, but on the 7th of August, 1897, a hail storm destroyed his crops, leaving him only fifteen bushels of potatoes, worth twenty cents per bushel, for his year's work. On settling up his affairs he found that he was six hundred dollars in debt. Mr. Duesenberg then returned to Floyd county and lived with his mother for a time while working in a harness shop. In April, 1898, he began working for the Patton nursery at Charles City as traveling salesman, and remained with that house for three years. He was engaged in the nursery business at Rockford, Iowa, until his removal to Garner in 1905. He put in a nursery stock but on the 3d of July, 1908, the hail completely ruined thirty thousand apple trees and all of his strawberries, covering an acre and a half. Since then he has engaged in general farming, having purchased in 1905 a tract of one hundred and fifty acres on section 28, Concord township, Hancock county, for which he paid sixty-five dollars per acre.

On the 21st of December, 1887, Mr. Duesenberg was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Byer, a native of Germany, of which country her parents were lifelong residents. To this union were born two children: Hulda, now the wife of Edward Katterhenry; and Wesley, a resident of Jersey City, New Jersey. Mr. Duesenberg was again married October 13, 1898, his second union being with Miss Eva Hicks, a daughter of John and Margaret (Reutzel) Hicks, natives of Germany, who came to this country and settled near Mendota, Illinois, in the fall of 1868.

In that locality Mrs. Duesenberg was born October 18, 1869, and there her parents still reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Duesenberg are earnest and consistent members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and are people of the highest respectability. In politics Mr. Duesenberg is a republican. He is a man of good business ability and is regarded as one of the representative citizens of the community in which he lives.

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#### ERICK A. AND GILBERT A. HOU6.

Erick A. and Gilbert A. Hou6, composing the firm of Hou6 Brothers, are successfully engaged in the automobile business at Thompson, Iowa, where they own a fine modern garage on Main street. They handle the Chevrolet cars and do a general repairing business, both members of the firm being expert mechanics and men of good business ability.

Natives of Green county, Wisconsin, Erick A. Hou6 was born May 19, 1872, and his brother Gilbert A., was born on the 14th of January, 1878. Their parents were Isaac and Barbara (Olesdater) Hou6, who came to this country from Norway in 1869 and took up their abode in Green county, Wisconsin, where the father worked as a farm hand until 1877. He then purchased forty acres of land, which he improved and cultivated until 1890, when he sold the place to his son, although he built another house on the land and continued to reside there a few years longer. In 1904, however, he went to Virginia and made his home in that state up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1913 when he was about eighty-two years of age, for he was born in Norway on the 26th of February, 1831. In that country he was married June 29, 1860, to Miss Barbara Olesdater Hermundpladsen, who was born there March 3, 1835, and died November 25, 1881. By that union there were seven children, namely: Ole, born April 28, 1861; Dorothy, who was born June 27, 1864, and died February 18, 1871; Ole, born January 11, 1867; Andrew, born March 15, 1870; Erick A., born May 19, 1872; Martin, who was born February 14, 1875, and died in the spring of 1910; and Gilbert A., born January 14, 1878.

Erick A. Hou6 was reared and educated in Wisconsin and at the early age of twelve years began work as a farm hand. In the spring of 1892 he went to Calender, Webster county, Iowa, where he worked until the following fall, and then began learning the blacksmith's trade at Dows, where he spent two years. At the end of that time he returned to Wisconsin but after working at his trade there for one summer again came to Dows, Iowa. Shortly afterward, however, he came to Thompson, Winnebago county, where he followed blacksmithing two years, after which we again find him in Dows, where he worked at his trade until the spring of 1900. Mr. Hou6 then formed a partnership with Henry Erickson and engaged in general blacksmithing at Thompson under the firm name of Erickson & Hou6 for one year, at the end of which time our subject sold out and returned to Wisconsin. On the 1st of August, 1901, he went to Bricelyn, Minnesota, where he worked at blacksmithing for C. K. Sabo until January, 1902, at which time he returned to Thompson, Iowa, and forming a partnership with his brother Gilbert A. leased and operated a blacksmith shop for one year. They then purchased the same and continued to carry on blacksmithing until the spring of 1913, when they rented the

shop and turned their attention to the automobile business. They erected a good up-to-date garage on Main street, where they do general repairing as well as take care of cars, and they act as agents for the Chevrolet automobile.

Gilbert A. Houg also attended the public schools of his native state and in early life began earning his own livelihood as a farm hand. Like his brother he learned the blacksmith's trade under the direction of L. J. Rude at Dows, Iowa, and he continued to work at that occupation until he embarked in the automobile business as a member of the firm of Houg Brothers. They are both stockholders of the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers and Town Mutual Switchboard Company and are numbered among the leading business men of the community.

On the 5th of March, 1903, Erick A. Houg was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda S. Johnson, a daughter of Stephen and Martha Johnson, pioneers of Faribault county, Minnesota, now living in Bricelyn. Mr. Houg and his wife have adopted two of her sister's children, namely: Mabel Overlee, born March 15, 1905; and Sanford Overlee, born February 20, 1911. Gilbert A. Houg was married November 26, 1903, to Miss Cynthia Olson, a daughter of Michael and Thona Olson, who were early settlers of Dows, Wright county, Iowa. Mrs. Houg died September 25, 1910, after a short illness, leaving a little son, Merrill A., who was born April 27, 1907.

Both brothers are Lutherans in religious faith and cast their ballots with the republican party. They take a commendable interest in public affairs and Erick is now serving as a member of the town council. He is also treasurer of the switchboard company of which he and his brother are stockholders. They stand high in the esteem of their fellow citizens and well merit the success they have achieved in life, as it is due entirely to their own enterprise, good management and untiring industry.

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#### ABNER JAMES PETERS.

Abner James Peters, actively engaged in farming on section 24, Forest township, Winnebago county, is a native of the county in which he still makes his home. He was born May 19, 1884, of the marriage of Ole and Cornelia (Edwards) Peters, both of whom are natives of Norway, whence they came to America in early life. They first settled in Wisconsin and after living there for a number of years removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, taking up their abode upon a farm. In addition to the work of tilling the soil the father also operated a grist mill which he owned and was thus actively identified with the industrial as well as the agricultural interests of the county. Both he and his wife still make their home in Winnebago county, and of their five children four are yet living.

Abner J. Peters spent his youthful days under the parental roof and at the usual age began his education in the district school, while later he had the benefit of instruction in the high school at Lake Mills. He rented land for about five years, but during that period carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase the farm upon which he now lives on section 24, Forest township. He has since given his attention and energy to the further development of the property and has brought

his fields to a high state of cultivation, producing large crops annually. He also makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock. He is now the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land on sections 12 and 24, Forest township, and, moreover, he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator. His place is known as the Oakdale Stock Farm and it constitutes one of the attractive features in the landscape by reason of its excellent improvements and well kept appearance.

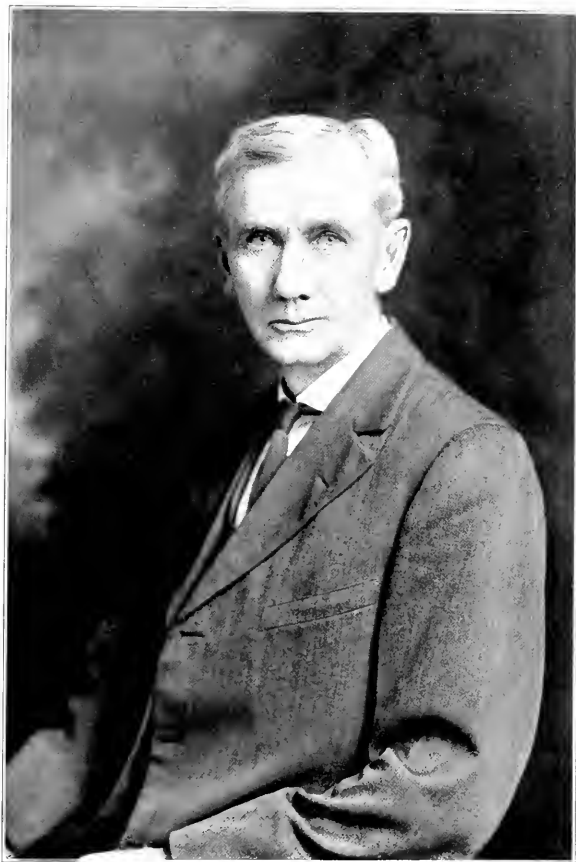
On April 31, 1908, Mr. Peters was joined in wedlock to Miss Hannah Mosstad, a daughter of Andrew Mosstad and a native of Winnebago county, and they have become parents of four children: Olive E., Burt E., Wilford C. and Helen A. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Peters exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party but has never been an office seeker, preferring to devote his time and energies to his farming and stock raising interests. His life of intelligently directed activity has made him at the end of a quarter of a century one of the substantial farmers of Winnebago county.

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#### JOSEPH B. CONLEY.

Joseph B. Conley, of Lake Mills, has been identified with a number of business interests and in all he has undertaken has met with a large measure of success. He is now active in the real estate field as a member of the Haugo-Conley Land Agency and he held the office of postmaster for several years, resigning that position in February, 1917. His birth occurred in Rock county, Wisconsin, on the 1st of July, 1852, and he is a son of Stephen and Sarah (Finney) Conley, natives respectively of Ireland and Vermont. When the father was eleven months old he was brought by his parents to America and in early manhood he began farming on his own account in Rock county, Wisconsin. About 1880, however, he retired from active life and removed to Chicago, where he lived until his death in March, 1914. He had survived his wife for a decade, as her demise occurred in March, 1904.

Joseph B. Conley was reared in Rock county, Wisconsin, and remained with his parents until he became of age. He then rented land which he operated for about five years, but in 1877 he removed to Sumner, Bremer county, Iowa. There he gave his attention to the well drilling business for two years and for one year after his removal to Lake Mills, Winnebago county, continued to engage in that occupation. He next became connected with a flour mill which he operated until March, 1917. In 1895 he extended his business interests, establishing an electric light plant which he operated continuously until September, 1916, when he sold it. He owns farm land in North Dakota and is engaged in the real estate business as a member of the Haugo-Conley Land Agency. This firm has a large clientele of representative men and in the course of a year handles a great deal of valuable property. This year (1917) he is farming a half section of land in the Red river valley in North Dakota. On the 20th of July, 1913, Mr. Conley was appointed postmaster of Lake Mills, filling that office until he resigned on the 13th of February, 1917. His official record was in harmony



JOSEPH B. CONLEY



with his successful and honorable career as a business man and he was a popular postmaster.

On the 28th of December, 1881, Mr. Conley was married to Miss Sarah Kenny and they have two children, namely: Vera, who is a Sister of Charity at Dubuque, Iowa, and has taken the name of Sister Bernard Ella; and Wilfred E., an electrical engineer residing at Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Conley is a strong democrat in politics and in addition to being postmaster has held the offices of mayor, councilman and school director. He is a communicant of the Catholic church, belongs to the Knights of Columbus and is also a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Mystic Toilers. He has a wide acquaintance in Lake Mills and indeed throughout the county and the high respect in which he is held is richly deserved.

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### I. J. KESSEY.

I. J. Kessey, county treasurer of Winnebago county and a well known resident of Forest City, was born in Norway, December 29, 1849, a son of Jacob Simonstead and Bertha Gjestvang. After spending the first seventeen years of his life in his native country, I. J. Kessey came to the new world, arriving in America on the 3d of July, 1866. He at once made his way westward to Iowa settling in Winneshiek county, where he worked as a farm hand for about eight years. In May, 1874, he came to Winnebago county and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Linden township, which was a tract of wild land. There were no houses in sight and in fact his was one of the pioneer homes of the district. Wild game was plenty, including geese, ducks, cranes and prairie chickens. It was somewhat difficult to secure supplies because of the remoteness of the farm from market. Mr. Kessey developed his place into productive fields but eventually sold that property and purchased a farm near Forest City. In 1888 he was called to public office, being elected county auditor, which position he filled for five years. He afterward entered the grain and coal business at Buffalo Center and also at Thompson, Iowa, continuing active along those lines for four years, after which he returned to the farm and concentrated his attention upon feeding stock. In June, 1914, he was nominated for the office of county treasurer and in November was elected to the position, assuming the duties of the office in January, 1915. He has made an excellent record, discharging his duties promptly and faithfully, and in 1916 his party endorsed his course by renominating him, and he was elected without opposition.

On the 23d of November, 1873, Mr. Kessey was married to Miss Sarah Hover, of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and their children are: Henry, now residing in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Albert, a contractor and builder of Forest City; Ella; Ida, the wife of Oscar Belshein, who follows farming near Forest City; Etta, who is with the Mutual Lyceum Bureau; Sylvan, who is engaged in the restaurant business in Superior, Wisconsin; Norman, who died at the age of thirty-three years; Lillie, living in Minneapolis; Mabel, the wife of Ben Conner, of Thompson, Iowa; Bettie, the wife of Jay Brones, a farmer; and Alice Hover, who is an adopted daughter. The family are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Kessey has ever guided

his life by its teachings. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is ever loyal to a cause which he espouses. His sterling traits of character are many and all who know him entertain for him high regard!

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#### LEWIS NELSON.

Lewis Nelson, who concentrates his time and attention upon farm work on section 25, Linden township, Winnebago county, has one hundred and sixty acres of arable land which responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. His life record began in Sweden, July 7, 1860, his parents being Nels and Ellen (Nelson) Anderson, who were natives of Sweden, where they continued to reside until 1874 when they left that land with the purpose of making America their future home. Having crossed the briny deep they traveled westward to Winnebago county, Iowa, and here both the father and mother spent their remaining days.

Lewis Nelson was one of a family of eight children, five of whom are now living. He acquired his education in the schools of Sweden which he attended to the age of fourteen years, when he accompanied his parents to the United States, and from that time forward he has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood. He was first employed at farm labor for two years and afterward worked on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad for four years. While thus employed he carefully saved his earnings, practicing strict economy and working diligently until he had accumulated a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase property. It was in 1885 that he became the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, Linden township, Winnebago county, on which he now resides. He has since operated this place which he has converted into one of the modern farm properties of the community, displaying all the equipments that exemplify twentieth century progress along agricultural lines. He has excellent buildings, well kept fences and the latest improvements in farm machinery.

Mr. Nelson votes with the republican party but has never been an office seeker. He was reared in the Lutheran faith. His attention is largely concentrated upon his business affairs and he has made all that he possesses since starting out in the business world for himself empty handed, when a lad of fourteen years.

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#### A. N. LUNDSTRUM.

The Scandinavian countries have contributed a large quota to the progressive citizenship of Winnebago county. The number includes A. N. Lundstrum, who was born in Sweden, April 6, 1852. He is a son of Nels and Mattie Miller, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives. They had a family of nine children, of whom six are yet living.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for A. N. Lundstrum during his boyhood and youth. He learned the blacksmith's trade in Sweden and that gave him the privilege of taking any name desired. Accordingly



he took the name of Lundstrum, which his brother also chose. Thinking to find better opportunities in the new world, he crossed the Atlantic in 1873 and made his way into the interior of the country, settling first at Mason City, Iowa, where he remained for a short time. He afterward removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand for three years. He then worked at his trade in a foundry in Osage, that county, for one year. He next came to Winnebago county and invested his hard earned savings in forty acres of land, constituting the nucleus of his present farm on section 24, Forest township. He afterward added eighty acres and now has a good farm property of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 13 and 24, Forest township, known as the Walnut and Maple Hill Farm. He has improved it with fine buildings, adding all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century. He built an addition to his house with lumber made from trees which he planted and which he also sawed. In addition to his farm property he has other business interests, being a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator of Forest City and the Forest City Cooperative Creamery Company.

In 1877 Mr. Lundstrum was married to Miss Anna Olson, a native of Wisconsin, and they have become parents of eight children: William, a farmer of Newton township; Lewis, who is living in Madison, Wisconsin; Martha, at home; Ida, the wife of John J. Halverson; Elmer, who is farming; Lillian, at home; Lloyd, deceased and Lloyd, the second of the name, now at home. Mr. Lundstrum holds membership in the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he has served as one of the trustees of his township and as school director. He is never neglectful of his duties of citizenship, but on the contrary is ready and willing to aid in matters relating to the welfare and upbuilding of his district. His life has been one of unremitting industry and his perseverance and energy have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his success.

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#### JOSEPH B. KEELER.

Joseph B. Keeler was at different times active in various fields of endeavor, but for a few years before his death lived retired save for the supervision which he gave to his investments. He was well known not only in Lake Mills but throughout the entire county and his demise was the occasion of much sincere regret. He was the first white child born in Bristol, Worth county, Iowa, his natal day being October 15, 1859. His parents were James and Cornelia (Streeter) Keeler, the former a native of Norwalk, Connecticut. They removed to Worth county, Iowa, in 1859, being numbered among its earliest settlers, and there the father practiced medicine until 1896, when he took up his residence in Lake Mills. He lived retired here until his death, which occurred in June, 1899. He was survived by his widow until January, 1913.

Joseph B. Keeler passed his boyhood and youth in Worth and Osage counties, Iowa, and is indebted for his education to the district schools. He devoted several years to farming in Worth county, but at length removed to Lake Mills

and turned his attention to banking, being a stockholder and the vice president of the Farmers State Bank. Later he engaged in the insurance business, in which he was also successful, writing a large number of policies. During the last years of his life he confined his business activity to taking care of his investments. His death occurred on the 2d of January, 1914, after an illness of about a year's duration. He was a stock raiser and buyer for several years, farmed extensively and was interested in many of the local industries that proved factors in the development of the community.

In February, 1895, Mr. Keeler was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Anderson, who was born in Lake Mills and educated in the public schools. She is a daughter of L. Sigman and Olive (Hinman) Anderson, an account of whose lives appears in the sketch of L. S. Anderson, which is given elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Keeler were born ten children, of whom five died in infancy, the others being: Milford D., who is attending the Iowa State College at Ames; and Florence Majel, Harold B., Helen G. and Olive C., all at home.

Mr. Keeler was a staunch republican and served as a member of the town council, while for many years he was treasurer of the school board. In religious faith he was a Methodist and his fraternal connection was with the Yeomen. He believed that Lake Mills offered excellent advantages, was financially interested in a number of its business enterprises and was always willing to do all in his power to extend its trade connections and promote its civic interests, and in fact advance the general welfare in any way possible. His generous, whole-hearted nature won him the warm friendship of those with whom he came in close contact and his memory is still cherished.

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#### DAVID BONAR.

David Bonar, a retired farmer residing in Forest City, has made his home in Winnebago and Hancock counties since 1862 or for a period of fifty-five years. His birth occurred in Noble county, Indiana, November 12, 1854, his parents being Jesse and Martha Ann (Gray) Bonar, the former a native of Ohio, while the latter was probably born in Indiana, where their marriage was celebrated in 1848. The mother died two weeks after the birth of our subject and in 1855 the father came to Iowa and filed on both a homestead and a timber claim in Winnebago county. His brothers, Matthew and James Bonar, accompanied him and they, too, homesteaded, the former securing land in Winnebago and the latter in Hancock county, both remaining on their respective claims. The same year Jesse Bonar returned to Indiana, where he later wedded Gemima Ragen. It was not until 1862 that he took up his abode in Iowa and in the meantime his homestead claim had been jumped, but he succeeded in holding the timber claim. The summer of that year was spent in Hancock county and the following fall he removed to Forest City, buying a farm that is now within the city limits, being the present site of the Catholic church. He resided upon that place until 1878, when he became a resident of Harrison county, Iowa, where he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred when he was in his eighty-fourth year.

David Bonar was reared under the parental roof and was a little lad of but eight years when he came to this state. His educational opportunities were those afforded by the common schools, but as his father was in humble financial circumstances he was obliged to forego the privilege of attending school to a considerable extent after he reached the age of ten years, for he then became a wage earner, working as a chore boy and farm hand. He thereby assisted his father in maintaining the home and he continued to contribute to the support of the family until he reached his twenty-fifth year. In 1880 he began farming on his own account, cultivating a tract of land in Hancock county, and the second year he began farming in Winnebago county. For seven years he cultivated rented land, but carefully saved his earnings, and during the third year of his renting he purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Hancock county, on which he took up his abode in the winter of 1886-7. With the exception of a period of four years spent in Forest City, he then resided continuously upon that farm until the spring of 1916, when he retired from active business life and again removed to Forest City, where he now makes his home in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. In the past year he has erected a handsome residence and is now most comfortably situated.

In early manhood Mr. Bonar was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Filter, a native of Germany, who accompanied her parents on their emigration to the United States in 1852, when a maiden of fourteen years. The family home was established in Forest City, where Mr. and Mrs. Filter spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Bonar have been born four children, three of whom survive, namely: Ernest E., who follows farming in Hancock county, Iowa; Ruth, the wife of Elmer Yohn, of Klemme, Hancock county, Iowa; and Mary Edith, who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Meyer, of Garner, Iowa.

Mr. Bonar exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and has served in various township offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. He is one of the highly esteemed and substantial residents of Forest City, his well spent life having won for him the good will and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. He has contributed much to the agricultural development of this section of the state and his life record shows what can be accomplished when determination and energy lead the way.

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#### THOMAS A. THOMPSON.

Thomas A. Thompson, residing on section 29, Center township, is one of the substantial farmers of Winnebago county, now owning and operating a valuable tract of two hundred and twenty acres. He was born in Norway on the 3d of May, 1857, a son of Thor and Elizabeth (Anderson) Albertson, who were also natives of Norway. In 1862 the family came to America and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father engaged in farming for about three years, and then came to Winnebago county, Iowa. He purchased land in Center township, a part of which is now owned by his son Thomas, and at once began to clear and improve his place, converting it into a very desirable farm, on which

he spent the remainder of his life. He died on the 1st of July, 1896, and his wife passed away in May, 1907.

Mr. Thompson, of this review, was only five years of age on the emigration of the family to America and his boyhood and youth were mainly passed in Winnebago county, where he attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age and later purchased one hundred and forty acres of the home farm on section 9, Center township, whereon he has since resided, following farming and stock raising with good results. He is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of very productive land, improved with good and substantial buildings, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place plainly indicate his enterprise and good business ability. He raises pure bred Hereford cattle and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company, the Lake Mills Creamery Company and the Lake Mills Lumber Company, all of Lake Mills, and the Farmers Elevator Company of Leland and the Leland Creamery Company.

In July, 1895, Mr. Thompson married Miss Annie Haugland, a daughter of R. O. and Signa (Sunderland) Haugland, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume. To this union were born eleven children, of whom Cornelia died in infancy and Conrad died at the age of two years. Those living are Russell, Selma, Kilman, Olga, Agnes, Arthur, Walter, Alpha and Leonard. The family are identified with the United Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. In politics Mr. Thompson is a democrat.

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#### N. K. ANDERSON.

N. K. Anderson, who follows farming on section 27, King township, Winnebago county, was born in Sogn, Norway, November 17, 1868, and is a son of Andrew and Celia (Elvejen) Anderson, also natives of that country. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in Norway in 1875, and the mother brought her family to America in 1882, taking up her abode in Forest City, Iowa. In 1886 she married Knute Anderson, a veteran of the Civil war, who was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, but after the war removed to Winnebago county and purchased land in Mount Valley township, which he operated for a time. He died in 1909, having survived his wife for about three years. She passed away in 1907.

Mr. Anderson of this review began his education in the public schools of Norway and was about fourteen years of age when he accompanied his mother on her removal to the United States. Since then he has made his home in Winnebago county, Iowa, and his knowledge of the English language was obtained in the common schools of this locality, which he attended at intervals until twenty-one years of age. He remained with his mother up to this time and worked for neighboring farmers during the summer months until he was twenty-seven. He was then able to purchase land on section 32, King township, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. After living thereon for nineteen years, he rented that farm and bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 27, King

township, where he now resides. Here he has a well improved place and has met with success in its operation.

In December, 1894, Mr. Anderson married Miss Martha Groath, a daughter of Sandel and Mary (Groves) Groath, who were born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and came to Winnebago county in 1879. Her father purchased land in Mount Valley township and engaged in farming thereon for many years, but he and his wife are now living retired near Leland. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have seven children, namely: Agnes, Ethel, Evelyn, Norman, Walter, Gladys and Harold, all at home.

The family hold membership in the Lutheran church and by his ballot Mr. Anderson supports the men and measures of the republican party. For five years he served as county supervisor with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He has also filled the offices of township clerk and trustee and is now president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Thompson, and a stockholder and vice president of the Cooperative Creamery Company. In connection with general farming he raises high grade stock, making a specialty of Guernsey cattle, and is a man of good business and executive ability who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### OLAF J. SIME.

Winnebago county numbers Olaf J. Sime among her native sons. He now lives on section 10, Logan township, but was born in Norway township on the 25th of August, 1883, at the family home of his parents, John and Anna Dorothea (Linset) Sime, who were natives of Illinois and of Norway respectively. The latter had come to Iowa with relatives who lived in Worth county and there she formed the acquaintance of John Sime, who sought her hand in marriage. His youth had been spent in Illinois, where his parents were farming people, remaining residents of that state until they were called to their final rest. After attaining his majority John Sime came to Iowa, settling in Worth county, but immediately after his marriage he removed to Norway township, Winnebago county, and purchased eighty acres on section 36 and forty acres on section 25, thus becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of good land which responded readily to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. He there carried on farming until his death, which occurred in 1894. Later his widow removed to Scarville, where she passed away in 1903, and was laid to rest in the Lime Creek cemetery. In their family were seven children: Anna, now the wife of Andrew Sime, of Eden township; Rachel, who became the wife of Jacob Simonson, of Waterloo, Iowa, and has passed away; Lettie, the wife of John Hartlieb, of Waterloo; Alfred, who is living near De Grey, Hughes county, South Dakota; O. J.; and two who died in infancy.

Olaf J. Sime pursued his education in the pioneer schools of Winnebago county, which he attended until he reached the age of fifteen years. When seventeen years of age he took over the operation of the home farm, on which he continued until he attained his majority. The farm was then sold and he purchased the southwest quarter of section 10, Logan township. This he cleared and

drained, thus rendering it arable and productive. He has since carried on the work of further improvement and still occupies the place, which is today one of the excellent farms of the township, the fields having been brought to a high state of cultivation, while good buildings have been erected and all the equipment and accessories of the model farm have been added.

On March 9, 1904, Mr. Sime was united in marriage to Miss Andrina Hauge, a daughter of Nels and Mary Hauge, who lived just across the line in Worth county. The father has now passed away and the mother has since become the wife of Tom Johnson, a resident of Eden township, Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Sime have five children who are yet living, Norma, Alma, Milton, Olive and Sylvan, and they also lost one, who died in infancy.

Mr. Sime and his family hold membership in the United Lutheran church and in his political views he is a republican. He is now serving as township trustee and has been president of the school board. He is interested in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of his community and he stands for advancement in farm work and in every line. He started out empty handed. He has worked persistently and earnestly and each forward step which he has made in his business career has brought him a broader outlook and wider opportunities. Today he is the owner of a fine farm which is the fitting reward of his earnest and persistent labor.

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#### KNUDT JOHNSON.

Many of the most highly honored citizens of Lake Mills are retired farmers and among this number is Knudt Johnson. He is a native of Norway but has resided in this country since boyhood and no native born American has given more undivided loyalty to the United States than he. At the time of the Civil war he bore arms in defense of the Union and in times of peace he has always subordinated private interests to the general welfare. His birth occurred in Norway, September 12, 1841, and his parents were John and Ingeborg (Hanson) Torgeson, the latter of whom died when her son Knudt, the youngest of eight children, was but five years old. In 1853 the father with his son Knudt and another child came to the United States and located near Madison, Dane county, Wisconsin, where an older brother had taken up a homestead in 1849. The father died upon that place in 1876 and is there buried.

Knudt Johnson received his education in the public schools of Norway and after his removal to the United States made his home with and worked for a cousin for two years. From the age of fifteen to the age of twenty years he worked for various farmers but on the 20th of September, 1861, he enlisted in the Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and for four years, or until the 27th of September, 1865, was in the army, seeing a great deal of hard service during that time. He entered as a private but was mustered out at Louisville with the rank of corporal. At different times he was under the command of Generals Grant, Sherman and McPherson and took part in the siege of Vicksburg, in the battles of Jackson, Mississippi, Baker's Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro, an engagement fought in the course of Sherman's march from Savannah to the sea, and

finally in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, the last important battle before the end of the war.

After receiving his honorable discharge from military service he returned to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he purchased forty acres of land. In 1869 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and bought two hundred acres on section 17, Center township, where he made his home until 1913, when he retired to Lake Mills. During the forty-four years that he resided upon that place he brought it to an unusually high state of cultivation and not only gained more than a competence from his labors but also aided in the agricultural development of the district, for he was always among the first to adopt a new method or a more efficient type of farm implement. In the early days in the history of the state a large tract of swamp land was given to the state by the federal government, but since no survey was made there was no way of ascertaining the exact limits of the tract and as a result of this uncertainty conflicting titles were given to lands contained within it by the state and federal governments. This led to a great deal of trouble and at last the matter was straightened out by a survey of the land in question. Mr. Johnson, as agent for the American Emigrant Company, supervised the survey of all such swamp land in Winnebago county and in this work utilized a plat furnished him by the secretary of state.

In 1865 Mr. Johnson married Miss Elsa Paulson, a daughter of Paul and Helge (Gunderson) Kettelson, of Perry, Wisconsin, who spent their last years in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. Both have passed away and are buried in a cemetery near the Johnson homestead. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, namely: John P., of Pike River, North Dakota; Carl T., who is married and is farming in Center township; George E., who is married and resides near Maywood, North Dakota; Rev. Torge A., who is married and is minister of the Lutheran church at Brandon, South Dakota; Paul G., at home; Helen, the wife of Chris Lyng, of Lake Mills; Mary, who married Oscar Dahlan, of Eden township; Anna M. and Clare E., both at home; and Henrietta, the wife of Rush Adams, of Lake Mills.

Mr. Johnson is a staunch republican and has given a great deal of time to public affairs, having served on the county board of supervisors for six years, on the school board for thirty-four years and as township clerk for fifteen years. Moreover, he was United States census enumerator for three years and for fourteen years was treasurer of the Farmers Association, an organization which did much to further an interest in cooperative effort among the farmers of the county. He is a communicant of the Synod Lutheran church and has endeavored to guide his life by the teachings of Christianity. His personal friends are many and all who have come in contact with him hold him in the highest respect.

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#### PETER PAULSON:

The farming interests of Hancock county have a worthy representative in Peter Paulson, who carries on operations on section 36, Ellington township. He is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, born in Dane county, November 7, 1867, and is a son of Ole and Mary Paulson, who came to this country from

Norway as a young man and young woman and were married in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they resided until 1872. That year witnessed their removal to Iowa and until 1876 they made their home in Mitchell county. The father then brought his family to Hancock county and purchased the farm in Ellington township where our subject now resides. Here he spent his remaining days, passing away in June, 1902.

Peter Paulson was about nine years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Hancock county, where he grew to manhood and in the district school near his home he acquired his education. Under the guidance of his father he gained a good knowledge of agricultural pursuits and at the age of twenty years began farming on his own account on rented land. Later he purchased the home farm on which he has now resided for forty-one years and there is probably only one other man in Ellington township who has lived continuously upon one farm for as many years.

In 1888 Mr. Paulson married Miss Martha Halverson, a daughter of Hans Halverson, of Clayton county, Iowa, and to them have been born two children, namely: Beulah and Ella, both at home. The family are identified with the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Paulson is also affiliated with the republican party. For some years he served as a member of the school board and the cause of education has always found in him a faithful friend. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company and the Farmers Elevator Company, both of Ventura, and is today numbered among the substantial farmers and successful business men of Ellington township as well as one of its representative citizens who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact.

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#### JOSEPH BARTH.

Joseph Barth, one of the valued residents of Forest City, now living retired after long years of active connection with agricultural interests, was one of the earliest settlers of Hancock county, arriving in this part of the state in 1855, when the work of progress and development seemed scarcely begun. His memory therefore forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. A native of Germany, he was born in Wurtemberg on the 23d of March, 1833, a son of Andrew and Victoria (Smith) Barth, both of whom died in that country.

In the common schools of Germany Joseph Barth pursued his education and in 1852, when a youth of nineteen years, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, landing in New York city on the 9th of August. For three and a half years he was employed in New York state as a farm hand and in the fall of 1855 he sought the opportunities offered in the growing west, making his way to Iowa as a member of a party of five who came out to buy land. Four of them located in Hancock county, while the fifth returned to New York. The four companions purchased a tract of timber land of one hundred and twenty acres, for which they paid three hundred and twenty-eight dollars, and at that time they had the choice of the prairie land. For two hundred dollars Mr. Barth purchased a





JOSEPH BARTH



quarter section from George Green, who had obtained the land from the government. Rapidly accruing interest, however, ran the cost of the land up to four hundred and twenty-eight dollars before he could make his last payment. He afterward sold the land for fifty dollars an acre. This farm covered the northeast quarter of section 21, Ellington township, Hancock county, and he also bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, which is now owned and occupied by his son Lewis. Still later he acquired another farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Buffalo Center in Kossuth county, for which he paid forty dollars an acre and which he sold for one hundred dollars an acre. He still owns about twenty acres of timber land. In 1895 he retired from active agricultural pursuits and removed to Forest City, where he has since lived. In 1894 he, with his son John A., purchased a furniture store which they conducted under the name Barth & Barth until 1904, when they sold out.

On June 27, 1860, Mr. Barth was married to Miss Catherine Ring, of Benton, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and they became the parents of three sons and a daughter: Lewis, who is living in Hancock county; John A., residing in Sac City, Iowa; Mary A., at home; and Edmund, living in Greene, Iowa. The wife and mother passed away in 1878 and the following year Mr. Barth wedded Mrs. Nancy J. (Cain) Brewington. There is one child of this marriage, Daisy M., residing at home. Mrs. Barth died February 9, 1914.

In politics Mr. Barth is a democrat and for some years he served as township trustee, while for a quarter of a century he filled the office of school treasurer of Ellington township, Hancock county. Those who know him esteem him as a man of sterling worth. His life record shows what may be accomplished when energy and determination point out the way, for his success is attributable entirely to his own efforts. In the spring of 1856 he carried the chain for the survey of the town of Forest City and he has witnessed the development of Winnebago and Hancock counties from pioneer times to the present.

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#### JAMES PETER HANSON.

James Peter Hanson, who is the owner of two excellent farms in Hancock county but is now living retired in Garner, put aside the more active work of the fields in March, 1916, and is now enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He was born in Denmark, March 2, 1849, a son of Hans Jenson and Anna Hanson. His grandfather served for fifteen years in the Napoleonic wars.

James Peter Hanson is indebted to the common school system of Denmark for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He left that country in 1870, when a young man of twenty-one years, and took up his abode in Chicago, where he resided until 1876. In that year he arrived in Hancock county, Iowa, and established his home near Britt, where he turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. For forty years thereafter he was closely associated with the farming interests of the county and through wise management, systematic effort and indefatigable diligence he won success. He added to his holdings as opportunity offered and is today the owner of two excellent farms. He gave personal supervision

to their management and control until March, 1916, when he removed to Garner, where he now resides.

On the 4th of April, 1872, in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Sorrenson, daughter of Soren Mortenson. Their children are five in number, namely: Mary, who is the wife of John Morrall; E. P., who wedded Miss Margaret Schroeder; J. C., who married Miss Martha Nelson; Lena, the wife of C. D. Lunberg; and Gertie, the wife of John Prull. In religious faith Mr. Hanson is a Lutheran and in fraternal relations is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He votes with the republican party, having staunchly endorsed its principles since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He has ever been loyal to his adopted land, giving to it his first allegiance, and he has long been ranked with the valued and representative residents of this section of the state.

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#### AMBROSE AMBROSEN.

Ambrose Ambrosen, one of Leland's most prominent citizens and successful business men, has been a resident of Winnebago county for forty-six years and has taken an important part in its development and upbuilding. A native of Iowa, he was born in Winneshiek county, July 5, 1861, and is a son of Ole and Julia (Gentwet) Ambrosen, who came to this country from Norway in 1856 and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, being among the first Norwegians to settle in that county. They remained there four years before removing to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and in 1871 came to Winnebago county. The father purchased the southwest quarter of section 2, Forest township, at five dollars per acre, it being now owned by his son Ambrose, and upon that place he resided for about thirty years. He then bought the southeast quarter of section 35, Newton township, and continued to make his home thereon until his death. The mother of our subject died about 1867, leaving three children, Ambrose, Julia and George, all of whom are still living. The father subsequently married Julia Olson, who still survives him, and by that union there are seven living children: Ella, the wife of Erick Garland, of Thompson, Iowa; Ole, a farmer of Thompson; Halvor, a resident of McKenzie county, North Dakota; Julia, the wife of Martin Kolen, of Silverton, Washington; Albert, of McKenzie county; and Anna and Edward, at home with their mother.

Ambrose Ambrosen had practically no educational advantages during his boyhood, being able to attend school only a few months, but his training at farm work was not so meager and he assisted in the operation of the home place up to the time of his marriage. He then located in the town of Leland and engaged in farming on his own account as a renter for five years, at the end of which time he was able to purchase eighty acres of the old homestead. He built thereon a residence and barn and later bought an adjoining eighty acres, continuing to live upon that place for sixteen years. Mr. Ambrosen next purchased one hundred and twenty acres, on a part of which the town of Leland now stands, and on the 9th of March, 1910, he located upon that place, which is still his home. Besides this farm he continues to own the one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead, and has thirty or forty town lots in Leland and twenty acres

just east of town. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery, the Farmers Elevator at Leland, the Farmers Savings Bank and the Lake Mills Lumber Company. He has built all the bridges constructed in Winnebago county during the last fourteen years.

On the 19th of June, 1888, Mr. Ambrosen married Miss Trena Carlson, of Forest township, Winnebago county. She was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and is a daughter of Tollaf Carlson, a native of Norway, who came to the United States about 1857 and removed from Wisconsin to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1869. To Mr. and Mrs. Ambrosen have been born seven children, all of whom are still living, namely: Nettie, now the wife of O. H. K. Eidahl, a merchant of Leland; Oscar, who is engaged in farming on land adjoining Leland; Alfred, a grain buyer and manager of the Farmers Elevator at Leland; and Edward, Walter, Irving and Allott May all at home.

The family hold membership in the Norwegian Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. By his ballot Mr. Ambrosen supports the men and measures of the republican party and he has taken quite an active and influential part in public affairs now serving as a member of the school board also the board of township trustees and as a member of the town council of Leland. He is a business man of far more than ordinary ability and the prosperity that has come to him is due to his own industry, enterprise and good management and to the assistance of his wife to whom he gives much credit for his success. He stands deservedly high in the esteem of his fellow citizens and has the confidence and respect of all who know him.

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#### JOHN FOSTER THOMPSON.

John Foster Thompson, president of the Winnebago County State Bank at Forest City, has long been an honored and prominent resident of the county. In the paternal line his ancestry is traced back to Isaac and Sarah (Bell) Thompson, natives of Belfast, Ireland, and both related to the famous Sir Thomas Cruse, an earl, who was compelled to flee from his country on account of his participation in the revolution of 1798. He came to the United States and passed away soon afterward. Isaac Thompson was the grandfather of John Foster Thompson, whose parents were Mathew and Martha (Spaulding) Thompson, the latter a daughter of Abel Spaulding, who served with distinction in the Revolutionary war and was a noted physician and surgeon. Through that line the ancestry is traced back to Aquila Chase, who settled in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1640, and to this family belonged Bishop Philander Chase. Mrs. Martha Thompson was also an own cousin of Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury under President Lincoln. Mathew Thompson was born at Head Elk, Cecil county, Maryland, in 1791, and served as first lieutenant in the War of 1812. In 1857 he removed from Ohio to Clayton county, Iowa.

John Foster Thompson, son of Mathew Thompson, was born at Carey, Ohio, September 3, 1848, and was nine years of age when the family home was established in Iowa, where he attended the district schools. On the 27th of May, 1863, at the age of fourteen years, he enlisted at Elkader, Iowa, under A. F.

Tipton, who was recruiting Company I of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry. However, he was not mustered into Company I but was transferred and mustered into the Fourth Iowa Battery. He made a most creditable military record although but a boy in years and was wounded in the Red River campaign. While at the front he captured the bugle of a Confederate soldier, on which he has had inscribed the words: "Captured from a detachment of the rebel army, war of 1861-5, in northwestern Louisiana, U. S. A., April, 1864, by John F. Thompson, a bugler in the Fourth Iowa Battery, who was at that time fifteen years and six months old." When Mr. Thompson returned home at the close of the war he entered the McGregor high school and for a time divided his time between teaching and attending school, meeting the expenses of his course by his work as a teacher. In 1869 he became principal of the high school at Strawberry Point, Iowa, and he also served as deputy county superintendent there. In 1872 he began the practice of law at Forest City, where he also entered the real estate and collection business. In further preparation for the bar he pursued a special academic course in the Iowa State University and also the regular law course, winning the regular LL. B. degree in 1874. He was then appointed deputy register of the state land office at Des Moines but in 1876 resigned and returned to Forest City, where he again entered the line of business in which he had formerly been engaged, organizing his interests under the name of the Winnebago County Bank as senior partner in the firm of J. F. Thompson & Company. This was the first bank of Winnebago county. After returning to Forest City in the summer of 1876 he resumed the practice of law which he had successfully followed for a number of years. In 1878 James H. Easton, president of the First National Bank of Decorah, Iowa, bought a half interest in Mr. Thompson's business at Forest City and the firm name was changed from J. F. Thompson & Company to that of Easton & Thompson, which firm continued the banking business, Mr. Thompson continuing the practice of law. In 1896 he organized his bank into a state institution changing the name to the Winnebago County State Bank, of which institution he has been the business manager during all these years, and is now and has been for many years its president. He, with his wife and his son, Merle M. Thompson, own a large majority of the capital stock, the bank being capitalized at fifty thousand dollars with a surplus of more than twenty-five thousand dollars.

Mr. Thompson's organization of this institution was but his initial step in the banking business in Iowa. During his business career he organized and was president of many like institutions and at one time was at the head of nine banks and loan companies. He organized the Citizens Bank of Britt; the State Bank of Thompson, of which institution he was president for seventeen years; the First National Bank of Buffalo Center; the First National Bank of Argyle, Minnesota, of which institution he was president for several years; the First National Bank of Crystal Lake; and the Security Bank of Wesley, Iowa. He also organized and was manager for many years of the Iowa Northern Land Company and the Chicago & Iowa Western Land & Town Lot Company and the Winnebago County Abstract Company; and was treasurer of the Minnesota & Iowa Southern Railway Company, which built the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad from Albert Lea to Angus; and was also treasurer of the Chicago & Iowa Western Railroad Company, which built the Forest City extension of the Burling-

ton, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway, now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, from Forest City to Armstrong. When this line of railroad was extended west he platted and laid out, on land that he owned at the time, the town of Thompson, giving it its name, and the town of Buffalo Center, both in Winnebago county. He organized the electric light company in Forest City and for several years was president of the company. These town plats with his large land holdings at that time have since been sold out by him, but he still owns eight hundred acres of land in two farms three miles west of Forest City, all under cultivation, and upon each farm he has a large and splendidly improved orchard. He likewise owns several other farm properties in Winnebago and Hancock counties, together with a half section of land in North Dakota and eighty-five acres of valuable land in Florida. He is also a member of the firm of Thompson Brothers, which deals in Iowa farm loans and has loaned over fifteen million dollars and has never had a foreclosure or default of interest.

On the 22d of November, 1875, at Forest City, Iowa, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Julia A. Clark, eldest daughter of Judge Robert Clark, mentioned elsewhere in this work, and they became the parents of seven children, but only two are now living: Merle M.; and Paul Foster, who is a high school student. Those deceased are: John Clark, Clyde Clifton, Lulu Ann, Imogene and Ora.

In politics Mr. Thompson is a stalwart standpat republican and has made many campaign speeches in his county and district. His influence largely brought to the front Hon. J. P. Dolliver, who became United States senator from Iowa. He has served in several local offices and undoubtedly much higher political honors would have come to him had his ambition centered along that line. For two terms he has been mayor of Forest City and for several terms he was the president of the board of education, doing effective work for the interests of the schools and for the welfare and civic betterment of Forest City in general while he was acting as mayor. He has also served as president of the Board of Trade. He was appointed by Governor Larrabee and reappointed by Governor Boies a delegate to the Farmers National Congress. Mr. Thompson is a charter member of Hayden Post, No. 141, G. A. R., and its commander since its inception and served as inspector general on the staff of his brother, Colonel J. K. P. Thompson, now deceased, a department commander of Iowa. He was made a member of the preliminary committee to locate the Vicksburg military park and has acted as special aid on the staff of both state and national commanders of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a prominent Mason, belonging in Forest City to Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., of which lodge he has been master. He has taken higher degrees in Masoury, is a Knight Templar (York Rite) and has attained the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite, belonging to the Des Moines Consistory. He belongs to El Kahir Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Cedar Rapids. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church. He belongs to the Iowa State Bar Association, the State Bankers Association and the National Geographic Society and is a member of the Iowa Division of the Sons of the American Revolution. He holds a commission from Governor C. C. Carpenter as second lieutenant of Company E, Military Battalion, S. U. I., the only military organization the university had at that time (1874-1875). He with a few other prominent business men of Forest City contributed

liberally of their money and energy in establishing Waldorf College in his town, which college now has an attendance of from four hundred to four hundred and fifty students. For two years after the establishment of this institution Mr. Thompson was one of the faculty as professor and lecturer on common law and civil government. He has a beautiful home and a fine library, is widely read and has gained that broad knowledge and culture which only travel brings. In manner he is quiet and without ostentation, yet there is not about him the least shadow of mock modesty. In a word, he is a most capable business man, a pleasant, genial gentleman, a man of upright character and high ideals. He is a strong man, strong in his ability to plan and perform, strong in his honor and his good name.

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#### MERLE M. THOMPSON.

Merle M. Thompson, cashier of the Winnebago County State Bank, has been a lifelong resident of Forest City, where his birth occurred April 1, 1883. In his life work he has followed in the footsteps of his father and his own creditable record has added new luster to a name that has ever been an untarnished one in business circles in Forest City. He acquired a public school education and afterward attended Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, thus qualifying for life's practical and responsible duties. In 1904 he became assistant cashier of the Winnebago County State Bank and in 1911 was chosen cashier, which position he has since filled, giving his undivided time and attention to promoting the interests of the bank and extending its business connections.

On the 11th of August, 1909, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Dora Colby, a daughter of K. Colby, of Forest City, and they have three children, Lucile, Clark and Margaret. Mr. Thompson votes with the republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Fraternally he is identified with Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., and is a worthy exemplar of the craft. He has a wide acquaintance in this city, in which his entire life has been passed, and his circle of friends is almost coextensive therewith.

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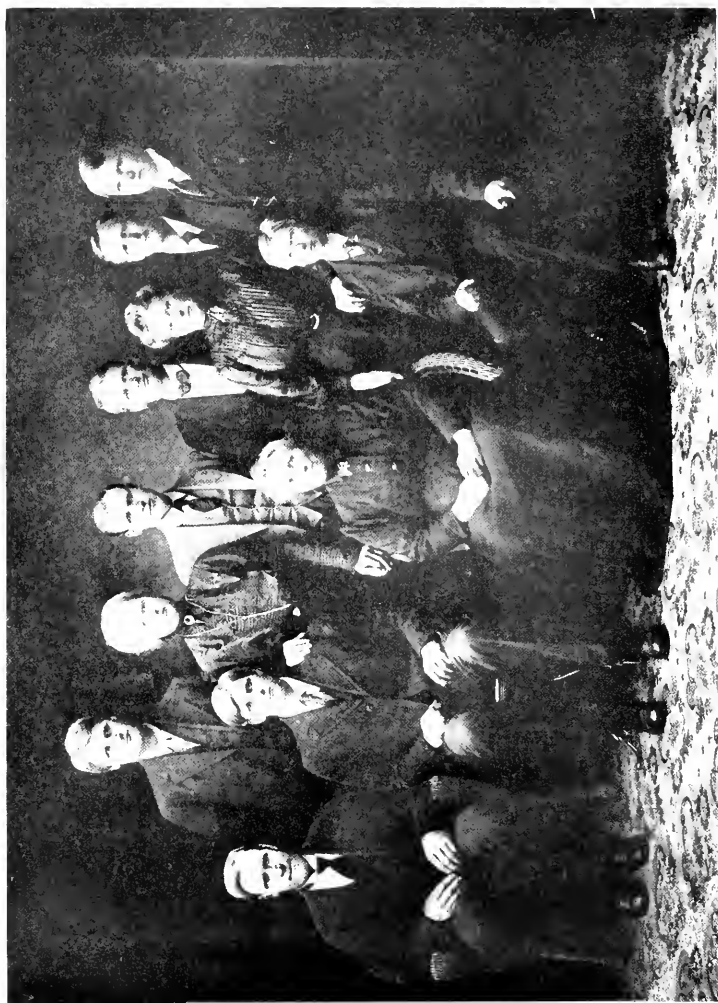
#### OLE S. JOHNSON.

Ole S. Johnson, one of the prosperous farmers and representative citizens of Winnebago county, residing on section 21, Logan township, is a native of Norway, born in Nass Hallingdal, on the 23d of November, 1873, and is a son of Sven and Carrie (Olson) Johnson. In that country the father worked at the shoemaker's trade but determined to try his fortune in America and in 1871 crossed the ocean. He purchased a farm near Kensett in Worth county, Iowa, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life, passing away in 1911. His wife is still living and continues to reside on the home farm in that county.

In the family of this worthy couple are nine children, all living, namely:







SVEN JOHNSON AND FAMILY



OLE S. JOHNSON AND FAMILY



Carrie, the wife of Halvor Grossland, superintendent of the county farm in Worth county; Ole S., whose name introduces this sketch; John S., a resident of Richland county, North Dakota; Sam S., also of Richland county; Martin S., of Saskatchewan, Canada; Astre, the wife of Herman C. Stendel, who is engaged in the creamery business in Vinje, Winnebago county, Iowa; Amund S., of Richland county, North Dakota; Otto S., of Saskatchewan, Canada; and Carl S., also of that province.

Ole S. Johnson was reared and educated in Worth county, Iowa, and after leaving school gave his father the benefit of his labor until his marriage. He then came to Winnebago county and purchased the northeast quarter of section 21, Logan township, which he at once began to clear and improve. Later he bought the north half of the northwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 22, so that he now has a fine farm of three hundred acres in a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings. Mr. Johnson was administrator of his father's estate and is manager of the farm.

At the age of twenty-two years Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Holstad, a daughter of Martin and Mary Holstad, of Bristol, Worth county, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have seven children, namely: Mabel C., Melvin Selmer, Olinda Minnie, Otto, Benjamin Rudolph, Alfred Leroy and Bernice Evelana, all at home. The family are affiliated with the United Lutheran church and politically Mr. Johnson is identified with the republican party. He is now serving as school treasurer and township trustee. He is president of the Vinje Creamery Company and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Scarville. He is a man of good business and executive ability and usually carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. All that he now possesses has come to him as the result of his own industry, enterprise and good management.

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### JOHN J. KLOPPEN.

John J. Kloppen, who has met with gratifying success as an agriculturist and owns an excellent farm on section 2, Linden township, Winnebago county, was born in Norway, November 27, 1863, of the marriage of John J. and Carrie (Gertsdatter) Kloppen, lifelong residents of that country. He received his education there, but in 1884, as a young man of about twenty-one years, crossed the Atlantic to the United States. Although he had only seventy-two dollars in money he possessed valuable assets in his energy and his willingness to work and he felt confident that in this new country he could gain prosperity. He at once made his way to Winnebago county and after working as a farm hand for five years, during which time he carefully saved his money, he was able to purchase two forty-acre tracts of land, one on section 2 and the other across the road on section 3. He has since added to his holdings from time to time until he now owns two hundred acres in a body. He has made excellent improvements upon the farm, which is in all respects one of the highly developed places of the township. He raises both grain and stock and his well directed labors return him a good

income. He is financially interested in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Thompson.

Mr. Kloppen was married in 1892 to Miss Sissel Anderson, who was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, of Norwegian stock. The parents, who came to this country shortly after their marriage, lived in Winneshiek county for a time, but about 1882 came to Winnebago county. Her father, Arne A. Gryte, survives and is living five miles west of Lake Mills. To Mr. and Mrs. Kloppen have been born six children, namely: Galena M., Jensina A., Alfred J., Ingeborg M., Melvin C. and Gordon L., all at home.

Mr. Kloppen is a staunch republican and loyally supports the candidates and measures of that party at the polls. He has served acceptably for some years as a member of the school board and can always be depended upon to support measures calculated to promote the general good. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Lutheran church.

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#### PATRICK GAVIN.

Among those actively engaged in the real estate business in Forest City is numbered Patrick Gavin, who throughout his entire business life has manifested industry, determination and perseverance, wisely and carefully utilizing each opportunity that has come to him until he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of Winnebago county. Having retired from active farm life, he is now engaged in the purchase and sale of property and has negotiated many important realty transfers.

As the name indicates, Mr. Gavin is of Irish birth. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, December 24, 1855, a son of Thomas and Mary (Mullen) Gavin. The father came to America in the '40s, soon after the death of his first wife, but a few years later returned to Ireland and there wedded Mary Mullen. In the spring of 1857 he again came to the United States, establishing his home in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the livery and feed business, continuing a resident of that city until his demise.

Patrick Gavin was but one year of age when brought by his parents to the new world, and the schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania, afforded him his educational opportunities, yet his chance of attending school was limited owing to the fact that it was necessary for him to begin to earn his livelihood when but a young lad. In 1877 he left home and went to Palestine, Texas, where he worked in a sawmill for a short time. Later he located at Fort Scott, Kansas, where he was employed in the coal mines, and later he went to St. Louis, where he took a grading contract on the building of the West End Narrow Gauge Railway. He was afterward in the coal mines in Monroe county, Iowa, during the winter of 1879-80 and then went to Wisconsin, where he worked on the construction of the Wisconsin Central Railroad. He was subsequently at Albert Lea, Minnesota, and thence came to Winnebago county, where he secured a contract on the grading of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad. When that work was completed he removed to Des Moines and was made foreman in charge of the construction of some of the first sewers of that city. He continued a resident of Des Moines

until 1885, when he again came to Winnebago county and here purchased a farm of one hundred and ninety acres a quarter of a mile north of the corporate limits of Forest City. For thirty years he was continuously engaged in general agricultural pursuits and converted his land into a richly productive farm, adding to it many modern improvements and equipping it with all of the accessories of a model farm property of the twentieth century. In 1915, however, he retired from farm life and removed to Forest City, where he has since been engaged in dealing in real estate. The only time he has been away from Winnebago county since 1885 was when in 1898 he went to Alaska, attracted by gold discoveries in that country. There he remained for sixteen months but did not meet with the success that he anticipated and, much disgusted with conditions there, he returned.

Mr. Gavin was united in marriage while living in Des Moines to Miss Jennie Thurston, a native of Wisconsin and of Norwegian descent. The five surviving members of their family of seven children are as follows: Mary B., who is employed as bookkeeper in a butter and egg house of Minneapolis; Thomas F., an agriculturist of Winnebago county, Iowa; Rose, who is the wife of James McCroden, of Danube, Renville county, Minnesota; William G., who operates the home farm; and Lillian A., a trained nurse in the State Hospital at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church. In politics Mr. Gavin is a republican and has filled various local offices, serving as township trustee, as road supervisor for a number of years and as school director. He is ever interested in matters of public moment and cooperates in many plans for the upbuilding and further development of his county. His own career illustrates what may be accomplished when energy and determination point out the way. He has achieved success through close application and has steadily worked his way upward until now he has considerable means at his command, all won through persistent and indefatigable energy.

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#### ARNE SOGARD.

One of the representative farmers of Winnebago county, Iowa, is Arne Sogard, now residing on section 30, Mount Valley township, where he is successfully engaged in the cultivation of a tract of forty acres. He was born in Norway, August 22, 1856, and was a lad of eleven years when he came to the United States with his parents, Thron A. and Mary (Hoye) Sogard, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. On crossing the Atlantic in 1867 the family located in Racine county, Wisconsin, and after residing there for three years came to Winnebago county, Iowa, taking up their abode in Forest City. In 1873 the father purchased eighty acres of land on section 31, Mount Valley township, where he continued to carry on farming up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1881. The mother survived him for thirty-four years, passing away in 1915.

Arne Sogard began his education in the common schools of Norway and after the emigration of the family to America attended the public schools here, com-

pleting his studies in the high school of Forest City. He assisted in the operation of the home farm until his marriage and then took charge of the place, which he continued to farm for ten years thereafter. In the meantime he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, also on section 31, Mount Valley township, on which he located in 1889, but in 1892 he sold that farm and bought the forty-acre tract on which he has since resided.

In March, 1879, Mr. Sogard was united in marriage to Miss Annie Osmund, of Winnebago county, who was born in Michigan of Norwegian parentage. Nine children were born of this union, of whom five are still living, namely: Sarah Amanda, the wife of Joseph P. Jensen, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Matilda Theodora, the wife of Lewis A. Clark, of Jenkins, Minnesota; Minnie Lenora, who is now keeping house for her father; and Leonard Thomas and Elmer Marion, also at home. The wife and mother passed away on the 24th of April, 1907.

The family hold membership in the United Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. In politics Mr. Sogard is a staunch republican and for several years past he has filled various township offices, including those of township trustee and assessor. For the long period of eighteen years he has served on the school board and he has always taken a very active and prominent part in public affairs in Mount Valley township. He is a stockholder of the Winnebago County Fair Association and has done much to promote the interests of his community along various lines.

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### JOHN HALVORSON.

John Halvorson, who from 1903 until his death in 1914 conducted a dry goods store in Thompson, was born in Norway, August 22, 1849, but was brought to the United States by his parents when only three years old. The family located in Portage county, Wisconsin, and there the father died soon afterward. The mother continued to make her home upon the farm which he had purchased in that county and there she, too, passed away.

John Halvorson attended the district schools until he was sixteen years old and for two years thereafter worked upon the home place. He then secured employment in a mill in that locality and remained in that connection until he was thirty years of age. He then married and not long afterward came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in King township. After farming that place for two years he sold it and bought a mill at Nora Springs, Iowa, which he operated for one year. Later he conducted a meat market at Forest City for eighteen years, but in 1903 came to Thompson and established a dry goods store. From that time until his death in 1914 he ranked among the leading merchants of his part of the county and his patronage grew steadily owing to the excellent stock carried and the reasonable prices asked. The business is now owned by his son, J. Walter Halvorson, who is following the liberal policy instituted by his father.

Mr. Halvorson was married in Wisconsin in 1879 to Miss Anna Sophia Omit, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Omit, who were of Norwegian descent and were well known residents of Portage county, Wisconsin, where both died during



the childhood of their daughter Anna. To Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson were born five children: Edward, who is a filer by trade and resides with his mother; Fred, who died when twenty-seven years old and is buried in the Rosehill cemetery; Helen, now Mrs. H. P. Juhl, of Thompson; Emma, at home; and J. Walter, who is married and is conducting the store established by his father.

Mr. Halvorson was a republican in politics and loyally supported the measures of that party but never sought office. He was a public-spirited citizen, however, being willing to give of his time and energy in the furtherance of the welfare of his community and at all times conformed his conduct to high ethical standards. He was respected both for his ability and his unquestioned probity, and his death, which occurred on the 12th of May, 1914, was recognized as a loss to his town.

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### HANS SWENSON.

Hans Swenson is proprietor of the Maple Grove Farm situated on section 4, Forest township, and so named from a beautiful grove of maple trees which he planted. For about forty-five years he has lived in Winnebago county upon the farm which he now owns and occupies and for a still longer period has been a resident of Iowa. He was born, however, in Norway on the 22d of February, 1845, and is a son of Swen and Augusta (Bent) Swenson. The father died in his native land, after which the mother came to the new world and spent her last days in the home of her son Hans, there passing away in 1892. In the family were seven children, of whom three are yet living.

Through the period of his boyhood and youth Hans Swenson remained a resident of Norway and there acquired a common school education. Ambitious to enjoy better opportunities than he could secure in his native country, he came to America in 1867 and made his way to Iowa, settling first in Winneshiek county. There he was employed as a farm hand for about six years, after which he came to Winnebago county and invested his savings in a tract of land on section 4, Forest township. He has since improved the property, which he has converted into a valuable farm with well kept fields and fine buildings. In fact, the Maple Grove Farm is one of the finest in Forest township, lacking none of the equipment or accessories of the model farm property of the twentieth century. Not only has he carefully tilled the soil but has also successfully engaged in raising and feeding stock, this branch of his business constituting an important source of his income.

In 1869 Mr. Swenson was married to Miss Dora Olson, a native of Norway, and they became the parents of six children: Anna, the wife of R. J. Hill; Otto, who is engaged in the hardware business at Thompson, Iowa; Simon and Henry, who are now residents of McKenzie county, North Dakota; Alfred, who is cultivating the old homestead farm; and Tom E. The wife and mother passed away on the 16th of June, 1913, and was laid to rest in the United Lutheran cemetery near the West Prairie church, in which she held membership. She left not only a husband and six children to mourn her loss but also many warm friends who deeply regretted her passing. Mr. Swenson is also a member of the

Lutheran church and his religious faith has been a guiding force in his life. In politics he is an earnest republican, having supported the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He has served as township trustee and as school director but has never been ambitious to hold office. He may truly be called a self-made man, for all that he possesses and enjoys has been acquired through his own efforts since he came to the new world. His has been a well spent life and he well merits the prosperity which he now enjoys.

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#### CHARLES J. SCHNEIDER.

Charles J. Schneider, well known for many years in connection with business interests of Garner, has been a lifelong resident of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Monona, January 1, 1865, his parents being Adam and Mary Schneider. He dates his residence in Garner from 1886, and for thirty-one years has been identified with its commercial pursuits, conducting a general store.

On the 15th of October, 1892, Mr. Schneider was united in marriage to Miss Lucy M. Bliss, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Bliss, and they have two sons, Carl and Harold. The religious faith of the family is that of the Congregational church. Mr. Schneider holds high rank as a citizen and business man. During the long period of his connection with Hancock county he has become widely known, and the course that he has pursued has gained for him the favorable regard of all. His friends, and they are many, speak of him as one possessed of sterling qualities and who at all times has been a factor in the substantial development and progress of this part of the state, contributing much to the upbuilding of Garner, especially along the line of its commercial progress.

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#### MARTIN M. HAGE, M. D.

Dr. Martin M. Hage, who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at Thompson, is a native of Winnebago county, having been born in Logan township on the 7th of July, 1885. His parents, Knut M. and Martha (Bjorgo) Hage, were natives of Norway, but shortly after the close of the Civil war emigrated to the United States. After living for a short time in Winneshiek county they came to Winnebago county, and the father purchased land in Logan township. He remained upon that place and devoted his time to its operation until 1912, when he retired and took up his residence in Scarville. The mother also survives.

Martin M. Hage was reared in his native township and acquired his early education in the district schools there. For four years he was a student in the Waldorf College at Forest City and then entered Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in May, 1912. He at once opened an office in Thompson, where he has since followed his profession, and the large and representative practice which he has built up is evidence of the confidence placed in his ability and conscientious devotion to his



DR. MARTIN M. HAGE



profession. He owns a fine residence in the western part of town and is generally recognized as one of the leading citizens of Thompson.

Dr. Hage was married on the 6th of March, 1912, to Miss Leavie Silvers, a daughter of William A. and Amanda (Gateway) Silvers, natives of Indiana and early settlers of Indianapolis. They are now making their home with Dr. and Mrs. Hage. To this union have been born three children, of whom two died in infancy, the one surviving being Maxine, who was born on the 27th of February, 1917.

Dr. Hage exercises his right of franchise in support of the republican party and is the present health officer of Thompson. He takes the keenest interest in his work in that connection and is doing all in his power to make the public health conditions of the town as good as possible. He is a member of the Lutheran church and his professional connections are with the Winnebago and Hancock County Medical Society and the Iowa State Medical Society. His standing among his colleagues is enviable, and the gratifying measure of success which he has already gained in his profession is high tribute to his ability and progressive spirit.

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#### F. W. ZEIGER.

F. W. Zeiger is one of the self-made men of Garner who have builded their success upon business enterprise, progressiveness and laudable ambition. He is now proprietor of a well appointed drug store in Garner and is conducting a steadily growing business. He was born at Eldora, Iowa, January 31, 1879, a son of N. W. and Kathryn (Ellsworth) Zeiger, the former a native of Indiana, while the latter was born in Pennsylvania. The father was a son of George Zeiger, who brought his family to Iowa in 1846, and the mother was also brought to this state in early childhood. It was here that the marriage of N. W. Zeiger and Kathryn Ellsworth was celebrated. The father was a wagon maker by trade and followed that pursuit for many years but is now living retired in Garner, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

F. W. Zeiger attended the public schools and afterward became a student in Highland Park College, in which he completed a course in pharmacy by graduation with the class of 1901. He had clerked in a drug store in Buffalo Center from 1899 until 1901 and later he bought out the drug store of Bass & McMann at Garner, becoming proprietor of this establishment on the 25th of January, 1902, since which time he has conducted the store. He remodeled it in 1916 and it is a well appointed establishment, neat and attractive in appearance and tasteful in arrangement. He carries a large line of drugs and druggists' sundries and his reasonable prices, his straightforward methods and his enterprise have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his steadily growing success.

In 1904 Mr. Zeiger was married to Miss Joy Lamson, a daughter of George Lamson, of Garner, and they have two children, Katherine and Marion. In politics Mr. Zeiger is a republican and for a year and a half he filled the office of deputy sheriff, while later he served as sheriff of Hancock county for six months

during the year 1912, for the sheriff, John Surrballd, had resigned and removed elsewhere. Mr. Zeiger is well known in Masonic circles, holding membership in both lodge and chapter, while in his life he conforms to the beneficent teachings upon which the craft is based.

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#### THOMAS TOBIASON.

Thomas Tobiason, who is successfully carrying on general agricultural pursuits on section 22, Forest township, Winnebago county, was born in Cook county, Illinois, February 8, 1854, and is one of the eight children whose parents were Tobias and Nettie Tobiason, who were natives of Norway. Leaving the land of the midnight sun, they came to the new world and took up their abode in Chicago, Illinois, in 1850. There they spent their remaining days and reared their family of eight children, but only two are now living, the sister of Thomas Tobiason being Matilda Tobiason, who yet makes her home in Chicago.

Thomas Tobiason was reared and educated in his native county and had reached the age of thirty-three years when in 1887 he came to Iowa, establishing his home in Winnebago county, where he purchased the farm upon which he now resides, situated on section 22, Forest township. He afterward made investment in another farm of one hundred acres on section 15 of the same township and he has since improved his land by careful cultivation and by the erection of good buildings. His home place is known as the Forest View Farm and his one hundred acre tract is known as the Clover Valley Farm. He makes a speciality of raising stock of all kinds and his live stock interests constitute a very important branch of his business. He is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator and in the Forest City Cooperative Creamery Company.

On September 12, 1885, Mr. Tobiason was united in marriage to Miss Olena E. Tinson, a native of Norway, and they have become parents of nine children: Lillie, the wife of Oscar Ranburg, of Winnebago county; Theodore C., living in Winnebago county; Tobias W., also a farmer of Winnebago county; Arthur M., Norman S. and Martin L., all at home; and Norman T., Tobias M. and Walter, all now deceased.

Mr. Tobiason votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served on the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Both he and his wife are members of the United Lutheran church, and in Winnebago county they have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

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#### OLE B. JENSON.

Since 1903 Ole B. Jenson has lived retired in Lake Mills, but for many years he was one of the leading farmers of Center township, Winnebago county. His birth occurred in La Salle county, Illinois, May 15, 1854, and he is a son of Jens and Mary (Olson) Jenson, who were born respectively in Stavanger and

in Sogn, Norway, but were married in Illinois. On emigrating to the United States in 1846, the father settled near Green Bay, Wisconsin, and there his first wife died, leaving two children. He chose as his second wife Mary Olson, who had come to the United States in 1845, and they had ten children, of whom seven survive. By occupation he was a farmer and on leaving Illinois located in Mitchell county, Iowa, where he bought land, which he operated until 1871. In that year he homesteaded forty acres of land in Center township, Winnebago county, and later added to his holdings by purchase. During the last years of his life he made his home with his children, his death occurring February 25, 1906, when he was ninety-one years old. The mother died at the age of sixty-six years. They are buried in the North cemetery at Lake Mills.

Ole B. Jenson received a common school education and early in life began helping with the farm work, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with practical methods of agriculture. After leaving school he worked for farmers until he was twenty-one years old and then purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, Winnebago county. From time to time he bought other land and now owns three hundred and forty-eight acres in the county, all fertile land in a high state of cultivation. He engaged in farming until 1903, when he purchased a fine home in Lake Mills and took up his residence here, renting his land. He is a man of excellent business ability and managed his affairs so well that he accumulated more than a competence. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator at Lake Mills and is interested in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and the Winnebago County Mutual Insurance Company.

On January 13, 1893, Mr. Jenson was married to Miss Malina Solomonson, a daughter of Ole and Carrie Solomonson, natives of Norway, who emigrated to the United States many years ago and located in Newton township, Winnebago county, Iowa, where the father farmed. He died April 5, 1909, and is buried in the North Prairie cemetery, but the mother is still living and makes her home with her son Oscar in Newton township. To Mr. and Mrs. Jenson have been born seven children, the three living being: Olga C., Martha M. and Olive Josephine, all at home.

Mr. Jenson believes firmly in the principles of the republican party and loyally supports its candidates at the polls. For two years he served as township trustee but has not taken a very active part in politics. The family attend the United Lutheran church. Mr. Jenson's strict adherence to high moral standards has won him the unqualified respect of all who have come into contact with him and his personal qualities are such that he has gained the warm friendship of many.

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#### F. CLYDE LESLIE, D. D. S.

Dr. F. Clyde Leslie, of Lake Mills, has gained more than ordinary success in his chosen profession and his unexpected demise at the early age of forty-one years was very untimely. He was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, on the 11th of April, 1871, and was a son of James C. and Mandilla (Smith) Leslie, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father

located in the Keystone state on his emigration to the United States and engaged in the general merchandise business at Millers Station, Pennsylvania, but is now living retired at the age of seventy years at Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. The mother died in 1882.

F. Clyde Leslie grew to manhood in his native state and after graduating from the Cambridge (Pa.) high school completed a course in the State Normal School at Edinboro. He then removed to Iowa City and in 1896 was graduated in dentistry from the State University of Iowa. He at once located for practice at Lake Mills and remained here until his death. He kept in touch with the rapid advancement made in the science of dentistry, had a fully equipped office and dentist. He had a large and lucrative practice and was in excellent financial possession to a high degree that manual skill so necessary to the successful circumstances.

On the 19th of October, 1898, Dr. Leslie was married to Miss Adeline M. Sheely, of Sioux City, a daughter of John L. and Mary E. (Bryan) Sheely, who were born respectively in New York and in Wisconsin. Her father is a locomotive engineer and is now on a fast passenger train running between Sioux City and Minneapolis. The mother is also still living. Mrs. Leslie graduated from Morningside College at Sioux City, Iowa, with the class of 1896 and came to Lake Mills as a teacher in that year and was so engaged for two years, or until her marriage. She has three children, all of whom are attending school: Jeane, who was born September 3, 1899; Marjorie Kathleen, born June 23, 1905; and Donald Clyde, born October 8, 1908.

Dr. Leslie gave his staunch support to the republican party and although not a seeker for political office served as a member of the school board, as he took a lively interest in everything affecting the welfare of the schools. He belonged to the Masonic order, the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America and exemplified in his life the spirit of fraternity upon which those organizations are based. He recognized the important place that religion plays in life, held membership in the Methodist church, of which denomination the family are all members, was superintendent of the Sunday school and a member of the board of stewards. He made his life a force for good and it was generally felt that when he passed away death had called one whom the community could ill afford to lose. His demise occurred on the 22d of April, 1912, when he was but forty-one years and eleven days old.

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#### H. R. KLUVER.

H. R. Kluver is actively engaged in general farming on section 16, Crystal township, and is one of the extensive landowners of Hancock county. He has ever been a wide-awake and enterprising business man whose affairs have been carefully conducted and whose investments have been judiciously made, bringing to him a gratifying measure of success. He was born in Butler county, Iowa, on the 12th of February, 1866, and is a son of Charles F. and Dora (Bowman) Kluver, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1859 and first settled in Chicago, where they resided for three years. On the expiration



H. R. KEEFER AND FAMILY





of that period they came to Iowa, establishing their home upon a farm in Butler county, where the father passed away, while subsequently the death of the mother occurred in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. They had a family of eleven children, seven of whom are yet living.

H. R. Kløver spent his boyhood days in Butler county and in fact was identified therewith until he reached the age of twenty-five, when he removed to Hancock county, where he has made his home continuously since 1891, or for a period of more than a quarter of a century. He purchased a farm in this county and in 1902 became the owner of the farm upon which he now resides, on section 16, Crystal township. He has ever recognized the fact that real estate is the safest of all investments and as his financial resources have increased he has added to his holdings from time to time until he is now the owner of twelve hundred and ninety acres in Iowa, from which he derives a most gratifying annual income. In South Dakota he owns four hundred and eighty acres, three hundred and twenty acres in Texas and eighty acres in Minnesota and his entire holdings are improved with the exception of the Texas land. His extensive farm property is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift. In addition to carefully tilling the soil he is engaged extensively in raising and feeding stock, making a specialty of shorthorn Hereford cattle, red Duroc hogs and Shropshire sheep. He is likewise one of the stockholders and the president of the Farmers National Bank of Crystal Lake, which he aided in organizing.

In 1896 Mr. Kløver was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Stewart, a native of this state, and to them have been born four children: Myrtle, now deceased; Hazel, in college; and Glenn and Orville, at home. The parents are active and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Kløver is one of the trustees. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, and while he has never sought nor desired office he has served on the school board and is interested in all those forces which work for the uplift and progress of the community. He is a man of sterling worth and of notable business ability and sagacity. He is seldom, if ever, at fault in matters of judgment and his enterprise, laudable ambition and determination have made him one of the prosperous citizens of Hancock county.

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#### JAMES A. TRUMBELL.

James A. Trumbell, a general farmer of Avery township, Hancock county, living on section 29, was born in Pennsylvania on the 28th of January 1867, a son of Cornelius and Adeline (Smith) Trumbell, natives of Pennsylvania, who became early residents of Belmond, Iowa. Both are still living, the father having reached the age of seventy-four years, while the mother is now eighty-one years of age.

James A. Trumbell acquired his early education in the district schools of Pennsylvania, which he attended until he reached the age of seventeen years, and then accompanied his parents on their removal westward to this state. He assisted his father in the development and further improvement of the home farm for five years and when twenty-two years of age started out on his own

account. He has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources, so that whatever success he has achieved is the direct result and reward of his labor. For four years he cultivated a rented farm and then purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Palo Alto county, Iowa. Some time afterward he sold that property and came to Hancock county, where he rented land for two years. He next purchased two hundred and thirty acres on section 29, Avery township, constituting his present farm, which is today one of the excellent farm properties of the district. His first trading point was at Belmond, which at that time was a little village containing four or five stores. There was also one store at Amsterdam conducted by G. N. Elder, the eldest brother of Mrs. Trumbell. There was much wheat and flax produced in those days, but all around were evidences of the fact that the work of development and improvement was still in its initial stage. The original courthouse of Hancock county now stands on the Hetland farm and at the time of the arrival of the Trumbell family M. P. Rosecrans was county judge, with Reuben Church as county treasurer, George Louppe as county clerk, C. M. Church as county sheriff and John Porter as district judge. Mr. Trumbell has devoted his entire life to general farming and his place of two hundred and thirty acres is now a valuable tract, which has been most carefully and systematically developed and improved until it forms one of the most pleasing features of the landscape. Its fields annually yield rich harvests and good grades of stock are seen upon the farm, while the latest improved machinery facilitates the work of the fields.

On the 11th of August, 1891, Mr. Trumbell was married to Miss Carrie K. Elder, a daughter of George and Margaret (McNutt) Elder, who were natives of Pennsylvania but came to Hancock county in 1865. Both have long since passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Trumbell are now the parents of three children, James S., Harry E. and Florence Mabel. The elder son was married March 8, 1916, to Miss Frances Christie, a daughter of Archie and Della Christie, natives of Wisconsin.

Mrs. Trumbell belongs to the United Brethren church and he has membership relations with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his political endorsement is given to the democratic party. While interested in its success because of his firm belief in its principles, he has never sought nor desired political office, always preferring to concentrate his energies and attention upon his business affairs, which have been wisely directed and have made him one of the substantial farmers of Avery township.

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#### OTTO H. SWENSON.

Otto H. Swenson, successfully engaged in the hardware business in Thompson, is one of Winnebago county's native sons, his birth occurring in Forest township, July 10, 1874. His parents, Hans and Theodora (Olson) Swenson, were born, reared and married in Decorah, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming for five years. In 1872 he brought his family to Winnebago county and purchased land in Forest township, which he at once began to improve and

cultivate. He has since resided upon that place and has now reached the age of seventy-three years. His wife passed away on the 16th of June, 1913.

Reared on the home farm in Forest township, Otto H. Swenson pursued his studies in the district schools of the neighborhood and when not in school assisted his father in the work of the farm until twenty-two years of age. He then bought a tract of land in Newton township, Winnebago county, whereon he engaged in agricultural pursuits for eight years. At the end of that time he rented his farm and removed to Thompson, where he became interested in the windmill and pump business. Seven years later he sold out to his brother and for the past seven years has engaged in the hardware business on quite an extensive scale. He carries a large stock and occupies a double store room. In business affairs he is notably prompt and reliable and has therefore built up an excellent patronage.

Mr. Swenson was married on the 19th of August, 1896, to Miss Ida Lund, by whom he has four children, namely: Helmer, born July 15, 1897; Melvin, November 28, 1898; Edith, December 22, 1903; and Orville, June 25, 1906. The family hold membership in the Lutheran church, and Mr. Swenson affiliates with the republican party. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability, elected him a member of the town council of Thompson, in which he served for twelve years with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, and for ten years he also served as trustee of King township.

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#### G. A. DAHL.

G. A. Dahl owns and operates a farm on sections 12 and 13, Norway township, Winnebago county, upon which he has lived for about seventeen years. He was born November 7, 1875, in Silver township, Worth county, Iowa, his parents being G. G. and Bertha (Loberg) Dahl, the former a native of Norway. The latter was born in Worth county, where her father settled at a very early period in the development of that district and where the family continued to reside for many years, both Mr. and Mrs. Loberg there passing away. Mr. Dahl was but fourteen years of age when he came to the United States with his parents, Gilbert and Anna Opdahl, the family home being established near Northwood in Worth county, while later they secured a homestead in Silver Lake township in the same county. Their son, G. G. Dahl, changed the family name to its present form. He worked for his father until he attained his majority and then purchased land in Worth county, where he continued to engage in farming until a few years ago, when he retired from active business life and established his home in Emmons, Minnesota, where he now resides. His wife, however, has passed away, and her remains were interred in Lime Creek cemetery.

G. A. Dahl was a pupil in the public schools of Worth county until he reached the age of sixteen years. Yet his opportunities during that period were somewhat limited as his labors were needed upon the home farm. When his text-books were put aside he concentrated his entire attention upon farm work and remained with his father until he reached the age of twenty-five years. Desirous of engaging in business on his own account, he then purchased the south half of the southeast quarter of section 12 and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 13,

Norway township, Winnebago county. Taking up his abode upon this place in 1900, he has since continued its cultivation and has added many modern improvements to the farm. He also owns one hundred and twenty acres on section 19, Silver Lake township, Worth county, and from his properties derives a substantial annual income.

Mr. Dahl was married May 20, 1900, to Miss Julia Ringestad, a daughter of Nels and Anna Ringestad, the former of whom is a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, while the latter was born in Sweden but was brought to the United States when eight years old. They are still living upon their farm, which adjoins that owned by Mr. Dahl. To Mr. and Mrs. Dahl have been born four children, Alma, Norris, Lawrence, and Cora, all at home. Mr. Dahl holds membership with the Sons of Norway, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Lutheran church. He has served on the school board and as road boss, but has never been active as a political worker. He is a republican and keeps well informed on questions and issues of the day. He now owns a well improved farm carefully cultivated, so that good crops are annually gathered. All that he possesses has come to him as the reward of earnest, persistent labor, for he had no assistance when he started out in life.

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#### JOHN O. BERGFALD.

On the roster of officials in Winnebago county appears the name of John O. Bergfald, of Forest City, who is now serving as county recorder and is making an excellent record by the prompt, efficient and systematic manner in which he discharges his duties. He was born in Norway, June 28, 1862, a son of Ole and Karen (Kiplesund) Bergfald. Through the period of his boyhood and youth John O. Bergfald remained in his native country and in 1884, at the age of twenty-two years, came to the United States, locating first in Linden township, Winnebago county, Iowa, where he attended school and afterward taught in the country schools for several years. In 1889 he went to Colorado and spent two and one-half years in Denver, after which he resided in the south for two years. In 1896 he returned to Linden township, where he again taught school for a few years, and in 1901 he was appointed deputy recorder of Winnebago county, which position he filled until the fall of 1904. He afterward had charge of the county poor farm for a year and a half, being the first superintendent thereof. He later removed to Thompson, where he was engaged in the hardware business until 1910, in which year he was elected county recorder. The fact that he has been four times elected to that position is incontrovertible proof of his capability and the confidence reposed in him by the public. He has made a most splendid record in office and has proven faultless in honor and stainless in reputation. He also served for a term and a half as assessor of Linden township before being elected deputy recorder. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party and he is a most stalwart champion of its principles.

In March, 1898, Mr. Bergfald was married to Miss Allie J. Lofton, of Arkansas, a daughter of Giles and Margaret (Boyd) Lofton. They now have three children: Carrie Margaret, Orren Thomas and John Milburn. Mr. Bergfald

and his family are members of the Lutheran church, of which he is a devoted adherent, guiding his life by its teachings. All who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, speak of him in terms of high regard because of his fidelity to the principles which govern upright manhood and unswerving integrity.

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### ED SEVERSON

Ed Severson is actively engaged in farming on section 24, Linden township, and in this undertaking is a partner of Oscar I. Indvik. He was born in South Dakota, March 13, 1889, and is a son of Sever and Tona (Fellan) Severson, both of whom were natives of Norway. On leaving the land of the midnight sun in 1868 they sailed for the United States, settling first in Minnesota, where they lived for two years. On the expiration of that period they came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and took up their abode on a farm in Mount Valley township, where they resided for eleven years. Their next home was in South Dakota, where they continued for nine years. The mother passed away in 1893 after which the father returned to Winnebago county, where he is still living. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom survive.

Ed Severson, whose name introduces this review, was largely reared in Winnebago county and acquired the greater part of his education in its public schools, although for one year he pursued a college course. From the age of fourteen he has been dependent upon his own resources and whatever success he has achieved or enjoyed is the result of his earnest labors. He first worked on a farm and when he felt that his experience, his age and his capital were sufficient to enable him to take an independent step he rented land which he cultivated for three years. His economy was continued through that period so that he was at length enabled to purchase eighty acres, becoming owner of a tract on section 12, Forest township. He operated that farm for three years and then, in 1916, removed to his present place on section 24, Linden township. He and his brother-in-law, Oscar Indvik, are now cultivating five hundred and twenty acres of land. They not only grow the crops best adapted to soil and climate, but they also make a specialty of raising and breeding hogs, milch cows and Belgian horses. They have some of the finest stock to be found in the county and their business affairs are most wisely and carefully managed, bringing to them a very substantial and gratifying measure of success.

In 1911 Mr. Severson was married to Miss Isabel Indvik, who was born on the farm where they now reside. Her parents were Ole J. and Mary Michaelson) Indvik, both of whom were natives of Norway. In young manhood and womanhood they came to the new world, and as the years passed the father advanced step by step along the road of indefatigable industry to the goal of success. He is still living in Winnebago county but his wife passed away in 1907. In their family were six children of whom only Mrs. Severson and Oscar O. Indvik now survive. Mr. and Mrs. Severson have become the parents of four children, Elsworth S., Orlie M., Merrill O. and Edward I. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and in social circles they occupy an enviable position, having the warm and kindly regard of all with whom they have been

brought in contact. Mr. Severson votes with the republican party and he has served as assessor and as trustee of Forest township. He is always loyal in matters of public duty and is ever willing to cooperate in work for the general good.

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#### OSCAR O. INDVIK.

No history of agricultural development of Winnebago county would be complete without mention of the Indvik family of which Oscar O. Indvik is a representative, for the family was established here in pioneer times and has since been active in promoting agricultural progress here. Oscar O. Indvik was born September 13, 1888, upon the farm where he still resides on section 24, Linden township, and is a son of Ole J. Indvik, a native of Norway and for many years a representative farmer of this district.

Reared under the parental roof Oscar O. Indvik acquired a public school education, mastering the branches of learning which fitted him for life's practical and responsible duties. He was reared to the occupation of farming to which he has given his attention and energies since attaining man's estate. In fact, he was early trained to the work of the fields and in summer months assisted in the task of plowing and planting and harvesting, while the winter months were given to school work. In connection with his sister, Mrs. Ed Severson, he owns four hundred and eighty acres of land on sections 23, 24 and 25, Linden township. This property they inherited from their father, and it is now being further developed and cultivated by Mr. Indvik and Mr. Severson, who are also cultivating an additional tract, having now five hundred and twenty acres. There are splendid improvements upon the farm in the way of excellent buildings and well kept fences and modern farm machinery. They also have good grades of stock upon the place, and everything indicates their progressive spirit and enterprising methods. Mr. Indvik votes with the republican party to which he gives intelligent support, always closely studying the questions and issues of the day.

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#### ISAAC SWEIGARD.

Isaac Sweigard, identified with financial interests in Garner as president of the Farmers National Bank, was born in Pennsylvania, March 10, 1849, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Smith) Sweigard, who spent their entire lives in the Keystone state, where the father followed the occupation of farming.

Isaac Sweigard acquired a public school education and in early manhood went to Illinois in 1870 and established and conducted a drug store in Shannon in connection with his brother-in-law. He also taught school while in that state. In 1877 he removed to Kossuth county, Iowa, and was actively identified with its business interests as a buyer of grain and hogs and also as a dealer in lumber. While there he also served as a member of the county board of supervisors. In 1882 he removed to Garner, where he entered into partnership with





ISAAC SWEIGARD



A. C. Ripley, under the firm style of A. C. Ripley & Company, for the conduct of a real estate and abstract business. Mr. Ripley was a lawyer and Mr. Sweigard largely had charge of the business. In 1887 his fellow townsmen, having recognized his worth and ability, called him to public office, electing him clerk of the courts, in which capacity he served for four years. He was afterward in Mr. Ripley's office for a short time and was then again called to a position of public trust, being chosen county treasurer, in which position he served for one term. Later he was again associated with Mr. Ripley for a short time, but on account of his wife's health removed to Missouri, where he remained until 1904, when he purchased an interest in the Farmers Savings Bank of Garner, with which he has since been associated.

In 1872 Mr. Sweigard was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Layman, who was born in Pennsylvania but lived in Illinois at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Sweigard have three children, namely: Harvey A., who is postmaster at Garner; Etta, who is the wife of R. C. Plummer, of Forest City; and C. R., the cashier of the Farmers National Bank. Fraternally Mr. Sweigard is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has taken various degrees in Masonry, belonging to Bethel Lodge, No. 319, F. & A. M.; Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M.; Bethel Council, No. 33, R. & S. M.; and Antioch Commandery, K. T., of Mason City. Of the blue lodge he is a past master. His family is connected with the Methodist church. In politics Mr. Sweigard is a stalwart democrat and in addition to the offices previously mentioned he has served as mayor of Garner. In a word, he is a prominent and influential citizen there who has done much to shape public thought and action and establish a progressive public policy. At the same time he is an energetic business man, alert to the opportunities opened for activity in various fields, and his enterprise has brought to him a substantial measure of success.

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#### OLE HALVORSON BREKKE.

Ole Halvorson Brekke, a retired farmer of Lake Mills, is a native of Norway and has manifested the excellent qualities characteristic of his race. He was born November 19, 1843, of the marriage of Halvor Olson and Helge (Johnsdatter) Brekke, who passed their entire lives in Norway, where the father engaged in farming.

Ole H. Brekke, who is the fourth child and the oldest of four sons, obtained a common school education in Norway and devoted some time to military training. He learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Norway until he was twenty-six years of age, when he emigrated to America alone, crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel and landing at Quebec, Canada. He at once went to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked as a carpenter for a year, but in 1870 he went by way of the Milwaukee Railroad to Clear Lake, which was then the terminus of the road, and from that point by ox team to Forest City, Winnebago county, Iowa. For one year he was employed as a farm hand and then invested his savings in one hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Center township. For forty-one years his time and attention were taken up with the cultivation of that

place, which he made one of the model farms of his locality, and his hard work, progressive spirit and good management made him in time financially independent. In 1911 he retired from active life and built a fine home in Lake Mills, where he has since resided. He was a director of the Lake Mills Stock Yards for some time and also of the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

On the 5th of September, 1870, Mr. Brekke was united in marriage to Miss Liv Tullockson, a daughter of Tullock and Ture (Toresdatter) Tullockson, who passed their entire lives in Norway. Mrs. Brekke came to the United States with a brother. She has become the mother of seven children, namely: Helene, the wife of Lawrence Lintvet, of Becker county, Minnesota; Anna S., who is the widow of Herman Jencer and resides in Becker county, Minnesota; Gunild T., the wife of Andrew Branstad, of Forest City; Susanna O., who married Knudt K. Tveten, of Comstock, Clay county, Iowa; Gunild Andrea, the wife of Ellsworth P. Brones, residing near Leland, Winnebago county; Hannah, at home; and Emma, the wife of Conrad Oscar Harung, of Kensett, Worth county.

Mr. Brekke supports the democratic party where national issues are at stake, but otherwise votes for the man. He served on the school board a number of years and was also for some time township trustee and gave to the discharge of his official duties the same careful attention that characterized his management of his farming interests. He holds membership in the United Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes generously. The success which he has gained is doubly creditable in that he began his independent career without capital or influential friends and has at all times relied entirely upon his own efforts to win advancement.

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#### JOHN LUNDBERG.

Business enterprise in Forest City finds a worthy representative in John Lundberg, now a successful dealer in wood, coal and ice. He is numbered among the pioneer residents of Winnebago county, where he has resided for forty-six years, an interested witness of the development of this section of the state and an active participant in many plans and projects for the public good. He was born in Denmark, July 3, 1857, a son of James and Mary (Anderson) Lundberg, who came to the United States in 1867, reaching New York city on the 2d of September of that year. They made their way at once across the country to Oshkosh, Winnebago county, Wisconsin, and there resided for four years. In February, 1871, they became residents of Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father, who had hitherto followed the tailor's trade, here turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, purchasing a small farm of forty acres. He afterward sold that property and bought eighty acres in Hancock county, five miles east of Garner. Three years later he sold out and returned to Winnebago county, buying forty acres adjoining Forest City. Upon that farm he lived until his death, which occurred in August, 1916. His widow yet survives and still occupies the old home place.

John Lundberg attended the district schools, but his educational opportunities were limited, for he was the eldest child and his parents were in straitened financial circumstances, so that his labors were needed in the further development of

the home farm. He worked in the fields from early youth and soon became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He was twenty years of age when he became a resident of Forest City, where for nine years he had charge of the live stock of J. A. Plummer. He afterward spent a year in the employ of the Central Elevator Company, which he represented on the road, looking after their live stock interests. He next accepted a position as grain buyer for Barton & Gardner, with whom he was associated for five years. In 1895 Mr. Gardner purchased Mr. Barton's interest and soon thereafter Mr. Lundberg was admitted to a partnership under the firm name of Gardner & Lundberg. That association was maintained for two years and in 1897 Mr. Lundberg bought out Mr. Gardner's interest and the same year built a new elevator, which he operated independently for five or six years. On the expiration of that period he sold his elevator but continued to deal in live stock and also to handle wood and coal, for in the meantime he had extended the scope of his activities to include the sale of fuel. He still remains an active and prosperous dealer in wood, coal and ice and is accorded a liberal patronage by reason of his enterprising methods and his honorable dealing. He also has other important interests, having served as a member of the board of directors and as secretary of the telephone company for a number of years. In fact he has been one of the foremost representatives of the business life of Forest City for an extended period and his interests have ever been of a character which have contributed to public progress as well as to individual prosperity.

In November, 1888, Mr. Lundberg was united in marriage to Miss Lydia A. Cooper, of Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa, by whom he had four children, three of whom still survive, namely: Beatrice, who is the wife of Dr. J. E. Charlson, of Goldfield, Iowa; and Zylpy Jane and J. Harmon, both at home. Politically Mr. Lundberg is a republican and his fellow townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He has served for eleven years as a member of the town council and is the present street commissioner of Forest City. Any plan or measure for the upbuilding of the community is sure to receive his endorsement and cooperation and his work has long been an effective element in advancing the welfare of city and county.

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#### ARNE E. DAHL.

Arne E. Dahl, who passed away in 1900, had not only gained a place among the representative farmers of Linden township, Winnebago county, but was also held in high esteem personally, for his dominant qualities were such as command respect. He was born in Norway, May 20, 1833, of the marriage of Erik and Anna Dahl, both of whom passed their entire lives in their native country. He received his education in the common schools of Norway and remained there for a considerable period after reaching mature years. It was in 1872 that he came to the United States and during the succeeding five years he resided in Rock county, Wisconsin. In 1877, however, he rented land in Linden township, Winnebago county, Iowa, which he farmed for five years, at the end of which time he purchased forty acres, to which he added at different times an adjoining tract of

similar size and an eighty acre tract, becoming the owner of the northeast quarter of section 4, Linden township. He devoted his time and energy to the raising of the usual grains and to the breeding of stock and both phases of his business proved profitable. He also had other interests as he owned stock in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Leland until the plant burned and later was a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Thompson. He passed away on the 1st of August, 1900, mourned by his many friends.

Mr. Dahl was married in Norway to Miss Mary Olson, who survives and still lives upon the home farm. To their union were born twelve children, of whom eight are living, namely: Erik, a resident farmer of Cavalier county, North Dakota; Nettie, the wife of Adam Bell, residing in Winnebago county; Ole, also engaged in farming in Cavalier county, North Dakota; Lewis, residing in Thompson, Winnebago county; Mary, the wife of Edward Thorland, of Eden township, Winnebago county; Betsy, the wife of Oscar Lund, residing in McKenzie county, North Dakota; Albert, who is operating the home farm; and Helmer, a resident of McKenzie county, North Dakota.

Mr. Dahl was a republican in his political views and took the interest of a good citizen in public affairs but was never an office seeker. For twenty-three years he was a resident of Linden township and his sterling worth was recognized by all who came in contact with him. Mrs. Dahl holds membership in the Lutheran Synod and conforms her life to its teachings.

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#### GISLE M. LEE, M. D.

Dr. Gisle M. Lee, a successful physician and surgeon living at Thompson, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, July 10, 1867, a son of John E. J. and Martha (Venaass) Lee, natives of Norway. When sixteen years old the father accompanied his parents to the United States and the family located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the grandfather of our subject engaged in farming until his death. The mother was brought to Dane county when an infant by her parents, who resided upon a farm there until called by death. Both Mr. and Mrs. John E. J. Lee are buried in the East Koshkonong church cemetery.

Gisle M. Lee attended the common schools and later Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, while his professional education was received in Rush Medical College at Chicago, which conferred upon him the M. D. degree in 1893. In the following year he came to Thompson, which had been founded only two years previously, and was the first physician and surgeon to locate here. He has since continuously engaged in practice and has a high standing among his professional colleagues in the county. Through his membership in the American Medical Association and through wide reading he keeps in touch with the trend of modern practice and he has been very successful in the treatment of disease.

Dr. Lee was married in 1895 to Miss Jessie Severson, of Cambridge, Wisconsin, and they have four children: Gisle J., who is editor of a newspaper at Sherburn, Minnesota; and Melvin, Evelyn and Mabel, all at home.

Dr. Lee supports the republican party at the polls and has taken quite an active part in public affairs, having been coroner of the county for the last eight

years and having also served as mayor of Thompson for one term and as secretary of the school board for eight years. He belongs to the Lutheran church and furthers its work in every way possible. He has thoroughly identified himself with the interests of his community and is deservedly held in high esteem by all who know him.

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#### JOHN I. OFSTEDAHL.

Norway has made valuable contribution to the citizenship of Winnebago county. Many of her citizens have come from the land of the midnight sun and their love for that country was manifest in the fact that Norway township was named in honor of their old home. They have, however, been most loyal to all American interests and have been active factors in the upbuilding and development of this section. Among the number is John I. Ofstedahl, who was born in Norway May 27, 1857, a son of Iver and Gertie (Olson) (Bursly) Ofstedahl, who were farming people. They had a family of six children, of whom John I. is the eldest. In 1864 they brought their family to the United States and for six months lived with a brother of the father in Olmsted county, Minnesota. They then took up their abode in Mansfield township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, where Mr. Ofstedahl secured a homestead claim and developed the farm upon which he is still living. He yet enjoys good health, although he is now eighty-seven years of age, being splendidly preserved for one who has traveled so far on life's journey. In 1911 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 26th of January of that year and was laid to rest in the Synod Lutheran cemetery. Their children are: John I.; Ole, who is now living in Norman county, Minnesota; Iver and Albert, who are residents of Freeborn county, Minnesota; Iner, whose home is in Saskatchewan, Canada; and Agnes, the wife of Jacob Aldal, of Fargo, North Dakota.

John J. Ofstedahl was reared upon the western frontier and with the family shared in the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. He aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm and when opportunity offered he attended the pioneer schools, using his advantages to secure an education until he reached the age of eighteen years. He then concentrated his attention upon farm work for his father until twenty-six years of age, when he began farming on his own account. During the next two years he farmed with his father on shares and in March, 1887, when thirty years of age, he became a resident of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, where he purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of section 23. He immediately began its development and his labors brought to him a measure of success that enabled him later to purchase the west half of the same quarter, so that he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land. The soil had in it the properties that rendered it rich and productive when carefully cultivated and he soon transformed the place into well kept fields from which he has annually gathered golden harvests. When he made his purchase there was a log cabin and straw stables upon the place. He has since added many modern improvements and the good buildings, the well kept farm machinery and the neat appearance of his fields all indicate his careful supervision and progressive

methods. He is a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and in the Farmers Elevator Company.

Mr. Ofstedahl was married to Miss Karen Saxerud, a daughter of Amon and Panella Saxerud, of Norway, who passed away in their native land, never coming to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Ofstedahl are the parents of five children, as follows: Tina, who is now the wife of Ed. Torvold, of Worth county, Iowa; Oscar, a resident of Minneapolis; Isaac, who assists in the operation of the home farm; Clara, who gave her hand in marriage to Harry Adams, of Hayfield, Hancock county, Iowa; and Alfred, at home.

The parents are members of the Synod Lutheran church and in its teachings find the guiding spirit of their lives. Mr. Ofstedahl is a republican but not an office seeker, yet he is not remiss in the duties of citizenship and delights in the progress that is being made along civic lines. From early boyhood he has known what hard work means and he has never been afraid of the industry and close application which are so necessary in the attainment of success. In fact, it has been along those lines that he has reached a position among the well-to-do farmers of Norway township.

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#### NELS AND ELLEN CHARLSON.

Nels and Ellen Charlson, both natives of Norway, came to the United States in 1851, first lived for a year at Stoughton, Wisconsin, and then moved to Primrose, Dane county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Charlson purchased a farm which he improved and cultivated until 1866, when he homesteaded in Center township, Winnebago county, Iowa, removing here with his family in that year and thereby becoming one of the pioneers of this section. Mr. Charlson continued agricultural pursuits in this county until his demise, which occurred March 1, 1901. He had survived his wife several years, as she passed away April 1, 1898. Both are buried in a cemetery on the home farm. They were pioneer settlers of this section of the state, took an active part in advancing general interests contributing to the public welfare, and Mr. Charlson did much in promoting the agricultural development of the district. When they passed away they were survived by many friends who had come to esteem them highly. To Mr. and Mrs. Charlson were born ten children, of whom six survive. Eli, the youngest, is still residing on the home farm.

Mrs. Helen (Charlson) Colby Groning, daughter of Nels and Ellen Charlson and the eldest in their family of ten children, was born in Norway, May 4, 1844, and was brought by her parents to the United States when she was seven years of age. She was educated in Dane county, Wisconsin, and in 1859 was married to Eli Colby of that county. They had no capital but were determined to succeed and in the course of years won prosperity, although for some time they had to work very hard in order to gain a start. They never gave way to discouragement, however, and at length reaped the reward of their untiring industry and good management and their sterling qualities gained them the unqualified respect of all who knew them. Mr. Colby died March 12, 1886, and is buried in the Huege cemetery at Primrose, Wisconsin. To them were born twelve children: Charles, of Center



township; Mary, the wife of Nels Gilbert, of Beeler, Idaho; Ella, the wife of M. M. Anderson, of Center township; Elizabeth, who married Ephraim Wilson, of Wittenberg, Wisconsin; Joseph, a practicing dentist of Lake Mills, Iowa; Julia, who died at the age of twenty-one and is buried at Primrose; Nora, the wife of Edward Bratrud, of Center township; William, who died at the age of thirty-seven and is buried in North cemetery at Lake Mills; Clara, the wife of H. C. Schuman, of Lone, Oregon; Norman, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Frank, a resident of Sioux City; and Jessie, of Lake Mills.

In 1901 Mrs. Colby married Hans Groning, now a retired farmer of Lake Mills, of whom a sketch follows.

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#### HANS GRONING.

Hans Groning, a well known retired farmer living in Lake Mills, was born in Norway, December 31, 1830, and there he received his education and grew to manhood. In 1857 he came alone to the United States and purchased land in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming for more than four decades, or until 1901, when he removed to Winnebago county, Iowa. He purchased a farm in Center township which he operated for a year, after which he removed to Lake Mills, where he has a fine residence. He met with gratifying success in his agricultural work and has a competence which insures him all the comforts of life.

Mr. Groning was married in Wisconsin to Miss Mildred Torgeson, who died in 1896 and is buried in the United Lutheran cemetery at Primrose, Wisconsin. She left a son, Hans, Jr., who is living in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1901 Mr. Groning was married to Mrs. Helen Colby, widow of Eli Colby, of Dane county, Wisconsin.

Mr. Groning is a staunch supporter of the republican party but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He has ever taken the interest of a good citizen in public affairs and has given his support to projects seeking the general welfare. In religious faith both he and his wife are Free Lutherans. They have made many friends since removing to Winnebago county and are numbered among the highly esteemed residents of Lake Mills.

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#### OLE A. THOMPSON.

Ole A. Thompson is an active and well known representative of commercial interests in Forest City as senior partner in the firm of Thompson & Clauson, proprietors of a large general store. The greater part of his life has here been passed, for he arrived in Forest City in 1888, when a youth of thirteen. He was born in Norway, June 25, 1875, a son of T. O. and Martha Thompson, who in 1880 became residents of Mahaska county, Iowa, where the father followed the cooper's trade, which he had learned in his native land. In 1888 he removed to Forest City and purchased a farm in Mount Valley township, where he secured eighty acres. For twenty-six years thereafter he continued to develop and improve

his property, but has recently sold and taken up his abode in Forest City, where he is now living retired.

Ole A. Thompson acquired a public school education and supplemented it by a business course at Dixon. He made his initial step in business circles as an employe in the clothing store of Olson Brothers at Forest City in 1899. While in that connection he thoroughly acquainted himself with modern business methods and he also carefully saved his earnings with the hope of one day engaging in business on his own account. In 1908, therefore, he purchased a half interest in a general store and became a partner of C. H. Ellsworth, who, however, sold out the same year. In 1910 Mr. Thompson admitted A. E. Clauson to a partnership under the firm style of Thompson & Clauson. They conduct a general store, handling groceries, dry goods, ladies' ready-to-wear clothing, shoes and other lines and are now accorded a liberal patronage which makes their trade a profitable one. They erected a building in 1914 which is forty-four by one hundred feet and two stories in height with basement. This they occupy in the conduct of their trade and their business has now reached substantial and gratifying proportions.

On the 4th of September, 1911, Mr. Thompson was married to Maude Snipps, of Forest City, a daughter of J. P. and Belle (Fisher) Snipps. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have one son, Malcolm, and by a former marriage Mrs. Thompson had a daughter, Hazel.

Fraternally Mr. Thompson is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he maintains an independent course, casting his ballot according to the dictates of his judgment. There have been no spectacular phases in his life record. He has worked steadily and persistently year after year, enlarging the scope of his interests as his experience and capabilities have broadened, and he is justly accounted one of the progressive merchants of Winnebago county.

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#### HENRY O. HANSING.

Among the representative farmers of King township, Winnebago county, is numbered Henry O. Hansing, who lives on section 29. He has one of the best improved places in the county and his residence is one of the most beautiful and attractive homes of this district. All this is indicative of the well spent life and indefatigable energy of Mr. Hansing, who was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, in January, 1879, a son of Arne and Julia (Harldson) Hansing, who were natives of the land of the midnight sun. Coming to America in an early day, they established their home in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where for a time the father cultivated a rented farm, but at length purchased land which he further developed and improved, and later moved to Blair, Nebraska, spending his remaining days there. He passed away in December, 1900, and is still survived by his wife.

Henry O. Hansing was reared and educated in his native county and remained with his parents until he attained his majority, when he started out in the business world independently. Removing to Winnebago county, Iowa, he was here employed for about seven years and then married and moved upon his wife's farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, King township. He at once began the further development of the place, which he has since operated and has

REV. E. N. DAHL



MR. AND MRS. HENRY O. HANSLING





converted it into one of the finest improved farms of the county, upon which he has erected a residence that is scarcely equaled and is not surpassed in this section of the state. He follows the most progressive methods in his farm work, which is conducted along scientific lines, and his life of diligence and determination has brought a notable and gratifying measure of prosperity. He is also a stockholder in the elevator and the creamery companies of Thompson.

In August, 1906, Mr. Hansing was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Dahl) Grasley, a daughter of the Rev. I. N. and Catherine (Maurusund) Dahl, who were natives of Norway. The father was for six years a missionary in India and Mrs. Hansing was born in that country in December, 1872. Mr. Dahl came to America in 1813, establishing his home in Winnebago county, where he engaged in preaching as a minister of the Lutheran church throughout his remaining days, passing away November 1, 1906. He was better known among the Scandinavian people of the northwest than perhaps any other one man and for many years he took a prominent part in shaping the civic and religious development of his community. He was born near Tromsøe, Norway, December 11, 1836. His father, August Dahl, was a fisherman, becoming connected with what was then the principal industry of the coast towns. In 1860 Rev. Dahl went to Germany and studied for the ministry, remaining for six years in the Harmsburg Theological Mission at Hanover. He afterward spent six years in missionary work in India, and throughout his entire life his influence was a potent factor for good in the communities in which he lived. In July, 1896, his daughter Mary became the wife of Andrew Grasley and to them were born three children. James O. is now serving in the United States navy, and the two other children died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Hansing have become the parents of five children, Irene G., Earl M., Valborg C., Harold M. B. and Henrietta M.

Mr. Hansing has been a member of the school board in his district and has served as its president. He votes with the republican party and he and his family are connected with the Lutheran church, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. His has been an active, useful and honorable life. Both he and his wife enjoy the warm regard of all who know them and in Winnebago county they have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

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#### ALBERT E. SOALS.

The farming interests of Winnebago county find a worthy and substantial representative in Albert E. Soals, who resides on section 14, Forest township. It was upon this farm that his birth occurred May 16, 1873, his parents being Shuble K. and Anna (Heckle) Soals. The father, a native of the state of New York, came to Winnebago county about 1870 and settled on the farm which is now the home of his son Albert. Upon that place he continued to reside until called to his final rest in 1892. There he reared his family, numbering eight children, of whom two are now living. The mother still survives and has become the wife of J. J. Otis.

Albert E. Soals lived upon the old homestead through the period of his boyhood and youth and after attending the common schools went to Lincoln, Nebraska,

where he remained for three years. He then returned to the old home, which he has since occupied. It is a valuable tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Forest township, Winnebago county, and it has been greatly improved with modern buildings and the best farm machinery. He raises various cereals adapted to soil and climatic conditions here and he is also successfully engaged in stock raising.

In 1900 occurred the marriage of Mr. Soals and Miss Laura Arnold, a native of Nebraska and a daughter of James L. and Jemima (Shephard) Arnold, who are natives of Ohio, whence they removed to Rock Island county, Illinois. They afterward became residents of Nebraska and subsequently took up their abode in Forest City, Iowa, where they are now residing. Mr. and Mrs. Soals attend the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Soals belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 410 at Forest City and both are connected with the Rebekahs. He has filled all of the chairs in the lodge and is one of its earnest and helpful members. In politics he is a democrat, but he has never held political office. He is working diligently and persistently along those lines which lead to success and already he has made for himself a most creditable position among the enterprising and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Forest township.

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#### PETER O. PETERSEN.

Peter O. Petersen, who successfully carries on farming on section 26, Ellington township, Hancock county, was born March 31, 1886, on the farm where he now resides, his parents being Peter O. and Marie (Jurgensen) Petersen, natives of Denmark. In that country they were reared and married and remained there until after the birth of two of their children. It was in 1875 that they crossed the ocean and took up their residence in Clinton county, Iowa, where they made their home for ten years. In 1885 they removed to Hancock county and the father purchased the farm on section 26, Ellington township, where our subject now resides. After living thereon for twenty years he built a comfortable residence on an adjoining forty acres on section 27, where he spent his remaining days, passing away on the 26th of January, 1913. His widow still survives him and now makes her home in Ventura.

Mr. Petersen of this review was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys and is indebted to the district schools for the education he obtained during his boyhood. As early as his fifteenth year he became a wage earner, working for neighboring farmers, and in 1909 he began farming on his own account, he and his brother Fred renting and operating the home farm in partnership for four years. At the end of that time he went to Forest City, where he worked as a mechanic in a garage for one year, and then returned to the farm, being engaged in the cultivation of one hundred acres during the following year. After his marriage in 1914 he took entire charge of the home farm, consisting of the southwest quarter of section 26, Ellington township and the forty acres adjoining on section 27, and has since operated the place. The land is in a high state of cultivation and is made to produce good harvests by the care and labor bestowed upon it.

In 1914 Mr. Petersen was united in marriage to Miss Anna Anderson, of Clear Lake, Iowa, and they have become the parents of two children, Everett M. and Virginia S. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and by his ballot Mr. Petersen supports the men and measures of the democratic party. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Ventura and is secretary of the Ellington Telephone Company. He is one of the leading citizens of his community and well merits the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens.

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#### MORRIS M. TAPAGER.

Since 1897 Morris M. Tapager has been identified with the business interests of Thompson and is today recognized as one of the leading citizens of the place. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Denmark, January 22, 1873, a son of Michael and Maren (Dalgaard) Tapager. He was quite young when his mother died and his father remarried. In 1890 the family came to the new world and the father, who was a farmer by occupation, made his home in Albert Lea, Minnesota, until his death in 1905. His widow is still living there.

Morris M. Tapager spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native land, where he attended school until about fourteen years old, and then turned his attention to the carpenter's trade. He came with the family to America in 1890 and located in Albert Lea, Minnesota, where he worked at his trade for a time, but later learned butter making, which occupation he followed at that place for two years. In 1896 he accepted the position of manager of a creamery at Emmons, Minnesota, where he remained one year, and then came to Thompson, Iowa, working as a butter maker here for two and a half years. Mr. Tapager was next engaged in the hotel business for two years, and then clerked in the general store of Ed Monday for three years. At the end of that time he again entered the creamery business and in 1910 purchased an interest in what is known as the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company, of which he has since been secretary. He continued to actively engage in butter making until 1914, but has since given his attention to general contracting. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Thompson Telephone Company and also owns farm land in King township, Winnebago county, adjoining Thompson.

In 1894 Mr. Tapager was united in marriage to Miss Mary Bertelson, a daughter of Nels P. and Marion (Jorgenson) Bertelson, who were natives of Denmark, and on coming to the United States in 1868 located on a farm near Albert Lea, Minnesota, which the father operated throughout the remainder of his life. He died in July, 1908, at the age of sixty-four years, but the mother is still living in Albert Lea at the age of sixty-eight. Mr. and Mrs. Tapager have become the parents of five children: Elmer, born in August, 1896; Clare, in February, 1898; Alonzo, May 1, 1904; Luella, in September, 1907; and Alice, who was born in January, 1895, and died in January, 1896.

The family are connected with the Lutheran church and Mr. Tapager is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. By his ballot he supports the men

and measures of the republican party and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called upon him to serve in several official positions, including that of city treasurer. He has also been a member of the school board and a member of the town council, where he served in a most creditable and acceptable manner.

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#### MRS. ALICE HAHN.

Mrs. Alice Hahn is widely and favorably known in Garner and throughout Hancock county, where she has spent her entire life. She was born in Garner in 1883 and is a daughter of William Crawford and Eliza (Fitch) Wells, who were early settlers of Hancock county, having removed from Wisconsin to Garner in 1870. From that time forward representatives of the family have taken an active and helpful part in promoting the work of general progress and improvement in this section.

Spending her girlhood days under the parental roof, Alice Wells attended the public schools and passed through consecutive grades to her graduation from the high school of Garner with the class of 1899. She afterward entered the Oberlin College and Conservatory at Oberlin, Ohio, where she studied for two years. In September, 1903, she became the wife of George William Hahn, who five years later passed away. Mrs. Hahn is a member of the Congregational church and the nature of her interests is further indicated in her membership with the Daughters of the American Revolution and in the Recital Club, which is a literary organization. She is a lady of refined taste and liberal culture, who has always occupied an enviable position in the social circles of the city in which her entire life has been passed.

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#### RASMUS J. HILL.

Rasmus J. Hill, who follows the occupation of farming on section 4, Forest township, Winnebago county, where his property, known as the Evergreen Farm, comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, was born in Norway, January 7, 1863, a son of John J. and Engbur Hill, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. The father came with his family to America in 1872 and settled in Ogle county, Illinois, where he resided until 1884. He then removed to Winnebago county and took up his abode on the farm, which continued to be his place of residence until his death, which occurred April 1, 1906, when he was seventy-two years old. His wife died in Winnebago county, October 21, 1915, at the age of eighty-one years. In their family were seven children, of whom two are now living.

Rasmus J. Hill was a little lad of nine years at the time of the emigration to the new world and was reared and educated in Illinois. He came to Winnebago county in 1885, when a young man of twenty-two years, and purchased forty acres. Subsequently he purchased the farm upon which he now resides. It is a



quarter of section 4, Forest township, and is appropriately named the Evergreen Farm, by reason of the fine grove of evergreen trees upon the place. Mr. Hill has planted all the trees on the farm, deciduous and others, and they add much to the attractive appearance of his place. He has also erected splendid buildings, including a commodious and pleasant residence and substantial barns and sheds which furnish ample shelter to grain and stock. He makes a specialty of dairying in connection with the raising of crops best adapted to soil and climate and for his dairy purposes keeps high grade cows.

Mr. Hill has been married twice. In 1894 he wedded Miss Anna Sampson and they became parents of a son, Enoch. The wife and mother died in 1892 and in 1898 Mr. Hill wedded Anna Swenson, by whom he has eight children: John E., Hilda D., Rosa, Regtor, Henning, Arthur, Delmer and Jester. The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and guide their lives according to its teachings. Mr. Hill is a republican in politics but has never sought nor desired office of a political character. He is serving, however, as one of the school directors of his district. He may truly be called a self-made man, for all that he enjoys has been acquired through his persistent, earnest efforts since starting out in life for himself empty handed. He has worked diligently and persistently and the rewards of earnest, honest labor are today his.

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#### DAVID W. BUCK.

David W. Buck, who is living retired in Lake Mills, is one of the ever decreasing number of veterans of the Civil war. He was born on the 5th of March, 1839, in New Hampshire, and is a son of Stickney and Maria (Woods) Buck, also natives of that state. The father engaged in farming there and later in Wisconsin and in Minnesota and reached the age of seventy-six years, dying in January, 1879. The mother attained the venerable age of ninety-three years and passed away in June, 1895.

David W. Buck accompanied his parents on their removal to the west and remained at home until he was grown. He then accompanied his sister to Indiana, where in 1861 he enlisted in Company D, Sixteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served at the front for thirteen months. At the end of that time, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Indiana Cavalry, and after three months' service with that body of troops was given the privilege of joining the regular army and became a member of Company F, First United States Cavalry. He remained in the army for three years after the close of the war, but at the end of that time was mustered out and returned to Minnesota. For four years he operated his father's farm, but in 1879 came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of land a half mile east of Lake Mills. He at once set about clearing his farm and made a number of improvements upon the place during the two years that he operated it. His health failed at the end of that period and he was obliged to give up agricultural work. He removed to Lake Mills and for eight years was employed in an elevator here, but subsequently went to North Dakota, where he proved up on a homestead. During the last five years he has lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former well directed labor.

On March 23, 1866, Mr. Buck was married to Miss Emma Farmer, a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Hooker) Farmer, who lived in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Buck celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. They are the parents of three children, as follows: Lucian C., who was born February 20, 1867, and is farming south of Lake Mills; Mary M., who was born February 22, 1868, and is residing in Montana; and Ethel L., who was born November 20, 1888, and is the wife of Oscar Godtland, of Lake Mills.

Mr. Buck cast his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln for president and has since staunchly supported the candidates of the republican party—the party which stood for the maintenance of the Union when its existence was threatened. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, which affords him opportunity to keep in touch with his comrades of the Civil war. In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Buck are Methodists. He has a wide acquaintance in the county and the fact that those who have been most intimately associated with him are his staunchest friends is proof of his sterling worth as a man.

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#### HENRY DENZEL.

For a long period Henry Denzel has been connected with the grain and live stock business at Forest City, and while he disposed of his grain elevator in 1916, he is still active as a live stock dealer and is regarded as one of the representative business men of Winnebago county. A native of Ohio, he was born in Vermilion on the 18th of August, 1871, a son of John and Margaret (Sumner) Denzel, both of whom were natives of Germany. In early manhood and womanhood they crossed the Atlantic and for some years after their marriage resided in Ohio, while about 1877 they came to Iowa, settling on a farm three and one-half miles south of Forest City. The father died about 1910 and the mother, who still survives, makes her home with her son Henry.

Reared under the parental roof, Henry Denzel acquired a common school education and on attaining his majority became a wage earner. He was employed the first year as a farm hand and for his twelve months' service received one hundred and forty dollars, of which sum he saved one hundred dollars. He continued farm work another year and then took up his abode in Forest City, where he entered the employ of Seibert Brothers, general merchants, for whom he engaged in clerking for five or six years. He was anxious to carry on business on his own account and on the expiration of that period he purchased the Pevec elevator and turned his attention to the grain trade. He continued to operate that elevator for four or five years and two months after his insurance expired it was burned to the ground, causing a total loss. This was a great blow to his business, but with resolute spirit he set to work to retrieve his losses and soon afterward purchased the elevator of the Kingsbury Company, which he continued to operate until August, 1916, when he sold out to the Farmers Elevator Company. He was for many years a well known figure in the grain trade and his business was of a character that constituted an asset in commercial development and prosperity here, furnishing a market for the grain raisers. Through all these years he also engaged in dealing in live stock, which he still handles. He is likewise the owner of a

farm of one hundred and twenty acres five miles east of Forest City and gives personal supervision to its cultivation and improvement.

In 1900 Mr. Denzel was united in marriage to Miss Etta Steinhoff, of Newman Grove, Nebraska. He is a member of the American Yeomen, of the Mystic Trailers and of Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is esteemed as a progressive and thoroughly reliable business man, as a public-spirited citizen and one who in social relations has ever commanded and won the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### THOMAS H. THOMPSON.

Thomas H. Thompson, residing in Garner and filling the office of county treasurer, to which he has been re-elected, is of Norwegian birth, his natal day being March 4, 1873. His parents, Holstein and Bertha (Molstere) Thompson, came to the United States with their family in 1883 and established their home in Hamilton county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming for about nine years. In 1891 he removed to Hancock county and invested in farm land in Twin Lake township. Later he removed to Erin township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death in 1913. His widow still survives and is now making her home with her son, A. O. Thompson, in Britt, Iowa.

Thomas H. Thompson was a little lad of but ten years at the time of the emigration of the family to the new world. Since then he has been a resident of Iowa and is indebted to its public school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When twenty-seven years of age he began farming on his own account and his previous experience brought to him success in that undertaking. He was thus engaged until 1909, when he was appointed postmaster of Kanawha and occupied that position for about four and a half years, or until September, 1913, when he was elected county treasurer of Hancock county. He proved a faithful custodian of the public funds, prompt and accurate in the discharge of his duties, and in 1916 he was re-elected. He has held various township offices and fidelity to duty is recognized as one of his marked characteristics in positions of public trust. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party, for he is a firm believer in its principles.

On the 3d of July, 1900, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Stonerson, who was born in Hamilton county, Iowa, a daughter of Frank and Gertie Stonerson. They removed to Emmet county, where they engaged in farming for years. The father is now deceased but the mother still survives. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson became the parents of six children, but lost their second son, Sidney, who died at the age of two years. The other children are Franklin, Bertha, Thelma, Edward and Leona.

Mr. Thompson is identified with various fraternal orders, being a Woodman,

a Yeoman, an Odd Fellow and a Mason, having taken the degrees of both lodge and chapter. He is also a member of the Lutheran church and those who know him esteem him as a man of sterling worth, his life having ever been guided by high and honorable principles.

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#### ENOCH R. HILL.

Enoch R. Hill, who is carrying on general agricultural pursuits on section 3, Forest township, Winnebago county, being the owner of the Plain View Farm, was born December 20, 1890, in the county where he still resides, his parents being R. J. and Inger (Sampson) Hill. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of the farm bred boy, his time being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He supplemented his public school training by a year's study in college. He lived with his grandparents from the time that he was two weeks old, and after they had been called to their final rest he inherited the old homestead property on section 3, Forest township, comprising one hundred and fifteen acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. He is one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of his township and carefully, wisely and systematically cultivates his fields and manages his farm property.

In his political views Mr. Hill is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has never been an office seeker. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church.

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#### ANDREW INGEBRETSON.

Among the prosperous farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Center township, Winnebago county, is numbered Andrew Ingebretson, whose home is on section 32. He was born on the 24th of June, 1844, in Norway, of which country his parents, Ingebret and Gudve Ingebretson, were life long residents. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in July, 1844, and the mother's death occurred in 1853.

Andrew Ingebretson was thus left an orphan at the early age of nine years. He grew to manhood in his native land, where he attended school to a limited extent as he found opportunity, and completed his education after coming to this country. It was in June, 1867, that he landed in America and, continuing his journey westward, settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand for eight years, being in the employ of one man for six years of that time. In 1875 Mr. Ingebretson came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 32, Center township, to which he has since added twenty acres. Upon his place he has erected good and substantial buildings and has converted the tract into a very productive farm. In connection with general farming he is engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of pure

blooded cattle, and he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Leland, the Leland Creamery Company and the Lake Mills Lumber Company.

On the 17th of April, 1873, Mr. Ingebretson married Miss Caroline Tollefson, by whom he has had eleven children, namely: Annie; Ida; Obert; Josie; Nettie, who died October 12, 1913, leaving four children; Palmer; Garfield; Luther; Emma and Sylvan, twins; and Nellie. In religious faith the family are Lutherans, and by his ballot Mr. Ingebretson supports the men and measures of the republican party. At one time he returned to Norway and spent three delightful months in visiting old friends and the scenes with which he was familiar during his boyhood.

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#### ED HENDERSON.

A number of the leading business enterprises of Lake Mills and practically all of the projects for the advancement of the civic interests of the community have felt the stimulus of the enthusiasm and initiative of Ed Henderson and his keenness of insight has often excited the admiration of those associated with him. He established himself in business here when Lake Mills was only a village and was for many years actively engaged in merchandising, but has now disposed of his interests along that line, although he is still connected with a number of important concerns. He was born in Norway, June 26, 1850, the third in order of birth in a family of eight children whose parents, Ole and Sarah (Gankin) Henderson, removed to the United States in 1852. The family located near Argyle, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and there the father purchased land from the government which he farmed until his death in 1898. The mother passed away a decade later and both are buried at that place.

Ed Henderson was but two years of age when brought to the United States and in the attainment of his education attended the common schools of Wisconsin until he was sixteen years old. During this time he also received training from his father in farm work, but when nineteen years old began following the tinner's trade. At the age of twenty years he established a tin shop and later added a line of hardware, engaging in business in Wisconsin until 1874, when he sold out and removed to Northwood, Worth county, Iowa, becoming associated with his brother, J. M. Henderson, who was a hardware dealer there. In 1880 they started a second store at Lake Mills with Ed Henderson in charge. In 1886 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Henderson of this review retaining the Lake Mills business. As the years passed his trade continued to grow as the natural result of his progressive and liberal policy. He kept his stock up to date and spared no effort to give his customers the greatest possible satisfaction. In 1912 he retired from the management of the store but still gives personal supervision to his other important interests. He still owns the Henderson block, which he erected in 1887 and which was the second brick structure built in Lake Mills. He also built two other blocks but has since sold them. He was one of the organizers of the Crystal Lake State Bank at Crystal Lake, the First National Bank at Lake Mills, the Lake Mills Land & Loan Company, and the Northern Investment Company of Crystal Lake, of all of which he was a director for several years but is not now interested in any of these

institutions, although he is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Lake Mills. He has invested in real estate, recognizing its great desirability, and owns four hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Worth county, Iowa. When he established his store here there was no bank in the town and in order to accommodate his customers he carried on a banking business to some extent, cashing checks in extreme cases and selling exchange. He cashed the check in payment for the first carload of hogs shipped from Lake Mills and his services as a banker were highly appreciated in the community. He has always been one of the first to give his support to plans for the promotion of the commercial advancement of Lake Mills and has had an important part in the development of its business interests.

Mr. Henderson was married February 21, 1883, to Miss Eliza Lee, a daughter of Ole and Tone (Grover) Lee, natives of Norway, who, however, accompanied their respective parents to the United States in childhood. The two families were early settlers, first in Mitchell county and later in Worth county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee have passed away and are buried in Concordia cemetery in Worth county. To Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have been born six children, who are giving an excellent account of themselves and are a great credit to their parents. Estella Theresa, who is a graduate of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, and of the Cedar Rapids Business College, and has taken a course in the Art Institute at Chicago, has been a teacher of penmanship in the West high school at Des Moines and has been elected director of penmanship in Des Moines. She will have the supervision of the work in that branch in about fifty grade schools. Clara Olivia is a graduate of the Cedar Falls State Teachers' College and taught school at Lake Mills for four years. She is also a graduate nurse and is practicing at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Elmer Alexander graduated from the Luther Seminary at St. Paul with the class of 1915, spent the year 1916 in post graduate study at the Princeton Theological Seminary and expects to enter the ministry of the English branch of the Lutheran church soon. Lillian Sophia is a graduate of the Northwestern Conservatory of Music at Minneapolis and is at present with the Minnesota Public Health Association, visiting rural schools as school nurse. Arthur J. G. is a graduate of St. Olaf's College of Northfield, Minnesota, and is now a medical student in the University of Illinois. Ruth Elizabeth, who completes the family, is a member of the class of 1917 of the Lake Mills high school.

Mr. Henderson's home life has been an ideal one. What success he has achieved in business and otherwise is greatly due to the cooperation of his wife, who as a true Christian woman has entered heartily into all his work, helped, encouraged and supported him in the many years of strenuous work, in business, church and home, having, in short, always done her share of the work and planning. She was educated in the public schools of Bristol and Northwood and learned the dress-making trade in Northwood. She has taken an active part in church work, organized the first Ladies' Aid Society of the Synod church of Lake Mills, was for many years a member of the church choir and organized the Ladies' Home Club, of which she is still a member. In short, she has taken an active part in church and social affairs for the betterment of the town. However, she is preeminently a home woman and has ever delighted in making the home an ideal place. Their fine new home was planned and built according to her suggestions and the work

in the minutest details was done according to her ideas, and so perfect has it proven that although five years have now elapsed since it was completed not a single change has been made.

Mr. Henderson gives his political allegiance to the republican party, served as a member of the school board for several terms, during part of which time he was president of that body, was town clerk for one term and councilman for three terms. His religious faith is that of the Synod Lutheran church. He is a fine example of a self-made man, for he has worked his way upward from a humble beginning to a position among the capitalists of his city. His dominant characteristics are determination, independence of judgment and enterprise—qualities which invariably command admiration and which are an excellent foundation for success in any line of endeavor. The past three winters he has spent in California, but he still considers Lake Mills his home.

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#### ANTHONY O. TOBIASSEN.

Anthony O. TobiasSEN, who at different times has been connected with a variety of business interests in an important capacity but is now largely concentrating his energies upon the real estate business and upon selling silos, was born in Norway, May 22, 1853. He is the eldest of five children, whose parents, Abraham and Torie (Anderson) TobiasSEN, came to the United States in 1864 and settled in LeGrand, Marshall county, Iowa. The father had farmed in Norway but followed the stone mason's trade in Iowa. In 1885 he removed to the state of Washington, locating near Lynden, and there he engaged in farming until his death in 1913 at the age of eighty-nine years. He is buried there but his wife is interred in the North cemetery at Lake Mills, as she passed away in 1902 when visiting her son Anthony. The rest of the children all live in Lynden, Washington.

Anthony O. TobiasSEN received his early education in the common schools and worked for others until he was twenty-one years old, when he went to Chicago and engaged in the nursery business. In 1874, realizing that a better education would be of great value to him, he entered Grinnell College, where he was a student for two terms. In 1876 he came to Lake Mills, which he had visited in 1869, and for five years he taught school in Winnebago county. In 1881 he began working in an implement store in Lake Mills and later turned his attention to cattle raising, taking up his residence on a farm which he owned in Norway township. While living there he also served as deputy sheriff for three terms under Jacob Twito and he made an excellent record in that capacity. In 1888 he became connected with a lumber company in Lake Mills and three years later became president of the local creamery company and also secretary of the Winnebago County Mutual Insurance Company. In 1892 he was one of the incorporators of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, of which he was manager and treasurer until 1903, during which time the business was very ably conducted and yielded a good profit to its stockholders. In 1903 he formed a partnership with A. A. Sanden for the conduct of a real estate business, but in 1906 went to Lyman county, South Dakota, where he homesteaded land. He became active in the real estate field there, dealing in lands in that state until 1911, when he returned to Lake Mills and again became

manager and treasurer of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, serving in those capacities until 1915. He has since given his time and attention to selling silos and to his interests as a real estate and insurance agent and for the past thirty-two years he has been a representative of the Fidelity Phoenix Fire Insurance Company. He still owns several valuable tracts of land in South Dakota.

In September, 1879, Mr. Tobiassen was married to Miss Clara Twito, a daughter of Hans and Aslang (Jacobson) Twito, who in 1846 removed from Norway to the United States. Both settled in Muskego, Wisconsin, where they were married, and later they removed to Spring Grove, Minnesota, where the father died in 1866 and where he was buried. The mother and her children removed to Estherville, Iowa, and in 1871 came to Lake Mills, where Mrs. Twito's death occurred in 1911. She was buried in the North cemetery here. To Mr. and Mrs. Tobiassen were born four children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: J. Ben, who is married and is engaged in the hardware business in Draper, South Dakota; A. Homer, who is married and is a general merchant of Draper, South Dakota; and Lottie, the wife of Joseph Beach, a banker of Draper.

Mr. Tobiassen has been a lifelong republican and has always discharged to the full all the duties devolving upon him as a good citizen. He held the office of township clerk for several years and has also served as township assessor and his official record is highly creditable to his ability and public spirit. In religious faith he is a Lutheran, and fraternally is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge at Lake Mills. His has been a life of intense and well directed industry and although he began his independent career empty handed he is now financially independent. He naturally finds satisfaction in his material prosperity, but values even more the high place which he has won in the esteem of his fellow citizens through his strict adherence to high moral standards in all relations of life.

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#### GUSTAV GORDON.

Gustav Gordon, cashier of the State Bank of Thompson, claims Wisconsin as his native state, his birth occurring in Primrose township, Dane county, on the 11th of October, 1869, and he is a son of Knute and Bertha (Gothompson) Gordon. The father was born in Norway but was only a year old when brought to this country, and the mother was born in Albany, Wisconsin. After reaching manhood Knute Gordon followed farming in Wisconsin until 1881, when he removed to North Dakota, and there purchased land which he operated for seven years. In 1889 he became a resident of Palo Alto county, Iowa, where he also owned land and engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1893, when he was only forty-seven years of age. His widow is now a resident of Thompson, Iowa, and has attained the age of sixty-eight years. To this worthy couple were born fourteen children, of whom the following are still living: Gustav, of this review; Mrs. W. C. Sundermeyer, of Rake, Iowa; Sever B., engaged in the real estate business in Madelia, Minnesota; Carl, a farmer of Palo Alto county, Iowa; Mrs. A. E. Helland, of Rake; Anna and Marie, who are living with their mother, the latter a teacher in the Thompson schools; and Henry, who is attending Luther College at Decorah, Iowa.



Gustav Gordon accompanied his parents on their removal to North Dakota and the greater part of his education was acquired in the schools of Mayville, that state. Later he took a business course at the Capital City Commercial College in Des Moines, Iowa, and then accepted a position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Emmetsburg, Iowa, where he remained for five years. For three years he was cashier of their branch bank at Cylinder, Iowa, and in 1911 came to Thompson, Winnebago county, and purchased an interest in the State Bank of Thompson, of which he has since been cashier. The bank is today one of the most solid and prosperous financial institutions of this section of the state, its deposits now amounting to one hundred and eighty-two thousand dollars. The capital is thirty thousand dollars and there is a surplus of eight thousand dollars. The officers are B. J. Thompson, president; J. O. Osmundson, vice president; Gustav Gordon, cashier; and H. W. Nelson, assistant cashier, all good reliable business men. Besides his interest in the bank Mr. Gordon is a stockholder and director in the Town Mutual Telephone Company and a stockholder and treasurer of the Farmers Coöperative Creamery Company.

In June, 1905, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Gordon and Miss Clara Kittleson, and to them have been born four children, namely: Verna, born September 21, 1909; Vivian, born in September, 1912; Ruth, born in July, 1914; and Ruby, who was born March 21, 1917, and died five days later.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon are members of the Lutheran church and he is an ardent republican in politics, taking an active and commendable interest in public affairs. He has efficiently served as a member of the town council and has also been treasurer of the independent school district. He occupies an enviable position in business circles, being a man of good executive ability and thoroughly reliable in all transactions.

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#### HANS C. ENGBRETSON.

Hans C. Engbretson, a representative farmer of Logan township, Winnebago county, living on section 16, has been a lifelong resident of this county and is a representative of one of its old pioneer families. He was born May 20, 1877, in Logan township, on school land on which his father had taken up his abode ere it was placed upon the market for sale. He is a son of Christian Engbretson, mentioned at length on another page of this work. He began his education in the pioneer schools of the county, which he attended to the age of sixteen, after which he spent one term in study in Breckenridge College at Decorah, Iowa. He afterward worked for his father until he reached the age of twenty-four years and then began farming his father's land on the shares. Two years later he rented a farm in Faribault county, Minnesota, in connection with his brother Carl and lived thereon for a year. He afterward spent two years on a farm of eighty acres on the southwest quarter of section 16, Logan township, Winnebago county, as a renter, and on the expiration of that period he purchased the property, to which he has since added various modern and attractive improvements. He is still cultivating this land, which is now one of the excellent farm properties of the county, and he also owns a third interest in the northeast quarter of section 34, Logan

township. His activities are directed along lines which ultimately produce substantial results and he has already made for himself a place among the valued and enterprising farmers of Logan township.

On December 16, 1903, Mr. Engebretson was married to Miss Ella H. Peterson, her parents being Henry and Elsie Peterson, who were early settlers of Freeborn county, Minnesota, and now reside in Logan township, Winnebago county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Engebretson have three children, Clarence Melvin, Gayler Alvin and Harold Ernest. The parents hold membership in the United Lutheran church and Mr. Engebretson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party, in the faith of which he was reared. His study of political situations and questions of the present day leads him still to the belief that the principles of this party contain the best elements of good government, and at all times he ranks with the public-spirited and progressive men of his district.

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### HENRY GRIESEMER.

Henry Griesemer is now living retired from active business, making his home in Garner. At various periods he has been identified with commercial and agricultural interests in Hancock county, where he has made his home for about forty years. He was born December 10, 1855, in Richfield, Washington county, Wisconsin, a son of John and Kate (Hyer) Griesemer, who were natives of Germany, whence they came to America about 1833. Making their way westward they established their home in Washington county, Wisconsin, where John Griesemer engaged in business as a contractor and builder. Later he took up the occupation of farming, but both he and his wife are now deceased.

Henry Griesemer was a pupil in the public and German schools of his native county until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and entered the shoe factory of Andrew Oswald. He afterward spent eight years with various manufacturing concerns and in 1877 he arrived in Hancock county, Iowa, where he was employed for a year. He then returned to Milwaukee but in 1880 again came to Iowa, settling in Britt, where he conducted a shoe business for two years. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to farming to which he devoted three years in Concord township. In 1886 he became a resident of Garner where he opened a harness shop and shoe repair shop. He continued in the business for thirty years and then retired, since which time he has enjoyed a well earned rest. His has been an active and useful life, and his close application and industry in business brought him a substantial measure of prosperity. He erected a nice home in Garner, so that he is now comfortably located. He is a stockholder in the State Bank of Klemme.

On the 11th of November, 1880, Mr. Griesemer was united in marriage to Miss Justina Mayer, a daughter of Paul and Gertrude (Sanders) Mayer, who were natives of Germany and became pioneer settlers of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Griesemer had a family of three children, a daughter and two sons: Catherine, the wife of Edward Stiels, a resident farmer of Hancock county; P. M., who is president of the State Bank of Klemme; and Alexander,

who died July 24, 1914. Mr. Griesemer gives his political indorsement to the democratic party but he has never been ambitious for office, preferring to concentrate his time and attention upon his business affairs, which have been carefully managed and have, therefore, won him success. He has been dependent upon his own resources from the age of fourteen years and may be termed a self-made man.

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### OLE HELGESON.

Ole Helgeson, who follows farming on section 14, Norway township, Winnebago county, is numbered among the pioneers of Iowa, having for sixty years resided within the borders of this state, during which period he has witnessed a marked transformation and in fact has contributed in no small measure to the changes which have been wrought, especially along agricultural lines. He was born in Norway, June 4, 1857, a son of Helge and Chaste Helgeson, who came to the United States with their family when their son Ole was but three years of age. The family home was established in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming until his death. Both he and his wife were laid to rest in Madison cemetery in Madison township, Winneshiek county, Iowa. They had reared a family of nine children, of whom seven are yet living, five being residents of Winneshiek county, while but two reside in Winnebago county, these being Ole and his sister Christie, who is now the wife of Ole Wangness, of Lake Mills.

Reared under the parental roof, Ole Helgeson attended such schools as were to be found in Winneshiek county in pioneer times, pursuing his studies until he reached the age of sixteen. His undivided attention was thereafter given to farm work for his father until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he started out in life independently. During the two succeeding years he went from place to place seeking for suitable land which he might purchase, and when twenty-five years of age he took up his abode in Norway township, Winnebago county, purchasing the southeast quarter of section 14, upon which Hendrick Larson had taken up his abode in 1856, being among the first farmers of this section of the state. The work begun by Mr. Larson was continued by Mr. Helgeson, who is today one of the best farmers of the county. He has splendid improvements upon the place, including an attractive residence, large barns and outbuildings and the latest improved machinery. In fact he has secured all the equipments which will facilitate farm work according to modern methods. Only thirty acres of land was broken when it came into his possession and he turned the first furrows in many of his fields. In fact he cleared the remainder of timber and dug out the stumps and brush. Furrows were then turned, harrowing was done and seeds planted. In time good crops were gathered and as the work of cultivation has been continued year after year the soil has become more productive. He practices the rotation of crops and utilizes all modern methods to keep his farm up to first-class condition. At the time he made the purchase there were log buildings upon the land but these have long since been replaced by modern structures and his home is one of the attractive residences of Winnebago county.

On January 28, 1882, about the time that he removed to this farm, Mr. Helgeson married Miss Margaret Vrolson, a daughter of Jens and Tonie Vrolson, who were natives of Norway and came to the United States in 1869. They resided in Fillmore county, Minnesota, for five years and then took up their abode in Pope county, that state, where they continued to live until called to their final rest. The father was by occupation a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Helgeson have become the parents of ten children, namely: Clara A., who is the wife of Edward Ausen, of Freeborn county, Minnesota; Henry C., who died at the age of twenty-one years and was buried in Lime Creek cemetery; John O., who married Gertrude Nelson and resides at Thompson, Winnebago county; Tilford O., who married Louise Honsey and makes his home in Norway township; Oscar M., Clarence E., Myrtle V., Gilma T. and James A., all of whom are still under the parental roof; and Mamie, who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Helgeson is a republican and has held a number of the township offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was school director for many years and president of the board. The family hold membership in the United Lutheran church and their lives are actuated by high and honorable principles. His entire career has measured up to advanced standards of manhood and of citizenship.

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#### THEODORE E. ISAACSON.

Theodore E. Isaacson, cashier of the First National Bank of Thompson, Iowa, was born in Forest township, Winnebago county, in June, 1877, a son of Nels and Karen (Olson) Isaacson. The parents were natives of Norway but in 1864 emigrated to America and located in Chicago, where they resided until 1870. In that year they came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father purchased land in Forest township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He died in December, 1903, when seventy years old and the mother passed away in July, 1916, when seventy-four years of age.

Theodore E. Isaacson was reared in this county and graduated from the high school at Forest City. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-three years old, when he went to Neils, Iowa, where he engaged in buying grain and live stock for five years. He then served as assistant cashier in the Farmers & Drovers Bank at Buffalo Center for three years and in 1909 came to Thompson and entered the First National Bank as cashier, which office he has filled during the intervening eight years. He has an influential voice in the management of the affairs of the bank and in the direction of its policy, and his familiarity with all phases of the business and the soundness of his judgment are recognized by all who have had dealings with him. He owns stock in that institution and also in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Farmers Creamery Company and the Telephone Company, all prosperous local concerns. In addition he holds title to farm land in Winnebago county.

Mr. Isaacson was married in July, 1903, to Miss Nellie Johnson, of Belmont, Iowa, and to them was born a daughter, Lola, E., whose birth occurred in May, 1906. The wife and mother passed away after a few days' illness in January, 1910.

In February, 1912, Mr. Isaacson was married to Mrs. Louise Thurston, and they have a son, Leslie R.

Mr. Isaacson is a staunch republican in politics and has served on the town council, but gives the greater part of his time and attention to his duties at the bank. In religious faith he is a United Lutheran and the teachings of that church govern his conduct in all the relations of life. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the county and it is indisputable testimony to his sterling worth that those who have known him intimately since boyhood are his staunchest friends.

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#### C. H. RYGMYR.

C. H. Rygmyr, proprietor of a restaurant at Forest City, was born in Winnebago county, March 12, 1894, a son of N. U. and Bertha E. (Spilda) Rygmyr, both of whom were brought to Winnebago county when children and both of whom are living in Forest City. He pursued a common school education and his early training was that of the farm bred boy who works in the fields when not busy with the duties of the schoolroom. On leaving home he started out as clerk in a restaurant and, finding this business congenial, he afterward embarked in the same line on his own account, opening the restaurant in 1913 which he has since conducted. His business is carried on in first-class style and he has won his patronage by the high standard that he has maintained in his service to the public.

On the 14th of June, 1915, Mr. Rygmyr was married to Miss Katherine Wagner, a native of South Dakota and a daughter of Mathew and Elizabeth (Peterson) Wagner, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America at an early day and settled in South Dakota, where the father still makes his home, but the mother has now passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Rygmyr attend the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party, but he does not seek nor desire the honors and emoluments of public office. He prefers on the contrary to give his undivided time and attention to his business and in this way he is winning deserved success, his indefatigable energy and persistency of purpose enabling him to work his way steadily upward toward prosperity.

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#### S. P. STREEPER.

S. P. Streeper, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 27, Ellington township, Hancock county, was born in Indiana on the 23d of July, 1852, and is a son of Stephen R. and Isabella (Todd) Streeper, natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they were reared and married. Subsequently they removed to Indiana and about 1864 came to Iowa, locating in Jones county, where the father continued to make his home until his death, which occurred about 1900.

In the Hoosier state S. P. Streeper spent his early boyhood and began his education in its district schools. When nine years of age he was brought by

his parents to Iowa and he remained with them until 1875, in which year he went to the Pacific coast. For two and a half years he was employed on ranches in the Sacramento valley of California and then returned to Iowa, where he engaged in farming on rented land for two years.

In 1881 Mr. Streeper came to Hancock county and the following year was united in marriage to Miss Wealthy Smith, a daughter of Thomas Smith, who in 1875 had removed with his family to this county from Winneshiek county, Iowa. For two years after his marriage Mr. Streeper continued to cultivate rented land and in 1881 bought his present home farm on section 27, Ellington township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, but he did not locate thereon until the following year, since which time he has devoted his energies to its improvement and cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Streeper have three children, namely: Clarence B., who assists in the operation of the home farm; Lulu L., the wife of J. L. Thompkins, a farmer of Ellington township; and Claude L., who is now attending high school in Forest City. In religious faith the parents are Methodists and in politics Mr. Streeper is a republican. He has efficiently served as a member of the board of township trustees and as a public-spirited citizen does all in his power to promote the interests of his community. He is a wide-awake, progressive farmer and is meeting with good success in his operations.

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#### HELMER T. MYRE.

Helmer T. Myre, who carries on general farming on section 26, Linden township, has spent his entire life in Winnebago county and from the age of thirteen has been dependent upon his own resources. He was very young to face life's responsibilities and duties unaided, but he bravely took up the task which confronted him and in the intervening years has provided for his own support. He was born March 1, 1890, his parents being T. C. and Goodnell (Baken) Myre, both of whom were natives of Iowa and spent their last days in Winnebago county, both having now passed away. They had a family of four children, three of whom are yet living.

When a little lad of six summers Helmer T. Myre became a pupil in the common schools and therein mastered the elementary branches of learning, but he was only thirteen years of age when his father died and the necessity of providing for his own support then came to him. He has since worked earnestly and persistently to make for himself a creditable position in the business world. In 1912 he began farming on the old homestead, where he now resides on section 26, Linden township, and the evidence of his labor is seen in the neat and thrifty appearance of his place. The fields are carefully cultivated and in the pastures are seen good grades of stock which he is raising and feeding.

On the 1st of March, 1917, Mr. Myre was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Range, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Smith) Range, who are natives of Germany and are now residents of Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Myre are well known young people of their section of the county and the hospitality of the best homes is freely accorded them. Mr. Myre has voted

with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is a member of the Lutheran church and is interested in all those forces which work for betterment in the community. Naturally his time and attention are most largely given to his farming activities. He is the owner of a third interest in the old homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, constituting a splendidly improved property of Linden township.

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#### CARL OSCAR MARTINSON.

Carl Oscar Martinson, of the firm of Gordon & Martinson, agents for the Ford and Buick cars at Lake Mills, is an alert, up-to-date and successful young business man and is highly esteemed in his community. He was born in Norway township, Winnebago county, January 20, 1886, of the marriage of Martin I. and Alena (Anderson) Martinson. The mother, whose birth occurred in Norway, accompanied her parents to the United States when twelve years of age and when five years old the father removed with his parents from Wisconsin, his native state, to Winnebago county, Iowa. Here he grew to manhood and in time purchased land in Norway township which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He is still engaged in farming, which he finds at once profitable and congenial. The mother also survives. To them were born twelve children, of whom three have passed away, Selmer, Carl and Selmer, while those who survive are Ingebret, Oscar, Selma, Clara, Gilma, Nettie, Alice, Melvin and William.

Carl Oscar Martinson passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the homestead and obtained his early education in the district schools. Subsequently he took a course in the Mankato Commercial College and in Luther Academy at Albert Lea, Minnesota. When twenty-three years old he left the parental roof and removed to Lake Mills, where for two years he was an employe of Eckert & Williams, implement dealers. He then began business on his own account, buying an interest in the Winnebago Auto Company, which he disposed of four years later, or in 1914. He then formed a partnership with O. T. Gordon under the style of Gordon & Martinson and they have since been agents for the Ford and Buick cars. They do a large business, the number of their annual sales being limited only by the number of cars they can secure from the factory. In 1916 they sold thirty-six Fords and ten Buicks and could easily have sold more cars but were unable to get them. Their success is proof of their thorough knowledge of the construction of automobiles, their aggressiveness and their fair dealing. In addition to his interest in the business Mr. Martinson owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company, a prosperous local concern.

On May 13, 1909, occurred the marriage of Mr. Martinson and Miss Sarah Hanson, a daughter of Hans and Martha (Davidson) Hanson, of Norway township, Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Martinson have had four children: Marvin Howard, who died July 7, 1911; Marvin H., born July 12, 1911; Laurence, who was born in July, 1913; and C. Eldon, born in March, 1915.

Mr. Martinson is a staunch republican but has confined his public activity to the exercise of his right of franchise. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church and is heartily in sympathy with its work. Although a young man he

already ranks as an important factor in the business development of Lake Mills and his sterling qualities of character and his social nature have won for him many sincere friends.

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#### ALVIN E. CLAUSON.

Alvin E. Clauson, junior partner in the firm of Thompson & Clauson, general merchants of Forest City, has thus been identified with the business interests of the town since 1908 and has concentrated his attention and efforts upon the development and extension of his trade. He was here born December 20, 1889, a son of Nels C. and Hannah C. Clauson, both of whom were natives of Sweden. Coming to America, they settled in Forest City in 1886 and for some time the father was connected with railway interests, but is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

Spending his boyhood days under the parental roof, Alvin E. Clauson acquired a public school education which he completed by graduation from the high school. He was a young man when in 1908 he purchased an interest in the general store of Ole A. Thompson, thus forming the present firm of Thompson & Clauson. To the experience and understanding of the senior partner was added the enterprise of the young man and they have made a strong firm, occupying an enviable position in the business circles of their city.

On the 31st of December, 1911, Mr. Clauson was married to Miss Mabel Ellsworth, of Forest City, a daughter of H. T. and Emogene (Lewis) Ellsworth. They occupy an enviable social position and the hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

Mr. Clauson is independent in politics, while religiously he is connected with the Baptist church. His life has been guided by high and honorable principles and he is neglectful of none of the duties of citizenship but on the contrary coöperates in many well devised plans and measures for the public good.

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#### MICHAEL J. STEDJE.

Although born in Dane county, Wisconsin, April 5, 1874, Michael J. Stedje has been a resident of Winnebago county, Iowa, since his first year and since reaching manhood has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Center township, owning and operating a good farm on section 30. His parents, Jens L. and Annie (Michaelson) Stedje, were born and reared in Norway, whence they emigrated to America in April, 1869. In June of that year they took up their abode in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father worked as a section hand on the railroad for three years. In the meantime he purchased a tract of land three miles west of Stoughton, which he cultivated until coming to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1875. Here he bought one hundred acres on section 30, Center township, and at once began its improvement and development, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred on the 2d of April, 1903. His widow is still living at the



ripe old age of eighty-one years and makes her home with her son Michael, who is the youngest of the family. Lewis, the older son, died July 29, 1909. Susan, the only daughter, is the wife of John Lund, of Flaxton, North Dakota.

Michael J. Stedje attended the district schools near his boyhood home and early became familiar with all kinds of farm work while assisting his father in the operation of the home place. He also worked for others to some extent and is today a very progressive and up-to-date farmer. On his father's death he inherited the homestead, on which he has since made some valuable improvements and has met with good success in the operation of his farm. He also owns a section of land at Oslo, Hansford county, Texas, and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Leland, Iowa, and the Leland Creamery Company.

On the 17th of May, 1904, Mr. Stedje married Miss Clara Johnson, by whom he has four children: Cora, born November 14, 1907; James A., September 2, 1909; Mary, January 19, 1912; and Gordon, October 29, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Stedje are faithful and consistent members of the Lutheran church and are most estimable people. Politically he is identified with the republican party.

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#### OLE T. GROE.

Ole T. Groe, president and manager of the local creamery company and also of the Lake Mills Telephone Company and secretary of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, was born in Worth county, Iowa, on the 12th of May, 1859. His parents, Tostin O. and Carrie (Mellen) Groe, were natives of Norway but settled in the western part of Worth county, Iowa, when it was still a frontier district. There the father purchased land which he operated until his death in 1895. He is buried in the Silver Lake cemetery in Worth county, as is his wife, who died in 1897. They were the parents of six children, of whom three died in infancy, and of those surviving our subject is the eldest.

Ole T. Groe passed his boyhood upon the home farm and early began helping with the work, caring for the stock and cultivating the fields. When sixteen years old he left school and for the following five years gave his entire time to assisting his father. When he had attained his majority he bought two hundred acres of good land, which he farmed until 1892, when he took up his residence in Lake Mills. However, he still owns valuable property there, his land holdings in Worth county totaling four hundred and eighty-six acres. Upon his removal to this city he became the partner of G. Nystuen in the ownership of a general store, but after two years and a half disposed of his interest therein. He is now manager and president of the local creamery company, in which capacities he has served continuously since the organization of the concern with the exception of seven years. Since 1908, in which year the Lake Mills Telephone Company was organized, he has been its president and manager, and for fourteen years he has been secretary of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, while for sixteen years he has been a member of its directorate. He is also a director of the Lake Mills Canning Company. His official connection with these prosperous corporations indicates the high estimate placed upon his executive ability by the representative business men of the city.

On June 13, 1881, Mr. Groe was united in marriage to Miss Anna Simmons, a daughter of John and Gertrude (Troe) Simmons, who removed from Norway to Worth county, Iowa, when their daughter Anna was nine years old. Both are deceased and are buried in the Silver Lake cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Groe have been born eight children: Thomas, who is a graduate of the Capital City Commercial College and is now assistant cashier of the First National Bank at Northwood, Iowa; Clara J., who died when seven years old and is buried in the Silver Lake cemetery in Worth county; Gina B., who was graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1910 and is now the wife of E. J. Hickox, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Clarence, a resident of Lake Mills, Iowa; Josephine, at home; Alvin O., who died when seven years old and is buried in the Silver Lake cemetery; Roy G., who is attending the Lake Mills high school; and Orin K., who is a student in the graded schools.

Mr. Groe supports the republican party at the polls and while a resident of Worth county was for several years a member of the school board, of which he was for some time secretary, was justice of the peace and for two years held the office of township assessor. He was also city assessor of Lake Mills for two years and for two terms, or six years, served on the school board at Lake Mills and he is a member of the Lake Mills Improvement Association. He holds membership in the United Lutheran church, which indicates the principles which have governed his conduct. His sound judgment and energy have enabled him to carry to successful completion whatever he has undertaken and he is recognized as a leader in his community.

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#### AUGUSTUS F. LACKORE.

One of the earliest pioneers of Winnebago county now living is Augustus F. Lackore, of Forest City, who about 1856 or 1857 was brought to the county. He was born in Illinois on the 31st of January, 1855, a son of William and Elizabeth (Church) Lackore, the former a native of New York and the latter of England, whence she came to the United States in her girlhood with her parents when but seven years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Lackore were married in New York and eight children were born to them there. About 1854 they removed to Illinois and in that state Augustus F. and Jesse Lackore were added to the family. In 1856 or 1857 a removal was made to Winnebago county, Iowa, where the father had previously purchased seven hundred acres of land. He settled at Forest City, building the first good frame residence in the town and becoming one of the pioneer settlers of this part of the state. Soon after his arrival he purchased a sawmill which he operated for a number of years, but eventually he sold that property and concentrated his energies upon farming, which he continued to follow until his demise in 1886. His wife survived him for more than a decade, passing away on the 17th of April, 1897.

Augustus F. Lackore was educated in the common schools and early became trained to business methods under his father's direction. After attaining his majority he remained at home and coöperated with his father in the promotion of farming interests. There was a very strong bond of sympathy between the

father and son and they continued to live together until the death of the former, an ideal companionship existing. Augustus F. Lackore still owns one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead, on which he continued to reside until 1911, when he retired and removed to Forest City, where he has since made his home, resting from further business cares save for the supervision of his investments.

On December 25, 1882, Mr. Lackore was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Merrill, of Forest City, Iowa, a daughter of Dudley and Matilda (Edwards) Merrill, pioneers of Iowa. To this union were born nine children, eight of whom still survive, as follows: Roy C., who is principal of schools at Bucyrus, North Dakota; Raymond C., an agriculturist residing at Little Falls, Minnesota; Floyd M., a paper hanger and painter who makes his home at Forest City; Clyde E., who is county road boss and resides in Forest City; Clara F., a high school student; Hazel M., at home; and Forest A., and Sylvan H., who attend the graded schools. Mrs. Lackore is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Lackore has membership with the American Yeomen and his political support is given to the republican party. All who know him esteem him as a man of sterling worth whose life has been one of activity and honor, while his well directed industry has brought to him substantial and gratifying prosperity.

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#### CHRISTIAN C. SCHAEFER.

Christian C. Schaefer, who is residing on section 27, German township, Hancock county, is a native of Wisconsin, his birth having occurred in Dodge county, on the 23d of August, 1869. His parents, Chris and Mary (Schneider) Schaefer, were born in Germany and came to America in 1833. They resided in Milwaukee and in Watertown, Wisconsin, for many years and about 1897 removed to Iowa, at which time the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 27, German township, Hancock county, for which he paid thirty-one dollars per acre. The farm was at that time somewhat improved. He owned the farm for six or seven years, after which he disposed of the property. He is, however, still living and is now about ninety years of age.

Christian C. Schaefer acquired a common school education at Lowell, Wisconsin, where he pursued his studies for several years, and in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons which have been of a most practical and helpful character. He worked with his father until he reached the age of about twenty-seven years, when he invested in his present home place on section 27, German township, Hancock county. Here he has a good tract of land appropriately named the Pleasant View Farm. He is making a specialty of stock raising, handling Poland China hogs, Percheron Norman horses of high grade and Guernsey cattle, and in addition he cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Both his stock raising and his farming interests are bringing to him good return, for his business affairs are carefully, wisely and systematically managed.

On the 15th of June, 1901, Mr. Schaefer was married to Miss Amelia Lembgen, a daughter of John and Christina (Reinhard) Lembgen, who were natives of Germany and on emigrating to America settled at Lowell, Wisconsin, at which time only Indians were residents of that section of the state. In other words, they

cast in their lot with the first settlers of a pioneer district and shared in all the hardships and privations incident to the development of a new country. The mother is still living at Watertown, Wisconsin, and is now nearly eighty years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer have become the parents of two sons and two daughters: Emery W., Alvin E. and Hilda M., who are fifteen, thirteen and eleven years of age respectively; and Doris A., a maiden of nine summers.

In his political views Mr. Schaefer is a republican, and while not an office seeker, he has served as school director for six years. His religious belief is that of the German Methodist Episcopal church and to its teachings he gives loyal support. His has been an active life directed by honorable purposes, and his diligence and energy have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his success.

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### FRED J. OXLEY.

Fred J. Oxley, living on section 9, Magor township, Hancock county, has substantial possessions in farm lands and is engaged quite extensively in the raising of hogs. He has also become identified with financial and other business interests of the county and is one of the progressive and representative men of his section of the state. He was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on the 14th of August, 1863, and is one of the thirteen children of William and Maria (Vincent) Oxley, who were natives of England and in 1852 came to America.

Reared upon the home farm in his native county, Fred J. Oxley began his education as a district school pupil when a little lad of about six years and pursued his studies as opportunity offered until he reached the age of eighteen. In 1864 the family removed to Fayette county, Iowa, where our subject was employed as a farm hand for four years, when, feeling that his age and experience justified his starting in business on his own account, he came to Hancock county, locating in Magor township in 1881. There he rented land which he cultivated for four years. While thus engaged he carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase property. His land was raw, unbroken prairie land when it came into his possession, but today his farm is one of the best equipped in the county and his home possesses all the modern conveniences. His holdings now include one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Magor township, eighty acres on section 8 of the same township and two hundred acres in Freeborn county, Minnesota. He makes a specialty of raising Duroc and Chester White hogs and that branch of his business is proving very profitable. He has also become interested in other business projects and is now president of the Commercial Savings Bank, a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank and for twelve years has been president of the telephone company of Corwith.

On the 20th of April, 1887, Mr. Oxley was united in marriage to Miss Julia Sanford, a daughter of John V. and Loecada Sanford. She passed away in April, 1897. There were three children of that marriage: Fred E., who is now married and resides in Minnesota; Hilton J., whose death occurred in 1895; and Mildred J., who was graduated in June, 1917, from St. Mary's College at Prairie du



MR. AND MRS. FRED J. OXLEY



Chien, Wisconsin. Having lost his first wife, Mr. Oxley later married Miss Elizabeth Pybus, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hoppe) Pybus, who were natives of England. The children of the second marriage were: Leslie V.; Gladys, who died in March, 1902; Gail; and John H.

Mrs. Oxley is actively interested in the raising of chickens, making a specialty of Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks. She uses incubators entirely for hatching and in 1917 is raising one thousand chickens. She also has Indian Runner ducks and the fine poultry makes a very pleasing and interesting feature of the farm.

In politics Mr. Oxley is a republican and has been called upon to fill various positions of honor and trust. He was county supervisor for nine years and did much to further public interests in that connection. He has also been township trustee and the cause of education has long received his stalwart support, his activities as a member and president of the school board doing much for progress along that line. He is also well known in fraternal circles, holding membership with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs and the Yeomen. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and they are highly esteemed socially, enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

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#### E. H. HURLESS.

E. H. Hurless, of Thompson, has met with gratifying success as a dealer in harness and shoes. He was born in Tama county, Iowa, February 2, 1872, a son of G. W. and Jennie (Mullinax) Hurless, natives of Ohio and of New York state respectively, who in 1880 removed to Iowa, where the father engaged in farming for many years. He is now living retired, however, at Shellsburg, Iowa, but the mother died in 1893 and is buried at Shellsburg.

E. H. Hurless attended the common schools of Shellsburg until he was sixteen years old and then learned the harness maker's trade, which he followed in the employ of others for a period. In 1895, however, he established a shop of his own at Thompson and in 1903 added a line of shoes. He has built up a large trade in both lines and enjoys an enviable reputation for reliability and fair dealing.

In 1895 occurred the marriage of Mr. Hurless and Miss Emma Leamer, a daughter of David Leamer, who died in Vinton, Iowa, in 1916 and is there buried. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hurless: Neeta and Helen, aged respectively fifteen and ten years; and one who died in infancy. On the 27th of October, 1915, Mrs. Hurless passed away and is buried in Evergreen cemetery at Vinton.

Mr. Hurless supports the republican party where national issues are at stake but at local elections votes independently. For eight years he was a member of the town council and for seven years served on the school board, thus manifesting his interest in educational matters. He belongs to King Lodge, No. 592, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the chairs, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Only one other man has been in business continuously in Thompson for a longer period than he, and during the twenty-two years that he

has been connected with the commercial life of the town he has at all times been found ready to aid in movements seeking the general welfare. He has made all that he has and is now in more than comfortable circumstances and is therefore entitled to the honor accorded a self-made man.

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#### OTTO BECKJORDEN.

Otto Beckjorden, assistant cashier of the Winnebago State Bank, with which institution he has been connected since 1909, was born August 26, 1879, in the county where he still resides, a son of Halvor and Homelin (Gjerde) Beckjorden, natives of Norway. The father located in Wisconsin in 1871 and the mother settled in Dane county, that state, in 1872. Both came to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1876, and their marriage occurred in this county the following year. The father was a farmer by occupation and through the cultivation of the soil provided for the support of his family until death ended his labors. His widow is still living and makes her home in Forest City. They were the parents of four children, those besides our subject being: Martin; Henry; and Bessie, who married Magnus Isaacson of Forest City.

Otto Beckjorden supplemented his public school education, acquired near his father's farm, by six months' study in the Albert Lea College of Minnesota and in Ellsworth College at Iowa Falls. Through vacation periods he worked in the fields and as a young man continued to labor on the home farm until December, 1906. At that date he was called to the position of deputy county auditor and served for two years. In 1909 he entered the Winnebago County State Bank, the oldest financial institution of the county, and after three years' preliminary service, in which he was constantly gaining knowledge of the various phases of the banking business, he was made assistant cashier in 1912 and has now filled that position for five years.

In 1905 Mr. Beckjorden was married to Miss Emma Colley, of this county, a daughter of J. T. Colley, a farmer, and they now have two children, Harold and Evelyn May. Mrs. Beckjorden is a member of the Baptist church, while Mr. Beckjorden holds membership with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and while not an office seeker he is now serving as school treasurer of the independent school district of Forest City. He stands for all that is progressive in the public life of the community and gives stalwart support to those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

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#### NILS GORANSON.

Nils Goranson whose farm on section 6, Linden township, is one of the best improved places in Winnebago county, is concentrating his efforts upon raising high grade stock and has gained a position of leadership in that line of activity. He was born in Sweden, March 7, 1872, of the marriage of Goran and Hannah



(Larson) Olson, both of whom spent their entire lives in that country. He attended the common schools in Sweden and was for one term a student in a school in Iowa after his emigration to the United States in 1889. He landed in New York city on the 26th of April of that year. He did not remain in the east, however, but went to Delaware county, Iowa, where a brother and sister were living. He was then seventeen years of age and secured work as a farm hand in that county, where he remained until 1896, when he came to Winnebago county. For one year he rented land here and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm on section 6, Linden township, to which five years later he added the quarter section adjoining on the west. Therefore his farm now includes the north half of section 6, Linden township, and he has greatly added to its value by the improvements which he has placed upon it. The buildings are new and modern in every particular and as he raises stock extensively, in fact feeding all the grain grown upon the farm, the fertility of the soil has been conserved. He breeds Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle and believes firmly that it is the best policy to raise only high grade stock. Aside from his farm his financial interests include stock in the Farmers' Coöperative Creamery Company of Thompson and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Thompson, of which he is secretary.

Mr. Goranson was married in Delaware county, Iowa, February 20, 1895, to Miss Alice Hunt. Her father, James Hunt, was born in England but came to the United States when a boy with his parents and became one of the prominent farmers of Delaware county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Goranson have been born eleven children, of whom eight survive, namely, Henrietta E., James H., Nels Henry, Evelyn, Alice E., Darley L., Phoebe V. and Gladys C.

Mr. Goranson is a republican in his political views but has confined his participation in public affairs to the exercise of his right of franchise. The success which he has gained as a stock raiser is due in part to the fact that he has concentrated his energies upon that business and to the careful study which he has made of it in its various phases. He has prospered financially and has also been instrumental in promoting the stock-raising interests of his township. Personally he is popular and it is recognized that his integrity is above question.

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#### WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE BANK.

The Winnebago County State Bank is the oldest banking institution of Forest City. It had its origin in a real estate, loan and collection business established in 1868 by Robert Clark, the founder of Forest City and the first county judge of Winnebago county. Its business was taken over by his son-in-law, J. F. Thompson, and was continued as a private banking business until 1896, when a re-organization was effected under the name of the Winnebago County State Bank. Business had previously been carried on under the name of the Winnebago County Bank from the latter '70s with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. The partners in the undertaking were J. Thompson, J. F. Thompson, William Larrabee and E. Huntington. With the re-organization of the bank as a state bank Jasper Thompson became the president, J. F. Thompson vice president and B. J. Thompson cashier, while the other stockholders and directors of the bank were William Larrabee, E.

Huntington, I. N. Perry, Josiah Little, F. N. Vaughn, T. Jacobs and J. M. Clark. Articles of incorporation were filed June 29, 1896, and the bank, capitalized for fifty thousand dollars, occupied a small one story brick building on the site of its present home. In 1901 J. F. Thompson was elected to the presidency, Jasper Thompson having sold out. B. J. Thompson resigned as cashier and in that year M. M. Thompson was chosen assistant cashier, which position he continued to fill until March 29, 1911, when he was elected cashier. The officers of the bank at this writing are: J. F. Thompson, president; B. J. Thompson, vice president; M. M. Thompson, cashier; and Otto Beckjorden assistant cashier, with T. Jacobs and Julia A. Thompson also as directors. In 1899 the present two story brick business block was erected, the upper floor being used as offices, while the first floor is occupied by the bank, which has a most modern equipment and is fitted up in a very attractive manner. A general banking business is conducted and the bank from the beginning has maintained a safe, conservative policy that fully protects its stockholders and yet does not hamper that progressiveness which is manifest in a growing business.

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#### ALBERT C. ANDERSON.

Since reaching man's estate Albert C. Anderson has been identified with the agricultural interests of Winnelago county and is now the owner of a fine farm on section 16, Norway township, where he was born on the 27th of June, 1873. His parents, Chris and Susan Anderson, were born, reared and married in Norway and continued to reside there until after the birth of two of their children, Andrew, now a resident of Hancock county, Iowa, and Peter. It was in 1855 that the father brought his little family to the new world and located near Stoughton, Wisconsin, where he resided for five years. The following year was spent in Freeborn county, Minnesota, but in 1861 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased the northeast quarter of section 16, Norway township. His first home here was a dugout and later he built a log house which is still standing upon the place. To the development and cultivation of his farm he devoted his energies until called from this life on the 16th of October, 1907. His wife had passed away on the 19th of the previous August, and both were laid to rest in the Lime Creek cemetery. They were faithful and consistent members of the Synod Lutheran church and Mr. Anderson was a republican in politics. Seven children were born to this worthy couple after coming to this country, namely: Sophia, now the wife of Nels Larson, of Scarville, Iowa; John, deceased; Ole, a resident of Lake Mills; Susan, deceased; Mary, the wife of Nels Bakke, of Northfield, Minnesota; Lena, the wife of Abe Winden, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and A. C., of this review.

Reared on the home farm, Albert C. Anderson is indebted to the district schools of the neighborhood for the educational advantages he enjoyed during his youth. At the age of sixteen years he put aside his textbooks and gave his father the benefit of his services on the farm until his marriage. He then operated the place on the shares until the death of his parents and now owns the farm where his entire life has been passed. He is a wide-awake and progressive farmer and has made his place one of the most attractive farms in the locality.

Mr. Anderson was married at the age of twenty-four years, on the 28th of August, 1897, to Miss Randy Tangen, a daughter of John and Mary Tangen, of Brooten, Minnesota, and to this union six children have been born as follows: Christopher, Madeline, Jemima, Ingeborg, Alvina and Leroy, all at home,

The republican party finds in Mr. Anderson a staunch supporter of its principles and he has always taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He has been especially interested in education and efficiently served as school director for a number of years. He is one of the leading farmers of his community and wherever known is held in high esteem.

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#### ADELBERT W. STREETER.

Adelbert W. Streeter, a well known retired farmer and business man living in Lake Mills, was born in a log house near Cedar Falls, Iowa, on the 17th of June, 1856, and is a son of Edward P. and Elizabeth (Dobson) Streeter, pioneer settlers of that locality, having located there in 1852. The father engaged in farming for a long period but is now living retired in Cedar Falls. He and his wife are both enjoying good health at the advanced ages of eighty-four and eighty years respectively, and on the 5th of September, 1916, celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of their marriage. To them were born eight children, of whom six survive. Our subject and his brother, Thomas W., are residents of Winnebago county. Another brother, Fred H., lives in Aberdeen, South Dakota. A sister, Mrs. B. F. Smith, makes her home in Chelan, Washington; Mrs. W. W. Goodykoontz lives in Boone, Iowa, and Mrs. J. G. Packard resides in Cedar Falls.

Adelbert W. Streeter attended the district schools until he was fifteen years old, when the family removed to Cedar Falls, where he completed a high school course. When twenty-one years of age he began operating the home farm on his own account and continued there for four years. He came to Winnebago county in 1881 and after renting a farm in Bristol township for two years bought three hundred and twenty acres there, which he cultivated until 1898, and which he still owns and rents. He then took up his residence in Lake Mills, where he purchased a livery barn and for fifteen years devoted his time and attention to the conduct of that business. He proved very successful in that connection, as he had in his agricultural work, and in 1913, feeling that his financial circumstances warranted his enjoying a period of leisure, he disposed of his livery business and retired.

In 1878 Mr. Streeter was united in marriage to Miss Emma Saul, of Cedar Falls, who passed away March 27, 1881, and was buried at Cedar Falls. She was the mother of a son, Clark H., now city engineer of Cedar Falls. On the 28th of February, 1884, Mr. Streeter wedded Miss Nettie Lane, of Cedar Falls, by whom he had two children: Jennie, now the wife of H. M. Wescott, of Winnebago, Minnesota; and Clifford W., a banker living at Baldwin, North Dakota. Mrs. Streeter died September 20, 1911, and was buried in the North cemetery at Lake Mills. On the 7th of October, 1913, Mr. Streeter was again married, Mrs. June Thomas, of Lake Mills, becoming his wife. She was the widow of Charles D. Thomas, a son of George and Hattie Thomas, early settlers of Winnebago county. He engaged in

farming on quite an extensive scale in Center township and in addition to growing the usual crops of grain gave much attention to raising full blooded stock. He passed away on the 4th of March, 1905, and was buried in the South cemetery at Lake Mills. He was married June 29, 1887, to Miss June Burdick, who was born in Worth county, Iowa, and is a daughter of Alfred and Sarah (Platts) Burdick, early settlers of Winnebago county. Her father died September 5, 1901, and her mother passed away January 17, 1914. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were born the following children: George, who is farming in Center township; Mayme, the wife of Olaf Anderson, of Madison, Wisconsin; Rush, a civil engineer in the employ of the Illinois state highway commission; Bessie, now the wife of Arthur Kobberbig, who is farming in Bristol township; Frank, who is attending college in Minneapolis; and Nellie and Clara, high school students. Following the death of her husband Mrs. Thomas removed to Lake Mills, and, as previously stated, in 1913 became the wife of Adelbert W. Streeter. She holds title to four hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Center township.

Mr. Streeter is a republican and for ten years served as a member of the town council, during which time he constantly favored measures calculated to promote the general welfare. His well spent life has gained him a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens and his personal friends are many. He owns a fine residence and is numbered among the substantial citizens of Lake Mills.

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#### BENJAMIN F. BARTHELL.

Benjamin F. Barthell, who follows general farming on section 9, Forest township, Winnebago county, was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, May 2, 1880, and is a son of John M. and Martha M. (Page) Barthell, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Quebec, Canada. The father came to the United States in his boyhood days and located in New York, where he remained for three years. In the fall of 1851 he removed westward to Iowa and took up his abode in Winneshiek county. He continued his residence in this state until called to his final rest in 1903, and his widow is still living at the age of seventy-eight years, at Waukon, Iowa.

Benjamin F. Barthell, was one of a family of twelve children, eight of whom are now living. Spending his youthful days in his native county, he there pursued his education in the public schools, eventually becoming a high school pupil. Through vacation periods he assisted in the work of the home farm or aided his father in whatever line of work demanded his attention. On attaining his majority he turned his attention to the hardware business at Waukon, Iowa, where he conducted a store for three years and then sold out. In 1902 he purchased the farm on which he now resides on section 9, Forest township, Winnebago county, comprising three hundred acres of rich and valuable land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, adding many modern improvements and equipping the farm according to the requirements of a model farm property of the twentieth century. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and he has a fine herd of Angus cattle upon his place. He believes in keeping high grade stock, having demonstrated the value of this course, and his live stock interests constitute an important

and profitable feature of his business. He is also a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator.

On the 6th of October, 1914, Mr. Barthell was married to Miss Caroline Frevert, a native of Rice county, Minnesota, and a daughter of Fred and Catharyn (Beckley) Frevert, who were born respectively in Germany and in Indiana and who removed to Sac county, Iowa, about 1872. The father was a soldier in the Civil war and is deceased but the mother is living and resides in Charles City, Iowa. In his political views Mr. Barthell is a republican and in fraternal circles is well known, holding membership with the Masons, having taken all of the degrees up to and including the thirty-second. He is likewise connected with the Knights of Pythias. He has made for himself a most creditable position as one of the leading farmers of his township and his ability in business is widely recognized. He has ever displayed unfaltering enterprise and sound judgment and has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken.

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#### JAMES ELLICKSON.

James Ellickson, deceased, was one of Winnebago county's honored pioneers and highly esteemed citizens, who took a very active and prominent part in public affairs. He was born in Waushara county, Wisconsin, on the 4th of September, 1859, and was a son of John and Cheste Ellickson, natives of Norway, who came to America and located in Wisconsin. There the father engaged in farming throughout his active business life and passed away in March, 1911. The mother is still living.

In the state of his nativity James Ellickson grew to manhood, receiving the usual educational advantages of the country boy. While living at home he worked in the pineries of Wisconsin for some years and was also employed as a farm hand in Minnesota for a time. On the 22d of May, 1881, he arrived in Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased land two and a half miles from Thompson. At that time there were only three other settlers in King township and none in Buffalo township. To the development and improvement of his land Mr. Ellickson at once turned his attention and he continued to engage in farming with good success until 1892, when he rented his land and removed to Thompson, becoming manager of the Northern Lumber Company at that place. He continued with that corporation for eighteen years and at the same time engaged in the grain business with his brother John, later selling out to the Farmers Cooperative Company. He was also interested in the agricultural implement business for some time and for twenty years was a director of the First National Bank of Thompson, serving as its vice president much of that time.

On the 25th of November, 1886, Mr. Ellickson married Miss Katie A. Larson, a daughter of Christian and Ellen (Madson) Larson, who were born in Norway and were also pioneers of Winnebago county. Her father is still living and is now vice president of the First National Bank of Thompson, but her mother passed away on the 10th of September, 1916. To Mr. and Mrs. Ellickson were born the following children: Cora J., now a teacher in the Thompson schools; Clara E., the wife of Walter Halverson; Edith U., a clerk in the Thompson postoffice; James K. and

Marion A., both attending school; and Edwin W., Clarence, Edna, Emil and Arthur, all of whom died in infancy.

In 1906 Mr. Ellickson was appointed postmaster of Thompson, and continued to fill that office until his death, which occurred February 12, 1916, after a short illness. The republican party always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles and he was honored with several important official positions. In 1887 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors and served as such for a number of years. He was also a school director for seventeen years and was the first mayor of Thompson. In 1891 he was elected to the state legislature and so acceptably did he fill that position that he was reelected in 1893, being a member of the house for two terms. Mr. Ellickson never allowed his other interests to interfere with his religious duties but always took an active and prominent part in church work as a member of the United Lutheran denomination. It was largely through his efforts that the church was established at Thompson and he served as superintendent of the Sunday school for eleven years. Mr. Ellickson was also one of the promoters of Waldorf College at Forest City and was a member of its board of directors at the time of his death. He was a man of exceptional business ability, farsighted and energetic and usually carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. No confidence reposed in him was ever misplaced and in his death the community realized that it had lost a valuable and public-spirited citizen.

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#### JOHN H. MORTENSON.

Among those who in former years were actively identified with the business development and progress of Hancock county was numbered John H. Mortenson, now deceased. He resided on section 30, Crystal township, where he followed general farming. He was born in Denmark, December 8, 1866, a son of Christian and Maren (Peterson) Mortenson, both of whom were natives of that country, whence they came to the new world in 1870. They first took up their abode in Winnebago county, Iowa, where their remaining days were passed. There they reared their family of nine children, four of whom are yet living.

John H. Mortenson was a small child when brought to the United States, so that his youthful days were passed in Iowa amid the experiences and environment of farm life. He early learned much concerning the work of the fields and he always followed general agricultural pursuits. In 1891 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Paulson, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Jens and Christina (Smith) Paulson, who in 1871 came to the United States, establishing their home upon a farm in Winnebago county, Iowa. Later, however, they returned to Denmark, where they spent their remaining days. Mr. and Mrs. Mortenson became the parents of four children: Emily J., the wife of Edmond Sorenson; Jens C.; Ethel C., now attending the high school at Britt; and Stella H.

It was after his marriage that Mr. Mortenson purchased the farm upon which his widow now resides, becoming the owner of the property in 1892. He afterward purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Linden township, Winne-



JOHN H. MORTENSON





bago county, and at the time of his death was the owner of four hundred acres of rich and productive land in northern Iowa.

Mrs. Mortenson attends the Lutheran church, where Mr. Mortenson also worshipped. In 1897 he became a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Thompson and was a member at the time of his death. He passed away on the 19th of January, 1917, at the age of fifty years, and was laid to rest in the Crystal Lake cemetery. His had been an active and useful life and diligence and enterprise had brought to him the measure of success which he enjoyed. He left a good farm to his widow, who still conducts the place and is showing good business ability in its management.

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#### HELMER C. MYRE.

Helmer C. Myre is busily engaged in the cultivation of a farm of eighty-two acres on section 4, Linden township. His entire life has been passed within the borders of Winnebago county, which claims him as a native son. He was born January 2, 1891, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Myre, who are represented elsewhere in this work. His youthful experiences were those of most boys who are reared upon farms. He began his education in the common schools and eventually became a high school pupil in Forest City. He remained at home until he attained his majority and at the same time he became widely known throughout the district for feats of strength and skill in athletics. He is today the light heavyweight champion wrestler of Iowa and frequently engages in bouts. He now cultivates two hundred acres of land, which he has brought to a high state of development, producing the various crops best adapted to soil and climate here. He is also raising and feeding stock and his farm work is wisely, carefully and profitably managed.

In 1913 Mr. Myre was married to Miss Ethel Trail, who was born in Mount Carroll, Carroll county, Illinois, a daughter of Charles and Sarah (Klitz) Trail. Her father is now deceased, while the mother makes her home in Winnebago county, Iowa. Mr and Mrs. Myre have one son, Herman Theodore, who was born February 21, 1916. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Myre votes with the republican party. He is a young man, representing the spirit of modern-day enterprise and development in farm work, and his labors are rendering his land more and more productive.

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#### L. E. PETERSON.

L. E. Peterson, engaged in the real estate business in Forest City, was born in Dodge county, Minnesota, September 15, 1870, a son of Ellef and Engeborg Peterson, both of whom were natives of Norway. Coming to the United States in 1849, they located in Wisconsin and in 1856 removed to Minnesota, where the father followed the occupation of farming, purchasing school land. He lived there amid pioneer conditions and continued his residence in that state for eighteen years, or until 1874, when he came to Winnebago county, Iowa. Soon

afterward he purchased a farm in Center township and thereon lived until called to his final rest on the 13th of August, 1902. For a brief period he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1900. For almost thirty years Mr. Peterson had been an active farmer of this county and was widely known by reason of his enterprise and progressiveness in agricultural affairs.

L. E. Peterson was a lad of but four summers when brought to Winnebago county and at the usual age he became a public school pupil. When he had mastered the elementary branches of learning he entered the Decorah (Ia.) Institute, from which he was graduated in 1893. He then turned his attention to carpentering and contracting, following that business for two years, after which he resumed farming, in which he engaged until 1906. Removing to Oregon, he conducted a real estate business on the Pacific coast until 1911, when he returned to Forest City, but after six months he again took up the occupation of farming, to which he devoted the following year. On the expiration of that period he once more returned to Forest City and for a year was connected with the Olson Land Company. In 1914 he embarked in business on his own account under the name of the L. E. Peterson Land Company for buying and selling property. He handles land in Minnesota, in the Dakotas and in Iowa, making a specialty of farm property but also handling a large amount of city realty. He not only buys and sells but also builds houses for sale and his speculative building has contributed much to his success. He likewise owns the L. E. Peterson Mercantile Business, a general store, and he is the owner of the old homestead farm and also of a place just across the road, making two hundred and twenty acres in all. His farm property is leased and brings to him a substantial annual income.

On the 12th of June, 1900, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Emma Haugland, of Center township, Winnebago county, a daughter of R. O. and Sarah Haugland, who were early farming people of that community. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have four children, Selma Elvira, Reuben Ervin, Luella Annette and Margaret Antonia.

In his political views Mr. Peterson is a republican, while in religious faith he and his wife are connected with the United Lutheran church. With the exception of a brief period spent in the Pacific northwest he has continuously resided in Iowa from the age of four years and is widely known in Winnebago county, where his sterling worth and business enterprise have gained him high position and favorable regard.

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#### JOHN DANIEL KUNS.

John Daniel Kuns is now living retired in Forest City but was long actively identified with farming and stock raising interests and is still the owner of valuable farm property in Winnebago county. He was born near Pierceville, Indiana, August 22, 1850, a son of Jacob and Jenima (Hoobler) Kuns, who were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Indiana and there remained for three years. They afterward became residents of Livingston county, Illinois, where the father passed away. The mother still resides there at the very advanced age of ninety-three years. In their family were eight children, four of whom survive.

John Daniel Kuns was reared and educated in Livingston county, Illinois, his early experiences being those of the farm bred boy who divides his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. After reaching man's estate he began farming on his own account in Illinois and in 1889 he removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, residing thereon until 1906. In that year he retired from active business life and removed to Forest City. In the meantime he had brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and had added many modern improvements to his place, converting it into one of the valuable farm properties of the district. He was practical and progressive in all that he did and as the result of his untiring industry and sound judgment he annually gathered good harvests. He is still the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land in this county, all of which is improved. While upon the farm he also fed stock of various kinds and this branch of his business contributed much to his income.

On September 2, 1871, Mr. Kuns was married to Miss Phoebe M. Brooker, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, a daughter of Thomas and Lucinda (Wilber) Brooker, the former a native of England, while the latter was born in Ohio. They were married in the Buckeye state and thence removed to Illinois, while in 1887 they became residents of Winnebago county, Iowa, where their remaining days were passed, the father dying September 9, 1891, and the mother January 7, 1917. In their family were ten children, nine of whom are yet living. To Mr. and Mrs. Kuns were born ten children: Della May, who became the wife of John Conner and died in 1903; Bertha L., the wife of R. V. Hotchkiss, living in Fairmont, Minnesota; Mabel F., the wife of Raymond McBride, of Mount Valley, Iowa; Erastus E., a resident of Montana; Ammond R., who married Esther Witter and is living in Hancock county; Grace Belle, who is the wife of Earl Patten, and is living in Rowan, Iowa; Edward A., who married Flora Studer of Luverne, Iowa; Lula Pearl, the wife of Henry Nelson, of Forest City; John J., who married Gladys Walsh and lives at Clear Lake, Iowa; and George Dewey, at home.

The family attend the Baptist church and they are numbered among the valued and respected citizens of this part of the state. In politics Mr. Kuns has long had long been a stalwart republican and he has served for several years as school director and as justice of the peace. He owes his success to his own efforts and the assistance of his estimable wife. Through their labors they have won a handsome fortune and are now reaping the benefits of their former toil. Moreover, their success has been so honorably won and so worthily used that the most envious could not grudge them their prosperity.

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#### MELVIN JOHNSON.

Melvin Johnson was born on the farm on section 14, Ellington township, Hancock county, on which he now resides, the date of his birth being November 18, 1888. His father, Charles Johnson, is a native of Norway and on attaining his majority severed the ties which bound him to that land and crossed the Atlantic to America, becoming a resident of Clayton county, Iowa. In the '80s he removed to Hancock county and purchased a farm on section 14, Ellington township, which

is now the old family homestead. Year after year he carefully and persistently tilled the soil and harvested golden crops, thus winning the success that now enables him to live retired. He continued to cultivate his land until 1909, when he put aside business cares and now makes his home in Miller. He married Nettie Halverson, who passed away in 1910.

Melvin Johnson was one of a family of six children and his youthful days were spent upon the old home farm where he still resides and which is therefore endeared to him through the associations of his boyhood as well as of his manhood. After attaining adult age he rented the old home place, which he as since cultivated. His public school education was supplemented by two terms of college training, which qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. His life has been characterized by diligence and determination and as the years have gone on success has attended his efforts in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm.

In 1912 Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Marvea Nelson, a native of Forest City, Iowa, and a daughter of Andrew and Betsy (Erickson) Nelson, who were born in Sweden but in childhood came to the new world. They are now residents of Ellington township, Hancock county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one son, Arlo C., who was born May 7, 1914. The parents are members of the Baptist church, while in political faith Mr. Johnson is a republican. He is well known, being a lifelong resident of his community, and his record is as an open book which all may read.

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#### HOMER A. BROWN.

Homer A. Brown, a well known attorney of Forest City, was born in Westfield, Vermont, February 5, 1867, a son of Thomas O. and Ellen R. Brown, who in the year 1870 left New England and removed westward to Mitchell county, Iowa, where the father followed the occupation of farming.

In attendance at the public schools Homer A. Brown mastered the elementary branches of learning and then in preparation for a professional career matriculated in the State University, being graduated from the law department with the class of 1890. The same year he was admitted to the bar and located for practice at Riceville, Iowa, where he remained for two years. In 1893 he came to Forest City, where he opened an office and has since followed his profession, doing excellent work at the bar as an able lawyer who possesses a comprehensive knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence and is accurate in applying these principles to the points in litigation. He prepares his cases with great thoroughness and care, is sound in his reasoning and logical in his deductions.

In 1897 Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Maida Clark, of Rockford, Illinois, a daughter of H. G. and Mary Clark. Their children are Phyllis, Marjorie, Ellith and Roger, all at home.

Mr. Brown is a well known Mason, belonging to the lodge at Forest City and the chapter at Garner. He is a past master of Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M. His political allegiance was given to the republican party until 1912, when he joined the progressive party, and in 1916 was the candidate on its ticket for the office of attorney general of the state. He has been city attorney for the past nine

years and has made a most creditable record in that position. He has also served as a member of the school board and the cause of education has found in him a stalwart champion. He and his family attend the Congregational and Methodist churches and their influence is always on the side of those forces of righteousness and civic betterment which work for the upbuilding of the community.

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SAMUEL K. TURNER.

There is probably no resident of Lake Mills with a wider or more favorable acquaintance throughout the county than Samuel K. Turner. He has made his home in the town for many years but has continued to engage in farming and has met with gratifying success in that connection. Moreover, for more than three decades he has been either deputy sheriff or constable. He was born March 10, 1856, in Fennimore, Grant county, Wisconsin, and is a son of James and Harriett (Brown) Turner. The former was born in Lancashire, England, and the latter in Belgium but when a child was taken by her parents to Virginia. In early manhood the father emigrated to the United States and located in Lancaster, Wisconsin, where he farmed until the discovery of gold in California. In 1849 he made the long journey to the Pacific coast and was more successful there than the average miner as at the end of three years he returned to Wisconsin a wealthy man. He took up his residence in Fennimore and became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in that locality, engaging in raising grain and stock until he enlisted as second lieutenant of a Wisconsin Infantry Company for service in the Civil war. He was at the front for a year and a half, or until the close of hostilities, and when honorably discharged held the rank of captain. When peace had been restored he returned to Wisconsin and continued to reside there during the remainder of his life. He died in 1870, when sixty-three years of age, from the effects of a wound received in battle. He was one of the foremost citizens of his section of the state and for a term filled the important position of state treasurer. He was a brother of the well known General Turner, who was killed in battle at the beginning of the Boer war. The mother of our subject survived until 1890, passing away at the advanced age of seventy-seven years.

Samuel K. Turner was reared upon the homestead and in the acquirement of his education attended the public schools. When he reached mature years he took charge of the operation of the home place and also bought and sold horses, so continuing until 1876. In that year he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the following year, in partnership with his brother, purchased a half section of land which is now worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre but which they bought for four and a half dollars an acre. They never operated that place and in fact sold it after a few years. Mr. Turner of this review removed to Lake Mills and for three years engaged in the livery business, and at the same time served as deputy sheriff under J. H. Twito and M. C. Wheeler. He retained that office for eleven years. Since the end of his connection with the sheriff's office, or for twenty-three years, he has been constable, and has made a splendid record. While still living in Wisconsin he was deputy sheriff for five years and the number

of times he has been called to office testifies to the high esteem in which he has always been held by his fellow citizens. In 1893 he bought a quarter section of land in Logan township and although continuing to reside in Lake Mills he has farmed that place himself save for three years when he rented it to others. He understands thoroughly the various phases of agricultural work, is industrious and progressive, and his annual income ranks him among the substantial men of his county. He is also a stock holder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Mutual Telephone Company and for thirty-five years he has engaged in auctioneering, during which time he has cried many sales occurring in the county. Although the activities enumerated are seemingly sufficient to require all of his time and energy he also practiced as a veterinarian from the age of fifteen years until two years ago, retiring from that work in 1915.

Mr. Turner was married September 24, 1884, to Miss Minnie Witchenthal, and to them were born five children, Ethel H., who married Earl Harkness; Lulu B., who married Gus Gisinger, Beulah E., who married Dr. L. R. Turner, of Renwick, Iowa; Lyle K., who enlisted at the age of seventeen years in Troop M of the Thirteenth Minnesota Cavalry and served eighteen months with that command, being stationed at Columbus, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas; and Glenn F.

The wife and mother died January 12, 1899, and on the 10th of October, 1900, Mr. Turner was married to Mrs. Loretta M. (Robbins) Kyle, of Lake Mills, the widow of the late John A. Kyle, who was the owner and editor of the Lake Mills Graphic.

Mr. Turner is a staunch adherent of the republican party and discharges to the full his civic duties and has served with credit as a member of the town council. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### FRANK OTIS.

An excellent tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, Forest township, Winnebago county, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by the owner, Frank Otis, whose life of diligence and determination has brought to him a substantial measure of success. He was born in Winnebago county on the 17th of September, 1876, his father being J. J. Otis, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Frank Otis acquired his education in the public schools, mastering the usual branches of learning while dividing his time between the work of the schoolroom and the work of the farm. He continued to assist his father in the development of the fields until he attained his majority, when he started out in farm life on his own account and for three years rented land. He then purchased the farm whereon he now resides on section 28, Forest township, comprising one hundred and sixty acres and through the intervening period he has bent his energies to the further development and improvement of this property. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and annually gathers good crops as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon his place. He is prompt in all that he undertakes and is systematic in his work. Aside from his farming he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Forest City.

On the 23d of September, 1903, Mr. Otis was married to Miss Katherine McCann, who was born at Iowa Falls, Iowa, a daughter of William and Mary (Cooney) McCann, who were natives of Ireland and New York respectively. The father is now deceased but the mother is living in Forest City, Iowa. Both Mr. and Mrs. Otis are members of the Catholic church and in the community where they reside they are held in high esteem.

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#### CHARLES L. BEADLE.

Charles L. Beadle is now a retired farmer living in Forest City. He was born in Hancock county on the 16th of May, 1870, and has been a lifelong resident of Iowa. His parents, George W. and Sarah (Streeter) Beadle, were pioneers of this section and are mentioned at length on another page of this work.

The son was educated in the public schools and in the Decorah (Ia.) Normal School, after which he taught for one term, but on the expiration of that period resumed farming, to which pursuit he had been reared, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and earing for the crops. His father's training well qualified him for later responsibilities and he took up farming on his own account in Ellington township, Hancock county, where he purchased land on which he resided for twenty-one years. In the spring of 1916 he removed to Forest City, where he is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former intelligently directed effort. He still owns a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, from which he derives a substantial income, and the success of his former years enables him to have all of life's comforts and many of its luxuries.

In September, 1893, Mr. Beadle was united in marriage to Miss Mary Streeper, of Britt, Iowa, and they have become the parents of four children: Irene L., a teacher in the schools of Hancock county; Lois M., a teacher in the Winnebago county schools; Sarah C., who is attending Waldorf College at Forest City; and George M., a pupil in the graded schools.

In his political views Mr. Beadle is a republican and has ever been a close student of the political questions and issues of the day but has never been an office seeker. He represents one of the old pioneer families of the county and has himself been a resident of this section for forty-seven years. He has a wide acquaintance and those who know him speak of him in terms of warm regard.

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#### A. O. STALHEIM.

Winnebago county has no more progressive or up-to-date farmer living in its midst than A. O. Stalheim, who owns and operates a highly improved farm on section 21, Norway township. He was born in Norway on the 17th of November, 1864, and is a son of Ole and Olina (Andrea) Anderson, also natives of that country, where the mother died. The father, who is a farmer by occupation, is still living there. In their family were seven children, all of whom are still living. Two are still in Norway but five have come to the new world.

Mr. Stalheim of this review is the oldest of the family. In his native land he grew to manhood, being nineteen years of age when he came to the United States alone to try his fortune, believing that better opportunities were afforded young men on this side of the Atlantic than in the older countries of Europe. His destination was Sharon, Wisconsin, where he worked as a section hand on the railroad for eight years, but has since devoted his time and attention to farming. He was twenty-seven years of age when he arrived in Winnebago county and for several years was employed as a farm hand in Norway township. Later he engaged in farming for himself upon rented land and in 1910 purchased the northwest quarter of section 21, Norway township, where he now makes his home. In connection with the operation of his own land he cultivates the southeast quarter of section 20, which he rents.

Since buying his farm Mr. Stalheim has made many improvements thereon. He has remodeled the residence, making it modern in every respect, and has built the finest barn in Winnebago county and perhaps in the northern part of the state. It is a large cement foundation structure with the upper part of frame, with cement floors, Lowden stanchions and stalls, electric lights and water, sewer and ventilating tubes. There are refuse carriers traveling on suspended overhead tracks and each stall has individual convertible feeding and watering cement troughs. Mr. Stalheim is now planning to build a hog barn on the same plan and also a cess tank for refuse. When these are completed he will have one of the most modern and up-to-date farms in the state, with all its equipment efficient and sanitary.

At the age of nineteen years Mr. Stalheim was married in Wisconsin to Miss Mary Jurgenson, whose parents never came to the United States but she came over on the same ship with her husband. To them were born three children, namely: Ole, who is married and living near Northwood, Iowa; Nels, who is also married and living near Joice, Iowa; and Edward, who is single and at home. The mother of these children died in Wisconsin in 1895 and was buried at Jefferson Prairie, that state. Mr. Stalheim was again married in 1897, his second union being with Miss Mary Sanden, a daughter of Erick and Katrina Sanden, of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, who are now deceased and are buried in Lime Creek cemetery. There was one child by this marriage, Gina, at home.

The family hold membership in the Synod Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. Since becoming an American citizen Mr. Stalheim has affiliated with the republican party but has taken no active part in politics aside from voting.

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#### DANIEL H. PETERSON.

For many years Daniel H. Peterson engaged in farming in Winnebago county, but is now living retired in Lake Mills, having accumulated a competence and feeling that he has earned a period of leisure. He was born in Norway, January 30, 1833, and has therefore passed the eighty-fourth milestone on life's journey, but in health and mental vigor seems many years younger. He is a son of Hans and Caroline Peterson, also natives of Norway, where the father engaged in





MR. AND MRS. DANIEL H. PETERSON



farming until his death, which occurred when his son Daniel H. was about ten years old. The mother subsequently removed with her children to the United States.

Daniel H. Peterson, after remaining at Waupaca, Wisconsin, during the first summer of his residence in this country, removed to La Salle county, Illinois, whence three years later he went to Rochester, Minnesota. He was employed on farms in that vicinity for about six years and on the 4th of July, 1865, arrived in Winnebago county, Iowa. He took up a homestead in Center township, which was then practically a frontier region, the only other settlers being Charles Smith and Helen Benson Groe. He erected a log house, in which he resided for a number of years, although later it was replaced by a commodious frame structure. He made other improvements upon his farm and in all his work strove to combine progressiveness with practicality with the result that as the years passed his resources steadily increased. In 1893 he retired and removed to Lake Mills, where he has since resided.

When twenty-four years old Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Martha Angleson, of La Salle county, Illinois, who passed away twenty-five years later. To them were born ten children, of whom four survive, namely: Hans, who is residing upon the home farm; Nels, a resident of Lake Mills; Bessie, now Mrs. Tom Angleson, of Broek, South Dakota; and Martha, the wife of H. M. Johnson, who resides near Blanchardville, Wisconsin. The wife and mother was buried in the North cemetery. In 1883 Mr. Peterson married Miss Harborg Angleson, a sister of his first wife.

Mr. Peterson supports republican candidates and measures at the polls, but has never sought office as a reward for his party fealty. The rules which govern his life are found in the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church and his close adherence to high ethical standards has gained him the respect of all who know him. He was quick to recognize and take advantage of opportunities, and although he began his independent career empty handed, he is now financially independent. After he had begun to prosper he loaned money without interest to twenty-three friends in Norway to pay their transportation across the Atlantic and all of them emigrated to this country, where they too, met with success. He is staunch in his loyalty to America and all that it stands for, and has ever been willing to place the general good above his private interests.

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#### NATHAN BRONES.

Nathan Brones, who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 33, Mount Valley township, was born on what is known as the old Brones homestead, on section 7 of the same township, and has been a lifelong resident of Winnebago county. His natal day was July 10, 1877, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Brones, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.

The son remained under the parental roof through the period of his boyhood and youth and divided his time between the acquirement of an education in the district schools and the work of the fields, for he early assisted in planting, caring for and harvesting the crops. On attaining his majority he did not seek to change

his occupation but began farming on his own account on the old home-stead, which he rented for a year. During the succeeding three years he rented and cultivated other land and while thus engaged he carefully saved his earnings so that he was then able to purchase forty acres and thereby became the owner of a tract on section 21, Mount Valley township. He resided there for two or three years, after which he went to North Dakota and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. He proved up on that property and subsequently sold it for twenty-five hundred dollars. On returning to Winnebago county he purchased his present home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has lived since 1911. It was a tract of wild land when it came into his possession. He erected thereon substantial farm buildings, dug out the brush, fenced the land and converted the place into rich and productive fields. He today has a valuable and fertile farm and the land which he purchased for \$36.25 per acre he now regards as worth more than one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. In fact he has recently refused that sum. There are good buildings upon the place and he employs modern farm machinery in facilitating the work of the fields.

In 1901 Mr. Brones was married to Miss Malena Felland, a daughter of Torjus Felland, one of the pioneer settlers of Mount Valley township, who arrived here in the '60s and who is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Brones have had seven children, of whom six are living, Gladys A., Lyle S., Alpha G., Palmer F., Stanley R. and Mildred M. The parents attend the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church and they are well known in their section of the county, where they have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

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#### T. A. SORBON.

T. A. Sorbon, who is living retired in Lake Mills, was born in Norway, May 3, 1854, but when fourteen years old accompanied the rest of the family on their emigration to the United States. His parents, Andreas and Ellen (Scar) Sorbon, believed that better opportunities awaited them in this country than in their native land and found their hopes more than realized. They came here in 1868 and for a year resided in Dane county, Wisconsin, after which they removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where the father purchased a farm which he operated until 1891, when he removed to Lake Mills. He lived retired there until his death in 1896 and a year later the mother also passed away. They were buried in the North cemetery.

T. A. Sorbon, who is the oldest in a family of four children, received his education in the common schools of Norway and through assisting his father with the farm work received valuable training in the cultivation of the fields and the care of stock. When twenty-five years old he purchased land in Mitchell county and his time and attention were taken up with its cultivation until 1891, when he disposed of the place and took up his residence in Lake Mills. He became a member of the firm of Sorbon & Aasgaard, dealers in hardware, and remained in that connection for four years. In 1896, however, he bought out the Nelson interests in the Scar-Nelson clothing store and was part owner of that business for fourteen years. Upon disposing of his interest in that store he purchased a farm near Scarville and for five years followed agricultural pursuits there. He

then retired from active life and took up his residence in Lake Mills, where in 1915 he erected a fine modern home.

Mr. Sorbon was married in 1886 to Miss Carrie Lindeley, a daughter of O. O. and Carrie Lindeley, of Mitchell county, Iowa, by whom he has four living children: Edward K. and Louis H., who are residents of Rapid City, South Dakota; and Cora E. and Alma O., both at home.

The democratic party has a staunch supporter in Mr. Sorbon, who, however, has limited his participation in politics to the exercise of his right of franchise. He is a member of the Masonic blue lodge, in which he has filled all the chairs, and his religious faith is indicated in his membership in the United Lutheran church. The competence which he has gained, which enables him to rest from further labor, has been acquired solely through his own efforts and is evidence of his enterprise and sound judgment.

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### T. I. THOMPSON.

T. I. Thompson, who is residing upon his finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 35, Linden township, Winnebago county, is one of the foremost men of his township and at one time held title to from twelve to thirteen hundred acres of land, but has now disposed of his holdings save for his home place. He was born in Norway, December 22, 1855, a son of Knute and Sena (Goodmanson) Thompson, the latter of whom died when he was but two weeks old. The father came to the United States about 1882, and from that time until his death in 1902 made his home with his son, T. I.

The last named received his early education in his native country, but in 1872, when in his seventeenth year, came to the United States on a sailing vessel which required eight weeks to make the voyage. He landed at Quebec, Canada, in July of that year, and at once made his way to the United States, locating in Lee county, Illinois. He secured work on a farm and was given the privilege of attending school during the winter months. After spending about five years as a farm hand in Lee county he went to Chicago, where he found employment on the government piers as a carpenter. For six years he made his home in that city and then was for three years a resident of Story county, Iowa, farming rented land during that time. In 1885 he removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm on section 35, Linden township. He was from the start very successful as an agriculturist and as he prospered he invested in additional land until he became the owner of between twelve and thirteen hundred acres. In 1905, however, since he did not wish to be burdened with the oversight of the operation of so much land, he disposed of his holdings save the three hundred and twenty acre farm in Linden township on which he resides. This place is one of the model farms of the township and the equipment includes all implements that have been devised to increase the efficiency of farm work. He also owns stock in the Crystal Lake Savings Bank.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of Mr. Thompson and Miss Rebecca Baggeson, a native of Norway, and they have become the parents of six children as follows: Harry I., and Walter J., both of whom are farming in Forest township, Winnebago

county; Arthur J., who is a farmer and cattle man residing in Alberta, Canada; Frank L., and Mabel and Lilly, at home.

Mr. Thompson supports the republican party and has for many years served as a member of the school board but has not held any other office. His wife and children belong to the Methodist Episcopal church in the work of which they take an active part. The signal measure of success which he has gained as a farmer has been due in large measure to his progressive spirit, and this has also characterized him in his relation to his community, as he has at all times stood firmly for measures calculated to promote the common good.

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#### WILLIAM H. ANNETT.

William H. Annett, owner and editor of the Buffalo Center Tribune, has devoted his entire career to newspaper work and his long and varied experience in that field is evidenced in the efficiency which he displays in the management of his present paper. That he has time to devote to other interests than his private business affairs is fortunate for his community, for he possesses sound judgment and the ability to secure hearty cooperation from his associates in any undertaking, and as mayor of Buffalo Center he has done much to forward the interests of the municipality. He was born in Galena, Illinois, July 29, 1871, and is of English descent. His parents, John B. and Harriet (Richardson) Annett, removed there after coming to America many years ago. The father was a shoemaker by trade, but after locating in Galena, became connected with the police department there and for several years held the office of chief. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in Company C, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served throughout the period of hostilities with the rank of first lieutenant. After the restoration of peace he went to Spencer, Iowa, and took up a homestead in that locality, but as the grasshopper plague caused him to suffer heavy financial loss he returned to Galena, Illinois, where he lived until 1877. In that year he again became a resident of Spencer, Iowa, and served as the first city marshal. Moreover, the Grand Army post there is named in his honor. He passed away in July, 1880, deeply mourned by his many friends. Our subject's grandmother, Mary Richardson, was the custodian of General Grant's home at Galena and there John B. Annett was married to Miss Harriet Richardson, who survives him and makes her home in Idaho.

William H. Annett was only a child at the time of his father's death, but as he was the oldest son he had to go to work and help support the family. He left school when twelve years old and entered a printing office, there learning the trade. He has ever since been identified with newspaper offices and has made gratifying progress in his chosen work. For nine years he was foreman of the Clay County News, in which he bought an interest in 1895, but three years later he disposed of his holdings therein and became part owner of the Spencer Reporter, with which he severed his connection, however, in 1904. He then went to Idaho and for six years was foreman of a large publishing house in that state, but returned to Iowa on account of his wife's health. For a year he was employed in Sioux City and in 1912 came to Buffalo Center, Iowa, and purchased the Buffalo Center

Tribune, which he has since owned and edited. His plant is well equipped and in addition to publishing the Tribune he does a large job business. He has won an enviable reputation for enterprise, high class work and honorable dealing and has been markedly successful both as a newspaper publisher and as a job printer.

Mr. Annett was married June 2, 1897, to Miss Jessie Bender and they have had two children: Marguerite, who was born in May, 1898, and died in 1901; and Pauline, born in September, 1904. Mr. Annett is a republican in his political belief and since 1916 has been mayor of Buffalo Center. His work as a newspaper man has naturally kept him in close touch with public affairs and this knowledge of matters pertaining to local government has been of great value to him in the discharge of his duties as mayor, enabling him to work efficiently for the town's good. His public service has also included his incumbency of the office of secretary of the Winnebago-Kossuth Institute and Short Course for two years and he still takes a most lively interest in plans for giving farmers the benefit of the scientific investigation that is constantly being made along agricultural lines. He is a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He also belongs to the Congregational church and is a member of the male quartette there and his wife is choir leader. His varied interests make such heavy demands upon his time and energy as would tax the powers of a less enterprising man, but he is never so busy that he cannot find time to give to his friends, of whom there are many.

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#### SAMUEL KLIPPING.

Samuel Klipping, of Forest City, is now living retired after long connection with agricultural interests in Hancock county. He was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, March 23, 1853, a son of Conrad and Marie Klipping, who were natives of Germany, where they were reared and married. While they were en route for America their eldest child, a daughter, was born on shipboard. They became pioneer settlers of Stephenson county, Illinois, where the father secured land and engaged in farming until his death.

Samuel Klipping attended the common schools to the age of sixteen years and afterward worked for his father upon the home farm until he attained his twenty-second year. He then rented land and began farming on his own account, continuing his connection with agricultural interests in his native county for fourteen years. In 1890 he arrived in Hancock county, Iowa and the following year removed his family, after which he cultivated a rented farm for four years. In 1895 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he cultivated until the spring of 1916, or for a period of twenty-one years, after which he retired to Forest City, where he is now most comfortably and pleasantly located. He still owns one hundred and sixty-six acres of his farm, while his son George is now owner of the remainder. His place returns to him a gratifying annual income, for he has converted the land into rich and productive fields.

In 1876 Mr. Klipping was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Meyer, of Stephenson county, Illinois, by whom he had eleven children, ten of whom still survive, as follows: George, an agriculturist of Hancock county; Rose, who is the wife of

Henry Schultz, of Winnebago county; Jessie, who is married and lives in Waterloo, Iowa; Arthur, a resident of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Elmer, living on the home farm; Louisa, the wife of Leonard Bryant, of Waterloo; Clara, who is the wife of Henry Jones, of Estherville, Iowa; Roy, living on the home farm; Leonard, who is in the employ of Henry Schultz; and Ima who is employed as a clerk in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mr. Klipping exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He has for three years been township trustee but could never be called a politician in the sense of office seeking although he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He started out in life empty handed, but he early realized the fact that determination and energy are the basis of honorable success. He has worked his way upward along those lines and what he has accomplished represents the fit utilization of his time and his innate powers and talents.

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#### HANS AND HALVOR FUGLEBERG.

Hans and Halvor Fugleberg, actively interested in farming on section 7, Center township, have one hundred and twenty acres of land in their home farm and have other investments in land and business enterprises. They are well known and substantial citizens of Winnebago county, within the borders of which they have always lived. They were born in Forest township, Hans on the 29th of April, 1875, and Halvor on the 4th of February, 1879. They are sons of Ole and Mary Fugleberg, who were natives of Norway and in 1865 came to America, settling first in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming for seven years. He then sold that property and removed to Winnebago county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Forest township. This he improved and cultivated for seventeen years, when he sold out and took up his abode in Center township, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 7. He cultivated and developed this property throughout his remaining days, his life's labors being ended in death on the 5th of September, 1907. His wife had previously passed away, her death occurring June 6, 1900.

Hans and Halvor Fugleberg spent their youthful days upon the farms on which their parents lived in Forest and Center townships. They attended the district schools and as they advanced in age and strength they more and more largely assisted in the work of the home farm. Following the death of the father Hans Fugleberg purchased the home place of one hundred and twenty acres and Halvor Fugleberg bought an eighty-acre tract on section 6, Center township, just north of the home place. They have since together operated the entire tract of two hundred acres and have made it one of the productive farms of the county. They work persistently and diligently in the further development of the property, and their practical and progressive methods are indicated in the success which has attended them. They are stockholders in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company, while Hans is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Searville.

Like many of the people of Norwegian nationality or descent, the Fugleberg



brothers adhere to the faith of the Lutheran church and guide their lives by its teachings. They vote with the republican party and keep well informed on the questions and issues of the day, so that they are able to support their position by intelligent argument.

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#### ANDREW CHARLSON.

Andrew Charlson is a retired farmer of Forest township, Winnebago county, who now makes his home on section 23. He is a representative of that large and substantial quota of citizens that Norway has furnished to Iowa, his birth having occurred in that country on the 13th of October, 1841. In 1852 his parents, Carl Anderson and Bertha (Halverson) Charlson, came to the United States with their family from Anfenesrue, near Drammen, Norway, on a sailing vessel that took seven weeks to make the voyage. They established their home in Dane county, Wisconsin. The father was employed on the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad from Stoughton to Madison, Wisconsin, and he continued his residence in that state until called to his final rest, after which the mother brought the family to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1866.

Andrew Charlson was reared and educated in Dane county, Wisconsin, pursuing his studies in one of the old-time log schoolhouses, with its slab benches and other primitive furnishings, while the methods of instruction were almost as crude in those pioneer times. However, in the school of experience he has learned many practical and valuable lessons. In the spring of 1866 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, with his mother and in connection with her purchased a small tract of land in Forest township on which was a log cabin. In that primitive home the family was established and there resided for several years. Mr. Charlson was ambitious and industrious and through his earnest and indefatigable effort he was able to earn the money that enabled him from time to time to add to his possessions. He has at intervals made purchases until he is now the owner of eight hundred acres of valuable farm land, all of which he has improved and which is now being further developed and cultivated by his children, with the exception of the small tract of fifty acres whereon he now resides. This splendid property is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift. In addition to his farming interests he is a stock holder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and in the Farmers Coöperative Creamery Company of Forest City.

On July 26, 1870, Mr. Charlson was married to Miss Bertha C. Peterson, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Hans H. Peterson, who came to America from Norway in 1850 and settled in La Salle county, Illinois. In that state he was married to Kristana Thors Nelson Vareberg, who emigrated to America from Stavanger, Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Charlson have become parents of seven children, of whom five are yet living, namely: Clarence H., who follows farming in Winnebago county; Bertha M., the wife of George Klipping, a resident farmer of Hancock county; and Joseph W., Arthur Bliss and Irving W., all of whom are farmers of this part of the state, taking up the work for their father upon his land.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlson are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church

and have guided their lives according to its teachings. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and in 1864 he first exercised his right of franchise by voting for Abraham Lincoln. It was in that year that he joined the Union army as a soldier of the Civil war, becoming a member of Company I, Forty-third Wisconsin Infantry, with which he remained until the cessation of hostilities. He has served as a member of the school board in his district and has filled several of the township offices, the duties of which he has ever discharged with promptness and fidelity. He is today numbered among the old settlers of Winnebago county and is one of its most highly esteemed citizens. He certainly deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he has worked diligently and with determination to win his success and his life record indicates what may be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do. He did not shirk the responsibilities that early came to him nor grumble that fate was unkind to him but worked along lines that led to success and is today one of the prosperous citizens of Winnebago county.

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#### JOHN N. BRUDVIG.

John N. Brudvig, actively and successfully engaged in general farming on section 29, Norway township, Winnebago county, was born in a little island called Osterand, in the northeastern part of Bergen, Norway, his natal day being April 20, 1844. His parents were Nels and Anna (Olson) Anderson, farming people, who had a family of three children, of whom John N. was the eldest. His two brothers were Andrew M. and Ole Brudvig. The former became an early settler of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and contributed to the pioneer development of that section, where he lived for many years and then passed to the home beyond. The younger brother died in Norway in 1866, when but eighteen years of age. The mother passed away in Norway in 1871. It was more than a decade later, or in 1882, that the father emigrated to the United States. In the meantime he had married again and by the second union there were born three children: Andrew M., now a minister of the gospel in Colton, South Dakota; Emma, the wife of Andrew J. Brudvig, of Stutsman county, North Dakota; and Bertha, the wife of Joseph Johnson, of Thompson, Iowa. On coming with his family to the new world the father made his way at once to the home of his son, John N. Brudvig, and lived with him for three years. He then purchased a farm on section 20, Norway township, and continued to further develop and improve the place until his death, which occurred in 1900. His widow is still living and now makes her home with a daughter in Thompson, Iowa. In his political views Mr. Anderson was a republican, for his study of the political situation of the country led him to the belief that the principles of that party contained the best elements of good government. His religious faith was that of the United Lutheran church. He was a self-made man, his persistency of purpose and his energy enabling him to overcome obstacles and difficulties and work his way steadily upward to success.

John N. Brudvig attended the public schools near his boyhood home until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he began earning his living as a farm hand and was thus employed in Norway until 1867. He then resolved to try his

fortune in the new world and came alone to the United States, making the voyage on a sailing vessel. He crossed the country to Lodi, Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he secured employment as a farm hand and thus worked until the fall of 1870, when he removed to Worth county, Iowa, and secured employment near Northwood. He remained in the service of others for six years and in 1873 he bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 29, Norway township. He paid for it by working in Worth county and in 1877 he took up his abode upon that place, bending his efforts to the work of clearing, developing and improving the place. He has converted the wild land into productive fields, from which he annually gathers good harvests. He is interested in the Farmers Elevator at Searville, Iowa, and in the Searville Creamery.

It was in 1883 that Mr. Brudvig was united in marriage to Miss Lena Holmset, a daughter of John Olson and Johanna (Ludvigson) Holmset, both now deceased, their remains having been interred in the Lime Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Brudvig have become the parents of ten children: John, who is now living in Logan township; Nels, who is assisting in the operation of the home farm; Martin, who died in 1911 at the age of twenty-five years; Anna, who passed away in 1910 at the age of twenty-two years; Hannah, who is living in Mason City; Carl, a resident of Logan township; Hilda, also of Mason City; Emma, who died in infancy; and Emma, second of the name, and Clara, both at home.

Mr. Brudvig votes with the republican party, but while he has never sought nor desired political office he has served as school director for a number of terms and believes in sustaining good schools in order that the children may have the training which fits them for life's practical and responsible duties. Both he and his wife are members of the Synod Lutheran church. Mr. Brudvig has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has worked his way steadily upward. Energy and ability have brought him to the front as a successful farmer and his life record should serve as a means of encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished through individual labor.

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#### CASPER K. MOE.

Prominent among the citizens that Norway has furnished Hancock county is Casper K. Moe of Concord township, who has steadily prospered since coming to the new world and is today one of the most substantial men of the community. He was born in Norway on the 1st of February, 1858, a son of Christian and Bertha (Tolloson) Moe, who were lifelong residents of that country. There Mr. Moe was reared and educated, being twenty-two years of age when he crossed the ocean and located in Boston in 1880. He worked at the shoemaker's trade in that city for six months and then came west.

It was in 1881 that Mr. Moe arrived in Hancock county, Iowa, with whose interests he has since been identified. For a short time he worked as a section hand on the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad but on the 18th of August, 1881, accepted a position in a shoe store in Garner, where he was employed for two years and a half, and then engaged in the same line of business on his own account for

eight years. In 1887 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 28, Concord township, Hancock county, for which he paid the highest price ever given for land in this county up to that time, and in 1917 he sold the tract for two hundred and twelve and a half dollars per acre, which is the record price paid for land in this locality. It is needless to say that his farm was the finest in Concord township, it being under excellent cultivation and splendidly improved with substantial buildings, which stood as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. Mr. Moe has not confined his attention wholly to agricultural pursuits but has become interested in a number of business enterprises which have had an important bearing upon the prosperity and development of Hancock county. From 1902 to 1910 he served as president of the Farmers National Bank of Garner; was one of the original stockholders and the first treasurer of the Farmers Coöperative Elevator Company; and also a stockholder of the Coöperative Creamery at Garner.

On the 28th of January, 1885, Mr. Moe was united in marriage to Miss Mary Elizabeth Stork, who was born in Wisconsin, May 15, 1866, and is a daughter of Joseph and Barbara Stork, natives of Germany and Bohemia respectively. In 1870 her parents became residents of Muscoda, Grant county, Wisconsin, but are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Moe have three children, namely: Chester H., who married Dorothy Reeves, a native of Missouri; Vera I., the wife of Walter H. Moore, a native of Indiana; and Vivian Lucille, who is at home.

Since becoming an American citizen, Mr. Moe has affiliated with the republican party and has taken quite an active and influential part in local politics. He has given special attention to educational affairs and served as school trustee six years, school treasurer ten years and school director for six years. In religious faith he is a Congregationalist, and in his fraternal relations is connected with the blue lodge, chapter, council and commandery of the Masonic order. He is also a member of the Eastern Star and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of prominence in his community and has the confidence and respect of all who know him.

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#### B. C. BURDICK.

B. C. Burdick, a highly respected retired farmer living in Lake Mills, was born in Cedar Falls on the 3d of August, 1861, and is a son of Alfred and Sarah (Platts) Burdick, natives of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire respectively. The father came to Iowa in young manhood and the mother was brought to this state when a girl by her brother, Henry Platts. Mr. and Mrs. Burdick resided for a short time in Cedar Falls and were pioneer settlers in both Winnebago county and in Worth county, just across the line. The father had extensive land holdings in both counties, including a homestead on Burdick island in Rice lake, near Lake Mills. In the '60s he conducted a store in Bristol, Worth county, in connection with his farm. Both he and his wife are deceased and are buried in Sunnyside cemetery in Lake Mills.

B. C. Burdick attended the district schools until he was sixteen years of age and during the following nine years worked for his father. When twenty-five years

old he was married and purchased a farm in Silver Lake township, Worth county, which he operated for eleven years. He then rented that place and took up his residence in Lake Mills, but nine years later bought a farm in Bristol township, Worth county. After following agricultural pursuits there for five years he retired from active life and became a resident of Lake Mills. He is in enviable financial circumstances and is assured of all the comforts of life without further recourse to labor.

Mr. Burdick was married in 1887 to Miss Nellie Wright, a daughter of Abel J. and Anice (Balsom) Wright, natives of New York state, where they were married and six of their children were born. The father came to Iowa in 1868 but did not bring his family until 1872, making several trips between New York and Iowa in the meantime. In 1872 the family located in Bristol, Worth county, Iowa, and the father conducted a store there and also engaged in farming. In 1886 he removed to Lake Mills, Winnebago county, and retired from active life. He died September 5, 1904, and his wife January 17, 1914, and both are buried in Sunny-side cemetery. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Burdick, namely: Juva N., the wife of Milton Bergland, of Mason City; Beryl, who married Glenn Gaskill, of Lake Mills; Clarence A.; and Donald, who died in infancy.

Mr. Burdick is a democrat in his political belief and his interest in public affairs is that of a good citizen. He served many years as a member of the school board in Worth county and was trustee for several years. He is a member of the Yeomen and of the Methodist church, associations which indicate the nature of his interests. He has a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the county, his salient qualities being such as invariably command respect and regard.

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#### MARTIN I. MARTINSON.

Martin I. Martinson has been a resident of Winnebago county, Iowa, since six years of age and since reaching man's estate has been prominently identified with her agricultural interests, now owning and operating a good farm on section 29, Norway township. He is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, his birth occurring in Lafayette county, June 24, 1859, and he is a son of Ingebrit and Gertrude (Odden) Martinson, of whom extended mention is made in the sketch of Ole I. Martinson on another page of this volume.

Martin I. Martinson accompanied his parents on their removal to Winnebago county, Iowa, about 1865, and here he pursued his studies in the public schools until sixteen years of age. He remained at home until twenty-five and then purchased the southeast quarter of section 29, Norway township, and also the west half of the southwest quarter of section 28. Upon this farm he has since resided and has given his undivided attention to its cultivation and improvement with good results. He is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator, Lake Mills Creamery Company and Farmers Lumber Company of Lake Mills and is one of the well-to-do citizens of his community.

On the 29th of March, 1884, Mr. Martinson was united in marriage to Miss Lena Anderson, a daughter of Ole and Carrie Anderson, who were natives of Norway and came to the United States forty years ago. The father was a farmer

and passed away in Winnebago county in 1897. He is buried in Lime Creek cemetery. The mother is living in Wisconsin at the age of eighty-three years. To Mr. and Mrs. Martinson have been born twelve children, of whom the following are still living: Ingebrit M., a resident of Center township; Carl Oscar, of Lake Mills; Selma C., the wife of Ed Johnson, of Center township, Winnebago county; Clara C., the wife of Alfred Thompson, of Center township; and Gilma, Annetta C., Alice B., Melvin O. and William R., all at home.

The family are identified with the Synod Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Martinson affiliates with the republican party, in whose principles and policies he firmly believes. For a number of years he filled the office of school director and the cause of education has always found in him a faithful friend. Wherever known, he is held in high regard and he is numbered among the representative citizens of his locality.

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### NELS P. BAYERS.

Among the most prosperous residents of Winnebago county is Nels P. Bayers, a retired farmer now living in Forest City. There is much of interest concerning his life record and the methods which he has pursued in the attainment of success that can with profit be set down. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark, May 6, 1848, a son of Christ and Carrie (Vestergaard) Bayers, the former of whom died in Germany and the latter in Copenhagen.

Reared under the parental roof, Nels P. Bayers acquired his education in his native country and was a young man of twenty-three years when in 1871 he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Manistee, Michigan, on the 25th of October of that year. There he was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Marie Anderson, who came to the United States from Denmark in 1872. For five years Mr. Bayers continued a resident of Michigan, but thinking to find better opportunities in the west, resolved to remove to Iowa.

It was in 1876 that he arrived in Hancock county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Britt township, ten miles west of Garner, which he sold shortly afterwards. He then bought forty acres four miles east of Garner, where he remained for two years, after which he sold that and purchased ninety acres in Ellington township, which he cultivated for a time. Later he disposed of that land and bought one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. His next investment made him owner of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining and still later he bought one hundred and eighty acres where the town of Miller is now located. He continued to occupy and cultivate his farm in Ellington township until 1901, when he retired and removed to Forest City. He remains, however, an extensive holder of farm lands, his possessions including five hundred and forty-seven acres of valuable land near Rochester, Minnesota, two hundred and thirty-six acres near Charles City, Iowa, one hundred and sixty acres of irrigated land in Laramie county, Wyoming, and eighty acres of land in Sumner county, Kansas, which has become very valuable owing to oil discoveries there. Mr. Bayers is rated among the wealthy men of Forest City. He has been very successful, for although he came to this country a poor young man, he has worked his

way steadily upward. When he arrived in Manistee, Michigan, he had had no breakfast and possessed not a penny to buy his dinner. Two days later he had fifteen dollars in his pocket, which his earnest labor had brought him—as much money as he made in the mother country in six months. He was ambitious and determined to get ahead. He worked hard, utilizing every advantage that would enable him to progress in a business way, and year by year marked an increase in his fortunes, owing to his persistent effort, his careful investment and his keen sagacity. In addition to his farming interests he became the organizer of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Hancock County, of which for twelve years he was the president. He was also the organizer of the Farmers Alliance of Hancock County and for two years served as its president. He is now a stockholder in the First National Bank of Forest City. For many years he was president of the Farmers Mutual Creamery Company of Forest City, the first mutual creamery company in Winnebago county.

In 1908 Mr. Bayers was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, who passed away on the 2d of April of that year, leaving ten children, while three have departed this life. Those who still survive are: Celia M., the wife of H. J. Ries, of Billings, Montana; Mamie, who gave her hand in marriage to C. C. Clark, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Peter C., a resident of Antler, North Dakota; Carrie, the wife of John M. Walls, of Grafton, North Dakota; Arthur, a banker, who makes his home in Lavina, Montana; George W., residing in Denver, Colorado; Marie, who is a music teacher of Minneapolis, Minnesota; John and Walter, who are Montana homesteaders; and Valeta, a trained nurse of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In May, 1909, Mr. Bayers married Miss Olivia Hendrickson of Chicago, Illinois, who is a native of Denmark.

Mr. Bayers gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired office. However, he served on the school board in Hancock county for several years. He is interested in progressive citizenship and his activities have been an element in the continued growth and development of his section of the state. Here he has lived for more than forty years and has ever been an interested witness of the events which have occurred that have molded the history of the county.

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#### ANDREW A. RODBERG.

As its name indicates, Norway township, Winnebago county, has been largely settled by those who were born in the land of the midnight sun or whose parents came from that country. Andrew A. Rodberg first opened his eyes to the light of day at North Fjord, Norway, March 13, 1862, being the second child of Amund and Anna Rodberg, who are farming people and who had a family of six children: John, who is now a resident of Scarville, Iowa; A. A.; Jeneea, now the wife of Louis Opdahl, of North Fjord, Norway; Olina, the wife of Rasmus Nelson, also living in that country; Gertrude, the wife of Andrew Kvernaveck, of Norway; and Jacob, who died in Norway. The first two were the only ones who ever came to the United States, the parents and other members of the family still living in Norway.

Andrew A. Rodberg spent the period of his boyhood and youth in his native land and when twenty-one years of age came alone to the United States, first settling near Northwood, Worth county, Iowa. He worked as a farm hand for a short time and then removed to Norway township, Winnebago county, where he was employed at farm labor until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought to him a sufficient sum to enable him to purchase the northeast quarter of section 31, Norway township. With characteristic energy he at once began to clear and develop that property, upon which he still makes his home. He soon cleared the land, plowed under the native prairie grasses, harrowed his fields, planted his seed and in due course of time was gathering good harvests. All through the intervening years to the present he has carefully cultivated his land and the result of his labors is seen in a splendidly developed farm, upon which are good improvements. He rotates his crops, studies the best methods of enhancing the yield and utilizes the latest improved machinery in planting and harvesting.

When twenty-eight years of age Mr. Rodberg was married to Miss Anna Ide, who came to the United States with her brothers, who settled in Worth county, Iowa, where they still make their home. To Mr. and Mrs. Rodberg were born four children: Perry, who married Sarah Linde, a daughter of O. P. Linde, of Norway township; Amanda, the wife of R. Jacobson, who is cultivating the home farm and by whom she has two children, Asta and Alma; and John and Elmer, who are still at home. The wife and mother passed away July 3, 1913, and her remains were laid to rest at Lake Mills.

Throughout his life A. A. Rodberg has been actuated by high and honorable principles for he has long been a consistent member of the United Lutheran church. His political views constitute an endorsement of the republican party, but he has never been ambitious to hold office. For forty-four years he has lived continuously in Iowa and is thoroughly American in spirit and interests, standing at all times for those forces which work for the betterment of county, state and nation.

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#### BICK CONNER.

Bick Conner, proprietor of a livery stable at Forest City, was born in Fayette county, Iowa September 18, 1873, a son of Isaac and Emily (Clark) Conner, who were natives of Indiana and of Ohio respectively. The father came to Iowa in 1859, establishing his home in Fayette county, whence he afterward removed to Winnebago county, settling on a farm in Forest township. He was thus identified with general agricultural pursuits of that locality for a long period. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom nine are now living.

Bick Conner pursued his education in the public schools and when not busy with his textbooks worked in the fields. He began farming on his own account in Fayette county, Iowa, where he remained for a year and then came to Winnebago county, where he rented land which he cultivated for six years. At the end of that time he had saved money enough to purchase a farm and became the owner of



a tract of land of eighty acres on section 9, Forest township. Upon that place he remained for twelve years, converting it into a highly improved and productive property. His farm work was wisely and carefully managed and conducted and brought to him a substantial measure of success. At length he removed to Forest City and opened his livery barn, since which time he has conducted a growing business. He has a large number of vehicles and horses and it is ever his earnest desire to please his customers, while his reliable methods have brought to him a large patronage from the public.

In 1894 Mr. Conner was married to Miss Mary Boleyn, a native of Fayette county and a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Boleyn, the former now deceased, while the mother is still living. Mrs. Conner was an only child. Mr. Conner belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeoman and he exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He has never sought nor desired public office but has concentrated his efforts and attention upon his business interests and he is now well known in this county, in which he has resided for many years.

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#### NELS O. BERG.

Nels O. Berg, proprietor of the only exclusive grocery store in Thompson, Iowa, was born in Norway on the 3d of February, 1865, and is a son of Ole and Anna (Nelson) Berg, also natives of that country, where the family continued to reside until June, 1865, when they emigrated to America. Locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, the father purchased land nine miles east of Decorah and engaged in farming there until 1902, when he retired from active labor and removed to Decorah, making his home in that city until he passed away in April, 1915. The mother of our subject died in 1869.

It was during his infancy that Nels O. Berg was brought to the new world and he was reared and educated in Winneshiek county, Iowa. After leaving home he learned the carpenter's trade in Decorah and later followed that occupation in St. Paul, Minnesota, for three years. During the autumn season he engaged in threshing in North Dakota for three years and in the fall of 1891 came to Forest City, Iowa, but soon afterward returned to his old home in Winneshiek county, where he spent one year. In 1892 Mr. Berg again came to Winnebago county and settled in Thompson before the railroad had been built to this place. Here he engaged in contracting, erecting many of the early buildings of the town, but later spent two more years in Winneshiek county. On his return to Thompson he bought an interest in a general store, which he conducted for a time, and subsequently engaged in the restaurant business for eight years. Since then he has given his attention to the grocery business and now carries a large and complete stock of staple and fancy groceries, for which he finds a ready sale, having built up an excellent patronage. Mr. Berg is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company and in the Town Mutual Telephone Company and is the owner of two store buildings besides his fine home in Thompson.

On the 1st of January, 1895, Mr. Berg was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Halverson, and they have become the parents of three children: Millard,

born October 21, 1898; Hattie Lucille, born March 16, 1913; and the latter's twin sister, Nettie Luella, who died August 8, 1914.

In his political affiliations Mr. Berg is a republican and is a recognized leader in the local ranks of that party. He is now efficiently serving as a member of the town council and has also filled the office of school treasurer. In religious faith he is a Lutheran. He gives his hearty support to all measures calculated to advance the moral, educational or material welfare of the community and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of Thompson as well as one of its most enterprising business men.

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#### ANDREW B. MYHR.

The home farm of Andrew B. Myhr is situated on sections 27 and 28, King township. This is the old homestead of the family and became the property of the present owner in 1916. He was born in Nebraska on the 5th of April, 1884, and is a son of Berge A. and Helen (Thorsheim) Myhr, who were natives of Norway and came to America in 1882, locating in Illinois. After a year they removed to Nebraska and obtained a homestead claim which Mr. Myhr continued to cultivate until 1888. He then came to Winnebago county and purchased eighty acres on section 28, King township. This he further developed and improved and continued to engage in farming thereon until called to his final rest. He died in June, 1901, being killed by a bull. His widow is still living.

Andrew B. Myhr was reared and educated in Winnebago county, dividing his time between the work of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the tasks assigned him in connection with the cultivation of the fields. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he purchased land, and since then has bought and sold several farms, becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of the old home place in 1916. There were at one time two hundred and forty acres in this farm, but a part of it had been sold. Mr. Myhr has made excellent improvements upon it since he took up his abode there and he now has one of the nicest homes of the county. In the rear of the residence stand good barns and outbuildings and these are surrounded by highly cultivated fields. The place presents a most neat and attractive appearance and constitutes one of the pleasing features of the landscape. Mr. Myhr is also well known in business circles and in other connections. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson. He has served as vice president and as president of the King Mutual Telephone Company for several years, occupying the latter position at the present time. He now makes a specialty of raising stock, handling pure bred Guernsey cattle and Chester White hogs, while his wife is engaged quite extensively in raising White Wyandotte chickens.

It was in March, 1907, that Mr. Myhr wedded Miss Clara Anderson, a daughter of K. R. Anderson, a native of Norway, who came to the United States when but ten years of age. He was a veteran of the Civil war and was one of the pioneer settlers of Winnebago county, where he passed away in the fall of 1910,



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW B. MYHR



having for a few years survived his wife, who died in the spring of 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Myhr have an adopted daughter, Alpha K., who is now five years of age.

Their religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and politically Mr. Myhr is a republican. He is the present township clerk of King township, which position he has occupied for about eight years, and in 1914 he was made his party's candidate for county treasurer. While undoubtedly not without that laudable ambition which is so valuable as an incentive for faithful service in public life, he yet regards private pursuits as abundantly worthy of his best efforts and in business has made a creditable record. His plans are always well defined and carefully executed and his careful management of his farming interests has brought gratifying returns.

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#### SIGURD C. BROCKEY.

Iowa ranks with the great agricultural states of the Union, leading in the production of some crops. Its reputation in this regard is due not to any little group of individuals but to the combined effort of many enterprising and progressive farmers who have gathered to this section from all parts of the world. Among those who have come from Norway is Sigurd C. Brockey, who is now living on section 27, Mount Valley township, Winnebago county. He was born September 14, 1847, his parents being Christian and Sarah (Segerson) Brockey, who were also natives of that country, where the wife and mother passed away. The father afterward came to the new world in 1857 and took up his abode in Minnesota, where he continued to reside until his demise.

Sigurd C. Brockey was about ten years of age when he came with his father to the United States and under the parental roof he remained until he had attained his majority. He was early trained to the work of the fields, receiving practical experience in the best methods of cultivating the soil and caring for the crops when the harvest was ripe. On reaching man's estate he began farming on his own account in Minnesota and in 1875 he removed to Iowa, establishing his home in Winnebago county, where he purchased the farm on section 27, Mount Valley township, on which he now resides. It bears little resemblance at the present time, however, to the tract of land which came into his possession more than four decades ago, for he has improved the place according to modern farm methods and has erected thereon substantial buildings. At one time he owned one hundred and eighty acres of land. He has always made a specialty of raising and feeding stock of all kinds and his work in this connection has added not a little to his income. He is likewise a stockholder in the creamery at Forest City.

In 1871 Mr. Brockey was joined in wedlock to Miss Betsy Swenson, a native of Norway, and they have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Sarah H., who is the wife of Gottlieb Richm; Christian, deceased; Lottie S., who gave her hand in marriage to Arthur Larson; William, who has passed away; Swan S., who operates the homestead farm; Willie, deceased; Dena C.; and Carl G., who has also passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Brockey are members of the Lutheran church and are interested

in all those moral forces which work for the uplift of the community. Mr. Brockey early found that industry is the key which unlocks the portals of success. He has led a life of activity and has been most practical in all that he has undertaken, so that substantial results have crowned his efforts. Although he has now almost reached the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, he is yet an active worker in the world's work and Winnebago county classes him with her representative farmers.

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#### JOHN P. NELSEN.

John P. Nelsen, who at the time of his demise was living upon the farm now owned by his widow, on section 30, Linden township, Winnebago county, was a man of many admirable qualities, and his memory is cherished by his friends. He was born in Germany, July 21, 1846, and remained there until he was eleven years old, when the family removed to Denmark, where he finished his education. He was married in that country where he continued his residence until 1878, when he came to the United States and located at Monmouth, Illinois. For thirteen years he maintained his home there but in 1891 removed to Hancock county, Iowa, whence two years later he came to section 30, Linden township, Winnebago county, and bought a good farm of eighty acres. He gave his time and attention to the operation of that place until he was called by death on March 17, 1895. Although he had resided in Winnebago county but two years he had gained the unqualified respect and warm regard of those who had come in contact with him, and his demise was deeply regretted. His remains were interred in Crystal Lake cemetery.

Mr. Nelsen was married in Denmark to Miss Matilda Nelsen, and to their union were born seven children, four of whom survive, as follows: Louisa, the wife of M. Daniels of North Dakota; John and George, who are living in Mason City, Iowa; and Arthur, living at Woden, Iowa. Mrs. Nelsen resides upon the farm in Linden township purchased by her husband in 1893. She holds membership in the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Nelsen was a life-long and consistent member. He was a man of sterling character, his conduct at all times conforming to high standards of ethics.

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#### K. G. OSHEIM.

K. G. Osheim, who was prominently identified with the business life of Thompson as a member of the hardware firm of Jerde & Osheim, but is now living retired, was born in Norway, July 20, 1855. When two years old he was brought to America by his parents, Gunder and Bertha Osheim, who purchased a farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa. There the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death at the age of sixty-three years. He is buried in the Stavanger Church cemetery. Five children of the family of four sons and two daughters survive.

K. G. Osheim received a limited education in the district schools of Winneshiek county and subsequently spent several years working for his father, but when

twenty-one years old rented a farm in that county. A year later he bought that place, which he operated until 1892, when he removed to Winnebago county and purchased a quarter section in Linden township, to which he added by purchase until his holdings comprised four hundred and eighty acres. In 1896 he gave up farm work, sold his land and became a member of the firm of Jerde & Osheim, dealers in hardware at Thompson. At length he bought out his partner and in association with his son Lawrence conducted business until 1910, when he disposed of his interests therein and retired from active life.

In 1876 Mr. Osheim was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Danielson, who passed away leaving two children: Lawrence, now a resident of Rosholt, South Dakota; and Julia, the wife of Lars Ritland, of Adams county, Iowa.

Mr. Osheim gives his support to the republican party but has not been very active in public affairs, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business interests. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church and seeks to extend its influence and further its work. He early realized the fact that he must win for himself whatever success he gained and bent all his energy to making his way in the world. His industry, determination, and good management have been well rewarded, for he now has a competence that ensures him all the comforts of life.

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#### BURT J. THOMPSON.

Burt J. Thompson is a well known representative of the Winnebago county bar, practicing at Forest City, but this does not by any means cover the scope of his activities, for he is an equally forceful and resourceful man in banking circles and is a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of the state. He combines persistency of purpose with keen sagacity and the ability to discriminate between the essential and the nonessential in all business affairs.

Mr. Thompson was born May 19, 1872, in the city which is still his home, his parents being Jasper and Clara (King) Thompson, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. Following the completion of his public school course Burt J. Thompson entered Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa, and was graduated therefrom with the class of 1894. With thorough preparatory training he then entered the Harvard Law School of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and won his professional degree with the class of 1904. Through the intervening period he was prominently connected with the professional and business interests of Winnebago county. For six years before entering the law school he was cashier of the Winnebago County State Bank and in 1898 and 1899 he was traveling around the world, being in the Philippines at the time of the Spanish-American war and there witnessing several engagements. While upon this trip he contributed several articles concerning his travels to the Midland Magazine. Following his return he began preparation for the bar and has since been actively engaged in the practice of law in Winnebago county, making for himself a most creditable position at the bar by reason of his comprehensive knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence and his accuracy in applying these principles to the points of litigation. His reasoning is clear, his deductions sound and his arguments forceful. Associated with him in practice are Alan Loth and Byron L. Sifford, both young men of notable ability. Mr. Loth

completed the liberal arts course in the Chicago University and won his degree in the Chicago Law School before he was twenty-two years of age. He at once entered into his present partnership relation and is regarded as one of the most brilliant young trial lawyers in northern Iowa. Mr. Sifford is a graduate of the State University of Iowa in both the academic and law departments and is now in charge of the Buffalo Center branch of the firm's practice. He was the most brilliant honor student in the law department of the university in many years and in his practice is carrying out the promise of his student days.

The success which Mr. Thompson has won as a lawyer would satisfy many a man, but with him the recognition of opportunity is always a call to action and in various other fields he has won notable distinction and success, equaling the prominence which he has attained as a distinguished member of the Iowa bar. In financial circles he is well known, for he is the vice president of the Winnebago County State Bank of Forest City, is the president of the State Bank of Thompson, was formerly vice president of the First National Bank of Buffalo Center for many years, is secretary of the Iowa Northern Land Company of Fort Dodge and president of the Thompson Land Company, of Thompson, Iowa. He is also deeply interested in agriculture and the development and improvement of farm lands. He has become the owner of large land interests in Iowa and in Texas, taking all of his farms in the raw and improving them. His methods bring quick results, as he converts the wild prairie into richly productive fields. Formerly he made a specialty of the raising of high bred shorthorn cattle but is now confining his attention more largely to crop cultivation, operating his farms through tenants. He has purchased tract after tract which he has tilled and improved and has thus contributed largely to the progress of the state along agricultural lines.

In February, 1910, Mr. Thompson was married to Ethel (Satterlee) Bennett, of Los Angeles, California, a daughter of Dr. Dwight Satterlee, who was born in Connecticut and represented a family prominent in textile manufacturing. Dr. Satterlee served for five years with the Federal army in the Civil war as a surgeon with the rank of major. He had charge of a hospital in Richmond. Following the cessation of hostilities Dr. Satterlee located at Dunlap, Iowa, where he engaged in the practice of medicine for forty years. He was also the owner of a drug store there and was president of the Dunlap Bank. He also served as county supervisor and filled other offices and was prominently connected with many projects of importance to the community. Later he became a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, and later went to Denver, Colorado, and on to California, where he took up his abode about 1901. He is a man of much more than ordinary ability and his activities constitute a valuable contribution to the world's work. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of the following children: Wilma Charlotte, Bruce and Janice.

In politics Mr. Thompson has always been a stalwart republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party yet never seeking nor accepting nomination for office. Fraternally he is connected with Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., and also with the Knights of Pythias. He is happy in having back of him an honorable ancestry and fortunate in that his lines of life have been cast in harmony therewith. He has made his life one of broad usefulness, directing his efforts not alone along lines bringing individual success but also into fields which constitute a source of public service. In June, 1915, he was elected a trustee of Grinnell College at



Grinnell, Iowa, and was elected a director of the Grinnell Foundation, which is the business corporation of the college, in June, 1916. In the winter of 1915-16 he was sent by the school to be its representative at meetings held by its local alumni associations in Seattle, Tacoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and Kansas City. The high purposes of his life have ever found fulfillment in the attainment of practical results, for he has ever been a man of action rather than of theory.

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#### JOHN J. HOLST.

John J. Holst, a resident farmer of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, has his home on section 34, where he owns and cultivates eighty acres of rich and productive land. He was born in Sweden on the 10th of August, 1871, and is a son of Jens O. and Sophia (Larson) Holst, both of whom spent their entire lives in Sweden. It was in the year 1893 that John J. Holst came to the new world. He had spent the period of his minority in his native land and had acquired his education in its public schools. He settled in Winnebago county, Iowa, where he went to work as a farm hand, and he continued to work for wages for eleven years, but desirous of engaging in business on his own account, he rented land in 1904 and began farming for himself. He carefully saved his earnings through the succeeding period of eight years and in 1912 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres in Mount Valley township. For five years he has resided upon this place and his labors are manifest in the well kept appearance of his farm with its carefully tilled fields, its substantial buildings and other improvements. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Coöperative Creamery Company of Forest City and a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator of Forest City, and he is interested in all those projects and measures which are looking to the improvement of conditions for the farmer or which promote agricultural progress as exemplified in the raising of crops.

In 1904 Mr. Holst was married to Miss Mary Brones, a daughter of Peter N. Brones, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They have four children, Phyllis S. R., James P., Mable I. and Alvin C. The parents are members of the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church and guide their lives according to its teachings. Their influence is always on the side of right and progress, reform and improvement, and their genuine personal worth is indicated in the large number of their friends.

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#### GEORGE W. BEADLE.

In the history of George W. Beadle is given the life record of one who for many years was a prominent factor in the business life and development of Iowa. He was recognized as a man of sterling worth. He arrived in Winnebago county in the period of its pioneer development and lived to witness the remarkable changes which have transformed this from a frontier district into one of the populous and prosperous counties of the state. He was born in Woodbury, Washington county, Vermont, on the 8th of July, 1835, and was there reared to manhood, while its public schools afforded him his educational opportunities. In

1855, when twenty years of age, he came to Iowa, making his way first to Lyons, Clinton county, where he resided for two years. He was afterward in Worth county for two years and then came to Winnebago county. However, as a youth of twenty years he had visited Winnebago county, where he became acquainted with an old trapper and for a short period was associated with him in trapping and hunting in the vicinity of the present town of Lake Mills. He arrived in this district about the same time as Judge Robert Clark and they later became fast friends. He established a brickyard, which he operated for a year or two, and made the brick for the first courthouse and the old Clark Hotel. He then bought land from the government and settled at Ellington, the old county seat of Hancock county. There he engaged in farming and upon that place made his home for thirty-two years. He also bought other land adjoining his first purchase and ultimately acquired seven hundred acres, which he converted into rich and productive fields. In addition to tilling the soil he also engaged in stock raising and for several years he conducted a general store at Ellington. He was also postmaster there for many years and was a very prominent factor in the development and progress of the district in which he lived. He continued upon the farm for many years. A year and a half was spent in Britt, Iowa, where he organized and, as its president, conducted the Farmers Savings Bank. At the end of that period, however, he sold the bank and in 1895 he came to Forest City, where he conducted a general store for five years. At the end of that period he disposed of his general mercantile interests and retired from active business.

On the 24th of June, 1860, Mr. Beadle was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Streeter, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, who survives him. Her father, Zimri Streeter, was a native of Vermont and in 1856 came to Iowa, where his remaining days were passed. He engaged in farming near Cedar Falls and was in the legislature three years. Although not a lawyer he served as one in many instances. His wife was in her maidenhood Lucinda Dean. To Mr. and Mrs. Beadle were born five children: Howard G.; Clara, now the wife of Michael O'Neil; Julia M.; Charles L., who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Angie, who died when but ten months old. There are also eleven grandchildren and one great-grandson. For a few years John Beadle, a brother, made his home with Mr. Beadle of this review. John Beadle was born in Newport, Vermont, February 5, 1829, and in 1849 went to California by way of Central America. In 1852 he returned to his native state and the year following came to Iowa, but again went back to Vermont. In 1859, however, he located at Bristol, Worth county, Iowa, and later removed to Ellington township, Hancock county. He enlisted at the first call for volunteers for service in the Civil war and fought in nearly all the most important battles in the war, including Gettysburg. He was a member of Company C, Twelfth United States Infantry. At the close of hostilities he returned to Iowa and bought two hundred and seventy-six acres of land five miles south of Forest City. He lived there until a few years before his death, when he went to live with his brother, G. W. Beadle. He passed away July 9, 1913, at the age of eighty-four years.

George W. Beadle always took an active interest in politics and for many years filled the office of county supervisor, discharging his duties with marked

promptness, capability and fidelity. He was deeply interested in education, served during his entire residence in Hancock county as a member of the school board and for many years was school treasurer. He ever contributed to public progress through his aid and cooperation in movements projected for the general good. He never united with any church but was a man of deep religious convictions, which he manifested in his everyday affairs and in his relations with his fellow-men. His death occurred on the 18th of August, 1914, and he was laid to rest in the Ellington cemetery, leaving a widow, four children and many friends to mourn his loss. His was an active and well spent life which won for him the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact and many who knew him entertained for him the warmest regard. Mrs. Beadle still owns the old homestead of four hundred and forty acres in Hancock county, a finely improved tract of land. She is a woman whose many admirable qualities have won her the friendly regard and confidence of all who know her. No history of this section of the state would be complete without extended reference to Mr. and Mrs. Beadle, for from early pioneer times he was connected with Hancock and Winnebago counties, witnessing their development from a wild frontier region and ever bearing his part in the task of promoting the upbuilding of his section of the state.

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#### B. N. MACOMBER.

B. N. Macomber, engaged in the lumber business in Forest City, was born in Oneida county, New York, February 1, 1867, a son of George H. and Phoebe (Dunaway) Macomber, who were also natives of the Empire state, the former of Scotch descent, while the latter was of English lineage. In October, 1869, they arrived in Forest City, traveling from Waverly, Iowa, by team, and Mr. Macomber then rented land that is now included within the boundaries of the county seat. Later he turned his attention to the teaming business, hauling freight between Forest City and various other points in an early day before the building of a railroad. He died in the year 1913, having for a decade survived his wife, who passed away in 1903.

B. N. Macomber largely devoted his early youth to mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools near his father's home and then started out in the business world as clerk in a store. He afterward became proprietor of a general store which he owned and conducted until 1902. After selling out he became manager of the lumber yard of J. H. Queal & Company at Leland, Iowa, where he continued for two years. He afterward spent a similar period at Bryce land with the same company and next came to Forest City as manager of the Queal interests at this point. He is thoroughly acquainted with the lumber trade and in his responsible position is conducting a large and growing business.

On the 26th of December, 1894, Mr. Macomber was married to Miss Henrietta Thurston, of Albert Lea, Minnesota, a daughter of Henry Thurston, who was one of the early settlers of that state. He became a prominent educator there and was an active and influential leader in politics.

Mr. Macomber votes with the republican party and is an active worker in its ranks. He has served as a member of the town council but prefers to leave

office holding to others. Fraternally he is well known, belonging to Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., and to the Eastern Star. He is also identified with the Odd Fellows lodge, the Rebekahs and with the Modern Woodmen. His has been a life of activity and what he has undertaken he has accomplished.

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### JOHN W. MAHONEY.

No history of Winnebago county would be complete without extended mention of J. W. Mahoney, who is now deceased but who for many years was one of the foremost merchants of Forest City, locating there in pioneer times and taking active part in its development along many lines. He served for many years as postmaster, was also a member of the city council and was connected with various business interests. His birth occurred in Laporte county, Indiana, April 24, 1841, and there he remained until his seventeenth or eighteenth year, when he removed with his parents to Floyd county, Iowa. He was educated in the common schools and in 1861, upon the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted as a member of the Third Iowa Battery, with which he served until the close of hostilities, participating in the engagements at Pea Ridge, at Helena and at Little Rock, Arkansas, and also in the Yazoo expedition. He proved a loyal and faithful soldier, manifesting his loyalty by the prompt performance of every duty that devolved upon him.

At the close of the war Mr. Mahoney returned to Floyd county, where he resided until 1869, when he came to Forest City and engaged in merchandising, erecting the first good store building in the town. Therein he conducted the first mercantile establishment of importance in Forest City, being associated with B. A. Plummer for a year and a half. On the expiration of that period he took over Mr. Plummer's interests and conducted the business independently for a number of years. Later his son, Irving W., became his partner and the energy and enterprise of the young man, and the sagacity and experience of the father, made a strong business combination. Mr. Mahoney was also financially interested in Forest City's first sawmill, which was subsequently converted into a grist mill. He was that type of man who, when anything needed to be done in the town, did not stand back and wait for some one else to do it but took his place in the vanguard and led the movement.

Mr. Mahoney was connected with many interests of public importance. In 1870 he was appointed deputy postmaster of Forest City and in 1873 was made postmaster, which office he filled for about fourteen years. He was also a member of the first board of councilmen of Forest City, being called to that office in 1878 and serving for two years, and for a similar period held the office of mayor. He served on the school board for many years and did everything in his power to advance the cause of education. In 1888 he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature for a two years' term and was a candidate for renomination, but the nomination was declared a tie and in order to keep harmony he resigned in favor of his opponent. He worked for the betterment of public conditions and the development of the resources of Winnebago county and co-operated in every plan and measure for the general good.



JOHN W. MAHONEY



On March 20, 1868, Mr. Mahoney was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Barmore, of Rockford, Iowa, a daughter of John and Juliette (Waters) Barmore, natives of New York state, who removed to Wisconsin in 1845 by wagon and in the early '60s came to Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney became the parents of three children: Irving W., an abstractor and prominent citizen of Jackson, Minnesota; Edna M., who is the wife of N. L. Baker, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, the patentee of the Baker change-making machine, and who has a daughter, Beth; and Hugh J., a resident of Forest City.

Mr. Mahoney was a staunch republican in politics and he was for forty years a member of the Masonic lodge of Forest City, of which he was ever a most loyal adherent, exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. He passed away February 9, 1909, while he and his wife were spending the winter with their daughter in Oklahoma City. In his passing Winnebago county lost one of its most prominent and most beloved citizens. During the funeral all the business houses were closed, the flag in the courthouse yard was suspended at half mast and the old soldier comrades of Mr. Mahoney attended the services in a body. He and his wife attended the Congregational church. He was generous to a fault, giving freely in aid of those who needed assistance. He was prominent in social circles of the city and is everywhere spoken of as one of Nature's noblemen. His life was ever upright and honorable, actuated by high purposes and fraught with splendid results. Of him it might well be said:

“He was a man; take him for all in all,  
I shall not look upon his like again.”

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#### SOREN OLSON.

Soren Olson is included within Norway's contribution to the citizenship of Winnebago county, for he was born in the land of the fjords on the 3d of April, 1851, his birthplace being in the parish of Opdahl, near Bergen. His parents were Ole Hanson and Martha Nelson, who were farming people of that country. Their family numbered six children, but only two are now living: Soren; and Nels, who still occupies the old homestead in Norway. The parents never came to the United States.

Soren Olson crossed the Atlantic in 1872, when a young man of twenty-one years. The reports which had reached him concerning the opportunities and advantages of the new world proved to him an irresistible attraction and after landing at Quebec, Canada, he made his way across the country to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he lived for a few months. Later he spent two years in Mitchell county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand, and in 1875 he came to Norway township, Winnebago county, and purchased the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30. The following year he acquired the remainder of that quarter section, thus becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres of good land which he cleared and developed, continuously farming this until 1910. He then removed to another farm, which he had previously purchased, comprising two hundred and forty acres of land on section 20. He also bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 19 and another forty acre tract

on section 30. At one time he was the owner of four hundred and sixty acres of valuable farm land in Norway township, but has since sold all but two hundred and eighty acres of this. Year after year he carefully and systematically engaged in farming, winning success by his unflinching and intelligently directed efforts, but in 1916 he retired from active life and removed to Scarville, where he and his wife now occupy an attractive home.

In May, 1878, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Olson, daughter of Jacob and Gunilda Olson, who were natives of Norway and in 1861 came to the United States, establishing their home in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived for three years and then removed to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where they followed farming until called to their final rest, their remains being interred in Lime Creek Church cemetery. They were devoted members of the United Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Olson became parents of ten children: Ole, living in Scarville with his parents; Jacob, who is upon the home farm in Norway township; Matilda, the wife of Herman Branvig, of Crookston, Minnesota; Gilbert, whose home is in Logan township, Winnebago county; Carrie, now the wife of Henry Severson, of Norway township; Emma, the wife of R. A. Riley, of Norway township; Nellie, the deceased wife of Axel Anderson, of Scarville; Severt and Oscar, who are also residents of Norway township; and Minnie, at home.

The parents are members of the United Lutheran church, and in his political belief Mr. Olson is a republican. For more than twenty years he acceptably filled the office of township trustee, was also road supervisor for a number of years and for some time filled the office of school director and was president one year. He was likewise interested in various cooperative companies of which he was a director, but he has now put aside all business cares and is resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. His life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, for it shows what may be accomplished through individual effort. He was practically penniless when he came to the new world, but he took advantage of the opportunities which he here found and through persistent, earnest labor, worked his way upward and is now numbered among the men of affluence in this section of the state.

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#### JACOB OLSON.

Jacob Olson, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits on the old homestead farm in Norway township, Winnebago county, was born upon that place January 14, 1881, a son of Soren Olson. At the usual age he became a public school pupil and continued his studies until he reached the age of sixteen, when he left the schoolroom to concentrate his efforts and attention upon assisting his father in the work of the home farm. He was employed by his father until he reached the age of twenty-six, when he rented the old homestead, which he still cultivates, and in addition he has become the owner of forty acres of land on section 30, Norway township. He is a busy man, constantly occupied with his farm cares and duties, and his activities are bringing him a growing measure of success.

On the 18th of February, 1914, Jacob Olson was united in marriage to Miss



Bertha Sande, a daughter of Hans N. and Carrie Sande, of Logan township, and they have one child, Katherine Adeline, who was born October 13, 1915. The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and Mr. Olson votes with the republican party. His entire life has been spent upon the farm which he now occupies and cultivates, and while there are no spectacular phases in his career, his activities have made him one of the substantial citizens of his community.

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#### CHARLES JACOB NAUMANN.

The excellent condition of the affairs of the Farmers Savings Bank at Corwith is evidence of the ability of Charles Jacob Naumann, who has served as cashier since the organization of the institution in 1908. He was born in Blairstown, Benton county, Iowa, May 19, 1879, and is a son of Jacob and Catharine (Keck) Naumann. The father was born near Weibelskerchen, Germany, and received his education in his native country. At the age of twenty years he secured a position as clerk in a store there and following his emigration to America he clerked in a store in Marshallville, Ohio, for some time. At the beginning of the Civil war, however, he enlisted in an Ohio regiment for the defense of the Union and was in the military service for four years. After being at the front for a time he was sent north on recruiting duty, and after securing enough men to fill up the regiment he returned to the south and thereafter saw much active service. When the war was over he returned to Marshallville, Ohio, where he remained until 1869, during which time he was married. After establishing his home in Blairstown, Benton county, Iowa, he went into the hardware business and was numbered among the successful merchants of the town until his demise in 1883. His wife, who was a native of Marshallville, Ohio, reared her children to maturity and continued to reside in Blairstown until 1908, when she took up her home with her son, Charles Jacob, at Corwith. She reached an advanced age and died January 16, 1917.

Charles J. Naumann was reared in his native town and after completing the course in the high school there entered the Epworth Seminary at Epworth, Iowa, and later was a student in Cornell College. In 1899 he secured a position as clerk in a bank at Wall Lake, Iowa, and remained with that institution for eight years, becoming cashier. He resigned that office to become teller of the First National Bank of Fort Dodge, Iowa, but not long afterward was made cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank at Corwith, which was organized in 1908 by the men back of the First National Bank. He has proved well worthy of the confidence reposed in him and has so formulated and carried out the business policy of the Farmers Savings Bank that the institution has won the confidence of the public. Its business has shown a steady increase and it has been the means of promoting the financial and commercial interests of Corwith in many different ways. Mr. Naumann owns three or four good farms and his knowledge of agricultural conditions and the business problems which confront the farmer have been of great value to him in adapting the service of his bank to the needs of the farmers of the surrounding territory.

Mr. Naumann was married at Toledo, Iowa, June 7, 1906, to Miss Winifred

Markee, who was born in Wisconsin but was reared in Toledo. She attended the public and high schools there and also attended Western College, now known as Leander Clark College, at Toledo. She engaged in teaching before her marriage and taught in the high schools at Lake City, Toledo and Wall Lake, where she met Mr. Naumann. Her parents, William T. and Harriet (Wheelwright) Markee, were born in Wisconsin but removed to Iowa in early manhood and womanhood. Both are now living at Toledo, where the father is in business as a painting contractor. Mrs. Naumann passed away on the 24th of May, 1908, leaving a daughter, Harriet Alice, who was born on the 10th of May, 1908.

Mr. Naumann is a republican in his political views and is now village treasurer. His greatest public service, however, has been in advancing the educational standards of the town. He has given a great deal of study to educational problems, is well informed as to the advanced methods that have been worked out by leaders in that field and has labored in season and out of season to make the schools of Corwith thoroughly modern in every respect. He was for some time president of the school board and is now a member of the board of the consolidated school district and it is generally conceded that to him belongs much of the credit for making the high school an accredited school. The most improved equipment has been provided and the teachers are all alert, progressive and deeply interested in their profession. His fraternal connections are with Paradise Lodge, No. 553, A. F. & A. M., of Corwith, and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has served as noble grand. He is also very active in church work, being now a trustee and also a steward of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### OLE H. SEVERSON.

Ole H. Severson, living on section 16, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, has here made his home since March, 1902, and is quite extensively and successfully engaged in the raising of polled Angus cattle. He was born in Vieka, Norway, on the 5th of May, 1852, his parents being Henry and Mary (Olson) Severson, who came to America in the year 1881. At the usual age Ole H. Severson became a pupil in the public schools of his native land, there pursuing his studies to the age of sixteen, when he quit school and was employed as a farm hand in Norway, receiving but twenty dollars per year for his services. Seeing little business outlook there, he determined to try his fortune in America and came to the United States when twenty-nine years of age. He worked by the month in Kendall county, Illinois, for three years and operated rented land for one year, after which he rented land in Grundy county, Illinois, for seven years. On the expiration of that period he came to Iowa, settling first in Wright county, where he rented land for eight years. He arrived in Hancock county with five hundred dollars and in March, 1902, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 16, Amsterdam township, where he has since made his home. He is busily engaged in the cultivation of his fields, devoted to corn, wheat and other cereals well adapted to soil and climate, and one of the most important features

of his farm work is the raising of polled Angus cattle, of which he has a fine herd, his live stock interests constituting an important branch of his business.

On the 21st of February, 1884, Mr. Severson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen A. Johnson, a daughter of John H. and Bertha (Thompson) Johnson, who were natives of Norway and came to America with their family, arriving on the 8th of July, 1872. Mrs. Severson was born in Carmöen, Norway, and is now fifty-two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Severson have become the parents of ten children, of whom eight are yet living, namely: Jay H., Bertha M., Sadie A., and Mabel, all of whom are married; Melvin B., Anna, Edith N. and Orville R., who are yet at home.

Mr. Severson is a staunch advocate of the republican party and its principles, for he believes that its platform contains the best elements of good government. He does not seek office, for he prefers to give his undivided time and attention to his business affairs, and in addition to his farming interests he is connected with the Kanawha Creamery and the Kanawha Elevator as a stockholder. Both he and his wife are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church and their lives are guided by its teachings.

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#### EDWARD PRICE.

Edward Price is successfully engaged in farming on one hundred and six acres of good land in Norway township adjoining Lake Mills and upon that place his birth occurred on the 25th of May, 1879. He is the only son of James and Caroline (Cuffel) Price, of Scotch-Irish and Scotch descent, respectively. The maternal grandmother was Rebecca Newton, a direct descendant of Isaac Newton, who came to America on the Mayflower. The father was born a short time after the emigration of his parents to the United States, on the 18th of May, 1836, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. His father became a member of the regular army and was stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where he died. Subsequently the mother married George West and they removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where she passed away. James Price was reared in Mitchell county and at the outbreak of the Civil war, in 1861, enlisted in the Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was in active service until the restoration of peace. He then returned to Iowa and, going to Lake Mills, purchased forty acres of land west of Lake Mills, but he subsequently sold this tract and bought eighty acres, also west of Lake Mills, and nine years later his son Edward purchased twenty-six acres adjoining, making a farm of one hundred and six acres on which our subject still resides. The father cultivated this land for many years but at length retired and removed to Lake Mills, where he died on the 12th of April, 1913. He was buried in the Hinman Park cemetery. His wife still resides in Lake Mills. To them were born three children: Mrs. C. E. McCaffree, of Lake Mills; Nettie, who is teaching in the schools of Lake Mills; and Edward.

The last named attended school in Lake Mills until he was sixteen years old and for five years thereafter worked for his father upon the home farm, but on attaining his majority became his father's partner in the operation of the place and so continued until 1907, when his parents removed to Lake Mills, leaving him

in entire charge of the farm. He now owns the place, which is well improved and which is rendered more valuable because of its good location. He has erected a number of fine buildings of the most improved design and keeps everything upon the farm in excellent condition. He raises high grade stock and has met with gratifying success in that connection as well as in the growing of grain.

Mr. Price was married June 4, 1907, to Miss Mary Davis, a daughter of John W. and Kate (Oliver) Davis, the former a native of Wales and the latter of Scotland. After their removal to America they lived in various places in the United States but since 1903 have been residents of Lake Mills. To Mr. and Mrs. Price have been born two children, Shirley E. and Kathryn M.

The religious faith of the parents is indicated by their connection with the Methodist Episcopal church, whose work profits by their keen interest therein. Mr. Price endorses the principles of the republican party but although loyal in the support of its candidates has never been an office seeker. He has concentrated his energies upon his farm work and in so doing has gained a competence and has also contributed to the agricultural development of his locality.

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#### FRED A. SIEVERT.

Fred A. Sievert, living on section 30, Boone township,\* Hancock county, is well known as a successful general farmer and stock raiser. The equipment of his farm is thoroughly modern and he has one hundred and seventy-one acres of rich and productive land in a high state of cultivation save that portion which is used for pasturage for his high grade stock. He was born in Germany, July 18, 1865, and is a son of William and Fredericka (Piehl) Sievert, who came to the new world in 1870 and settled in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Fred A. Sievert was at that time a little lad of five years. He acquired his education in the district schools, pursuing his studies to the age of fifteen years, when he went to Durand, Winnebago county, Illinois, where he resided for seven years, working as a farm hand during that period. He afterward engaged in farm work near Pecatonica, Illinois, until 1894, and in the meantime he was adding continuously to his savings, working diligently and persistently to acquire a sum that would enable him to purchase land and engage in farming independently. The year 1894 saw the fulfillment of his hopes, for at that time he became the owner of a farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres on section 30, Boone township, Hancock county, Iowa. Through the intervening period of twenty-three years he has resided thereon and his labors have wrought marked change in the appearance of the place, which indicates his practical and progressive methods in its well tilled fields and its substantial buildings. Everything is kept in good repair and the latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields. He is also making a specialty of raising Chester White hogs and shorthorn cattle and his live stock interests constitute a substantial feature of his growing success.

Mr. Sievert has been married twice. He first wedded Emma Glawe, who passed away, and on the 29th of July, 1914, he married Minnie Miller, a daughter of Charles Miller and a native of Wisconsin. He has had three children: Mabel

Maud, the wife of E. K. Greene, of Durand, Illinois; Laura Belle; and Orville H., who died in 1901.

Mr. Sievert holds membership in the English Lutheran church and guides his life by its teachings. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he has served as township trustee for ten years, making a most creditable record in that position. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. There have been no unusual or spectacular phases in his life record. His is the story of honest industry and thrift. It is a well known fact that progress is a cumulative process, and that where there is no advancement there has been no effort. Mr. Sievert has ever worked diligently and persistently and his energy has brought to him the success which he now enjoys.

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#### E. E. BRANSTAD.

E. E. Branstad is the owner of four hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Winnebago county and from his holdings he derives a substantial annual income by reason of the practical and progressive methods which he follows in the conduct of his farming interests. He was born in Norway on the 5th of June, 1866, a son of Endre and Dorde (Gryttnes) Branstad, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of their son, Andrew E. Branstad, on another page of this work.

It was in 1873 that the family crossed the Atlantic to the new world, at which time E. E. Branstad was a little lad of but seven summers. His education was acquired in the common schools of this country and about the time he attained his majority he began farming on his own account, bringing to this work the knowledge and ability which he had gained from practical experience in his youthful years. He rented the old homestead for three years and afterward cultivated other land for a year. In 1892, with capital acquired through his industry and economy, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Newton township, on which he took up his abode, there continuing his residence until 1904, when he removed to his present home farm of eighty acres. He now owns two farms of one hundred and sixty acres each in Newton township and another tract of forty acres in the same township, so that his holdings now embrace four hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land that responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. His place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and he has the latest improved farm machinery and equipments upon his place.

Mr. Branstad's whole life is dominated by the spirit of serving his community. This is shown by the brave step taken in the critical time of 1900. Centralizers were then trying to induce the people to ship their cream. Against this course, he set to work, heart and soul, fighting for the preservation of local creameries in its stead. His efforts were not in vain and the creamery was reorganized at Thompson, Iowa. The success of his earnest labors is marked by the growth of the band of patrons from fifty, with more than half of the people shipping their cream, to three hundred and seventy in the course of four years of his management, with not a single man shipping. His field of serving was not limited to this alone, as he was one of the organizers of one of the first farmers'

elevators organized in Winnebago county and a member of the first board of directors of this elevator at Thompson. When the bill was passed providing for the free mail delivery, he gave his time that the people of his community might enjoy this privilege, and he succeeded in getting two routes from his home town of Leland, a small place of less than one hundred and seventy inhabitants. Mr. Branstad is still a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Leland and is a stockholder and the secretary and manager of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company. He was the dominant factor in the organization of both of these, his efforts being largely instrumental in bringing the two companies into existence.

On the 3d of May, 1887, Mr. Branstad was united in marriage to Mrs. Della O. (Olson) Hage, the widow of Lars Hage, of Fertile, Worth county, Iowa. Her parents emigrated to the United States from Norway and took up their abode among the early pioneers of Winnebago county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Branstad have been born eight children, seven of whom survive, as follows: Philip is a graduate of Waldorf College and cultivates one of his father's farms. David, who is a carpenter by trade, lives at home. Daisy, a graduate of Waldorf College, is now the wife of H. P. Lien of Newton township, Winnebago county. Rudolph has completed a course in violin at the Siegel-Myers School of Music and also a course in C. A. Coey's School of Motoring and is now assisting his father in operating the home farm. Esther and Ellen are students in Waldorf College at Forest City. Ruth is attending school in Leland. Nels Hage, a son of Mrs. Branstad by her first husband, operates one of his stepfather's farms.

Mr. Branstad exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and has been especially honored in being chosen for many positions in this organization, such as chairman of county conventions, member of the county central committee and delegate to various other conventions. He was twice nominated as state representative from Winnebago county without opposition and at the primaries June 5, 1916, on the fiftieth anniversary of his birth, he was nominated as state senator from the forty-first senatorial district. This was a very special honor, being the first one the democratic party of this district had ever nominated for this office. Although he made no active campaign and in spite of the fact that the district is strongly republican, seventeen hundred votes were cast at the polls for the democratic candidate. Mr. Branstad is a member of the United Lutheran church and a stockholder in the Waldorf College Association. He is a believer in all those forces which work for the uplift of the individual and the betterment of mankind, and his aid and influence are given to the side of progress and improvement as related to the development of his county in many ways.

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#### JOHN C. ENGBRETSON.

Among those names in Winnebago county which are synonymous with progress along agricultural lines and also with good citizenship is that of John C. Engbretson, a representative of one of the pioneer families of northern Iowa. He was born in Logan township, upon his father's farm, July 20, 1875, and is a son of



JOHN C. ENGERBRETSON AND FAMILY





Christian Engebretson, mentioned elsewhere in this work. At the usual age he became a pupil in the early schools, where he mastered such branches of learning as then constituted the public school curriculum. At the age of eighteen he went to Decorah, Iowa, and for two terms was a pupil in Breckenridge College, thus becoming well qualified for life's practical and responsible duties. He then returned to Winnebago county and took up the profession of teaching, which he successfully followed for ten terms in Logan township, imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired. When twenty-five years of age he started farming on his own account on the northeast quarter of section 19, Logan township. He began putting fine improvements upon it and from time to time he purchased a part of the farm until he had become owner of the entire tract. He is also interested with his father and brother in the ownership of one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, Logan township.

On the 4th of July, 1900, Mr. Engebretson was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Hylland, a daughter of Nels O. and Anna Hylland, formerly of Logan township, but now residents of Woonsocket, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Engebretson became the parents of five children, but two of the number, Matilda and Gehard, died in infancy. The others, Clarence J., Nora Amanda and Matilda, are all at home. Mr. Engebretson and his family are members of the United Lutheran church. He votes with the republican party and is one of its acknowledged leaders in Winnebago county. He has been called upon to fill various local positions, serving as township clerk for ten years, as assessor for four years, as road superintendent for seven years and as a member of the school board for two years. His duties are always discharged with promptness and fidelity and over the record of his official career there falls no shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil. His entire life has been passed in Logan township and that his career has been an honorable and upright one is indicated in the fact that many of his staunchest friends have known him from his boyhood to the present time.

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#### HARVEY A. SWEIGARD.

Harvey A. Sweigard, postmaster of Garner and well known in business and political circles of Hancock county, was born in Carroll county, Illinois, November 29, 1872, a son of Isaac Sweigard, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. With the removal of the family to this state his education was acquired in the public schools of Iowa and his initial business training came to him under the direction of his father, a well known banker of Garner, with whom he continued in the bank until January, 1914, when he was appointed postmaster. His training in the bank was thorough and for some time he was connected with the State Savings Bank at Goodell, Iowa, there serving in the capacity of cashier from 1896 until 1902. In the latter year he organized the State Savings Bank at Klemme, Iowa, where he continued as cashier until 1907, after which he was associated with the Farmers National Bank of Garner, of which his father is the president. There he remained until called to his present position by presidential appointment.

On the 22d of August, 1914, Mr. Sweigard was united in marriage to Miss

Caroline V. Noble, of New Hampton, Iowa, a daughter of Joseph E. Noble. They are members of the Congregational church and in social circles of Garner they occupy an enviable position. Mr. Sweigard votes with the democratic party and is a stalwart champion of its interests. Fraternaly he is connected with Bethel Lodge, No. 319, A. F. & A. M., Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., of which he is a past master, Bethel Council, R. & S. M., Chivalric Lodge, No. 82, K. P., and the Woodmen of the World. His interests are broad and as a citizen he stands for all those measures and projects which work for the betterment of the community and for the upholding of high civic standards.

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#### THOMAS BEECHER.

Thomas Beecher, who for more than thirty years has resided on his present farm on section 6, Magor township, Hancock county, was born on the 1st of January, 1866, in the state of New York, a son of John and Emily (Kirschmer) Beecher, both of whom were natives of Germany. In the district schools of the Empire state Thomas Beecher pursued his education until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he started out to earn his own living, being employed as a farm hand. He afterward rented land for six years and in that way gained a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase property. He has been a resident of Hancock county since 1885 and in 1886 his father purchased the farm on section 6, Magor township. Since his death our subject and his brother have continued operating the place, devoting their time and energies to the further cultivation and development of this farm, which is now a rich and productive tract of land, annually yielding golden harvests in return for the care and labor which is bestowed upon it.

Mr. Beecher of this review is a member of the Catholic church and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty, preferring rather to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. His life has been one of unflinching activity and his success is well deserved.

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#### JAMES W. SLOAN.

James W. Sloan is well known as a representative farmer and substantial business man of Magor township, Hancock county, his home being on section 9. He has lived in this county continuously since 1899 and is widely and favorably known. He was born at Dwight, Livingston county, Illinois, April 9, 1875, a son of James and Jane (Thomson) Sloan, who were natives of Scotland, but about 1864 crossed the Atlantic to the new world and established their home in Illinois.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for James W. Sloan during the period of his boyhood and youth. He worked in the fields and in the winter months attended the country schools, pursuing his education until he attained his majority. He afterward was employed upon the

home farm until he reached the age of twenty-two, after which he cultivated land in Livingston county, which he rented from his father. He is a brother of John M. Sloan, mentioned elsewhere in this work. The two have been most closely associated. They attended school together and have been connected in all their business interests since that time. They came to Hancock county together in 1899 and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land on section 9, Magor township. With characteristic energy they began the further development and improvement of this property and had no separate interests until 1911, when John M. Sloan purchased eighty acres more on section 9, Magor township. They have continuously and successfully engaged in general farming and also in stocking calves, which they keep until feeding time and then sell for feeding purposes.

On the 17th of June, 1907, Mr. Sloan was married to Miss Lizzie Krauss, a daughter of George and Sophia (Hotz) Krauss, who were natives of Germany. Two children have been born of their union, Margaret I. and Marvin J.

The parents are members of the German Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Sloan is a republican, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance in Hancock county, esteem him as a man of business ability and of sterling personal worth and both he and his brother enjoy the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

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#### JOHN J. BYE.

John J. Bye, deceased, was one of the substantial farmers and honored citizens of Norway township, Winnebago county, his home being on section 8, where his widow now resides. He came from the land of the midnight sun, being born in Norway, February 18, 1851, and in that country his parents continued to reside throughout life. He was nineteen years of age when he crossed the ocean and located in Lyle, Minnesota, where he spent one year, but in 1871 came to Iowa, being employed as a farm hand near Plymouth, Cerro Gordo county, for two years. Coming to Winnebago county in 1873, Mr. Bye purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 8, Norway township, and at once began to improve and cultivate his farm. As time passed he prospered in his labors and was able to add to his holdings, owning at the time of his death the south half of section 8 and one hundred and sixty acres on the south half of section 17, Norway township. Upon his place he erected good and substantial buildings and the fields were made to produce abundant harvests.

In April, 1873, Mr. Bye was married in Norway township to Miss Julia Saue, a daughter of Lars and Sigtrue Saue, who were early settlers of Winnebago county, but later removed to Polk county, Minnesota, and spent their last days in Reynolds, North Dakota, where both died and were buried. To Mr. and Mrs. Bye were born ten children, as follows: Thea, is the wife of John Jordre, living near Eckman, North Dakota, and their children are Anna, James, Mattie, Cora, Julia and Elizabeth. Sarah died at the age of seven years. John married Sarah Erickson and resides in Glenburn, North Dakota. Lena is the wife of

B. J. Butler, living near Kensett, Iowa, and their children are Elvina, Margaret, Ingeborg, Lawrence and Agnes. Matilda, deceased, was the wife of I. Opdahl of Polk county, Minnesota. Selmer, living in Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, is married and has three children, Orlando, Bernice and Melborne. Sarah is the wife of Corbit Adams of Joice, Iowa. Louis married Burlette Iverson and has one child, Juleta. Emil and Jennette are both at home. Louis and Emil are operating the home farm.

After a useful and well spent life Mr. Bye passed away June 6, 1914, and was laid to rest in Lime Creek cemetery. He served as school director in his district for a number of years and also filled the office of road supervisor. In politics he was a republican. His success in life was due entirely to his own well directed efforts and he certainly merited the prosperity that came to him.

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### JOHN CARSON.

John Carson, mayor of Forest City, is making an excellent record in office, his course showing an even balance between that conservatism which precludes useless expenditure and that progressiveness which looks ever to the upbuilding and furtherance of public interests. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, December 12, 1857, a son of John and Elizabeth Carson, both of whom were natives of Scotland. They came to the United States in the early '40s and, settling in Cook county, Illinois, were there identified with farming interests, both passing away in that county.

John Carson acquired a public school education at Arlington Heights and in the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Chicago. His early training was that of the farm bred boy and through the periods of vacation he assisted with the work of the farm and also after his text-books were put aside gave his attention to the work of the fields for a considerable period. In 1887, however, he came to Winnebago county and settled in Forest township, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land. With characteristic energy he took up the work of further developing and improving his farm, which he cultivated until 1891, when he leased the property and removed to a farm of eighty acres which he purchased a mile and a half from Forest City. His attention was chiefly given to the work of the fields there until 1910, when he retired from agricultural life and took up his abode in the county seat. Since then he has lived retired from active business cares but still retains the ownership of his farm property, from which he derives a gratifying annual income. His life has been a busy and useful one fraught with success that now permits the leisure which enables him to give most of his attention to public service.

In February, 1888, Mr. Carson was married to Miss Clara A. Cooley, a native of Cook county, Illinois, and a daughter of Charles and Clara Cooley. They have but one son, Carroll, who is farming the old home place. He wedded Vera Hickok and has one son, David Hickok Carson.

Mr. and Mrs. Carson are members of the Congregational church, to the support of which they make liberal contribution, while of its teachings they are loyal adherents. In politics he has been an earnest republican since age con-

ferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as township clerk, as secretary of the school board for thirteen years, and in March, 1916, was elected mayor of Forest City for a two years' term, so that he is now the incumbent in the office, in which connection he is concentrating his efforts upon a wise, safe and equitable administration of public affairs.

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#### CLARENCE A. ARNOLD.

One of the most enterprising citizens and business men of Hancock county is Clarence A. Arnold, who carries on agricultural pursuits according to modern scientific methods and bases his activities upon thorough study, resulting in complete comprehension of the questions involved. He is today one of the most prominent farmers and stock raisers of his section of the state. He was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on the 19th of August, 1883, and is a son of Fred and Mary (Renzehausen) Arnold, natives of Germany and of Ohio, respectively. In the year 1895 the family removed to Hancock county, Iowa, where the mother is still living at the age of sixty-four years, but the father has passed away.

Liberal educational advantages were accorded Clarence A. Arnold, who after attending the district schools for six years, spent two years in the graded schools of Klemme and a short period in the Nora Springs Seminary. Later he matriculated in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, Fayette county, and also at the Iowa State College at Ames, specializing in agronomy and animal husbandry. Moreover, he has remained a close student of the best magazines and other publications which have a bearing upon every subject connected with farming and stock raising, and he had, too, practical training, for he early began to assist his father in the cultivation and development of the home farm. The family home was established on section 5, Avery township, Hancock county, on the 5th of April, 1895, and in his boyhood days Clarence A. Arnold aided in the work of the fields, performing such tasks as he could, his responsibilities and work increasing as the years went by. Today he is actively engaged in the cultivation of four hundred and eighty acres of land on section 8 and in the raising of pure bred Polled Durham cattle and Duroc hogs. He is a most successful agriculturist and his work is an exemplification of the practical value of the scientific methods which he follows. He has studied soils and their adaptation to particular needs, knowing just which crops can be raised most profitably, and he has also studied every feature of stock breeding and raising. He stands as a most prominent representative of scientific farming and success in large measure has been his. He is today a student of such papers as Wallace's Farmer, The Agricultural Digest, Successful Farming, the Kimball Dairy Farmer, Hoard's Dairyman, the Prairie Farmer, the Breeders' Gazette and the Iowa Agriculturist. In addition to his other activities Mr. Arnold is a director and stockholder in the First National Bank of Klemme.

On the 28th of August, 1912, Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Emilie M. Lenz, a daughter of Ernest and Friedrika (Koerner) Lenz, natives of Germany. The father came to the new world in 1865 and lived in Wisconsin. The mother crossed the Atlantic in 1869 and lived for a time near Freeport, Illinois. For

thirty-nine years they have been residents of Hancock county. Mrs. Arnold was one of four children. She is a lady of liberal culture and refinement, sharing in her husband's studies and tastes. On their table are found such magazines as the Christian Herald, the Literary Digest, the Outlook, the Pathfinder, the Ladies' Home Journal, the Woman's Home Companion, the Mother's Magazine and others, showing that both are keeping in touch with the trend of modern thought and progress. Their religious faith is indicated in their membership in the German Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful part. Mr. Arnold has served as assistant superintendent of the Sunday school and he has also filled the offices of township trustee and of school director. His political allegiance is given to the republican party. His efforts to further the welfare of the community have been directed along the lines of educational campaigns. He is president of the Klemme Cooperative Creamery, of the Cow-Testing Association of Klemme and of the Short Course Association and director of the Federation of Cow-Testing Associations. He recognizes the fact that activity must be preceded by desire, and the desire for advancement, progress and improvement in community life as well as in stock breeding and raising must be furthered by instruction. No man has done more to promote knowledge and advance the interests of scientific farming in Hancock county and his work will long bear fruit. In his own affairs, too, he has displayed the utmost enterprise, combined with keen sagacity and discrimination, and his business judgment is seldom, if ever, at fault.

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#### HENRY L. SUCKOW.

Since 1878 Henry L. Suckow has been a resident of Hancock county, Iowa, and now makes his home on section 34, German township, where he owns and operates a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. A native of the Empire state, he was born in Albany, February 11, 1865, and is a son of John and Caroline (Liverance) Suckow, who came to this country from Germany about 1855 and located in Albany, New York. There the father engaged in the boot and shoe business for twelve years and after his removal to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1869, continued in the same business for a few years longer. He then purchased a farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, but at the end of five years sold his property in Clayton county and removed to Hancock county in 1878. He bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, German township, and engaged in its operation for some years but is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

Henry L. Suckow attended the district schools of Clayton and Hancock counties until eighteen years of age and in the meantime acquired an excellent knowledge of farming while assisting his father in the labors of the fields. He aided in operating the home farm until twenty-one years of age and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 35, German township, where he farmed for ten years. On selling that place he purchased the old homestead comprising one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, where he has since carried on general farming and has also engaged in the raising of cattle and hogs to some

extent. He has a well improved place under excellent cultivation and has met with success in his undertakings.

On the 9th of November, 1887, Mr. Suckow married Miss Taldine Brouwer, a daughter of J. B. and Katherine Brouwer, who are natives of Germany and are now living retired in Garner, Iowa. On their emigration to America they came direct to Hancock county. Mr. and Mrs. Suckow have seven children, namely: Edna, now the wife of Herman Paul, a farmer of Hancock county; John, a carpenter of Klemme; May, the wife of Lawrence Schaefer, also a farmer of Hancock county; and Carl, William, Henry and Louis, all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Suckow are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Mr. Suckow has always taken an active interest in public affairs and has efficiently served as justice of the peace, secretary of the school board, road supervisor and township assessor. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree.

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#### C. F. LEHMAN.

C. F. Lehman, residing on section 21, King township, Winnebago county, has spent practically his entire life in Iowa, although he is a native of Wabasha county, Minnesota. He was born in May, 1861, a son of Gottlieb and Annie (Gephart) Lehman, who were natives of Germany and in early life came to the new world, settling in Minnesota. The father purchased land in Wabasha county and there engaged in farming. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the cause of his adopted country and joined the army, going to the front with the Union troops, with which he served for about a year. He was taken prisoner but was exchanged and was on his way home when a guerrilla attack was inaugurated and they took him to Arkansas, where he contracted yellow fever that terminated his life. He passed away in 1866 and his widow survived until 1909.

It was in 1871 that Mrs. Lehman removed with her family to Webster county, Iowa, so that C. F. Lehman was largely reared and educated in this state. He remained with his mother until he reached the age of seventeen years and then began work as a farm hand, being employed in that way for a decade. He next went to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he learned the cooper's trade, which he followed for sixteen years. In 1901 he arrived in Winnebago county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, King township. He has since improved this place and has converted it into a valuable farm. He afterward added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining eighty acres and he is today the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres which he carefully and systematically cultivates and improves. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and the value of his methods is seen in the excellent crops which he annually gathers. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson.

In January, 1886, Mr. Lehman was united in marriage to Miss Katie Derscheid and they have become parents of three children: Fred, at home; Harley, who is a bookkeeper in Winona, Minnesota; and Marvin, also at home.

Mr. Lehman is much interested in community affairs and lends the weight

of his influence to progress and improvement along many lines. For fifteen years he has served as president of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Politically he is a republican and he keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought as relating to government affairs in county, state and nation. His religious belief is that of the Methodist church. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, entertain for him high regard, for his entire life has been characterized by high and honorable principles.

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#### ANDREW N. BRONES.

Among the honored early settlers of Winnebago county is numbered Andrew N. Brones, who has made his home here for fifty-two years and has therefore witnessed almost the entire development of this section of the state. Throughout the greater part of his active business life he has followed farming and now resides on section 18, Mount Valley township, where he owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land.

A native of Norway, Mr. Brones was born on the old Brones homestead, in Modom, June 23, 1845, and is a son of Nels O. and Mary (Skretteberg) Brones, who came with their family to the United States in 1852 on an old sailing vessel, Shoffano, and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the mother died two years later. In 1865 the father brought his family to Winnebago county, Iowa, and after one year's residence in Forest City purchased a farm four miles northeast of that place. He erected thereon the second house built between Forest City and Lake Mills, the first being at Bensons Grove. He made his home upon that farm until his death, which occurred in 1885. He was three times married and by the first union had four children, but Andrew N. is the only one of these now living. Three were soldiers in the Civil war, Andrew being but nineteen years of age and Peter N. not yet seventeen at the time of enlistment. Olavus was taken prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga and died in Andersonville prison. By his second marriage the father had two sons, Christian and John, both of whom are still living, and by the third union there were five children, two of whom survive: Mary and Nickoline, who are teachers and homesteaders in Montana.

During his boyhood Andrew N. Brones attended the public schools of Forest City and later was a student at the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, completing his education with a commercial course at the Upper Iowa Commercial College. In the meantime, however, he had served his adopted country as one of the boys in blue. In 1864 he enlisted in Company I, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until the close of the Civil war. After being mustered out he joined the family in Winnebago county, Iowa, whither they had removed early in the spring of 1865. On the completion of his education he began teaching school and was the first Norwegian to teach in the English schools of Winnebago county. For many years he was prominently identified with educational work and for six years served as county superintendent of schools in Winnebago county, during the '80s. Prior to this he had filled the office of county supervisor for two terms. In 1866 Mr. Brones purchased his present home farm





MR. AND MRS. ANDREW N. BRONES



of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Mount Valley township, but did not locate thereon until 1889, since which time he has followed agricultural pursuits with good success. He also owns another farm of the same size in Kossuth county, Iowa.

On the 22d of June, 1881, Mr. Brones was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jacobs, a sister of Thomas Jacobs, a prominent merchant of Forest City. Her father, Jacob Jacobs, came to this country from Norway in 1868 and first located in Howard county, Iowa, but a year later came to Winnebago county, where he made his home until his death in 1902. He was a shipbuilder in Norway but followed farming in Winnebago county. To Mr. and Mrs. Brones have been born five children but two are deceased, those living being J. Warren, now a farmer of Kossuth county; and Alfred G. and Anna M., both at home.

At an early day Mr. Brones joined the Masons and is a republican in politics, being for a number of years a prominent factor in public affairs. He has long been numbered among the foremost citizens of his county and is a man highly respected and esteemed wherever known. For over half a century he has been a resident of this locality and has borne an important part in its development and upbuilding.

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#### SHOTWELL HIGDON.

For almost a quarter of a century Shotwell Higdon has made his home in Hancock county and his is the creditable record of a progressive business man, for within this period he has become well established as a substantial and highly respected farmer, his home being on section 3, Boone township, where he is the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He was born in Ford county, Illinois, September 9, 1872, and is a son of Peter B. and Marietta C. (Miller) Higdon, who were natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively.

Through the period of the boyhood of their son Shotwell they were residents of Illinois, so that he there acquired his education in the district schools, which he attended through the winter months, while the summer seasons were spent at work upon the home farm. His text-books were put aside at the age of twenty years, but he continued to work on the old homestead until he reached the age of twenty-three. He then came to Hancock county and in the intervening period has resided within its borders, making steady progress along business lines to the goal of success. In 1906 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 3, Boone township, and is now extensively and profitably engaged in raising, buying and selling shorthorn cattle and in breeding Belgian horses, being recognized as one of the leading stockmen of this section of the state.

On the 14th of January, 1895, Mr. Higdon was married to Miss Malinda Salstrom, a native of Illinois and a daughter of John and Hannah (Anderson) Salstrom, who were natives of Sweden and about 1867 came to the new world. Mr. and Mrs. Higdon have four children, Gerald B., Harold H., Clarence and Paul A., all yet at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Higdon are consistent members of the United Brethren church. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the principles and candidates of

the republican party, believing that the party platform contains the best elements of good government. He concentrates his attention upon his business affairs, and the wise direction of his interests is bringing to him the just profits of his labor, making him one of the men of affluence in his community.

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#### CLAUDE STULL, D. D. S.

Dr. Claude Stull, of Corwith, was born in North English, Iowa, February 1, 1878, a son of Thomas Hawkins and Lucinda (Smalley) Stull. The father resided in Pennsylvania until he was twenty years of age and there received his general education, although he prepared for the practice of medicine in the Keokuk Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa. He practiced his profession in North English, Iowa, for two years but later spent a short time in Livingston, Wisconsin, and subsequently removed to Linden, Wisconsin, whence he went to Algona, Iowa. There he passed away in 1912, and there his wife still resides. She was born in Johnson county, Iowa, was reared and educated in this state and was married at South English.

Claude Stull was reared under the parental roof and attended school in Linden, Wisconsin, until he was fifteen years old, when he accompanied the family to Algona, Iowa, where he completed a high school course. He was for two years a student in the dental college of the Iowa University at Iowa City but completed his course in the dental college of the Northwestern University, from which he was graduated in 1899. He immediately located for practice in Corwith, Iowa, becoming the first resident dentist of the town, and has since remained here. In the intervening years he has built up a large practice.

On the 2d of September, 1903, Dr. Stull was married at Corwith to Miss Mabel Frances Stilson, and they have a daughter, Frances Eleanor, a native of Corwith.

Dr. Stull is a republican in politics and is now serving as mayor of Corwith. Fraternally he belongs to Paradise Lodge, No. 552, A. F. & A. M., of Corwith, of which he is a past master. Along strictly professional lines he holds membership in the Iowa Dental Society. Throughout the period of his residence in Corwith he has taken a leading part in movements calculated to advance the general welfare and he is recognized as a prominent and public-spirited citizen.

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#### GOTTORM HONSEY.

Gottorm Honsey is one of the oldest of the pioneer settlers of Winnebago county now living within its borders, and it is with pleasure that we present the record of his life to our readers. He was born in Norway, April 15, 1836, and has therefore passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey. His parents, Ole and Anna Honsey, both died in Norway and in that country Gottorm Honsey was reared and educated. Before leaving that country he was married in 1861, but immediately afterward sailed for the United States and became a resident of

Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was employed at farm work for four years. In 1865 he came to Iowa and after a year spent in Worth county removed to Winnebago county in 1866. Here, in company with his brother, who had come to the new world with him, he purchased the southwest quarter of section 3 in Mount Valley township, and for three years he and his brother Peter cultivated their land in partnership. Gottorm Honsey then purchased his present home farm, on which he has resided for the past forty-eight years, and he is today one of the best known among the old pioneers of this section of the state. His farm was wild land when it came into his possession and thereon he built a log cabin which he occupied for twenty years. He drove across the country from Wisconsin to Iowa with oxen and he used his ox team in tilling his soil and developing the fields. In fact, he became familiar with every phase of pioneer life and his industry and enterprise contributed largely to the early development and progress of this section of the state. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Honsey is a stockholder of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Lake Mills and was one of the organizers of the Lake Mills Lumber Company.

Mr. Honsey was united in marriage to Miss Mary Olson, by whom he had eight children, three of whom survive, as follows: Ole, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mount Valley township, Winnebago county; Samuel, who cultivates the home farm; and Lena, the wife of Erik Reienes, who operates the home place in association with his brother-in-law, Samuel Honsey.

Politically Mr. Honsey is a republican and for many years he served as township trustee and in other local offices. He was also for a long period a member of the school board and has ever been a stalwart champion of public education. He and his family are members of the United Lutheran church and his life has ever been guided by his Christian faith. His entire career has been an upright and honorable one, winning for him the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been associated, and in the evening of life he can look back over the past without regret and forward to the future without fear. He has never had occasion to wish that he had remained in his native land, for in America he found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization won success.

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#### HENRY K. NELSON.

Henry K. Nelson, living on section 18, Norway township, Winnebago county, was born in De Forest, Wisconsin, on the 4th of March, 1874. His parents were Knut Lundon and Gertrude (Halvorson) Nelson, both of whom are natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. The only child born to them in that country was Nels Nelson, who died at the age of one year, while the parents were en route for the new world. Following the burial of the little one, the parents continued on their way until they reached Dane county, Wisconsin, where they took up their abode, and there the father worked at the carpenter's trade until about 1885. In that year they removed to Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and Mr. Nelson there gave his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits for twenty-two years, becoming recognized as one of the valued and representative farmers of his district. He is now living retired in

Forest City in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. To him and his wife were born seven children after their arrival in America. Five of the family are yet living: Carl K., whose home is in Forest City; N. K., living in Mount Valley township; Henry K.; Hans Lundon, who resides in Forest City; and Chris K., living at Lake Mills.

Henry K. Nelson of this review was a lad of eleven years at the time of the removal of the family to Iowa. He acquired a common school education, continuing his studies to the age of sixteen, after which he began providing for his own support by working as a farm hand. He was thus employed until he reached the age of twenty-six years, when he rented his father's farm, upon which he lived for two years. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to the creamery business, which he followed in Fertile, in Bristol and in Joice, Worth county, after which he removed to Scarville, Winnebago county, where he continued in the creamery business until 1915, when he purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of section 18 and the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 19, making one hundred and twenty acres in all. This place he is now farming and has won a position among the substantial agriculturists of the neighborhood.

In 1900 Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Hoveland, her parents being G. O. and Guro (Christopherson) Hoveland, of Mount Valley township. The father still resides on a farm in that township, but the mother died in 1908, her remains being interred in the Winnebago cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been born five children, namely: Gladys, Kenneth, Harry, Conrad and one who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Nelson has maintained an independent course. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to several local offices. He was the first mayor of Joice and in that position made a most creditable record. He was also president of the school board of Joice and he is now a director of the Scarville school. Mr. Nelson deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life empty handed and it has been through persistent purpose, honorable effort and straightforward dealing that he has gained his present position as a substantial and progressive citizen of the community in which he now lives.

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#### E. J. WESTERBERG.

E. J. Westerberg, living on section 5, Ellington township, Hancock county, was born in Sweden, although from the age of ten years he has been a resident of Iowa and through all the intervening period has been identified with agricultural interests, being now owner of the Lilac Stock Farm, a valuable property which constitutes one of the attractive features of this section of the state. His birth occurred on the 21st of December, 1871, his parents being John and Anna (Hockinson) Westerberg, who are also natives of Sweden, where they remained until 1882, when they brought their family to the new world. They did not tarry on the Atlantic coast, but made their way at once across the country and are still residents of Winnebago county, Iowa, their home being now in Forest

City. They became parents of two sons, the younger being Olaf, who is also living in Ellington township, Hancock county.

E. J. Westerberg was largely reared and educated in Winnebago county and his youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy. He attended school in the winter months and through the summer seasons worked in the fields, remaining at home until he had attained his majority. He did not seek to change his occupation, finding in farm work a congenial pursuit, and as soon as possible he purchased property, becoming owner of what is known as the Lilac Stock Farm, a valuable tract of three hundred and twenty acres, which he has improved with fine buildings. He has an attractive residence, substantial barns and sheds and modern machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, raising the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate. He also makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock of all kinds and this branch of his business brings to him a very substantial financial return annually.

In 1894 Mr. Westerberg was united in marriage to Miss Alice Johnson, a native of Sweden and a daughter of Martin and Carrie (Pearson) Johnson, who were also born in the same country, where the father still makes his home, but the mother has now passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Westerberg have become the parents of six children: Adolph B., Nettie F., Mamie A., Rollie H., Harry A. and Violet E. Mr. Westerberg and his family are members of the Baptist church and guide their lives according to its teachings. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, and while never seeking office, he has served for several years as school director and is much interested in having in his community schools that will furnish an adequate preparation to the young for life's practical and responsible duties. He is a self-made man, for all that he possesses and enjoys has been acquired through his own efforts since he attained man's estate, assisted by his estimable wife, who has indeed been a helpmate to him. Diligence and persistency of purpose have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his success.

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#### ROBERT D. HOADLEY.

Robert D. Hoadley is living on section 23, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, where he is following agricultural pursuits according to the most modern and progressive methods. He was born in Earlville, Illinois, on the 2d of May, 1885, a son of George R. and Kate (Temple) Hoadley, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland.

After pursuing his early education in the country schools, Robert D. Hoadley attended the high school at Earlville, Illinois, and later became a student in Brown's Business College at Ottawa, Illinois. His textbooks were put aside when he reached the age of eighteen years, after which he engaged in farming and for two years rented the old home place. Subsequently he cultivated rented land at Emmetsburg, Iowa, for two years and later he rented his mother's farm, but eventually his earnings were such that he was able to purchase property and invested in one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 23, Amsterdam township, Hancock county. Here he is farming with a modern tractor, and in

fact he utilizes all the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and care for the harvests. He is a very progressive man, thoroughly up-to-date in everything that he does, and in addition to his farming interests he holds stock in the creamery at Kanawha.

On the 3d of October, 1907, Mr. Hoadley was married to Miss Anna Johnson, a daughter of August Johnson, a native of Norway. They now have two children, Virla M. and Howard C., both at home. Politically Mr. Hoadley is a republican and his religious faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has become well known during the period of his residence in Hancock county and that his has been a well spent life is indicated in the fact that all who know him speak of him in terms of warm regard.

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### FRANK QUIGLEY.

Frank Quigley, living on section 24, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, is engaged in general agricultural pursuits, owning and occupying three hundred and twenty acres of land, which returns to him a substantial tribute for the care and labor he bestows upon his fields. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity and he has already wrought substantial changes in his present farm since taking possession thereof in 1913. Mr. Quigley is of Irish birth, his parents being Francis and Mary (Sherry) Quigley, who were natives of Ireland, where the father spent his entire life, passing away at the age of fifty-two years. His widow afterward came to the new world and died on this side the Atlantic at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

Frank Quigley, who was born on the 16th of March, 1852, remained a resident of the Emerald isle until 1886, when at the age of fourteen he came to the United States and began earning his living as a farm hand. He afterward rented land for fifteen years, but it was his earnest desire to own property and he saved his earnings until through diligence and determination he had acquired a sufficient sum to purchase a farm. Since 1913 he has been the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land on section 24, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, Iowa, which he purchased for one hundred and ten dollars per acre. He now cultivates all kinds of cereals upon his place and also raises graded stock. He is likewise interested in a threshing outfit and he is justly accounted one of the enterprising business men of his section, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 17th of February, 1901, Mr. Quigley was married to Miss Ellen Goffney, a daughter of Thomas and Anne (Brady) Goffney, both of whom were natives of Ireland, where they spent their entire lives, the father passing away at the age of seventy-five years, while the mother is now living at the age of sixty-five. Mr. and Mrs. Quigley have become parents of four children: Francis James, Thomas John, Gertrude Marie and Raymond Alloysius.

Politically Mr. Quigley is a democrat and has served as president of the township board. He has also been school director and is interested in all those questions which have to do with the welfare and progress of his community. He holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Knights of



Columbus and the latter association is an indication of the fact that he is a member of the Catholic church. He may truly be called a self-made man and as the architect of his own fortunes he has builded wisely and well.

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### NELS FRANSDEN.

For a third of a century Nels Frandsen has been a resident of Hancock county and has therefore witnessed much of its development and improvement. He has taken an active part in furthering its agricultural development and is now successfully engaged in general farming on section 3, Crystal township, where he has made his home since 1887. He was born in Denmark, August 3, 1850, a son of Franc J. and Christine (Nelson) Jensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark, where they spent their entire lives.

Nels Frandsen was reared and educated in his native country and in 1884 bade adieu to home and friends and sailed for the new world, hoping to benefit his financial condition on this side of the Atlantic. He at once made his way to Iowa, settling in Hancock county, and three years later, or in 1887, he became the owner of a farm of eighty acres on section 3, Crystal township, and in 1890 bought an additional eighty acres adjoining it. He has since resided upon that place and through all the intervening years he has carefully and systematically cultivated and improved it and now has a valuable farm which annually returns to him golden harvests, affording him a good yearly income.

Mr. Frandsen was married in Denmark to Miss Carrie L. Jergeson, and they became the parents of four children, Mary, Carrie, William and Clara, all yet at home. The son now operates the farm and gives much attention to the raising of stock. The wife and mother passed away in April, 1916, and was laid to rest in Crystal Lake cemetery, leaving a husband, four children and many friends to mourn her loss.

Mr. Frandsen exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He has served as school director and has ever been an advocate of a progressive school system that will qualify the young for life's practical and responsible duties. He is a self-made man, his success being won through his own efforts since coming to America. He has therefore never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world and has become more and more strongly attached to the land of his adoption as the years have passed.

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### JOHNSTON BROWN.

Johnston Brown, who is residing on section 28, Garfield township, Hancock county, is one of the pioneers of that section and remembers well when there were no railroads in the county and when the conditions of life were those of a frontier district. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, October 11, 1843, of the marriage of John and Sarah (Stahl) Brown. His boyhood was spent upon

the home farm in the Empire state, and his educational opportunities were meager, as there were but few schools in that section at the time and those that were in existence afforded but a rudimentary course of instruction. In his early manhood he removed to Aurora, Illinois, and engaged in farming in that locality until 1886, when he came to Hancock county, Iowa. He only remained here for a short time, after which he returned to Illinois, but in 1888 he located permanently in Garfield township, Hancock county. At that time there were no railroads in the county and there were only two stores in the town of Garner. He devoted his attention to farming and stock raising and brought his land to a high state of development. He has met with a gratifying measure of prosperity and now holds title to two hundred and fifty-two acres of land in Hancock county, his residence being on section 28, Garfield township, and one hundred and sixty acres in Todd county, Minnesota.

On the 11th of February, 1868, Mr. Brown was married in Kankakee, Illinois, to Miss Caroline Farr, a daughter of Alfred and Margery (Rush) Farr. Her father was a native of England, where his parents, Thomas and Mary (Smith) Farr, spent their entire lives. When a boy of fifteen years he came to America on a sailing vessel and it was six months from the time he took passage until he landed in the new world, as the ship was wrecked and the passengers cast on an island. Margery Rush and her twin brother were the first white children born in Elkhart county, Indiana, but when she was five years old the family removed to Kankakee county, Illinois. Her uncle was the founder of Rush Medical College in Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born three daughters and one son, as follows: Milo, who married Mary Chipman and lives at Burt, Iowa; Mona, who married John Lowe, of Hayfield, Iowa; Emma, the wife of John Davison, of Long Prairie, Minnesota; and Myra, now Mrs. John Tythcott, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Mr. Brown is an advocate of republican principles and has supported the candidates of that party at the polls with the exception of the 1916 election, when he voted for Woodrow Wilson. He has always taken the interest of a good citizen in public affairs, but has held only one office, having served as township trustee for two years. In 1864 he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Thomas Lampion, for one hundred days' service. He has a wide acquaintance in Hancock county and his dominant qualities are such that all who have been brought in contact with him hold him in high esteem.

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#### ANDREW A. JOHNSON.

Andrew A. Johnson, living on section 30, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, has practically spent his entire life in Iowa, although he was born in Indiana on the 15th of January, 1858, his parents being Benjamin and Henrietta (Thomas) Johnson, who were natives of New Jersey and Indiana respectively. They became residents of Hardin county, Iowa, during the pioneer epoch in its development, and assisted in the work of progress and improvement there, but both are now deceased.



ANDREW A. JOHNSON



Andrew A. Johnson was but an infant when brought by his parents to Iowa, so that he was reared in Hardin county, where he acquired a district school education. His textbooks were put aside when he had reached the age of seventeen years, after which he worked with his father on the old homestead until he attained his majority. Later he spent three years at farm work in the employ of others and on the expiration of that period he rented land which he cultivated for three years. He afterward bought sixty-five acres on section 30, paying one thousand dollars for this tract. In 1886 he bought eighty-five acres on section 30, Twin Lake township, for which he paid two thousand dollars and for an additional eighty acres on the same section he gave three thousand two hundred dollars. Throughout all the intervening years he has concentrated his efforts and attention upon farming and stock raising. He carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He is energetic and has never been afraid of hard work. He tills the soil, rotating his crops so as to keep his land productive and not impoverish his fields. He also makes a specialty of raising Poland China hogs, handling pure bred stock, and this branch of his business adds materially to his income.

On the 14th of February, 1884, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Lizzie Ott, a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Ott, who were natives of Germany, and on coming to Iowa in 1858 settled at Northwood. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have become the parents of four children of whom two are married. Flossie May is now the wife of Henry Hanson, who lives in Amsterdam township. Alice Marie is the wife of Harold Stotts, and they make their home in Minnesota. The other children are Ora A. and Ruth M., yet at home.

Mr. Johnson votes with the republican party, which he has supported since attaining his majority, and for six years he has capably filled the office of township trustee. He has likewise served as school director and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. Religiously he is identified with the United Brethren church and he displays many admirable characteristics which have won for him the respect, confidence and goodwill of all with whom he has been brought in contact. He is numbered among Iowa's pioneer settlers, having for almost sixty years resided within the borders of the state, during which period he has witnessed a marvelous transformation, for the wild prairie land has been converted into fine farms, dotted here and there with thriving towns and villages, and there is no feature of modern civilization nor of progressive business life that is not found in the state.

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#### THOMAS BERHOW.

The home farm of Thomas Berhow is situated on section 4, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land upon which he is extensively engaged in sheep raising. He was born on the 29th of March, 1875, in Story county, Iowa, a son of Ole and Bertha (Eide) Berhow, who were natives of Norway. They reared their family, however, in Iowa and Thomas Berhow pursued his education in the public schools of Polk

county, this state, dividing his time between the work of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the labors of the fields until he reached the age of sixteen. His time thereafter was concentrated upon assisting his father in the further development and cultivation of the home farm until he attained his majority. He then started out in life independently, beginning work as a farm hand, his labors in that way continuing until he reached the age of twenty-four years. He afterward rented land for three years and his first purchase made him owner of ninety-four acres in Story county, Iowa, which he cultivated for seven years. He then came to Hancock county, establishing his home on section 26, Amsterdam township, where he followed general farming for a time, but at length he disposed of that place and purchased three hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Amsterdam township, where he now resides. His farm is equipped with all modern conveniences and accessories. There are good buildings upon the place and fences, which are always kept in a state of good repair, divide the farm into fields and pastures of convenient size. He is making a specialty of sheep raising, handling high grade Shropshires, and he finds this a profitable source of income. He is also connected with the Kanawha Creamery, and he stands for progressiveness in all that pertains to the life of the agriculturist.

On the 14th of March, 1899, Mr. Berhow was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Fatland, her parents being John H. and Sarah (Heggen) Fatland, the former a native of the United States and the latter of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Berhow have been born four children, namely: Floyd William, Edgar Orvin, Byron LeRoy and Sidney J. The parents hold membership in the Norwegian Lutheran church and are interested in its upbuilding, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. Mr. Berhow votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His has been a life of marked activity, intelligently directed, and though he started out in life empty handed, he is today one of the substantial citizens of his part of the state.

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#### HALVOR O. KVAMBECK.

Halvor O. Kvambeck, who is devoting his time and energies to general farming on section 35, Norway township, has spent almost his entire life in Winnebago county and throughout the entire period has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Norway, January 3, 1864, a son of Ole S. and Ingeborg (Halvorson) Kvambeck, who were farming people there. They came to the United States when their son Halvor was but two and one-half years old and for a year resided near Northwood, in Worth county, Iowa, where the father had a brother who was engaged in farming. The next year, however, they removed to Winnebago county and Mr. Kvambeck purchased the north half of the northeast quarter of section 35, Norway township. It was then a tract of raw land, but he immediately began to develop and improve the place, in which he soon wrought a marked transformation. He also bought the north half of the northwest quarter adjoining section 35 and likewise purchased thirty-seven and one-half acres on the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, Norway township, and devoted his remaining days to the cultivation of his farm. In the fall of 1906 he suffered

serious injuries through the attack of a bull, which caused his death on the 2d of November. His widow survived him for about four years, passing away October 11, 1910, and both were laid to rest in the United Lutheran cemetery at Lake Mills. In his political views Mr. Kvambeck was a republican and always supported the party from the time that he became a naturalized American citizen. His success was the direct result of his own labors. He worked diligently and persistently and as the years passed on won a substantial measure of prosperity. To him and his wife were born five children, one of whom died when but three years of age. Those still living are Simon O. and Halvor O., who are farming together; Christina; and John, who is also upon the old homestead. The three brothers are associated in the work of the farm, while the sister manages the household affairs.

Halvor O. Kvambeck spent his youthful days under the parental roof and his experiences were those which usually fall to the lot of the farm bred boy. He attended the early schools of the county until he reached the age of sixteen years and afterward worked for his father until the latter's death. He and his brothers have continued upon the home place and he now owns the southwest quarter of section 36, Norway township. He is financially interested in the Farmers Elevator, the Farmers Lumber Yard at Lake Mills, and the Lake Mills Creamery Company. He has led a life of diligence and thrift and his energy and industry are the basic principles of the success which has come to him. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party. He is now town clerk and served for three or four terms on the school board.

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#### HENRY AFRICA.

Henry Africa, the well known and popular postmaster of Kanawha, Iowa, was born on the 1st of June, 1869, in Center county, Pennsylvania, of which state his parents, Samuel and Louisa (Dunlap) Africa, were also natives. In 1875 the family came to Iowa and located in Grinnell, where our subject's maternal grandparents had previously settled. The father, who was a miller by trade, subsequently obtained employment in a gristmill at Newton, Iowa, where he made his home until 1885, and then removed to Hancock county, being employed as a miller in the old Amsterdam mill. Later he became a resident of Goodell, where his death occurred in 1893, but the mother of our subject is still living and continues to make her home in Goodell.

After coming with the family to Iowa in 1875, Henry Africa lived with his maternal grandparents on a farm near Grinnell for a number of years and obtained his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. As early as his thirteenth year, however, he became a wage earner, working at farming or anything by which he could earn an honest dollar. In the spring of 1885 he joined his parents, who were then living in Webster City, Iowa, and came with them to Hancock county, where he has since made his home most of the time, though he conducted a barber shop at Belmond for a few years. On selling his business there in the spring of 1901, he removed to Kanawha, where he purchased a hotel and engaged in the hotel and restaurant business with good success. His establishment was run on a high plane of efficiency and his table became famed among the traveling men

visiting this part of the state. In 1915 he traded his hotel property for a farm of eighty acres five and a half miles southwest of Kanawha and has since given his undivided attention to the duties of the postoffice, having been appointed postmaster in 1913.

In 1896 Mr. Africa married Miss Franke K. Duryea, of Hancock county, a sister of the noted baseball pitcher, Cy Duryea (Cyclone Duryea). By this union four sons and one daughter have been born, namely: George Arold, Guy K., Esther, Henry Jr., and James.

Mr. and Mrs. Africa hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and he is also prominently identified with a number of fraternal orders, being a member of Corwith Lodge, No. 535, A. F. & A. M.; Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., of Garner; Bethel Council, No. 33, R. & S. M.; and Mount Lebanon Commandery, No. 61, K. T., of Clarion, Iowa. He also belongs to Kanawha Lodge, No. 667, I. O. O. F., the Rebekahs, the Modern Woodman of America and the American Yeomen, while his wife is a member of Corwith Chapter, O. E. S. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the democratic party and besides serving as postmaster he has filled the office of town clerk four or five years. He has always been found true to any trust reposed in him and well merits the confidence and esteem which his fellow citizens so freely accord him.

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#### GILBERT OLSON.

Gilbert Olson, now successfully engaged in farming on section 30, Center township, has been a resident of Winnebago county since 1876, but his early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Norway on the 29th of August, 1848. His parents, Ole and Karie (Hellickson) Olson, were likewise natives of Norway, in which country the father followed farming until called to his final rest in 1851. The mother subsequently came to the new world and lived with her children until she too passed away in 1899.

In the land of the midnight sun Gilbert Olson grew to manhood with the usual educational advantages of a farmer boy in that country and was twenty years of age when he determined to try his fortune in America, where he believed that better opportunities were afforded ambitious young men. On arriving here in 1868 he located in Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand for a few years, but in 1876 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 23, Newton township, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. To this tract he later added eighty acres and continued to operate that farm until the spring of 1917, when he rented the place and removed to Center township, having purchased the old Holland farm of eighty acres on section 30. Upon this place is one of the oldest log cabins in Winnebago county, it standing as a monument of pioneer days.

On the 8th of March, 1888, occurred the marriage of Mr. Olson and Miss Betsy Quam, a daughter of John and Betsy (Johan) Quam, natives of Norway, who came to the United States about 1867 and first located in Goodyear county, Minnesota, but afterward became early settlers of Newton township, Winnebago county, Iowa. Mr. Quam is deceased and his widow is living in Mount Valley



township, Winnebago county, with her daughter, Mrs. John Haugen. To Mr. and Mrs. Olson have been born thirteen children, but Bertine died February 10, 1895, at the age of a year and a half. Those living are Otto, John, Carl, Bent, Mary, Genhart, Clara, Melvin, Tena, Albert, Elmer and Selma.

In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Olson are Lutherans and in politics he is a staunch supporter of the republican party. He has been called to fill the offices of justice of the peace and trustee of Newton township, was also elected the first assessor of that township and served in that capacity for two terms. For the long period of twenty years he was also treasurer of his school district. He is a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and the Leland Creamery Company and is a man in whom the people of the community have the utmost confidence.

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#### JOSEPH R. LEWIS.

A life of industry and thrift has made Joseph R. Lewis one of the substantial farmers of Winnebago county, his home being on section 18, Mount Valley township. He was born March 14, 1876, a son of Lars Pearson and Ellen B. (Pearson) Lewis, both of whom were natives of Sweden. Coming to America in 1871, they established their home upon a farm in Winnebago county, Iowa, and throughout his remaining days the father gave his thoughtful and earnest attention to the development of his fields, winning a fair measure of success through his farm work. He passed away in 1910 and is still survived by his widow. They had a family of six children, five of whom are yet living.

At the usual age Joseph R. Lewis became a pupil in the public schools and therein mastered the branches of learning which qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. From early boyhood he aided in the work of the fields through the summer months and as his age and strength increased he worked more and more in that connection. He has never sought to change his occupation, believing, as George Washington expressed it, that agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man. He saved his earnings until he was able to purchase one hundred and fifty acres of land, which he secured on section 18, Mount Valley township. In the intervening period he has given his attention to crop production and also to stock raising, and both branches of his business are proving profitable sources of income.

In 1903 Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Mary Segerstrom, a native of Mitchell county, Iowa, and a daughter of Nels and Bengta (Swenson) Segerstrom, who were natives of Sweden and in the year, 1868 made the long voyage across the Atlantic to the new world. They first settled in Mitchell county, Iowa, and afterward established their home in Minnesota. In the year 1887 they became residents of Winnebago county, where the mother passed away, but the father is still living. They had a family of seven children, five of whom survive. Mrs. Lewis attended the high school of Forest City and for ten years she successfully Luella A., Lyle J., Russell M., Forest V. and Elsie Buettillie. The parents are members of the Baptist church, in which Mr. Lewis is serving as a steward. His

political endorsement is given to the republican party but he has never been ambitious to hold office. He is interested, however, in affairs of the community and is now serving as a school director. He lends his aid and cooperation to many movements for the general good and his influence is always on the side of progress.

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#### CHRISTIAN ESCHER.

Christian Escher established his residence in Iowa in 1896 and was the owner of a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 19, Magor township, Hancock county, at the time of his death, which occurred May 5, 1901, Illinois claimed him as a native son, as he was born in Tazewell county on the 11th of January, 1860. His parents were John and Johannette Escher, natives of Germany.

Christian Escher became a pupil in the district schools of his native county and therein pursued his studies between the ages of six and seventeen years. Then he and his brother bought one hundred and sixty acres in Ford county, Illinois, and farmed there for two years, after which the place was sold. He then rented land until 1896, when he removed to Iowa, and he was identified with agricultural interests in Hancock county until his death in 1901. Since then his son, Louis, has operated the farm. He makes a specialty of raising Polled Angus cattle and has a good herd upon the place. He has added various substantial improvements to the farm, which is well equipped.

On the 2d of November, 1885, Mr. Escher was married to Miss Augusta Erp, a daughter of John and Mary Erp, natives of Germany, who came to America and located in Ford county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Escher were born six children, William John, Louis Walter, Joe Milo, Reuben, Laura E. and Erwin C. Of this number Reuben is deceased.

The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church. In his political belief Mr. Escher was a republican. He was interested in many matters pertaining to public progress and improvement and was numbered among the substantial and valued citizens of Magor township.

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#### HERMAN B. LAUEN.

Herman B. Lauen, a resident farmer of Avery township, Hancock county, living on section 23, was born in Germany on the 23d of February, 1866, his parents being Bert and Anna Lauen, who were also natives of that country, the mother born in 1830. They came to America with their family in 1884, but both have now passed away.

Herman B. Lauen was about eighteen years old when the family arrived in the United States and from the Atlantic seaboard they made their way westward to Wright county, Iowa, where he worked by the month as a farm hand for four or five years. He was ambitious, however, to engage in farming on his own account and at length rented land, which he cultivated for six years. During that

period he carefully saved his earnings and at length was able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Avery township. With characteristic energy he bent his efforts to the development of the place. He paid twenty-five dollars per acre for this land, which was then a wild tract. He broke the sod, harrowed the fields, put in his seed and in time gathered good crops. Since then he has carefully, persistently and systematically cultivated his farm and has also engaged in raising cattle and hogs and on a limited scale has engaged in dairying.

On the 2d of December, 1903, Mr. Lauen was united in marriage to Mrs. Ida M. Pals, a daughter of John and Pauline Stadlander, who are natives of Germany and are still living. Mr. Lauen is a republican in his political views and while he has never sought nor filled political offices, he has served as school director. He and his wife belong to the German Reformed Methodist Episcopal church and they are people of many substantial qualities. Mr. Lauen deserves much credit for what he has accomplished in a business way, for his success is due entirely to his own efforts, his diligence and perseverance enabling him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way upward to prosperity.

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#### HENRY O. HARRISON.

Henry O. Harrison, who carries on general farming on section 11, Ellington township, has been a resident of Hancock county for more than thirty-seven years. He was born in Wisconsin, July 10, 1854, and was one of a family of seven children, although only two are now living. Their parents, Ole and Eva (Medbin) Harrison, were both natives of Norway and the former came to America when but ten years of age, at which time he became a resident of Wisconsin. There he was reared and married and in 1867 he removed with his family to Iowa and later went to Hartland, Minnesota, where eventually he passed away as the result of wounds sustained during his three years' service in the Civil war as a defender of the Union.

Henry O. Harrison was a youth of thirteen years when he came to Iowa. He acquired his education in the public schools and assisted in the development and cultivation of the home farm up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated in 1881, Miss Thonne Michalson becoming his wife. She was born in Iowa and is a daughter of Torger and Ingbyr (Qualley) Michalson, both natives of Norway, whence they came to the United States in the '60s. They established their home in Wisconsin but after two years removed to Decorah, Iowa, and later to Lake Mills, where both passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison have become parents of nine children: Tillie A., and Albert T., both deceased; Oscar, Eddie and Henry A., all at home; Marie, the wife of L. V. Donahue; Ida A., at home; Emma T., the wife of Thomas Rigger; and Thelma A.

Following his marriage Mr. Harrison purchased the farm upon which he has now continuously lived for thirty-six years. His tract of land comprises one hundred and sixty acres, which he has since brought to a high state of cultivation and to which he has added many substantial modern improvements. In addition to tilling the fields he is engaged in raising stock of all kinds and keeps good grades of stock. His business affairs are wisely and carefully conducted and economy and industry have been features of his growing prosperity. In addition to his agricul-

tural interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers elevator at Ventura, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison owe their success entirely to their individual efforts. They are numbered among the prominent residents of Ellington township, where they have a large circle of warm friends. They hold membership in the Lutheran church and Mr. Harrison votes with the republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as justice of the peace and as a member of the school board and has done everything in his power to further the interests which are cared for by the two offices. Those who know him esteem him highly because of a well spent life. He has lived to witness many changes in the county during the long years of his residence here and his progressive spirit has made him a well known factor in its agricultural development.

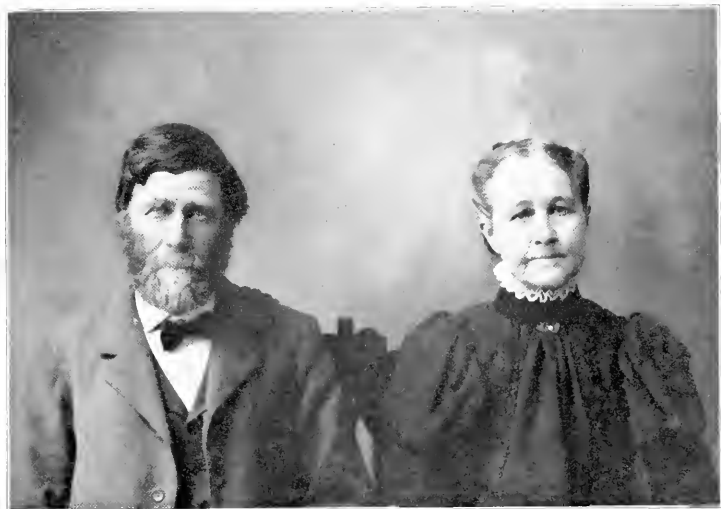
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#### CHRISTIAN ENGBRETSON.

Christian Engebretson, who is concentrating his time and attention on general farming on section 20, Logan township, Winnebago county, is a self-made man whose success is due entirely to his close application and persistent energy. He was born in Modum, Norway, near Christiania, June 9, 1845. His parents were Engbret Olson and Mary Knutson. The father followed farming in his native land, where he passed away in 1867. In the family were eight children, of whom Christian is the eldest. Six of the number are yet living, and Mary and Anna are still in Norway. The others in America are: Hans Berg, of Logan township, Winnebago county; Ole, also of Logan township; and John, who is living in Polk county, Minnesota.

Christian Engebretson was twenty-four years of age when he came to the United States and made his way direct to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1869, going to the home of his uncle, Hans Knutson, in Norway township. He worked for his uncle and for others for a short time and then settled on school land in Logan township before it was put up for sale. When thirty years of age he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, constituting the northwest quarter, and later he purchased the southwest quarter of the same section, having here a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He broke the prairie land and put in his crops. He carried on the work of development and improvement steadily as the years went on and soon wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his place. His mother afterward came to Winnebago county with her son Hans and lived with Christian Engebretson until her death, which occurred in 1909, her remains being interred in Bethel cemetery.

Mr. Engebretson was married, before coming to the United States, to Miss Maren Gurine Gaaserud, and they became parents of eight children. Maren Helene, who was born in Norway, November 14, 1867 became the wife of Herman Gulsrud, of Hubbard county, Minnesota, and died November 20, 1916. Inga, born October 13, 1870, is the wife of Tom Gavle, of Freeborn county, Minnesota. Maria, born January 1, 1873, is the wife of John Holman, of Eden township, Winnebago county. Johan C., born July 20, 1875, is living in Logan township. Hans C., born May 20, 1877, also makes his home in Logan township. Carl C., born March 18, 1880, is a resident of Freeborn county, Minnesota. Albert C.,



MR. AND MRS. CHRISTIAN ENGBRETSON



born June 20, 1882, is assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. Gunda, born December 6, 1884, died November 24, 1908. The wife and mother passed away June 13, 1913, and was laid to rest in Bethel cemetery.

Mr. Engebretson is still actively interested in farming and yet owns two hundred and sixty-seven acres on section 20, Logan township, together with the north half of the southwest quarter of section 16. He likewise has a third interest with his sons, J. C. and H. C., in the northwest quarter of section 34, and he has materially assisted his sons in acquiring their farms. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Creamery at Vinje. His has been a life of diligence and determination, and he has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His history shows what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do, for he started out in life empty handed and has worked his way steadily upward.

Mr. Engebretson holds membership in the United Lutheran church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for a number of years he filled the office of township trustee. He has also been school director for a number of years and he is interested in all that pertains to the progress and welfare of his adopted land. In early manhood he chose to make this country his place of residence and he has always been loyal to the United States and her interests. Living under the protection of her laws, he has felt that he has owed her allegiance and at all times he has stood for those things which have contributed to public progress and improvement in the district in which he resides.

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#### GEORGE M. CARSON, D. V. M.

Dr. George M. Carson, of Lake Mills, Iowa, is one of the busiest and most up-to-date veterinarians of this part of the state. A native of Cook county, Illinois, he was born August 23, 1884, of the marriage of Mathew and Lizzie (Crego) Carson, the former also a native of the Prairie state. In 1888 the family removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father purchased land here, which he has since farmed. The mother also survives.

Dr. George M. Carson received his education in the schools of Thompson and Milford, Iowa, graduating from the high school of the latter place with the class of 1903. From that time until he was twenty-three years of age he worked upon the home farm, after which for three years he rented a farm belonging to his father. He next entered the McKillip Veterinary College of Chicago and upon the completion of the course there was graduated in 1912 with the degree of D. V. M. He at once located for practice at Lake Mills, where he still resides. He purchased property on Main street and converted it into a veterinary hospital, which has been of great value to the stock raisers of the county. His practice extends into a number of counties in Iowa and Minnesota and his professional standing is enviable. He has never ceased to be a student of his profession and keeps in close touch with the newest methods for the treatment of the diseases of animals. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills and has already gained a competence.

Dr. Carson was married in June, 1907, to Miss Ethel V. Dannatt, by whom he has two children: Venetta V., who was born October 2, 1908; and Arlo Bruce, born April 11, 1914. The Doctor is a strong republican in his political views, belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Homesteaders lodges and holds membership in the Congregational church. He is one of the leading citizens of Lake Mills, and his salient qualities of character are such that he is most highly esteemed by those who know him most intimately.

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#### SEVERT M. JACOBSON.

Severt M. Jacobson, who follows farming on section 14, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, has an excellent tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres which he carefully and systematically cultivates and in addition he is also engaged in the buying and selling of horses. He was born on the 18th of August, 1877, in Story City, Iowa, a son of Jacob and Josephine (Olson) Jacobson, who were natives of Norway. His education was acquired in the district schools of Story county, Iowa, his time being divided between his school work and the labors of the fields until he attained his majority. He then quit school and for a time engaged in work as a farm hand, but was desirous of making his efforts of more direct benefit to himself and for thirteen years he cultivated a rented farm. The money which he earned in that way enabled him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, in March, 1914, and he has since carried on the work of the farm, cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also winning a considerable measure of profit through his activity as a horse buyer.

On the 22d of January, 1902, Mr. Jacobson was married to Miss Ragnel Nearam, a daughter of Knute Nearam, a native of Norway, and they now have four children, Arthur J., Jeannette M., Clara Elmira and Selma R. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Jacobson has been a stalwart advocate of the republican party, while his religious faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is widely and favorably known in Amsterdam township, where he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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#### OSCAR THOMPSON.

Oscar Thompson, who is engaged in farming on section 16, Center township, Winnebago county, was born in that township on the 1st of May, 1886, a son of John and Sarah (Thorvaldson) Thompson, natives respectively of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The father settled in Winnebago county in its pioneer days and after renting land for a few years purchased a quarter section in Center township, which he operated successfully until the spring of 1907, when he retired from active life and took up his residence in Lake Mills, where he is now living. The mother also survives.

Oscar Thompson was reared upon the home farm and in the acquirement of his education attended the district schools and also schools at Lake Mills and Forest



City. After attaining his majority he rented land and began farming for himself, his experience in agricultural work, gained through assisting his father, well fitting him for his chosen life work. He is now operating one hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Center township, belonging to an uncle, and his well directed labors are rewarded by large crops. He also raises some stock and finds that likewise profitable. He is financially interested in the Farmers Elevator Company at Lake Mills and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company, and owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Divide county, North Dakota. On the 2d of June, 1914, Mr. Thompson married Miss Emma Kvalsrud, a daughter of Tostin and Ausee Kvalsrud, who were born in Norway but located in Worth county, Iowa, many years ago. They are now living upon a farm in the vicinity of Joice. Mr. Thompson is a republican in his political allegiance and has served for three years as assessor of Center township, in which connection he has made a highly creditable record. Through his membership in the Lutheran church he has identified himself with those forces making for righteousness, and his many excellent qualities have gained him the unqualified respect of those who have known him since boyhood.

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#### ROLLIN S. FILLMORE, JR., M. D.

The large practice with Dr. Rollin S. Fillmore, Jr., of Corwith, has built up in the comparatively short time that he has been a resident of the town is evidence that the public recognizes his ability and devotion to his profession. He received his training in a thorough medical college and in up-to-date hospitals and gives his patients the benefit of the latest discoveries in the field of medicine.

The Doctor was born in Blue Rapids, Kansas, on the 23d of December, 1888, a son of Dr. Rollin S. and Ada Louise (Burns) Fillmore. The father, who was born on the 23d of December, 1854, in Minnesota, devoted his life to the practice of medicine and thus followed in the footsteps of his father, who was a successful physician. Rollin S. Fillmore, Sr., was graduated from the medical department of the University of Washington at St. Louis in 1882 and in the same year opened an office for practice in Blue Rapids, Kansas, where he is still located. He is one of the prominent physicians and surgeons of his section of the state and has also served as mayor of Blue Rapids, his election to that office indicating the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens. His wife was born in Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada, on the 22d of December, 1853, and received her education and grew to womanhood in the Dominion. In 1884 she went on a visit to Blue Rapids, Kansas, and there met Dr. Fillmore, her future husband. They have three children: Louise, the wife of Dr. R. E. Weston, a physician practicing at Tillsonburg, Canada; Rollin S.; and Benjamin De Witt, who was a student at the University of Kansas but left college to enter the aviation corps of the British army and is now serving in Egypt.

Rollin S. Fillmore, Jr., completed the high school course at Blue Rapids, Kansas, and in 1908 entered the medical college of Washington University at St. Louis, the school from which his father graduated, receiving the degree of M. D. from that institution in 1912. For one year he was interne in St. Luke's Hospital at St. Louis and for six months held a similar position in the Iron Mountain Rail-

road Hospital at Little Rock, Arkansas. Subsequently he was physician at a lumber camp at Bigelow, Arkansas, but in 1914 removed to Corwith, Iowa, where he has since remained. In his practice here he has adopted the methods in use in the most up-to-date hospitals and has been most successful in the treatment of disease. He belongs to the Winnebago & Hancock Counties Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and through the proceedings of those organizations, through individual study and through wide professional reading he keeps thoroughly informed as to the work of the leading physicians and surgeons of the country.

Dr. Fillmore is a republican in politics, but although he feels the concern of a good citizen for the welfare of his community he has not taken an active part in public affairs, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his practice. He belongs to Paradise Lodge, No. 553, A. F. & A. M., of Corwith, and to Lodge No. 29, B. P. O. E., at Little Rock, Arkansas. He is held in the highest esteem throughout Hancock county not only professionally but also personally.

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#### SAM THRONSON.

Sam Thronson, who is engaged in general farming on section 30, Norway township, Winnebago county, has always devoted his life to the tilling of the soil and his energy and determination have brought to him success. He was born on his father's farm in Norway township, December 25, 1885, a son of Thron and Inger (Nelson) Thronson, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. Before leaving that country one child was born to them, Lena, who is now the wife of H. W. Johnson, of Emmons, Minnesota. On coming to the United States in 1879 they made their way at once to Norway township, Winnebago county, and the following year the father purchased the east half of the northeast quarter of section 30. To his original purchase he added from time to time as his financial resources permitted, acquiring the entire northeast quarter of section 30 and also purchasing eighty acres on section 19 of the same township, so that his farm covered two hundred and forty acres. This he carefully and systematically cultivated and improved throughout his remaining days and became recognized as one of the substantial and valued farmers of his community. He deserved much credit for his success, which was attributable entirely to his persistent effort. Becoming a naturalized American citizen, he gave loyal support to movements and interests for the benefit of the community and he voted with the republican party. He held membership in the Lutheran church and when called to his final rest on the 16th of January, 1916, his remains were interred in the Lutheran cemetery at Scarville. He had the following children: Lena, Nellie, Thomas, Sam and Inga.

Sam Thronson obtained his education in the common schools of Norway township, which he attended until eighteen years of age, after which he worked for his father until the latter's death. He is now farming the old homestead and he also rents and cultivates the southwest quarter of section 30, so that he is giving his time and energies to the cultivation of four hundred acres of land. He is leading a busy, useful and active life and his energy and thrift are evidenced in the

splendid appearance of his place. The fences and buildings are kept in a state of good repair and there are fine improvements upon the farm, while in the cultivation of his fields he utilizes the best machinery. He also raises quite a number of cattle and hogs. In a word, he is a progressive agriculturist and his labors are being attended by gratifying results. He is a stockholder in the Scarville elevator and in the creamery. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but he has never sought nor desired office. His religious faith is manifest in his membership in the Synod Lutheran church.

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#### LEWIS G. AVERY.

No history of Hancock county would be complete without mention of the Avery family and one cannot carry his investigations far without learning what an important part they have played in the development and upbuilding of this section of the state. Lewis G. Avery, who is now engaged in general farming on section 25, Avery township, was born November 12, 1867, his parents being Anson and Lovina (Philo) Avery, who were the first settlers of Hancock county, where the father took up the occupation of farming when all this district was a wild and unbroken prairie in which as yet the hand of civilization had wrought no changes. It was in his honor that Avery township was so named.

A lifelong resident of Hancock county, Lewis G. Avery entered the public schools at the usual age, but attended only through the winter seasons when his labors were not needed in the work of the farm. Through the summer months he took his place in the fields, but he continued to attend school as opportunity offered until he reached the age of seventeen. Afterward his entire time was devoted to farm work on the old homestead until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when his father gave him seventy-seven acres of land on section 20, Avery township, and he afterward purchased sixty acres on section 21 of the same township and another tract of five acres on section 20. This farm he still owns and he has made it one of the valuable and desirable properties of his part of the county. Stock raising has become a prominent feature of his place and he specializes in Chester White hogs, shorthorn Durham cattle and fine Belgian horses. He also thoroughly understands scientific methods of crop production and so utilizes his fields that through the rotation of crops they are kept at a high state of productiveness and splendid harvests are annually gathered.

On the 26th of November, 1891, Mr. Avery was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hughes, a daughter of Edward and Lucy (Melius) Hughes. The father, who was born in Ireland in 1839, came to America when a youth of seventeen years and during the period of the Civil war he rendered three years of active service to his country in behalf of the Union. His wife was born in 1857 and both have now passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Avery have become the parents of two daughters: Mardel L. A.; and Clara A. who is the wife of Irvin F. Bier, a son of Conrad Bier, of Meservey, Iowa, and has one child, Avery I. Bier.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery attend the United Brethren church. His political endorsement is given to republican principles and upon the party ticket he has been elected township trustee. He has also served as school director and he is much

interested in community affairs, giving his aid and coöperation to plans and movements for the general good. His has been a well spent life. The work instituted by his father in pioneer times has been carried on by him and thus the name of Avery is closely associated with the agricultural development of this section. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present and he has done much to further public progress not only along agricultural lines, but in all those branches of activity which touch the general interests of society.

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#### CARL O. THOMPSON.

Carl O. Thompson is a well known and prominent resident of Norway township, Winnebago county, where he has been called upon to fill various public offices by his fellow townsmen, who recognize his worth and ability. His attention is given to general agricultural pursuits and he is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land in Norway township, his home being on section 27.

Mr. Thompson was born January 13, 1861, in the country of Norway, and is the only living child of Ole and Ingeborg Thompson, although two other children passed away in infancy. The father was a blacksmith by trade. He was twice married and by his first union had a daughter, Julia, who is now Mrs. John Severson of Norway township. In the year 1866 Ole Thompson brought his family to the United States and, making his way across the continent, established his home in Norway township, Winnebago county, purchasing one hundred and forty acres of land on section 27 that is now in possession of his son Carl. He endured the hardships and privations of pioneer life during the period of early development here, but he resolutely faced conditions and bent his energies to the development and improvement of a farm with the result that in course of time his land became a valuable and productive property. He devoted his attention to its cultivation until his life's labors were ended in death August 22, 1891. His widow survived him for a considerable period and passed away August 1, 1905, when she was laid to rest by his side in Lime Creek cemetery. He was a republican in his political views and his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Synod Lutheran church.

In his youthful days Carl O. Thompson attended the early schools of the county, which were then of a somewhat primitive character, as the work of organization and development in the school system had scarcely been begun. After reaching the age of sixteen years he did not go to school any longer but concentrated his entire attention upon the farm work and was in his father's employ up to the time of his marriage. He had reached the age of twenty-three years when in 1884 he wedded Anna Holstad, a daughter of Ole and Anna Holstad, who resided near Northwood in Worth county, Iowa, but have now passed away, their remains being interred in Somber cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson became the parents of nine children, of whom one has departed this life, Hilma, who was the sixth born and who died at the age of eighteen years. The others are: Ole, who is married and lives near Lake Park, Minnesota; Ida B., the wife of Burton Johnson, a farmer of Bristol township, Worth county; Oscar, who is married

and makes his home now in St. Paul, Minnesota, but expects soon to be ordained as a Lutheran minister and will locate at Chinook, Washington; Albert T., at home; Clara, the wife of Alfred Larson, living near Grantsburg, Wisconsin; John B., Amanda and Alice, all at home.

Following his marriage Mr. Thompson began farming on his own account and the success which has come to him is the direct reward of his earnest and persistent labors. He is now the owner of the old homestead of one hundred and forty acres, which has been in the possession of the family for more than a half century, and he also owns the west half of the northwest quarter of section 33, Norway township, and a quarter section of land in Becker county, Minnesota. He has led a life of thrift and industry, and that his farm work is diligently prosecuted is manifest in the excellent appearance of the place with its growing crops, its modern machinery and fine improvements in the way of buildings. Mr. Thompson is now president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills and of the Norway Farmers Union Telephone Company and is secretary of the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are well known in Winnebago county and have a large circle of warm friends. They hold membership with the Synod Lutheran church and Mr. Thompson gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has filled all of the township offices save that of justice of the peace and for six years he was a member of the county board of supervisors. He is now serving as school treasurer, and in public office he has made a creditable record by reason of his promptness and fidelity in the discharge of duty. Those who know him esteem him as a man of sterling worth and one who has contributed in no small measure to the upbuilding of this section.

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#### FRED KATTER.

Progressive agriculture in Hancock county finds a worthy representative in Fred Katter, the owner of the Maple Ash Lawn stock farm, situated on section 27, Madison township. He was born, in Ohio, November 28, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Paterjohn) Katter, both of whom were natives of Germany. Coming to America in 1860 they settled in Ohio and in 1875 came to Iowa, establishing their home on a farm in Hancock county, where they spent their remaining days. They had a family of twelve children, of whom eight are now living.

Fred Katter was reared and educated in Hancock county, for he was only about eight or nine years of age at the time of the removal of the family west of the Mississippi. After attending high school he entered the business college at Garner and was graduated from that institution. For a year thereafter he devoted his attention to farming and then engaged in merchandising at Garner for a decade. He next sold that place and turned his attention to the real estate and insurance business in which he continued for seven years. In 1907 he removed to his present farm whereon he engages in stock raising and breeding, handling Aberdeen Angus cattle and Chester White hogs, keeping only registered stock. He is recognized as one of the leading stock raisers of this section of the state and his

annual sales reach a very gratifying figure. Throughout his business career he has displayed unflinching determination and energy and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

In 1893 Mr. Katter was united in marriage to Miss Louise Holtkamp who was born in Shelby county, Iowa, a daughter of William and Mary (Neimeyer) Holtkamp, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. They have become parents of six children of whom five are living, their first born, Ruth, having died at the age of a year and a half. The next two, Reuben and Calvin, are twins. The others are Lincoln, Wilson and Emily. The parents are members of the Reformed church of Garner and loyally adhere to its teachings, doing all in their power to promote the moral progress of the community. Mr. Katter is a supporter of the republican party and has been called upon to fill several of the township offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was the organizer of the Farmers Club in his township and was the promoter of the consolidated school system. He is constantly studying questions relative to the improvement of farm life, not only in regard to material welfare but also to social intercourse and moral progress. He feels that one of the needs of the present hour is a greater social spirit which will hold the young people to the farms, and is also an advocate of improved school conditions which will give to the young advantages equal to those to be obtained in the city. In a word, he is actuated by a most progressive spirit and his labors have brought good results.

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#### JOHN OLSON.

John Olson has since 1911 been cashier of the First National Bank of Forest City but for a much longer period has been identified with financial interests in Winnebago county and has been a close student of the grave and important financial problems of the day. He is actuated in all that he does by a spirit of enterprise and public opinion accords him place with the representative citizens of this part of the state. He was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, June 8, 1873, a son of O. B. and Gunhild (Anderson) Olson, both of whom were natives of Norway but became residents of Wisconsin during their childhood days. At the time of the Civil war the father responded to the country's call for troops, going to the front with a Wisconsin regiment and thus aiding in defense of the Union. In 1880 he removed to Worth county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, devoting the greater part of his life to general agricultural pursuits. He has now passed away, while his wife resides at Lake Mills, Iowa.

John Olson supplemented his public school education by three years' study in the Valder Business College at Decorah, Iowa, and on the 20th of July, 1896, arrived in Forest City, then a young man of twenty-three years. He became official stenographer with Judge C. H. Kelley, with whom he remained for a year, after which he spent a year as deputy county treasurer. Since then he has been closely identified with banking interests. He first entered the Winnebago County State Bank as cashier, in which capacity he served for a decade, after which he filled the office of state bank examiner for two years. On retiring from that position he entered the First National Bank of Forest City as cashier in 1911 and



JOHN OLSON





is the present incumbent in that office, contributing in large measure to the success of the institution by reason of his fidelity and thorough understanding of banking in all its various phases.

On the 16th of December, 1896, Mr. Olson was married to Miss Maude Cole, a daughter of A. T. and Phoebe Cole, who were pioneers of Winnebago County. They have four children, Vance, Ruth, Eunice and Mark. The son Vance, a senior in the Forest City high school, enlisted in the United States army in the signal corps May 7, 1917, at the age of nineteen.

Mr. Olson is very prominent in fraternal circles, holding membership in Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., in Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., of Garner; in Forest City Lodge, No. 440, I. O. O. F.; in Linwood Camp, No. 717, M. W. A.; in Forest City Homestead, No. 498, B. A. Y., and with the lodge of the Mystic Toilers, No. 132, of Forest City. He was national delegate to the Modern Woodmen Head Camps, held in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1905, in Peoria, Illinois, in 1908, in Buffalo, New York, in 1911, in Chicago, Illinois, in 1912 (special session) and in Chicago Illinois in 1917. He was also a delegate to the national convention of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen in Colorado Springs in 1905, in Minneapolis in 1909, in Oklahoma City in 1913 and in Detroit, Michigan, in 1917, and he is in thorough sympathy with the spirit of fraternity that underlies these organizations. Mr. Olson is also recognized as a prominent factor in political circles. A stalwart republican, he has been a member of the city council and also a member of the school board and he has done much to further the interests of his party as chairman and as secretary of the republican county central committee, while on four different occasions he has been a delegate to the republican state convention. His position is never an equivocal one. He stands loyally for what he believes to be the best interests of the community and his progressive spirit has carried him into important public relations.

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#### J. JOSEPH BONNSTETTER.

J. Joseph Bonnstetter, living on section 32, Boone township, Hancock county, was born in Kossuth county, Iowa, April 30, 1879, a son of Michael and Katherina (Dorweiler) Bonnstetter, who were natives of Germany but became early residents of Iowa. While spending his youthful days under the parental roof J. Joseph Bonnstetter divided his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of a district school education until he reached the age of eighteen, when he entered the high school at Des Moines, where he studied for six months. He afterward began earning his living as a farm hand and carefully utilized his time so that he was later able to purchase a farm. He bought one hundred and sixty-five acres in Kossuth county, upon which he lived for two years, when he disposed of his holdings there and removed to Hancock county, where he invested in two hundred and twenty-three acres on section 32, Boone township. While he has always engaged in general farming, he has also made a specialty of handling Belgian horses, breeding the pure bred stock and having in his herd some of the top strains, and he likewise writes insurance for the Hancock County Mutual Fire Insurance Company and also for the Kossuth County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. His

has been a busy and useful life as indicated by the substantial improvements which he has placed upon his farm, making it one of the attractive properties of his part of the county.

On the 16th of June, 1900, Mr. Bonnstetter was married to Miss Ada M. Ludwig, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Dr. Herman and Christina (Till) Ludwig, who were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Bonnstetter have five children, Gilbert A., Raymond E., Lester M., Ernest J. and Esther R.

The parents are communicants of the Catholic church. Mr. Bonnstetter holds membership in the Masonic order and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has served as school director but has never sought nor held political office. Working diligently and persistently since starting out in life on his own account, he has become the owner of an excellent farm and is now numbered among the men of affluence in his community.

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#### F. L. MILLER.

F. L. Miller is well known in financial circles of Hancock county as the cashier of the Bank of Miller, which was organized in 1899. Moreover, he has always been a resident of this section of the state. He was born July 4, 1878, in the town in which he still resides, his parents being E. C. and Phoebe W. (Morey) Miller, the former a native of Vermont, while the latter was born in Pennsylvania. When but three years of age she was taken to Illinois and in that state she gave her hand in marriage to E. C. Miller. In 1875 they removed to Hancock county, Iowa, and settled on the farm where the village of Miller now stands, the father thereafter giving his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred January 11, 1912. His widow is still living on the old homestead. In their family were three children: F. L.; A. L., who remains upon the farm; and Nellie, the wife of George F. Hanson.

F. L. Miller was reared in his native county and supplemented his early education, acquired in the common schools, by study in the business college at Mason City, Iowa. In 1903 he became cashier of the Bank of Miller and has since acted in that capacity, covering a period of fourteen years, during which his sound business judgment, his executive force and his enterprise have contributed much to the upbuilding of the institution. He is still owner of an interest in the old homestead.

In 1910 Mr. Miller was married to Mrs. Cora D. Wilcox, who was born in Benton county, Iowa. She is a daughter of Fred and Anna (Jones) Phillips, who are now residents of Kossuth county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have become parents of a daughter and a son: Mona Maurine, born August 27, 1911; and Edwin Fred, born September 13, 1913. The parents are consistent members of the United Presbyterian church and are prominent socially. Mr. Miller is a republican in his political views and for several years has filled the office of township clerk. Fraternally he is connected with Garner Lodge, No. 319, F. & A. M., and also with the Royal Arch Chapter and has held several offices in the lodge. He likewise belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp No. 5862, of which he is clerk. His is a well balanced character and the various interests of life receive from him

due attention. While an active and energetic business man, he has ever realized his duties of citizenship and his obligations to his fellows and has cooperated in many well defined plans and measures for the public good.

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#### OLE HOVEY.

Although he started out in life for himself in limited circumstances Ole Hovey, is today one of the substantial citizens of Ellington township, Hancock county, owning and operating a fine farm on section 12. He is of Scandinavian birth, being born in Norway, June 24, 1844, and is a son of Ole and Runde Hovey, who were lifelong residents of that country. During his boyhood our subject attended the common schools of Norway and he remained in his native land until about twenty-three years of age.

It was in the spring of 1867 that Mr. Hovey crossed the Atlantic to the United States and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for two years. At the end of that time he came to Hancock county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 14, Ellington township. As money was scarce at that time and hard to get he traded eighty acres of his land for a team of horses and later sold forty acres of the original tract but has since added to his property from time to time until he now owns two hundred acres of very valuable land and his wife owns one hundred and twenty acres. That he thoroughly understands the occupation he has chosen as a life work is demonstrated by the success that he has achieved and he now ranks among the well-to-do farmers of his community.

In 1867 Mr. Hovey was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Rude, also a native of Norway, who came to the United States on the same vessel which brought her husband to this country. Of the six children born to them, three are living, namely: Oscar, now a ranchman of Colorado; K. O., who operates the home farm; and Emma, the wife of Joseph Harris, of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa.

Mr. Hovey is now practically living retired, leaving his son K. O. to carry on the work of the farm. In the early days he endured many hardships and privations but as time passed he steadily prospered and is now the owner of a fine farm under excellent cultivation. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the republican party and he takes a commendable interest in public affairs.

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#### WALTER F. THOMPSON.

Since 1896 Walter F. Thompson has been a resident of Hancock county, Iowa, and for several years he has been regarded as one of the leading farmers of Boone township, owning and operating a large and valuable farm on sections 33 and 35. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 16th of May, 1868, and is a son of Robert and Margaret (Jury) Thompson, natives of Scotland and England respectively. On coming to America in 1853 the father settled in Livingston county, Illinois, where he followed farming for some years.

Upon the old home place Walter F. Thompson grew to manhood with the usual educational advantages of a country boy at that time and he continued to attend the common schools of his native county until about twenty years of age. In the meantime he had also become thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits and after putting aside his textbooks assisted his father in the operation of the farm until the spring of 1896. In the fall of 1894, however, he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 33, Boone township, Hancock county, Iowa, and on leaving the parental roof located upon this tract. Subsequently he bought two hundred and forty acres on section 35, the same township, and has since made many valuable and useful improvements upon his place, the neat and thrifty appearance of which plainly indicates his thrift and enterprise as well as his untiring industry. He gives some attention to stock raising, making a specialty of Duroc Jersey hogs.

On the 4th of December, 1894, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Alice N. Wolfe, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah E. (Hawkins) Wolfe, who were born in West Virginia, and are now living in Stilson, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have two children: Maud Mary, who married Marcie Hunsley and lives on section 35, Boone township; and Orin Leo.

By his ballot Mr. Thompson supports the men and measures of the republican party and he has filled the office of school director. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is one of the representative men of his community and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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#### MRS. JULIA WILSON.

Mrs. Julia Wilson is residing on section 29, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, where she owns an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres. She was born in New York, December 27, 1854, a daughter of John and Ann (Maloney) Maghum, who were natives of Ireland but in early life crossed the Atlantic to the new world. The father died when but twenty-two years of age, while the mother survived to the age of sixty-five years.

Mrs. Wilson was but two years of age when taken from New York to Rockford, Illinois, and much of her girlhood was spent in Independence, Iowa, where she pursued her education in the public schools. At the age of eighteen she went to Gentry county, Missouri, where on the 15th of April, 1874, she became the wife of Mark Wilson, a son of Timothy and Sarah (Rhodes) Wilson, who were natives of England where they spent their entire lives.

For about fourteen years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wilson remained residents of Gentry county, Missouri, and then removed to Wright county, Iowa, where they lived for four years. On the expiration of that period they took up their abode in Hancock county and in 1891 purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Twin Lake township, on which Mrs. Wilson still makes her home. By her marriage she became the mother of eleven children, ten of whom are yet living, the eldest son, George, having passed away. Those who still

survive are Sarah, Julia Ann, Mary, Benjamin, Timothy, John, Daisy, Ellen, Lily, and William K. All are now married with the exception of John and William K.

The family circle was broken by the death of the husband and father in 1905. His death was deeply deplored for he had many friends. He was a member of the Church of England and he gave his political support to the democratic party. Mrs. Wilson still occupies the old homestead on which she has now lived for twenty-six years. The farm was originally ditched with oxen and through all the intervening years the work has been carried on along progressive lines until the farm is now a very productive and valuable one, Mrs. Wilson deriving therefrom a substantial income that keeps her in very comfortable circumstances.

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#### HENRY I. MARTINSON.

Henry I. Martinson resides on section 27, Norway township, on the old family homestead on which his birth occurred January 9, 1870. He has always resided in Winnebago county and is a representative of one of its old and valued families. His parents were Ingebrit and Gertrude (Vegurn) Martinson, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. Before they came to the United States two children were born to them: Ole, who is now living in Norway township; and Carrie, the wife of John N. Dahle, living near Kiester, Minnesota. After crossing the Atlantic the parents had five children and all are still living in Winnebago county with the exception of Carrie and Anna, who is the wife of Gilbert Holstad and is a resident of Worth county, Iowa. On reaching the new world Ingebrit Martinson made his way to Wisconsin but after a brief period spent in that state came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land on section 27, Norway township. Later he bought forty acres adjoining and upon that farm continued until his death, which occurred December 7, 1911. He had long been a resident of the county, where he was known as an energetic and progressive farmer. His widow still survives and makes her home with her son Henry, enjoying good health at the very advanced age of ninety-one years.

Henry I. Martinson was reared in Winnebago county when it was a frontier district and he pursued his education in the pioneer schools, continuing his studies to the age of sixteen years. His attention was afterward given in undivided manner to the work of the home farm and upon reaching the age of twenty-five years he rented the farm from his father and has since occupied and cultivated it. It is now a splendidly improved property and in its well kept appearance indicates his careful supervision.

In 1896 Mr. Martinson was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Holstad, her parents being John and Julia Holstad, natives of Norway. After coming to the United States they established their home in Worth county, Iowa, where the father passed away, his remains being interred in the cemetery near Northwood. The mother is still living and makes her home in Northwood. Mr. and Mrs. Martinson have three children, Ingvald J., George and Gladys B., all at home.

The family attend the Synod Lutheran church, in which the parents hold membership. Mr. Martinson has voted with the republican party since age con-

ferred upon him the right of franchise and keeps well informed concerning the questions and issues of the day. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, recognize in him a reliable business man and substantial citizen. There have been no spectacular phases in his life record, but he has been loyal to duty in both public and private life and his chief characteristics are those which everywhere awaken confidence and regard.

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#### MILTON P. GALLOWAY.

Upon a farm on section 31, Boone township, Hancock county, comprising one hundred and seventy acres of land, resides Milton P. Galloway and the place constitutes one of the pleasing features of the landscape. There are great fields of corn, wide fields of clover and rich pasture lands on which are found grazing good grades of cattle. In a word, Mr. Galloway is practical and progressive in all that he undertakes and is winning merited success by his intelligently directed effort. He was born in Logan county, Illinois, June 16, 1867, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Moran) Galloway, who were natives of New York and Ohio respectively.

While spending his youthful days under the parental roof Milton P. Galloway acquired a common school education. He remained at home until he attained his majority, after which he engaged in the operation of a tile factory at Latham, Illinois, for two years. He later returned to the occupation to which he had been reared and for nineteen years cultivated rented land. On the expiration of that period, in 1912, he came to Hancock county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land in Boone township, not far from Corwith. He also bought one hundred and sixty acres in Woodward county, Oklahoma. Upon his Iowa farm he is carefully cultivating corn, clover and other crops best adapted to soil and climate and is raising graded cattle and Plymouth Rock chickens. The products of his farm annually bring to him a good income, enabling him to live in comfort.

On the 26th of February, 1892, Mr. Galloway was united in marriage to Miss Tillie Sennett, who was born in Illinois on the 29th of July, 1872, her parents being Robert and Iseline (Allison) Sennett, also natives of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Galloway have three sons, Clarence E., Robert J. and Louis E., all at home.

Mr. Galloway is a supporter of republican principles but has never been an office seeker. In his life he exemplifies the beneficent teachings of the Masonic fraternity, of which he is a representative, and he attends the Methodist Episcopal church. His life has always been actuated by high and honorable principles and he has ever endeavored to do unto others as he would have them do unto him.

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#### CHARLES A. HARTWIG.

Charles A. Hartwig, who has won an enviable reputation as the best corn grower in Hancock county, is today the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Magor township, Hancock county, his home being on section 23. He was born on the 4th of October, 1861, in Germany, which was also the birthplace

of his parents, Carl and Christina (Gundlach) Hartwig, who brought their family to America in 1870 and settled in Mitchell county, Iowa, and in 1880 came to Hancock county. By occupation the father was a farmer.

Charles A. Hartwig was about nine years of age when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world and in this state he grew to manhood with the usual educational advantages of the country boy of those days when schools were few and far apart. He began working as a section hand on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad and was thus employed for two summers, after which he engaged in farming on rented land for three years. At the end of that time he was able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Magor township, Hancock county, where he has since resided, and besides this tract he now owns forty acres on section 26, the same township. This is a fertile farm under excellent cultivation and well adapted to the raising of corn, and in 1915 and 1916 Mr. Hartwig won the first prize, a silver cup, for the best corn grown in Hancock county at the Iowa Corn Growers Association. He is also interested in stock raising, making a specialty of Clydesdale horses, of which he has some fine specimens upon his farm.

On the 28th of August, 1895, Mr. Hartwig married Miss Paulina Zuehl, also a native of Germany and a daughter of Carl and Fredericka (Doring) Zuehl, who on coming to this country with their family located near Madison, Dane county, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwig have five children, namely: Clara Irene, Oscar Carl, Ella A., Emma Paulina and Lena F., all at home.

The family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hartwig casts his ballot for the men and measures of the republican party. He is a stockholder in the Kanawha Elevator Company and is one of the representative farmers and honored citizens of his community, held in high esteem by all who know him.

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#### S. O. SOLOMONSON.

S. O. Solomonson, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 34, Logan township, Winnebago county, was born on the 24th of June, 1865, in the stift of Bergen, Norway, but was only a year old when brought to the United States by his parents, Ole and Carrie Solomonson. The family first located in Allamakee county, Iowa, where they spent one year, and then removed to Winneshiek county, this state, which was their home for nine years. At the end of that period they came to Winnebago county and the father purchased a farm in Newton township, which he continued to operate until his death on the 5th of April, 1909. His remains were interred in the North Prairie church cemetery. The mother is still living and resides with her son Oscar. In the family were seven children, five of whom survive, namely: S. O., of this review; Louis, a resident of Newton township, Winnebago county; Malena, the wife of O. B. Jenson, of Lake Mills; Anna, who is living with her brother Oscar, the youngest of the family and a resident of Newton township.

S. O. Solomonson was reared to agricultural pursuits and early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of a farmer. His literary education was

obtained in the district schools. He remained under the parental roof until 1892, when he purchased the southwest quarter of section 34, Logan township, Winnebago county, and has since devoted his time and attention to its improvement and cultivation. He is a stockholder in the Farmers elevators at Scarville and Lake Mills, the Lake Mills Lumber Company and the cooperative creameries at Scarville and Lake Mills.

On January 28, 1900, Mr. Solomonson was united in marriage to Mrs. Sarah (Martinson) Twito, the widow of John Twito, of Lake Mills, and a daughter of Ingebrit and Gertrude Martinson, of Norway township, Winnebago county, both now deceased. By her first marriage Mrs. Solomonson has four children: Helmer, now a resident of Lorraine, North Dakota; Emler, who married Lillian Albertson and is now operating the farm which belonged to the father of Mr. Solomonson in Newton township; Isabel, the wife of Swan Green, of Logan township; and Archer, at home. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Solomonson: Catherine, Carroll, Evelyn, John F., and Milford. The family are connected with the Synod Lutheran church and are highly esteemed by all who know them. By his ballot Mr. Solomonson supports the men and measures of the republican party and he has been called upon to fill the offices of township assessor and school director, the duties of which he has most capably discharged. He is one of the representative citizens of his community.

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#### ISAAC O. FLORENCE.

Since starting out in life for himself Isaac O. Florence has been interested in the dredging business and now carries on operations under the firm name of I. O. Florence & Company with headquarters at Thompson, Iowa, where he has made his home since 1905. He was born in Wood county, West Virginia, on the 16th of February, 1876, and that state was also the birthplace of his parents, Marshall O. and Patience A. (Boice) Florence. In 1884 the family removed to Ohio, where the father engaged in farming and contracting, and he continued to reside in the Buckeye state until called to his final rest in November, 1910. The mother is still living.

Isaac O. Florence was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where he grew to manhood, in the meantime acquiring a good common school education. At the age of twenty years he left the parental roof and began to make his own way in the world. He entered the employ of the dredging firm of A. V. Wills & Sons, of Pittsfield, Illinois, at a salary of twenty dollars per month, and remained with that company for five years. The following two years he was with C. H. Sternberg & Sons of Chicago and has since engaged in the dredging business on his own account, starting in business for himself in Indiana in 1904 under the name of the Indiana Drainage Company. The following year he came to Thompson, Iowa, but continued to carry on operations under the name of the Indiana Drainage Company until 1910, when the name was changed to I. O. Florence & Company. He has built up a good business, which is constantly increasing, and he has become widely and favorably known through-



out this section of the state. His work now takes him all over Iowa and Minnesota.

On the 4th of July, 1898, Mr. Florence married Miss Maude A. Hatten, and they have become the parents of five children, the first three born in Indiana and the others in Iowa, namely: Oral, born February 12, 1900; Dale Chadwick, February 13, 1902; Fairy Fairbanks, May 19, 1904; Glee, December 20, 1909; and Marshall O., October 12, 1914.

In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Florence are Methodists, and he is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a republican and is now efficiently serving as a member of the Thompson school board. During his residence here he has made a host of warm friends and wherever known is held in high regard.

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#### JOHNNIE RAKE.

Johnnie Rake, a well known, highly respected and popular resident of Rake, is cashier of the State Savings Bank. He was born in Nordfjord, Norway, July 3, 1890, a son of Cornelius and Malina Rake. The father was a farmer of Norway, where he is still living, but the mother passed away there in 1890.

At the age of six years Johnnie Rake came to America with his uncle, A. A. Rake, who had resided for a time in Minnesota and who in 1882 came to Winnebago county, finally taking up his abode on land adjoining the present site of Rake, which town was named in his honor. He cultivated his farm in Lincoln township for many years and also turned his attention to general merchandising, opening a store in Rake which he owned and successfully managed for a number of years. At length his establishment was destroyed by fire. He then organized the Rake Banking Company and devoted his entire attention to the banking business until he retired from active life. While the establishment had been organized as a private bank, it was converted into a state savings bank in 1914 with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. Today the bank has over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars on deposit and there is a surplus of two thousand dollars. The company erected one of the most modern bank buildings in the county in 1916. On retiring from business Arent A. Rake was succeeded as president of the bank, by A. Christopherson, with S. C. Jenswold as vice president and Johnnie Rake as cashier.

The last named was reared and educated in Lincoln township and made his initial step in the business world as assistant cashier in his uncle's bank. He thoroughly acquainted himself with the duties of the position and his developing ability secured for him the position of cashier in September, 1915. He is also a stockholder in the bank and his activity and efforts are contributing much to its continued success. In a word, he is actuated by a spirit of enterprise and progress and it is his habit to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. The State Savings Bank of Rake has one of the finest bank buildings in Iowa, thoroughly equipped in every way, and the policy of the bank is one which will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. In addition to his connection therewith Mr. Rake is treasurer of the Lincoln Cooperative Creamery Company.

In his political belief Mr. Rake is a republican and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. For more than a year he has been city clerk of Rake and is also school treasurer. He takes a deep interest in all community affairs, giving his aid and influence on the side of progress and improvement, and is a most public-spirited citizen.

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#### THOMAS HOLTAN.

For many years Thomas Holtan has been prominently identified with the agricultural and business interests of Winnebago county and has been an important factor in the development of this region along various lines. He resides upon the old homestead on section 16, Mount Valley township, which his father purchased on coming to this county in 1866, and is successfully engaged in its operation. He is also interested in a number of business enterprises that have an important bearing upon the prosperity of the locality.

Mr. Holtan was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, on the 3d of January, 1866, and is a son of Hans and Margit (Torgerson) Holtan, who came to the United States from Norway in 1862 and located in Olmsted county, Minnesota, but after residing there for four years came to Winnebago county, Iowa. The father purchased a quarter section of land on section 16, Mount Valley township, but did not locate there until the spring of 1867, the family spending the winter with Harris Olson. Mr. Holtan began the erection of a log house upon his farm but only completed about a third of it at that time. Into this the family moved and continued to live about five years before the entire building was roofed and finished. In 1885 Mr. Holtan bought an adjoining eighty acres but the following year went to McLean county, North Dakota, where he took up a homestead and continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 3d of October, 1915. His wife had passed away July 6, 1906. As a republican he took a very active and prominent part in local politics in early days and filled a number of offices, including those of road commissioner, school director, school treasurer and assessor. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the United Lutheran church and were most estimable people. He became a large land owner having at one time nine hundred and sixty acres in McLean county, North Dakota, and three hundred and twenty acres in Montana.

It was during his infancy that Thomas Holtan was brought to Winnebago county, where he was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys at that time. When his father went to North Dakota, he took charge of the home farm here, which he operated alone for two years and later in partnership with his brother Halvor, but a year after his marriage this business connection was dissolved and Halvor removed to his own farm. Thomas Holtan continued to rent the old homestead for the following four years and operated it independently. In 1896 he purchased the place and has since made many improvements thereon, including the erection of good modern farm buildings, so that it is now one of the best improved farms of the locality. Mr. Holtan has not confined his attention solely to agricultural pursuits but is now serving as president of the Citizens Mutual Telephone Company, is a stockholder and director of the Forest City Cooperative

Creamery Company; a stockholder of the Lake Mills Lumber Company; and of both the Leland and Forest City Farmers Elevator Companies.

On the 3d of June, 1891, Mr. Holtan was united in marriage to Miss Esther Thorvildson, a daughter of Aslag Thorvildson, who came to the United States from Norway about 1861 and settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota, but in 1865 became a resident of Center township, Winnebago county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Holtan have been born nine children, all of whom are still living, namely: Tilda A., at home; Mabel H., the wife of Theodore Fjelstad, of Center township; Edwin C.; Sarah A.; the wife of Peter Haugen, a farmer residing near Leland; and Ella H., Agnes B., Hilda G., Hans O. and Bertha K., all at home.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Holtan has affiliated with the republican party and he is now serving his third term as township trustee. He has filled the office of school treasurer for twenty years and has always taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs. He and his family hold membership in the United Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### KNUT M. LARSEN.

Knut M. Larsen is a self-made man who has won success through indefatigable effort and persistency of purpose. He resides on section 19, Norway township, Winnebago county, where he has a valuable farm property, and he is also officially and financially connected with several business enterprises of this section of the state. He was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, June 10, 1864, a son of Michael and Martha (Knutson) Larsen, who were natives of Norway but were married in the United States. They had a family of five children: Louis, who is living in Stockholm, South Dakota; Mrs. Betsey Peck, a resident of Salem, Oregon; Knut M., of this review; Lena, the wife of Andrew Lunda, whose home is near Parker, South Dakota; and Martha, the wife of M. O. Sletten, of Norway township.

In the year of his birth Knut M. Larsen was taken by his parents to Worth county, Iowa, where the father purchased a small farm, and there both he and his wife passed away when their son, Knut M. Larsen, was but seven years ago, their remains being interred in Silver Lake cemetery. The boy, thus left an orphan, afterward lived with his uncle, Hans Ingebritson, an early settler of Norway township, Winnebago county, with whom he remained until he reached the age of fourteen years. He then started out to earn his living by working as a farm hand and was employed in that way until he reached the age of twenty-nine years, when he was married and began farming on his own account. He purchased the northeast quarter of section 19 and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the same section in Norway township and thus became the owner of two hundred acres of rich and productive land which he has since owned and occupied. His labors are manifest in the highly cultivated fields and in the good improvements which he has put upon the property. Almost his entire time is devoted to its further development and improvement and annually he gathers good crops which are the reward of his industry and perseverance. He has had other business interests and connections. He is now a trustee and was formerly the manager of the Scarville Creamery. He acted as manager for eight years and at the present

time is vice president of the company. He is also a director and the vice president of the Farmers Elevator at Searville and is a director of the Lake Mills Lumber Company.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Larsen chose Miss Betsey Bakken, her parents being Harry and Tilda Bakken, of Winneshiek county, who are now deceased and lie buried in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen have eight children, namely: A. Melvin, Harry O., John C., Tilda, George A., Benjamin, Kalmer L., and Clifford L.

Mr. and Mrs. Larsen hold membership in the United Lutheran church and he votes with the republican party. For one term he served as township clerk and for eight years he filled the office of school director. He stands for all that is beneficial to the community and heartily cooperates in many plans and movements for the general good. At the same time he has carefully managed his business affairs and energy and reliability have brought him success. While he started out empty-handed, he is now in the possession of a comfortable competence. His home place is a highly improved farm in the midst of which stands a fine modern residence, indicating that he is now able to surround himself with all of life's comforts and some of its luxuries.

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#### JOHN HELGREN.

John Helgren, a well known farmer of King township, Winnebago county, living on section 29, was born in Sweden, November 24, 1867, and is a son of Peter and Bertha Helgren, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives.

The youthful days of John Helgren were passed in his native land and its public schools afforded him his educational opportunities. He was twenty years of age when he severed home ties and sailed for the new world. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made his way at once to the Mississippi valley and located first in Forest City, Iowa. He was employed as a farm hand for four years but he was desirous of engaging in farming on his own account and at length felt that his experience was sufficient to enable him to take that step. He then rented land and at the end of two years, having carefully saved his earnings, he was able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, King township, Winnebago county. With characteristic energy he at once began to develop and improve that place, which he has since owned and cultivated, and that he has led a busy life is proven by the very attractive appearance of the farm, which has been carefully cultivated and improved. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company and of the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson and in addition to cultivating his home place he also farms one hundred and sixty acres of land which he rents.

On the 10th of March, 1893, Mr. Helgren was married to Miss Martha Fingleberg, a daughter of Ole Fingleberg, and they have become the parents of seven children: Palmer, Clarence, Mabel, Hazel, Myrtle and Leonard, all at home; and Helen, who died in infancy.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church and in his

political belief Mr. Helgren is a republican. He has served as assessor of King township for the past eleven years and has been a member of the school board for many years, while at the present time he is serving as its treasurer. His influence is always on the side of progress and improvement and he gives loyal aid to those interests which tend to promote the material, social, intellectual and moral welfare of his community.

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### EDWARD WILLIAMS.

The farming and stock raising interests of Hancock county have a worthy representative in Edward Williams, who makes his home on section 35, Boone township, where he has a well improved place of one hundred and sixty acres. He was born on the 25th of August, 1853, in Macon, Illinois, and is a son of Jackson and Levina (Long) Williams, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania.

Edward Williams attended school until about nineteen years of age and when not busy with his studies assisted in the labors of the home farm and thus acquired an excellent knowledge of the occupation which he has made his life work. At the age of twenty-two years he rented a farm in Illinois and commenced farming on his own account. Six years later he came to Hancock county, Iowa, and in 1892 purchased his present farm on section 35, Boone township, paying for his quarter section seventeen dollars and a half per acre. He now gives considerable attention to the raising of fine stock, his specialty being pure bred Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Clydesdale horses, and he is regarded as an excellent judge of stock.

On November 25, 1886, Mr. Williams married Miss Leona Still, a native of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, and a daughter of George and Anna (Ainsworth) Still. Her grandmother Ater was the first white woman to locate in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have two daughters: Mildred, now the wife of William Snyder, living at Fairfax, Iowa; and Charity Eugenia, the wife of Fred Brand, living with her parents on the home farm. The family attend the United Brethren church and are among the most highly respected citizens of the community in which they live.

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### H. C. ARMSTRONG.

H. C. Armstrong, vice president of the First National Bank and one of the foremost citizens of Britt, is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Greene, Butler county, on the 24th of February, 1875. His parents were A. J. and Myrtie C. (Clark) Armstrong, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Prince Edward Island, Canada, but they were married in Franklin county, Iowa. In the late '50s the father accompanied his parents on their removal to Franklin county, of which the family were pioneer settlers. On leaving Prince Edward Island the Clark family removed to Wisconsin and went from there to Franklin county, Iowa. In early life A. J. Armstrong learned the carpenter's trade and subsequently became a contractor and builder, carrying on operations in Greene and Emmetsburg. Later he became identified with the lumber business and

removed to Boise, Idaho, being a prominent figure in the lumber industry of that state up to the time of his death in November, 1912. His widow is still living and continues to reside in Boise.

During his boyhood and youth H. C. Armstrong attended the public schools and completed his education in the Emmetsburg high school. When about sixteen years of age he began his business career as proprietor of a bicycle and machine shop at that place, which he carried on successfully for three years. In April, 1898, he laid aside all personal interests and entered the service of his country at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. He had previously been a member of the National Guard of Iowa and on entering the United States service was assigned to Company K, Fifty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with the rank of quartermaster sergeant. He was discharged in November of the same year but on the reorganization of the regiment the following spring was elected captain of his company, in which official capacity he served for three years. Captain Armstrong was then appointed inspector of small arms practice with the rank of captain, there being only four such officials in the state. After serving two or three years the office was abolished and Captain Armstrong severed his connection with the National Guard.

It was in 1902 that he first became interested in the banking business, accepting the position of bookkeeper in the Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank of Rake, Winnebago county, where his ability was soon recognized and rewarded by his being elevated to assistant cashier and afterward cashier of the institution within three years. In 1905 he accepted the cashiership of the First National Bank of Titonka, Iowa, with which he was connected for eight years, and was then identified with the Emmetsburg National Bank for one year. In August, 1914, Captain Armstrong came to Britt and purchased an interest in the First National Bank, of which he was made vice president, soon becoming the managing force in the direction of the bank's financial policy. He is a man of good business and executive ability, who thoroughly understands banking in principle and detail, and today occupies an enviable position in financial circles in this part of the state.

In 1899 Captain Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Mabel L. Henry of Emmetsburg and they have become the parents of three sons, namely: Neil H., Dean M. and Gordon C. The republican party has always found in the Captain a staunch supporter of its principles but he has never been an aspirant for office though he served for five or six years as mayor of Titonka, giving the city a very businesslike and progressive administration. He still takes a commendable interest in public affairs and never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit.

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#### OSCAR SWANSON.

Oscar Swanson is an active representative of farming and stock raising interests in Ell township, Hancock county, his home being on section 33, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. He has resided thereon since 1905, and his labors have greatly improved and developed his place. He was born in Sweden on the 29th of January, 1866, a son of Swen P.

and Mary Sophia Peterson. He continued in his native country until he had reached the age of twenty-two years. Attracted by the favorable reports which he had heard concerning America and her opportunities, he then determined to come to the new world, and made arrangements to cross the Atlantic. The voyage over, he continued his journey to Wexford county, Michigan, where he resided for two years. He afterward spent two years in Chicago and eighteen years in Grundy county, Illinois. He took up farming on his own account on rented land, but desirous of owning property he carefully saved his earnings and purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Ell township, Hancock county. He is now making a specialty of breeding and raising Chester White hogs and handling thoroughbred stock, and holds a sale of hogs each year. He also feeds Shorthorn cattle to some extent and he breeds his own horses, which are Percherons. The fine stock upon his place indicates his progressive spirit and laudable ambition.

Mr. Swanson has been married twice. In 1895 he wedded Hulda Johnson, and for his second wife he chose Anna Dahlgren, whom he married in 1905. By his first marriage he had five children, Mary, Albert, Carl, Esther and one who died in infancy, and by the second marriage there are six children, Ruth, Roy, Dora, Leonard, Edith and Ethel. The children are still at home.

Mr. Swanson votes with the republican party, believing firmly in its principles, but he has never sought nor desired office. His religious faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church and he endeavors to follow its teachings in all his life activities. He is found to be honest and straightforward in business as well as progressive and enterprising, and in every relation of life he is a man who can be depended upon to support what is right.

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#### WILLIAM EDGAR GOURLEY.

William Edgar Gourley is the owner of a valuable farm on section 8, Magor township, Hancock county, whereon he is engaged in buying, selling and feeding stock, making a specialty of handling hogs. His business affairs are carefully and wisely conducted and managed and his success is the direct outcome of his intelligent effort.

On the 15th of August, 1868, Mr. Gourley was born in Livingston county, Illinois, a son of Alfred and Rebecca (Farris) Gourley, who were natives of Virginia. After acquiring a district school education, continuing his studies to the age of seventeen years, William E. Gourley began work as a farm hand and also was employed in connection with the livery business at Cornell, Illinois, for five years. He was desirous, however, of engaging in business on his own account and carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land near Cornell. He remained upon that farm for a year and then sold the property, after which he came to Hancock county, Iowa, in 1901, and purchased three eighty-acre tracts on section 22, Magor township. He afterward added to his holdings eighty acres on the same section and four hundred and eighty acres on section 8, where he makes his home. He owns altogether eight hundred acres. He is now engaged in buying, selling and feeding cattle and for three years he has continuously and successfully engaged in buying

hogs. He has made splendid improvements upon his place in the way of good buildings and all modern accessories, which indicate a progressive spirit in agricultural life. His labors have wrought splendid results and he is now numbered among the men of affluence in his county. He also has other business interests, being a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank, the Commercial Savings Bank, the Kanawha Elevator Company and the Kanawha Creamery Company.

On the 13th of March, 1893, Mr. Gourley was married to Miss Nellie J. Mills, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Kimbers) Mills, who were natives of England and in early life became residents of Illinois, where their daughter, Mrs. Gourley, was born, their home at the time being in La Salle county. By her marriage Mrs. Gourley has become the mother of eight children: Ellery C.; Jessie V., the wife of Webb Shipman; Seth D.; Carrie E.; John E.; Alfred Ross; Lisle E.; and William E.

Politically Mr. Gourley is a republican and for two years filled the office of township assessor and for two years has been township trustee. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his religious faith is indicated by his connection with the Methodist Episcopal church. He has ever been upright and honorable in his dealings, progressive in all that he has undertaken, and through determined and persistent effort intelligently guided he has reached a place among the prosperous and representative farmers and business men of Hancock county.

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#### OLE MICHAELSON.

Ole Michaelson is now living retired in Leland, where for a long period he was actively engaged in grain buying, while with farming interests he was also connected. The rest which he is now enjoying is well deserved and has come to him as the reward of his former activity and enterprise. He was born in Norway, January 31, 1858, a son of Michael Thoring and Mary Oleson Belverud, who were likewise natives of the land of the midnight sun. They came to America in 1882 and settled on a farm in this part of the state, here remaining until called to their final rest. In their family were nine children, of whom six are yet living.

Ole Michaelson was reared and educated in his native country to the age of twenty years, when in 1878 he came to the United States, making his way at once to Winnebago county. For four years he was employed as a common laborer, at the end of which time he began buying grain in Leland. With the business he was continuously and successfully connected until a very recent date, when he retired, but he still owns an elevator. He displayed sound and discriminating judgment in buying grain and his business affairs were so carefully and wisely conducted that success in large measure rewarded his efforts. He is also the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of rich and valuable land on section 19, Newton township, Winnebago county, which returns to him a gratifying annual income. Moreover, he is financially interested in other business concerns, being now the president of the Farmers Savings Bank at Leland, while he is also a stockholder of the Leland Creamery Company.

On June 23, 1886, Mr. Michaelson was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Braustad, a native of Norway, who was brought to the United States in her early





OLE MICHAELSON



girlhood by her parents, Andrew and Dorothea (Grytnes) Branstad, who were also natives of Norway. They made the voyage to the new world in 1873 and settled first in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they lived for a year before coming to Winnebago county. Here the father passed away, but the mother is still living and is now in her eighty-first year. In their family were eight children, who yet survive. To Mr. and Mrs. Michaelson have been born ten children: Minnie C., the wife of O. Theodore Moen, now of Minneapolis; Delia E., at home; Ruth, Rudolph and Elvin, who have passed away; Ruth J., the second of the name, now a student in college; Clarence O., who is a graduate of Waldorf College and is now attending St. Olaf College of Minnesota; Victor, deceased; and Agnes L., and Obed B., at home.

The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Lutheran church, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. In politics Mr. Michaelson is a republican and for twenty-five years he has served on the school board, of which he is still a member. He has ever been a staunch champion of the cause of education and he is now acting as one of the trustees of Waldorf College. He is also one of the directors of the Fair Association of Forest City and is interested in all the plans and projects which look to the upbuilding of the county along the lines of material, intellectual, social and moral development.

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#### RUDOLPH C. GLAWE.

Rudolph C. Glawe, a well known and highly respected farmer of Boone township, Hancock county, makes his home on section 19, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of land. He is a native of Germany, his birth having there occurred on the 8th of April, 1865. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Miller) Glawe, were also natives of that country and, resolving to try their fortune in America, they crossed the Atlantic in 1870 and establishing their home at Appleton, Wisconsin. The father was a farmer and Rudolph C. Glawe was reared in the usual manner of the farm bred boy dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He attended a German school until he was about thirteen years of age and then started out to earn his own living by working in a carriage shop at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he was employed for a year and a half. He then went to Durand, Illinois, where he worked by the month as a farm hand for ten years. He carefully saved his earnings and in this way gained a sum that enabled him eventually to purchase his present farm. He invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on the southeast quarter of section 19, Boone township, Hancock county, Iowa, and has since devoted his time and attention to the further development and improvement of his property. There were no fences upon the place when it came into his possession and no bridges had been built. He has since been closely identified with the work of general improvement. He assisted Richard Allison in hauling the first load of tile to the county and has at all times stood for progressive methods of farming. He has made many improvements upon his place and is putting forth every effort to enhance its productiveness.

On the 9th of July, 1894, Mr. Glawe was married to Miss Mary Stritzel, who

was born in Germany, a daughter of August and Henrietta (Miller) Stritzel, who were natives of the fatherland. Mr. and Mrs. Glawe have become the parents of six children, Elda Ida, Elmer William, Anna Myrtle, Maud Hannah, Hazel Freda and George Rudolph, all yet at home.

In his political views Mr. Glawe is a republican and he has served as a member of the town board and as judge of elections. He belongs to the English Methodist Episcopal church and lives an upright, honorable life that commands for him the confidence and goodwill of all with whom he comes in contact. His record, too, shows how effective are industry and persistency of purpose as forces in business life, for it is along those lines that he has attained his success, eventually reaching a position among the substantial farmers of his adopted county.

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### CHRISTIAN TORGERSON.

Forty years have come and gone since Christian Torgerson arrived in Winnebago county and through much of the intervening period he has been closely identified with its farming interests but is now living retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest, making his home on section 10, King township. He was born six miles from Christiania, Norway, in February, 1848, a son of Torg'er and Ingeborg (Gullickson) Torgerson, who were natives of Norway, where the father followed the occupation of farming to the time of his death. He passed away in 1900, while his widow survived only until 1903.

Christian Torgerson was reared and educated in Norway, where he remained until he reached the age of eighteen years and then came to the United States in 1866. He located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was employed for several years, and in 1877 he arrived in Winnebago county, where he continued to work as a farm hand for some time. He carefully saved his earnings and as soon as possible purchased a yoke of oxen and forty acres of land situated on section 17, King township. He at once began to develop and improve the property and, continuing his close economy and his unremitting industry, he was afterward able to add eighty acres. Eventually he obtained forty-six acres which he added to his homestead in King township, and he continued to cultivate and develop his farm until 1911, when he retired, since which time he has lived with his daughter. He also became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in Eden township, which his sons are now farming. He formerly made a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle and he is still a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson.

In May, 1869, Mr. Torgerson was united in marriage to Miss Julia Watenbryn, by whom he has six children, as follows: Theodore, who operates the old home place; Julius, George and Ole, all of whom are engaged in farming in Eden township; Albert, who is employed as a farm hand; and Mary, who is the wife of Eddie Ellefson, an agriculturist residing on section 10, King township. Mr. and Mrs. Ellefson have four children: Marion, Opal, Mildred and Carroll.

Mr. Torgerson has served on the school board for a number of years and does all in his power to further the interests of public education in his district. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the

democratic party and his religious belief is that of the Lutheran church. His has been an active, useful and honorable life and his present rest is well merited, for he worked most diligently and persistently for many years and in all of his business dealings was found thoroughly reliable. Today he is the possessor of a comfortable competence which enables him to rest from further labor.

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#### DRS. HELENA AND GENA THORESEN.

Drs. Helena and Gena Thoresen have built up a very large practice in Lake Mills as chiropractors and hold a high place in the esteem of all who know them. They are daughters of Lars and Gurie (Loftsgaard) Thoresen, natives of Norway, who became early settlers of Clayton county, Iowa, whence they removed to Palo Alto county. They were also among the first people to settle in that county, and the father purchased land which he farmed for many years in addition to operating a blacksmith shop. He is now seventy-four years of age and is making his home with his children. The mother died in October, 1900. There were ten children in the family, of whom seven are living, namely: Susanna, the wife of Dr. Th. T. Nae, of Graettinger, Iowa; Theodore and Ole, both of whom are farming in Palo Alto county; Helena, who was born September 22, 1877; Anna, who is a doctor of chiropractic, practicing in Red Wing, Minnesota; John, a chiropractor of Glenwood, Minnesota; and Gena, born September 10, 1882.

Drs. Helena and Gena Thoresen were reared in Palo Alto county and received their early education in the public schools there. In 1912 both entered the Universal School of Chiropractic at Davenport, Iowa, where they completed the course. Dr. Helena Thoresen has taken advanced post graduate work and holds four diplomas. In 1914 she opened an office in Lake Mills and in June, 1915, was joined by her sister and they are practicing in partnership under the name of Thoresen & Thoresen. They have purchased a fine residence, have a splendidly equipped office and have built up an extensive and representative practice. They also maintain an office at Forest City, and Dr. Helena Thoresen spends three days of the week there. They belong to the Chiropractic Society and find that connection of great value inasmuch as it enables them to profit by the experience of other up-to-date and successful practitioners. In religious faith they are Lutherans, and their lives conform to the teachings of that church.

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#### OLE G. THUNE.

Ole G. Thune, residing on section 4, Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred acres, which he has placed under high cultivation and improved with good substantial buildings which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. A native of Iowa, he was born in Winneshiek county, December 31, 1868, and is a son of Gullick and Aaste (Olson) Thune, natives of Norway. In the spring of 1868 the parents crossed the Atlantic and took up their residence in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they lived for three years. In 1871 they came to Winnebago county, and after working as a farm hand for

two years in this locality the father was able to purchase eighty acres of land on section 1, Mount Valley township, on which he erected a log house with a thatched roof. In this humble little home the family lived for some years, but at length a more modern residence was erected upon land adjoining which the father had bought in the meantime. There he died on the 22d of March, 1916, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years and three months. The mother of our subject had passed away in 1874 and the father was again married in 1885, his second union being with Miss Ingeborg Vold, who died in 1901. By the first marriage there were three children, those still living being Ole G. and his brother Gilbert, who resides on the home place.

During his boyhood Ole G. Thune attended the district schools and also acquired an excellent knowledge of farm work. Later he worked at various occupations for some years but in 1898 bought eighty acres of land adjoining his present home farm on the east. He has since engaged in farming and in 1910 purchased the place where he now lives, locating thereon in 1911. His farm now comprises two hundred acres, all in one tract, and he is successfully engaged in its operation. He is a stockholder in the Leland Farmers Elevator Company and also in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Leland.

In 1904 Mr. Thune married Miss Anna Peterson, and to them have been born seven children, those still living being: Gisle M., Delbert Austin, Oscar Carl, Wilma Ruth, Palmer and Edna Margaret. The family are members of the United Lutheran church and Mr. Thune is a republican in politics. He never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes calculated to promote the moral or educational welfare of his community and for sixteen years has efficiently served in some official capacity in his township. He is now filling his second term as township clerk, has been a member of the board of township trustees ten years, and is president of the school board at the present time. He is also secretary of the Farmers Elevator Company and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of his locality.

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#### ERIK B. STENE.

The name of Stene has been associated with the agricultural development of Winnebago county from a very early period in the settlement of this section of the state. The homestead farm of Erik B. Stene, which is situated on section 11, Norway township, was taken over by his uncle and aunt, Ole and Anna Torum, as a government claim. They were among the first group of Norwegians to establish homes in this section of the state and Erik B. Stene purchased his farm from them. He was born in Norway, October 14, 1849, a son of Botolf and Ingeborg Stene, who were farming people of that land, where they spent their entire lives and reared their family of seven children, of whom four are still living, Erik B. being the eldest. The others who survive are: Elling, who resides upon the old homestead farm in Norway, Johannes, also living in Norway; and L. B., who is located in Norway township, Winnebago county.

Erik B. Stene spent the period of his minority in his native country, but on reaching the age of twenty-one years determined to try his fortune in America.

for the reports which had reached him had convinced him that better opportunities might be secured on this side of the Atlantic. It requires determination and courage, however, to sever home ties and go to a new country, with the language and customs of which one is unfamiliar. This must of itself involve the individual in many hardships, but Mr. Stene possessed a resolute will and carried out his purpose. He made his way at once to Iowa and began earning his living as a farm hand, being thus employed until he reached the age of thirty-five years. In the meantime, however, he was saving his earnings with the purpose of some day owning a farm and eventually he purchased land on the northwest quarter of section 11 and the northeast quarter of section 10, Norway township, Winnebago county. This he cleared and improved and to the farther development and cultivation of the tract has since given his attention. The excellent appearance of the place bears testimony to the care and labor which he has bestowed upon it.

When twenty-five years of age Mr. Stene was united in marriage to Torgron Nelson, whose parents were Nels and Anna Nelson, natives of Norway, who became residents of Freeborn county, Minnesota, where the father continued to engage in farming until his death. Both he and his wife lie buried there in Lime Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Stene became the parents of four children, of whom one died in infancy, while three are yet living, namely: Emma, now the wife of Peter Dable, of Worth county, Iowa; Butler, who is living in Norway township; and Anna, the wife of Gilbert Hanson, of the same township. The wife and mother passed away September 11, 1882, and her remains were interred in the family cemetery on the farm. Mr. Stene was married August 14, 1887, to Gure Langeland, a daughter of Lars and Mageli (Nelson) Langeland, who were natives of Norway, where both passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Stene have three children, namely: Matilda, who is the wife of Oscar Thompson, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Alfred, who operates the home farm; and Elma, who is yet under the parental roof.

Mr. Stene votes with the republican party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He has filled most of the township positions, including that of assessor, trustee and school treasurer. He and his wife belong to the Synod Lutheran church and they are much esteemed in the community, occupying an enviable position in social circles in their neighborhood. Mr. Stene has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the United States, for while he has worked hard, he has secured the results of his labors and has made for himself a creditable position among the substantial and representative farmers of Norway township.

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#### HENRY C. BEIER.

Henry C. Beier, who is engaged in general farming on section 29, German township, Hancock county, was born in Delaware on the 25th of August, 1869, a son of William J. and Louisa (Schlei) Beier, natives of Germany, who about 1864 came to the new world. The father has now passed away, but the mother is still living.

The youthful days of Henry C. Beier were largely devoted to the acquirement of a common school education and to work upon the home farm. He continued

to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-eight years, receiving no wages for his services. At that time his father deeded him a farm on section 29, German township, Hancock county, which has been in his possession since 1897. That he has prospered in his undertakings is indicated in the fact that in 1914 he purchased a second farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres. His places are well developed and improved, showing all the evidences of modern progressive farming. He has good buildings upon his place and utilizes scientific methods in conducting the various branches of his work. His attention is principally given to the raising of Holstein cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and his high grade stock brings gratifying prices when put upon the market.

On the 22d of December, 1897, Mr. Beier was married to Miss Ida Lenz, a daughter of Fred and Lena (Rolfus) Lenz, both of whom are natives of Germany, whence they came to the new world, and who are now living in Hancock county. For a long period the father was engaged in farming, but has now retired from active business.

Politically Mr. Beier is a republican, giving stalwart support to the party. He has filled the offices of township clerk and school director, and he cooperates in many movements and plans which he believes will prove helpful in the upbuilding of the community. He is a director of the creamery company at Klemme. He has never become identified with any lodges, but has taken an active part in promoting the moral progress of the community through his support of the German Methodist Episcopal church, in which he holds membership. He has always devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and stock raising, and thus concentrating his efforts along a single line, he has worked his way upward, winning a substantial measure of success as the years have gone on.

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#### PETER KNUDSEN.

Prominent among the prosperous farmers of Hancock county who have come to the new world empty handed and have won success through their own well directed efforts is Peter Knudsen, whose home is on section 26, Magor township. He was born in Denmark on the 22d of April, 1855, and is a son of Nickoly and Catherine (Rasmussen) Knudsen, who came to the United States in 1880 and located in Mitchell county, Iowa.

Peter Knudsen began his education in the schools of his native land, but also had the advantage of attending school in Germany for some time. On laying aside his textbooks at the age of sixteen years he found work in Germany and was there employed for about three years. He emigrated to the United States in 1873 and took up his abode in Mitchell county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for a number of years. He then had charge of an elevator at Carpenter for one year and in 1879 came to Hancock county for the purpose of securing a farm of his own. He bought eighty acres on section 26, Magor township and in 1886 bought another eighty acres on the same section. Having steadily prospered in his farming operations, he extended the boundaries of his place by the purchase of eighty acres on section 19, Amsterdam township, in 1900, and in 1903 bought one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 26, Magor township. At one



time he devoted considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs, but is now practically living retired, leaving the active work of the farm to others. He has a well improved place under high cultivation and is regarded as one of the leading farmers of his community.

On the 26th of September, 1880, occurred the marriage of Mr. Knudsen and Miss Bertha Wilkie, a native of Germany and a daughter of Frederick and Fredericka (Redinckel) Wilkie. She came with her parents to America in 1876 and located in Mitchell county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen have three children, Mate M., Fred N. and Ella Bertha, all married.

Mr. Knudsen is a republican in politics and has always taken an active interest in public affairs, serving as township assessor for twenty years, township trustee for four years and school treasurer for ten years. In religious faith he is a German Lutheran. He is a stockholder in the Kanawha Elevator, Creamery and Telephone companies, and is also a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Kanawha. He is a farsighted, enterprising business man, who generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and he is today one of the most substantial citizens of his community.

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#### W. G. GREEN.

Agricultural interests of Hancock county find a substantial representative in W. G. Green, who follows farming on section 24, Madison township. Wisconsin claims him as a native son, his birth having there occurred on the 5th of October, 1858. His parents, William and Ann (Watts) Green, were natives of England, but came to America, locating in Wisconsin. In the '60s they removed to Iowa, settling in Black Hawk county, but later they became residents of Bremer county, where both passed away. They had a family of three children, all of whom are yet living.

W. G. Green was largely reared and educated in Bremer county, pursuing his studies in the common schools, while his training was that of the home farm. He early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops and he continued with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-five years and then began farming on his own account on rented land in Bremer county, where he continued to reside for a decade. In 1894 he came to Hancock county and purchased his present farm on section 24, Madison township. This he has since improved with good buildings and has made it one of the excellent farms of his section. He raises and feeds stock of all kinds, as well as cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here, and his practical and progressive methods are indicated in the neat and attractive appearance of his place. In addition to his agricultural interests Mr. Green is a stockholder in the Farmers elevator and also in the Forest City Creamery.

In 1884 Mr. Green was united in marriage to Miss Ella Smith, a native of Buchanan county, Iowa, and a daughter of William and Emily (Smith) Smith, who, although of the same name, were not related. Both, however, were natives of England and came to America in the '50s. They first settled in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, but afterward removed to this state, where both passed away.

Mrs. Green was one of a family of eight children, five of whom are now living, and by her marriage she has become the mother of a son, Orville E.

In his fraternal connections Mr. Green is a Knight of Pythias and politically he is a democrat. For some years he served as school director and for six years filled the office of county supervisor, making a creditable record in that position. His worth is widely recognized and those who know him esteem him highly.

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#### MRS. LOUISA F. BEIER.

Mrs. Louisa F. Beier resides on section 34, German township, and is well known in Hancock county, where she has long made her home. She was born in Germany, August 14, 1842, a daughter of John and Caroline (Winka) Schlei, who spent their entire lives in their native country. Mrs. Beier passed the period of her girlhood in the fatherland, and was a young woman of twenty-two when she came to the United States, arriving in Clayton county, Iowa, in the month of June. On the 8th of October following she became the wife of William J. Beier, a native of Germany, who was then residing at Delhi, Clayton county, Iowa. He was a farmer, living upon rented land, but the family were ambitious to own a farm and carefully saved their earnings until in 1877 Mr. Beier was able to purchase property, securing one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, German township, Hancock county, for which he paid five hundred and sixty dollars. This was still a frontier district at the time. There were no trees upon the place, no roads through this section of the county and no bridges. In hauling wheat Mr. Beier would have to throw off one-half of his load at the river, then go on to Garner and return for the other half. He paid for seed at the rate of a dollar and a half per bushel and sold his crop at fifty cents per bushel. The seed was largely sown by hand and the raking was done with teams. Corn was put in the ground with hand planters and farm work of all kinds was done in a primitive manner as compared with present-day methods that have been brought about through the use of modern machinery. The Beier family were among the first to settle in this section, there being only three houses between their place and Garner, a distance of ten miles. They built their own house, there being no carpenters in the neighborhood, and for eight years they occupied their pioneer dwelling. It was then replaced by a more commodious and attractive residence, and from time to time other improvements were added to the farm, which in the course of years was converted into one of the valuable farm properties of German township.

Mr. and Mrs. Beier became the parents of eight children, of whom seven are yet living: Henry C., who married Ida Lenz, a daughter of Fred and Lena (Rolfus) Lenz; Ida M., the wife of August Ridder, living in Klemme; William F., who married Bertha Lemke, a daughter of Henry Lemke; Emma A., the wife of William Kulper, a resident of Waterloo, Iowa; Fred Charles, at home; Emil G., who cultivates the old home farm; and Lydia M., who is also at home.

The husband and father passed away on the 26th of July, 1911, and his death was deeply deplored by many friends who had come to esteem him as a man of sterling worth and as a valued citizen of the community. His political allegiance



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM J. BEIER



was given to the republican party, and he based his support upon an intelligent understanding of party principles. For years he was a school director and the cause of education found in him a stalwart champion. He was also a loyal member of the German Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Beier still belongs. She has now reached the age of seventy-five years and she yet occupies the old home-stead. She is one of the highly esteemed ladies of this section and a worthy pioneer woman who has lived to witness the entire development of this part of the state. Hancock county today bears little resemblance to the district in which she and her husband settled many years ago, for at that time the wild prairie was all around them, covered by one unbroken, dazzling sheet of snow in the winter months, but starred with a million wild flowers in June. Mrs. Beier can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when the work of pioneer development was being carried forward. In early times she assisted in the work and stacked all of the grain on a whole section of land, amounting to fifty-four hundred bushels of oats and fifteen hundred bushels of wheat. She aided in the threshing and did everything possible to assist her husband in getting a start. Today she is surrounded with not only the necessities and comforts but some of the luxuries of life, and is able to enjoy that rest which has come to her after a most active and useful career. The farm work is now being carried on by her son, E. G. Beier, who is a representative farmer, active and energetic in all his undertakings.

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#### WILLIAM E. HAES.

William E. Haes, who is carrying on general farming on section 33, Garfield township, Hancock county, has been a lifelong resident of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Worth county on the 30th of November, 1877. His parents, Andrew and Amelia Haes, were also natives of this state and the mother is now residing in Garner, Iowa. The father passed away April 26, 1916, at Grafton, Iowa. In their family were eleven children: Minnie, William, Martha, Mollie, Henry, Emil, Fred, Lena, Elmer, Alvin and Julius. Five of the number are now married and five reside in Hancock county. Minnie lives at St. Paul, Minnesota; Mollie and Henry at Ventura, Iowa; and Emil and Fred at Waterloo, Iowa. Martha died when a baby. She and William were twins.

William E. Haes acquired a common school education and throughout his entire life he has been connected with agricultural interests. He purchased land on section 33, Garfield township, Hancock county, where he now has one hundred and twenty acres, and to the further development and improvement of this property he is giving his time and attention. Annually he gathers good crops as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon his fields, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates his careful and progressive methods. He is also the owner of stock in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery and in the Farmers Elevator at Garner.

On the 26th of November, 1903, Mr. Haes was married to Miss Martha Kettle-son, a daughter of Charles and Emma Kettle-son, who are now residing in Bruce, Wisconsin. Two children have been born of this union, Mildred and Ernest. In

his political views Mr. Haes is a democrat and for one year served as township assessor, but has never been an office seeker. He and his wife belong to the English Methodist Episcopal church and are well known and highly esteemed in the community where they make their home. Mr. Haes has lived a life of industry and thrift and has never allowed difficulties and obstacles to bar his path, but has regarded them rather as an impetus to renewed effort on his part.

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#### MONS N. HELLE.

Mons N. Helle, deceased, was one of the honored citizens and prosperous farmers of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, his home being on section 11, where his widow still resides. He came from the land of the midnight sun, for he was born in Norway, March 18, 1848, and in that country was reared and educated. His parents never came to the United States, but when he was twenty years of age he resolved to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic and on reaching the new world continued his journey westward to Spring Prairie, Wisconsin, where he spent one year and a half. It was in 1870 that he arrived in Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased the southeast quarter of section 11, Norway township, which he placed under cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings. He met with success in his farming operations and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until called to his final rest on the 4th of May, 1914. His remains were interred in the Lime Creek cemetery.

On May 26, 1876, Mr. Helle was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Dahle, who was also born in Norway on the 19th of September, 1853, and was about twenty years of age when she came alone to the United States to make her home with her brother, Ole M. Dahle, who was one of the early settlers of Norway township, Winnebago county. Her parents were lifelong residents of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Helle were born nine children, but Melvin and Cora, twins, died in infancy. Those living are Mabel, now the wife of N. E. Brudvig, of Logan township, Winnebago county; Carrie, the wife of John Dahle, of the same township; Nels M. and Mikkel, both residents of Stutsman county, North Dakota; Clara, at home; Marie, the wife of Nels Olson, of Iowa City; and Ole M., who is farming the home place. Wherever known the family are held in the highest esteem. By his ballot Mr. Helle supported the men and measures of the republican party, but was never a politician in the sense of office seeking. He was one of the representative farmers of his community and his success was well merited, as it was due entirely to his own industry and good management.

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#### DAVID T. DUNCAN.

David T. Duncan, residing upon a farm on section 22, Amsterdam township, has for sixteen years lived in Hancock county. He was born at Deer Creek, Illinois, on the 24th of April, 1861, a son of George and Jessie (Tyrie) Duncan, who were natives of Scotland. He obtained his education in the district schools

of Illinois, which he attended until he reached the age of twenty years, and then rented land for six years. On the expiration of that period he purchased eighty acres of the old homestead in Illinois but afterward determined to try his fortune in Iowa and came to Hancock county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 22, Amsterdam township. Upon this place he has since made his home and it is well known as the Bonnie View Farm. Hereon he raises pure bred Percheron horses and Poland China hogs, his stock raising interests being an important feature of his business. He also cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and his farm work is carefully and systematically managed.

On the 28th of January, 1886, Mr. Duneau was married to Miss Clara Chaffer, a daughter of Fred and Rebecca (Lee) Chaffer, natives respectively of England and of Pennsylvania. To this union six children have been born, Jessie May, Stella R., Nellie M., Hazel, Myrtle F. and Florence C.

Mr. Duncan is a republican but has never been an office seeker. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and in his life he displays many substantial qualities and traits of character which command for him the good will, confidence and high regard of all with whom he is associated. He has won prosperity through earnest, diligent and intelligently directed effort and he certainly deserves much credit for what he has undertaken and accomplished.

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#### ELWYN G. GASKILL.

Elwyn G. Gaskill, who owns the family homestead of three hundred and twenty acres in Magor township, operates the place on the same principle that a business man conducts his affairs and ranks among the most progressive and most efficient agriculturists of Hancock county. He was born in Bureau county, Illinois, October 23, 1874, a son of William and Alice (Holroyd) Gaskill. The father was born in Blackstone, Massachusetts, but was taken as a child by his parents to Illinois and was reared upon the home farm near Wyandot. He received his education in the district schools of the Prairie state and resided there until a number of years after his marriage. In 1884 he removed with his family to Hancock county, Iowa, and purchased the south half of section 17, Magor township, which he operated for many years. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him and his death in 1913 was deeply regretted. He was quite active in public affairs and served as township trustee and also as school director. His wife was a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and lived there until the removal of the family to Hancock county, Iowa, in 1884. Her demise occurred upon the home farm in 1911.

Elwyn G. Gaskill was but nine years old when the family home was established in Hancock county, and accordingly his education was largely obtained in the district schools here. He aided his father in farming the home place until the latter's death and is now the owner of the homestead, which comprises the south half of section 17, Magor township, and which is as fine a farm as can be found in the county. The land is well drained and the buildings commodious, substantial and well adapted to their purposes. He raises the usual grains and also gives considerable attention to breeding high grade stock. In addition to his general

farming interests he buys and sells stock to some extent and is a director of the Farmers Savings Bank at Corwith. From 1904 until 1912 he was managing director of the Corwith Rural Telephone Company and made an excellent record in that connection, keeping the service up to a high standard and also making the concern pay financially.

Mr. Gaskill was married on the 5th of November, 1903, at Livermore, Iowa, to Miss Winnifred Bravender, who engaged in teaching before her marriage. She taught in Livermore for some time and was following her profession in Corwith when she met Mr. Gaskill. She is a daughter of A. E. and Lucy (Lyons) Bravender, the former born in Canada and the latter in Iowa. The father engaged in farming in Humboldt county, Iowa, near Livermore, for a long period, but is now living retired at Marshall, Minnesota. The mother also survives. Mr. and Mrs. Gaskill have three children, William Albert, Marjorie and George, all born on the homestead.

Mr. Gaskill supports the republican party at the polls and is now serving as trustee of Magor township and as treasurer of the school board. In the discharge of his official duties he manifests the same grasp of situations and the same almost unerring judgment that have characterized him in the management of his business interests. He belongs to Paradise Lodge, No. 553, A. F. & A. M., of Corwith, and exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. He is a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, is very active in its work and contributes liberally to its support. His wife is also a prominent church worker and is now teaching a Sunday school class. The name of Gaskill has been associated in Hancock county with progressive spirit, unquestionable integrity and ability for more than three decades, and Mr. Gaskill of this review is accorded the same honor and esteem given his father before him.

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#### ANDREW OLSON.

Throughout an active, useful and well spent life Andrew Olson followed the occupation of farming, taking up his abode in Twin Lake township, Hancock county, in 1871, at which time he secured four hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 30 and 31. For many years he carefully tilled the soil and developed the place, but his life's labors were ended in death in 1909. He was born on the 13th of December, 1839, in Norway, a son of Ole Olson, who was a native of Norway but became a resident of Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming and where both he and his wife died.

The youthful days of Andrew Olson were passed in the usual manner of the farm bred boy, who divides his time between the acquirement of an education, the work of the fields and the pleasure of the playground. After attaining his majority he was married in Norway to Miss Lena Holberg, a native of that country and a daughter of John Holberg. To them were born six children, Ole, Minnie, John, Edwin, Anton and Benton, all of whom were born in Twin Lake township, Hancock county, Iowa. The first two and the last two are now married. The other sons still remain upon the old homestead, which they are now carefully and profitably cultivating.



In his political views Mr. Olson was a republican and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to several local offices. He served as township trustee and town supervisor and school director. His religious faith was that of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and he guided his life according to its teachings, attempting always to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. He was found thoroughly reliable in his business transactions, and his friends and neighbors came to esteem him as an upright, honorable man. In business affairs he displayed sound judgment, and whatever success he achieved was the direct reward of his own labors.

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### HANS FREDRICKSON.

Hans Fredrickson is one of the prosperous farmers and representative citizens of Hancock county whose home is in Crystal township, where he owns and operates a valuable tract of two hundred and forty acres of land. Like many of the leading men of the county, he is of Scandinavian birth, being born in Denmark on the 4th of July, 1857, a son of Lars and Caroline (Hanson) Fredrickson. He was a child of only four years when his father died and his mother subsequently married Nels Larson, with whom she came to the United States in the spring of 1872. The family located in Freeborn county, Minnesota, Mr. Larson purchasing a farm eight miles east of Albert Lea, but later he sold that place to a brother of our subject and bought another farm two miles west of the same city, where he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred September 21, 1912. Mrs. Larson had passed away in January, 1910.

In the land of his nativity Hans Fredrickson passed the first fifteen years of his life and his education was mainly acquired in the common schools of that country; for he only attended school four months after coming to America with the family in 1872. When in his sixteenth year he began earning his own livelihood, working by the month as a farm hand for some time. At length he was able to purchase property and, coming to Hancock county in 1882, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 28, Crystal township, which he at once began to cultivate and improve. In 1889 he sold that farm and purchased eighty acres of his present farm on section 19, Crystal township, to which he added eighty acres in 1901 and another eighty acre tract in 1916, so that he now has an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres. This he has tiled and otherwise improved and the fields are made to yield abundant harvests.

On the 1st of May, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Fredrickson and Miss Anna Jensen, also a native of Denmark, who came to the United States only a short time previous to her marriage. To them have been born eight children, all living, namely: Hilda, now the wife of Hans Larson, a farmer of Rusk county, Wisconsin; Clara and Arthur, both at home; Eleanor, the wife of Martin Madson, a farmer of Crystal township, Hancock county, Iowa; Emma, who lives at home and is teaching in the district schools; Neva, who is attending the Britt high school; and William and Clifford, both at home.

Having little opportunity during his youth to gain an education, Mr. Fredrickson has come to realize what an education means in these days of progress,

and has endeavored to give his children good advantages along that line. For ten years he efficiently served as school director and the cause of education has always found in him a hearty supporter. In politics he is a democrat, and he is an earnest and consistent member of the Danish Lutheran church, to which his wife and family also belong. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Crystal Lake and is a man of good business ability and sound judgment whose success in life is due entirely to his own well directed efforts and untiring industry.

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#### ALBERT H. PETERSON.

Albert H. Peterson, who carries on general farming on section 18, Norway township, Winnebago county, has a good tract of land which responds readily to the care and labor that he bestows upon it, and by reason of his practical and progressive methods he has come to rank with the substantial farmers of Winnebago county. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, October 1, 1869, a son of Hans and Anna (Twito) Peterson, the former a native of Norway, while the latter was born near Muskego, Wisconsin, which was the first Norwegian settlement in the United States. The father was but a young lad when brought by his parents to the new world, the family home being established in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where his parents followed farming until called to the home beyond. They were laid to rest near Winchester in that county. Hans Peterson acquired his education in the pioneer schools of the Badger state, and after the outbreak of the Civil war joined Company K of the Eleventh Wisconsin Infantry. He saw active service throughout the period of hostilities, and after peace was declared he removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he married Anna Twito, a daughter of Hans Twito, who came from Norway in 1843 and settled in Muskego, Wisconsin, but later removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson began their domestic life upon a rented farm, upon which they lived for a short time, and later they removed to Emmet county, Iowa, where Mr. Peterson endeavored to develop a homestead, but the crops were destroyed by grasshoppers, and in 1876 they removed to Winnebago county. At one time Mr. Peterson served as deputy sheriff of the county. He lived at Lake Mills until a few years ago, but he and his wife are now residents of Perkins county, South Dakota, making their home with their daughter Nettie, who is the wife of Peter Larson. They have a family of five children: Albert H.; Hilda, who is now the widow of Isaac Larson and makes her home in Freeborn county, Minnesota; Mollie, the wife of Martin Dakken, of Lake Mills; Nettie, now Mrs. Peter Larson; and Amanda, the wife of J. S. Hood, of Perkins county, South Dakota.

Albert H. Peterson attended the common schools until he reached the age of sixteen years and then began earning his living as a farm hand. He was thus employed until he attained his majority, when he began farming on his own account on rented land in Newton township. He spent four years in that way, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase property. He invested in land in Lyon county, Minnesota, on which he lived for a year, and when twenty-seven years of age he bought

eighty acres on section 18, Norway township, which he has since owned and cultivated save that in the year 1907 he resided upon a quarter section of land in Lyman county, South Dakota, in order to obtain that property under the homestead act. He exercises great care and thought in the management of his farm and annually gathers golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields.

Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Gertie Kvale, a daughter of Engebret and Berit (Kvale) Kvale, who came to this country from Norway, and after residing in Winneshiek county, Iowa, for four years, removed to Winnebago county about 1875, settling in Norway township. Mrs. Kvale died in 1908, but Mr. Kvale is still living on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Alpha B., Hamlet E., Hilda M., Alice G., Melvin Reuben, Isabelle M., Marie G. and Henry T., all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson hold membership in the Synod Lutheran church and he votes with the republican party. For twelve years or more he served on the school board as a director from the time the school district was organized. He has never sought nor desired office, however, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. All that he possesses he has made through his own efforts, for he started out empty handed. Today he is the owner of a splendidly improved farm and is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company and the creamery company of Searville. He stands as a representative of that type of citizens of whom Iowa has reason to be proud—men whose force of character and ability is sufficient to enable them to overcome difficulties and obstacles and steadily work their way upward to success.

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#### JOSEPH E. ERICKSON.

Joseph E. Erickson, actively engaged in general farming on section 26, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, displays the qualities of western enterprise and progress which have been the dominant features in the development of this section of the country. He was born August 29, 1876, his parents being Erick and Ellen (Nelson) Erickson, the former a native of Norway and the latter of Illinois. They came to Iowa by covered wagon before the year 1860 and cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers who were contributing to the early development and upbuilding of the state. The father is still living at the age of sixty-five years and the mother at the age of sixty-six.

Reared upon the home farm, Joseph E. Erickson acquired a district school education, pursuing his studies to the age of seventeen, after which his entire time was concentrated upon farm work until he reached the age of twenty-one. He then went to North Dakota, where he carried on farming for seven years, and later he was for a time at Spokane, Washington. On leaving that state he took up his abode in Story county, Iowa, and for two years rented his father's farm. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he cultivated for a time, and after selling that property he came to Hancock county, establishing his home on section 26, Amsterdam township, where he became owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land which he has converted into rich and productive fields.

gathering therefrom good harvests annually. He follows progressive methods in developing his farm and has made it an attractive and valuable property. In addition to tilling the soil he is interested in the Kanawha Creamery.

On the 16th of May, 1896, Mr. Erickson was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Quam, her parents being Peter and Yetta Gurina (Vatsoog) Quam, natives of Norway. They have six children, namely: Gaylord E., Ernest P., Bert A., Mabel R., Jordan C. and Viola B., all of whom are still under the parental roof. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in his political views the former is a republican, but he does not seek nor desire office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. He has always followed farming, which more than a century ago George Washington said "is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." He has worked diligently and persistently and his efforts have been rewarded by a substantial measure of success.

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#### E. P. HANSON.

Hancock county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her public offices, for on the whole they have been capable and devoted to duty. Such an official is found in E. P. Hanson, who is now serving as county auditor. He was born in Hancock county, Iowa, September 14, 1878, a son of Peter and Anna (Sorensen) Hanson, who are natives of Denmark and a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

E. P. Hanson spent his youthful days under the parental roof and acquired a public school education. He was reared to the work of the home farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his efforts upon agricultural pursuits and continued to follow farming until January, 1906, when he was elected county recorder, which position he filled for four years. He afterward took up farming again, devoting two years to the work of the fields, and in 1913 he was made assistant cashier in the Crystal Lake Savings Bank, in which institution he was elected to the vice presidency in 1914. In January, 1916, he was again chosen vice president of the bank but from 1914 until 1916 was not actively connected with its management. In the former year he was elected county auditor, entering upon the duties of the position in January, 1915, and on the 7th of November, 1916, he was reelected for a second term of two years without opposition—a fact which indicates how faithfully and well he had discharged his duties.

On the 28th of March, 1900, Mr. Hanson was married to Miss Margaret Schroeder, who was born in Grundy county, Iowa, a daughter of Andrew Schroeder. Their children are Maurice, Leon, Lorraine, Naomi and Elwood Peter. The family is widely and favorably known in Garner and throughout Hancock county. In his political views Mr. Hanson has always been a republican and has done splendid work for the party, contributing in large measure to its successes. Fraternally he is connected with the Red Men, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Masons, having taken the degrees of lodge, chapter and council, while in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit upon which the craft



E. P. HANSON



rests. His has been an active and useful career and his life record stands in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, for Mr. Hanson is a native son of the county in which he still resides and in which he has spent his entire life, his course being such as to win for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### ERIK REIENES.

Erik Reienes, an enterprising and progressive farmer of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, living on section 10, was born in Norway on the 6th of April, 1882, a son of Knute and Christina Reienes. The mother died in Norway, October 30, 1916, and the father still makes his home in that land.

Erik Reienes pursued a common school education and on attaining his majority came to the United States, crossing the Atlantic in 1903. He made his way direct to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he has since lived. Here he went to work for Gottorm Honsey and has since remained in his employ. In later years he has operated the Honsey farm in connection with his brother-in-law, Samuel Honsey. He is an energetic and enterprising business man who in the conduct of the farm displays most practical and progressive methods. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Lake Mills and in the Farmers Elevator Company of that place.

In 1908 Mr. Reienes was united in marriage to Miss Lena A. Honsey, daughter of Gottorm Honsey, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Reienes have been born four children, namely: Conrad G., Melvin C., Geneva M. and Esther O. The family are members of the United Lutheran church and in the social circles of Mount Valley township they occupy an enviable position. Mr. Reienes has lived a life of activity and usefulness, and the diligence and determination which he has displayed have brought to him the measure of success which he now enjoys.

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#### JACOB SWEERS.

Jacob Sweers, a general farmer living on section 12, Boone township, Hancock county, was born in Germany on the 6th of March, 1857, and is a son of Herman and Hannah (Gerder) Sweers. In accordance with the laws of his native land, he attended school there until he reached the age of fourteen years, after which he began to earn his living by working as a farm hand. He was thus employed until he reached the age of twenty, after which he spent two years as a member of the German army. He then resumed farm work, in which he continued actively until 1890, when he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and became a resident of Butler county, Iowa. For two years he was employed on a stock farm and then removed to Hancock county, where he rented land which he cultivated for thirteen years. He practiced economy as well as industry and at the end of that time was able to purchase the farm which he had rented, comprising one hundred and

sixty acres on section 12, Boone township. Six years later he extended the boundaries of his farm by an additional purchase and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land which he devotes to general agricultural pursuits, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Everything about his place is kept in good condition. The buildings and fences are always well repaired and the latest improved machinery facilitates the work of the fields. Efficiency is his watchword and his success has come from his thoroughness and close application.

In May, 1882, Mr. Sweers was married to Miss Cornelia Weiland, a native of Germany and a daughter of John and Tina (Krull) Weiland, who were also born in that country. Mr. and Mrs. Sweers have become parents of twelve children, but only six are now living: Tina and Herman, both of whom are married; John, at home; Hannah and Anna, who are married; and Benjamin, who is yet on the home farm.

The parents are members of the German Reformed church and in his political views Mr. Sweers is a republican, having supported the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He has never regretted his determination to seek his fortune on this side of the Atlantic, for here he found the business opportunities which he sought and in their utilization he has worked his way upward to success.

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#### PETER HATTERSCHIED.

For a third of a century Peter Hatterschied has been engaged in the grain business in Corwith, Hancock county, and during that period has constantly held to the highest standards in all his business dealings, gaining an enviable reputation for integrity as well as for enterprise and ability. He was born in Cologne, Germany, January 28, 1850, a son of Arnold and Margaret (Odenbach) Hatterschied, also natives of the fatherland. The father was engaged in the lumber business there and also hauled coal and ore from the mines by contract. From 1838 to 1842 he served in the German army. Both parents passed away in Germany.

Peter Hatterschied was reared and educated in his native city and in early manhood was associated with his father in the lumber business. In 1868 he entered the German army, becoming identified with the artillery, and he served throughout the Franco-Prussian war. He took part in a great many battles, including the most important engagements of the war, Metz, Sedan and Verdun. On the 4th of October, 1871, he was discharged from service in the first line, but was a member of the reserve corps until 1882. On the 19th of March of the latter year he came to America to study conditions here with the view of emigrating to this country. He traveled over twenty-one states and after carefully comparing the opportunities offered selected the town of Corwith in Hancock county, Iowa, as the place that seemed to afford him the best chances for advancement. He returned to Germany and later with his wife and children came to this country, arriving at Corwith on the 6th of April, 1884. For some time he worked as a section hand for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad and also hunted and trapped in order to add to his income. In 1887 he began buying hay and later in that



year leased the grain elevator at Corwith and took charge of the business. In 1889 he purchased the elevator and continued in business there until 1914, when he erected a fine elevator, modern in every particular, and with a much larger storage capacity than the old building. He enjoys the entire confidence of the farmers of this section, as his dealings have always been straightforward, and his annual trade has reached extensive proportions. He was vice president and owned a controlling interest in the old First National Bank of Corwith, of which his son Hugo was cashier, but at length he disposed of his interest therein and the institution was consolidated with the Farmers Savings Bank of Corwith.

Mr. Hatterschied was married in Cologne, Germany, June 6, 1875, to Miss Charlotte Giesen, also a native of that city and a daughter of Karl and Jennie (Trumbeter) Giesen. To Mr. and Mrs. Hatterschied have been born ten children, of whom eight survive, namely: Karl, who was born in Germany, is a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College and is now deputy state veterinary surgeon of Montana, with residence at Glendive; Hugo, who was born in Germany and is a banker of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska; Mary, the wife of H. H. Mullin, a grain dealer of Britt, Iowa, by whom she has two children, Charlotte and Katherine; Max, who is a native of Germany and is associated with his father in the grain business; Kathryn, who was born in Corwith and is the wife of Dr. Fillmore, of Corwith; Lawrence, who was born in Corwith and is with his father in business; Anna, likewise a native of Corwith and now the wife of Harry Chapman, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, a conductor on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, by whom she has one child, Cheryl; and Charlotte, who was born at Corwith and is at home. All the children have received good educations and all have more than usual musical ability. They have developed into men and women of refinement and force of character and are a credit to their parents.

Mr. Hatterschied is a republican in politics, served as a member of the village board of Corwith for three years and for three terms served on the school board, during which time the new school building was erected. He belongs to Lodge No. 306, B. P. O. E., of Fort Dodge, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Algona, Iowa. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church and is generous in his contributions to its work. He gave liberally to the erection of the new church edifice at Corwith and has contributed to many worthy movements outside of the activities of the church. His broad-mindedness is indicated in the helpful interest which he takes in the furtherance of all good works, and it is generally recognized that no legitimate appeal is made to him in vain. Throughout his life the beneficial effects of the military training which he received in the German army have been apparent in his self-control, in the system which he has applied to all of his work and in his ability to cooperate with others. To his service in the army he also attributes his erect carriage and fine hearing. A number of years after he had taken up his home in Iowa he received through the German consul at Chicago medals awarded him by the imperial government in recognition of his loyal and gallant service in the Franco-Prussian war. It is needless to say that they are among the most cherished possessions of the family. During the three decades and more of his residence in Hancock county he has been an important factor in the life of his community and whether a private citizen or an office holder has without exception subordinated his private interests to the

public good. The large measure of financial success which he has gained is due in part to the excellent opportunities which this section affords and which led to his locating here, but it is due to a greater extent to his industry, business insight and perseverance, for without such qualities in the individual the most favorable chances are of little worth. His residence is thoroughly modern and is one of the most attractive homes in the town. There his friends often gather, for hospitality is one of his most marked characteristics. He is not only one of the pioneers of Corwith but is also one of its most highly esteemed citizens, and no history of Hancock county would be complete without a record of his life.

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#### ARENT A. RAKE.

The life record of Arent A. Rake constitutes an important chapter in the development and upbuilding of Winnebago county, especially that section which is comprised within Lincoln township. Moreover, his history should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished through persistent energy and indefatigable effort. He was born in Norway, November 3, 1858, and is a son of Arent and Malinda (Loen) Rake, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. The father was a farmer by occupation and died in Norway in 1897, having for more than a decade survived his wife, who passed away in 1885.

Arent A. Rake was reared and educated in Norway and remained under the parental roof until he reached the age of nineteen years, when he heard and heeded the call of the west. Bidding adieu to friends and native land, he sailed for the new world in 1878 and took up his abode at Wells, Minnesota. In that locality he worked by the month as a farm hand for two years, after which he felt that his experience and his age justified him in beginning business for himself. He then rented land, which he continued to cultivate for two years, and in 1882 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he purchased land on section 16, Lincoln township. This he improved and operated until 1910, when he sold his farm, having in the meantime won a substantial measure of success by the use of practical and progressive methods in tilling his fields and caring for his crops. In 1886 he had established a postoffice and around this clustered various homes and business interests leading to the gradual upbuilding of the town of Rake. Later he established a general merchandise store there and continued in the business for fifteen years. In 1907 he established a private bank under the name of the Rake Banking Company, of which he became president. He instituted a safe policy, tempering progressiveness by a wise conservatism, and his careful control of the interests of the bank led to its continuous growth. In 1914 it was reorganized into a state savings bank, of which he became the president and so served until 1915, when, desiring to retire from active business life, he sold his interest. He occupies an attractive residence in the west part of the town, surrounded by sixteen acres of land, which he cultivates, thus occupying his time, for indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature and he would not be content without some occupation. He is also a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery Company, of which he was one of the organizers. He likewise aided in organizing the

Farmers Elevator Company of Rake, of which he was president, but is not interested financially therein at the present time. He is likewise a stockholder of the Bankers Trust Company of Des Moines, capitalized for one million dollars, and is a stockholder in the Twin City Insurance Company of Minneapolis.

In December, 1879, Mr. Rake was united in marriage to Miss Rande Ellingson and to them were born six children: Theodore, an automobile dealer of Rake; Mary; Laura; Minnie; Josie; and Abbie.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Rake's position concerning the temperance question has led him to ally himself with the prohibition party. He has served as township clerk and as trustee of Lincoln township. He has long been a member of the school board of his locality, was treasurer at the time that the three townships were consolidated and is now president of the board. He has taken an active and helpful interest in church work and upon his farm built the Lutheran church, which was later removed to the town. His aid and influence have always been on the side of right and progress, reform, truth and improvement, and his honorable and upright career has established him very high in public regard. His life work has indeed been a valuable element in the upbuilding of the section in which he lives.

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#### THORVIL A. THORVILSON.

Thorvil A. Thorvilson is now occupying the homestead in Center township, Winnebago county, and ranks high both as a grain raiser and stock raiser. He was born upon that place on the 4th of November, 1868, of the marriage of Aslak and Ture (Gulbrandson) Thorvilson, who came to America from their native Norway in 1861 and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota. After farming there for five years they removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father purchased a relinquishment of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Center township, to which he subsequently added an adjoining eighty acres. He at once set about clearing and improving his place, which became in time one of the highly developed farms of the county. He devoted his attention to its operation until his death, which occurred in March, 1895, when he was sixty-four years old. His wife survived him until January 1, 1913, passing away at the age of seventy-eight years.

Thorvil A. Thorvilson was reared upon the homestead and is indebted for his education to the district schools. After attaining his majority he became his father's partner in the operation of the farm, and this relationship was maintained until the death of Mr. Thorvilson, Sr. Later our subject bought the interests of the other heirs in one hundred and eighty acres of the home place and has since farmed that property independently. He has placed unusually good improvements thereon and taken advantage of all inventions that simplify the work of cultivating the fields. He not only grows large crops of grain annually but also raises about sixty head of hogs a year. He is interested financially in the Farmers Elevator Company at Lake Mills, in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

On the 17th of March, 1903, Mr. Thorvilson was married to Miss Andrea

Tweten, a daughter of Ole O. and Susanna Tweten, pioneers of Iowa, an account of whose lives appears elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Thorvilson have been born seven children, namely: Adolph O., Stella, Bernice, Horace, Mabel, Theima and Obert. The four oldest are attending school.

Mr. Thorvilson is a staunch republican in his political belief and loyally supports the candidates and measures of that party at the polls. He is serving as trustee of Center township, which office he has held for two years, and his efficiency and devotion to the public welfare are generally recognized by his constituents. He holds membership in the Lutheran church and the highest moral principles have guided his life in all its relations.

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### HANS J. KNUTSON.

No history of the pioneer development of Winnebago county would be complete without mention of Hans J. Knutson, who in the period of earliest development here established his home in Norway township and for many years thereafter was closely associated with agricultural interests. He was a native of Norway and his parents never left that land. It was in the year 1853 that he crossed the Atlantic and took up his abode in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he resided for three years. During that period he was united in marriage to Miss Ingeborg Dahl, who was also a native of Norway and came to America when about eighteen years of age in company with her sister, Mrs. H. G. Emmons, who was a representative of one of the first nine families to come to Winnebago county. It was in 1856 that these families left Dane county, Wisconsin, and with ox teams drove across the country to this locality. Although they settled near each other, the homes of some of the party were in Norway township, Winnebago county, while the others were in Worth county, Iowa, and Freeborn county, Minnesota. They were the families of Colben Larson, Hans J. Knutson, Ole Ternm, Narve Grunhovd, Eric Braaton, H. G. Emmons, Hendrick Larson, Stengrim Jelle and Louis Nelson.

Hans J. Knutson took up a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 10, Norway township, Winnebago county, which he cleared, drained and improved, and as time passed he added to this the southeast quarter of section 9 and the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, making three hundred and sixty acres in all. This he converted into a fine farm and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred on the 4th of March, 1888. His wife survived him for a long period, passing away on the 5th of January, 1906, when she was laid to rest by his side in Lime Creek cemetery. This worthy couple were the parents of five sons and two daughters, of whom the eldest, K. H., died in 1916. The others were: Tina, who became the wife of Iver Lien and died in 1914; Mary, the wife of Veger Gulbrandson, living in Albert Lea, Minnesota; Lewis H., who is still owner of the old homestead, which is now one of the best improved farms in Winnebago county; Ole, a resident of Emmons, Minnesota; and Magnus and Anton, who died in childhood.

Having deliberately chosen to become an American citizen, Hans J. Knutson was always loyal to the interests of his adopted land and proved his allegiance

by active service during the Civil war when he became one of the defenders of the Union. His regiment was attached to the army under the command of General Sherman, with whom he participated in various hotly contested campaigns as well as the march to the sea. When hostilities ceased he returned home, but never completely regained his health. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he stood at all times for what he believed to be the best interests of the majority. He was an excellent farmer and through his own unaided efforts won prosperity. In the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Hans J. Knutson the county lost two of its best known and most worthy pioneer settlers. In the middle of the nineteenth century they had cast in their lot with the early residents of northern Iowa when the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun in all this region. There were great tracts of uncultivated prairie land and the timber was uncut. Few roads had been made and it was a long distance to market. The country offered no advantages save that land was to be had at a very low figure. It required much strenuous effort, however, to convert it into productive fields, but this did not deter the Knutsons and other substantial Norwegian families that were here founded, and they should ever be remembered as among those who laid broad and deep the foundation for the present progress and prosperity of the county.

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#### ROSCOE W. WILES.

Roscoe W. Wiles, living on section 19, Avery township, is a well known representative of agricultural interests in Hancock county. He was born on the 31st of May, 1887, a son of Martin L. and Janet (Christie) Wiles. The father was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, May 2, 1840, and when twenty-six years of age removed to Hancock county, Iowa, locating on section 17, Avery township. The mother is a native of Canada and of Scotch parentage. In early life she accompanied her parents on their removal to Wisconsin, where she resided for two years, and in May, 1861, came to Hancock county, Iowa, becoming one of the pioneer school teachers of this locality. She is still living on the old home farm in Avery township, at the age of eighty-seven years, but her husband has passed away. They were married on the 13th of February, 1877. Mr. Wiles took quite a prominent part in local affairs and efficiently served as township secretary, clerk, trustee and school director.

Roscoe W. Wiles was a pupil in the district schools of Avery township until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he began farming for himself. Although but a boy, he was ambitious to earn something, and he planted sixteen acres to corn, from which he gathered seventy bushels to the acre. He continued upon the old homestead until 1912 and then purchased eighty acres of land on section 20, Avery township. He also received sixty acres through inheritance and today has a good tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which he is carefully and systematically cultivating. That his labors are practical is shown in the good results achieved, for he annually gathers substantial harvests which bring to him a gratifying yearly income.

On the 12th of June, 1912, Mr. Wiles was married to Miss Flora Schuldt, a daughter of Henry and Flora (Avenger) Schuldt, who were natives of Germany

and of Iowa respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Wiles now have three children, Oliver R., Wilber and Eunice J.

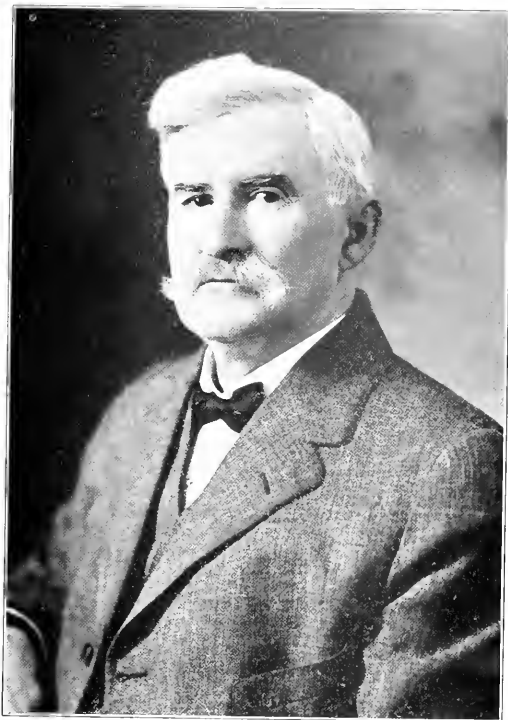
Mr. Wiles votes with the republican party, which he has always supported since attaining his majority, and his religious faith is indicated in his membership in the United Brethren church. A lifelong resident of this section of the state, he is well known and is spoken of in terms of warm regard by reason of his enterprise and reliability in business, his loyalty and progressiveness in citizenship and his faithfulness to any trust reposed in him.

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#### CHARLES ROLIN WOOD.

Charles Rolin Wood, a successful attorney of Corwith, practicing in both the state and federal courts, is also known for the large share which he has had in the upbuilding of his town. He was born in Gouverneur, St. Lawrence county, New York, February 15, 1851. His father, Charles R. Wood, was born in that county, April 26, 1818, and was there reared and educated. In 1854 he took up his residence on a farm near Yorkville, Kendall county, Illinois, and there he followed agricultural pursuits until his death in 1884 at the age of sixty-six years. He was married in St. Lawrence county, New York, to Miss Mary A. Gilbert, who was born and educated in New Britain, Connecticut. She passed away in Onarga, Illinois. To them were born eight children, of whom but three survive: Harriet A., the wife of Rev. O. W. Van Opdel, D. D., pastor of the Wealthy Avenue Baptist church of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Charles Rolin; and Herbert E., who is a stockman living at Yorkville, Illinois. The eldest son, Edgar H. Wood, enlisted at Aurora, Illinois, August 10, 1862, in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in battle near Dallas, Georgia, May 27, 1864. Another son, James S. Wood, enlisted at Aurora, Illinois, March 10, 1863, in the Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, which regiment was subsequently converted into the Tenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. He contracted a disease which resulted in his death in January, 1865. His widow and two daughters live at Rock Island, Illinois.

Charles R. Wood received his early education in the district schools of Kendall county, Illinois, and in the schools of Yorkville, that state, and he began the study of law in Aledo, Mercer county. He was admitted to the bar at Ottawa, Illinois, September 23, 1878, and for a time practiced at Aledo and Rock Island, but in 1881 removed to Ottawa, Kansas, and was admitted to the Kansas bar November 14, 1884. On the 2d of January, 1891, he became a resident of Corwith, Hancock county, Iowa, and on the 4th of October, 1891, became a member of the Iowa bar. He has since been admitted to practice in the federal as well as the state courts and his clientage is both large and representative. He is careful in the preparation of his cases, neglecting no point that might have a bearing upon the outcome of the trial, and in presenting his evidence is logical and forceful, and his record of cases won compares favorably with that of any other attorney in the district. There is only one man who outranks him in length of practice in the county and he is held in the highest esteem by his professional brethren as well as by the general public. He was elected county



CHARLES R. WOOD





attorney in 1894 and was reelected in 1896 and in 1910 and in 1912 was again chosen for that position, serving in all for four terms of two years each and making a record in that capacity that was an honor to himself and to the county.

Mr. Wood was married at Aledo, Illinois, on the 9th of July, 1878, to Miss Linnie R. Houk. She is a daughter of Rufus Cowden and Lydia A. Houk, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a veteran of the Civil war and in all relations of life measured up to high standards of manhood. Both he and his wife have passed away. Mrs. Wood was born in St. Louis, Missouri, but accompanied her parents on their removal to Aledo, Illinois, and was there reared and educated. She has become the mother of four children: Charles Rolin, Jr., who was born in Rock Island, Illinois, is a graduate of the Iowa State College at Ames and is a civil engineer residing at Cerro Gordo; Helen H., who was born at Corwith and is at home; and two who are deceased.

Mr. Wood is a stalwart republican in politics and gives careful study to the questions and issues of the day. He is a charter member of Paradise Lodge, No. 553, A. F. & A. M., of Corwith, in which he has held all of the chairs; has taken the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in Consistory No. 2 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; is a past worthy patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and is also a member of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, No. 1, at Cedar Rapids. His wife is a past worthy matron of the Eastern Star and is likewise a member of the White Shrine. His fraternal connections also include membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Emporia, Kansas. He and his wife are very active members of the Baptist church, of which he is clerk and treasurer, and his son is also a prominent church worker. He belongs to the Iowa Bar Association and has a wide acquaintance among the lawyers of the state. For the past twenty-five years he has been prominently identified with all movements for the improvement of Corwith and Hancock county, and is conceded to have done much for the advancement of the town. A man of strong character and quiet dignity, it is but natural that he should have gained a position of leadership, and another side of his personality is evidenced in the number and strength of his friendships.

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#### GEORGE T. GEIBEL.

George T. Geibel, who is engaged in general farming on section 9, Boone township, Hancock county, was born in Germany on the 23d of July, 1852, his parents being George and Mary (Geibel) Geibel. The father died in Germany, but the mother came to America in 1872. George T. Geibel acquired his education in his native country, attending the schools of that land until he reached the age of fourteen years, and he also had to attend Sunday school until he reached the age of eighteen. For eight years he studied music in Germany, possessing the love of that art so characteristic of the German people. At length he determined to try his fortune in the United States and crossed the Atlantic to the new world, making his way to Iowa, where he became identified with farming interests, working as a farm hand and also renting land. In this way he earned the money with which to purchase property. In 1900 he made investment in one hundred

and sixty acres on section 9, Boone township, Hancock county, and has since occupied that place. It was a wet tract and many would have thought it impossible to convert it into a productive farm, but Mr. Geibel systematically undertook the task and tilled and ditched his land, the drainage converting it into productive fields. The soil is naturally rich and when the farm was drained it soon brought forth good crops in return for his plowing and planting. His work is always systematically and carefully managed and his energy and persistency of purpose have constituted the basis of his growing success.

On the 9th of November, 1881, Mr. Geibel was married to Miss Lizzie Moschel, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Christian and Marie (Sandneyer) Moschel, who were natives of Germany. At an early day they crossed the Atlantic to the new world and became residents of Washburn, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Geibel are the parents of four children, George H., Mary E., John S. and Joseph C. The first two and the last named of this family are married, while John resides upon the home farm.

The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church, and to its teachings Mr. and Mrs. Geibel give their loyal adherence. He votes with the republican party, but does not seek nor desire office. Coming to America, he found here the business opportunities which he sought. He has enjoyed the advantages here offered, the protection of the laws of the land and the benefit of its business conditions and in return he renders to it loyal allegiance.

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#### A. W. JOHNSON.

Notably energetic, prompt and reliable, A. W. Johnson has made an excellent record as a representative of commercial interests at Garner, where he located in March, 1915, to engage in the sale of boots, shoes, furnishings and ready-to-wear clothing. Iowa claims him as a native son, for he was born in Dubuque, July 9, 1876, his parents being J. E. and Elizabeth (O'Shay) Johnson. The father, a native of Lakeland, Minnesota, was employed for a long period as a sawyer by the KnapStout Lumber Company.

A. W. Johnson is indebted to the public school system of Rockwell, Iowa, for the early educational opportunities which he enjoyed and which were supplemented by a two years' course at Grinnell College. He then became connected with the clothing business in the capacity of clerk and in 1898 went to Mason City, Iowa, where he engaged in clerking for Mitchell Brothers and also for the Ensign Company. In 1906 he embarked in business on his own account in connection with C. H. Barber, but after conducting the store for five years sold out. He then became head salesman for Gildner Brothers, of Mason City, and in March, 1915, came to Garner, where he purchased an interest in the branch store of Gildner Brothers. Here he has since been engaged in dealing in boots, shoes, furnishings and ready-to-wear clothing, occupying a one story and basement building twenty-two by seventy-five feet, having two clerks and a manager. Under his guidance the business has steadily grown and he puts forth every legitimate effort to extend its trade connections.

In 1903 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Kate A. Barber, of

Mason City, Iowa, and they have a wide acquaintance in Garner and this section of the state. Fraternally Mr. Johnson is a Mason and in politics is a republican. He was one of the organizers of the Booster Club of Garner and became its first president. The club has between seventy-five and one hundred members and has raised over thirty-five hundred dollars during the past year for public improvements. It was through its agency that the electric street lighting was established. The club also opened up a new street for the town, maintains the rest room at the public library and makes it possible to have the library open five and a half hours per day, when previously it was open only eight hours per week. The club holds monthly banquets, when good speakers address its members upon live questions of the day. Mr. Johnson, as the president, is agitating the question of paving on Main street and in all that he has undertaken has been actuated by a most commendable public spirit. He never stops short of successful accomplishment in what he undertakes, his carefully formulated plans being carried forward to completion.

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#### C. N. ANDERSON.

C. N. Anderson, living on section 17, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, belongs to that class of substantial citizens that Norway has furnished to Iowa. He was born in the land of the midnight sun May 20, 1867, a son of Neils and Bertha Anderson, who were also natives of that country. It was in 1871 that the father came to the United States, reaching Chicago about the time of the great fire. He had been a resident of this country about two years when he was joined by his family, for he had determined to make America his permanent place of abode. From 1874 until 1880 they were residents of Mitchell county, Iowa, and when six years had passed they came to Hancock county in 1880. Here the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land situated on section 17, Twin Lake township, and bent his energies to the development and improvement of the farm.

C. N. Anderson largely acquired his education in Mitchell county, Iowa. He was but a young lad when brought by his mother to the new world and he afterward attended the district schools until he reached the age of thirteen years when his textbooks were put aside that he might give his entire attention to the task of assisting his father in the work of the fields. Following his father's death he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead, to which he acquired title in 1907. It is a tract of one hundred and sixty acres which he has carefully developed and improved, and in addition to carrying on general farming he holds stock in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery, in the Farmers Elevator and in the Farmers Telephone Company. His business affairs are all wisely and carefully directed and in their management he displays sound judgment and keen sagacity.

Mr. Anderson votes with the republican party, which he has supported since age granted him the right of franchise. He filled the office of township assessor for eight years and was township trustee for one year. He has also been secretary of the school board and he is interested in all those forces which work for

the betterment and upbuilding of his community. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church and is one of the respected and valued residents of this section where he has now lived for thirty-seven years, remaining throughout the entire period upon the farm which is still his home.

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#### WESLEY G. LENZ.

Wesley G. Lenz, actively engaged in general farming on section 15, German township, was born on the 8th of February, 1879, and Hancock county has for a considerable period numbered him among its progressive agriculturists. He is a son of Fred and Lena (Rolfus) Lenz, natives of Germany, who are still living in Hancock county, but the father has retired from active business life after long connection with the agricultural development of this district.

Wesley G. Lenz was reared as a farm boy, receiving the usual instruction of the district schools, while his business training was that which he received under his father, whom he assisted in farm work until he reached the age of twenty-three years. Ambitions to engage in farming on his own account, he then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 15, German township, for which he paid sixty-five dollars per acre. He has since owned and occupied that place, which is today a well improved and highly cultivated farm. Its neat and thrifty appearance indicates his careful supervision and his practical and progressive methods. He studies the question of soil fertility, practices the rotation of crops and conducts his farm work according to modern methods. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Garner.

In 1902 Mr. Lenz was married to Miss Matilda Greiman, a daughter of Fred and Dema (Katter) Greiman, natives of Germany, who came to America in early life. They are yet well known residents of Hancock county. Mr. and Mrs. Lenz are the parents of four children: Ruth E., Norma E., Clarence A. and Lois D., all yet at home.

Mr. Lenz votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served as school director and as school treasurer, filling the latter position for a period of six years, and he is now road boss. He is ever willing to give his aid and cooperation to movements for the general good and stands for progress and improvement in public affairs as well as in business. He and his wife hold membership in the German Reformed church, and their loyalty to its teachings has won for them the favorable regard of all with whom they have come in contact.

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#### HERMAN E. HAGEN.

Herman E. Hagen, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 36, Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, was born in Norway on the 20 of February, 1851, and is a son of Elling and Marie (Lilliandahl) Botlsen, who spent their entire lives in that country, where the father followed

farming and also worked at the blacksmith's trade. Herman E. Hagen is the youngest in a family of six children and of this number only two came to the United States, the other being his sister Breta, now Mrs. Torsten Hanson, living near Clarkfield, Minnesota.

Mr. Hagen of this review was nineteen years of age when he came to the new world, and after spending a short time in Long Prairie, Illinois, became a resident of Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for about eight years. In 1878 he arrived in Winnebago county and, having saved his earnings, was able to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 36, Norway township, where he has since made his home. He has made many improvements upon this place and the land is now in a high state of cultivation.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of Mr. Hagen and Miss Gurina Kaldal, a daughter of Hans and Anna Kaldal, whose home was near Northwood, in Worth county, Iowa. To this union have been born six children, as follows: Edward, who is now engaged in farming on a place adjoining the old homestead in Norway township; Helmer, at home; Anna, a resident of Mason City, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Edward Kramer, of Estherville, Iowa; and Ella and Josie, both at home.

The family hold membership in the United Lutheran church and by his ballot Mr. Hagen supports the men and measures of the republican party. He is one of the self-made men of his community and all that he has acquired has been secured through his own unaided efforts and good business ability.

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#### JOHN B. GEVING.

John B. Geving, proprietor of a garage and machine shop in Lake Mills and one of the representative business men of Winnebago county, was born on the 18th of January, 1871, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and is a son of Benjamin and Engeböranne (Hill) Geving, now residents of Decorah, Iowa. The parents are natives of Trondhjem, Norway, and on their emigration to America in 1870 located in Allamakee county, Iowa, but later went to Spring Grove, Minnesota, where they spent six months. At the end of that time they became residents of Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father opened a blacksmith shop and engaged in business along that line for five years. He then purchased land and followed farming with good success until 1912, when he retired from active labor and removed to Decorah, where he and his wife are now living, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

John B. Geving was reared and educated in Winneshiek county and during his boyhood learned the blacksmith's trade under the able direction of his father. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age and then went to Waukon, Iowa, where he worked at the machinist's trade. On the 2d of January, 1895, he removed to Lake Mills, Winnebago county, where he started a machine shop and has since conducted the same. He erected a fine brick building on Main street for a garage and shop and here he now carries on business with marked success. He handles the Maxwell cars and is enjoying a large patronage. Mr. Geving is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company, the Lake

Mills Telephone Company and the Farmers Elevator Company, also of Lake Mills, and is today one of the leading business men of the town.

On the 18th of October, 1894, Mr. Geving was united in marriage to Miss Paulina Amundrud, who died July 19, 1915, after a lingering illness of three years. There were seven children born of this union, but Annie died September 17, 1915, at the age of nineteen years; Lewis died in 1899 at the age of two years; and Olga died February 6, 1917, at the age of fourteen years and seven months. Those still living are Benhart O., Palma J., Josephine X. and Geneva M.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Geving has affiliated with the republican party and he takes a deep interest in public affairs. In religious faith he is a Lutheran. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man of known reliability and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### C. W. TRAVELUTE.

C. W. Travelute is numbered among those who have made Hancock county a very rich and productive agricultural section, for he has been busily and successfully engaged in farming on section 31, Madison township, for many years and still gives personal supervision to the operation of his farm, although he is now nearing the eightieth milestone on life's journey. He was born in Pennsylvania, August 31, 1838, and is a son of John and Julia (Nolan) Travelute, the former a native of Germany, while the latter was born on the Atlantic while her parents were en route from their native Ireland to America. After living for a long period in Pennsylvania, John Travelute removed with his family to Ogle county, Illinois, in 1855, and there resided on a farm up to the time of his demise.

C. W. Travelute began his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses of pioneer days. The little temple of learning was indeed a primitive structure. Not only was it built of logs, but its floor was made of puncheons and it was seated with slab benches, while the methods of instruction were almost as crude as the furnishings. After mastering the branches of learning therein taught Mr. Travelute became a teacher in the same school, but followed that profession for only two years. He then turned his attention to farming by renting land in Ogle county, Illinois, but in 1882 he removed to Hancock county, Iowa, where for ten years he continued to cultivate land which he leased. In 1891 he purchased his present home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has now resided for more than a quarter of a century. He has carefully and persistently cultivated his fields until he has transformed the tract into a valuable farm property from which are annually gathered good harvests.

In 1865 Mr. Travelute was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Smith, of Ogle county, Illinois, and to them have been born eight children, five of whom are yet living: Myrtle, the wife of T. R. Riehm, of Garner, Hancock county; Albert, who is living in Ogema, Minnesota; Robin, whose home is in Tuscola, Illinois; Earl, a resident of Gladys, North Dakota; and Lulu, the wife of J. A. Metz, of Ogema.

In his political views Mr. Travelute has always been a democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and in 1906 he was elected assessor of

Madison township, in which position he has served continuously since. He has also filled the office of township clerk in Crystal township and he was justice of the peace in the early days of Hancock county, in which connection he rendered decisions that were strictly fair and impartial. In a word, he has been a loyal official in every position which he has been called upon to fill and his entire life record is a commendable one, for he has made good use of his time, talents and opportunities and has worked his way steadily upward.

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WILLIAM F. ERDMAN.

William F. Erdman, a well known farmer and stock raiser of Hancock county, resides on section 23, Magor township, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of good land. Upon this farm he is raising horses, cattle and hogs, and his experience has enabled him to speak with authority upon questions relative to live stock interests. He has been identified with the development and improvement of this section of the state since pioneer times. He was born in Germany on the 8th of June, 1860, a son of Fred and Minnie (Kurston) Erdman, who were natives of Germany. He had attained his majority ere he left his native land, where he attended the public schools to the age of fourteen years, after which he was employed at home until he was seventeen years of age. He then became a sailor and joined the crew of a sailing vessel, with which he visited various parts of the world. He attained his majority in the year in which he arrived in the United States—in 1881. He first went to Baltimore, Maryland, where for three years he was employed at factory work. On the expiration of that period he removed westward to Illinois and rented land in La Salle county. Ottawa was his trading point and for sixteen years he devoted his attention and his energies to farming. He then decided to remove to Iowa and came to Hancock county in 1900, which at that time was just entering upon a period of substantial development. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 23, Magor township, and has since carried on general farming upon that place. He has, however, become well known as a stock raiser, handling Percheron horses, Durham cattle and Jersey hogs. He is also engaged in raising Plymouth Rock chickens and he has good improvements, which are located upon the Boone river and include various and substantial and commodious barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. In addition to his home place he owns sixteen acres of land in Hidalgo county, Texas. At the time of his arrival here the nearest trading point was at Corwith. Kanawha had just been started and was a tiny hamlet. He took his first ride on the old Iowa Central between Hampton and Algona. He has seen great changes and has contributed in no small measure to the growth, development and improvement of this section. His activities as a live stock dealer have demonstrated what can be done along that line and he has become one of the foremost leaders in the breeding and raising of horses in Hancock county. He has membership in the Percheron Horse Society of Chicago.

On the 8th of February, 1887, Mr. Erdman was married to Miss Augusta Bublitz, a daughter of August and Kellan (Wagner) Bublitz, who were natives of Germany and in early life came to the new world. Mr. and Mrs. Erdman have

two children: Emma, the wife of George Oxley, a resident of Hancock county, and William George Walter, at home.

The parents are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Erdman votes with the republican party and has served as road boss and as school director. Starting out to earn his own living at the age of fourteen years, he has since been dependent upon his own resources. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the United States. On the contrary, he has always been glad that he chose America as his place of residence and, recognizing the fact that he has lived under the protection of its laws and benefited by the business conditions here existing, he has always been loyal to the interests of his adopted land.

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JOSEPH E. COLBY, D. D. S.

Dr. Joseph E. Colby, of Lake Mills, occupies an enviable position as a dentist, for his ability is recognized by both his professional brethren and the general public, and his practice is large and extensive. He also owns valuable farm property, from which he derives a gratifying addition to his income. His birth occurred in Primrose, Wisconsin, April 21, 1869, and he is a son of Eli and Helen (Charleson) Colby, who in early manhood and womanhood removed from Norway to America. After following the father's trade in Chicago for two years the father removed with his family to Primrose, Wisconsin, and purchased land in Primrose township, Dane county. He took up his residence upon that place, which he improved as rapidly as possible and to the operation of which he devoted the remainder of his life, passing away March 14, 1888. His widow subsequently married Hans Groening, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, and they now reside in Lake Mills, Iowa.

Joseph E. Colby grew to manhood upon the home farm in Wisconsin and as a boy attended the public schools. When twenty-four years of age he took up the study of dentistry under the supervision of a local dentist and subsequently entered the Keokuk Dental College at Keokuk, Iowa, where he completed the required course. In the spring of 1898 he came to Iowa and after successfully passing the state board examination, located for practice at Lake Mills, where he has since remained with the exception of nine months spent in Forest City. He did the first piece of bridge work in Winnebago county and throughout the years has kept up with the advanced thought that has been made in dental theory and practice. The gratifying success which he has gained is the direct result of his efficiency and his extreme cleanliness in his work, and his patients come not only from the city but also from the entire county. He has invested in farm land and now owns one hundred and sixty acres in Winnebago county and eighty acres in Worth county, all of which is well improved. He takes a great deal of interest in the management of his farms and has found his investment highly profitable.

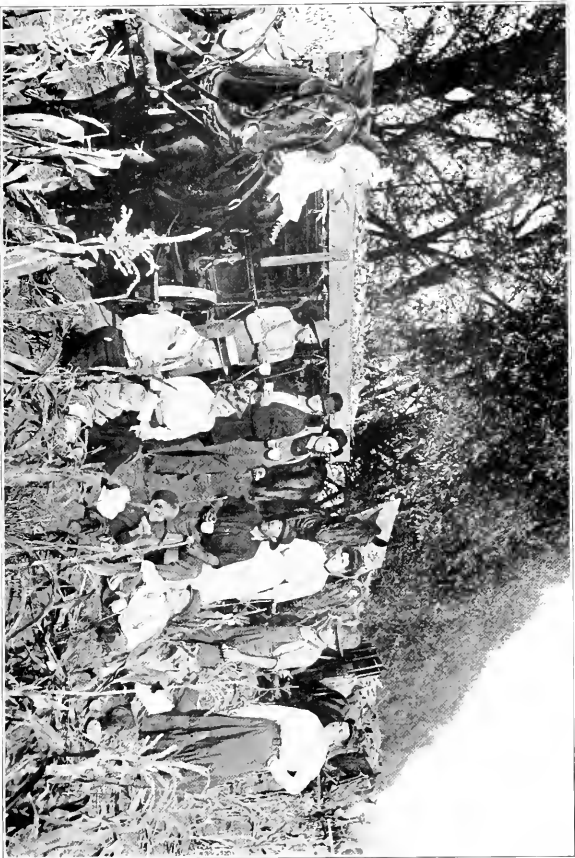
He was the first to raise sweet corn for ensilage and put it in the silo, his being the first silo built in this section. Upon investigation he found that sweet corn stalks if left three weeks after the ears were snapped and then put in ensilage, made much better fodder than yellow corn with the ears left on. He arrived at this conclusion through scientific research and was the first one to fill silos with







DR. JOSEPH E. COLBY AND FAMILY



This picture shows Dr. Colby and family taking lunch with the men who are delivering the sweet corn to the canning factory. He believed in feeding his men well, but in return expected a big haul. Dr. Colby's men delivered on an average from four to five tons each, per day.



sweet corn stalks. The corn was raised for canning and the farmers considered the stalks worth nothing save that the fields were a good place in which to allow stock to run after the corn was picked. By analysis Dr. Colby found that by leaving the stalks standing for two or three weeks after the corn was picked they became matured and contained much more sugar and fattening substances. Until Dr. Colby had made this discovery, the farmers turned their stock into the fields to pick their living and over half of the value of the stalks was wasted. Dr. Colby today devotes two hundred acres or more each year to the production of sweet corn and then uses the stalks as indicated, thus conserving every particle of the crop.

Dr. Colby was married on the 24th of March, 1898, to Miss Millie Eiel, a daughter of John and Olina Eiel, natives of Norway but pioneers of Winnebago county, Iowa. The father is now living retired with Dr. and Mrs. Colby after many years devoted to agricultural pursuits. The mother died January 1, 1915. Mrs. Colby was graduated from Palmer's Business College at Cedar Rapids and subsequently studied for one year at Ames College. She began teaching when but sixteen years of age and successfully taught for eight years prior to her marriage. To Dr. and Mrs. Colby have been born five children: John W. and Eli F., who are attending college at Annapolis, Maryland; and Joseph M., Olina S. and Hubert E., who are students in the Lake Mills Schools.

Dr. Colby exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party and has always taken an interest in matters affecting the public welfare, although not an office seeker. He belongs to the Lutheran church and fraternally is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Mystic Workers. In his professional capacity and as a farmer he has made valuable contribution to business interests in this section. Scientific research has promoted his efficiency in each connection and he not only keeps abreast with the trend of modern thought and investigation but has also been a leader in advanced methods.

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#### PETER BENSON.

Peter Benson is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and is extensively engaged in the raising of hogs. Throughout almost the entire period of his residence in the United States he has lived in Iowa, but is a native of Sweden, in which country his birth occurred December 17, 1870, his parents being Ben and Nella (Parson) Swenson, who were also natives of that land. There Peter Benson spent the days of his boyhood and youth and had reached the age of twenty-six years when he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and became a resident of Muscatine county, Iowa. He had attended school to the age of fourteen and had then begun work on a farm. After coming to the new world he was employed as a farm hand for three years, after which he purchased ten acres of land at Dixon, Illinois, which he owned for two years. On the expiration of that period he came to Hancock county, where he cultivated a rented farm for eight years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until he had

a sufficient sum to purchase eighty acres. The following year he acquired another eighty acre tract on section 26, Amsterdam township, and is thus the owner of a quarter section which he has carefully developed and improved until it is one of the desirable farms of the township. Not only does he till the fields in the cultivation of the crops best adapted to soil and climate, but also engages extensively in raising hogs.

On the 8th of June, 1903, Mr. Benson was married to Mrs. Augusta Anderson, a daughter of Jonas and Lena (Moody) Nelson. By her former marriage she had two children, Minnie F. and Ellen G., both of whom are married. Mr. and Mrs. Benson have become the parents of a son, Harvey, who is at home. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and guide their lives according to its teachings. Mr. Benson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and studies closely those questions which are of vital interest to the welfare of his district, his state and his adopted land. He has never regretted the fact that he severed home ties and came to the new world, for he here found good business chances and through persistency of purpose and indefatigable industry he has worked his way upward.

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#### ADAM BELL.

Adam Bell, whose home is on section 32, King township, is one of the representative farmers of Winnebago county, and like many of its leading citizens he is a native of Norway. He was born July 19, 1857, and is a son of Louis and Carrie (Adams) Bell, who came to this country in 1861 and located in Wisconsin, where the father purchased land. After improving and cultivating that farm for some time he sold it and bought another farther south, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, whereon he made his home throughout the remainder of his life. He died about 1895, having long survived the mother of our subject, who passed away in 1866.

Adam Bell was only four years of age when brought to the United States by his parents and he grew to manhood in Wisconsin. When not in school he assisted in the labors of the home farm and gave his father the benefit of his services until twenty-nine years of age. During the following two years he was engaged in farming on his own account in Wisconsin, after which he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he has since been identified with its agricultural interests with the exception of one year when engaged in the butchering business in Thompson. On locating here he purchased eighty acres of land on section 32, King township, and has since bought another eighty acres on section 33, so that he now has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has made good and substantial improvements, which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

In November, 1887, Mr. Bell married Miss Nettie Dahl, a daughter of Arne and Marie Dahl, pioneers of Winnebago county. Her mother is still living, but her father died in 1902. To Mr. and Mrs. Bell have been born eleven children, namely: Carrie, now the wife of Oscar Syse, a farmer living south of Forest City; Annie, the wife of L. Asmus, a farmer of King township; Carl, at home; Obert, a resident of Minnesota; Alfred, Emily and Henry, all at home; Marie,





This picture shows Dr. Colby's teams and wagons used for hauling the sweet corn out of the field. These are fourteen feet combination boxes, which hold on an average of forty-five hundred pounds.





A two hundred acre field of sweet corn, belonging to Dr. J. E. Colby, and the force which cultivated it. Dr. Colby believed in saving labor by using two-row plows. This group shows three two-row plows and the boys who operated them. The older young man is Peter Tunstom, and the younger men are Dr. Colby's sons, John and Eli. In the year 1912 these three boys cultivated two hundred acres of sweet corn and twenty-five acres of field corn. This picture shows that the corn was kept clean. This can be done with a two-row, just as well as with a single row, this being the fourth time this corn was kept clean. This can be done with a two-row, just as well as with a single row, this being the fourth time this corn was cultivated. Dr. Colby says he tried many different two-row plows and the "Bradley" was the only plow he could use. The "Bradley Tur-Ro" is so constructed that any child from twelve to fifteen years can operate it on side hill, also if the corn is not planted very straight. Dr. Colby seems to think, after his experience with two-row plows, that the "Bradley" is the only two-row plow made that is properly constructed. He says if there are others he has not seen them. He emphasizes this because a two-row plow that is not properly constructed is a very expensive piece of machinery, for the reason that it will not do the work.



who died at the age of one and a half years; and Leonard, Vernie and Helen, all at home.

Mr. Bell is a Lutheran in religious faith and politically is identified with the republican party. He is now serving as a trustee of King township, having capably filled that office for sixteen years. He is also a stockholder and director of the Farmers Elevator Company and the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson, and is a man of sound judgment and good business ability.

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#### B. F. DENNEY, M. D.

Dr. B. F. Denney, now successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Britt, Iowa, was born on the 19th of July, 1883, in Mountain Grove, Missouri, a son of James M. and Minnie (Reeves) Denney, who are natives of Missouri and Tennessee respectively, and are still living on their farm in Texas county of the former state. During her girlhood the mother removed with her parents to Missouri and was later married in that state. James M. Denney is one of the prominent democrats of Texas county and has taken a very active and influential part in public affairs, serving as county clerk for eight years.

Dr. Denney pursued his literary education in the public schools and high school of Mountain Grove and in 1905 took up the study of medicine, entering the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, from which he received his medical degree with the class of 1909. Following his graduation he served an internship in St. Mary's Hospital, remaining there until the following year, when he located for private practice at Nemaha, Iowa. A year later, however, he came to Britt and since 1911 has been one of the leading physicians of Hancock county, having built up a large and remunerative practice.

In 1912 Dr. Denney was united in marriage to Miss Guenn Harden, of Casey, Iowa, and they have made many friends during their residence in Britt. The Doctor is a member of Darius Lodge, No. 431, A. F. & A. M., of Britt; Mingo Lodge, No. 174, of Mingo, Iowa; and the Improved Order of Red Men; and in the line of his profession he also belongs to the Winnebago and Hancock Counties Medical Society and to the Iowa State Medical Society. In politics he is independent and is at present serving as health officer of Britt. He is a physician of recognized ability, who stands high in the esteem of his professional brethren as well as with the public, and he is regarded as one of Britt's leading and representative citizens.

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#### S. G. HONSEY.

For many years S. G. Honsey was one of the most influential and public-spirited citizens of Norway township, Winnebago county, his home being on section 25. He came from the land of the midnight sun, his birth occurring in Viksogn, Norway, July 21, 1845, but his parents, Gutterm and Anna Honsey, never left their native land, making their home in Norway throughout life. S. G. Honsey was about fifteen years of age when he and his brother, T. G., crossed the ocean

and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1871, however, they removed to Winnebago county and together purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Norway township. This they operated in partnership until 1880, when the land was divided and S. G. Honsey eventually became the owner of two hundred acres of very valuable and productive land lying on the north half of section 25, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 36 and the southeast corner of section 25, Norway township, where he had forty acres. He continued to carry on farming with good success until his death, which occurred on the 11th of January, 1916. His remains were interred in the Lime Creek church cemetery.

In 1879 Mr. Honsey was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Brekke, a daughter of Ingebrikt and Johanna Brekke, who were early settlers of Winnebago county. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Honsey one is deceased, George having died at the age of two years. Those living are: Gustav, now a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota; Albert, who is now operating the home farm; Selmer, also a farmer of Norway township; Louise, the wife of T. O. Helgeson, a farmer of Norway township; and George, at home with his mother and brother Albert.

On becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States Mr. Honsey cast in his lot with the republican party and became quite prominent in local affairs, serving as county supervisor several terms. He also filled many township offices with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. His religious connection was with the United Lutheran church.

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#### JOE T. ANDERSON.

A good farm of two hundred and fourteen acres on section 24, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by the owner, Joe T. Anderson, who made purchase of a part of this place in 1900 and has since resided thereon. He was born in Norway on the 26th of March, 1867, and is a son of Torres and Bertha (Johnson) Anderson, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. There his youthful days were passed and he attended school to the age of fourteen. He was a youth of fifteen when he came to America, arriving on the 25th of March, 1883. He made his way to Herscher, Illinois, and spent about sixteen years as a farm hand in that locality. He then came to Iowa, settling in Wright county, where for two years he engaged in renting land, and in 1900 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Amsterdam township, Hancock county. Ten years later he acquired an additional tract of fifty-four acres on the same section and thus became owner of a farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, which he is carefully cultivating according to modern progressive methods. Upon his place are found all the equipments and accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century, including the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. Mr. Anderson studies closely the best methods of improving his farm work and also those questions which have to do with the advancement of the interests of farmers as a class. He believes in co-operation and thus he has become connected with the Kanawha Creamery and the Kanawha Elevator Company and he is also a stockholder in the Kanawha Telephone Company.

On the 12th of September, 1891, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Thompson, a daughter of Torbjoren and Purnell (Jacobson) Thompson, who were natives of Norway. Four children have been born of this marriage: George T., Elmer L. and Nanette J., all of whom are married; and Perry B., at home. Mr. Anderson and his wife are faithful members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and they enjoy the high regard of all who know them by reason of their many sterling traits of character. Mr. Anderson votes with the republican party and has served as township trustee and as school director. He is interested in all matters relating to the general welfare and, deliberately choosing to become an American citizen, he has always been loyal to the interests of his adopted land.

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#### HENRY THOMPSON.

For forty-eight years Henry Thompson has resided upon his present farm on section 24, Center township, and the history of Winnebago county is to him largely a matter of personal experience. He was born in Norway on the 7th of May, 1856, a son of Gunder and Nellie Thompson, who were also born in Norway, where they resided until 1867, when they brought their family to the United States. After two years' residence in Chicago they came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father purchased forty acres in Center township, which he improved and operated until his demise in June, 1886. Three years later the mother also passed away.

Henry Thompson began his education in Norway and continued it in the public schools of Chicago and Winnebago county, being but eleven years of age at the time of the emigration of the family to the United States. He remained at home until he had attained his majority and then purchased two hundred and twenty acres on section 24, Center township, which still remains his home. He has made it one of the most highly developed farms in the county, and it bears little resemblance to the tract of raw land which he bought in 1877, for before he could place it under cultivation it was even necessary to clear the greater part of timber. Since seventeen years old he has raised bees and has been engaged in that business longer than any other man in the county. He now has thirty swarms and finds this side line a source of both pleasure and profit.

Mr. Thompson was married in March, 1879, to Miss Betsy Lakevold, a daughter of Ole and Carrie Lakevold, who came to the United States in 1869 and settled in Iowa. Both are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been born nine children, namely: Alice, the wife of E. L. Thoe, a farmer residing in North Dakota; George, who is also farming in that state; Bertha, the wife of Henry Martin of Minnesota; Lottie, who married Carl Tiedmanson, now operating Mr. Thompson's farm; Mary, the wife of Ed Menzi, of Mason City, Iowa; Hans and Henry, both at home; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Thompson is trustee of Center township, in which capacity he has served for three years, and he has also been clerk, assessor, road superintendent, member of the board of county supervisors, which office he has held at two different times, and member of the school board, in which connection he has served continuously for eighteen years. He was one of the organizers of the Lake Mills Lumber Company, of which he was a director and president for twenty years, and he also assisted

in organizing the Lake Mills Creamery Company, of which he was secretary for thirteen years. He is a republican in politics and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a communicant of the Lutheran church, and he was formerly a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Although he still resides upon his farm, he leaves its operation largely to his son-in-law, having through many years of arduous and well planned work gained the right to a period of leisure.

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#### ALFRED J. TOFTE.

Alfred J. Tofte, actively engaged in the cultivation of a farm of eighty acres on section 25, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, was born in Norway on the 30th of December, 1882, a son of Lars and Inga (Scott) Tofte, both of whom were natives of Norway. On coming to the new world they did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made their way at once into the interior of the country, settling near Morris, Illinois, where they resided for sixteen years and then came to Hancock county, where the father purchased eighty acres of land on section 25, Amsterdam township, for which he paid forty-two and a half dollars per acre, although the land is worth very much more than that at the present time. He farmed until his death on October 20, 1912.

Alfred J. Tofte acquired his education in the schools of Gardner, Illinois, which he attended until he reached the age of fourteen, after which he gave his undivided attention to work upon the home farm for four years. He then engaged in tiling for six years and his entire life has been one of unremitting industry and toil. On the expiration of that period he rented the home place in Amsterdam township and has since given his attention to its further cultivation, being now actively and successfully engaged in general farming. The plans which he follows and his systematic methods of developing his fields result in the production of good harvests and his work is attended with success.

Mr. Tofte is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has been a supporter of the republican party. He is loyal to any cause which he espouses, for he never allies himself with any interest without firm belief in its worth. He is now well known in Hancock county as an enterprising and progressive agriculturist and he enjoys the good will and respect of his fellow townsmen.

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#### IRA ZEIGLER.

Ira Zeigler, living on section 16, Boone township, Hancock county, today has one hundred and twenty acres of good land devoted to general farming and he also is engaged in raising Percheron horses. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, September 8, 1882, a son of Jacob and Mary (Fleischman) Zeigler, the former a native of Pennsylvania. During the boyhood of his son Ira, Jacob Zeigler removed with his family to Iowa, settling in Hancock county, and thus

it was that Ira Zeigler pursued his education in the district schools, which he attended until he reached the age of fifteen years, after which he began earning his living by working as a farm hand by the month. He spent five years in that way, after which he engaged in farming on rented land for three years. He practiced economy during that period and at length his savings enabled him to purchase eighty acres of land on section 8, Amsterdam township. He cultivated that farm for a time and then sold it, buying eighty acres on section 11, Magor township. This, too, he occupied and improved for a period, but at length traded that place for one hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Boone township, where he now resides. He has since sold forty acres of that place but retains possession of one hundred and twenty acres of good land, which he devotes to the raising of corn, wheat and other cereals well adapted to soil and climatic conditions here. He also raises Percheron horses and some fine stock is seen in his pastures. He is likewise a stockholder in the elevator company and in the Kanawha Harvester Company.

Mr. Zeigler was married November 25, 1902, to Miss Ava D. Martin, who was born in Hancock county in 1884, a daughter of James and Dora (Woods) Martin, and they have four children, Cecil E., Vera F., Elmer J. and Ervin F. Mr. Zeigler and his wife belong to the United Brethren church. He has voted with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he has filled the office of road superintendent and also has been a school director. He is interested in all that pertains to the progress and upbuilding of town and county but concentrates the major part of his attention upon his business affairs and has won for himself a place among the substantial farmers of his district.

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#### ANDREW K. MARSAA.

Andrew K. Marsaa, postmaster of Rake and well known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen, was born in Norway, February 19, 1870, a son of Karoleus and Bertha (Rake) Marsaa, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. The father there followed the occupation of farming and is still living in that country.

Andrew K. Marsaa was reared and educated there, coming to the new world when a youth of nineteen. He arrived in America on the 17th of May, 1889, and made his way to North Dakota, where he resided until 1891. He then came to Winnebago county and for a year was employed at farm labor. He then entered into partnership with Mr. Rake, who was his uncle, and after five years he purchased the business and built a store near the creamery to which he removed his stock of goods. There he remained for five years. He then formed a partnership with M. J. Erdahl. They built a store and conducted business for a year and a half, at the end of which time Mr. Marsaa sold out. In 1901 he was appointed postmaster of Rake, which position he has continuously filled to the present time, being prompt and systematic in the discharge of all of his duties and thus receiving the endorsement of the general public. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Rake and has extensive interests in silver and gold mines of

Idaho, being one of the directors of the Silver City Mining & Milling Company of that state.

In June, 1897, Mr. Marsaa was married to Miss Martha Erdahl and they became parents of four children, Bertha, Ruth, Agnes and Carl, but the third daughter died in December, 1915. The religious faith of the parents is that of the Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Marsaa maintains an independent course, especially at local elections where no issue is involved. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world. He realized that success cannot be won in a day nor without effort and he was willing to work for prosperity. His has been an active and useful life and as the years have gone on he has steadily advanced in a business way, being now numbered among the substantial citizens of his town.

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#### WILLIAM H. COMBS.

William H. Combs, proprietor of the Orchard Hill Farm on section 18, King township, Winnebago county, is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of pure blooded Shorthorn cattle. He was born in Merrill, Wisconsin, on the 18th of June, 1858, and is a son of Harrison and Elvira (Niles) Combs, natives of Pennsylvania. As early as 1854 the father went to Wisconsin, becoming one of the pioneer lumbermen of that state, where he operated a sawmill until 1873. In that year he came to Iowa and bought land in Butler county, where he improved a farm, but after operating it for four years he rented the place and returned to Wisconsin, where he again engaged in the lumber business until 1890, when we again find him on his farm in Butler county, Iowa. He continued to reside thereon until killed in a runaway in July, 1895. The mother of our subject passed away in Wisconsin on the 13th of October, 1870.

William H. Combs is indebted to the public schools of his native state for the early educational privileges he enjoyed, and later he attended a business college at Keokuk, Iowa. He remained with his father until twenty-five years of age and then rented the farm in Butler county, Iowa, which he operated for two years. At the end of that time he returned to Wisconsin and operated a sawmill in partnership with his father for three years. In November, 1891, he again came to Iowa, but this time located in Winnebago county, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 18, King township, where he now resides. He has extended the boundary of his farm until it now comprises the south half of section 18 and has given to the place the name of the Orchard Hill Farm. It is up-to-date in all its appointments and is made to yield a gratifying income as a reward for the care and labor bestowed upon it.

In January, 1884, Mr. Combs was united in marriage to Miss Geneva Parrott, who was born in Butler county, Iowa, May 19, 1857, and is a daughter of Anthony and Malinda (Spangler) Parrott, natives of Illinois. After farming in Butler county for several years Mr. Parrott removed to Sac county, this state, where he purchased land and operated a farm until his death, which occurred in 1877. His widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Combs have six children namely, Harrison R. and Anthony R. (twins), Ethel, Clyde, Robert and Richard.



The family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Combs is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His sons are also Masons. Since attaining his majority he has affiliated with the republican party and for four years has acceptably filled the office of county supervisor. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson and is one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his community.

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#### SAMUEL E. CHAMBERS.

Samuel E. Chambers was for many years a successful farmer of Kossuth county but was later engaged in the implement business in Corwith and his demise was felt as a personal loss to many citizens of the town. He was a veteran of the Civil war and in times of peace manifested the same spirit of public service that led to his enlistment in the Union army. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, October 10, 1843, and was a son of Samuel and Tamar Chambers. The father accompanied his parents on their removal from Ireland to the United States and grew to manhood in Harrison county, Ohio. There he engaged in farming for many years but in 1854 removed with his wife and children to Polk county, Iowa, where he developed a tract of raw land into an improved farm. He also hunted and trapped, as game was plentiful and as prices for farm produce were so low that the income received from the sale of his grain and stock was hardly sufficient to support the family.

Samuel E. Chambers was reared and educated in Ohio and Polk county, Iowa, and through assisting his father became familiar with agricultural work. He farmed in Polk county until 1884, when he purchased land in Kossuth county, four miles west of Corwith. He made many improvements upon the farm, carefully conserved the fertility of the soil and as the years passed steadily added to his resources. As a result of his practical and progressive methods he harvested large crops and he also met with gratifying success as a stock raiser. He owned four hundred and eighty acres of land and the farm is still in the possession of the family, but during the last few years of his life he was engaged in the implement business in Corwith. When a resident of Kossuth county he made Corwith his trading point and was so well known to the business men here that he seemed one of the citizens of the town. His death occurred on the 18th of November, 1892, and was due to the effects of the hard service which he saw at the front during the Civil war. He enlisted in the Eighth Iowa Cavalry in 1862 and was in active service from that time until the close of hostilities.

On the 28th of February, 1867, in Jasper county, Iowa, Mr. Chambers was married to Miss Eleanor Schaeffer, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, but in 1852, when seven years old, was taken by her parents to Lee county, Iowa, whence removal was subsequently made to Jasper county. There she received the greater part of her education and in young womanhood she taught school in that county and also in Polk county. Following her husband's death she remained upon the home farm in Kossuth county until 1900, when she took up her residence in Corwith, where she is still living. She is prominently identified with

all of the social activities of the town and is one of the leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking a very active part in the various phases of its work. To Mr. and Mrs. Chambers were born nine children, namely: George Franklin, who was born in Jasper county and is farming in Kossuth county; William P., who is also a native of Jasper county and is engaged in the real estate business in Corwith; Charles, who was born in Jasper county and is deceased; Harrison O., and Edward, who are natives of Polk county and are farming in Kossuth county; Mary, born in Polk county and now the wife of Harry A. Newlin, a merchant of Corwith; Laura Belle, who is a native of Kossuth county and is the wife of Ernest Vaughn, a farmer residing in Tennessee; Ava, who is a native of Kossuth county and is teaching school; and John, operating a part of the home farm.

Mr. Chambers was an advocate of republican principles and held the offices of school director and supervisor. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church and it was the guiding force in his life. He was prominent in the work of the church and all movements for the moral advancement of his community received his heartiest support. Through his identification with the Grand Army post at Garner he kept in touch with his comrades in blue and found in that association a great deal of pleasure. In all relations of life he measured up to high standards of manhood, and his death was the occasion of widespread grief, for he had a large acquaintance and was held in the highest esteem.

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#### J. W. BROOKER.

J. W. Brooker, residing on section 17, Ellington township, is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Hancock county and is a business man of exceptional ability. A native of Illinois, he was born in Livingston county, August 4, 1862, and is a son of Thomas and Lucinda (Wilber) Brooker, of whom extended mention is made in the sketch of F. J. Brooker on another page of this volume. In the county of his nativity our subject grew to manhood with the usual educational advantages of the country boy and on the 11th of August, 1886, was united in marriage to Miss Ida A. Ellis, also a native of Livingston county, Illinois.

In March, 1887, Mr. Brooker brought his wife to Iowa and after residing for one year in Ida county removed to Winnebago county in 1888, locating on the farm in Linden township now owned by his brother Fred but at that time belonging to his father. Two years later, in 1890, he purchased the northwest quarter of section 6, Madison township, Hancock county, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 1, Crystal township, paying for the same two thousand dollars and selling it two years later for five thousand dollars. He next bought eighty acres in Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, but did not locate thereon, and in September, 1892, purchased one hundred and thirty-five acres of his present farm in Ellington township, Hancock county, for which he paid twenty-five dollars per acre. At the time of the financial panic during President Cleveland's administration was laid the cornerstone of his success. Cattle could then be bought at one's own price and corn was selling at eight cents per bushel. Mr. Brooker took

advantage of these conditions, his credit being good at the banks, and he bought cattle as low as two dollars per hundred and calves at five dollars per head. Cattle which he purchased at two and two dollars and a half per hundred were fed on eight to twelve cent corn and marketed at four dollars and a half per hundred. He bought everything offered for sale and sold at a profit what he could not feed. He has added to his home farm until it now comprises three hundred and fifty acres of some of the most fertile land in Hancock county and he also owns sixty-four acres adjoining the corporate limits of Forest City and a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 15 and 16, Ellington township. Mr. Brooker now makes a specialty of breeding registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, having been building up his herd since 1909, and Poland China hogs. He has nothing but registered stock on his place and has made a reputation as a breeder.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brooker have been born three children, of whom two are living: Myrtle M., at home with her parents; and Jay E., who is located on his father's farm adjoining Forest City. Mr. and Mrs. Brooker are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active part in its work. For several years Mr. Brooker served as superintendent of the Sunday school and has also been president of the Epworth League. In politics he is an ardent republican and for four years served as chairman of the board of township trustees. He was one of the prime movers in the organizing of the Farmers Mutual Switch Board Company of Forest City, which installed the farmers' telephone system, now operating more than a thousand telephones. Mr. Brooker was also one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company of Forest City and is one of the prominent men of affairs in Hancock county, being preeminently public-spirited and progressive. He never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit and in business affairs usually carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

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#### FRANK H. CLARK.

Frank H. Clark, engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 23, Twin Lake township, has been a resident of Hancock county since he was fourteen years of age. He was born in Indiana, on the 26th of August, 1863, a son of John B. and Mary (Robison) Clark, the former a native of Massachusetts, while the latter was born in Ohio. They removed westward to Iowa and established their home upon a farm in Wright county when Frank H. Clark was six months old. He began his education under the direction of his father, who was a school teacher. He herded cattle when eleven years old and when fourteen he was farming with his brother-in-law in Hancock county. After this brother-in-law died he conducted the farm for his sister. Then for several years he broke prairie and worked with his team at whatever he could get to do. When twenty-seven years old he rented land for a year and then became owner of a forty-acre tract, for which he traded a pair of horses and an old wagon. This was situated on section 12, Twin Lake township, Hancock county. With characteristic energy he began the development of the farm and after some years he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres on section 22 of the same township. When two years had passed, however, he sold that

place and invested in one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Twin Lake township, where he now makes his home. He carries on general farming, carefully tilling the soil in the production of those cereals best adapted to climatic conditions here. His labors have brought to him a comfortable competence.

On the 9th of August, 1912, Mr. Clark was married to Miss Emma De Meret, a daughter of John and Harriet De Meret, natives of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have a son, Harold F. Politically Mr. Clark is a republican but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs, which have been wisely managed. His life has been one of diligence and illustrates what may be accomplished through persistent, earnest effort and laudable ambition.

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#### BERT G. HANNA.

Bert G. Hanna, a farmer residing on section 10, Mount Valley township, is a native son of Winnebago county, having been born February 12, 1872, on the farm where he now resides. His parents, Gunder G. and Dorothy (Charlson) Hanna, were both natives of Norway and in boyhood and girlhood came to the United States with their respective parents, the families settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where Mr. and Mrs. Hanna were reared and married. At the outbreak of the Civil war the former responded to the country's call for aid and joined the Union army, with which he served for three years, participating in a number of hotly contested engagements. It was after his return home that he was married and for five years more he continued to reside in Dane county, Wisconsin, but in the spring of 1870 removed to Iowa and purchased the farm upon which his son Bert now resides and which is still his property. His wife passed away in 1888 and the father now spends a goodly portion of his time with his son Bert.

The latter is indebted to the common school system of Winnebago county for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He early took up the work of the fields, devoting the summer months to the task of plowing, planting and harvesting, and the early experience which he received well qualified him to take over the management of the home farm at a later period. He was about nineteen years of age when he assumed this responsibility. He operated the land as a renter until about 1897, when he purchased the place, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and from which he annually gathers good harvests. He is practical as well as progressive in all that he does and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision and his sound judgement. Not only is he a successful farmer, but he is also well known as a reliable business man in other connections. He is a stockholder in the Farmers elevator at Joice and a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Lake Mills and in the Lake Mills Lumber Company. In addition to tilling the soil in the production of crops best adapted to climatic conditions here, he makes a specialty of raising Chester White hogs.

In 1894 Mr. Hanna was united in marriage to Miss Linda Revland, of Mount Valley township, and they have become parents of five children, two sons and three daughters: Leslie, Marie, Selma, Glenn and Pearl, all at home. In politics Mr.

Hanna is a republican and is now serving as a member of the township board of trustees. He has also been township assessor for ten years and for several years was a member of the school board. He stands loyally for those forces which he believes to be of the greatest public benefit and his aid and cooperation can be counted upon to further any movement promulgated for the public good.

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P. H. PETERSEN.

P. H. Petersen, now living retired on section 16, Norway township, Winnebago county, has resided here for almost sixty years and during his active business life was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of this locality. He was born in Norway on the 4th of January, 1848, and is a son of Halvor and Anna (Overbo) Petersen. In that country the father engaged in farming to a limited extent, but when our subject was six and a half years of age the family came to the United States and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, which was their home until 1858, when they removed to Mitchell county, Iowa. The following year, however, they came to Winnebago county and the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 16, Norway township, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. On his retirement from active labor this farm was taken over by our subject, who operated it successfully until 1902, since which time he has lived retired. The father died on the 6th of March, 1908, at the age of ninety years, and the mother passed away June 11, 1892, when nearly eighty years old, the remains of both being interred in the Lime Creek cemetery.

In their family were eight children, of whom four lived to maturity. Martha, the oldest of these, was born July 6, 1842, and married John I. Dahle, a son of Iver and Anna Dahle, who were early-settlers of Worth county, Iowa, living just over the Winnebago county line. Of that union seven children were born, namely: Ida, at home with her parents; Peter C., who is living on the Dahle farm in Worth county; Anna, who married A. E. Brudvig, of Norway township, Winnebago county, and died leaving two children, Mildred and Nels; Anna Karina, now the wife of Michael Dahle, of Stutsman county, North Dakota; Julius, also a resident of Stutsman county; and Joel M. and Eva, both at home. Rachel, the second in the Petersen family to reach adult age, is now deceased. She married Ole Wilhelmson and lived in Waukesha county, Wisconsin. P. H. Petersen is the next in order of birth. L. H. Petersen, a resident of Norway township, completes the family.

P. H. Petersen was a lad of eleven years on the removal of the family to Winnebago county and on completing his education in the district schools devoted his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits. He still owns the old home farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, and also has an adjoining tract of sixty acres but, as previously stated, is now living retired, renting his land to others. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Miss Margareta Sanden, a daughter of Erick and Katrina Sanden, who came to this country from Norway and spent their last days in Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa. When called from this life they were also buried in the Lime Creek cemetery.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Petersen has taken a very active and promi-

ment part in local politics and has been honored with several important official positions. For six years he served as county supervisor and was United States census enumerator in 1880 and in 1890 besides filling all of the township offices with the exception of clerk and constable. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed and he is a man honored and respected wherever known. He was secretary of the Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company of Winnebago county for twenty-five years, and was also secretary of the Norman Creamery Association. For forty years he was a deacon of the Lime Creek Synod church.

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#### JOHN BATCHELOR.

John Batchelor, a well known stock dealer of Thompson, was born on the 10th of May, 1867, in New York, and is a son of William and Mary (Chapple) Batchelor, natives of England. At an early day the parents came to America and located in Lyons, New York, where the father engaged in farming for a number of years. They then removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits for many years but is now living retired in Ashton, Illinois. His wife is also living.

John Batchelor began his education in the schools of New York, being fourteen years of age at the time of the removal of the family from the Empire state to Illinois, where he continued his studies for some time. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, assisting in the labors of the farm, and on leaving home engaged in farming on his own account in Lee county for three years. In 1896 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land one-half mile north of Thompson. He improved and operated that farm until 1910, when he sold the place and removed to Thompson, where he has since engaged in the buying and selling of stock. He still owns two hundred acres of land in Winnebago county and three hundred and twenty acres in South Dakota, and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Creamery Company. Mr. Batchelor has also successfully and extensively engaged in the breeding of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, Poland China hogs and fancy poultry and was the first to introduce that breed of cattle into Winnebago county. He has always been a great admirer of fancy stock.

On the 26th of February, 1891, Mr. Batchelor married Miss Sophia Kersten, and they have become the parents of four children: Edward William, who is now engaged in farming in South Dakota; Florence M., who is clerking in a store in Thompson; Willard L. and Wallace Donald, both attending school.

In religious faith the family are Methodists and Mr. Batchelor is also identified with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter, consistory, Shrine and Eastern Star. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. In politics he is independent, supporting the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices. He is now efficiently serving on the school board and also as one of the trustees of King township. For several years he served as township clerk and for many years was one of the directors of the Mutual Insurance Company from King township. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed and he has the confidence and respect of all who know him

for he has been found thoroughly reliable in every relation of life. He is a shrewd and capable business man and success has attended his efforts until he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of Thompson.

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#### PETER O. STORBY.

For over twenty years Peter O. Storby has operated his present farm on section 8, Center township, Winnebago county, and he has also, for a long period, owned a threshing outfit. He was born near Ridgeway, Wineshiek county, Iowa, on the 2d of March, 1871, a son of Ole and Sigrie (Askalson) Storby, who were born in Norway but came to America prior to the Civil war. For two years the father worked as a farm hand in Wineshiek county, Iowa, and was similarly employed in Minnesota for two years. In 1877 the family removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, and the father bought land in Norway township, which he farmed for six years. He then removed to Center township and acquired title to one hundred and forty acres on sections 5 and 7. This place remained his home until his death in October, 1902. The mother was killed in a train accident on the 22d of September, 1901.

Peter O. Storby was but six years old when the removal was made to Winnebago county and he received his education in the local schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, when he rented a farm, which he operated for three years. He then purchased three hundred and twenty acres on section 8, Center township, in partnership with his brother, and they farmed that place together for five years. At the end of that time they divided the property and have since cultivated their land independently. Mr. Storby of this review makes a specialty of raising high grade Poland China hogs and also grows some grain for the market. He owns stock in the Farmers State Bank of Lake Mills, in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Lake Mills Lumber Company, the Lake Mills Creamery Company and the Lake Mills Telephone Company. He owns a threshing machine and has found its operation very profitable. His land is in a high state of cultivation, the buildings and other improvements upon the place are excellent, and although he paid but thirty dollars an acre for the farm it is now worth two hundred and thirty-five dollars per acre, the increase in value being due in part to the general development of the county and in part to the improvements which he has made.

On the 5th of September, 1899, Mr. Storby was married to Miss Ida Peterson, a daughter of Anton and Annie (Thompson) Peterson, natives of Norway. On emigrating to this country the father first located in Wisconsin but a short time afterward came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he worked out by the month until his marriage. He then rented a farm for some time, but at length purchased land in Newton township, which he operated for about thirty-five years. He then sold out and removed to a small place in Norway township, a mile and a half north of Lake Mills. Mrs. Peterson also survives. To Mr. and Mrs. Storby have been born six children, as follows: Otis S., at home; Alma A., who is attending the high school at Lake Mills; Clifford E. G., and Bernard M., both of whom are in school; Alice and Irving.

The republican party has a stalwart adherent in Mr. Storby, and he has filled a number of offices. For some time he was road superintendent, is now serving his third year as township trustee and for sixteen years has been a member of the school board, while for fourteen years he has served as president of that body. He holds membership in the United Lutheran church and can always be depended upon to support movements seeking the moral welfare of his community.

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#### PETER N. BRONES.

Peter N. Brones, deceased, was one of the pioneers of Winnebago county and contributed in substantial measure to the early development as well as the later improvement of this section of the state. He was born in Modom, Norway, on the 29th of June, 1847, and in his childhood came with his parents to the United States, the family home being established at Primrose, Dane county, Wisconsin. He was a youth of eighteen years when in 1865 a removal was made to Winnebago county, Iowa, where his parents resided until called to their final rest.

Peter N. Brones was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the public schools. On reaching young manhood he put aside his textbooks and worked as a farm hand in the employ of neighboring farmers. In 1864, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations in order to respond to the country's call for troops and enlisted as a member of Company I, Forty-third Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged on the 24th of June, 1865. In the fall of that year he came to Winnebago county, whither his parents had removed in the previous spring. He then resided in Forest City until the spring of 1866, when the family purchased a farm in Mount Valley township. Peter N. Brones continued to assist in the development and improvement of the old homestead up to the time of his marriage, which occurred on the 7th of January, 1871, the lady of his choice being Miss Hattie Peters, a daughter of Peter and Tena (Olson) Elefson. The mother died in Wisconsin and the father came to Winnebago county in 1873.

Following his marriage Mr. Brones took up his abode on a farm of eighty acres in Mount Valley township, which he had previously purchased, and after the death of his parents he bought two hundred acres of the old home place, which adjoined his eighty-acre farm. In 1907, on account of ill health, he left the farm and removed to Forest City, where he passed away on the 1st of September, 1910, after having been an invalid for ten years, during which he suffered much, and during the last two years of his life he sat in a chair day and night.

In his passing his family lost a devoted husband and father. To Mr. and Mrs. Brones were born five children, as follows: Mary, who is the wife of John Holst, of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, and has four children, Phillis, Mabel, James and Alvin; Carrie, who gave her hand in marriage to Ole Thompson, of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, and had three children, Horace, Laura and Mabel, deceased; Nathan, an agriculturist of Mount Valley township, who married Molena Fellend, their children being Gladys, Archie, deceased, Liel, Palmer, Alpha, Stanley and Myrtle; Clifford, who follows farming in Pine county, Minnesota, and who married Jennie Anderson, by whom he has two children, Harriet





PETER N. BRONES



and Peter; and Ellsworth, a farmer of Center township, Winnebago county, who married Ida Halvorson and has four children, Lloyd, Richard, Eleanor and Helen. Mrs. Brones still makes her home in Forest City, where she is widely and favorably known, and of the Methodist Episcopal church she is a devoted member.

Mr. Brones gave staunch support to the republican party and for many years filled various township offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was for many years a member of the schoolboard and was also its president. He held membership in the Grand Army of the Republic post at Forest City and the funeral was in charge of that organization. He was one of the most highly esteemed men of his part of the state. He gave most liberally of his abundance to the poor and needy, and it is said that no person who sought food or shelter at his door was ever turned away. He was a member of the Masonic lodge for more than forty years, and ever followed in his life its teachings concerning the brotherhood of man and the obligations thereby imposed. A modern philosopher has said: "Not the good that comes to us, but the good that comes to the world through us, is the measure of our success;" and judged by this standard Mr. Brones was a most successful man, for many benefited by his immediate aid, others by his counsel and advice, and all who knew him by the inspiration of his life of nobility and worth.

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#### LOUIS O. SOLOMONSON.

In presenting the life record of Louis O. Solomonson we give to our readers the history of one who has been a lifelong resident of Iowa and who in his business career has ever exemplified the spirit of western enterprise and progress which has led to the substantial development of this great state. He now resides on section 4, Newton township, Winnebago county, where he has an excellent farm. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, October 10, 1871, a son of Ole and Karie Solomonson. He was reared in Winnebago county, his parents removing from Winneshiek county when he was a little lad of five summers. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of thirty years and then purchased one hundred and forty-four acres of land on sections 3 and 4, Newton township, the buildings being on section 4. He has wonderfully improved this place and is planning to erect a fine modern home in the year 1917. He has continuously cultivated his farm through the intervening period since the purchase was made and has lived in Newton township altogether for forty-one years. His fields have been brought under a high state of cultivation and everything about his place is indicative of his progressive methods and practical care. He has one of the finest and largest barns in the county and he also owns property in Lake Mills. He keeps upon his farm a large number of cattle and other stock and during the winter of 1916-17 cared for one hundred head of cattle. He has become financially interested in several local business enterprises, being a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills, the Farmers Elevator Company of Scarville, of which he is also a director, and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

On the 9th of October, 1901, Mr. Solomonson was married to Miss Inger

Kloster and to them have been born five children: Andrew, Nora, Ole, Carl and Emma. Mrs. Solomonson is a daughter of Andrew and Anna (Lande) Kloster, natives of Norway, where they were married in 1873, and in the same year they came to the United States. They settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and later Mr. Kloster purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 2, Newton township, Winnebago county, which he improved with good buildings. He died in August, 1900. In his family were eight children, namely: John, now farming near Scarville, Iowa; Carl, who died in infancy; Carl, a resident of North Dakota; Berit, who died at the age of eleven years; Job, now farming the old home-stead; Inger, now Mrs. Solomonson; Anna, who died in 1916; and Andrew, deceased.

The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Solomonson is that of the Lutheran church and Mr. Solomonson gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served as a republican committeeman of his township and does all in his power to secure the adoption of the political principles in which he believes. He has also been a member of the school board and he is numbered among the leading and representative residents of Newton township, standing as he does at all times for progress and improvement. His enterprising business methods have been the basis of his success and his life work has been an exemplification of modern scientific methods of farming.

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#### OSCAR SOLOMONSON.

Oscar Solomonson, a well known and highly respected farmer of Newton township, Winnebago county, living on section 1, was born on the 30th of August, 1879, in the township where he yet makes his home, his parents being Ole and Karie (Haugland) Solomonson, who were natives of Norway. Leaving the land of the midnight sun in 1866, the father came to the new world and established his home in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he was employed for a few years. However, he carefully saved his earnings, for he was ambitious to have a farm of his own, and when he had gained a little capital as the result of his industry and economy he purchased forty acres of land, which he cultivated for five years. In 1876 he arrived in Winnebago county and purchased land in Newton township, which he improved and cultivated throughout his remaining days, winning a place among the valued and substantial farmers of the district. He died April 5, 1909, but his widow still survives.

Oscar Solomonson was reared and educated in Newton township, pursuing his studies in the district schools, while vacation periods were spent largely in the fields, so that he early became familiar with the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority and then purchased eighty acres of land on section 33, Logan township. This he cultivated for six years, when he sold out and purchased his present place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 1, Newton township. He has developed this farm to a considerable extent and has now cultivated it for seven years, bringing the fields to a high point of productiveness in the cultivation of corn, wheat and other cereals. The place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and he utilizes

the latest improved machinery to further his work. He is actuated by a spirit of cooperation and progressiveness and has become a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills, in the Farmers Elevator Company of Scarville and in the Lake Mills Creamery Company.

On the 7th of October, 1908, Mr. Solomonson was united in marriage to Miss Gena Rosheim, by whom he has four children, namely: Ole, Iver, Cora and Beinda. The parents hold membership in the Lutheran church and are loyal to its teachings. Mr. Solomonson is a republican in his political views and is now serving as one of the trustees of Newton township. His has been an active and well spent life. He has always lived in Winnebago county and his friends, who are many, speak of him in terms of high regard.

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#### NELS LARSON.

Nels Larson, who for a long period was identified with farming interests in Logan township, Winnebago county, spent his last days in honorable retirement in Scarville, where he passed away on the 20th of August, 1913. He was born in Denmark, February 3, 1854, a son of Louis and Trena Larson, both of whom passed away in Denmark.

It was in the common schools of his native country that Nels Larson pursued his education to the time that he was confirmed. When eighteen years of age he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, attracted by the better business opportunities that he believed he might secure on this side the water. For three years he lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, and then came to Iowa, establishing his home near Northwood, in Worth county, where he cultivated a rented farm for five years. He then removed to Logan township, Winnebago county, and after renting land for two years he purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of section 11 and also an eighty-acre tract on section 14, thus becoming the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon which he placed all the improvements. He converted this farm from a comparatively wild tract into a highly developed place equipped with all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and annually gathered good harvests as a reward for his practical methods of tilling the soil. He was thus engaged in general farming until 1913, when he sold his farm and removed to Scarville, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for there he passed away on the 20th of August, of that year, when in the sixtieth year of his age.

On April 2, 1878, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Anne Sofie Anderson, a daughter of Christian and Susan Anderson, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married, and there their daughter Sofie was born. In the year 1855 they came with their family to the United States, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they resided for five years. On the expiration of that period they removed to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where they lived for eight years, and later they came to Winnebago county. Here Mr. Anderson purchased a farm in Norway township and continued thereon to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in September, 1907. The

mother died in August, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson were born seven children. Christopher, now a resident of Scarville, married Miss Ingre Folken and they have five children, William, Thea, Lucy, Luther and Ingeborg. Walter, who is living near Joice, married Hilda Knutson, who died, leaving two children, Clifford and Laura. Dena is the wife of Ole Bilste, of Lake Mills, and their children are five in number, Walter, Palma, Lillian, Reuben and Valborg. Laura is the wife of Martin Holland, whose home is near Joice, and they have two children, Stanford and Norman. Albert wedded Nettie Brakke and follows farming near Joice. Nels S. and Benjamin are at home with their mother, the family residence being still maintained in Scarville, where Mrs. Larson and her sons are widely and favorably known.

Mrs. Larson holds membership in the United Lutheran church. In his political views Mr. Larson was a democrat, but did not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his attention and energies upon his farming interests. He, too, was a member of the United Lutheran church and was laid to rest in the Lutheran cemetery at Scarville. He never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he found here favorable business opportunities and in their utilization worked his way upward in a financial way and at his death was able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances.

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#### HANS N. SANDE.

Hans N. Sande, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 25, Logan township, has been a resident of Winnebago county since 1878 and has therefore witnessed almost its entire development and upbuilding. His early home, however, was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Sogn, Norway, May 6, 1857, a son of Nels Hanson Sande and Bertha Eriesdatter Tue, Tue being the name of the farm on which the family resided. The parents never came to the United States and the mother died when our subject was only three and a half years old, leaving three children, namely: Uni, now Mrs. Ole Tuftedahl of Sogn, Norway; Hans N., of this review; and Erick, who died in Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa. For his second wife the father married Gunild Johnsdatter Husebo, by whom he had three children, Bertha, Joe and Nelsma, all living in Norway, as does their mother. The father died when Hans N. was ten years of age.

During his minority Mr. Sande of this review remained in his native land but at the age of twenty-one years, he crossed the ocean and on reaching the shores of the new world continued his journey westward until he arrived in Winnebago county, Iowa. For two years he worked on the farm of Eric Moen in Norway township, and then located on a quarter section of land on section 25 Logan township, with the intention of buying the same, but as crops were a failure during the following two years he was unable to make the payments. Subsequently he purchased the north half of the southeast quarter of the same section, for which he paid five dollars per acre, and lived thereon for eight years. He was then able to buy the tract on which he first settled and has since devoted his energies to its cultivation and improvement with most gratifying results.

At the age of twenty-two years Mr. Sande married Miss Carrie Olesdatter, who came to this country on the same ship as her future husband and was also from the same place in Norway. Her parents were lifelong residents of that country. Mr. and Mrs. Sande have five children: Nels O., who assists in the operation of the home farm; Caroline, at home; Stephen, who is attending a theological school in St. Paul, Minnesota; Bertha, the wife of Jacob Olson, of Norway township, Winnebago county; and Emma, at home. The family hold membership in the Synod Lutheran church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. In politics Mr. Sande is a republican and has capably filled the office of township trustee for four years and of school director for a number of years.

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### JULIUS CHRISTIANSON.

Julius Christianson, who owns and operates a good farm on section 34, Norway township, has been a resident of Winnebago county since 1880, but his early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Norway, November 1, 1852, a son of Christian and Johanna (Arnesdatter) Johanson, who were farming people of that country and never came to the United States. Mr. Christianson is the sixth in order of birth in their family of ten children and in his native land he grew to manhood. Before leaving Norway he was united in marriage to Miss Olivia Erickson, whose parents were also lifelong residents of that country.

Mr. Christianson was twenty-eight years of age when, accompanied by his wife, he sailed for the new world and continued his journey westward until reaching Winnebago county, Iowa. On first locating in Norway township he worked as a farm hand and later engaged in farming on his own account upon rented land. At the end of ten years he was able to purchase his present farm, consisting of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, Norway township, upon which he has made substantial improvements. He now has a fine farm under excellent cultivation and is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and the Farmers Elevator Company at Lake Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Christianson have two children, both born in this country, namely: Clara, who is now the wife of Ingebret Martinson, of Norway township; and Oscar, who lives on the home farm and assists his father in its operation. He married Miss Sarah Erickson and they have one child, Kermit. The family are members of the United Lutheran church and are highly respected by all who know them. In politics Mr. Christianson is a republican.

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### J. E. HANSEN.

Active and enterprising is J. E. Hansen, the cashier of the Farmers National Bank of Crystal Lake. He has worked his way steadily upward in business connections until he is now occupying a position of prominence and responsibility. He was born at Ringsted, Emmet county, Iowa, on the 27th of December, 1888, a son of Lars and Maren (Eskelund) Hansen, who were natives of Denmark and

came to America in the '70s, settling in Emmet county, Iowa, upon a farm which the father developed and improved. He there continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death. His widow still survives and six of the seven children who were born to them are still living.

J. E. Hansen was reared and educated in Emmet county, pursuing his studies in the common schools. Later he attended the State Normal College at Cedar Falls. He was early trained to habits of industry and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty years, when he started out in the business world by entering the State Bank of Ringsted as bookkeeper. For six years he remained in that institution as bookkeeper and assistant cashier and in November, 1915, he came to Crystal Lake. He next entered into active connection with the Farmers National Bank of Crystal Lake, of which he is now the cashier and one of the stockholders. This bank was organized in 1910 and has enjoyed a profitable existence, its business steadily growing along substantial lines.

In 1912 Mr. Hansen was married to Miss Anna M. Peterson, a native of Emmet county, Iowa, and they have a family of three children, Edmund C., Gladys E. and Gerald E. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church and their influence is always on the side of progress and improvement. Fraternally Mr. Hansen is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and his political support is given to the democratic party, for he believes that its platform contains the best elements of good government. He has made for himself a creditable position in business circles and is spoken of in terms of high regard throughout Hancock county.

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#### PETER EDWIN GUNDERSON.

Peter Edwin Gunderson is a self-made man who, starting out in life empty handed, has worked his way upward to success, being now numbered among the substantial farmers and stock raisers of Hancock county, his home being on section 36, Amsterdam township. He was born in Hancock county, Iowa, on the 22d of December, 1887, a son of Ole and Carrie Gunderson, who were natives of Norway and in early life came to America.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Peter Edwin Gunderson mastered the preliminary branches of learning in the district schools and afterward attended the graded schools at Belmond, Iowa, to the age of seventeen years. He then began work as a farm hand and was employed in that way for six years. On the expiration of that period he rented a farm and in 1912 he took up his abode on his present place on section 36, Amsterdam township, where he is at present renting one hundred and sixty acres. In addition to developing his fields he is engaged quite extensively and profitably in the raising of Scotch shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, being regarded as one of the leading stockmen of his part of the county.

On the 19th of March, 1908, Mr. Gunderson was united in marriage to Miss Anna E. Helland, a daughter of John and Mary (Helland) Helland, who were natives of Norway and in early life came to the new world. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson are parents of two sons, Ernest Myron and Chester Blaine. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Gunderson exercises his right of fran-



chise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He has served as township assessor but is not a politician in the usually accepted sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business interests. He is a stockholder in the creamery at Kanawha but gives the major part of his attention to his farm, which he is carefully developing and improving, while as a stock raiser he has gained a creditable position, his business efforts in that direction bringing to him a most gratifying financial return.

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#### MATTHEW H. CARSON.

Matthew H. Carson, living on section 32, Newton township, is numbered among the highly respected farmers of Winnebago county, where he owns and cultivates four hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. His methods are at all times practical and progressive and what he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, August 27, 1853, and is a son of John and Bethia (Dick) Carson, who were natives of Glasgow and of Paisley, Scotland, respectively. The father worked as a laborer in his native land until 1842, when he sailed for America and made his way across the continent to Chicago. There he learned the wagon maker's trade, which he followed for a time. He also purchased forty acres of land twenty miles northwest of Chicago for a dollar and a quarter per acre and on this paid an interest of seventy-five per cent. Even at that exorbitant rate he managed to meet his indebtedness and later he purchased more land, which he continued to cultivate and improve, giving his remaining days to the further development of his farm. He became the owner of two hundred acres of fine land in Cook county, which he converted into a valuable property. He died on the 12th of October, 1888, while his widow survived until May 16, 1893. To them were born six children, as follows: Ellen, who married Allen Sloss, of Reinbeck, Iowa; David, deceased; Mary, who married Dr. Webster M. Dyas, of Arlington Heights, Illinois; Matthew H., of this review; John, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; and Anna, who married G. J. Schaeffer, a resident of Winnebago county.

Matthew H. Carson was reared in his native county, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority, although at intervals he worked out as a farm hand. At length he was married and in 1888 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he invested in three hundred and twenty acres on section 32, Newton township. With characteristic energy he began improving the property and in 1900 he extended the boundaries of his place by the additional purchase of eighty acres. In 1906 he secured forty acres more, so that his landed possessions now aggregate four hundred and forty acres. His time and energies have been continuously given to the further development and improvement of the property, which is today regarded as one of the valuable farms of the county. He raises high grade stock, feeding a carload of cattle and a carload of hogs annually. His farm work is conducted according to modern scientific methods. He practices the rotation of crops and does all that will maintain or enhance the productiveness of the soil. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the

Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson and he is a member of the Fair Association of Forest City.

On November 20, 1883, Mr. Carson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Crego, a daughter of Gibson and Laura (Mitchell) Crego, who were natives of Canada. The father was of Pennsylvania-Dutch lineage, while the mother came of Scotch ancestry. He took up farming in early life but afterward turned his attention to the study of medicine and was engaged in the practice of his profession at the time of his death. About 1824 he removed to New York and resided near Lockport, that state, until called to his final rest on the 11th of May, 1859. His wife passed away July 29, 1908, at the age of eighty-six years. To Mr. and Mrs. Carson have been born five children: George M., who is a veterinary surgeon practicing at Lake Mills; Gilbert Bruce, Robert, Rose Anna and Walter Edward, aged respectively thirty, twenty-eight, twenty-six and twenty-three years, all yet at home.

Mr. Carson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and is one of the recognized leaders of his party in his locality. For eighteen years he has served as a trustee of Newton township and has made a most excellent record in office, as his repeated elections indicate. He attends the Congregational church, as does the family, and has guided his life according to its teachings. He possesses many sterling traits of character manifest in thoroughly reliable as well as progressive business methods, in loyalty in friendship and in patriotic devotion to his country.

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#### CHRIS GILLSTRAP.

Chris Gillstrap, a resident of Crystal Lake, Iowa, was born in Keokuk county, this state, March 25, 1877, a son of John G. and Rachel E. (Lentz) Gillstrap, who were natives of Kentucky and of Iowa respectively. The father has now passed away, but the mother is still living and all of their seven children yet survive.

The boyhood and youth of Chris Gillstrap were passed in his native county and in the acquirement of his education he mastered the branches of learning taught in the common and high schools. In 1894 he removed to Hancock county, where he was employed for a year at farm labor. Anxious, however, to enjoy better educational opportunities, he then spent a year as a pupil in the Normal School at Forest City, after which he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for four years. He turned his attention to the grain business at Crystal Lake and was active along that line for eight years, meeting with substantial success in his undertakings. He next became actively connected with the banking business as cashier in the Crystal Lake Savings Bank, which position he occupied for eight years. He owned a controlling interest in the bank during that period, but in 1915 he sold some of his stock. However, he still retains the presidency of the bank. He also owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Hancock county which is highly improved and cultivated and his property holdings include the finest residence in Crystal Lake. At the present time he is handling real estate and has negotiated many important property transfers.

CHES GILSTRAP AND FAMILY





In 1904 Mr. Gillstrap was married to Miss Matie Blakely, of Hardin county, Iowa, a daughter of E. C. and Caroline (Johnson) Blakely. They are now the parents of three children, John L., Arline and Caroline L. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and enjoy the high regard of all with whom they come in contact by reason of their personal worth and many admirable qualities. Mr. Gillstrap is also faithful to the teachings of the craft as a member of Truth Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M., at Forest City, and of Bethel Chapter, No. 116, at Garner. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gillstrap are also members of the Eastern Star. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served in various township offices, the duties of which he has discharged in a prompt and efficient manner. His business activity, his public service and his admirable personal qualities all combine to make him one of the representative citizens of Hancock county.

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#### JOHN J. LANDE.

For many years John J. Lande was one of the leading farmers of Winnebago county but is now living retired in Lake Mills surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He was born in Norway on the 10th of October, 1864, and is the youngest of the six children of Job and Christina (Tufte) Lande. The father, who was a sailor, is now deceased, but the mother is still living and makes her home in Halsnoen, Norway. They never came to the United States. The first of their family to cross the Atlantic was Anna, now Mrs. Andrew Kloster, of Newton township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and John J. was the next to come to the new world, emigrating in 1884. The following year Mons and Eli, now Mrs. Gunder Johnson, came together to Lake Mills, but the others remained in Norway, where Enger died and where Signe is still living.

John J. Lande was only nineteen years of age when he set foot on American soil and continued his journey westward to Lake Mills, Iowa. In this locality he worked as a farm hand for four years and then purchased the north half of the northwest quarter of section 4, Newton township, Winnebago county. Subsequently he bought the west half of the southeast quarter of section 33, Logan township and continued to cultivate both tracts until the spring of 1914, when he retired from farming and removed to Lake Mills. He still owns a half section of finely improved land, however, and from the same derives a comfortable income. For several years he carried on his farming operations in partnership with his brother Mons, who is unmarried and is living with him. Mons Lande was born July 14, 1855, and was thirty years of age when he came to America. After working as a farm hand until 1891 he purchased the south half of the northwest quarter of section 4, Newton township, adjoining his brother's farm, and together they engaged in the cultivation of their land.

On January 9, 1890, John J. Lande was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Monson, a daughter of Johannes and Carrie Monson, who were early settlers of Newton township and are now deceased, their remains being interred in the North Prairie church cemetery. Mrs. Lande died in 1905 and was also laid to rest in that

cemetery. Mr. Lande was again married March 9, 1907, his second union being with Miss Jennie Johnson, a daughter of George L. and Gertrude Johnson, who are still living on their farm in Newton township, where they located at an early day. Mr. Lande has seven children, namely: Carl J., Gilma J., J. Martin, Gladys B., Cora E., John S. and Raymond L.

Mr. Lande is a member of the Synod Lutheran church and by his ballot supports the men and measures of the republican party. For eighteen years he filled the office of township trustee and was also a member of the school board for a number of years and was president of the creamery company at Gryte, Logan township. He and his brother Mons have twice visited their native land, first spending three months there in 1902. The summer after his removal to Lake Mills in 1914 they again went to Norway and not only visited their parents and old friends but also attended the centennial celebration of the union of Norway and Sweden in getting freedom of territory in Christiania. After a very enjoyable time they returned to America content to make this country their home and enjoy the advantages and privileges here afforded.

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#### C. E. MULHOLLAND.

The home farm of C. E. Mulholland is on section 9, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, where he owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of good land. In addition he has one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Erin township, and he is a stockholder in the Kanawha Creamery. These interests show him to be one of the active, energetic and progressive business men of his community. His affairs are carefully and wisely managed and his farm work is bringing to him a gratifying measure of prosperity. He was born on the 14th of August, 1874, in Webster county, Iowa, a son of Washington and Margaret (Little) Mulholland, who were natives of Ohio.

In the district schools of Webster county C. E. Mulholland pursued his education to the age of seventeen years and then put aside his text-books in order to concentrate his efforts upon farm work, with which he had been more or less familiar from early boyhood, having aided to a considerable extent in the work of the fields through the periods of vacation. He continued to assist his father in the cultivation and management of the home place until twenty-two years of age, when he rented land for three years, and during that period he carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase his present home place on section 9, Amsterdam township, Hancock county. Not content with that amount of land, he has since added one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Erin township, and from his land he is now deriving a substantial annual income as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. His methods are both practical and progressive and his farm work results in the harvesting of good crops annually.

On the 22d of July, 1896, Mr. Mulholland was married to Miss Agnes Williams, a daughter of George and Harriet (Brewer) Williams, who were natives of Pennsylvania. They have four children, Esther Vera, Edith E., Alice and Margaret R., all of whom are yet at home.

Mr. Mullholland votes with the republican party and has been president of the township board of trustees for four years. He is also a school director, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and they have many friends in the community. In a word, they are actively and helpfully interested in all that pertains to the material, social, intellectual and moral welfare of Hancock county.

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#### JOHN H. AITCHISON.

Since 1902 John H. Aitchison has been owner of the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Boone township, Hancock county, which he now occupies and cultivates. He has always been a resident of the middle west and the spirit of enterprise and progress which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of this section of the country finds exemplification in his life record. He was born in Marshall county, Illinois, July 12, 1876, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Shearer) Aitchison, who were natives of Scotland. At the usual age he became a pupil in the district school and therein mastered the common branches of learning, pursuing his studies to the age of sixteen. He then put aside his text-books to assist in the work of the home farm and continued to aid his father until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he decided to start out in business on his own account. He afterward rented land in Illinois, where he continued to carry on farming for five years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Iowa and for five years was a resident of Kossuth county. In 1902 he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Boone township, Hancock county, and through the intervening period, covering a decade and a half, he has carried on general farming here. The result of his labors is seen in the excellent appearance of his place, which shows his careful management and practical methods.

On the 15th of June, 1898, Mr. Aitchison was united in marriage to Miss Florence Edna Calder, a daughter of Clarence and Phoebe (Armstrong) Calder, who were natives of New York and of Illinois respectively. Mrs. Aitchison was born in Marshall county, Illinois, in 1877, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children: Emily May, Clarence Eugene, Vera Ethelyn and Merwin Edward.

Mr. Aitchison exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and has filled the office of town clerk. He belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the guiding principles of his life are found in the teachings of the United Brethren church, to which he belongs.

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#### ELMER J. ARNOLD.

No history of Klemme and of Avery township, Hancock county, would be complete without extended reference to Elmer J. Arnold, a most energetic, active and farsighted business man whose carefully directed labors have brought substantial success, but while he has won individual prosperity, he has also con-

tributed to the welfare and progress of his community. In a word, his labors have been a most potent factor in developing the district in which he lives and in promoting its business interests. He was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on the 30th of April, 1879, and is a son of Fred and Mary (Renziehausen) Arnold, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. The father has passed away, but the mother is still living at the age of sixty-four years.

Elmer J. Arnold came to Hancock county with his parents in 1895, when a youth of sixteen years, and assisted his father in farming and in the cattle business, making a specialty of the raising of shorthorn cattle and also handling Duroc hogs and Percheron horses. His school days had been spent in Clayton county, Iowa, and he was a student in the Nora Springs Seminary for two years, and in Drake University at Des Moines for one year, and afterward attended the Upper Iowa University. He pursued a short agricultural course at Ames and then returned to the old homestead, situated on sections 4, 5 and 8, Avery township, Hancock county, the buildings being upon section 5. The farm comprises five hundred acres of rich and valuable land which was purchased by his father in 1889 for eight dollars and a quarter per acre. He also owns a small farm in Clayton county, Iowa. His place is splendidly improved. It has upon it good buildings, including ample barns and sheds for the shelter of grain and stock, modern machinery and in fact all the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. Mr. Arnold's efforts are most intelligently directed and his labors result in the attainment of success. He is also a stockholder in the creamery company of Klemme.

In 1912 Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Nellie Lau, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Roswag) Lau, who are natives of Clayton county, Iowa, and are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have two children, Curtis C. and Wilbur. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and generously contribute to its support. In politics Mr. Arnold is a republican but has never sought political office. He has, however, been a member of the school board, serving for four years as its president, and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion, for he believes that the young should have ample opportunity for that training which qualifies them for life's practical and responsible duties. His own education was liberal and in it he sees the foundation of his success. There is no resident of Hancock county who carries on farming along more scientific lines or whose labors are attended with a greater measure of success. He has closely studied the question of soils, their productiveness and adaptability to various crops. He is familiar with various scientific points of stock breeding and he utilizes his knowledge in most resultant manner.

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#### FRED ARNOLD.

The life record of Fred Arnold, of Hancock county, now deceased, was that of the successful farmer and banker and the story of his career illustrates what may be accomplished by persistent, earnest effort and should serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to the young men who must start out as he did, empty handed. He was born in Germany, but was only six years of age when



brought to America by his parents, Fred and Christina Arnold, who after crossing the Atlantic made their way westward over the American continent to Clayton county, Iowa, where they took up their abode. They were in limited financial circumstances but displayed energy in the development and improvement of their farm.

Fred Arnold was but seventeen years of age when his father died and he thus became the sole support of the family. When a young man he purchased a small farm that constituted the nucleus of his later realty holdings and although he started in business in a limited way he became prosperous and at one time was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land in Clayton county. In 1895 he removed to Hancock county, where he had previously bought land, a tract of prairie, on which he turned the furrows and soon made extensive improvements. As the years went on he became firmly established as a prosperous farmer and stock raiser and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his investments until he was the owner of several thousand acres of land in Hancock county, together with farm property in Clayton county and still more in South Dakota. He also figured as a factor in financial circles in this part of the state. Before removing to Hancock county he aided in organizing the First National Bank of Klemme and was active in formulating its policy, continuing as its president until his demise.

Mr. Arnold was united in marriage to Miss Mary Renziehausen, a native of Ohio, who went to Clayton county with her parents, who were among the earliest settlers of that region. Mrs. Arnold survives her husband and is now living at Klemme, where she has a pleasant home and is surrounded by all of life's comforts and some of its luxuries. By her marriage she became the mother of six children: Mrs. Emma Larson, now living in Klemme; Fred A., cashier of the First National Bank of Klemme; Ella, the wife of James Schneider, living at Goodell, Iowa; E. J. and Clarence A., who are farmers of Hancock county and are mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Amanda, the wife of Dr. C. B. Tice, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

The death of the husband and father occurred December 12, 1907, when he had reached the age of sixty-three years. He had made for himself a very creditable and enviable position in business circles. He had never been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in any business transaction and along constructive lines had furthered his fortunes, depending upon close application, persistency of purpose and indefatigable industry for his success. He was always loyal in friendship and he counted no personal sacrifice on his part too great if it would promote the welfare and happiness of his wife and children.

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#### BENJAMIN F. ZEIGLER.

Progressive farming finds an advocate and a representative in Benjamin F. Zeigler, who since 1904 has made his home upon a farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 2, Magor township. He was born April 29, 1870, in Livingston county, Illinois, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Fleischman) Zeigler, who were natives of Pennsylvania and of Indiana respectively.

Reared upon the old homestead farm in his native state, Benjamin F. Zeigler had the usual experiences of the farm boy who divides his time between the work of the schoolroom and of the fields. He continued his studies in the district schools until he reached the age of sixteen years, after which he devoted his entire time for two years to work upon the old homestead. He was then employed by others as a farm hand for two years, after which he rented the old home place for a similar period. His father then purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 18, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and he cultivated that farm for a time. In 1904, however, he purchased his present place of one hundred and eighty acres on section 2, Magor township, and here he is carefully tilling the soil and also is engaged in the raising of Duroc hogs. He has good improvements upon the place and it is his intention to breed his stock up to higher standards. In a word, he is actuated by a progressive spirit in all his business methods and the results which he is achieving are satisfactory.

On the 6th of October, 1896, Mr. Zeigler was married to Miss Luella Dibler, a daughter of James and Eva (Meyers) Dibler. Mrs. Zeigler is a native of Ogle county, Illinois, and by her marriage has become the mother of a son and a daughter, Vernon James and Alice, both at home.

The parents are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Zeigler is a republican in his political views but has never been active as an office seeker. He has always given his attention to farm work and he thoroughly understands every phase of the business. His diligence and determination are among his leading characteristics and have enabled him to work his way upward to success.

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#### LOUIS H. PETERSEN.

Louis H. Petersen, residing on section 21, Norway township, is one of the prosperous farmers of Winnebago county as well as one of the representative citizens of his community. He was born on the 16th of November, 1854, in Norway, but was only six months old when brought to the United States by his parents, Halvor and Anna (Overbo) Petersen, also natives of Norway, of whom extended mention is made in the sketch of P. H. Petersen on another page of this volume.

For four years after coming to the new world the family lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, but in 1858 removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, and the following year came to Winnebago county, the father purchasing a farm in Norway township. Here Louis H. Petersen grew to manhood, his early education being acquired in the public schools, which he attended until sixteen years of age. Later he attended Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, for two years and thus obtained a good practical education. He then returned home and assisted his father in the operation of the farm until his marriage. His first purchase of land consisted of the east half of the southeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 21, Norway township, to which he later added the north half of the northeast quarter of the same section. He is now the owner of two hundred acres of very valuable and productive land, upon which he has made excellent improvements which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

At the age of twenty-six years, Mr. Petersen married Miss Carrie Arneson, a

daughter of Erick and Catherine (Bendickson) Arneson, of Worth county, Iowa. Her parents are both deceased and are buried in Lime Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Petersen have three children: Anna, now the wife of P. A. Weberg, of Norway township; Hartwick E., at home; and Edwin C., who was married February 25, 1916, to Miss Anna Martinson and is now operating the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Petersen hold membership in the United Lutheran church and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the locality where they make their home. Politically Mr. Petersen supports the republican party and he has been called upon to fill a number of local offices, serving as township clerk four years; township trustee the same length of time; a member of the school board for a number of years; and road supervisor for eight consecutive years. His official duties have always been faithfully and efficiently performed and as a public-spirited and progressive citizen he has done much to promote the interests of his community along various lines.

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#### O. E. DAKKEN.

After many years of active life, mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits, O. E. Dakken is living retired in Lake Mills, Iowa, enjoying a well earned rest and the fruits of former toil. He was born in Norway on the 1st of September, 1849, and is a son of Eric and Margaret (Olson) Dakken, who were likewise natives of that country, where they continued to make their home until 1851, when they took passage on a vessel bound for the United States. They located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father purchased land and turned his attention to farming. There he died in 1861 and his wife, who long survived him, passed away in 1905, at the age of eighty years.

O. E. Dakken was only two years of age when the family crossed the ocean and took up their abode in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he passed his boyhood and youth with the usual educational advantages. His father was an invalid for two years prior to his death and our subject took charge of the farm and assumed the responsibility of caring for the family. As soon as large enough to reach the plow handles he began work on the farm and gave his mother the benefit of his labor until he reached mature years. Mr. Dakken came to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1869, and purchased land in Mount Valley township, where he followed farming for six years. At the end of that time he sold his place and bought a farm in Worth county, which he successfully operated for seventeen years. Prosperity having attended his efforts, he was able to lay aside business cares and for the past eleven years has practically lived retired in Lake Mills. In addition to general farming he was quite extensively engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of Percheron and Norman horses, high grade cattle and thoroughbred Chester White hogs, and he is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Joice, Iowa.

On the 12th of June, 1870, Mr. Dakken married Miss Signa Halverson, who died October 16, 1900. By that union eight children were born, namely: Sena, who died in 1890 at the age of nineteen years; Edward, now a resident of Wisconsin; Henry, of Lake Mills, Iowa; Annie, who married Dr. P. A. Helgeson and died in 1911; Martin, a resident of Lake Mills; Nora, the wife of Henry Freeman, of

Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lewis, of Lake Mills; and Mamie, at home with her father. Mr. Dakken was again married June 7, 1906, his second union being with Mrs. Lena (Thompson) Larson, a daughter of Gunder and Nellie Thompson, of whom mention is made in the sketch of Henry Thompson on another page of this volume.

Mr. Dakken is an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist church, and, being a strong temperance man, he votes the prohibition ticket, believing that the liquor traffic is one of the nation's greatest evils. He served as school director and constable in Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, and has ever taken a commendable interest in public affairs as every public-spirited citizen should.

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#### NELS ELI CHARLSON.

Nels Eli Charlson has carried on farming with marked success since starting out in life for himself and is now the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres in Center township, Winnebago county, his home being on section 28. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, on the 8th of January, 1858, and is a son of Nels and Ellen (Axendal) Charlson, who came to this country from Norway in 1850 and first located in Stoughton, Wisconsin, but after residing there for a short time removed to Dane county, that state, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming until 1865. In that year he brought his family to Winnebago county, Iowa, and took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres on section 28, Center township, where our subject now resides. To the improvement and cultivation of this farm he devoted his energies until 1877, when he retired from active labor, but continued to reside upon the farm until called from this life March 1, 1905, when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-three years. His wife had died in March, 1897.

Mr. Charlson of this review was about seven years of age when the family came to Winnebago county, and here he grew to manhood, his education being obtained in the district schools near home. He never left the parental roof, but in 1877 purchased the farm belonging to his father and has since added to it until he now owns four hundred acres of as fertile and productive land as is to be found anywhere in the county. He has also made many useful and valuable improvements upon the place, making it one of the most attractive country homes in Winnebago county. At the present time, however, most of his land is operated by tenants.

On the 17th of June, 1882, Mr. Charlson was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Jenson, a daughter of Jens and Marie Jenson, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Charlson have been born nine children, but Josephine, who became a teacher, died in 1910 at the age of twenty years, and Nels, Alvin and Josie all died in infancy. Those still living are: Ellen, at home with her father; Bertha, who is now attending college at Cedar Falls, Iowa; Selma, who is teaching school in Center township; and Evelyn and Hazel, both attending Waldorf College at Forest City. After a lingering illness of two years the wife and mother passed away February 16, 1915.

Mr. Charlson has not only prospered in his farming operations but has also





MR. AND MRS. NELS E. CHARLSON



MR. AND MRS. NELS CHARLSON



THE FIRST LOG HOUSE IN THE COUNTY  
Built by Nels Charlson in 1866, outside of Forest City





met with success in stock raising, making a specialty of high grade Chester White hogs, Shropshire sheep and shorthorn cattle. He has become interested in other business enterprises and is now a stockholder and director of the Farmers Elevator Company and the Lake Mills Creamery Company and is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company. He is a good reliable business man of marked ability and foresight and the success that has come to him is but the just reward of his own labors. His political support is given the men and measures of the republican party and he is a consistent member of the United Lutheran church.

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#### B. E. STENE.

Among Winnebago county's native sons who have remained here to win success in their chosen calling is B. E. Stene, one of the most energetic and substantial farmers of Norway township. He was born on the 28th of July, 1879, on his father's farm on section 17, Norway township, being a son of E. B. Stene, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. He was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys and was educated in the district school near his home, which he attended until sixteen years of age. In the meantime he also acquired a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits and after laying aside his textbooks continued to assist his father in the work of the home farm until twenty-one years of age. He then purchased the south half of the northwest quarter of section 17, Norway township, and has since bought from his father the northeast quarter of the same section, so that he now has a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. Its neat and attractive appearance plainly indicates his thrift and enterprise and shows conclusively that he thoroughly understands the occupation he has chosen as a life work.

In 1902 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stene and Miss Gertie Hanson, a daughter of Hans and Martha (Davidson) Ingebritson, who were early settlers of Norway township but are now deceased, their remains being interred in Linné Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Stene have a family of six children, namely: Martha, Elmer, George, Harry, Laura and Mildred. The parents are identified with the United Lutheran church and are among the highly respected citizens of their locality. By his ballot Mr. Stene supports the men and measures of the republican party and he has filled the office of school director for four years.

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#### M. N. FLUGUM.

M. N. Flugum, the owner of a well improved and highly cultivated farm on section 16, King township, has been a resident of Winnebago county since 1873 and throughout his active business life has been identified with its agricultural interests. He was born in Norway, June 7, 1865, but was only two years of age when brought to this country by his parents, Nels and Martha (Eggum) Flugum. The family first located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father taught school for six years, and in the spring of 1873 came to Winnebago county, Iowa. He purchased

a farm in Mount Valley township, which he cleared and improved, but he continued to engage in teaching, following that profession for over sixty acres. He is now living retired upon his farm at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. His wife died in April, 1905.

Being only eight years of age when he came to Winnebago county M. N. Flugum was practically reared and educated in this locality and he remained with his parents until he attained his majority. For three years he worked for neighboring farmers and then commenced farming on his own account. His first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, King township, and subsequently he bought another quarter section on section 16. He has converted his place into one of the best cultivated farms of that region and has erected thereon good and substantial buildings. Besides his valuable property he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Texas, now operated by his oldest son, and he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Cooperative Creamery Company, in the Varland Telephone Company and the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, being an officer in the last named organization for some time.

In December, 1889, Mr. Flugum was united in marriage to Miss Jane Jacobs, and they have become the parents of nine children, namely: Nels, Alfred, Joseph, Clara, Oscar, Jewel, Charles, Martha and Lloyd. The family are communicants of the Lutheran church and Mr. Flugum is a republican in politics. He has served on the school board for the past eight years and gives his hearty support to all measures calculated to advance the moral or educational welfare of his community. He is a public-spirited citizen and well merits the high esteem in which he is held.

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#### GEORGE KRAUSS.

George Krauss, living on section 28, Boone township, has been a resident of Hancock county since 1901, in which year he purchased his present farm, and to its further development and improvement he has since devoted his energies. He was born in Germany on the 17th of June, 1867, and is a son of Christian and Marie (Hoerr) Krauss, who always remained residents of Germany. In his native land George Krauss pursued his education to the age of seventeen years and afterward worked at the shoemaker's trade in Germany for about three years. Attracted by the business opportunities of the new world, however, he came to America in 1886 and was employed as a farm hand by the month in Illinois for seven years. He then felt that his experience and capital were sufficient to justify his engaging in farming on his own account and rented land in Illinois. He continued to cultivate farms which he leased in that state for seven years and then came to Iowa, reaching Hancock county, as previously stated, in 1901. Here he purchased eighty acres of land and has since carefully conducted his farm, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also engaging in the raising of Hereford cattle, Jersey hogs and Percheron horses. In addition to his farming and stock raising interests Mr. Krauss is connected with the Kanawha Elevator and the Kanawha Creamery Companies and is thus a factor in that organized effort which is looking to the advancement of the interests of farmers through active cooperation.

On the 20th of February, 1886, Mr. Krauss was married to Miss Sophia Hotz,

a native of Germany, and they have two children: Lizzie, the wife of James Sloan, living in Magor township; and Marie, the wife of Fred Oxley, Jr., a resident of Minnesota.

Politically Mr. Krauss is a republican but has never been an office seeker. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church. They are much esteemed in the community and enjoy the warm regard of all. Mr. Krauss is loyal to the interests of his adopted country. He voluntarily chose to become a resident here, feeling that he could have better business opportunities on this side the Atlantic, and he feels that he owes his first allegiance here. As a farmer he is diligent and persevering and his success has come as the direct reward of his earnest effort.

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#### FRANZ PRINGNITZ.

Franz Pringnitz is one of the large landowners of Hancock county, his possessions aggregating six hundred and forty acres of land. His home place is on section 8, Twin Lake township, where he has three hundred and twenty acres devoted to general farming and stock raising. He was born in Germany, March 15, 1845, a son of Sigismund and Frederica Sophia (Jahnke) Pringnitz, who were also natives of that land.

Reared under the parental roof, Franz Pringnitz attended the public schools until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he began working for others, thus starting out independently. He was thus employed until thirty years of age and spent some time in buying hides and in selling shoes as a traveling salesman on the road. In 1882 he came to the United States, hoping to find still better business opportunities on this side the Atlantic. He made his way to Ackley, Iowa, and for eleven years was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He then turned his attention to farming, renting land near Ackley upon which he lived for three years. In 1896 he came to Hancock county, where he again rented land and thus followed farming for five years, but in the meantime he was so directing his energies that through his industry and economy he was acquiring a capital that enabled him to purchase his present property. In 1901 he invested in three tracts, one of three hundred and twenty acres on section 8 and one of a hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Twin Lake township, together with a quarter section in German township. He still owns all this property and he has become widely known as one of the leading stock raisers of his section, making a specialty of Scotch graded shorthorns, Poland China hogs and Belgian horses. He handles fine stock and his annual sales bring to him a gratifying income. His farm is a splendidly improved property on which are good buildings, fine farm machinery and in fact all the accessories and equipments of a model farm of the twentieth century. He is likewise a stockholder in the State Bank at Klemme and in the First National Bank at Kanawha, Iowa.

On the 17th of April, 1876, Mr. Pringnitz was united in marriage to Miss Fredericka S. Jahnke, a daughter of Joachim and Sophia (Radloff) Jahnke, who were natives of Germany, where they spent their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs.

Pringnitz have a family of four sons: Otto, Helmuth W., Frank A. and Emil F. There is also a stepdaughter, Marie Louise Krueger. The family attend the German Lutheran church, in which the parents hold membership. Mr. Pringnitz votes with the democratic party and has filled the office of township trustee for three years but does not seek nor desire political preferment as a reward for party fealty, and in fact desires to give his time and attention to his business affairs. He has now passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten but still remains an active factor in the world's work, being classed with the leading and representative agriculturists of Twin Lake township.

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#### OLE I. MARTINSON.

Ole I. Martinson, a well known farmer residing on section 29, Norway township, Winnebago county, was born on the 29th of March, 1853, in Norway, of which country his parents, Ingebrit and Gertrude (Odden) Martinson, were also natives. There the father worked as a day laborer until our subject was six years of age when he brought his family to America and first located in LaFayette county, Wisconsin. After spending six years in that locality he started westward with an ox team and on reaching Winnebago county, Iowa, purchased two hundred and twenty acres of land on section 27, Norway township, where he followed farming throughout the remainder of his life. He died December 11, 1911, aged seventy-nine years, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his widow now lives on the old homestead with their son Henry L., and is ninety-two years old. In the family are seven children, all living, of whom Ole I. is the oldest, the others being Carrie, now the wife of John Dahle, living near Kiester, Minnesota; M. I., a resident of Norway township, Winnebago county; Anna, the wife of G. Holstad, of Worth county, Iowa; A. L., of Norway township; Sarah, the wife of S. O. Solomonson, of Logan township, Winnebago county; and Henry L., living on the old homestead.

Ole I. Martinson began his education in the public schools of LaFayette county, Wisconsin, and continued his studies in the district schools of Winnebago county after the removal of the family to this state. On leaving school at the age of sixteen years he gave his father the benefit of his labors on the home farm until he attained his majority and then bought the south half of the northeast quarter of section 29, Norway township, and began farming on his own account. He has improved the place and is still engaged in its operation.

In 1871 Mr. Martinson married Miss Celia Moen, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erick E. Moen, who were old settlers of Norway township but have now passed to the world beyond and are buried in Lime Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Martinson have ten children, namely: Ed, a resident of Lake Mills; Martin, living near Twin Lakes, Minnesota; Louis, Ingebrit, Bertine and Emma, all at home; Rachel, the wife of L. P. Johnson, of Norway township; Ella, the wife of Edwin Petersen, of the same township; Inger, the wife of A. S. Moen, also of Norway township; and Louisa, the wife of L. J. Olson, of Logan township, Winnebago county.

The republican party has always found in Mr. Martinson a staunch supporter of its principles since he became of age, and he has taken quite an active part in local

affairs, serving as school director a number of years, as township trustee six years and as road supervisor the same length of time. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Synod Lutheran church and his life has ever been in harmony with his professions.

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#### GEORGE HOWARD OXLEY.

Among the prominent residents of Corwith is George Howard Oxley, who is engaged in the livery business and is also dealing in poultry. A native of Iowa, he was born in Fayette county, October 28, 1879, of the marriage of Joseph William and Anna (Bealer) Oxley. The father was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, January 10, 1856, but when eight years of age was taken to Fayette county by his parents, William and Maria (Vincent) Oxley, natives respectively of Sheffield and London, England. It was in 1853 that the father emigrated to New York city and the following year the mother came to the United States. They were married in this country and resided for a time in Battle Creek, Michigan, going subsequently to Waukesha, Wisconsin, whence they removed to Fayette county, Iowa, taking up their residence upon a farm near West Union. In 1878 they removed to Hancock county, and the father followed agricultural pursuits here until he retired from active life. His last days were spent in Corwith and his death occurred in 1909. The mother is also deceased. Mrs. Anna (Bealer) Oxley was born upon a farm in Whiteside county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Christian and Maria (Wall) Bealer, both natives of Germany, although their marriage occurred in Whiteside county. Mr. Bealer located near Sterling, Illinois, about 1848 and in 1865 removed to the vicinity of Morrison, that state, where his death occurred. He was a baker by trade. His daughter Anna received her education in the common schools and remained upon the home farm until her marriage to Mr. Oxley. She is now a resident of Corwith, Iowa. She is the mother of six children: Charles, who is farming in Hancock county; George Howard; May, who is at home; James Roy, engaged in the real estate business in Corwith; and Jessie and Trix, at home.

George Howard Oxley was taken by his parents to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1880, and the family home was there maintained until 1887, when removal was made to Hancock county, Iowa. He received a good common school education and under the careful training of his father became familiar with all kinds of farm work. He followed agricultural pursuits either in association with his father or independently until he was twenty-two years old, when in 1901 he came to Corwith and engaged in the livery business. In the intervening years he has built up a large trade, and he is also dealing in poultry, which business he likewise finds profitable.

On the 8th of February, 1915, Mr. Oxley was united in marriage to Miss Emma M. Erdman, who was born in Grand Ridge, Illinois, but has been a resident of Hancock county, Iowa, since the age of thirteen years. Her parents, William and Gustie (Booblits) Erdman, were born in Germany but were married in Illinois. They have lived in Hancock county since 1900 and the father is successfully engaged in farming.

Mr. Oxley supports the republican party at the polls and has taken quite an active part in public affairs. He is ex-mayor of Corwith and at the present time is filling the office of justice of the peace, in which connection he has gained an enviable reputation for strict impartiality. As a business man he is progressive and energetic, as a citizen is public-spirited and in the private relations of life combines justice with kindness.

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#### JOHN JURGENSEN.

John Jurgensen, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 2, Magor township, Hancock county, was born in Douglas county, Illinois, April 2, 1873, a son of Peter and Anna (Dussler) Jurgensen, who were natives of Germany. After arriving at the age of six years John Jurgensen became a pupil in the district schools of his native county, which he continued to attend until he reached the age of fifteen years. He afterward worked upon the home farm until he attained his majority, after which he started out by the month as a farm hand, spending a year in that way. He also rented land for a year at Laverne, Iowa, and eventually he purchased eighty acres on section 35, Boone township, Hancock county. This he sold and bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 2, Magor township. Here he has a good farm supplied with substantial improvements and in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is engaged in the raising of Duroc hogs and in feeding cattle. His entire attention is devoted to the branches of his farm work and in this he is meeting with well merited success.

Mr. Jurgensen attends the Methodist Episcopal church and is loyal to its teachings. He votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek office as his entire attention is given to his business affairs, which are wisely and successfully directed.

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#### MARTIN COSGRIFF.

Martin Cosgriff, a farmer and stock raiser of Hancock county, living on section 17, Amsterdam township, was born in Ireland on the 23d of October, 1860, a son of Patrick and Nora (Grady) Cosgriff, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Martin Cosgriff obtained his education in this land, pursuing his studies at intervals to the age of twenty-three years. He afterward worked on a farm in Cedar and Greene counties, Iowa, until 1886, when he went to the northwest and was engaged as section foreman on the Northern Pacific Railroad through Montana for about seven years.

It was in the year 1892 that Martin Cosgriff arrived in Hancock county and made his first purchase of land, becoming owner of a tract of eighty acres on section 17, Boone township. Later he made investment in one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Amsterdam township, where he now makes his home. He has here a well developed farm known as the Mulberry Lane Stock Farm. He has brought his land to a high state of cultivation and in addition he makes a specialty of

raising fine stock, handling pure bred Duroc hogs, Belgian horses and Hereford cattle. Upon his place is found some of the finest stock to be seen in the county and Mr. Cosgriff is most progressive in his methods of developing his stock and caring for them. He is also a stockholder in the elevator, in the telephone company and in the creamery at Kanawha.

On the 25th of February, 1886, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cosgriff and Miss Maggie Gilligan, a daughter of Daniel and Alice (Haley) Gilligan. Her father lived to the very remarkable old age of one hundred years and ten days, while his wife passed away at the age of sixty-seven. She was a native of England, while Mr. Gilligan was born in Ireland. Mrs. Cosgriff was the second child born at Jefferson, Greene county, Iowa, showing that the family has been identified with this state since early pioneer times.

Mr. Cosgriff is a republican in his political views and a Catholic in his religious faith. He has become widely and favorably known during the period of his residence in Hancock county and his many substantial qualities have gained for him the respect, confidence and good will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### ANDREW HANSON.

Andrew Hanson, who follows farming on section 36, Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, is a representative of the Scandinavian contribution to Iowa's citizenship and he displays many of the sterling traits of the race from which he comes. He was born in Sweden, August 12, 1867, and is a son of Hans Rapp, who came to the United States in 1879. After two years, however, he returned to Sweden, where he spent the succeeding six years and then again in 1887 came to the new world, establishing his home in Winnebago county. Five years afterward he removed to Hancock county, where he has since resided.

Andrew Hanson continued a resident of his native country through the period of his minority and acquired his education in the schools of Sweden, but in 1888 he resolved to try his fortune in the new world and bade adieu to friends and native land, after which he sailed for America. For two years he was employed in St. Paul, Minnesota, and in 1890 he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where he took up farming on his own account as a renter. He carefully saved his earnings, however, and each year added a little more to his capital. At the end of five years he was able to purchase eighty acres of his present home farm, but he did not discontinue his habit of industry and of economy. In five years more he was able to purchase an adjoining eighty-acre tract and is today the owner of an excellent farm property of one hundred and sixty acres. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and has achieved a gratifying measure of success as the result of unabating energy and industry that never flags.

In 1891 Mr. Hanson was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Nyhus, her father being Halvor Nyhus, who emigrated from Norway to the United States in 1869 and took up his abode in Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have five children, as follows: Ida, who is the wife of Henry Lovik, of Winnebago county; and Halvor, Ella, Dora and Irving, all yet at home.

Mr. Hanson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for several years he has served as a member of the school board but has never sought nor desired political office. He and his family are members of the United Lutheran church. His entire life has been actuated by high and honorable principles and by worthy purposes and his record shows what may be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he has here found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has made steady progress toward the goal of prosperity.

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#### JOHN L. MOEN.

John L. Moen, a representative farmer of Winnebago county, carrying on operations on section 30, Center township, is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurring in Winneshiek county, December 3, 1869. His parents, Lewis A. and Carrie L. (Anderson) Moen, were born and reared in Norway and emigrated to America in 1866. After living near Madison, Wisconsin, for a time, they removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father worked as a farm hand until 1870, which year witnessed his arrival in Winnebago county. Here he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land on section 30, Center township, and devoted his energies to its improvement and cultivation throughout the remainder of his life, passing away here in June, 1885, at the age of forty-six years. His widow has now attained the age of eighty years and is still living on the old home farm with our subject.

John L. Moen is the second in order of birth in the family of six children, the others being Andrew L., now a resident of Forest City, Iowa; Edward L., who is also living on the old homestead; Iver, a resident of Lake Mills; and Iver and Rowland, both deceased.

It was during his infancy that John L. Moen was brought by his parents to Winnebago county, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district schools of Center township. He was sixteen years of age when his father died and he has since given his time and attention to the operation of the home farm, upon which he has made many useful and valuable improvements. He is interested in stock raising, making a specialty of polled Hereford cattle, and is a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and his political support is given the men and measures of the republican party. Mr. Moen is one of the leading citizens of his community and wherever known is held in the highest esteem.

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#### WILLIAM F. STILLE.

William F. Stille, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 36, German township, Hancock county, was born August 10, 1865, in Missouri, a son of Henry and Louisa (Stineker) Stille, who were natives of Germany. The father has passed away but the mother is still living and resides in Klemme.





JOHN L. MOEN



At the usual age William F. Stille began attending the common schools, but afterward benefited by instruction in the Garner Academy, where he completed his education when twenty-four years of age. He farmed in German township previous to his marriage and then for five years he was engaged in general merchandising at Klemme, but resumed farm work, renting land on section 36, German township, Hancock county, where he lived for three years. He carefully saved his earnings and his economy and industry brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase the land on section 36, German township. He has since added to his holdings until he is now the owner of four hundred acres of rich and productive land, and in addition to tilling the soil and the production of crops best adapted to climatic conditions here he is also successfully and extensively engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of Chester White hogs, shorthorn cattle and Belgian horses. His stock is of high grade and finds a ready sale on the market. He is also one of the directors and stockholders of the Klemme Creamery. Upon his place he has the latest improved farm machinery and other facilities for promoting his work, yet his memory goes back to the time when he drove oxen for his father in farm work in this section of the state, at which period there were only two stores in Garner.

On the 18th of July, 1894, Mr. Stille was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Koerner, a daughter of the Rev. William and Mary (Venekolt) Koerner, the former a native of Germany while the latter was born in Illinois. The father became a minister of the German Methodist Episcopal church in Hancock county and has been actively identified with the moral progress of this section of the state. He was born in 1842, so that he has now reached the advanced age of seventy-five years, and his wife, who was born in 1852, is also living. Mr. and Mrs. Stille have become the parents of three sons and a daughter, C. Lester, Harvey H., Donald L., and Elvira I. Mr. Stille is a republican and while he has never sought political office he has served for many years as school director, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion, for he believes in providing the young with school privileges that will adequately prepare them for life's practical and responsible duties. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stille hold membership in the German Methodist Episcopal church and their lives are passed in harmony with its teachings.

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#### JOHN E. GIFFORD.

John E. Gifford, living on section 9, Amsterdam township, is one of the active and energetic farmers and stock raisers of Hancock county. He has occupied his present place since 1886 and his labors have wrought a marked transformation in its appearance, it being regarded today as one of the most pleasing features in the landscape.

It was on the 2d of January, 1851, that John E. Gifford was born in Wilson, New York, a son of Jesse and Abigail (Hill) Gifford, the former a native of Canada and the latter of New York. The common schools afforded John E. Gifford his early educational privileges and between the ages of ten and sixteen years he attended the country schools of Scott county, Iowa. He afterward worked on the farm through the summer months and engaged in coal mining in the winter. At

length he rented land and began farming on his own account. He won success in this undertaking, for he had had broad and liberal experience in every department of farm work. He continued to rent land until 1886, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and here he is extensively engaged in the raising of pure bred Durham cattle and full blooded Duroc hogs. His live stock interests constitute an important feature of his business, adding materially to his income. He is also connected with the Kanawha Elevator and the Kanawha Creamery Companies.

In 1876 Mr. Gifford was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Dodge, of Scott county, Iowa, and following her demise he wedded Mrs. Mary Hitchcock, a daughter of Ira and Lydia Noble, who were natives of Indiana. In the family of Mr. Gifford are nine children, namely: Abigail, who gave her hand in marriage to Fred Jurgens; Jessie L.; Chester D.; Elizabeth Belle; Cornelia; Allen Ray; Edward C.; Rosa L.; and Mary L.

Mr. Gifford is a man whom to know is to respect and honor. He is a faithful, adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church and has throughout his entire life endeavored to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He has served as road supervisor for ten years, as township trustee for two years and was also school director for two years. He is ever loyal to the trust reposed in him and is honorable in every relation of life.

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#### JOHN SEVERSON.

John Severson, who is engaged in farming on section 23, Norway township, Winnebago county, has for more than four decades lived upon this farm. His has been an active life devoted to general agricultural pursuits, and whatever success he has achieved or enjoyed is attributable entirely to his own well directed efforts. He was born in Norway, October 15, 1847, a son of Sever and Martha Anderson, in whose family were fifteen children, of whom seven are yet living. All are residents of the United States, but John Severson of this review and his sister Sophia, now the wife of Ole Singlestad, of Norway township, are the only ones living in Winnebago county. The father was a fisherman.

John Severson came to America when a little lad of nine years with his uncle, Thomas Johnson, who settled in Freeborn county, Minnesota. He lived with and worked for his uncle until he attained his majority and then, ambitious to engage in farming on his own account, he bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 33, Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and began the cultivation of his eighty acre tract of land. He has since farmed and improved this place, converting it into one of the attractive properties of the township. He and his wife still occupy forty acres of the original place. After John Severson had been a resident of the United States for some time his parents also crossed the Atlantic and settled in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where the father engaged in general agricultural pursuits. Both passed away there and were buried in the Lime Creek cemetery.

When twenty-three years of age John Severson was united in marriage to Miss Julia Thompson, a sister of C. O. Thompson, of Norway township, and they had one child, Ole, who died at the age of a year. Mr. and Mrs. Severson are members of the Synod Lutheran church and his political endorsement is given to the republican party, for he believes that its principles combine the best elements of good government. He is thoroughly American in spirit and interests. For more than sixty years he has lived in this country and has always been identified with the middle west. He has lived a life of activity which has brought substantial results and he is now in very comfortable financial circumstances.

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#### NELS E. BAGNE.

America owes much to her citizens of Norwegian nationality or descent. The people of the land of the midnight sun have always been characterized by thrift and diligence, qualities which go far toward establishing a substantial citizenship. Nels E. Bagne is among those who are of Norwegian lineage and he possesses many of the sterling traits of his race. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, June 12, 1868, a son of Andrew and Anna Bagne, who were natives of Norway but came to the United States in childhood. Their marriage was celebrated in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and to them were born five children: Anna, now the wife of C. G. Egerdal, of Detroit, Minnesota; Inger, the wife of O. T. Omundson, of Detroit; James, living in Montana; N. E.; and Ole, whose home is in Lisbon, North Dakota. After coming to the new world the father engaged in farming in Winneshiek county until a few years prior to his death, when he removed to Norway township, Winnebago county, taking up his abode in 1897 on the southwest quarter of section 29, Norway township. He put all the improvements upon the place and continued to further develop and cultivate it until his demise, which occurred in 1904. His widow survived him for six years and was laid to rest in 1907 in Synod cemetery at Lake Mills. In his political views Mr. Bagne was always a stalwart republican. He won success as the result of close application and persistency of purpose and in his business was always found thoroughly reliable.

Nels E. Bagne attended the district schools until he reached the age of sixteen years and afterward worked for his father until he attained his majority, receiving a thorough training in all departments of farm work. He afterward rented his father's farm until his death, after which he purchased the home place and is now the owner of a valuable and highly productive tract of land on which he has made many improvements. His fields are carefully tilled and bring forth substantial harvests annually and neatness and thrift characterize the place in every particular.

On June 5, 1900, Mr. Bagne was married to Miss Anna Johnson, a daughter of George and Gertie Johnson, of Newton township, Winnebago county, who still reside upon their farm there. Mr. and Mrs. Bagne have two children, Alfa and George, both at home.

Mr. Bagne votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has never been ambitious to seek office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He is a member of the Synod Lutheran church and is interested in the cause of education, serving for a number of

years as school director. In a word, his aid and influence are always on the side of progress, reform and improvement and he has done much to further the best interests of the community in which he lives.

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#### JOHN G. TANNER.

John G. Tanner, living on section 4, Twin Lake township, is numbered among the leading and well known farmers of Hancock county. He was born October 15, 1877, a son of Frank and Lena (Walter) Tanner, who were natives of Switzerland and of Ohio respectively. Through the period of his boyhood John G. Tanner was a resident of Kansas and there acquired his education in the district schools, which he attended to the age of fourteen years, when he began working as a farm hand. He was thus employed until he reached the age of twenty-seven and then began farming independently by renting land. In this way he acquired the capital that enabled him to purchase property and his investment made him owner of two hundred acres on section 3 and one hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Twin Lake township, Hancock county. He devotes his farm largely to the cultivation of cereals but also keeps some good grades of stock upon his place. His work is carefully managed, plowing, planting and harvesting being done at the proper time and according to progressive methods based upon an understanding of the scientific principles which underlie his work. In addition to his farm property Mr. Tanner is the owner of stock in the Klemme creamery.<sup>5</sup>

On the 20th of February, 1904, Mr. Tanner was married to Miss Rosa Schaper, a daughter of Frederick and Amelia Schaper, who were natives of Germany, the former born in 1821 and the latter in 1831. It was about 1851 that they made the voyage to the new world and took up their abode near Freeport, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Tanner have been born six children, namely: Clarence V., Bernice L., Luther I., John R., Francis L. and Florence L.

Mr. Tanner and his family attend the German Methodist Episcopal church and he also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political endorsement has been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as township trustee and as school director but is not ambitious to hold office, preferring to concentrate his time and attention upon his business affairs, which have been carefully directed and have brought to him a gratifying degree of prosperity.

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#### FRED STORK.

Fred Stork is now living retired in Garner after twenty years devoted to general farming on land on section 25, Garfield township, Hancock county. He was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, March 3, 1860, a son of Joseph and Theresa Stork, who were natives of Austria and of Bohemia respectively. Both have now passed away.

Fred Stork acquired a common school education but had the privilege of attending only until thirteen years of age, when his textbooks were put aside in order that

he might assist his father in farming and carpentering. He is one of a family of eight sons and two daughters, his surviving brothers being: Frank, who is now married and resides in Mason City, Iowa; Thomas, who is married and makes his home south of Clear Lake; Jacob, who is married and resides at Ventura, Iowa; and Edward, who is married and lives at Clear Lake. Joe, John and Authon have passed away and the daughters are: Thesa, now Mrs. C. Smith, of Pipe county, Pennsylvania, and Lizzie, now Mrs. C. K. Moe, of Garner, Iowa.

After some years devoted to assisting his father, Fred Stork began farming on his own account and ultimately acquired possession of ninety-two acres of land on section 25, Garfield township. He took up his abode upon that property in 1897 and continued to occupy and develop it until 1917, when he retired and removed to Garner. He had brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and had added many substantial and modern improvements to his place. He carefully tilled the soil and the crop production of his farm was annually increased. He also became identified with other business interests, purchasing stock in the Farmers National Bank of Garner and also becoming a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company.

Mr. Stork was united in marriage to Miss Anna Roase, a daughter of Frank and Agnes (McGruder) Roase, who are natives of Illinois. Mr. Stork holds membership in the Catholic church and is also identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters. In politics he has always been a democrat and in 1909 he entered upon a two years' term as town trustee, while at the present time he is serving for the sixth year as county supervisor. He is loyal to the public interests in the discharge of his duties and puts forth every effort in his power to advance the welfare and progress of the county along lines leading not only to present benefit but also to future welfare.

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#### DAVID BECKMAN.

David Beckman, a native son of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, is there engaged in farming on section 27, and his well directed efforts are rewarded by a gratifying financial return. He was born on the 4th of June, 1876, and is a son of Andrew P. and Clara R. (Larson) Beckman, natives of Sweden, where they remained until after their marriage. It was in 1874 that they came to the United States and their first residence in this country was in the city of Duluth, Minnesota. Subsequently they removed to St. Paul and in 1876 came to Winnebago county, Iowa, where they remained for a short time. They then took up their residence upon a farm in Ellington township, Hancock county, and there remained until called by death, the father's demise occurring in March, 1903, and the mother's on the 7th of September, 1915. Both were highly esteemed in their community, and in his work as a farmer the father was very successful.

David Beckman was reared at home and in the acquirement of his education attended the district schools. On going to work he was first employed for two years as a clerk in a hardware store in Forest City and then, deeciding that the occupation to which he had been reared offered better chances of advancement, began farming in Mount Valley township. He purchased his present farm on section 27 not long after his marriage and has made a number of improvements upon the place. He

raises both grain and stock and both phases of his business have proved profitable. He also is financially interested in the Forest City Creamery.

In 1903 Mr. Beckman was united in marriage to Miss Ida Anderson of Mount Valley township, a daughter of Carl G. Anderson, who was born in Sweden and was one of the early settlers of Winnebago county. To Mr. and Mrs. Beckman have been born a son and a daughter, namely, Raymond and Mildred.

The republican party has a staunch adherent in Mr. Beckman and he is now serving as a member of the public school board. He realizes the great importance of a good educational system and is always willing to do anything that he can to advance the interests of the local schools. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church. Both are known as people of high principles and those who have been most intimately associated with them are their staunchest friends.

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#### JOHN M. SLOAN.

John M. Sloan, who for eighteen years has been successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising in Hancock county, makes his home on section 9, Magor township. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 11th of February, 1872, a son of James and Jane (Thomson) Sloan, who were natives of Scotland. In early life they came to America, establishing their home in Illinois about 1864.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof in the usual manner of farm bred boys, John M. Sloan attended district school and in the summer months worked in the fields. His time was thus passed until he attained his majority, after which he concentrated his efforts upon farm work through the succeeding year. At the age of twenty-two he rented land from his father in Livingston county, Illinois, and continued the cultivation of that tract for a number of years, after which he determined to own property and removed to Iowa, purchasing two hundred and forty acres on section 9, Magor township, Hancock county. In all of his business interests he was associated with his brother James until 1911, when he purchased eighty acres on section 9, Magor township. The brothers have carried on general farming and make a specialty of stock raising and feeding. They have been closely associated in all their business interests, having everything in common, and they have carefully, wisely and successfully managed their affairs.

In 1911 Mr. Sloan was united in marriage to Miss Dorothy Ruth Hanlon, a daughter of Patrick and Mary (Foy) Hanlon, who were natives of Ireland and came to America in 1861, making their way at once to La Salle county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Sloan have become the parents of two children, John Maxwell and Mary Virginia.

In his political views Mr. Sloan is a republican and keeps well informed on the political situation of the country and the dominant issues before the people today. He holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Catholic church. While interested in all those things which have to do with the public welfare, he concentrates the greater part of his time and attention upon his business and he has won a substantial measure of success. Aside from his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank at



Corwith. His life has been one of diligence and determination and, overcoming the obstacles and difficulties which ever bar the path to success, he has worked his way steadily upward and is now one of the substantial farmers of his adopted county.

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#### TONNES MORTENSON.

Tonnes Mortenson now owns and operates a well improved farm on section 17, King township, Winnebago county, where he has resided for the past seven years. He was born in Norway, on the 17th of March, 1856, and is a son of Morten Nelson and Malena (Aase) Englestad, also natives of Norway, where they continued to make their home throughout life. By occupation the father was a farmer.

Tonnes Mortenson was principally reared and educated in his native land, being twenty years of age on his emigration to America. On his arrival in this country he continued his journey westward to Iowa and first located in Story City, where he was employed for a time. Later he worked at Radcliffe, Hardin county, and subsequently rented land in that county, which he operated for three years. At the end of that time he was able to purchase eighty acres, on which he lived for two years, and then came to Winnebago county, where, in partnership with his brother, he bought a half section of land where the town of Thompson is now located but did not come into full possession of that property. He next bought two hundred and forty acres on section 31, King township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted ten years. The following three years were spent in Thompson, where he worked at the carpenter's trade. He then bought an additional one hundred and twenty acres adjoining his land, on which he lived for six years. After selling that place he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, King township, where he has since made his home. Being a carpenter, he has erected all the buildings upon the place and now has a well improved farm in a high state of cultivation.

In November, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mortenson and Miss Sarah Sviland, a daughter of Osmund and Sarina (Sviland) Sviland, natives of Norway, in which country Mrs. Mortenson was born July 12, 1862. There her parents both died. Mr. and Mrs. Mortenson hold membership in the Lutheran church and he casts his ballot with the republican party. For four years he has served as secretary of the school board and has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company and the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson and is one of the well-to-do citizens of his community, who commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

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#### W. C. SUNDERMEYER.

W. C. Sundermeyer, editor of The Rake Register, is a substantial citizen of Winnebago county, actuated by a spirit of enterprise and progress in all that he undertakes. He was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, September 30, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Augusta (Kemp) Sundermeyer, who were natives of Germany.

They came to America at an early day and settled in Dubuque county, Iowa, where the father took up the occupation of farming. He bought and improved land there and continued its cultivation until March, 1883, when he removed to Palo Alto county, Iowa, where again he bought land which he cleared, developed and improved, spending his remaining days upon that farm, which he converted into a valuable and productive property. He died in October, 1896, while his wife survived for almost a decade, passing away in June, 1906.

W. C. Sundermeyer was reared and educated in Dubuque and Palo Alto counties and prepared for the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for twelve terms, making his home with his parents during that period. He was thus engaged until 1901, when he came to Rake and secured a position as teacher of the town school for one winter. In the spring of 1902 he purchased *The Rake Register*, a weekly newspaper, which he has since owned and published. He and A. K. Marsaa, the postmaster, have occupied the same building since 1904. The Register was established in 1900, the first issue being printed on August 3d. Schaucke & Sandum were the proprietors and W. A. Calvey the editor. It now has a circulation of about four hundred. It is a bright, newsy sheet, devoted to local interests as well as to the dissemination of general news, and as the supporter of interests of public moment it has done much for the welfare of the community.

On the 22d of May, 1900, Mr. Sundermeyer was married to Miss Emma Gordon and they have become parents of three children: Bertha, who died in March, 1917, at the age of fourteen and one-half years; Herbert G., ten years of age; and Kenneth W., seven years of age.

Politically Mr. Sundermeyer is a progressive republican. He is a clear thinker and his views are the outcome of his own investigation rather than of party dictation. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he stands for all those forces which are most worth while to the community—those forces which work for the uplift of the individual and for the general benefit of the district.

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#### GULLIK G. BELSHEIM.

Gullik G. Belsheim, who is actively and successfully engaged in farming on section 6, Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, was born in Norway on the 12th of April, 1840, a son of Gullik and Anna (Gilbertson) Belsheim, who spent their entire lives in the land of the midnight sun. Gullik G. Belsheim pursued his education in the common schools of Norway and at twenty-one years of age he enlisted in the Norwegian army, with which he served for three years. In 1866 he came to the United States and established his home in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where for three years he worked for a cousin on a farm. On the expiration of that period he began farming on his own account and for a year continued to rent land in Winneshiek county.

It was in 1870, in that county, that Mr. Belsheim was married to Miss Ellen Michaelson and the following year he came to Winnebago county, while in the same spring he purchased the farm upon which he now resides. It was then a tract of wild land, on which he put up a little shelter until he could build a log cabin. He occupied the log house for sixteen years, after which he purchased



GULLIK G. BELSHEIM AND FAMILY



a farm on section 7 of the same township and occupied that farm for sixteen years. He removed to that place in order to educate his children, for there was a schoolhouse upon the farm. He then returned to his original property, on which he has since resided. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in his home place, also one hundred and sixty acres on section 5 and one hundred and twenty acres on section 7 of Mount Valley township, together with one hundred and twenty acres in Center township. His holdings are thus extensive and from his farm properties he derives a substantial annual income. Formerly he was the owner of four hundred and twenty-five acres in Tennessee, which he held for sixteen years, but he has recently sold that land. In the early days he farmed with oxen and he bore all the hardships and privations incident to the settlement of the frontier. His nearest markets were at Albert Lea and at Mason City and from those points he had to haul his lumber and other supplies with ox teams. He bravely faced the difficulties of pioneer life, however, and as the years passed on time and man wrought many changes and he has benefited by these as the years have gone on.

Mr. and Mrs. Belsheim have become parents of four children: Anna, the wife of B. H. Braehl, of McLean county, North Dakota; Christina, who gave her hand in marriage to C. T. Johnson, of Center township, Winnebago county; Emma, who is the wife of John Hermonson, of Winnebago county; and Oscar G., who operates the home farm.

In politics Mr. Belsheim is a democrat and in religious faith he and his family are United Lutherans. His financial position is in marked contrast to his condition at the time of his arrival. When he came to Iowa he had but five dollars in his pocket and this he gave to a friend with which to buy a cow. Today he has large land holdings all free from indebtedness and a handsome bank account. His prosperity is the direct and legitimate reward of his labors and so honorably has he won his success that the most envious cannot grudge him his prosperity. His life record shows what may be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do, and his history should serve to inspire and encourage others.

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#### H. J. STILLE.

H. J. Stille, a well known farmer and stock raiser of German township and a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Hancock county, claims Missouri as his native state, his birth occurring in Franklin county, October 20, 1867. His parents were Henry and Louisa Stille, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Missouri, from which state the family removed to Hancock county, Iowa, in 1874. The father took up land in German township, where he followed farming until his death. His widow now makes her home in Klemme.

H. J. Stille began his education in the district schools near his boyhood home and later took a special course of study at Galena, Illinois, and at Garner, Iowa. On starting out in life for himself he conducted a general store in Klemme in partnership with his brother, W. F. Stille, but at length sold out and later returned to the old homestead. In the meantime he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in German township and subsequently bought the home farm, making

three hundred and twenty acres on sections 22 and 23, German township, improved with good and substantial buildings. Besides this property he owns an eighty acre tract on section 19, German township, which he rents, and he is successfully engaged in general farming and in stock raising to some extent.

In 1891 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stille and Miss Emma Koerner, a daughter of Rev. William Koerner, who is a Methodist minister. To this union have been born two children: Herbert, who is now a resident of Kiowa county, Colorado; and Paul, who is attending school at Iowa Falls. The family are identified with the Methodist church and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. Mr. Stille has been called upon to serve as township clerk, trustee and assessor and has recently been elected township supervisor. He has capably filled these positions and is regarded as one of the representative citizens of Hancock county.

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#### DANIEL N. JOHNSON.

The united efforts of many men have made Iowa a great agricultural state, second to none in its crop production along certain lines. Daniel N. Johnson, who has been actively connected with the farming interests of Winnebago county for many years, is now residing on section 30, Norway township. He was born on the 26th of December, 1846, in Valestrand, Søndhorland, Bergen, Norway, his parents being Njeld and Margareta (Haavig) Johnson. The father was employed as a farmer and laborer in his native country until 1857, when he took passage on a sailboat bound for the United States and with his wife and three children came to the new world. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made his way at once into the interior of the country, settling in Kendall county, Illinois, where he remained until the fall of 1859, when he went to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he resided until 1866. In that year he traveled by ox team to Winnebago county, four families making the trip together in the same manner. This was then a wild western frontier district, in which the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. There were no settlers between the state line and Forest City west of Lime Creek. Their nearest market was at Austin, Minnesota, thirty miles away, and there was no road to Lake Mills, until 1879. Mr. Johnson purchased land in Center township and engaged in farming there until his death, which occurred June 24, 1881. His widow continued to reside upon the old homestead until she, too, passed away in November, 1902, when her remains were interred by the side of her husband in a cemetery on section 7, Center township. The place has now been abandoned for further burial purposes but has been preserved by the children of those buried there. In his political views Njeld Johnson was a republican, while his religious faith was indicated in his membership in the Synod Lutheran church. He worked diligently to gain a start and used industry, determination and perseverance as a foundation upon which to build his success. While he was practically empty handed when he came to the new world, he had become the possessor of a comfortable competence ere death called him to the home beyond.

Daniel N. Johnson acquired his education in the pioneer schools, which he attended as opportunity offered, for his time was largely devoted to work upon the

home farm, where he remained until he attained his majority, sharing with the family in all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. In the family were three children, of whom he was the eldest. His sister Martha became the wife of Ole Bendickson, of Center township, Winnebago county, and died some years afterward, leaving a family of twelve children. The other sister, Guri, became the wife of S. G. Smith, formerly of Ridgeway, Winneshek county, but later of Norway township, Winnebago county, where they resided until about twenty years ago and then removed to Genesee, Washington, and subsequently to Moscow, Washington, where Mrs. Smith still makes her home, but her husband passed away, March 30, 1911.

Leaving home on attaining his majority, Daniel N. Johnson, then secured a homestead of his own in Center township, comprising the west half of the north-west quarter and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 7. He at once began the arduous task of developing a new farm. He cleared the land, plowed under the wild prairie grasses and prepared the fields for planting. Year after year he carefully cultivated the place and remained thereon until 1874, when he sold out. He then bought the southeast quarter of section 30, Norway township. This, too, he had to clear and all of the work of converting it into the present valuable property has been done by him. He has continuously farmed the place and has made all of the improvements thereon. His first house was a dugout and later he built a log house, which in 1900 was replaced by his present fine home. He has also secured the latest improved farm machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, and good barns and outbuildings have been erected for the shelter of grain and stock. For seven years, Mr. Johnson was secretary of the Scarville Creamery Company, in which he still owns stock, and he is also a shareholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Scarville, the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills and the Lake Mills Lumber Company. All this is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift, for he started out empty-handed and has made his success through his own effort.

On the 7th of February, 1867, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Sarah Davidson, a daughter of Lars and Guri Davidson, natives of Norway, who in 1864 crossed the Atlantic to the new world and established their home in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where they remained until called to the home beyond. Mrs. Johnson was born May 23, 1847, and by her marriage became the mother of fifteen children: Nels J., whose home is in Burke county, North Dakota; Margaret Marie, the wife of T. J. Clevon, of Logan township; Lars D., who died at the age of twenty-four years; Peter J., living at Lake Park, Minnesota; Dina G., now the wife of A. M. Elvebak, of Eden township, Winnebago county; two children who were named Syvert O., and died in infancy; Syvert O., third, now living in Burke county, North Dakota; Hans Gilbert, who is in business with his brother at Lake Park, Minnesota; Martha B., a resident of Plentywood, Montana; Anna S., who died at the age of seven years; Guri O., the wife of Andrew Hole, who is assisting in the work of the home farm; Selmer N. M., now located at Plentywood, Montana; Frederick Oscar E., living in Emmons, Minnesota; and Anna Sophia, also a resident of Plentywood. The wife and mother passed away March 13, 1911, and was laid to rest in the Lime Creek United Lutheran church cemetery. She was a member of the United Lutheran church, of which Mr. Johnson also is a member.

His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he has been called to fill some local offices, serving for fourteen years as justice of the peace of his township, in which he rendered decisions that were strictly fair and impartial and won golden opinions from all sorts of people. In 1915 he was president of the school board, of which he became a member two years before, and he is interested in all those forces which work for the upbuilding and progress of the community in which he lives, his influence ever being on the side of right and improvement. Moreover, his life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished by determination, energy and ability.

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#### CHARLES PRULL.

Charles Prull, living on section 3, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, has two hundred and twenty-one acres of rich and productive land devoted to general farming. He was born on the 30th of January, 1875, in Germany, a son of Gerhard and Marie (Arnholtz) Prull, both of whom were natives of that country. The common schools afforded him his educational privileges and he pursued his studies until he reached the age of eighteen years, spending the summer months at work upon the home farm. He afterward rented land for twelve years and in this way gained his start in life. At length he purchased land and is today the owner of two hundred and twenty-one acres on sections 2 and 3, Amsterdam township, Hancock county. He devotes his place to general farming and is a wide-awake, alert and enterprising in all that he undertakes in a business way. He is systematic in his work and his methods are the expression of sound judgment and long experience. In addition to cultivating his home place he has extended his business connections by becoming a stockholder in the creamery, elevator and telephone companis of Kanawha and thus cooperates in movements which are indicative of the progressive spirit of the farming community of Hancock county.

On the 28th of February, 1898, Mr. Prull was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Eenhuis, her parents being John and Grace Eenhuis, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Prull have four children: Gerhard, Grace L., John A., and Fritz M. The family attend the German Lutheran church, in which the parents hold membership. Mr. Prull votes with the republican party, to which he has given his support since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He does not seek nor desire office, however, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his farming interests, and his close application has been one of the chief features of his growing success.

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#### RODERICK L. McCARTNEY.

Roderick L. McCartney, living on section 18, Boone township, has been a resident of Hancock county since 1885 and throughout this period has witnessed the greater part of its development and progress. He has been active among those who have done so much to promote the upbuilding of this section of the state, especially along the line of its agricultural development. At the time of



his arrival here there were practically no roads in this section, no ditching had been done to drain the land and, as he expresses it, "there was nothing but water." He came as a young man to the new world to try his fortune on this side the Atlantic, his birth having occurred in Scotland, April 22, 1865. He was born of the marriage of Hugh and Elizabeth (Murray) McCartney, who never came to the United States.

Having attended the public schools of his native country to the age of twelve years, Roderick L. McCartney then began to earn his own living by taking care of horses and was employed as a groom until he reached the age of eighteen, when he determined to test the truth of the reports which he had heard concerning the favorable business opportunities to be found in the United States. He arrived in Iowa in June, 1885, and for four or five years was employed by the month as a farm hand. He afterward rented land in Hancock county for two years and at the end of that time his savings were sufficient to enable him to purchase one hundred and twenty acres on section 18, Boone township. To this he added forty acres in 1910. He bought land at from fifteen to thirty dollars per acre, for it was wet and apparently uncultivable, but ditching and tiling persistently and systematically done, soon wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his place and the planting was followed by the gathering of large crops. He is now successfully engaged in general farming and is the owner of a valuable quarter section.

On the 1st of January, 1895, Mr. McCartney was married to Miss Clara Bellot, a daughter of Joseph and Albertina (Jako) Bellot, who were natives of France and in early life came to America, settling in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. McCartney have three children, Clara Ann, Kinnie and Donald. The first named is now the wife of Carl Beery and resides at Knox, Indiana.

Mr. McCartney and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and he is a valued representative of the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he is a republican and has served as town trustee and as school director. While still retaining a love for the land of hills and heather, he feels that his first duty is toward his adopted country and Hancock county numbers him among its substantial and public-spirited citizens.

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#### WILLIAM D. SCHROEDER.

The home farm of William D. Schroeder is on section 1, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land but does not constitute his entire possessions, for he also has property on sections 3 and 11 of the same township. He was born in Germany on the 4th of April, 1854, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Davis) Schroeder, who were also natives of the fatherland. The son began his education in the schools of that country and continued his studies in the district schools of Clinton county, Iowa, after coming with his parents to the new world in 1865. His textbooks were put aside when he reached the age of fourteen years, at which time he began earning his living as a farm hand, and he was thus employed until he reached the age of twenty-two. He felt that his experience was then sufficient to enable him to engage in

farming on his own account and for sixteen years he cultivated rented land in Tama and Hancock counties, Iowa. His earnings were carefully saved during that period and at length his capital was enough to enable him to purchase property. He invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 1, Amsterdam township, Hancock county, and since that time he has added to his holdings by further purchase, securing eighty acres on section 11 and one hundred and sixty acres on section 3 of the same township. Today this is a splendidly developed region peopled by a prosperous and contented class of citizens, but when he made his first purchase the work of development and progress seemed scarcely begun in his locality. The land was low and wet and he made his first purchase for twenty-seven dollars per acre. Great changes have since been wrought and his fields are now rich and most productive. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is also engaged in the raising of Duroc Jersey hogs. In addition to his farming and stock raising interests Mr. Schroeder is a stockholder in the Kanawha Creamery and Elevator Companies and is the vice president and a director of the Farmers State Bank of Kanawha.

Mr. Schroeder has been twice married. In 1876 he wedded Miss Lena Jepp, by whom he had eight children, namely: Augusta C.; Henry D., who is married; Fred E.; Herman M., who is married; Otto L.; Emil C.; Martha M.; and Alfred G. For his second wife Mr. Schroeder chose Mrs. Martha Tenney, a daughter of John and Martha (Bethel) Maguire, the former of Ireland and the latter of Scotland. By her first marriage Mrs. Schroeder has one daughter, Maude G.

Politically Mr. Schroeder is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but is not an office seeker. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, while his wife holds membership with the English Methodist Episcopal church. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and he is now serving as president of the school board. His influence is always on the side of progress and improvement and he has done much to further the welfare of the district in which he resides. Moreover, he is one of the most progressive of its business men. His activities have been well planned, his investments carefully made and his unflagging industry has enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles and advance steadily toward the goal of prosperity.

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#### JOHN O. RUSLEY.

John O. Rusley, now successfully operating the farm belonging to the Old Peoples Home on section 27, Center township, Winnebago county, was born in that township, August 20, 1879, and is a son of Ole and Hannah (Christopherson) Rusley, natives of Norway. It was during his childhood that the father came to America with his mother, reaching this country during the Civil war, about 1863, and locating in Wisconsin, where the family resided for three years. At the end of that time the family removed to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where Ole Rusley grew to manhood, but after living there for five years came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased land in Center township, which he farmed until 1880. He then sold that place and bought a tract of land in

Grant township, which he operated for ten years. On disposing of that farm he purchased another in Mount Valley township, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 14th of May, 1894, when he was forty-two years of age. His wife survived him several years, passing away in January, 1910, at the age of seventy-three years.

John O. Rusley was reared and educated in Grant and Mount Valley townships and remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, in the meantime becoming thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits. On leaving home he became interested in the creamery business, to which he devoted his attention for ten years, and then resumed farming, having for the past seven years had charge of the farm belonging to the Old Peoples Home on section 27, Center township. This tract was donated by Ole J. Cleven for the purpose for which it is now used and consists of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, which Mr. Rusley has placed under excellent cultivation. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs and keeps thirty head of cows for dairy purposes. He is not only a progressive and up-to-date farmer but is a man of good business ability and is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Lake Mills Creamery at Lake Mills.

In 1905, Mr. Rusley married Miss Andrena Honsey, a daughter of Peter and Anna (Wikerén) Honsey, who came to the United States from Norway at an early day and located in Worth county, Iowa, where Mr. Honsey farmed for many years, but in 1915 retired from active labor and removed to Lake Mills, where he died on the 13th of April, 1917, at the age of eighty-five years. His widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Rusley have three children, namely: Agnes, born March 12, 1906; Glen, born November 6, 1911; and Opal, born February 14, 1914. The parents hold membership in the United Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Rusley is a republican.

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#### C. B. CURLEY.

C. B. Curley, now living on section 28, King township, Winnebago county, is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurring in Buchanan county on the 16th of July, 1855. His parents, Leonard and Elizabeth (Place) Curley, were born in Pennsylvania and at a very early day came to Iowa, locating in Buchanan county when this state was still on the frontier. The family endured all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life and the father helped to pick out the townsite for Independence. He purchased a tract of railroad land, which was wild and unimproved, and converted it into a good farm, making his home thereon throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1904 and his wife passed away the following year.

Amid pioneer scenes C. B. Curley grew to manhood upon the home farm in Buchanan county and he is indebted to the district schools for the early educational advantages he enjoyed. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, although he worked for others several years previous to that time. He then purchased ten acres of land, on which he located, but his buildings were afterward destroyed by fire and he sold the place and operated rented land for

several years. Subsequently Mr. Curley took up a homestead in Nebraska, on which he lived for two years but the grasshoppers destroyed his crops and his buildings were struck by lightning. He then returned to Iowa and engaged in farming on rented land for four years. Later he followed farming in Chickasaw county, this state, for a time, and subsequently conducted a butcher shop at Sumner. On leaving there he came to Winnebago county and purchased eighty acres of land on section 28, King township, which he improved and cultivated for a few years. He was next engaged in the butcher business in Thompson for two years and later conducted a general store at that place for ten years, but on the 1st of March, 1916, he sold out and returned to his farm, though he still owns his store building in Thompson. He has a well improved farm and thoroughly understands the occupation which he follows.

In April, 1876, occurred the marriage of Mr. Curley and Miss May Condon, and to them were born three children: Leo; Mabel, the wife of J. E. Cunningham, of Lester, Iowa, and Izola, now the wife of D. R. Harrison, Rosedale, Oklahoma. Mr. Curley was again married in November, 1890, his second wife being Miss Sarah Sankey, by whom he has two children: Cora, now Mrs. P. B. Matson, of Webster City, Iowa; and Ethan, who is attending school.

In religious faith Mr. Curley is a Methodist, and in politics he is an ardent republican, taking a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Farmers Telephone Company, and the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson, and although he has met with reverses in his business career he is now in comfortable circumstances for he has overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his way to success. For forty years he has given considerable attention to thoroughbred horses and he helped to train Axtel and Allerton, two famous racers, at Independence, Iowa. He is a man of recognized ability and is widely and favorably known.

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#### DELL SHERMAN FOWLER

Among the wide-awake and progressive farmers of Forest township, Winnebago county, is numbered Dell Sherman Fowler, who deserves much credit for what he has accomplished inasmuch as his success has come entirely as the reward of persistent, earnest and indefatigable effort. He was born near Lafayette, Indiana, June 19, 1870, and is a son of George and Eunice (Strawn) Fowler, who were natives of Michigan and New York respectively. Removing westward, they resided for some time in Indiana and afterward established their home in Kansas, where they lived for eight years. They then returned eastward to Ohio, where the mother passed away, but the father spent his last years in Iowa. In their family were six children, all of whom survive.

Dell Sherman Fowler was largely reared and educated in Ohio, pursuing his studies in the public schools of that state. When his textbooks were put aside he took up the occupation of farming and in 1893 he became a resident of Winnebago county, Iowa. For several years he rented the farm upon which he now resides on section 17, Forest township, and during that period carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him

to purchase the place, comprising one hundred and sixty acres. This he has since improved by the erection of good buildings and he now has a well equipped farm. It is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and he annually gathers good crops, for he displays sound judgment as well as industry in planting and caring for his fields. He also raises and feeds stock and has made that a profitable department of his business.

On January 15, 1893, Mr. Fowler was married to Miss Sarah Bragg, of La Salle county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Bessie (Getchell) Bragg, the former born in England and the latter in Maine and both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have four children: Forest A.; Ada May, the wife of Asel Dexter, now of Minnesota; George W., and Eva J. Mrs. Fowler is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Fowler gives his political support to the republican party, and while he has never sought nor desired political office, he has served as school director. Mr. Fowler by reason of the qualities which he has displayed in business, as well as his sterling traits of character manifest in every relation of life, has gained the confidence and high regard of his fellowmen in an unusual degree and is justly accounted one of the most prominent of the farmers of Forest township.

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#### OLE OSMUNDSON.

Among the substantial citizens of Lake Mills, Iowa, is numbered Ole Osmundson, who has taken a very active and prominent part in public affairs. He was born in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, on the 30th of August, 1867, and is a son of Erick and Thorvor (Johnson) Osmundson. The parents came to this country from Norway and first located in Wisconsin, near Stevens Point, where the father followed farming for a time. Later they made their home near Mount Horeb and in 1873 came to Winnebago county, Iowa. The father purchased a farm in Linden township and operated the same until his death in 1879. The mother died in 1884 and both were laid to rest in a cemetery in that township. In their family were eight children, six of whom survive, namely: J. O., whose sketch appears on another page of this volume; Ole, of this review; Henry, a resident of Walters, Minnesota; Mrs. Susan Clark, of Pasadena, California; and Mabel, the wife of Hal Brentner, of San Diego, California.

Ole Osmundson was only three years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Winnebago county, Iowa. For a few years the family made their home in Mount Valley township but later removed to Linden township, where he received a limited education in the district schools. On putting aside his textbooks at the age of fifteen years he began work as a farm hand and was thus employed in this locality until he attained the age of twenty. During the following five years he spent much of his time upon the Pacific coast, working in various places, and then returned to Winnebago county, taking up his abode in Lake Mills. For two years he conducted a meat market and then turned his attention to the livery business, in which he was engaged for five years. On selling his livery stable he began dealing in real estate, which business claimed his attention for several years. In the meantime, however, he served as sheriff of Winnebago county. In 1906 he was appointed to that position to fill out an

unexpired term and the following year was elected for a two years' term. So acceptably did he fill the office that he was reelected, serving in all five years. At the expiration of that time he returned to Lake Mills and resumed business as a real estate dealer.

In April, 1892, Mr. Osmundson was united in marriage to Miss Emma Anderson, a daughter of John A. and Betsy (Berdahl) Anderson, who were early settlers of Center township, Winnebago county, but both are now deceased, their remains being interred in the Forest City cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Osmundson have one child, Edna O., at home.

The family occupy a nice home in Lake Mills, and besides this property Mr. Osmundson also owns the northeast quarter of section 19, Newton township. Success has come to him through untiring industry and good management of his affairs and he is now one of the substantial citizens of his town. In politics he is a staunch republican and has always exerted considerable influence in political affairs and has been honored with a number of official positions of trust and responsibility. For several terms he has served on the city council in Lake Mills and also filled the office of county supervisor for four years besides serving as sheriff of the county. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will promote the general welfare.

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#### JOHN N. HOLMAN.

The contribution which Norway has made to the citizenship of Winnebago county is a most valuable one, for those who have come from the land of the midnight sun have, on the whole, been men of business ability, possessing the industry, determination and enterprise which characterize the Norwegian race. They have therefore contributed in a very large measure to the substantial development, progress and prosperity of this section.

John N. Holman, living on section 24, Eden township, was born near Drammen, in Modum, Norway, January 6, 1868, a son of Nels Anderson and Gunhild (Gaaserud) Holman, who were farming people. Their family numbered seven children, of whom four are yet living: Maren, who is still in Norway; Julia, the wife of Gregger Greggerson, of Norway; Andrew, living in Grand Forks county, North Dakota; and John N. The father died when the last named was but four years of age and the mother afterward married Lars Erickson, by whom she had two children: Lewis, a resident of Polk county, Minnesota; and Gunda, the wife of Theodore Johnson, of Eden township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lars Erickson have now passed away. They came to the United States when Mr. Holman of this review was but twelve years of age, establishing their home in Eden township, Winnebago county, in 1880. There they lived for two years and then removed to Steele county, North Dakota, where Mr. Erickson took up a homestead. Later they returned to Winnebago county and took up their abode with Mr. Holman. Mrs. Erickson died at the home of her son and was laid to rest in Bethel cemetery. About two years before Mrs. Erickson died Mr. Erickson returned to Norway to visit his daughter and while there passed away.

John N. Holman is largely indebted to the pioneer schools of Iowa and of Dakota for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He continued his studies to the age of sixteen and afterward worked as a farm hand for others until he had passed the age of thirty years. He next rented a farm in Logan township upon which he lived for six years, and his energy and industry during that period brought to him the capital which enabled him at length to purchase land. He acquired one hundred and twenty acres on section 21, Eden township, upon which he placed excellent improvements, and upon that farm he has since made his home.

In 1896 Mr. Holman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Engbretson, a daughter of Christian and Maren Engbretson, of Logan township, and they are the parents of seven living children: Nora, Gina, Mabel, James, George, Andrew and Melvin, all of whom are still under the parental roof. They also lost one son, Clarence, who died at the age of sixteen years.

The religious faith of the family is that of the United Lutheran church, while in political belief Mr. Holman is a republican, and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have called him to various public offices in which he has capably served. For three terms he was township assessor, was for four years township trustee and from June to November, 1912, was a member of the board of county supervisors. He has also been a precinct committeeman of the republican party and he does all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party in Winnebago county. He keeps abreast with modern political thought and is able to support his position by intelligent argument. He is today the owner of a fine farm, and while he started out empty handed, he is now numbered among the men of affluence of his district.

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#### NELS GUNDERSON OPSAHL.

Nels Gunderson Opsahl, who was long well known as an active, enterprising and highly respected farmer of Norway township, devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits on section 32, and Winnebago county claimed him as one of its representative citizens. He was born in Norway in 1839 and resided in his native land until he reached young manhood. His parents never came to the United States, but he determined to try his fortune on this side the Atlantic and made his way to the new world, settling in Worth county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand up to the time of his marriage, which occurred when he was twenty-nine years of age. He then bought eighty acres of land in Worth county which he cultivated for a few years. He next removed to North Dakota, taking up a claim near Park River, after which he proved up on the property and secured title thereto. He then returned to Worth county, where he engaged in the cultivation of rented land until 1897. In that year he removed to Winnebago county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, comprising the northwest quarter of section 32, Norway township. That tract still remains the home place of his family. He bent his energies to the further development and improvement of the farm and made it one of the excellent properties of the neighborhood, bringing the fields to a high state of cultivation.

When twenty-nine years of age Mr. Opsahl was married to Miss Ingeberg Brua, a daughter of Nels Torkelson and Anna Brua, who were natives of Norway. They were married, however, in Wisconsin, of which state Mrs. Opsahl is a native. On leaving Wisconsin her parents took up their abode in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and afterward established their home in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where the father continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits until his demise. His life was ever an upright, honorable one, being guided by the teachings of the Lutheran church, in which he held membership, and he was laid to rest in the Lutheran cemetery just over the state line in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Opsahl became the parents of eight children, of whom one died in infancy, the others being: Gustinus, who is assisting in the cultivation of the home farm; Nikolai, also on the home place; Albert, who is living at Albert Lea, Minnesota; Lars, at home; Ida, the wife of Carl Qualle, of Norway township, Winnebago county; Bernard, whose home is at Twin Lakes, Minnesota; and Johan, upon the home place.

Mr. Opsahl continued to carry on the farm work until his death, which occurred in March, 1915, when he was seventy-six years of age. His was an active and useful life, and those who knew him entertained for him warm regard, because of his many sterling traits of character and his reliability in business affairs. He was laid to rest in the Lutheran cemetery at Scarville. He had long been a member of the Lutheran church and in his political views he was a republican. Mrs. Opsahl still resides upon the home farm with her sons and is one of the highly esteemed ladies of the neighborhood. She has carefully reared her family and by her wise management of the household affairs contributed in no small measure to her husband's success.

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#### OSMUND O. FELLE.

When Osmund O. Felle purchased his present farm on section 3, Center township, Winnebago county, it was covered with timber which had to be cleared before the land could be placed under cultivation. This fact indicates that he is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, and during the many years of his residence here he has ranked as a capable farmer and a public-spirited citizen. His birth occurred in Norway on the 1st of January, 1843, and his parents were Ole and Karie (Jorgensen) Felle, who passed their entire lives in that country.

Osmund O. Felle was reared and educated in his native land, remaining there until 1870, when he came to the United States. He at once made his way to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres on section 3, Center township. He immediately set about clearing his place of timber and as soon as possible planted the usual crops. As the years have passed he has erected good buildings and otherwise improved his farm, and he derives from his land a gratifying annual income. He actively engaged in its operation for many years, but is now living practically retired, leaving the farm work to others. He owns stock in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and derives from that investment a good return.

On the 4th of February, 1876, Mr. Felle was united in marriage to Miss



Susanna Osmund, and to them were born two sons, Osmund and Ole, both of whom, however, died in infancy. They have an adopted son, Frank R., who was born December 31, 1881, and is now operating the home place, though he formerly engaged in railroading.

Mr. Felle supports the republican party by his ballot, but has never been an aspirant for office. In religious faith he is a Lutheran. The competence which he enjoys is the direct result of his industry and good management, and his many admirable personal qualities have gained for him the respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### HENRY H. STERREBERG.

Henry H. Sterrenberg, living on section 1, King township, is the owner of one of the valuable and attractive farms of Winnebago county and is prominently known as one of the leading stock raisers, making a specialty of handling thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle. He was born in Germany, March 20, 1857, and is a son of W. and Kuna (Hauptmann) Sterrenberg, who were also natives of that country, where the father followed the occupation of farming throughout his entire life. He passed away in 1911, having long survived his wife, whose death occurred in 1862.

In his youthful days Henry H. Sterrenberg assisted his father in farm work in Germany, there remaining until 1881, when, attracted by the reports which he had heard concerning the opportunities of the new world, he crossed the Atlantic when a young man of twenty-four years. He located in Hardin county, Iowa, and during the second year of his residence at Abbott he engaged in general merchandising, which he followed for seventeen years. He next came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and moved upon a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 1, King township, which he had previously purchased. To this he has added, extending the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises four hundred and sixteen acres of splendidly improved land. He has continuously and successfully operated his farm and has recently completed one of the finest residences in the county. His farm work has been carried on with notable skill and efficiency, and everything about his place indicates his careful supervision and his practical and progressive methods. His farm is cross-fenced, dividing it into forty acre fields, and it is all tiled, the drainage making his fields very productive. He practices the rotation of crops and utilizes many modern scientific methods of improving his farm. He makes a specialty of handling pure bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, keeps a herd of one hundred and twenty-five head on hand and feeds and ships about two carloads of cattle annually. He also is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson.

In 1885 Mr. Sterrenberg was united in marriage to Miss Anna Albertus, and to them have been born four children, John, William, Kuna and Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Sterrenberg hold to the Lutheran faith and are generous supporters of the church. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, and while he has never sought nor desired public office, he has served for a number of years

as a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to try his fortune on this side the Atlantic. He felt that his efforts would not be as hampered in this country as in his native land and he was ambitious to make the best possible use of his time and talents. Gradually he has worked his way upward and each year has marked his advancement in a business way until he now stands as one of the foremost representatives of the farming and stock raising interests of Winnebago county. He enjoys, moreover, the high regard and respect of all with whom he has come in contact, for his business methods have been reliable and he has never taken advantage of the necessity of a fellowman in any commercial transaction.

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#### ROBERT CLARK PLUMMER.

With the development of the financial interests of Forest City the name of Plummer is prominently connected and throughout the period of his business activity Robert Clark Plummer has been connected with the First National Bank. He has also taken a prominent part in promoting public interests. He was appointed postmaster in March, 1914, but resigned in 1917. Forest City claims him as a native son. He was born November 1, 1871, a son of Brookins A. and Margaret Jane (Brentner) Plummer, the former a native of New York and the latter of Iowa. Further mention of them appears elsewhere in this work.

Reared under the parental roof, Robert C. Plummer acquired a public school education supplemented by a business course, and when his textbooks were put aside he entered the First National Bank, becoming an active assistant of his father. He has since been connected with the business and has made an excellent record as a financier and progressive business man. In 1914 he was called to the office of postmaster through appointment of President Wilson in March of that year and resigned March 1, 1917.

In 1891 Mr. Plummer was united in marriage to Miss Ella A. Sweigard, of Garner, Iowa, and they have two children, Ruth and Lehman. The parents are widely and favorably known in the social circles of the city and the hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. The interests of life are with Mr. Plummer well balanced. He gives due time and attention to business and to his public duties and as a man and citizen his life measures up to high standards.

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#### SEVERT L. HAMERSLAND.

Norway has furnished to Winnebago county many of its substantial and valued citizens and this number includes Severt L. Hamersland, who resides on section 32, Forest township. He was born January 2, 1874, in the land of the midnight sun, his parents being Barney and Belle (Bouge) Hamersland, who were also natives of Norway. They came to America in 1877 and first settled in Lee

county, Illinois, where the mother passed away, after which the father came to Iowa, establishing his home in Story county, where he is still living. In the family were six children and four of the number still survive.

Severt L. Hamersland was a little lad of but three summers when brought to the new world and much of his boyhood and youth was passed in Story county, Iowa, where he attended the public schools and through the summer months worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He remained at home until he attained his majority and then rented a farm in Story county, upon which he lived for a decade. In 1910 he purchased the farm upon which he now resides on section 32, Forest township, Winnebago county, comprising a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land which is naturally rich and productive and which responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it, producing excellent crops of corn, wheat and other cereals. He is at once practical and progressive in his methods and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Forest City.

On December 14, 1900, Mr. Hamersland was married to Miss Anna Boyd, a native of Illinois, and they have become the parents of six children: Beatrice, Annette, Earl, Knute, Willard and Hazel. The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Lutheran church and their many sterling traits of character have won for them the confidence and goodwill of all with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Hamersland is a self-made man, for he started out empty handed to earn his living and from that point has steadily progressed, reaching the position which he now occupies as one of the substantial and respected citizens of Winnebago county.

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#### SIMON ELLINGSON STENE.

Business enterprise and determination finds expression in the life work of Simon Ellingson Stene, who for almost half a century has lived in Norway township, Winnebago county. He was born August 30, 1845, in Norway, his parents being Ellings Simonson and Martha (Oium) Stene, who were farming people and reared a family of three children. They never came to the United States, spending their entire lives in the land of the midnight sun. The father was born in Aurland, Sogn, and the mother in Vestre Slire, Valdres, Norway.

Simon E. Stene remained in his native country until he had attained his majority and then crossed the Atlantic, becoming a resident of Goodhue county, Minnesota, where he worked at farm labor. In 1868, however, he crossed the border into Iowa and purchased a tract of land on section 11, Norway township, Winnebago county. This he has continuously cultivated since 1870, and he has purchased other land on section 7, Norway township, and one hundred and twenty acres on section 18 of the same township. He has thus become the owner of valuable farm property. His labors have made the soil rich and productive, so that he annually garners substantial harvests. He has worked diligently and persistently to bring about this result and his life record is an illustration of what may be accomplished through industry and effort.

On February 12, 1872, Mr. Stene was united in marriage to Miss Betsey Nelson, a daughter of Nels and Ragnild Knutson, who were natives of Norway. After coming to the new world they established their home near Adams, Minnesota, where the father now lies buried. In the later years of her life Mrs. Knutson lived with her daughter, Mrs. Stene, and when called to her final rest her remains were interred in Lime Creek cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Stene were born nine children, as follows: Rachel, who is the wife of M. T. Nelson, of Norway township, Winnebago county; Martin, who operates the home farm; Elling, a resident of Emmons, Minnesota; Martha, who gave her hand in marriage to Nels Stephens, of Searville, Winnebago county; Ingeborg, at home; Nellie, who is the wife of Oliver Housay, of Norway township, Winnebago county; Sarah, at home; one who died in infancy; and Carl E., who passed away at the age of twenty-five years and was buried in Lime Creek cemetery. The death of Mrs. Stene occurred February 10, 1917. She left behind her many warm friends who esteemed her highly because of her many admirable qualities. She was a devoted wife and mother and her careful management of household affairs contributed in no small measure to her husband's success.

Mr. Stene holds membership in the Synod Lutheran church, of which he is a faithful representative. He votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but has no ambition to hold office, preferring to concentrate his energies and attention upon his business affairs. Starting out in life empty handed, he is now in the possession of a substantial competence. Moreover, he has for many years been connected with Winnebago county and has seen the changes which have occurred and the results which have been wrought as men have reclaimed the district for the purposes of civilization and developed here the homes of a prosperous and contented people.

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#### LEE NICHOLS.

Lee Nichols, living on section 25, King township, Winnebago county, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on the 22nd of January, 1865, a son of John and Comfort (Nichols) Nichols, who were natives of Kentucky and of Illinois respectively. The father was a farmer by occupation and in early life went to Illinois, where he engaged in farming throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1867. His widow still survives and is now a resident of Bloomington, Illinois.

Lee Nichols spent his youthful days under the parental roof at Heyworth, Illinois, and his educational opportunities were those afforded by the district schools. He was only twelve years of age, however, when he began to provide for his own support by working as a farm hand at twelve dollars per month. He was employed in that way for twenty years, after which he rented land in Dallas county, Iowa, and continued its cultivation for about five years. He then purchased the farm upon which he was living and further developed and improved it for thirteen years. On the expiration of that period he came to Winnebago county and in 1913 bought two hundred and twenty-one and three-fourths acres of land on sections 7 and 18, Linden township. For four years he has cultivated and improved this place, which is now a valuable property. The buildings are



MR. AND MRS. LEE NICHOLS



insured for over five thousand dollars and the improvements upon it make it a model farm property. At length, however, he rented that place and removed to King township, since which time he has cultivated a tract of one hundred and fifty-four acres on section 25, which he purchased. He today has a nicely improved place, pleasantly and conveniently located about two miles from Thompson. He is a wide-awake and progressive farmer, carrying on his work according to progressive methods, and his labors bring good results. He is engaged in the raising of thoroughbred Hampshire hogs and for years made a business of feeding stock but does not carry on that work at the present time, concentrating his energies upon the raising of hogs and upon the general development of his farm.

On the 28th of February, 1901, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Alchie Cole, a daughter of John and Mary (Lucas) Cole, who were natives of Indiana. The father was a farmer and followed that occupation in Indiana for a few years, after which he drove across the country to Dallas county, Iowa, in 1855, before the era of railroad building through this section of the middle west. He became one of the pioneer settlers of Dallas county, where he purchased government land at a dollar and a quarter per acre. He at once began to develop and improve that tract and continued its cultivation throughout his remaining days, his death occurring May 8, 1899. His wife survived for only a brief period, passing away September 14, 1902.

Fraternally Mr. Nichols is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is true to the teachings and purposes of the organization. He is also a loyal and helpful member of the Methodist church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. While a believer in its principles, he does not seek nor desire office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his farm work, which is now carefully and successfully managed.

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#### PEDER OLSON DEGNEPOLD.

Peder Olson Degnepold follows farming on section 23, Logan township, Winnebago county, and comes of a family long identified with farming interests in Norway. His great-grandfather, Ole Degnepold, and his grandfather, Lars Degnepold, both followed the occupation of farming. His parents were Ole Larsen and Christie Pedersen. The father was both a farmer and fisherman and in his native country he reared his family of four sons and three daughters. One of the daughters, Mrs. John Amundsen, came to America, while another, Mrs. Lena Aase, passed away in Norway. There are two brothers still in Norway, the elder being Lars, a farmer, mechanic and boat builder, while the younger is Hans, a school teacher.

Peder O. Degnepold was a young man of twenty-two years when in 1877 he came to the United States, settling first at Northwood, in Worth county, Iowa. In his youthful days and early manhood he was employed at farm labor, but became tired of working for others and resolved that his labors should more directly benefit himself. Accordingly he carefully saved his earnings until he had an amount that enabled him to purchase eighty acres of land in Winnebago county. His first purchase was made in 1885, at which time he settled upon his farm

and still makes it his home. He has, however, extended the boundaries of his place, having purchased one hundred and sixty acres more in September, 1897, so that he is now the owner of a good tract of land of two hundred and forty acres, which is situated on section 23, Logan township. For almost a third of a century he has continuously cultivated his farm and the result of his labor is seen in broad fields which bring forth rich harvests and also in the excellent improvements upon his land.

On the 13th of February, 1889, in Selo church, Nordfjord, Norway, Mr. Degnepold was united in marriage to Miss Johanne Marie Johnson Skrom, a daughter of John Kristensen and Ingeborg Andersen. To Mr. and Mrs. Degnepold have been born four children, Jennie Christine, Emma Alida, Christie and Ole Martinus.

The religious faith of the family is that of the United Lutheran church. Mr. Degnepold has always been interested in the moral and intellectual progress of the community and for three years served as a school director. He is a stand-pat republican, giving unfaltering allegiance to the party which he has supported since becoming a naturalized American citizen. For forty years he has lived in northern Iowa and throughout the entire period has been actively interested in farming. His success is the merited reward and the direct outcome of his own labors. He was empty handed when he crossed the Atlantic, but he possessed a spirit of industry and determination, which constitutes a safe foundation upon which to build prosperity. As the years have gone on he has added to his holdings and his financial resources and is today the possessor of a comfortable competence.

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#### HON. O. K. MABEN.

Hon. O. K. Maben, secretary and one of the directors of the Hancock County Farmers Mutual Insurance Association, was born on a farm in Ellington township, Hancock county, where he still lives. His father, Grover Maben, a native of New York, came to this county in 1856, taking up his abode in Ellington township, where he resided until his death, which occurred January 6, 1900. In March, 1859, he wedded Elvira Pike, who still survives him.

O. K. Maben, after mastering the common branches of learning in the district schools, attended the Breckenridge Normal Academy at Decorah, Iowa, for several terms, and afterward became a student in the Northern Iowa Business College at Garner, from which he was graduated in 1890. He took up the occupation of farming and in 1900 became actively identified with the Hancock County Farmers Mutual Insurance Association, in which year he was made one of its directors and its secretary. He continued to occupy the dual office until 1904, when he was elected treasurer and director, serving in those capacities until 1907. In 1915 he was again chosen director and secretary, in which capacities he is now serving. The success of the association is attributable in large measure to his enterprise, his business ability and his progressive spirit.

On the 21st of February, 1893, in Forest City, Iowa, Mr. Maben was united in marriage to Miss Jennie B. Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Lewis.



To them have been born three children: Clifford G. Maurice, who died in infancy; Merle; and Orville K.

Mr. Maben votes with the republican party and has long been one of its recognized leaders in Hancock county. In the year 1903 he was chosen to represent his district in the general assembly and served during the thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second sessions. He carefully studied questions which came up for settlement and his support of any measure was proof of his belief in its efficiency as a factor in good government. He has ever stood for progress and improvement, for justice, truth and advancement, and the weight of his influence has been a potent force in the substantial development of county and state.

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#### BENJAMIN F. WHETSLER.

Benjamin F. Whetsler, a resident farmer of Magor township, Hancock county, his home being on section 33, is numbered among the more recent arrivals here, dating his residence from 1912, but in the intervening period he has become widely and favorably known and ranks today among the leading stock raisers and shippers of this section. He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1861, and is a son of Samuel and Ruth (Stewart) Whetsler, who were also natives of the Keystone state.

Removing westward in April, 1868, the family settled in McLean county, Illinois, during the early boyhood of Benjamin F. Whetsler, who there pursued a public school education to the age of nineteen years. He was employed at farm labor in McLean county for fourteen years and then rented land there for six years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a farm in that state and still owns his old homestead property there, which comprises eighty acres in De Witt county. In 1912 he arrived in Hancock county, Iowa, and made investment in three hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting the east half of section 33, Magor township. He also bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 34 of the same township, so that he now has an excellent and extensive tract of land of four hundred and eighty acres, much of which has been brought under a high state of cultivation, while other parts of the farm are devoted to pasturage, for he is extensively engaged in raising and shipping stock. He makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and also ships and feeds Duroc hogs and Percheron horses, and his live stock interests constitute a most important and profitable feature of his business.

On the 23d of February, 1883, Mr. Whetsler was united in marriage to Miss Ruth A. Sprague, who was born in De Witt county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Charles L. and Mary Sprague, natives of Ohio. The children of this marriage are seven in number: Henry E., at home; Almeda and Frank C., who are married; Lela B., John W., Ara L. and Ruth A., all yet under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Whetsler hold membership in the Christian church and guide their lives according to its teachings. In politics he does not ally himself with any party but maintains an independent course, voting according to the dictates of his judgment. Magor township regards him as a valuable addition to its citizenship and he has made for himself a creditable position in public regard

during the five years of his residence there. In business affairs he is found to be thoroughly reliable as well as enterprising and he has that spirit of determination which enables him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

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#### BENJAMIN MOE.

Among the progressive and enterprising young farmers of Winnebago county is numbered Benjamin Moe, who lives on section 24, Logan township. He was born on the 29th of September, 1889, in the home of his parents, Herlang P. and Elizabeth (Jordre) Moe, who were natives of Norway, but were married in Winneshiek county, Iowa, on the 9th of June, 1874. The following year they removed to Winnebago county and the father purchased eighty acres of land on section 24, Logan township, and eighty acres on section 19, Norway township, a part of which was sold for the townsite of Scarville. With characteristic energy he began to clear his land and transform it into productive fields. The work of plowing, planting and harvesting was carried on and his labors resulted in making this a valuable and productive farm. He was long identified with the agricultural interests of the community, continuing to cultivate his land to the time of his death, which occurred April 9, 1915, when he was laid to rest in Bethel cemetery in Logan township. His success was of a substantial character and was entirely the reward of his persistent, earnest labors. In his political views he was a republican and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. His widow still resides upon the home farm with her son Benjamin, and there she reared her family of ten children. The father had been married before, his first wife dying in Norway. There were two children by that union: Anna, who passed away in Norway; and Peter H., who actively assisted his father in the development of the home farm in Logan township and passed away at the age of forty-five years. The ten children born to Herlang P. and Elizabeth Moe were as follows: Anna, Dorothea and Elizabeth, all of whom are deceased; Hannah, who is the wife of S. C. Monson, of Scarville; John, deceased; Thea, who gave her hand in marriage to A. S. Odegard, of Spokane, Washington; Louise, who has passed away; Benjamin; Maria, who is the wife of A. I. Rosheim, of Scarville; and Helena, deceased.

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#### NELS N. NESJE.

Nels N. Nesje, who follows farming on section 23, Eden township, Winnebago county, was born at Opstreim Nesje, on the North fjord, in Norway, February 14, 1848, a son of Nels P. and Martha (Flo) Nesje, who were farming people of that country, where they reared their family of ten children, of whom four are yet living: Carrie, now the wife of Andrew Erdahl, of Emerald township, Faribault county, Minnesota; Martha, the wife of Ole Erdahl, also of Emerald township; and John Nelson and Nels N., twins, the former a resident of Frost,

Minnesota. The parents never came to the United States and the father died when the subject of this review was but a year old.

Through the period of boyhood and youth Mr. Nesje and his twin brother remained in the land of the midnight sun, but in 1869, on attaining their majority, came to the new world to try their fortunes and made their way to Faribault county, Minnesota, settling near Blue Earth. Mr. Nesje secured employment as a farm hand, working in that way for six years, after which he became a resident of Eden township, Winnebago county, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 23. This he at once began to clear and develop and his attention has since been given to its further improvement, his labors converting it into one of the excellent farms of the neighborhood.

On the 15th of October, 1875, Mr. Nesje was married to Miss Johanna Gudal, a daughter of Colben and Sine Gudal, who were natives of Norway and became residents of Emerald township, Faribault county, Minnesota. The father died in 1911 and was laid to rest in the Dale Lutheran cemetery, while the mother is still living in Emerald township. Mr. and Mrs. Nesje have become the parents of nine children: Nels, living in Eden township; Martha, who died at the age of twenty-two years; Christina and Ella, twins, the former now at home, while the latter is the wife of John Harvey, of Stanwood, Washington; Serena, Henry, Carl and Selmer, all at home; and Carrie, who became the wife of John Simonson, of Eden township, and passed away in 1912.

Mr. Nesje votes with the republican party, believing that its platform contains the best elements of good government. He and his wife are members of the United Lutheran church and are highly respected people, enjoying the confidence and goodwill of all with whom they have been associated through the long years of their residence in this part of the country.

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#### STENER HANSON.

A considerable proportion of the citizens of Winnebago county claim Norway as the land of their nativity. Among this number is Stener Hanson, who was there born February 22, 1842, a son of Hans and Annie (Scarborough) Hanson, who were also natives of Norway. Coming to America with their family, they settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1846, and there the father secured land and carried on farming throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1881. He had for six years survived his wife, who passed away in 1875.

Stener Hanson was reared and educated in Wisconsin and at the age of twenty years he responded to the call of his adopted country for troops, enlisting in defense of the Union as a member of Company E, Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in 1862. With that command he served until the close of the war and after the cessation of hostilities he returned home and worked at the mason's trade, which he followed for many years. In 1882 he came to Lake Mills, Winnebago county, where he has since followed his trade and has thus been actively connected with industrial interests of the district. He also has a nice farm of forty acres on section 10, Center township, and has improved the prop-

erty to a considerable extent. Upon the place is an old log cabin which was built in 1867 and remains one of the landmarks of this section.

In January, 1882, Mr. Hanson was married to Miss Margaret Larson and to them have been born four children: Hans; Louisa, who is a nurse in a Chicago hospital; Lawrence, a telegraph operator; and Theresa, a teacher in the schools of Emmet county, Iowa.

In his political views Mr. Hanson is a republican, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, to the teachings of which he loyally adheres. He was formerly identified with the Grand Army of the Republic when a post existed at Lake Mills, but it has been disbanded. However, in days of peace he has been as true and loyal to his country as when he followed the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the south. He has ever been actuated by a spirit of devotion to the public good, and his work and worth both as a man and a citizen have been widely acknowledged.

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#### OLE SWENSON.

Norway's contribution to the citizenship of Winnebago county is an important one, for those who have come from the land of the midnight sun have brought with them the characteristic diligence and enterprise which are the basis of substantial material development and which also constitute valuable factors in citizenship. Ole Swenson was for a long period actively and successfully engaged in farming in Newton township, and through his close application and good business management he acquired a competence that enables him to now live retired. He was born in Norway, October 24, 1848, and is a son of Swen and Carrie (Bigen) Swenson, both of whom were natives of Norway. The father was a laborer in the old country, and both he and his wife died in their native land.

It was there that Ole Swenson was reared and educated, and when his textbooks were put aside he began earning his own living at rafting and at farm labor. He was thus engaged until he reached the age of thirty-one years, or until 1879, when he came to the new world and took up his abode in Webster county, Iowa, where he was in the employ of others for a considerable period. However, he early grasped the elemental thought that industry wins, and industry became the beacon light of his life. It was his desire to own land and engage in farming on his own account, and therefore he carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy enabled him to purchase a farm. He secured land in Webster county and there continued to reside for five years, after which he came to Winnebago county and purchased two hundred acres on section 24, Newton township. He at once began to further develop and improve that place, and his labors made it one of the highly productive farms of the county. This he continued to cultivate until 1909, when he retired and removed to Lake Mills. There he purchased a fine home and twenty acres of land at the edge of town. He is thus most comfortably and pleasantly situated and in well earned rest is enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company but has no active business connections at the present time.

On the 6th of May, 1877, Mr. Swenson was married to Miss Sarah Lee, and to them were born four children: Carrie, who resides at home with her parents, her husband, William Colby, having passed away February 28, 1916; Nettie, who is keeping house for her brother on the old homestead; Olof O., who is farming in Newton township; and Gilbert, who is cultivating the old home place.

Mr. Swenson is a republican and keeps well informed on the political situation of the country. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he has guided his life according to its teachings. It requires considerable courage to sever home ties, to leave kindred, friends and native land and seek a home and fortune at points far distant. But this Mr. Swenson did, and he has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the business opportunities which he sought and has worked his way steadily upward. In America opportunities are afforded to every one who is willing to embrace them. Humble birth and poverty are no handicap to the American man. While opportunities slip away from the sluggard and tauntingly play before the dreamer, they surrender to the individual with high purpose, undaunted courage and indefatigable industry, and it has been through the possession of these qualities that Mr. Swenson has come to be ranked with the men of affluence in Lake Mills.

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#### ALBERT S. TINDERHOLT.

Albert S. Tinderholt, living on section 36, King township, is a well known farmer who since 1897 has owned and cultivated his present place, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, July 22, 1871, and is a son of Soren and Martha (Storhøng) Tinderholt, who were natives of Norway. The father came to America with his parents in 1840 when seven years of age and established his home in Wisconsin, where he lived for two years, after which the family home was established in Winneshiek county, Iowa. There Soren Tinderholt was reared and educated, sharing with the family in all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, for Iowa was still a frontier state at that time. After reaching manhood he turned his attention to farming, purchased land and afterward carried on general agricultural pursuits for many years. At the present time he is living retired, however, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He still occupies the old home place with his daughter, his wife having passed away in 1881.

During his youthful days Albert S. Tinderholt remained a resident of Winneshiek county and his experiences were those of most of the farm-bred boys, his time being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He came to Winnebago county in 1897 and here invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 36, King township. With characteristic energy he began to develop and further improve this place and today it is one of the excellent farms of the locality, responding readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it in the production of crops. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson.

In October, 1905, Mr. Tinderholt was married to Miss Millie Gullickson and to them have been born four children: Adron, Margaret, Waldo and Ruth. Mr. Tinderholt has served as a school director for a number of years and politically he is a republican, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. His entire life has been spent in Iowa and the spirit of western progress and enterprise which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of this section of the country finds expression in his life.

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#### GEORGE L. COX.

That Iowa is one of the foremost of the great agricultural states of the Union is due not to the labors of a single individual or to a small group of men but to the combined efforts of many farmers who are alert, enterprising and progressive and who keep in touch with the trend of modern progress along agricultural lines. To this class belongs George L. Cox, living on section 25, Eden township, Winnebago county. He was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, January 20, 1863, and is a son of William and Lovina (Terrill) Cox, who were natives of England and were farming people. They had a family of nine children, of whom five are still living: William Henry, residing in North Dakota; Emma, the deceased wife of Chance Curtis, of King township, Winnebago county; George L.; Reuben, living in Forest township, Winnebago county; John, a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Elizabeth, the wife of Ira Stillwell, a resident of Minnesota. The other children died in early life and the parents have now passed away. In 1874 they became residents of Winnebago county, settling in Forest township, where the father purchased a farm, upon which they resided until called to the home beyond, when their remains were interred in Oakwood cemetery at Forest City. He was entirely a self-made man, owing his success in the fullest measure to his persistent and earnest efforts. His religious faith was that of the Methodist church and his political views were in accord with the principles of the republican party, but he was never an office seeker.

George L. Cox attended the common schools until he reached the age of sixteen years and afterward worked for his father until he attained his majority. He was then employed as a farm hand by others for three years and on the expiration of that period rented a farm in Forest township, Winnebago county, for two years, while for a similar period he cultivated a tract of land in King township, which he leased. While thus engaged he carefully saved his earnings and at length was able to purchase eighty acres of land in Grant township, upon which he lived for one year. He later sold and bought eighty acres of the northwest quarter of section 25, Eden township, and from time to time as his financial resources have increased he has added to his holdings, extending the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land, upon which he has made a number of modern improvements, transforming it into one of the fine farms of this section of the state. He is a stockholder in the Thompson elevator and creamery.

When twenty-three years of age Mr. Cox was married to Miss Jane H. Charl-

ton, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Greeley) Charlton, who were natives of England and Wisconsin respectively. They became residents of Bristol township, Winnebago county, and afterward of Newton township, Worth county, but both have now passed away. The father was laid to rest in Bristol cemetery and the mother was buried in Montana, having during the last few years of her life lived on a claim in that state with her son. Mr. and Mrs. Cox have become the parents of seven children: William, who is living near Lovejoy, Montana; Herbert, who is assisting in the work of the home farm; Lillian, the wife of Lewis Rygh, of Norway township, Winnebago county; George, who is with his brother William on a claim; Walter, of Eden township; and Charles and Emily, both at home.

The family attend the Lutheran church. Mr. Cox gives his political endorsement to the men and measures of the republican party, but he has never sought office as a reward for party fealty. His entire attention has been claimed by his business interests and it has been through his close application and persistent energy that he has won a place among the well-to-do farmers of Winnebago county, being now the possessor of a splendid property, wisely managed and carefully cultivated according to progressive ideas of agriculture.

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#### SEVER C. MONSON.

Sever C. Monson, who is operating the Farmers Elevator at Scarville, was born on the old family homestead in Logan township, Winnebago county, August 8, 1875, a son of Colben and Bertha (Vinje) Monson, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. Four children were born to them ere they came to the new world, namely: M. C., living in Worth county, Iowa; K. C., whose home is in Chicago, Illinois; Anna, the wife of Halvor Sagen, deceased, whose home was in Fertile, Iowa; and Carrie, living near Fertile. In the year 1869 the parents came with their family to the new world and settled in Winneshiék county, Iowa, whence they removed to Logan township, Winnebago county, in 1870. For ten years they lived upon government land that was not for sale. As soon as it was placed upon the market, however, their son, M. C., purchased the property, comprising the northwest quarter of section 16, Logan township. After living for ten years in Winnebago county the father removed to Worth county, establishing his home near Fertile. There he purchased a farm upon which he resided until his death, which occurred October 31, 1913. Both he and his wife were laid to rest in Brush Point cemetery in Worth county. They were well known farming people of this section of the state and enjoyed the high regard of all with whom they came in contact. Following their arrival in the new world they became parents of three children, namely: Martha, who is the wife of S. A. Nesheim, of Chicago; Albert, also a resident of Chicago; and Sever C., of this review.

The last named enjoyed such educational privileges as the pioneer schools of Winnebago county afforded. He pursued his studies to the age of sixteen in the local schools and afterward spent two winter terms in St. Ansgar Academy, while for one year he was a student in the Iowa State Teachers College. He left the farm to give his attention to other business interests and from 1900 until 1904

owned and conducted a hardware store in Hanlontown. For five years thereafter he was employed in the grain business there and in 1910 he became manager of the Farmers Elevator at Searville, in which connection he has since remained, carefully, systematically and successfully conducting the business.

On August 24, 1903, Mr. Monson was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Moe, daughter of H. P. and Elizabeth Moe, of Logan township, Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Monson now have three children, Esther, Kenneth and Catherine. The parents are members of the United Lutheran church and in his political views Mr. Monson is a republican. He has been a director of the Searville school board for six years and is now serving as a member of the town council. He stands for progressive interests in matters of citizenship, seeking to promote public welfare along practical and helpful lines, and he is much interested in the growth and progress of Winnebago county, witnessing its development from pioneer times to the present.

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#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

The First National Bank of Forest City was organized in 1891 by B. A. Plummer and established in 1893, succeeding the City Bank, which had been established by Mr. Plummer as a private banking institution in 1876. The original location was on Main street, where Nelson's jewelry store now stands. The first officers were: B. A. Plummer, president; Eugene Secor, vice president; David Secor, vice president; and W. O. Hanson, cashier. The bank was capitalized for fifty thousand dollars, but in 1915 the capital stock was increased to seventy-five thousand dollars. In 1882 the bank was removed to the brick building built by the Secors opposite the courthouse square and in 1915 became established in a home of its own, having erected the fine building now occupied. This building was erected at a cost of over fifty thousand dollars, is finished throughout most attractively and is equipped in a most modern way. The officers of the bank are now: B. A. Plummer, president; R. C. Plummer and M. Jane Plummer, vice presidents; W. O. Hanson, also vice president; John Olson, cashier; and W. C. Haugland, assistant cashier; with Etta A. Plummer as one of the directors. This bank has now maintained a prosperous existence for forty-one years and has long been accounted one of the most safe and reliable financial institutions of the state, while as a factor in the upbuilding of Winnebago county it has contributed much toward public progress and business development.

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#### TORENIUS S. BRUSTAD.

Torenius S. Brustad, busily engaged in farming on section 26, Logan township, Winnebago county, was born in southeastern Norway, in the stift of Hedemarken, his natal day being December 16, 1872. His parents were Thorson and Ragnild (Kjensle) Brustad, who were farming people of the land of the midnight sun.



They had a family of nine children. The parents never came to the United States and both are now deceased.

Torenius S. Brustad came alone to America when a young man of twenty and made his way direct to Lake Mills, where he worked for a farmer for a year. He then rented land in Norway township for three years and practiced close economy and industry during that period in order to gain a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase property. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 26 and eighty acres on section 27, Logan township. At that time it was an undeveloped tract, but he cleared it and made it ready for the plow. He then bent his energies to the development of the fields and was soon gathering good harvests. He has continued to add various improvements as the years have gone on and he now has one of the fine farms of his district.

On the 31st of May, 1901, Mr. Brustad was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Qualle, her parents being T. T. and Mary Qualle, of Norway township. To them have been born three children, Mabel, Selmer and Thelma. The parents are members of the Synod Lutheran church and Mr. Brustad votes with the republican party. He is a substantial and valued citizen of Logan township. Native-born citizens, it often seems, come by the privileges of American life too easily to appreciate them in the fullest degree. At least some of those who have sacrificed and suffered to obtain them value these blessings more highly than those to whom they come as a matter of course. Mr. Brustad was one who made sacrifice to establish his home on the American continent. He has never regretted the change, for here he found the business opportunities which he sought and in their utilization he has worked his way upward to success. He feels that he owes allegiance to his adopted country, under the protection of whose laws he has long lived, and as the years have gone on he has been loyal to his chosen land.

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#### OTTO E. GUNDERSON.

Otto E. Gunderson, assistant cashier and one of the directors of the Forest City National Bank, has in various ways been identified with public progress in this and other sections of Iowa, his efforts being especially helpful in the educational field. He was born at Kensett, Worth county, Iowa, February 25, 1875, a son of Edward and Olivia (Kalgarden) Gunderson. The father went west with the gold seekers in the late '50s as far as Pike's Peak, but turned back and afterward was employed in connection with shipping on the Missouri river. He finally reached New Orleans, where he made his home for some time. In 1861, while residing in the Crescent City, he was drafted for service in the Confederate army, with which he was on active duty until the close of the war. He was wounded only once, sustaining a wound at the battle of Gettysburg. Later he returned to the north, becoming a resident of Worth county, Iowa, where both he and his wife are now residing. They have three sons living: Otto E., of this review; Carl O., county attorney of Worth county and a resident of Northwood; and Gilbert, who is operating the home farm.

Otto E. Gunderson acquired his early education in rural schools and after-

ward attended successively the high school at Northwood, Iowa, the St. Ansgar Seminary and the Northern Illinois Normal School at Dixon, Illinois. In early manhood he engaged in teaching in both Iowa and in North Dakota and for several years he was connected with commercial interests at Kensett and at Hanlontown, conducting a store in both places. In the spring of 1913 he removed from Northwood to Forest City, where he has since made his home, and is now well known in its financial circles as assistant cashier and one of the directors of the Forest City National Bank.

On the 19th of April, 1897, at Kenyon, Minnesota, Mr. Gunderson was married to Miss Gurine Finnesgaard, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Finnesgaard, who were among the earliest settlers of Goodhue county, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson now have three children: Esther, seventeen years of age, who is a student in St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota; Harvey and Maurice, aged respectively ten and six years.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church and in his political views Mr. Gunderson is a republican. He has supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. While living in Kensett he served as town clerk in 1899 and 1900, and in 1901 was elected county superintendent of schools in Worth county, which position he continuously filled until 1913, making a most creditable record in the office by reason of the efficient work which he did in raising the standard of the schools and introducing methods of practical value. In 1915 he was chosen president of the board of trustees of the Forest City public library, and in 1916 was appointed a member of the city council, filling both of these positions at the present time. He is thoroughly public-spirited and progressive, and his cooperation in any movement constitutes an effective and valuable force in the attainment of desired results.

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#### OLE J. HAMLIN.

Since 1904 Ole J. Hamlin has owned the farm upon which he now resides and to the cultivation and improvement of which he devotes his entire time and attention. He was born in Norway in January, 1863, and is a son of Jewel and Minnie (Beckjorden) Hamlin, who were also natives of that country. About 1874, however, they bade adieu to friends and native land and came with their children to the new world, crossing the continent to Dane county, Wisconsin. There the father followed the occupation of farming for seven years, after which he came to Winnebago county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of land on section 25, King township, constituting the farm that is now the home of his son Ole. He at once began to develop and improve the land, which he carefully tilled throughout his remaining days. He was recognized as one of the leading and representative farmers of the district and was ever known as a most reliable business man. He passed away June 16, 1908, having for a year survived his wife, who died on the 3d of June, 1907.

Ole J. Hamlin was a little lad of eleven summers when his parents came to the new world. His education, which had been begun in the schools of Norway,

was continued in the public schools of Wisconsin and of Iowa after the removal of the family to Winnebago county. Through his boyhood he devoted the summer months to farm work, and when he had completed his education his entire attention was given to his farm duties. He continued to cultivate the old home-stead with his father until 1904, when he purchased the farm and has since owned and operated it. He has added various improvements during the period of his ownership—improvements that have greatly enhanced its attractive appearance and which are indicative as well of his progressive spirit.

In January, 1914, Mr. Hamlin was married to Miss Annie Knutson, and they are now parents of an interesting little daughter, Amanda, born in June, 1915. Politically Mr. Hamlin is a republican and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. He and his wife are held in warm regard by their many friends in King township, and he has gained a place among the substantial farmers to whom effort has opened the highroad to success. Along this road he is steadily progressing and has already gained a place among the well-to-do farmers of the county.

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#### WILLIAM D. SMITH.

For over half a century William D. Smith has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Winnebago county and is today the owner of a valuable farm in Center township, his home being on section 12. He was born in Middlesex, Vermont, on the 26th of December, 1841, and belongs to an old New England family. His parents, Alvin and Amanda (Barnett) Smith, were natives of Connecticut. During his childhood the father was taken by his parents to Vermont, where he grew to manhood and engaged in farming for some years. Eventually he removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased forty acres of land where the town of Lake Mills now stands, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, dying shortly after his arrival in 1868. His widow long survived him, passing away in 1906 at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

In the state of his nativity William D. Smith was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys, and when the country became involved in civil war he put aside all personal interests and entered the Union service. He was nineteen years of age when he enlisted in Company B, Thirteenth Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and he remained at the front for one year, the last engagement in which he participated being the battle of Gettysburg. On being mustered out Mr. Smith came direct to Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of his present farm in Center township at two dollars per acre. Later he bought eighty acres more and today has one of the best improved and most highly cultivated places in the locality. His land is located on sections 12, 13 and 1, Center township, and is now operated by his son-in-law, Byron Cronk, who makes a specialty of raising Black Polled cattle.

On the 25th of October, 1872, Mr. Smith married Miss Ella Keeble, who died on the 1st of November, 1899, after a year's illness. By this union were born six children, namely: Minnie, who is now the wife of Byron Cronk and has two children, Margaret and Majel; Frank, a farmer of Center township; Fred A., also

a farmer of Center township, who is married and has one child, Melva; Etta, who is the wife of M. J. Godfrey, of Chapin, Iowa, and has two children, Clinton and Clifford; Etta, who died at the age of eight years; and William, who died at the age of two years.

Mr. Smith has practically retired from active labor, but still owns his farm and is a stockholder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and the Lake Mills Creamery Company. Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, he has always supported the republican party and for a number of years he served on the school board in his district. In religious faith he is a Methodist and he was a member of the Grand Army Post at Lake Mills until it was disbanded. In days of peace he has been found as true to his country's interests as in time of war and he is regarded as one of the leading and representative citizens of his community, a man honored and respected by all who know him.

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#### JOHN I. KINDEN.

John I. Kinden, who is living on section 10, Norway township, Winnebago county, is cultivating about two hundred acres of land which he and his wife own. His farm interests are carefully managed and intelligently directed, and that he is leading a life of energy and thrift is indicated in the excellent appearance of his place. He was born in Norway, May 21, 1860, a son of Ingebrit and Nickolai Kinden, who were farming people and had a family of seven children, of whom John is the youngest. The parents never came to the United States and only two of the children crossed the Atlantic, these being John and his sister Syneve, now the wife of John Forde, of Worth county, Iowa. The death of the mother occurred on the 21st of April, 1881, while the father passed away on the 2d of July, 1885.

John I. Kinden was at that time a young man of about twenty-five years. His boyhood and youth had been spent in his native country and its public school system had afforded him his educational opportunities. Following his father's death he came alone to the United States, and the fact that there were many of the sons of Norway living in Winnebago county, Iowa, attracted him to this section of the state. For a time he taught a Norwegian school at Norman but afterward turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits and upon his farm established his family. He now owns the west half of the northwest quarter of section 14, Norway township, while his wife owns one hundred and twenty acres of the southeast quarter of section 10. He carefully tills his fields in the production of those crops best adapted to soil and climate, and the result of his labors is seen in the excellent harvests which he annually gathers.

In 1892 Mr. Kinden was united in marriage to Mrs. Emma Butler, the widow of John Butler, who was one of the early settlers of Norway township but passed away August 27, 1887, and was laid to rest in Lime Creek cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Butler had four children, namely: Bernard, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Worth county; Albert, who follows farming in Center township, Winnebago county; Sarah, the wife of Martin Erickson, of Brown county, Minnesota; and Marie, who gave her hand in marriage to Edward Bergeson, of Freeborn county, Minnesota. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Kinden have been born

five children, as follows: Nickolai, Ingebrigt, Selma, Anna and Sarah, all at home. They are also rearing Mrs. Kinden's grandson, Alfred, who is a son of Albert J. and Anna (Peterson) Butler, his mother having died March 24, 1911.

In his political views Mr. Kinden is a republican, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He belongs to the Synod Lutheran church and has long guided his life by its teachings. He came to America imbued with the hope of finding better opportunities than he believed he could secure in his native land, and having elected to cast in his fortunes with the American people, he has ever been loyal to the interests of the country.

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### HORACE H. EICHORN.

Horace H. Eichorn, a resident farmer of King township, Winnebago county, makes his home on section 24, where he is the owner of a good farm of two hundred acres. In fact, his labors have resulted in making this one of the best improved places of the county and in the production of grain and in the raising of high grade stock he is meeting with success. He was born in Wright county, Iowa, August 24, 1872, and is a son of Chris and Margaret (Arnold) Eichorn, the former a native of Germany, while the latter was born in Johnson county, Iowa. It was about 1854 that the father came to the United States and made his way westward to Johnson county, where he purchased land and began the development and improvement of a farm, upon which he lived for several years. At the time of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the army, enlisting in Johnson county as a member of Company B, Eighth Iowa Infantry, with which he remained at the front for two years. He was wounded on the field of battle and his was a most creditable military record, characterized by the utmost loyalty to his adopted land. Following his military experience Mr. Eichorn was married and established his home in Wright county, Iowa, where he rented land for a time. He afterward removed to Webster county, this state, and bought two hundred and forty acres, constituting the fine farm upon which he spent his remaining days. His labors wrought a marked transformation in its appearance and in its value, for he added to it many modern equipments and improvements and carried on his farm work according to the most progressive methods. He died October 22, 1894. His widow married Rudolph Wilkosske and is now living in Faribault, Minnesota.

Horace H. Eichorn was reared in Webster county and pursued his education in the district schools of Fort Dodge. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood and he remained with his parents until he attained his majority. In 1898 he arrived in Winnebago county and purchased two hundred acres of land on section 24, King township, on which he has now lived for almost two decades. His labors have been attended with substantial results, for he has today one of the best improved farms of the county. This he has continuously and successfully cultivated, practicing the rotation of crops and utilizing scientific methods of farming to enhance the productiveness of his fields. He now makes a specialty of raising pure bred Poland China hogs. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Coopera-

tive Creamery Company of Thompson; also a stockholder in the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company; and is secretary and a director of the Coon Grove Telephone Company.

On the 7th of September, 1898, Mr. Eichorn was married to Miss Evelyn Schreiber and to them have been born four children, Luella, Pearl, Wallace and Vera. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church, while in his fraternal relations Mr. Eichorn is a Knight of Pythias. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has voted with the republican party and is a loyal advocate of its principles. He stands for progress and improvement in public affairs as well as in private business and has ever given his aid and cooperation to plans and measures for the general good. In business he is thoroughly progressive and enterprising, and his success is the legitimate and merited reward of his persistent effort.

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#### CARL K. NELSON.

Three times elected to the office of county auditor after having served for a partial term to fill out a vacancy is indisputable evidence of the ability and fidelity which Carl K. Nelson has displayed as an incumbent in that position. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, December 11, 1870, a son of Knut and Gertrude (Halvorsdatter) Nelson, who were natives of Norway and following their marriage came to the United States in 1868. They settled first in Dane county, Wisconsin, and in 1885 came to Winnebago county, Iowa. The father is a carpenter by trade but followed the occupation of farming in Iowa, and he and his wife are still residents of Winnebago county. They became the parents of eight children, of whom Carl K., Nels, Henry, Hans and Christian are now living. They lost two children who were named Nels and one other who died in infancy.

Carl K. Nelson was educated in the public schools of Winnebago county and at Decorah, Iowa, and in the Highland Park School at Des Moines. While in the capital city he took up the study of telegraphy, but followed it for only a year. He afterward engaged in grain buying at Scarville, Iowa, for five years and in 1906 he was a candidate for the position of county recorder, on which occasion he was defeated by only forty-three votes. After the election he was appointed deputy county treasurer and made a most excellent record in that position, in which he was retained for five years, or until October, 1911, when he was appointed county auditor to fill a vacancy for one year. On the expiration of that period he was elected for a two years' term and has been twice reelected, having no opposition at any of his three elections, for the public has long since become convinced not only of his fidelity but of his marked capability in office and feels that public office could not be in safer hands. Mr. Nelson has also served as township clerk of Logan township and as secretary of the school board in Scarville. He has always given his political allegiance to the republican party and is a firm believer in its principles.

On the 7th of July, 1897, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Emma Rusley. Mrs. Nelson is a daughter of Ole O. and Johanna (Christopherson) Rusley, both born in Telemarken, Norway. The father was born in 1850 and was

eleven years of age when he came with his parents to the United States in 1861. The birth of the mother occurred in 1847 and in 1869 she accompanied her parents on their removal to the new world. Mr. and Mrs. Rusley were married in Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1873, and became the parents of seven children, namely: Ole, Emma, Christopher, John, Tilda, Sever and Leva. The father died in 1892, and the mother passed away in 1910. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson died in infancy, but they have an adopted daughter, Selma.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson hold membership in the United Lutheran church and they make their home in Forest City. Mr. Nelson is also the owner of a farm which he rents, deriving therefrom a good income. They are widely and favorably known in the county, enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they come in contact, and over the record of his public career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

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#### CHRIST CHRISTENSON.

Christ Christenson is living on a farm on section 23, Eden township, Winnebago county, which he purchased in 1915 and has since cultivated. His entire experience has been along the line of general agricultural pursuits and he was thus well qualified to take charge of a farm of his own. He was born October 8, 1880, in Eden township, his parents being Anton and Anna (Olson) Christenson, who are natives of Norway but came to the United States in youth. They resided for a time in Faribault county, Minnesota, and were there married. Soon afterward they became residents of Eden township, where the father cultivated a rented farm for a few years. He next purchased the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 23 and cleared and improved his tract of forty acres. As his financial resources increased he added to his possessions, his second purchase making him the owner of eighty acres on section 23, while later he bought eighty acres on section 24 and now has altogether two hundred acres of good land. His has been a busy life devoted to general farming. Both he and his wife are members of the United Lutheran church and his political endorsement is given to the republican party. He has now reached the age of seventy-two years, while his wife is sixty-four years of age. All that they possess has been acquired through their earnest labor and the life record of Anton Christenson indicates what may be accomplished when one is ambitious and energetic. In the family were but two children, Christ and Ole. The latter married Stella Larson, a daughter of Thomas Larson, one of the pioneer settlers of Winnebago county, who, however, is now residing near Fosston, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Christenson have two children, Anna and a baby boy. He is also a farmer of Eden township, cultivating eighty acres of land which he owns on section 24.

Christ Christenson attended the public schools between the ages of six and sixteen years and then concentrated his entire attention upon farm work, with which he had already become familiar while assisting his father in the development and improvement of the old homestead. For a time he engaged in cultivating his father's farm on the shares and in 1915 he purchased from his father one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 23, Eden township, where he

now makes his home. This is a good farm, carefully cultivated and well improved, and everything about the place indicates the progressive spirit and practical methods of the owner.

Mr. Christenson belongs to the United Lutheran church and his political endorsement is given to the republican party, but he has neither time nor inclination to seek office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and his energies upon his business interests. All that he possesses has been acquired through his own labor. He has carefully formulated his plans and the desire to own a farm led him to practice economy as well as industry until he had acquired enough to make the purchase. The years as they go by chronicle his growing success and he is now numbered among the substantial agriculturists of his community.

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#### ERICK OLSEN KOBBERVIG.

Erick Olsen Kobbervig, living on section 31, Norway township, has been a resident of Winnebago county for forty-one years and throughout the greater part of this period has carried on general farming. He is a self-made man, his success being attributable entirely to his own efforts, and he is today the owner of two hundred and forty-three acres of rich and valuable land. He was born in Nordre Valdres, Norway, September 25, 1816, a son of Ole O. and Margaret O. (Brager) Kobbervig, who were farming people of the land of the midnight sun, where they remained until 1852, when they crossed the Atlantic and made their way to Dane county, Wisconsin. They took passage on a sailing vessel which was thirteen weeks in crossing the Atlantic. The father took up farming in Dane county and there he and his wife spent their remaining days, both having now passed away. Three of their children were born in Norway, namely: Isabel, now the widow of Tostin Spaanem, of Mount Vernon, Wisconsin; Erick O.; and Arney, of Lake Mills. After coming to the United States, five others were added to the family: Martin, now living on the old homestead in Dane county; Maria, the wife of O. S. Olson, of Lake Mills; Mrs. Anna Nelson, a widow residing in Minneapolis; Mattie, the wife of George Nelson, of Van Metre, South Dakota; and Ole, whose home is in Kalispell, Montana.

Erick O. Kobbervig was a little lad of but five and one-half years when brought by his parents to the new world and in Dane county he acquired a common school education. When he was a youth of sixteen he put aside his textbooks to earn his living as a farm hand, and was thus employed until he reached the age of twenty-two. He then felt his age and experience were sufficient to enable him to engage in farming on his own account and from 1869 until 1876 he engaged in cultivating rented land in Dane county. On the 18th of January of the latter year he came with his family to Lake Mills, Iowa, and there resided for a few years, during which he engaged in the implement business. He next bought an eighty-three acre farm in Center township and has since added to his original purchase by acquiring the southeast quarter of section 31, Norway township, just across the road from his first tract. He has put all the improvements upon his place and his labors have converted it into a good farm which is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift. He is a stock-



holder in the Searville Creamery Company, the Farmers elevators at Searville and Lake Mills and the Savage Mail Order Company at St. Paul.

When twenty-five years of age, in January, 1872, Mr. Kobbervig was married to Miss Julia Olson, of Dane county, Wisconsin, whose parents were among the pioneer settlers there. One child born to this union died in infancy, while the others are still living, namely: Malina, who is the wife of T. J. Moe, of Lake Mills; Caroline, at home; Mattie, who is the wife of Henry Dakken, of Lake Mills; Otis, residing in Glasgow, Montana; Sarah, who gave her hand in marriage to Chris Willardson, of Albert Lea, Minnesota; Ella, at home; Agard, living in St. Paul, Minnesota; Leonard, at home; Wilford, who enlisted in the United States cavalry from Des Moines and is now stationed at Fort Logan, Texas; and Alpha, at home. The wife and mother passed away in September, 1910, and was laid to rest in North cemetery at Lake Mills. She had been devoted to her family and was a consistent member of the United Lutheran church, to which Mr. Kobbervig also belongs. His political endorsement is given to the democratic party, but he has never sought nor desired office. He served, however, on the school board at Lake Mills and as judge of elections several times, and he has ever been interested in those forces and movements which tend to promote public progress and improvement. His life has been an exposition of that industry and perseverance which characterize the Norwegian people and his activities have contributed much to the agricultural progress and development of Winnebago county. He has lived to witness many changes here, for he took up his abode within its borders in pioneer times and he aided in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the present progress and prosperity of the district.

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#### SIVERT RASMUSON.

Norway's contribution to the citizenship of Winnebago county includes Sivert Rasmuson, who is living on section 14, King township. He was born February 2, 1864, and is a son of Sivert and Delia (Hendrickson) Rasmuson, who were natives of Norway, where the father followed the occupation of farming until 1884, when he determined to try his fortune in America and brought his family to the new world, settling first in De Kalb county, Illinois, where he was employed at farm labor for three years. He then removed to Shelby county, Iowa, where he rented land and continued its cultivation for seven years. He next went to Madison county, Nebraska, where he cultivated a rented farm for five years. On the expiration of that period he retired from active business and removed to the town of Newman's Grove, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in September, 1912. His widow still survives.

Mr. Rasmuson of this review was reared and educated in Norway, being twenty years of age when he came with his parents to the United States. The financial resources of the family were such that it was necessary that he immediately secure employment and he worked as a farm hand in Illinois for a time. He later began farming on his own account in Shelby county, Iowa, where he remained for two years, and then removed to Madison county, Nebraska, where

he purchased land which he cultivated for three years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Shelby county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres, which he cultivated for three years. He afterward rented a farm for eleven years and in 1907 he came to Winnebago county, where he bought one hundred and eighty-three acres in Eden township. This he cultivated for six years, when he sold that property and became the owner of his present place of eighty acres on section 14, King township. He has wrought notable changes in the appearance of the place during his ownership, converting it into rich and productive fields divided into tracts of convenient size by well kept fences. He is making a specialty of raising pure bred Duroc hogs and high grade Holstein cattle. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Rake.

In December, 1887, Mr. Rasmuson was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Benson and they have become the parents of six children, Sander, Lillie, Tillie, Gena, Selma and Sylvia. The family attend the Lutheran church, in which Mr. and Mrs. Rasmuson hold membership. His political views are in accord with the teachings and principles of the republican party, and he does not lightly hold the duties and obligations of citizenship, but is loyal to the best interests of the community and manifests a love and allegiance for his adopted land equal to that of many of its native born citizens. He realizes the fact that it has been through business conditions here that he has been enabled to work his way upward. Success is not to be won in a day nor without effort, a fact which Mr. Rasmuson thoroughly understood, and therefore he has wisely used his chances day by day and his persistent labor has gained him place among the representative farmers of King township.

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#### CARL L. SUBY.

In the death of Carl L. Suby, Winnebago county lost one of its valued and substantial citizens, a man whose sterling worth was manifest in every relation and who by reason of his splendid characteristics commanded the fullest confidence and regard of all who knew him. He was born in Dodge county, Minnesota, July 16, 1870, a son of Leauf and Martha Suby, who were natives of Norway but in early life came to the United States and were married in Dodge county, where the father engaged in farming until 1886. He then removed to Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for a long period, but in his later years he retired from active business life and removed to Lake Mills, where he spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, having acquired a competence that was sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He died September 5, 1913, while his wife survived only until the 5th of June, 1914, and they were laid to rest in the church cemetery on the farm of Fred Suby in Mount Valley township.

The early advantages of Carl L. Suby were somewhat limited. He enjoyed such educational opportunities as the pioneer schools of Minnesota afforded until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he felt that he must provide for his own support and began working for others. Later he took up the occupation

of farming on his own account on rented land and when he had saved from his earnings a sufficient sum he purchased eighty acres in Mount Valley township, upon which he carried on general agricultural pursuits until he reached the age of twenty-four. From the time when he started out he displayed the utmost persistency of purpose, combined with indefatigable energy, and utilized every possible opportunity for advancement. At length he determined to try some other pursuit than that to which he was reared and when twenty-four years of age he entered the employ of the clothing firm of Stadhem & Larson at Lake Mills, remaining with them until 1903. In that year he removed to Scarville and became cashier of the Bank of Scarville, with Ole Sear as the president and Joseph Keeler as vice president. The bank was organized in that year and the original officers continued in their respective positions until 1911 with the addition, in 1907, of George Throntveit as assistant cashier. In 1911 Mr. Suby purchased all the stock of the bank, becoming sole owner and its president, with George Throntveit as cashier. The latter served in that position until 1913, when he was succeeded by L. R. Lunoe, who remained as cashier until January, 1914. At that time A. Melvin Larson became cashier and is still serving. The bank was conducted as a private institution until a recent date, when it was incorporated, and is now operating as a savings bank under the laws of Iowa with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. Mr. Suby remained as the president of the bank until his death, which occurred on the 14th of April, 1917. The present officers are: T. A. Kingland, president; Dr. J. I. Suby, vice president; and A. Melvin Larson, cashier, and in connection with these three on the board of directors are George Throntveit and Mrs. C. L. Suby. In 1916 Dr. J. I. Suby purchased an interest in the bank and was then chosen vice president. This bank largely stands as a monument to the enterprise, good business ability and sound judgment of Carl L. Suby, who directed its policies from the beginning and whose administrative power and executive control placed it upon a safe footing, making it one of the substantial financial concerns of the county. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Suby was treasurer of the Cooperative Creamery, the elevator and the telephone companies of Scarville, and his life record was an exemplification of that progressive spirit which has been manifest in the organization of interests for the benefit of the many.

On the 24th of January, 1900, Mr. Suby was married to Miss Gunda Throntveit, a daughter of Jorgen and Gumbild (Olson) Throntveit, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married, and there the father died. Mrs. Suby came to the United States when a young lady of twenty years and prior to her marriage lived in Albert Lea, Minnesota. In 1910 the mother came to America and is now living with her son, George Throntveit, in Scarville. Mr. and Mrs. Suby became the parents of six children, namely, Myrtle G., John L., Lutfer, Carl Gustav, Le Roy M., who died May 7, 1915, and Paul J.

The family occupy a fine residence in Scarville, Mr. Suby having left his family in very comfortable financial circumstances. He was most devoted to the welfare of his wife and children and counted no personal effort or sacrifice on his part too great if it would enhance their happiness. His life was ever honorable and upright and was guided by the teachings of the Synod Lutheran church, of which he was a devoted member. In politics he was a republican and for

twelve years served as mayor of Scarville, while during the last year of his life he was treasurer of the town. His long incumbency in the office of chief executive indicated his marked fidelity and the ability with which he discharged his duties, his administration being characterized by various needed reforms and improvements. As a business man, as a citizen and as a husband and father he ranked high and he left to his family not only the substantial rewards of his labor but also the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

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#### EDWARD GRIFFIN.

Edward Griffin, engaged in farming on section 2, German township, Hancock county, is also actively interested in public affairs of his community and has filled a number of the local offices. He was born in Germany, September 1, 1854, a son of Ludwig and Charlotte (Horsman) Griffin, who were also natives of that country and have now departed this life. It was in July, 1880, that Edward Griffin came to America, being then a young man of twenty-six years. He made his way to Clayton, Iowa, where he secured work on a farm through the summer, while in the winter he engaged in chopping cord wood. Two years were thus passed, after which he was married and established his home in German township, purchasing two hundred and sixteen acres of land on section 2 for twenty-three dollars per acre. He afterward purchased a tract of eighty acres on the same section and afterward another tract of one hundred and twenty acres. His next purchase made him owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29 in the same township and thus he has become one of the extensive landowners of the county. His holdings are all well improved and he is one of the progressive and representative farmers of his section of the state. Great changes have occurred as the years have passed on. He had no money with which to buy horses, but oxen sold at a low price and for a considerable time he used an ox and one horse. Great improvements have been made in farm machinery, too, and he has kept pace with the changes that time and man have wrought. The Rock Island Railroad has been built into this section since his arrival and the work of development has been carried steadily forward, Mr. Griffin bearing his part in the advancement of the agricultural interests of this section, which have been the basis of all the prosperity and upbuilding of Hancock county. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Griffin is a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery of Garner.

On the 25th of November, 1881, Mr. Griffin was married to Mrs. Mary Lange, a daughter of Frederick and Christina (Sexsaur) Arnold, who were natives of Germany and came to the new world in 1851, settling in Clayton county, Iowa, where the father purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Both he and his wife are now deceased. By a former marriage Mrs. Griffin had three children: Emaline A. Lange, now the wife of George Beavers, who is farming near Algona, Iowa; Alvina T. Lange, the wife of Fred Chase, who follows farming in Avery township, Hancock county; and Albert J. Lange, who married Maggie Hammond and is engaged in farming on section 28, German township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin. John A., who married Lillian Able, is living on the old homestead on section 2, German township. Louis H.,

who wedded Emma Schlawein, resides on section 28, German township. Alice F., who married Rudolph Upmeyer, devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits on section 2, German township. Nettie M. is the wife of Benjamin Greiman, living on section 15, German township.

Politically Mr. Griffin is a republican, having given stalwart support to the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He is now serving as township trustee and he has been called upon to fill a number of local offices by his fellow townsmen, who have recognized his worth and ability. For ten years he was school treasurer and for eighteen years a member of the school board, while for twelve years he has been road boss. His duties have ever been discharged with promptness and fidelity and his has been a creditable record in office. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the German Methodist Episcopal church. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world. He voluntarily made choice of America as a place of residence and has ever felt that he owes his allegiance to the land of his adoption. He has, therefore, labored to further the welfare of the community in which he lives and has stood loyally by the democratic principles of the government.

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#### CHRISTIAN N. CHARLSON.

Christian N. Charlson, living on section 18, Center township, has always devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits and his labors have won for him a creditable position among the substantial farmers of Winnebago county. He now owns four hundred acres of rich and valuable land which is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift, and, moreover, his is one of the finest improved places of the county. Mr. Charlson is a native of Wisconsin. He was born in Dane county on the 8th of November, 1855, and is a son of Nels and Ellen Charlson, who are mentioned on another page of this work.

Reared in his native county to the age of ten years, Christian N. Charlson then accompanied his parents to Iowa and has since made his home in Winnebago county. His education, begun in the schools of Wisconsin, was continued in this state and in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons. Through the period of his boyhood and youth he worked with his father upon the home farm, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority, after which he started out independently, renting land for a year. He was ambitious, however, to own land and engage in farming on his own account, so carefully saving his earnings, he was after a year able to purchase forty acres of his present place, to which he has added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he is now the owner of four hundred acres, of which two hundred and forty acres is situated on sections 7 and 18, Center township, the buildings being on the latter section. He also has one hundred and sixty acres on section 13, Newton township, also a highly improved tract which adjoins the two hundred and forty acres on the west. There are three sets of buildings upon his farm. He has a thoroughly up-to-date farm supplied with all modern equipments, conveniences and accessories, no feature of the model farm of the twentieth century being lacking. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Charlson is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company, of the Lake Mills Lumber Company and the

Lake Mills Creamery Company and of the first two he is a director. He is much interested in dairy farming and he now milks twenty-two cows.

On February 13, 1877, Mr. Charlson was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Jensen, a daughter of Jens and Mary Jenson, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of L. A. Jensen, an attorney of Forest City, on another page of this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Charlson have been born eleven children, as follows: Jens C., who married Miss Mattie Twito; Nels C., who wedded Miss Sarah Tistel; Martin, who married Miss Ada Twito; Chris, who married Miss Emma J. Olson; Samuel, who wedded Miss Esther Meyer; Ole; Richard; Lester; Ella, who became the wife of Oscar Dahlen and passed away in September, 1907; Clara, who gave her hand in marriage to Gilbert Thompson, an agriculturist residing near Leland; and Wilma.

Mr. Charlson votes with the republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He and his family are connected with the United Lutheran church and his religious beliefs guide him in all life's relations, making him a man whom to know is to esteem and honor. He has many sterling qualities and everywhere is spoken of in terms of high regard.

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#### ELLING FLUGUM.

Elling Flugum is a representative farmer of King township and one who takes an active and helpful interest in public affairs, doing all in his power to advance general progress and improvement. He was born in Norway in September, 1863, a son of Elling and Ingeborg Flugum, who were likewise natives of that country. The father was a blacksmith by trade and followed the occupation of farming in Norway throughout his entire life. He there passed away in 1915, having attained the remarkable old age of ninety-eight years, and his widow is still living in Norway at the age of ninety years.

Elling Flugum was a young man of twenty-two years when he determined to come to the new world. Bidding adieu to friends and native land, he sailed for the United States in 1885, and after reaching an American port made his way across the country to Dane county, Wisconsin, where many of his fellow countrymen had previously located. There he worked as a farm hand for eleven years, after which he came with his brother to Winnebago county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 14, King township, thus investing the money which he had previously acquired as the reward of his industry. In this purchase he was a partner of his brother and together they operated the tract for two years, after which they divided the farm, Elling Flugum taking the west half of the quarter. He has since made splendid improvements upon it, and through the intervening years has continuously owned and cultivated it. His labors find visible evidence in the substantial buildings, the well kept fields and the good stock upon his place. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Thompson, thus showing his sympathy with those plans of organization and cooperation which are for mutual benefit among the farmers.

In January, 1895, Mr. Flugum was married to Martha Boyum Olson and they

became the parents of seven children, Rose, Elmer, Ida, Gertrude, Jeannette, Norma and Margaret. In religious faith the family are Lutherans and loyally adhere to the teachings of the church. Mr. Phugum votes with the republican party but has never sought nor filled political office, although for three years he served as a member of the school board. He is interested in matters of public moment as well as in private business affairs and has helpfully supported many measures for the general good.

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#### CHRISTIAN NELSON.

Christian Nelson, well known as a representative and respected farmer of Eden township, Winnebago county, living on section 27, was born near Stavanger, in the county of Vevedal, Norway, February 2, 1848, his parents being Nels and Mary (Olson) Nelson. In the family were eleven children, four of whom are yet living: Christian; Severt, who still makes his home in Norway; Ada, the wife of Nels Walle, of Norway; and Mrs. Elizabeth Hanson, of that country. The parents never came to the United States, the father always following farming in the land of the midnight sun.

Christian Nelson pursued his education in the common schools of his native country until confirmed. He remained a resident of Norway until twenty-four years of age, when the favorable reports which he heard concerning the business conditions and opportunities of the new world proved to him an irresistible attraction and he crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1872. He made his way first to Benton county, Iowa, where he remained for five years and then removed to Worth county where his older brother, Ole, had previously located, he being the only other member of the family in the United States. For two years Christian Nelson worked as a farm hand and then purchased the southeast quarter of section 25, Eden township, Winnebago county. It was a tract of raw land on which not a furrow had been turned, nor an improvement made, but he at once began to develop the property and resided thereon for five years, his labors producing a marked change in the appearance and in the condition of the farm. At length he sold that property and bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 27, Eden township. This, too, was wild land but in a short space of time it had been placed under the plow and was producing good crops. He has since extended the boundaries of his place by the purchase of an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres and is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Eden township. He is also a stockholder in the elevator and creamery of Thompson.

On the 23d of May, 1878, Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Carrie Gilbertson, a daughter of Gilbert and Anna Dahl, who were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. Their daughter, Mrs. Nelson, was two years of age when they crossed the Atlantic with their family and established their home near Northwood, in Worth county, Iowa. Still later they became residents of Silver Lake township in that county and there the father engaged in farming until his life's labors were ended in death. Both he and his wife were laid to rest in the Lime Creek Church cemetery near Emmons, Minnesota. Mr. and

Mrs. Nelson have become parents of nine children, as follows: Nels, who resides near Leland, in Winnebago county; Anna, who gave her hand in marriage to Tom Slyde, of Thompson; Minnie, who is the wife of Chris Jensen, of Forest township; Gina, the wife of Hans Ellefson, of Stutsman county, North Dakota; Andrew, who operates the home farm; Clara, the wife of Charles Mans, of Stutsman county, North Dakota; Gilbert, who cultivates the home place; and Ada and Oscar, both at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson hold membership in the United Lutheran church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. His has been an active and useful life, fraught with good results. The excellence of a plan is determined by the real accomplishment of its full purpose. Mr. Nelson has always formed his plans carefully and has carried them forward to successful completion. He early realized that obstacles and difficulties can be overcome by persistent, earnest effort and he has therefore never allowed them to bar his path. Working diligently, making each day count as a full-faithed attempt to accomplish something, he has gone on year by year and has won a place among the men of affluence in Eden township, being now the possessor of a comfortable competence.

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#### MARTIN BUCKLY.

Martin Buckley, a representative of the farming interests of Hancock county, is living on section 7, German township, and that he has prospered as the years have gone on is indicated in the fact that he has from time to time added to his landed possessions until his holdings now amount to two hundred and forty acres. He was born November 12, 1857, in Clayton county, Iowa, a son of Dennis and Mary (McCarthy) Buckley, who were natives of Ireland and crossed the broad Atlantic to the new world in 1847, at which time they took up their abode near Brattleboro, Vermont, where the father followed railroading for a time. At an early day, however, they came to Iowa, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Clayton county, and both are now deceased.

Reared under the parental roof, Martin Buckley attended the public schools of Clayton county until he reached the age of sixteen years and afterward had the benefit of another year's instruction, thus qualifying for life's practical and responsible duties. At the age of twenty years he began working as a farm hand and was employed in that way and in herding cattle in Hancock county for eight years. He afterward purchased eighty acres of land on section 7, German township, for which he paid five dollars per acre. This was about 1880. His second purchase was made in 1890, when he secured eighty acres on section 12, Erin township, for which he paid sixteen dollars and a half per acre. He afterward bought eighty acres on section 7 in 1909 and for that tract paid thirty-five dollars per acre. His land has since greatly increased in value, owing to his cultivation and to the improvements which he has put upon the property. His work has wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place and his labors result in the harvesting of good crops annually. He is also a stockholder in the Britt Creamery and in the Farmers Elevator of Britt.

On the 29th of November, 1888, Mr. Buckley was married to Miss Ellen



Quinlan, a daughter of Philip and Ellen (Donovan) Quinlan, who were natives of Ireland but died in America. Mr. and Mrs. Buckley have become parents of five children, a son and four daughters: Raymond W., Mayme L., Agnes E., Ella M., and Cecelia F. The second daughter is now teaching school.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. Buckley is a democrat. He has served as township trustee for many years and for one year was a school director. He is interested in community affairs, supporting all practical plans and measures for the public good, and he enjoys the confidence and goodwill of his fellow townsmen. For thirty-seven years he has resided upon his present farm and is well known as one of the active and representative agriculturists of German township.

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#### FOREST SECOR.

Forest Secor was born October 29, 1890, in Forest City, where he still resides, and is a son of Willard and Gladys (Sallie) Secor, the former also a native of Forest City and a son of the Hon. Eugene Secor. He acquired his education in the local schools and at Cornell College and then engaged in the real estate business in Mora, Minnesota, there continuing until March, 1916, when he disposed of his business interests there and returned to Forest City to settle up his father's estate. In the meantime, he purchased the Forest Theatre, which he is now conducting.

In 1914 Mr. Secor was united in marriage to Miss Zella Moon, of Vinton, Iowa. He is connected with the following organizations: Forest City Lodge, No. 213, A. F. & A. M.; Bethel Chapter, No. 116, R. A. M., of Garner; Forest City Lodge, I. O. O. F.; and the Minneapolis Athletic Club. His political allegiance is given to the republican party.

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#### GEORGE W. PLATT.

An excellent farm in Twin Lake township, Hancock county, situated on section 12, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by its owner, George W. Platt. This farm is carefully and systematically cultivated, and Mr. Platt ranks with the wide-awake and progressive agriculturists of his district. He was born February 2, 1871, a son of William and Matilda (Eastopp) Platt, the former a native of Maine and the latter of West Virginia.

It was in the schools of West Virginia that George W. Platt pursued his education, after which he devoted six years to farm work in that locality. He then went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was employed for three years in a bakery, and later he engaged in peddling for eighteen months. He was also employed for two years as a coal miner in West Virginia and devoted three years to work in the steel mills of Ohio. On the expiration of that period he came to Iowa and engaged in railroad work for three months. He afterward secured work as a farm hand in Illinois, where he spent five years and then came

to Iowa, where he worked for one year on a farm. In purchasing land he secured one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Twin Lake township, Hancock county, eighty acres on section 13 and eighty acres on section 11, so that he owns altogether three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land in Twin Lake township. He is carrying on general farming and his labors are attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity, for his affairs are wisely managed.

On the 30th of January, 1902, Mr. Platt was married to Mrs. Lizzie Etchen, a daughter of Herman and Caroline (Bernoking) Eickmeier, who were natives of Germany and about 1860 became residents of Illinois. By her former marriage Mrs. Platt had six children, Louis F., Lillie, Albert, Fred, Rosa and John. In his political views Mr. Platt is a republican and his life is guided by the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a loyal and helpful member.

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#### OLE O. TVETEN.

Ole O. Tveten still holds title to two hundred acres in Center township and also owns land in Minnesota but is leaving the operation of his properties to others and is enjoying a well earned rest, making his home in Lake Mills. He was born March 12, 1840, in Nissedal, Norway, and is the youngest son of Ole Halvorson and Torbor (Johnsdatter) Tveten, lifelong residents of the land of the midnight sun.

Ole O. Tveten was educated in his native country and remained there until he was twenty-two years old, when he brought his wife to the United States, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin. He remained there for two years and was for one year a resident of Goodhue county, Minnesota, and for two years of McLeod county, that state. His next removal was to Winnebago county, Iowa, and during the intervening period, or for more than a half century, he has continued to reside within its borders. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Center township and later two hundred and eighty acres and successfully engaged in farming until 1912, when he retired and took up his home in Lake Mills. He made many improvements upon his place and brought his land to a high state of cultivation. As the years passed his resources steadily increased, for his grain and stock brought good prices on the market and he managed his business affairs well. He is now in excellent circumstances. He retains title to his home farm and also owns land in Minnesota.

In 1862, in Norway, Mr. Tveten was married to Miss Susanna Abramsdatter Midbo, whose parents never came to America. To Mr. and Mrs. Tveten have been born ten children, as follows: Torbor, the wife of Olaf Tveit, of Mahanomen, Minnesota; Abram, who is married and resides in Center township; Gunhild, who died in infancy; Ole, whose home is in Lake Mills; Halvor, who is married and resides in Lake Mills; Gunhild, also of Lake Mills; Anne Helene, who died at the age of thirty-three years; Jacob, who is married and is a pastor at Lee, Illinois; Andrea, the wife of Torval Torvalson, of Center township; and Johanna, the wife of T. Ebrech, of Crosby, North Dakota.

Mr. Tveten has been a staunch supporter of the republican party but has never sought office. He belongs to the United Lutheran church and in its teachings are found the principles which have guided his conduct. Practically his entire life has

been given to agricultural pursuits and during the years that he was actively engaged in farming he was a factor in the development of the county along those lines, for he was always ready to discard an old method for a new one that promised to be more effective.

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### JOSEPH H. REVELL.

Winnebago county has been signally fortunate in the class of men who have occupied her public offices, for on the whole they have been progressive citizens, putting forth earnest effort to protect the best interests of the community. On the list of capable officials here appears the name of Joseph H. Revell, who is now county sheriff and who makes his home at Forest City. He was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, January 31, 1859, a son of John and Mary (Rhames) Revell, who in 1861 became residents of Mitchell county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. There the mother passed away and later Mr. Revell removed to North Dakota, where his remaining days were spent.

Joseph H. Revell acquired a public school education and in the year 1875 he became a resident of Lake Mills, Iowa, where he worked for four years in the employ of George Thomas. He afterward spent one year in Mitchell county, this state, and then returned to Lake Mills, where for a year he was employed by S. D. Wadsworth. On the expiration of that period he removed to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he continued for eight years. Once more he became a resident of Lake Mills and was employed in the implement store of Eckert & Williams. In 1910, however, he was called to public office, being nominated and elected to the position of sheriff of Winnebago county. The faithfulness and capability which he displayed during his first term led to his reelection and he is now serving for the fourth term in that position, proving a most faithful custodian of the rights and liberties of the individual under the law.

In October, 1901, Mr. Revell was married to Mrs. Villie Davey, of Lake Mills. Her father was one of the pioneer settlers of that part of the county. By a former marriage Mr. Revell had five children and by his second marriage has one. In politics he has ever been an earnest republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Yeomen. He has become widely known in Winnebago county, where he first took up his abode in 1875, and his reliability and progressive spirit have made him a valued citizen, well worthy of the confidence which is accorded him.

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### ANDREW JORDANGER.

Andrew Jordanger, living on section 29, Amsterdam township, is the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres and is regarded as one of the representative agriculturists of Hancock county. In addition to his home place he has other valuable properties in Iowa, his landed possessions aggregating altogether seven hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Norway in November,

1860, a son of Essen and Carrie (Jordanger) Jordanger, who were likewise natives of that country.

Andrew Jordanger spent the first twenty-seven years of his life in his native land and on coming to America in 1887 made his way to Morris, Illinois. He had pursued his education in the schools of Norway to the age of sixteen years and after that had depended upon his own labors for his support. He engaged in tiling for four years and for a similar period rented land. At length he bought property at Clarion, Iowa, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he lived for six years. On the expiration of that period he came to Hancock county and acquired three hundred and twenty acres on sections 8 and 9, Amsterdam township. He has since purchased another farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 30 of the same township and his holdings also include three hundred and twenty acres at Crystal Lake, Iowa. His has been an active, busy and useful life and his success is the reward of earnest labor and careful management.

In 1892 Mr. Jordanger was married to Miss Carrie Neilson, by whom he has seven children, namely: Clarence; Nellie, Anna and Esther, all of whom are married; Ida; Ole; and Clifford. Politically Mr. Jordanger is a republican and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies and attention upon his business affairs, and in addition to farming he is a stockholder in the Kanawha creamery and the Kanawha elevator. He believes in that cooperation among farmers which is doing much to improve agricultural conditions, and throughout his entire life he has been actuated by a spirit of progress that has brought splendid results. He is today one of the foremost citizens of Hancock county and his ability has been demonstrated in his very substantial success.

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#### IVER G. FJILLAND.

Iver G. Fjilland is one of the worthy citizens that Norway has furnished Winnebago county and although he came to the new world in limited circumstances he is now the owner of a good farm on section 33, Logan township, where he now makes his home. He was born in the stift of Bergen, Norway, February 19, 1864, a son of Gunder and Greta Fjilland. The mother is now deceased but the father is living and still continues to reside in the land of the midnight sun. Much of his life has been passed upon the water as a sailor but he has also followed the occupation of farming as a means of livelihood. The parents had seven children, five of whom are living at the present time, namely: Gunder, whose home is near Westport, Washington; Sineva, the wife of Torgen E. Fjilland of Bergen, Norway; Iver G., of this review; Halvor, now in Alaska; and Thomas, a resident of Bergen, Norway.

Iver G. Fjilland was reared and educated in his native land and was twenty years of age when he came alone to America. For eleven years he worked as a farm hand in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and later spent a year and a half in the state of Washington. On his return to Iowa in 1897 he located in Winnebago

county and purchased his present farm, becoming owner of the south half of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 33, Logan township whereon he still resides.

In 1906 Mr. Fjilland married Miss Josephine Hasted, a daughter of John and Serena Hasted of Logan township, but now living in Eden township, Winnebago county. Mr. and Mrs. Fjilland are earnest and consistent members of the Synod Lutheran church and are widely and favorably known in this locality. The republican party finds in Mr. Fjilland a staunch supporter of its principles and for eight years he efficiently served as township clerk.

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#### CHARLES O. OLSON.

Charles O. Olson, well known in Lake Mills, is now living retired, although for many years he was actively connected with the farming interests of Winnebago county, his well directed energy, thrift and enterprise bringing to him the success that now enables him to enjoy many of life's comforts. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, December 29, 1860, a son of O. E. and Louise (Kneberg) Nelson, who were natives of Norway and in 1847 came to the new world, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father followed the occupation of farming until his death. He passed away, however, in the same year in which his son Charles was born (1860), while his widow survived until November, 1887.

Charles O. Olson was reared and educated in the county of his nativity, spending his youthful days with his grandparents, with whom he remained until he attained his majority. He then rented land in Dane county which he continued to cultivate until 1888, when he removed to Winnebago county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 28, Newton township. With characteristic energy he began to till and improve the farm and his business affairs were so carefully and wisely managed that each year he was able to add to his savings and at length he bought one hundred and sixty acres more on section 9, Newton township. He continued to cultivate both places until 1913, when he retired from active farm work but still continued to occupy the old homestead for three years more. In 1916, however, he removed to Lake Mills and purchased a nice residence in the north part of the town. There he still resides and is enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He rents both of his farms and from these properties derives a substantial annual income. While upon the farm he made a business of raising hogs and shipped a carload and a half annually. He also engaged in dairying and at times milked thirty cows. He is now a stockholder in the Leland Creamery Company.

On April 17, 1880, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Beekjordan and to them were born nine children: Bennie M., Gust O., Clarence E., Josie Emma, Walter S., Palmer Carl and Mrtle L. I., all of whom are yet at home; and Josephine and Charlotte, who died in infancy.

Mr. Olson has long given stalwart support to the republican party. He served as road overseer in Newton township and for many years filled the office of school director, taking an active interest in upbuilding the educational facilities of the district. The family are members of the United Lutheran church. Mr. Olson's

life has long been guided by high and honorable principles, making him a man whom to know is to respect and honor. In all of his business affairs he has been found to be thoroughly reliable and his diligence and determination have brought to him the success which is now his.

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#### ANTON WEILAND.

Anton Weiland, who is engaged in general farming on section 22, Orthel township, Hancock county, was born in Germany on the 1st of July, 1868, and is a son of John B. and Tillie (Krull) Weiland, who were also natives of that country. At the usual age the son became a pupil in the public schools, which he attended until he reached the age of fourteen years. He came to America in 1883, when a youth of fifteen, and for about fourteen years was a resident of Grundy county, Iowa. Later he established his home in Hancock county, where he rented land for eight years, and while thus engaged he carefully saved his earnings until he had an amount large enough to enable him to purchase property. He first bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Orthel township, and since that time has added a tract of eighty acres on section 16. He is therefore the owner of two hundred and forty acres and the farm constitutes one of the valuable places of the district. He has brought his land to a high state of cultivation and has added to it many substantial improvements.

On the 27th of February, 1895, Mr. Weiland was married to Miss Hattie Wichman, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Everett and Cornelia (Heinegall) Wichman, who were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Weiland have six children: John, Everett, Theodore, George, Clarence and Richard, all yet at home.

Politically Mr. Weiland is a republican, and while he has never sought nor desired political office he has served as school director. His life is actuated by the teachings of the German Reformed church, of which he is a member. For more than a third of a century he has lived on this side the Atlantic and he has ever stood for progress and improvement in community affairs, while he has made his farm activities the expression of modern advancement in the work of the fields.

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#### L. T. THOMPSON.

L. T. Thompson is now living retired after years of active and well directed business effort—effort that not only brought to him substantial success but also contributed to public prosperity. He was born in Norway, April 23, 1859, a son of Thorston and Thora Thompson, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. The father came to America in 1866, bringing with him his wife and children, at which time the family home was established in Madison, Wisconsin, where they lived for three years. In 1869 a removal was made to Albert Lea, Minnesota, and the following year they came to Winnebago county, settling on a farm near Benson Grove, where the father purchased a tract of land which he

carefully tilled and cultivated, he and his wife both spending their remaining days upon that place. They had a family of three sons: L. T.; Hans, living on the old homestead; and Ole, a farmer of Mount Valley township.

L. T. Thompson was reared and educated in Winnebago county and supplemented his common school training by college work. He afterward took up the profession of teaching and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to public office and for twelve years he filled the office of county surveyor, his long retention in the position indicating the capability with which he discharged his duties. Mr. Thompson also gave his attention to farming and stock raising for several years and in all that he has undertaken he has won success. In his vocabulary there is no such word as fail, and when he starts out to attain a given end he is never content until he accomplishes his purpose. He became one of the organizers of the Farmers Savings Bank of Leland and still remains its vice president. He has been one of the organizers of nearly all of the cooperative business interests of the county, including the Cooperative Elevator and the Mutual Insurance Company, serving at one time as president of the latter. It was Mr. Thompson who shipped the first two car loads of tile to the county. He recognized what would be the value of adequate and scientific drainage and he supervised the digging of several miles of drainage ditches.

Mr. Thompson is not affiliated with any political party but stands for progress and improvement in public affairs and has been called upon to serve in the township offices. He belongs to the Lutheran church and has guided his life according to its teachings. He is truly a self-made man and he deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He is reaping the benefit of his earnest toil and with a handsome competence acquired through persistent, earnest labor he is now living retired in the enjoyment of the comforts of life.

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### J. J. RUSLEY.

Business enterprise, sound judgment and unfaltering industry find expression in the life record of J. J. Rusley, now a valued and representative farmer of Mount Valley township, Winnebago county, living on section 11. He was born on the farm where he now makes his home and which he now owns, his natal day being February 12, 1873. His parents were John K. and Sarah (Jacobson) Rusley, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. In 1864 they came to the United States, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they resided, however, for only two years. They then became residents of Freeborn county, Minnesota, establishing their home near Twin Lakes, where they lived for two years. In 1868 they arrived in Winnebago county, Iowa, and purchased the farm which now constitutes the home place of J. J. Rusley. There the father took up his abode and spent his remaining days, giving his time, thought and energies to the further development and improvement of the land until his life's labors were ended in death on the 15th of February, 1909. For three years he had survived his wife, who passed away February 12, 1906.

J. J. Rusley obtained his education in the district schools, his time being

divided between his textbooks and the work of the fields. In 1895, after reaching his twenty-second year, he took charge of the home farm and continued to operate the place until 1901, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 12, Mount Valley township. To this he removed and for eight years continued its cultivation. In 1909, after his father's death, he purchased the home farm and returned to the place of his birth. He has since lived thereon with the exception of two years spent in Joice, Worth county. However, he still retains the ownership of both farms and is regarded today as one of the substantial agriculturists and leading men of Mount Valley township. His property returns to him a gratifying annual income and in all business affairs he displays sound judgment and keen discrimination. In the spring of 1915 he removed to Joice and for two years he was there engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock but in the spring of 1917 returned to the home farm. He is now a stockholder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company and a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Joice.

In 1901 Mr. Rusley was united in marriage to Miss Tomine Ramsey, her father being T. T. Ramsey, a prominent agriculturist of Worth county, Iowa. They now have five children, namely: Truman, Selmer, Glenn, Irene and Ruth, the eldest being in his fifteenth year.

Mr. Rusley gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for four years he served as a member of the board of township trustees. He was also a member of the town council of Joice when residing there and he is a recognized leader in local party ranks. For two years he served as chairman of the republican central committee of Mount Valley township and he does all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party, believing that its platform contains the best elements of good government. He and his family are members of the United Lutheran church and are widely and favorably known in the community where they make their home. During an active business career Mr. Rusley has worked his way steadily upward and at all times and in every relation of life he has displayed those traits which make for honorable manhood and citizenship.

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#### K. K. KILAND.

K. K. Kiland is now living retired at Lake Mills but for a considerable period was closely connected with the agricultural interests of Winnebago county and his enterprise, industry and perseverance brought to him the success that now enables him to rest from further labor in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Norway on the 10th of August, 1847, a son of K. H. and Aase Kiland, who were also natives of that country. The father was a farmer of Norway, where he spent his entire life, there passing away in 1861. His wife survived until 1875.

Their son, K. K. Kiland, was reared and educated in his native land and was there employed as a farm hand until 1869, when at the age of twenty-one years he determined to come to America, feeling that he might have better opportunities on this side the Atlantic. He first settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was employed until he came to Winnebago county in 1872, at which



time he purchased eighty acres of land in Newton township. This he improved and cultivated for four years and then sold that property, after which he bought a farm in Center township. Subsequently he added to his holdings until he now owns two hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land on section 19, Center township, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, making many splendid improvements thereon. He continued actively to operate his farm until 1915, when he retired and removed to Lake Mills, where he has since made his home. His life has been one of diligence and determination, and his labors have brought to him a substantial measure of success, placing him among the well-to-do citizens of Winnebago county.

In December, 1870, Mr. Kiland was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hanson, and to them were born three children, but all died in infancy, and the wife and mother passed away in June, 1890. On the 1st of June, 1891, Mr. Kiland was married to Miss Anna M. Holland and they became the parents of three sons: Clarence A., who was born May 30, 1892, and died on the 6th of September, 1903; Orville M., who was born May 11, 1894, and is now operating the home farm; and Conrad A., who was born September 25, 1896, and is now serving in the United States navy.

While Mr. Kiland has retired from active farm work, he still has business connections, being a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company, in the Lake Mills Creamery Company, the Lake Mills Lumber Company and the Leland Elevator Company. He is a man of good business judgment and his affairs have been so carefully conducted that he has won a very gratifying measure of success. In all of his dealings he has been thoroughly reliable as well as progressive, and his fellow townsmen speak of him in terms of high regard. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. Mr. Kiland has lived in Winnebago county from pioneer times, having for forty-five years been a witness of the growth and development of this section of the state. He has contributed in no small measure to public progress and improvement and there is no feature of the county's development with which he is not familiar. He can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when homes were widely scattered, when there were large tracts of land uncultivated and when the farmers had to depend mostly upon their own efforts and the assistance of their neighbors, as it was a long distance to market and there was comparatively little ready money in the county. Mr. Kiland has lived to witness remarkable changes, for Winnebago county is now populated by a prosperous and contented people, many of whom have won their success within the borders of the county.

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#### DR. A. O. MOSSTAD.

Dr. A. O. Mosstad, of Lake Mills, has built up a large practice as a veterinary surgeon and is highly esteemed not only as a representative of his profession but also as a citizen, for he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his city. He was born in Norway, January 1, 1864, the ninth in a family of ten children whose parents were Ole and Hannah (Orskow) Mosstad. The father

engaged in farming during his active life and passed away in his native country when seventy-eight years old. The mother reached the venerable age of ninety-six years.

A. O. Mosstad attended the common schools until he was confirmed and later worked on farms for others. At length he purchased land which he operated, and while living in Norway he prepared for the practice of veterinary surgery. At the age of twenty-eight years he came to the United States and is the only one of the family to emigrate to this country. He at once made his way to Winnebago county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, which he farmed for two years, or until the death of his wife. He then began the practice of his profession but continued to reside upon the farm for five years, after which he removed to Lake Mills, where he has since resided. He has been very successful in his practice and has prospered financially, being now one of the substantial men of his city.

In Norway Mr. Mosstad was married to Miss Olena Steivold, whose parents remained lifelong residents of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Mosstad were born nine children, of whom six survive: Andreana and Carlina, both residents of St. Paul, Minnesota; Ole, who is farming near Walters, Minnesota; Lena, now Mrs. Charles Seids, of Spokane, Washington; Edward, a resident of St. Paul; and Hannah, the wife of Abner Peters, of Forest City, Iowa. The wife and mother passed away and is buried near Thompson, Winnebago county. Mr. Mosstad chose for his second wife Miss Mary Gunderson, a daughter of Olaf and Helena Gunderson, of Mount Valley township, this county, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Mosstad died in 1907 and is buried in the United Lutheran cemetery at Lake Mills. She left a daughter, Emma, who is still at home. Dr. Mosstad was married a third time, choosing as his wife Anna Engeland, a daughter of John and Britta Engeland, who lived and died in Norway.

The Doctor is a republican in politics but although he takes the interest of a good citizen in all public affairs he has never been an office seeker. He is a communicant of the United Lutheran church and its teachings have guided his life in all its relations. He has many warm friends and his salient qualities are such as have always commanded respect and regard.

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#### SEVER GUNDERSON.

Sever Gunderson, living upon a farm on section 2, Center township, was born in Kongsvinger, Norway, March 14, 1872, a son of Gunder and Caroline D. (Holmen) Severson, who were also natives of that country. The father there followed the occupation of farming and never came to America, passing away in his native land in 1883, while his wife died there in the year 1878.

Sever Gunderson spent his first twelve years in his native country and then came to America with relatives in 1884, at which time Worth county, Iowa, was made their destination. He had begun his education in Norway and he continued to attend school in Worth county during the winter seasons, during which periods he worked for his board. In the summer months he was employed at farm labor. In early manhood he turned his attention to the meat business, peddling meat in Worth county. The year 1894 witnessed his arrival in Winnebago county, at

which time he secured employment in a meat market at Lake Mills. After a short period he purchased an interest in the business, becoming a partner of L. J. Holland, with whom he was thus associated for five years. Later he retired, but after two years out of business he purchased another meat market, which he conducted for a decade, meeting with substantial success in that undertaking. He afterward turned his attention to farming, purchasing eighty acres of land on section 2, Center township, within the corporation limits of Lake Mills. He has since given his attention to the improvement of the place, devoting his energies to its further development for six years. He is also a stockholder in the Lake Mills Lumber Company, the Farmers Elevator Company and the Lake Mills Creamery Company and he also owns a gravel pit, furnishing gravel to the town of Lake Mills.

On the 16th of February, 1898, Mr. Gunderson was married to Miss Julia O. Sunderland and they have become parents of eight children, namely: Ole R., George L.; Gladys S.; Alfred; Sehner G.; Joseph R.; Carl, who died in infancy; and Clara.

In religious faith the parents are connected with the United Lutheran church, in which Mr. Gunderson has served as a trustee, and he is now one of the members of the school board of Lake Mills. His political endorsement is given to the republican party. His life has been an active and busy one and upon his diligence and determination has been based his success. He has never regretted coming to America in his youthful days, for here he has found the chance for working upward and has based his advancement upon indefatigable industry. He has never allowed difficulties nor obstacles to make him disheartened or discouraged and his persistency of purpose has brought him to a place among the substantial citizens of Center township.

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#### IVAR O. ROSHEIM.

Ivar O. Rosheim, an active, energetic farmer living on section 36, Logan township, was born in Sogn, in the stift of Bergen, Norway, April 6, 1854, his parents being Ole J. and Joroi Hopperstad. The father was an army officer and died when Ivar O. was but six months old, he being an only child. The mother afterward became the wife of Endre E. Rosheim and by that marriage there were four children: Erik, who is still upon the home farm in Norway; Sarah, the wife of G. Boe, also a farmer of Norway; Olina, the wife of Ellend E. Breke, also of Norway; and John, who died at the age of nine years.

Ivar O. Rosheim spent the first twenty years of his life in his native land and then came to the United States alone in 1874. He first made his way to Ridgeway, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he lived for four years, working as a farm hand. In 1878 he arrived in Worth county, Iowa, and was employed at farm labor in Silver Lake township for two years. In 1881 he removed to Logan township, Winnebago county, and invested his earnings in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 36. It was wild and undeveloped, but he at once began to clear and improve the place and has since devoted his attention to farm work with good success. After a time he purchased one hundred and sixty

acres on section 35 and one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, but since then he has deeded one hundred and sixty acres to his sons, Ole and Andrew. His has been a busy, active and useful life and he still owns three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation and transformed into a very fine farm. He has added many modern improvements in the way of good buildings and equipment and in fact there is no feature of the model farm of the twentieth century that is lacking upon his place.

In 1880 Mr. Rosheim was united in marriage to Miss Betsy Knutson, a daughter of Elling and Mary Knutson, who were natives of Norway but were married in Dane county, Wisconsin and were among the earliest pioneer settlers of Worth county, Iowa, making their home in Silver Lake township until called to their final rest. Their remains were interred in the Lime Creek United Lutheran cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Rosheim have become the parents of twelve children: Ole, who is engaged in farming in Logan township; Elling I., a practicing dentist of Roland, Iowa; Andrew, also a resident farmer of Logan township; Knut I., a dental student in the Northwestern University at Chicago; John and Isaac, who are cultivating the home farm; Ivar T. and Mary, also at home; Jorgina, the wife of Oscar O. Solomison, of Newton township; and Sarah, Anna and Ida, who are students in Luther Academy at Albert Lea, Minnesota.

The parents are members of the North Prairie Synod Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Rosheim is a democrat. He served for several terms as township trustee, but has not been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs. He has been prompt and faithful in the discharge of all of his duties, however, and his energy and industry have enabled him to work his way steadily upward until he is now numbered among the valued and substantial residents of Winnebago county. His life record proves that success is not the result of any especially fortunate circumstances, but is the direct reward of earnest, persistent labor, for Mr. Rosheim started out empty-handed and has worked his way steadily upward by diligence and perseverance, becoming ultimately one of the men of affluence in his adopted county.

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#### HERBERT R. CLEOPHAS.

Herbert R. Cleophas is the cashier of the Forest City National Bank and is an alert, enterprising young business man who is making steady progress in the field of finance to which he has turned his attention. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, January 6, 1884, a son of Ira and Anna (Storlock) Cleophas, the former a farmer by occupation.

After attending the public schools near his father's home Herbert R. Cleophas pursued a preparatory course of study in Ottawa, Illinois, and for one year was a student of civil engineering in the Lewis Institute of Chicago. He afterward matriculated in the University of Wisconsin, in which he studied for a year, and later he purchased land in North Dakota, where he engaged in dealing in horses for a year. His initial step in banking circles was made in connection with the Kensett Bank at Kensett, Iowa, in which he filled the position of assistant cashier for a year, at the end of which time he was promoted to cashier. In September,

1913, he arrived in Forest City and was made vice president of the Forest City National Bank, which position he filled until January 12, 1915, when he was chosen cashier.

Mr. Cleophas is well known in fraternal circles. He belongs to Northern Light Lodge, No. 266, A. F. & A. M., of Northwood, Iowa; to Heredon Chapter, No. 135, R. A. M., of Northwood; and is also a prominent representative of the Knights of Pythias, having held all of the chairs in the local lodge and served as a member of the grand lodge. He is likewise connected with the Elks of Mason City. His political allegiance is given to the republican party.

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#### K. M. HAGE.

Norway has sent a large quota of citizens to Winnebago county and they have brought with them the industry and perseverance which characterizes the people of that land. Among those of Norwegian birth now living in Scarville is K. M. Hage, who for a long period was identified with agricultural interests but since 1912 has lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest. He was born in Voss, in the parish of Vinje, Norway, June 24, 1844, a son of Mikkell and Gertrude (Severson) Hage, who spent their entire lives in their native country. The mother was twice married and by her first union had three children: Nils Knutson, now deceased; Anna, the wife of John Johnson, of Story county, Iowa; and Marie, the wife of Brungila Hefte, who is still living in Norway. The three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hage are: K. M., of this review; Sever Mikkelson, who resided in Webster county, Iowa, but is now deceased; and Peter, who lived in Goodyear county, Minnesota, but has passed away.

K. M. Hage spent the period of his youth in his native country and came to America in 1866, when a young man of twenty-two years. He at once made his way westward to Iowa, settling in Story county, where he was employed as a farm hand for two years. He then removed to Winneshiek county, where he engaged in farm work for eight years, and in 1876 he arrived in Winnebago county, at which time he rented a farm in Logan township. He lived upon that place for a year and in the following year purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Logan township, which he cleared and improved, converting it into rich and productive fields. His farm work was carefully and persistently carried on year after year with splendid results. The generous harvests which he gathered brought to him a good financial return and thus as the years went by he added to his savings until his capital was sufficient to enable him to put aside further business cares and activities. He then retired and removed to Scarville, where he has since resided, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

In 1876 Mr. Hage was married to Miss Martha Borgo, a daughter of Lars and Inga Borgo, who were natives of Norway and there spent their entire lives. They had a family of seven children: Eda, now the wife of David Olson, of Mason City, Iowa; Minnie, the wife of Ed Torson, of Logan township, Winnebago county; Louis, who is upon the home farm; Clara, now the wife of Jacob Knutson, of Hanlontown, Iowa; Martin M., a physician practicing in Thompson, Iowa; Selmer,

living in Saskatchewan, Canada; and Anna, the wife of Martin Torgeson, of Little Falls, Minnesota.

The parents hold membership in the United Lutheran church and Mr. Hage is interested in all those things which tend to promote the material, intellectual and moral welfare of the community. He has served as school director and for a number of years was road supervisor. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. His has been an active and well spent life in which he has won a substantial competence as the reward of his earnest and persistent effort. His life record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do, for he came to America empty handed and all that he possesses has been won by him.

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#### HENRY J. MOE.

Henry J. Moe, a resident farmer of Winnebago county, living on section 33, Norway township, was born in Worth county, Iowa, September 1, 1874, a son of John S. and Elie (Ellefson) Moe, who were natives of Norway but came to the United States in early life with their respective parents. The father located in Minnesota, near Brocton, while the mother became a resident of Spring Green, Sauk county, Wisconsin, where her parents spent their remaining days, her father there following the occupation of farming. After living for some time in Minnesota the Moe family removed to Winnebago county, where the paternal grandfather passed away and was laid to rest in North cemetery at Lake Mills. His wife was buried at Waubay, Day county, South Dakota, where she had lived with her son after her husband's death. For about eight years John S. and Elie Moe made their home in Worth county, Iowa, where they settled in pioneer times. Mr. Moe performed the arduous task of developing a new farm and they met all of the experiences and hardships of life on the frontier. On selling his farm there, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres just east of Lake Mills, in Winnebago county, and lived thereon for eighteen years but at the end of that time again bought his first farm, on which he made his home until his removal to Emmons, Minnesota, just across the state boundary line. He also purchased another farm in Silver Lake township, Worth county, and made many improvements on both places. His remains were interred in North cemetery at Lake Mills and his widow is now living at Lake Mills. They became the parents of five children, but two died in infancy. Those still living are: Inger, now the wife of Gilbert Rovang, of Worth county, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Oscar Horvei, of Lake Mills; and Henry J.

The last named acquired his education in the schools of Lake Mills, which he attended to the age of fifteen years. Through the remaining period of his minority he worked with his father upon the home farm in Winnebago county, near Lake Mills. On the 17th of January, 1896, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Horvei, a daughter of Andrew J. and Anna Horvei, of Worth county, where her mother is still living. Her father, however, has passed away and his grave was made in Silver Lake cemetery, Worth county. In their family were

the following children: Agnes; John; Martha, deceased; Olai; Christina; Osear; Anna; Louis; and Albert, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Moe have become the parents of thirteen children, namely: Alfred; Evelyn; Mabel, who died at the age of nine years; Wilma; Benlah; Hulda; Millie; Carl; Violet; Lillian; Eleanor; Hamlet; and Myrtle.

In the year in which he attained his majority—also the year of his marriage—Mr. Moe began farming for himself on rented land in Center township and for four years cultivated property which he leased. During that time he and his young wife practiced close economy and thus carefully saving their earnings they were at length enabled to purchase a farm. They have acquired three different eighty-acre tracts on section 33, Norway township, and today have a valuable and productive farm of two hundred and forty acres. Mr. Moe has remodeled the buildings upon it, keeps everything in a state of good repair and now has a well improved farm property that constitutes one of the attractive features of the landscape. He works diligently in the production of crops and his careful management and energy are bringing to him deserved success. He is a stockholder in the Lake Mills Creamery Company and the Scarville Elevator Company, and also a stockholder and director of the Farmers Elevator Company of Lake Mills. He has never been neglectful of the duties of citizenship and is interested in all affairs pertaining to the welfare and progress of his community. He votes with the republican party and is one of its active local workers, having served as committeeman. He is also deeply interested in the cause of education and has served as school director and as president of the school board. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Moe is that of the United Lutheran church and in Winnebago county they are widely and favorably known.

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#### LEWIS C. BROWN.

Lewis C. Brown, the well known county superintendent of schools of Winnebago county, is a native of the Empire state, his birth occurring in Madison county New York, on the 22d of February, 1854. His parents, Horace B. and Esther (Crandall) Brown, were also born in the same county, where they continued to make their home until coming to Iowa in 1854, and they spent the remainder of their lives in Prairieburg, Linn county, this state.

It was during his infancy that Professor Brown was brought to this state and amid pioneer scenes he passed the days of his boyhood and youth. His early education was obtained in the rural schools and later he attended Lenox College. Since starting out in life for himself he has engaged in farming and teaching school and has become recognized as one of the leading educators of this section of the state. In the fall of 1903 he was elected county superintendent of Winnebago county and entered upon the duties of that position on the 1st of the following January. So capably did he fill the office that he has been reelected several times and at the end of his present term he will have served in that capacity for seventeen consecutive years with the exception of four years.

At Prairieburg, Iowa, in 1875, Professor Brown was united in marriage to Miss Emily Ary, a daughter of Sinclair and Ruth Ann Ary, in whose family were

fourteen children. Four of her brothers were in the Union army during the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born the following children: Aurilla, who married H. D. Staats; C. Edgar, who married Elizabeth Allen; Marion L., who married Villa Dwyer; Dwight A.; M. Edna, now the wife of Earl Fry; Claire; Reginald J.; and James W.

Since attaining his majority Professor Brown has affiliated with the republican party and for forty-three years has been a member of the Masonic fraternity. In religious belief he is a Congregationalist. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county and has a host of warm friends in Forest City, where he now resides.

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#### EDWIN NOYES BAILEY.

Edwin Noyes Bailey, who since 1886 has been engaged in newspaper publication at Britt, was born in Granville, Ohio, June 11, 1849, a son of John Dighton and Martha Ann (Noyes) Bailey, who were farming people and removed from Ohio to Wisconsin in 1854. There they resided for more than two decades and in 1876 came to Hancock county, Iowa. They established their home upon a farm and continued to reside thereon until a few years prior to their death.

Edwin Noyes Bailey was a little lad of but five years when the family home was established in Wisconsin and in Waupaca county he pursued his education in the district schools. Throughout life, however, he has remained a close student in the school of experience. He is a keen observer, a clear thinker and possesses a retentive memory. He came to Hancock county in 1878 and the greater part of his life has been devoted to newspaper publication, for he has edited the Britt paper since 1886. He is widely known in this connection and has long ranked with the leading and representative citizens of his part of the state.

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#### B. A. PLUMMER.

One of the most prominent business men of Forest City, Iowa, is B. A. Plummer, who has been president of the First National Bank of this city since its establishment. He was born at Big Foot Prairie, McHenry county, Illinois, and is a son of David and Bettie (Brookins) Plummer. He completed his education at Fayette University and since starting out in life for himself has engaged in farming and in mercantile pursuits besides banking, to which he now devotes his time and attention. In 1876 he established the City Bank, of which he is the sole owner, and is now carefully and successfully conducting that institution.

In June, 1870, Mr. Plummer was united in marriage to Miss Jane Brentner, and to them have been born six children, namely: Robert Clark, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work; Bernice and Artie, both of whom died in infancy; Effa, now the wife of Frank L. Wacholz; Lovilla, the wife of Ralph B. Young, of San Diego, California; and Archie, who passed away when a youth of thirteen.

Mr. Plummer is now independent in politics, voting for the man whom he



believes best qualified for office regardless of party ties. For two terms, covering eight years, he served as treasurer of Winnebago county and for several terms was mayor of Forest City, to which he gave a public-spirited, businesslike and beneficial administration characterized by various needed reforms and improvements. In 1896 he was a candidate for lieutenant governor on the democratic ticket, but was defeated, as the state gives a large republican majority. He has rendered valuable service in various public connections and yet he believes that the pursuits of private life are in themselves abundantly worthy of his best efforts and in fact prefers to give his undivided attention to his business interests. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Masons and the Yeomen. There is a military chapter in his history, for during the Civil war he was one of the boys in blue, serving as a private in the Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry until the close of the war in 1865. In financial circles he now occupies an enviable position and is regarded as one of the leading business men of Forest City.

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#### NELS I. NELSON.

The life work of Nels I. Nelson constituted a most valuable contribution to the upbuilding, business development and municipal progress of Lake Mills. He was a man whose genuine worth commanded the respect, confidence and goodwill of all and his record proved that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously. He was one of the pioneer merchants of Lake Mills, where he continued actively in business up to the time of his demise. His birth occurred upon a farm near Calmar, Iowa, on the 7th of June, 1857, and he was a little lad of ten years when his parents removed to St. Ansgar. There he attended the common schools and afterward became a pupil in St. Ansgar Seminary, while later he continued his education in Decorah College.

Mr. Nelson had reached the age of twenty-six years when on the 2d of June, 1883, he wedded Miss Anna Christine Sorban, of St. Ansgar, and they removed to Osage, Iowa, where for three years Mr. Nelson was employed in a hardware store. On the expiration of that period he accompanied Ole Scar to Lake Mills, Mr. Scar having proposed to Mr. Nelson that they enter into partnership in the conduct of a general store. Accordingly in 1886 the Scar-Nelson Mercantile Company was organized and for years conducted the leading retail and wholesale establishment of this section of the state. After 1890 they concentrated their energies entirely upon the retail business but extended the scope of their activities to include the conduct of a butter and egg cold storage business. They erected a large brick building in Lake Mills in which to house their stock and for years they were proprietors of the leading commercial establishment of the city, carrying a very large and attractive line of goods. Their business connection was most harmonious, the partnership being continued with mutual pleasure and profit until failing health caused Mr. Scar to retire in 1912. Long before this Mr. Nelson had undertaken a new enterprise. Believing that a corn canning factory might be profitably conducted in Lake Mills, he succeeded in interesting a number of the people of the district sufficiently to buy stock and a company was thus organized, of which Mr. Nelson was elected secretary and general manager. He bent his energy toward

the successful establishment and management of the new undertaking, which from the first proved a profitable one, sending out a large output annually. For a year he was in the real estate business. He improved many farms and the estate owns two farms in Iowa and three in Minnesota, which are rented.

Mr. Nelson had been a resident of Lake Mills for but a brief period when he became an active factor in the control of public as well as private affairs. His fellow townsmen recognized in him a citizen of worth and ability and in 1889 elected him a member of the town council, which position he filled almost continuously for fifteen years, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many measures and movements for the public good. In 1893 he was elected mayor of the city and he was also a most earnest supporter of the public school system, serving for a number of years on the board of education and acting also as president of the board.

It was ill health caused by too heavy business cares that led to Mr. Nelson's death, which occurred at the Lawrence Sanatorium in Minneapolis on November 23, 1915. His wife had passed away April 8, 1915, and her loss was one from which it seemed he could not recover. He had always been most devoted to his family and was a loving husband and a kind and indulgent father. He is survived by two children, Irving and Eda. Mr. Nelson held membership in various fraternal organizations and in Masonry had attained the thirty-second degree. He was a very active and helpful member of the United Lutheran church, assisting materially in its business management and making generous contribution to its support. He cooperated in all plans and movements for the public good and his support could always be counted upon to further any measure that tended to advance the welfare and upbuilding of his city. His was an honored name, for he was ever thoroughly reliable in his dealings. His business was conducted along constructive lines and his path was never strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes. He held to high ideals and embodied lofty principles in all that he did. There are many beautiful memories connected with his life—memories of his large friendships, his business ideals and his public spirit. His work was indeed of great worth to Lake Mills. A modern philosopher has said: "Not the good that comes to us, but the good that comes to the world through us, is the measure of our success;" and judged not by what he received but by what he gave, the life of N. I. Nelson was certainly a most successful one.

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#### ORVILLE M. KILAND.

Wide-awake, alert and energetic, Orville M. Kiland is numbered among the leading young farmers of Winnebago county, now operating an excellent tract of land on section 19, Center township. It was in that township that he was born on the 11th of May, 1894, a son of K. K. and Anna (Holland) Kiland, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. The father was for a long period one of the energetic and representative farmers of this section of the state and continued to engage actively in general agricultural pursuits until 1915, when he retired and removed to Lake Mills, where he and his wife still reside.

Upon the home farm in Center township Orville M. Kiland was reared, spending

his youthful days in the usual manner of farm lads. He worked in the fields during vacation periods while attending the common schools, and he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, so that when his father abandoned farming he was ready to take up the work. He rented the home place of his father and has since continued its cultivation, his labors contributing to its farther development and improvement. He annually harvests good crops and follows practical, progressive methods in all that he does.

Mr. Kiland was reared in the Lutheran faith, to which he still adheres, and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has been a republican, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day but never seeking office. He is widely known as one of the respected young farmers of the community and has many friends.

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#### PETER A. C. WALLE.

Peter A. C. Walle, whose home is on section 15, Eden township, Winnebago county, has devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits and is today the owner of an excellent farm which he has brought under a high state of cultivation. He was born near Delavan, Minnesota, December 14, 1869, and is a son of Christian Johnson and Beret (Vold) Walle, who were born at Bergen, in the northern part of Norway. The father was a sailor and in that locality was married. Five of their children were born in Norway, after which the family came to the United States and located in Minnesota, where they lived for nine years. A removal was then made to Eden township, Winnebago county, where Mr. Walle purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 15. He at once began to break the sod and prepare the fields for planting and in due time good harvests were gathered. He thereafter continued to engage in farming until his death, which occurred in 1906, while his wife survived until 1910. They were buried in the churchyard cemetery upon the home farm. Mr. Walle was a republican in his political views and was an earnest, consistent Christian man. Moreover, in a material sense he was a self-made man, owing his success entirely to his own efforts. Of the five children born to him and his wife in Norway, two are yet living: Ole B. C., who is living in Lamoure county, North Dakota; and Chris C., a resident of Eden township, Winnebago county. One of the children died in Norway in infancy and another when on shipboard coming to the United States, while John died at the age of thirty years. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Johnson Walle in this country, of whom two are living: Peter A. C. and Ed, both of whom are residents of Eden township. One died in early life, while Johanna became the wife of Ole Hauge, of Eden township, and passed away in 1916.

Peter A. C. Walle began attending the pioneer schools, but his educational opportunities were very limited, as deafness prevented him from pursuing his studies in that way. This deafness, however, has fortunately passed away. In his youth Peter Walle worked in the fields and began farming the home place for his father on shares. He now owns the home farm. When he first started for himself he purchased the south half of the northwest quarter and the northwest

quarter of the northwest quarter of section 14, but has since sold that property and is today the owner of the old homestead, which is one of the good farms of Eden township. His entire life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and the spirit of progress actuates him in all that he does.

When thirty-eight years of age Mr. Walle was united in marriage to Miss Maria Steffenson, who came to the United States from Norway about two years prior to her marriage. She has become the mother of three children: Christina Bettina, Anna Serena and Bernice Jenetta. Mr. Walle and his wife are members of the United Lutheran church and are people of genuine personal worth, enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact. His political endorsement is given to the republican party. He is now the owner of a fine farm and may justly be called a self-made man, his success being attributable entirely to his persistent, earnest labors carefully directed.

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### B. C. ELLSWORTH.

B. C. Ellsworth, one of the best known residents of Kanawha actively identified with its public interests as a champion of all that stands for progress and improvement, was born in Eldora, Hardin county, Iowa, a son of Daniel V. and Saloma Ellsworth, who were pioneers of that county. He obtained a high school and normal college education and has always been engaged in newspaper publication, which work he began in Nebraska. He came to Kanawha from Eldora, Iowa, in July, 1899, and established a newspaper called The Kanawha Record. From a modest printing shop with a second-hand Washington hand press and very little cash assets the business has been developed, the office being transformed into a modern and excellent plant for a town of this size. In 1916 the business was housed in a fine new modern brick building erected by the publisher. His patronage has been satisfactory, a large percentage of the business firms being constant patrons, while the home territory subscription list is particularly large. The newspaper has stood for a clean town and has always foreseen and early advocated every public and semi-public enterprise for the benefit of the town and community. After nearly eighteen years of steady newspaper service in Kanawha the property was sold to a stock company May 1, 1917. At the time this work is in preparation Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth are enjoying an extended vacation and touring trip, with future plans not fully matured, but retain their residence property in Kanawha.

In July, 1899, Mr. Ellsworth arrived in Kanawha. The town was in its early stages of development; in fact, it was the first year of its existence and the railroad was not yet in operation. At the time of Mr. Ellsworth's retirement from business in May, 1917, he was the last to sever business relations of the pioneer men who first located in the town in the early months of its existence.

The political efforts of Mr. Ellsworth and his newspaper have always been for the support of the republican party and in that service he has held several township, county and district political positions. A few months after coming to Kanawha he formulated and personally circulated petitions for five rural mail

delivery routes, which later were established and are yet in operation, being the first mail service of that nature to be established in Hancock county. After a year's residence here Mr. Ellsworth was appointed postmaster, in which position he served for more than two terms, the service and patronage of the office being largely developed during his administration.

On the 9th of September, 1903, at Forest City, Iowa, Mr. Ellsworth was united in marriage to Miss Lillian K. Seibert, who is the eldest of a family of twelve children, all living, born to Peter and Louise Seibert, who were pioneer settlers of this section of the state. Mrs. Ellsworth was born in Hancock county. They have an adopted child, Eldon Lovette, who was born April 2, 1911, in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth's church affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church, in which both have rendered official service, taking an active part in promoting its growth and upbuilding, while in the social circles of the city they occupy an enviable position, having a large number of warm friends. It will be noted that Mr. Ellsworth was for a longer period than any other man continuously connected with the business interests of Kanawha, that he established the first rural mail routes and in many other ways has been closely associated with the growth, progress and development of this section, so that his life history constitutes an important chapter in the annals of Hancock county.

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#### NELS E. BRUDVIG.

Nels E. Brudvig, whose home is on section 13, Logan township, Winnebago county, has there resided since 1910 and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place is the visible evidence of his active life, which is fraught with good results. In all his farm work he is practical and progressive and thereby wins a fair measure of prosperity. Wisconsin numbers him among her native sons, for he was born in Columbia county, December 1, 1870. His parents were Erick and Martha Brudvig, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in early manhood and womanhood and were married in Wisconsin, where they resided for three years. They then came to Winnebago county and Mr. Brudvig purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 14, Norway township. It was entirely undeveloped and unimproved, but with characteristic energy he began the work of converting it into a modern farm. He cleared the land, placed it under the plow and in course of time was gathering substantial harvests. He furthered the work of improvement in every way and farmed thereon until his death in 1899, when his remains were interred in the Lime Creek cemetery. His widow still survives and yet occupies the old homestead. In their family were nine children, of whom three died in infancy, while those yet living are: John E., who is upon the home farm with his mother; Nels E.; Andrew, living in Norway township, Winnebago county; and Dortha, Anna and Martin, all yet at home.

Nels E. Brudvig was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of frontier life, for northern Iowa was still a largely undeveloped and unsettled district

when the family home was established in Winnebago county. He was a pupil in the pioneer schools of Norway township, thus pursuing his education until he reached the age of sixteen years, after which he devoted four years to assisting his father on the old homestead. Later he spent three years as a farm hand in Columbia county, Wisconsin, and during the following two years rented a farm there. Returning west of the Mississippi, he took up his abode in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he purchased land, which he owned and cultivated for five years. He then sold that property and bought a farm in Newton township, Winnebago county, which he occupied for seven years. When he disposed of that place he bought the northwest quarter of section 13, Logan township, and has made his home thereon since 1910, his labors resulting in making this an excellent farm with modern equipments, his highly cultivated fields indicating the practical and progressive methods which he follows in all of his farm work.

Mr. Brudvig was married when twenty-six years of age to Miss Madel Helle, a daughter of Mons N. and Katrina Helle, who were early settlers of Norway township. To this union have been born seven children, Minnie, Clara, Erick, Annette, Myrtle, Katherine and Gladys.

The parents are members of the Synod Lutheran church and are people of the highest respectability, enjoying the goodwill and friendship of all who know them. Mr. Brudvig votes with the republican party, which he has long supported. He is a self-made man, being both the architect and builder of his own fortunes. He has planned and worked for his success and has ever continued in the line of labor to which he was reared, so that long experience has furthered his knowledge and made him most efficient in all that he does.

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Beckjorden, Otto	266	Combs, W. H.	438
Beckman, David	487	Conley, J. B.	176
Beecher, Thomas	326	Conner, Bick	300
Beier, H. C.	389	Core, C. B.	129
Beier, Louisa F.	392	Cosgriff, Martin	478
Bell, Adam	428	Costello, J. W.	51
Bellman, V. L.	166	Cox, G. L.	520
Belsheim, G. G.	490	Cuffel, R. W.	165
Bemis, G. A.	21	Curley, C. B.	499
Benson, Peter	427	Dahl, A. E.	227
Berg, N. O.	301	Dahl, G. A.	219
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Fugleberg, Hans	290	Honsey, S. G.	433
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Gaskill, E. G.	397	Houg, G. A.	174
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Gettis, J. S.	58	Hurless, E. H.	265
Geving, J. B.	419	Indvik, E. J.	42
Gifford, J. E.	483	Indvik, O. O.	222
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Hanna, E. G.	444	Kessey, I. J.	179
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Hansen, O. A.	140	Kiland, O. M.	558
Hansing, H. O.	232	Kinden, J. I.	526
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Hanson, F. M.	22	Knackhohn, E. F.	125
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Leehy, J. J.	67	Petersen, L. H.	466
Lehman, C. F.	331	Petersen, P. H.	445
Lenz, W. G.	418	Petersen, P. O.	236
Leshie, F. C.	213	Peterson, A. H.	400
Lewis, J. R.	349	Peterson, D. H.	282
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