

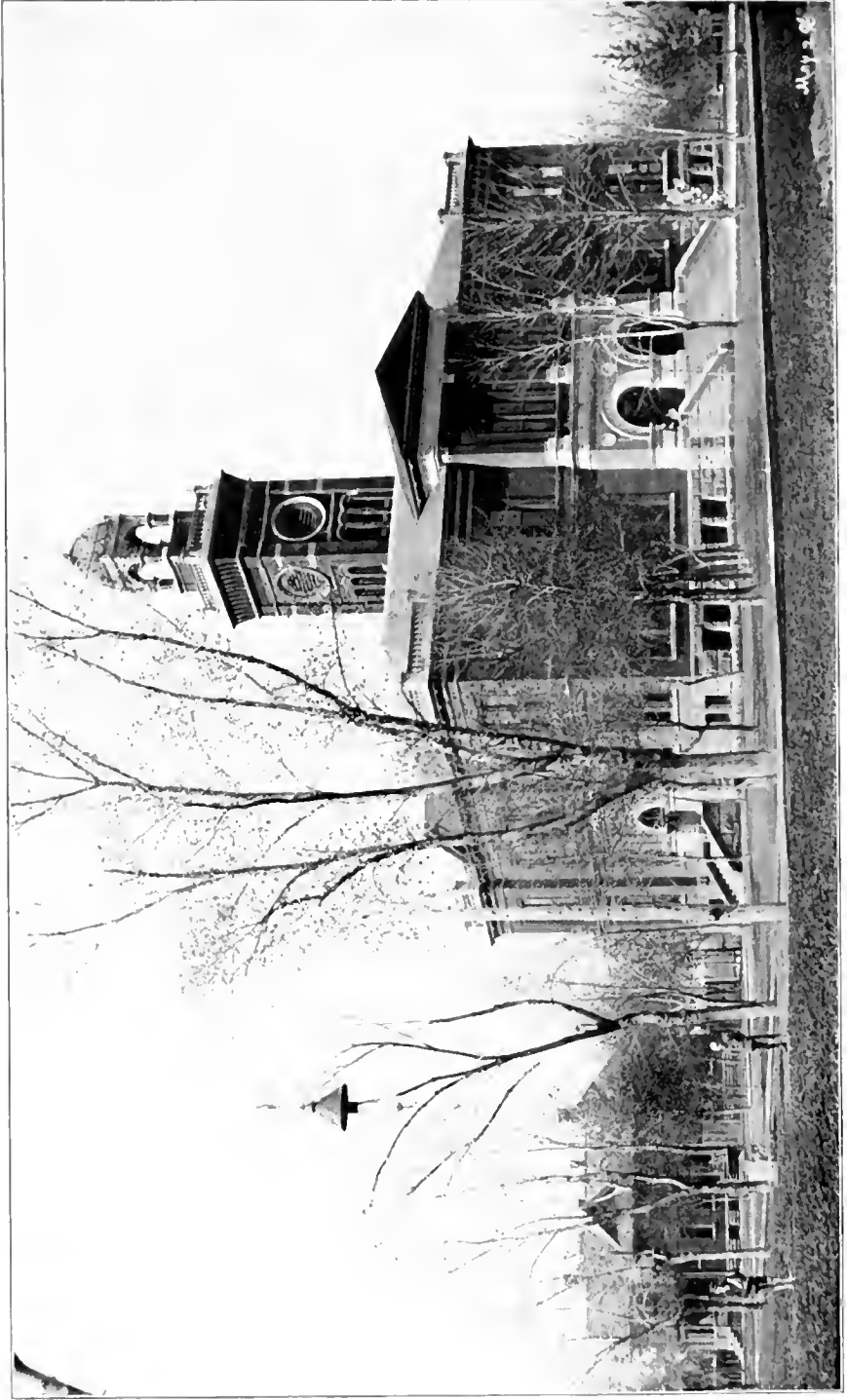
Abbe  
Rose  
11/11



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation







NOBLES COUNTY COURT HOUSE



AN  
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY  
OF  
NOBLES COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

BY  
ARTHUR P. ROSE

NORTHERN HISTORY PUBLISHING COMPANY  
WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA  
PUBLISHERS  
1908

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
R 1912 L



DEDICATED TO THE  
PIONEERS OF NOBLES COUNTY

TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE, AND TO THOSE WHO REMAIN TO RECITE  
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST,  
THESE PAGES ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

1907

1908

1909

1910



## FOREWORD

Probably no historical work was ever put to press which entirely satisfied its author. There are so many pitfalls in the path of him who seeks to record the events of the past; the human mind is so prone to err in recalling dates and names of a former day. So it happens that the writer of local history, compiling his story from data of which only a part can be verified, knows that there must be errors in his work, albeit he may have exercised the greatest care. With no apologies, but with this brief explanation, and the realization that the work is not perfect, the History of Nobles County is put forth.

With this volume is presented the first Nobles county history, and the material for its compilation is obtained from original sources. Friendly coadjutors have assisted materially in its preparation. To the editorial fraternity of Nobles county the author is under many obligations. The files of their publications have been of inestimable value in furnishing authentic data. Especially valuable were those of that pioneer journal, the Worthington Advance, of which liberal use has been made, and without which much of historical importance must have remained unrecorded. Due acknowledgment is made to county and village officers, who assisted in the hunt for early day records, and to scores of citizens in private life, who interested themselves in the work to the extent of devoting time to the detailing of early day events. Special mention is due the assistance given by the late Judge B. W. Woolstencroft, who was one of the very first settlers of Nobles county, and who died at his home in Slayton, Minnesota, after this volume had been put to press. A large part of the history of the county's early settlement, of its organization and early political history was written from data furnished by Judge Woolstencroft.

To Dr. George O. Moore, of Worthington; Senator S. B. Bedford, of Rushmore, and Mr. A. J. Rice, of Adrian, the committee of pioneer residents selected to review and revise the work, great credit is due. After the manuscript had been prepared these gentlemen devoted considerable time to the work of revision. Errors were discovered and corrected and suggestions for additions were made that resulted in a better history. In the work of gathering the data the author has been ably assisted by Mr. P. D. Moore.

The biographical sketches, forming the second part of the volume, were written, in nearly all instances, from facts obtained by personal interviews. Typewritten copies of the sketches were submitted to the subjects for correction, and nearly all made the necessary corrections and returned the manuscript to the publishers. This has resulted in reducing to a minimum the possibility of error in that part of the volume.

ARTHUR P. ROSE.

Worthington, Minnesota, September, 1908.

## ENDORSEMENT

Worthington, Minn., Sept. 11, 1908.

We, the undersigned, chosen as a committee to review the History of Nobles County written by Mr. A. P. Rose and to be published by the Northern History Publishing Company, of Worthington, have read the historical part of the work in manuscript. We bear testimony that the history gives evidence of extensive reading and careful research and that it presents--to our best knowledge--an accurate, comprehensive and impartial record of events. As such we endorse and commend it.

S. B. BEDFORD,  
A. J. RICE,  
GEO. O. MOORE,  
Committee of Citizens.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.

### ABORIGINAL DAYS—1834-1866.

In Primeval State—An Imagery—Inhabited by Wild Beasts—And Wilder Red Men— A Contrast—The Sioux—Tribal Divisions—The M'daywakantous—The Lower Sis- setons Claimed Nobles County—Early Explorers—Nicollet Visits Nobles County— His Map—The Coteaus Des Prairies—"Okebene" Lake—Ocheyedan Hillock, or Mourning Ground—"Karauzi" River—Surveyors Run Minnesota-Iowa Boundary Line—Nearby Settlements—Operations of Trappers—Jude Phillips and Brother— Effect of the Panic of 1857—Spirit Lake Massacre—Hostiles Retreat to Indian Lake—Southwestern Minnesota Depopulated—Incident of 1857—Boom Days—Paper Railroads—Original County Divisions—Nobles a Part of Dakota, Blue Earth and Brown—Creation of Nobles County—Colonel W. H. Nobles—The Boundaries Pro- visions for Organization—Gretchtown Named County Seat—Organization Post- poned—Boundary Lines Surveyed—Settlers Return to Southwestern Minnesota— Census of 1860—Names of Inhabitants—Their Conditions—The Sioux War—The County Deserted—Soldiers Established on the Frontier—The Military Road—Its Course—Trappers Appear—Evidence of Early Occupation Disappear—Judge Wool- stencroft's Letter—First Railroad Survey—The Land Grant—Close of an Era.....	33
---	----

## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT—1867-1871.

Obstacles Overcome—Frontier Line Recedes—First Settlers Arrive—The Graham Lakes Country—Stephen and Joseph Muck—Planting Corn—Messrs. Woolstencroft, Drury, Rice and Barnett Arrive—Stake Claims—Build Shanties—Other Settlers of 1867— Conditions Prevent Farming—Farmers Turn Trappers—Plentiful Small Game—Big Game—Bison—Elk—Deer—Township Lines Run—Mail Route Established—The First Postoffice—Settlers of 1868—First Birth—Andy Dillman Comes to Okabena— County Survey Completed—Indians Arrive—And Create Stir—A Scared Boy— Settlers on Indian Lake—Their Romantic Surroundings—Adventures in Blizzards— Three Perish—Indian Scare—Exciting Times—Company Formed—The Island For- tified—Cottonwood County Settlers Notified—No Indians—First Sunday School— Census of 1870—Arrivals of That Year—Talk of County Organization—Decision Reached—Governor Austin Appoints Commissioners—First Meeting—First Official Acts—Wandering County Seat—Organization Legalized—Court House Talk—Sad Death of Mrs. Palmer—Another Sunday School—Public Schools—Creation of Gra- ham Lakes Township—Its Organization—The Name—Indian Lake Settlers Peti- tion—Their Township Created—And Named—Settlers of 1871—First Financial Statement .....	45
--	----

## CHAPTER III.

## UNDER COLONY RULE—1872.

- A Remarkable Year—Birth of the Colony Idea—Miller, Humiston & Company—Visit Nobles County—Secure Control of Railroad Lands—Elaborate Plans—Thorough Advertising Campaign—Its Results—Hundreds Flock to Worthington—Their Character—The Temperance Feature—Fate of the Colony Company—An Appreciation of Professor Humiston—Hard Winter—State Relief—First Jurors—Railroad Begins Operations—Worthington Sioux Falls Mail and Stage Route—Postoffices Established—Dewald—Hebbard Westside—Mail Route Operated by Daniel Shell—A Beautiful Country—Experiences of Colonists—Roscate Prospects—Land Values—Worthington Township Organized—Petitioners—Bigelow Township—Hersey—Grant—Name Changed to Ransom—Its History—Fairview Renamed Lorain—Dewald—Early Settlers There—Little Rock—Elk—Conferring the Name Seward—First Assessment—Real Estate—Personal Property—Livestock—Townships Compared—License Voted Down—Proposed Change in Boundaries—Nobles Votes to Add Four Townships—But Rejects Proposition to Give Away Four Vote by Precincts..... 61

## CHAPTER IV.

## CALAMITOUS DAYS—1873.

- Days of Adversity—Professor Humiston's Charities—A Severe Winter—The Terrible Blizzard of January 7—Samuel Small, Mrs. John Blixt, John Weston and Taylor Perish—Weston's Ghost—School Children Imprisoned—Joe Poots' Experience—Other Adventures—District Court Established—Jurors—First Grasshopper Invasion—Relief Work—Wilson Township Organized—Petitioners—Name Changed to Akin—To Summit Lake—Hebbard Township Created—Petitioners—Name Changed to New Haven—Later to Olney—Grand Prairie Organized—Petitioners—Selection of Name—Wandering Life of County Seat—Located at Worthington—Stephen Miller Fathers the Bill—The Act—Provision for Permanent Location—Hersey Becomes a Candidate—Second Bill Provides for Vote on Question—County Offices Moved to Worthington—Buildings Rented—Railroad Company Donates Court House Square—Contest Between Worthington and Hersey—Former Wins—Easily Vote by Townships—Tax Levy—School Conditions—Social Conditions.....71

## CHAPTER V.

## THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE—1874-1875.

- Large Acreage Sown—Fine Growing Weather—Ravages of Young Hoppers—First Invasion—Commissioners—Appropriate Money for Relief—County Paper Sold—Flour and Pork Apportioned—Distributing Agents—Second Invasion—Fields Swept Bare—Discouraging Sight—Grasshopper Stories—Third Invasion—The Harvest—Average Yields—Auditor—Bear's Estimate—Losses—A Prophecy—Rigid Economy—Hay for Fuel—Potatoes for Food—Preparing for Winter—Soliciting Aid—J. C. Clark Raises \$1,500—Solicitation for Private Account—Mass Meeting—Adopts Resolution—Stating Conditions—Three Hundred Destitute Families—Appeal to Governor—"No More Bonds"—Formal Appeal for Help—Clothing Worn to Rags—Bed Clothes of Prairie Hay—No Improvvidence—Must Have Help—State Aid Received—Tax Paying Time Extended—Statement by Treasurer—Why Not Desert County?—Tax Levy—Reduced—Assessment—Schools in 1874—New Mail Route—Postoffices—Matter of Taxes—State Furnishes Seed—Wheat—Its Distribution—Anxious Days—Grasshoppers on the Wing—Again Attack the Crops—Hersey, Graham Lakes and Seward Suffer Most—A Degenerate Breed—Census of 1875—Assessed Valuation—First District Court Cases—Tried—Jurors.....81



CHAPTER VI.

THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE (Continued)—1876-1879.

Railroad Rumors—Southern Minnesota to Extend—Settlers Enthusiastic—\$40,000 Subsidy Voted—Vote by Precincts—Project Fails—Sioux Falls Wants Railroad—President Drake Favors Worthington for Terminus—So Does Sioux Falls—Nobles Asked to Aid—Company Incorporated—Survey Made—Construction—Lively Times—First Train—Founding of Adrian—Miller Station—Grasshoppers Again—Myriads Appear—Crops Disappear—Partial Wheat Crop—Damaging Setback—Relief Measures—“The Indians Are Coming”—Refugees Flock to Worthington Camp on Public Square—Great Excitement—No Indians—Origin of the Scare—Scouting Party—Its Members—Lieutenant Plotts’ Report—Settlement in West End—West-side Township Organized—Petitioners—First Town Meeting—Court House Erected—Thurber & Chandler, Builders—Hoppers Scarce in 1877—Small Acreage—Weed-Grown Fields—Seed Grain Appropriation—Adrian Catholic Colony—Bishop Ireland Visits Adrian Country—Decides to Locate Colony—Contract With Railroad Company—Father Knauf Arrives—Coming of First Colonists—Lands Sold—Rush in Spring of 1878—Land, Land, Land—Grasshoppers—Partial Crop Failure—Organization Willmont Township—Derivation of Name—Southern Minnesota Extends—Heron Lake-Pipestone Branch—Railroad War—Kimbrae and Dundee Founded—Last of the Grasshoppers—Organization Afton Township—Squabble Over Name—Plethora of Petitions—Name Changed to Bloom—Leota Organized—Petitioners—Named for Indian Maiden—Seney’s Operations—Rushmore Founded—Activity in West End—Railroad Lands Bought—Improvements by Adrian Colony—Good Times Coming . . . . .91

CHAPTER VII.

ERA OF PROSPERITY—1880-1893.

Reconstruction Dawn of a Brighter Day—Adrian Colony Active—The 1880 Crop—Census of 1880—Lisimore Township Organized The Name—Signers to Petition—The Long Winter—An October Blizzard—Railroads Blockaded—Snow Boats Out of Fuel—Schools Close—Burning Grain—First Train in Six Weeks—Blockaded Again—April 13, Thermometer Zero—Roads Opened—First Freight Train in Eleven Weeks—Floods Stop Traffic—Burlington Road Makes Proposition—Subsidy Voted—Road Built—Last Spike Driven—Round Lake Founded—A Bumper Crop The “Park Proposition”—Plan to Sell Part of Court House Block—Strong Opposition—Scheme Defeated—County Seat Contest—Adrian to the Front—Exciting Days—Legislature Petitioned—But Fails to Respond—Larkin Township Organized—Petitioners—Selecting the Name—Fraud Charged—Tornado—Cora Graf Killed—Property Destroyed—Burlington Extends—And Finds Ellsworth—A Year of Jubilee—Diversified Farming Begun—Exports of 1884—Real Estate Values Soar—Census of 1885—County Seat Removal Talk—Big Crops—Another Railroad—Blizzard of 1888—Three Perish—Hail Storm—Census of 1890—Plan to Divide the County—Rushmore Sees a Conspiracy—And Protests—Plan Defeated. . . . .105

CHAPTER VIII.

CURRENT EVENTS—1893-1908.

Panic of 1893—Dull Times—Plans for New Court House—And Jail—Work Begun—Opposition—Temporary Injunction—Commissioners Win in Supreme Court—476 Residents Remonstrate—Contract Let—Corner Stone Laid—Building Accepted—County Seat Removal Again an Issue—Census of 1895—Prosperous Period—Land Values Increase—Spanish-American War—Nobles County Furnishes Company—

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Mustered In—Typhoid Fever Epidemic—Three Deaths—Camps Ramsey, Snelling, Meade, McKenzie—Mustered Out—Roster of Company—Losses Burlington Road Extends—Wilmont and Reading Founded—Lismore Started—Census of 1900—Disastrous Year 1903—Destructive Hail Storm—Big Losses—Stories of the Storm—The Floods—Okahena Overflows—Streets Traveled in Boats—Kananazi on a Rampage—Sweeps Everything Before It—Fury of the Little Rock—Freight Wreck—Record of Precipitation—All Records Broken—Crop Failure—Dull Times—Census of 1905—By Precincts—Native and Minnesota Born Foreign Born—Countries of Birth—Good Crops of 1906 and 1907—Prosperous Times—In 1908.....115

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL—1870-1874.

Governor Austin Appoints First County Commissioners—The Missing Records—Other Officers Named—First County Convention—The Bolt—Violence Narrowly Averted at First Election—The Result—Auditor Harris Refuses to Canvass the Vote—Early Day Members of the Legislature—Difficulty Getting Officers to Serve—Election of 1871—One Democrat in the County—List of Voters—Changed Conditions in 1872—Voters of That Year—Polling Places—Election Officers—County Overwhelmingly Republican—Legislative History—Opposition to Republican Party in 1873—Republican Ticket Wins—Politics Dull in 1874—Democrats Put Up a Ticket—It Meets Defeat.....123

CHAPTER X.

POLITICAL—1875-1887.

Passing of Pioneer Ways—Prohibitionists Enter Politics—Election of 1875—Big Vote in 1876—Hayes Carries County—Republican Split in 1877—Peculiar Conditions That Year—Result in Giving Democrats a Few Offices—Only One Ticket in 1878—Exciting Contests of 1879—Republicans Bolt and Fuse With Democrats—Republican Ticket Defeated—Spectacular Contests for Sheriff, Auditor and Treasurer—Tie for Sheriff—Dramatic Scene When Lots are Drawn—Court Decides Two Contests—Garfield Gets Majority in 1880—Republican County Ticket Elected—Democrats and "Anti-Ring" Republicans Combine in 1881—Crushing Defeat of Republican Ticket—Little Interest in 1882—Fusion Forces Name Part of Ticket in 1883—And Elect It—Blaine Carries County in 1884—New Element Enters Politics—Antagonism Between East and West Ends—Big Vote of 1886—Republicans Elect Majority of Ticket.....131

CHAPTER XI.

POLITICAL—1888-1908.

Vote Increases—Passing of the Independents—Election of 1888—Alliance Party Complicates Matters in 1890—Democrats and Republicans Break Even—Birth of Peoples Party—Its Part in Politics—Australian Ballot Employed in 1892—Harrison Carries County—Result Locally—Fusion in 1894—Republicans Win—Fusion Forces Take Three Offices in 1896—McKinley Gets Majority—Death of Peoples Party—John Lind Carries the County in 1898—Republican County Ticket Elected—Record Breaking Vote of 1900—McKinley Again Carries County—Three Offices for Democrats—Primary Election Law—Revolutionizes County Politics—Primary of 1902—Nearly Clean Sweep for Republicans—Interesting Primary of 1904—Roosevelt's Record Breaking Majority—Republicans Win in County—Primary of 1906—Democrats Carry County for Governor and Congressman—Primary of 1908—Summary .....141

## CHAPTER XII.

## WORTHINGTON—1871-1872.

Location—Elevation—Population—A Bower of Beauty—First White Men Visit the Site—Infrequent Visits by Trappers—Andy Dillman's Sod Shanty—G. J. Hoffman's Dug-Out—First Building of Wood—Railroad Construction—Original Town-site Abandoned—The Town Platted—Original Owners—Additions—National Colony Assumes Control—Professor Humiston and Doctor Miller Visit the Site—The Town Named—Incidents Connected with the Selection of the Name—The Historic Worthington Family—Regrets that, "Okabena" Was Not Selected—A Hoax—Start of the First Building—Ceremonies When the First Nail is Driven—Business Houses Opened in 1871—The Worthington Hotel—Postoffice Established—Postmasters—Winter of 1871-72—Rush in the Spring—Impressions Upon Early Day Visitors—The Town in August, 1872—Building Improvements That Year—Miller Hall—Worthington Township Organized—The Temperance Feature—Petitions—License Refused .....153

## CHAPTER XIII.

## WORTHINGTON—1873-1889.

Promises Fulfilled—Worthington Becomes Important Trading Point—1873 Opens Auspiciously—Okabena Flouring Mills—Their Importance—Incorporation—Provisions of Charter—Liquor Selling Prohibited—First Election—Those Who Voted—Charter Adopted—First Officers—First Acts of Council—Worthington Becomes County Seat—Grasshopper Days—In 1874—The Land Office—Election of 1874—Voters That Year—Census of 1875—Big Business—Election of 1875—Building Record for 1876—Election That Year—Big Vote in 1877—Immigration in 1878—The Town Lively—First Brick Block—Miller Hall Burns—Elections of 1878 and 1879—Census of 1880—A Comparison—Election of 1880—Wrangling Over Temperance Question—Two Parties Born—Exciting Election of 1881—Prosperous Times in 1882—A New Railroad—"The Elgin of Minnesota"—Annual Election—Boom Times in 1883—Board of Trade—New Buildings—Repeal of Temperance Clause in Charter—Under Local Option—License Carries in 1883—And Again Next Year—Population in 1885—License Carries—Improvements in 1886—Exports and Imports—Elections of 1886 and 1887—"Dry" in 1888—Likewise in 1889.....165

## CHAPTER XIV.

## WORTHINGTON—1890-1908.

Steady Growth—Census of 1890—License Again in Vogue—Water Works Plant Installed—Election of 1891—Prosperous Days—Building Record—License Wins Again in 1892—The Panic—Its Effect—Election of 1893—Two Fires—Officers Elected in 1894—Big Gain in Population—Electric Lighting System—Temperance Wave in 1895—A Cyclone—Return to License in 1896—Elections of 1897, 1898 and 1899—A Prosperous Decade—Census of 1900—Big Vote of 1901—The Citizens' Movement—Three Years of Dullness—The Flood—Worthington "Dry" at the Time—Goes "Wet" in 1904—Census of 1905—Clean Sweep for License in 1905 and 1906—"Dry" in 1907—"Wet" by One Vote in 1908—The Contest.....177

## CHAPTER XV.

## WORTHINGTON'S ENTERPRISES.

Public School—The First School—Early Day Teachers—The Attendance—Worthington Seminary—Its Promoters—Its Failure—Petition for Independent District—Formed

—First Directors—First School Building—Bonds Issued—Robinson Gets Contract—The Hexagonal Building—Railroad Company Donates Land—High School Organized—Alumni Association—List of Graduates—New School House—Present Condition of Schools—Fire Department Early Day Protection—Cisterns—Bucket Brigades—Fire House—Department Organized—Charter Members—The Tournaments—New Fire Station—Officers—Militia Company—Recruited—Mustered In—Officers—Enlisted Men—State Bank of Worthington Elibu Smith Starts First Bank—Thomas Parsons—George D. Dayton—Becomes State Bank—Later History—Worthington National Bank—As Nobles County Bank—Founded by Thompson & Day—Evans & Lynd Secure Control—Reorganized as National Bank Citizens National Bank—Founded by C. T. Tupper—Changes in Management—First National Bank—Farmers and Citizens Bank First County Fair Association Organized—“Bull and Pumpkin” Story—Grounds Leased—Officers—Worthington District Fair Association—Its Operations—Chautauqua Association—Organization—Officers—The Chautauquas—Commercial Club—Carnegie Library—The Directors Bath House Association—Bands—Gun Club—Worthington Hospital.....187

CHAPTER XVI.

WORTHINGTON'S CHURCHES AND LODGES.

“City of Churches”—Ten Organizations—Colony Christian Union—Union Plan Adopted—First Religious Service—Church Organized—Born in a Saloon Building—Union Plan Fails—Three Churches Founded—Union Congregational—Charter Members—House of Worship Erected—Destroyed by Fire—The New Church—Pastors—Sunday School Superintendents—Methodist Church—Rev. Crever—First Trustees—Many Places of Worship—Early Struggles—First Church Edifice—The New One—Later Church History—Pastors—Presbyterian Church—Charter Members—Elders—Trustees—First Church Building—Pastors—The New Edifice—Sunday School Superintendents—Swedish Lutheran Church—First Members—Incorporated Church Building—Pastors—Parsonage—Episcopal Church—Rev. Gunn—Church Building—Difficulties Overcome—Catholic Church—First Steps Building Erected—Incorporated Evangelical Association—Members—Trustees—Church and Manse—Pastors—Baptist Church—Initial Steps—Organization—Members—Council of Recognition—Incorporated—Trustees—Building—Pastors—Swedish Mission Church—Members—Church and Parsonage—Pastors—Christian Church—Lodges—Grand Army Post—Mustered In—First Officers—Later Officers—Largest in Minnesota—Disbanded—Reorganization—Charter Members—Relief Corps—First in Minnesota—Charter Members—First Officers—The Masons—Blue Lodge—Organized—Certificate—Charter Members—First Officers—Chapter Organized—Its Prosperous Condition—Eastern Star—Workmen—Degree of Honor—Knights of Pythias—Modern Woodmen—Royal Neighbors—Odd Fellows—Maccabees—Yeomen.....199

CHAPTER XVII.

ADRIAN.

Location—Its Attractive Site—Settlers in West End—Railroad is Coming—Selecting the Site—Surveyed—The Dedication—Additions—The Name—Mistakes as to Origin—George H. Carr Erects First Building—And Opens Store—Other Enterprises of 1876—Postoffice—Established—Postmasters—Bright Prospects—First School—First Church—Services—New Enterprises in 1877—Business Directory of 1878—Prosperous Times—Census of 1880—Incorporation—Charter—Granted—First Election—Officers—1881 to 1908—Adrian's Big Trade Territory—Improvements in Early Eighties—Liveliest Town in the County—Flouring Mill Burns—Building Boom in 1891—Panic of 1893—Census Figures—Loss of Trade Territory—Quiet Times—Assessed

Valuations—Conditions in 1908—First School—Held in an Attic—The Teacher—  
 First School House—District Formed—Officers—The New Building—Public and  
 Parochial Schools—City Hall—Water Works—Electric Lights—Fire Department—  
 National Bank of Adrian—Adrian State Bank—First National Bank—St. Adrian's  
 Catholic Church—Its History—Fine Church Edifice—Methodist Church—Norwegian  
 Lutheran Church—Peoples Church—Fraternal Orders.....217

CHAPTER XVIII.

ELLSWORTH.

Nobles' Third Town—Rich Trade Territory—The Site—Settlement of Grand Prairie—  
 "Uncle" Stillwell—His Prediction—Selecting the Site—Platted—Additions—The  
 Name—Prospects—Sale of Lots—Rush to the Site—First Building—Henry Tor-  
 rance Opens First Store—Business Houses of 1884—The Depot—First Lady Resi-  
 dent—Postoffice Established—Postmasters—Lively Times—Selected as a Division  
 Point—Census of 1886—Petition for Incorporation—Petitioners—Incorporation Car-  
 ries—Officers Chosen—Political History—On a Normal Basis—Census of 1890—Cy-  
 clone—Brings Disaster—Fire—City Hall—Population in 1895—In 1900—Prosperous  
 Years—Buikling Operations—City Hall Burns—New City Hall—Water Works—  
 Electric Lights—Census of 1905—Fire Department—German State Bank First  
 National Bank—St. Mary's Catholic Church—Organization—Church Building—  
 Pastors—Parochial School—Congregational Church—Charter Members—Building—  
 Pastors—Methodist Church—Its History—German Presbyterian Church—Knights of  
 Pythias Lodge—Workmen—Degree of Honor—Foresters—Modern Woodmen—Royal  
 Neighbors .....227

CHAPTER XIX.

WILMONT AND BREWSTER.

Wilmont—Fourth in Size—Location—Trade Territory—Site Selected—Platted—Addi-  
 tions—The Name—First Train—Rush to the Site—First Resident—Prophecies—  
 First Business Houses—A Town in a Day—First Lady Residents—Prosperous  
 Times—Incorporation—Petitioners—Village Officers—After One Year—Population—  
 First School—District Formed—Fire Department—Water Works—Churches—Lodges—  
 Brewster—Location—A Substantial Village—Old Town of Hersey—Station—Es-  
 tablished—Depot and Cottage—Platted—Additions—W. R. Bennett is Agent—Found-  
 ing the Town—First Business Men—The Postoffice—Grasshoppers Bring Disaster—  
 Retrogression—Change in Name—Origin of "Brewster"—Prosperous Days—Petition  
 for Incorporation—Petitioners—Granted—Officers—Steady Growth—Population—  
 Water Works Troubles—Drainage System—The Park—Schools—Churches—Lodges 237

CHAPTER XX.

ROUND LAKE, RUSHMORE, BIGELOW.

Round Lake—The Sixth Town—The Old Postoffice—Site Selected—Platted—Was First  
 Indian Lake—Name Changed—Section House and Depot—E. A. Tripp Comes as  
 Agent—Postoffice—First Business Houses—Slow Growth—Replatted—Additions—  
 The Awakening—Petitioners Ask for Incorporation—Municipal Life—Political His-  
 tory—Building Boom—Smallpox Epidemic—Population—Cyclone—School—Church—  
 Rushmore—Its Trade Territory—Business Houses—As Miller Station—A Quiescent  
 Period—George I. Seney's Operations—S. M. Rushmore and Associates Arrive—  
 And Found the Town—First Buildings—Pioneer Business Men—Name Changed  
 to Rushmore—Postoffice—Platting—Additions—Directory of 1879—Flouring Mill—  
 Slow Growth—Succeeded by Prosperous Times—Incorporated—Petitioners—Village

Officers—Prosperous Decade—Population—The Schools—Churches—Bigelow—An Old Town—Location—The First Building—S. O. Morse Becomes First Resident—Platted—The Name—First Business Houses—Cheese Factory—Slow Growth—Booms in 1892—Activity During Nineties—Petition—Incorporated—Political History—Population—The First Church—Woodmen Lodge.....247

CHAPTER XXI.

DUNDEE, LISMORE, KINBRAE, READING, ST. KILIAN, LEOTA, ORG.

Dundee—Enterprises—As Warren Station—Surveyed—Founded—Postoffice—First Store—Slow Growth—Incorporated—Political History—Population—Lismore—Youngest Town—Rich Territory—Railroad Arrives—Selecting the Site—Farmers Donate \$800—The Name—Platted—First Business Houses—Postoffice—Incorporated—Elections—Kinbrae—Location In Early Days—Founded as Airlie—Later DeForest—Dundee Improvement Company—First Enterprises—Platting—Postoffice—Quiet Times—Fire—Named Kinbrae—Boom Days—Replatted—Incorporated—Village Officers—The Decline—Reading—Centrally Located—Business Houses—Site Selected—Named—The Start—First Buildings—Postoffice—Postmasters—Townsite Surveyed—Telephone Company—Bank—St. Kilian—A Church—Town—Building the Church—John Mock Starts Store—Postoffice—Business Houses—Bright Prospects—Railroad Misses Town—Retrosession—Church—History—Leota—Founded by Hollanders—Business Houses—Churches—Postoffice—Townsite—Org—Smallest Town—Many Names—As Sioux Falls Junction—N. A. Call His Operations—Station Established—Named Org—Boom of 1899—Postoffice—Trent.....259

CHAPTER XXII.

THE PRESS.

Over Thirty Newspapers Established—Nine Now in Existence—Part Played by the Colony Journal—Founding the Western Advance—Changed to Worthington Advance—Estimate of A. P. Miller—Changes in Ownership—The Daily Advance—The Advance-Herald—Claim Shanty Vindicator—Literary Triumph—Romantic History of the Worthington Journal—Adrian Advertiser—Adrian Guardian—His Veteran Editor—Worthington Record—Minnesota Home—Ellsworth News—Worthington Globe—Its Many Editors—Adrian Citizen—Nobles County Democrat—Outlives Its Rivals—State Line Sentinel—Nobles County Independent—Minnesota Abahanda—Rushmore Gazette—Kinbrae Herald—Worthington Herald—Rushmore Times—Minnesota Signal—Round Lake Wave—Rushmore Magnet—Round Lake Graphic—Dundee Advocate—Rushmore Enterprise—Brewster Beacon—Brewster Tribune—Wilmont Initiator—Wilmont Tribune—Ellsworth Herald—Lismore Leader.....273

CHAPTER XXIII.

DESCRIPTIVE.

Location—Boundaries—Area—Surface—Soil—Grand Prairie—Plain—Geological History—Glacial Epoch—The Ridge—Forms—Watershed—Elevations—Graham Lakes—Okabena—Ocheyda—Indian—Summit—Creeks—Champepadan—Kanarauzi—Little Rock—Ocheyedan—Okabena—Elk—Lack—An—Agricultural—County—Products—Average Yields—Live Stock—Numbers and Value—Dairying—Creameries and Their Output—Manufacturing—Banks—Schools—Churches—Railroads—Telephone—Lines—Assessed Valuation—Prices of Land—Compared With Dakota and Canada—Proximity to Markets—Prospects—Wanted, More Settlers.....287

CHAPTER XXIV.

REMINISCENT.

The Dreaded Prairie Fire—What it Was—Methods of Fighting—The Fire of 1875—  
 Origin—Damage—Prosecution—"The Wild Girl"—Her Accomplishments—Worthing-  
 ton's First Saloon—Big Sale of Rainwater—Battle of Stony Point—Finding of Old  
 Gun—Causes a Dream—Story Results—The Diagonal Road—Its Building—Early  
 Day Importance—Petition for Abandonment—A Mirage—Produces a Fairy Land—  
 The First Circus—Barren & Baily Draw Crowds—An Old Stove—Its Story—  
 Early Day Trials—An Illustration—The First Democrat—Michael Maguire—The  
 Father of Democracy—Incident of the Sixties—John Freeman Drowns..... 293





## ILLUSTRATIONS

Nobles County Court House.....Frontispiece	Catholic Church, Ellsworth.....230
Joseph Nicolas Nicolle.....33	Methodist Church, Ellsworth.....230
Worthington Street Scene, 1874.....54	Wilmont One Year Old.....237
Worthington Street Scene, 1908.....54	Wilmont's Residence District.....237
Facsimile Letter, Governor Austin.....64	Scenes in Wilmont.....239
Sod Shanty.....87	Brewster Business Street.....241
Old Map of Nobles County.....87	City Park, Brewster.....241
Early Day Adrian Street Scene.....94	Residence Street, Brewster.....241
Old Court House and City Park.....98	Brewster Public School.....241
Nobles County in Spanish-American War.....118	Brewster's Churches.....244
Worthington Militia Company.....118	Round Lake Street Scene.....249
Scenes on Lake Okabena.....127	Historic Indian Lake.....249
Sports on Lake Okabena.....135	Views of Rushmore.....254
Worthington Chautauqua Grounds.....146	Lismore Street Scene.....262
Worthington.....153	Catholic Church, Lismore.....262
Worthington Street Scene, 1880.....157	Leota Village.....270
Facsimile Letter, Professor Humiston.....157	Typical Pioneer Home.....270
Panoramic View of Worthington, 1875.....169	Grand Army Post.....280
Idlewild Pavilion.....169	Miller Block, Worthington.....280
View of Worthington, 1882.....174	Swedish Baptist Church of Indian Lake.....289
View of Worthington, 1884.....180	Catholic Church of St. Kilian.....289
View of Worthington, 1895.....180	The Raging Kaurauzi.....296
Worthington in Holiday Attire.....184	Relic of the Early Days.....296
Winter Street Scene, Worthington.....184	Professor R. F. Humiston.....303
Worthington High School.....192	Peter Thompson.....321
Worthington Carnegie Library.....192	Judge B. W. Woolstencroft.....349
Worthington City Hall.....192	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saxon.....369
Worthington's Churches.....206	John H. Scott.....386
Adrian in 1885.....217	Father C. J. Knauf.....403
Adrian in 1887.....217	Stephen Muck.....421
Main Street Adrian.....218	Governor Stephen Miller.....421
Adrian in Winter Garb.....218	Henry Brayton.....421
City Hall and Opera House, Adrian.....223	William Dwyer.....421
Adrian High School.....223	Home of August Anderson, Indian Lake.....439
Adrian's Churches.....225	An Old Orchard.....439
Ellsworth Business Street.....230	Farm Residence of J. H. Scott.....500
	Farm Home of J. C. Hoskins.....500



## BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

	Page.		Page.
Abbott, A. A.	373	Blomgren, B. C.	479
Abbott, L. W.	460	Blood, Oscar E.	592
Ackerman, Peter H.	377	Bloom, William E.	422
Addington, James M.	570	Blume, Henry J.	600
Ager, Wilson	546	Blume, William H.	601
Albinson, John A.	487	Boberg, John A.	495
Allen, Samuel	458	Bøden, Sidney	529
Althoff, John	453	Boecker, Henry	632
Althoff, William	606	Bofenkamp, Theodore	376
Anderson, August	439	Bofenkamp, William	435
Anderson, Carl A.	572	Booth, Charles C.	356
Anderson, Charles J.	607	Boots, Ernest	633
Anderson, Erick	428	Boots, Henry	528
Anderson, Henry M.	333	Boyle, M. S.	348
Anderson, John A.	478	Brace, F. C.	585
Anderson, Oscar A.	615	Brandt, Ole A.	410
Anderson, Peter C.	379	Bratager, Ollis B.	417
Anderson, Simon	476	Bratsberg, John A.	385
Anderson, S. J.	593	Brayton, Henry	421
Anderson, Victor	397	Brayton, Matt	505
Andresen, D. J.	415	Brickson, Edwin	571
Anton, Philip	418	Brinkhous, Charles	624
Anritter, Charles D.	611	Britt, James F.	591
Apel, Henry	526	Brommer, Lambert	473
Asquith, George	416	Brooks, Albert	592
		Brown, Edgar H.	502
Baal, Henry	637	Brown, Frank	606
Bahls, Theodor	604	Bruns, John B.	446
Baird, James	443	Bryan, Madison J.	451
Baker, Frank	448	Bryan, Oscar D.	320
Baker, George W.	535	Buchan, Andrew	355
Baker, Thomas P.	584	Buchan, Edward F.	442
Baldwin, James	600	Bullick, George T.	323
Barnard, Charles	429	Bullerman, Theodore	571
Barron, Walter	569	Burchard, William	628
Bassett, Edward H.	359	Burfeind, Ernest H.	477
Beacom, George	577	Burgeson, Henry	450
Becker, Casper	424	Buschman, John	449
Becker, C. W.	431		
Becker, Henry A.	627	Campbell, James P.	339
Beekley, L. H.	453	Carpenter, Will T.	537
Bedford, S. B.	331	Carstensen, Hans C.	407
Behr, Peter N.	458	Cass, J. F.	364
Behrends, Hiram	580	Cederblade, Charles A.	563
Behrens, E. K.	558	Chaney, Allen	351
Beilke, A. R.	569	Chaney, William	439
Beineis, Adam	577	Chepat, John	467
Bingham, Jonathan J.	474	Chermak, James	563
Bird, C. A.	420	Christensen, William H.	484
Bird, Robert	362	Chute, Daniel W.	401
Birkett, Miles	313	Clark, Loren	568
Bixler, George C.	631	Clark, William	461
Blair, John S.	430	Clausen, Peter	505

	Page.		Page.
Cline, Western M.	444	Erickson, Robert	502
Clover, Edward F.	578	Erlandson, Nels	522
Comer, Stephen A.	512	Erskine, Arthur H.	537
Condon, John	416	Erskine, R. L.	315
Conley, Timothy G.	613	Erwin, Charles C.	620
Cook, N. H.	468	Esser, Lawrence	570
Cook, Paul	517	Estes, Gardner	338
Cooper, Edward	373	Evans, W. M.	481
Cory, Charles M.	469	Evenson, Andrew	452
Coughran, Frank R.	475		
Cowin, Thomas G.	372	Fagan, Thomas J.	514
Cox, John S.	416	Faragher, J. A.	531
Coyour, John	559	Faragher, William R.	544
Cramer, Theodore	617	Fauskee, Newton	409
Crandall, Charles M.	448	Fauskee, Ole	314
Creyer, Benjamin H.	349	Fauskee, Ole A.	335
Creyer, Thomas H.	488	Feathers, A. M.	404
Cross, Grant	581	Feeny, John B.	463
Crowley, Dr. Jay M.	526	Fellows, Guy C.	357
Crowley, John	463	Fields, Edward E.	345
Cruit, Michael	371	Füstman, Henry B.	542
Cutler, Frank W.	564	Fink, Fred A.	382
		Linnetty, Martin	485
Dahlheim, Albert	590	Finstuen, Hans H.	560
Dalin, Carl A.	524	Firth, Arthur S.	383
Darling, Al P.	612	Fischenich, Norris	520
Daugherty, Albert	567	Fischer, Leonard E.	519
Daugherty, R. L.	333	Fischer, Louis K.	452
Daugherty, Stewart	542	Fish, Mattson E.	539
Dayey, W. C.	590	Fitch, John J.	359
Dayis, Henry	331	Fitzgibbons, Daniel	518
Dayton, George D.	367	Fletcher, Thomas	563
Dealand, George W.	414	Flynn, John F.	454
Dean, Frank	630	Foehr, Joseph	594
DeBoer, John	411	Foelchow, Charles	497
DeBoer, Nicholas	499	Fogarty, Edward	573
Denkmann, B. C.	694	Forrest, E. F.	547
Denton, Charles H.	661	Fox, Charles J.	326
DeVaney, William	607	Fremming, Fred	462
Dibler, Alexander	566	Frink, John S.	579
Dibler, John N.	597		
Dickmann, Frank	608	Galbraith, Andrew T.	490
Dierks, William	547	Gehl, Hans H.	565
Dillehay, Charles	511	Geisel, John	532
Dillman, W. A.	322	Gerardy, Matt	576
Dodge, Dr. Willert A.	604	Geyerman, Peter	365
Doe, Rufus K.	447	Goverman, Dr. Peter T.	525
Doeden, Andrew G.	517	Gill, Dr. C. A.	492
Doeden, Fred	524	Gilomen, John F.	455
Doeden, Herman G.	535	Glasgow, Frank	427
Dolan, Dr. C. P.	549	Glovka, Charles	508
Dunning, W. W.	635	Glovka, Henry	615
Durfee, Francis A.	384	Glovka, William	509
Durfee, Howard L.	616	Glynn, Patrick	457
Duwenboegger, Theodore	488	Goll, Alfred J.	609
Dwyer, William	326	Goodrich, George	545
		Gordon, Charles A.	484
Eggleston, Frank E.	626	Gotner, Herman H.	617
Eide, Lars T.	636	Graf, A. C.	631
Eisele, Albert F.	598	Graf, Emil	344
Elias, Christ	551	Graf, Emil F.	529
Elliott, Nathan H.	551	Graves, Frank T.	372
Ellworth, Frank	360	Green, J. Frank	385
Ely, John D.	380	Greig, James	382
Eppers, Nick	404	Greig, James A.	609
Erickson, Charles A.	560	Griffin, Father W. E. F.	586
Erickson, John E.	533	Grote, Anton	577

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

XXV

	Page.		Page.
Grundsten, Olof G.....	426	Hutton, Thomas.....	588
Gundermann, Leonard.....	394	Hynes, James V.....	513
Gunderson, Thomas.....	341		
Hacker, George.....	496	Innes, George.....	556
Haegle, Frank.....	456	Isaacson, Isaac.....	464
Hagberg, Andy.....	560	Ivers, Henry.....	552
Hagberg, Gust A.....	482		
Hagberg, Louis.....	546	Jacobson, Severt A.....	353
Hagerman, Asher M.....	379	James, John F.....	510
Hagerman, James M.....	483	Jay, George.....	375
Hagge, Thomas H.....	417	Jenkins, W. W.....	392
Halverson, C. H.....	499	Johnson, Albert.....	568
Hamstreet, Charles.....	437	Johnson, Andrew.....	431
Hansberger, John.....	335	Johnson, August.....	588
Hansberger, William L.....	553	Johnson, Carl J.....	543
Hansen, Joseph P.....	463	Johnson, Charles W.....	596
Hardekopf, William.....	587	Johnson, Frank J.....	585
Harding, C. E.....	436	Johnson, Haken.....	410
Harrington, James H.....	623	Johnson, J. H.....	566
Hart, A. E.....	530	Johnson, L. W.....	486
Hart, John.....	314	Johnson, Peter G.....	617
Hartman, Joseph.....	404	Jones, Burgess.....	498
Hartmann, Ferdinand.....	616	Jones, Clyde S.....	608
Harvey, Daniel E.....	506	Jones, David, Jr.....	584
Haseman, H. F.....	633	Jones, David, Sr.....	553
Hawkins, Levi H.....	454	Jones, Edwin J.....	466
Hawkins, O. H.....	525	Jones, Ned.....	529
Heffran, Tim.....	534	Jones, Robert J.....	423
Hein, J. J.....	522	Jorgensen, Jens.....	554
Heise, Hans G.....	539	Joul, Gust.....	432
Heling, Herman.....	575	Joul, Ole B.....	380
Heling, Joseph.....	554		
Hendel, Nicholas.....	549	Kain, Martin.....	605
Hennekes, Henry.....	500	Kallemyen, Martin.....	448
Hensley, Edward.....	602	Kaufman, Nicholas.....	375
Herbert, John.....	474	Kellen, Dominick, Jr.....	629
Herlein, David.....	426	Kellen, Dominick, Sr.....	614
Hesselroth, E. W.....	307	Keller, G. A.....	632
Higgins, William.....	567	Kelley, Irwin F.....	627
Hildred, Charles R.....	583	Kerr, Robert F.....	513
Hirriicks, Theodore.....	476	Kerr, William.....	402
Hobson, Harry S.....	498	Kiessling, Ferd J.....	599
Hoeking, William E.....	564	Kindlund, Svante.....	479
Hoffer, Jacob G.....	455	King, Charles.....	526
Hoffman, George.....	485	Kinsman, C. E.....	533
Hoffman, John M.....	518	Kizer, B. F.....	400
Hoffmeister, George.....	453	Klenken, John B.....	473
Hofkamp, John.....	581	Klessig, Henry A.....	541
Hokeness, Nels H.....	606	Kleve, Henry J.....	523
Hollaren, Michael.....	441	Kleve, William J.....	506
Holmes, Henry.....	328	Kliflgard, A. A.....	393
Honhof, John.....	575	Klindworth, John.....	498
Hornstine, Henry.....	415	Kline, Henry.....	575
Horton, Frank H.....	623	Klinkhammer, C. H.....	629
Horton, Isaac.....	310	Klontz, Math.....	580
Hoskins, Josiah C.....	500	Kniese, B. F.....	479
Hovey, Melvin W.....	478	Knips, G.....	430
Hubner, William.....	511	Knowlton, Ed.....	561
Hulser, Fred D.....	517	Kolp, Charles F.....	574
Humiston, Dr. Edwin Ray.....	407	Kopplow, Carl.....	635
Humiston, E. R.....	308	Kreun, Lawrens.....	430
Humiston, Fred L.....	444	Korgman, Herman H.....	598
Humiston, Prof. R. F.....	303	Kuhl, Charles.....	591
Humiston, W. I.....	396	Kuhl, Fred.....	392
Hurd, Minor G.....	625	Kunze, C. H.....	465
Hurd, R. S.....	622	Kunze, Henry.....	427

	Page.		Page.
Lais, Herman A. ....	420	Metz, Eugene.....	499
Lairmore, William E. ....	574	Metz, Jacob.....	614
Larkin, Thomas.....	425	Millard, Charles T. ....	512
Larson, Axel E. ....	461	Miller, Stephen.....	304
Larson, H. W. ....	449	Milton, Isaac A. ....	548
Larson, Lewis.....	356	Mishler, Ira.....	508
Latta, V. T. ....	516	Mitchell, G. S. ....	634
Lawrence, Allen H. ....	559	Mitchell, Hugh.....	426
Lawton, M. E. ....	624	Mitchell, John G. ....	483
Lebens, Peter.....	411	Mitchell, T. L. ....	514
Ledine, Erick.....	504	Moberg, J. E. ....	536
Ledine, Peter.....	509	Moberg, Nels.....	471
Lees, D. V. ....	618	Moberly, R. W. ....	339
LeGross, George H. ....	561	Modisett, C. F. ....	389
Lenz, John N. ....	383	Mohr, Fred.....	530
Lenz, Peter, Jr. ....	469	Mohr, Herman.....	465
Lenz, R. M. V. ....	583	Montgomery, Alexander.....	474
Lenz, Thomas, Jr. ....	541	Montgomery, James.....	386
Lenz, Thomas, Sr. ....	458	Moore, Dr. George O. ....	309
Levine, Martin.....	519	Moore, Stanley.....	590
Lewis, Harry B. ....	613	Moulund, Robert L. ....	398
Lewis, Gerhard.....	586	Morrison, Grant.....	555
Lindemann, William.....	595	Morrison, William H. ....	440
Lindstrom, Carl A. ....	559	Moss, William F. ....	388
Little, Arthur W. ....	460	Muck, Charles S. ....	446
Long, Dickson S. ....	443	Mueck, Stephen.....	329
Loosbrock, John A. ....	530	Mulroy, Joseph.....	608
Loveless, Capt. Charles B. ....	316	Mulroy, Matthew.....	490
Loveless, William W. ....	416	Murphy, Frank.....	489
Lovrien, Ernest E. ....	528	Murphy, Joseph G. ....	450
Lucht, Andrew F. ....	394	Myers, Howard S. ....	596
Ludlow, Horace J. ....	374	Myrum, Hans H. ....	606
Ludlow, J. Burr.....	440		
Luopker, L. H. ....	634	Nash, Austin.....	480
Lyon, Arthur W. ....	491	Nash, Christ.....	413
Lyon, Franklin H. ....	378	Naylor, James.....	360
		Nazarenus, Asmus.....	423
Mackay, James.....	594	Nazarenus, Joseph.....	517
Madison, William E. ....	411	Nell, James.....	443
Mahlberg, Alfred.....	482	Nelson, Albert.....	515
Mahlberg, Erick.....	338	Nelson, Anton.....	384
Malcolm, William.....	466	Nelson, Francis.....	366
Mangelson, John L. ....	579	Nelson, Hans.....	341
Mann, Milton P. ....	418	Nelson, Henry.....	345
Manson, Dr. F. M. ....	523	Nelson, John.....	448
Marr, Charles.....	554	Newell, Dr. Thomas G. ....	353
Marr, Thomas.....	589	Neyens, Nick H. ....	434
Marten, William F. ....	472	Nienaber, Charles.....	390
Martens, Henry H. ....	624	Nienkerk, August H. ....	494
Martin, Charles F. ....	564	Nilson, Andrew.....	520
Martin, Michael J. ....	624	Nolan, P. F. ....	412
Matheson, Floyd A. ....	598	Nolto, Henry.....	346
Matheson, Richard H. ....	563	Noonan, Thomas P. ....	468
Mauch, John L. ....	529	Nystrom, Hans.....	316
Maxwell, James H. ....	358	Nystrom, Ole.....	351
McAuliffe, Dennis.....	550	Nystrom, Ole H. ....	537
McCann, Martin M. ....	412		
McCarthy, John.....	415	Oebel, A. ....	588
McChord, W. R. D. ....	350	Oberman, Adolph.....	545
McConkey, James L. ....	400	O'Connor, John F. ....	435
McKenzie, John.....	474	O'Connor, Patrick.....	468
McLean, Francis E. ....	399	Oliver, Will E. ....	447
McLean, Thomas.....	485	Olsen, Ole.....	391
McMaster, S. H. ....	650	Olson, Adam.....	467
Meester, Ike.....	555	Olson, Ed. ....	543
Mejer, Fred.....	625	Olson, Gust.....	429
Mejer, John.....	550	Olson, Henry.....	412

	Page.		Page.
Oppek, Florian J.....	522	Sanger, Edward.....	491
Osbon, Peter H.....	395	Savig, Thomas O.....	602
Oxford, William.....	438	Saxon, Charles.....	369
Paine, Charles J.....	489	Saxon, Charles R.....	629
Paine, James M.....	472	Saxon, John.....	422
Paine, Walter H.....	500	Saxon, John A.....	462
Pallesen, A. D.....	525	Saxon, Wallace.....	573
Palm, Julius.....	542	Saxon, Walter A.....	541
Palmer, Thomas A.....	559	Scharping, Emil W.....	532
Pank, Frederick.....	347	Schechter, Joshua, Jr.....	534
Pannell, Edwin C.....	465	Schels, Father Sebastian.....	576
Paradies, John.....	478	Scherlie, H. A.....	489
Parry, William.....	312	Schinkel, Fred.....	395
Pass, Hubert.....	437	Schinkel, Henry.....	424
Paul, Erik B.....	332	Schmidt, Anton R.....	510
Peterburs, Henry.....	543	Schmidt, Arend O.....	610
Peters, Andrew.....	501	Schmidt, Oltman.....	604
Peterson, Charles.....	583	Schmitz, Fred.....	425
Peterson, Charlie.....	596	Schneider, Henry.....	557
Peterson, E. L.....	541	Scholtes, Peter.....	452
Peterson, John P.....	459	Scholtes, Peter B.....	619
Pettit, George V.....	635	Schraan, Edward H.....	633
Pfeil, Henry.....	377	Schreiber, Gustaf.....	532
Pfingsten, H. P. W.....	475	Schreiber, Rudolph.....	576
Pieper, Julius.....	574	Schuck, Jacob H.....	388
Pink, George.....	571	Schutz, John.....	628
Pint, Anton.....	536	Schwartz, E. L.....	605
Pint, Matt.....	408	Schwartzkopf, Michael.....	515
Plemp, Michael.....	597	Scott, John H.....	386
Plotts, R. B.....	317	Scott, O. H.....	523
Prideaux, Thomas H.....	621	Scott, W. F.....	471
Ramage, John.....	614	Scriven, James M.....	497
Ramert, Adolph.....	507	Selberg, Albert.....	588
Ramerth, John.....	557	Selberg, Gust.....	480
Randolph, John S.....	495	Selburg, John P.....	610
Read, Henry H.....	334	Selby, James R.....	401
Recker, Frank.....	480	Sell, Robert.....	354
Recker, Ludwig.....	568	Severson, Albert C.....	515
Reckers, W. J.....	548	Seward, Henry.....	619
Reddy, James.....	518	Shanks, William N.....	622
Reiter, Michael.....	365	Shaw, John W.....	389
Remackel, Jacob.....	618	Shaw, William.....	535
Renshaw, W. C.....	477	Shell, Daniel.....	304
Rice, Arthur J.....	318	Shelquist, A.....	509
Richards, Frank D.....	552	Shore, Charles.....	431
Riss, John.....	581	Shore, Henry.....	554
Roetman, John.....	577	Shore, John E.....	402
Rogers, J. H.....	548	Shore, Robert.....	311
Roll, Henry.....	376	Shore, Robert W.....	573
Rose, Arthur P.....	527	Sieve, August.....	601
Rose, Samuel N.....	521	Sievert, William H.....	556
Roskam, Ollie J.....	496	Sipes, Charles W.....	398
Ross, Perle C.....	593	Sisson, De H.....	540
Ross, Robert.....	507	Skillicorn, James.....	582
Rowley, Charles L.....	482	Slade, George.....	344
Royer, Lee W.....	538	Slater, Henry.....	342
Rudman, E. R. L.....	613	Smallwood, Charles J.....	405
Ruprecht, Harry.....	459	Smith, E. K.....	413
Rusho, Charles.....	621	Smith, George W.....	487
Rust, Albert.....	506	Smith, John R.....	625
Rust, Arjen.....	357	Smith, Milton S.....	433
Sadler, A. M.....	486	Smith, Robert R.....	562
Sadler, F. M.....	466	Smith, Stelle S.....	490
Sands, Charles A.....	432	Smith, Zeno M.....	611
		Soehner, William.....	603
		Sorem, Ben L.....	526
		Sorem, Louis M.....	512

	Page.		Page.
Sorem, Michael	396	Ulveling, Frank	531
Sorem, Severt M.	426	Vail, Amos	470
Sowles, Louis W.	595	Vail, John P.	361
Spathol, John A.	336	Versteeg, Jacob	516
Spartz, Peter	565	Von Holtum, Ludwig	383
Stangeland, Nels	516	Voss, H. A.	492
Stanton, F. W.	445	Voss, Herman	600
Steinman, C. A.	520	Voss, John	599
Sterling, Oscar	609	Voss, S. A.	444
Stevens, Francis A.	406	Wagner, John (Bigelow)	494
Stewart, Sam M.	511	Wagner, John (Ellsworth)	548
Stoutemyer, William B.	597	Wabl, William A.	545
Stramer, Charles J.	627	Walker, Dr. F. E.	501
Strand, Thomas T.	582	Wallgren, Peter A.	503
Stuntebeck, Henry	463	Wallich, Peter J.	636
Sundberg, Charles A.	325	Walkers, Truman	610
Swanberg, Gustavus	370	Ward, Charles B.	619
Swelberg, M.	488	Ward, William E.	552
Swenson, Alfred E.	628	Wass, August	461
Synkersen, P. C.	595	Wass, Axel	630
Taylor, W. E.	538	Weidman, George V.	623
TenBroeck, Rev. Robt. C.	578	Weigenant, Charles	483
TenCate, James	457	Wellhausen, Edward H.	540
Tentler, William	384	Wells, Charlie O.	533
Terry, Edwin S.	337	Wells, Frank D.	433
Thom, Arthur G.	500	Wemple, Edwin S.	462
Thom, Robert Gay	601	Wemple, E. L.	319
Thom, Roy	597	West, Charles	555
Thom, William	319	West, Christopher R.	408
Thom, William C.	594	West, Fred	553
Thomas, Knute	369	Westenberg, Derk	630
Thompson, Albert A.	354	Wheatley, William	405
Thompson, Anthony	330	Wheeler, George W.	602
Thompson, F. H.	363	Whelan, John	475
Thompson, Peter	321	Whelan, William	620
Thomsen, John C.	397	Whipkey, Edwin S.	505
Thuesen, Ole B.	603	Wickstrom, Andrew P.	562
Thurber, Benjamin F.	328	Wickstrom, Charles J.	342
Tiemens, Fred H.	378	Widow, Dr. Henry	578
Tilman, W. O.	560	Wigham, Capt. William	310
Tinnes, George E.	592	Williams, Dr. A. B.	544
Tinnes, Syvert D.	347	Williams, Frank E.	438
Titenberg, Henry	393	Williams, Henry George	582
Torrance, F. A.	391	Wilson, Alexander	534
Tow, Samuel	589	Wilson, George W.	363
Town, J. A.	306	Winchell, G. C.	631
Tregoning, W. B.	589	Wolven, Edwin J.	502
Tripp, Edgar A.	367	Wood, Sherman T.	493
Tripp, Harry R.	419	Woodford, A. J.	593
Trunk, Fridolin	572	Woodsteneroft, Benjamin W.	349
Turner, Frank	492	Wulf, William	514
Turner, Frederick A.	473	Yale, Bruce	587
Turner, Ira	378	Young, Benjamin F.	330
Tweet, Hans R.	584		
Ulrich, Joseph F.	454		







HISTORY OF  
NOBLES COUNTY  
MINNESOTA







JOSÉ PHILIPPO NICOLAS NICOLETTI  
The First White Man to Set Foot On the Soil of  
Nobles County.

## CHAPTER I.

### ABORIGINAL DAYS—1834-1866.

Turn back, as it were, the leaves of Time's great book to the period before the all-conquering White Man had set foot on the soil of the present day county of Nobles. We, of this generation, who play our part in the affairs of the present day, are apt to think of that time as long past. Yet there are men and women residing in Nobles county today who were living at the time of that event. Before a civilized eye had gazed on the country we now call home, Lewis and Clark, those intrepid explorers, had penetrated the Rocky mountain regions and pushed on to the Pacific coast, obtaining information of inestimable value; Marcus Whitman had planted his colony in the wilds of Oregon and taken the first step to secure possession of the Northwest to the United States. While knowledge was being gained of the far western country, southwestern Minnesota, on the border of civilization, remained a terra incognita.

Let us imagine what this country was in its primeval state, when all was as nature had formed it. The broad and rolling prairies stretched as far as the eye could reach, presenting, in summer, a perfect paradise of verdure, with its variegated hues of flowers and vegetation; in winter, a dreary snow mantled

desert. The creeks flowed in the same courses as now; the lakes occupied the same banks; the topography of the country was the same. But what a contrast!

Wild beasts and birds and wilder red men then reigned supreme. Vast herds of bison, elk and deer roamed the open prairies and reared their young in the more sheltered places. With that wonderful appreciation of the beautiful which nature has made an instinct in the savage, the untutored Sioux had selected the country as his hunting ground. If inanimate things could speak, what wild tales of Indian adventure could be poured forth!

The country which such a short time ago was an uncharted wilderness is today a prosperous land, filled with an enterprising, intelligent and happy people. Cities and villages, the peer of those that were centuries in building, adorn the former barren prairies; civilization and progress have supplanted savagery; schools, churches and libraries occupy the sites of the aboriginal's tepees.

That part of the North American continent which is now designated on the map as Minnesota was occupied by the Dakota or Sioux Indians from the very earliest days up to the time when the white man supplanted the red man in

the nineteenth century. Indian tradition tells of no earlier inhabitants. Certain it is that when the first explorers, centuries ago, came to the Northwest country they found the Dakotas or Sioux in possession. When knowledge was first gained of these people there were three great tribal divisions, namely: The Isantia, residing on the headwaters of the Mississippi; the Yanktons, who occupied the region north of the Minnesota river; and the Tetonwans, who had their hunting grounds west of the Yanktons. The last named was the most powerful and numerous tribe.

Coming down to the year 1834, we find that definite knowledge had been gained of the tribal divisions of southern Minnesota, and that their places of summer residence were known. General H. H. Sibley, an authority on Indian affairs, described the Indian bands as he found them in 1834. There were seven bands of the Dakotas, known as the M'daywakantons, or People of the Leaf. Their summer residences were in villages, the lodges being built of elm bark upon a frame work of poles. These villages were situated at Wabasha Prairie, where the city of Winona now stands; at Red Wing and Kaposia, on the Mississippi; three bands on the lower Minnesota, below Shakopee; and the Lake Calhoun band, on the lake of that name. These bands could bring into the field about 600 warriors.

The Wakpatootas, or People of the Shot Leaf, were in villages on Cannon lake, a short distance from the present city of Faribault, and at a few other points. They numbered about 150 warriors. The lower Wakpatons, or People of the Leaf, were located at Little Rapids, Sand Prairie and on the banks of

the Minnesota, not far from Belle Plaine. The lower Sissetons occupied the regions around Traverse des Sioux, Swan lake and the Cottonwood, extending to the *Coléau des Prairies*. It was this band which claimed jurisdiction over the present day county of Nobles. The upper Wakpaton tribe had its villages on the shores of the Lac qui Parle. The upper Sissetons were on Big Stone lake and lake Traverse.

Portions of Minnesota had been visited by whites at a very early day, but the southwestern portion was unvisited until long after other parts were fairly well known. Catlin, Schoolcraft, Featherstonhaugh, Allen, Keating and Long were early explorers to the wilds of Minnesota, but they confined themselves to the ready routes of travel, passing through the country in a single season. But in the late thirties appeared one who crossed the upper Mississippi country in all directions, spending several years, winters included, in procuring data for his map. This was Joseph Nicolas Nicollet,<sup>1</sup> who, so far as I am able to learn, was the first white man to set foot on the soil of Nobles county. He gave names to many lakes and physical features or adopted those which were current, and his map, issued in 1842, shows the scope of his explorations.

The country of which Nobles county forms a part was labeled "Sisseton Country" on his map, he finding that that branch of the Dakotas were in possession. He found that the region west of the Mississippi had several plateaus, or elevated prairies, which marked the limits of the various river basins. The most remarkable of these he called *Plateau du Coléau des Prairies* (plateau of prairie heights) and *Coléau du Grand Bois* country nearly 200 years earlier.

<sup>1</sup>Do not confound with Jean Nicollet, an American pioneer from France who visited the



(wooded heights). Nicollet described the *Colcan des Prairies* as a vast plain, elevated 1,916 feet above the level of the ocean and 890 feet above Big Stone lake, lying between latitudes 43 and 46 degrees, extending from northwest to southeast for a distance of 200 miles, its width varying from 15 to 40 miles.<sup>2</sup> He described it as a beautiful country, from whose summit grand views were afforded, and said that at the eastern border particularly the prospect was magnificent beyond description, extending over the immense green turf that forms the basin of the Red River of the North, the forest clad summits of the *Hauteurs des Terres* that surround the sources of the Mississippi, the gigantic valley of the upper Minnesota, and the depressions in which are lake Traverse and Big Stone lake. That Nicollet visited Nobles county and other portions of the southwestern part of Minnesota is evidenced by the fact that several physical features of the country with which we are familiar were given names and more or less accurately located. "Okelene" lake has a place on the map, as also has "Spirit lake," "Ocheyedan lake," "Ocheyedan Hillock, or Mourning Ground," "Okoboji river and lake," and "Karanzi river, where the Kansas were killed."

For several years after the visit of Nicollet the future county of Nobles was visited by white men only occasionally. In fact the whole of southwestern Minnesota remained the country of the red man up to the middle fifties and nearly to the time when Minnesota was admitted to the union as a state. Even then, although the settlements extended up to the borders of Nobles county on the south, east and north, Nobles county

was without actual settlers. It was several years behind its neighboring counties, and permanent settlement did not begin until 1867.

While the settlement of the southwestern part of the state-to-be was not attempted until a late day, other portions received some settlement, and Minnesota territory was created in 1849. Three years later the boundary line between the new territory and Iowa was surveyed. The territory from which, later, Nobles county was formed, being on the southern boundary of Minnesota, was visited at that time by surveyors, and on August 5, 1852, the first line was run that marked a boundary of the county-to-be. That day the line along Grand Prairie township was surveyed; the following day that along Little Rock; on the seventh the surveyors completed Ransom and part of Bigelow; on the eighth Bigelow was finished, and the line along the southern boundary of Indian Lake was completed, and the surveyors continued their way eastward.<sup>3</sup>

Although the permanent settlement of the western counties of southwestern Minnesota was backward, trappers operated over the whole country for many years prior to actual settlement. The abundance of game that roamed over the region drew hunters and trappers regularly to its lakes and streams. Some of these later took claims in the country they had trapped over and became the first settlers.

In 1856 there was a great tide of emigration "toward the setting sun" from the eastern states, and Minnesota territory grew rapidly in population. This inpouring of settlers continued during the following year. Then came the

Iowa, and including the present Nobles county.

<sup>2</sup>On the map it is marked as extending from a point a short distance northwest of lake Traverse in a southeasterly direction into

<sup>3</sup>Surveyors' field notes.

panic of 1857, and the influx of settlers almost completely ceased. Times were very hard all through the country, and especially was this condition of affairs felt in the Northwest. It was during this activity in the settlement of Minnesota that the first settlement was made in the southwestern part of the territory. During the years 1855, 1856 and 1857, a few hardy pioneers found their way to and made settlements in territory which now forms Faribault, Martin, Jackson and Cottonwood counties, in Minnesota, and the Spirit Lake country,<sup>1</sup> in Iowa. In some of these counties substantial settlements were begun; villages were founded; counties were organized; civilization took its first advancing stride into the frontier.

During this period of activity in southwestern Minnesota the future Nobles county had no active part; it was just beyond the "jumping off place." The greater part of the settlers engaged in trapping for furs, and in the pursuit of this avocation they frequently visited the lakes of Nobles county. Unfortunately data of the doings of these men have not been preserved. They were trappers, not historians, and they left no record of their adventures. Only a few of these early day trappers are left. Of a nomadic temperament, when permanent settlement was begun, the majority of these frontiersmen pushed on to still unsettled countries to the west.

One of these trappers who operated in what is now the western part of Nobles county was Jude Phillips, and one of his adventures is worth relating. In company with a brother, he was trapping one season on Kanaranzi creek, his

camp being near the present site of Adrian. His brother's camp was some five miles distant, also on the creek. A terrible cloudburst raised the Kanaranzi to a raging flood. Jude Phillips barely escaped with his life. The morning after the disaster he started out to look for his brother, but found no trace of him, and never did. The raging Kanaranzi had claimed its first victim.

As before stated, the financial panic of 1857 retarded the growth of the territory and brought to a standstill the activities in southwestern Minnesota. But there was another event of that year that changed the whole history of the country. That was the Inkpadutah massacre. The Indians, under the leadership of Inkpadutah, went on the war path and ruthlessly murdered settlers at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and along the Des Moines river in Jackson and Cottonwood counties, Minnesota. Had the settlement at that time been extended to Nobles county there can be no doubt that its soil would have been drenched in blood, as the savages operated in the county during the famous massacre.

The women and children of Inkpadutah's band were camped on Indian lake, in the southeastern corner of the county, while the warriors were committing their deeds of violence. After the massacre at Spirit Lake part of the murderers retreated to the northwest and made their camping place at the same point. It is said that a force of soldiers, who were in pursuit of the redskins, came as close to this band as Iowa lake. Had they struck the Indians on Indian lake, Nobles county would doubtless have played an important part in the history of the massacre. When the first white settlers

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit Lake settlement was only twenty-five miles from the Nobles county line.

came to the Indian lake country in 1869 the remains of the Indian camp were plainly seen.<sup>5</sup>

The massacre proved to be a serious blow to the growth and development of this region. The counties in which settlement had been made were depopulated. The pioneers fled for their lives; everything was abandoned. Troops were soon stationed in the country, but it took time to restore confidence, and for some time all of those counties lying west of Faribault county remained almost wholly devoid of inhabitants.

During the boom days of 1856 and the early part of 1857 the people of Minnesota were optimistic. Thousands of people were pouring into the territory and building themselves homes in the heretofore frontier sections. Elaborate schemes for big ventures were planned; nothing was done in a niggardly manner. Frenzied finance reigned supreme. Railroad rumors filled the air, and it was indeed an out of the way place that did not look forward to the coming of the iron horse in the immediate future. Paper roads covered the territory from one end to the other, and southwestern Minnesota was no exception to the rule. The territorial legislature caught the fever, granted bonuses to various contemplated railways, and indiscriminately created counties in all parts of the territory—in many of which there was not at the time a single resident.

And Nobles county came into exist-

tence under these conditions. It had no settlers at the time, but abundant prospects. Had it not been for the panic and the Indian outbreak, there can be no doubt that the county would have been inhabited and in a prosperous condition within a very short time after its creation in the spring of 1857. As it was, it was ten years later when permanent settlement was begun and thirteen when the organization was perfected. Before considering the creation of the county let us take a backward glance and trace the structural history of Minnesota territory from the date of its creation, insofar as it relates to Nobles county.

When the first legislature convened after the organization of the territory in 1849 it divided Minnesota into nine counties, named as follows: Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabasha. The whole of southern Minnesota was included in Wabasha and Dakota, and of these two, Dakota had the bulk of the territory. Wabasha included that part of the territory "lying east of a line running due south from a point on the Mississippi river known as Medicine Bottle village, at Pine Bend," to the Iowa line." Dakota county (created Oct. 27, 1849) was "all that part of said territory west of the Mississippi and lying west of the county of Wabasha and south of a line beginning at the mouth of Crow river, and up said river and the north branch thereof

<sup>5</sup>An incident of these days was recalled by the finding of a revolver on the shore of Lake Okabeena in 1872. The *Western Advance* of Aug. 31, 1872, said:

"A revolver was found on the shores of the lake last week, which was lost there fifteen years ago by A. H. Bullis, of Winnebago City, Minn. Mr. Bullis, in company with a friend had been to Yankton on horseback, and while on their return stopped at the lake to cook

and eat some fish. While the horses were quietly grazing Mr. Bullis espied a party of Indians approaching, and as this happened near the time of the Spirit Lake massacre, the white men were naturally shy of the Sioux, so they hastily mounted their beasts and fled. The revolver is silver mounted, but rust and dross have ruined it for use."

<sup>6</sup>Near St. Paul.

to its source, and thence due west to the Missouri river."<sup>77</sup>

Although Dakota county was larger than many of the eastern states its population was almost nothing, and it was declared "organized only for the purpose of the appointment of justices of the peace, constables and such other judicial and ministerial officers as may be specially provided for." For judicial purposes it was attached to the county of Ramsey.

The future Nobles county remained a part of Dakota county until March 5, 1853, when there was a readjustment of Wabasha and Dakota county boundaries, and Blue Earth county came into existence. The boundaries of the latter were described as follows: "So much territory lying south of the Minnesota river as remains of Wabasha and Dakota counties undivided by this act." As the boundaries of the two older counties as defined by this act was very indefinite, it is impossible to state exactly what the dimensions of Blue Earth county were. It is known, however, that it included all of southwestern Minnesota.

For two years the unknown Nobles county remained a part of Blue Earth county, and then came another change. By an act approved Feb. 20, 1855, the county of Blue Earth was reduced to its present boundaries, Faribault was created with the boundaries it now has, except that it then extended one township farther west than now, and the new county of Brown came into being. It was described as follows:

"Minnesota territory, then extended west to the Missouri river. In this month (July) county of Dakota were the following present day counties (or parts of counties) in Minnesota, in addition to many in what is now the state of South Dakota: Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Steele, Waseca, Blue Earth, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Goodhue, Lesueur, Rice, Dakota (part), Scott, Sibley, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui

"That so much of the territory as was formerly included within the county of Blue Earth, and has not been included within the boundaries of any other county as herein established, shall be known as the county of Brown." All of the territory lying south of the Minnesota river and west of a line drawn south from the western boundary of the present day Blue Earth county now became Brown county, and Nobles remained a part of this until two years later, when it became a political division of itself.<sup>78</sup>

The conditions which led up to the creation of Nobles county and the many others in the southwestern corner of the territory have been briefly referred to. Among the other contemplated enterprises of the boom days of 1856-7 was the building of a railroad into the southwestern part of the territory. This enterprise was, of course, arrested by the panic. But it had not prevented the building of air castles in the young country prior to the financial crash. Although no survey for the railroad had been made it had been learned that it was to be built through the Graham lakes country, and an imaginary town came into existence there. This was known as Gretchtown, and in the very early days it found itself on the maps of the frontier country. It was located on the south bank of West Graham lake—on land which in time came into the possession of Hon. J. B. Wakelield, of Blue Earth City. Gretchtown was literally a "paper town." It was never even platted, nor did it rise to the dig-

Part, Chippewa, Kandiyohi (except small corners), Meeker (part), McLeod, Carver, Hennepin, Wright (part), Stearns (small part), Pope (part), Swift, Stevens (part), Big Stone and Traverse (part).

Brown county was not organized at once, but by an act of the legislature of Feb. 11, 1856, it was permitted to organize. New Ulm was named as the county seat.

nity of having a trapper's hut thereon. Yet it became the county seat of a county—a county without inhabitants.

On the 23rd day of May, 1857, the bill was passed creating the county of Nobles and eight others in the southwestern corner of the territory.<sup>9</sup> It was named in honor of Col. W. H. Nobles,<sup>10</sup> of St. Paul. Section three of the act describes the boundaries:

Sec. III. That so much of the territory of Minnesota as is embraced in the following boundaries be, and the same is hereby established as the county of Nobles; beginning at the southeast corner of township 101 north, of range 39 west; thence north to the northeast corner of township 104 north, of range 39 west; thence west to the northwest corner of township 104, range 43 west; thence south to the southwest corner of township 101 north, of range 43 west; thence east to the place of beginning.

Of the nine counties created by the act only Martin, Jackson, Nobles and Big Sioux were declared to be organized counties and "invested with all the immunities to which organized counties are entitled by law." They were attached to the third judicial district for judi-

<sup>9</sup>The territory at this time extended west to the Big Sioux river. The other counties created by the act were Martin, Jackson, Murray, Pipestone, Big Sioux, Cottonwood, Rock and Midway. The first three named were given the boundaries they now have. The boundaries of Pipestone county were described as including the present Rock county and the eastern portion of the present Minnehaha county, S. D. The boundaries of Rock county were described as including the present Pipestone county and a small part of the eastern portion of the present Moody county, S. D. This transposition of the names Rock and Pipestone in the description of their boundaries in the original act of 1857 may have been due to a lack of knowledge of the physical features of this part of the country, or it may have been due to a clerical error. The mistake was corrected later. Big Sioux county took in part of the present Minnehaha county, S. D., and extended from the Big Sioux river eastward to Pipestone (Rock) county. Cottonwood had the same boundaries as now, except that it did not then have three townships in the northwest corner which it now has. Midway county included that part of the present Moody county, S. D., that lies between the Big Sioux river and the western boundary of the original Rock (Pipestone) county.

<sup>10</sup>Col. Nobles was noted as the discoverer of the pass in the Rocky mountains which short-

cial purposes, and to the tenth council district for elective purposes. Provision was made for the early organization of the four counties named. Commissioners residing within the respective counties were to be appointed by the governor to perfect the organizations.<sup>11</sup> These commissioners were to meet during the first week in July, 1857, at the county seat and set in motion the machinery of the county government. The county seat of Nobles county was temporarily located at Grechtown, that mythical city in Graham Lakes township, but provision was made for the selection of the permanent seat of government by the voters.<sup>12</sup>

It is needless to say that the organization did not take place as provided. Only a short time later, there were not only no settlers in Nobles county, but the whole of southwestern Minnesota was deserted. County government was not begun in Nobles county until 1870; then it was organized under the provisions of the act of 1857. The panic and Indian troubles had caused a setback of thirteen years.

oned the emigrant route to the Pacific side some 500 miles, and through which the Union Pacific now passes. The people of California raised a purse of \$10,000 and presented it to Col. Nobles in appreciation of this discovery. During the year 1861 he was president of the Minnesota Old Settlers' association. The late Daniel Rohrer is my authority for the statement concerning the naming of the county.

Section eleven of the act reads: "The governor shall appoint three persons for each of the respective organized counties, being residents and legal voters thereof, commissioners for each of said counties, with full power and authority to do and perform all acts and duties devolving upon the board of county commissioners of any organized county in this territory; the said board of commissioners shall have power to appoint all other officers that may be required to complete the organization of their respective counties."

<sup>12</sup>Sec. 10 of the act reads: "If, after the passage of this act it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to order the legal voters of any of the said counties to vote at any general election for the location of the county seats of said counties, and the point receiving the highest number of votes shall be the county seat of said county."

It will be remembered that so early as 1852 surveyors had established the line between Minnesota and Iowa, and for a few days had operated in Nobles county. That was the only surveying done for several years. But after the territorial legislature had divided southwestern Minnesota into counties, it was deemed advisable to establish their boundaries. A surveying party visited the county in September, 1858, and marked its boundaries. Guide meridian No. 5, along the eastern boundary of the county was surveyed, as was also standard parallel No. 4, which was the county's northern boundary. It was nine years later when the county was divided into townships, and one and two years after that when the section lines were run.

So soon as confidence was restored after the Spirit Lake massacre, settlement was begun again in portions of southwestern Minnesota, and in the late fifties and very early sixties quite a number of settlers had founded homes in Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray and Nobles counties. Some of the counties east of these had not been seriously affected by the Indian outbreak, and had substantial settlements.<sup>13</sup>

Eleven families, comprising thirty-five people, had pushed out to the heretofore unknown Nobles county country. That was the number found by Elias D. Bruner, assistant marshal, who took the cen-

sus July 16, 1860. These were located in the Graham Lakes country, and Jackson was their postoffice address. The enumerator stated that he had visited eleven dwelling houses, and that there were the same number of families. On following page are names of the inhabitants, their ages, occupations and places of birth as listed by Marshal Bruner:<sup>14</sup>

All of these were white, free inhabitants. Being squatters, they did not have title to real estate, but four of the number had personal property, as follows: John Oleson, \$200; Uriah Kashman, \$175; William Hertwinkle, \$275; John Hertwinkle, \$100. Other information contained in the schedule is to the effect that none had been married within the year, none had attended school within the year, only one person over twenty years of age (Thomas Marks) could not read or write, and none was deaf and dumb, blind, idiotic, pauper or convict.<sup>15</sup>

The development of this frontier region was destined to delay. It had only fairly recovered from the effects of the Inkpadutah, or Spirit Lake, massacre and the hard times period when the outbreak of the civil war in 1861 again set a brake on emigration. Then in August, 1862, was inaugurated the terrible Sioux war, which again depopulated the western part of Minnesota and crimsoned the fair soil with the blood of so many innocent men, women and

<sup>13</sup>The federal census of 1860 showed the following populations.

Faribault	1,335
Blue Earth	1,293
Brown	2,339
Watonwan	1,151
Martin	181
Jackson	42
Cottonwood	29
Murray	35
Nobles	23
Rock	.....
Pipestone	.....

<sup>14</sup>The list was obtained from the director of the census at Washington through the kindness of Hon. W. S. Hammond.

<sup>15</sup>It is greatly to be regretted that nothing further can be learned of this attempted early settlement. Although I have made extensive research for information concerning it, I have been able to find little more than is contained in the bare census returns. These people doubtless came to Nobles county some time after the Spirit Lake massacre, and probably only a short time before the census was taken. This is made evident from the fact that in three different families were children of two years of age or younger, and none of them was born in Minnesota. How they happened to locate in this frontier land, stories of their adventures, when and why they left, will probably always remain a mystery. We can only surmise.

NAME	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
*John Oleson .....	34	Farmer	Norway
Barbara Oleson .....	37		"
Maria Oleson.....	11		"
George Oleson .....	8		"
Betsy Oleson .....	6		"
*Uriah Kushman.....	28		"
Betsy Kushman.....	27		"
Hownis Kushman .....	6		"
William Kushman .....	5		"
Ann Kushman .....	2		Wisconsin
*John Bell.....	19	Trapper	New York
*Thomas Marks .....	36	Trapper	Pennsylvania
Henry Jordan .....	39	Trapper	"
*George Wilkin .....	24	Indian Trader	Wisconsin
*George Bumgardner.....	34	Farmer	Bavaria
Ann Bumgardner .....	36		"
Henrietta Bumgardner.....	11		"
Willmetto Bumgardner..	7		"
Maria Bumgardner .....	2		"
*William Hertwinkle.....	40	Farmer	"
Julia Hertwinkle .....	40		"
Thomas Hertwinkle.....	18		"
Marie Hertwinkle .....	16		"
William Hertwinkle.....	14		"
*John Hertwinkle .....	27	Farmer	"
Joanner Hertwinkle.....	20		"
Monnie Hertwinkle .....	1		Wisconsin
Thomas Hertwinkle.....	25	Farm Laborer	Bavaria
*George Evert.....	38	Trader	Maine
Henry Hanson .....	42	Trader	Tennessee
*William Eavens.....	50		Norway
Maria Eavens .....	49		"
Thomas Eavens.....	26		"
*George McFarlane .....	32		Ireland
Henry McFarlane.....	30		"

\*Heads of families.

children. Fiendish atrocity, blood curdling cruelty and red handed murder ran riot. At New Uhm was enacted one of the most atrocious massacres recorded in the annals of Indian warfare. At lake Shetek, in Murray county, and other places in southwestern Minnesota the murder crazed redskins fell upon the settlers and enacted lesser tragedies—lesser only because the victims were not so numerous. Those farmers, trappers and traders who had builded themselves homes in Nobles county had taken their departure, and so escaped the fate that befell so many in southwestern Minnesota. Whether they had departed of their own volition or taken alarm and retreated when the Indians went on the

warpath is not certain. It is certain that they were not in the country during the war, and nearly every trace of their occupancy disappeared.

The growth of Minnesota received a set back from which it took many years to fully recover. After the inauguration of this fiendish warfare the western frontier line receded eastward, and the greater portion of southwestern Minnesota was again left in the midst of the hostile Indian country, and for many months no white man trod its soil. After the settlements in the eastern part of the state had partially recovered from the first rude shock of the Indian outbreak, which fell like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, steps were at once taken to

defend the exposed settlements, to conquer the redskins and drive them back. The civil war was in progress, and the majority of the able bodied settlers were in the south fighting for the union. It therefore required some time to muster troops and place them in advantageous positions to cope with the wily red foe. In the meantime the Indians carried on their brutal warfare, murdering men, women and children, and burning as they went. After considerable delay the Indians were driven back, soldiers were placed all through this western country, and the prairies were constantly patrolled by companies which were detailed for this service.

The expeditions against the hostile Sioux resulted in Nobles county being frequently visited by military parties. On one occasion a force under General Thomas pursued a band of the hostiles to the shores of Okabena lake and beyond. For convenience in operating against the savages military roads were constructed in different parts of the country. One of the main thoroughfares was through Nobles county, extending from Jackson to the present site of Luverne and on to Yankton. Another one, coming from Blue Earth City, united with this on section 27, Graham Lakes township. The road from Jackson crossed Hersey township, traversing it in a northwesterly direction. It crossed Jack creek and entered Graham Lakes township in section 34, continued in a northwesterly direction to its junction with the other trail on section 27, and then bore to the southwest. It passed through the northern part of Elk and Summit Lake townships and entered Larkin a short distance southeast of the present village of Wilmont. Larkin township was traversed, the road leaving it at

section 18. Lismore township was entered at section 13; thence the road continued its way through sections 14 and 15 and on to the west. The road was a good one, and in after years was used as the mail route from Blue Earth City and Jackson to Luverne, Sioux Falls and Yankton. To this day evidence of the old road can be seen in places.

The savages were soon subdued after troops were placed in the field, but for a number of years the settlers on the extreme frontier lived in a state of constant fear and anxiety, not knowing at what time the scenes of 1862 might be repeated. Soldiers were kept on the frontier for some time, and some of them were among the first settlers to take up their homes in the new country when peace was assured, not a few selecting their claims while here in the service. When peace was established on the border, settlement again began—destined this time to be permanent—and the frontier line moved westward very rapidly.

During the first half of the sixties the settlement did not extend so far west as Nobles county, if we except a few trappers who regularly plied their trade here. A few of these built shanties, which they occupied during the trapping season. They would then depart to their homes farther east or south and dispose of their catch. Sometimes they would return to the trapping grounds of Nobles county the next season; sometimes they would not. In no sense of the word could they be called permanent settlers. They neither laid claim to land (except under the unwritten law governing trapping rights) nor intended to make their homes here. On the other hand, while those first settlers who came in the early summer of 1867 also en-



gaged principally in trapping for a livelihood, they were permanent settlers, and the settlement of the county may properly be said to date from that time. They came to build permanent homes for themselves and engage in agricultural pursuits so soon as conditions would permit, and they all took land claims. Their trapping was done because of necessity, not because they were trappers.

When the settlers of 1867 appeared they came as pioneers to a new country. Practically all trace of the former occupation had disappeared, and the only evidence found were a few trappers' shacks and dugouts. These early settlers knew nothing, or very little, of the people who had preceded them, so completely had the efforts at civilization been obliterated, and few people today know that there were settlers prior to 1867.

For evidence of occupation of Nobles county prior to the arrival of the settlers of 1867 I am under obligations to Judge B. W. Woolstencroft, now of Slayton, who became a resident of the county July 4, 1867. In his occupations of hunter, trapper and surveyor he visited nearly all parts of the county in the early days, and knows whereof he speaks. The evidence of this letter and other sources of information lead to the belief that evidence of former occupation had almost completely disappeared. Judge Woolstencroft writes:

Slayton, Minn., June 21, 1907.

Mr. A. P. Rose,

Worthington, Minn.

Dear Sir:—So far as I know, and am of the opinion that no one knows better, there was no settlement in Nobles county prior to 1867, no village laid out or platted. I remember seeing an old map, upon which

<sup>16</sup>Early settlers also report the finding of evidence of a trappers' camp in Elk township, on Elk creek, which had probably been in existence from an early date.

<sup>17</sup>Much confusion has resulted because of the peculiar naming of this road, which was

Gretchtown was marked as being located near the south end of West Graham lake, but there was no evidence of a plat or settlement when I came to the county.

There was a trapper's shanty on section 22, on the southwest bank of West Graham, and one on what has been called "the Island." These were made by digging two or three feet in the ground, the walls built up of logs and covered with brush, hay and earth.

There was also a trapper's shanty on the east bank of Ocheyelan lake and one on Indian lake, but I do not know the exact location of the latter. These were all the evidences of settlement prior to 1867.

Yours truly,

B. W. WOOLSTENCROFT.<sup>18</sup>

When the civil war closed, railroads—those great civilizers—began reaching out and interlocking through the Northwest. For Minnesota this was the starting point of such an era of rapid growth and development as was the marvel of the times. The iron horse had reached the eastern part of southwestern Minnesota late in the sixties, and early in the next decade railroads were built through and beyond these counties. It was in 1871 that the first railroad was built into Nobles county, although the road was projected and the preliminary survey made as early as 1866. This was done by the Minnesota Valley Railroad company, which later became the St. Paul & Sioux City and the Sioux City & St. Paul.<sup>17</sup> The line of the proposed road entered Nobles county in section 12, Graham Lakes township, and passed in a southwesterly direction between the two Graham lakes. It left the township at section 31, passed through the northwest corner of Hersey and into Worthington township, continuing its general southwestern direction, going along the north and west side of West Okabena lake.

The southern end was officially known as the Sioux City & St. Paul. They were to all intents one road, owned by the same people and managed by the same officers built from St. Paul to LeMars. The northern portion was the St. Paul & Sioux City, while

The route thus surveyed was much longer than the one finally decided on. After the land grant had been secured—alternate sections in a strip of country on each side of the survey—the route was changed to the shorter one, over which the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha is now operated.

A country through which railroad surveys are being made is not destined to remain long without settlers, and the year 1866 marks the close of an era. At that time there was not a settler in the county. Nobles had not yet been divided into townships and smaller divisions, it was an untamed country.

## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT — 1867-1871.

Facts supplying the context of the preceding chapter lead to the conclusion that the settlement of southwestern Minnesota, and particularly Nobles county, was exceedingly slow. Obstacles to its development were encountered that tried men's souls. Few communities in these United States have been called upon to pass through struggles such as were encountered by the early settlements (or settlers, rather) of southwestern Minnesota. The hardy pioneers would push their way to the frontier and establish themselves nicely when the war whoop would resound over the prairies. Then the country would have to be abandoned, and the savages would remain in control until the oncoming tide of immigrants would again force its way westward.

After this civil war was brought to a close immigration to the western states was large, and it was during this period that permanent settlement was made in Nobles county. It was in the month of June, 1867, that Nobles county received its first settler. There is always something connected with the settlement of a country that interests. Often there is a tendency on the part of the chronicler to paint, polish and varnish the stories of early days. Sometimes those who were the principal actors in the drama enacted are unable to recognize them-

selves or their part in the play. It is my intention to steer clear of this error and avoid fiction in dealing with the early day events, and to rely solely upon the facts to make the narrative interesting.

The beautiful Graham lakes country was the first portion of the county to receive settlers. They were attracted by the natural beauty of the place, as well as the fact that there were about seventy-five acres of timber on the lakes—an important item to the first settlers. On the 19th day of June, 1867, Stephen and Joseph Muck (brothers) came from Jackson and decided to make their homes in the beautiful lake country. Joseph Muck had resided at Jackson for many years, having been there at the time of the Spirit Lake massacre in 1857; Stephen Muck<sup>1</sup> was a recent arrival. The former had visited the Graham lakes country previously and knew of its advantages. Arriving there, the brothers appropriated the old trapper's shanty on section 22, mention of which has been made before.

The land had not yet been surveyed, but these pioneers of pioneers were not to be deterred from becoming land owners because of that fact. Each laid claim to a homestead by "squatter's rights." Joseph Muck staked his claim on the

<sup>1</sup>For sketch of the life of Stephen Muck see biographical section.

south bank of West Graham lake, which, when surveyed, proved to be the south-east quarter of section 21, Graham Lakes township. His brother laid claim to land on the east bank of the lake, which proved to be the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and lots one and two, of section 22, consisting of 133 acres. The brothers at once plowed a few acres of land, which they planted to corn.<sup>2</sup> Then they returned to Jackson to attend to their harvest there. In the fall they returned to their claims. Joseph Muck was accompanied by his family, and Stephen Muck by his five children—Agnes, Elizabeth, James, Emma and Charles.<sup>3</sup>

Before the Muck families came that fall, however, a few other settlers had come for the purpose of acquiring homes in the new country. While the Mucks were at work on their claims in June, John Barnett and Martin Rice, formerly of Fillmore county, Minn., arrived on the scene. Finding the land unsurveyed, they were unwilling to locate lest they should happen to get on odd numbered sections, which under the land grant had become the property of the railroad company. They started out with the Mucks on their return trip to Jackson during the first days of July.

At the outlet of Heron lake this party was met by Benjamin W. Woolstenroft,<sup>4</sup> formerly of Clayton county, Iowa, and his brother-in-law, Charles H. Drury, formerly of Fillmore county, Minn., who were also on their way west looking

for homes in the unsettled sections. These two informed Messrs. Barnett and Rice that congress had made provisions for the protection of "squatters" who might locate on railroad land. They were convinced, and all four set out for Graham lakes, while the Mucks continued their journey to Jackson. The party of four arrived on July 14, and all immediately staked claims.

Mr. Woolstenroft located on the northeast bank of the west lake, which was afterwards found to be the south-east quarter of section 15. Mr. Drury took land on the east bank of the east lake, which was the southeast quarter of section 23. Later in the year he brought in his family. Mr. Rice took the east half of the northeast quarter of section 15, and Mr. Barnett the northeast quarter of section 9. Each of these four erected log cabins,<sup>5</sup> put up a small amount of hay and did some little breaking. Although Messrs. Rice and Barnett had made improvements on their claims, they deserted them after a short time and did not return to the county.

B. F. Tanner arrived in the settlement in July with his family and selected the island in East Graham lake as his claim, but made no improvements thereon. A few more homeseekers arrived in the fall, and the little settlement began to take on the airs of civilization. O. B. Lacy came and took up land in section 22, but did not make improvements. E. J. Clark arrived Nov. 20, and H. M. Tanner the same month.

<sup>2</sup>Now resides at Kintore.

<sup>3</sup>See biographical section.

<sup>4</sup>A question has been raised as to who was the first man to put plow in Nobles county soil, the claim of one of the early settlers of the Indian lake country having been advanced. There was no settlement there whatever prior to 1869, and the fact that plowing was done in the Graham lakes county in 1867 is beyond dispute. The honor belongs to the Muck brothers, if we leave out of the consideration the possibility that the earlier settlers may have engaged in agricultural pursuits.

<sup>5</sup>In the fall Mr. Woolstenroft learned that his house had been "removed" by one of his neighbors, and, therefore, he was compelled to delay the removal of his family until spring, at which time the neighbor "made good" by turning him another and better lot of logs than those he had taken.

John Leitz and family arrived in the fall and settled on the claim which had been deserted by John Barnett. Another arrival of the year was W. H. Ingles. This completes the list of all who came to the settlement during the year. All of these did not pass the winter in their new homes, as several went out to make arrangements for bringing in their families or to remain away permanently. Those who passed the winter of 1867-8 in Nobles county were Chas. H. Drury and family, Stephen Muck and children, Joseph Muck and family, B. F. Tanner and family, John Leitz and family and O. B. Lacy.

All of the early settlers of Nobles county took land with the idea of ultimately engaging in farming, and most of them did so. But conditions were not propitious for carrying on agricultural pursuits in anything but a meagre style. Here was a mere handful of men gathered together a long distance from civilization and all that goes to make life comfortable. The nearest market was Jackson, a little inland hamlet on the frontier itself. There the Graham lakes settlers had to go for their flour and other necessities of life. There were no threshing machines in the country, and the nearest flouring mill was miles away. It would have been unprofitable business to raise small grain, which could not

have been threshed and could not have been taken to market except after a long and rough journey.

So the pioneers contented themselves with raising potatoes, corn and garden truck for their own immediate needs, and that was the extent of farming operations the first four years. Countless hardships were endured during these years. Almost without exception, the settlers were poor men, who had been attracted to the new country because of the desire to become the owners of homes. Without means to accomplish this in the settled portions of the country, they resolutely pushed out onto the frontier, where free homes could be secured under the homestead laws.

Not being able to earn a livelihood at farming because of the inconveniences before mentioned, they turned their energies in another direction. The country was literally alive with small fur-bearing animals, including muskrats, foxes, martens, mink, badgers and skunks, and the taking of their furs offered profitable employment." So the farmer settlers became trappers. Inexperienced in the art of setting traps, they had no easy task. They were often caught in the blizzard miles from home, sometimes being on the prairie during an entire storm, where nothing but courage and physical strength could save

\*Big game was also quite plentiful for a few years after the first settlers arrived, and occasionally some of it would be bagged for food. The bison had nearly all left the country by the time these settlers arrived, but Nobles county's prairies were thickly covered with his bleaching bones, and his wallows were seen in all parts of the county, indicating that this had been a favorite pasture ground. So far as I have been able to learn, only two bison in native state were ever seen in the county after settlers arrived. These two were seen by B. W. Woodsteneroff on the prairie at a distance. But quite a band of them undoubtedly had their home here during the summer of 1868. On land in Seward township which is now the farm of W. H. Booth was found evidence that a herd of forty or fifty had spent the season there. The camp-

ing place and wallows were found, but if the herd itself was seen it was not reported.

Elk were here in more considerable numbers and remained for several years. In all parts of the county they were found. The first settlers in the Indian lake country saw many of them, and old settlers of that neighborhood report having seen them in bands of 100 or more, and they frequently dined on elk meat. One of the Graham lakes settlers has told me that he counted a band of seventy-two at a point four miles north of the present village of Worthington. So late as 1872 and 1873, after the settlers had begun pouring in by the hundreds, elk were occasionally seen by the colonists who had made their homes on the prairies. Only on rare occasions were deer seen, a few having been reported seen in the Indian lake country.

them. But in time all became expert trappers. Generally the market for fur was good, and thousands of dollars worth was taken during the season.

During the months of July and August, 1867, the county was divided into townships by a party of surveyors. This proved of little benefit to the settlers, however; but next year the section lines were run, and thereafter homesteaders were able to definitely locate their claims.

During the summer of 1867 a mail route was established from Blue Earth City to Yankton<sup>7</sup> over the old military trail, which passed through the Graham lakes settlement. The line was then complete from the Mississippi to the Missouri. Philo Hawes was the contractor, and "Stormy Jack" Grier was the mail carrier.<sup>8</sup> In January, 1868, a post-office was established for the benefit of the settlers, and Chas. H. Drury became the county's first postmaster. He was succeeded by H. C. Hallett, who also "kept tavern" in a log hut.<sup>9</sup> In 1874 the office was moved to the home of N. H. Smith, on section 24, and that gentleman served as postmaster until the office was discontinued in 1879. Then the Graham lakes settlers were supplied from the Airlie (Kinbrae) office.

There were only a few additions to the settlement in 1868. John Woolstencroft arrived in the Graham lakes settle-

<sup>7</sup>This was an extension of the old route from Red Wing to Blue Earth City, which was opened in 1856, and of which Philo Hawes was the contractor. The country between those towns was then as wild as was Nobles county during 1867, and there was only one stopping place along the route.

<sup>8</sup>"One thing we must not forget to mention, and that is the mail route. Under the management of Philo Hawes, it was one of the institutions of which we felt proud, and the many acts of kindness bestowed by the contractor will never be forgotten by that band of pioneers." An Early Settler.

<sup>9</sup>A party of the National colony founders who spent the night there in 1871 reported that Mr. Hallett informed them that for-

ment June 2 and settled on the claim that had been deserted the year before by Martin Rice. John Ancomb and family came that year, and possibly a few others joined the band on Graham lakes. In March the first white child born in the county arrived on the scene. She was Minnie Leitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Leitz.<sup>10</sup>

The Okabena lake country received its first settlers on September 24, 1868, when W. A. (Andy) Dillman,<sup>11</sup> Frank Fortner and John Wilson, trappers came and created a sod and log shanty on the east bank of East Okabena lake. Fortner remained only two days, and then returned to Blue Earth City. Wilson stayed a month, and then he, too, returned to Blue Earth City. Dillman, however, remained until Christmas, and he was rewarded with a fine catch of furs. Around the Okabena lakes and the sloughs in the vicinity were many kinds of fur bearing animals. During the three months he was there Mr. Dillman secured about 1,000 muskrat, 12 fox, five mink and several other hides. These he disposed of at Jackson and Spirit Lake. He then departed for the settlements farther east, but returned to Nobles county early the next year.<sup>12</sup>

The running of the section lines during the fall of 1868 was an item of great importance to the people then living in the county. Before that event the

merly he had kept the mail in his hat, but that recently the business had grown so that a drawer was necessary, and that there was a prospect of his salary being raised to \$10 a year.

<sup>10</sup>The first male child born in the county was Arthur A. Woolstencroft, born July 20, 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Woolstencroft.

<sup>11</sup>See Biographical section.

<sup>12</sup>Mr. Dillman informs me that during his residence here in 1868 his nearest neighbors, excepting the settlers of Graham lakes, were two families who lived where Lake Park, Iowa, now is, and two or three families who were located on Rock Creek, in Rock county.

settlers held their land by "squatter's rights;" now they were enabled to definitely locate their lands and make their filings in the government land office at Jackson. Under contract, dated Aug. 3, 1868, Surveyors R. H. L. Jewett and G. G. Howe undertook the work of making the survey. Accompanied by a man named Howard, they at once entered upon their duties, and from Aug. 27 to Oct. 29 they were engaged in surveying the section lines and marking the corners of all the townships except the western tier.<sup>13</sup> The four townships on the western border were surveyed by R. H. L. Jewett, under contract of July 30, 1869, during the fall of that year.<sup>14</sup>

There is no evidence that Indians ever had their permanent villages located on Nobles county soil, but such may have been the case. For a few years after the first settlers came, however, Indians were permanently domiciled here. In September, 1868, a band of seven or eight families came down from the Pembina country (from the Minnesota side of the river), and spent the fall trapping on Graham lakes. Part of the Indians were full blooded Sioux; the others were half breeds (English and Chippewa).

Although perfectly friendly, their arrival created something of a stir, and at least one young man will remember them during his lifetime. He was the son of John Ancomb, one of the settlers of Graham lakes. He was returning from the postoffice when he came suddenly upon a number of teepees erected immediately in his pathway. He had passed over the road less than an hour

before, and his surprise was great. Terror lent wings to his feet, and he lost no time in getting home. He left the road, waded the outlet of Jack lake, where the water was up to his chin, and came on a run to his father's place, his eyes bulging, and so out of breath that he could with difficulty tell of his find. Messrs. Ancomb and B. W. Woolstencroft set out at once to investigate. They found the Indians to be friendly and in possession of passes from the agent, permitting them to leave the reservation and to hunt and trap.

The Indians spent a few months in the vicinity, and then returned to their northern homes. The next year they returned and made their camp on the west shore of Ocheyda lake. They spent the winter of 1869-70 there. They were on very friendly terms with the whites, and more than one of the pioneer settlers could vouch for their hospitality. Another band of Indians and half breeds made their home for a while on Indian lake. They had their teepees in the timber of the lake when the first settlers located there in 1869, and were there two years. There were seventeen families of them, and they spent their time in trapping and hunting. Their relations with the few whites there were always friendly.

More settlers arrived in 1869. In the spring of the year came H. L. Wallace, B. B. Brain and several others to the Graham lakes country. W. A. Dillman, accompanied by Aaron Fortner, returned to the county in February to resume trapping operations. They took up their

<sup>13</sup>The surveys of the several townships were made as follows: Hershey, Aug. 27-Sept. 1; Seward, Sept. 1-4; Bloom, Sept. 1-7; Willmott, Sept. 8-10; Larkin, Sept. 11-15; Summit Lake, Sept. 15-18; Elk, Sept. 19-23; Worthington, Sept. 23-26; Dewald, Sept. 26-30; Ohey, Sept. 20-Oct. 2; Little Rock, Oct. 3-6; Ransom, Oct. 7-10; Bigelow, Oct. 12-16; Indian Lake, Oct.

15-20; Lorain, Oct. 20-22; Graham Lakes, Oct. 24-29.

<sup>14</sup>The dates of survey of these four townships were as follows: Westside, Aug. 20-Sept. 4; Grand Prairie, Sept. 6-11; Leota, Oct. 1-6; Lismore, Oct. 7-13.

abode on the east shore of Ocheyda lake, taking possession of an old trapper's shanty which they found at that point. They remained there until the close of the fur taking season in the spring, and made a good catch. They divided territory with the Indians in the vicinity, and were the only white men in the neighborhood.

To the Indian lake country, in the southeastern part of the county, came a few resolute pioneers in 1869, who had all the experiences and suffered all the hardships of first settlers. Although the Graham lakes country had been settled for two years, it was some twelve or fifteen miles distant, with barren country intervening, and there was no intercourse between the two communities. The Indian lake settlement was as isolated as had been that of Graham lakes two years before.

Isaac Horton was the first to take a claim in the Indian lake country. He had moved to Spirit Lake in 1867, and during that year had visited Indian lake while on a hunting trip. He liked the looks of the country and decided that some day he would make his home there. On May 6 he filed on land on the east side of Indian lake, and on October 3 he moved his family there. About the middle of May, Henry Brayton, accompanied by his family, came to the same vicinity and selected land on the west side of the lake, on section 31. There was at that time not an inhabitant within many miles, and Mrs. Brayton was the pioneer white woman of Indian Lake township. Chas. W. Bullis also came that spring and took a homestead. R. L. Erskine and family, consisting of a wife and five children, arrived in the fall and located on the east bank of the lake, on the northwest quar-

ter of section 35. Soon after, however, he abandoned that and filed on land in section 26, just to the north of his first location. He built a sod house, in which the family lived for several years. His trading point was the old town of Milford, Iowa. Asal Horton came the same year, but departed in 1870. Myrus Johnson came in the fall and located on the southeast quarter of section 26, and made his home there until about 1875. A. O. Campbell also came that year.

The surroundings of these few settlers were romantic. Surrounding their homes were the camps of the redskins, who were then in that locality. Wolves howled in the timber skirting the shore of the lake and made night hideous. To build their homes lumber had to be hauled from Mankato, nearly 100 miles away, or else log and sod shanties had to suffice.

Many stories of hardships and dangers encountered by the first settlers have been told. An incident of the year 1869 is worthy of being placed on record. The following is from the pen of B. W. Woolstencroft:

In February, 1869, a company consisting of John Anselcomb and his son, William, Chas. Hans and C. M. Thompkins (a Quaker who had both his feet frozen off on a former occasion) started out to find a slough in town 102, range 10 (now Worthington township). They were not certain of its whereabouts, and did not understand traveling by the section, and consequently got lost. The second day in the morning they were overtaken by a storm of blinding fury and could only guess their course. After wandering about for two days on the prairie they happened to find the corner of a section of which I had given them a plot with the section, town and range marked thereon. They then knew where they were for the first time in two days. They turned their team around (for they were going almost directly away from home), and, although the poor cattle had been three days traveling in the snow with no roots, nothing to eat but a little cornmeal, and were snow blind, they had to be driven home to save the lives of the men, as they, too, were snow blind with one ex-



ception, and that one nearly so. The wonder was that they were not all frozen to death.

The same writer gives another instance of adventure in a blizzard the next winter in which he was personally interested:

The other case was Chas. Derby and the writer. We were camped on the bank of Summit lake in a small tent. On the night of the 17th of January, 1870, a severe storm arose and raged for three days and nights. The snow drifted terribly, covering the tent and crowding it down so that we had no room to lay down. On the third night at nine o'clock we started home, having been ejected, so to speak. We had no road, no guide, and the thermometer at 27 degrees below zero. We got along very well until we got into a large slough, where the snow was very loose and deep, and we could find no way out for some time. When we did my feet were frozen almost solid. We finally arrived home about three o'clock in the morning. I could enumerate a number of instances of like adventures, but these are enough to satisfy me, and I judge will satisfy the reader.

That winter was an exceptionally severe one, and "lingered in the lap of spring." The settlers suffered severely, and many were the narrow escapes from death in the storms. Early in March occurred one of the big blizzards, which lasted six days. This was followed on the 21st and 22nd by another severe storm, in which three lives were lost—the first of several in the county's history.

On March 21 there passed through the settlement at Graham lakes over the old trail two freighting outfits bound for Sioux Falls. Three men were in charge of these outfits—two Johnsons, father and son, and a man named Sharp. They hailed from Lesueur county and were freighting flour to the Dakota settlement. When the storm struck fear for the safety of the freighters was felt by the people of Graham lakes. On the 23rd, the storm having abated, the whole

community turned out to search for the strangers. That day the bodies were found.

It appears that the storm had struck them when they had reached a point in Seward township, seven miles west of Graham lakes. They camped there that night, and the next day set out on their journey. Seven or eight miles farther west—in the township of Bloom—Sharp was stricken. His dead body was found beside those of his horses. Two miles farther on the Johnsons unhitched their team and tied the horses to the sled. Both were overcome by the blizzard and met death. The body of the elder man was found wrapped in bed quilts about two rods from the sled. The body of the son was discovered between that of the father and the sled.

Two months after this disaster came another event of thrilling interest. In May, 1870, the settlers about Graham lakes were electrified by the rumor that the Indians were coming to "wipe them out," and although the rumor proved groundless there were exciting times among the little band. The scare was originated by John Leitz and Lyman Oaks, the latter from Cottonwood county, who went to New Ulm to dispose of their fur, the product of their winter's trapping. While there they were entertained with stories of the 1862 massacre, and on the way home they allowed their imagination to work to an extent sufficient to make them see Indians all over the prairie. Immediately upon their return they spread the alarm and succeeded in creating considerable excitement.

Some were in favor of abandoning the settlement and leaving for a more civilized community, others to stay and fight it out. The latter prevailed, and a com-

pany was organized to defend their homes. S. R. Harris was chosen captain, John Cunningham, first lieutenant; B. W. Woolstencroft, second lieutenant; B. F. Tanner, sergeant. It was decided to fortify the island in East Graham lake, and to accomplish this to build a stockade across the two narrow strips of land connecting it with the main land, and work was at once commenced to that end.

The captain and first lieutenant detailed themselves to go to Jackson for ammunition (which may not look very military; nevertheless it is true), leaving the command in the hands of Second Lieutenant Woolstencroft and Sergeant Tanner. The officer in command was taken sick, the weather was exceedingly warm, and the men preferred sitting in the shade and telling stories to building stockades. So the work lagged. Lieutenant Woolstencroft recovered somewhat from his sick spell, returned across the lake, and took charge of the operations. Work was at once resumed, but the hot weather had overcome the fright of the workers, and their work plainly showed that they were beginning to doubt the stories told by Oaks and Leitz.

Their scepticism was short lived. About five o'clock in the evening Emma Muck, a girl of some fourteen years, who lived with her father on the east bank of West Graham lake, arrived on the scene and told the men she had seen five Indians on the west bank of the lake. The men required no one to urge them to work from that time, and more work was done from that moment until nightfall than during the whole day previous to that time. B. W. Woolstencroft and E. J. Clark mounted the only

horses in the place, except the team that had been taken to Jackson, and scoured the country west of the lakes, with the result that they found *five sand hill cranes*. This relieved the tension somewhat, but that Indians might be in the country and on the war path had not been disproved.

The suggestion that the settlers of Cottonwood county, living at Lake Talcott and on the Des Moines river, should be notified was acted upon. A courier took a horse, and, going first to lake Talcott, eight miles away, notified John Crapsey's people, then rode down the river two miles and notified the Doore brothers. The latter came over the next morning, joined the company, and did excellent service in telling stories. By the time the captain and first lieutenant had returned from Jackson the rest of the company had worked upon Leitz and Oaks to a point where they were willing to admit that most of the story was imagination. The stockade was never completed. The work was so advanced, however, that less than one day's work would have put it in shape to hold it against any number of Indians. The company was disbanded, thankful that the Indian scare had been conducted without Indians.<sup>15</sup>

The people of Nobles county did not put in all their time having experiences in blizzards and planning defense against Indians, however. Most of the settlers were of religious and social disposition, and one of their first considerations was religious worship. In the spring of 1870 John Crapsey, a Lutheran preacher who had located on Crapsey lake in Cottonwood county only a short distance from the Graham lakes settlement—was in-

<sup>15</sup>One of the members of this pioneer military company has facetiously remarked: "For this service we never received any pay; and

I have not heard of anyone who received pensions for wounds received or injuries incurred."



WORTHINGTON STREET SCENE, 1874

Looking Down Main Street from Third Avenue, Where the State Bank of Worthington Now Stands.



WORTHINGTON STREET SCENE, 1908

Showing the Same Block Thirty-four Years Later.



strumental in organizing the first Sunday school in Nobles county. The school was held in a combination sod and log shanty on the island, the home of B. F. Tanner. Nearly all the settlers attended the meetings of the school, the average attendance being about 25 or 30. John Crapsey was superintendent; Mrs. B. F. Tanner, assistant superintendent and primary teacher; S. R. Harris, bible class teacher.

By an act of the legislature, approved March 7, 1870, the counties of Nobles and Rock were detached from the county of Martin, with which they had formerly been attached for judicial purposes. Provision was made for holding court in Jackson county, and the two counties to the west were attached to that county<sup>16</sup>

The first federal census after settlers arrived in the county was taken in 1870. According to it there were 117 people residing in the county on the first day of June.<sup>17</sup> Of these, 108 were native born; nine were foreign born. Of the 108 native born, 25 were born in Minnesota, 19 in New York, 14 in Wisconsin, eight in Illinois, one in Ohio, and 41 in other states. Of the nine foreign born, three were born in Great Britain, two in British America, two in Germany, one in Ireland and one in Sweden. Of the total population 63 were males and 54 females. Of the adult population (over 21 years of age), the sexes were evenly divided, there being 36 of each.

Rumors that a railroad was to be built through Nobles county within a short time were responsible for a comparatively large settlement during the year 1870. The Graham lakes and In-

dian lake countries received the bulk of this immigration, but a few pushed out a little farther and made settlement in what are now Seward, Hersey and Bigelow townships. Being obliged to depend wholly upon the memory of the few surviving settlers of the early days (and memory is a fickle thing at best,) it is impossible to give a complete list of the arrivals.

Among the first comers of the year were two parties from Rochester, Minn., both of whom arrived at Graham lake on May 15. The parties were composed of J. H. Cunningham, E. W. Hesselroth, Richman Morton, Chet. Cutting, Stephen Howell and a Mr. Stanfield. These men were on their way to Sioux Falls, looking for homes in the new western country, and were traveling over the old trail. When Jack creek was reached the party was met by H. C. Hallett, who advised them that they could do no better than cast their lot with the people about Graham lakes. Mr. Hallett, himself, had arrived only a short time before. The new arrivals decided to take a look at the country. They did so, and all except Stanfield took claims in what later became Graham Lakes township. He remained in the settlement about a month and then returned to his old home. Capt. J. W. Miller came in June and settled near Graham lakes. A man named Bent came in the fall and located on section 10 of the same township. Other settlers of that year were Benjamin Harrison, S. R. Harris, Wm. H. Brown, W. G. Brown, J. W. Palmer and John Hart.<sup>18</sup> Nearly all these brought families with them. Three settlers, one of whom was

<sup>16</sup>Nobles remained attached to Jackson until 1873, when a Nobles county district court was established.

<sup>17</sup>Other nearby counties: Cottonwood, 531;

Murray, 299; Jackson, 1,825. Aiken Miner took the Nobles county census.

<sup>18</sup>Took homestead in 1870, but did not make his permanent home there until the next year.

Wm. W. Cosper, arrived in the fall and took claims in Seward township. Edward Berreau took up a residence in Hersey township that year.

To the southeastern portion of the county in 1840 also came quite a number of settlers, many of whom were Scandinavians. The first of these were Ole Ellingson and John Christ Johnson, who came in the spring. Closely following these were two brothers, Ole Fauskee and Ole A. Fauskee, who filed on claims June 8. The former selected land on the north shore of Ocheyda lake (the northwest quarter of section 6); the latter took a preemption claim on the same section. The brothers walked into Nobles county from a point in northern Iowa, where they had left their families, then walked to Jackson, where they made their filings, and from there back to where their families had been left. They constructed a combination log, sod and hay shanty, in which they lived five years.<sup>19</sup>

Henry Haggard arrived in the same neighborhood on June 10, and became a permanent resident. Eric B. Paul came to the county in May, and in August took up land. Nelson Coyour located at the south end of Indian lake on section 31. John Brown took up land in section 26, where he lived until about 1844. Gundro Joul homesteaded on section 18, and lived there until the late seventies. Grove Lummis, a single man, located on the southwest quarter of section 26, built a cabin, but soon after departed. A. A. Abbott took as his claim the northeast quarter of section 28 and became a permanent settler. Samuel Barnes took land in the vicinity. Nels Gilson settled just over the line in Bigelow township. A. M. McCollum

and two boys located at lake Ocheyda, just south of the isthmus, and lived in a dug-out. Nearly all of these settlers in the Indian lake and Ocheyda lake countries brought families with them and became permanent settlers. Many of them are today living upon the land they took in that early day.

The census taken in the spring of 1840 had shown a population of only 117 people, but during the remainder of the year the emigration had been large, and by fall the population had very nearly doubled. This large increase and the prospects of very rapid settlement in the near future, due to knowledge that the railroad was coming, brought up the question of county organization. The act of 1857 creating the county was still in force, and all that was necessary to bring about the organization was to secure the appointment of three commissioners by the governor.

The matter was first discussed by the settlers during the first few days of October. Nearly all the householders of the Graham lakes community had gathered at the home of H. C. Hallett, who was conducting a "house raising." There for the first time the matter was discussed. There was no formal meeting, no "whereases" and "therefores;" the question was talked over, and afterwards a vote on the question was taken. There was no opposition, and the settlers then named Chas. H. Drury, B. W. Woolsteneroff and Benjamin Harrison commissioners, who should take the necessary steps to bring about the organization. Mr. Woolsteneroff wrote to Gov. Horace Austin, stating the facts and asking that official to name commissioners who should be empowered to set the machinery of county government in motion.

<sup>19</sup>See Biographical section.

Governor Austin responded promptly. He named as commissioners the three gentlemen who had been selected by the settlers, and these, in accordance with the provisions of section 11 of the act of 1857, at once proceeded to name the other county officers<sup>20</sup> and perform the other duties of their offices. On October 27, 1870, the commissioners met for the first time at the home of Chas. H. Drury, in Graham Lakes township,<sup>21</sup> and the government of Nobles county was under way. The first acts of the board were to make provision for the general election to be held in November, for which notices were ordered posted; to divide the county into three election precincts—one in Indian Lake and two in Graham Lakes; and to appoint the county officers. This organization was doubtless legal, but to avoid any possibility of future trouble, the legislature on Feb. 17, 1871, passed an act declaring the organization legal.<sup>22</sup>

Hardly had the county organization been perfected when talk of erecting a court house began. S. R. Harris, the county auditor, was the prime mover in the matter, and he proposed that the county should erect a suitable building in Graham Lakes township. The commissioners, as well as the people in general, did not approve the idea. They held that when the county became set-

tled, a more central location for the county seat would be selected, and that it would be folly to erect a county building in Graham Lakes township, in the extreme northeastern part of the county. So no action was taken.

The winter of 1870-71 was another one of hardship and suffering for the settlers of Nobles county. Again was a life sacrificed to the terrible blizzard. The one called was Mrs. J. W. Palmer, of Graham Lakes township, one of the county's most talented and highly respected women, and her tragic death was a terrible shock to the community. Mrs. Palmer, who was soon to become a mother, was alone with her small children in the family home when the blizzard struck. Her husband had been obliged to make a trip to Lake Shetek. He had made arrangements to have one of the neighbor's boys come and stay with his wife during his absence, but the boy did not put in an appearance.

Mr. Palmer was delayed and was absent from home three days. When he returned he found the children in the house alone. He notified the neighbors, and a search was at once instituted. At daybreak the dead body of Mrs. Palmer was found, partly drifted over with snow, about one hundred rods from the house. By following the back track it was found that she had wandered

<sup>20</sup>For the early political history see chapter nine.

<sup>21</sup>Under the original act the county seat had been named as Gretehtown. But, as there was no such place when the organization was perfected (and never had been), the commissioners exercised considerable latitude in the matter of selecting a county seat. As a matter of fact, there was no county seat during the first few years. The county officers (what few had any duties to perform) transacted the county business at their respective homes. Until the fall of 1871 the board met at the home of Chas. H. Drury. Then the residence of H. D. Bookstaver became the regular meeting place. There was no iron clad rule providing that the "county seat" should be at any particular place, and the meetings of the board were held where it was the most con-

venient. In the proceedings of Jan. 9, 1872, was an entry providing that the next meeting should be held at the home of J. H. Cunningham.

<sup>22</sup>An act to legalize the organization of the county of Nobles and to legalize the official acts of the officers of said county.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota,

"Section 1. That the proceedings for the organization of the county of Nobles be and the same are hereby declared legalized, and the county of Nobles is hereby declared to be a legally organized county, and the official acts of the officers of said county since its organization are hereby legalized.

"Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved Feb. 17, 1871."

about in the storm for a long time and had covered considerable ground. Alone and in distress, she had left home in search of help, and had miserably perished in the storm.<sup>23</sup>

In the spring of 1871 a second Sunday school was organized in the Graham lakes country, the one started the preceding year having been discontinued during the winter. The school was held in a sod shanty, which had been used by surveyors, and which was located on the north shore of the east lake. W. H. Brown was superintendent and taught one of the classes. E. W. Hesselroth was the other teacher.

Public schools were also established, for a time supported by subscription. The first was held in the open, in the shade of a huge elm tree which stood on the island in Graham lake. The people of the Indian lake country also established a school. A log structure was built by the settlers at the inlet at the north end of Indian lake; Miss Mary Jemerson was the first teacher.

The communities about Graham lakes and Indian lake asked for township organizations in the spring of 1871, and favorable action was taken by the county commissioners. These were the only townships in the county with any considerable settlement at the time. Graham Lakes township has the honor of being the first to be granted local government. A petition had been circulated and presented to the board, and on April 11 that body declared the township formally organized by the following proceeding:

<sup>23</sup>An outgrowth of this death was one of the most noted law suits ever originated in Nobles county. Mr. Palmer brought suit against Warren Smith for slander, and after a prolonged trial judgment to the amount of \$1 was given the plaintiff.

<sup>24</sup>The lakes in the township furnished the name. Although I have made diligent search

STATE OF MINNESOTA. County of Nobles.

Pursuant to the petition of the majority of the legal voters of township number 104, range 39, in said county, we, the county commissioners of said county, did on the 11th day of April, A. D. 1871, at the house of Wm. H. Brown, in said county, proceed to fix and determine the boundaries of such new town and to name the same, and did then and there lay off said town and designate the boundaries thereof as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the northeast corner of section one, township 104; thence west to the northwest corner of section six, town 104; thence south to the southwest corner of section 31; thence east to the southeast corner of section 36; thence north to place of beginning.

The petitioners failing to designate the name of said town we, the commissioners, did name such town Graham Lakes.<sup>24</sup> In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of said board to be affixed this 11th day of April, A. D. 1871.

CHAS. DRURY,

B. W. WOOLSTENCROFT,

Commissioners.

Attest:

Wm. H. Brown, Clerk.

The people were not slow in perfecting the township organization. A "town meeting" was held at the residence of H. C. Hallett on Friday, April 24, when officers were elected, and township government began. The meeting was held in compliance with an order of the commissioners.

The people of the Indian lake country were only a few days behind their neighbors to the north. On March 14 the following petition was circulated:

STATE OF MINNESOTA. County of Nobles.

To the Board of County Commissioners of Said County: The undersigned legal voters of said town in township 104, range 39, in said county of Nobles, which said township contains twenty-five legal voters, do hereby petition your honorable board to be organized as a town, and respectfully request that you forthwith proceed to fix and determine the boundaries of such town and to name the same as provided by law.

for the origin of the name "Graham," I have discovered not the slightest clue. The lakes were known by the name they now bear when the settlers of 1867 arrived, and no one of them has been able to tell me for whom or what they were named. It is possible that they were named in honor of some trapper of the early days who operated in the vicinity.



Dated this 14th day of March, A. D. 1871.  
 [Signed] Isaac Horton, J. D. Brown, R. L. Erskine, L. W. Brown, R. G. Brown, James Christianson, Gunder O. Joul, Frank H. Mosher, Chas. B. Bullis, John Haggard, H. M. Johnson, John Haggard, Jr., Ole Ellingson, Albert L. Haggard.

[Addenda] By request of above legal voters we petition that said township 101, range 39, be named Indian Lake. Also that said town 101, range 39, be organized with officers elected.

The commissioners acted favorably on the petition April 22, and the county's second township was organized and named Indian Lake.<sup>25</sup> Soon thereafter the first town meeting was held and the organization perfected.

Following is a partial list of the settlers of 1871, with the dates of arrival and place of settlement, when known:<sup>26</sup>

## GRAHAM LAKES.

A. L. J. Cornish.  
 John Hart.<sup>27</sup>  
 Henry Holmes.  
 Michael Maguire.  
 Anton Nelson.  
 Joseph Stone.  
 Peter Swartwout.

<sup>25</sup>This township also took its name from its principal lake. The lake was so named by the first settlers because of the fact that when they arrived there in 1869 there was quite a band of Indians camped there, who remained in the vicinity for several years.

<sup>26</sup>Data for the preparation of this list has been obtained from many sources from personal interviews, from a register of early settlers prepared by the Nobles County Old Settlers' association, from an historical atlas, and from the Nobles county poll list for the election of Nov. 7, 1871. It has been taken for granted that the names on the poll list were of men who were residents of the county. A few of these may have been settlers of prior years. A few of these on the list came to the county in 1871, took claims, but did not become permanent settlers until the next year.

<sup>27</sup>Took claim in 1871. Became permanent settler in 1872.

<sup>28</sup>Mr. Church came to the county early in September and took as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 22. His home was in Missouri, but during the summer of 1871 he had been harvesting in the neighborhood of Rochester, Minn. Hearing of the railroad building through this part of the state, he decided to come and take land. It was his intention to take a claim at a point where it was believed the Sioux City & St. Paul and

H. D. Bookstaver,  
 S. W. Laythe, May 25.  
 Warren Smith.  
 Frank Zeiner.  
 Englebrith Zeiner.

## HERSEY.

Herman Berreau.  
 Otto Berreau, June 2.  
 John J. Fitch.  
 Erastus Church.<sup>28</sup>  
 Jonathan Gordon, <sup>29</sup> May 28.  
 William Cunningham.  
 Chas. Frisbie.

## LORAIN.

Wm. Dwyer.<sup>30</sup> June.  
 Robert Firth,<sup>31</sup> Sept. 30.

## INDIAN LAKE.

John Blixt.<sup>32</sup>  
 Lars Johnson.  
 John O. Larson.<sup>33</sup>  
 E. Nordquist, May 23.  
 Ole N. Langseth,<sup>34</sup> June.  
 Nels N. Langseth, June.  
 Henry Solomonson,<sup>35</sup> December.

the Southern Minnesota would cross. He walked from Winnebago City to Jackson, and then caught a ride to Graham lakes. Mr. Church was here eight days in 1871. In May of the following year he returned and has since made his home here.

<sup>28</sup>Brought his family with him. Filed on land in section 2.

<sup>29</sup>Mr. Dwyer and his eldest son had come from Albert Lea to Nobles county to work on the new railroad. In June he filed on the southeast quarter of section 10, and that has ever since been his home. His family joined him in the fall.

<sup>30</sup>Homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 6. With him were his wife and four sons, R. A., William, Joseph and Arthur. They came from Whitewater, Wis.

<sup>31</sup>Accompanied by a wife and three sons.

<sup>32</sup>Did not become a permanent settler until the next year.

<sup>33</sup>Came from Wisconsin with family consisting of the following children: Nels, Jens, Martin, Martina and Ole.

<sup>34</sup>Arrived just before Christmas with wife and three children. Settled on southwest quarter of section 18.

Charles Saxon,<sup>36</sup>  
 August Anderson,<sup>37</sup> September.  
 Peter Nystrom.  
 John Nystrom.  
 Gust Nystrom,<sup>38</sup>  
 Albert Haggard.

## BIGELOW.

James Walker,<sup>39</sup> October.  
 Otto Burroughs,<sup>39</sup> October.  
 Albert Pygall,<sup>40</sup>  
 Hosie Bryant,<sup>40</sup>  
 Ole Nystrom.  
 Hans Nystrom.  
 C. J. Wickstrom.  
 Peter Wickstrom.  
 Erick Mahlberg,<sup>41</sup>  
 Jonas Moberg,<sup>42</sup> June 21.  
 Peter Larson,<sup>43</sup>  
 Lars Elofson,<sup>44</sup> October 12.  
 Lars Erickson,<sup>45</sup>

## WORTHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

J. T. Whitlock.

<sup>36</sup>Did not become a permanent settler until following year.

<sup>37</sup>Came to reside permanently in 1872.

<sup>38</sup>The Nystroms had just arrived from Sweden. They settled on the western edge of Indian Lake township.

<sup>39</sup>Both these gentlemen were accompanied by their families and came together, and both settled on section 20. Mr. Burroughs died the following summer. Mr. Walker threw up his claim and took another one in Indian Lake.

<sup>40</sup>Came together and took homesteads near the Indian Lake line. Mr. Pygall proved up on his homestead and later was a stage driver on the line from Worthington to Sioux Falls. Mr. Bryant had a contest and lost his claim.

<sup>41</sup>A party consisting of Ole and Hans Nystrom, Charles J. and Peter Wickstrom, Erick Mahlberg and Elof Nordquist in the spring of 1871 were engaged in working on the new railroad through southwestern Minnesota. They all left their work during the month of May, and, under the guidance of L. B. Bennett, filed on homestead claims in Nobles county all in Bigelow township except Mr. Nordquist, who took his claim over the line in Indian Lake. The Wickstroms and Nystroms took all of section 21; Mr. Mahlberg filed on the southwest quarter of twelve. They took possession of their claims on October 28.

<sup>42</sup>Took the northwest quarter of section 26. Was later joined by his family.

W. A. Dillman,<sup>46</sup>  
 C. C. Whitney, June.  
 E. F. Whitney, June.  
 O. M. Whitney,<sup>47</sup> June.  
 John Alley, August 12.  
 Cyrus Clingensmith, August 12.  
 B. R. Prince, August 12.  
 L. B. Bennett, May.  
 G. J. Hoffman,<sup>48</sup>  
 August Lang,<sup>49</sup>

WORTHINGTON VILLAGE.<sup>50</sup>

Prof. R. F. Humiston,<sup>51</sup>  
 H. W. Kimball, September.  
 S. C. Thayer, September.  
 L. F. McLaurin.  
 Levi Shell.  
 Daniel Shell, December.  
 Leslie.  
 Henry Davis.  
 E. C. Pannell,<sup>52</sup> September.  
 I. N. Sater.  
 Peter Thompson,<sup>53</sup> September.

<sup>46</sup>Accompanied by his wife and two children, Jacob and Lewis. Took the northeast quarter of section 26.

<sup>47</sup>With wife and four children settled on the northeast quarter of 14.

<sup>48</sup>With his wife settled on the southwest quarter of 14.

<sup>49</sup>Had been in the county since 1868. In the spring of 1871 took a claim on section 31.

<sup>50</sup>The Whitneys selected a quarter section each on section 30, and secured about as sightly locations as could be found in the county.

<sup>51</sup>Came very early in the year and was the first permanent resident in the township. First lived in a dug-out on the south bank of Okabena lake. Later he brought down a house from St. James, and started the now famous Ludlow grove.

<sup>52</sup>Mr. Lang took a claim on land that later came into the possession of Allen Chaney. He and Mrs. Lang lived in a dug-out about thirty rods from the house later erected by Mr. Chaney. He left the county in 1872.

<sup>53</sup>Worthington was founded in the fall, and nearly all the residents of 1871 engaged in business or were there for the purpose of doing so in the spring following.

<sup>54</sup>Founder of Worthington. Was in the village only part of the time in 1871.

<sup>55</sup>Had visited the site early in the spring.

<sup>56</sup>Left soon after, but became a permanent resident the next spring.

Folsom.  
 Wm. B. Moore.  
 E. R. Humiston, Nov. 3.  
 A. P. Chamberlain.  
 C. C. Goodnow.  
 J. C. Goodnow.  
 Jerry Haines.  
 Wm. F. Hibbard.  
 Jerome Stewart.

SEWARD.

W. H. Booth, February.  
 Philo Snyder.

RANSOM.

J. H. Scott, September 16.  
 D. K. Gordon, September 16.  
 Joseph Hill,<sup>54</sup> September 16.

LITTLE ROCK.

E. E. Fields.  
 Knute Thompson,<sup>55</sup>  
 Knute Thomas.  
 Hans Paulson.  
 Ole Gars.  
 Hans Olson.  
 Ole Peterson.  
 Chris Peterson,<sup>56</sup>  
 J. D. Roberts.  
 Henry Bostwick.  
 Anthony Thompson.  
 Edward F. Erickson.

OLNEY.

S. D. Tinnes,<sup>57</sup> July.

GRAND PRAIRIE.

Miles Birkett.

James Walker.  
 George Barnes,<sup>58</sup>  
 Oscar D. Bryan,<sup>59</sup>  
 Oley A. Olson.  
 Thomas Johnson.  
 H. A. Swenson.  
 John Butcher.  
 C. C. Peterson.

RESIDENCE UNKNOWN.<sup>60</sup>

Hans Halverson.  
 Wm. Travis.  
 Chas. H. Weise.  
 John Meyer, June 2.  
 T. G. Bigelow, September 19.  
 Thos. Wills, May 12.  
 C. L. Peterson, September 12.  
 Jas. Hazard, November, 22.  
 D. A. Reynolds, June.  
 G. K. Middleton, June.  
 S. P. Middleton, June.  
 L. A. Lytle, June.  
 Carl Nelson.  
 A. W. Burnham.  
 Wm. M. Bear.  
 E. J. Bear.  
 Henry Fullweiler.  
 Al Fullweiler.  
 Eli Fenstermaker.  
 Knut Holden.  
 N. V. McDowell.  
 Phil Reynolds.  
 P. G. Swanson.  
 John Upstrom.  
 Asher A. Allen.  
 L. Allen.

<sup>54</sup>Messrs. Scott, Gordon and Hill came together and took claims on section 21. Mr. Scott's family came about one month later. Hill left the county about 1874; Gordon in 1878; Mr. Scott is still a resident of the county. These three were the only settlers in the township in 1871.

<sup>55</sup>Messrs. Fields and Thompson took their claims in July and were the first settlers of the township.

<sup>56</sup>A few days after the arrival of Messrs. Fields and Thompson, a party of six whose names are given above arrived in the township and all took claims.

<sup>57</sup>Was the first to take a claim in Olney township. He filed on land in section 34, but did not become a permanent resident until 1872.

<sup>58</sup>The three settlers first named came to the township in the spring of 1871 and filed on claims on May 18. They were the first settlers of the township.

<sup>59</sup>Took his claim on section 18 in June and has resided there since.

<sup>60</sup>Most of these settlers were in Graham Lakes and Indian Lake townships.

Mark Amundson.  
 Martin Amundson.  
 Basmus Anderson.  
 Caleb Blake.  
 Orwen Blake.  
 Alexander Clark.  
 Nathaniel Cox.  
 Orange Chapman.  
 Chas. H. Cutler.  
 Daniel Downy.  
 Stephen A. Door.  
 Selim Fox.  
 H. A. E. Hesselroth.  
 Hearth Bros.  
 Johnson.  
 E. F. Jackson.  
 Bennett Linderman.  
 J. Parshal and brother.  
 Perkins.  
 Joseph Stone.  
 Erwin S. Swan.  
 F. Umbrid.  
 Isaac Waterhouse.  
 Wm. Willecox.  
 John Weston.  
 Watting.  
 J. Westinghouse.  
 Wolf brothers.  
 Youmkers.

Frank Tucker.  
 Elihue Ellis.  
 Ole Johnson.  
 Jas. Christianson.  
 Louis Sundburg.  
 Andrew Sundburg.  
 P. S. Swanson.  
 Hanson Estrom.  
 Louis Harbo.  
 Henry M. Johnson.

The county officers had neglected to make a tax levy for the year 1871, and as a result the annual financial statement for that year is an interesting document. Following is the statement as recorded by the board of county commissioners at the meeting of March 13, 1872:

On motion the board proceeded to make their annual statement, the following which they certify to be full and correct for the year 1871:

Receipts during the year.....	\$ 0.00
Expenditures .....	130 03

#### DEBTS AND LIABILITIES.

Floating debt in county orders.....	\$130.03
St. Paul Pioneer Press Co., for books, stationery, etc. ....	508.40
Total indebtedness .....	\$638.43
Assets .....	\$ 0.00

## CHAPTER III.

### UNDER COLONY RULE—1872.

A new epoch begins.

We have seen Nobles county grow from an unpopulated and unknown country in the early days of 1867 to a community of some little importance in the closing days of 1871. Remarkable had been the changes wrought in less than five years. But how much more remarkable is the story of advancement we have to record for the year 1872. During that one year a revolution was accomplished. Where were found a possible 300 or 400 men, women and children at the close of 1871, one year later were living nearly that many thousands. Nobles county had advanced from one of the least known and least settled counties in southwestern Minnesota to a populous and the most talked of county in the state. Everybody was headed for Nobles county. In hundreds of homes in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and other eastern and central states people were discussing the new county—its soil, its climate, its prospects—and planning to cast their lot there.

In the office of the Toledo Blade, in Toledo, Ohio, was born the idea that brought about this abnormal interest in

the heretofore unknown county of Nobles. It was during the year 1871. There were present when the matter was first discussed D. R. Locke (Petroleum V. Nashy), Prof. R. F. Humiston, of Cleveland, Dr. A. P. Miller, editor of the Blade, and A. P. Miller, also connected with that publication.<sup>1</sup> The idea was to organize a company for the purpose of locating a colony of settlers in some western country. The name first proposed was Blade colony, but before an organization was perfected the name became National colony.

Miller, Humiston & Company was the name of the company which conducted the colony enterprise. Prof. R. F. Humiston and Dr. A. P. Miller were the gentlemen who owned the majority of the stock, and upon them devolved the management. These gentlemen had no place selected in which to plant their proposed colony, and they immediately set out to select one. They traveled over 20,000 miles,<sup>2</sup> examining the country from Missouri to the Red River country, and from Iowa to Utah.

In a happy moment they wandered into Nobles county, and were so struck with the beauty of the location, the fer-

<sup>1</sup>There were two men who took a prominent part in the early history of Nobles county who bore the name A. P. Miller, but who were not related. The one who assisted in establishing the colony is referred to as Dr. A. P. Miller in all places in this volume. The other A. P.

Miller, who was for many years publisher of the Worthington Advance, is referred to without any title.

<sup>2</sup>Worthington Advance, Sept. 26, 1874.

tility of the soil and the prospect for an immediate and convenient market for the products of the soil that negotiations were at once opened with the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, with a view to securing the railroad lands in Nobles county for their colonization purposes. An agreement resulted, by the terms of which Messrs. Miller and Humiston secured, upon advantageous terms, control of the railroad lands<sup>3</sup> (odd numbered sections) in twelve townships in Nobles county and three and one-half townships adjoining, in Osceola county, Iowa. The contract was closed in the fall of 1871.

Almost immediately settlers began arriving, as has been stated in the preceding chapter. Most of these secured claims on government land, and then returned to their homes for the winter. The colony company laid its plans on an elaborate scale. Almost as soon as the contract was signed the village of Worthington was founded, as a base from which to operate. During the winter the company carried on an advertising campaign, which for thoroughness has seldom been equalled in the history of colonization projects. It was liberal, but judicious. By this means the company came into correspondence with thousands of persons who were interested in the scheme.<sup>4</sup> A few came on at once and wintered in the new settlement; the many waited until spring. Then came the deluge.

In the spring of 1872 hundreds flocked to Worthington and took up adjoining lands. The government lands within a

radius of eight or ten miles of the town were soon taken, and many had settled at other more remote points in the county. Much of the railroad, or colony, land was also quickly disposed of and passed into the hands of people who had come to make their homes here. Miller, Humiston & Co. expended between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in locating the colonists and in setting on foot enterprises designed to found a prosperous community. An idea of the settlement of the year is gained when it is known that between 10,000 and 20,000 acres of raw prairie land were broken out. Between five hundred and seven hundred families arrived during the year, and many others purchased shares, took claims, and made preparations to come later<sup>5</sup>.

The settlers were a homogenous class, being nearly, or quite, all American born, and with the current of their religious faith flowing calmly down between the banks of an observably narrow, but strikingly orthodox, stream. The evangelical denominations were all represented, with Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Baptist churches leading in point of numbers. The colony was organized upon a temperance basis. The authorities determined that no alcoholic or intoxicating beverages, of whatever kind or character, should, under any circumstances, be sold within the limits of the purchase. This feature was made a strong point in the advertising, and attracted a people who were strong in their religious and temperance beliefs. The standard of mor-

<sup>3</sup>Which had been acquired from the government under the land grant.

<sup>4</sup>In making the personal interviews for the preparation of this work I invariably asked each pioneer settler how it happened that he came to Nobles county. In nine cases out of ten the answer has been that it was because

of the National colony advertising. The advertisements and "readers" had been seen in the Toledo Blade or other papers patronized, or the settler had had his attention called to the project by some friend who had read the advertisements.

<sup>5</sup>Minneapolis Tribune, Aug. 25, 1872.

ality was high (particularly so for a new community), and the courage and pluck of the first settlers is beyond question.

The colony company operated in Nobles county until the spring of 1876, when it withdrew. The terrible grasshopper scourge had practically bankrupted its promoters. Litigation overwhelmed Prof. Humiston, and the earnings of a lifetime were swept away. When disaster overtook the company its liberal policy toward the settlers became a thing of the past, and there was dissatisfaction expressed in some quarters because of the policy of the National colony's managers. The conditions as they were during the active life of the company were summed up by the *Windsor Reporter* of May, 1876, from which the following is taken:

Local jealousy may have made some of us look upon the colony enterprise with considerable prejudice, yet it is due to Prof. Humiston to say that he has accomplished a great deal for his town and county, and in a great measure his work and sacrifice are overlooked. He has spent probably not less than \$50,000, the earnings of his lifetime, and we infer has become seriously involved in his attempts to develop Nobles county and build up a model community. To accomplish this end he has spared nothing. He has been first in most of the enterprises inaugurated in Worthington, giving of his resources freely, if not lavishly, to make successful the numerous enterprises that have from time to time called for assistance; the more public enterprises, the mill, the church, Miller hall, and kindred projects have in him met with the same generous and unselfish spirit. No doubt that to him the three magnificent institutions are indebted for life and success. He has induced hundreds of dollars of capital to invest at Worthington, and we guess that hardly a citizen but has derived more profit from his expenditures than he himself. His time and money have gone to build up the material prosperity of "Okabena," with a prospective view of profit in the future, to be derived from the sale of railroad lands.

Others have thrived and prospered, while he has become somewhat involved in litigation as the result of his personal enterprise and indomitable determination to either sink or swim with his colony. The professor has made many investments, and large ones, thought by many at the time to be injudicious and impracticable, but what would have resulted if the grasshopper had not visited us no one can tell; probably he would have met with better success, but having started, he was determined to go through with the undertaking if it took the last dollar. He has not worked without opposition, encountering it at home and in the neighboring towns, but he has worked for his life's idol against it all with an energy and perseverance that we certainly respect, and no doubt this is often overlooked by many who have cause to remember his devotion to home prosperity. Professor Humiston has done more to build up a barren and wild country than any one man in this part of the state. He has been the direct means of drawing to Nobles county a great amount of wealth, a refined and intelligent community. . . . Had it not been for the three years of grasshopper visitation the growth of this part of the state would have progressed, and prosperity would have abounded on every hand; then we could have seen whether Prof. Humiston's schemes were practicable, but since devastation has been our lot it is surprising that Mr. Humiston has come out as lucky as he has.<sup>6</sup>

In giving the history of the National colony and its operations the chronological order of events has been interrupted. To return to the early days of 1872.

The winter was quite severe. A heavy fall of snow in the early part of the season blockaded the railroads and it was very difficult to obtain provisions for the settlers, many of whom were poorly provided therewith; in fact there were times when money would not buy provisions, and the man with money was in no better position than his less fortunate neighbor.<sup>7</sup> The exigencies of the times were increased because of disasters to some of the settlers during the year 1871 from prairie fires and hail. Governor Austin, early in February, 1872, sent a

<sup>6</sup>For sketch of the life of Prof. Humiston see the biographical section.

<sup>7</sup>"It was no uncommon thing," a gentleman of the early days has written, "to see chil-

dren of all ages running barefoot during the coldest days of winter. A gentleman who lived in Graham lakes informed me that he had seen a boy skating on the ice barefoot, and he seemed to enjoy the sport."

check for \$100 to the county commissioners to be divided among the needy." There were several applications for portions of this state relief fund, and on March 13 it was apportioned as follows: Nelson Coyour, \$25.00; John H. Anselcomb, \$21.50; Irwin S. Swan, \$17.50; H. D. Bookstaver, \$15.00. The remainder of the money, \$22.00, was given to R. L. Erskine on April 30.

Nobles county was called upon for the first time, in 1872, to furnish jurors for the district court of Jackson county, to which it was attached for judicial purposes. The following were selected by the board of county commissioners on January 10:

Grand Jurors—Orange H. Chapman, Isaac Horton, H. D. Bookstaver, Frank Tucker, B. W. Woolstencroft, A. A. Abboff, A. A. Allen, Warren Fish, Peter Swarwout, H. W. Kimball, J. W. Miller, H. Berrean.

Petit Jurors—John Weston, Henry Brayton, H. C. Hallett, Albert Haggard, Byron Brain, E. W. Branch, H. L. Wallace, Henry P. Davis, Anton Nelson, William Rhinehart, W. H. Booth, John Hart.

Although the railroad had been completed to Worthington in the fall of 1871, and it had been the intention of the company to begin the operation of trains at once, it was the spring of 1872 before regular service was established.

"Treasurer Board of Commissioners, Noble County.

"Sir: Please find check for \$100, a donation from the relief fund to sufferers by fire or hail in the county of Nobles. I recommend the investment of this sum and an equal amount donated by the county in such supplies as will afford to destitute settlers the most relief. And that the county board disburse the supplies at once. Trusting that every effort will be made to do good, and prevent abuses, I place the matter in their hands. Please acknowledge receipt on behalf of the county.

"HORACE AUSTIN,  
"Per Wallace."

The heavy snows kept the road covered nearly all winter. Occasionally during the winter a construction train would get through, but not often. The first passenger train arrived in Worthington April 16, and thereafter there was regular service. The road was opened to Sioux City in the fall.

The coming of the railroad brought about a change in mail facilities. In the spring of 1872 the old mail route from Jackson to Sioux Falls, via Graham lakes, was discontinued, so far as that portion east of Worthington was concerned. The mail was now brought by rail to Worthington, and an overland route from that village to Sioux Falls was established. Philo Hawes, that pioneer mail contractor, was given the contract, and "Stormy Jack" Grier was employed to carry the mail. Along this route came into existence a number of country postoffices and stage stations. In Nobles county were three such. The first out of Worthington was Dewald postoffice, located on section 20, Dewald township, less than a mile from the present village of Rushmore. J. B. Churchill was the postmaster.<sup>9</sup> Hubbard postoffice was on section 20, Olney township, one mile east of the present village of Adrian. It was known as the Childs' place. The third postoffice was named Westside, and was on section 18, of what is now Westside township.<sup>10</sup> Renselear Simmons was postmaster.

<sup>9</sup>Mr. Churchill located there in March, 1872. Early in 1873 he established a small store and stopping place, which was known as the 10-Mile house.

<sup>10</sup>Mr. Hawes retired Jan. 1, 1874, when Daniel Shell secured the contract, and for five years thereafter he conducted the mail, express and passenger business over the line. During the first two years he had only two rigs, and made the trip three times a week. Thereafter trips were made daily, the 68 miles being made on a ten hour schedule. By the time the contract expired Mr. Shell had fifty horses on the route, and the rigs were drawn by four horse teams. He had barns





STATE OF MINNESOTA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Treasurer = Board of Com. & Finance  
Noble Co

Sir - These funds  
are for the relief of sufferers from  
the Relief Fund. It is to be used  
or held in the name of the  
Board of Com. & Finance and an equal amount  
by the Com. in each supply  
as well as to make out the  
the Board of Com. & Finance  
I have the honor to be  
Yours truly  
J. Horner Austin  
in behalf

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR AUSTIN

Enclosing Check for \$100 for the Relief of Sufferers  
from Fire and Hail During 1871 in the  
County of "Noble".



Because there was an enormous immigration to the county in 1872 and the whole order of things was changed, it must not be imagined that the country was changed in a day. Most of the settlers arrived too late to get a crop in the ground, and very little was raised the first season. Except for the fact that the prairies became dotted with the homes of settlers, it was largely the same virgin country it had always been.

The game lover found himself in a paradise. Birds abounded. There were ducks, wild geese, brant, curlew, pelican and prairie chickens. The local poet wrote: "Fleets on fleets of ducks float 'round the lake." Occasionally glimpses were caught of some of the big game that formerly roamed the prairies in vast numbers. The summer was fine. The days and nights were frequently glorified by thunder storms of terrific and ineffable grandeur. At night the colonists often sat till midnight watching the frolic of sheet-lightning playing over miles of cloud banks, vividly suggesting the possible glories of another world. Vegetation grew rank. The farmer rode along the creek bottoms or on the edges of the lakes and sloughs through seas of wild bluejoint grass up to the horses' backs.

It was the experience of a lifetime, this breaking up the virgin lands and building a community from the ground up, and many have been the probable and improbable stories told of those days. Letters went back to the old homes in the east telling of how the colonists

planted corn with an ax and caught fish with a pitchfork, and how the pianos were set up in the shanty and the library stacked up under the bed.

Of the conditions and prospects, as viewed by those who were casting their lot in the new country, the following extract from an article appearing in the *Western Advance* of Aug. 31, 1872, will give an idea:

But, railroad center or not, we are in the midst of one of the finest agricultural regions on the globe. The vast prairie rolls out on every side, covered with luxuriant grass, and we have only to put in the plow and reap the crop, to tickle it with the hoe, and it will laugh with the harvest. No clearing, ditching, grubbing or stone-gathering to be done here, but simple, beautiful farming, where the improved agricultural implements can be used, and the farmer can sit aloft in the shade and direct his team to a competence or a fortune. Of course hard work can and needs be done here as elsewhere, but the farmer can acquire an independence here with one-fourth the labor and one-fourth the time required in districts where clearing is to be done. The government lands have been nearly all taken, but there will be for the first year or two claims to be had at moderate figures. In some instances they have sold high, according to the value of the location or the judgment of the purchaser. In some cases they are held as high for cash as the railroad lands are held on five years time. The railroad lands around the town are gradually selling off, and by next year a large amount will undoubtedly be sold to men of means.

The advertisements of the colony company throughout the eastern states are daily attracting the attention of substantial men who are writing for information or visiting the colony in person. To show the estimate that is put upon the value of certain lands about Worthington, we may state that one gentleman has refused one hundred dollars an acre for land fronting on the shore of lake Okabena, and lands have been sold, a mile west from town, and fronting on the lake, for thirty dollars an acre. Another tract of ten acres has been applied for, and

at Child's place, at Luverne, and at Valley Springs, S. D., where changes were made. James McRobert, now of Ellsworth, and Leonard McClintock, now an engineer on the Omaha road, were drivers on this route during all the time Mr. Shell was the contractor. After trains were put in operation between Worthington and Luverne, the contract for carrying the mail between those two places

was sublet to the railroad company. There was a big rush to Rock county and the Sioux Falls country after the railroad building was begun, and during the time Mr. Shell operated his coaches only from the end of the railroad at Luverne to Sioux Falls, he did an immense business. His passenger list sometimes ran as high as 75 or 100 per day.

the owner asks fifty dollars an acre and will not take a cent less. But abundance of good farming land can be had within from one and a half to three miles of town at from eight dollars to ten dollars an acre. In some instances government land may be had for less.

The bulk of the settlement of 1872 was in the eastern and southern part of the county, in that portion most accessible to the railroad. In nine of the townships the population had reached a point where the residents desired township organization. Each of the townships of Worthington, Bigelow, Hersey, Grant (Ransom), Fairview (Lorain), Dewald, Little Rock, Elk and Seward, in the order named, asked for the privilege of organizing, and in each case the request was granted by the county commissioners. All held meetings, elected officers, and entered upon township government.

The greatest settlement in the county was in and around the village of Worthington, and the people of that community were the first to circulate a petition asking for the organization of their township. The petition was filed March 30, 1872, and was signed by the following residents: William B. Moore, E. R. Humiston, J. B. Haines, Jr., J. C. Goodnow, J. A. Jones, W. B. Akins, J. M. Brown, J. N. Lemon, R. J. Cunding, B. P. Wickerham, L. E. McLaurin, J. N. Fren, C. P. Hewitt, A. L. Perkins, W. S. Stockdale, E. D. Southy, V. J. South, H. W. Kimball, H. P. Davis, J. W. Stonaker, W. H. Willmarth, W. R. Lawrence, Levi Shell, Daniel Shell, Samuel Leslie, R. D. Barber, Erastus Church, C. C. Goodnow, H. G. Foster, C. H. Stewart.

On April 30 the commissioners granted the petition and named the new township Worthington, after the village of the same name.<sup>11</sup> On the 20th day of May following the first town meeting was held, and from that time dates the official existence of the township of Worthington.

The request for the organization of the township lying south of Worthington came on April 29, the petition being signed by James Maloney, Nels N. Langseth, Hans Nystrom, Charles John Wickstrom, Lars Elofson, P. A. Wickstrom, C. A. Tillander, Peter Larson, Ole Nystrom, Peter Nystrom, Erick Mahlberg, Lars Erickson, P. G. Swanson and L. P. Hardow. They asked that it be called Ocheeda township, but the following day, when the commissioners granted the petition, they named the township Bigelow, after the railroad station of that name in the township.<sup>12</sup> The first town meeting was held May 20, the same day that Worthington township was organized.

Hersey<sup>13</sup> was the next to begin township government. The petition was filed May 11, the board created the township May 30, and the first town meeting was held June 11. The signers to the petition were Geo. W. Pyno, William Grono, A. A. Parsons, D. Haffey, W. R. Bennett, John Manley, Chas. Frisbie, A. O. Conde, A. J. Timlin, Matthew Smith, Chas. Smith, Jos. S. Thurston, Wm. H. Berger, P. Haffey, Neil McThreavie and Matthew Smyth.

The townships of Grant, Fairview, Dewald and Little Rock were all created by the county commissioners on

<sup>11</sup> Bigelow, of St. Paul.

<sup>12</sup>For the history of the adoption of the name Worthington for the village see chapter 12.

<sup>13</sup>The station had been named in honor of C.

<sup>13</sup>The township took its name from the station of Hersey (now Brewster), which had been named in honor of General S. F. Hersey.

September 3, and the dates for the first town meetings, as set by the commissioners, were September 20. The people of Grant were the first to present the petition. It was filed June 14 and was signed by the following settlers: John H. Scott, Joseph Hill, T. J. Belknap, R. H. Belknap, H. Nelson, Richard Pridcaux, Benjamin Midboe, A. C. Guernsey, Leroy Cole, B. F. Congdon, D. K. Gordon, Geo. M. Smith, S. I. W. Allen, M. S. Belknap. The first settlers of the township were mostly veterans of the civil war, and at their request the name Grant was given the township in honor of the great commander. For nearly a year that was the name. Then it was found that there was another township in the state with that name, and on July 10, 1873, the commissioners re-

named the township Ransom, in honor of Prof. Ransom F. Humiston, one of the founders of the National colony. This was done by the commissioners without consulting the wishes of the people of the township.<sup>14</sup>

The petition for the organization of Fairview township was circulated July 5, and was signed by Richard D. Bagley, Albert Haggard, Lafayette Strever, A. A. Burton, Wm. F. Hamilton, Alfred Small, William Madison, James Hazard, Jeremiah Lynch, William Dedgon, P. Ulveling, Stephen Horake, Joseph Horake, H. McCollum. The topographical features furnished the name Fairview, which it bore until June 15, 1874. Then the name was changed to Lorain, after the town of Loraine, Adams county, Ill., the superfluous "e" being dropped.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Mr. Robert Shore furnishes a number of items concerning the early days in Ransom township:

"The first settlers in the town of Ransom were John H. Scott, D. K. Gordon and Joe Hill, who came together from Tama county, Iowa, in September, 1871, and took adjoining claims on section 24. At that time there was not a settler within miles of them. Mr. Scott and Mr. Gordon, with their wives, spent the winter of 1871-72 in the same house; and during that dreary winter, in that lone shanty on the prairie, far from neighbors and friends, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon their first born, a boy (Edward)—the first birth in what is now Ransom township. As this was before the town was organized, there is no mention of it in the town records. The first birth on record is that of Mary Scott, daughter of John H. and Sarah A. Scott, born September 27, 1872.

"The first town meeting was held at the house of M. S. Belknap on section 14, Saturday, September 21, 1872. Dr. Geo. O. Moore, justice of the peace, of Worthington, was present and swore in as judges of election F. W. Burdette, M. S. Belknap and H. R. Gray, and Leroy Cole as clerk. At the election which followed seventeen votes were cast by the following named persons: A. C. Guernsey, D. K. Gordon, M. S. Belknap, John H. Scott, I. S. Roberts, F. W. Burdette, Anthony Mutter, Leroy Cole, R. Pridcaux, Cole Guernsey, J. R. Dewey, James H. Hill, Geo. M. Smith, H. R. Gray, Hiram Norton, B. F. Congdon, S. I. W. Allen.

"When the votes were counted it was found that the following persons had been chosen as first town officers of the town of Ransom: H. R. Gray, chairman of the board of supervisors; M. S. Belknap and A. C. Guernsey, supervisors; Leroy Cole, clerk; D. K. Gordon, treasurer; John H. Scott, assessor; F. W. Burdette and B. F. Congdon, constables; F. W. Burdette and Geo. M. Smith, justices of the peace. Of the men who were elected town officers at the first election, but one remains with us in Nobles county today, John H. Scott,

who may also be said to be the first settler in the township. Of the seventeen who voted at the first town meeting four only are in Nobles county today: John H. Scott, Cole Guernsey, R. Pridcaux and J. R. Dewey. What memories are called up by the mention of some of these names! Of the seventeen who voted at the first election in Ransom, four remain; where are the rest? Some have gone to their long home, and the rest are scattered to the four winds. Many left us on account of the struggle and poverty of those early days. In those times of grasshoppers, of blight and of blizzards, no wonder that men's hearts failed them.

"I have endeavored to make a list of those who were neighbors in Ransom during the very early days. The list I have no doubt is far from perfect, but it is the best I could make at present: Settlers of 1871—John H. Scott, D. K. Gordon, Joe Hill. Settlers of 1872—Leroy Cole, A. C. Guernsey, Cole Guernsey, M. S. Belknap, R. H. Belknap, H. R. Gray, F. W. Burdette, F. F. Burdette, R. Pridcaux, C. W. W. Dow, S. I. W. Allen, I. S. Roberts, Hiram Norton, Anthony Mutter, J. R. Dewey, Geo. M. Smith, B. F. Congdon, Robert Shore, Thomas Jay, Geo. Jay, Frank Lane, John Lane, D. Davis, Jerry Twomey, D. C. Holmes, Dan Twitchell, David Twitchell, Waters, C. Chamberlain, H. Toms, Hoff, G. Rhone, Farnham, Lewis Larson, Hans Nelson, Gould, Bowers. Settlers of 1873—Geo. W. Dow, Geo. W. Miner. Settlers of 1874—J. N. Wilson, Wm. Clark. Other years—E. W. Goff, James Goff, P. McCann."

<sup>15</sup>"A communication from the state auditor was presented, stating that older towns in the state bore the names of New Haven, Wilson and Fairview, and requesting that the names of said towns be changed in conformity to law. The following names, by request of presidents of towns, were changed by the commissioners: New Haven to Olney; Wilson to Akin [later Summit Lake]; and Fairview to Lorain."—Commissioners' Journal, June 15, 1874.

The Dewald township petition was filed July 15 with the following signers: Amos Dewald, Jos. S. Randall, Edmund Bedford Nathaniel Childs, Benjamin T. Ross, C. D. Snow, A. B. McChord, Jonas Bedford, R. W. Miller, N. O. Miller, Robert J. Daugherty, C. T. Shattuc, Thos. Wilson, Samuel F. Pepple, G. Grover Stoddard, P. A. Stoddard, J. B. Churchill, Hiram Dewald, Solon Haughton, Wm. R. Lawrence. The name was given in honor of Amos and Hiram Dewald, pioneer settlers.<sup>16</sup>

The petition for the formation of Little Rock township was presented August 24 and was signed by the following settlers: Ole C. Peterson, C. C. Peterson, Knute T. Thompson, Hans Paulson, P. Harrison, Hans Solberg, Hans Jensen, Edward E. Field, Christian Solberg, Hans N. Dahl, Gunder D. Timmes, William R. Queine, Gullick, Knute Thompson, J. D. Roberts, Henry Faragher, W. H. Bostic, E. S. Wickerre, D. M. Sweet, W. R. Faragher, Wm. Colvin, Wm. W. Jenkins, T. A. Bunker, Sylvester Jenkins, and G. Gullickson. The creek which flows through the township and its physical features furnished the name.

Elk township was created September 16, the same day the petition was filed, and a short time afterward the government was begun. Those who asked for its formation were W. B. Akins, T. L. Taylor, R. B. Plotts, John P. Warner, Henry Baldwin, Chas. Wilkinson, Isaac Allerton, M. L. Miller, T. D. Fowble, Gamaliel Seuff, Allen McLean, R. E. Covey and S. P. Bon. The noble animal which once roamed the prairies of the future Elk township prompted the name. The creek which flows through

the township had been named Elk by the early day trappers, and it was partly because of the name the creek bore and partly because of another event that caused the first settlers there to ask that the new town be called Elk. On the morning of September 6, 1872, a lone elk came across the prairie and close to the house of T. L. Taylor, sniffed at the unexpected sight, and bounded away. Ten days later when the petition was presented to the board of county commissioners Mr. Taylor suggested the name Elk for the new township, and upon a vote it was adopted. Several other names, including McLean, were proposed.

Seward was the last township organized in 1872. The petition was filed September 28, and had the following signers: Wm. W. Cospser, M. Hill, Hiram Jankee, Jonas Parshall, Wm. Sowles, Geo. Parshall, Philo Snyder, James Parshall, Julius Westinghouse, John P. Vail, J. E. Walling, John Weston, R. B. Linderman, C. Charles Johnson, Horace Will, William H. Booth, H. N. Booth, Edward B. Cook and Phineas Gager. The commissioners acted favorably in the matter, and the first town meeting was set for October 30. The township was named in honor of William H. Seward, the noted statesman and secretary of state under President Lincoln during the civil war.

The first Nobles county assessment was made in 1872, the officials having neglected to make a levy the year before. A tax of fifteen mills was levied for the use of the county, of which ten mills was "for the general use of the county," and five mills "for the payment

<sup>16</sup>The Dewalds and John Churchill came to the township together in April 1872 and were the first permanent settlers. They were followed almost immediately by Messrs. Robert Daugherty, S. F. Pepple, Aaron Lambert,

Solon Houghton, Sherbie, Joe Mason, Joe Peots, W. R. D. McChord, A. B. McChord, Richard Berggraf, Tom Childs, Sam Childs and Chas. A. Sundberg.

of the floating debt and interest of the county." The assessment as equalized by the county board showed a valuation

of over \$150,000, of which \$63,815.13 was real estate.

The real estate assessment was as follows:

TOWNSHIPS	No. Acres except Town Lots	Average Value per Acre	Aggregate Value Real Property†		Value City Lots and Buildings	Total Value of Real Estate
			Land	Buildings‡		
Graham Lakes.....	1379+	\$5.94+	\$ 8,197.00			\$ 8,197.00
Indian Lake.....	629+	4.38+	2,763.20			2,763.20
Worthington.....	1772	7.88+	13,979.29		\$35,200.00	49,179.29
Bigelow.....	166+	4.00	665.24			665.24
Hersey.....	318+	5.50+	1,750.40	\$300		2,050.40
1st Assessment Dist*						
2nd Assessment Dist	160	6.00	960.00			960.00
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>4425+</b>	<b>\$6.39+</b>	<b>\$28,315.13</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$35,200.00</b>	<b>\$63,815.13</b>

\* At the time the assessment was made only five townships had been organized. The rest of the county was divided into two assessment districts.  
 † Exclusive of town lots.  
 ‡ Of a value greater than \$100.

The personal property valuations were divided among the several townships as follows:

The other items of personal property assessed, and their value, were as follows:

TOWNSHIPS	Total Valuation	Amount Exempted	Taxable Property
Graham Lakes.....	\$14,218	\$10,180	\$4,038
Indian Lake.....	10,123	6,478	3,645
Worthington..	29,166	23,742	5,424
Bigelow.....	6,659	3,914	2,745
Hersey.....	10,384	6,144	4,240
1st Assessment Dist.	753	453	300
2nd Assessment Dist.	19,357	11,249	8,108
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>\$90,660</b>	<b>\$62,160</b>	<b>\$28,500</b>

Sixteen carriages.....	\$595
Sixty-nine watches.....	957
Three pianos.....	466
All personal property not included in foregoing.....	17,690
Appertaining to merchandise.....	13,910
Appertaining to manufacturing.....	711
Moneys, book accounts, credits, etc....	2,506
Moneys invested in bonds and joint stock companies.....	500
Gold and silver coin and bank notes in possession or on deposit.....	4,494
Value of improvements on and interest of the claimant in lands entered under homestead act.....	16,328

The number and value of livestock by townships is shown in the following table:

TOWNSHIPS	HORSES		CATTLE		MULES		SHEEP		HOGS	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
Graham Lakes.....	39	\$2,940	173	\$3,574	4	\$400	2	\$4	28	\$82
Indian Lake.....	39	2,403	147	2,662	4	310	1	3	17	71
Worthington.....	42	2,785	63	1,413					9	24
Bigelow.....	12	733	81	1,337	2	100			7	19
Hersey.....	21	1,380	91	2,334					1	2
1st Assessment District..	2	200	12	236						
2nd Assessment District.	79	3,685	245	5,530	10	210	27	37	15	39
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>\$14,126</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>\$17,086</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$44</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>\$237</b>

\*Commissioners' Journal, Sept. 16, 1872.

Under the provisions of a state law, townships were given the privilege of deciding whether or not license for the sale of intoxicating liquors should be granted, and at the general election on Nov. 5, 1872, several of the Nobles county townships voted on the question. The class of people who came as members of the colony were such that it is not surprising that nearly all the voters registered against the licensing of saloons, and that all townships voting decided the question in the negative. Following is the vote: Dewald, 17 to 0; Little Rock, 15 to 1; Bigelow, 23 to 1; Hersey, 8 to 0; Indian Lake, 10 to 2.

Another question decided at that election related to a proposed change in the county's boundaries. The legislature on February 29 passed two bills—one providing that range 38 (four townships on the western edge) should be taken from Jackson county and attached to Nobles; the other that range 43 (the present townships of Leota, Lismore, Westside and Grand Prairie) should be taken from Nobles and added to Rock county. Neither act was to be put in force until both counties interested in each case should, by a majority vote, ratify the acts.

The proposition was almost a farce. In order to add the Jackson county townships to Nobles county both the counties must vote in the affirmative. Nobles county naturally favored the bill, but just as naturally Jackson county voted not to give away any of its territory. In order to give to Rock county the western tier of Nobles county townships, both these counties must so vote. Of course Rock county voted almost unanimously to make the change, but in Nobles only eleven electors were found who favored the surrender of territory. The vote of Nobles county by precincts on these propositions:

TOWNSHIPS	For Taking Range 38	Against Taking Range 38	For Giving Range 43	Against Giving Range 43
Dewald .....	17		1	16
Little Rock.....	5	14	....	29
Grant* .....				
Seward .....	13	....	....	13
Graham Lakes ..	29	1	3	25
Fairview .....	....	19	....	29
Bigelow .....	9	16	....	25
Hersey .....	10	6	2	23
Elk .....	13	..	1	12
Indian Lake ..		24	....	29
Worthington ...	25	29	1	68
Totals .....	121	109	11	251

\* Vote not recorded



## CHAPTER IV.

### CALAMITOUS DAYS—1873.

Now come the dark days of Nobles county history—the grass-hopper days. For a period extending from 1873 to 1879 the people of Nobles county, in common with those of all southwestern Minnesota, suffered as few pioneer settlers in any country ever suffered. Adversity followed adversity. The frowns of fortune overwhelmed those who had come with so much hope in 1872 and cast them into the slough of despond. The picture cannot be painted too dark.

The colonists had come to Nobles county because they were poor people and believed that the new country offered opportunities for securing a competence. Some had started with a railroad ticket as their only asset, and even before the grass-hopper days a few were in sorry plight.<sup>1</sup> All set to work with a will to break out the raw prairie land, and great were the expectations for the first crop—a crop destined never to be harvested.

The winter of 1872-73 was the most severe one in the county's known his-

tory, before or since, and the settlers received their first experience of hardships to be borne in the new country. Winter began November 13. The day had been fine, but toward night those who knew the Northwest saw indications of a blizzard. At dark a gale from the northwest struck the houses with a whack as distinct as if it had been a board in the hands of old Boreas. One of the famous northern blizzards was on, and it continued until the afternoon of the third day. Thenceforth it was winter. Snow covered the prairies and blockaded the railroad most of the time until late in the spring.

On January 7, 1873, came the most violent storm known in the Northwest for fifty years, as the records kept at Fort Snelling showed. It extended over the whole Northwest, and all telegraph wires west of Chicago refused to work. For three days the blizzard raged. The temperature was about eighteen degrees below zero during the whole period of the storm, and on the prairie the air

<sup>1</sup>Prof. R. F. Humiston in a letter to the press in July, 1875, described his part in relieving the situation. Seldom did he speak of his charitable deeds, and this exception was called forth by rumors questioning his sincerity in certain matters. He wrote:

"From the advent of the colony in 1872, I found that a number of persons had come with barely sufficient means to bring them here. To many of these I furnished employment, paying out therefor sums to the amount of several thousand dollars, and to others I loaned money without interest and with very remote prospects of payment, amounting in

the aggregate to many hundreds of dollars. During the first winter [1872-73] and before any relief committee was organized, anticipating the danger of a snow blockade of the railroad, and knowing that many of our people were unprovided with fuel for the winter, I ordered several hundred tons of coal. This coal was distributed over a radius of twenty miles from Worthington, a large proportion being donated and a greater portion of the remainder is still unpaid for. Those who spent the first winter here are familiar with these facts."

was filled with snow as fine as flour. Through every crevice, keyhole and nail-hole the fine snow penetrated, puffing in the house like steam. Seventy human lives were lost in Minnesota, and four of these were lost in Nobles county. Innumerable were the narrow escapes from death in the storm, and many residents of the county had experiences that will never be forgotten.

The morning of the first day of the storm was beautiful and bright. The sky was clear, and there was no wind. It seemed as though a "January thaw" was imminent, and the settlers set out for town on business or went to neighboring farmhouses with their teams. While the general indications were for fair weather, an aneroid barometer, owned by Professor Humiston, foretold a storm. The instrument had been falling for twenty-four hours, and it had never been known to fall so low before.

Toward noon a change was apparent. The sky lost its crystal clearness and became a trifle misty. Between twelve and one o'clock a white wall was seen bearing down from the northwest. The front of the storm was distinct and almost as clearly outlined as a great sheet. In a few minutes a gale, moving at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour, was sweeping the country. When the storm struck Worthington the farmers began to scatter for their homes. A number, however, did not take the chance of death, and remained in the village during the three days of the blizzard. Some residents of the village, who were not in their homes when the storm struck, remained until it abated, not daring to venture upon the streets, although only a few blocks from home.

One of those who perished was Samuel Small, of Indian Lake township, a

man about forty years of age. Just after the storm struck he started out from Worthington with his ox team and sled for his home, four miles southeast of town. He drove within a few rods of his own door, but in the blinding snow failed to discover his house. He wandered over the prairie until he came to some hay stacks, around which a rail fence had been built. He evidently attempted to climb the fence and seek the shelter of the stacks, but he was too near gone to accomplish it. He was found the day after the storm, standing with one hand on the fence, covered with ice and as stiff as an icicle.

There was another fatality in the same neighborhood. Mrs. John Blixt, who lived with her husband and children on section 2, Indian Lake township, met a very sad death. Mr. Blixt had gone fishing, and when the blizzard struck, his wife, fearful that he would lose his way, started out to meet him. She became blinded by the snow, wandered off on the prairie and perished. Mr. Blixt returned in safety.

The third fatal case was that of John Weston, a farmer who resided in Seward township. On that fateful morning he hitched his oxen to a sled and set out for Graham lakes to get a load of wood. While returning to his home the storm caught him. He drove across his own farm, but in the blinding gale missed the house. Weston then turned and drove in a circle, making the same circuit twice, as was shown by the tracks of the sled. He bore to the north and reentered Graham Lakes township. He unhitched and abandoned his ox team, and the animals, after wandering awhile, turned the yoke and choked to death. They were found later on the bank of Jack creek. From this point Mr. West-

on evidently concluded to walk with the storm, for he made a bee-line for Hersey station (now Brewster). After walking about twelve miles he was overcome by the storm and fell forward on his face, clutching at the long grass where he fell.

Immediately after the storm the settlers about Graham lakes organized a searching party and scoured the country for the missing man. They found the oxen and sled, but the search for Weston was fruitless, and toward evening they abandoned their efforts and returned home. Late in the following April, when the snow had disappeared from the prairies, the dead body of the missing man was found by another party of searchers at a point one and one-half miles northwest of Hersey.

As a result of the death of Mr. Weston there was originated a ghost story which became famous all over the country, due largely to its reiteration by Mr. A. P. Miller. The story is here given as it was told by Mr. Miller in the Worthington Advance of Jan. 13, 1881:

The story of John Weston's ghost was first published in the Advance and widely copied, so that it became known throughout the country. Weston appeared to Mr. Cospier, who is still a resident of Seward township, and was an intimate friend of Weston. A few days ago we caught Mr. Cospier in town and had the story from his own lips. He is a practical, unimaginative man and gives the story in a circumstantial way.

The day after the storm Mr. Cospier had been out with some neighbors searching for Weston's body. He had returned to his home and was at his stable feeding his stock

just before sundown. He came out of the stable, and, passing around to the east end, saw John Weston coming up the path from the creek. Weston had on the blue soldier overcoat which he usually wore. His hands were tucked up under the cape, and he approached Cospier with his usual smile and usual salutation, saying, "How goes it?" Cospier said, "Why, Weston, I thought you were frozen to death!" Weston replied, "I am, and you will find my body a mile and a half northwest of Hersey!" Saying this, he vanished. Mr. Cospier says that even after Weston had gone it took him some time to realize that he had seen a ghost, and to "feel queer."

Before this, Weston had evidently announced his death to his wife. Mrs. Weston related the incident, and it was confirmed by her son. The second night of the storm she was awakened by a knock at the door. She dozed off again and was aroused by a second rap, when she asked what was wanted. A voice answered, "Did you know that John was frozen to death?" The voice sounded like that of her brother, Mr. Linderman, who lived in the vicinity. The boy heard the voice, and raising up in bed, said: "Mother, did uncle say that pa was frozen to death?" Mrs. Weston went to the door, but there was no one there, and no tracks could be found in the snow. Mr. Linderman had not been there, and it seems that Weston, wishing to announce his death, and at the same time not to frighten his wife too much, assumed the voice of his brother-in-law.

Now for the confirmation of Cospier's story. He told it at once, and it was published throughout the country before the winter was over. Search was made for Weston's body, but in vain. When spring came, however, and the snow began to melt off, Weston's body was found near a slough, where the snow had been deep, a mile and a half northwest of Hersey. We believe that Mr. Erickson, who now lives at Worthington, was the first to discover the body.

Another man who lost his life in this storm in Nobles county (but knowledge of which was not gained until a year later) was a man by the name of Taylor. His home was in Lake Benton, from

the path to meet me. He approached with his usual familiar smile, and his hands were tucked under the cape of his blue soldier overcoat, just as I had seen him approach many times. I called to him and said, "Hello, Weston! why, I thought you were lost in the storm." Weston replied: "I was, and you will find my body a mile and a half northwest of Hersey!" He then began to melt or fade away, somewhat like smoke thinning out, and disappeared. I had not time to realize what was occurring till it was over, and then I began to feel mighty queer."

<sup>2</sup>During 1907, in the Swastika Magazine, Denver, Mr. Miller retold the story of John Weston's ghost, and therefor received a prize offered for the best verified and corroborated psychic and ghost experience or story. In that article he says that Mr. Cospier came to his office to tell him the story, and that as near as he can remember it was in these words:

"I went into my stable after the bucket, intending to water my horses. I came out and turned the corner to go down the path. When about half way down the slope to the well I was surprised to see John Weston coming up

which place he and four other men had gone to mill. When the storm struck, Taylor became separated from his companions and the ox team which they were driving, and wandered afoot a distance of about thirty-five miles.

It was during the next winter that the body was found in the northern part of Seward township, in a barren country, by Andy Dillman and George T. Bulick, who were out trapping. Coroner Churchill was notified, who took possession of the body, and finally, through advertising, the body was identified. Mr. Taylor was one of four members of a family who froze to death.

A few of the adventures in this memorable storm are worth relating. In the little log school house at the north end of Indian lake the teacher, Miss Mary Jemerson, and the scholars were obliged to stay for three days and two nights. The snow drifted in through the crevices and soon covered the floor. The supply of wood was soon exhausted, and then the furniture had to be split up to keep alive a meager fire, which barely kept them alive until the storm abated. To keep up circulation the children formed in Indian file and marched around the stove through the dreary days and long nights. Being without food, except what little they had left in their dinner buckets, they suffered greatly, but all escaped without damage.

Joseph Poets was caught in the storm in the western part of the county and lay for several days in a snow drift. His feet, becoming exposed, were frozen and had to be amputated. J. H. Max-

well drove four miles against the storm and then took refuge with a neighboring farmer, not being able to reach home. Rev. Mr. Stone walked five miles facing the storm between Worthington and Jackson, and finally took refuge in a sod shanty. A party of Worthington men, among whom were Dr. Langdon and Cornelius Stout, were caught on the road between Jackson and Worthington, and also remained snowed up in a sod house. A man north of Worthington was caught on the trackless prairie, driving an ox team. He unhitched his oxen and took off their yokes. Then he took one of the animals by the tail, and by twisting the tail, kept the beast on a trot. The other ox followed, and the man in time brought up against his own wood pile.

An act of the legislature, approved Feb. 27, 1873, provided for the establishment of a district court in Nobles county, the law to go into effect on July 1, of the same year, but for some reason no court was held in the county until two years later. Rock county was attached to the new district for judicial purposes, but in 1874 it became a district by itself.<sup>3</sup>

Many new settlers arrived in the spring of 1873, and the colony was indeed in a flourishing condition. Those who had arrived during 1872 put in crops, which had come up and were growing beautifully. The faith in the soil had been justified. Everybody was enthusiastic over the prospects.

Then came the never-to-be-forgotten plague—the grasshoppers—and the coun-

<sup>3</sup>Jurors were chosen in 1873 as follows: Grand, O. H. Chapman, Peter Swartwout, Warren Smith, Henry Brynton, R. F. Eskine, Albert Hargrind, J. C. Clark, Peter Thompson, H. C. Rice, A. A. Parsons, Jonathan Gordon, W. S. Stockdale, J. B. Churchill, F. W. Burdette, D. S. Low, B. S. Langdon, E. S. Mills, W. B. Akens, J. H. Barnfield, J. D. Roberts.

Peter N. H. Smith, B. B. Brain, E. W. Hesselroth, Julius Westinghouse, J. A. Cospier, C. L. Johnson, W. R. Bennett, Chas. Frisbie, W. G. Brown, B. W. Woolstencroft, Chas. Wilkinson, Peter Swelzer, J. P. Warner, H. S. Finn, Richard Cagley, A. A. Kimball, Edward Esar, S. D. Sprague, B. F. Congdon, J. B. Haines.

try that looked so bright and had been so prosperous was wrapped in gloom. Immigration ceased; farmers, mechanics, merchants, everybody became discouraged at once.

It was on or about the 15th day of June that the people noticed something floating through the air from west to east, which some thought at first sight to be cottonwood seeds. They seemed to be drifting with the wind, and some of them were at a great height. They kept increasing in numbers, and soon a few scattering ones began falling to the earth, where they were found to be grasshoppers, or Rocky mountain locusts— forerunners of a scourge that for several years devastated this part of the country and resulted in the retardation of settlement for many years.

The flight kept up for several days, and a great number of the hoppers came down and feasted on the growing crops, and deposited their eggs. They did great damage, but not so great as in later years, and a light harvest was gathered. Many families were left destitute, and in the early winter a relief committee was organized, which looked after the wants of those in greatest need.

Three new townships were organized during the year 1873, Wilson (Summit Lake), Hebbard (Olney), and Grand Prairie. The petition asking for the creation of Wilson township was presented May 9, and was signed by John Ward, Jas. F. Hollopeter, N. F. Ganonny, Jas. Marden, Geo. W. Akin, J. F. Cannern, Henry C. Moore, John J. Weaver, Albert J. Ryan, A. B. Coe, D.

Stone, S. Wass and Irwin L. Wass. The commissioners created the township May 20, named the new township Wilson, and provided for holding the first town meeting at the home of J. F. Hollopeter on June 5. The state auditor notified the commissioners that there was another township of the name of Wilson in the state, and that therefore it would be necessary to change the name of the Nobles county division. The name was changed to Akin, in honor of one of the settlers, on June 15, 1874. Upon request of the settlers of the township the name was again changed, July 27, 1874, to Summit Lake. The name was given for the lake within the borders of the township, and the lake was named because of its topographical location.

The petition for Hebbard township was circulated January 6, and was signed by R. C. Stillman, John Johnston, Jos. V. Bartow, John G. Culpin, R. W. Moberly, Benjamin F. Remm, T. Thompson, Toor Anderson, Wm. F. Hebbard, Allen Simons, Alex Simpson, Chas. J. Fox, W. H. Forencrook and Ole Gunderson. July 10 the commissioners took favorable action on the petition, named the township Hebbard in honor of Wm. F. Hebbard, one of the settlers, and provided for the completion of the organization at the residence of Chas. J. Fox on July 29. The town meeting was not held at the appointed time, and the completion of the organization was postponed. October 11 Mr. Fox appeared before the commissioners and made affidavit that up to that time no officers had been elected and no town meeting had been held. The commissioners then

<sup>4</sup>Different from most of the accounts of this first invasion is that of G. L. Ellsworth, which was published in the Nobles County Democrat in 1896. Mr. Ellsworth wrote: "Although a great number of the hoppers came down, they did not create much alarm at that

time, as there was not much crop for them to eat, had they been so disposed. Their principal business seemed to be the depositing of their eggs, and after staying for a day or two, they all took flight again towards the east."

changed the name of the township to New Haven and made further provision for the organization of the township. June 15, 1871, another name had to be selected, because of a prior disposal of the name New Haven upon a township in another part of the state, and Oley was then bestowed upon the new township, after the county seat of Richland county, Ill.<sup>1</sup>

The people of the southwestern corner township asked for organization on August 30, the petitioners being Miles Birkett, M. S. Morriss, M. J. Bryan, Oley Olson, Edmond Olson, P. J. Johnson, Thos. Johnson, H. A. Severson, Paine Stillmets, J. Spalding, Robert Williamson, John Bootcher, O. D. Bryan, Wm. H. Ingraham, Geo. S. Barnes, Cras. A. Barnes, A. W. Walters, Jas. Walker, P. M. Morriss and J. Pride. At a meeting of the board of county commissioners on September 22 the township was created, and on October 30 the organization was perfected. The name Grand Prairie was selected by the commissioners out of a list of three suggested by the petitioners,<sup>2</sup> and the name selected is not a misnomer.

It will be remembered that during the first few years of the county's history the county seat was officially located at Gretchtown, but that, as Gretchtown had no actual existence, the county seat had led a wandering life. The commissioners transacted their business at the homes of the different members (always in Graham Lakes township), and the various county officers attended to their

official duties at their homes, or wherever was most convenient.

When Worthington was founded agitation for the establishment of the seat of government in that village was begun.<sup>3</sup> Through the efforts of ex-Governor Stephen Miller, who was at the time the representative of southwestern Minnesota in the lower house of the legislature, a bill was passed, early in 1873, providing for such action. Following is the full text of the act:

An act to establish and locate the county seat of Nobles county.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota:

Section 1. That the county seat of Nobles county is hereby established and located at the village of Worthington, in said county of Nobles, on section number 23, town number 102, and range number 40.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of all county officers who are required by law to hold their respective offices at the county seat to remove their several offices, with all the books, records and papers pertaining thereto, to the said town of Worthington within sixty days after the passage of this act, without further notice; and each and every officer who shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section shall forfeit the county office held or occupied by him.

Sec. 3. In the event of the passage of an enabling act, during the present session of the legislature, authorizing the electors of said county to vote upon the question of the removal of said county seat at the next general election, no indebtedness shall be contracted on behalf of the said county by the officers thereof for the erection of county buildings at the said village of Worthington until the location of such county seat at said village of Worthington shall be confirmed by the vote of a majority of those who may vote upon the question of removing said county seat, in pursuance of such enabling act, at the general election in November next.

Sec. 4. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 6, 1873.

<sup>1</sup>The name was suggested by H. W. Mohr. Several other names were suggested by the residents of the township, among others, being Springfield.

<sup>2</sup>The names of Gopher, Grand Prairie and Gretchtown were suggested by the petitioners to call our township, and it was decided to call it Grand Prairie, or Grand Prairie.

<sup>3</sup>The question of removing the county seat from Gretchtown to Worthington was discussed at the removal of the county seat from Gretchtown.

Second—Where is Gretchtown? Can anyone tell us where to find Gretchtown? Is it a capital or a railroad center? Is it a manufacturing town or a rural district? Did it vote for Grant? Any information under the sun of the best seat in town will be fearfully received by the mourning friends, as well as other members of the unhappy family, Gretchtown, Gretchtown, thou long lost sister, return, we pray, return." Western Advance, Nov. 9, 1872.

It was not the intention of the legislature to arbitrarily locate the county seat at Worthington permanently, and on the same day the act was approved, another one became a law which left the matter to the voters. It was in the form of a law removing the county seat from Worthington to Hersey, which was at the time just budding into a village. But provision was made that before the law became operative a majority of the voters of the county must ratify it at the general election in November, 1873. The effect of these two acts was to put before the people the selection of the permanent county seat, limiting them in their choice to the two villages of Worthington and Hersey. The second act reads:

An act to remove the county seat of Nobles county from the village of Worthington to the village [of] Hersey, in said county.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota:

Section 1. That the county seat of the county of Nobles, in the state of Minnesota, be and the same is hereby removed from the village of Worthington, section 23, township number 102, of range number 40, where the same is now located in said county, to the village or town of Hersey, on section number 25, township number 103, range 39 west, in said county.

Sec. 2. At the time of giving notice of the next general election it shall be the duty of the officers of said county of Nobles, required by law to give notice of said election, to give notice in like manner that at said election a vote will be taken on the question of adopting this act removing the county seat from the village of Worthington to the village or town of Hersey, as is provided in the first section of this act. But no failure of, or irregularity in, such notice, or the giving of such notice, shall in any way vitiate the vote on such question.

Sec. 3. At said election the electors of said county in favor of the removal of the said county seat as provided in this act, shall have distinctly written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, on their ballots "For removal of county seat;" those

opposed to such removal, "Against removal of county seat;" and such ballots shall be received by the judges of election and canvassed at the same time and in the same manner, and be returned to the same office as votes for county officers.

Sec. 4. The county canvassing board of said county, to whom said election returns are made, shall canvass the votes on said question, at the same time and in the same manner as returns of votes for county officers, and if upon such canvass being made it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast at such election were voted in favor of the removal of said county seat, an abstract of the canvass of said votes shall be made on one sheet, signed and certified in the same manner as in cases of abstracts of votes cast for the county officers, and shall be deposited in the office of the county auditor of said county, and the said county auditor shall immediately thereafter transmit to the secretary of state a copy of said abstract, duly certified by said auditor.

Sec. 5. If this act shall be adopted by a majority of the electors of said county of Nobles voting at the said election at the next general election, the governor shall forthwith make proclamation, as provided by law in such cases, and it is hereby made the duty of all officers who are required by law to hold their office at the county seat, to remove the said offices, books and records to the new county seat at Hersey within thirty days, without further notice, and any failure to so remove said offices shall operate as a forfeiture of their said offices.

Sec. 6. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, except as to section one, which is to take effect and be in force from and after the adoption of the same as provided herein.

Approved March 6, 1873.

The county officials made preparations to carry out the provisions of the first act. Arrangements were made to secure a building at Worthington for court house purposes, and on May 7 a contract was signed leasing the back room of the building known as the post-office building. This was leased for a period of one year from Charlotte E. Goodnow for \$150.<sup>8</sup>

By resolution of the county board of May 20, the auditor officially gave no-

<sup>8</sup>A paragraph of the contract read: "... that they shall have free access to said room by use of the back door at all times and access by the front door from seven o'clock

in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening of each day of the week, Sundays excepted."

tice to the other officers that they must remove their offices at once to the county seat, and before the first of June the county business was being transacted in Worthington. On June 10 the first meeting of the commissioners was held there.<sup>9</sup>

When Worthington was founded the railroad company gave to the county the block of land in the heart of the city, still used for court house purposes, and now worth many thousand dollars. A clear title was not given at first. It was provided that a court house should be erected thereon within three years (from 1871), and that in case the property ever ceased to be used for court house purposes it should revert to the railroad company. When the hard times period came on it was found impossible to erect a court house within the time specified, and the railroad company granted an extension of two years. In 1876 another extension of time was given, and in 1877 a court house was erected.

In accordance with the provisions of the second act of March 6, the county seat question was decided at the general election on November 4, 1873. There was never much doubt as to the outcome, and the bitter animosities so often engendered in county seat contests were lacking. Worthington was the logical location. It was the center of population and the only town of any pretensions in the county. Hersey was on the extreme eastern edge of the county and a place of relatively small importance. Hersey and Graham Lakes townships returned majorities in favor of

the smaller place; in only two other precincts, Seward and Fairview (Lorain) did Hersey receive any considerable vote. The result in detail follows:

TOWNSHIPS	For Removal to Hersey	Against Removal to Hersey
Fairview Lorain	10	22
Worthington	3	96
Seward*	12	13
Wilson Summit Lake		13
Graham Lakes	29	2
Bigelow	1	45
Dewald		39
Elk	1	25
Grant (Ransom)		37
Little Rock		27
102-42 Olney †		13
Hersey	48	1
Indian Lake		33
Grand Prairie		13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>379</b>

\* Including township 101 0 (Bloom).

† A voting precinct had been established, but the township organization had not yet been perfected.

A tax of fifteen mills was levied in 1873, of which eight mills was for the general fund, two mills for road purposes, one mill for the poor fund, and four mills to be applied on the payment of interest on the county's debt.

The report of school conditions during the year 1873 is very meager. From it we learn that there were fourteen districts in the county, in only three of which schools were held, however. The total number of pupils in the county was 369. One frame school house was erected at a cost of \$5134.

Despite the terrible times through which the early settlers of Nobles county passed, the pioneers made the best of

<sup>9</sup>After the first year the county rented of J. H. Johnson an office in a little building located on Ninth street, just west of the present court house, for a rental price of \$27.50 per quarter. There was only one room down

stairs, and in that were gathered the principal functionaries of the county. There were two living rooms upstairs. Mr. Johnson later opened a harness shop in this building.



their trials, and their social relations were always pleasant. I can give no better idea of the social conditions during these days of hardships than by quoting a letter written by Robert Shore, of Ransom township, in 1901:<sup>10</sup>

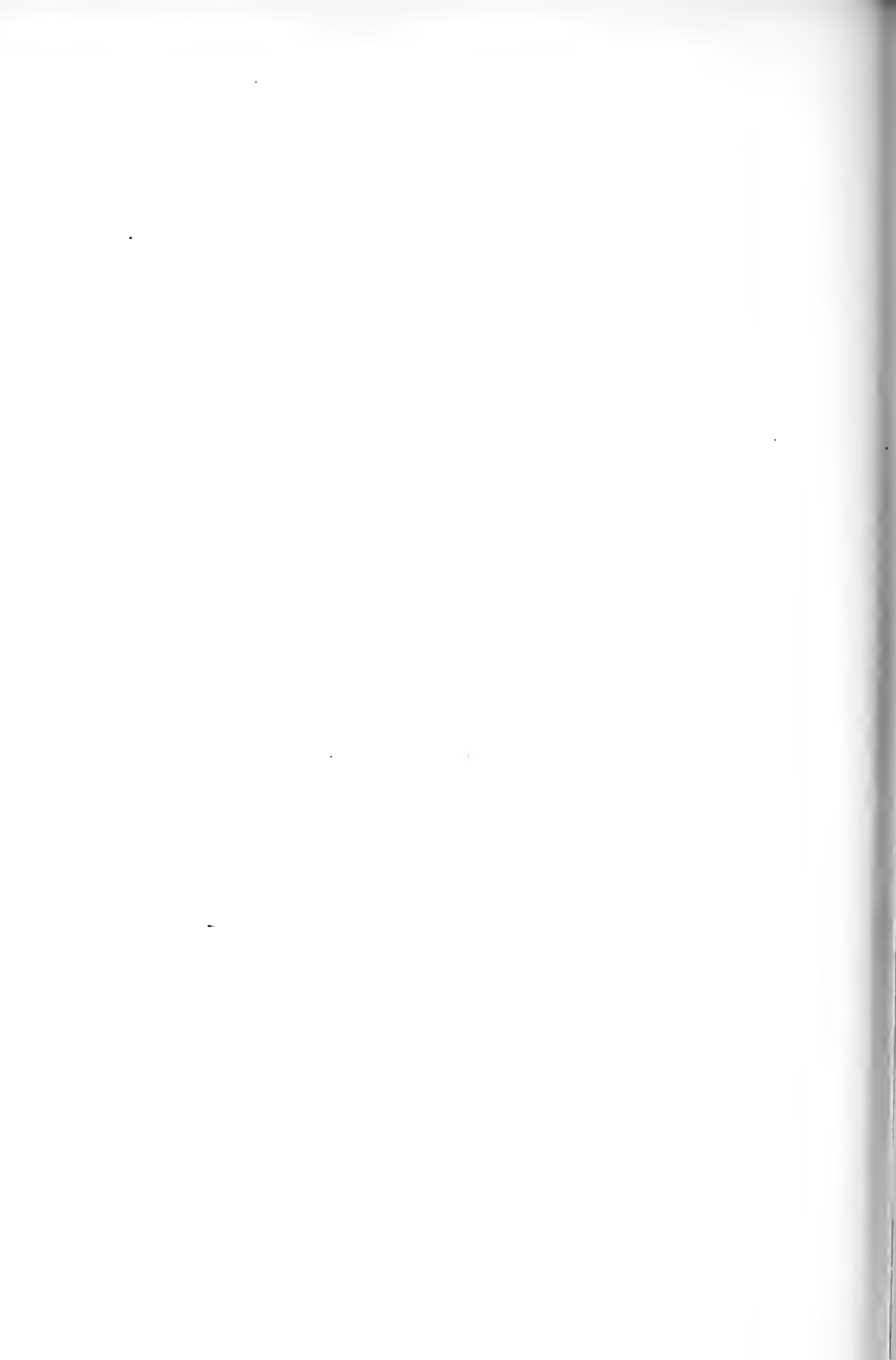
“Here in Nobles county some 27 or 28 years ago the lonely settlers’ cabins were few and far between, and in the long, cold winters of those early times the days often dragged heavily. . . .

“In the rigorous winters of those early days there were no coal fires in the homes of the farmers on these prairies; no carpeted floors; but few books and papers; and as for the luxuries or life, they were unknown. And yet people enjoyed themselves even then; indeed, I don’t think I ever saw people enjoy themselves better than at some of the sociables, so-called, of those primitive times. It would be arranged that on some specified evening there was to be a sociable at the house, say, of Timothy Sharp or some other good neighbor, and

at the appointed time people would come from every direction for miles around to spend a pleasant evening together. And then would follow a time of as unrestrained enjoyment as I ever saw. It seemed as if all the pent up jollity of one’s nature was let loose, and, as Byron says, ‘joy was unconfined.’

“One reason for this was, I think, that the little bickerings which too often disturb the peace of a neighborhood had not arisen; people were animated by a common purpose—the making of homes for themselves in this then new country. Then, too, people were all on an equality; there were no rich and poor, consequently no social distinctions. Every man felt that he was as good as his neighbor, and his neighbor as good as he. Then, again, people in those days were blessed, it seemed with abounding good health. People lived very plainly in those days—were obliged to—and plain living, we are told, is conducive to health. . . .”

<sup>10</sup>Published in the Nobles County Democrat, of Dec. 20, 1901.



## CHAPTER V.

### THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE— 1874-1875.

If there had been a belief that the grasshopper visitation of 1873 was only a temporary blight on the prospects, it was rudely dispelled. The story of the years to follow is one of heartrending misery. From Manitoba to Texas the grasshoppers brought desolation and suffering in 1874, the visitation being general along the whole frontier. Especially destructive were they in southwestern Minnesota and in Kansas and Nebraska.

A large acreage was sown in Nobles county in the spring on land that had been broken the year before. Then the settlers commenced breaking, and planting "sod corn." When warm weather set in grasshoppers began to hatch from the eggs that had been deposited the summer before and began their ravages as soon as the first tender blades of grain appeared. Whole fields were stripped entirely bare in those portions of the county where the young hoppers were most numerous, principally in the northern and western townships. The southeastern part escaped almost entirely.

Had this been the only damage, the county would have survived the infliction. A fine growing season caused the crops in many places to get ahead of the young hoppers. Wheat and oats were growing finely, "sod corn" was an

especially good crop, and all garden vegetables were growing as they seldom have since. Then on July 2 came a visitation of "foreign" hoppers out of the northeast, who made it evident that the country was not to escape with the ravages of the young pests.

Conditions were such in the early summer that the people realized that something must be done to assist those who had met misfortune. On July 1 the board of county commissioners, composed of I. P. Durfee, chairman; J. W. Miller and M. L. Miller, met at Worthington to consider the condition of the destitute and the sufferers from loss of crops by the grasshoppers, and to provide for their wants. County Attorney M. B. Soule was present and offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Be it resolved by the board of county commissioners of Nobles county and state [of Minnesota] that an amount not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000) be and the same is hereby appropriated for the immediate relief of those persons in said county who are in need of such relief, and that same be expended for this purpose alone, under the direction of said board of commissioners, and in accordance with such rules and regulations as they deem best. And that an order of said county be issued under the direction of said board, bearing interest at the rate of twelve per cent, for the amount of such part thereof as may be needed.

County Auditor William M. Bear went to St. Paul, and, through the influence

of Governor Cushman K. Davis, sold one thousand dollars worth of the county's paper at its face value to the First National Bank of St. Paul. It must not be imagined that this money was raised for the purpose of reimbursing the sufferers; it was to prevent actual starvation. One hundred barrels of flour and eighteen barrels of pork were purchased and brought to the county for distribution. An informal meeting of the county board was held at the residence of J. W. Miller, in Graham Lakes township, on July 7, when the following residents were named to act as distributing agents in their respective townships:

- N. H. Smith,<sup>1</sup> Graham Lakes.
- J. Westinghouse,<sup>1</sup> Seward.
- C. A. Barrows,<sup>1</sup> Hersey.
- W. B. Akins, Elk.
- S. Wass,<sup>1</sup> Wilson (Summit Lake).
- D. Fogo, Lorain.
- I. P. Durfee, Worthington.
- J. B. Churchill, Dewald.
- R. Stillman,<sup>1</sup> Olney.
- Jas. Atcheson, Indian Lake.
- E. S. Mills, Bigelow.
- Leroy Cole, Ransom.
- J. D. Roberts, Little Rock.
- H. S. Barnes, Grand Prairie.

These gentlemen at once apportioned the supplies among the most needy. They found many in a precarious condition; the thousand dollars worth of provisions was only a drop in the bucket.

The destruction to crops done by the young grasshoppers and those which came on July 9 was as nothing compared with what was to follow. About ten o'clock on the morning of July 15 the grasshoppers were again seen coming

out of the northeast. The sky was so full of them that the sun was darkened as with dense clouds, and the roar of their wings sounded like the approach of a storm. This time they came down for good; and what havoc they wrought! These that alighted on the prairies<sup>2</sup> seemed to know where the grain fields and gardens were, and gathered in them from all directions. Every cornstalk bent to the earth with their weight. The noise they made eating could be heard for quite a distance and resembled that which might have been made by hundreds of hogs that had been turned into the fields. In fact, such was the destruction that within four hours after they came down, whole fields of corn and small grain were as completely harvested as though they had been cut with a reaper and hauled away. It was a discouraging sight.

After gorging themselves with the crops the hoppers became stupid and piled up in the fields and along the roads, often to a depth of one or two feet. Horses could hardly be driven through them. Stories have been told of railway trains becoming blockaded by the pests, so as to be unable to move until the insects were shoveled from the tracks. After resting from their feast, they took their departure.

On August 3 came another horde, seeking to destroy what had been left, and those settlers who had escaped with only a partial loss before were now called upon to go through the tortures of seeing their grain disappear, with no means of checking the disaster. It seems incredible that any grain should have been left, but such is the case.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Were superseded by: Julius Westinghouse, Graham Lakes; Jonas Parrshall, Seward; A. A. Parsons, Hersey; J. J. Weaver, Wilson; J. V. Bartow, Olney.

<sup>2</sup>The name applied to these pests is a misnomer. They never ate grass.

<sup>3</sup>See page 83. We have stated that half a crop of wheat had been raised. Since threshing

From a carefully prepared estimate made by Auditor William M. Bear, we learn that out of a total of 16,410 acres planted to crop in 1874, only 82,183 bushels of grain and vegetables were saved. Wheat averaged about five and one-half bushels per acre, oats seven bushels, corn two and one-half bushels, potatoes 38 bushels, while all other grain was nearly a complete failure. The old settled township of Indian Lake was the most fortunate, and escaped with small damage. The wheat average there was a little less than ten bushels.<sup>4</sup> The lowest wheat average was in Seward, being less than two bushels. In Hersey and Graham Lakes the loss was also nearly complete. The largest acreage sown was in Worthington township, where 1,465 acres were planted and 10,916 bushels of wheat harvested. Following is Auditor Bear's estimate of the number of acres sown, the number of bushels harvested and the average yield per acre of the different grains and vegetables:<sup>5</sup>

The Minnesota commissioner of statistics prepared a report of the estimated loss in the principal grain crops in Minnesota due to the grasshopper raids of 1874. His estimate for Nobles county was as follows:

CROP	Acres Damaged	Loss in Bushels
Wheat .....	7,718	100,272
Oats .....	2,436	73,690
Corn .....	2,678	63,871
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>12,832</b>	<b>237,833</b>

The colonists had now been in the county over two years, and not a crop had been raised. They were poor people when they came: not having realized a cent of income since their arrival, the result can well be imagined. The people were compelled to practice the most rigid economy. Hay furnished the fuel; potatoes, pumpkins and squashes—a few vegetables left by the grasshoppers—furnished the food. Meat was not on the bill of fare, except for those who could use a gun and bag the prairie chickens and ducks that were in great abundance. In this manner a large number of the settlers were obliged to pass the winter.

They bore their trials more cheerfully than might have been expected, and made preparations to try their luck again next year. In preparing their land for the crop the following year, the farmers nearly ruined their horses,

CROP	Acres Sown	Bushels Raised	Average Per Acre
Wheat .....	8,887	49,539	5.57
Oats .....	2,285	16,600	7.26
Corn .....	3,034	8,210	2.70
Potatoes.....	357	13,612	38.12
Buckwheat....	234	243	1.03
Beans .....	135	56	.41
Flax Seed ...	1,299	1,639	1.26
Barley .....	179	284	1.59
<b>Total ....</b>	<b>16,410</b>	<b>82,183</b>	

this will have to be slightly changed, for the crop falls a little below half a crop. Nobles county raised this year two or three times as much wheat as it needed to bread the county, but, as we stated before, those who have any surplus must sell to pay debts and procure other supplies. Those who raised nothing are left destitute and must be carried through the winter."—Worthington Advance, Oct. 3, 1874.

<sup>4</sup>When relief supplies were distributed later in the year the people of Indian Lake requested that no supplies be sent into that township.

<sup>5</sup>Said the Advance of Jan. 20, 1875: "These figures will be interesting to the future historian of the great grasshopper visitation. When Nobles county is annually turning out an average of from 17 to 25 bushels per acre, and when several more railroads will be demanded to do the carrying for the fertile prairie regions of this latitude, these figures will be looked upon with a melancholy interest, and our children will wonder at the pluck and energy of the people who stuck it through."

being without the necessary grain to feed them. About 18,500 acres of land was prepared that fall,<sup>6</sup> which was more than had been sown in 1874.

Many were left destitute and badly in need of aid, but during the summer and early fall the actual suffering was not severe. But a few realized what the condition would be when cold weather set in, and steps were at once taken to prepare for the time when food, clothing and fuel would have to be supplied to prevent starvation and freezing. It was apparent that such aid as the state would furnish would be wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the destitute. Several gentlemen concluded that the only safety lay in providing a fund to meet the emergency which was sure to arise in midwinter. To this end J. C. Clark was selected to visit the eastern cities for the purpose of soliciting aid. Assurances were given Mr. Clark by Professor Humiston and others that whether successful or not his expenses would be paid. He succeeded in raising about \$1,800 in eastern cities, and, subsequently, about \$300 in St. Louis. Others went out soliciting on private account entirely, and were more or less successful in relieving their own wants.<sup>7</sup>

Although precautions had already been taken as outlined above, by the middle of October it was realized that a united and more thorough effort must

be made to secure funds to prevent terrible tragedies that otherwise would surely come with the wintry blasts. With this in view a mass meeting was held in Miller hall, Worthington, on October 13, to devise means of meeting the emergency. I. P. Durfee was chairman of the meeting and J. A. Town was secretary. The following statement of conditions in the county, and the purposes of the meeting was adopted, one section at a time:<sup>8</sup>

Whereas, There is urgent and immediate necessity for aid to many destitute families in our county; and

Whereas, The efforts put forth and supplies now on hand are totally inadequate to meet the demands which are constantly made for help; and

Whereas, We are fully convinced that the more favored portions of our own state and other states do not appreciate the destitution in our midst; therefore

Resolved, That we appeal (1) to the charitable of our own state for help; (2) to the people of the United States; (3) to the state government; (4) to the government of the United States, for the preservation of which many of us offered our all during the late terrible civil war.

The conditions were discussed in detail. Estimates as to the possible number of families that would require aid varied from two hundred to three hundred. Mr. Durfee, who was chairman of the county relief committee, reported that 37,000 pounds of flour and a large quantity of pork, furnished by the county, had been distributed. He also stated that he had appealed to the governor

<sup>6</sup> Estimate by Auditor Bear.

<sup>7</sup> It is possible that a few took advantage of the terrible conditions prevailing, and, representing themselves as duly authorized collectors for the relief fund, were in reality working for their own benefit. The Advance of September 26, 1874, said:

"Our correspondent mentions the fact that some one from Hersey township has gone to St. Paul begging, and has secured quite a sum of money and a good supply of other articles. We judge from the tenor of the statement that this was done on private account entirely. Of course if people will go abroad and beg there is no way of preventing them, but these persons are bringing reproach upon the whole region and giving us the rep-

utation of chronic mendicants. We heard a few days ago that one man from Graham Lakes township had recently been through Wisconsin and Michigan begging. This is his second begging tour, and no doubt he is realizing a handsome sum. We wish to warn the public against all beggars from this region who profess to have letters from responsible parties in this county. The papers are generally forged, and when it is known that there is an organized method of obtaining and distributing supplies, people ought to refuse those who are begging on private account."

<sup>8</sup> Published in the *Clara Shanty Vindicator* of Oct. 21, 1874.

for state aid. Governor Davis replied that the county government ought to do something for the destitute and suggested that an additional \$1,000 bonds be issued. Mr. Durfee informed his excellency that in his opinion the people of Nobles county would sooner leave the state than issue more bonds. This opinion was somewhat borne out when the mass meeting passed a resolution requesting that the county commissioners do not issue more bonds for the purpose of relief.

Warren Smith favored the immediate distribution of the \$1,800 which had been raised by Mr. Clark, and suggested that the reason the governor did not favor rendering assistance was because that fund was as yet unapplied. Prof. Humiston said that he was satisfied that the governor was not cognizant of any such fund, that the money had been placed in the bank against the extreme suffering which parties foresaw would exist during the coming winter, but that if the time had arrived when it should be given out, it only awaited the order of the proper officers.

A committee was appointed to draft an appeal for aid, and soon thereafter was issued the following entreaty, in part:

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE GRASS-  
HOPPER SUFFERERS OF NOBLES  
COUNTY.

A meeting of the citizens of Nobles county, Minnesota, was held at Worthington, October 13, 1874, at which the undersigned were appointed a committee to draft an appeal to the charitable of our own state and to the friends in our old home states, in behalf of the needy and destitute in our midst. Our people have suffered a calamity as real and overwhelming as if everything had been swept away by fire and flood. We refer to the raids of the grasshoppers during the last two years. Ours is a new country. Most of our settlers came here in the spring of

1872 and since that time. The first year of settlement is necessarily spent in breaking the prairie in order to procure a crop the second season. . . . Thus it will be seen that many of our people have raised no crop in the three seasons of their residence on these new lands. Their need is urgent and immediate.

The question may be asked what things are needed. We answer: First, food. Many families have lived for weeks on such vegetables as escaped destruction, and the supply is almost exhausted. They have neither bread nor meat. Second, They need clothing. They have raised nothing to sell, and the clothing they brought with them is worn to rags. We would suggest that yarn for stockings, thread and material for children's clothing be sent. This will give help and employment at the same time the best human charity. Third, They need bedding. There are those who are now sleeping under a covering of prairie hay, and winter is approaching. Fourth, They will need seed grain next spring or another year will not relieve the destitution.

Some may ask why we do not abandon a country which is liable to such a plague. We answer: We have seen enough in some favored portions of this and adjoining counties to demonstrate the matchless fertility of the soil. In Jackson county, immediately east of us, more than forty bushels of wheat and one hundred and ten bushels of oats per acre have been reaped in former years. Our climate is as agreeable as any in the world. We have a temperate, intelligent, industrious, moral class of people. Their misfortunes cannot be laid to any improvidence on their part. We came here to make homes for ourselves and our children, and most of us have invested our all here in improvements on our homesteads and have no means to get away, even temporarily. And besides, where else can we go? Is there any land on earth that is exempt from calamities of some kind?

We feel that our destitution is only temporary. The grasshoppers did not deposit their eggs here the past season. They may not be seen here again in a generation. We have faith that next year we will reap bountiful harvests. But in the meantime, many of our people must have help or they will perish. Careful estimates warrant the statement that not less than half of the seven hundred families in the county are partially or wholly destitute. We call, therefore, upon our more fortunate brethren to help us in our distress. If this appeal should meet with a response, let the contributions be sent to I. P. Durfee, chairman of the board of county commissioners, Worthington, Nobles county, Minnesota. He has the entire confidence of all our people, and will make proper distribution of all that is sent. The

receipt of all contributions will be promptly and thankfully acknowledged.

J. A. TOWN;  
T. C. BELL,  
W. M. BEAR,  
WARREN SMITH,  
R. F. HUMISTON,  
Committee.

To this appeal there was quite liberal response, but the needs were not over-supplied by any means, and there was some suffering during the winter.

The state came to the aid of the grasshopper sufferers when the legislature convened during the winter. On February 12, 1875, General Sibley reported that he had turned over to Nobles county \$1,952.82.<sup>9</sup> The distribution was under the direction of the governor. In Nobles county the work of distribution was delegated to the board of county commissioners, and they left the details of the work to I. P. Durfee, chairman of the board, and W. M. Bear, county auditor.

To relieve the situation, the legislature granted an extension of time for the payment of taxes in some of the counties, and, of course, Nobles was among the number. Times not improving, the extension was of little benefit. People who had not money to buy food and clothing could not pay taxes. An interesting relic of this period is the following notice published in the public press of Nov. 20, 1874, by County Treasurer Humiston:

To Tax Payers:

The noble efforts which are being made by many of our settlers to pay their taxes is worthy of a public acknowledgment. Some are still in arrears, and although the time granted by the legislature last winter is past and the personal property tax of 1873 became delinquent on the first day of Nov-

ember, yet I am still receiving taxes at my office. I must very soon call on those who do not call on me, and I do not wish to make any unnecessary trouble or costs, but the laws compel me to make the effort, and it is hoped that it will not be necessary to perform this (to me) very unpleasant duty.

H. D. HUMISTON,  
County Treasurer.

The question naturally arises: Why did the people of Nobles county stay in a country in which the grasshoppers wrought such damage? It is doubtful if they would have remained could they have looked ahead and foreseen what they still had to go through, for this was not the end of the scourge by any means. A few discouraged ones did depart for their former homes. All who could went away each summer to work in the harvest fields of more fortunate communities and earn enough to supply their absolute needs.

The majority stayed with their claims and weathered the storms of adversity. Hope was abundant that each year's visitation would be the last. The fertility of the soil had been demonstrated, and it was known that once the country was free from the pests, it would become one of the richest spots in the west. The settlers had invested all their accumulations of former years in improvements, and to desert the country meant that they must go as paupers. Many were literally too poor to pay transportation charges out of the country.

A tax levy of 16 mills was made in July, 1874, divided among the several funds as follows: General, eight mills; poor, two mills; road and bridge, two mills; county interest, two mills; floating debt and county orders, two mills.

<sup>9</sup>The total amount distributed was \$15,551.56, divided among the devastated counties as follows:

Pinewood	\$200.00
Martin	1,963.87
Rock	1,100.00
Cottonwood	3,237.62

Watsonwan	1,808.83
Jackson	2,817.82
Murray	1,902.82
Nobles	1,952.82
Brown	300.00
Others	768.38

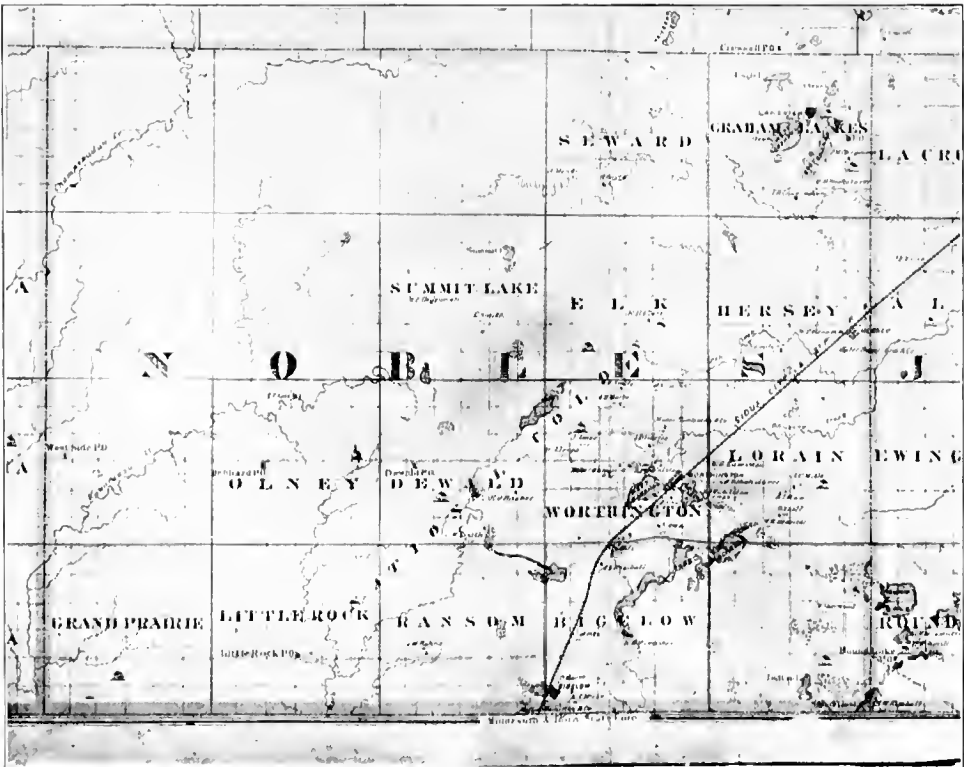






A SOD SHANTY

In Buildings Such as This Hundreds of Nobles County's Pioneer Settlers Had Their Homes.



AN OLD MAP OF NOBLES COUNTY  
 Reproduced from a Print Made in 1874.

The levy was revised in November, being cut down to 13 mills, divided as follows: General, seven mills; poor, one mill; road and bridge, two mills; county interest, one mill; floating debt, two mills.

The assessment showed a total valuation of \$432,433, of which \$250,125 was on personal property and \$182,308 on real property. The total number of acres of deeded and contracted land was 37,444. Seven hundred forty-five persons were assessed. The population of the county, estimated from figures furnished by the assessors, was between 3,000 and 3,500—probably a slight overestimate.

Other statistics for the year 1874 show that there were 86 births, 24 deaths, 20 marriages, one divorce and 32 first naturalization papers granted.

Despite the prevailing hard times the public schools showed a healthy growth. Ten new buildings were erected, and the attendance was greatly increased. The following items appear in the report of the superintendent of schools of Oct. 31, 1874:

Number of districts in county, 37.  
 Number persons five to 21 years, 751.  
 Number persons 15 to 21 years, 197.  
 Number pupils enrolled in winter schools, 105.  
 Average daily attendance, 71.  
 Average length of winter schools in months, 3.  
 Number teachers in winter schools, 2.  
 Number pupils enrolled in summer schools, 285.  
 Average daily attendance in summer schools, 221.  
 Average length of summer schools in months, 3 1-7.  
 Number teachers in summer schools, 16.  
 Number pupils enrolled in schools within the year, 311.  
 School houses built during year 1874, 10 frame.

Value of school houses built during the year, \$2,435.

Total number school houses in county, 11 frame.

Value of all school houses in the county, \$2,485.

Paid for teachers' wages in 1874, \$875.81.

Cash in treasurer's hands at close of school year, September 30, 1874, \$53.83.

One improvement in this year of disasters was the establishment of a star mail route in the southern part of the county. The route extended from Bigelow to Ash Creek and passed through the townships of Ransom, Little Rock and Grand Prairie. This proved to be a great accommodation to the settlers in those townships. Two postoffices were established along the route in Nobles county. One was Little Rock, of which J. T. Green was postmaster;<sup>10</sup> the other was Grand Prairie, located first on section 10, Grand Prairie township, and conducted by a settler named Ayers.<sup>11</sup>

The legislature of 1875 took prompt action to relieve grasshopper devastated southwestern Minnesota. An act approved March 1, 1875, provided for an extension of the payment of personal property tax in the counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Murray, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Renville, Lyon and parts of Blue Earth, Faribault and Brown to November 1. In order to secure this extension it was necessary for the residents to give proof that they were unable to pay their taxes because of loss of crop in 1874 from grasshoppers or hail.

The commissioners of Nobles county also took action to relieve the hardships of taxation by abating the interest and costs on the delinquent real estate tax for 1874. All who should make satis-

<sup>10</sup>He was succeeded by W. T. Jones, and he by Wm. Parry, who remained in charge until the office was discontinued Dec. 31, 1903.

<sup>11</sup>Ayers was succeeded by Oscar Lund, Geo. Barnes, Oscar Bryn and John Butcher. The office was discontinued in 1881, when Ellsworth village was founded.

factory proof, on or before December 1, 1875, under oath to the county auditor, that they were unable to pay the 1874 real estate tax, should escape the penalties, providing the taxes were paid at the time of making proof.<sup>12</sup>

Notwithstanding the terrible experiences of the two preceding years, the people determined to put in a crop again in 1875. The ground had been prepared, but the farmers were without seed grain and without the means to purchase it. The legislature came to their rescue with an appropriation of \$15,000, the act providing for the distribution of seed grain to that amount, with certain provisions for its repayment. A state board of commissioners was appointed to conduct the distribution, and a local board was named in each of the stricken counties to assist in the work. Daniel Rohrer, I. P. Durfee and Peter Thompson served in Nobles county. The money market was tight, and the state was not able to procure the money to purchase more than \$50,000 worth of grain.

Applications at once began pouring in, there being between 250 and 260 in Nobles county. The state commissioners arrived in Worthington March 31 and immediately began delivering the grain. Nobles county's share of the \$50,000 was about \$3,000, and to each applicant was given twelve bushels of wheat.<sup>13</sup> It was expected that so soon as the state could negotiate a loan for the other \$25,000 of the appropriation, it would be issued in corn, potatoes and other seed, but this was not done. With the grain received from the state and that which was in the county there was enough to seed about eighty per cent of the prepared land. The seed grain furnished by the state

was a Godsend. "Our farmers never started with better prospects as to seed than they do the present year," said the Advance.

The grain was sown; it germinated, and appeared above the ground. Then came anxious days. Would the grasshopper scourge again come with its ruin and desolation? As the season advanced the people with deep concern scanned the skies for the appearance of the pests. Eggs had not been deposited in the county the preceding season, and the only apprehension felt was in regard to another invasion. Tidings soon came. On Monday, June 28, it was reported that a vast army was on the way to the northwest from Iowa and other states to the south, headed, it was said, for the Bad Lands of Dakota. They passed over Sioux City in great numbers, and extended as far north as Sheldon. A few stragglers along the right flank of the army were seen in Nobles county and created some apprehension and caused a great deal of upward gazing. But the settlers thanked Providence that, so far, they were in the suburbs of the movement. One curious feature of this movement was that it came from the southeast; before the hordes generally came out of the northeast. What few were seen passing over Nobles county did no damage whatever.

But on Saturday afternoon, July 10, the grasshoppers settled down in considerable numbers in various parts of the county. They came from the northeast, and as they were not full grown, it was believed they belonged to the Minnesota valley hatch, eggs having been deposited there in great numbers the year before. Sunday morning they began eating in a

<sup>12</sup>Commissioners' Journal, June 19, 1875.

<sup>13</sup>The settlers were slow in paying for this

grain, and accounts were carried on the books of the county until November, 1903, when the last payment was made.

few fields of wheat and barley, but most of them waited until Monday before they tested the merits of the growing grain. On Sunday Ransom and Bigelow townships were invaded from the southwest, and a few fine stands of grain in each of those townships were badly damaged. Tuesday, July 13, the greater part of the hoppers took their departure, flying in a northwesterly direction. The damage in Nobles county was not general or great. In no part was there total destruction, and probably not over 100 acres were seriously damaged. By the 16th the grasshoppers had not only departed from the county, but from the state.

The settlers kept track of the movements of the grasshoppers as they would have those of an invading army of soldiers. They knew that only by chance would they escape. They felt as though the sword of Damocles were suspended over them, ready to fall at any moment. The pests were absent only a short time. In the latter part of July they invaded the townships of Hersey, Graham Lakes and Seward—communities which had suffered so greatly the year before—in great numbers. For several days they were there destroying the crops and depositing their eggs. Some of the farmers lost everything, and all in the three townships suffered considerable loss. It is needless to say that the farmers there were discouraged. Some parts of the county had escaped without great loss in 1874 and most of the county did in 1875; but these townships in the northeastern part of the county had now suffered two nearly complete crop failures.

The grasshoppers began leaving the northern tier of townships on Friday,

July 30,<sup>11</sup> and worked from there slowly southward, depositing their eggs as they went. They invaded Lorain and Elk townships and on the 31st put in an appearance about Worthington in considerable numbers. They were not so numerous as they had been the year before, however, and were only enough to cover one tier of townships at a time. Neither did they eat so ravenously as formerly.

They continued their way southward and spread out over several Iowa counties, where they did little or no damage to the crops. It has been a ragamuffin Falstaffian army, compared with that of the 1811 army. Their appetites appeared to be poor, and they were of a degenerate breed; bushels died after laying their eggs, and the exhausted remnant left the county in the first half of August.

Oats and garden vegetables suffered most. Outside of the three northeastern townships, where the loss was nearly total, the damage was slight, and an estimate placed the crop at nine-tenths of a full one. Probably twice the quantity of farm products ever before raised was marketed in 1875.

The population of the county in 1875, according to figures taken by the assessors in the different precincts, was 2738, divided by precincts as follows:

Worthington village	419
Worthington township	207
Little Rock	204
Bigelow	192
Graham Lakes	192
Elk	189
Seward	184
Lorain	182
Ransom	175
Hersey	170
Indian Lake	162
Olney	108
Grand Prairie	107

<sup>11</sup>We were at Graham lakes on Wednesday [August 4], and found there was scarcely a grasshopper in the whole northern portion of

the county. At present they do not extend more than three or four miles north of Worthington.—Worthington Advance, Aug. 6, 1875.

Deward .....	103
2nd Assessment District .....	67
Summit Lake .....	62
First Assessment District .....	15
Total .....	2,738

There was an increase in the assessed valuation in 1875. The total was \$656,363, of which \$254,250 was for personal property and \$402,113 for real property. The levy was again placed at thirteen mills divided as follows: General, five mills; interest on bonds, etc., three mills; road and bridge, two and one-half mills; floating debt, one and one-half mills; poor, one mill.

The first term of court held in Nobles county convened at Miller hall, Worthington, on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1875, and was in session until Saturday, Sept. 18. Judge D. A. Dickinson, of Mankato, judge of the Sixth district, presided. During the term E. D. Hadley, of Laverne, and Daniel Rohrer, of Worthington, were admitted to practice. Besides the members of the Worthington bar there were present Daniel Buck, of Mankato; E. Clark, of Windom; Geo. L. Otis, of St. Paul; Mr. Seegur, of St. James; J. W. Knox, of Jackson, and Samuel Lord, of Mantorville.

There were two criminal cases on the docket. One was against one Larson, charged with selling diseased meat. The grand jury failed to return a true bill. Andrew Jacobson, charged with burglary, was discharged, owing to the fact that the grand jury was not properly drawn.

The first list drawn was not signed by the chairman of the board, and the second list was not filed with the clerk of court. The grand jury was therefore declared not competent to find an indictment, and the prisoner was given his liberty.

Of the seventeen civil cases on the docket, several were quite important. The only jury case was that of Jesse W. Palmer against Warren Smith for libel. The trial occupied several days, and the case was decided in favor of the plaintiff, who was given a verdict of one dollar.

Following were the jurors who served at this first term:

Grand jurors, Michael Snyder, John T. Green, A. Buchan, Charles Fake, T. P. Crowe, C. B. Loveless, Coleman Guernsey, W. G. Randall, John D. Brown, B. F. Tanner, David Fogo, J. R. Dewey, Alfred Terry, James Thom, John DeBoos, W. B. Akins, O. A. Fauskee, G. M. Plumb, G. T. Bulick, A. W. Burnham, David Bates, William Cull, Otto Berrean.

Petit jurors—Peter Sweitzer, J. Tarbert, John Alley, T. H. Parsons, William H. Parry, H. C. Rice, H. M. Johnson, Frank Densmore, E. W. Hesselroth, Charles Peterson, Henry Brayton, B. D. Churchill, Richard Bergraff, L. B. Hardon, Robert Firth, James Parshall, E. J. Bear, A. O. Conde, Charles Drury, William Ditty, B. W. Lyon, L. E. Kimball, B. F. Congdon, John Hart.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE

(Continued)—1876-1879.

The year 1876 opened auspiciously. Despite the forebodings of disaster from another grasshopper visitation, the people were in fine spirits. This was caused by the prospects of another railroad building into the county. Everybody was worked up over the matter, and the belief was almost unanimous that upon the coming of another railroad depended the future welfare of the county.

The Southern Minnesota<sup>1</sup> was the name of the road that caused the flurry in Nobles county. It had a road completed and in operation as far west as Winnebago City and let it be known that the line would be extended to the west, provided sufficient money was raised as a bonus. Nobles county was asked to vote bonds to the amount of \$40,000 as a subsidy to be paid subject to the condition that the road be completed to Worthington and in operation on or before September 1, 1877. It was also made known that the road would later be extended. Mass meetings and conventions were held to bring

about the desired condition, and very little opposition to voting the bonds developed. The Worthington Advance of Jan. 13, 1876, said of the necessity of having the new road, and thereby voiced the sentiment of the people of Worthington, at least:

The Southern Minnesota is Worthington's opportunity. If the road comes here, Worthington becomes from that day a railroad center and an important inland city. If it goes north of us, the railroad center for this section of country will be at the point of crossing the Sioux City road.<sup>2</sup> Worthington can better afford to pay the whole bonus herself than to let the road go north of us. About one-half the tax will fall upon Worthington in any event, for about that per cent of the reality on the tax list is in Worthington. . . . But of course Worthington will not be asked to do this. The surrounding country will, if anything, be benefited more than the town, and will not hesitate to bear its share of the small burden necessary to secure the road.

A petition was presented to the board of county commissioners on February 19, asking that the Nobles county law makers call an election to vote on the question of issuing bonds.<sup>3</sup> The same day the commissioners took favorable ac-

<sup>1</sup>A company formed by Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul interests. The road is now a branch of that system.

<sup>2</sup>In the light of present conditions, this prediction is amusing. The Southern Minnesota did build north of Worthington; the point of crossing with the Sioux City road is at Prairie Junction, or Miloma; and anyone who has spent his time there waiting for trains will corroborate the statement that it is not a metropolis.

<sup>3</sup>The petition was signed by Daniel Shell, H. W. Kimball, H. J. Grant, L. E. Kimball, Ous Bigelow, C. P. Hewitt, R. F. Baker, Geo. O. Moore, H. Davis, S. A. Davis, E. C. Hill, A. M. Smith, Elisha Smith, C. B. Loyeless, C. T. Pope, B. N. Carrier, T. C. Bell, A. P. Miller, M. J. Soule, J. P. Moulton, W. S. Stockdale, R. D. Barber, H. J. Ludlow, C. Z. Sutton, M. Granger, L. B. Bennett, Daniel Rohrer, J. A. Town, C. Johnson and I. N. Sater.

tion, and called a special election for the village of Worthington to be held March 11. Provision was made for voting on the question in the townships on the same day, that being the date of the regular township elections. By a vote of 353 to 199 the bond issue was authorized. Following is the result by precincts:

PRECINCTS	For Bonds	Against Bonds
Worthington Village .....	108	2
Worthington Twp. ....	40	1
Lorain .....	23	..
Dewald .....	23	7
Olney .....	16	3
Hersey .....	7	35
Elk .....	30	5
Summit Lake .....	16	2
Graham Lakes .....	1	36
Seward .....	....	41
Indian Lake .....	33	6
Bigelow .....	25	18
Ransom .....	21	10
Little Rock .....	10	25
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>199</b>

That was the end of the matter for the time being. The road was not extended until three years later, and then it barely touched Nobles county, passing through the northeastern corner of Graham Lakes township. The bonds for the subsidy voted were not issued.

But the Southern Minnesota was not the only railroad that showed activity in 1876. Simultaneous with the agitation for the extension of that line, the people of Sioux Falls and vicinity were laying plans to have a road built into that prosperous community. In the fall of 1875 several public meetings were held in Sioux Falls, the object of which was to secure a road, either by building one with local capital or by inducing the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company to construct a branch from some point

on its main line. The point favored was Sibley or some station in Iowa.

The wants of the Dakota town were made known to the officials of the Sioux City & St. Paul road. President E. F. Drake responded as follows:

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 28, 1875.

Sir: Your favor of the 21st duly received. Absence has prevented an earlier reply. It seems to me your proper line of road is from Worthington, or a point on our road at the state line. The great product of your country is to be wheat, and our route to Lake Superior is always to be the best route for it. Had the west escaped grasshoppers we would have long since taken up this project, but our stockholders have sunk in operating our road about as much as would be required to build to Sioux Falls. Foreign aid cannot be had until the state of Iowa, by some act of her legislature, can assure investors that they will be free from unfriendly legislation. I think, as matters now stand, our preference will be to build from some point in Minnesota. While we are not ready to begin to build, and would desire (in case we dot the cooperation of Sioux Falls, still we are not losing sight of the importance of the proposed route, and will give it every encouragement in our power. I am of the opinion that the road can only be built by local aid liberally voted. It will not be in my power to be with you at your meeting, but whatever may be its result, and whatever route you may determine on, I shall wish you success. Your people are entitled to a road out in some direction, and when you develop your plans and determine what you wish to do, I shall be glad to have further correspondence.

Yours,

E. F. DRAKE, Pres.

The information contained in the letter did not prove entirely satisfactory to the progressive people of Sioux Falls; they wanted a road at once, and President Drake had stated that the company was not in position to build at once. They continued the agitation, determined to construct a road themselves if necessary, and an association was formed, composed mostly of people of Minnehaha county, Dakota territory. President Drake had given a hint as to the proper place from which to build, and late in December, 1875, the Dakota



boomers met and designated Worthington as the eastern terminus of the proposed road.

A preliminary survey of the country adjacent to Big Sioux river and Brown creek from Sioux Falls to the Minnesota line near Valley Springs was made. The surveyors reported a route favorable for construction as well as operating. The people of Minnehaha county very strongly urged the people of Rock and Nobles counties to unite with them in furthering the work.<sup>4</sup> But the people of Nobles county were at the time too much absorbed in the Southern Minnesota to be aroused in the interest of the Dakotans.

During the month of January, 1876, the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company decided to build the road. This action was taken because of the evident intention of the Southern Minnesota to invade the territory. The decision was reached, ostensibly, through the efforts of the Minnehaha county committee, who visited the officers of the railroad company and secured from them the promise to build the road.<sup>5</sup> The railroad company asked that the three counties

through which the road was to run pay a bonus.

The company was incorporated in March as the St. Paul & Dakota Railroad company<sup>6</sup> by President E. F. Drake and his associates of the Sioux City & St. Paul. The capital stock was \$600,000, there being 6,000 shares of \$100 each. As told in the incorporation act, the company proposed to build a branch road "from some point on the line of the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, in Nobles county, state of Minnesota, to the west line of the state of Minnesota, in Rock county."

The preliminary survey was started west from Worthington on March 31, the original lines being run on the north side of Okabena lake. Later this course was abandoned in order to avoid the heavy grade that would have to be overcome in building directly out of Worthington. It was decided to leave the main line at a point about three miles southwest of Worthington known as the summit, later known as Sioux Falls Junction.

Preparations were rushed, funds were secured, bonuses were voted in Minne-

sota cooperation.

"Ver' truly yours,

M. S. WOOD,

"Chairman, Gen. Sioux Falls R. R. Co."

"Editor Advertiser: Permit me through the medium of your very excellent paper to state to your people that as a result of a visit of the Minnehaha railroad committee, we have the pleasure to state that our interview with the president and several of the directors of the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad was of a highly satisfactory character.

Briefly, let me say that as a result we bring with us a written proposition bearing the signature of President Drake, which we regard as highly reasonable, and we may say, liberal, which, by prompt acceptance and action on the part of Nobles, Rock and Minnehaha counties, promises to give us a railroad to Lawrence in time to prove the crops of this year, and had completed to Sioux Falls before the close of the year 1877. . . . M. S. Wood, Chairman."

<sup>6</sup>The name was changed to Worthington & Sioux Falls Railroad company in July, 1876.

<sup>4</sup>Valley Springs, Dec. 27, 1875.

"A. P. Miller, Dear Sir: . . . Of course it is idle for this county to attempt the enterprise unless the Nobles and Rock county people will unite with them. By solicitation of the committee appointed to forward the project, I write to ascertain if we may expect prompt action on the part of your people. . . . I am confident that if Nobles and Rock counties will act with as much effect as our own people, and as promptly, we can before the next harvest show a line three-fourths of the entire distance graded and ready for the ties. Of course this can only be done by the most active work in organization and in subsequent prosecution of the work.

"I hope and trust that you will, with such others of your people as should enlist in the work, extend to us the hand of greeting in the most liberal manner, and aid in binding our little communities together with bands of iron at the earliest day practicable. I very much wish a personal interview with you and your people, and will, if you desire, undertake to come to Worthington with some two or three of our Sioux Falls friends if by so doing we may reasonably hope to secure ac-

haba and Rock counties, and in May grading was begun.<sup>7</sup> The work of construction on the branch made business lively. Nearly every train brought workmen to Worthington, and the hotels there were filled to overflowing. The lumber yards, blacksmith shops and hardware stores also did a good business. It was the first time in several years that ready money had circulated in the county. The track was completed to the present site of Adrian in August, and October 2 the track had been laid to the crossing of Rock river at Luverne, and the first regular train was run over the line.<sup>8</sup>

The stage line between Worthington and Luverne was discontinued. The village of Adrian was founded, and at once became an important trading point.<sup>9</sup> A station named Miller, in honor of ex-Governor Stephen Miller, was established at the point where Rushmore now stands. The postoffice of Hebbard was moved to Adrian, and that at Dewald was discontinued. The road was extended from Luverne to Sioux Falls in the summer of 1878.

The grasshoppers again brought destruction to the crops in 1876. The deposit and hatch was confined mainly to those townships which had been invaded the year before. The pests began to hatch, and late in May commenced their ravages. They were quite thick in Graham Lakes, Hersey, Seward, Elk and Worthington townships, and there were

a few in Indian Lake, Dewald and Summit Lake. For a time they ate quite ravenously; then during the first week in June they appeared to become inactive. They scattered through the prairie grass, became apparently demoralized, and appeared to have lost their appetites. As usual, the three northeastern townships were the most severely hurt, and the other portions of the county were not damaged to any great extent by the early operations of the pests. About the middle of June the young hoppers recovered their appetites and returned to the charge. The local hatch was not considered numerous enough to do any extensive damage, and the greatest anxiety was the fear of another invasion. The Advance of June 22 said:

In this county the damage is still slight. We hear from Seward that nearly all the grain there is destroyed. Our Hersey correspondent writes that in that town the injury is not great. Mr. Ames, of this township [Worthington], thinks his crops are half taken. Mr. Fulweiler, of Bigelow, has lost a good portion of his grain.

The invading hosts appeared July 8, dropped down upon the county, ate a few days, and disappeared. Then on July 22 they came in countless numbers. The country was invaded again! They extended as far east as Martin county, south to Sibley, west to Yankton, and north an indefinite distance. They remained until July 29, when they nearly all migrated. Oats, barley, corn, vegetables, and all crops except wheat, were

the ground, and will cheerfully furnish employment for all the men and their teams in your county and Rock that are desirous to labor. . . . S. Miller, Agent."

The train consisted of one coach and a caboose, and carried a party of visiting railroad officials. Peter Becker was conductor; Frank Swandellar, engineer; Matt Tulan fireman. John McMillan was roadmaster in charge of the branch line when it began operations.

<sup>7</sup>For the early history of Adrian see chapter 17.

<sup>8</sup>LeMars, April 3, 1876.

<sup>9</sup>A. P. Miller, Esq., Dear Sir: Upon condition that we secure the stipulated bonus in Rock county we have secured every dollar of the sum required to complete our branch road from your place to Luverne by or before the first day of October next, and if the bonus be voted it will be so completed. Col. Drake, Col. Merriam and Horace Thompson, Esq., telegraph from New York that the money is ready so soon as the bonus is voted; and General Bishop writes that if the vote be favorable, he will immediately thereafter finally locate the road, and will commence its construction so soon as the frost is out of



EARLY DAY ADRIAN STREET SCENE.

The Business Houses Shown, Reading from Right to Left, Were: Henry Myers' Shoe Shop, Bank and Land Office, Colony Hotel, James Naylor, Proprietor; Peter Thompson's Implement House, A. N. Crosby, Manager; Central Hotel, by L. S. Roberts; Henry Davis' General Store, Peter and Frank Ulveling, Managers.



almost entirely destroyed in all parts of the county. For some reason the wheat was not so seriously damaged, the loss in that crop being no greater than it had been during the previous year.<sup>10</sup>

There was no disguising the fact that Nobles county had met another damaging setback. The people were discouraged, and some left the country. The hoppers had again deposited their eggs, and there seemed no prospects that the country would ever be free from them.<sup>11</sup> The majority of the settlers remained, determined to fight to a successful end or meet utter failure in the attempt. The result of the invasion of 1876 was to change the tactics. Instead of staking all on grain farming, many now turned to stockraising.

During the winter following the invasion, it was again necessary to extend relief. Early in January the county commissioners began issuing supplies to relieve actual suffering. Captain E. S. Mills distributed at Bigelow and Worthington, A. C. Robinson at Worthington and A. O. Conde at Hersey. This county aid was given only to bridge over the time until supplies could be received from the state, after an appropriation had been made by the legislature. The Minnesota law-making body appropriated \$100,000 to be used in bounties to pay for the destruction of grasshoppers and their eggs, \$75,000 to furnish seed grain, and another sum as a common relief fund. A rule was established in Nobles county that parties desiring re-

lief should apply to the township supervisors and make their statement, no affidavit being required. These statements were then sent to the state authorities, and supplies were sent direct to the needy parties, thus dispensing with the need of a county distributing committee.

During the days that the grasshoppers were feasting on Nobles county grain came the last Indian scare. It seems hardly creditable that such an event could take place so late as 1876, when the whole surrounding country had become quite thickly settled, but such is the fact, and those who lived in the northern part of the county at the time will never forget it. Needless to say, there were no Indians within a long distance of Nobles county, and no hostiles within several hundred miles. But it was only a short time after the fearful Custer massacre in Montana, and the rumor that Indians were on the way to wipe out the settlements of southwestern Minnesota came to credulous ears.

It was on the morning of July 12, 1876, before daylight, that some settlers from the north hurriedly rode into Worthington and reported that the Indians were coming. It was stated that a band of 500 was camped on one of the lakes of Murray county. The scare spread through the southern part of Murray and the northern part of Nobles counties, and the evil done to nervous woman and children (and some men) was great.

Soon after the arrival of the first

<sup>10</sup>"They [the grasshoppers] will of course harvest the wheat next unless farmers can get in ahead of them and cut their wheat. There is a bare possibility that the wheat crop, in the main, will escape, and we are sure of our cattle and other live stock. Really we shall be grateful if they do not eat the shirts off our backs. Our hope is that a friendly tornado or a three days' blizzard will come and blow them away. How long? - Worthington Advance, July 27, 1876.

<sup>11</sup>There was really very little that the settlers could do to destroy or check the pests, although many schemes were tried. Nothing availed against the invading hordes, but in the case of the young hoppers the farmers waged a more or less successful war by the use of tar. A sort of drag, made of sheet iron and wood, would have tar spread over it and would then be dragged over the ground. The young hoppers would be caught in the tar and destroyed, but if there was an invasion all the work would be for naught.

refugees people began to pour into Worthington from the country to the north. They had been aroused from their slumbers by the startling announcement that the Indians were coming, had driven all night, and were in a high state of nervous excitement. The roads through Elk and Seward townships were lined with wagons, the occupants of which were all bound for the county seat. Arrived there, they camped on the public square. The same evening some of the settlers returned to their homes when it became evident there was no truth in the rumor. Others waited for more substantial proof than had been obtained.

The scare had originated with a boy named Hemphill, in southern Murray county. He had been sent out to rake hay, but not being of a very enterprising nature, he conceived a plan to escape the work. He rushed to the house, crying that the Indians had attacked him. A man named Hampton, who was preparing to leave the country, spread the alarm, and within a short time a full fledged Indian scare was on.

A scouting party was at once organized at Worthington by Lieutenant R. B. Plotts, made up of the following gentlemen: Geo. Brant, Prof. R. F. Humiston, A. P. Miller, Will Bushnell, Chas. Covey, Captain Aiken Miner and Alex Dickey.<sup>12</sup> They scoured the country to the north looking for Indians or Indian signs. They found nothing but a lot of scared people. After the return Lieutenant Plotts made the following report of the expedition.

Gentlemen of the Council of the Village of Worthington:

Agreeable to instructions, I have the honor to report the following facts gathered by our party while scouting the country on Wednes-

day, July 12, and Thursday, 13th. After leaving Worthington we proceeded north of the lake Shetek road, accompanied by a considerable party in wagons and on horseback. The whole party proceeded as far as Jack creek, where we found the first occupied house, but no news from occupants of Indians. We next stopped at the house of Mr. Alexander, on the north edge of the county, where some men were gathered who had just returned from a scout around the country a number of miles, and who had been unable to find anything. They informed us that they thought the whole thing had originated with a boy named Hemphill, of that neighborhood, and followed by the reports of a man named Hampton a few miles further north and in Murray county. The whole party then proceeded to the bank of Seven Mile lake, unhitched, fed our teams and lunched, after which it was decided, in consultation, that Prof. Humiston and his immediate party, with two of the horsemen, should return with the news as gathered.

The remainder of the party then proceeded north till we came to the house of Mr. King, town of Bondin, Murray county. Here is quite a large settlement, and most of the men were at Mr. K.'s house, which contained the only woman in the township. Here we found that it was unnecessary to proceed any further north, as a man had just arrived from lake Shetek a short time before our arrival, and he reported everything quiet north of this immediate neighborhood. Scouts also came in from the surrounding country while we were there, and all reported that no Indians or signs of Indians could be found anywhere. The report of Hampton, following the report of the boy Hemphill, has caused the whole of the trouble, and no small amount of damage to us as a people.

Having thus traced the alarm to its fountain head, Messrs. Clark, Shirley and Chase returned to town from this place, and our guide and interpreter, Mr. Brant, accompanied by two men from Bondin on horses, and two of my own neighbors from Elk, pushed out west to Lone Tree or Badger lake, where we spent the night at the house of Mr. Anderson. This place is close to the Beaver Creek settlement, which knew nothing of Indians, and were pursuing the even tenor of their ways, unalarmed by Indian scares.

From Badger lake we pushed west across the country to Cora Belle lake, one of the old camping grounds of the Indians, and here we found no trails fresh, or new camps, neither of them having been used at least since last May or June. From Cora Belle we pushed across to that trail leading across Sunken Timber, as that is the only place anyone can cross without going way north or coming in south by Luverne. Before

<sup>12</sup>Some of the scouts were mounted, others went in buggies, and a few of them were prepared to meet Indians. Those with Prof.

Humiston were armed with parasols, high collars and kid gloves.

getting there we met a man just from it, who had not been more than one hour's time away, and he informed us that he had seen nothing of any Indians, nor had heard of any until seeing us.

In conclusion, I would add that should I ever be so unfortunate as to have another such duty as this to perform, I should certainly like to have in my party such men as accompanied me through, and especially such a one as our interpreter, Mr. Brant. And now, trusting this report may allay the fears of all our people throughout this country, I beg to remain,

Very truly your servant,

R. B. PLOTS,

Late in Charge of Scouting Party.

Had it not been for the terrible grasshopper scourge there can be no doubt that the whole of Nobles county would have been rapidly settled during the first half of the seventies. A big settlement had been made in the eastern half of the county because of the proximity to the railroad and because of the activities of the National colony, and a few had pushed out to the fertile lands in the western portion. If the hard times had not come there is no reason to doubt that a railroad would have been built through the west end and that that portion of the county would have been as thickly settled as the east. But immigration had ceased when the scourge came, with the result that the extreme western and the whole of the north-western part of the county was left with a very small population.

From 1813 to 1877 no new townships were organized. At the close of the former year 14 of Nobles county's minor divisions had been granted local government; the other six were unorganized, and had but small population. When the branch road was built during the summer and fall of 1876, resulting in the founding of Adrian village, the lands along the new road were settled to a considerable extent. In township 102-43 was located part of the new village.

and there also was the greatest farming settlement in any of the unorganized townships.

A petition praying for the organization of that township was presented to the board of county commissioners Jan. 24, 1877. It was signed by Thos. H. Childs, G. E. Otis, J. C. Ludlow, O. Klock, R. Washburn, Horace Westbrook, H. M. Moffatt, David W. Hovey, Isaac Emerson, Matthew Emerson, Nils Elias, Thron Gunderen, Henry Myices, Ira E. Crosby, J. V. Bartow, Wm. Wigham, John Ellsworth, Geo. L. Ellsworth, John Nesh, A. R. Calkins, M. J. Klock, Peter Doltsmark, S. K. Hovey, L. C. Long, J. W. Yost, John Misemas, F. W. Ellsworth. The board took favorable action February 6, and named the township Westside, the name being given because of its geographical location. The organization was perfected Feb. 24, when the first town meeting was held at the Childs' hotel in Adrian.

Twenty-three votes were cast at this initial election of Westside township. Thomas Childs and J. A. Ellsworth were judges of election, and Ira Crosby was clerk. The following officers were elected: Chairman, J. A. Ellsworth; supervisors, John Wiseman and Isaac Emerson; clerk, L. C. Long; treasurer, Ira E. Crosby; assessor, J. V. Bartow; justices of the peace, T. H. Childs and R. Simmons; constables, Geo. L. Ellsworth and Thomas Baltuff. Another election for the selection of township officers was held March 13, 1877, when eighteen votes were cast and the following officers were elected: Chairman, Ira E. Crosby; supervisors, John Wiseman and A. R. Harris; clerk, L. C. Long; treasurer, P. Voiglaender; assessor, J. V. Bartow; justices of the

peace, J. A. Ellsworth and T. H. Childs; constables, Geo. L. Ellsworth and Geo. Slade.

Nobles county's first court house was erected in 1877. It was put up at that time in order to secure title to the block of land which had been donated by the railroad company with the provision that a county building should be erected thereon within a certain time. The building put up was intended to serve as a temporary affair, but the building was destined to be used as a court house—with some modifications—for eighteen years.

The question of its construction was first officially discussed by the board of county commissioners on Feb. 6, 1877, when Commissioner A. C. Robinson was instructed to prepare plans.<sup>13</sup> The plans submitted were accepted March 20, and the auditor was authorized to advertise for sealed proposals to furnish material and erect the building, which should be completed by June 28. Several bids were submitted, and the contract was let to Thurber & Chandler (B. F. Thurber and S. E. Chandler) on a bid of \$1124.<sup>14</sup> The building was completed and accepted by the commissioners June 20, and on June 27 the county officers took up their quarters in the court house.

The annual dread of grasshopper visitation was again felt in the spring and summer of 1877—and this time the settlers were agreeably disappointed. The season was admirably adapted to two ends: the best possible development of small grain, and the worst possible development of the locusts.

The cool, rainy weather of the spring and early summer seemed to have been sent on purpose to give wheat and other small grain a rapid and healthy growth, and at the same time give the grasshoppers a slow and feeble development. After the young grasshoppers hatched, here and there a field was somewhat damaged by them, but the people knew that unless raided again by the invading hordes there could not be universal destruction. And the invaders did not come. July 26 the Worthington Advance said: "The deeper we get into the magnificent harvest of 1877, the more we realize that this is our year of Jubilee."

Yet conditions were not so rosy as one might imagine. The several years of grasshopper invasion had discouraged the farmers of Nobles county to such an extent that each year saw less and less grain sown. The spring of 1877 witnessed the planting of a very limited acreage, and the big yield per acre did not result in the bountiful times that would have come had the farmers sown as in former years.

The state of affairs in Nobles county is described by a gentleman who visited it that fall. In November he wrote:

"The country around Worthington, as well as for a long distance before reaching there along the line of the St. Paul & Sioux City road, gives evidence of the sad effects of the grasshopper plague in the thousands of acres of land that have once been broken and perhaps a crop or two taken from it, and the owners have left it to grow up to weeds, not daring to risk the chances of har-

<sup>13</sup>A. O. Conde moved that A. C. Robinson be and is hereby instructed to prepare a plan and estimate the cost of a temporary building for county officers and report the same at the next meeting of the board." Commissioners' Journal, Feb. 6, 1877.

<sup>14</sup>The bids submitted were as follows: Thurber & Chandler, \$1124; Edwin Hamiston, \$1220; G. Anderson, \$1100. C. B. Langdon offered to sell the Farmers hotel or so much as might be needed and move it to county grounds for \$800. J. H. Johnson offered to sell the building then in use for county purposes for \$1,600.





THE OLD COURT HOUSE AND CITY PARK



vesting their crops. Nothing so forcibly brings to the mind of the visitor the reality of the grasshopper scourge as the sight of these desolate, weed-grown fields, with occasionally a deserted home standing cheerless and lone in the midst of the broad prairie.<sup>14</sup>

The legislature of 1878 passed another appropriation bill (approved February 13) providing for furnishing seed grain. The Nobles county officials received \$1,686.50 of this appropriation in cash, purchased the grain, and made the distribution. There were 91 farmers who made application for grain. They had prepared 3,341 acres of land and desired 2,274 bushels of wheat and 1,169 bushels of oats.<sup>15</sup>

The population of the county in 1877 according to an estimate made by the Minnesota commissioner of statistics was 1,596. This was undoubtedly an underestimate. The population was nearer 3,000.

By far the most important event of the year 1877, and one of the greatest moments in the county's history, was the founding of the Adrian Catholic colony and its beginning of operations in the western part of the county. It was to the west end what the temperance National colony had been to the east end five or six years earlier. The saving of the 1877 crop was largely responsible for several leading Catholics selecting western Nobles county as the place in which to plant a colony.

It was in the first few days of September, 1877, that Bishop John Ireland, of St. Paul; Father C. J. Knauf, of Jordan; and Father A. Plut, of Shakopee, arrived in Nobles county to look over the country with a possible view to selecting it as the place to establish

their followers. These gentlemen were pleased with the location, and immediately decided that they had found the place which they sought. Bishop Ireland and the railroad company entered into a contract, whereby the former was given the exclusive sale of the railroad lands in Grand Prairie, Little Rock, Westside, Olney, Lismore and Larkin townships,<sup>16</sup> under the following plan: When a member of the colony selected his land a permit was to be issued by Father Knauf, who at once took up his residence at Adrian and became local manager of the company and the resident priest. The settler was then to take his permit to the railroad company, which was to issue a contract for the sale of the land.

The people who composed the colony were principally German and Irish Catholics from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and other central states. Before the close of September several of the colonists arrived and contracted for land, and by October 5 Father Knauf had issued permits for the purchase of 1,380 acres of land. Before the year was over this had been largely increased. The Worthington Advance of Oct. 4, said: "The influx of people into this section of country reminds us of the first year of our settlement here. The hotels are full nearly every night." Only a few of these arrivals located permanently that winter. They came, secured their permits, and then returned to their former homes to make preparations for moving on in the early spring.

To the Adrian colony, to northwestern Nobles county, to eastern Nobles county, to the Sionx Falls country, to all parts of Minnesota, the settlers flocked in the spring of 1878. It was believed that the grasshopper days were

<sup>14</sup>Report of County Commissioners to State Auditor, March 5, 1878.

<sup>16</sup>The two last named had not then been named or organized.

past, and once more the new country was the goal for thousands of immigrants. They came by railroad and in the primitive prairie schooner. During one day in April 32 heavily loaded covered wagons reached Worthington. The new settlers thus arriving had their families with them and were ready to commence operations on their farms. Of the rush to the once more promised land Mr. T. McCleary in March wrote to the Mankato Review:

I came to Luyerne on Friday, March 1. All the way from Mankato the cars were crowded with people bound for the west. Many of them were young men seeking land at Worthington. The hotel was full, four of us sleeping in one room. The great cry seems to be for land, land, and the crowds are pushing to Sioux Falls and vicinity. One cannot have much idea of the magnitude of this prairie country without a trip over it. What a population it can support, and how it invites the starving multitude that hang about the cities, to come and make themselves independent.

The grasshopper days were not yet over. Late in the season they appeared in small numbers and did some little damage in parts of the county, but the destruction they wrought was as nothing compared with that of the early days. A partial crop failure also resulted from natural causes, and after harvest, times were not so prosperous as they had promised to be in the spring.

One more township was organized that year. In the fall a majority of the legal voters of that township which later became Willmont signed a petition asking for organization and suggesting a name for the same. The name suggested was not satisfactory to some of the settlers, and a petition of remonstrance, signed by 18 voters, was presented, asking that the county commissioners do not name the town as sug-

gested, but that they select the name. One faction wanted the township named Willmet, the other Lamont. When the commissioners, on November 22, provided for the organization, they named the township Willmont,<sup>37</sup> a combination of parts of the names suggested by the two factions. The first town meeting was held at the residence of William Moody Dec. 12, 1878.

Two new railroads touched Nobles county in 1879, both passing through the extreme northeastern corner. One of these was the Southern Minnesota (now the Milwaukee), the proposed extension of which caused so much stir in 1876. The line of the road was definitely located in the spring, and contracts for its construction were immediately let. The Sioux City & St. Paul road again resented the proposed encroachment on what it considered its own territory. To head off the Southern Minnesota that road hurriedly made a survey for a branch line from Heron Lake to Pipestone, paralleling the survey of the other road.

Then began a lively race in construction. Side by side the construction crews of the two roads worked. At times violence was narrowly averted between the workmen, so bitter had become the strife between the two companies. It was admitted that it was a cut-throat policy to continue the work of building the parallel roads, but neither would give in. Late in May a conference was held at St. Paul between representatives of the Milwaukee and Sioux City & St. Paul interests, when an attempt was made to come to an understanding and to reconcile differences. The conference served only to make matters worse, and the work of con-

<sup>37</sup>For the naming of the village of Willmont and the change in the spelling of the original

word see chapter 19.

struction on both roads was rushed to completion.

Not only did they run their roads side by side; they laid out their towns almost within a stone's throw of each other. Two of these were in Nobles county, about a mile apart, Airlie (Kinbrae) was laid out on the Southern Minnesota; Warren (Dundee) was built on the Pipestone branch of the Sioux City & St. Paul.

The grasshoppers reappeared in the summer of 1879 and ate their last Nobles county grain. They were not present in great numbers, but they remained several weeks. A few farmers lost whole fields, but the destruction was not general. The only crop damaged to any considerable extent was wheat, and the hoppers were generous enough to divide that with the farmers. About the middle of July they departed, never to appear again. The great grasshopper scourge was a thing of the past.

The townships of Afton (Bloom) and Leota were organized in the spring of this last grasshopper year, both coming into existence at the same time.

An abortive attempt had been made to organize township 104-41 (Bloom) during the summer of 1878. The meas-

ure was defeated that year largely because of the inability of the settlers to agree upon a name. From the spring of 1878 until the township was organized the following year, petitions and remonstrances were poured in upon the county commissioners, urging the selection of one name or protesting against the bestowal of some other. A meeting was held at the residence of Peter Bloom, May 31, 1878, when a petition was drawn up and signed, asking the county commissioners to grant township government and name it North Center. This at once brought forth a protest from those residents who were not in favor of the name, and on June 3 they presented a remonstrance to the county board.<sup>18</sup> The commissioners, evidently concluding that they would wait until harmony should be restored, took no actions on the petitions.

The contest for the choosing of the name resulted in the formation of two factions, one favorable to the name North Center, the other to Hamberg. Early in the year 1879 the "Hamburgers" became active and circulated a petition. This was followed on January 30 by a remonstrance from the "North Centers."<sup>19</sup> The opposition came to the front with another petition March

<sup>18</sup>To the Honorable County Commissioners of Nobles County:

"We, the undersigned, do offer a remonstrance against the action of a certain meeting held at the residence of Peter Bloom, on the southwest quarter of section 22 in this town, on the 31st day of May, said meeting being called for the purpose of naming said town and signing petition to your honorable body for permission to organize.

"Charge 1st. That there were no notices posted in the town giving due notice of the meeting.

"Charge 2nd. That deceptive language was used at said meeting to induce certain persons to sign petition who had already signed one.

"And as there is the town of Center in Murray county we are opposed to the name of North Center as a name for the town.

"[Signed] G. Larchinger, Daniel Larchinger, Thos. J. Lynch, William Sanger, Paul

Sanger, Jacob Sanger, Ernest Sanger, Stephen Naylor, Lemuel Eby, Aaron Eby."

<sup>19</sup>To the Honorable Board of Commissioners of the County of Nobles and State of Minnesota:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of the township 104, range 41, in the county and state above named, would respectfully remonstrate with your honorable body to a certain petition that is said to be presented to you, requesting that you name the said town Hamberg, and for the purpose of convincing you of the wishes of the people, we, a majority of the actual residents of said township, do respectfully pray that you will name said township North Center.

"Dated January 30, 1879.

"Signed: Geo. B. Fellows, Guy C. Fellows, S. C. Christenson, Charles Christenson, Levi H. Baxter, Byron Gage, V. Krier, John Krier, Sr., Nicholas Bertrand, John Krier, Jr., J. O. Bathen, Thomas Murrey, Peter Krier."

to, demanding the selection of Hamberg.<sup>20</sup> Three days later a compromise was reached, all joining in a petition asking that the township be named Afton. This was signed by Geo. W. Cale, Geo. B. Fellows, Peter Krier, John Krier, Sr., Valentine Krier, S. C. Christenson, John Krier, Casper Bloom, John Bloom, Peter Bloom, Lemuel Eby, Geo. Gage, Stephen Naylor, John H. Hall and G. C. Fellows. The commissioners took favorable action the same day, named the township Afton, and selected April 5 as the date, and the home of Caspar Bloom as the place, for holding the first town meeting.

The new township was destined to have trouble in the matter of a name. March 31 State Auditor O. P. Whitcomb wrote to the Nobles county officials, stating that Afton was inadmissible because of the fact that a township in Washington county had been so named several years before. This put the selection of the name up to the commissioners, who on April 8 named the township Bloom, in honor of Peter Bloom and family.<sup>21</sup> The commissioners had troubles of their own in making the selection. As the Blooms were the first settlers it was decided that the township should be named in their honor, and the names Bloomberg, Bloomville, etc. were suggested. County Auditor James Walker advocated the dropping of the "bergs," "villes," etc., and suggested the name Bloom. The commissioners accepted the hint. Fred Bloom, who was a relative of the Blooms of the new township, but who was him-

self a resident of Seward, was a member of the county board at the time.

The petition for the organization of Leota township, was filed February 11 and was signed by F. A. Stevens, H. N. Holbrook, Edward Gray, J. L. Bellows, Hiram W. Fordney, John Lay, C. P. Vargason, Warren Clark, August Joseph Knips, James Hackett, G. Knips, N. L. Bellows, T. H. Fay, A. J. Rice, H. J. Barber. The township was created March 18, and the commissioners named April 5 as the date for holding the first town meeting. It was held at the home of Gerhard Knips. The name was suggested by W. G. Barnard, one of the township's earliest settlers. It is the only township, village or physical feature in Nobles county named in honor of an Indian. Leota was an Indian maiden who figured in a story of Indian adventure.

There was a general feeling of dullness in the eastern part of the county during 1879, caused by the partial crop failure. In the central and western portions events were taking place that bode well for the future, and quiet but steady progress was made in those portions during the season. A basis was laid for a large influx of sturdy settlers.

In the central part of the county Messrs. J. N. Seney and S. M. Rushmore had the year before founded the village of Rushmore at Miller station. In the summer of 1879 they broke out several thousand acres of prairie land and induced quite a number of settlers from New York and other eastern states to

<sup>20</sup>To the Honorable County Commissioners of Nobles County, in the State of Minnesota:

"We, the undersigned legal voters, being desirous of organizing said town, petition your honorable body for permission to do so, and that it be known as the town of Hamberg, being bounded as follows:

"Signed: Caspar Bloom, Thomas J. Lynch, Horace G. Norman, Anton S. Eby, Geo. W.

Cale, William E. Norman, Peter Bloom, Lemuel Eby, Peter Krier, Casper Bloom, carpenter; J. O. Bathen, John Krier, Jr., John Bloom, Stephen Naylor.

"Petition filed March 15, 1879."

<sup>21</sup>Peter Bloom and three sons, Casper, Peter, Jr., and John, located on section 22 in 1874, and were the first settlers in the township.

locate in the vicinity. They cut up the railroad lands there into small farms and sold them to settlers of limited means.

In the vicinity of Adrian the progress was more marked. Bishop Ireland, the head of the Adrian colony, visited the east and was successful in forming a stock company, the object of which was to purchase the railroad lands in the west end. The company purchased outright all the lands still owned by the railroad in Grand Prairie, Little Rock, Leota and the still unorganized Lis-

more townships. Instead of inviting settlers to come onto these land in their raw state the colony managers decided to improve them. On each of fifty quarter sections thirty acres of breaking was done and preparations were made for erecting fifty farm houses on the lands. This was not done until the following spring, however. This activity made times lively in the Adrian country. The fact that at least fifty families were expected to arrive in the spring tended to create an optimistic feeling regarding the future.





## CHAPTER VII.

### ERA OF PROSPERITY—1880-1893.

Henceforth the story of Nobles county is one of advancement. The dark and gloomy days are past. No longer do the grasshoppers threaten the very existence of the settlement; no longer is it found necessary to solicit aid for the relief of the inhabitants. The days of adversity have become a memory.

Beginning with the year 1880 came the reconstruction period. People began anew the work of progress that had been interrupted when the first army of grasshoppers came and placed a mortgage on the country in the summer of 1873. In some ways the people were in better condition than they had been before the scourge. Those who had taken government land now had title to their homes—and land began to have a value. Some had escaped with small loss during the three preceding years, and were already in position to begin the forward march. But others found it necessary to free themselves from debt before the effect of the prosperous times became apparent.

Of vast importance during these days of reconstruction was the work of the colony under Bishop Ireland. Hundreds of settlers were brought into the county and located upon the lands in the western part, which otherwise might have remained unsettled for several

years. In February, 1880, the colony company let the contract to John Timmons, of Adrian, for the erection of 39 houses on the farm lands owned by the company. The cost of the houses was about \$200 each. During March and April 50 families arrived from New York and other eastern states and became permanent settlers. The houses constructed were not enough to supply the demand, and several more were put up by the new arrivals.

Nobles county harvested a good, though not a large, crop in 1880. Wheat and oats were not an extraordinary crop, but, taking the county as a whole, averaged pretty well. Corn and flax were unusually good. Here and there the crop of some one farmer was a comparative failure, and some who had fair crops were not permitted to enjoy the fruits of their harvest because of the debts contracted during grasshopper days. But in the main crops were good, and the fact that hoppers did not put in an appearance led to a cheerful feeling.

The federal census showed a population of 4,435, a gain of 3,700 per cent in ten years.<sup>1</sup> This population was divided among the different precincts as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Population of adjacent counties according to the 1880 census: Cottonwood, 5,554; Jack-

son, 1,795; Murray, 3,609; Pipestone, 2,093; Rock, 3,669.

Bigelow	215
Bloom	83
Dewald	210
Elk	176
Graham Lakes	300
Grand Prairie	301
Hersey	199
Indian Lake	200
Lorain	159
Leota	97
Little Rock	320
Olney	284
Ransom	165
Seward	226
Summit Lake	68
Willmont	111
Worthington Township	182
Worthington Village	636
West-side	339
103-42 (Laukin)	45
103-43 (Lismore)	119
Total	4,435

Township 103 of range 43 received a large settlement of Irish Catholics, due to the activities of the Bishop Ireland colony, and the summer of 1880 that township was organized. It was named Lismore, after a village of that name in county Waterford, Ireland, the name being suggested by Father Knauf. The petition for organization was filed July 17, and was signed by Geo. A. Beireis, Gustave Frick, Alex Roach, Conrad Beireis, James Orkney, Charles Lord, M. S. Boyle, R. O'Day, W. J. Heaney, Joseph Haegle, John Travis, Charles A. Blake, Thomas McLean, Allen Picason, Austin Nash, William Landes, William H. Welch, John H. Sands, William Welch, A. A. Boyce, S. W. Swanman, Henry Carlson, Albert A. Thompson and Peter Havican. The township was created by the county commissioners July 21, and the first town meeting was held at the house of Moses Hurd on August 9.

One of the dates from which time is reckoned in Nobles county is the winter of 1880-81—the time of the long, severe winter. There have been worse storms than any that occurred that winter, but never was there a winter to compare

with this one in duration, continued severity, depth of snow and damage to property. From the middle of October till late in April it was winter nearly every minute of the time.

Friday, October 15, in the afternoon, a heavy rain set in. The downpour continued until evening, when a strong, chilling wind came down from the north, turning the rain into a fine snow. A severe blizzard now took the place of the rain, and it lasted three days and three nights. It was the first and only blizzard ever experienced in the country in October. The county fair, which was being held at the time, had to be abandoned. The railroads were blockaded, and there were no trains or mail until Tuesday, the 19th. When the storm subsided great drifts of snow filled the roads and other places, which did not disappear until the following May.

Following this storm came a few weeks of nice weather. On Friday, November 19, a cold snap set in, the mercury getting down to 19 degrees below zero on the night of the 20th. Another blizzard came up December 3, which blockaded trains from the east until the 5th. Monday, December 27, came a severe cold spell, the thermometer registering 30 degrees below zero. The following day it was 31 below, and another blizzard was raging. All trains were stopped until the 30th.

Thereafter the winter was an extremely severe one. Blizzard followed blizzard. The railroads were blockaded for weeks at a time. Fuel and food were nearly exhausted. People burned hay and grain, and went without lights. In some places there was suffering from lack of food. Roads remained unbroken all winter, and the farmers obtained their supplies from the villages by means

of handsleds. Snow sail boats came into requisition, being employed to bring in supplies and for sport.<sup>2</sup>

Following is the story of the winter from Jan. 1, 1881, until the breakup in the spring, given in chronological order:<sup>3</sup>

Jan. 4. Rain.

Jan. 7. Freight train breaks through Bigelow bridge, ditching cars and killing some cattle.

Jan. 21. Snow storm. Road blocked until 23rd.

Jan. 26. Blizzard. Trains again stopped.

Feb. 1. Railroads again blockaded.

Feb. 3. Longest snow storm of the winter sets in from the southeast. Continues four days. Fifteen days' blockade begins.

Feb. 11. Another blizzard. Continues two days.

Feb. 16. First train from the east for fifteen days arrives at Worthington.

Feb. 18. Blizzard. Last eastern train arrives.

Feb. 22. Snow storm.

March 4. Blizzard all day. Worthington schools close for lack of fuel.

March 5. Fair weather begins, lasting five days. Main line road opens ex-

cept strip between St. James and Windom.

March 11. Terrific blizzard, continuing two days. All roads blockaded worse than ever.

March 24. Fuel famine at Adrian. People burning screenings, tailings, hay, straw, oats, corn, rags and anything that will burn.

March 30. Main line road shoveled out and train arrives from the east—first in nearly six weeks. West end and branch roads still blockaded.<sup>4</sup>

April 5. First train arrives from Sioux City. Carries letters dated Feb. 21. Road open three days.<sup>5</sup>

April 8. Snowed again. Traffic stopped. Train from St. Paul tied up at Windom. Train from Sioux City gets as far as Sibley.

April 11. More snow.

April 12. North wind drifts snow, making complete blockade. The blockade has now been in force ten weeks, with only five trains from the east.

April 13. Thermometer registers zero.

April 16. First train in from the east.

April 17. Main line opened. First freight train for 11 weeks reaches Worthington and delivers 50,000 pounds

<sup>2</sup>Hiram Allen arrived on Tuesday from Fulda, having made the trip in about an hour and a half on a snow boat. The structure is a simple one, having merely a pair of snow shoes for runners, with crosspieces, a board to sit on and a light mast to support the sail. Mr. A. tells us that he has made a half dozen trips, one of eighteen miles to Laverne in an hour and a half. Also that a few days ago a party of six left Fulda for Fairmont on one of these snow sail boats. They left Fulda about five o'clock in the evening and reached Fairmont at nine the next morning, a distance of seventy miles.

<sup>3</sup>Messrs. Lowless and Day are now having one made of considerable size, and if the snow lasts a few weeks longer, men will be sailing over the prairies at the rate of seven knots an hour as easily as they can sail on our lakes."—Worthington Advance, March 21, 1881.

<sup>4</sup>Compiled largely from newspaper accounts.

<sup>5</sup>"The east end of the main line was cleared on Tuesday [March 29], and yesterday [March 20] a train left here for St. Paul. A train also left St. Paul and reached here last evening. Yesterday the road was clear on the west end from Bigelow west, and the forces doubled on the big cut this side, and to-day a train is expected from Sioux City. The branch is opening up rapidly and will probably be open to Laverne today or tomorrow and to Sioux Falls by Saturday. The long blockade is over . . .

It lacked just two days of being six weeks since we had a train from the east."—Worthington Advance, March 31, 1881.

<sup>6</sup>"Our old friend Boreas sticks closer than a brother. We did hope that the Advance would miss it in predicting that we would not have regular trains before the middle of April, but it looks as though we could extend the time somewhat and still be correct."—Worthington Advance, April 7, 1881.

of freight. Several freight trains pass during the day. That night first train to pass over the Sioux Falls branch for nine weeks makes its way from Worthington to Luverne.

April 26, Worthington schools re-open.

For four days there was fairly regular service on the railroads. Then came the floods, caused by the melting snow, and on April 29 traffic was again suspended. For ten days not a train ran over the line of the Sioux City & St. Paul, and not until May 2 was regular service established.

Talk of the construction of another railroad into Nobles county was begun in 1881, and the road was built the next year. In May it was given out that the Burlington system was planning to build a branch line north into Minnesota. The first intimation the people of Nobles county had of this was when a preliminary survey was made to Worthington in May.

This was followed in September by the appearance of agents of the road, who submitted a proposition to the residents of eastern Nobles county. They asked that \$15,000 and a free right of way be pledged, in which case the road would be built to Worthington during 1882 and the depot located within a half mile of the business center of the village. The proposition was accepted. The amount was pledged, the agreement being signed by nearly all the business and monied men of the county seat town.

The railroad officials were not prompt in beginning the work, and there was much speculation as to whether or not the road would be built. In June, 1882,

the matter was definitely decided. Burlington officials came to Worthington and submitted a new proposition. They stated that the road would be constructed at once providing the people would vote a bonus of \$24,300. Again did the people of eastern Nobles county agree to the terms. The bonus to be voted was divided among the several interested townships as follows: Worthington township, \$5,500; Worthington village, \$6,300; Indian Lake, \$3,000; Bigelow, \$2,000; Elk, \$2,000; Lorain, \$2,500. The elections were held on different days in June, and the bonus was voted.<sup>6</sup>

Grading contracts were let for the line north from Spirit Lake in July, and an army of workers was at once put in the field. The road was completed to Worthington October 7, and the driving of the last spike was made a memorable occasion. It was a gala day, and the people were present *en masse*. The driving of the spike that united the new road with the Omaha was driven with ceremonies by Rev. D. G. Gunn and Mayor C. H. Smith, of Worthington, amid the ringing of all the bells of the village and the firing of cannon and anvils. Regular train service was established October 18.<sup>7</sup> As a result of the building of this road another Nobles county town, Round Lake, came into existence.

But the building of the new road was not the only thing that brought gladness to the hearts of the people of Nobles county in 1882. The farmers gathered the largest and best crop ever before seen in the county, and as good as was ever grown anywhere. Said the Advance on August 31:

"To sum up: We have a big crop in

<sup>6</sup>In Worthington village the vote was 115 to 2, in Worthington township 21 votes were cast, all in favor of the bonus; Lorain township was solid for the bonus; and in Bigelow it had two majority.

<sup>7</sup>The road is now a branch of the Rock Island system.

the stack and a prospect of the best, briskest and liveliest times we have ever seen in this county. We are sure of a lively fall and winter trade, and farmers, merchants, laborers, everybody, will feel like 'human bein's.'"

An event of not great importance in itself, but which resulted in quite an issue, was the park vacation matter, which troubled the people of Nobles county early in 1883. The prevailing good times had brought activity in business and improvements. All the towns in the county felt the effect of prosperity, and out of the good times grew the strife over the "park proposition." Messrs. Miller & Thompson, of Rock Rapids, wanted to engage in business in Worthington and were prepared to erect a handsome business block there. They could find no site suitable, and coveted the court house square. They submitted a proposition, agreeing to erect a brick block, 50x100 feet, with a public hall in the second story, providing the east corner of the public park (the property of the county) could be secured as a site.

On December 29, 1882, a petition was circulated among the business men of Worthington, the prayer of which was that the county commissioners should lay off into lots 125 feet of the public square, facing Tenth street, and sell the same. They were asked to take this action only on consideration that the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, which had conditionally donated the block to the county, would relinquish its rights for a small consideration, and that the building as outlined above should be

erected during the year 1883. The petition was signed by most of the leading business men of Worthington.<sup>8</sup>

The commissioners considered the petition Jan. 2, 1883. The motion prevailed that the request of the petitioners be complied with. Commissioners Daniel Shell, Maurice O'Hearn and P. Blaine voting in the affirmative and T. L. Taylor and James Cowin opposing. Mr. Shell was directed to confer with the railroad officials to obtain their assent to the sale. The latter offered no serious objection. Many of the residents of the county did, however, and the matter became a much mooted question. Those favoring the plan argued that the county would realize several thousand dollars from the sale of the lots and that Worthington would secure several hundred thousand dollars worth of improvements in a short time. Those opposed protested from a sentimental viewpoint; they desired not the abridgment of the beautiful public park. Strong opposition developed, especially in the west end, and the park was kept intact.

This was not the only question that troubled the people of the county in the early days of 1883. During the time the park vacation argument was at its height, there came the agitation for the removal of the county seat to Adrian. The west end had been making vast strides during the few years preceding, and Adrian had become a town of considerable importance. When the people of the west end metropolis decided to have a try at the county seat they went at it in earnest.

No satisfactory county seat removal

<sup>8</sup>The signers were C. P. Hewitt, W. G. Martine, Otis Bigelow, Geo. M. Plumb, Henry Davis, C. H. Smith, Mons. Grinager, J. A. Town, H. H. Anderson, H. E. Torrance, Azom Forbes, C. W. Smith, S. S. Hewitt, M. S.

Twitchell, W. F. Thayer, W. A. Peterson, H. C. Shepard, R. D. Barber, A. S. Huskilton, A. P. Miller, E. S. Mills, F. H. Wells, Thos. H. Parsons, L. B. Bennett, E. F. Johnson and S. McLean.

law graced the Minnesota statute books, and the residents of western Nobles county set to work to secure the passage of a special law allowing the people to vote on the question of removal to Adrian. Excitement was at fever heat in the west end. Men with teams scoured the western and central portions of the county securing signatures to a petition to be presented to the legislature, asking for the passage of such an act. Something less than 600 signatures of voters were obtained.

The plan for a special law, such as Adrian first proposed to advocate, was abandoned. But through the efforts of Nobles county people a general county seat removal law was introduced and passed the senate. It failed to pass the house, and the legislature adjourned without complying with the request of the citizens of western Nobles county. The question was definitely settled for two years at least.

Nobles county's last township was organized in 1883. The following settlers of township 103-42 asked for its organization: Andrew Thompson, John J. Thompson, Geo. Umbaugh, Abraham Abrahamson, Gunder Hansen, M. S. Conley, Geo. Rudge, Henry Slater, Anton Titenberg, Franz Kurchel, H. D. Hosmer, John W. Johnson, Peter Wiese, Samuel J. Hamilton, Sam Nelson, J. P. Hosmer, Timothy Conley, James Cowin, Thos. Barnett, Ed. Cooper, Jos. Cowin, C. J. Swanson, Alphonse Spitz, Joseph O'Grady, John J. McCormack. The board granted the petition March 6, and on March 27 the first town meeting was held at the residence of Andrew Thompson on section 32.

The new township was named Larkin, in honor of John Larkin, of New York

city, one of the prominent workers in the Catholic Colonization association, and a brother of Mrs. Maurice O'Hearn, who recently died at her home in Grand Prairie township. Mr. O'Hearn was county commissioner at the time the township was formed. As was the case with several of the last townships organized, a name was not selected without contention. Soon after the name was designated by the commissioners, a resident of the new town wrote:

"Now it is certain that a gross fraud has been committed in this case, as the petitioners requested it should be named Grove, and it was so stated in the petition when signed by them, the name being changed on the face of the petition by a certain party who has no authority to do so, and who makes his home and carries on his business in the village of Adrian. The petition has been tampered with, and criminal proceedings will be taken against the man for so doing. The only connection he holds with the town is by holding a quarter section by suffrance. As to John Larkin, he may be a very good and charitable man, but a large majority know nothing of him, never having heard his name before."

A tornado visited the northwestern part of the county on Monday, July 21, 1884, and did considerable damage. Miss Cora Graf, daughter of County Commissioner Emil Graf, of Willmont, was killed, and D. F. Ufford, of Larkin, was seriously injured. The storm was most severe in Larkin and Lismore townships. Many buildings were destroyed, stock was lost and killed, and crops were ruined. The school house in district 43, containing teacher and students, was carried several feet by the force of the

wind, but fortunately no one was hurt. Of the results of the storm the Adrian Guardian said:

Cora Graf, daughter of Emil Graf, county commissioner of Willmont, was killed by being struck on the head by a piece of heavy timber. She was at the barn and started to go to the house when the storm struck the large barn, 40x54, blowing off the roof and scattering the heavy timbers, one of which struck her, with the result recorded above. She was thirteen years of age. . . . Another sad accident occurred at Jas. Barry's in Larkin township. The new house which they recently moved into was completely torn to pieces, and D. F. Ulford, Mrs. Barry's father, was carried a considerable distance, and when found was unable to speak. Dr. Sullivan was immediately sent for, and upon his arrival found him in a critical condition--several ribs broken, shoulder dislocated, and shoulder blades shattered; there was also severe bruises about his head, and at first it was thought that his injuries would prove fatal, but the doctor now has hopes of his recovery.

Another railroad was built through a portion of the county in September, 1884. The Burlington constructed a line northwest from Lake Park, which passed through the southwest corner of Grand Prairie township. The village of Ellsworth was founded that fall, and soon took its place as one of the best towns in the county.

The year 1884 was one of the most prosperous in the county's history, and was a year of jubilee. Exclusive wheat farming had been found unprofitable, and only a limited acreage was sown. Instead of raising only wheat, farmers raised flax and hay, and turned their attention to stock raising and dairying more than formerly. Flax growing became one of the big industries. There was an immense crop in this year of jubilee, and it commanded a big price. Hay was also a big price, and an unusual quantity was put up, pressed and shipped. Flax, hay, butter and cattle were the principal exports; other products shipped out of the county were

wheat, oats, barley, wool, hides, eggs, potatoes and timothy. The following table shows the shipments (car loads) of principal exports during the year from the various railroad stations:

STATION	Flax	Live Stock	Hay
Worthington . . . . .	85	48	115
Bigelow . . . . .	40	4	.....
Hersey . . . . .	12	.....	21
Kinbrae . . . . .	17	.....	36
Adrian . . . . .	182	21	.....
Rushmore . . . . .	35	16	.....
Ellsworth . . . . .	101	3	.....
<b>Totals</b> . . . . .	<b>472</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>172</b>

The excellent crops had a good effect on the real estate market, which was more active than it had been at any time previous, with the possible exception of 1872. The value of lands sold during the year was \$549,639. The results of prosperous times were seen in building improvements in all parts of the county and in the prompt payment of debts. The farmers were at last firmly on their feet, and the high road to wealth was henceforth open. The recovery from the grasshopper scourge was almost complete.

The census of 1885 gave the county a population of 5,642, a gain of 1,207, or about 25 per cent, in five years. The population was divided by precincts as follows:

Adrian Village . . . . .	533
Bigelow . . . . .	252
Bloom . . . . .	115
Deward . . . . .	181
Elk . . . . .	98
Graham Lakes . . . . .	262
Grand Prairie . . . . .	580
Hersey . . . . .	196
Indian Lake . . . . .	234
Larkin . . . . .	84
Foots . . . . .	174
Lismore . . . . .	182
Little Rock . . . . .	382
Lorain . . . . .	106
Olney . . . . .	204

Ransom	208
Seward	150
Summit Lake	89
West-side	228
Willmont	205
Worthington Township	182
Worthington Village	997
Total	5,612

The legislature of 1885 passed a county seat removal bill, providing for the submission of the question of removal to the voters in any county in the state after certain formalities had been complied with. The act provided for the removal if the town seeking the honor should receive 55 per cent of the vote. There was some talk of the west end metropolis entering the race, but no formal action was taken. The rapid advancement of the west side during the early eighties caused Adrian to be hopeful of some day securing the honor. The vigorous growth is shown by the census figures. In 1880 the eight western townships had a population of only 1616, to 2,193 to the eastern eight, while there were 526 in the middle tier. In 1885 the west end had distanced the east end. Then there were 2,572 in the west, to 2,177 in the east, with 593 in the middle tier.

Another excellent crop was harvested in 1885, and everybody made money. As a result there was a big immigration in the fall. New settlers poured into the county, and the real estate transfers were numerous. The next year was also a prosperous one, the real estate transfers amounting to \$565,799. The Burlington road that year built a branch line from Ellsworth to Rock Rapids, thus adding another railroad to the county, although only a short distance of the road was in Nobles county. A strange contrast were these days of the

eighties with those of the decade before. Compare this item from the Worthington Globe at the close of the year 1887 with some of ten years earlier:

"In our own immediate vicinity all branches of industry have been unusually prosperous. Mechanics have generally been busy, labor has been in demand, and the weather has been favorable for all kinds of business, and the country is very rapidly recovering from the grasshopper scourge, which impoverished so many people a few years ago."

During the history of the Northwest there have been a few winter storms of such unnatural severity that they stand out as events of historical importance. The most severe of these awful storms was the blizzard of January 7, 8 and 9, 1873, an account of which has been given. Ranking second was the terrible blizzard of January 12, 1888, when scores of people perished in the country. In Nobles county three lives were sacrificed and many people became lost in the storm and were badly frozen.

Two Hollanders, Jacob DeVries and Douwe Postma, were caught in the storm and froze to death, one in Bloom township, the other in Summit Lake. The third death was that of Seselia Knutson, wife of Knut Knutson. She perished in the country near Rushmore. People caught in the storm in different part of the country wandered for miles over the prairies, not knowing where they were. Several were so badly frozen that it was necessary to amputate hands, feet or limbs. Even people in the villages were, in some instances, unable to reach home and took refuge in the nearest houses. Much stock was lost.

In August, 1888, came one of the most severe hail storms ever witnessed

\*Populations of other nearby counties: Rock, 5,243; Murray, 4,216; Pipestone, 3,897.



in the county, causing much damage to crops in the southwestern portion of the county. In places the fall of hail was remarkable.<sup>10</sup>

During the late eighties the people were blessed with good crops and prosperous times. The result was a big increase in population. In 1890 the federal census disclosed the fact that there were 7,958 people residing in the county. This was a gain of 3,523 in ten years and 2,316 in five years. The population by precincts was as follows:

Adrian Village .....	671
Bigelow .....	408
Bloom .....	175
Dewald .....	320
Elk .....	248
Ellsworth Village .....	258
Graham Lakes .....	561
Hersey .....	282
Indian Lake .....	320
Larkin .....	185
Leota .....	185
Lismore .....	328
Little Rock .....	438
Lorain .....	234
Olney .....	257
Ransom .....	249
Seward .....	324
Summit Lake .....	148
Westside .....	310
Willmont .....	329
Worthington Township .....	289
Worthington Village .....	1,164
Total .....	7,958

The citizens of the west end of the county adopted new tactics concerning the county seat question early in 1893. Instead of agitating the removal of the seat of government to Adrian, a plan of dividing the county and forming a new one, with Adrian as the county seat, was conceived. Hardly had the legisla-

ture convened that year when a number of the representative citizens of Adrian requested a conference with a like number of the prominent citizens of Worthington for the purpose of talking over certain matters, about which their interests and views were supposed to differ—notably the matter of the removal of the county seat. It was made known that it was the desire of the west end people to arrive at an amiable settlement of the controversy.

The Worthington people accepted the invitation, and a conference was held Saturday, January 14. The subject of the division of the county was brought up and discussed. In a neighborly way the feasibility of dividing Nobles county and creating another one was debated. There was no inclination to take hasty action in the matter. The proposition was a new one, and it was deemed best to take more time for consideration. The subject matter was left in the hands of a committee for further investigation, and arrangements were made for future conference.<sup>11</sup>

Hardly had the conference adjourned before the people of the central part of the county were up in arms against the movement. They saw what they believed to be a conspiracy. Here were the erstwhile rivals, Worthington and Adrian, in earnest and friendly consultation, secretly planning to divide the county without consulting the wishes of the people through whose country the boundary line must run.<sup>12</sup> They arose in their

<sup>10</sup>An Ellsworth citizen tells me that in that village he saw hail stones piled up to the depth of about four feet where they had fallen between two buildings.

<sup>11</sup>Changes were spoken of which may, if they are carried, add another county to the state of Minnesota. The matter will doubtless be discussed for a considerable time before any measure will be matured to ask the concurrence of the people interested. We shall give further details when we are in possession of further light. The committee to

when the matter is referred must consult before any further movement is made."—Worthington Advance, Jan. 19, 1893.

<sup>12</sup>The fact that such a meeting was held was known, but the deliberations were not made public. The Worthington Advance resented the statement that it was a secret meeting and said: "There was no secret for anybody to keep. The Advance stated the substance of the talk in its next issue, nor was there any suggestion made from any quarter that we should not make the matter public. There was

might and denounced the proposed dismemberment, calling a mass meeting to be held at Rushmore Jan-

no conspiracy thought of against any portion of our county, and the interests of the people of all parts of the county were kindly and thoughtfully spoken of. In fact, nothing was said that anybody would be ashamed of."

"Whereas it has been announced that the citizens of Adrian and Worthington are holding a series of secret meetings for the purpose of dissecting Nobles county for their own selfish ends, be it therefore

"Resolved, that we, the citizens of the center tier of townships, in council assembled, denounce such action as a conspiracy against

mary 28.<sup>13</sup> The plan resulted only in "talk," and no such measure as proposed was presented to the legislature.

the best interests of the county at large, and call upon all honest men to oppose the scheme, and be it further

"Resolved, that all citizens of said county who are interested in their own welfare be, and they are hereby, requested to attend a mass meeting to be held in the Rushmore school house on Saturday, Jan. 28, 1893, at two p. m.

"A. SCHAEFFER,

"W. DODD,

"A. W. FERRIN,

,"Committee."

## CHAPTER VIII.

### CURRENT EVENTS—1893-1908.

Prosperous times continued up to the summer of 1893. Then came the memorable panic and the few years of hard times. Two banks, one at Worthington and one at Ellsworth, closed their doors; several business houses failed; business was for a time paralyzed; and a period of dull times set in which was not entirely broken until the late nineties. The depression was not so keenly felt in Nobles county, however, as it was in many of the less favored portions of the country. The panic was preceded by a decade of flourishing times. Everybody had prospered and was in position to weather the financial crash and its resulting period of depression.

The building of a suitable court house had long been a mooted question. Time and again grand juries had investigated the county building, made known its inadequacy for the proper care of the records and for the transaction of business, and recommended the building of a new court house. The jail, which was in the court house building, had often been condemned by state officials as an unsafe place for the holding of prisoners. Prisoners of very ordinary expertness were able to break out almost at will. In the spring of 1891 a bill was

introduced in the legislature, the purport of which was to allow the people of the county to vote on the question of bonding for the purpose of erecting a court house and jail, but the bill was killed in committee.

In the summer of 1893 a majority of the county board were in favor of erecting a building, and they took the matter in their own hands and proceeded with the plans. By a vote of three to two it was decided, on Jan. 12, 1893, to build a jail and sheriff's residence at a cost not to exceed \$10,000, and to issue bonds for that amount.<sup>1</sup> On the same day and by the same vote the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That we take immediate steps to build a new court house in the court house park at Worthington, and that the same be built without unnecessary delay, and that \$8,000 taxes be now levied for that purpose, the work of building to be commenced this fall if the money can be procured for that purpose.

Six days later it was decided to increase the levy from \$8,000 to \$12,000. Commissioners H. M. Palm, John Moek and Chas. L. Peterson were named a building committee for both the court house and jail. As a majority of the board of commissioners they instructed themselves to proceed at once with the

<sup>1</sup>July 18 the resolution was amended. It was decided not to issue the bonds, but to apply

to the state for a loan of \$10,000.

construction of the jail and to employ an architect to prepare plans for the court house.

Opposition developed so soon as the first steps were taken. The commissioners had only fairly started with their work when a suit was brought against the county by D. J. Forbes, of Adrian,<sup>2</sup> who asked for an injunction to restrain the county officials from proceeding with the erection of either the court house or jail. A temporary restraining order was granted, and work was necessarily suspended. The case was carried to the supreme court, the county being represented by Geo. W. Wilson. The proceedings of the county officials were upheld, and the injunction was dissolved.

Architect Geo. Pass drew the plans for the jail, which were approved Jan. 3, 1894. The contract for its erection was let to John D. Carroll, of St. Paul Park, on a bid of \$9,655, and on October 19 the building was accepted.

A remonstrance against the building of the court house was presented to the county board Feb. 15, 1894. It contained the signatures of 476 residents. The commissioners responded by passing a resolution to the effect that application be made to the state for a loan of \$30,000 to help pay for the court house.<sup>3</sup> Albert Bryan was the architect selected to furnish the plans. May 5 the contract was let for the erection of the court house and the installation of the heating plant to J. D. Carroll on a bid of \$12,469. Mr. Bryan, the architect, was employed by the county to superintend the construction.

Work on the building was rushed. The corner stone was laid with interesting ceremonies August 1. In January the contracts were let for furnishing the

building, and on May 28, 1895, the new court house was turned over by the contractor and accepted by the county.

While the legal proceedings against the erection of the court house were in progress the talk of county seat removal was resumed, and the subject again became a live issue. Some preliminary work was done with a view to having the matter submitted to the voters, but those interested, not securing the encouragement necessary to guarantee the success of the movement, soon abandoned their efforts. This was the last time the question of removal was brought up. During the eleven years, 1883 to 1893, that the county seat question was an issue, the question was not once brought to a vote.

By 1895 the population had increased to 11,905, which was 3,947 more than it had been ten years before. By precincts:

Adrian Village .....	1,072
Bigelow .....	577
Bloom .....	325
Dewald .....	514
Elk .....	368
Ellsworth Village .....	352
Graham Lakes .....	616
Grand Prairie .....	487
Hersey .....	425
Indian Lake .....	474
Larkin .....	308
Leota .....	345
Lismore .....	418
Little Rock .....	559
Lorain .....	288
Olney .....	394
Ransom .....	396
Seward .....	480
Summit Lake .....	256
West-side .....	435
Willmont .....	545
Worthington Township .....	353
Worthington Village .....	1,918
Total .....	11,905

The latter half of the nineties was a very prosperous period in Nobles county. Excellent crops brought hundreds of new settlers. Land values jumped several

<sup>2</sup>Entitled D. J. Forbes vs. J. J. Kendlen.

<sup>3</sup>Passed by the usual vote of three to two.

hundred per cent; farm lands that had sold for \$10 to \$20 per acre now brought \$30 to \$70. It was a time of unprecedented prosperity. The forward movement continued into the present decade.

In 1898 Nobles county furnished a company of soldiers, who took part in the Spanish-American war, serving a little less than ten months within the United States. After the Minnesota militia had been called out under the president's first call for troops, steps were taken in various parts of the state to raise volunteer companies to be in readiness to enter the service should there be another call for troops. The first steps toward this end in Nobles county were taken April 19, when a mass meeting was held at G. A. R. hall, Worthington. The initial proceedings were then taken toward enrolling a company.

When it became evident that another call would soon be made further steps were taken. On May 6 another meeting of citizens was held in Worthington, when forty names were enrolled. Another meeting was held May 24, when the list of members increased to 60, and these officers were elected: Edward Dolan, captain; Fred Bitner, first lieutenant; James McGee, second lieutenant.<sup>3</sup> The company was quickly recruited, the villages of Worthington, Adrian and Rushmore furnishing the bulk of the company.

President McKinley made the call on May 25, but owing to the necessity of recruiting the skeleton companies of the

former Minnesota regiments, the troops waiting to respond under the second call were not mustered in at once. Finally Gov. Clough issued the long awaited orders for the mobilization of the Fifteenth Minnesota regiment, and on July 6 the Nobles county company departed for St. Paul. There was a grand demonstration at Worthington when the company took its departure.

The Fifteenth Minnesota regiment, of which the Nobles county company became company II, was mustered into the United States service July 18. The commissioned officers of company II were Edward Dolan, Worthington, captain; Fred Bittner,<sup>5</sup> Worthington, first lieutenant; Lucius V. Hubbard,<sup>6</sup> Red Wing, second lieutenant. The company and regiment were stationed at Camps Ramsey and Snelling, near St. Paul, until September 15. During that time the regiment went through a fearful typhoid fever epidemic, when about 60 men of company II, out of a total of a few over 100, were ill with the disease, resulting in three deaths in the company<sup>7</sup> and several others in the regiment.

From Minnesota the regiment went to Camp Meade, near Harrisburg, Pa., where it was assigned to the third brigade of the first division of the second army corps. There it remained until Nov. 15, when the regiment was transferred to Camp McKenzie, near Augusta, Ga. The regiment and company were mustered out at that camp March 27, 1899. Following is the roster of the company at the time of mustering out,

<sup>3</sup>Soon after the election it was made known that Gov. Clough reserved the right to name the second lieutenant, and the name of James McGee was dropped.

<sup>4</sup>Resigned Dec. 13, 1898. Was succeeded by Lucius V. Hubbard on Dec. 31, 1898.

<sup>5</sup>Was succeeded by James G. Kennedy, Adrian, who was promoted from first sergeant Dec. 31, 1898.

<sup>7</sup>Everett Calvert, of Plattsville, Wis., died Aug. 15, 1898; George L. Michael, of Bigelow, Minn., died Sept. 5, 1898; Joseph R. Moffitt, of Burchard, Neb., died Sept. 5, 1898.

with the rank of the soldier at that time, and his place of residence as given in the original muster roll:

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Edward Dolan (captain), Worthington.  
Lucius V. Hubbard (first lieutenant), Red Wing.  
James G. Kennedy (second lieutenant), Adrian.

#### SERGEANTS.

Loren B. Town (first sergeant), Worthington.  
Sammel A. Copeland (quartermaster sergeant), Adrian.  
Russell E. Moberly, Worthington.  
Charles P. Times, Adrian.  
Arthur P. Rose, Worthington.  
Howard Childs, Adrian.

#### CORPORALS.

Leo A. Dewey, Worthington.  
William F. Norman, Adrian.  
Henry M. Twitchell, Worthington.  
John W. Rogers, Worthington.  
Austin L. Kindred, Worthington.  
James D. Cummings, Worthington.  
Thomas Maloney, Worthington.  
John E. Bass, Worthington.  
John Butler, Dayton, Ohio.  
Charles H. Johnson, Worthington.  
John J. Scandon, Worthington.  
Lee H. Wetherby, Adrian.  
Ward A. York, Missouri Valley, Iowa.  
Bert H. Woolson (musician), Windom.  
Frank R. Marrs (artificer), Lakefield.  
Burr Randall (wagoner), Adrian.

#### PRIVATEES.

William Apel, Worthington.  
John H. Ballard, Jackson.  
Henry Bassett, Rushmore.  
Andrew L. Bigelow, Worthington.  
John Bierman, Fulda.  
Charles Blackburn, Worthington.  
William F. Brabetz, Adrian.  
Walter Briggs, Rushmore.  
Irving Briggs, Worthington.  
Henry Bruner, Bigelow.  
Carl Buttschau, Worthington.  
James F. Byrnes, Worthington.  
Eugene Campbell, Adrian.  
Joseph Collins, Chicago, Ill.  
Patrick Cox, Adrian.  
Timothy Cox, Adrian.  
John A. Dahlberg, Rushmore.  
Nelson DuBois, Graceville.  
Joseph S. Eastman, Brainard.  
William A. Eastman, Brainard.  
Simon Ebaugh, Worthington.  
John Edwards (Erickson), Worthington.  
Lincoln M. Erhardt, White Bear.  
Clarence T. Faragher, Adrian.  
Henry W. Forder, Rushmore.  
James F. Gallagher, Waukesha, Wis.  
Garrick M. Green, Worthington.

Olaf Hanson, Rushmore.  
Charles G. Hawkinson, Worthington.  
Louis H. Herzig, Kinbrae.  
Clarence C. Holton, Lakefield.  
Geo. V. Hovey, Worthington.  
Frank Irwin, Graceville.  
William H. Kilpatrick, Adrian.  
Charles Klunder, Toledo, Iowa.  
Frederick Knuth, Brewster.  
Edward E. Libaire, Adrian.  
Amos Lund, Adrian.  
Gust Lundquist, Worthington.  
Otto R. McChord, Rushmore.  
Vernon Markham, Bigelow.  
Morris E. Miller, Worthington.  
Archie L. Moberly, Worthington.  
David L. Monroe, Adrian.  
Walter Mundweiler, Adrian.  
Herman J. Naegeli, St. Cloud.  
Roscoe B. Palmer, Worthington.  
William Panno, Fulda.  
Aubrey Patton, Memphis, Tenn.  
William A. Patterson, Worthington.  
Joseph Paulson, Adrian.  
Louis Paulson, Minneapolis.  
Henry F. Peters, Browns Valley.  
Charles Peterson, Lakefield.  
Andrew Pierce, Worthington.  
Albert C. Pike, Spofford.  
William Phindable, Adrian.  
Ralph Richar, Worthington.  
Henry M. Roberge, St. Paul.  
Theodore Sundstrom, Worthington.  
Lionel Vought, Windom.  
Robert G. Welsh, Morris.  
Earl C. Wigham, Adrian.  
John A. Winchell, Marion, Ind.  
Ivan M. Warren, Owatonna.

In addition to the three deaths already mentioned, the company sustained the following losses during the period of enlistment:

Joseph E. Stearns, Brewster, Sept. 20, 1898, order secretary of war.

John F. Times, Adrian, Oct. 24, 1898, disability.

Edward Brooke (corporal), Owatonna, Nov. 13, 1898, disability.

John Fixemer, Worthington, Dec. 9, 1898, transferred to hospital corps, U. S. army.

Daniel O'Neil, Adrian, Dec. 12, 1898, disability.

Walter E. Black, Pipestone, Dec. 17, 1898, transferred to company I.

William J. May, Graceville, Dec. 22, 1898, transferred to hospital corps, U. S. army.

James G. Kennedy (sergeant), Dec. 30, 1898, order of secretary of war, to accept commission.

James J. Walsh, St. Paul, Jan. 2, 1899, transferred to company B.

Harry E. Bonsall, Minneapolis, Jan. 6, 1899, transferred to signal corps, U. S. army.



NOBLES COUNTY IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Company H, Fifteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, at Camp McKenzie (Augusta), Georgia, 1899.



WORTHINGTON MILITIA COMPANY

Company F, Second Regiment, Minnesota National Guard.





Harry H. Burmeister, Mankato, Jan. 15, 1899, order secretary of war.

Guss Taylor, Minneapolis, Jan. 27, 1899, order secretary of war.

John F. Johnson, Red Wing, Feb. 10, 1899, order secretary of war.

Jacob A. Glenn, Worthington, Feb. 15, 1899, disability.

Charles F. Humes, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 15, 1899, disability.

Fred E. Tuttle, Worthington, Feb. 25, 1899, transferred to signal corps, U. S. army.

The Burlington branch road (now the Rock Island), the northern terminus of which had been Worthington for so many years was extended northward in the fall of 1899. Grading on the line was commenced in October, tracklaying was begun the next month, and in December regular trains were run to the temporary terminus at Willmont. Two new towns were added to the county that fall as a result of the building of the road—Willmont and Reading. The former soon took its place as a prosperous village, and now ranks fourth in the county in population. Work on the road was resumed in March, 1900, and three months later the line was completed to Hardwick, where it joined the main line. The village of Lismore was founded that spring.

The census of 1900 showed a total population of 14,932, a gain of 3,027 in five years. The population by precincts follows:

Adrian Village .....	1,258
Bigelow .....	719
Bloom .....	519
Brewster Village .....	234
Dewald .....	654
Dundee Village .....	217
Elk .....	484
Ellsworth Village .....	454
Graham Lakes .....	485
Grand Prairie .....	464
Hersey .....	386
Indian Lake .....	373
Kinbrae Village .....	137
Larkin .....	496
Leota .....	552
Lismore .....	479
Little Rock .....	532
Lorain .....	378

Olney .....	486
Ransom .....	428
Round Lake Village .....	226
Seward .....	558
Summit Lake .....	497
Westside .....	438
Willmont .....	699
Worthington Township .....	393
Worthington Village .....	2,386
Total .....	14,932

The year 1903 was one of disaster. The most destructive hail storm in the county's history visited the western townships on July 20, and did awful damage. An estimate placed the damage to crops in western Nobles county at \$260,000, covered by about \$100,000 insurance. Ellsworth people estimated the crop loss in trade territory of that town, which extends into Rock county and Iowa, at \$350,000. The story of the storm is told in the Nobles County Democrat of July 24:

Monday morning [July 20] the sky was clear with the exception of a long, low line of dark looking clouds in the north. As the wind was from the south, it looked for several hours as if the clouds would be driven farther to the north, and few thought there was any danger of the storm coming this way. But despite the south wind, the cloud bank moved slowly in this direction, and finally, about noon, it was evident that a terrific storm was approaching. The dark clouds were tinged here and there with streaks of green—a sure indication of hail. At one o'clock high raindrops began to fall, and a few minutes later the hail, driven by a strong wind, came thick and fast, cutting the leaves from the trees, breaking windows and beating grain to the ground. The hail was accompanied by torrents of rain, which aided in the work of destruction. But it was all over in ten minutes, and where the ruin-laden clouds had been, blue sky appeared, as if nature wished to show how quickly she could do the trick and smile at a man's misfortune. For some minutes after the storm had passed the roar of the falling hail could be heard far to the south—and then the sun shone, not on fields of waving grain and laughing corn, but on flat masses of tangled, broken straw and corn blades cut to ribbons. Here and there on the north, west and south were patches comparatively uninjured—oases in the desolation.

Leota, Lismore, Westside and Grand Prairie townships were hit hardest, while Willmont, Larkin, Olney, Little Rock, Dewald, Ransom,

Bigelow, Bloom and Summit Lake were damaged only in spots. So far as the Democrat has been able to learn, there was no loss to speak of in the other parts of the county.

The general direction of the storm was from northwest to southeast, though it frequently changed its course for short distances, and split up into several parts or streams. Its entire width here was more than twenty miles, the path of greatest destruction being between here and Luverne, with Kenneth, Magnolia and Ellsworth in line for the worst of it.

The Democrat qualified its previous article somewhat in the issue of July 31. It said:

According to reports there are many fine fields of grain in the country northeast, east and southeast of Adrian that escaped serious damage by hail. On the west there is not much that is worth cutting, but still there is some, and we are not so everlastingly wiped out after all.

The Ellsworth News of July 24 told of the storm in that part of the county:

The most destructive hail storm that ever visited this section struck here Monday at one o'clock in the afternoon, and half an hour later hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of grain and corn crops were worthless. As one farmer remarked: "Our harvesting, stacking and threshing was all done quickly and all together." Where but a half hour before stood magnificent fields of rich, waving grain and luxuriant corn, now only the broken straw and stalks, pounded into the ground by the ruthless hail and presenting a chaotic appearance, greeted the eye.

The storm came from the north. It first appeared seven miles south of Watertown early in the morning and came on over Clear lake, going southeast to Woodstock and thence over Kenneth, Lismore and Adrian. At the latter place much damage is reported. The most of Grand Prairie township suffered heavy loss; also the west part of Little Rock.

There appeared to be two divisions of the storm here. The west division appeared first five miles northwest of Kanaranzi and came on over that place. From the Ole Postenrut and Miller places to the creek everything was hailed out. This branch of the storm passed just west of town and on south toward George. . . . From east to west the storm appeared to be about eight miles wide, and must have covered a tract of country over 100 miles long from north to south. . . . The hail fell in torrents and in many places are reported as large as hens' eggs. . . . This blow will be severely felt both by the

farmers and business men. A great many are depending on this crop to pay debts incurred last year on account of the corn failure. . . . Lismore and Westside townships are nearly wiped out, as well as Grand Prairie and the larger portion of Little Rock.

The elements seemed determined that the crops should be a total failure in 1903. The hail storm had been a serious blow to the western half of the county, and the floods of rainfall that continued all season brought destruction to crops in all parts of the county, particularly in the eastern half.

The climax of the long wet season was reached September 11. During the afternoon and evening of that day about six inches of water fell in as many hours. The ground was already thoroughly saturated, and the precipitation of 600 tons of water to the acre in so short a time made it look as though an ark might come handy. Every ditch and gutter became a raging torrent; every stream a raging river. At Worthington Okabena lake overflowed its banks, and many of the streets were covered with water, so that they had to be traveled in boats. Houses on low ground were filled with water, and some of the residents had to flee for their lives. Thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed.<sup>8</sup>

Much damage was also done in the western portion of the county. The Kanaranzi river rose so rapidly that before midnight it was running over the Omaha track just west of Adrian. So swift was the current that more than 100 feet of the grade was washed away, leaving the rails and ties hanging in the gap. Approaches to wagon bridges over the usually peaceful river were carried away. Heavy timbers were torn from their places, and even telephone poles were

<sup>8</sup>For a more detailed account of the flood

in Worthington see chapter 14.

washed out of the ground. But the fury of the Kanaranzi was as nothing compared with the frenzy of the Little Rock, which swept everything before it. As a result of the flood there was a bad freight train wreck on the Omaha between Worthington and Org.

An idea of the dampness of the season is gained from the following table of the rainfall for the eight months ending October 31, prepared by Weather Observer J. H. Maxwell:

Month—	Inches.
March .....	2½
April .....	1¾
May .....	12½
June .....	6¼
July .....	5¾
August .....	5¼
September .....	10½
October .....	4
	48½

The crop was a failure that year. Wet weather continued for two or three years afterward, and partial crop failures resulted. Depending almost entirely on its agricultural industries, Nobles county was hard hit. A period of dull times set in. Immigration ceased, and the result is seen in the census figures of 1905. The total population then was 15,056, a gain of only 124 in five years. Worthington, Adrian and some of the small villages showed a small decrease. The population by precincts, according to this last census, was:

Adrian Village .....	1,184
Bigelow Township .....	458
Bigelow Village .....	194
Bloom .....	496
Brewster Village .....	273
Dewald .....	481
Dundee Village .....	182
Elk .....	464
Ellsworth Village .....	537
Graham Lakes .....	453
Grand Prairie .....	476

Hersey .....	421
Indian Lake .....	348
Kinbrae Village .....	111
Larkin .....	395
Leota .....	586
Lismore Township .....	450
Lismore Village .....	181
Little Rock .....	594
Lorain .....	370
Olney .....	446
Ransom .....	458
Round Lake Village .....	245
Rushmore Village .....	228
Seward .....	523
Summit Lake .....	473
Westside .....	417
Willmont Township .....	645
Willmont Village .....	279
Worthington Township .....	412
Worthington Village .....	2,276
Total .....	15,056

Of the total population 11,977 were native born—5,845 born in Minnesota; 6,132 born in other states. The foreign born population was 3,079, divided among the various countries as follows:

Germany .....	1,311
Sweden .....	576
Norway .....	313
Canada .....	138
Ireland .....	145
Denmark .....	92
England .....	103
Bohemia .....	11
Scotland .....	48
Wales .....	17
Austria .....	62
All other countries .....	263
Total .....	3,079

The setback caused by the wet seasons was only temporary. A good crop was raised in 1906 and a bountiful one in 1907. Good prices prevailed during the latter year, and the financial flurry that came late that fall caused no anxiety among the people of Nobles county. The year 1908 opened with the people feeling happy and contented. They live in the best country the bright light of heaven ever shown upon.



## CHAPTER IX.

### POLITICAL—1870-1874.

The political history of Nobles county dates from the fall of the year 1870. When the settlers residing in the vicinity of Graham lakes determined that their needs warranted the organization of the county they asked Governor Horace Austin to appoint commissioners, who should perfect the organization under the provisions of the act of May 23, 1857,—the act of the legislature creating the county. The governor complied with the request of the settlers, and in September, 1870, appointed Benjamin W. Woolstencroft, Charles H. Drury and Benjamin Harrison commissioners, giving them authority to name the other county officials.<sup>1</sup>

The three commissioners met Oct. 27, 1870, elected Charles Drury chairman and B. W. Woolstencroft secretary, and

appointed the following officers: Simon R. Harris, auditor and county attorney; John H. Cunningham, treasurer; Stephen Howell, register of deeds; E. W. Hesselroth, judge of probate; Richard Morton, clerk of court; Captain Miller, surveyor.<sup>2</sup>

These appointments were intended to be temporary, as the general election of November, 1870, was only a few days away. Active preparations were at once begun for this event, and a mass convention was called to be held at the home of Edward Berreau, on section 14, Hersey township. In the log house of that pioneer settler, in the closing days of October, gathered the voters, who put in nomination a complete county ticket. Then, as now, all was not harmony in a political way. Because of

<sup>1</sup>Unfortunately the early county records have not been preserved, and the data for the political history prior to the election of November, 1871, is furnished by Judge E. W. Woolstencroft, of Slayton, who gives the facts from memory. These are supplemented somewhat by data obtained from a historical atlas of Minnesota, published in 1874, the compilers of which doubtless had access to the records. The early day commissioners' proceedings were kept on legal cap paper and were not transcribed into a permanent record. The record is complete from January, 1872.

<sup>2</sup>On January 9, 1872, the commissioners took official note of the fact that the papers were missing, as follows:

"Complaints having been made to the board that Charles Drury, one of the former commissioners, retained certain records of the old board of commissioners in his possession and refused to deliver them up on demand, the board passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, One Charles Drury retains in his possession certain records of the board of county commissioners and refuses to deliver them to the proper officer,

"Resolved, That proper action be commenced by the board immediately against the said Drury to recover the said records."

The next day the journal records the following proceedings:

"Papers purporting to be the records of the board of county commissioners from Oct. 27, 1870, to Jan. 5, 1871, inclusive, were presented to the board by the auditor as received from Charles Drury. On examination of the papers it was ascertained that they were not the original, but altered copies of the original records. On motion of Mr. Tucker the auditor was instructed to employ competent legal counsel and to proceed against the said Charles Drury immediately for unlawfully detaining the property of the county."

This is the last mention of the matter. If the original records were recovered they have disappeared again.

<sup>3</sup>The historical atlas before referred to states that at this initial meeting Hiram L. Wallace was appointed sheriff and E. F. Tanner and William Hesselroth justices of the peace.

the nomination of S. R. Harris for auditor there was a bolt. A few days later the dissatisfied ones met at the home of B. W. Woolstencroft, in what is now Graham Lakes township. All of the nominees of the first convention were endorsed with the exception of Mr. Harris for auditor; the name of B. W. Woolstencroft was substituted for that of Mr. Harris.

The election was only a few days away, and the contest between the two nominees for auditor became spirited. The board at its first meeting had divided the county into three election precincts, the polling places for which were at the homes of S. R. Harris and H. L. Wallace, in Graham Lakes, and the home of Isaac Horton, in Indian Lake. There was no red tape connected with this first election held in Nobles county. At the Harris home a cigar box with a slit cut in the top served as a ballot box. Into this opening a jack knife was stuck; when the polls were declared open the knife was withdrawn and voting began. So bitter was the contest between the friends of the nominees for auditor that violence was narrowly averted at the Harris polling place. Revolvers were worn conspicuously, knives were displayed, and intimidations were indulged in. Despite these manifestations of hostility the situation was controlled by the cooler heads, and the day passed without bloodshed. The home of Isaac Horton the Indian Lake polling place—was on section 34, on the east bank of Indian lake. Mr. Horton had

made a ballot box which was used at that election and for several elections thereafter. It was three and one-half inches deep by four inches wide, and was twelve inches long, fitted with a sliding cover in which was a slit for receiving the ballots.

Thirty-two votes were cast, and there were possibly at the time twelve or fourteen other electors in the county who did not use their franchise. The party favoring Mr. Woolstencroft for auditor was successful. The officers elected were: B. W. Woolstencroft for auditor; John H. Cunningham, treasurer; Stephen Howell, register of deeds; E. W. Hesselroth, judge of probate; Richard Morton, clerk of court; H. L. Wallace, sheriff; Stephen Muck, coroner.

Dissatisfied with the result of the election, Mr. Harris as auditor (which he held by appointment) refused to canvass the vote. While he was undoubtedly wrong in taking such a course and could have been compelled to make the canvass, conditions were such that no action was taken, and for the time being there was no change in the personnel of the county officers. No salary was attached to any of the offices,<sup>3</sup> and the officers-elect were not ambitious enough to compel the canvassing of the vote, which would result in placing them in office. There was a spirited contest between Messrs. Thompson and Whalen for state senator and Messrs. Chamberlain and Patchen for representative, and the votes for these offices were canvassed by Auditor Harris.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>This was the case for several years during the county's early history, and was the cause, doubtless, for the many changes during the early days. Nor were there duties attached to some of the offices, and some of the officers did not qualify. Mr. E. W. Hesselroth, still a resident of the county, tells me that during the time he was probate judge he did not have a case; neither did he have any duties to perform during the years he served as justice of the peace.

<sup>4</sup>While this was the first election in which the electors of Nobles county were permitted to vote for legislative candidates, it may be of interest to know who our legislators had been previously. Under the legislative apportionment of 1859 southwestern Minnesota, including the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and Brown west of range 34, was designated as the Twentieth district. In the legislatures of 1861 and 1862 Guy C. Cleveland

So the election of 1870 resulted in no change. But between the date of organization and the time when the officers elected in the fall of 1871 took office there were numerous changes. It seemed difficult to find men willing to serve the county in an official capacity,<sup>5</sup> and several appointments were made for some offices before men could be found who would qualify. Soon after the organization Origen B. Lacy was named register of deeds, Henry Brayton, county attorney; S. R. Harris, judge of probate; Benjamin Harrison, coroner; Edward J. Clark, clerk of court; Charles H. Drury and John Leitz, justices of the peace. At a meeting of the board in January, 1871, William H. Brown was appointed county attorney, James W. Miller, surveyor; Charles W. Bullis, Samuel Barnes and Ole Ellingson, constables. About this time there was a change in the board of commissioners, W. G. Brown being appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Benjamin Harrison from the county. At a meeting on April 15, 1871, there was a change in one of the important offices. S. R. Harris, who had held the offices of auditor and county attorney from the date of organization, resigned, and in his place was installed W. H. Brown, auditor, and J. W. Palmer, county attorney. These are

the only changes that resulted prior to the election in the fall of 1871.<sup>6</sup>

The election of Nov. 7, 1871, brought about an almost complete change in county officers. There were contests for only a few of the county offices, and for state offices there was almost an unanimity of choice. Almost without exception the first settlers of the county were republicans, and out of the total of 73 votes cast 72 were for Horace Austin for governor and one for Winthrop Young. This democratic vote was cast by Michael Maguire, still a resident of Nobles county. There was no political division on county offices, the nominees being put forward by independent conventions. There were only two townships organized at the time—Graham Lakes and Indian Lake. The polling place for Graham Lakes was the residence of H. C. Hallett. The judges of election were E. W. Hesselroth, Asher Allen and C. H. Cutler, and the clerks were Henry D. Bookstaver and B. W. Woolsteneroff. In Indian Lake the polling place was the residence of Isaac Horton, where R. L. Erskine, Frank Tucker and Isaac Horton officiated as judges and Chas. W. Bullis and Henry Brayton as clerks.

Following is the vote by precincts, as certified to by Auditor William H. Brown:

Colton, J. W. Hunter, M. E. L. Shanks and A. L. Patchen.

It may not be out of place to note the fact that conditions have changed since then.

was senator, and he was succeeded in the next four legislatures by D. G. Shillock. The Twentieth district was represented in the house as follows: 1861, A. Strecker; 1862, B. O. Kempfer; 1863, J. B. Wakefield; 1864, J. A. Latimer; 1865, J. A. Kiester; 1866, J. B. Wakefield. Another apportionment was made in 1866, in which Nobles county was not mentioned. It was doubtless intended, however, that it should still be a part of district No. 20. In the legislatures of 1867 to 1869, inclusive, J. B. Wakefield was senator, J. A. Latimer served in 1870, and C. W. Thompson in 1871. During this period the district was represented in the house by A. Andrews, A. B.

Although W. H. Brown was nominally county auditor for the rest of the term he had very little to do with the office. He neglected to have a tax levied for the year 1871, and in the summer H. D. Bookstaver took charge of the office and was, to all intents, county auditor. He was formally appointed auditor Jan. 19, 1872, to serve until March 1, 1872, when the new officers qualified.

	Graham Lakes	Indian Lake	Total
Governor—			
Horace Austin (rep).....	43	28	71
Winthrop Young (dem).....	1	..	1
Lieut. Governor—			
William H. Yale (rep).....	43	29	72
D. L. Buell (dem).....	1	..	1
Secretary of State—			
S. P. Jennison (rep).....	43	29	72
Eric Nelson Falk (dem)....	1	..	1
Treasurer—			
Wm. Seeger (rep).....	43	29	72
Barney Vosberg (dem).....	1	..	1
Attorney General			
F. R. E. Cornell (rep).....	43	29	72
John L. McDonald (dem)....	1	..	1
Asso. Justices			
S. J. R. McMillan (rep).....	43	29	72
John M. Berry (rep).....	43	29	72
Daniel Buck (dem).....	1	..	1
Wm. Mitchell (dem).....	1	..	1
Auditor—			
H. D. Bookstaver.....	21	29	51 <sup>†</sup>
Walter G. Brown.....	22	..	22
Treasurer—			
Henry Brayton.....	44	29	73
Sheriff—			
H. C. Hallett.....	23	..	23
Charles W. Bullis.....	19	29	48
Scattering.....	2	..	2
Register of Deeds—			
Selim Fox.....	41*	29	69
O. B. Lacy.....	4	..	4
Surveyor—			
B. W. Woolstencroft.....	31	28	59
Chas. Frisbee.....	7	..	7
Scattering.....	3	..	3
Clerk of Court—			
John H. Cunningham.....	44	29	73
Probate Judge—			
E. W. Hesselroth.....	41	29	70
Court Commissioner—			
Warren Fish.....	23	28	51
Coroner—			
Stephen Muck.....	41	29	70
Scattering.....	1	..	1
Senator—			
Wm. D. Rice.....	43	29	72
C. C. Sylvester.....	1	..	1
Representative—			
Geo. C. Chamberlain.....	43	29	72
O. Nason.....	1	..	1
Commissioner Dist. 1—			
Irving S. Swan.....	13	..	13
Orange Chapman.....	6	..	6
Commissioner Dist. 2			
J. W. Miller.....	15	..	15
John H. Cunningham.....	1	..	1
Scattering.....	1	..	1
Commissioner Dist. 3—			
Frank Tucker.....	..	28	28

<sup>†</sup>Evidently a mistake in addition.

<sup>‡</sup>In the Graham Lakes township abstract this vote is given as 10, and was incorrectly put on the county abstract.

<sup>§</sup>Citizens of Nobles county residing outside these two townships were allowed to vote. A few citizens of the new town of Worthington cast their ballots in Indian Lake. The few settlers of Hersey and Seward voted in Graham Lakes.

The seventy-three voters who cast ballots at this election were as follows:

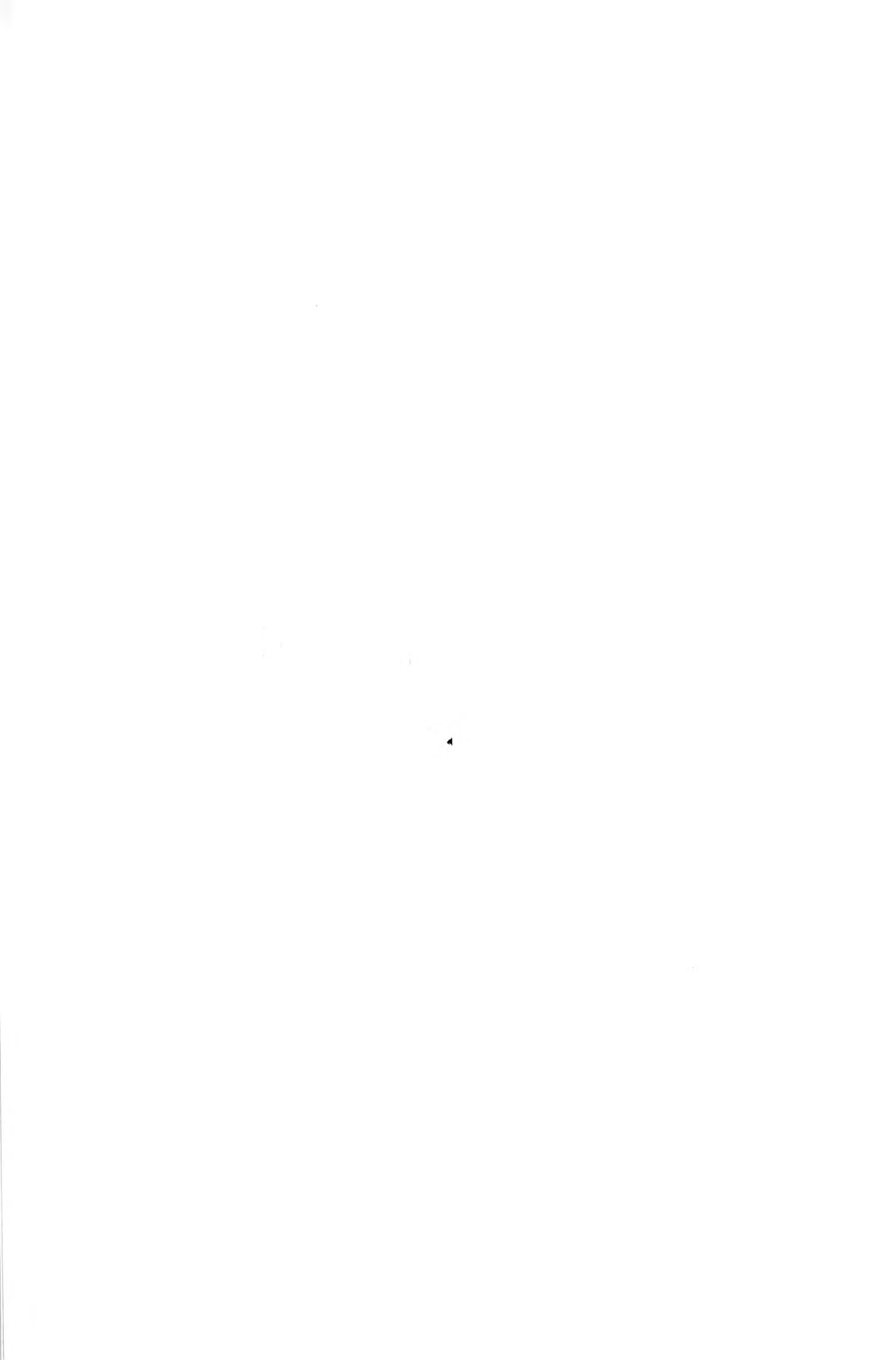
Graham Lakes precinct<sup>7</sup>—J. Ancomb, A. A. Allen, L. Allen, H. D. Bookstaver, W. H. Brown, W. G. Brown, Byron B. Brain, W. H. Booth, Caleb Blake, Orwen Blake, Edward Clark, Nathaniel Cox, A. L. Y. Cornish, Orange Chapman, J. H. Cunningham, Chas. Cutler, Chas. Drury, Stephen A. Door, Selim Fox, Chas. Frisbie, John J. Fitch, Henry C. Hallett, E. W. Hesselroth, H. A. E. Hesselroth, O. B. Lacy, Michael Maguire, Joseph Muck, Stephen Muck, J. W. Miller, Stephen Muck, Jr., J. W. Palmer, J. Parshall, Joseph Stone, Irwin S. Swan, Philo Snyder, B. F. Tanner, F. Umbrid, Isaac Waterhouse, B. W. Woolstencroft, H. L. Wallace, William Willcox, J. Westinghouse, Frank Zeiner, Englebril Zeiner.<sup>8</sup>

Indian Lake precinct—R. L. Erskine, Frank Tucker, Henry Brayton, Isaac Horton, C. W. Bullis, Albert Haggard, Henry Davis, Elihue Ellis, Erick Paul, Wm. A. Dillman, Ole Johnson, Moulton McCollums, James Christianson, Louis Sundberg, Gundro Joul, Ole N. Langseth, Ole Fauskee, N. N. Langseth, Ole A. Fauskee, Andrew Sundburg, P. S. Swanson, Hanson Estrom, Charles Wickstrom, Peter Wickstrom, Louis Harbo, Erick Mahlberg, Henry M. Johnson, John Pygall, Nelson Coyour.

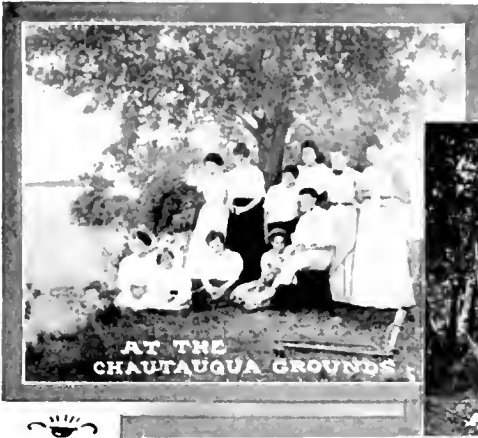
The officers elected in 1874, with few exceptions, served their full terms. J. W. Miller, who had been elected commissioner from the second district, did not qualify. In his place appeared John H. Cunningham, who had been his

<sup>7</sup>Others registered in Graham Lakes township, but who did not vote, were Mark Amundson, Martin Amundson, Rasmus Anderson, Edward Berrean, Alexander Clark, W. Coper, Daniel Downy, Hearth, Hearth, Johnson, E. F. Jackson, J. Leitz, Bennett Linderman, Parshall, Perkins, Peter Swartwout, Weston, Wating, Wolf, Wolf, Younker.





SCENES ON  
LAKE OKABENA



opponent at the polls. Mr. Cunningham was elected chairman of the board Jan. 2, 1872, he resigning the office of treasurer to accept the position on the board. He resigned the latter office, and on May 30 Irwin S. Swan was elected chairman. C. C. Goodnow took the oath of office as commissioner from the third district, replacing Frank Tucker, and M. L. Miller replaced Mr. Cunningham on the board. There had been no candidates for the office of county attorney, and J. W. Palmer continued to hold the office by virtue of a former appointment. He resigned the office

Sept. 16, 1872. Prior to Feb. 9, 1872, the county had been without a superintendent of schools, but on that date W. H. Cunningham was appointed. He served until September 16, 1872, when T. C. Bell was appointed to the office.

There was a big change in conditions in Nobles county between the time of the elections of 1871 and 1872. From the seventy-three votes cast in 1871 the number at the election of Nov. 5, 1872, had increased to 321;<sup>9</sup> the number of organized townships had increased to eleven, and in each of these, polling places had been established and elections

<sup>9</sup>Those who voted in the several townships, excluding Little Rock and Dewald, were as follows:

Worthington, 85—S. F. Sheppard, W. K. Fish, Chas. Fletcher, R. H. Putnam, Wm. Wallace, J. C. Clark, Chas. Newton, L. M. Chase, Geo. O. Moore, John Alley, J. B. Haines, L. R. Bennett, Frank Stringham, Wm. E. Martin, A. P. Miller, L. F. McLaurin, Jas. Marden, L. Griswold, R. F. Humiston, David Bennett, H. C. Duggen, M. H. Stevens, E. Dilabaugh, Otis Bigelow, T. C. Trimble, Daniel Stone, H. M. Farnam, Wm. H. Willmarth, T. C. Bell, James Gibson, Cyrus Klingensmith, J. T. Shaw, J. S. Shuck, C. B. Loveless, M. B. Odell, James S. Stone, I. N. Sater, C. P. Stough, I. P. Durfee, C. D. Williamson, E. R. Humiston, Chas. H. Stewart, S. D. Sprague, David Stone, E. S. Terry, A. J. Wilcox, Mons. E. Disteard, H. Davis, W. S. Langdon, E. W. Branch, C. P. Hewett, Jas. Gould, Andrew Buchan, John F. Humiston, H. W. Kimball, L. D. Laythe, C. B. Langdon, Allen Chaney, Ole Hanson, Edward Gillen, John Herzig, C. C. Whitney, C. W. Lewis, R. F. Thurber, Wm. N. Phillips, Chas. E. Tourtelotte, Oscar Whitney, C. C. Goodnow, A. C. Robinson, W. A. Dillman, Edwin F. Whitney, A. J. Manley, J. A. Town, A. L. Clarke, J. C. Goodnow, B. R. Prince, M. B. Soule, Peter Thompson, O. G. Grundsten, C. Hill, C. J. Miller, Cornelius Johnson, Geo. Cline, A. P. Chamberlain, Osmond Barkland.

Indian Lake, 29—R. M. Small, C. Saxon, O. Langseth, A. Anderson, John Haggard, Sr., I. Johnson, G. O. Joul, O. M. Skinner, O. Ellingson, O. Anderson, A. C. Lofstedt, John Blixt, E. Paul, J. Cristesson, John Saxon, L. Wheeler, G. Horton, R. L. Erskine, Henry Brayton, A. A. Abbott, James Acheson, S. W. Bolton, J. D. Brown, H. M. Johnson, Andrew Sunburg, Lewis Sunburg, Charles Peterson, John Haggard, Jr., Nelson Couour.

Elk, 15—T. D. Fowble, Cyrenius Alley, S. P. Bon, W. E. Akins, M. L. Miller, Peter Swetzer, John P. Warner, Chas. Wilkinson, R. B. Platts, Peter Klovein, Andrew Nord, T. H. Barnfield, Allen McLean, Elliott Covey, D. P. Baird.

Hersey, 31—W. R. Bennett, Daniel Hoffy, A. A. Parsons, J. W. Dyer, Louis Gotthelf, Chas. Smith, W. G. Brown, John Myers, Jeremiah Lynch, Otto Berreau, John Polster,

Chas. Hartoon, Herman Berreau, Levi Wrightson, Erastus Church, Caleb Blake, Orwell Blake, Geo. Payne, Chas. Frisbie, W. H. Berger, O. B. Lacy, Jonathan Gordon, John Parsons, Pat Huffy, I. K. Cole, Wm. Grono, John Newberry, Wm. Ditty, A. J. Timlin, A. O. Conde, C. A. Barrows.

Bigelow, 34—J. Ruprecht, Wm. G. Johnston, N. McDowell, S. O. Morse, F. J. Peace, J. Upstrom, E. J. Bear, Adolph Anderson, Ole Lienquist, Wm. M. Bear, Ed. Sprague, T. T. Reynolds, H. B. Tripp, A. A. Kimball, Hugh Mitchell, A. C. Esker, P. Larson, Lars Erickson, J. Moberg, E. Kain, H. Mitchell, S. Elofson, H. Nystrom, Erick Mahlberg, C. J. Wickstrom, Oley Mastrom, John T. Prentt, E. S. Mills, P. G. Swenson, L. R. Hollenback, Charles A. Tellander, Thos. Wills, Robert Frothingham, Geo. M. Plumb.

Fairview (Lorain), 22—Champlin Brown, William Hannah, H. D. Humiston, Dr. J. Craft, W. L. Shoemaker, B. S. Langdon, T. H. Parsons, David Fogo, Richard W. Bagley, William Madison, Crasey Key, Wm. F. Hamilton, Abram A. Burton, Robert Firth, Albert Haggard, James Hazzard, Hamilton McColium, H. S. Finn, B. H. Crever, William Stockdale, Daniel Shell, Alfred Small.

Graham Lakes, 32—J. H. Anseomb, Jeremiah Anseomb, H. J. Bockstaver, W. H. Brown, O. Briggs, Alexander Clarke, Edward J. Clark, A. L. Y. Cornish, O. H. Chapman, J. H. Cunningham, Chas. Drury, A. L. Dunlap, N. Erickson, Selim Fox, H. C. Hallett, E. W. Hesselroth, John Hart, E. F. Jackson, M. McGuire, Stephen Muck, J. W. Miller, A. Nelson, J. W. Palmer, Joseph Stone, Warren Smith, N. H. Smith, I. S. Swan, B. F. Tanner, H. L. Wallace, W. Wilcox, F. Zainer, B. Woolstencroft.

Seward, 13—W. H. Booth, W. W. Casper, P. Gagoe, C. C. Johnson, James Parshall, James Parshall, Jr., Jonas Parshall, P. Snyder, J. P. Vail, J. Westinghouse, J. M. Weston, J. G. Walling, W. Sowles.

Grant (Ransom), 14—Richard Pridemux, Stillman I. W. Allen, F. W. Burdett, A. C. Guernsey, H. S. Belknap, J. H. Scott, Leroy Cole, Coleman Guernsey, Hiram Norton, H. R. Gray, D. K. Gordon, Geo. M. Smith, B. F. Congdon, Anthony R. Mutter.

were held.<sup>10</sup> The county was overwhelmingly republican, as was shown by the vote for president and congressman. Following is the official abstract of the vote:

Presidential electors — republican (Grant), 276; democratic, (Greeley), 45.

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.), 274; Morton S. Wilkinson (dem.), 43.

Representative<sup>11</sup>—Stephen Miller, 257; H. Anderson, 55.

<sup>10</sup>The election officers of the several precincts were as follows:

Dewald (polling place at the house of Leander Shirley), Thos. H. Childs, Andrew O. Miller and Thomas Wilson, judges; Leander S. Shirley and Samuel F. Pepple, clerks.

Little Rock (polling place at the house of Ole C. Peterson), Sylvester Jenkins, J. D. Roberts and Ole C. Peterson, judges; J. T. Green, town clerk.

Grant (polling place at the house of M. S. Bolknapp), H. R. Gray, M. S. Bolknapp and A. C. Guernsey, judges; Leroy Cole and Cole Guernsey, clerks.

Seward (polling place at the house of Jos. Willing), John P. Vail, C. L. Johnson and Jonas Parshall, judges; Julius Westinghouse and Philo Snyder, clerks.

Graham Lakes (polling place at the house of H. C. Hallett), O. H. Chapman, E. W. Hesselroth and E. F. Jackson, judges; N. H. Smith and H. C. Hallett, clerks.

Fairview, B. S. Langdon, Thos. H. Parsons and W. L. Shoemaker, judges; R. D. Bagley and Wm. F. Hamilton, clerks.

Bigelow (polling place at the house of Lars Eldfson), E. S. Mills, P. T. Reynolds and E. G. Swenson, judges; William M. Bear and A. A. Kimball, clerks.

Hersey, Walter G. Brown and A. A. Parsons, judges; W. R. Bennett and Ira K. Cole, clerks.

Elk, Samuel P. Bon, W. E. Akins and Allan Melan, judges; Chas. Wilkinson and Thos. D. Fowble, clerks.

Indian Lake (polling place at the house of C. W. Bullis), R. L. Erskine, Geo. W. Bottom and John Haggard, Jr., judges; James Acheson and A. A. Abbott, clerks.

Worthington (polling place at the village of Worthington), Benjamin R. Prince, M. B. Soule and Benjamin F. Thurber, judges; Jerric B. Haines and L. B. Bennett, clerks.

<sup>11</sup>For the want of a better place I shall here give the legislative history of Nobles county. The legislature of 1871 reappointed the state into legislative districts. Nobles county became a part of the 25th, the other counties comprising the district being Martin, Jackson, Rock, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray and Pipestone. The district was entitled to one senator and three members of the house. The senator was to be elected from the district at large; Martin county was entitled to one representative, Watonwan to one, and the rest of the district to the other. Under this apportionment the district was represented in the several legislatures as follows:

1872—Senate, Wm. D. Rice; house, E. Berry, W. W. Murphy, G. C. Chamberlain.

1873—Senate, W. D. Rice; house, J. W.

County Attorney—M. B. Soule, 274; Ole Hansen, 22.

Commissioner First District<sup>12</sup>—J. W. Miller, 32; Scattering, 5.

Commissioner Second District—M. L. Miller, 32.

Commissioner Third District—I. P. Durfee,<sup>13</sup> 113; John Alley, 91.

Court Commissioner—J. S. Shuck, 270; Joel A. Pegg, 20.

Such were the election laws in the early history of Nobles county that elec-

Seager, Edwin Berry, Stephen Miller.

1871—Senate, E. P. Freeman; house, J. F. Daniels, Ole O. How, N. H. Manning.

1875—Senate, E. P. Freeman; house, Chas. E. Crosby, E. Berry, Thos. Rutledge.

1876—Senate, I. P. Durfee; house, J. A. Everett, Lee Hensley, W. H. Mellen.

1877—Senate, I. P. Durfee; house, H. N. Rice, Lee Hensley, Christopher H. Smith.

1878—Senate, Christopher H. Smith; house, Frank A. Day, L. H. Fishop, Alex Fiddes.

1879—Senate, A. D. Perkins; house, M. E. L. Shanks, T. Lambert, P. J. Kniss.

1881—Senate, A. D. Perkins; house, J. A. Armstrong, W. D. Rice, P. Kniss.

A new apportionment was made in 1881, under which Nobles, Murray, Rock and Pipestone counties were made to form the seventh district, entitled to one senator and two representatives. In 1889 one more representative was given to the district. The seventh district was represented in the Minnesota legislatures as follows:

1883—Senate, A. M. Crosby; house, W. H. Johnson, W. A. Crawford.

1885—Senate, A. M. Crosby; house, Peter Peterson, W. B. Brown.

1887—Senate, W. B. Brown; house, J. F. Shoemaker, E. M. Tow.

1889—Same as 1887.

1891—Senate, Jay LaDue; house, Larned Coburn, Wm. Lockwood, Patrick Gildea.

1893—Senate, Jay LaDue; house, Daniel Shell, Wm. Lockwood, Ole O. Holman.

1895—Senate, H. J. Miller; house, Daniel Shell, Wm. Lockwood, Ole O. Holman.

1897—Senate, H. J. Miller; house, Daniel Shell, Ole O. Holman, A. S. Dyer.

In 1897 Nobles and Murray counties were made one district, the fifteenth, entitled to one senator and one member of the house. The district has been represented as follows:

1899—Senate, Daniel Shell; house, Henry C. Grass.

1901—Same as 1899.

1903—Senate, Daniel Shell; house George W. Wilson.

1905—Senate, Daniel Shell; house, S. O. Morse.

1907—Senate, S. B. Bedford; house, S. O. Morse.

<sup>12</sup>On May 30, 1872, the county commissioners had redistricted the county. District one included the northern tier of townships and Hersey; district two included the present townships of Elk, Summit Lake, Lismore, Larkin, Westside, Olney and Dewald; district three included the southern tier of townships and the townships of Lorain and Worthington.

<sup>13</sup>Served as chairman.

tions were held every year. All the offices were for two year terms, but only part of the officers were elected each year. This condition prevailed until 1885, when a new law went into effect, making the elections only in even numbered years. During the seventies and early eighties the more important county officers were chosen in odd numbered years.

The election of Nov. 4, 1873, brought out a vote of 527, a big increase over that of the preceding year. A lively interest was manifested in the election, and for the first time there was organized opposition. The democrats, as a party, were not yet strong enough to enter the field alone with any prospects of a successful outcome, but conditions were such that quite a strong opposition party was formed, which went into the campaign with the hope of defeating the regularly nominated republican ticket. The ticket which was put up in opposition was labeled "peoples" and was made up of democrats and republicans. The regular republican nominees were generally successful. Following is the official vote of this election:

Governor—Cushman K. Davis (rep.), 371; Samuel Mayall, 40; Ara Barton, 100.

Senator—E. P. Freeman (rep.), 490; Scattering, 5.

Representative—Nelson H. Manning, (rep.), 315; Warren Smith (dem.), 191.

Auditor—W. M. Bear (rep.), 493; Scattering, 12.

Sheriff—C. W. Bullis (rep.), 333; A. Miner (peo.), 174; Scattering, 4.

Judge of Probate—Dr. J. Craft, 253; B. S. Langdon, 244; Scattering, 1.

Clerk District Court—B. N. Carrier, 294; J. A. Town, 213; Scattering, 1.

Surveyor—B. W. Woolstencroft (rep.), 355; Otto Berreau (peo.), 153.

Treasurer—H. D. Humiston (rep.), 263; Peter Thompson (peo.), 242; Scattering, 1.

Register of Deeds—T. C. Bell (rep.), 369; B. F. Thurber (peo.), 133.

Court Commissioner—B. S. Langdon, 242; Dr. J. Craft, 252; Scattering, 1.

Coroner—J. B. Churchill (rep.), 350; Dr. Lewis Gotthelf (peo.), 161; Scattering, 1.

Commissioner First District—M. L. Miller, 23; T. H. Childs, 21.

The grasshoppers and the prevailing hard times had an effect on the politics of the county in 1874. Owing to these causes and the fact that only a few officers were to be chosen, not a great deal of interest was manifested, and there was a falling off in the vote—only 448 votes being cast. To such a small extent did the people interest themselves in politics that it is said the republican nominating convention was attended by "eleven persons, including one little boy." Nor was there a much better showing at the democratic convention. For the first time in the county's history the voters met with straight republican and democratic tickets in the field. While the republicans were in each case successful, the democrats made a good showing, compared with the results of previous elections. The vote:

Congressman — Mark H. Dunnell (rep.), 336; Franklin H. Waite (dem.), 105.

Judge Sixth Judicial District—D. A. Dickinson (rep.), 345; Daniel Buck (dem.), 99.

Senator—Niel Currie (rep.), 259.

Representative — Charles F. Crosby (rep.), 326; Leonard Aldrich (dem.), 121.

County Attorney—Martin B. Soule (rep.), 322; B. N. Carrier (dem.), 119.

Commissioner Third District--I. P. Durfee<sup>11</sup> (rep.), 196; L. B. Bennett (dem.), 80.

The only changes resulting before the next election were in the board of county commissioners, two members being legislated out of office by their own acts. The board on Oct. 12, 1875, redivided the county into commissioner districts. The whole of the north half of the county was made district No. 1; the townships of Lorain, Worthington, Dewald, Olney and Westside were made

<sup>11</sup>Was elected chairman of the board.

district No. 2; the southern tier of townships was designated district No. 3. This made vacancies in districts No. 2 and 3, which were represented by Messrs. M. L. Miller and I. P. Durfee, and those gentlemen withdrew. The register of deeds and probate judge filled the vacancies by the appointment of A. C. Robinson from district 2 and Edward Mills from district 3. They took office October 23, and Mr. Robinson was chosen chairman of the board. He served until Jan. 3, 1877, when Mr. Mills was chosen chairman.

## CHAPTER X.

### POLITICAL—1875-1887.

Pioneer days and ways were passing away. Cigar box ballot boxes with jack knife locks were out of date. In the middle seventies voting precincts were to be found in nearly all parts of the county. Salaries were now attached to the different offices, and no longer was it necessary for the offices to go begging.

A temperance wave spread over Minnesota in 1875. A reform party was organized and made an excellent showing at the polls. Prof. R. F. Humiston, one of the founders of Worthington, became the nominee of that party for governor and received a large vote in the state at large, as well as in his home county. The temperance sentiment had always been strong in Nobles county and enthusiasm was unbounded among its adherents here. It was decided to enter the local field of politics and endeavor to capture the county offices. With this in view a reform or temperance party came into existence, which complicated the political situation in the campaign of 1875. The party was known officially as the "independent reform party." It held a convention on Oct. 9 and placed a ticket in the field. Nearly all the nominees

refused to make the race, but a committee appointed for the purpose placed another ticket in the field, made up of one republican, several democrats and a few of the reform party. The republicans had a complete ticket in the field, the democrats a partial one, and the entrance of the new party added interest to the contest.

The republicans were successful in electing all their nominees with the exception of one commissioner, who had the support of both the other parties. Four hundred thirty-five votes were cast. Following is the result of the election:

Governor—John S. Pillsbury (rep), 242; D. L. Buell (dem), 77; R. F. Humiston (reform), 109.

Senator<sup>1</sup>—I. P. Durfee (rep), 236; Geo. S. Thompson (reform), 162.

Representative—W. H. Mellen (rep), 286; E. L. Brownell (reform), 137.

Auditor—Wm. M. Bear (rep), 267; O. A. Fanshee (reform), 157.

Treasurer—H. D. Humiston (rep and reform), 372; B. W. Lyon (dem), 52.

Sheriff—J. A. Town (rep), 244; W. S. Stockdale (dem and reform), 177.

Register of Deeds—T. C. Bell<sup>2</sup> (rep), 251; G. M. Plumb (reform), 172.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Durfee received a majority of the votes in the district, but owing to the failure of some of the county auditors to make return to the state authorities Mr. Thompson was seated. Mr. Durfee began a contest before

the senate, and in January, 1876, was given the seat by a unanimous vote.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Bell also served as superintendent of schools, receiving the appointment January 4, 1876.

Surveyor<sup>3</sup>—B. W. Woolstencroft (rep), 222; Otto Berreau (dem and reform), 195.

Probate Judge—R. D. Barber (rep), 269; L. B. Bennett (reform), 152.

Coroner—J. V. Bartow<sup>4</sup> (rep), 253; Lewis Gotthelf (dem), 71.

Commissioner First District — J. Westinghouse (rep), 63; A. O. Conde (dem and reform), 75.

Commissioner Second District—A. C. Robinson (rep), 97; Peter Thompson (reform), 78.

Commissioner Third District—E. S. Mills (rep), 73; A. A. Abbott (dem), 28.

The presidential election of Nov. 7, 1876, brought out the largest vote that had yet been polled in the county, 515 votes being cast. The county was again found to be overwhelmingly republican on national issues. The opposition to the republican ticket on county offices was slight, and the republicans had a walk away for the few officers chosen. The vote:

President—Republican electors (Hayes), 479; democratic (Tilden), 63; prohibition (Smith), 1.

Congressman — Mark H. Dummell (rep), 488; E. C. Stacy (dem), 57.

County Attorney—M. B. Soule (rep), 508; Scattering, 10.

Surveyor—Allen Chaney (rep), 117; Otto Berreau (dem), 121.

Court Commissioner — Henry D.

Humiston (rep), 399; L. B. Bennett (dem), 110.

Coroner—Asher Allen<sup>5</sup> (rep), 532.

Commissioner Second District—A. C. Robinson (rep), 218.

Representative—Christopher H. Smith (rep), 464; B. N. Carrier (ind), 78.

A split in the republican party of Nobles county gave the democrats a few offices in 1877. The two factions of the majority party were very bitter in their denunciations of each other. Each declared the other to be a ring, which ought to be downed. To accomplish the downfall of the controlling faction alliance was sought with the democrats, with the result that party organizations were badly demoralized.<sup>6</sup> The campaign was the most exciting one that had been witnessed in the county up to that time. The fight was most bitter over the offices of auditor, sheriff and judge of probate. Personalities were indulged in, and the cry of "ring" was heard on all sides. Five hundred thirty-nine votes were cast on election day. The official vote:

Governor—John S. Pillsbury (rep), 467; W. L. Banning (dem), 52; Austin Wiley (pro), 1.

Senator—C. H. Smith (rep), 299; Wm. R. Bennett (dem), 222.

Representative—Alex Fiddes (rep), 166; A. A. Clifford (dem), 55.

Auditor<sup>7</sup>—James Walker (ind), 280; E. S. Mills (rep and dem), 211.

<sup>3</sup>Mr. Woolstencroft did not qualify, and Jan. 13, 1876, Mr. Berreau was appointed to fill the vacancy.

<sup>4</sup>Mr. Bartow did not qualify, and the office of coroner was declared vacant by the commissioners Jan. 13, 1876. L. B. Bennett was appointed on that date.

<sup>5</sup>Did not qualify. Leroy Cole appointed Jan. 3, 1877.

<sup>6</sup>We have this campaign a peculiar state of affairs so far as county politics are concerned. Both the republican and democratic conventions ignored party lines in their nominations.

The republican convention put on a democrat for the leading county office and also nominated a democrat for coroner. The democratic county convention nominated three republicans, viz: for auditor, sheriff and register of deeds. The result, therefore, cannot fail to be a mixed set of county officers for the next term.—Worthington Advance, Oct. 11, 1877.

<sup>7</sup>There was a bolt in republican ranks over the nomination of Mr. Mills, and Mr. Walker was put forward as an independent candidate, winning out over his opponent, who had the endorsement of both parties.



Treasurer—Peter Thompson (dem and rep), 422; A. O. Conde (ind), 52.

Sheriff—J. A. Town (rep), 323; B. F. Johnson (dem), 191.

Register of Deeds—Joseph Chadwick<sup>8</sup> (rep and dem), 505.

Superintendent of Schools<sup>9</sup>—J. C. Ogle (rep), 304; N. Jordan (dem), 132.

Clerk of Court—B. N. Carrier (dem), 332; C. T. Pope (rep), 182.

Probate Judge—R. D. Barber (rep), 285; J. Craft (dem), 233.

Coroner—L. B. Bennett (dem and rep), 485.

Commissioner Third District—Robert Shore<sup>10</sup> (rep), 99.

A. O. Conde was elected chairman of the board of county commissioners Jan. 1, 1878. On the last day of February he resigned the office of commissioner and Jonathan Gordon was selected to complete the unexpired term by the probate judge, register of deeds and auditor. A. C. Robinson was elected chairman on March 1.

There was not much interest taken in the election of 1878, and only 473 votes were cast. The democrats did not place a county ticket in the field. The vote:

Congressman—Mark H. Dunnell (rep), 338; William Meighen (dem), 128.

Senator—A. D. Perkins (rep), 348; W. V. King (greenback), 125.

Representative—P. J. Kniss (rep), 282; J. H. Brooks (greenback), 171.

County Attorney—M. B. Soule (rep), 193; Daniel Rohrer (ind), 277.

Surveyor—A. M. Chaney (rep), 467.

Court Commissioner—H. D. Humiston (rep), 465.

Commissioner First District—Fred Bloom<sup>11</sup> (rep), 59; Jonathan Gordon, 34; S. P. Bon, 28.

The split in the republican party of Nobles county was in working order when the campaign of 1879 began, and as a result the election of Nov. 4, 1879, was the most hotly contested and closest election ever held in the county. Seven hundred eighty-seven votes were cast, a gain of 248 over the vote of two years before.

The democrats were the first to enter the field with a ticket, which was nominated at a convention held at Worthington September 20. The republicans met in convention at Worthington October 9, and nominated a ticket. The convention was controlled by the faction which was in office, and very little consideration was given to the wishes of the other faction. A bolt resulted, and there soon appeared another ticket, labeled "independent peoples ticket." An understanding had been reached with the democrats which made possible the success of the bolters. Many of the democratic nominees withdrew from the contest. Those that remained were given assurances of support, and in turn, the democrats generally supported the independent nominees. A merry campaign resulted. The offices of sheriff, auditor and treasurer became the center of strife, and the result was so close that it took the courts to decide who had been elected for two of the offices. The democrats and bolting republicans were generally successful; in

commissioners. Mr. Ogle took office Nov. 12, to fill the unexpired term of T. C. Bell, who had left the state.

<sup>8</sup>Was chairman in 1880.

<sup>9</sup>Served as chairman in 1881.

<sup>10</sup>Took office Nov. 12, 1877, a few days after his election. T. C. Bell, former register of deeds, left the state and the office was declared vacant. Mr. Chadwick was then appointed to fill the short unexpired term.

<sup>11</sup>Prior to this date the county superintendents of schools had been appointed by the

only two cases did the straight republican nominees win where there were opposing candidates. The official vote was as follows:

Governor—John S. Pillsbury (rep), 581; Edmund Rice (dem), 201.

Auditor—Jas. Walker (rep), 389; E. S. Mills (ind peo), 391.

Treasurer—Wm. M. Bear (rep), 360; H. C. Shepard (dem and ind peo), 419.

Sheriff—J. A. Town (rep), 393; R. R. Miller (ind peo), 393.

Probate Judge—R. D. Barber (rep), 407; B. N. Carrier (dem and ind peo), 366.

Coroner—Geo. O. Moore (rep), 381; L. B. Bennett (dem and ind peo), 397.

Commissioner Second District—A. M. Crosby (rep), 199; W. A. Turner (dem and ind peo), 176.

Superintendent of Schools—J. C. Ogle (rep and ind peo), 765.

Register of Deeds—Jos. Chadwick (dem, rep and ind peo), 786.

The most spectacular contest was that between J. A. Town and R. R. Miller for the office of sheriff. From the day of election until Saturday, when the final result was known, the interest was intense. Wednesday the suspense hung upon the result in Graham Lakes township, which was the last to report the result. It was in favor of Mr. Town, and cut Mr. Miller's lead down to one vote, according to the unofficial figures. The official count was then made, which left the vote a tie, each having received 393 votes. Saturday at four o'clock the

matter was decided by lot by the board of county commissioners, Mr. Miller winning.<sup>12</sup>

Appeals from the decisions of the canvassing board were taken by J. A. Town, contesting the election of R. R. Miller for the office of sheriff; James Walker, contesting the election of E. S. Mills, who had been declared elected auditor by a plurality of three votes; and W. A. Turner, who doubted the election of A. M. Crosby, who had been declared elected county commissioner from the second district by a plurality of twenty-three votes. The last named withdrew his contest before it came to trial, but the other contests resulted in more excitement than had the election. The cases came to trial in district court at Worthington in February, 1880, before Judge E. St. Julian Cox, of the St. Peter district. Daniel Röhner appeared for the contestants, while Emery Clark, of Worthington, and James N. Castle, of Stillwater, represented the respondents. In the latter part of March Judge Cox handed down his decision in the contest for the office of sheriff. He held that R. R. Miller had been elected by twenty-six majority. A few days later he sustained the action of the canvassing board in seating Mr. Mills, holding that that officer had received a majority of thirty-eight.

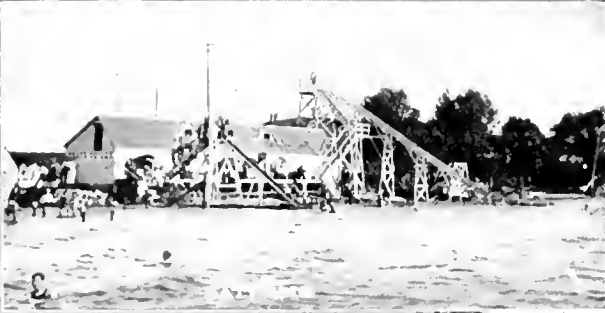
There was a large increase in the vote in 1880, and 945 ballots were cast in the county for presidential electors. The two leading parties had tickets in the field for the few county offices to be

<sup>12</sup> . . . The interest now became so intense as to be almost painful. The law provides that in case of a tie on any county office the board shall cast lots to decide who shall take the certificate. Mr. Durfee retired into the treasurer's office and Mr. Humiston turned his back, while Auditor Walker prepared two ballots whereon were written the names of the two candidates. The ballots were given to Mr. Humiston, who placed them in a hat and raffled them up. Then Mr.

Durfee was called in to draw one of the ballots. We suppose every man in the room held his breath as Mr. Durfee's hand went down into that hat. But down it went, and up came a ballot. At this point the anxiety was absolutely painful. Mr. Durfee unrolled the paper with nervous fingers, hesitated a moment, and then read the name in a distinct voice: "R. R. Miller?"—Worthington Advance, Nov. 13, 1879.



# SPORTS ON LAKE OKABENA



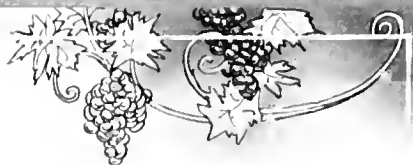
FISHING



DOWN THE TOBOGGAN



ICE BOATING



IN A LAUNCH

filled, and again did the "peoples" party (opposed to the dominant faction of the republican party) enter the contest. That party nominated Moses A. Strong for representative and endorsed the democratic nominees for county offices, but the combination did not succeed in electing any of the officers. The vote:

President—Republican electors (Garfield), 693; democratic (Hancock), 227; greenback (Weaver), 25.

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep), 543; Henry R. Wells (dem), 186; W. G. Ward (ind rep), 118; C. H. Roberts (greenback), 23.

Representative—P. J. Kniss (rep), 474; Moses A. Strong (peo), 155.

County Attorney—Geo. W. Wilson (rep), 616; L. S. Nelson (dem and peo), 320.

Surveyor—Allen Chaney<sup>13</sup> (rep), 584; Otto Berrean (dem and peo), 359.

Court Commissioner—H. D. Humiston (rep), 617; Thos. H. Parsons (dem and peo), 320.

Commissioner Third District—Miles Birkett (rep), 137; J. T. Green (peo), 95.

Although Nobles county has been strongly republican ever since its organization, the dominant party has on several occasions met disastrous defeat. One of the most remarkable instances was in 1881, when the democrats, in combination with one faction of the republican party, carried the county by big majorities, the republicans saving only two commissioners, one of whom was without opposition.

No sooner had the republican convention adjourned than there was a demand for a "peoples" ticket, as formerly, it

being alleged that the "ring" had again controlled the republican convention. A call was issued and the opposing forces met at Worthington Saturday, Oct. 15. The deliberations of the convention were participated in by the democrats and the "anti-ring" republicans, so called, and a complete county ticket was put in the field. The campaign was a spirited one, enlivened by charges of mismanagement on the part of some of the officers who were seeking reelection. The Worthington Advance, as usual, took the part of the peoples ticket, while the republican ticket was supported by the new Worthington Journal. A perusal of the files of these publications lead one to the belief that the future welfare of the nation depended upon the outcome in Nobles county. When the ballots had been counted and it was found that the fusionists had been successful by decided majorities there was great joy among those who had been instrumental in bringing about the victory. Nine hundred thirty-eight votes were cast. The battle in detail:

Governor—L. F. Hubbard (rep), 632; R. W. Johnson (dem), 281; I. C. Stearns, 12; Scattering, 3.

Judge Sixth Judicial District<sup>14</sup>—M. J. Severance, 917.

Auditor—E. S. Mills (peo), 603; Fred Bloom (rep), 334.

Treasurer—H. C. Shepard (peo), 538; Robt. Shore (rep), 397.

Sheriff—R. R. Miller (peo), 548; J. C. Thom (rep), 315; Chas. Chase (ind), 13.

Register of Deeds—B. F. Johnson (peo), 542; Jos. Chadwick (rep), 392.

<sup>13</sup>Resigned Jan. 1, 1882, and the office was vacant until after the election of 1882.

<sup>14</sup>In 1885 the district was divided and Nobles

county became a part of the 13th district. A. D. Perkins was then appointed to fill the unexpired portion of Judge Severance's six year term in the new district.

Surveyor—Otto Berreau<sup>15</sup> (peo), 921.

Clerk of Court—L. B. Bennett (peo), 566; H. D. Humiston (rep), 360.

Probate Judge—L. S. Nelson<sup>16</sup> (peo), 540; I. P. Durfee (rep), 380; Jonathan Gordon, 10.

Court Commissioner—L. S. Nelson<sup>17</sup> (peo), 539; I. P. Durfee (rep), 375.

Coroner—J. S. McManus (peo), 531; E. Coleman (rep), 398.

Superintendent of Schools—M. A. Doane<sup>18</sup> (peo), 526; Ira K. Cole (rep), 412.

Commissioner First District<sup>19</sup>—P. Blaine (peo), 73; John Upstrom (rep), 30; Jonathan Gordon, 13.

Commissioner Second District—T. L. Taylor (rep), 51; Emil Graf (ind), 41; J. W. Read (ind), 32; Thos. Wilson (peo), 27.

Commissioner Third District—James Cowin (peo), 166; L. C. Long (rep), 91.

Commissioner Fourth District—Maurice O'Hearn<sup>20</sup> (peo), 120; Miles Birkett (rep), 75.

Commissioner Fifth District—Daniel Shell<sup>21</sup> (rep), 201.

The only thing that kept the 1882 election from being a very uninteresting affair was the legislative campaign. Because of the nomination of W. H. John-

Commissioner First District—A. E.

Tuttle (ind), 16; P. Blaine (rep), 53; Jonathan Gordon, 33.

son, of Murray county, for the house there was a split in the republican ranks. An independent convention placed T. D. M. Orcutt in nomination, and he was indorsed by the prohibitionists. Other independent candidates entered the race, but all withdrew before election day except Dr. J. Craft. Dr. Craft carried Nobles county but Mr. Johnson was elected. There was also dissatisfaction over the republican nomination for senator, and C. C. Goodnow, of Pipestone county, became an independent candidate. The regular nominee was elected. The official vote:

Congressman — Jas. B. Wakefield (rep), 538; Felix A. Borer (pro), 97; J. A. Latimer (dem), 139.

Senator—A. M. Crosby (rep), 465; C. C. Goodnow (ind), 211; Charles Saxson (pro), 73.

Representative—W. H. Johnson (rep), 314; T. D. M. Orcutt (ind and pro), 73; Dr. J. Craft (ind), 387.

County Attorney—Geo. W. Wilson (rep), 750.

Surveyor<sup>22</sup>—J. W. Miller, 774.

Again in 1883 did the republican ticket have opposition, although that party was practically the only one in the county with anything like an or-

<sup>15</sup>Did not qualify, and owing to the refusal of Mr. Chaney to continue in the office, there was no surveyor until after the election of 1882.

<sup>16</sup>Resigned Nov. 13, 1882, to accept office of superintendent of schools. Wm. Wigham was appointed and filled the unexpired term.

<sup>17</sup>Resigned Nov. 13, 1882, to accept office of superintendent of schools. Frederick Bloom filled the unexpired term.

<sup>18</sup>Died during his term, and L. S. Nelson appointed by the commissioners Nov. 13, 1882, to complete unexpired term.

<sup>19</sup>In conformity with a new law, the county commissioners had on July 19, 1881, divided the county into five commissioners' districts,

as follows: No. 1, Graham Lakes, Hersey, Lorain, Indian Lake; No. 2, Seward, Elk, Bloom, Summit Lake, Dewald, Willmont; No. 3, Olney, Westside, Lismore, Leota, Town 103, range 42 (Larkin); No. 4, Bigelow, Ransom, Little Rock, Grand Prairie; No. 5, Worthington township and village.

<sup>20</sup>Died July 11, 1883, during term of office. No successor appointed.

<sup>21</sup>Served as chairman of the board from 1882 to 1886, inclusive.

<sup>22</sup>Surveyors were elected in odd numbered years, but the county had been so unfortunate in selecting a surveyor who would hold the office that in 1882, by mutual agreement, Captain J. W. Miller, of Hersey, was put on both tickets and elected without opposition.

ganization. But, as formerly, the independents decided to put an opposition ticket in the field. The call was issued to "all the independent voters of Nobles county, irrespective of party." The convention, which was held at Worthington September 29, was attended by the democrats and those republicans who were dissatisfied with the actions of the republican organization. A ticket, which included some of the republican nominees, was put up, and a lively campaign followed. Personalities were indulged in, and for a few offices the fight was bitter, this being especially true as to offices of auditor and superintendent of schools. Every nominee of the independent convention was elected, and again the republican organization met defeat. On the state ticket the democrats made a better showing than they had done at any previous election. Nine hundred four votes were cast. The result:

Governor—Lucian F. Hubbard (rep), 547; Adolph Biermann (dem), 311; Chas. E. Holt (pro), 41.

Auditor—Fred Bloom (rep), 304; E. S. Mills (peo),<sup>23</sup> 589.

Treasurer—Wm. Wigham (rep and peo), 556; A. Forbes (ind), 348.

Register of Deeds—B. F. Johnson (rep and peo), 890.

Sheriff—R. R. Miller (rep and peo), 865.

Superintendent of Schools — Maud Graves (rep), 357; J. Craft<sup>24</sup> (peo), 521.

Probate Judge—J. A. Town (rep), 380; Emery Clark<sup>25</sup> (peo), 509.

<sup>23</sup>Candidates so labeled were nominees of the independent, or people's, convention.

<sup>24</sup>Resigned Dec. 8, 1884. Albert Campbell was appointed Jan. 7, 1885, to complete the term.

<sup>25</sup>Resigned Jan. 20, 1885. Gov. Hubbard ap-

pointed I. P. Durfee in March to complete the term.

Court Commissioner—J. A. Town (rep), 389; Emery Clerk,<sup>26</sup> (peo), 469.

Surveyor—W. A. Peterson<sup>27</sup> (rep and peo), 880.

Coroner—L. W. Warren (rep and peo), 883.

Commissioner Second District—S. Wass (rep), 54; Emil Graf (peo), 62.

Commissioner Third District—Geo. Slade (rep), 54; Jas. Cowin (peo), 136; L. C. Long (ind), 62.

Commissioner Fourth District—Robert Shore (rep), 72; W. R. Faragher (ind), 103.

Nine hundred thirty-seven votes were cast in the presidential election of 1884, which was within one as high as had ever before been voted in the county. For the few county offices which were to be chosen the democrats made no nominations, but the prohibition party developed some strength in county politics, as it also did in the state at large. A county convention was held, at which candidates were nominated for court commissioner and county commissioner from the fifth district. The nominees of that party for president, congressman and representative, as well as the county nominees, received much support. The vote:

President — Republican electors (Blaine), 491; democratic (Cleveland), 246; prohibition (St. John), 131; greenback (Butler), 38.

Congressman—J. B. Wakefield (rep), 553; J. J. Thornton (dem), 238; William Copp (pro), 146.

Representative<sup>28</sup> — Peter Peterson

pointed I. P. Durfee in March to complete the term.

<sup>26</sup>Resigned September, 1884, and J. A. Town was appointed to complete the term.

<sup>27</sup>Resigned July 26, 1886.

<sup>28</sup>Mr. Shepard carried Nobles county, but Mr. Peterson was elected.

(rep), 311; H. C. Shepard (dem), 427; W. J. McAllister (pro), 137.

County Attorney—L. M. Lange (rep), 169.

Court Commissioner—I. P. Durfee (rep), 153; C. C. Christianson (pro), 138.

Commissioner Fifth District—Daniel Shell (rep), 175; Peter Thompson (pro), 77.

Commissioner Fourth District—Wm. Parry (rep), 99; H. B. Tripp (ind), 54; Butcher, 27; A. W. Ferrin (pro), 9.

In accordance with the provisions of a new state law, no county elections were held in 1885. After that date elections were held every two years only, in even numbered years. An entire new set of officers was elected in 1886, and the campaign of that year was an exciting one. A new element entered into the political life of the county, a feeling of antagonism between the east and west ends.

The republicans were the first in the field with a ticket. Residents of the west end claimed that the convention was controlled by the Worthington "ring," and that the Adrian country was not given just recognition. This led to the calling of another convention, which was held at Adrian, participated in by democrats and many west end republicans. A few of the republican nominees who were not from Worthington were endorsed, and the rest of the ticket was made up largely of democrats.<sup>29</sup> This ticket was supported by democrats from all parts of the county and almost solidly by republicans from the west end of the county. The prohibitionists entered the field with almost a complete

ticket, and there were a number of independent candidates, making the campaign one of much interest and uncertainty. The republicans elected the majority of their ticket, although the independents captured some of the important offices. On state and congressional tickets the democrats made the best showing in the party's history in Nobles county up to that time, their nominee for governor being only about 250 votes behind. Thirteen hundred eighty-six votes were cast, by far the largest ever recorded, being 449 more than the vote of two years before. The vote as officially canvassed:

Governor—A. R. McGill (rep), 758; A. A. Ames (dem), 503; J. E. Childs (pro), 122.

Congressman—John Lind (rep), 769; A. H. Bullis (dem), 334;<sup>30</sup> Geo. J. Day (pro), 132.

Judge Thirteenth Judicial District—A. D. Perkins<sup>31</sup> (rep, dem and pro), 1,385.

Senator—W. B. Brown (rep and pro), 1,188; Fred Bloom (ind), 188.

Representative—B. M. Low (rep), 1,236; A. E. Tuttle (pro), 144.

Auditor—R. R. Miller (rep), 306; D. Ryan (dem), 431; T. L. Taylor (pro), 48; E. S. Mills (ind), 588; John O. Larson (ind), 3.

Treasurer—R. W. Moberly (rep and dem), 1,284; J. C. Boddy (pro), 102.

Sheriff—M. J. Bryan (rep), 326; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 658; W. H. Ingraham (ind), 392.

Register of Deeds—B. F. Johnson (rep), 570; A. R. Harris (dem), 522; A. O. Lofstedt (pro), 194; I. B. Newkirk (ind), 95.

County Attorney—L. M. Lange (rep),

<sup>29</sup>In giving the result of this election I have marked the nominees of this convention democrats, although one or two of the nominees never affiliated with that party.

<sup>30</sup>Not included in this, were 150 votes cast for H. C. Bullis.

<sup>31</sup>Served until early in 1891, when he resigned. P. E. Brown was appointed to fill the office for the unexpired term.



754; C. O. Dailey (dem), 546; C. B. Loveless (pro), 76.

Surveyor—W. D. Smith (dem), 861; L. Foote (pro), 134.

Clerk of Court—W. W. Herron (rep), 260; F. A. Stevens (dem), 452; A. Hamilton (pro), 344; L. B. Bennett (ind), 313.

Probate Judge—E. L. Wemple (rep and dem), 1,103; J. W. Lewis (pro), 280.

Coroner—B. W. Lyon (dem), 575; L. W. Warren (rep), 680.

Superintendent of Schools—A. Campbell (rep, pro and dem), 1,360; R. B. Plotts (ind), 59.

<sup>22</sup>Was chairman of the board from 1887 to 1892, inclusive.

Commissioner First District — O. Thompson (pro and dem), 64; J. H. Denton (rep), 91; William Firth (ind), 16.

Commissioner Second District—S. B. Bedford (rep), 89; C. Fritz (dem), 25; Emil Graf (ind), 20; W. H. North (pro), 48.

Commissioner Third District—O. S. Melick (rep), 166; J. Blesius (dem), 126; E. Copper (ind), 86.

Commissioner Fourth District—J. DeBoos (rep), 112; R. O'Hearn (dem), 161; Wm. Wigham (ind), 74.

Commissioner Fifth District—J. A. Town<sup>22</sup> (rep), 145; O. G. Grundsten (dem), 84; S. S. Morton (pro), 66.



## CHAPTER XI.

### POLITICAL—1888-1908.

An index of the progress of retrogression of a community is the increase or decrease in the vote cast. That there was an advancement during the middle eighties in Nobles county is plainly shown. In 1882 the total vote was 774, in 1883 it was 904, the next year 937, in 1886 it had advanced to 1,386, and in 1888 the handsome total of 1,754 was reached. The last named year marks the passing of the strong independent movement which had been a power in the politics of Nobles county for so many years. Its place was taken by the democratic party, which for the first time in the county's history developed enough strength to insure its permanency. That it had become a factor to be reckoned with in county politics is shown by the vote for president. Harrison electors received 896 votes; Cleveland electors, 682.

The republicans, democrats and prohibitionists had tickets in the field for county offices in 1888, and an interesting campaign and close election resulted. Besides the regular parties there was an attempt made by the old independent forces to get a ticket before the people. A mass convention was held at Worthington for this purpose, and several nominations were made. With the exception of A. M. Thom for sheriff, all

who had not received prior nomination in one of the other conventions declined to make the race. The independents endorsed several of the republican and prohibition nominees. The contest was very close for several of the offices, especially for sheriff and auditor. The democrats captured both those offices, while the republicans elected the rest of the ticket. The result in detail:

President—Republican electors (Benjamin Harrison), 896; democratic electors (Grover Cleveland), 682; prohibition electors (Clinton B. Fisk), 142; union labor electors (A. J. Streeter), 31.

Governor—William R. Merriam (rep), 859; Eugene M. Wilson (dem), 740; Hugh Harrison (pro), 159; J. H. Paul (union labor), 22.

Congressman—John Lind (rep), 896; Morton S. Wilkinson (dem), 672; D. W. Edwards (pro), 179.

Representative—B. M. Low (rep), 833; Thomas Johnson (dem), 674; C. S. Bond (pro), 226.

Auditor—O. S. Melick (rep), 580; J. J. Kendlen (dem), 694; H. W. North (pro), 193; E. S. Mills (ind), 271.

Treasurer—R. W. Moberly (rep), 1,015; H. C. Shepard (dem), 612; Albert Hector (pro), 125.

Register of Deeds—E. R. Humiston

(rep), 893; J. A. Kennedy (dem), 644; A. Hamilton (pro), 195.

Sheriff—C. C. Peterson (rep), 713; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 777; P. A. Christianson (pro), 117; Alex M. Thom (ind), 118.

Probate Judge—C. W. W. Dow (rep), 764; J. W. Crigler (dem), 610; C. W. Hildreth (pro), 279; Daniel Rohrer (ind), 78.

County Attorney—L. M. Lange<sup>1</sup> (rep), 866; H. E. Jeffers (dem), 654; E. B. Hall (pro), 227.

Surveyor—W. D. Smith<sup>2</sup> (rep), 936; J. W. Abbott (dem), 661; Lewis Foote (pro), 153.

Coroner—R. D. Barber (rep), 957; A. E. Tuttle (pro), 210; R. O'Hearn (dem), 42.

Court Commissioner—C. W. Hildreth (rep), 1,075; J. W. Crigler (dem), 607.

Superintendent of Schools—A. Campbell (rep), 1,039; Edward Mott (dem), 423; J. W. Lewis (pro), 243.

Commissioner First District—J. H. Denlon (rep), 126; C. S. Bond (pro), 110.

Commissioner Third District—A. G. Lindgren (rep), 236; John Blesius (dem), 205.

Commissioner Fifth District—J. A. Town (rep), 190; R. H. Matson (dem), 129; C. B. Loveless (pro), 41.

State, congressional, legislative and county politics were complicated in 1890 by the entrance of a new party which was made up of members of the farmers' alliance and knights of labor. The former had maintained an organization in Nobles county for a number of years and had a large membership. When it

was decided to enter politics it was realized that the alliance was to be a factor of no small importance. A ticket was put in nomination, and it received added strength by the action of the prohibitionists, who endorsed most of the nominees. Both the democrats and republicans put up strong tickets, and the election was an exciting one. The state ticket was carried by the republicans, but the alliance forces carried the county for congressman and state senator. For representative the race in Nobles county was close; two republicans carried the county; the third member, who had the support of both democrats and alliance, carried the county by a large plurality. The alliance party fared not so well on the county ticket, and did not elect a single nominee. Six democrats and five republicans were elected to county offices. There was a falling off from the vote of two years previous, the total vote being 4,596. As officially canvassed:

Governor—William R. Merriam (rep), 611; Thomas Wilson (dem), 498; Sidney M. Owen (all), 423; J. P. Pinkham (pro), 57.

Congressman—John Lind (rep), 688; James H. Baker (all), 852; Ira B. Reynolds (pro), 56.

Senator—H. J. Miller (rep), 661; A. M. Becker (dem), 111; Jay LaDue<sup>3</sup> (all), 762.

Representatives — Geo. W. Wilson (rep), 635; Larned Coburn<sup>4</sup> (rep), 630; William Lockwood<sup>4</sup> (rep), 638; E. L. Rork (dem), 461; C. P. Shepard (dem), 526; John Pemberton (all), 412; Patrick Gildea<sup>4</sup> (dem and all), 877; C. Gustafson (all), 457.

<sup>1</sup>Elected.

<sup>2</sup>Elected.

<sup>1</sup>Resigned Oct. 16, 1889, to accept the position of register of the Marshall land office. C. O. Dailey appointed to complete the term.

<sup>2</sup>Milton S. Smith was appointed surveyor July 31, 1891.

Auditor—John J. Kendlen (on all tickets), 1,548.

Treasurer—R. W. Moberly (rep), 757; H. C. Shepard (dem), 511; C. S. Bond (all and pro), 318.

Register of Deeds—E. L. Wemple (rep), 582; J. A. Kennedy (dem), 665; O. G. Grundsten (all), 318.

Sheriff—James F. Boardman (rep), 541; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 735; Frank Ellsworth (all and pro), 304.

Probate Judge—C. W. W. Dow (rep and all), 1,532.

Clerk of Court—F. A. Stevens (rep), 661; J. B. Bennett (dem), 545; A. E. Tuttle (all and pro), 380.

Superintendent of Schools—John W. Shaw (rep), 423; Thos. B. Maguire<sup>5</sup> (dem), 699; Mrs. M. J. Barron (all and pro), 679.

Coroner—W. S. Webb (rep), 653; C. C. May, 341; M. Sullivan (dem), 517; D. L. Kenyon (pro), 62.

County Attorney—O. W. Freeman (rep), 586; C. O. Dailey<sup>6</sup> (dem), 640; Daniel Rohrer (all and pro), 350.

Commissioner Second District—S. B. Bedford (rep), 104; John Mock (dem), 141.

Commissioner Fourth District—F. T. Graves (rep), 149; R. O'Hearn (dem), 142; J. T. Green (all and pro), 80.

An outgrowth of the alliance party was the peoples party, otherwise known as the populist party, which made its first appearance in Nobles county politics in 1892. Now only a memory, the peoples party was an important factor in the politics of the county during the nineties. While it never became the

dominant party here, its strength was such during several campaigns that by forming alliances with, and endorsing nominees of, other parties it was able to control the situation.

In 1892 the new party was the first in the field with a county ticket, selecting as its nominees several of the democratic office holders. These the democrats promptly endorsed. The republicans put up a strong ticket and the prohibitionists selected a partial ticket. The republicans were generally successful in the county field, although some of the most important offices were captured by the opposition. The Australian ballot system was employed for the first time in this election. The handsome total of 2,459 ballots were cast, which was a big increase, but the system being so poorly understood, not more than 1,991 were able to be counted for any one office, many voting for one presidential elector only. The vote:

President—Republican electors (Harrison), 886; democratic electors (Cleveland), 633; peoples party electors (Weaver), 305; prohibition electors (Bidwell), 131.

Governor—Knute Nelson (rep), 810; Daniel W. Lawler (dem), 614; Ignatius Donnelly (pp), 373; Dean (pro), 126.

Congressman—Jas. T. McCreary (rep), 493; W. S. Hammond (dem), 584; L. C. Long (pp), 116; E. H. Bronson (pro), 135.

Judge Thirteenth District—P. E. Brown (non partisan), 899.

Representatives<sup>7</sup>—Daniel Shell (rep), 1,003; Ole O. Holman (rep), 726; Wm.

<sup>5</sup>Mrs. Barron started contest proceedings against Mr. Maguire for the office, but they were dropped before the matter came up for trial.

<sup>6</sup>Resigned Nov. 22, 1892, and O. W. Freeman, attorney-elect, was appointed to complete the short unexpired term.

<sup>7</sup>Although two of the fusion candidates received pluralities in Nobles county the lead was overcome in other counties of the district, and the three republican nominees were elected.

Lockwood (rep), 753; J. H. Maxwell (dem and pp), 928; Patrick Gildea (dem and pp), 798; Geo. McGillivray (dem and pp), 839.

Auditor—J. J. Kendlen (dem, rep and pp), 1,616.

Treasurer—R. W. Moberly (rep), 959; E. W. Goff (dem and pp), 968.

Register of Deeds—Wm. Parry (rep), 707; J. A. Kennedy (dem and pp), 1,191.

Sheriff—Jas. C. Thom (rep), 841; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 819; J. B. Green (pp), 325.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 766; C. W. Hildroth (pp), 578; C. W. W. Dow (ind), 401.

County Attorney—O. W. Freeman (rep and pp), 967; C. O. Dailey (dem), 958.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 1,192.

Coroner—C. C. May, 37; W. S. Webb, 20; R. B. Plotts, 53; M. Sullivan, 31.

School Superintendent—Geo. W. Cale (rep), 782; T. B. Maguire<sup>8</sup> (pro, dem and pp), 1,193.

Court Commissioner—C. M. Cory (rep), 53; L. B. Bennett (dem), 83.

Commissioner First District—C. L. Peterson<sup>9</sup> (rep), 144; J. M. Paine (pp), 110.

Commissioner Third District—A. G. Lindgren<sup>10</sup> (rep), 303; Geo. Knips (pp), 198.

Commissioner Fifth District—Peter Thompson<sup>11</sup> (rep), 290; O. G. Grundsten (pp), 126.

Fusion was accomplished between the democrats and peoples party on part of the county ticket in 1894, but the re-

publicans captured the majority of the offices. There was another increase in the total vote, 2,283 ballots being cast for the office of governor. Following is the vote:

Governor—Knut Nelson (rep), 1,112; Geo. L. Becker (dem), 632; S. M. Owen (pp), 127; Hilleboe (pro), 112.

Congressman — Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 1,094; Geo. H. Baker (dem), 605; L. C. Long (pp), 453; Kellam (pro), 91.

Senator—H. J. Miller (rep), 1,207; J. C. Marshall (dem and pp), 972.

Representative—Daniel Shell (rep), 1,179; Ole O. Holman (rep), 947; Wm. Lockwood (rep), 988; John E. King (dem), 693; J. J. Ryder (dem), 675; J. T. McKnight (pp), 613; Norwood (pp), 366; Jaycox (pp), 285.

Auditor—R. W. Moberly (rep), 1,093; J. J. Kendlen (dem), 1,140.

Treasurer—J. P. Peterson (rep), 1,181; E. W. Goff (dem), 1,015.

Sheriff—J. C. Thom. (rep), 1,014; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 1,000; B. G. Lagrange (pp), 258.

Register of Deeds—Wm. Wigham (rep), 938; J. A. Kennedy (dem), 1,286.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,169; M. E. Foley (dem), 707.

County Attorney—O. W. Freeman (rep), 1,325; Z. R. Cheney (dem), 848.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 1,660.

Coroner—R. B. Plotts, 1,158.

Clerk of Court—F. A. Stevens (rep), 1,368; Chas. Fritz (dem), 704.

School Superintendent—Maud Graves

<sup>8</sup>Died during term. John Ireland appointed Oct. 19, 1894, to complete the term.

<sup>9</sup>Served only part of term. The office was declared vacant because of removal from the district, and Jan. 2, 1894, E. A. Tripp was chosen to complete the term.

<sup>10</sup>Was chairman of the board from July 10, 1893, to Jan. 1, 1894.

<sup>11</sup>Resigned July 19, 1893. Had served as chairman up to that time. H. M. Palm chosen to complete the term. Mr. Palm served as chairman of the board from 1894 to 1900, inclusive.

(rep), 1,459; Julia Hyland (dem), 1,361.

Commissioner First District—E. A. Tripp (rep), 205; Otto Berreau (dem), 128.

Commissioner Second District—B. W. Pope (rep), 197; John Mock (dem), 82; Fred Pank (pp), 112.

Commissioner Fourth District—Chas. Hallas (rep), 184; Richard O'Hearn (dem), 192; Henry Nolte (pp), 56.

Commissioner Fifth District—H. M. Palm (rep), 338; Walter Aagaard (dem), 138.

The democratic and peoples party forces combined again in 1896 and elected three officers on the county ticket. One independent candidate was elected; The other offices were captured by the republicans. The free silver agitation was at its height, and Nobles county fusionists brought out a large vote for William Jennings Bryan for president, coming nearer carrying the county for a democratic nominee for president than had ever been the case before or has been since. The state, congressional and legislative tickets of the fusionists were also given big votes. The total vote of the county had now reached 2,937, which was the number cast for sheriff. The vote:

President—Republican electors (McKinley), 1,568; democratic electors (Bryan), 1,204; prohibition electors (Levering), 48; gold democratic electors (Palmer), 32; socialist labor electors (Matchett), 7.

Governor—D. M. Clough (rep), 1,430; John Lind (dem and pp), 1,315; W. J. Dean (pro), 51; A. A. Ames (ind), 9; Wm. B. Hammond (soc-lab), 7.

Congressman — Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 1,558; F. A. Day (dem and pp), 1,193; R. Price (pro), 71.

Representatives<sup>12</sup>—Daniel Shell (rep), 1,509; Ole O. Holman (rep), 1,343; A. S. Dyer (rep), 1,273; M. Sullivan (dem and pp), 1,295; Thos. Lowe (dem and pp), 1,136; F. M. Payne (dem and pp), 1,117.

Auditor—E. A. Tripp (rep), 1,609; J. T. McKnight (dem and pp), 1,254.

Treasurer—J. P. Peterson (rep), 1,862; B. F. Young (dem and pp), 1,002.

Sheriff—L. L. McCartney (rep), 929; Gilbert Anderson (dem and pp), 1479; J. G. Murphy (ind), 529.

Register of Deeds—A. J. Lindgren (rep), 1,460; J. S. Blair (dem and pp), 1,029; W. J. Parry (ind), 415.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,778; W. R. Kyle (dem and pp), 1,080.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall (rep), 1,659; O. W. Freeman (dem and pp), 1,217.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 2,047.

School Superintendent—John Ireland (rep), 1,045; Wm. Finley (dem and pp), 1,017; Maud Graves (ind), 1,350.

Court Commissioner—L. B. Bennett, 31; C. M. Cory, 16; Scattering, 12.

Coroner—R. B. Plotts (dem), 1,699; Scattering, 28.

Commissioner First District—F. D. Lindquist (rep), 313.

Commissioner Third District—M. S. Boyle (rep), 338; A. J. Rice (dem and pp), 375.

Commissioner Fifth District—H. M. Palm (rep), 370; H. C. Shepard (dem), 169.

There was a decrease in the vote for the off year 1898, the total number poll-

<sup>12</sup>The three republicans were elected.

ed being 2,038, and the highest number cast for any one office being 1,966—for sheriff. In the election of 1896 the fusion ticket had been labeled democratic on the ballots. Under the election laws, therefore, there was officially no peoples party in Nobles county, and the nominees of that party could not have their names placed on the official ballot except by petition. The third party held a county convention, nominated nearly a complete ticket, but only one of the nominees, that for school superintendent, was able to obtain the necessary signatures, and that was the only one to appear on the ballot.

For the first time in the county's history the democratic nominee for governor carried the county. The republicans carried the county for congressman, senator and representative by small majorities and elected the whole county ticket except the nominees for sheriff and coroner. The vote:

Governor—W. H. Eustis (rep), 812; John Lind (dem and pp), 993; Higgins (pro), 63; Wm. B. Hammond (soc-lab), 7; L. C. Long (middle of the road populist), 77.

Congressman—Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 951; D. H. Evans (dem), 871; T. P. Grout (pro), 103.

Judge Thirteenth District—P. E. Brown (non partisan), 1,412.

Senator—Daniel Shell (rep), 1,038; John Butler (dem), 857.

Representative—H. C. Grass (rep), 1,067; Edward Mott (dem), 833.

Auditor—E. A. Tripp (rep), 1,033; J. A. Kennedy (dem), 930.

Treasurer—J. P. Peterson (rep), 1,622.

Sheriff—M. J. Bryan (rep), 890; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 1,076.

Register of Deeds—A. G. Lindgren (rep), 1,051; C. W. Schultz (dem), 887.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,240; John F. Flynn (dem), 712.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall (rep), 1,283; J. J. Parsons (dem), 614.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 1,526.

Superintendent of Schools—Maud Graves (rep), 945; V. S. L. Owen (dem), 718; Clara Knips (pp), 396.

Clerk of Court—F. L. Humiston (rep), 871; Jas. Cox (dem), 785; F. A. Stevens (ind), 308.

Coroner—J. N. Mallory (rep), 901; R. B. Plotts (dem), 970.

Commissioner Second District—Fred Tiemens (rep), 230.

Commissioner Fourth District—John W. Shaw<sup>13</sup> (rep), 208; O. D. Bryan (dem), 180.

High water mark was reached in the total vote cast in the presidential election of Nov. 6, 1900. Then 3,109 ballots were deposited in the ballot boxes, but the highest number of votes cast for any one office was 2,963. This is the largest vote recorded in the county, before or since. The republican national ticket polled a larger vote than it did four years before and the democratic ticket a smaller vote, with the same candidates. John Lind, the democratic-peoples party nominee for governor, who had carried the county two years before, now lost it by 58 votes, and the fusion nominees for congressman and representative were from 300 to 450 votes behind. The peoples party was eliminated from county politics, and the two old parties lined up for the campaign. The republicans elected all offices except treasurer, sheriff and one commissioner. The vote:

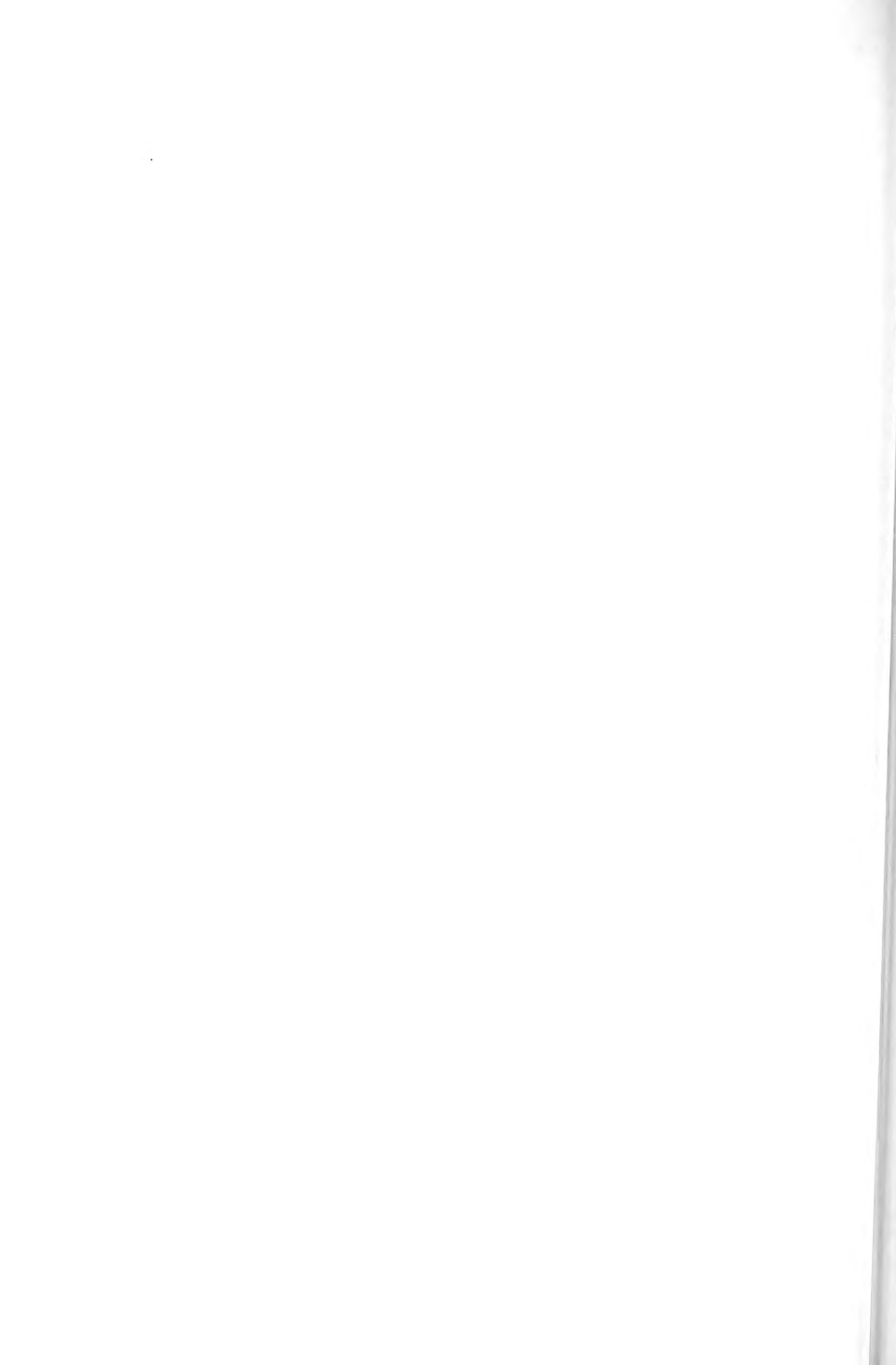
President—Republican electors (Mc-

<sup>13</sup>Was chairman during 1901 and 1902.





THE WORKINGTON CHIAUQUA GROUNDS



Kinley), 1,709; democrat-peoples party electors (Bryan), 1,101; prohibition electors (Wooley), 137; socialist democrat electors (Debs), 14; socialist labor electors (Malloney), 2.

Governor—Samuel R. VanSant (rep), 1,369; John Lind (dem and pp), 1,311; Bernt B. Haugen (pro), 109; S. M. Fairchild (middle of the road populist), 5; Thos. H. Lucas (soc-dem), 26; Edward Kriz (soc-lab), 2.

Congressman—Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 1,618; M. E. Mathews (dem and pp), 1,158; S. D. Works (pro), 137.

Representative—H. C. Grass (rep), 1,592; L. C. Long (dem and pp), 1,292.

Auditor—E. A. Tripp (rep), 1,614; I. T. Branigan (dem), 1,341.

Treasurer—J. H. Denton (rep), 1,355; E. W. (dem), 1,515.

Register of Deeds—B. I. Tripp (rep), 1,505; C. W. Schultz (dem), 1,416.

Sheriff—C. W. Slade (rep), 1,389; Mike Reiter (dem), 1,495.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,836; Gilbert Anderson (dem), 1,109.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall (rep), 1,831; O. W. Freeman (dem), 1,107.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 2,133.

Court Commissioner—F. A. Stevens, 24; J. R. Jones, 3.

Superintendent of Schools—L. W. Abbott (rep), 1,887; V. S. L. Owen (dem), 1,339.

Coroner—G. R. Curran (rep), 1,551; R. B. Plotts (dem), 1,244.

Commissioner First District—Henry Haggard (rep), 405.

Commissioner Third District—Wm. Thom (rep), 302; J. G. Murphy<sup>14</sup> (dem), 392.

Commissioner Fifth District—Gust Swanberg<sup>15</sup> (rep), 445.

The primary election law went into effect in 1902, and thereafter party nominations have been made by direct vote of the people, in place of the old style county convention. This has resulted in revolutionizing county politics. Nobles county being normally strongly republican, the principal campaign is now for the republican nomination. Under the law anyone can become a candidate by filing his name and paying a small fee, and there have been as high as eight candidates for one office. Generally there are only a few contests at the general election for county offices, but at the primaries there are more contestants.

At the first primary, held Sept. 16, 1902, the following were nominated on the republican ticket without opposition: Congressman, Jas. T. McCleary; treasurer, J. W. Shaw; register of deeds, B. I. Tripp; judge of probate, C. M. Cory; surveyor, M. S. Smith; clerk of court, F. L. Humiston, school superintendent, L. W. Abbott; commissioner second district, Fred H. Tiemens. The result of the election for officers where there was more than one candidate was as follows:

Senator—H. C. Grass, 284; Daniel Shell, 267.

Representative—S. O. Morse, 501; Geo. W. Wilson, 547.

Auditor—Jas. Cowin, 260; H. M. Palm, 379; E. C. Pannell, 444.

Sheriff—Newton Fauskee, 449; Chas. King, 133; L. L. McCartney, 263; Levi Rue, 219.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall, 501; E. J. Jones, 561.

Commissioner Fourth District—P. C. Pratt, 142; Jas. H. McRobert, 37.

The following were chosen for the democratic ticket without opposition: Congressman, Chas. N. Andrews; audi-

<sup>14</sup>Served as chairman of the board during 1906.

<sup>15</sup>Was chairman during 1903, 1904, 1905 and 1907.

tor, E. L. Schwartz; treasurer, E. W. Goff; sheriff, Mike Reiter; probate judge, C. W. Mead; clerk of court, H. J. Blume; superintendent of schools, A. J. Schaeffer; commissioner fourth district, Jos. Roll. For three nominations there were contests, as follows:

Senator—I. T. Branigan, 146; John E. Flynn, 193.

Register of Deeds—H. B. Kamp, 120; J. A. Kennedy, 204.

County Attorney—John B. Gergen, 153; J. J. Parsons, 164.

At the general election 2,662 votes were polled, although the highest cast for any one office was 2,555. The republican party was found to have regained some of the loss sustained during the previous campaigns, and carried the county by big majorities. E. W. Goff, for treasurer, was the only democrat elected. The vote:

Governor—Samuel R. VanSant (rep), 1,515; Leonard A. Rosing (dem), 811; Meighen, 20; Scanlon, 83; Nash, 4; Vanlear, 8.

Congressman—Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 1,596; Chas. N. Andrews (dem), 816.

Senator—Daniel Shell (rep), 1,183; John F. Flynn (dem), 1,020.

Representative—Geo. W. Wilson (rep), 1,199; Walter Sweetman (ind), 816.

Auditor—E. C. Pannell (rep), 1,628; E. L. Schwartz (dem), 927.

Treasurer—John Shaw (rep), 1,112; E. W. Goff (dem), 1,104.

Sheriff—Newton Fauskee (rep), 1,319; Mike Reiter (dem), 1,215.

Register of Deeds—B. I. Tripp (rep), 1,183; J. A. Kennedy (dem), 1,037.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,701; C. W. Mead (dem), 804.

County Attorney—E. J. Jones (rep), 1,526; John B. Gergen (dem), 996.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith (rep), 1,929.

Coroner—E. M. Manson, 10.

Clerk of Court—F. L. Humiston (rep), 1,585; H. J. Blume (dem), 900.

Superintendent of Schools—L. W. Abbott (rep), 1,771; A. J. Schaeffer (dem), 1,211.

Commissioner Second District—Fred Tiemens (rep), 366.

Commissioner Fourth District—P. C. Pratt<sup>25</sup> (rep), 259; Jos. Roll (dem), 204.

The 1904 primary resulted in many contests for the republican nominations, some of which were very close and hard fought battles. The following were chosen without opposition: Judge thirteenth district, P. E. Brown; auditor, E. C. Pannell; superintendent of schools, L. W. Abbott; commissioner fifth district, Gust Swanberg. The result where there was more than one candidate was as follows:

Congressman—Jas. T. McCleary, 993; H. J. Miller, 615.

Representative—S. O. Morse, 831; H. C. Grass, 638.

Treasurer—E. K. Smith, 760; F. C. Stitser, 709.

Sheriff—Newton Fauskee, 1,120; M. J. Bryan, 351; W. H. Heitritter, 115.

Register of Deeds—H. Hawley, 338; B. I. Tripp, 288; J. M. Messer, 210; W. Z. Newell, 210; Loren Clark, 168; J. C. Thom, 166; C. H. Halverson, 125; D. R. Chaney, 99.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory, 1,042; H. C. Carler, 515.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall, 831; E. J. Jones, 769.

Coroner—E. M. Manson, 819; Henry Wiedow, 556.

<sup>25</sup>Resigned July 13, 1903, and O. D. Bryan was named to complete the term, meeting

with the board for the first time July 22.

Commissioner First District—J. L. McConkey, 158; Albert Heeter, 115.

Commissioner Third District—O. W. Freeman, 160; G. Gullick, 94.

There were no contests for the democratic nominations and candidates for a few only of the more important offices. The following were nominated: Congressman, Geo. P. Jones; representative, Wm. O'Neill; treasurer, E. W. Goff; register of deeds, Jas. F. Cox; sheriff, J. N. Holbrook; commissioner third district, J. G. Murphy; commissioner fourth district, O. D. Bryan.

Two thousand five hundred fifteen votes was the highest cast for any one office in the general election of 1904. President Roosevelt received a record breaking majority, but the republican nominee for governor carried the county by a bare plurality of 14 votes. The republicans carried the county for congressman and representative by big majorities and elected every county officer with the exception of two commissioners. The official vote:

President — Republican electors (Roosevelt), 1,733; democratic electors (Parker), 624; peoples party electors (Watson), 21; prohibition electors (Swallow), 68; public ownership electors (Debs), 12.

Governor—R. C. Dunn (rep), 1,167; John A. Johnson (dem), 1,153; Chas. A. Dorsett (pro), 79; J. E. Nash (pub own), 6; A. W. M. Anderson (soc-lab), 8.

Congressman — Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 1,593; Geo. P. Jones (dem), 819.

Judge Thirteenth District—P. E. Brown (rep), 2,090.

Representative—S. O. Morse (rep), 1,647; Wm. O'Neil (dem), 796.

Auditor—E. C. Pannell (rep), 2,073.

Treasurer—E. K. Smith (rep), 1,278; E. W. Goff (dem), 1,230.

Sheriff — Newton Fauskee (rep), 1,829; J. N. Holbrook (dem), 675.

Register of Deeds—H. Hawley (rep), 1,390; Jas. F. Cox (dem), 1,125.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 2,138.

County Attorney—C. M. Crandall (rep), 2,076.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith, 85.

Coroner—F. M. Manson (rep), 1,888.

Court Commissioner—F. A. Stevens, 55.

Superintendent of Schools—L. W. Abbott (rep), 2,068.

Commissioner First District—J. L. McConkey (rep), 363.

Commissioner Third District—O. W. Freeman (rep), 279; J. G. Murphy (dem), 283.

Commissioner Fourth District—O. D. Bryan (dem), 281.

Commissioner Fifth District—Gust Swanberg (rep), 387.

At the primary election of Sept. 18, 1906, there were many contests for the republican nominations. The result was as follows:

Congressman — Gilbert Guttersten, 1,034; Jas. T. McCleary, 858.

Senator—Daniel Shell, 747; S. B. Bedford, 1,201.

Representative—S. O. Morse, 1,418.

Auditor—E. C. Pannell, 1,681.

Treasurer—E. K. Smith, 1,668.

Register of Deeds—Harry R. Tripp, 958; H. Hawley, 903.

Sheriff — Newton Fauskee, 1,327; Western M. Cline, 414; J. M. Scriven, 156.

County Attorney—E. J. Jones, 780; C. M. Crandall, 754; S. S. Smith, 362.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory, 1,643.

Clerk of Court—F. L. Hunniston, 1,206; E. F. Clower, 634.

School Superintendent—L. W. Abbott, 1,413; Maud Graves, 977.

Coroner—A. B. Williams, 1,543.

Commissioner Second District—W. F. Moss, 147; Fred H. Tiemens, 124; James Montgomery, 81; H. J. Westrip, 70.

There were no contests for the democratic nominations and only two candidates on the county ticket. The democratic vote: Congressman, W. S. Hammond, 59;<sup>17</sup> senator, John F. Flynn, 58; register of deeds, J. H. Rew, 58; commissioner fourth district, O. D. Bryan, 10.

At the general election of 1906 2,133 votes were cast. For the second time in history Nobles county returned a majority for a democratic nominee for governor, and for the first time gave a majority for a democrat for congress. The republican county ticket was endorsed. One democrat, for commissioner, who was without opposition, was elected. The vote:

Governor—A. L. Cole (rep), 769; John A. Johnson (dem), 1,255.

Congressman—Jas. T. McCleary (rep), 911; W. S. Hammond (dem), 1,123; Tucker (pro), 67.

Senator—S. B. Bedford (rep), 1,100; John F. Flynn (dem), 1,033.

Representative—S. O. Morse (rep), 1,512.

Auditor—E. C. Pannell (rep), 1,717.

Treasurer—E. K. Smith (rep), 1,692.

Register of Deeds—Harry R. Tripp (rep), 1,110; J. H. Rew (dem), 987.

Sheriff—Newton Fauskee (rep), 1,833.  
County Attorney—E. J. Jones (rep), 1,731.

Surveyor—M. S. Smith, 16.

Probate Judge—C. M. Cory (rep), 1,748.

Clerk of Court—F. L. Hunniston (rep), 1,722.

Superintendent of Schools—L. W. Abbott (rep), 1,717.

Coroner—A. B. Williams (rep), 1,625.

Commissioner Second District—W. F. Moss (rep), 352.

Commissioner Fourth District—O. D. Bryan (dem), 287.

The republican primary election of September 15, 1908, resulted as follows:

Congressman, Paul A. Ewert, 348; Gilbert Gutteresen, 174; James T. McCleary, 479; representative, S. O. Morse, 524; Herman Nelson, 731; auditor, E. C. Pannell, 1,122; treasurer, E. K. Smith, 1,115; sheriff, Newton Fauskee, 1,138; register of deeds, Harry Tripp, 1,125; judge of probate, C. M. Cory, 1,090; county attorney, C. M. Crandall, 598; E. J. Jones, 762; coroner, A. B. Williams, 999; school superintendent, L. W. Abbott, 1,093; commissioner, first district, T. B. Maguire, 110; J. L. McConkey, 142; fifth district, Gust Swanberg, 269.

The democratic primary election resulted as follows: Congressman, W. S. Hammond, 55; commissioner third district, J. G. Murphy, 14.

The prohibition primary election resulted as follows: Representative, H. L. Blake, 8.

<sup>17</sup>The smallness of the democratic primary vote is easily accounted for. There being no contests in their own party, the democrats assisted the republicans in the selection of nominees, and under the primary law they are legally entitled to do so. For instance: The law provides that a primary voter shall vote the ticket of that party, the majority

of whose nominees he supported at the preceding general election. A democrat might have voted for every nominee of his party in the general election of 1904 (also voting for the republicans who had no opposition) and yet vote the republican ballot at the primary election of 1906.

And now the political history of Nobles county is brought to a close. It covers a period from the time in 1870, when the first county official took the oath of office—when there were 32 men in the county who availed themselves of the privilege of voting—up to and including the last general election before the date of publication of this volume, during which time the total vote reached over 3,000. A brief summary of the conditions during this time may not be out of place.

The county has always been normally republican. During the first year of its political history there was only one voter who registered against that party. There has been an increase in the democratic vote since. But, although the party of Jefferson polled over 1,200 votes at one presidential election, it has never carried the county for the national ticket. For many years the county was overwhelmingly republican, and it was not until the eighties that the democratic party maintained an organization. But during this time there was a strong independent movement, kept alive by one faction of the republican party and the democrats, which opposed the republican organization and on several occasions gained control of the county offices.

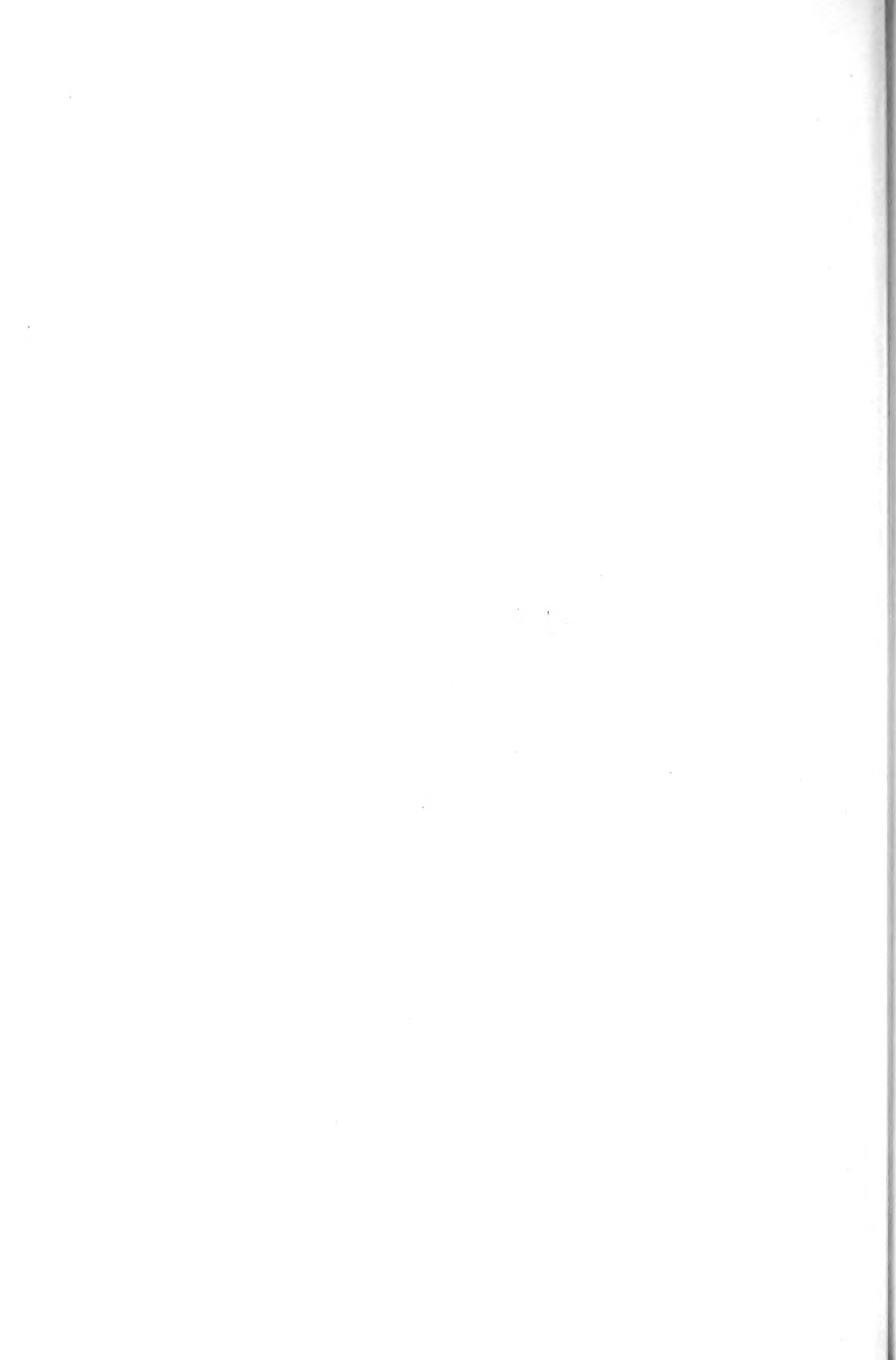
With the settlement of the west end

of the county came a change. The democrats increased in numbers, and during the eighties the democratic party took its place as a factor in county politics, which it has ever since retained. During the free silver days of the nineties the peoples party came into existence and for several years was a power in politics. When its power began to wane fusion was accomplished with the democrats, and for several years more, there was strong opposition to the dominant party.

Since 1884 there has been quite a prohibition following. For many years a county organization was maintained, and county tickets were regularly placed in nomination. The socialists have never had much of a following here, and no organization has ever been effected.

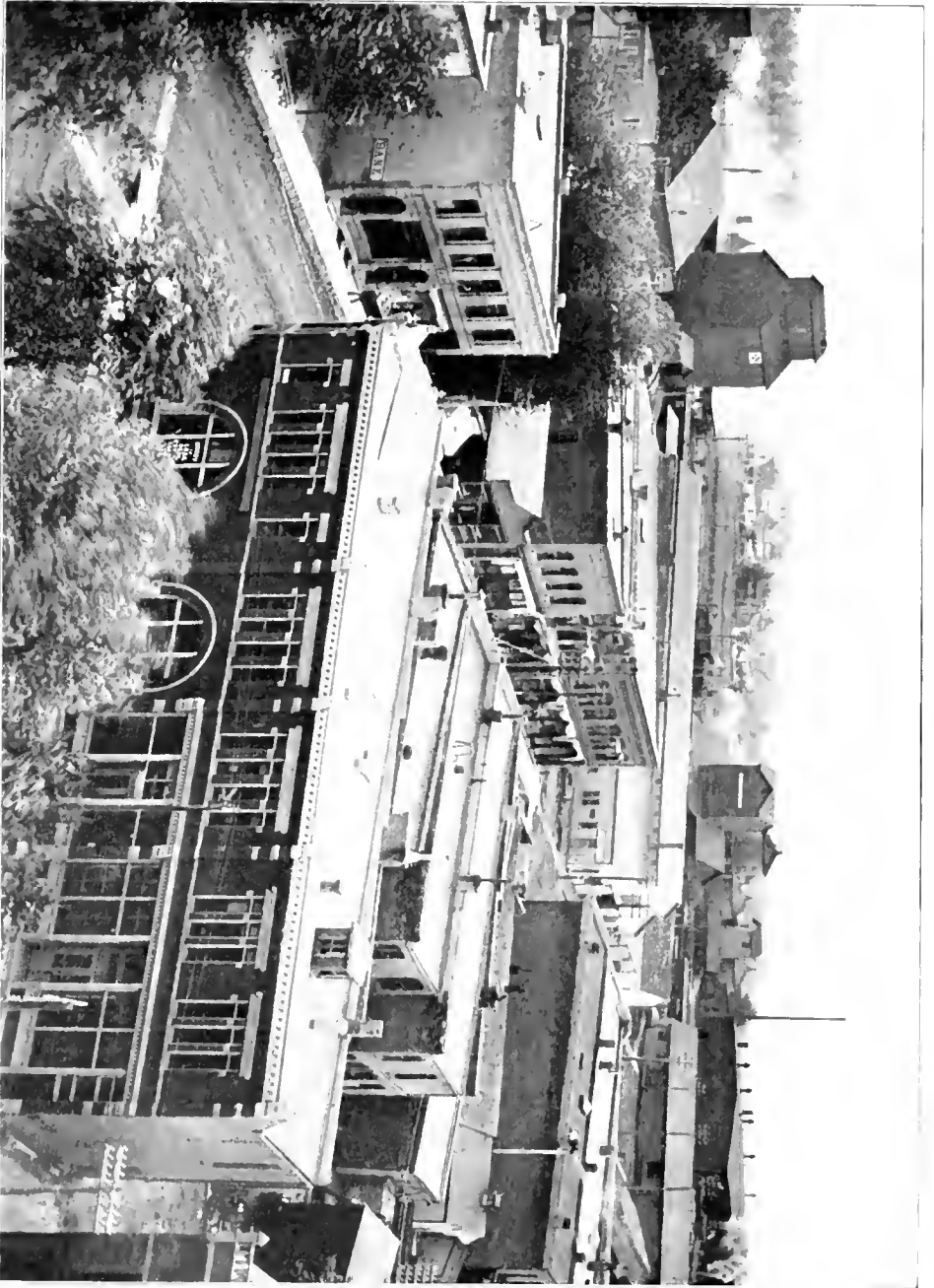
While the county is strongly republican the voters are independent and not party bound, as the vote for governor and congressman at the 1906 election shows, and as is made evident by the fact that in many instances the opposition candidates have been elected.

Nobles county has been fortunate in its selection of county officers. During its political history of nearly 40 years there has not been a defaulting county officer. Nor has there been a removal because of criminal action or incompetence.









WORTHINGTON

As Seen from the Court House Tower.

## CHAPTER XII.

### WORTHINGTON—1871-1872.

Worthington, the capital of Nobles county, is the oldest and largest town in the county. It is located on the east shore of lake Okabena, and its elevation above sea level is 1,593 feet.<sup>1</sup> It is in the eastern part of the county, the business center of the town being 16 miles from the county's northern boundary, eight miles from the southern, seven and one-quarter from the eastern and twenty-two and three-quarters from the western. Otherwise described, it is 178 miles southwest of St. Paul, the state capital, and is located on three lines of railroad—the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, the Worthington & Sioux Falls, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific.

The population, according to the last census,—that of 1905—was 2,276. There has been an increase since that date, and there are now about 2,500 people residing in the village. It is one of the most progressive and prosperous towns in southwestern Minnesota. All lines of business that are to be found in the prairie communities of the Mississippi valley are represented. It is noted for its schools, churches and social organizations, and in this respect it is the peer of any town of its size in the state. It

is the kind of town in which one prefers to live.

The location of Worthington, considered in its natural state, is one of unusual beauty, and with the embellishments that have been added by the hands of its residents, it stands at the present time as one of the prettiest little cities of a state distinguished for its pretty towns. Especially is one charmed with its loveliness in the summer season. Then the broad avenues and parks are clothed in emerald foliage. Trees are everywhere. Due to the foresight of the town's founders, the spot which was once barren prairie is now a bower of beauty. Picturesque lake Okabena, upon the shores of which the city is builded, is another beauty spot that adds charm to the location.

One can hardly realize that less than half a century ago this spot was an uncharted wilderness; yet such is the case. Time was when the dusky red men pitched his tepee where now our churches are located; vast herds of bison moved about lake Okabena and made their wallows where now our courts are held; timid deer browsed where now the student studies his natural history; elk in countless numbers

<sup>1</sup>This is the elevation as given by the C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. The elevation as given by the B. C. R. & N. engineers is 1,585 feet.

At the point of crossing of the two roads it is 1,573 feet.

roamed the adjacent prairie and saw their antlers reflected in the clear waters of Okabena as they bent down to drink.

The first white men to set foot on the site of the town, so far as shown by any records I am able to find, was the party of explorers under Joseph Nicholas Nicollet, mention of whose explorations has been made in a previous chapter. On the map which he issued in 1842 "Okebena" lake is accurately located, showing that in the late thirties or very early forties the site of the town had been visited by white men. Between that time and the date of the permanent settlement of the country the site was visited infrequently by explorers, military parties, scouts, and trappers. The latter were the more frequent visitors. During the late fifties and early sixties the country a short distance to the east and south was settled, to a very limited extent, by trappers. The abundance of game which overran the region drew hunters and trappers regularly to its lakes. The Okabenas were on the itinerary of these nomadic frontiersmen, and the site of Worthington was visited occasionally by these men long before there was any thought of a town there. Their permanent abiding places were further to the east in Minnesota or in the settled portion of northern Iowa, about Spirit Lake, and until the late sixties none claimed even a temporary home within the limits of what is now Worthington.

It was in the month of September, 1868, that the first building was erected on land which is now within the corporate limits of the town. On the 21th of that month, there came to the Oka-

kena Lake country, from Blue Earth, three trappers—W. A. Dillman<sup>2</sup> Frank Fortner and John Wilson. They erected a combination sod and log shanty on the east shore of East Okabena lake. Fortner remained only two days, Wilson a month, but Mr. Dillman occupied the shanty and engaged in trapping until Christmas, and became Worthington's first citizen.<sup>3</sup>

Although over 100 people became settlers of Nobles county during the years 1867 to 1870, inclusive, on the site of the future village of Worthington not one established his permanent home. During the winter of 1870-1871 G. J. Hoffman engaged in trapping on lake Okabena and succeeded in taking \$600 worth of furs. He spent the winter in a dug-out on the south shore of the lake, a few paces to the west of what is known as the "swimming hole." In the spring of 1871 he walked to Osage, Iowa, and back again, carrying on his return trip a bundle of willow cuttings—the start of the now famous Ludlow grove. That summer Mr. Hoffman went to St. James, bought a small house there, and hauled it down to the future city of Worthington on wagons. That house constitutes a part of what has been the Ludlow home up to the present year. It was the first building of wood within the corporate limits of the town. Mr. Hoffman's family, consisting of a wife and two children, came to the new home as soon as the building was ready for occupancy, and was Worthington's first family.

Although both the Dillman shanty and Mr. Hoffman's house were within what is now the corporate limits of Worthington, they were located outside

<sup>2</sup>Still a resident of Worthington.

<sup>3</sup>A more detailed account of this event is to be found in chapter 2.

the present platted portion of the town, and the construction of those buildings had nothing to do with the founding of the village.

Worthington came into existence as the result of the building of the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad.<sup>4</sup> The permanent survey was made early in 1871. Immediately thereafter graders and bridge builders were put to work, and before the winter set in the grading was completed to LeMars, Iowa, and the track was laid as far as the present town of Worthington. During the time grading was in progress one of the camps was located at the point where the village afterwards made its appearance. The contractors erected a shanty just across the track from the present location of the freight depot, which was used as a boarding house for the graders. Immediately after the grading was completed the shanty was torn down. It was early the intention of the railroad company to locate a station and build a town on land at or near the point where the road passed Okabena lake. The site first selected was on the south side of the lake, where Mr. G. J. Hoffman had taken his claim. That gentleman refused to sell his property to the railroad company for what the company considered a reasonable figure, and that site was abandoned.<sup>5</sup>

The railroad company, of which E. F. Drake was president and guiding spirit,

then selected the site at the east end of the lake and made the survey. Although the original townsite was surveyed in the summer of 1871, the plat was not put on record until the following year. The original plat extended from Eighth street to Fourteenth street, and from the railroad track (along which ran First avenue) to Eighth avenue. Blocks two to 25, inclusive, were surveyed by Alex L. Beach, and blocks 26 to 45, inclusive, by T. P. Gere. The Gere certificate of survey was dated May 22, 1872. The dedication was in the following words:

The Sioux City and Saint Paul Rail Road company by Elias F. Drake, its president, and the said Elias F. Drake, on behalf of himself, proprietors, hereby acknowledge that so much of the plat of the town or village of Worthington, as is shown hereon has been made by said proprietors and is acknowledged and filed in accordance with the requirements of "an act providing for the record of town plats" now in force. The streets and alleys indicated on said plat are dedicated to the use of the public for streets and alleys only and in case of the vacation of any such streets or alleys by any competent authority, the reversion and title in fee of such vacated streets or alleys is hereby expressly reserved and declared to be in said proprietors, and the fee of any part of any street or alley is declared not to be included in or as part of any lot herein.

ELIAS F. DRAKE, Prest.  
ELIAS F. DRAKE.

The acknowledgement was made June 24, 1872, before G. A. Hamilton, a notary public of Ramsey county. The instrument was filed in the office of the register of deeds of Nobles county June 27, 1872, by Selim Fox, register, per John H. Cunningham, deputy.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha.

<sup>5</sup>Worthington Advance, Nov. 29, 1883.

<sup>6</sup>The railroad company was the owner of the greater part of the original platted townsite (on section 23), which it had acquired through the land grant. A small three cornered piece of the original plat (on the southwest quarter of section 24) was the property of Mr. Drake, personally, he having come into possession of it by purchase. The quarter had been filed on by Geo. E. Stewart on Dec. 16, 1871, and that gentleman had secured

the patent from the government on May 20, 1874. The property was deeded to Mr. Drake the same day the filing was made.

Clary's addition, which, however, was not platted until later, comprises parts of the northwest quarter of section 24. The east half of that quarter was filed on June 1, 1872, by Elias F. Drake. The west half was filed on May 27, 1872, by Vedder J. South.

<sup>7</sup>Additions to this original townsite have been platted as follows:

Park—Surveyed by O. D. Brown June 12, 1876; dedicated by the S. C. & St. P. R. R. Co., by E. F. Drake, president, and G. A.

Before the lots were placed on the market, before a building was erected on the townsite, an event occurred which vitally affected the history of the town-to-be. This was the formation of the National colony and the assumption by it of the control of affairs in Nobles county. It is not necessary here to repeat the story of that organization, which has been told in a preceding chap-

ter. With the purchase and subsequent manipulation of the railroad lands by the company, arose the necessity for a town in the new country to be used as its headquarters—a town builded in accordance with the temperance beliefs of its founders, who had extensively advertised that the community to which they were to bring emigrants should be moral and temperate. Prof. R. F. Humiston

Hamilton, assistant secretary, Sept. 29, 1876; filed Oct. 4, 1876.

Second—Surveyed by John O. Brunius; dedicated by the S. C. & St. P. R. R. Co., by E. F. Drake, president, and G. A. Hamilton, secretary, Nov. 1, 1879; filed July 8, 1880.

Anderson's—Surveyed by T. Linus Blank Oct., 1882; dedicated by Henry H. Anderson Oct. 25, 1882; filed Oct. 26, 1882.

Clary's—Surveyed by F. L. Discrens October, 1882; dedicated by Timothy F. Clary and Eliza E. Clary Dec. 2, 1882; filed Dec. 12, 1882.

Subdivision of Blocks 20, 21 and 22 Surveyed by Orrin Nason; dedicated by the S. C. & St. P. R. R. Co., by Elias F. Drake, president, and G. A. Hamilton, secretary, Aug. 24, 1883; filed Sept. 7, 1883.

Drake's—Surveyed by Wm. A. Peterson; dedicated by Elias F. Drake Feb. 11, 1884; filed Feb. 20, 1884.

Anderson's Subdivision of Blocks 1 and 6 of Clary's addition—Surveyed by L. L. Palmer; dedicated by Daniel Shell, Henry H. Anderson and Otis Bigelow April 23, 1884; filed April 25, 1884.

Smith & Shell's Surveyed by L. L. Palmer; dedicated by C. H. Smith and Daniel Shell June 1, 1887; filed June 1, 1887; corrected plat filed June 29, 1895.

Moulton's Resurvey and Subdivision of Clary's Addition—Surveyed by Myron Shepard July, 1887; dedicated by Minnesota Loan & Investment Co., by Geo. D. Dayton, president, and Geo. O. Moore, secretary, Aug. 24, 1887; filed Aug. 25, 1887.

Lots A, B, D and E of Block 8 Surveyed by W. D. Smith; dedicated by Minnesota Loan & Investment Co. (by Geo. D. Dayton, president, and Geo. O. Moore, secretary), R. F. Baker, L. Singer, W. S. Lewis and J. H. Johnson Dec. 19, 1887; filed May 9, 1888.

McLean's Subdivision of Block 19 and Part of 50, Second Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Wm. McLean March 16, 1892; filed March 18, 1892.

Okabena—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Benjamin F. Johnson, C. H. Alford, Adelia A. Prince, Alex. Sterling, Gilbert Anderson and Wm. McLean Aug. 30, 1892; filed Oct. 7, 1892.

East—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by H. T. Drake, A. M. Drake and W. H. Lightner, executors of the will of E. F. Drake, deceased, Oct. 16, 1894; filed Oct. 22, 1894.

Nobles Street Crossing and Subdivision of Block 3 of East Addition Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by H. T. Drake, A. M. Drake and Wm. H. Lightner, executors of will of E. F. Drake, deceased, Sept. 17, 1895; filed Sept. 28, 1895.

Southwest quarter of section 24, Worthington township, embracing all lands in that quarter not already platted, including several additions and plats. Amended plat filed Sept. 28, 1895.

Smith & Shell's Division of Block A, of

Meander Lot 1, in Section 25, Worthington Township—Surveyed by M. S. Smith May 13, 1894; dedicated by C. H. Smith and Daniel Shell July 6, 1895; filed Nov. 13, 1895.

Hansberger's Subdivision of Block 39—Surveyed by M. S. Smith March, 1896, by order of county auditor for W. L. & F. L. Humiston, Jas. S. Ramage, Susan Ditty, U. F. Hansberger and Minnesota Loan & Investment Co.; filed Aug. 5, 1897.

Shell's Subdivision of the Southeast 48 feet of Hotel Lot, Block 1—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Daniel Shell Dec. 30, 1899; filed Dec. 30, 1899.

Kraft's Subdivision of Block 11, Clary's Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith Feb. 13, 1900; dedicated by Geo. Miller, Samuel N. Rose and John G. Kraft May 18, 1900; filed June 5, 1900.

Barnes' Subdivision of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Block 50, Second Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith April 21, 1900; dedicated by Nathan Barnes, Carl A. Anderson and Wm. McLean June 27, 1900; filed July 26, 1900.

Shell's Rearrangement of Lot 26, Block 1, of Anderson's Subdivision of Block 1, of Clary's Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith July 20 and 21, 1900; dedicated by Daniel Shell July 23, 1900; filed Aug. 16, 1900.

Paulson's—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Anna E. Paulson, S. A. Paulson, Mary Wass and J. E. Darling April 27, 1901; filed April 30, 1901.

Clifton—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Minnesota Loan & Investment Co., by Geo. D. Dayton, president, June 27, 1901; filed July 17, 1901.

Scott's Subdivision of East Half of Block 3, Clary's Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Minnesota Loan & Investment Co., by Geo. D. Dayton, president, Aug. 9, 1901; filed Sept. 9, 1901.

Clement's Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Walter L. Clement, Sept. 30, 1901; filed Oct. 14, 1901.

Ramage's Subdivision of Lots and Alleys in Blocks 3 and 7—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Jas. S. Ramage Dec. 6, 1901; filed Dec. 26, 1901.

Clement's Subdivision of Block 55, of the Second Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Walter L. Clement Sept. 30, 1901; filed April 16, 1902.

Block 1, North Worthington—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by L. M. Bliss May 31, 1902; filed June 4, 1902.

Albinson & Boberg's Subdivision of Lots in Block 52, Second Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by John A. Albinson and John A. Boberg June 4, 1902; filed June 11, 1902.

McLean's Subdivision of Block 47 Second Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith; dedicated by Wm. McLean June 2, 1902; filed July 12, 1902.





WORTHINGTON STREET SCENE, 1880

Corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. The Building in the Center is One of the First Erected in the City. To the Right is Seen the Old Congregational Church, the Town's First Church Edifice.

*The name of Worthington is derived from the name of the first settler of the town, William Worthington, who came to the town in 1820. He was a merchant and a farmer, and he was one of the first to settle in the town. He was a man of great energy and ability, and he was one of the first to build a house in the town. He was a man of great energy and ability, and he was one of the first to build a house in the town. He was a man of great energy and ability, and he was one of the first to build a house in the town.*

NAMING OF WORTHINGTON

Facsimile Letter, Written in 1888, From Professor R. L. Humiston to Elias L. Drake, in which is Told the Story of the Naming of Worthington.



and Dr. A. P. Miller, who were the leading spirits of the colony company, at once assumed the duties of founding the town, and late in the summer of 1871 they paid a visit to the site. The land upon which the town was built a few months later did not then have a sign of habitation on it, nor had it yet been definitely named.

The party consisted of Professor Humiston, Dr. Miller, Mrs. Miller and Captain Aiken Miner, who made the trip by team from Jackson. They came to view the lake and the site of their future labors. As they stood on the shore of the lake they viewed the country as it had been since time begun; the hand of man had not changed the work of nature.<sup>8</sup> The two promoters made the trip around the west lake on foot on an exploring expedition. At the inlet at the west end of the lake they constructed a raft and floated across the stream. It was nearly nightfall when

"In the early autumn of 1871, in company with Professor Humiston and my husband, I stood on the shore of lake Okabena, looking westward at the unaccustomed spectacle of the sunset on the prairie and its glorified reflection in the water below. There was not a house then where Worthington now stands, and the professor, with his accustomed gallantry, jocosely invited me to baptise the new townsite with the crystal water sparkling at my feet. But with what I now see to have been an excess of modesty, I declined."  
—Extract from letter written by Mary Dorman Miller, dated New York, Dec. 11, 1888.

<sup>8</sup>Although I have a mass of data concerning the naming of Worthington, including letters written by everyone connected with the naming, I have been unable to learn the exact date the name was conferred. Prof. Humiston, Mrs. Miller and Mr. E. F. Drake have written detailed accounts of the event, but not one has mentioned the time the christening was made.

<sup>9</sup>Correspondence in 1888 between Prof. R. F. Humiston, E. F. Drake, Mrs. Mary Dorman Miller and A. P. Miller of the Advance, has brought forth many incidents connected with the naming of the town. A St. Paul paper made the statement that the Minnesota town was named in honor of the Worthington family, of Toledo, Ohio. To this the Worthington Advance took exception, declaring that it was in honor of that branch of the family residing at Chillicothe, Ohio. Mr. Drake defended the statement of the St. Paul paper and erroneously declared that the name was given in

they finished surrounding the lake, and the party then went to Graham lakes, fifteen miles away, to spend the night. Shelter was secured in the log hut of H. C. Hallett, who "kept tavern" and was the postmaster.

During the time the railroad was being graded through southwestern Minnesota the site where afterwards the town of Worthington was built was known as Okabena. When the colony company became interested, and before the town was founded, the name was changed to Worthington, which was the name of Mrs. Mary Dorman Miller's (wife of Dr. A. P. Miller) mother before her marriage. The name was suggested by Prof. Humiston.<sup>9</sup> The Worthington family was a prominent one in Ohio. Among its members were Thomas Worthington, once governor of the state, for whom the town of his name in Franklin county was named; and General J. T. Worthington.<sup>10</sup> Not alone is

honor of Prof. Humiston's wife's family, who lived at Toledo. Again the Advance corrected the statement of Mr. Drake. The latter then appealed to Prof. Humiston for a statement concerning the naming of the town. Prof. Humiston, in a letter dated Boston, Oct. 13, 1888, wrote:

"Dr. Miller, my partner, wanted to name the town 'Dorman,' after Mary Dorman, his wife. You [Drake] and the railroad directors objected, saying that 'Dorman is a sheepy, dull, unephonious name,' and asked me to select something else. Wanting to please Dr. Miller, I concluded that if I could not give the town Mary Dorman's father's name, I would give it her mother's maiden name, which was Worthington, her father being the brother of Gov. Worthington. I believe, and General Worthington, of Chillicothe, being her first cousin. When I suggested the name of Worthington, it was satisfactory to you and the directors, you remarking that you had relatives by marriage of that name; so, then and there, the name of Okabena was changed to Worthington."

Mr. Drake added the following to Prof. Humiston's letter:

" . . . . When he [Prof. Humiston] proposed the name Worthington I said to him that I had relatives of that name, but neither he nor I supposed they were of the same family. You [Worthington Advance] were probably right that the person in whose honor the name was given was related to the Chillicothe family, and I was right in saying that the name was not given for Governor Worthington or any of his descendants, all of which I know intimately."

Mrs. Mary Dorman Miller, in a letter to

the name distinguished for its Ohio connections. It is one of the oldest in America. From a member of the Worthington family<sup>11</sup> it is learned that the name can be traced back of the time of the Norman conquest in England. It is a Saxon name and originated before the time of William the Conqueror. The Saxons bearing the name lived in Derby, and there was a town of the same name. Some member of the family came to America on the Mayflower, and the American branch is founded from that ancestor.

The name was not entirely satisfactory, and several times in the early days suggestions were made that a change be made, but no action to that end was ever taken. Many regretted that the Indian name "Okabena" was not given.<sup>12</sup>

So soon as it was definitely settled that the colony company was to build a town on Okabena lake preparations were begun to start the town. Before winter set in quite a little town had made its appearance on the spot where late in the summer there was not a sign of habitation. Construction on the first building was begun on Sunday, the first day of September, probably only a few days after the Miller-Humiston party had visited the site. It was a frame business

house erected by H. W. Kimball for a hardware store. A detailed, and apparently authentic, account of the building of this first structure is furnished by a letter written by S. C. Thayer, the carpenter who did the work on the building, and it is here reproduced. The letter was dated Liberal, Mo., Jan. 6, 1885:

The first nail was driven with the following ceremonies:

First I go back a little that you may understand it. At that time (August to September, 1871) I was living on a claim in Jackson county and had been living in Jackson. Had done some work for one, W. S. Kimball, of that place. At this time said Kimball had a nephew come from Illinois, who was to start a kind of branch hardware store at Worthington, which at this time was an uninhabited prairie, not a stick or house within some distance, the railroad not yet completed to Worthington.

So, on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 31, 1871, said nephew (Herb Kimball) came to my claim "shanty" with a span of horses and wagon loaded with lumber for the commencement of his new hardware store at Worthington. He had with him a carpenter from Jackson by the name of Stephen Ford, who was to assist me in the erection of the building. As it was getting late in the afternoon and I had some arrangements to make in order to leave my wife and one child comfortable, I prevailed on the "ship's crew" to stay with me over night, and take a fresh start on Sunday morning, which was done.

On Sunday morning all was ready, and we set out for our long journey (some thirty miles or more) across the wild prairie, with shot guns, carpenter tools, lumber, wagons and horses, with plenty of the necessaries of life for a week or two. On we went. Noon

the Advance, dated New York, Dec. 11, 1888, wrote:

"You and Mr. Drake are far 'at sea' in your attempt to give a historical account of the naming of Worthington; but I come to your rescue, though not as the traditional straw to the drowning man. My mother's maiden name was Worthington. Her father was Robert Worthington, of Chillicothe, Ohio, who was the brother of Thomas Worthington, governor of Ohio; and the now beautiful, prosperous town of Worthington, Minn., was named for 'the Chillicothe family.'"

The correspondence was closed with the following from Mr. Drake in the Advance of Dec. 27, 1888:

"It will now be well enough to consider the name of your thriving village settled, as to the question for whom it was named. Mrs. Miller, by virtue of her sex, is entitled to the last word. As Rip Van Winkle says, 'We will not count this.' My memory was at fault in saying the name was in honor of

Mr. Humiston's family, instead of Mrs. Miller's. It was given, doubtless, in honor of her immediate ancestors, and not the family at large. So, it seems Mrs. Miller, you and I were all right, only differing as to whether the name was for the Worthington family at large or her branch of it. . . . The controversy is ended. Let us have peace."

<sup>11</sup>George E. Worthington, student of history at the Wisconsin University.

<sup>12</sup>Some credence has been given to a hoax on the naming of Worthington, originated in the early days. It was said that when settlers first came here and the question of a name for the town came up it was suggested that as the county had such a noble name, it was but fitting that the first town in it should have a name worthy of the county—and that Worthington was derived from the word worthy. Of course there is no truth in the statement.

came, and yet we were on wild prairie. Stopped and fed, took a lunch, and we went toward the New Jerusalem. On, on, on until about five or half past we passed a kind of swamp lake, and a beautiful southern slope of another little sheet of water, and very close to it we stopped. It was a most beautiful evening and also a beautiful spot of ground. Nothing to be seen except land and water.

Then arose the question in what manner we could best fit up our temporary quarters until we could get our building enclosed, or partly so, I suggested the wedge shaped shanty with ridge pole, which was adopted. Now for a couple of stakes to rest our ridge pole on, but lo! we were not in a timbered country. So we took a piece of 2x4x14 and cut it in two, sharpened the ends of each, drove them into the ground. Then for the ridge pole took another of the 2x4. Here it was found that it would take a 20d spike to fasten the ridge to the poles of our building. So out of the wagon was rolled a keg of spikes, and Mr. Kimball suggested that, inasmuch as I was a carpenter, I had better do the nailing. I took the hammer and nail and stepped upon the keg, which had been placed at the foot of the post, it being a little too high to reach. At this moment it occurred to me that I was to be the man to drive the first nail in the (what was to be) city of Worthington. So with these remarks I "sent the nail home" that fastened the ends of the two first pieces of wood together in your city:

"Be it recorded and by these witnesses (H. Kimball and S. Ford) remembered that I, Solon Cassius Thayer, who was born in Bloomfield, Ohio, on the 21st day of August, 1843, now a carpenter and joiner, and having no faith whatever in the popular Christian religion, Gods or devils, but do believe in doing justice at all times and in all places, and for the purpose of the unbuilding of a little city that may bud and blossom for the good of its inhabitants, do on this beautiful Sunday evening, the first day of September, 1871, drive the first nail that shall fasten the ends of two pieces of wood together for the protection of its inhabitants from the weather."<sup>13</sup>

Off and up went the three hats and cheers for the city of Worthington.

On the next morning we went at the framework of the new store, while Mr. Kimball went to Heron Lake for more lumber. About the time we got our frame up the lumber was on the

ground for a large hotel and so on, and by the time we had ours done there was quite a village.<sup>14</sup>

The site of this first building was on Tenth street, where Devancy's billiard hall is now located. As stated by Mr. Thayer, that fall there were a number of others who came, erected buildings, and added to the population of the town. The railroad was not yet completed to Worthington, and the material for all the buildings erected in the fall of 1871 was hauled from Heron Lake, then the terminus (temporarily) of the road. The building that fall was nearly all done in October and November. Nearly all the buildings were under way at the same time, and it is impossible to give the order in which they were completed.

One of the first buildings started and completed was a store building put up at the corner of Tenth street and Third avenue by L. F. McLaurin,<sup>15</sup> who opened a general stock of goods, including dry goods, groceries, etc. A man by the name of Leslie erected a little building on Ninth street, between Third and Fourth avenues,<sup>16</sup> where he opened a store and sold whiskey as a side line. Henry Davis & Brother opened a general store in a tent, carrying tobacco, shoes, shirts and other articles, which found a ready market among the graders who were then at work there. This temporary affair was discarded that fall, when Henry Davis erected a one and one-half story building on Tenth street.<sup>17</sup> Although their stock had to be hauled in on wagons from Heron Lake, three lumber yards were opened that fall. One

and have never seen your city since."—Extract from Mr. Thayer's letter.

<sup>15</sup>The McLaurin building still stands, and is owned and occupied by Peter Thompson.

<sup>16</sup>On the lot upon which T. A. Palmer's house now stands.

<sup>17</sup>Where the Davis brick block now stands.

<sup>13</sup>Extract from Mr. Thayer's diary.

<sup>14</sup>I also built the first sail boat that sailed on lake Okabena (as it was then called), a little six foot beam by about twenty feet in length, which I sold my interest in to Prof. Humiston. It was called the Pioneer. I did considerable in and about the village, and about June 25, 1872, I left there for Jackson,

of these was in charge of I. N. Sater; another was owned by Crocker Bros. & Lamoraux, with a man by the name of Folsom in charge; the third was owned by Henry Young & Co., of which Levi Shell was the manager.<sup>18</sup>

The most pretentious building erected in Worthington in 1871 was the Worthington hotel. Excavation work was begun in October, the building was completed that fall, and was opened during the winter. It was erected jointly by the railroad company and the National colony, and its management was vested in the latter. The cost is said to have been about \$30,000. It was three stories high and was, practically, the front half of the present day Worthington hotel. Wm. B. Moore was the first manager.<sup>19</sup>

The postoffice was established in December, 1871, and H. W. Kimball, the hardware merchant, was appointed postmaster. Regular trains were not then running to Worthington, the mail being brought in by stage by "Stormy Jack" Grier, over the route from Jackson to Luverne.<sup>20</sup>

Times were lively in the little village during the building days in the fall of 1871. When cold weather set in some of those who were not in business left the town to spend the winter in their

old homes, and times were dull during the cold weather season. A man who visited the town in January, 1872, said of the conditions at that time:

"I counted thirteen buildings all told and was informed that there were thirteen inhabitants at that time. It was one of the 'snow winters,' and drifts were piled all around the houses. I think there were seven snow steps leading down to the depot platform. There was in the hotel one newspaper and a lot of greasy pieces of pasteboard with heart shaped devices on them and other devices. Several men boarders were waiting for spring to open."

Almost all the inhabitants were men<sup>21</sup> who had established business enterprises and could not leave them. They amused themselves with the newspaper, the heart shaped devices, and practical jokes. About twenty men resided in the town during the whole winter. Among these was a "mess" of five—E. R. Humiston, A. P. Chamberlain, C. C. Goodnow, J. C. Goodnow and Jerry Haines—who, soldier-like, went into barracks in a boarding house near the railroad and boarded themselves. Besides those in the village proper were G. J. Hoffman, who spent the winter on his claim on the south side of the lake; Wm. F. Hib-

<sup>18</sup>The members of this firm were Henry Young, Levi Shell and Daniel Shell. The office was opened in November, having temporary quarters with Crocker Bros. & Lamoraux.

<sup>19</sup>Mr. Moore did not give satisfaction to the colony company, and after having been in charge about ten months he gave up the lease. He was succeeded by Captain A. P. Lyon, who conducted the business only two or three months, working for a salary for the owners. W. S. Stockdale was the next landlord. He was succeeded shortly after by Jonathan Ames, who leased the property and ran it about one year. On May 1, 1874, Daniel Shell took a five years' lease on the property and became its manager. At the end of the second year he purchased the property, which had come into the hands of Peter Thompson, who had secured a judgment against Miller, Humiston & Co. Mr. Shell conducted the business until 1888. Samuel Espey then leased the property, and after being its manager ten months, died. He was succeeded

by John Fisher, who conducted the business four years under a lease. Mr. Shell then sold the property to E. R. Coughran and others, and Mr. Coughran was the landlord for several years. The property then passed into the hands of Geo. W. Lear, who had charge of it personally for a short time. W. H. Doolittle became the lessee and was landlord for a number of years. He was succeeded in recent years by Geo. W. Lear, Thomas Dorgan and Stanley Moore.

<sup>20</sup>The Worthington office has been held by the following postmasters: H. W. Kimball, C. C. Goodnow, M. B. Soule, R. D. Barber, L. B. Bennett, Frank Lewis, E. L. Schwartz and E. R. Coughran.

<sup>21</sup>Mrs. Herbert W. Kimball was the first woman to come to Worthington. She came here with her husband in the fall of 1871, but returned to her old home for the winter. Mrs. Daniel Shell was the second lady to become a resident of Worthington.

bard, who wintered in a small house on the east lake; and Jerome Stewart, a blind man, who lived in a shanty just across the track from the town.

While times were dull during the winter it was known that with the opening of spring Worthington would be one of the liveliest towns on the frontier. Assurances were received from the colony managers that hundreds would pour into the country in the early spring. Some of the colony immigrants arrived before spring set in, and even during the month of January quite a few came and took up their residence in Worthington in order to be in on the ground floor. Among these were some of the best known citizens of Worthington today. The people who were looking for the big rush were not disappointed. The first regular passenger train ran into Worthington April 29, 1872, bringing with it many settlers, and thereafter each day the train was filled with families who came to find homes in the new country. Mrs. Clark, who was among the advance guard of the colony, has written of the conditions in Worthington as she found them:

"We were among the first members of a colony to arrive at the station of an unfinished railroad, which was to be the nucleus of the colony and the county seat of the county. There was a good hotel, well and comfortably furnished, one or two stories neatly furnished and already stocked with goods, several others in process of erection. A few rough board tenements, temporary shelters, to serve the occupants until better houses could be built. The streets, scarcely to be defined as such, were full of prairie schooners, containing families, waiting until the masters could suit themselves with 'claims,' the women pursuing their house-

wifely avocations meanwhile—some having cooking stoves in their wagons, others using gypsy fires to do their culinary work; all seeming happy and hopeful."

Freeman Talbott, in a letter written July 20, 1886, tells of the impressions he received of the new town during the rush time in the spring of 1872:

"Fourteen years ago last May I made my first visit to Nobles county, intending, if the surroundings suited me, to make Worthington my future home. Quite a number of the first settlers had arrived. Some were living in comfortable houses, some in rough board shanties, 12x14, others in tents, and still others on the bleak prairie, about to select the site of future independence on or near the banks of the beautiful lake Okabena."

The arrival of the colonists had a magical effect upon the village, and new business enterprises sprang into existence. On the last day of August, 1872, there were 85 buildings on the town-site, where a year before the plat had been located. Of these nearly all were permanent and much more substantial than is usually the case during the rush of starting a new town. A list of the business houses in Worthington on that date is furnished by a directory published in the first issue of the *Western Advance*. Certainly an excellent showing had been made in one year:

#### HOTELS.

A. P. Lyon, Worthington Hotel.  
C. B. Loveless.

#### DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES.

Peter Thompson, Ninth street.  
L. F. McLaurin, Tenth street, corner Third avenue.

Davis & Brother, next door to postoffice.  
Davis & Morrison, "Colony Store."

#### HARDWARE.

C. P. Hewett & Co., opposite the park.

H. W. Kimball, near Worthington hotel.  
H. D. Humiston, "Colony Store."

## LUMBER.

I. N. Sater, with Harrison's,  
J. A. Town, with Crocker Bros. & Lamor-  
aux.

## DRUGGISTS.

A. K. Veitz, opposite Worthington hotel.  
Barber & Lawrence, opposite park.

## FURNITURE.

Heilburn & Pratt, Tenth street, opposite  
the park.

## GROCERIES.

S. D. Sprague, Ninth street, opposite park.  
P. B. Crosby.

## FLOUR AND FEED.

S. F. Shepard, Third avenue.  
Peter Thompson, Ninth street.

## BAKERY.

Hugh & Dorman, Ninth street, opposite  
park.

## RESTAURANTS.

Fred Hascall, Tenth street, near the post-  
office.

C. P. Stough, Ninth street.  
Hugh & Dorman, Ninth street.

## LIVERY.

Daniel Shell, Tenth street.

## MEAT MARKET.

Bigelow & Co., Third avenue.

## ATTORNEYS.

M. B. Soule, Third avenue, opposite park.  
J. S. Shuck, Tenth street, opposite park.

## PHYSICIANS.

Geo. O. Moore, corner Fifth avenue and  
Tenth street.

J. Craft.

R. D. Barber, Tenth street, at drug store.

## NOTARIES PUBLIC.

C. C. Goodnow, postoffice.  
M. B. Soule, Third avenue, opposite park.

## COLONY COMPANY.

Miller, Humiston & Co.

## LAND AGENTS.

A. Miner, at postoffice.  
C. C. Goodnow, at postoffice.  
Soule & Langdon, Third avenue, opposite  
park.

## PAINTERS.

L. F. Margrat and . . . Shaw.

## NEWSPAPER.

Western Advance.

## HARNESS MAKER.

C. L. Johnson, Ninth street, opposite park.

## BLACKSMITHS.

C. B. Loveless, Eleventh street.  
W. Holgkinson, Eleventh street.

## SHOEMAKERS.

C. Moore, Eleventh street.  
J. S. Stone, Fourth avenue.

## PRINTING.

Advance Printing Co.

The improvements for the year foot-  
ed up to \$80,550. Included in this  
amount was the public hall building,  
known as Miller hall, which was erected  
by the colony company at a cost of about  
\$7,000. The building was 48x80 feet,  
was two stories high, and had three  
large store rooms below. For several  
years the hall served the purposes of  
church building, lodge rooms, school  
room, and was the place of all social  
gatherings. It was destroyed by fire  
in 1878. The town was extensively ad-  
vertised, and during 1872 gained the  
reputation of being one of the best  
towns in southern Minnesota.<sup>22</sup>

One of the events of the year was the  
organization of Worthington township.  
A petition was filed on March 30, ask-  
ing the board of county commissioners  
to take action toward bringing about the  
organization, and on April 30 the peti-  
tion was granted. On May 20 the first  
town meeting was held, and the village  
was under township government for the  
first time.

The temperance question was a very  
live issue in Worthington during the first  
year of its existence. One of the first  
things determined on by the founders  
of the National colony was that the  
colony should be a moral community,  
and to secure this end it was decided to

<sup>22</sup>A contributor to the Advance of AUG. 31,  
1872, said: "From frequent conversations with  
gentlemen of different parts of the state,  
we are assured that Worthington today has

the best reputation of any new town in Min-  
nesota, and that great expectations have been  
raised in the minds of the better class."

exclude the liquor traffic from the town and country over which it had jurisdiction. This fact was emphasized in all the advertising, and the result was that the majority of the first settlers were temperance people, who had been drawn to the colony largely by the promises made. A large sum of money was set aside by Prof. Humiston and his associates to prosecute liquor dealers should the traffic be started in the new town. A large part of this fund was expended during the year 1872 in bringing actions against three men who made attempts to establish liquor saloons in Worthington. The saloons were promptly closed, and thereafter for many years there was no liquor sold in the village.

The village government had not been organized in 1872, and license legislation was enacted by the board of county commissioners. To that body the people of Worthington went with their request that no saloons be licensed in Worthington township. A petition was circulated August 30, and was worded as follows:

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Nobles County, State of Minnesota:

We, the undersigned, citizens of the town of Worthington, in said county, respectfully represent that we believe that a majority of

our citizens within our said township are opposed to the granting of license for the sale of any kind of intoxicating liquors—either spiritous, vinous or malt—in our said town as a beverage. And whereas the statute authorizing towns to vote on the question of license provides that such vote shall be taken at a general election. And whereas the next general election at which such vote can be taken will not be holden until November 5.

We therefore petition your honorable board that they rescind the vote of the former board of commissioners so far as it affects the said town of Worthington, and that your honorable board refuse to grant licenses for the sale as a beverage of any kind of intoxicating liquors within the limits of our said town of Worthington until after the next general election.

Dated this 30th day of August, A. D., 1872<sup>27</sup>

Attached to the petition was a memorandum as follows: "Will Mr. Miller [county commissioner] please present this petition? Many more names could have been secured if there had been time to circulate it throughout the township. The wish is almost universal that no license should be granted. I have asked but five to sign it who have refused.—R. F. H."

At the same time the ladies of the village presented a petition of similar import<sup>28</sup> with the following attached memorandum, evidently made by Prof. Humiston: "These are all from the *village* of Worthington, and there are other ladies who would have signed the petition,

Moore, C. L. Chandler, E. C. Ecker, A. J. Manley, E. B. Hull, J. E. Riley, Wm. M. Bear.

<sup>27</sup>The petition was signed by the following: John A. King, L. S. Roberts, Ed. Chandler, L. C. Chaney, James S. Stone, M. H. Stevens, E. T. Dillabaugh, M. B. Soule, W. B. Akins, A. P. Miller, Wellington Sherwood, John H. Johnson, I. N. Sater, M. E. Distad, H. W. Kimball, H. Davis, C. E. Tourtelotte, Z. Keller, A. P. Lyon, A. I. Perkins, E. S. Langdon, Otis Bigelow, W. Hodgkinson, I. Allerton, Jas. McKirahan, John Alley, A. J. Wilcox, D. S. Law, Benjamin R. Prince, C. B. Langdon, Stephen Miller, W. S. Langdon, R. D. Bagley, Daniel Shell, E. J. Bear, J. S. Haines, John U. Herzig, A. L. Clark, J. S. Goodnow, George O. Moore, James Gibson, I. H. Farnham, R. D. Barber, D. Stone, C. B. Loveless, W. S. Stockdale, B. H. Crever, C. S. Newton, J. C. Clark, E. R. Humiston, Levi W. Chase, Benjamin F. Thurber, E. S. Terry, C. P. Hewitt, C. H. Stewart, R. F. Humiston, J. S. Shuck, J. P. Shaw, J. F. Humiston, A. C. Robinson, S. D. Sprague, H. M. McLean, P. A. Stoddard, C. P. Stough, Peter Thompson, T. L. Taylor, Hugh Kilpatrick, James Marden, John Ward, Benjamin Midboe, Chas. B.

<sup>28</sup>Signed by Mrs. M. B. Soule, Mrs. Mary Herzig, Mrs. Harriett A. Lyon, Mrs. R. F. Humiston, Mrs. E. R. Humiston, Mrs. C. Davis, Mary H. Crever, Mrs. S. C. Crever, Mrs. L. J. Foster, Clara F. Moore, Sarah Humiston, Mrs. M. Stone, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs. Daniel Shell, Mrs. H. M. Farnam, Miss Celia E. Farnam, Mrs. B. Morsdem, Almira Weaver, Jane Moore, Ann Miller, Mrs. Mary Chandler, Mrs. A. C. Robinson, Mrs. A. J. Manley, Mrs. A. S. Huff, Mrs. N. S. Roberts, Mrs. E. B. Akins, Mrs. A. Shuck, Mrs. M. D. Barber, Mrs. L. H. McKirahan, Mrs. M. E. Bear, Emma Bear, Mrs. R. L. Langdon, Mrs. B. E. Parks, Mrs. Mary Shaw, Mrs. D. S. Law, Mrs. M. Stewart, Miss Mary Tangleson, Miss Susan B. Langdon, Mrs. Mahala Langdon, Mrs. Olive Clark, Mrs. C. Stougle, Mrs. C. B. Loveless, Mrs. Mattie Johnson, Mrs. Mary E. Gould, Mrs. C. E. Davis, Mrs. Hattie H. Bigelow.

but they were absent from home. Only two have declined to sign and *they* on account of their husbands.—R. F. H.”

This overwhelming sentiment on the part of the people of the village and township was not disregarded by the commissioners, and at a meeting held September 3 they resolved “that no license for the sale of spiritous, vinus or

malt liquors be granted to any person in the township of Worthington before the next general election.” At the election in November only four votes were cast in favor of the licensing of saloons. The promises of the colony managers to provide a temperance town had been fulfilled.



## CHAPTER XIII.

### WORTHINGTON—1873-1889.

Worthington had come into existence under unique conditions. At the time of its founding the surrounding country had not been settled, nor was there any settlement until several months after the village made its appearance. Such conditions were unusual, even in the early days, when town founding was an art. Other towns in southwestern Minnesota were built contemporary with the settlement of the country surrounding; Worthington was builded on the promises of the National colony. That organization, which played such an important part in the early history of Nobles county and the town of Worthington, promised to bring large numbers of immigrants to its recently purchased lands, and the promises were amply fulfilled. During the year 1872 large numbers of homeseekers had arrived at Worthington and taken claims in all parts of the county. There was also a rapid settlement in Rock county and farther out on the frontier, in the Sioux Falls country. All that country was then tributary to Worthington. Owing to the favorable location of the village, from a railroad standpoint, Worthington was the supply point and grain shipping point for a vast stretch of country.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Worthington is the center of a large trade, and is destined to become a place of considerable importance as an interior trading point. Trade is now drawn from nine or ten of the surrounding counties, and settlers come a dis-

Being the most convenient shipping point for this big country, Worthington advanced faster than its neighboring towns and faster than the needs of the immediate surrounding country demanded. In the summer of 1872, before the grain began pouring in from the outlying districts, the advantages of the town, due to its location, were apparent. A writer in the first issue of the *Western Advance*, August 31, 1872, sized up the situation as follows:

"Several warehouses, we learn, will soon be erected to accommodate the grain which is seeking this point for shipment. Worthington is the natural shipping port, if the term may be used, for Rock county, the Spirit Lake region and a portion of Jackson county. The Sioux Falls region, also, which now draws lumber and other supplies from here, should bring its grain here for shipment. By another year, therefore, we may expect to do a heavy grain business. If the neighboring town of Windom shipped 20,000 bushels last year, and will ship 75,000 this year, which is the estimate of Windom merchants, we ought to do a large grain business next year. If the amount for one town reaches nearly 100,000 bushels the first two years, what

tance of seventy or eighty miles from the west to market their grain, and to obtain lumber and other supplies, Worthington being their most convenient railroad point."—*Minnesota Historical Atlas*, 1874.

may we not expect when all these lands are under cultivation, as they will be in from five to ten years! We have the assurances of good judges of soil that ours is, of all soils, the soil for wheat. We anticipate, therefore, that in a few years the railroad will scarcely be able to transport the millions of bushels of grain which must flow into the warehouses along the line of this road from Sioux City to St. Paul.<sup>2</sup>

The year 1873 opened auspiciously, and the prospects of the little village by lake Okabena were bright. The colony company erected the Okabena flouring mill, at a cost of over \$40,000, which had a capacity of manufacturing over 100 barrels of flour a day. Its construction proved to be one of the most important events in the history of the town. It was the only flouring mill within a radius of many miles, and it did an immense business. It brought trade to Worthington that otherwise would not have come. From the Spirit Lake country on the south, from Jackson county on the east, from Murray county on the north, and from Rock county and the Sioux Falls country on the west, came the golden grain to mill;<sup>2</sup> returning, the farmers would take with them lumber and supplies to their homes on the bleak prairies to the west.

The year 1873 was an important one in the history of Worthington because of two events that took place. One was the incorporation of the village; the other the naming of the town as the county seat.

A charter was granted the village by the legislature, the bill being approved

by the governor March 8. All of sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, of Worthington township, were included in the limits of the town. It provided for the government of the city by a president of the council, a recorder (both of whom should be ex-officio trustees) and three trustees. Other elective officers provided for were a treasurer, an assessor, a justice of the peace and a constable. All offices were to be one year terms, except justice of the peace and marshal, who were to serve two year terms. The charter named the third Tuesday in March of each year as the date for holding elections. The first election was to be held at Miller's hall on Tuesday, March 18, 1873, where at one o'clock the voters present should choose, viva voce, two judges of election and one clerk, who should conduct the election. Provision was made for voting at that election on the question of the acceptance or rejection of the charter. It forbade the granting of license for the sale of intoxicating liquors,<sup>3</sup> and provided that the act should go into effect immediately upon its adoption by the voters.

The first election was held at Miller hall, in accordance with the provisions of the charter, on March 18, and the charter was adopted by a vote of 14 to 2. Daniel Shell and S. D. Sprague were chosen to act as judges of the election, and C. C. Goodnow as clerk. Only sixteen votes were cast, the voters being M. H. Stevens, R. F. Humiston, S. D. Sprague, C. C. Goodnow, Daniel Shell, M. E. Distad, S. E. Chandler, C. B. Loveless, L. F. McLaurin, H. Davis, I. N. Sater, J. A. Town, John Humiston,

<sup>2</sup>Pioneer settlers of Worthington tell me they have seen the roads to the west lined for miles with teams hauling grain to this market.

<sup>3</sup>"No license for the sale of any wine, beer, or cider, or spiritous, intoxicating, alcoholic, vinous, fermented, malt or mixed intoxicating liquors, liquids or drinks as a beverage shall be granted to any person within the corporate limits of said village."

C. P. Hewitt, J. C. Craft and W. H. Wilmarth.

There was only one ticket in the field, and only two scattering votes were cast. Those who were elected and served the city during its first year of official existence, with the votes cast, are as follows:

President—L. N. Sater, 13; H. C. Shepard, 1.

Trustees—J. C. Craft, 16; B. S. Langdon, 14; Pegg, 1; M. H. Stevens, 16.

Recorder—C. C. Goodnow, 16.

Treasurer—Peter Thompson, 16.

Assessor—Daniel Shell, 16.

Justice—C. B. Loveless.<sup>4</sup>

Marshal—Daniel Stone, 16.<sup>5</sup>

Much difficulty was encountered in securing men to serve in the positions of the two appointive offices—street commissioner and fire warden. A. S. Hunselton was appointed street commissioner May 6; he did not qualify, and on May 13 the office was declared vacant and L. F. McLaurin appointed. May 20 the appointment was reconsidered, and W. S. Stockdale was named. He resigned Sept. 2, when C. B. Langdon received the appointment and served the remainder of the term. Jonathan Ames was appointed fire warden May 13, but a week later the action of the council was reconsidered, and A. P. Chamberlain was named. The office was declared vacant Nov. 21, and C. B. Langdon, who had received the appointment of street commissioner, was made fire warden, as well.

The village council met for the first time on April 23, 1873, at the office of L. N. Sater. The charter was read, and then an adjournment was taken until April 26. There was no quorum at the

meeting of April 26, and the next meeting was not held until Monday, the 28th. The first official act of the council was to pass an ordinance ordering a sidewalk laid on the east side of Third avenue from Ninth street to Tenth street. The second ordinance of the village was passed at the same meeting. It prohibited "the use of firearms within the limits of the corporation in any manner whatever on Sunday." At a subsequent meeting (May 13) the ordinance was amended by adding "that the use of firearms upon the town plat is strictly prohibited." Thus the village of Worthington began its official existence.

The county seat of Nobles county was temporarily located at Worthington by an act which passed the legislature and was approved March 6, 1873, which provided for the removal from Graham Lakes township within sixty days. The change was made in May, and Worthington was made happy over the event. By the action of the voters at the November election the village was declared the permanent county seat.

The boom times of the first two years of Worthington's history were not destined to continue. With the terrible grasshopper scourge, which devastated the country during the middle seventies, came a period of depression for Worthington. Business became dull, and the growth of the town was checked. Several business firms failed, and there was a general feeling of dejection. However, Worthington suffered less severely than most of its neighbors. Being in a highly prosperous condition when the grasshoppers swooped down upon the country, and drawing its trade from a

<sup>4</sup>The office of justice was declared vacant Aug. 15, and B. N. Carrier was appointed to the office. He resigned Jan. 6, 1874, and L. B. Bennett received the appointment.

<sup>5</sup>The office of marshal was declared vacant Aug. 15, to which Julius C. Goodnow was then appointed.

larger area than the other towns of the vicinity, it withstood the awful calamity better than those less fortunately situated. For the story of the grasshopper times the reader is referred to chapters five and six.

A writer has described the town as it appeared to him in 1874:

"It contains four hotels, a large public hall building, a large flouring mill, several grain warehouses, over twenty stores, two church buildings, and a number of comfortable private dwellings. The principal buildings are the Okabena flouring mills, the Worthington hotel, Miller hall, the Union Congregational church, and the Presbyterian church. Some of the lots are neatly fenced, and the principal streets are lined with young trees. The town has adopted the independent district plan, and has a good graded school. A seminary of learning, auxiliary to Hamline university, is located at Worthington, which is now, owing to the grasshopper visitation, temporarily suspended. The town contains three church organizations, viz.: Metho-

<sup>6</sup>An overestimate.

<sup>7</sup>This building is now used as the freight depot.

<sup>8</sup>This office had been opened at Brownsville, on the Mississippi river, in 1854, with Messrs. McKinnis and Welsh in charge. In 1856 it was moved to Chatfield, and in 1861 to Winnebago City. When the last named change was made Mr. Holley was receiver and Mr. Bullis register. In 1869 the office was moved to Jackson, and E. P. Freeman went in as register, and J. B. Wakefield as receiver. After the colony immigrants began to arrive, the bulk of the business was in the west end of the district and Nobles county settlers experienced much inconvenience in making their trips overland to transact their business before the land office. It was not until the spring of 1871, however, that the government took action to have the office moved to Worthington.

Soon after the removal Mr. Freeman retired as register. He was succeeded by Dr. Leonard, of the Rochester Post, who took the office and held it for a time. The latter's appointment was not confirmed, and Captain Mons Grimager became register in August, 1871. He resigned June 1, 1886, having held the office nearly twelve years. In January, 1875, J. P. Moulton took the place of Mr. Wakefield as receiver, and held it until June, 1881. C. H. Smith was the next receiver,

Presbyterian and Union Congregational; a Masonic lodge, a post of the Grand Army, a public library, and a good newspaper. The population of the town is between 600 and 800."<sup>6</sup>

The year 1874 passed without important events. A new depot was built by the railroad company in the summer, which was said to have been the finest and largest on the line between St. Paul and Sioux City.<sup>7</sup> The land office was moved to Worthington from Jackson in the spring of the year, which event added somewhat to the importance of the town.<sup>8</sup>

There was only one contest for village office at the election in the spring of 1874, and the event was a quiet one. Thirty-three votes<sup>9</sup> were cast, with the following result, scattering votes not being given:

President—J. C. Craft, 31.

Trustees—Horace L. Lackor, 33; Otis Bigelow, 33; Jonathan Ames, 29.

Recorder—Chas. C. Goodnow, 20; Boston N. Carrier, 13.

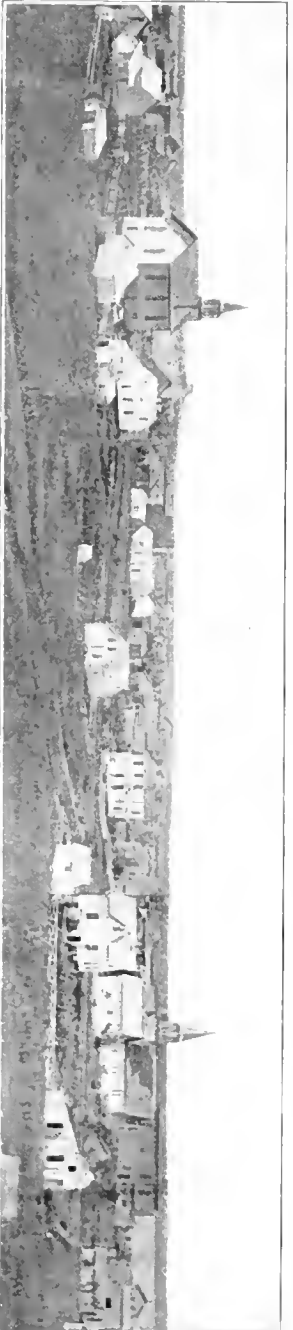
Treasurer—Peter Thompson, 32.

occupying the office until Sept. 1, 1885, when August Peterson, of Albert Lea, took the office. He held it until after the removal from Worthington. C. P. Shepard succeeded Captain Grimager as register in June, 1886, and held the position while the office was located in Worthington.

The land office at Worthington was closed Feb. 28, 1889, there having been a consolidation among the offices in Minnesota. Those at Benson, Worthington and Redwood Falls were discontinued and the papers turned over to the office at Tracy. The Tracy office was then moved to Marshall. The land office was under democratic management from 1851 to 1861; the republicans were in charge from 1861 to 1885. Then each party had one official in the office until 1886, when Mr. Shepard took office; thereafter it was democratic.

<sup>9</sup>The voters were L. F. McLaurin, William H. Wilmarth, Peter Thompson, Henry Davis, J. D. Tarbut, C. E. Langdon, H. J. Grant, Morgan M. Jenkins, David Bennett, Julius C. Goodnow, Otis Bigelow, Julius A. Town, Akim Amer, S. D. Sprague, J. C. Craft, B. H. Bennett, Jonathan Ames, Datus Stevens, J. Lundy, Chas. C. Goodnow, L. E. Bennett, J. Moll, Liberty Bowen, Thos. Crayer, W. R. Bennett, Peter Walpole, Horace L. Lackor, Wm. Carroll, Boston N. Carrier, R. Anderson, D. E. Williams, P. Quinlin and John H. Johnson.





PANORAMIC VIEW OF WORTHINGTON, 1875

Portions of both East and West Okabe-na Lakes Are Here Shown. The Larger Buildings Seen Are the Congregational Church, Okabe-na Mills, Worthington Hotel, Thompson's Store Building, Ludlow's Residence, Presbyterian Church, Miller Hall.



IDLE WILD PAVILION

An Old Landmark That Formerly Stood at the Foot of Third Avenue, Worthington.

Justice—L. B. Bennett, 33.  
 Assessor—Akin Miner, 33.  
 Constable—Morgan M. Jenkins,<sup>10</sup>  
 30.<sup>11</sup>

Worthington's first census was taken in 1875. The population, according to the figures of the assessor, was 419. Although then in the midst of the grass-hopper scourge and resulting hard times, from a business standpoint the town was fairly prosperous, due almost entirely to the fact that its trade territory was so large. Following is the wheat receipts for the year 1875:

Buyer	Before Harvest	After Harvest
Okabena Mills.....	12,479 bus.	114,000 bus.
Bennett & Stone....		21,000 bus.
Peter Thompson ...	4,929 bus.	32,215 bus.
Henry Davis .....	3,200 bus.	15,705 bus.
Totals.....	20,608 bus.	182,920 bus.
Grand total,	203,528 bushels.	

The lumber and fuel business was also large. Bennett & Stone received 127 cars of lumber after opening their yard in August, and I. N. Sater received a somewhat smaller amount. H. J. Grant shipped in and sold 388 cars of wood, I. N. Sater about the same amount, and E. S. Mills a small shipment. The two leading dealers each shipped in about 180 tons of coal.

There were no contests for any of the village offices in 1875, and only 30 votes were cast. A violent storm raged on election day, which accounted in a measure for the smallness of the number, it being alleged that there were 100 voters in the village. The result:

President—Albert C. Robinson, 30.  
 Trustees—Isaac N. Sater, 29; Chas. B. Loveless, 28; Daniel Shell, 29.

<sup>10</sup>The office was declared vacant Oct. 27, 1874, and J. C. Goodnow was appointed to complete the term.

<sup>11</sup>Appointive officers under this administration were Akin Miner, street commissioner, and C. B. Langdon, fire warden, who were appointed April 9, 1874.

Recorder—C. C. Goodnow, 29.  
 Treasurer—Henry D. Humiston, 30.  
 Assessor—Henry J. Grant, 30.  
 Constable—J. C. Goodnow, 29.<sup>12</sup>

The year 1876 was another quiet one, because of apprehension of another grass-hopper visitation. However, there was some building done in the village, the principal items being the following:

W. R. Bennett, residence.....	\$4,000
H. J. Ludlow, residence.....	2,000
R. R. Miller, residence.....	1,000
H. E. Torrance, store building, two stories, 32x40 .....	1,200
Otis Bigelow, store building, 20x40.....	1,000

The election that year was the most exciting one yet held, and 96 votes were polled. There was some dissatisfaction with the result of the Peoples' caucus, and opposition candidates for trustees were placed in nomination by another caucus. The contest was a spirited one, and was won by the regular Peoples' ticket. The result:

President—Peter Thompson, 96.  
 Trustees—Elihu Smith, 44; Daniel Shell, 90; C. Z. Sutton, 53; A. C. Robinson, 22; I. N. Sater, 18; C. B. Loveless, 23; J. Craft, 34.  
 Recorder—B. N. Carrier, 96.  
 Treasurer—H. D. Humiston, 92.  
 Assessor—W. S. Stockdale, 94.  
 Justice—L. B. Bennett, 96.  
 Constable—J. C. Goodnow, 82; W. M. Carroll, 14.<sup>13</sup>

Probably every vote in the village was polled on March 20, 1877, when 98 votes were brought out as a result of a contest between I. N. Sater and W. R. Bennett for trustee. Mr. Sater was the caucus

<sup>12</sup>Appointive officers who served during the term, and dates of appointments: March 31, 1875, S. E. Chandler, street commissioner and fire warden; Oct. 8, 1875, A. Miner, assistant street commissioner; Oct. 8, 1875, Frank H. Wells, city marshal.

<sup>13</sup>Appointive officers: April 6, C. B. Langdon, street commissioner and fire warden; July 6, H. McMillen, night policeman.

nominee, and Mr. Bennett, who ran independent, was elected. For the other offices there were no contests. Following is the vote of that year:

President—Peter Thompson, 98.

Trustees—C. B. Loveless, 94; Daniel Shell, 91; W. R. Bennett, 62; I. N. Sater, 38.

Recorder—C. C. Lucky,<sup>14</sup> 96.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance, 97.

Assessor—A. C. Robinson, 96.

Justice—Leroy Cole,<sup>15</sup> 92.

Constable—Wm. M. Carroll,<sup>16</sup> 96.<sup>17</sup>

Ultimately, the building of the branch railroad westward from Worthington resulted in the cutting off of a large territory which had formerly relied upon Worthington for its market. But at the time it added much to the town's prosperity. Worthington was the gateway through which all the settlement of the western country must come, and it was the chief supply point of the new settlers. The saving of the crop in 1877 brought large numbers to the country in 1878, and this immigration passing through Worthington made the little town lively.<sup>18</sup> Considerable building was done during the year, including the first brick block. This was located at the corner of Tenth street and Second avenue (now known as Masonic block), and was put up during the summer by Bennett & Grissell. Times became dull again during the fall because of the failure of crops from another grasshopper visita-

tion, and there were a number of business failures during the winter.

Worthington's first fire came on Tuesday morning, Aug. 6, 1878, when Miller hall, one of the first buildings erected in Worthington, was burned to the ground, causing a loss of between \$8,000 and \$10,000. The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin, but the perpetrators were never discovered. The fire started at about six o'clock. Not a breath of air was stirring, but neither was there any fire protection to speak of. Although the whole village turned out and fought the flames, within three-quarters of an hour after the blaze was discovered, the hall was a heap of blazing and smoking ruins.

Owing to the fact there was no wind the flames were confined to the hall, and nearby buildings were saved. For a time it looked as though the town was doomed,<sup>19</sup> but when the last wall fell it fell inward, thus assuring the safety of the town. When the last wall fell the crowd sent up a ringing cheer. The building was the property of J. T. Hite and John P. Henry at the time of the fire. It had cost about \$7,000, and was covered by only \$1,000 insurance. Other losses were the Worthington Journal plant, \$3,000 or \$4,000, covered by \$2,500 insurance; and the library of Rev. J. C. Ogle, valued at \$800 to \$1,000.

One hundred one votes were cast at the election in the spring of 1878. There

<sup>14</sup>Resigned April 28, 1877. Geo. J. Day appointed May 4, 1877.

<sup>15</sup>Resigned March 18, 1878, when he became a candidate for the office of recorder. Justices of the peace were elected for two years. E. N. Carrier was appointed Nov. 1, 1878, to complete the term.

<sup>16</sup>Resigned Aug. 24, 1877. Chas. Chase was then appointed.

<sup>17</sup>Appointive officers; March 28, 1877. A. Miner, street commissioner and fire warden; July 2, 1877. H. McMillan, night policeman.

<sup>18</sup>"The rush for 'the soil of the river bottoms' continues. The trains are loaded every night, and our hotels are unable to furnish accommodations for the people. The hotel offices and parlors are called into service, and the depot affords shelter to numbers nearly every night. Send them along. All the region to the west of us lies out of doors, and Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a home."—Worthington Advance, March 7, 1878.

<sup>19</sup>"Had there been anything like a stiff prairie breeze blowing, no human effort could have prevented Worthington from being laid in ashes."—Worthington Advance, Aug. 8, 1878.



was no party contest, but several independent candidates appeared in the field. With the exception of the nominee for constable all the caucus nominees were elected. The vote:

President—A. C. Robinson, 50; C. B. Loveless, 44.

Trustees—M. B. Soule, 80; J. Craft, 94; L. E. Kimball, 82.

Recorder—Leroy Cole, 53; R. F. Baker, 41.

Assessor—H. D. Humiston, 96.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance, 68; D. S. Law, 33.

Justice—L. B. Bennett, 64; B. N. Carrier, 34.

Constable—Chas. Chase, 52; J. A. Town, 48.<sup>20</sup>

In 1879 there was another increase in the vote polled, the number reaching 128. There was little excitement at the election and no organized opposition to the caucus nominations. There were fourteen scattering votes cast for the several offices which do not show on the following table:

President—Daniel Shell, 124.

Trustees—M. S. Twitchell, 121; John McMillen, 127; Azom Forbes, 98; Jos. Lowe, 28.

Recorder—N. A. Barlow, 125.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance, 126.

Assessor—H. D. Humiston, 123.

Justice—H. D. Humiston, 103; Wm. Carroll, 21.<sup>21</sup>

According to the federal census of 1880 the population of Worthington was

636, a gain of 227 during five years. Although small, it ranked second among the towns of southwestern Minnesota.<sup>22</sup> The election of that year was not exciting, and there were no contests. The total vote was 141. The question of licensing billiard rooms was submitted to the voters, and by a vote of 51 to 57 it was decided that such license should not be granted. The vote, not including 11 scattering votes:

President—Daniel Shell, 134.

Trustees—M. S. Twitchell, 125; J. McMillen, 81; Azom Forbes, 80.

Recorder—N. A. Barlow,<sup>23</sup> 89.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance, 94.

Assessor—B. W. Lyon, 120.

Justice—A. C. Robinson,<sup>24</sup> 72.

Constable—Frank Wells,<sup>25</sup> 75.<sup>26</sup>

For several years during the late seventies and early eighties Worthington was divided into two factions because of the temperance question. There was continual wrangling. Several arrests were made and prosecutions pushed against those who sold liquor in the town. Cider was placed under the ban, and there were several prosecutions for violations of the law forbidding the sale of that drink. One faction insisted that the other was fanatical in its temperance beliefs; the temperance people insisted on the enforcement of the law against all offenders. Two parties came into existence which fought for the control of the village government at the polls. Each party put tickets in the field, and the

<sup>20</sup>Appointive officers: H. D. Humiston, street commissioner and fire warden, appointed March 25, 1878; H. McMillan, night policeman, appointed June 14, 1878.

<sup>21</sup>Constable had been made two year term office. Appointive officers: March 29, E. C. Pannell, street commissioner and fire warden.

<sup>22</sup>The populations of other towns in the vicinity were as follows: Windom, 443; Fairmont, 511; Pipestone, 222; St. James, 134; Jackson, 501; Luverne, 697; Madelia, 489; Hiron Lake, 226.

<sup>23</sup>Resigned May 28, 1880, and R. B. Plotts appointed May 29.

<sup>24</sup>Resigned June 19, 1880, J. S. McManus appointed Feb. 5, 1881.

<sup>25</sup>Resigned Dec. 7, 1880. C. T. Shattuc appointed.

<sup>26</sup>Appointive officers: April 3, 1880, E. C. Pannell, street commissioner; Oct. 2, 1880, H. McMillen, night policeman.

contest at the 1881 election was very close and exciting. This was the beginning of the parties, later known as "license" and "against license," which have contended for supremacy ever since. Those who favored the more liberal policy were successful at the polls, winning out by a narrow margin. In the following table of the vote the first named were the nominees of the "liberal" party; the second those of the temperance party. The total vote was 141:

President—Daniel Shell, 78; Peter Thompson, 62.

Trustees—M. S. Twitchell, 74; J. McMillen, 74; Azon Forbes, 75; R. F. Baker, 67; H. B. Wisner, 63; C. B. Loveless, 66.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts, 76; E. F. Buchan, 64.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance, 111.

Assessor—Aiken Miner, 76; B. W. Lyon, 64.

Justice<sup>27</sup>—L. B. Bennett,<sup>28</sup> 72; H. D. Humiston, 64; J. A. Town, 64.<sup>29</sup>

One of the most prosperous years in the history of Worthington was 1882. Several new business blocks and residences were erected, new business enterprises were started, and the town enjoyed a small boom. This activity was due, in part, to the construction of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwest-

ern railroad into the village from the south, and in part to the prosperous times in the country at large. At a special election, held June 17, it was decided, by a vote of 145 to 2, to issue bonds to the amount of \$6,300, to aid in building the road.<sup>30</sup> When trains began running into the town in the fall there was great rejoicing, and the prediction was freely made that Worthington was to become a great railroad center.<sup>31</sup>

Out of a total of 240 registered votes, 189 were cast, the largest in the town's history up to that time. Although the two parties were again lined up for battle, the election was not exceptionally exciting. The vote:

President—C. H. Smith, 98; C. B. Loveless, 87.

Trustees—H. E. Torrance, 113; O. G. Grundsten, 108; Emery Clarke, 110; J. H. Johnson, 72; B. F. Thurber, 77; W. W. Herron, 72.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts, 113; E. F. Buchan, 74.

Treasurer—R. F. Baker, 186.

Assessor—Aiken Miner, 113; H. D. Humiston, 76.

Justice—J. S. McManus, 115.

Constable—Josiah T. Lyons, 111; Frank Wells, 74.<sup>32</sup>

The prosperous times, which had be-

<sup>27</sup>H. D. Humiston was nominated for a two year term and J. A. Town for a one year term. The canvassing board, after looking up the law, determined that the law did not provide for the election of a justice of the peace for a one year term. The board threw out the votes of both Mr. Humiston and Mr. Town, except three for the latter, which had been voted on a scratched ticket.

<sup>28</sup>Resigned Jan. 6, 1882. Fred Bloom appointed.

<sup>29</sup>Appointive officers: April 16, 1881, Aiken Miner, street commissioner; May 11, 1882, John Dahlstrom, night policeman; Aug. 27, 1882, H. McMillen, night policeman, John Dahlstrom having resigned.

<sup>30</sup>Stock in the railroad company was purchased with the money so voted, and the stock is still held by the village.

<sup>31</sup>Printed matter on the back of letter heads, endorsed by the Worthington board of trade, referred to Worthington as "the Elgin of Minnesota," stated that it now had three railroads and that five more were on the way. I quote from the advertisement: "The C. St. P. M. & O., the B. C. R. & N. and the W. & S. F. railroads run daily trains to Worthington. The B. C. R. & N. extension north to join the Fargo Southwestern is in progress. The Wash through Worthington to Bismark is projected. The Spencer branch of the C. M. & St. P. road, now built to Spirit Lake, is bearing toward Worthington. A branch of the C. & N. W. east to Elmore is also projected. A branch of the B. C. R. & N. to Deadwood, Dakota, is in contemplation."

<sup>32</sup>H. McMillen served as night policeman, receiving the appointment May 18.

gun in 1882, continued during 1883. On April 25 a board of trade was organized, which was quite active in advertising the town and in bringing new business enterprises to the village. The officers of the board were: President, Geo. D. Dayton; vice president, J. S. McManus; secretary, W. A. Peterson; treasurer, Geo. J. Day.<sup>33</sup> The building operations for the year amounted to about \$10,000. Included in this were three brick business blocks—the Masonic building, the Henry Davis store building, and the Singer block.

Those favoring the licensing of saloons in Worthington were able to bring about an amendment to the charter in 1883 which put the village under local option. A bill was introduced in the legislature early in the session by Senator Crosby. It provided for the repeal of the temperance clause in the charter and placed the control of the sale of intoxicating liquors with the village council. Later the bill was amended and was made to provide that the matter of license or no license should be decided by the voters at the annual elections. The temperance people at once circulated and presented a petition to the legislature, asking that the charter be left as it was. Friends of the repeal of the temperance clause also presented a petition, asking that the bill be passed. The bill passed and became a law Feb. 26 upon receiving the signature of the governor. Worthington was placed under local option law, and each year since that date

the question of license or no license has been fought out at the polls.

Naturally the first election under the new law created considerable interest. The two parties went to work with a will—one party to continue the town under the prohibition feature and the other to bring about the licensing of saloons. By the decisive vote of 114 to 62 the people decided to license saloons in the village for the ensuing year. There were only two contests for village offices, the two factions devoting their energies to the license question and not to the election of candidates. The total vote cast was 180. Following is the result, a few scattering votes for various candidates not being given:

For license, 114; against license, 62.

President—C. H. Smith, 120; T. H. Parsons, 60.

Trustees—H. E. Torrance, 171; Otis Bigelow, 176; O. G. Grundsten, 168.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts, 170.

Treasurer—R. F. Baker, 179.

Assessor—Aiken Miner, 177.

Justice—Fred Bloom,<sup>34</sup> 93; C. B. Langdon, 82.<sup>35</sup>

The year 1884 was another prosperous one in Worthington, although very little building was done. The issue between the license and against license forces was sharply defined in the campaign of that year. Both parties had tickets in the field, and considerable campaigning was done before the election. Two hundred nineteen votes were cast, by far the largest in the town's history.

Peabody, Fred Bloom, R. J. W. Bloom, R. B. Plotts, A. P. Miller, J. H. Johnson.

<sup>34</sup>Resigned Jan. 3, 1884. I. P. Durfee appointed.

<sup>35</sup>Appointive officers: April 5, B. F. Thurber, street commissioner; April 19, R. F. Thurber, fire warden; May 23, Frank H. Wells, night policeman.

<sup>33</sup>Other members of the organization were T. J. Simson, Mons. Grinager, Azom Forbes, Frank T. Eastman, H. C. Shepard, H. E. Torrance, C. P. Shepard, Geo. O. Moore, H. J. Ludlow, Frank Lewis, S. V. Wyckoff, C. H. Smith, Chas. Chase, Daniel Shell, H. H. Hart, R. E. Miller, A. S. Husselton, L. B. Bennett, W. F. Thayer, Geo. W. Wilson, J. C. Robinson, E. S. Mills, E. F. Thurber, Geo. M. Plumb, L. H. Beckley, G. C. Hagman, C. E.

The license party elected every member of its ticket. The result:

For license, 119; against license, 98.

President—Geo. W. Wilson (for<sup>36</sup>), 121; C. B. Loveless (ag), 97.

Trustees—H. E. Torrance (for), 123; H. C. Shepard (for), 128; Burr W. Lyon (for), 119; A. S. Mitchell (ag), 96; A. O. Lofsiedt (ag), 93; Geo. O. Moore (ag), 95.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts (for), 123; Geo. M. Plumb (ag), 93.

Treasurer—R. F. Baker, 219.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten (for), 123; W. W. Herron (ag), 95.

Justice—Jonathan Gordon (for), 121; C. B. Langdon (ag), 98.

Constable—R. E. Covey (for), 121; A. S. Husseilton (ag), 97.<sup>37</sup>

The census of 1885 gave Worthington a population of 997, a gain of 361 during the preceding five years, and of 588 in ten years.

There was a slight falling off in the vote of that year, only 201 ballots being cast. The two parties again lined up for the fray, and again was the license party successful, carrying the mooted license question by a majority of 40 and electing all its nominees by slightly larger majorities. The vote:

For license, 119; against license, 79.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 127; C. B. Loveless (ag), 66.

Trustees—H. C. Shepard (for), 121; Azom Forbes (for), 128; S. S. Hewitt (for), 127; H. H. Anderson (ag), 71; S. Kindlund (ag), 68; J. F. Humiston (ag), 74.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts (for), 120;

E. F. Buchan (ag), 79.

Treasurer—R. F. Baker, 201.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten (for), 119; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 79.

Justice—I. P. Durfee (for), 120; T. L. Taylor (ag), 79.<sup>38</sup>

Worthington was very prosperous in 1886. The building improvements for the year amounted to about \$40,000, included in the list being the Bank of Worthington building, erected at a cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000; the Catholic church, depot, and many residences. Over 600 cars of freight were received and between 500 and 600 were shipped. Of these about 400 cars were of hay, 82 flax and 40 livestock.

The annual village election disclosed the fact that the temperance people had made gains. License was voted by only 12 majority, and the majorities of the license nominees were cut down to an average of 27. Two hundred eleven votes were cast. The result:

For license, 107; against license, 95.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 121; Azom Forbes (ag), 89.

Trustees—H. C. Shepard (for), 119; S. S. Hewitt (for), 122; Frank Glasgow (for), 121; J. W. Lewis (ag), 93; J. E. Hammerberg (ag), 91; T. L. Taylor (ag), 89.

Recorder—R. B. Plotts (for), 119; E. F. Buchan (ag), 92.

Treasurer—R. F. Baker (for), 120; Geo. O. Moore (ag), 91.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten (for), 121; Frank Lewis (ag), 88.

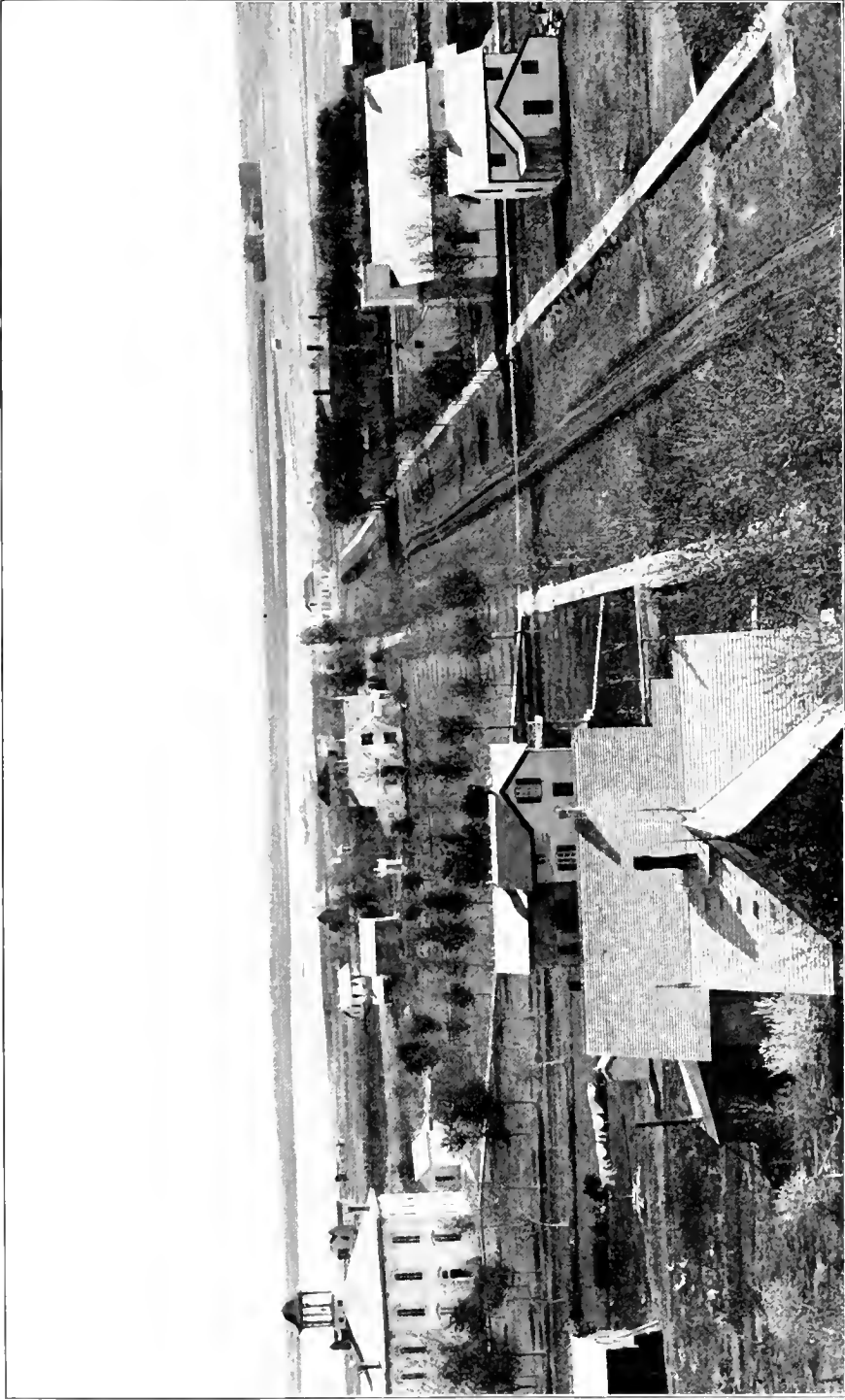
Justice—Jonathan Gordon (for), 118; C. T. Pope (ag), 92.

<sup>36</sup>In giving the result of this, and succeeding elections, I have labeled the nominees of the license party (for), and the nominees of the against license party (ag). Those who were on both tickets or had no opposition are not labeled. Party lines were not always clearly defined, especially for minor offices, and occasionally names of persons have ap-

peared on the tickets whose beliefs were not with the party nominating them.

<sup>37</sup>Appointive officers; R. E. Covey, street commissioner; Frank Wells, night policeman.

<sup>38</sup>Appointive officers; S. M. Smith, night policeman; B. F. Thurber, street commissioner.



VIEW OF WORTHINGTON, 1882

Looking up Fourth Avenue, Taken from the Tower of the Old Presbyterian Church. Showing Clary Addition, Which Then Consisted of Two Slaughter Houses and "Slaughter House Slough". In Anderson's Addition Were Four Residences and a Barn.



Constable—J. E. Wells (for), 120; A. S. Husselton (ag), 91.<sup>39</sup>

The building improvements during 1887 were not very extensive. Quite a number of dwelling houses were erected, but the business part of town evidenced little improvement. Times were fairly prosperous, however.

There was a slight change in village politics in 1887. There were two tickets in the field, one put in nomination by the license party, the other nominated at a general caucus, participated in largely by the anti-license element. Two hundred forty-five votes were cast. License was carried by 61 majority, and the license ticket was elected. The vote:

For license, 151; against license, 90.

President—H. C. Shepard (for), 147; Peter Thompson (gen<sup>40</sup>), 96.

Trustees—Frank Glasgow, 243; Chas. L. Peterson, 241; S. McLean (for), 154; S. V. Wyckoff (gen), 93.

Recorder—Frank Lewis, 241.

Treasurer—C. W. Smith (for), 146; R. F. Baker (gen), 100.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten (for), 146; S. Kindlund (gen), 102.

Justice—E. B. Hall, 244.

Constable—W. I. Humiston (for), 142; A. S. Husselton (gen), 102.<sup>41</sup>

In 1888, for the first time since local option went into effect, the anti-license party was successful, defeating license by 12 majority. The result came as a surprise to many people, as license had carried the year before by 61. The vote for village officers was close, the

license party capturing the majority of the offices. Two hundred fifty-two votes were cast. The result in detail:

For license, 112; against license, 124.

President—C. H. Smith (for), 126; J. W. Crigler (ag), 122.

Trustees—E. R. Humiston, 233; Frank Glasgow (for), 127; S. McLean (for), 117; S. Kindlund (ag), 124; E. S. Mills (ag), 122; C. L. Peterson,<sup>42</sup> 20.

Recorder—Frank Lewis, 231.

Treasurer—C. W. Smith (for), 127; John Humiston (ag), 125.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten (for), 142; J. W. Lewis (ag), 107.

Justice<sup>43</sup>—Jonathan Gordon (for), 126; C. T. Shattuc (ag), 126.<sup>44</sup>

Again was the license question decided in the negative in 1889, this time by a reduced majority of 6. While the tickets in the field were the usual license and against license, they were labeled respectively citizens and independent. The former elected all officers except the nominee for treasurer. Two hundred eighty-six votes were cast. The vote:

For license, 138; against license, 141.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 155; C. P. Shepard (ag), 129.

Trustees—Frank Glasgow (for), 160; Chas. W. Smith (for), 157; C. J. Samuelson (for), 154; E. S. Mills, (ag), 124; W. H. Gilbert (ag), 130; August Falk (ag), 129.

Recorder—Frank Lewis (for), 152; M. P. Mann (ag), 132.

<sup>39</sup>Appointive officers: B. F. Thurber, street commissioner; S. M. Smith, night policeman, succeeded by B. W. Lyon, who was appointed Feb. 19, 1887.

<sup>40</sup>Nominated at the general caucus.

<sup>41</sup>By resolution of March 18, 1887, the office of city attorney was created, and J. A. Town was appointed to the office April 6. Other appointive officers: B. W. Lyon, night policeman; B. F. Thurber, street commissioner.

<sup>42</sup>Mr. Peterson had been nominated by the license caucus, but declined to make the race. E. R. Humiston, who had been nominated at the against license caucus, was then placed on the license ticket in his place. Twenty votes were cast for Mr. Peterson, despite the fact that he refused to be a candidate.

<sup>43</sup>C. W. Hibbreth was appointed justice on June 6, 1888, for a two year term.

<sup>44</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, city attorney; B. F. Thurber, street commissioner; B. W. Lyon, night policeman.

Treasurer—F. L. Humiston (for),  
139; A. L. Johnson (ag), 147.

Assessor—C. W. Hildreth, 253.

Justice<sup>45</sup>—Wm. M. Bear, 255.

Constable—W. L. Humiston.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>45</sup>Jonathan Gordon appointed justice Aug. 9, 1889, to fill an unexpired term.

<sup>46</sup>Served one year and resigned March 15, 1890. His successor was chosen at the election

of 1890. Appointive officers: J. A. Town, city attorney; B. F. Thurber, street commissioner; Chas. A. Covey, night policeman; August Strom, police officer.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### WORTHINGTON—1890-1908.

The growth of Worthington during its early history was slow but continuous. At the annual elections each year a larger vote was polled than on the previous year. Every five years the census showed an increase in population. In 1875 the population had been 419; in 1880, 636; in 1885, 997. When the census of 1890 was taken the number of inhabitants had increased to 1,164, a gain of 167 over that of five years previous and 528 over that of ten years before. From the time of the grasshopper visitation the village had been prosperous. From 1880 to 1890 there had been no boom, but a substantial gain in all branches of business was noticed. The town had advanced from a frontier village of the shack and shanty period to a well built, handsome and prosperous community.

Three hundred six votes were cast at the annual election of 1890. Sentiment had turned back to the license idea of regulating the liquor traffic, and the license party carried the day by 33 majority. That party also elected its village ticket. The vote:

For license, 164; against license, 131.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 163; C. P. Shepard (ag), 138.

Trustees—Frank Glasgow (for), 113; C. J. Samuelson (for), 156; C. W. Smith (for), 163; J. W. Crigler (ag), 131; Gust Swanberg (ag), 136; Frank Hansberger (ag), 139.

Recorder—Frank Lewis (for), 157; M. A. Nichols (ag), 143.

Treasurer—A. L. Johnson, 282.

Assessor—J. A. Town (for), 157; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 141.

Justice<sup>1</sup>—L. B. Bennett (for), 163; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 136.

Constable—David Anderson, 300.<sup>2</sup>

A system of water works was installed by the city in 1891. The question of issuing bonds to the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 237 to 52 at the annual election in March. The contract for putting in the system was let to Harrison & Hawley on June 10, 1891, on a bid of \$14,700, and the system was completed late in the year. R. B. Plotts was inspector of construction. The total cost of the plant and system was \$17,549.22.<sup>3</sup>

The license party was victorious at the polls again in 1891, carrying the day by 7 majority. Three hundred nine votes were polled. The vote:

For license, 150; against license, 143.

<sup>1</sup>Jonathan Gordon was appointed justice on Nov. 19, 1890, to complete a short unexpired term.

<sup>2</sup>Appointive officers same as preceding year.

<sup>3</sup>Recorder's annual report, March 21, 1892.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 168; C. P. Shepard (ag), 138.

Trustees—Frank Glasgow (for), 161; J. P. Moulton (for), 170; Aug. Falk (for), 158; O. G. Grundsten (ag), 144; R. S. Hurd (ag), 136; M. A. Nichols (ag), 113.

Recorder—Frank Lewis (for), 160; E. F. Buchan (ag), 142.

Treasurer—A. L. Johnson, 307.

Assessor—E. W. Goff (for), 157; L. B. Bennett (ag), 151.

Justice (one year)—C. W. Hildreth (for), 153; Jonathan Gordon (ag), 143.

Justice (two years)—W. M. Bear<sup>4</sup> (for), 160; L. B. Bennett (ag), 144.

Constable—H. W. Fuqua (for), 151; B. G. Lagrange (ag), 147.<sup>5</sup>

One of the most progressive years in the town's history was 1892. Nobles county's land values were rising, real estate transfers were numerous, and settlers came into the country by hundreds. The population of the village increased wonderfully, and many new business enterprises were started. So great was the influx of settlers that residence houses became scarce, and the town could not take care of all that came. Every available living room in the city was utilized.<sup>6</sup> The sound of the hammer, the rush of the plane and the grind of the saw were heard in the streets, and new structures went up in all directions. The improvements for the year amounted to over \$100,000, the largest expenditure ever made in a single year up to that time. With the exception of \$3,000 the expenditure was

<sup>4</sup>Died during term. L. B. Bennett appointed Jan. 1, 1892.

<sup>5</sup>Appointive officers same as preceding year.

<sup>6</sup>For months every room that a human being could consent to dwell in has been occupied. Hotels and boarding houses have been crowded to repletion by families who would fain keep house for themselves. The old hexagonal school house has given shelter within the last two months to about fifty

all of a private character. Among the improvements were the brick store buildings of H. E. Torrance, \$12,000; Geo. W. Wilson, \$7,000; and W. L. Humiston & Co., \$4,500; and the water works building, erected at a cost of \$3,000.

The vote at the annual village election that year was 352, a gain of 43 over the preceding year, and the largest vote that had yet been cast. License carried by 46 majority. The vote in detail:

For license, 191; against license, 145.

President—H. E. Torrance, 314.

Trustees—E. W. Goff, 311; F. R. Durfee (for), 171; Fred L. Humiston (for), 183; Gust Swanberg (ag), 174; R. W. Moberly (ag), 157.

Recorder—E. E. Warren (for), 190; H. M. Palm (ag), 152.

Treasurer—M. P. Mann, 345.

Assessor—O. G. Grundsten, 313.<sup>7</sup>

During the first half of 1893 the prosperous times continued; then came the memorable panic and the resultant hard times period, and the village was at a standstill for several years. One of the banks closed its doors; business was for a time paralyzed; the town was without life. Before the panic came, it had been decided to install an electric lighting system. On July 10 the question of issuing \$8,000 bonds for that purpose was submitted to the voters at a special election. The matter was affirmatively decided by a vote of 202 to 24, but the bonds could not be disposed of, and it was two years later before the plant was put in.

Three hundred ninety-one votes were persons. Though not at all adapted for residence purposes, it has been a welcome refuge for many worthy people who have come to dwell with us." *Worthington Advance*, April 21, 1892.

<sup>7</sup>Appointive officers; March 22, J. A. Town, city attorney; April 2, David Anderson, night policeman; April 2, O. G. Grundsten, street commissioner. Mr. Grundsten resigned Aug. 17, when Thomas Grever was appointed to complete the term.

cast in 1893. License was carried by 22 majority, and the whole license ticket, with the exception of the nominee for constable, was elected. The vote:

For license, 198; against license, 176.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 236; A. Rakestraw (ag), 154.

Trustees—E. C. Pannell (for), 237; David Anderson (for), 235; Jas. Manning (for), 216; Gust Swanberg (ag), 177; W. W. Loveless (ag), 140; R. W. Moberly (ag), 149.

Recorder—A. L. Johnson (for), 232; H. M. Palm (ag), 157.

Treasurer—M. P. Mann, 289.

Assessor—L. B. Bennett (for), 226; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 150.

Justices—C. W. Hildreth, 380; L. B. Bennett (for), 226; R. W. Moberly (ag), 161.

Constable—H. M. Twitchell (for), 158; H. W. Fuqua (ag), 221.<sup>8</sup>

Worthington has been miraculously free from destructive fire losses, due largely, in recent years, to its excellent fire department. On only a few occasions has serious loss been encountered from the fiery element. One of the most destructive blazes occurred early on the morning of June 30, 1894. The fire was discovered about three o'clock in the rear of two frame store buildings on Tenth street, between Second and Third avenues, occupied by Blair & Co., shoe and harness dealers, and W. S. Lewis, grocer. When discovered, the fire had a good start, but within one hour after the alarm was given, it was under control, and half an hour later it was out. Both buildings were destroyed, and both stocks of goods were consumed. On

November 12, of the same year, Blair & Co., was again burned out in a new location. The latter fire was caused by the falling of a lamp.

License carried by 92 majority in 1894, and the following officers were elected:<sup>9</sup> President, Daniel Shell; trustees, E. C. Pannell, David Anderson and Frank Glasgow; recorder, A. L. Johnson; treasurer, A. H. Palm; assessor, R. B. Plotts; street commissioner,<sup>10</sup> B. F. Thurber.

The gain in population from 1890 to 1895 was 753, and in the last named year the census showed a population of 1917. Worthington was again the metropolis of the southwestern corner of the state.<sup>11</sup> One of the events of 1895 was the installation of an electric lighting plant by the village. At a special election held June 11 the matter was submitted to the voters. On the first proposition submitted, that the village put in an electric lighting plant at a cost of not more than \$15,000, the vote was 201 in favor to 79 against. On the second proposition, that the village issue bonds not to exceed \$15,000 for the purpose of putting in the plant, the vote was 197 in favor to 87 against. The contract for the system was let in September to Clausen & Bonwell, of St. Paul, representing the General Electric company, of Chicago, on a bid of \$8,999. The contract for the engines and boilers was let to Sioux City Engine & Iron Works on a bid of \$5,095. The system was completed that fall, and the lights were turned on for the first time December 10. The plant started with a patronage of 300 lights.

<sup>8</sup>Appointive officers: B. F. Thurber, street commissioner; David Anderson, night policeman; J. A. Town, city attorney.

<sup>9</sup>The vote of this election is not obtainable.

<sup>10</sup>Had been made an elective office. Ap-

pointive officers who served under this administration were R. P. Free, night policeman, and J. A. Town, city attorney.

<sup>11</sup>Populations of other nearby towns: Luverne, 1,890; Pipestone, 1,668; Jackson, 1,356; Adrian, 1,072.

The election of 1895 was a complete victory for the against license party. License was defeated by 35 majority, and, with the exception of nominees for one trustee, one justice of the peace and constable, all the temperance nominees were elected. Four hundred seventy-six votes were cast. The vote:

For license, 219; against license, 251.

President—Daniel Shell (for), 231; C. J. Smallwood (ag), 215.

Trustees—David Anderson (for), 217; Azom Forbes (for), 236; E. C. Pannell (for), 234; H. M. Palm (ag), 238; G. R. Curran (ag), 237; Marvin Hammond (ag), 231.

Recorder—C. M. Crandall (for), 214; Gust Swanberg (ag), 260.

Treasurer—A. L. Johnson (for), 233; A. H. Palm (ag), 242.

Justices—C. M. Cory (for), 247; L. B. Bennett (for), 208; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 257; J. B. Green (ag), 225.

Street Commissioner—R. E. Covey (for), 169; B. F. Thurber (ag), 305.

Assessor—R. B. Plotts (for), 231; W. H. Buchan (ag), 242.

Constable—Gilbert Anderson (for), 238; H. W. Fuqua (ag), 232.<sup>12</sup>

Worthington was visited by a hard wind storm on the night of May 11, 1896, when several houses and other buildings were partially destroyed. The worst damage was done in Clary's addition. Roofs were torn off, buildings blown from their foundations, and considerable loss sustained. No one was killed, and only one person, Wm. Guise's child, was injured, and that not seriously.

<sup>12</sup>Appointive officers: Samuel Gibson, night policeman; Daniel Rohrer, city attorney; H. W. Fuqua, policeman; M. S. Smith, city clerk. The office of city clerk was established Dec. 9, 1895, and Mc. Smith was appointed on that date.

<sup>13</sup>Died during term of office.

The license people regained control of the city government in 1896, carrying the "question" by 61 votes and electing all except one member of their ticket. Four hundred sixty-three votes were cast. The result:

For license, 260; against license, 199.

President—Azom Forbes<sup>13</sup> (for), 277; W. W. Loveless (ag), 184.

Trustees—E. C. Pannell (for), 280; Frank Glasgow (for), 275; O. G. Grundsten (for), 260; H. N. Douglas (ag), 199; E. F. Buchan (ag), 179; J. D. Matteson (ag), 191.

Recorder—C. H. Sibley<sup>14</sup> (for), 279; P. G. Johnson (ag), 178.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance (for), 263; A. H. Palm (ag), 199.

Street Commissioner—Robert Free (for), 228; B. F. Thurber (ag), 232.

Assessor—E. W. Goff (for), 256; J. H. Maxwell (ag), 200.<sup>15</sup>

There was a falling off in the vote in 1897, 399 being the highest number cast for any one office. With the exception of two minor offices, the license party elected its ticket. The vote:

For license, 204; against license, 189.

President—Frank Glasgow (for), 213; H. M. Palm (ag), 186.

Trustees—A. N. Douglas (for), 245; R. B. Beeson (for), 215; O. G. Grundsten (for), 206; E. A. Tripp (ag), 189; S. Kindlund (ag), 181; J. D. Matteson (ag), 182.

Recorder—E. K. Smith (for), 220; W. W. Loveless (ag), 176.

Treasurer—H. E. Torrance (for), 243; Jas. S. Ramage (ag), 182.

Street Commissioner—R. P. Free<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Died during term. M. S. Smith appointed to fill the vacancy on Nov. 13, 1896.

<sup>15</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, city attorney; L. L. McCartney, night policeman; M. S. Smith, city clerk.

<sup>16</sup>Resigned Aug. 27, 1897, to accept office of night policeman. B. F. Thurber appointed Sept. 10.



VIEW OF WORTHINGTON, 1884

Looking Down Fourth Avenue from Main Street. The Building in the Foreground is the Miller Block.



VIEW OF WORTHINGTON, 1895

Looking North from the Corner of Fourth Avenue and Eleventh Street. Showing the Site of the Present Fair Grounds and a Vacant Country Now Largely Built Up.



(for), 213; B. F. Thurber (ag), 183.

Assessor—E. W. Goff (for), 230; L. B. Bennett (ag), 167.

Justices—C. H. Schechter (for), 212; B. W. Lyon (for), 189; J. H. Maxwell (ag), 178; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 208.

Constable—R. C. Dana (for), 214; H. W. Fuqua (ag), 177.<sup>17</sup>

Four hundred thirty votes were cast in 1898. License carried by 24 majority, and nearly the whole license ticket was elected. The vote:

For license, 215; against license, 209.

President—Frank Glasgow (for), 237; H. M. Palm (ag), 193.

Trustees—Walter Aagaard (for), 226; W. E. Madison (for), 238; E. K. Smith (for), 212; Otis Bigelow (ag), 208; Gust Swanberg (ag), 209; J. D. Matteson (ag), 195.

Recorder—T. D. Palmer (for), 231; H. Hawley (ag), 194.

Treasurer—E. C. Pannell (for), 247; S. Kindlund (ag), 183.

Street Commissioner—C. H. Alford (for), 204; B. F. Thurber (ag), 224.

Assessor—R. B. Plotts (for), 176; E. W. Goff (ag), 251.<sup>18</sup>

Again was the license party successful in 1899 by a small majority. All its nominees were elected with the exception of the one for recorder. Four hundred fifty-seven votes were polled. The result:

For license, 230; against license, 220; no license, 3.

President—E. C. Pannell (for), 250; A. N. Douglas (ag), 206.

Trustees—W. E. Madison (for), 251;

Walter Aagaard (for), 243; J. N. Gould (for), 248; Peter Thompson (ag), 212; H. M. Palm (ag), 203; Jas. Mackay (ag), 204.

Recorder—C. M. Cory (for), 222; E. W. Goff (ag), 232.

Treasurer—Aug. Palm (for), 229; C. L. Peterson (ag), 227.

Street Commissioner—C. H. Alford (for), 238; B. F. Thurber (ag), 219.

Justices—E. A. Stevens (for), 238; H. S. Hobson (for), 238; A. E. Tuttle (ag), 196; C. W. Hildreth (ag), 222.

Constable—S. A. Roshon (for), 251; H. W. Fuqua (ag), 204.<sup>19</sup>

The decade from 1890 to 1900 was one of advancement. Despite the few years of hard times, the growth was marvelous. Land values rose several hundred per cent during the decade, and thousands of new settlers came to Nobles county. The effect on Worthington was a healthy growth in all lines of business. New enterprises came into existence, and prosperity abounded. The census of 1900 gave the village a population of 2,386, an increase of 1,222, or over one hundred per cent, in ten years. During the last half of this ten year period the increase was 469.<sup>20</sup>

Out of 456 votes cast in 1900 license carried by a small majority. Two members of the council and treasurer went to the temperance party; the license party was otherwise successful in electing its ticket. The vote:

For license, 232; against license, 220.<sup>21</sup>

President—E. C. Pannell (for), 230; Gust Swanberg (ag), 223.

M. J. Bryan, nightwatchman.

<sup>17</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, city attorney; M. S. Smith, city clerk; R. P. Free, night policeman.

<sup>18</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; M. S. Smith, clerk; R. P. Free, night watchman.

<sup>19</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; M. S. Smith, clerk; S. A. Roshon, marshal;

<sup>20</sup>Populations of other nearby towns, according to that census: Adrian, 1,258; Luverne, 2,223; Pipestone, 2,536; Slayton, 883; Jackson, 1,756; Windom, 1,941; St. James, 2,607.

<sup>21</sup>One vote cast for "no license," and one for "against license—yes," is not included.

Trustees—W. E. Madison (for), 225; J. N. Gould (for), 226; Walter Aagaard (for), 220; H. N. Douglas (ag), 230; David Anderson (ag), 223; E. W. Goff (ag), 234.

Recorder—John Boberg (for), 237; Geo. D. Palm (ag), 217.

Treasurer—R. F. Pepple (for), 218; C. L. Peterson (ag), 238.

Street Commissioner—Pat O'Connor (for), 251; B. F. Thurber (ag), 200.

Assessor—J. J. Kendlen (for), 254; J. P. Vail (ag), 198.<sup>22</sup>

The village election of 1901 brought out 500 votes, the largest that had up to that time been polled in the village, and the largest in the history of the village up to the election of 1907. License carried by 34 votes, and the whole license ticket, with the exception of president of the council, was elected. The vote:

For license, 265; against license, 231.

President—J. R. Conway (for), 216; H. N. Douglas, (ag), 282.

Trustees—W. E. Madison (for), 302; W. B. Hubbard (for), 273; John Boberg (for), 310; John Ramage (ag), 198; Adolph Amundson (ag), 219; G. M. Walker (ag), 188.

Recorder—F. M. Hickman (for), 285; Loren Clark (ag), 215.

Treasurer—Merle Hurlbert (for), 288; H. Hawley (ag), 212.

Street Commissioner—Pat O'Connor, 491.

Assessor—J. J. Kendlen (for), 311; W. E. Stoutemyer (ag), 182.

Justices—Gilbert Anderson (for), 286; F. A. Stevens<sup>23</sup> (for), 300; J. P. Vail (ag), 191; J. H. Scott (ag), 213.

<sup>22</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; M. S. Smith, clerk; S. A. Roshon, marshal; M. J. Bryan, nightwatchman.

<sup>23</sup>Resigned July 15, 1902. C. W. W. Dow appointed to vacancy.

Constable—S. A. Roshon (for), 287; David Bergstresser (ag), 208.<sup>24</sup>

Municipal politics were conducted on slightly different lines in 1902. An effort was made to have both parties unite on a ticket and do away with the bitter campaigning that had characterized former elections. With this in view a citizens' caucus was held, participated in by the no license party and some of the opposition, and a full ticket was put in nomination. The license party then put up a ticket, endorsing many of the nominees on the citizens' ticket, and was successful in electing two of the nominees. The total vote was 465, and license carried by 53. The vote:

For license, 256; against license, 203.

President—Frank Glasgow (for), 214; H. M. Palm (cit), 251.

Trustees—Walter Aagaard (for), 212; E. A. Tripp (cit), 265; J. N. Gould, 453; A. R. Albertus, 430.

Recorder—J. M. Messer, 454.

Treasurer—Merle Hurlbert (for), 233; Loren Clark (cit), 231.

Street Commissioner—Pat O'Connor (for), 267; B. F. Thurber (cit), 192.

Assessor—J. J. Kendlen, 444.<sup>25</sup>

For several years prior to 1903 Worthington had witnessed very prosperous times. Crops had been good, and the result was lively business in the county seat town. Then came three years of partial crop failures due to heavy rains, and during that time business was at a standstill. No building improvements were made; no new business enterprises started; there was a falling off in population.

The village was visited by a flood on

<sup>24</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; M. S. Smith, clerk; S. A. Roshon, marshal; L. L. McCartney, nightwatchman.

<sup>25</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; J. M. Potts, clerk; S. A. Roshon, marshal; L. L. McCartney, nightwatchman.



Friday, Sept. 11, 1903, and considerable damage resulted. It was due to an abnormal rainfall that almost took the form of a cloudburst. Okabena lake overflowed, and every low part of town was covered with water. The Rock Island railroad was completely covered along its whole course through the city. Many houses were filled with water, sidewalks floated away, basements and cellars were filled, and much livestock was lost. Many of the streets were navigated in boats, and rescue parties worked all night rescuing people who were in danger from the flood. Thousands of dollars were lost as a result of the disaster.

For the first time in several years the no license party was successful in voting out the saloons. The majority was an extraordinarily large one—68. Three tickets were in the field, one of them, however, being made up almost entirely of the nominees of the other two. The citizens' party, which had its origin the year before, placed a complete ticket in the field, and the no license party did the same. The license caucus was held, but adjourned without naming a ticket. Later another ticket appeared, labeled "peoples independent," which was an endorsement of nominees of the other two tickets. Four hundred seventy-nine votes were polled. The result:

For license, 203; against license, 271.

President—J. N. Gould (cit), 236; E. A. Tripp (peo<sup>26</sup> and ag), 238.

Trustees—W. E. Oliver (peo and cit), 310; W. I. Humiston (peo and cit), 266; O. W. Dieckhoff (peo and ag), 226; M. P. Mann (cit), 248; David

Anderson (ag), 203; John Ramage (ag), 164.

Recorder—J. M. Messer (cit), 212; Loren Clark (peo and ag), 261.

Treasurer—Fred Wall (cit), 297; J. S. Tolverson (ag), 165.

Street Commissioner—Pat O'Connor (peo and cit), 324; A. R. Bloom (ag), 149.

Assessor—Harvey Rew (cit), 256; J. H. Maxwell (peo), 220.

Justices—C. W. W. Dow (all tickets), 438; Gilbert Anderson<sup>27</sup> (peo and cit), 316; J. W. Read (ag), 169.

Constable—R. P. Free (peo and cit), 277; J. P. Loveless (ag), 196.<sup>28</sup>

There was a change of many votes on the license question in 1904, and license was voted by 37 majority. Former conditions in politics were resumed, and the two old parties—license and against license—again fought the battle. The former elected every nominee. The total vote was 467. The result:

For license, 250; against license, 213.

President—J. N. Gould (for), 275; E. A. Tripp (ag), 188.

Trustees—M. P. Mann, 152; S. M. Stewart (for), 298; W. I. Humiston (for), 263; O. W. Dieckhoff (ag), 197; W. O. Saxon (ag), 168.

Recorder—W. E. Madison (for), 269; Loren Clark (ag), 196.

Treasurer—Fred Wall<sup>29</sup> (for), 268; A. T. Latta (ag), 199.

Street Commissioner—Z. M. Smith (for), 240; W. E. Bloom (ag), 222.

Assessor—Ira Mishler (for), 274; J. H. Maxwell (ag), 191.<sup>30</sup>

The census of 1905 gave Worthington

<sup>26</sup>Peoples independent.

<sup>27</sup>Died during term. J. S. Kies appointed Dec. 19, 1901, to fill the vacancy.

<sup>28</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; J. M. Plotts, clerk; S. A. Roshon, night-watchman.

<sup>29</sup>Resigned June 10, 1904. John A. Boberg completed the term.

<sup>30</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; J. M. Plotts, clerk; H. A. Thurber, nightwatchman.

a population of 2,776, which was a loss of 110 in five years. It was the first census since the founding of the town that showed a loss of population. The population was divided by wards, as follows: First, 1,112; second, 1,134. Of the total population, 901 were Minnesota born, 1,913 were born in other states of the union, and 359 were foreign born. Of the last named, the countries of birth were as follows: Germany, 68; Sweden, 165; Norway, 24; Canada, 24; Ireland, 18; Denmark, 21; England, 15; Bohemia, 1; Scotland, 7; Wales, 5; Austria, 6; all other countries, 8.

Four hundred thirty-seven votes were polled in 1905. License was carried by 67 majority, and the license party elected every nominee on its ticket. The vote:

For license, 248; against license, 181.

President—J. N. Gould (for), 249; L. E. Fitch (ag), 188.

Trustees—S. M. Stewart (for), 271; W. E. Madison (for), 272; W. I. Humiston (for), 250; E. A. Tripp (ag), 178; Wm. Chaney (ag), 173; Frank Saxon (ag), 167.

Recorder—W. I. Carpenter (for), 272; Jas. Gibson (ag), 159.

Treasurer—T. A. Palmer (for), 263; A. H. Segerstrom (ag), 170.

Street Commissioner—Z. M. Smith (for), 262; W. E. Bloom (ag), 174.

Assessor—Ira Mishler (for), 250; S. Kindlund (ag), 187.

Justices—J. S. Kies, 433; C. W. W. Dow, 424.

Constable—Robert Free (for), 255; David Bergstresser (ag), 182.<sup>31</sup>

Again in 1906 was the license party successful in electing every nominee. Li-

cense was voted by a majority of 70. The total vote was 448. In detail:

For license, 252; against license, 183.

President—W. E. Madison (for), 262; E. A. Tripp (ag), 183.

Trustees—C. P. Dolan (for), 277; Ed. Stoltenberg (for), 275; S. M. Stewart (for), 264; J. H. Maxwell (ag), 166; E. V. Voak (ag), 177; L. E. Fitch (ag), 177.

Recorder—J. M. Addington (for), 278; John A. Sahlbom (ag), 167.

Treasurer—G. H. Luehrs (for), 277; Carl Anderson (ag), 171.

Street Commissioner—Z. M. Smith (for), 286; W. E. Bloom (ag), 162.

Assessor—Ira Mishler (for), 280; S. Kindlund (ag), 168.<sup>32</sup>

In 1907 the no license party made almost a clean sweep. License was defeated by 43 majority, and the temperance party elected all its nominees with the exception of two minor officers. Five hundred twenty-six votes were cast—more than at any preceding village election. The result:

For license, 238; against license, 281.

President—W. E. Madison (for), 259; E. A. Tripp (ag), 266.

Trustees—J. N. Gould (for), 252; C. P. Dolan (for), 258; Ed. Stoltenberg (for), 218; Ray Humiston (ag), 267; Fred Goff (ag), 279; E. V. Voak (ag), 267.

Recorder—Sam Swanson (for), 249; A. W. Fagerstrom (ag), 274.

Treasurer—G. H. Luehrs (for), 256; James Mackay (ag), 268.

Street Commissioner—Z. M. Smith (for), 269; Ed. Cheatham (ag), 254.

Assessor—Ira Mishler, 520.

Justices—J. S. Kies, 522; C. W. W. Dow, 517.

<sup>31</sup>Appointive officers: S. S. Smith, attorney; C. L. Mann, clerk; H. M. Twitchell, night-watchman.

<sup>32</sup>Appointive officers: S. S. Smith, attorney; C. L. Mann, clerk; August Anderson, night-watchman.



WORTHINGTON IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE



WINTER STREET SCENE, WORTHINGTON



Constable—R. P. Free (for), 250; S. A. Roshon (ag), 272.<sup>33</sup>

The election on March 17, 1908, was the most bitterly contested ever held in Worthington, and 529 votes were cast—the largest vote ever polled. License carried by one vote, and with one exception the whole license ticket was elected.

A contest was brought by members of the no license party, who alleged that illegal votes had been cast, that “in favor of license” had not received a majority of the votes cast, and other reasons why the court should set aside the canvass of the election board, and declare the election void so far as it related to the license question. The case was tried before Judge P. E. Brown,

<sup>33</sup>Appointive officers: S. S. Smith, attorney; C. L. Mann, clerk; S. A. Roshon, nightwatchman. The latter resigned, and on Nov. 11, 1907, Chas. Duell was appointed nightwatchman.

who held that there was no law on the Minnesota statute books which provided for the bringing of a contest of the kind, and the case was dismissed.

The result of the election in detail:

For license, 263; against license, 262.

President—W. E. Madison (for), 289; E. V. Voak (ag), 237.

Trustees—C. P. Dolan (for), 290; William Ronan (for), 282; C. B. Ward (for), 261; Fred Goff (ag), 247; Ray Humiston (ag), 239; Geo. Weidman (ag), 252.

Recorder—R. H. Torrance (for), 270; Will Schröder (ag), 256.

Treasurer—Sam Swanson (for), 271; Oscar Sterling (ag), 253.

Assessor—Robert Reed (for), 252; Ira Mishler (ag), 271.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup>Appointive officers: J. A. Town, attorney; C. L. Mann, clerk; Z. M. Smith, street commissioner; Chas. Duell, nightwatchman.



## CHAPTER XV.

### WORTHINGTON'S ENTERPRISES.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

One of the very first institutions to be provided after the founding of a town is the public school. While Worthington was founded in the fall of 1871, the population during the first winter was so small (and included no children) that no steps were taken to provide for a school. With the rush of settlers in the spring and summer of 1872, however, the matter of providing a school became a live issue.

While preparations were being made to organize a public school a private one was started in the summer by Mrs. M. B. Soule, who gave instruction to about twenty students for a few weeks. Several public meetings were held during the summer months, at which plans for the organization were talked over, and it seemed to be the general desire that the new town should make liberal provisions for its school.<sup>1</sup>

A district school, No. 5, was organ-

ized, but it was decided to postpone the erection of a building. In December, 1872, Worthington's first public school was opened, and it continued four months. Seventy-five pupils attended, enrolled in two grades. Major T. C. Bell was the principal and taught the higher grade; Miss Kate Chaney (later Mrs. J. A. Town) was the teacher of the lower grade. The school was maintained during the summer months and was attended by about forty students. Miss Clara Horton was the teacher. In November, 1873, the school opened again under C. C. Luckey and Mrs. Jenkins and continued about five months, with an attendance of between seventy-five and eighty students.

From the first it had been the desire and intention of the founders of the town and leading citizens to establish a school of higher learning. On December 1, 1873, the organization of the Worthington Seminary association was perfected, the object of which was "to

<sup>1</sup>"So far as we can learn there is a very general expression among property owners in favor of the erection of a school building for a graded school to cost about \$15,000. The meetings held upon the subject have been surprisingly harmonious and unanimous upon the point that nothing which the community can do to attract settlement and investment among us, and consequently, to facilitate the rapid enhancement in the value of real property, will be so effective as first class school advantages. The first step is to organize first class common schools. In time, by which we mean in a few years at farthest, we feel confident the efforts we are making to secure the

location of a seminary of learning at this point will be successful; meantime we shall have excellent common school privileges. The best of talent can be secured to conduct the schools, and the contribution of apparatus for illustrating physical science, which Professor Humiston proposes to make to the public schools at a cost of \$500 or \$600, is only one among many other features which will tend to make our schools first class. The people who are settling here have been accustomed to such privileges elsewhere, and to the manifestation of a liberal spirit, and they will have the same facilities here."—Western Advance, Aug. 31, 1872.

establish a seminary of learning for the education of persons of both sexes in science, languages, arts and useful and polite literature." The first board of directors, chosen at the time of the organization, was composed of Rev. B. H. Crever, R. F. Humiston, C. Z. Sutton, Rev. J. W. Lewis, G. Anderson, Allen Chaney, H. D. Humiston, of Worthington; Rev. J. E. Fitch, of Windom; Rev. Bronson, of Laverne; Rev. H. Webb, of Saint Peter; Levi Shell, of Sibley. The association was incorporated on December 8,<sup>2</sup> and it was decided to ask the Minnesota conference of the Methodist church to assume the relation of patron, which was done. The seminary was established and had an intermittant existence of a few years. Had it not been for the disastrous times that came upon the country there can be no doubt that the institution would have become a prosperous school.

During the summer of 1844 the public school was again maintained and was attended by sixty or seventy pupils. Mrs. Jenkins and Miss Ary Grant were the instructors. Up to this time the schools had been maintained under the ordinary district organization, but in the summer of 1844 the residents decided to adopt the independent district plan, which had been provided for by the legislature of 1842. A petition was circulated, asking the electors to assemble at the school room on August 12 to vote for or against the adoption of the new plan.<sup>3</sup> At the election sixteen votes were cast in favor of the change and four against it. On August 25 a board of six directors was chosen, as follows:

R. F. Humiston, I. N. Sater, Peter Thompson, C. Z. Sutton, M. B. Soule and J. A. Town. At the first meeting of the board Mr. Humiston was chosen president; Mr. Thompson, treasurer; and Mr. Town, clerk. The school under the new arrangement opened in October with three departments and with 160 pupils in attendance. Miss Barbara Cosler was principal and George M. Plumb and Miss Phila Rowell were assistants.

For several years after the establishment of the school there was no public school building, and it had been conducted in rented buildings, part of the time at least in the famous Miller hall. The matter of erecting a building was taken up in 1845, and at a special meeting of the electors on April 27 it was decided to erect a school house at a cost of not more than \$5,000. Specifications were prepared and bids called for. A. C. Robinson was the only bidder, and he was awarded the contract on August 25, on a bid of \$4,888. By a vote of 20 to 5 bonds were voted August 23. Six thousand dollars worth of bonds were authorized, but only five thousand dollars worth were issued. Mr. Robinson erected the hexagonal building, which was in commission for so many years, and during the first week in January, 1846, it was turned over to the school district, the event being accompanied by a public demonstration. The block of land upon which the school building was erected, and which is still used for school purposes, was donated to the village of Worthington in an early day by the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company and was later turned over to the

<sup>2</sup>The incorporators were the same as the first board of directors except that I. N. Sater's name appeared in place of that of Allen Chaney.

<sup>3</sup>The petition was signed by I. N. Sater,

Daniel Rohrer, C. P. Stough, C. B. Loveless, John W. Smith, Geo. O. Moore, L. P. McLain, J. A. Town, Daniel Shell, Otis Bigelow, R. D. Barber, Benjamin F. Thurber, J. H. Johnson, W. S. Stockdale, C. Z. Sutton, C. C. Goodnow, J. Craft and H. D. Humiston.



school district, quit claim deeds having been given to the school district early in 1882 by both the village and the railroad company.

Until the fall of 1881 the Worthington schools had been simply graded schools. Application was made in October for state aid to the amount of \$400, under a legislative act for the encouragement of higher education, and on November 12 the organization in accordance with the regulations of the state high school board was perfected. Since that date an excellent high school has been maintained, from which have been graduated 181 pupils.<sup>4</sup> An alumni association was formed in 1894, which has since held annual meetings.

The old hexagonal school building was in service until 1889. At a school meeting held August 20, 1888, it was decided, by a vote of 19 to 0, to erect a new school building. That the cost thereof should not be less than \$20,000

was carried by a vote of 32 to 4 and was later made unanimous. The board of education was also authorized to issue bonds for not less than the same amount, and preparations for the construction of a suitable building were put under way.

Architect T. D. Allen, of Minneapolis, furnished the plans, and the contract for its construction was let to S. Hackett & Son, of South Dakota, December 1, 1888, on a bid of \$25,990, not including the heating plant, which cost \$3,100. Bonds to the amount of thirty thousand dollars were sold April 3, 1889; the corner stone was laid with ceremonies June 8, and the new building was accepted October 25, 1889. The handsome structure has been in use since. Every available part of the building is in use and the schools are overcrowded. In the summer of 1907 bonds were voted to build additional school room, but a contest was started, and it was found that the election was illegally held.

<sup>4</sup>The graduates of the Worthington high school are as follows:

- 1887—Jane Husseilton, Alice Durfee.  
 1888—None.  
 1889—Dora Barber, Earl P. Free, Julia H. Lind, Kate Hovey, Grace E. Smith, Julia Van Loven.  
 1890—Alma Covey, Laura Bingham, Mary Humiston, Mary Mitchell, George Foster Moore, Blanche H. Ramage, Winnifred Shell, Anna Wright.  
 1891—Levi E. Covey, Ferné Bullis, Eva Oaks, Frank R. Pepple.  
 1892—Jennie Covey, Nellie Stevens, Marguerite Wright.  
 1893—Loren Clark, Lura Moberly, Martha Covey, William Thurber.  
 1894—Stelle Smith, Carrie Allen, Arthur P. Pose, Isabel Shanks, Warren A. Rose, Mary E. Moffat, Gertrude Oliver.  
 1895—Mary Dolner, William V. Kennedy, Fred Bedford, Susan H. Chaffer, Charles H. Ager.  
 1896—Gertie Blair, Sadie Lewis, Susan Gibson, Jennie M. Beckley, Martha Edger Barnes, Eureka Sahlhom, Cora Covey, W. B. Stoutemyer, Jennie E. Torrance, Lulu L. Putnam.  
 1897—Mary I. Damon, Draper Dayton, Maud Forbes, J. Burr Ludlow, Russell B. Moberly, Lee Shell, Robert R. Smith.  
 1898—Alma Anderson, Irving Bedford, Ilma Cale, George M. Damon, Rosa Dolner, Don Carlos Dow, Jessie Kerr, Leone McKeever, Louise Riley.  
 1899—Raymond Peterson, George Hurd, Horace Peterson, George M. Cale, Georgette Dow, Harold S. Tuttle, J. Manning Plotts, Harley Chaffer, Alta Beeson.  
 1900—Eva Pearle Barnes, Besie Bedford, Mabel Bryden, Anna Erickson, Roy V.

Lewis, Byron E. Smith, Susan A. Stoutemyer, Jen E. Stoutemyer.

1901—Maude Ager, Walter Ager, Jeanette Bliss, Frank Bryden, Nancy Clark, Addie Crever, Edith Cale, Frances Clark, Carrie Dayton, Alice Fifth, Neta Harden, Dwight Harden, Florence Maxwell, John Mosher, Reuben Gales, Jet Smallwood, Prue Town.

1902—Edna Goodrich, Eva Miller, Stella Wilbern, Ella Cloud, John Glasgow, Robert Town, Fred Tripp, Harry Hawley, Elmer Johnson, Ella Wood, Amanda Sundberg, George Wyckoff, Mattie Bryan.

1903—Harris Darling, Abida Loveless, Harry Wilbern, Louis Jones, Pearl Luchers, Angie Eric, Clayton Bedford, Amelia Bliss.

1904—Rosa C. Sather, Addie Ely, Nellie Lyon, Mavy Ella Morton, Amy Darling, Stella Anderson, Mae Tupper, Ray Hawley, Helen Ludlow, Clinton Mann, Luther M. Ramage, Laura Pepple, Herbert Frank, Lillian Webb, Esther Harding.

1905—Beulah Sam, Maggie Ackerman, Florence Lyon, Nellie Ely, Nellie Crever, David Tripp, Clarence Pannell, Eva Darling, Stella Gray, Clyde McConkey, Orval Tupper, Flora Buchan, Lillian Morton, Fanny Henricks, Cloyd Comer, Martha Kindlund.

1906—Alida Bedford, Jessie Ager, Rensie DeBoer, Amy Forbes, James Mott, Edward Lawton, Mabel Kunzeman, Emma Ferguson, Lloyd Patterson.

1907—Vergil Fellows, Harry Gray, Nell Ad-dington, Hazel Pepple, Arlounie Loveless, Florence Lysle, Agnes Ryan, Charles Haggard, Ivan Pettit, Benjamin Bilyard, Emily McConkey.

1908—Oakley Tripp, Stanley Swanberg, Warner Hubbard, Jay Voak, Florence Webb, Mabel Nicholas, Myrtle Turner, Anna Asman, Julia Town, Marjorie Shell.

From the little private school of twenty students in 1872 the Worthington schools have advanced until today they rank among the best of the state. In the high school are enrolled 117 students; in the graded schools, conducted by a corps of thirteen teachers, are enrolled 555 pupils.

#### WORTHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

During its history of thirty-seven years Worthington has not had a disastrous conflagration. On three or four occasions fires have gained some headway, but have generally been confined to the building in which they originated. The loss at any one fire has never been over a few thousand dollars, and the total losses from the fiery fiend have been as small as any town of the size and age in the state. In the early days this was due more to luck than because of any organized fire protection. After the water works system was installed, and the Worthington fire department came into existence, the immunity was due to that efficient body of fire fighters.

Nearly every town and village takes more or less pride in its fire department, and when writing of them it is customary to search a book of synonyms for high-flown adjectives to properly describe the work of the department and the heroism of the fire fighters. Sometimes such encomiums are deserved, and sometimes they are not. It is because of this custom among newspaper writers to write only pleasing things of local institutions and men, that frequently sincere praise is taken with a degree of allowance. Let it not be so with regard to the Worthington fire department. I desire to state that, from a personal

knowledge of the work of the department from the time of its founding, I know it to be an exceptionally capable organization. Thoroughly organized and drilled, it has always been able to control any situation that has confronted it. Scores of times has the department been called upon to fight the "burid leveler," and on every occasion has it been victorious. It has fought fire in a systematic way, and its work has been equalled by but few volunteer departments.

At an early day steps were taken to provide fire protection. For several years during its early history Worthington's buildings were constructed entirely of wood. The danger from fire was realized, and in June, 1874, the first steps to minimize the danger were taken. The village council provided for the building of three cisterns on the court house square, two on Tenth street, at the intersection with Third and Fourth avenues, and one on Ninth street, where it intersects with Third avenue. The cost of these cisterns was not to be over \$36 each. Each was to be filled with water and kept so, that in case of fire a supply would be always on hand. A bucket brigade was organized, but no cause arising to give it employment, it soon went out of existence.

The council again bestirred itself in December, 1875, when action was taken toward providing means of fighting fire. The business men also took a hand, and employed H. McMillen to act as night fire patrol. The cisterns, which had been out of use for some time, were filled with water. A fire house, 24x30 feet, was erected on the court house square, in which were kept a few ladders and buckets. A wagon, upon which were barrels filled with brine, was for a time kept at the fire house, to be used

in case of fire. Of course the water froze in the winter time, and the town would have been at the mercy of the flames had serious conflagrations started. The futility of the fire fighting apparatus, as it was in the early days, is shown by the result of the Miller hall fire in 1878, when no headway could be made in controlling the fire.

With this primitive fire fighting apparatus the people of Worthington fought their fires for many years. There was no regularly organized company, but the buckets and ladders were kept on hand, and when a fire broke out they were at the service of those who wished to use them. In the spring of 1889 an effort was made to secure better fire protection. A meeting was called for March 9 to consider ways and means, but no definite action was taken, and the village was without adequate protection until 1891.

When the water works system was under construction, during the year 1891, preparations were made for providing adequate fire protection. The village council ordered 700 feet of hose, a hose cart and a hook and ladder truck, at an expense of \$855. It then asked the citizens to organize a volunteer fire department, and late in August the Worthington fire department came into existence with 38 active members<sup>5</sup> and the following officers: Jas. Manning, chief; Frank Glasgow, assistant chief; H. C. Crawford, secretary; C. W. Smith, foreman hose department; Jas. Mackay, as-

sistant foreman hose department; M. A. Nichols, foreman hook and ladder department; J. C. Durfee, assistant foreman hook and ladder department.

Shortly after its organization the Worthington fire department became a member of the Columbian Inter-state Fireman association, an organization comprising departments in parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. For several years the Worthington department was represented by a team at the annual tournaments, and distinguished itself by winning more prizes than any other team in the organization.

For many years the department was purely volunteer, and received no aid from the village. Now the members receive nominal fees for attending meetings and fighting fires. In the fall of 1906 the department gave \$2,000 toward the erection of the handsome city hall and fire station, which is now its home. The total cost of the building was about \$3,000. Elegant quarters, with bath and all modern conveniences, have been fitted up, and the Worthington fire department now has as fine a home as any volunteer department in the state of Minnesota.

Following have been the principal officers of the department since the organization:

1892—Frank Glasgow, chief; Robert Bibby, assistant; A. H. Palm, secretary; M. P. Mann, treasurer.

1893—H. C. Crawford, chief; R. H. Ira S. Mishler, R. P. Free and J. D. Humiston.

The following became honorary members at the time of organization: Daniel Shell, J. P. Moulton, August Falk and Frank Lewis. The following have been elected honorary members since organization: M. S. Smith, John R. Newton, L. E. Covey, H. C. Crawford, Jas. Manning, Leon Morris, F. R. Durfee, L. L. McCartney, Ray Humiston, Frank Glasgow, W. B. Stoutemyer and J. C. Durfee.

<sup>5</sup>The charter members were F. G. Martin, John Mackey, J. C. Durfee, F. J. Straka, E. C. Wilson, M. A. Nichols, C. A. Covey, Geo. Shirek, C. W. Smith, Jas. Manning, H. C. Crawford, H. H. Graham, Jas. Ramage, David Anderson, Jas. Mackay, Ernest Perry, A. I. Johnson, F. L. Humiston, Henry Twitchell, W. E. Madison, M. P. Mann, A. H. Palm, Will Wright, Merle Hurlbert, R. H. Bibby, Will Chippenger, F. H. Day, Ray Humiston, Frank Glasgow, C. Lamb, C. W. Mitchell, W. S. Webb, John Sahlbom, M. S. Smith, Will Post,

Bibby, assistant; A. H. Palm, secretary; M. P. Mann, treasurer.

1894—A. H. Palm, chief; Jas. Mackay, assistant; Vere Hurlbert, secretary; C. H. Babcock, treasurer.

1895—A. H. Palm, chief; R. H. Bibby, assistant; Harry S. Hobson, secretary; Jas. S. Ramage, treasurer.

1896—J. C. Durfee, chief; W. E. Madison, assistant; Harry S. Hobson, secretary; Jas. S. Ramage, treasurer.

1897—R. P. Free, chief; C. H. Babcock, assistant; Loren Town, secretary; Jas. S. Ramage, treasurer.

1898—Jas. Mackay, chief; A. L. Johnson, assistant; Harry S. Hobson, secretary; Jas. S. Ramage, treasurer.

1899—Jas. Mackay, chief; Harry S. Hobson, assistant; Arthur P. Rose, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

1900—Jas. Mackay, chief; Harry S. Hobson, assistant; A. W. Fagerstrom, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

1901—Jas. Mackay, chief; Harry S. Hobson, assistant; A. W. Fagerstrom, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

1902—Jas. Mackay, chief; W. E. Madison, assistant; A. W. Fagerstrom, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

1903, 1904 and 1905—Same as in 1902.

1906—W. G. Ramage, chief; W. I. Humiston, assistant; A. W. Fagerstrom, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

1907—W. G. Ramage, chief; W. I. Humiston and T. A. Palmer, assistants; A. W. Fagerstrom, secretary; A. R. Albertus, treasurer.

#### MILITIA COMPANY.

One of the institutions in which the people of Worthington take pride is the

militia company—company F, of the Second infantry M. N. G.—commanded by Captain Stelle S. Smith.

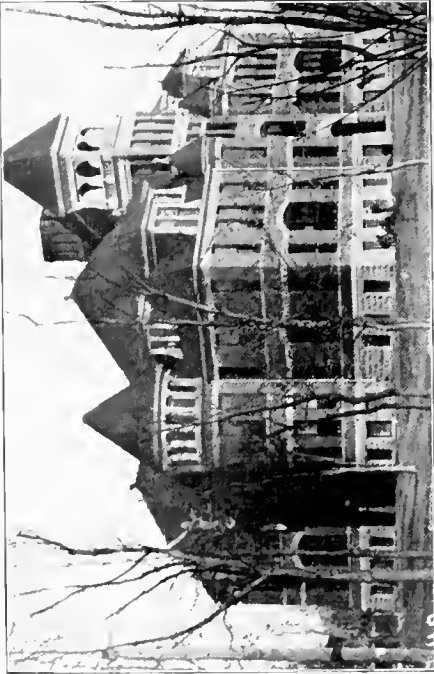
The preliminary steps towards organization were taken in the fall of 1905, when those interested met and took the first steps necessary to bring about the admission of a company to the Minnesota national guard. The village council, by resolution of October 13, 1905, bound itself to furnish an armory building, equip, light, heat and maintain the same. The company was quickly recruited, and on November 22 Adjutant General Fred B. Wood issued special order No. 60, directing Col. Charles A. Van Duzee, of the Third infantry, to muster in the Worthington company on November 28. The company was mustered in as directed with the following commissioned officers: Anton Schaeffer, of Rushmore, captain; Stelle S. Smith, of Worthington, first lieutenant; Charles B. Ward, of Worthington, second lieutenant. It was designated company F, of the Third infantry, of which Col. Van Duzee was the commanding officer.

Following were the enlisted members at the date of muster-in: Oscar B. Blood, first sergeant;<sup>6</sup> Arthur Albertus, quartermaster sergeant; Ira P. Fox, Elmer H. Bassett, Morrill Ramage, J. D. Matteson, sergeants; Robert Smith, Edward Lawton, W. J. Dodge, Clyde S. Jones, Orville Tupper, J. M. Barron, corporals; Carl A. Anderson, Charles Ashbaugh, David Bear, Arba S. Bedford, Earl Black, Milton J. Black, Guy M. Borsf, Bert B. Buck, Elmer Carlson, Charles M. Crandall, George E. Cunningham, Fred J. Deuth, Joseph P. Derlin, Vergil Fellows, John F. Glasgow, Fred O. Green, Charles H. Hag-

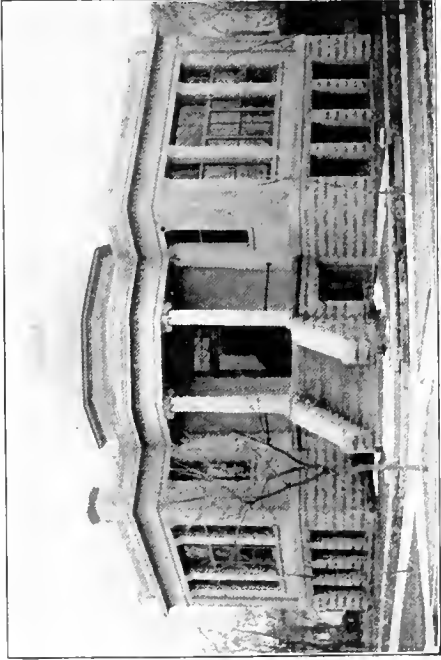
<sup>6</sup>The non-commissioned officers were appointed January 26, 1906.



WORTHINGTON CITY HALL



WORTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL



WORTHINGTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY



gard, Albert E. Hayward, Ray Humiston, Outhwaite Kumler, Sterling Lawton, Charles Loveless, Earl McBride, James McGee, Bert Malmquist, Frank M. Manson, James G. Mott, Henry A. Nelson, Fred Wetter, Arthur Nieman, Robert Oberman, Lloyd Patterson, John H. Peterson, Walter Pfeil, Warren A. Rose, Thomas Rowe, John Seline, Orval W. Tupper, Henry M. Twitchell, Claude White, Gould Wilson.

At the request of the company, on December 9, 1907, Adjutant General Fred B. Wood transferred the company from the Third regiment to the Second, the company letter remaining the same, and it has since been a company of the Second regiment.

Captain Anton Schaeffer resigned January 31, 1908, and on February 25 an election was held to select a captain and to fill other vacancies. First Lieutenant Stelle S. Smith was elected captain; C. B. Ward, first lieutenant; Oscar F. Blood, second lieutenant. The annual inspections show the company to be among the best in the state service. It attends the camps each year and has an unexcelled rifle team.

#### BANKS.

In Worthington are three banking institutions, one state and two national banks. These are the State Bank of Worthington, Worthington National Bank and Citizens National Bank.

#### STATE BANK OF WORTHINGTON.

The oldest bank in Nobles county is the State Bank of Worthington, which was founded as a private bank under the name Bank of Worthington by Elihu Smith and his son, A. M. Smith, in

1875. The former was president of the bank; the latter cashier. The Smiths sold the bank to Thos. H. Parsons July 16, 1881, at which time C. T. Pope was installed as cashier. Mr. Parsons sold his interest in the institution April 1, 1883, to Geo. D. Dayton, who operated it as a private bank in connection with the Minnesota Loan & Investment company. Mr. Dayton erected the brick block at the corner of Tenth street and Third avenue, which has since been the home of the bank, in 1885.

In 1893 Mr. Dayton incorporated the institution as a state bank, capital stock \$50,000, under the old name. In June, 1900, the name was changed from Bank of Worthington to State Bank of Worthington. Mr. Dayton disposed of his interests in August, 1898, when the present management took charge. The officers now are Geo. O. Moore, president; Geo. W. Wilson, vice president; Ned Jones, cashier.

#### WORTHINGTON NATIONAL BANK.

This institution is better known under the name of Nobles County Bank, as it was only during the present year that the reorganization which made it a national bank took place.

The Nobles County Bank was organized as a private bank with a nominal capital of \$50,000 by Peter Thompson and Geo. J. Day in 1879, the doors of the bank being opened on the first day of the year 1880. The institution was located in what was then known as the McLaurin building, at the corner of Tenth street and Third avenue, now known as the Thompson building. Mr. Thompson was president and Mr. Day cashier. The latter had practical charge of the bank from the time of founding

until July, 1886, when he left to take charge of the First National Bank, then just starting.

After the departure of Mr. Day, Milton P. Mann became the cashier, in which capacity he served many years. The final breakup in the partnership between Messrs. Thompson and Day came February 13, 1888, and thereafter until 1894 Mr. Thompson was the sole owner of the Nobles County Bank. The institution closed its doors during the panic of July, 1893, but was later reorganized, and it paid all liabilities.

Mr. Thompson sold a half interest in the bank to W. M. Evans and E. A. Lynd Nov. 1, 1894, and the following year the other half was purchased by the same parties. Mr. Evans became cashier and manager, and has had charge of the bank ever since. The new management erected the handsome brick block on Tenth street, which has since been the home of the bank, in 1899, and it was occupied for the first time on December 23 of that year.

A reorganization was effected early in 1908, and the Nobles County Bank became the Worthington National Bank. The capital stock is \$25,000, all paid in, and is owned by twenty stockholders, all of whom are residents of Worthington or the immediate vicinity. The charter was dated Jan. 10, 1908, and the bank under the new name began operations January 15. The first officers and directors were W. M. Evans, president; Daniel Shell, vice president; A. W. Fagerstrom, cashier; John A. Boberg, Stelle S. Smith,

#### CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK.

The establishment of the Citizens National Bank was conceived in April,

1901, when C. T. Tupper came to Worthington and succeeded in interesting J. D. Humiston, Geo. W. Patterson, O. G. Grundsten and W. W. Loveless in the project. Stock was subscribed by these gentlemen and by N. T. Burroughs, of Chicago, and W. A. Sanford, of Cherokee, Iowa, who were president and vice president, respectively, of the First National Bank of Cherokee. Application for the charter of the Citizens National Bank, with capital stock of \$25,000 (\$10,000 paid in), was made, and the treasury department issued the document July 22, 1901.

August 19 the bank opened its doors in a frame building, which was temporarily located in Fourth avenue. A lot was purchased at the corner of Tenth street and Fourth avenue, and in January, 1902, the present home of the bank, a handsome brick block, was completed. The officers and directors at the time of founding were Geo. W. Patterson, president; J. D. Humiston, vice president; C. T. Tupper, cashier; W. W. Loveless, O. G. Grundsten. Mr. Loveless disposed of his interests in 1903, and was succeeded on the board by John H. Scott. Mr. Humiston sold his stock in 1904, and was succeeded by Frank Glasgow. Mr. Tupper sold in May, 1907, and his place as cashier and director was taken by S. M. Stewart. The bank has returned regular annual dividends since the date of organization.

#### OTHER BANKS.

For over two years in the late eighties the First National Bank of Worthington had an existence. The bank was opened July 1, 1886, with Geo. J. Day in charge. Among the stockholders were Messrs. Mendenhall, of the Diamond



State Iron Works, of Wilmington, Del.; George W. Bush, president of a Wilmington savings bank; Capell and Pennypacker, capitalists of Wilmington; and Anton Knoblauch, a banker of Carver, Minn. In September, 1888, two of the principal stockholders appeared in Worthington and closed the institution. The accounts and notes were placed in the hands of Geo. O. Moore, of the Bank of Worthington, for collection, and funds were left with the same gentleman to pay depositors. The affairs of the institution were soon wound up.

The Farmers and Citizens Bank was a private banking house managed by Geo. J. Day for a short time during the nineties. It was closed as a result of legal proceedings brought against Mr. Day.

#### WORTHINGTON DISTRICT FAIR ASSOCIATION.

For nearly thirty years annual fairs have been held at Worthington, for many years under the auspices of the Nobles County Fair association, but in later years under the auspices of the Worthington District Fair association, which took the place of the earlier organization.

So early as 1876 the settlers of Nobles county decided to hold a county fair. Early in the summer of that year the grasshoppers had not put in their annual appearance, and hopes were entertained that they would not. It was then that an agricultural society was formed, and a few determined to put forth efforts to hold a fair that fall. On Monday, July 21, 1876, five members of the executive committee of the organization met at the

Worthington hotel to consider plans for proceeding with the preparations. These gentlemen were C. A. Barrows, J. H. Cunningham, J. P. Vail, R. B. Plotts and W. S. Stockdale. They decided to hold the fair at Worthington on Thursday, September 7, and Messrs. Barrows, Stockdale and Plotts were named a committee to prepare a premium list. For very good reasons the fair was not held. Soon after the preparations were begun the hoppers swooped down upon the country again, and all thoughts of a fair were given up.

After this failure no further steps were taken toward holding a fair until 1879. Then there was organized the Nobles County Fair association, an organization which had a life of many years, and was only succeeded by the Worthington District Fair association in recent years. A. L. Runyon was the first president of the pioneer organization, and C. T. Pope was the first secretary. The first fair was held at Worthington October 10 and 11, 1879. There were no buildings, no race track. The fair was held in the open on grounds between West Okabena lake and the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad tracks—about where the Stoutemyer ice houses are now located. It was indeed a primitive affair. But while the exhibits were few and the attractions not many, everybody took a deep interest in this first exhibition of the county's resources, and it was a success.<sup>7</sup>

This was a start. Thereafter annual fairs were held. The next year the fair was spoiled by the terrible blizzard which swept over the country October 15. Land was leased on the south shore of Okabena lake, buildings were erected, and

<sup>7</sup>A stock joke is to the effect that at this first fair the only exhibits were a bull and a pumpkin; that the bull got loose during the

night before the fair opened, ate the pumpkin, died from the effects, and that the fair was necessarily declared off.

for many years the county fairs were held there, about one mile from the city. The association was put on a business basis March 10, 1892, when the Nobles County Fair Ground association was incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000. The incorporators were W. E. Stoutemyer, Daniel Shell, John H. Denton, John H. Scott, H. M. Palm, L. B. Bennett and J. W. Read, and the first officers were W. E. Stoutemyer, president; J. B. Green, vice president; Frank Lewis, secretary; H. M. Palm, treasurer.

The annual exhibits were held on the fair grounds of the old association until 1902. In the summer of that year the Worthington District Fair association was incorporated. The capital stock was \$15,000, and the first board of directors was composed of Geo. W. Patterson, E. A. Tripp, A. R. Albertus, H. Pfeil, G. T. Bulick, H. N. Douglas and C. T. Tupper. Spacious grounds were purchased in the north part of the city, suitable buildings were erected, and since that date the fairs have annually been held under the auspices of the new organization.

#### WORTHINGTON CHAUTAUQUA ASSOCIATION.

The Worthington Chautauqua association is a comparatively new organization, but it has done more to advance the interests of the city in which it is located than many an older organization. The association came into existence in March, 1906. Many Worthington people had realized for a long time that the city had everything necessary to make a chautauqua a success. Among the culture loving people the matter had

often been discussed, but no action was taken to crystalize the movement until one day in March, 1906, when Prof. C. H. Warner, chautauqua organizer, of Waterloo, Iowa, arrived in the city, prepared to launch the movement.

The stock was readily subscribed, and on March 29 the stockholders met and organized the Worthington Chautauqua association with the following officers and board of directors: A. T. Latta, president; J. S. Ramage, vice president; A. R. Albertus, secretary; H. B. Lear, treasurer; Thos. Dovyey, William Chaney, A. J. Goff, S. S. Smith and Gust Swanberg.

The beautiful city park on the north shore of Okabena lake was secured for the chautauqua grounds, and a more beautiful place would be hard to find. Located on the higher banks of the lake, it is a beauty spot. It is convenient to the business center of the town, and affords unequalled opportunity for camping, boating, bathing and fishing. The grounds are lighted by electricity, are connected with the city by long distance telephone lines, and are supplied with city water. There the first annual assembly was held August 6 to 11, and the list of attractions was such that the chautauqua was a success from the start. A permanent assembly hall was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$2,500. The second assembly was held July 1 to 11, 1907, and the association was then put on a paying basis. The third assembly was held in July, 1908.

#### WORTHINGTON COMMERCIAL CLUB.

An organization of great benefit to the city is the commercial club, which was

\*Those who participated in this first meeting were J. S. Ramage, A. T. Latta, H. R. Edwards, Geo. O. Moore, Ned Jones, Jas

Mackay, L. R. Gholz, William Chaney, T. A. Palmer, H. Hawley, H. B. Lear and C. T. Tupper.

organized Jan. 15, 1907. The first officers chosen were A. R. Albertus, president; A. T. Latta, first vice president; R. L. Morland, second vice president; Ned Jones, secretary; Loren Clark, treasurer. The whole of the second story of the Loveless block was leased, and the rooms were fitted up for the convenience of the members; later quarters were established in the city hall. The club takes an active part in the affairs of the village, and is a strong organization.

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

The Carnegie Library was completed in December, 1904, at a cost of about \$13,000. Of this amount Andrew Carnegie gave \$10,000; the balance was raised by subscription. The city bound itself to expend \$1,000 annually on its maintenance. The library was opened March 4, 1905. Its management was vested in a board consisting of C. M. Crandall, president; F. L. Humiston, F. M. Manson, Frank Glasgow, A. T. Latta, John Ramage, secretary; C. T. Tupper,<sup>9</sup> C. P. Dolan and R. L. Morland. Mrs. Emma Sibley served as librarian from the date of opening until 1907, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Emma Mackintosh.

#### WORTHINGTON BATH HOUSE ASSOCIATION.

This organization came into existence in 1905 with the following officers: J. S. Ramage, president; A. R. Albertus, secretary; E. L. Nance, treasurer. The association now has about ninety members, owns a bath house, toboggan slides, boats, etc., valued at over \$1,200. The

present officers and directors are J. S. Ramage, president; A. R. Albertus, secretary; W. M. Evans, treasurer; O. W. Dieckhoff, Jas. Mackay.

#### BANDS.

Worthington has two brass bands. The Worthington band was organized in 1906, when Prof. Wilson Abbott became the leader. The band now has nearly fifty pieces, and is one of the best bands in southwestern Minnesota. For many years the Scandinavians of the city have maintained an excellent band—the Worthington Concert band, Carl A. Anderson, leader.

#### WORTHINGTON GUN CLUB.

The Worthington Gun club was organized in June, 1900, with about forty members. Harvey Rew was captain of the club and O. W. Dieckhoff was secretary. There have been several organizations since the first club started. For some time the Mauga trap was used in the tournaments but in late years the club has been using the expert system.

#### WORTHINGTON HOSPITAL.

In the fall of 1906 Dr. F. M. Manson founded the Worthington hospital and has since been its proprietor. The building is a two and a half story structure, located at the corner of Fourth avenue and Eleventh street.

The hospital is provided with all modern conveniences. It is perfectly ventilated, heated by steam, lighted by electricity, and is furnished with sound deadeners and electric annunciators.

<sup>9</sup>Upon the removal of Mr. Tupper from the city in 1907 his place on the board was taken

by C. J. Smallwood. Otherwise there has been no change.

The arrangement of the building is admirable for the purposes for which it is used. On the first floor are a large reception room, a private consultation office, a dark room for optical work, a general practice office, a drug and supply room, and a ward room, furnished with four hospital beds. All the woodwork of the lower floor is of Antwerp finished oak.

On the second floor are the nurses'

room, an operating room, sterilizing room, bath room, and private rooms for patients. All the woodwork of the second floor is white finished. The third floor is fitted up into a large sun bath room.

The institution has been liberally patronized since its founding and is one of Worthington's enterprises which has been of great benefit to the community.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### WORTHINGTON'S CHURCHES AND LODGES.

With more propriety can the title "City of Churches" be given to Worthington than to Brooklyn. There are in Worthington ten church organizations—one for each 230 inhabitants. Of these all except one have church edifices, which range in value from \$20,000 down. The societies maintaining organizations in the village are Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Swedish Lutheran, Episcopal, Catholic, Evangelical Association, Baptist, Swedish Mission and Christian. Only the last named is without a church building.

The first three named are the oldest, all having come into existence during the month of May, 1873. But for over a year before any of these were organized an organization, styled the "Colony Christian Union," a union of all the christian denominations represented in the village, worshipped regularly.

#### COLONY CHRISTIAN UNION.<sup>1</sup>

When the pioneers of the National colony began to arrive in Worthington in the spring of 1872 one of their first considerations was a place of worship, and steps were at once taken to bring

about the organization of a church society. Prof. R. F. Humiston, one of the founders of the colony, was a member of the "Union Church" on Cleveland Heights (Cleveland, Ohio), and was heartily in favor of a union church in Worthington. His plan was to have a church organization which should be participated in by every evangelical christian in the community, regardless of previous denominational affiliation. A large majority of those on the ground expressed themselves as favoring such a movement, and of those who were doubtful of its expediency no one was found who did not advise the proposed plan for the first year, at least.

For some weeks before a formal organization was made services were held at different places in the little village. The first service was held in a partly finished store building on Fourth avenue, which was being erected by Wm. B. Akins. On Saturday evening the shavings were swept up, the work bench was brushed off, and planks were laid on boxes and nail kegs to serve the purpose of seats. Here on Sunday morning the first religious service was held in Worthington.

<sup>1</sup>For the data concerning the history of this church, as well as that of the Union Congregational, I am under obligations to Dr. Geo. O.

Moore. The facts are secured almost wholly from his pamphlet "History of the Union Congregational Church."

Before the next Sabbath the building was occupied by Mr. Akins' hardware store, and the worshippers were compelled to seek accommodations elsewhere. One or two Sabbaths, services were held in a carpenter shop on the lot just to the east of the present location of the Citizens National Bank, and one Sabbath in the store building on Ninth street, now occupied by S. V. Wyckoff. In the meantime one Samuel Hiley had purchased the two corner lots opposite the Worthington hotel, and on one of them proceeded to erect a frame store building (where Sterling Bros.' clothing store now stands.) Notwithstanding the well understood principles and wishes of the colony founders in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors, a man had leased, in advance of its erection, the Hiley building and had already made arrangements to open a saloon therein. Now, it so happened that there came a time when this was the only room open to the worshippers, and there a service was held before the building was completed. The next Sabbath the room was completed and the bar in position, but as no liquor had yet arrived, the church people again assembled therein. One week later the saloon was in operation and the church had to seek other quarters.

Previous to the opening of the saloon, however, a church society had been organized. The meeting was held in the saloon building on the twelfth day of May, 1872, at five o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose "of organizing a society for the furthering of the worship of God in the community." Prof. Humiston presided, and Dr. Geo. O. Moore was the secretary. The chairman suggested the formation of a "union society," with one pastor. Remarks were

made by Rev. David Bear, A. P. Miller, R. B. Plotts, G. Anderson, I. P. Durfee, R. D. Barber and Geo. O. Moore in favor of the idea. I. N. Sater cordially favored the plan for the present, but thought the time should be left indefinite. Rev. B. H. Crever, a Methodist preacher who was a resident of Worthington at the time, was chosen pastor. A committee, consisting of A. P. Miller, I. N. Sater, Dr. R. D. Barber, J. C. Clark and Dr. Geo. O. Moore, was appointed to report for adoption a plan of organization, fix the salary of the pastor, and attend to other necessary matters pertaining to the new church. The committee held two meetings in the office of Prof. Humiston, and at another meeting of the church held May 19 reported the following recommendations, in substance:

That a society for religious purposes be organized under the name of the Colony Christian Church, to be officered as follows: A president, secretary, treasurer and an executive committee of five; that the pastor act as president, and that the other officers be elected annually; that any person believing in the doctrines set forth in the Apostles' Creed should be eligible to membership; that the society continue until May 1, 1873; that the regular services consist of one preaching service on Sabbath morning by the regular pastor, with Sunday school and Bible class in the afternoon, and that on Sabbath evening the free use of the house be tendered to any orthodox clergyman who may choose to preach to us; that Rev. B. H. Crever be our pastor; that a building be erected by voluntary effort, 30x50 feet in size, 12 foot story, at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.

The report was adopted, article by article, and the permanent organization was completed by the election of Geo. O. Moore secretary and I. N. Sater treasurer. An executive committee, composed of J. C. Clark, B. S. Langdon, I. P. Durfee, A. C. Robinson, H. D. Humiston, R. F. Humiston, I. N. Sater and Geo. O. Moore, was named.

In the meantime Prof. Humiston and

Dr. Miller, the colony promoters, mindful of the needs of a place for public assemblage, took council together, and their deliberations resulted in the erection of the structure known as Miller hall. The upper floor of this building was divided into one large hall, 48x55 feet, and two small halls in front on either side of the stairway. It was the intention that the large hall should be used for public worship and other public gatherings, the Union church having the preference. The hall was subsequently leased by the society for \$250 per annum, and the first services were held there Nov. 17, 1872.

It was the general understanding and wish that the organization be completed and that by vote the church place itself under the watch care of one of the denominational bodies, which event would place the church in position to receive aid in paying the pastor. Rev. Crever, notwithstanding repeated urging to complete the organization, for some reason neglected to do so. The first year ended as it had begun; all met together in one place for worship, but the organization was not perfected and there was no affiliation with any denomination. These conditions were unsatisfactory, and the discussion of the matter grew more earnest as the first anniversary of the church approached. Finally a meeting was held at the hall on April 22, 1873, to which were asked all who were interested in a union organization, to comprise all of the evangelical elements of the place. J. S. Shuck was chairman of the meeting. Dr. Geo. O. Moore has written concerning the deliberations of that meeting:

After a lengthy discussion an adjournment was taken to allow the Presbyterians opportunity to consult as to their course. It

had been agreed by the different state superintendents that we should not be interfered with by them, but should be allowed to consider and decide the question among ourselves, uninfluenced by outside help or interference. In conformance with this understanding, Mr. Richard Hall, the Congregational superintendent, studiously avoided this part of the field, but Mr. Lyon, Presbyterian, and Mr. Wright, Methodist, took active part in our deliberations, both by their personal presence and by written communications, and it was no doubt largely owing to their influence and advice that the union effort was unsuccessful.

Two or three general meetings and frequent private conferences made it plain that nothing could be accomplished in the matter of permanent organization along the lines already followed. Then a meeting was called of "all those specially desiring union organization." The meeting was held April 26, 1873, and was presided over by Dr. R. D. Barber. Twenty-nine residents had signified their intention to take part in the deliberations of the proposed church organization. A committee was appointed, consisting of C. S. Newton, Presbyterian; I. P. Durfee, Christian; R. F. Humiston, Congregational; Mrs. M. P. Manley, Baptist; and J. Ames, Independent, to draft articles of faith for the association. This committee reported to an adjourned meeting on April 29 a platform, which was read article by article, and referred back to the committee for further action. On Sunday, May 24, 1873, the committee reported a confession of faith, and it was adopted, article by article, without a dissenting vote. The committee was continued, with instructions to report a covenant to be adopted at a future meeting. Arrangements were made to procure a room for a church and to secure a temporary supply of preaching. It was at this meeting of May 4 that, on motion of Prof. Humiston, the members decided to ask the

Congregational denomination to take the new organization under its watch care.

### UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The idea of a union church, embracing all denominations, was abandoned, and the three denominations having the greatest strength, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian, each organized a church society. The Union Congregational church was the first of these to perfect an organization; in fact, its organization was simply a continuance of the temporary arrangement of those who desired a union of all denominations in one church. For some time correspondence had been carried on with Rev. Richard Hall, Congregational state superintendent, in regard to church affairs in Worthington. On Sunday, May 18, 1873, that officer was present, and the Union Congregational church of Worthington was formally organized<sup>2</sup> with the following charter members: Prof. R. F. Humiston, Harriet Humiston, Geo. O. Moore, Clara F. Moore, John C. Clark, Lydia H. Clark, Charles S. Newton, Sidney Harrington, Cornelia L. Harrington, John Blodgett; and on profession of faith R. D. Barber, Mattie Barber, J. Ames, A. P. Miller and Jacob Neil Dow.<sup>3</sup>

The official title of the organization was "The Union Congregational Church and Society of Worthington." Roy's manual furnished the new church with a constitution, which was formally adopted, with a code of by-laws, on June 24, at

<sup>2</sup>The Union Congregational church was fully organized on Sabbath last by Rev. Richard Hall, of St. Paul. This new organization starts out with favorable prospects. We understand that no delay will be made in securing a pastor." *Western Advance*, May 24, 1873.

<sup>3</sup>Others who became members of the church during 1873 were Mrs. J. Ames, B. R. Prince, Mrs. B. R. Prince, J. H. Maxwell, I. P. Dur-

fee, J. F. Hollipeter, Ellen A. Weatherbee, Elmhurst Hollipeter, Mary Humiston, Mrs. M. P. Manley, Rachel D. Rice, A. C. Durfee, Mrs. Miller, O. L. Howard, James Mann, Jennie A. Mann, Eliza Smith, Grace R. Smith, Alpheus M. Smith, Mary E. Smith, Henrietta G. Smith, John W. Smith, Calista Smith and Henry J. Grant. During 1874 the following became members: Chas. B. Loveless, Mary C. Loveless, Amy J. Miner, Mrs. R. B. Plotts, R. B. Plotts, Mrs. W. S. Stockdale.

which time the first church officers were elected. The urgent need of a church building was recognized by all, and on Aug. 24 a meeting was held, when the first steps were taken looking toward the erection of a church edifice. A building committee, a finance committee and a committee to correspond with the Congregational Missionary societies, with reference to aid in building and in paying the salary of a pastor, were appointed. These committees immediately set to work, plans were reported, and a lot was secured on the corner of Third avenue and Eleventh street. Bids were then asked on the construction of a building which it was estimated would cost about \$3,300.

Ground was broken early in September, 1873, and on Dec. 28, of the same year, the edifice was dedicated, Rev. Richard Hall, the state superintendent, officiating. The building was 33x45 feet and had a 16-foot ceiling. The auditorium had a seating capacity of 200, and there was also a basement, which proved an exceedingly valuable convenience for Sunday school, prayer meeting and social purposes. This pioneer church building of Worthington was entirely destroyed by fire on Jan. 15, 1905, entailing a loss of \$1,000, with \$1,200 insurance. A handsome and commodious new church was erected during 1906 by the congregation. The cost was about \$7,000, and it was dedicated in February, 1907.

During the summer of 1874 the first regular pastor was installed. Following is a list of the pastors who have served



the church since its founding and the dates of their service:

C. C. Foote, June 24, 1874, to Oct. 1, 1874.

H. B. Tuttle, Dec. 1, 1874, to June 1, 1879.

Chas. W. Hanna, June 1, 1879, to June 1, 1880.

H. H. Hart, Aug. 8, 1880, to Aug. 1, 1883.

M. S. Crosswell, Oct. 1, 1883, to Jan. 1, 1884.

David Henderson, Jan. 20, 1884, to Jan. 20, 1888.

F. L. Fisk, May 13, 1888, to July 25, 1891.

Robert McCune, Aug. 3, 1891, to Aug. 1, 1897.

C. W. Merrill, Oct. 3, 1897, to Oct. 13, 1898.

J. P. Dickerman, May 1, 1899, to Nov. 1, 1900.

C. H. Curtis, Feb. 1, 1901, to Jan. 1, 1904.

C. H. McIntosh, May 1, 1904, to Sept. 24, 1905.

John E. Evans, Jan. 1, 1906, to December, 1907.

William Fletcher, Jan 1, 1908, to date.

Following is a list of the Sunday school superintendents in chronological order, the dates of service being given of all but the earlier ones: Elihu Smith, J. Ames, R. F. Humiston, A. P. Miller, A. L. Runyon, R. D. Barber, M. P. Mann, 1882-3-4-5; J. W. Crigler, 1886-7-8; R. W. McCune, 1889; J. W. Crigler, 1890; M. A. Nichols, 1891; John R. Newton, 1892; Ray Humiston, 1893; M. E. Fish, 1894; Mrs. E. L. Porter, 1895; Geo. O. Moore, 1896; Mrs. H. J. Ludlow, 1897-8-9; Dr. G. R. Curran, 1900-1-2-3; Mrs. H. J. Ludlow, 1904; M. P. Mann, 1905-6; A. W. Fagerstrom, 1907.

## FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

When the union church idea was abandoned in the spring of 1873 the Methodists, under the leadership of Rev. B. H. Crever, who had been the pastor of the union church during the year of that body's existence, were among the first to take steps to bring about the organization of a denominational body. During the month of May those members of the union flock who were grounded in the faith of John Wesley banded themselves together and formed the first Methodist body in Nobles county. The first paper of record concerning the founding of the Methodist church of Worthington is the following certificate, which was filed in the office of the register of deeds of Nobles county on May 21, 1873:

Know all men that on the 19th day of May, eighteen hundred and seventh-three, I, B. H. Carver, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington, county of Nobles and state of Minnesota, in the interim of the quarterly conference, and agreeable to the discipline and usage of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States of America, and of the statutes of Minnesota, have appointed the following named persons trustees of the said Methodist Episcopal church in the United States of America, namely: Henry Humiston, R. F. Humiston, Isaac N. Sater, C. Z. Sutton, G. Anderson, Otis Bigelow, W. S. Stockdale, Dr. A. P. Miller and Stephen Miller, in and for the said village of Worthington, they and their successors in office to hold in trust the property of said church in said village of Worthington under the corporate name and style of trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal church in Worthington, Minnesota. Witness my hand and seal the name and year above written.

B. H. CREVER. [Seal.]

Presiding Elder Wright met with the Worthington Methodists and completed the work of organization. There were about thirty charter members, among whom were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Otis Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Sater,

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. W. Chase, Mr. and Mrs. C. Z. Sutton, Erastus Church and Henry Humston. Rev. B. H. Crever served as pastor two years. Miller hall was rented during the first year's life of the church. Then, in 1814, the property was purchased, the building dedicated, and services were held there regularly until the building was destroyed by fire in 1878. The loss of their place of worship was an almost insurmountable blow. The Presbyterians came to their aid and tendered the use of their church building. The offer was accepted, and the Methodists worshipped there a few months—until January 1, 1879. From that time until July 1880, the Nobles county court house was utilized as a house of worship. Bennett hall (now the Masonic building) was leased at that time, and thereafter, until a home of their own was completed in the fall of 1882, the Methodists occupied that building. The congregation was poor, and the struggles during the early days to continue the church organization were severe.<sup>4</sup>

The first Methodist church building, located at the corner of Fourth avenue, and Ninth street, was begun in the fall of 1881, under the pastorate of Rev. W. T. Hobart, a missionary to China. The labor was largely donated, and the pastor personally took a hand in the work, he doing the lathing. The work of building was slowly and steadily kept up until the fall of 1882. Under the pastorate of Rev. B. F. Kephart the church was dedicated. The cost of the building was about \$2,000; of that amount \$1,600

had been paid or pledged and the remaining \$400 was raised on the day of dedication. The building was not entirely finished until 1885, when Rev. Wm. Copp, who was then in charge, pushed it to completion.

While the early day struggles of the church were severe, better times were ahead, and its recent history is one of prosperity. The membership grew and its wealth increased. The old church building, which had seemed so fine in the early days, was no longer large enough. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Carl A. Anderson that the erection of a new church building was first considered. When Rev. Thos. Hambly was appointed to the charge in 1901 interest in the proposed building was revived. Generous subscriptions were received during the winter and spring, and in the summer of 1902, work was begun on the foundation of the new structure. The corner of Eleventh street and Fourth avenue was selected as the site, and the residence of Otis Biglow, which occupied the site, was removed. Work progressed rapidly, and on May 3, 1903, the beautiful modern structure was dedicated. Its valuation is placed at \$20,000, and it is one of the best church buildings in Minnesota. The auditorium arrangement, with the spacious gallery, makes it most convenient and desirable in providing for large assemblages. Concerning the more recent history of the church, a member has prepared the following:

In the middle of his third year as pastor Rev. Thos. Hambly was, at his own request, transferred to the North Ohio conference by Bishop Fowler, who at the same time ap-

<sup>4</sup>A few words on the character of the founders of this church may be appropriately added. Of the early struggles of the church none can have but a faint conception of its many hardships except those who participated in them. But be it said of the early members that, in their periods of depression, and in many and various difficulties they, like the Puritan fathers, never lost sight of their one purpose, to serve their God and their Master.

They were firm set in the principle of honesty and the practice of virtue. They were sober, industrious and frugal; resolute, zealous and steadfast. In the school of adversity they gained the discipline of patience. They were the children of adversity but are becoming the fathers of renown. Their work is done. Sacred be the trust committed to our care."—D. B. Kumbler, in History of M. E. Church.

pointed Rev. G. A. Cahoon to the pastorate of the Worthington church (February, 1904). But one Sunday intervened between the closing of Mr. Hambly's pastorate and the assuming of the pastoral relations by Mr. Cahoon, who came here after a pastorate of nearly six years at Goodhue, Minn., and who at the time of the preparation of this work is on his fifth year as pastor of the Worthington church.

During this latter pastorate the church has been strengthened both numerically and spiritually. The pastor was one of the leaders in arranging for and carrying through the famous tabernacle meetings, conducted by Evangelist Wm. A. Sunday, and which continued for nearly five weeks, beginning Dec. 7, 1906. The Methodist church, in common with several other churches, was greatly strengthened by this series of meetings. The membership was stirred to greater activity, while about one hundred fifty persons united with the church, either on probation or by letter, as a result of the meeting. The larger number of the probationers later came into full membership, and among them are many of the substantial and active members of the church. The following description of the services held in the church Sunday morning, Jan. 13, 1907, and which appeared in the Worthington Advance of Jan. 17, 1907, is a matter of historic value, and will be of interest to many:

"The Methodist church was filled with an interested and happy company of people last Sunday morning. The large chorus choir led the singing of some of the old hymns and the audience took hold with enthusiasm. A male quartette sang a selection, and Dr. F. B. Cowgill preached an able sermon. The pastor Rev. G. A. Cahoon, spoke briefly concerning some characteristics of Methodism and the conditions of membership, and extended an invitation to those who desired to do so to come forward and unite with the church.

"Tellers were stationed at the end of the side aisle, down which the company came, and after the name of each had been recorded they were received by the pastor and presiding elder. A committee representing the various activities of the church were at the altar to welcome the new members, who remained standing. Afterwards all those who had signed cards at the tabernacle meetings, and who desired publicly to renew their vows, were invited to stand, and many arose. The pastor extended a cordial welcome on behalf of the church, and Dr. Cowgill, the presiding elder, expressed his gratification at the results of the service and added words of wise counsel. The tellers were asked to report their lists, and it was found that ninety-six persons had identified themselves with the church at this one service. It was certainly a great day for the Methodist church in Worthington."

Following is the list of pastors, with the dates of their service, who have filled the pulpit of the Methodist church of Worthington:

B. H. Crever, 1873-1875.

J. W. Lewis, 1875.<sup>5</sup>

J. C. Ogle, 1875-1878.

C. H. Dixon, 1878-1879.

Charles Sheldon, 1879-1880.

T. H. Kinsman, 1880-1881.

W. T. Hobart, 1881-1882.

Geo. Merritt, 1882.<sup>6</sup>

B. F. Kephart, 1882-1884.

Wm. Copp, 1884-1885.

E. R. Lathrop, 1885-1888.

H. J. Harrington, 1888-1890.

Wm. Brown, 1890-1892.

W. J. Robinson, 1892-1895.

W. A. Putnam, 1895-1896.

J. M. Bull, 1896-1899.

C. A. Anderson, 1899-1901.

Thos. Hambly, 1901-1904.

G. A. Cahoon, 1904 to date.

The church has never been so prosperous as at the present time, and all its members feel that the church has entered upon a career of marked prosperity and splendid usefulness. E. W. Goff is chairman of the board of trustees, A. T. Latta is secretary, Wm. Schroeder is recording steward and A. J. Goff is church treasurer. Several auxiliary societies are maintained.

#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

So early as February 3, 1873, while the religious community was undecided as to the course to pursue in regard to churches, thirty residents petitioned the Presbytery for authority to organize a Presbyterian church at Worthington. The Mankato Presbytery took favorable ac-

<sup>5</sup>Six months—June to December.

<sup>6</sup>W. T. Hobart served nine months of this church year and Geo. Merritt three months.

tion on the petition early in May, and on the 25th of that month—just a few days after the birth of the Congregational and Methodist churches—the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington was duly organized. The organization was perfected by a committee appointed by the Mankato church authorities. The committee consisted of Rev. Jacob B. Little, Rev. Edward Savage, Rev. D. C. Lyon and Rev. E. J. Hamilton. The following were admitted as members at the time of organization: Allen Chaney, Miss Julia Chaney, Andrew Buchan, Mrs. Delia A. Buchan, J. S. Shuck, Mrs. Anna Shuck, Cornelius Stout, Joseph Tarbert, Mrs. Nancy Tarbert, Dr. Josephus Craft, Mrs. Clara Craft, M. H. Stevens, Mrs. Lydia A. Stevens, Mrs. Charlotte E. Goodnow, Richard Newman, Mrs. Sarah Newman, Daniel Rohrer, Mrs. Henrietta A. Lyon, Mrs. Oti N. McLaurin.<sup>7</sup>

Allen Chaney, Andrew Buchan and J. S. Shuck were elected ruling elders,<sup>8</sup> and Mr. Chaney was chosen clerk of the session. A board trustees was chosen as the following certificate shows:<sup>9</sup>

This is to certify that the members of the congregation of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington did meet on the 21st day of June, A. D. 1873, at the office of J. S. Shuck, in said town of Worthington, for the purpose of electing a board of trustees for said church pursuant to notice which had previously been given for at least two successive Sabbaths at the place where said congregation steadily met for the public worship where said congregation had assembled. J. S. Shuck and M. H. Stevens, members of said congregation, were nominated and elected to preside at said meeting, to receive the votes and determine the qualifications of voters. The following named persons were then duly elected as a board of trustees: Daniel Rohrer, H. B. Bookstaver,

M. H. Stevens, J. Craft and J. A. Town, they and their successors in office to be forever known by the name of the board of trustees of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington.

Given under our hands and seals this 21st day of June, A. D. 1873.

Delivered in the presence of E. T. Dillaugh.

J. S. SHUCK [Seal.]  
M. H. STEVENS. [Seal.]

The congregation worshipped in the southwest room of the lower floor of Miller hall for over a year and a half. In the summer of 1874 preparations were made for the erection of a church edifice, and early in September work on the building was begun, the plans being furnished by L. W. Chase. The building cost about \$2,000, was occupied for the first time Jan. 2, 1875, and served as the home of the church until March, 1900. Although completed and occupied early in 1875, it was not dedicated until December 31, 1876, at which time all indebtedness had been paid.

Following is a list of the pastors who have filled the Presbyterian pulpit since the organization of the church with the date of their service:

W. P. Jackson, July, 1873.

C. Otis Fletcher, Jan., 1874, to May 6, 1877.

Hiram E. White, July 8, 1877, to 1878.

D. K. Millard, Aug., 1878, to 1880.

J. C. Robinson, 1880 to June 1, 1885.

William H. Hartzell, Sept. 1, 1885, to 1889.

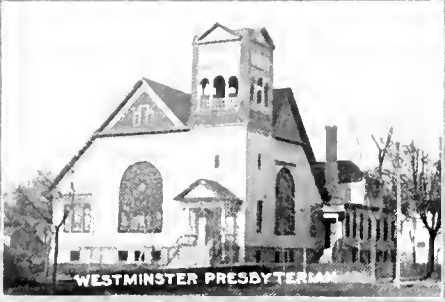
Robert McCune, 1889 to 1890.

U. P. Cory, Feb., 1892, to July, 1893.

Other ruling elders who have served the church since its organization have been Dr. Josephus Craft, Geo. J. Day, Geo. D. Dayton, E. J. Buchan, John Ramage, Henry M. Edm., W. W. Loveless, Dr. W. H. Gaugh, Geo. P. Edm., J. W. Read, G. V. Pettit, C. DeBoer and William Chaney.

<sup>7</sup>Filed June 23, 1873, in the miscellaneous record in the office of the register of deeds.

<sup>8</sup>According to previous announcement, a Presbyterian church was organized last Sabbath. Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions of the weather and of the roads, twenty members were included in the organization. It is expected that there will be a considerable accession to the number at an early day. *Western Advance*, June 1, 1873.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN



BAPTIST



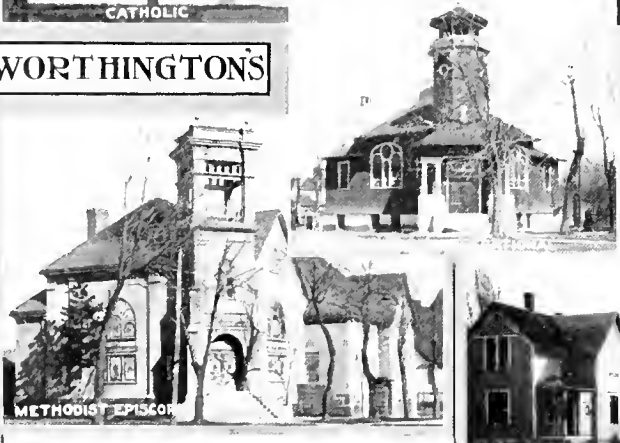
CATHOLIC



EPISCOPAL

WORTHINGTON'S

CHURCHES



METHODIST EPISCOPAL



GERMAN EVANGELICAL



SWEDISH MISSION



SWEDISH LUTHERAN



Wilson Aull, May, 1894, to 1896.

F. C. Bailey, July, 1896, to 1898.

Wilson Aull, Aug., 1898, to June 1, 1904.

E. W. Lanham, Sept. 1, 1904, to Oct. 1, 1907.

Grant B. Wilder, Dec. 1, 1907, to date.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Wilson Aull that the handsome church edifice now in use was erected. It was occupied for the first time March 18, 1900, and was dedicated March 25. The cost of the building was \$16,537. A pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,118, and other improvements have brought the total value up to about \$20,000. It is one of the finest church buildings in southwestern Minnesota. The present membership of the Presbyterian church is over 300.

The following have served as superintendents of the Sunday school from the date of its organization to the present time: Dr. J. Craft, J. C. Robinson, Geo. D. Dayton, E. F. Buchan, H. M. Palm, W. W. Loveless, Geo. D. Palm, William Chaney, Dr. Henry Wiedow.

#### SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Among the early day settlers of Nobles county were quite a number of Scandinavians, who settled mostly in Indian Lake and Bigelow townships. Nearly

all were members of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church, and it was but natural that the members, gathered together in the new country, as Nobles county then was, should desire to band themselves for the purpose of worship. So early as 1872 an informal organization was effected, and for several years services were held, more or less frequently, at different points in Worthington and in Bigelow township. There was no regular pastor, but the congregation met in regular worship, and occasionally a minister of their denomination would be present with them to assist.

Thus matters continued until the spring of 1876. On the fourth day of May, of that year, the church was formally organized by the following charter members: C. J. Paulson, Peter Thompson, Oliver Thompson, C. W. Beck, Chas. Larson, C. A. Sundberg, Nels Johnson, Sander Nelson, Casper Nelson, Swen Johnson, August Falk, C. A. Tellander, Nels Erickson, Erick Mablberg, Lars Elofson, Peter Wickstrom, Peter Larson, Lars Erickson, Peter Nystrom, Sr., Peter Nystrom, Jr., Frank Sundberg and Nels Ellingson. On the date of this organization it was decided to incorporate, but this was not done until eighteen years later.<sup>10</sup> The church was without a pastor for several years after its organization and also without a church building. Meetings were regularly held, however, the pulpit being supplied part of

<sup>10</sup>"I, Peter Thompson, the secretary appointed at a meeting held by the members of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Worthington, Nobles county, Minnesota, on the fourth day of May, A. D. 1876, as hereinafter mentioned, do hereby certify that the persons constituting and belonging to the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Worthington, Nobles county, Minn., did on the fourth day of May, 1876, assemble at the house of Charles Rue, in the village of Worthington, Nobles county, Minn., for the purpose of incorporating . . . that due notice of the time and place of said election was given to the persons entitled to vote thereat; that thirty-nine (39) duly qualified persons assembled at said place of meeting on said fourth

day of May, A. D. 1876, duly organized and appointed Rev. L. A. Hoanzen chairman and said Peter Thompson secretary and then and there determined to incorporate for religious purposes . . . and then and there duly elected Peter Thompson, C. A. Beck and Peter Wickstrom trustees of said corporation, and then and there determined that said trustees and their successors in office shall forever be known as the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Worthington, Nobles county, Minn.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of January, A. D. 1894. Peter Thompson, Secretary." Articles of Incorporation, filed Jan. 12, 1894.

the time by students and other ministers under the general church body. Various places in the village served the purpose of a church building.

There was great activity among the members in 1883, and during that summer a church edifice was erected, the first services being held therein in June. The work on the building was all done by the members, or donated. The outlay was for materials alone, which cost about \$1,200. The pastor, Rev. A. H. Randall, was a carpenter, and he did a large share of the work.

Before the church was built, however, the congregation had been able to support a regular pastor, and in 1880 Rev. J. H. Randall was installed. The pastors who have supplied the pulpit have been: J. H. Randall, 1880-1882; A. H. Randall, 1882-1884; S. C. Franzen, 1884-1890; Svante Anderson, 1890-1895; E. M. Erickson, 1895-1905; C. O. Swan, 1906 to date.

On Nov. 28, 1889, a parsonage was purchased, which served as a home for the pastor until 1907. It was then sold, and during the same year a new one was erected at a cost of \$4,000. On January 1, 1907, the membership of the church was 212.

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was organized in the fall of 1881, and came into existence largely through the efforts of Rev. D. Gunn. The church building, still used as the place of worship by the congregation, was erected that fall, and was opened for worship early in 1882.

There is a pleasant little piece of history connected with the organization of the church. For two years prior to its establishment a party of southern-

ers spent their summers at Worthington. Among these were Mr. and Mrs. John Forsee and their mother and Miss Minurn, members of the Episcopal church at St. Joseph, Mo. These friends took the first steps toward the organization of a church of their denomination in Worthington. They raised \$25.50, which they placed in the hands of Rev. Gunn.

There were only a few Episcopalians in the village, and there was little sympathy with the efforts to start another church. Mr. Gunn, who took the most active part in the plans to perfect an organization, was at one time so discouraged that, after consulting with the bishop, he withdrew his regular appointments and was about to retire. Then interest was revived. Mr. Gunn stated that he would erect the church if the members of the society, which had then been organized, would build the foundation.

W. A. Peterson took him at his word, and after a determined effort, did raise the amount necessary, assisted by Miss M. Madison and Miss Maggie Chadwick as a committee of collection. The lumber for the building was purchased with three checks, one of \$100, Edward Ferguson and sister, New York; one of \$100, Chas H. Contoit, of New York; and one of \$11, Geo. W. Cass, ex-president of the Northern Pacific Railway company. The hardware, etc. was bought with the check of Henry B. Renwick, New York.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY

A meeting of Catholics was held in Worthington in August, 1885, when it was decided to organize a society and erect a church edifice. The building was completed in the summer of 1886 at a



cost of about \$1,500. The first service was held August 1, and was conducted by Rev. Father Ogulin, of Heron Lake.

The church was incorporated March 31, 1902, by Bishop Joseph B. Cotter and Vicar General James Coyne, of the Winona diocese, Father Joseph Sand, and Andrew Collins and Michael Reiter.

#### EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION'S CHURCH.

The Evangelical Association is an organization which was founded by Germans in the year 1800. Its principal characteristic is its missionary activity. The Worthington church dates its existence from the year 1889. The year before that Rev. L. S. Stapf, who ministered to a congregation of Germans south of Luverne, came to Worthington in search of new preaching appointments. His activities resulted in the organization of a local society, which was organized in 1899 with the following charter members: H. Apel, Heinrich Apel, Sr., Gertrude Apel, Margreta Apel, Louis Apel, Henry Apel, Jr., William Apel, Katherina Apel, Philip Anton, Lizzie Anton, J. H. Shuck, Anna Shuck, J. Dohlheim, Louise Dohlheim, Emilia Apel, Albert Dohlheim, Fred Dohlheim, Ida Dohlheim, W. F. Moss, Mary Moss, George Hacker, Theda Hacker, Maggie Hacker, Albert Wild, Anna M. Wild, Geo. Doeden, Grafia Doeden, Andrew Doeden, Tena Doeden, George Doeden, Jr., Fred Doeden, Maggie Doeden, C. Hilke, Blondena Snyder, Mary Weis, John Apel, Frederick Kasdorf, Johanna Kasdorf, Louise Kasdorf.

The church was incorporated June 10, 1891, under the name of Emannel Society Church of the Evangelical Association of North America. The trustees at the time were Philip Anton, W. F. Moss

and Heinrich Apel. Immediately thereafter construction was commenced on the church building at the corner of Fourth avenue and Fourteenth street. The church was finished that fall, making the seventh church building then in the village. The cost was \$1,650. It was dedicated Dec. 6, 1891. Prior to the building of the church services were held in the hall over the Farmers' Store, on Main street. In 1902 a commodious manse was erected beside the church at a cost of \$1,827.88.

Since its organization the following pastors have filled the pulpit of the Worthington church: L. S. Stapf, 1899; S. B. Goetz, 1889-1892; F. H. Draeger, 1892-1895; C. W. Wolthausen, 1895-1899; F. C. Schmidt, 1899-1902; J. H. Muelhausen, 1902-1906; G. G. Schmidt, 1906 to date.

The present membership of the Evangelical Association's church of Worthington is 103. The German language is being supplanted by the English, and over half the services are now conducted in the language of the land. From Worthington the society reached out and did effective work in Wilmont, Fulda, Wilder and Ewington township. In the last named place, known as Spaffords, the Methodist church was purchased and a mission established, which is being supplied from the Worthington church still. The departments of the church are Sunday school, young people's alliance, missionary society and ladies' aid society.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

About the first of January, 1893, Rev. A. D. Trumbull, of Nebraska, came to Worthington. There he found a number of Baptists who requested him to preach and try to organize a Baptist church in

Worthington. He agreed, and an appointment was made for January 15 in the old Grand Army hall. After the service the members of the Baptist faith were requested to remain for consultation, which resulted in organizing a conference, preparatory to the organization of a Baptist church. Twenty-one persons signified their desire to become members of the new church.

The formal organization was made Feb. 26, 1893, under the direction of Rev. A. D. Trumbull, with the following charter members: R. R. Smith, Julia A. Smith, L. M. Brooks, Sarah A. Brooks, William E. Stoutemyer, Emmogene Stoutemyer, Andrew C. Hedberg, Mary Hedberg, John R. Moberly, Mary J. Moberly, Gust Swanberg, Hannah Swanberg, Belle Chaffer, Eric P. Johnson, R. H. Barnard, Milton S. Smith, John Staubus, Mrs. John Staubus, R. W. Moberly, Annie Moberly, Mrs. Morrison.<sup>11</sup> The deacons elected were R. R. Smith, A. C. Hedberg and W. E. Stoutemyer. A. C. Hedberg was chosen treasurer and M. S. Smith clerk.

A council of recognition met at Worthington June 30, 1893, by invitation of the twenty-one members of the new organization, who asked that they be recognized as a regular Baptist church. The churches named below were represented by the following: Luverne, Rev. C. W. Lisk and C. C. Drew; Pipestone, Rev. C. T. Hallowell; Windom, Rev. J. M. Thurston and Rev. W. S. Black; St. James, Rev. E. M. Jones and J. C. Rutherford; Mankato, Rev. I. Bergstrom and W. F. Jenson; superintendent of missions, Rev. T. R. Peters, D. D. There were added to the council Rev. J. Hollstrom and Hans Nyström, of the

Worthington Swedish Lutheran church; Rev. J. Schultz, of Sibley; and Rev. C. W. Pratt, of Sheldon. Favorable action was taken by the council, and the First Baptist church of Worthington was recognized by the general body.

The church was incorporated July 27, 1895, the trustees at the time being Gust Swanberg, J. H. Maxwell and W. E. Stoutemyer. Early in 1899 steps were taken to build a church edifice, services having been held for several years in the old Grand Army hall. A handsome and comfortable little church was erected that summer at the corner of Fourth avenue and Fourteenth street, the total cost of which was \$2,925.53. It was dedicated Nov. 12, 1899.

The following pastors have filled the pulpit since the date of organization: W. C. Pratt, 1891; W. J. McCullom, Feb., 1895, to June, 1896; J. W. Forsythe, Nov., 1896, to Dec., 1896; A. V. Dahl, April, 1897, to July, 1898; C. E. Bronson, Jan., 1899, to Oct., 1901; C. K. Bidwell, 1902 to Sept., 1904; C. E. Bronson, Nov., 1904, to Dec., 1905; I. H. Darnell, July, 1906, to date.

#### SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH.

The Swedish Mission church was organized March 12, 1895, with the following charter members: N. J. Sandin, Anna Sandin, Nels Flink, Katherine Flink, C. E. Sahlbom, Martha Caroline Sahlbom, John Wester, Anna Wester and Ole J. Englund. A church building was erected at the corner of Ninth street and Sixth avenue in 1899. It was dedicated July 9, and the total cost was \$2,000.

The following pastors have served the charge: O. B. Stendin, six months in

<sup>11</sup>All became members by letter except the last three named.

1895; G. F. Palmer, 1896-1897; Carl Olson, two months in 1898; Rev. Sandin, six months in 1899; Aug. Berggren, six months in 1900; J. E. Ekstrom, 1901-1903; O. K. Moberg, 1904-1906; C. M. Johnson, Feb. 1, 1907, to date. A parsonage was built in 1901 at a cost of \$1,500. The present membership is 58.

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian church of Worthington was organized in the summer of 1900 by Evangelist G. F. Devoil, with nineteen charter members. Services are held regularly in A. O. U. W. hall. G. M. Walker has been pastor of the church since its organization. The present membership is 58.

### THE LODGES.

Worthington is fairly well represented in secret and fraternal societies. There are organizations of the Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Royal Arch Masons, Eastern Star, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Degree of Honor, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Maccabees of the World and Brotherhood of American Yeomen. All of these have lodges and are in flourishing condition. Many other secret organizations have had existence at one time or another, but in giving the lodge history of Worthington I shall confine myself to those now having organizations.

### STODDARD POST NO. 34, G. A. R.

It was only a few years after the close of the civil war when Nobles county was

settled, and a large percentage of the early settlers were soldiers of that great struggle who had come west to build themselves homes in the new country. Under the provisions of the homestead laws at the time the National colony was bringing the settlers here, ex-soldiers were permitted to secure homesteads of 160 acres within the limits of the railroad grant, while others were permitted to take only 80 acres. This vantage resulted in bringing many veterans of the war to Worthington and surrounding country, and it was but natural that the first lodge established in Worthington should be one of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On the evening of June 29, 1872, about thirty-five or forty ex-soldiers of the Union army met at a building which was to become a carpenter shop, located where the Congregational church now stands, for the purpose of organizing a post of the G. A. R. Captain Henry A. Castle, of St. Paul, commander of the department of Minnesota, was present and fully explained the objects of the organization. He then mustered in those assembled, and Stoddard Post No. 34 came into existence. It was named in honor of a man by the name of Stoddard, who had died in Worthington the previous winter, the first ex-soldier to be buried in Nobles county. The first officers chosen were as follows: William B. Akins, commander; J. S. Shuck, senior vice commander; T. C. Bell, junior vice commander; M. B. Soule, adjutant; C. C. Goodnow, quartermaster; R. D. Barber, surgeon; A. B. Willey, officer of the day; J. C. Goodnow, officer of the guard.

During the summer of 1872 weekly meetings were held and a lively interest was manifested. When winter came

the post was handicapped in the matter of a suitable building in which to meet, and as a consequence the post became somewhat demoralized. Owing to the fact that many of the members were scattered over the prairie, the meetings were thinly attended, and much of the interest died out. But a determined few decided to keep the organization going and met as often as possible. At the first meeting in 1873 the following officers were elected: R. D. Barber, commander; T. C. Bell, senior vice commander; G. W. Rhone, junior vice commander; M. B. Soule, adjutant; A. J. Manley, quartermaster; R. D. Barber, surgeon; B. S. Langdon, chaplain; J. C. Goodnow, officer of the day; J. S. Stone, officer of the guard; Daniel Stone, sergeant major; B. R. Prince, quartermaster sergeant. These officers were succeeded, as the result of an election at the last meeting held in 1873, by the following: J. A. Town, commander; T. C. Bell, senior vice commander; M. H. Stevens, junior vice commander; M. B. Soule, adjutant; A. J. Manley, quartermaster; R. D. Barber, surgeon; J. W. Smith, chaplain; B. P. Hayden-burk, officer of the day; L. B. Bennett, officer of the guard.

During 1873 the post had a membership of 125, and was the largest in the state of Minnesota at that time. Then came the grasshopper days and the resultant disasters. So many of the members moved away that the post was finally disbanded. Not until 1883 were steps taken to bring about a reorganization. On July 14 of that year the reorganization was perfected. The post, with the same name and number as the old one, was mustered in by Samuel Bloomer, of Stillwater, adjutant general

of the department. The officers chosen at that time were: L. M. Lange, commander; R. R. Miller, senior vice commander; Mons Grinager, junior vice commander; R. B. Plotts, adjutant; R. D. Barber, surgeon; C. P. Shepard, officer of the day; A. S. Husselton, chaplain; N. V. McDowell, officer of the guard; H. C. Shepard, sergeant major; C. T. Pope, quartermaster sergeant. The charter members were R. R. Miller, C. P. Shepard, R. D. Barber, C. B. Langdon, G. W. Brant, J. H. Maxwell, E. B. Paul, L. B. Bennett, L. M. Lange, Robert Firth, J. F. Humiston, W. F. Thayer, B. F. Johnson, R. B. Plotts, Geo. W. Crane, J. H. Johnson, I. J. Coons, Noah V. McDowell, H. C. Shepard, A. S. Husselton, Mons Grinager, Geo. M. Rose, Peter Banks, S. F. Pepple, Wm. McLean, C. C. Whitney, W. W. Herron, Jonathan Gordon, C. T. Pope, A. W. Allen, H. Hurlbert, J. J. Bingham, Wm. Madison, J. J. Bunn, Fred Bloom, A. J. Torrance, J. B. Green, M. S. Twitchell, Douglas Cramer, E. S. Mills, J. T. Lyon and Joseph Kane.<sup>12</sup>

Under the first organization the headquarters of the post had been at Miller hall, that famous building that sheltered so many of the early day organizations. When the new post came into existence in 1883 the lodge rooms were moved to Masonic hall. Later the hall over the store building now occupied by Chaney & Mackay was secured, and for many years it was known as Grand Army hall. In more recent years the headquarters have been in the Baker block. Since its reorganization in 1883 Stoddard Post No. 31 has been an active body, and is today one of the most respected orders in the city.

<sup>12</sup>The eight last named were mustered in July 28, fourteen days after the organization.

but were designated as charter members.

## STODDARD CORPS NO. 1, W. R. -C.

The Grand Army post at Worthington at one time had the distinction of being the largest post in the state, and its auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps, also has a distinctive honor; it was the first corps established in the state of Minnesota. The corps was organized in December, 1883. The first officers were: Mrs. J. A. Town, president; Mrs. Cynthia McDowell, senior vice president; Mrs. Susan Wells, junior vice president; Miss Mary E. Madison, secretary; Mrs. Mary Bennett, treasurer; Mrs. Kephart, chaplain; Mrs. Eloise Brant, conductor; Miss Mary McDowell, guard.

The charter was issued by the national officers on March 8, 1884, and the following names appear on the charter. Eloise Brant, Mary McDowell, Susan Wells, May Thayer, Ida Limbert, Sarah McDowell, Sophia Torrance, Kate Husseton, Phoebe Millington, Kate R. Town, Lora Free, Kate Miller, Mary Mills, Anna Lange, Cynthia McDowell, Mary Bunn, Adaline Bingham, Sarah Humiston, Martha DeWolf, Susan F. Bennett, Miss Mary Bunn, Margaret Chamberlain, Hattie Smith, Harriet Smith, Kate L. Plotts, Hattie Barber.<sup>13</sup>

FRATERNITY LODGE NO 101, A. F.  
& A. M.

Worthington's second order was a Masonic organization, Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M. The initial steps toward the organization of a Masonic order were taken late in August, 1872.<sup>14</sup> One month later the grand lodge of Minnesota authorized the creation of

<sup>13</sup>Eloise Brant and Harriet Smith are the only charter members whose names are still on the membership list.

a subordinate lodge in Worthington, as the following certificate, filed in the office of the clerk of court of Nobles county on September 27, 1872, shows:

Certificate. We hereby certify that a subordinate lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons has been authorized by "Grand Lodge" of Minnesota.

That we, the undersigned, have been constituted said lodge by disposition of said grand lodge to wit: Moses B. Odell, master; Martin B. Soule, senior warden; and Lachlan F. McLaurin, junior warden. That the name of said lodge is Fraternity Lodge U. D., and that it is located in the county of Nobles, state of Minnesota. That the place of meeting of said lodge is in the town of Worthington, in said Nobles county.

Dated the 27th day of September, A. D. 1872.

MOSES B. ODELL, Master.

MARTIN B. SOULE, Senior Warden.

LACHLAN F. MCLAURIN, Junior Warden.

The charter members of this pioneer lodge were Albert C. Robinson, L. F. McLaurin, H. C. Rice, J. Craft, C. C. Goodnow, B. F. Thurber, S. Ed. Chandler, I. P. Durfee, A. C. Ecker, Wm. M. Bear, John H. Johnson, Wellington Sherwood, M. B. Odell, Addison P. Lyon, A. J. Manley, Daniel Shell, H. D. Humiston and C. P. Stough. On October 5 a meeting was held, when the following officers were elected: B. F. Thurber, treasurer; A. C. Robinson, secretary; C. C. Goodnow, S. D.; S. E. Chandler, J. D.; Daniel Shell, S. S.; H. C. Rice, J. S.; Wm. Bear, chaplain; C. P. Stough, tyler.

LIVING ARCH CHAPTER NO. 28,  
R. A. M.

This lodge of Royal Arch Masons was organized Feb. 3, 1874, with the following charter members: A. C. Robinson, M. B. Soule, I. P. Durfee, H. Webb,

<sup>14</sup>"A meeting of the members of Free Masons was held at Soule's law office last week, and necessary steps taken to organize a lodge at this place."—Western Advance, Aug. 31, 1872.

W. B. Cook, I. N. Sater, W. Smith, A. P. Lyon and W. H. Wilson. The order was incorporated March 27, 1882. The lodge is in a very prosperous condition, and owns the two brick buildings at the corner of Tenth street and Second avenue, valued at about \$15,000.

RANSFORD CHAPTER NO. 43, O.  
E. S.

The Masonic auxiliary, Order Eastern Star, was organized Dec. 19, 1891, with the following thirty-eight charter members: Mrs. Hannah Parker, Miss Winnifred Shell, Miss Esther Torrance, Mrs. Josie L. Lewis, Mrs. Mary F. McCartney, Mrs. Mary S. Fellows, Mrs. Nellie D. Smith, Miss Irene A. Webb, Mrs. Louise Crane, Mrs. Mary E. Bennett, Mrs. Ellen Torrance, Mrs. Caroline A. Forbes, Mrs. S. E. Shell, Mrs. Maria L. Dean, Mrs. Mary R. Mitchell, Mrs. Mary E. Pannell, Mrs. Sarah C. Johnson, Mrs. Ida M. Darling, Mrs. Etta P. Webb, Mrs. Hattie H. Bigelow, Mrs. Viola E. Rosenberg, Mrs. Adelia H. Covey, Mrs. Emma F. Kenyon, Mrs. Carrie J. Johnson, Messrs. Wilbur S. Webb, Henry E. Torrance, Azom Forbes, Lorenzo L. McCartney, Abe L. Johnson, Edwin C. Pannell, Frank Lewis, Lucian B. Bennett, Daniel Shell, H. C. Shepard, Ai P. Darling, Benjamin F. Johnson, Chas. W. Smith, Howard L. Durfee.

The first officers of the lodge were: Mrs. Mary Mitchell, worthy matron; Dr. W. S. Webb, worthy patron; Mrs. Daniel Shell, associate matron; Mrs. Etta P. Webb, secretary; Mrs. Otis Bigelow, treasurer; Mrs. Hannah Parker, conductress; Mrs. E. C. Pannell, associate conductress.

WORTHINGTON LODGE NO. 65, A.  
O. U. W.

Among the strong organizations of Worthington is the Ancient Order United Workmen, which has had an existence for twenty-eight years. It was organized on May 21, 1880, with the following officers and charter members: Azom Forbes, past master; R. R. Miller, master workman; Geo. W. Wilson, foreman; W. A. Peterson, overseer; R. B. Plotts, recorder; Frank Lewis, financier; H. H. Anderson, receiver; Joseph Lowe, guide; C. T. Shattuc, inside watchman; A. S. Hus-el-ton, outside watchman; J. S. McMannus, Alex Moir and J. Craft, trustees; W. B. Lyon, T. H. Parsons, Wm. Culbertson, A. P. Miller, John McMillan, Peter Banks, Julius Moll, C. W. Hanna, A. E. Tuttle, J. H. Johnson, J. L. Sheeley, O. G. Grundsten, B. N. Carrier, A. L. Clark, S. McLean and C. F. Humiston. The lodge was incorporated March 29, 1891, and is now the owner of the brick building at the corner of Tenth street and Fourth avenue.

OKABENA LODGE NO. 48, D. of H.

The Degree of Honor lodge, auxiliary to the Workmen, received its charter Nov. 20, 1891. Following are the officers named in the charter: Mrs. Remus Moberly, P. C. of H.; Mrs. May Whitney, L. of H.; Miss Laura Free, recorder; Mrs. Lillian Curtiss, receiver; Mrs. Edith Covey, L. W.; Mrs. Cynthia S. Bullis, C. of H.; Mrs. Susan R. Lowe, C. of C.; Mrs. Ellen S. Leonard, financier; Mrs. Luella Darby, S. U.; Mr. E. F. Whitney, O. W.

## OKABENA LODGE NO 72, K. P.

The Knights of Pythias lodge was instituted May 1, 1890, with the following officers and charter members: James Manning, P. C.; W. S. Webb, C. C.; E. E. Warren, V. C.; Robert McCune, P.; H. C. Crawford, M. A.; Grant Morrison, K. R. S.; A. L. Johnson, M. F.; H. C. Shepard, M. E.; J. Hammerberg, I. G.; C. J. Samuelson, O. G.; Chas. E. Savill, Henry E. Torrance, John T. Fisher, E. Ray Humiston, Geo. W. Wilson, James W. Crandall, Erick K. Ramsey, Jerome S. McManus. The lodge was incorporated April 16, 1891.

WORTHINGTON CAMP NO. 2294,  
M. W. A.

The Modern Woodmen have one of the strongest fraternal organizations in Worthington. Worthington Camp No. 2294 was organized May 29, 1894, with the following charter members: E. F. Buchan, W. H. Buchan, Olof S. Degn, M. E. Fish, M. Hammond, Theodore Hinricks, J. P. Loveless, F. H. Lyon, Emil Luche, Fred Mitchell, George D. Palm, Ingremann Peterson, John Sullivan, P. W. Thoreau, E. F. Wood, I. L. Wass and William E. Deyoe.

The Royal Neighbors, auxiliary to the Modern Woodman, maintain a strong organization.

WORTHINGTON LODGE NO. 249,  
I. O. O. F.

So early as 1878 an effort was made to organize an Odd Fellows lodge in Worthington,<sup>15</sup> but it was unsuccessful, and it was not until Aug. 18, 1891, that

a charter was granted by the grand lodge. The order was instituted August 29 with the following charter members: E. W. Goff, E. M. Lamm, J. B. Green, Barton Goodrich, G. C. Fellows, Joseph Lowe, John J. Lynch, Albert Bryan and P. B. Curtiss. For a time a Rebekah lodge, auxiliary to the Odd Fellows, had an existence, but it has been discontinued.

WORTHINGTON TENT NO. 124, K.  
O. T. M.

The applicants for a charter for a subordinate lodge of the Knights of the Maccabees of the World held their first meeting at G. A. R. hall Oct. 29, 1901, and a short time thereafter the charter was granted. The first officers and charter applicants were as follows: J. J. Parsons, P. C.; H. V. Millar, C.; Thos. Hutton, J. C.; John S. Tolverson, F. K. and R. K.; Guy O. Bigelow, chaplain; Henry J. Blume, sergeant; F. E. Walker, physician; Chas. Durling, mata; Peter Heind, M. of G.; O. B. Congdon, S. M. of G.; John R. Baker, sentinel; Robert Reed, picket; M. S. Smith, H. V. Millar and F. C. Stitser, trustees; Carl Arneson, Albert Durling, John Feldman, Fred E. Hubbard, Eric Leet, Geo. Lewis, Chris Leef, Frank Pronty, Frank E. Scott, Oren R. Bartlett, F. B. McNair, Lawrence Potter, Geo. Smith, Jeff G. Scott.

WORTHINGTON HOMESTEAD NO.  
22, B. A. Y.

The charter for this lodge of Brotherhood of American Yeomen was granted May 22, 1905, with the following men-

<sup>15</sup>The Odd Fellows of Worthington are requested to meet at the office of A. Forbes on Saturday evening, November 29, to take the

preliminary steps toward organizing a lodge at this place."—Worthington Advance, Nov. 28, 1878.

lers: E. C. Pannell, Mary E. Pannell, Eugene Stanton, Etta P. Stanton, J. D. Matteson, Belle Matteson, Flora Wood, Alma Peterson, Mary Loveless, Catherine T. Glasgow, Walter S. Aagaard, Louisa W. Aagaard, Ulysses F. Hansberger, Clara L. Hansberger, Will E. Oliver, Emma S. Oliver, L. L. McCartney, E. L. Nance, Katie McCartney, Emma May Nance, R. H. Dieckhoff, Wm. H. Guise, Frances B. Dieckhoff, E. E. Dayton, Cora A. Dayton, Hannah L. Guise, E. W. Cutler, A. F. Collins, Mary J. Collins, Eulalia Garretson, Caroline A. McCune, Mattie M. Hastings, Mary E. Baker, Sophia M. Sterling, Edith E. Schanck, Oscar H. Nebel, Leo F. Nebel, David Bergstresser, Christine E. Bergstresser, Lottie M. Frink, W. H. Harrington, Jonas A. Wickman, Fredricka

Wickman, Chas. O. Barkelew, Catherine V. Barkelew, Wm. H. Barkelew, John B. Walters, Maurice I. Maxwell, Nelle May Maxwell, F. E. Walker, Joseph S. Firth, Byron W. Potter, Chas. J. Paine, Charlotte B. Potter, Maggie E. Paine, Mark C. Sharp, Clara F. Sharp, Geo. F. Hastings, Amelia M. Hastings, Frederick L. Covley, A. W. Little, Ella A. Little, Frank H. Lyon, Effie I. Lyon, Clinton L. Mann, Wm. D. Boddy, F. C. Brace, W. W. Loveless, Grant Morrison, Chas. V. Bryan, Svante J. Kall, Adolph Amundson, Arthur Borst, Fred Wall, Edgar E. Lanphear, Orin Carneross, Josephus E. Norris, Jacob Gleim, Elizabeth Gleim, Harvey Hawley, T. C. Ager, A. M. Gregerson, Emma Gregerson, John T. Milton, Clark H. Pannell.



111E  
P. 21  
111E  
P. 21

ADRIAN IN 1887



ADRIAN IN 1883



## CHAPTER XVII.

### ADRIAN.

Ranking second in size and importance and fourth in age among Nobles county towns, is Adrian. The village is situated in the western part of the county, in Olney and Westside townships, on Kanaranzi creek, and on the branch line of the Omaha railroad which extends from Worthington to Mitchell, South Dakota. It is eighteen miles west from Worthington and fifteen east from Luverne. The population of Adrian, according to the state census of 1905, was 1184.

The town is compactly built and presents an attractive appearance. It has broad streets, lined with substantial business houses and handsome residences. No more beautiful site for a town could be found. It is on land that has a gentle slope toward the Kanaranzi, which flows along the northern border, affording excellent drainage. All the improvements to be found in Minnesota towns of its size are here. It has an excellent water works system, electric light plant, public and parochial schools and churches.

For several years after the rapid settlement of eastern Nobles county (following the building of the Sioux City

& St. Paul railroad) Worthington was the only town in the county, if we except the railroad stations of Bigelow and Hersey (Brewster), in which only small progress had been made. From 1872 to 1876 a number of settlers had taken claims and builded homes in the western part of the county, but, being far from railroads and markets, the population was small, and, of course, no attempt had been made to found a town.

Conditions were materially changed in the spring of 1876, when it was definitely determined that the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company would build a branch line westward from Worthington. New settlers located in the western townships of Nobles county, and when the railroad was built and the site of a new town to be called Adrian was selected, the indications were that the new town would prosper from the start.

About the first of April a preliminary survey for the new road was begun and in May grading was commenced. The railroad officials early selected the sites for stations on the proposed road,<sup>1</sup> and the townsite of Adrian was surveyed between the 23rd and 29th of May, 1876, by O. D. Brown for the St. Paul & Da-

<sup>1</sup>"We learn that there are to be two stations on the branch between here and Luverne. One will be in Dewald near the farm of Mr. Bedford, and the other at the Kanaranzi. Parties

have already gone out to lay out a town on the Kanaranzi, part of which will fall on the claim of Mr. Campbell."—Worthington Advance, May 25, 1876.

kota Railroad company (later the Worthington & Sioux Falls Railroad company).<sup>2</sup> The original townsite consisted of sixteen blocks, evenly divided by Main street, which is the Olney-Westside boundary line. That part of the plat which was on the southeast quarter of section 13, Westside township, was railroad land; that on the southwest quarter of section 18, Olney township, was on land homesteaded by Albert Campbell, later bought by the railroad company. Although the survey had been made in May, the dedication of the plat was not made until August 28, and the instrument was not filed until October 1. Horace Thompson, as trustee for himself and others, made the dedication.<sup>3</sup>

The site was named Adrian in honor

of Adrian Iselin, who was the mother of Adrian C. Iselin, one of the directors of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company. Mr. Iselin had requested the officers of the road to name some new town along the line in honor of his mother, and the request was complied with when the station on the Kanaranzi was established. It seems strange that there should be any question raised as to the origin of the name of a place of such recent birth as the village of Adrian, but such is the case. The origin of the name is as stated, but it is only natural that the mistake should be made of giving the honor to the director of the road, which has heretofore been done.<sup>4</sup> In some quarters the belief has become current that the village was

<sup>2</sup>A correspondent to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, writing in July, 1878, told a pretty story of the selection of the site. The only fault to be found with the story is that it cannot be true, for the selection had been made and the plat surveyed two months before the time assigned. The correspondent wrote:

"Two years ago, in the last days of July, the tracklayers on the Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad reached the banks of the Kanaranzi. It was midway between Worthington and Luyerne. The site was beautiful for situation. The country surrounding it was rich and inviting. From the summit of the bluffs that bordered the river the eye turned north, south, east and west, over hill, prairie and stream—a vision of beauty. 'What a grand site for a new town,' was the exclamation of the leader. And it was then and there decided that a town should be on the spot."

<sup>3</sup>Additions to Adrian have been platted as follows:

Block A—Surveyed by Leonidas L. Palmer, civil engineer, for Worthington & Sioux Falls Railroad company; dedicated July 6, 1881; filed July 27, 1881.

South Side—Surveyed by M. S. Smith between September 3 and October 9, 1891, for M. Sullivan, F. R. Robinson, E. H. Mylius, John Ireland, A. M. Becker and A. Libraire; dedicated Oct. 9, 1891; filed Dec. 8, 1891.

Campbell's East Side—Surveyed by M. S. Smith in September, 1891, in compliance with an order of the county auditor; dedicated by Albert Campbell, Frank E. Hoskins, Fred Steinkoenig, Josiah Hoskins, Edward Gray, Casper Becker and Thomas Taugleson Nov. 4, 1891; filed Dec. 8, 1891.

Schneider's—Surveyed by M. S. Smith between Nov. 9 and 18, 1891, for Albert Campbell, Anna Marla Schneider and John Alley; dedicated Dec. 12, 1891; filed Jan. 2, 1892.

Faragher's—Surveyed by M. S. Smith in November, 1891, for John E. Faragher; dedicated Nov. 25, 1891; filed Jan. 2, 1892.

Lot 1 (nw<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of nw<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, section 19, T. 162, R. 42)—Surveyed by M. S. Smith for John E. Faragher and William R. Faragher; dedicated Dec. 31, 1891; filed Jan. 2, 1892.

Porter & Mohl's—Surveyed by W. N. Davidson June 2, 3 and 4, 1891, for F. J. Porter; dedicated June 13, 1891; filed April 14, 1892.

Jones'—Surveyed by W. N. Davidson Aug. 17, 1891, for James R. Jones and John R. Jones; dedicated Feb. 14, 1892; filed Dec. 11, 1893.

Blocks 2 and 3, Original Plat Campbell's East Side Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith April 12 and 13, 1895, for George F. Hallas, administrator of the estate of Albert Campbell; dedicated May 1, 1895; filed May 27, 1895.

Blocks 4, 5, 6 and 7, Campbell's East Side Addition—Surveyed by M. S. Smith Nov. 14, 15 and 16, 1895, for George F. Hallas, administrator of the estate of Albert Campbell; dedicated Dec. 5, 1895; filed Dec. 7, 1895.

Spartz's—Surveyed by M. S. Smith Nov. 8, 1899, for Jacob Spartz; dedicated Dec. 23, 1899; filed Dec. 26, 1899.

Block A—Surveyed by M. S. Smith March 19, 1903, for Joseph Cowin; dedicated April 6, 1903; filed April 6, 1903.

<sup>4</sup>A history of the origin of place names connected with the Northwestern railroad, recently issued in book form, says: "This town [Adrian] was started in 1876 and was named for Adrian C. Iselin, of New York city, who was a large holder of the earliest issued stock and bonds of a railroad that passes through this vicinity."

E. F. Drake, who was the president of the Worthington & Sioux Falls road, wrote at the time of the founding: "Adrian is named for Adrian Iselin, of New York, one of our directors."

The Worthington Advance of June 8, 1876, said: "The village is named Adrian, the name being that of a heavy European stockholder."



MAIN STREET, ADRIAN



ADRIAN IN WINTER GARB

THE  
DIRECTOR  
OF  
THE  
BUREAU OF  
LANDS

named in honor of St. Adrian.<sup>5</sup> Although I have made diligent search, I have been unable to find any authentic data that would lead to that conclusion.

Adrian was not founded immediately after the selection of the site. The track laying crew reached the point about the middle of August, and during that fall the town came into existence. J. Smith, who had been engaged in the mercantile business at Heron Lake, and George H. Carr, who had been clerking for him, were the first on the ground. They brought lumber and erected the first building on the site.<sup>6</sup> Before the store was opened Mr. Carr bought his partner's interests and became the first business man of Adrian. Besides conducting his store he bought and shipped grain, erecting a warehouse later in the season.

A number of other business men were soon on the ground, and before the end of the year, the village boasted of four or five business enterprises. A hotel building, 30x40 feet, two stories high, was erected by the railroad company, and Thomas H. Childs, formerly postmaster of the Hebbard postoffice and proprietor of the "Half-Way House," moved down and became landlord of the Adrian hotel. William Wigham came up from his home in Little Rock township, erected a small building in which he opened a store, and built a warehouse and engaged in the grain business.

A depot building (the east end of

the present depot) was erected, and George H. Otis was installed as agent, being replaced soon after by Thomas G. Newell. About the first of October the Hebbard postoffice, which had been located a short distance east of the new town, was moved to Adrian. George H. Carr became the postmaster and kept the office in his store.<sup>7</sup> Other buildings erected in the little town before the close of the year were a small shanty put up for a place of residence by H. N. Holbrook, and a small house which was moved over from near the site of Rushmore by Mr. Carr. The few business houses had a prosperous trade, and the predictions that Adrian was to become a good business point were coming true.<sup>8</sup> The country roundabout was sparsely settled, but the new town drew trade from a vast area, extending south into what is now known as the Ellsworth country, and north to the county line, guaranteeing the permanency of the village.

During the winter of 1876-77 the town's first school was established, being conducted by Mrs. McCall in a room in the hotel, and the first church service was held in February.<sup>9</sup> Times were lively during 1877, and many new business enterprises were established. In January J. C. Ludlow erected a building and opened a blacksmith, machine and repair shop, and a few months later erected a dwelling house. A. J. Rice, who had been clerking in a drug store

<sup>5</sup>"Adrian was named on the suggestion of Rev. Father Knaut, the first Catholic priest of that charge, in honor of St. Adrian. Certain ones wish to give the honor to Adrian Iselin, of New York, but facts disprove their claims."—Ellsworth News, 1907.

<sup>6</sup>The front part of the building on Main street now occupied as a restaurant by Ed. Libaire.

<sup>7</sup>Adrian's postmasters, with the dates of service, are: George H. Carr, 1876-1882; Elton Clapp, 1882-1885; M. Sullivan, 1885-1889; S. J. McKenzie, 1889-1894; John E. King, 1894-1899; S. J. McKenzie, 1899-1906; Joseph Cowin, 1906 to date.

<sup>8</sup>"Adrian starts off very well and is destined to excel the other stations between Worthington and Luyerne. . . . The Kanaranzi valley is destined to be one of the richest portions of the county, and Adrian will be a busy place."—Correspondent in Worthington Advance, Nov. 9, 1876.

<sup>9</sup>"We had preaching services in our village last Sabbath for the first time. Mr. Bunce, of Luyerne, was the minister. Quite a large company were present. The meeting was held in the office of the hotel."—Correspondent to Worthington Advance, Feb. 15, 1877.

at Worthington, located in the west end village and opened a drug store. Hans Dahl started in the shoe repairing business. Benjamin Midboe erected a business house on Main street, which he leased to H. J. Ludlow. The latter opened a hardware store in it, which was under the management of John F. Humiston. A. O. Conde moved down from Hersey village, and, forming a partnership with Captain William Wigham, engaged in the produce and commission business. Henry Davis, the pioneer merchant of Worthington, put up a building in the latter part of the summer and engaged in the general merchandise business. His store was managed by Uveling Bros., who later bought the store. That the new town was in a prosperous way is evidenced by this activity in starting new enterprises and by the fact that 100,000 bushels of grain were shipped from the station during the year 1877.

The activity continued during the next year. Fourteen buildings were erected during the winter of 1877-78, and in May a correspondent wrote of the conditions in the new town:

Business is lively now, and our streets are full of teams nearly every day. Our merchants are nearly all selling agricultural implements and are turning out a great many machines. One firm has sold over one hundred breaking plows. . . . There are two church organizations and one lawyer, but no doctor and only one resident minister.

In June a visitor to the town reported the following business houses in operation: General stores by William Wigham, A. M. Becker, Henry Davis (in charge of Mr. Uveling), and George H. Carr; hotel by T. H. Childs, boarding house (Colony House) by James Naylor, livery barn by Ed. Cooper, furniture stores by F. Wegen and Benjamin Midboe, lumber yards by Small & Carr and James Cowin, hardware store

by John Humiston, feed mill by Barber Bros., bakery, restaurant and meat store by L. S. Roberts.

The rush of settlers to the western part of the county in 1878, due largely to the operations of the colony company, made prosperous times in the town, and several new business enterprises were started that summer. Among others were a machine and implement house and elevator owned by Peter Thompson and managed by A. M. Crosby, and another general store started by Rue & Langseth. The building improvements for the year amounted to \$19,300.

For several years after 1878 there was not much progress made in Adrian in a business way. In the town were all the kinds of business enterprises necessary to take care of the trade of the surrounding country, and only a few new business houses were established in the following few years. The federal census of 1880 showed a population of 193.

In the fall of 1881 the residents of the town asked for incorporation, petitioning the legislature, then in special session, to grant them a charter. The legislature took favorable action, and on November 17, 1881, the bill granting incorporation was approved by the governor. The act, in part, is as follows:

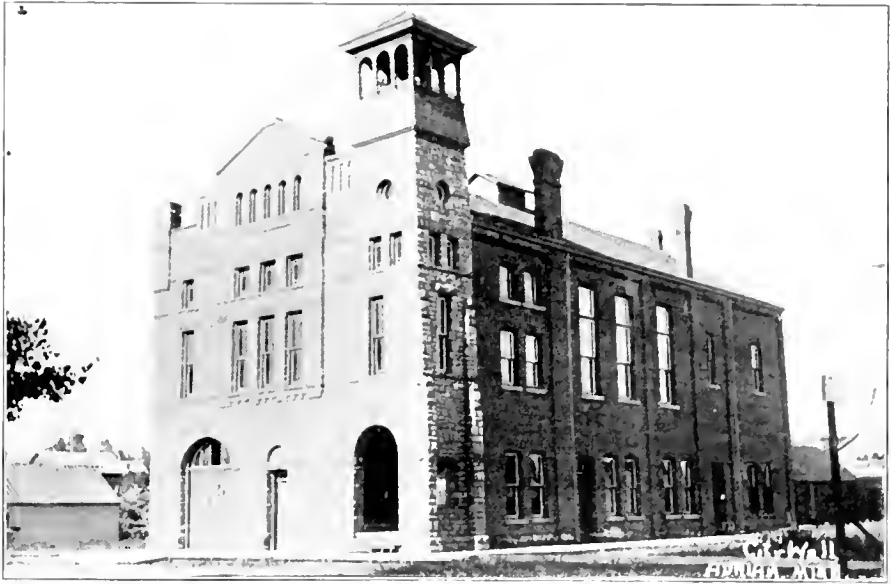
An act to incorporate the village of Adrian.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota:

Section 1. That the following described territory in the county of Nobles and state of Minnesota, to-wit: the west half of section 18 and the northwest quarter of section 19, all in township 102, range 42, and the east half of section 13 and the northeast quarter of section 24, township 102, range 43, be, and the same is hereby, set apart, constituted, incorporated as the village of Adrian, under and subject to the provisions of chapter 139 of the general laws of 1875, and the inhabitants of said territory shall form and constitute a municipal corporation at common law together with the power granted







CITY HALL AND OPERA HOUSE, ADRIAN



Adrian High School, Adrian, Minn.

ADRIAN HIGH SCHOOL

and conferred by said chapter 139 of the general laws of 1875 and all acts amendatory thereof and the further power herein granted.

Sec. 3.<sup>10</sup> That L. C. Clemons, E. Coleman and John F. Humiston are hereby designated as the persons who shall give notice of and for a meeting of the legal voters of said territory to organize said village and elect officers pursuant to the laws of 1875 aforesaid.

Sec. 4. The territory comprised within prescribed limits of said village shall be, and the same is hereby constituted, an independent voting precinct for all election purposes.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved November 17, 1881.

The first village election was held on Saturday, Nov. 26, 1881, when the following citizens were elected to serve as Adrian's first officers: President of the council, T. G. Newell; trustees, John Blesius, James Naylor and John Timmons; recorder, Isaac Small; treasurer, John Krast; justice, U. W. Weston; constable, H. P. Flanagan. They served until their successors were chosen on January 2, 1883.

Following is a list of those who have filled elective offices in the city government up to the present time:

1883—President, T. G. Newell; trustees, A. G. Lindgren, Peter Ulveling, J. T. Hosmer; recorder, Thomas Johnson; treasurer, A. M. Becker.

1884—President, M. Sullivan; trustees, A. J. Rice, John Timmons, Thomas G. Newell; recorder, Thomas Johnson; treasurer, A. M. Becker; justice, George F. Hallas; constable, E. Coleman.

1885—President, M. Sullivan; trustees, A. M. Becker, A. G. Lindgren, L. S. Roberts;<sup>11</sup> recorder, Levi Rue; treasurer, F. J. Porter; justice, A. Campbell.

1886—President, Fred R. Robinson; trustees, Albert Campbell, Joseph Roll, O. S. Meliek; recorder, Thomas G. Newell; treasurer, F. J. Porter; justices, L. C. Clemons, George Hallas; constable, George Slade.

1887—President, James R. Jones; trustees, R. C. Thompson, E. Cooper, Daniel Ryan; re-

recorder, C. E. Chamberlain; treasurer, Joseph Roll.

1888—President, F. J. Porter; trustees, A. M. Becker, S. J. McKenzie, James Cowin; recorder, Daniel Ryan; treasurer, Joseph Roll; justices, John Kendlen,<sup>12</sup> George Hallas; constables, John Reifenberger, George Slade.

1889—President, John Blesius; trustees, John R. Jones, F. R. Robinson, Levi Rue; recorder, A. M. Feathers; treasurer, Joseph Roll; justice, O. W. Freeman; constable, William Marr.

1890—President, M. Sullivan; trustees, R. C. Thompson, John Faragher, A. M. Becker; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, John Blesius; justice, George Hallas; constable, J. G. Murphy.

1891—President, S. J. McKenzie; trustees, W. R. Faragher, George Timmes, Richard Sell; recorder, George S. Bell; treasurer, John Blesius; justice, O. W. Freeman; constable, A. G. Mitchell.

1892—President, D. J. Forbes; trustees, J. E. Faragher, A. Campbell, B. E. Smith; recorder, G. E. Times; treasurer, John Blesius; justice, George F. Hallas; constable, William Marr.

1893—President, John Blesius; trustees, John E. Faragher, James Boardman, George Ellsworth; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, J. C. Becker; justice, Levi Rue; constable, J. N. Rupner.

1894<sup>13</sup>—President, O. S. Meliek; trustees, James Boardman, John E. Faragher, G. S. Ellsworth; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, J. C. Becker; justice, James F. Cox; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, John McChord.

1895—President, O. S. Meliek; trustees, M. S. Boyle, J. E. Faragher, James Boardman; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, J. C. Becker; justice, George F. Hallas; constable, J. G. Murphy; street commissioner, John McChord.

1896—President, J. T. McKnight; trustees, J. F. Timmons, A. Libaire, William Faragher; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, George Ellsworth; justice, A. J. Rice; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, S. Ostram.

1897—President, W. R. Faragher; trustees, George Eppers, A. Libaire, Thomas Dealtry; recorder, Charles Slade; treasurer, Joseph Roll; justices, O. W. Freeman, George F. Hallas; constable, J. G. Murphy; street commissioner, James Mitchell.

1898—President, W. R. Faragher; trustees, George Eppers, A. Libaire, Fred Mohl; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, Charles Libaire; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, James Mitchell.

1899—President, W. R. Faragher; trustees, Fred Mohl, N. P. Hanson, W. J. Bauer; re-

Freeman, who was elected at a special election.

<sup>10</sup>Section 2 granted five special powers to the village council.

<sup>11</sup>Resigned, Albert Campbell appointed March 12, 1885.

<sup>12</sup>Resigned and was succeeded by O. W.

<sup>13</sup>At this election a vote was taken on the license question. For license received 165 votes; against license, 21.

recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, Charles Libaire; assessor, William Wigham; justices, George F. Hallas, O. W. Freeman; constable, J. G. Murphy; street commissioner, J. J. Forrett.

1900—President, Fred Mohl; trustees, W. R. Mansel, W. J. Bauer, W. E. Timmons; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, H. E. Swanman; assessor, William Wigham; justice, E. Goodenough; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, John McChord.

1901—President, Fred Mohl; trustees, W. R. Mansel, W. E. Timmons, Daniel Fritz; recorder, C. A. Sands; treasurer, H. A. Swanman; assessor, William Wigham; justice, O. W. Freeman; constable, J. G. Murphy; street commissioner, F. W. Ellsworth.

1902—President, O. W. Freeman; trustees, John E. Faragher, W. E. Timmons, Daniel Fritz; recorder, C. E. Libaire; treasurer, J. C. Becker; assessor, William Wigham; justice, John G. Gergen; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, F. W. Ellsworth.

1903—President, O. W. Freeman; trustees, J. E. Faragher, J. G. Murphy, William Hitchens; recorder, G. L. Ellsworth; treasurer, J. A. Kennedy; assessor, William Wigham; justice, E. Goodenough; street commissioner, F. W. Ellsworth.

1904—President, L. W. Marston; trustees, W. R. Mansel, R. H. Doe, Frank Uveling; recorder, Daniel Fritz; treasurer, John Colvin; assessor, William Wigham; justices, E. Goodenough, E. J. Kilpatrick; constable, William Marr; street commissioner, Peter Pass.

1905—President, L. W. Marston; trustees, W. R. Mansel, R. H. Doe, W. E. Timmons; recorder, John McChord; treasurer, John Colvin; assessor, William Wigham; justices, E. J. Kilpatrick, O. W. Freeman; constable, James Mitchell.

1906—President, Fred Mohl; trustees, John Reifenberger, Daniel Fritz, Frank Uveling; recorder, John McChord; treasurer, John Colvin; assessor, William Wigham; justices, James F. Cox, M. E. Carrigan; constable, William Marr.

1907—President, C. A. Sands; trustees, John Reifenberger, A. J. Schaeffer, M. E. Carrigan; recorder, John McChord; treasurer, John Colvin; assessor, William Wigham; justices, James F. Cox, E. J. Kilpatrick; constables, L. G. Chisum, James Mitchell.

1908—President, C. A. Sands; trustees, John Reifenberger, M. E. Carrigan, A. J. Schaeffer; recorder, John McChord; treasurer, John Colvin; assessor, William Wigham.

During the early eighties Adrian took big strides forward. The grasshopper scourge was a thing of the past; the

Catholic colony company had been instrumental in bringing hundreds of new settlers to the lands of western Nobles county; crops were good and the country was prosperous. All these things assisted in the building of a good town at Adrian, which, until the founding of Ellsworth in 1884, continued to draw trade from its original large territory—a territory rapidly filling with settlers.

The years 1883 and 1884 were especially prosperous ones for the west end village. During the eighteen months before January, 1885, the building improvements in the village amounted to the snug sum of \$52,530, of which \$30,000 had been expended in 1884. The town became a shipping point of importance,<sup>11</sup> and business in all lines was good. New enterprises were started, and the population increased, reaching a total of 533 in 1885, a gain of 340 in five years.

By the building of the Burlington railroad (now the Rock Island) through the southwestern corner of the county in 1881 and the founding of Ellsworth village, Adrian lost a part of its large territory, but this loss was offset by the rapid development of its remaining territory, and during the latter part of the eighties Adrian continued to be the rivalest town in Nobles county. In 1890 the federal census showed a population of 671.

Adrian has been remarkably free from fires during its entire history. Its most disastrous conflagration occurred on May 23, 1889, when the Adrian flouring mill and a few nearby buildings were burned, causing a loss of about \$18,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from

<sup>11</sup>During the year 1884 we forwarded 16,317,110 pounds of freight, on which the charges were \$28,579.80; and received 9,816,982 pounds, on which the charges were \$20,651.88.

These charges accrued on our own road—no 'advanced charges' being included therein."—Adrian Guardian, January, 1885.

a spark from an engine. The *Adrian Guardian* of May 24 said of the loss:

The mill property cost Gilbert & Nelson \$10,000 less than six months ago. New machinery had been put in during the last spring to the value of \$3,800. The proprietors had three thousand bushels of wheat in store, with a new barn which went up in smoke with the rest, will swell the loss to \$18,000. Cinders were carried all over town, and the residences of John Blesius, George Slade, M. L. DeWolf and Peter Pass were several times on fire (they were over a block away) and only hard work saved them. Had the wind been stronger all of Park Hill must have been devastated by the fire fiend.

Prosperous times continued up to the time of the panic of 1893. Most of the business houses had been built of wood before 1891. That year witnessed a building boom, in which, among others, were constructed three handsome brick business blocks—the A. M. Becker store building, at a cost of about \$9,000; the *Adrian State Bank* building, and the *Slade Hotel* building. The panic of 1893 resulted in only a temporary setback, and during the late nineties *Adrian* again came upon prosperous times. The population in 1895 was 1,072, a gain of 401 in five years. This was increased in 1900 to 1,258.

When the *Burlington* railroad (now the *Rock Island*) extended northward from *Worthington* in 1900 it invaded *Adrian's* northern territory, and the founding of the towns along that line of road resulted in a cutting off of a large and profitable trade. The town's trade territory was now reduced to its immediate surrounding farming country, which is the case with every other *Nobles* county town. A result of this loss of trade was that *Adrian* did not continue to advance as it had during its entire previous history. The census of 1905

gave a population of 1,184,<sup>15</sup> a loss of 74 in five years.

The personal property assessment for the village as left by the board of review for 1907 was \$99,545. The increase in real estate values by reason of improvements was \$1,385. This was the increase in assessed valuation only, the full value of improvements having been in the neighborhood of \$5,000. A list of the business houses, made by the *Nobles County Democrat* in June, 1907, showed that there were 87 firms or persons engaged in professional and mechanical work in *Adrian*.

The year 1908 witnessed a more prosperous condition of affairs in *Adrian* than had been the case for several years. A number of new business houses were established and all lines of business were in a prosperous way.

### SCHOOLS.

It was during the winter of 1876-77, when only a few families called *Adrian* their home, that the first school was started in the little village. It was held in the attic of the hotel building and Mrs. McCall was the teacher. Thomas H. Childs and William Wigham were instrumental in bringing about the establishment of the school, those gentlemen hiring the teacher and paying her salary out of their own pockets. Eleven children attended this first school in *Adrian*—three from the family of Mr. Wigham, three from that of Mr. Childs, and five from the family of H. N. Holbrook. The following spring more families came to the town, and the matter of securing a school became a live issue. On April

<sup>15</sup>This population was divided as follows: Native born, 434; Minnesota born, 567; foreign born, 183. The foreign born population was divided as to countries of birth as fol-

lows: Germany, 74; Sweden, 8; Norway, 41; Canada, 7; Ireland, 22; Denmark, 3; England, 18; Scotland, 2; Austria, 2; other countries, 6.

24 a public meeting was held by those interested, at which it was decided to erect a building and have a school during the summer. Money was raised by subscription, and a frame building, 12x11 feet, was erected, in which Mrs. McCall conducted the school until the district was formed the next year.

When the district was formed in 1878 it included territory extending from the county's western boundary line to the site of the present village of Rushmore. The district was bonded in the sum of \$2,000, and a two story frame building was erected. The first officers of the district were Benjamin Midboe, director; William Wigham, clerk; and Thomas H. Childs, treasurer. In this structure the Adrian schools were conducted until the brick building was erected in 1895, when it was sold to Rev. John Schwartz for \$600.

On July 31, 1893, a special election was held, at which it was voted to issue bonds for the construction of a new school house. Because of the panic and prevailing hard times the matter of constructing the building was not at once taken up. The next year bonds to the amount of \$21,000 were issued, and on June 1, 1894, the contract for the erection of the building was let to Perry Wysong, of Mankato, on a bid of \$18,815. The handsome structure was completed and occupied for the first time on February 26, 1895. Adrian maintains an excellent high school and good graded schools.

Besides the public schools are two parochial schools, one maintained by the Catholic church, the other by the Norwegian Lutheran church.

#### MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Adrian's city hall was erected in 1888. It is a handsome building of brick and stone and cost \$15,000. The upper story is used for an opera house and has a seating capacity of 400. The lower floor is taken up by the city offices, the fire department and the jail.

The water works and electric lighting systems, owned by the city, were installed in 1894. The water system has both direct and gravity pressure. In the power house is installed a Dean compound duplex pump of 750,000 gallons capacity. The water supply is inexhaustible, the water being of excellent quality secured from a deep well. A reservoir, 24x10x20 feet, with a capacity of 4,500 barrels, has been built near the station. The bottom of the reservoir is on a level with the base of the pump. The gravity pressure is forty pounds, and the fire pressure is one hundred to one hundred twenty-five pounds. An elevated tank of 1,000 barrels capacity is situated on the hill west of town and is one hundred feet above the grade of the main business street. There are 1,200 feet of four inch mains, 5,000 feet of six inch mains, and 1,500 feet of eight inch mains, and there are twenty double fire hydrants. The electric lighting plant is combined with that of the water works. The cost of the systems was \$26,157.

A fire department was organized in 1895, and the village has first-class fire protection. The department has a membership of 31 and is supplied with all the necessary fire fighting apparatus.



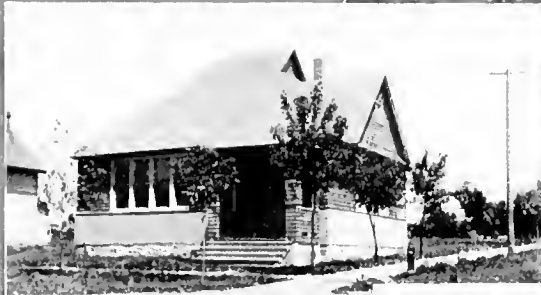
# ADRIANS CHURCHES



CATHOLIC



METHODIST



PEOPLES



LUTHERAN



## BANKS.

In Adrian are three banking institutions, the National Bank of Adrian, the Adrian State Bank, and the First National Bank.

The first financial institution of the town was the Bank of Adrian, established by James R. and John R. Jones in 1880. These gentlemen conducted the Bank of Adrian as a private institution until February, 1908, when it was reorganized as the National Bank of Adrian. The capital stock is \$25,000, and bonds in the sum of \$6,500 secure the circulation. The officers and directors are as follows: James R. Jones, president; J. C. Becker, vice president; John R. Jones, cashier; E. J. Jones, Lelia A. Jones, Mary A. Jones, Samuel Jones.

The second banking institution in the village was also a private bank. In July, 1884, Mylius Bros. & Co. issued a circular stating that they had opened a real estate and loan agency, being the agents for Close Bros. & Co. For several years they engaged in the general banking business under the firm name of Mylius Bros. & Co., Bankers. In October, 1889, application was made for organization as a state bank, and in 1890 the Adrian State Bank took the place of Mylius Bros. & Co., Bankers. The capital stock was \$25,000, owned largely by Mylius Bros. The first officers and directors, chosen at the first election, October 7, 1889, were George C. Eyland, Jr., president; E. H. Mylius, vice president; H. G. Mansel, cashier; A. M. Becker, A. Schaeffer, A. G. Lindgren, P. E. Brown. In 1906 the capital stock was increased to \$40,000. Edwin C. Brickson is the present cashier.

The third banking institution established in Adrian was the Adrian Ex-

change Bank, a private bank, which opened its doors on May 26, 1890. Its capital stock was \$35,000 and the first officers and directors were F. J. Porter, president; James Cowin, vice president; O. S. Melick, cashier; Emil Graf, George Slade. Besides those who held office; Fred Mohl and O. W. Freeman were stockholders. Temporary quarters were established in a frame building, but the home of the bank was made in the Slade building when it was erected in 1891. The Adrian Exchange Bank was reorganized as the First National Bank of Adrian on November 1, 1905, with a capital stock of \$35,000. The first officers and directors were A. G. Lindgren, president; W. R. Faragher, vice president; Charles W. Kilpatrick, cashier; John E. Faragher, Phil Landes. The officers and directors at the present time are C. A. Sands, president; W. R. Faragher, vice president; Charles W. Kilpatrick, cashier; Phil Landes, Fred Mohl.

## CHURCHES.

Four church societies are maintained in Adrian—the Roman Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Norwegian Lutheran and Peoples.

St. Adrian's Catholic church has the largest membership and was the first established. It was founded in 1877 with a small membership, and for many years was under the pastorate of Father C. J. Knauf. A frame building was erected in 1878 at a cost of about \$700, which was furnished by Bishop Ireland, and this served as the house of worship until 1889. The society was incorporated July 24, 1882, the incorporators being Thomas L. Grace, bishop; Augustin Ravoux, vicar general; Christian J.

Knauf, pastor; Michael Sullivan and Michael Becker.

In the fall of 1887 a more commodious church edifice was commenced, and the building was dedicated by Bishop Ireland in July, 1889. It was a brick veneered structure, and had a tower which extended far above any other building in the town. It had a seating capacity of 500 and the cost was about \$15,000. The building was entirely destroyed by fire on December 21, 1899. Plans were at once made for a new house of worship, and in 1901 was completed the present magnificent edifice, which cost over \$30,000. It is one of the most attractive as well as costly structures of its kind in the state, and has a seating capacity of over 800.

In connection with the church is the parochial school, taught by the sisters of St. Francis, of Rochester, Minn. The Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Joseph's society are societies maintained in connection with the church.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1881, when the present church building was erected. The church society also has a parsonage, the value of the church buildings being about \$3,000.

The Norwegian Lutheran church was dedicated June 16, 1900.

The Peoples Church of Adrian was incorporated November 29, 1898, with the following board of trustees: A. M. Feathers, D. J. Tinnes, Mrs. Clara B. Swannan, Mrs. Lucy A. Porter, C. C. May. The incorporators, in addition to those named as trustees, were Anna M. Childs, Ottilie Hallas, Eva C. Tinnes, Lavina Libaire, G. E. Tinnes, Patience Tinnes, Eliza T. Wilkes, Laura Lindgren, May G. Campbell, Byola A. Randall, Kate Kilpatrick, Mammie Goodenough, Charles Kilpatrick.

For a number of years the Baptists maintained a church organization at Adrian. The First Baptist church of Adrian was incorporated May 31, 1889, with the following officers: C. H. Maxon, supplying pastor; Roger Jones, deacon; Lottie Swanman, clerk; George Ellsworth, A. S. Meacham, John R. Jones, trustees. A church building was dedicated December 5, 1889, when Rev. Mr. Moore was installed as pastor. The organization was maintained for several years.

#### LODGES.

Adrian is a strong lodge town, and a great many secret and fraternal organizations maintain lodges.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### ELLSWORTH.

In point of size Ellsworth is Nobles county's third town. As a business point it also takes high rank, for, beyond question, it draws its trade from the best farming country of Nobles county. It is located in Grand Prairie township and is in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, the townsite being only one mile from the Iowa state line and one and one-half miles from the Rock county line. It is on the Rock Island railroad, of which road it is a division point, and is the terminus of a branch line of the same railroad which runs to Rock Rapids. The population of Ellsworth was 537 in 1905, when the last census was taken.

There is no town in Nobles county which has a finer site. It is laid out on a piece of high level ground, and there is not a foot of wet or low land on the whole plat. The founders of the town could not have chosen a finer location had they the making of it themselves.

While the history of Ellsworth village does not begin until the fall of 1884, we must go back of that date several years to get a correct understanding of the causes that led to the building of such a prosperous town at this point. During the early period of Nobles county's colonization, settlement was confined largely to the eastern part of the county, but a few, attracted by the ex-

cellent land in the southwestern corner, pushed out there and builded homes. A few of these came as early as 1871, and during the next few years quite a number followed and established themselves in Grand Prairie township.

Among the number who came in the early days was "Uncle" Stillwell, who took as his claim the land upon which the village of Ellsworth was afterwards built. He erected a dwelling at a point one-half mile east of the present business part of the town, and to supply the wants of the few settlers who were his neighbors, Mr. Stillwell established a small store and for a number of years conducted it from his farm home, operating a pedler's wagon in connection. Although the country was very thinly settled at the time and the greater part of it was wild prairie land, Mr. Stillwell had confidence in its future and declared on several occasions that a town would some day be located on his place or very near it, basing his judgment on the quality of the land round about. The prediction came true, but the man who made the prognostication was not there to reap the benefits. He had packed up his goods some two years before and moved away.

Ellsworth came into existence as the direct result of the building of the Burlington railroad (now the Rock Island)

through that part of the country in the late summer of 1881. The site was selected by the agents of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Land & Town Lot company during the first days of September,<sup>1</sup> and the survey of the townsite was made by Surveyor F. D. Randall for the company immediately. The dedication of the plat was made by S. L. Dows, president, and James B. Close, secretary, of the town lot company, on September 29, and the instrument was filed in the office of the register of deeds on October 1.<sup>2</sup> The new town was named in honor of Eugene Ellsworth, one of the stockholders of the Burlington road.<sup>3</sup>

Even before the survey of the plat was completed the success of the proposed new town was assured. From all parts of the country came requests for lots so soon as they should be placed on the market, and many came personally to be in on the ground floor. C. H. Davidson, of Rock Rapids, was named agent for the sale of town lots and opened an office of the site.<sup>4</sup> The state of affairs as they existed just before the start of the town was related in the Sibley Tribune of September 11:

Besides having so fine a site, the town will be, and is now, surrounded by the finest farming country ever the sun shone on, and even now the farm houses, sur-

<sup>1</sup>"The new town on the B. C. R. & N. in Grand Prairie township, we learn, has at last been located. It is on the southeast quarter of section 29, and is named Ellsworth." - Worthington Advance, September 11, 1881.

<sup>2</sup>Additions have been platted as follows:

Myra Surveyed by H. G. Doolittle for Will G. Jones; dedicated Oct. 13, 1884; filed Oct. 16, 1884.

Butler's Surveyed by J. P. Gilman for John Butler and Zepherin Audet; dedicated May 20, 1885; filed July 11, 1885.

Western Land Company's Resubdivision of Lots in Block 7. Dedicated by the Western Land Co., by Robinson McMurtrie, attorney in fact, June 18, 1890; filed June 21, 1890.

South Surveyed by M. S. Smith for John P. Flynn; dedicated Dec. 21, 1901; filed Dec. 28, 1901.

rounded by great stacks of grain, can be counted by the hundreds, and as the town grows the country will develop and make it one of the finest shipping and trading points in southern Minnesota.

Already the ground for an 1800 foot side-track has been surveyed, and work will have been begun on the same ere this reaches our readers.

One of the company's No. 1 depots, like the one at Sibley, will be put there, and the prospects are that it will make a good town - one that will keep up with the growth of the country at least.

Three elevator lots have already been spoken for, and the fourth is liable to be taken in a few days. A dozen or more of the business lots (price from \$250 down to \$100) have been spoken for, and one or two more buildings will spring up there before another issue of the Tribune.

From the towns of Worthington, Adrian, Sibley, Spirit Lake, Rock Rapids, Laverne and other nearby points came a number of people to engage in business, some of them bringing lumber with which to construct their buildings. By September 18 twenty-three lots had been sold, and the work of building the town had commenced. H. E. Torrance, of Worthington, was the first on the ground with lumber for his store building, and John Butler, of Rock Rapids, was the second. The first structure begun, however, was the saloon building of Laffenberger & Stevens.<sup>5</sup> Almost simultaneously a dozen or more buildings were started during the latter part of September, and before the close of the year a flourishing little city had taken its

<sup>3</sup>Eugene Ellsworth . . . was a large holder of real estate, and his home was at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He owned a large number of lots (in Ellsworth) and manifested a lively interest in the town during his lifetime. Ellsworth college, one of the leading educational institutions of Cedar Falls, bears his name and is a splendid monument to his liberality." - Ellsworth News, 1907.

<sup>4</sup>Mike Fahy was on the site for two or three weeks before the lots were placed on sale, waiting for a chance to get a desirable location. His vigilance was rewarded, for he became the purchaser of the first lot, upon which he erected a saloon building.

<sup>5</sup>"Work on the first building Sam Stevens and Phil Laffenberger's saloon began Wednesday [September 17] and by the time this reaches our readers will be up and enclosed." - Sibley Tribune, Sept. 18, 1884.

place on the prairie—a city of about 150 inhabitants. So great was the rush that it was with difficulty enough carpenters were secured to do the work.

When the railroad had been completed to the site of the proposed town a box car had been set off, and until the depot was erected a little later served in that capacity. A. J. Yorker served as the company's first agent at Ellsworth. Henry E. Torrance was the first to open a place of business. He erected a building on Main street (on the site of the present First National Bank building) and opened a general store, which was in charge of John P. Peterson as manager and Art Tabler as clerk. He also engaged in the grain business, erecting a warehouse. D. L. Riley, of Spirit Lake, was early on the site with twenty car loads of lumber. He put up an office and became the first dealer in lumber and fuel. E. F. Newell, of Spirit Lake, opened the first hardware store, which was in charge of his brother, Thomas Newell. F. A. Fink, of Rock Rapids, opened the second hardware store a little later.

A harness shop was opened by Mike Harrigan, of Spirit Lake, and a shoe shop by Bernard Ball, of Mankato. Four saloons were in operation by November, owned by Lattenberger & Stevens, of Sibley; Thomas Fahy, of Adrian; Brazil Bros., of Faribault; and Mike Fahy, of Iowa. John Butler, of Rock Rapids, and Ezra Rice, of Laverne, erected ware-

houses and engaged in the grain business. A. J. Rice, of Adrian, opened a drug store during the month of November, and Grant & Hannan engaged in the implement business. A correspondent wrote to the Sibley Tribune in November, telling some items of interest of the town's early history:

Ellsworth has so far been the boss place to sell flax. . . . There have been fifty car loads shipped up to date, and the average is about three car loads a day. The depot is not yet completed but will be soon.

The business lots here are nearly all sold, the prices running from \$150 to \$250. Residence lots are held at from \$50 to \$100. There are several residence lots sold. There are a good many buildings in contemplation, most of which will be commenced in the spring. . . . Ellsworth can boast of only one lady resident at present, Mrs. Hattie Stevens, formerly of Sibley, but she appears to be quite happy in her new home.

During the winter of 1884-85 the Ellsworth postoffice was established with B. F. Garmer as postmaster,<sup>6</sup> and a few new business enterprises were started. William Peck opened a hotel, Chris Blocklinger started a livery barn, and John Butler opened the second general store, carrying general merchandise, hardware, groceries, drugs, etc.

Times were lively in the spring of 1885, and there were several new business ventures.<sup>7</sup> G. H. Eastwood founded the Ellsworth News in April. H. J. Borget put up a building and opened the first furniture store in town. J. J. Lenz & Co. (J. J. and Peter Lenz) started another general store. J. G. Senenfelder established Ellsworth's second hotel, and

<sup>6</sup>Mr. Garmer served about one year. He was succeeded by Ferdinand Esser, who served until January 1, 1889. At that time James Walker received the appointment, and he has held the office ever since. The Ellsworth postoffice succeeded that of Grand Prairie, which was established about 1874, when a star mail route was opened between Bigelow and Ash Creek. Grand Prairie postoffice was first located on section 10, where a man named Ayers conducted the office and a little store. Other postmasters of the office were John Butcher, George Barnes, Ole Lund and Oscar Bryan.

<sup>7</sup>"Our neighbor, Ellsworth, is doing a rushing business in the way of building. A large store room, a printing office and hotel are under way, besides a number of buildings which went up earlier in the season. . . . Everything is astir and full of life."—Rock Rapids Reporter, April, 1885.

"A Worthington gentleman who has just returned from Ellsworth informs us that he saw six new buildings going up and thinks there are from fifteen to twenty business houses in the place already."—Worthington Advance, April 30, 1885.

a number of residences were erected that year, the first being that of George Wiggins. The Lyon County Reporter, in July, 1885, told of the business houses in the new town at that time:

There are now four general stores, four saloons, two hotels, blacksmith shop, butcher shop, three grain warehouses, livery stable, three farm implement establishments, harness shop, drug store, furniture store, lumber and coal yard, newspaper. They have now raised \$5,900 for the erection of a Catholic church.

Founded as it was in the center of one of the finest farming sections of the Northwest, Ellsworth was from the start a prosperous village. Were it not for the fact that it was surrounded by such a rich farming country, there certainly would have been a retrogression following the boom with which it came into existence. Few towns having such a lively start and established with no other prospects than the trade of a limited agricultural community have escaped a period of dull times soon after the founding. While the active building operations and the establishment of new business enterprises were not continued to any great extent for some time after 1885, the town enjoyed prosperous times.

An item of greatest moment to Ellsworth was the selection of the town as a division point of the Burlington road in the early fall of 1886. The company built a five-stall round house, put in a turn-table, enlarged the depot, and made other improvements. A branch road was built the same year from Ellsworth to Rock Rapids. These operations of the railroad company made the town quite lively that fall.

The signers of the petition were C. G. Bailey, C. C. Peterson, T. J. Anthony, C. M. Pardee, A. E. Ameson, J. P. Peterson, Edward Ryan, A. Stulds, G. A. Elton, John Embler, P. H. Lattenberger, James Maher, K. H. Knight, John H. Erabender, John O'Connor, M. J. Bryan, Ferd Esser, S. B. Campbell, G.

On the eighth day of November, 1886, a census of the village was taken—the first step in a movement to bring about incorporation. The territory which it was proposed to incorporate consisted of 1,440 acres and was found to have a population of 512 persons. On the same day the census was taken a petition was circulated and generally signed, praying the board of county commissioners for incorporation and asking that that body "appoint a time and place when and where the electors actually residing upon said lands may vote for or against such incorporation."

At a special meeting of the county board held at Worthington on December 10, 1886, the necessary steps were taken to bring about the incorporation under the general laws of 1885. January 13, 1887, was the date set for holding the election and the store of Johnson & Peterson was the place designated as the polling place. C. C. Peterson, Michael Hollaren and James Condon were named inspectors, under whose supervision the election should be held.

The election was held on January 13, as provided, and "for incorporation" carried. In February another election was held, when eighty-four votes were cast and the following village officers were chosen: President of the council, James Maher; trustees, H. J. Borget, K. H. Knight and James Condon; recorder, C. M. Crandall; treasurer, G. H. Eastwood; justices, Ferd Esser and J. W. Abbott; constable, Edward Ryan.

Those who have been elected to office in Ellsworth since the first election are as follows:

H. Eastwood, J. M. Bryan, M. C. Nelson, C. M. Crandall, B. E. Garner, Thomas Johnson, G. Bollinger, J. Peter Unzen, P. E. Fogarty, J. D. Griffin, M. Fahy, J. G. Senenfelder, James Abbott, Fred A. Fink, E. W. Knight, Michael Hollaren, W. G. Thayer and W. S. Webb.



ELLSWORTH BUSINESS STREET



CATHOLIC CHURCH, PAROCHIAL SCHOOL  
AND PARSONAGE



METHODIST CHURCH





1888—President, J. P. Peterson; trustees, F. M. Ryan, M. J. Bryan, H. J. Borget; recorder, C. M. Crandall.<sup>3</sup>

1889—President, F. M. Ryan; trustees, M. Harrigan, G. H. Eastwood, Bernard Ball; recorder, Thomas Johnson; treasurer, M. C. Nelson; justice, J. W. Abbott.

1890—President, F. M. Ryan; trustees, M. Harrigan, M. C. Nelson, Henry Roll; recorder, D. F. Cramer; treasurer, J. P. Peterson; justice, W. H. Peck.

1891—President, F. W. Bassett; trustees, B. H. Basing, Henry Roll, Nick Lenz; recorder, D. F. Cramer; treasurer, J. P. Peterson.<sup>4</sup>

1892—President, James Maher; trustees, Henry Whalen, Bernard Ball, T. M. Williams; recorder, D. F. Cramer; treasurer, Nick Lenz; assessor, M. Hollaren; justice, G. W. Smith.

1893—President, James Burke; trustees, F. J. Schouweiler, Bernard Ball, Henry Whalen; recorder, D. F. Cramer;<sup>5</sup> treasurer, Nick Lenz; justice, M. Hollaren; constable, M. J. Bryan.

1894—President, J. C. Morrison; trustees, D. F. Cramer, Henry Whalen, P. Barry; recorder, G. H. Eastwood; treasurer, Nick Lenz; justice, Edward Fogarty; constable, M. J. Bryan.

1895—President, James Montgomery; trustees, D. F. Cramer, Henry Whalen, James Condon; recorder, G. H. Eastwood; treasurer, Nick Lenz; justice, Edward Ryan; constable, James Maher.

1896—President, J. F. McNulty; trustees, J. P. Reihsen, P. F. Carroll, Edward Fogarty; recorder, G. H. Eastwood; treasurer, Nick Lenz; justice, M. Hollaren; constable, Bernard Fischenich.

1897—President, A. E. Harrington; trustees, J. P. Reihsen, Edward Fogarty, P. F. Carroll; recorder, W. M. Finley; treasurer, Nick Lenz; justices, Edward Ryan, G. W. Smith; constables, William Jenkins, D. F. Sweeney.

1898—President, M. J. Murphy; trustees, J. P. Reihsen, William Bofenkamp, John Crowley; recorder, William Finley; treasurer, Nick Lenz; justice, Lawrence Esser; constable, William Jenkins.

1899—President, F. W. Stanton; trustees, W. M. Finley, P. B. Scholtes, James McDowell; recorder, John F. Flynn; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, D. F. Cramer; justice, Edward Ryan; constable, William Jenkins.

1900—President, M. J. Murphy; trustees, Edward Fogarty, P. B. Scholtes, James McDowell; recorder, D. F. Cramer; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, Lawrence Esser; justice, L. W. Abbott; constable, T. A. Towsley.

1901—President, J. P. Reihsen; trustees, Edward Fogarty, L. B. Carvell, P. B. Scholtes; recorder, D. F. Cramer; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, Lawrence Esser; justice, S. H. Loveland; constable, William Jenkins.

1902—President, J. P. Reihsen; trustees, William Bofenkamp, Edward Fogarty, L. B. Carvell; recorder, Charles Crowley; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, B. H. Basing, Jr.; justice, M. Hollaren; constable, James Maher.

1903—President, William Bofenkamp; trustees, Edward Fogarty, Will Newell, P. B. Scholtes; recorder, C. C. Crowley; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, B. H. Basing, Jr.; justices, G. W. Smith, Bernard Ball; constable, M. Finnerty.

1904—President, William Bofenkamp; trustees, Edward Fogarty, P. B. Scholtes, W. Z. Newell; recorder, Charles C. Crowley; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, B. H. Basing, Jr.; justice, Lawrence Esser; constable, Pat Hefferan.

1905—President, William Bofenkamp; trustees, W. Z. Newell, F. M. Sadler, P. B. Scholtes; recorder, Charles C. Crowley; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, B. H. Basing, Jr.; justices, G. W. Smith, A. A. Burns; constable, M. Finnerty.

1906—President, William Bofenkamp; trustees, W. Z. Newell, F. M. Sadler, P. B. Scholtes; recorder, Charles C. Crowley; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, B. H. Basing, Jr.; constable, P. Hefferan.

1907—President, William Bofenkamp; trustees, P. B. Scholtes, F. M. Sadler, E. F. Murphy; recorder, E. L. Tschirgi; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, Nick Lenz; justice, G. W. Smith; constable, Theodore Beckers.

1908—President, P. B. Scholtes; trustees, F. M. Sadler, F. W. Stanton, John Crowley; recorder, E. L. Tschirgi; treasurer, M. B. Burke; assessor, Nick Lenz; justice, Vickerman; constable, W. J. Reddy.

There is very little of historic interest to record for the late eighties. During those years Ellsworth settled down to a normal basis. The feverish excitement attending its founding and early day activities was a thing of the past. During those years the town made but little advance in the building line or in adding industries, but it grew into a substantial and sound municipality with a surety of permanence established. The census of 1890—the first federal census

moval of Mr. Peterson from the village.

<sup>3</sup>James Walker was appointed recorder Oct. 5, 1888, to fill a vacancy.

<sup>4</sup>Nick Lenz was appointed treasurer Sept. 7, 1891, to fill the vacancy caused by the re-

<sup>5</sup>G. H. Eastwood was appointed recorder March 27, 1893, to fill a vacancy.

after Ellsworth's founding—gave the village a population of 258.

On the evening of August 13, 1891, at half past five o'clock, Ellsworth was visited by a cyclone of considerable force, which did a great deal of property damage, but which resulted in no loss of life. The story of the storm was told in the Ellsworth News of August 14:

. . . The greatest damage was to the large 80,000 bushel elevator, which was twisted nearly half around, smashing in the lower story, and coming down with a crash. The building was eighty feet high, and the lower story was twenty feet. The roof was stove in and the building racked, so it will probably have to be torn down.

The Lutheran church building, which was recently purchased by the Congregational society, was nearly wiped out, and what few splinters are left are piled up against Henry Roll's house, nearly a block away. D. F. Cramer's house, which stood within ten feet of where the church stood, was badly damaged, the wing being twisted entirely out of shape and will have to be torn down. The damage to this property will probably reach \$200.

The depot roof for about sixteen feet on the west end was blown off and scattered over the country in pieces the right size for kindling wood. A piece of timber from the elevator was driven through the roof of George Bolinger's building and into the roof of Borget's furniture store, a block away. The front of Roll's blacksmith shop was taken out, and in falling it struck James Faragher, who had just stepped out of the shop, knocking him down, and but for a number of plows standing in front, which held up the boards, he would have been seriously, if not fatally, injured.

The stables of Messrs. Theodore Bofenkamp, Cory, Smith and Unzen, all having horses in them, were blown down, leaving the horses without a scratch. T. M. Williams had a new top buggy smashed to pieces. The Marshalltown Buggy company had a number of buggies back of the News office which were considerably damaged. Burke Bros.' barn was racked out of plumb, but it did not go down. Thomas Kinney had the frame up for a granary, which was scattered to the four winds. John Hollaren's granary and barn were considerably damaged. Edward Egan's separator on James Burke's farm was turned over and damaged. A box car on the long track was overturned, and a tramp was seen to crawl out of it uninjured. Some grain in the stack and in the shock belonging to T. J. Egan and Mrs.

O'Neil was scattered by the wind and badly damaged. A dozen or more chimneys took a tumble, and several small buildings were blown down, some of them being carried nearly a block. No one was hurt, and all are thankful that no lives were lost.

Ellsworth was visited by a fire on the night of June 24, 1892, which resulted in a loss of about \$5,000. The conflagration started in Joseph Fischenich's livery barn, which was destroyed, together with twelve head of horses therein. Henry Roll's blacksmith shop and the office of the Ellsworth News and the residence of G. H. Eastwood were also burned. The fire had gained such headway when discovered that nothing could be done toward saving any of the buildings mentioned, and the attention of the citizens was turned to saving the buildings across the street and the contents of the doomed structures. The losses were: Henry Roll, \$1,500, with no insurance; Joseph Fischenich, \$1,000, insured for \$500; G. H. Eastwood, \$2,500, insured for \$500.

A city hall and opera house building was erected by the city during 1894 and 1895 at a cost of several thousand dollars. The initial step to this public improvement was taken at a mass meeting on March 25, 1893, at which it was decided to ask the city council to call an election for the purpose of voting on the question of issuing \$6,000 bonds for the same. On April 15 the electors decided to issue the bonds by a vote of 44 to 21, but because of the panic, which soon held the country in its grip, it was necessary to postpone the improvements. A year later, on June 6, 1894, the question was again decided favorably by a vote of 51 to 10, and the building was completed the following year. Bonds to the amount of \$5,000 were issued.

During the first half of the nineties there was a slow but substantial advance in the town of Ellsworth, and the population increased from 258 in 1890 to 352 in 1895. The last half of the decade also showed marked progress, the census of 1900 giving the town a population of 454.

The year 1899 was particularly one of progress, and about \$40,000 were spent that year in improvements. Among the items of expenditure were \$14,000 for the public school building, \$3,000 for cement walks, \$6,000 for buildings by Porter & Aldred, lumber dealers, and \$3,200 for a residence by William Wheatley.

This record was eclipsed two years later, when over \$60,000 were expended in building improvements. The principal improvements that year were as follows: Roemer Bros., brewery, \$20,000; First National Bank building, \$8,500; Henry Roll, residence, \$5,000; M. B. Burke, residence, \$4,500; W. Z. Newell, residence, \$3,000; J. H. McRobert, two residences, \$2,500; Methodist church, \$2,500; Citizens Bank building, \$3,000. A telephone system was installed during the year, and there were a number of new business enterprises started. The first few years of the twentieth century were prosperous ones for the little town.

On Sunday morning, January 31, 1904, the fire fiend again attacked the town, this time destroying the city hall and opera house. At about eleven o'clock the north side of the opera house block was discovered to be in flames. By that time the fire had gained such headway that the fire department could not get the fire engine and hook and ladder trucks from the burning building, in which they were located. Without the

engine the town was at the mercy of the fire fiend, and had the wind been high or blowing from the south nothing could have saved the town. As it was, the people had the hardest kind of work saving the adjoining property. Bucket brigades were formed and valiant work was done. The loss of the building, together with the fire fighting apparatus, amounted to \$10,000, covered by \$4,000 insurance. The losses to other property amounted to only a few hundred dollars.

Immediately after the fire steps were taken to rebuild the city hall and also to establish a system of water works. It was decided to bring the matter before the voters at the annual election in March, 1904, and at that time the vote was almost unanimous to issue \$7,500 bonds for a water works system, and to rebuild the city hall. The same year a combined city hall and opera house was erected, and for its size Ellsworth has the finest public building in the state. An excellent system of water works was also installed.

Another improvement of importance in the village was made during the year 1908. On May 4 of that year the city council granted a twenty-five year franchise to F. M. Sadler for an electric lighting plant, to be installed within ninety days. Mr. Sadler completed the plant during the summer, and Ellsworth is now lighted by electricity.

Of the 537 inhabitants of Ellsworth (census of 1905) 236 are native born, 242 Minnesota born, and 59 foreign born. The countries of birth of the foreign born are as follows: Germany, 24; Sweden, 1; Norway, 6; Canada, 4; Ireland, 13; Denmark, 1; England, 6; Bohemia, 1; Scotland, 2; Wales, 1.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

During the month of May, 1893, the first steps toward the organization of a volunteer fire department in Ellsworth were taken, and on June 1 the department was formally organized with the following officers: C. M. Crandall, chief; C. Loveland, secretary; M. J. Murphy, treasurer; Al Cramer, George Senenfelder and Howard Cramer, executive committee. F. L. Godfrey was foreman of the hose company and W. M. Finley was assistant; P. F. Carroll was foreman of the hook and ladder company; Henry Roll was foreman of the engine company. For a number of years the department was an active organization. It was a member of the Columbian Inter State Fireman's association, and won signal honors in the tournaments of the association.

On April 29, 1901, the Ellsworth department was reorganized. It now has a membership of 17 and is supplied with all the necessary fire fighting apparatus, including 2,500 feet of hose, a cart carrying 1,000 feet of hose, a hook and ladder truck and a hand chemical. The officers and members of the department are: F. M. Sadler, chief; Theodore Becker, assistant chief; Charles Flynn, secretary; W. F. Marten, treasurer; Joseph Albrecht, E. H. Burtfield, N. H. Cory, John Crowley, E. E. Lovrien, E. F. Murphy, J. C. Reddy, W. J. Reddy, John McCarren, J. F. Raabe, L. D. Shaw, E. L. Tschirgi.

## BANKS.

Ellsworth has two financial institutions, the German State Bank and the First National Bank.

The former was founded as the Citi-

zens Bank, a private institution, in 1893, and was owned by E. A. Brown and A. E. Huntington, of Laverne. On July 25, 1904, the bank was reorganized as the German State Bank, with a capital of \$15,000 and an authorized capital of \$50,000. The officers are E. A. Brown, president; Poppe Hickman, vice president; F. W. Stanton, cashier; W. F. Marten, assistant cashier. The directors are E. A. Brown, Paul Untiedt, Henry Nelson, Poppe Hickman, J. A. Meyer, J. M. McRoberts, T. Hefferan, Jr.

The First National Bank opened its doors September 17, 1900, with the following officers and directors: James Porter, president; J. F. Flynn, vice president; W. Z. Newell, cashier; P. F. Levins, P. B. Scholtes, C. A. Bird, T. M. Williams, Joseph Klinkhammer. The present officers are James Porter, president; T. M. Williams, vice president; C. A. Bird, cashier; E. L. Tschirgi, assistant cashier.

## CHURCHES.

The Catholic, Congregational, Methodist and German Presbyterian societies have church organizations in Ellsworth.

The oldest of these is St. Mary's Catholic church, and that church has the largest membership. Many of the settlers of Grand Prairie township had come to the county as members of the Catholic Colony company, and the Catholic religion had a large following in the new town. In July, 1885, within less than a year after the founding, \$5,000 were raised to build a Catholic church, and on November 7 the church of St. Mary was organized and incorporated. The incorporators were John Ireland, bishop of the diocese of St. Paul; Augustin Ravoux, vicar general of the same

diocese; C. J. Knauf, pastor; and John Butler and Ferdinand Esser, lay members. There were forty members of the church at the time of founding, and Father Knauf was the first pastor. The church was erected at a cost of about \$5,000, and to this an addition was built in 1903, at a cost of \$3,000. Pastors who have had charge of the church since its organization have been Fathers Knauf, Dowling, O'Kiefe, Ferron, Dyer, Engelbrecht, McDonough, Hartleill and Griffin.

An excellent parochial school is maintained in connection with the church of St. Mary. This institution was established in 1900, and during 1906 and 1907 a building, costing \$18,000, was erected. The corner stone was laid October 23, 1906, and the building was occupied early in the following year.

The Congregational church was organized and incorporated August 13, 1890, with the following officers: Rev. G. Wadsworth, pastor; Mrs. M. C. Knight, clerk; F. B. Bassett, treasurer; M. Birkett and F. Bassett, deacons; J. M. Bryan, J. Walker and D. F. Cramer, trustees. The charter members were George Wadsworth, Mrs. Mary C. Knight, Mrs. Medora Bassett, E. W. Knight, B. Jones, F. W. Bassett, Mary Walker, Mrs. Mary Peck, Mary M. Jones, Josephine Ennor, L. Z. Anderson and Anna Anderson.

During the first year services were held in a small church building belonging to the Lutheran church society. The church building was bought by the Congregationalists in the summer of 1891, and in August of the same year it was entirely destroyed by a cyclone. The loss was a severe blow to the church society, the members of which had made sacrifices to get a convenient place for

worship. After the disaster the church members raised money and erected a new house of worship, which was dedicated free of debt February 7, 1892. Its value is about \$1,500. The following named pastors have filled the pulpit of the Congregational church since its organization in 1890: Revs. Wadsworth, Houston, McAllister, Conrad, Upton, Anslinger, McClane, Downs, Wilson and Gall.

The organization of the Methodist church society of Ellsworth was effected October 17, 1899. The first board of trustees and organizers were Fred E. Clark, J. J. Ryan, Joseph Midboe, John H. Skillicorn, A. P. Pratt, Kornell Sutter and F. W. Stanton. The church edifice was erected in 1901 at a cost of \$2,250 and was dedicated November 10, of that year. The society is now practically out of debt and has a membership of about twenty. A Sunday school, with a membership of sixty and an average attendance of forty-eight for the year, is maintained in connection. Following is a list of the pastors who have filled the pulpit with the dates of their service: C. S. Rouse, Oct. 1, 1899, to Oct. 1, 1901; J. J. Ramsey, to October 1, 1901; J. A. Saunders, to October 1, 1901; W. H. Putnam, to October 1, 1905; Stanley H. Addison, to October 1, 1906; William Follensbee, to October 1, 1907; Jesse Kinderine, to October 1, 1908.

#### LODGES.

There are in Ellsworth the following lodges: Jewell Lodge No. 49, Knights of Pythias; Ellsworth Lodge No. 182, Ancient Order of United Workmen; Ellsworth Lodge No. 108, Degree of Honor; St. Mary's Court No. 1013, Catholic Order of Foresters; Ellsworth

Camp No. 2280, Modern Woodmen of America; Martha Washington Camp, Royal Neighbors of America.

Jewell Lodge No. 49, K. P., was instituted Nov. 9, 1888, with the following charter members: D. F. Cramer, W. S. Webb, C. M. Crandall, J. P. Peterson, J. A. Elton, C. O. Piatt, C. C. Peterson, M. J. Bryan, O. L. Beck, James Paul, B. F. Garmer, M. Pendergrast, C. J. Kern, Henry Knoch; E. W. Knight, George Slade, W. S. Wygant, Thomas Johnson, W. S. Jones, G. F. Hawley, A. Hubbs. The lodge was incorporated April 29, 1890. The charter was surrendered in 1893, but the lodge was reorganized March 15, 1896.

Ellsworth Lodge No. 182, A. O. U. W., was organized May 3, 1894, with the following first officers: F. J. Ash, P. M. W.; F. M. Ryan, M. W.; J. F. McNulty, foreman; M. Hollaren, overseer; M. J. Murphy, recorder; W. S. Ingraham, financier; J. Condon, receiver; P. F. O'Malley, guide; P. F. Carroll, inside watch; S. M. Butcher, outside watch.

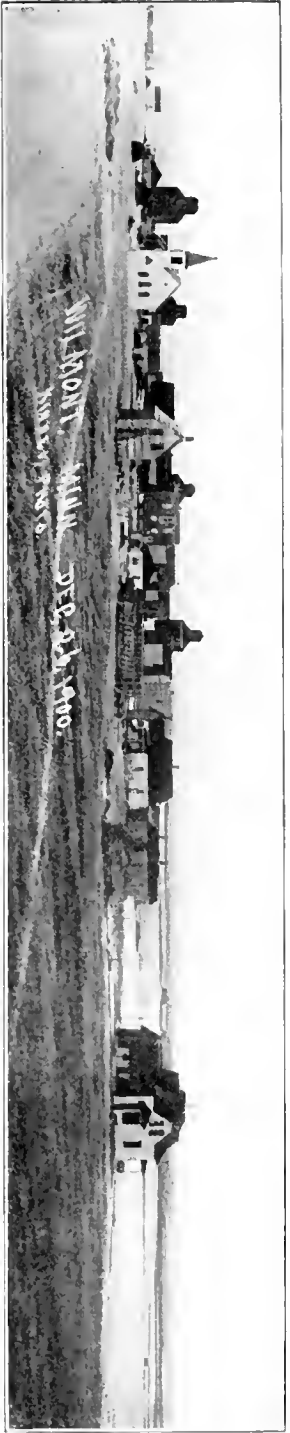
The Degree of Honor lodge was instituted February 4, 1898, with the following officers: Clara J. Rutan, P. C.

H.; Mary E. Hollaren, C. H.; Eva Unzen, L. H.; Belle Babcock, R.; Bridgie Condon, financier; Annie M. Reihsen, receiver; Cora Murphy, usher; Margaret Whalen, I. W.; A. Thompson, O. W.

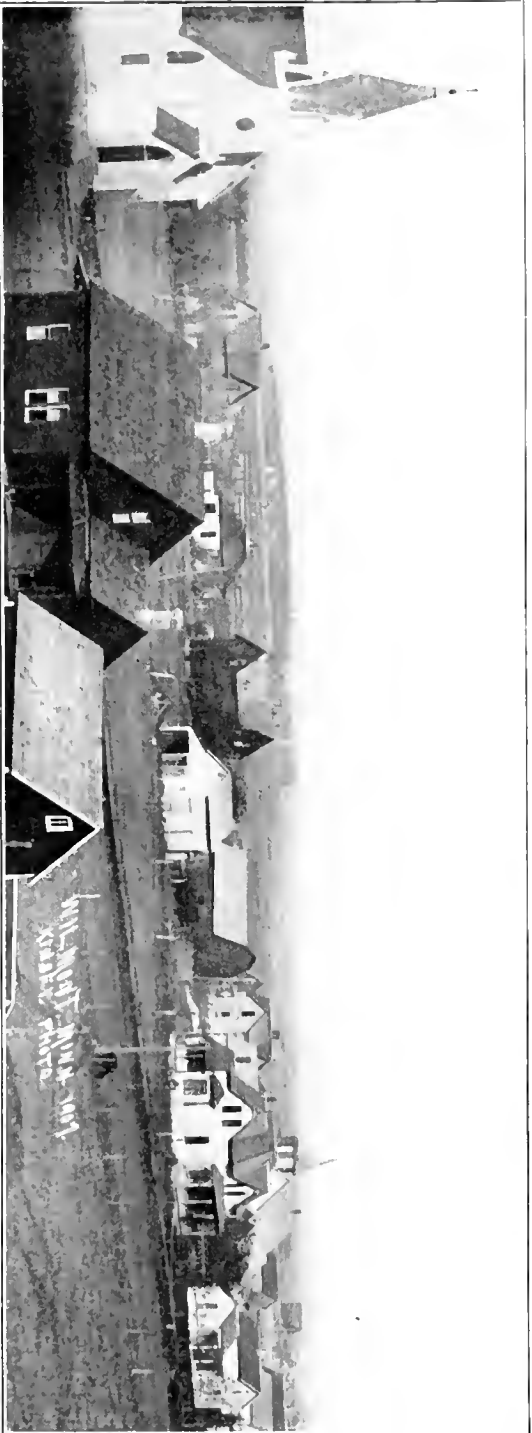
The lodge of Catholic Order of Foresters was organized November 20, 1899, with thirty charter members and the following officers: J. P. Reihsen, chief ranger; William Bofenkamp, financial secretary; P. B. Scholtes, recording secretary; James Burke, treasurer; P. F. Levins, past chief ranger; Nick Lenz, vice chief ranger; B. H. Basing, Jr., inside sentinel; Matt Pint, Jr., outside sentinel; William Condon, M. B. Burke, John N. Lenz, trustees; Dr. Carter, medical examiner.

The lodge of Royal Neighbors was organized early in 1900 and had a charter membership of twenty. The first officers were Mrs. P. F. Levins, oracle; Mrs. C. A. Pratt, vice oracle; Emily Johnson, recorder; Mrs. L. V. Carvell, past oracle; Mrs. Julia Mohr, receiver; Miss Ethel Pratt, chancellor; Minnie Nelson, inside sentinel; Mina Gilbertson, outside sentinel; Mrs. J. P. Reihsen, marshal; P. F. Levins, Marie Gilbertson, Mrs. Colwell, managers.





WILMONT ONE YEAR OLD



WILMONT'S RESIDENCE DISTRICT



## CHAPTER XIX.

### WILMONT AND BREWSTER.

#### WILMONT.

Although Wilmont is one of the youngest of Nobles county towns, having been founded late in 1899, so rapid has been its growth that it now takes rank as the fourth town in size, the towns of Worthington, Adrian and Ellsworth only having greater population. According to the last census—that of 1905—there were 279 people living within the corporate limits.

The Wilmont townsite is located on section 36 of Willmont township and section 1 of Larkin township, and is on the Lake Park-Hardwick branch of the Rock Island railroad. It is fifteen miles northwest from Worthington. The village is spread out over considerable territory. Most of the business houses are located on Main street, a thoroughfare nearly a mile long. While there are a few brick structures, most of the business buildings are of wood. The town draws its trade from part of four townships—Willmont, Larkin, Summit Lake and Bloom—a rich and populous territory. The founding of the town was

a proceeding very acceptable to the farming community of the vicinity. Before the railroad was constructed and the towns along its line were founded the people of northwestern Nobles county were a long distance from market. Wilmont, coming into existence in the center of this territory, was assured a permanent and prosperous trade.

It was during the summer of 1899 that the survey for the Burlington railroad was made and during the fall of the same year that the construction of its line northwest from Worthington was commenced. During the first days of September Thomas H. Brown, the Burlington right-of-way man, selected the site where a few months later was founded the town of Wilmont.<sup>1</sup> This was three months or more before the road was constructed to that point, and there were no active preparations made for the building of the town for some time. The townsite was surveyed by M. S. Smith during the month of December for Thomas H. Brown; the plat was dedicated January 22, 1900, and the instrument was filed the same day.<sup>2</sup> Mr.

<sup>1</sup>This week parties purchased of R. Pritchard the southwest quarter of section 36, Willmont township, for the Burlington road, where a townsite will be located. This will be about three and one-half miles from St. Kilian."—Worthington Advance, Sept. 8, 1899.

<sup>2</sup>Additions to the original townsite have been platted as follows:

Bremer's—Surveyed Jan. 20, 1900, for Henry B. Bremer; dedicated Feb. 12, 1900; filed Feb. 28, 1900.

Second—Surveyed for N. J. Lorge; dedicated Jan. 30, 1901; filed Feb. 2, 1901.

Keller's—Surveyed for Gustav A. Keller; dedicated July 10, 1901; filed July 31, 1901.

First Railway—Surveyed for Thomas H. Brown in October, 1899; dedicated April 27, 1901; filed Aug. 20, 1901.

Block 2 of Bremer's Addition—Surveyed for Barney Bremer; dedicated July 27, 1903; filed July 30, 1903.

Brown selected the name Wilmont for the townsite, naming it after the township. He desired that there should be a distinction between the two, however, and spelled the name of the townsite with only one L.<sup>3</sup>

The railroad was completed to the site December 16, 1899, and, although it was in the middle of winter, the building of the town was commenced at once, and there was a rush of people to the site—people who came with the intention of at once engaging in business. The first arrivals found the site marked by a straw pile, surrounded by a stubble field, but they were men who had “studied the map” and recognized the advantageous commercial position of the proposed new town, and were not discouraged by appearances, realizing that a prosperous village was sure to result.

From the day the first train pulled in all was activity. The first train took out a load of grain, which had been bought for H. N. Douglas, of Worthington. A number of farmers had their loads of grain on hand, backed up ready to load into the first car, and W. J. Corbett, buying for Mr. Douglas, was there with his check book. He was the first resident of Wilmont. The railroad company at once commenced the erection of a depot and stock yards and dug a well. A. L. Phileo was installed as agent and became the second resident of the town. Several elevator sites had been selected

and preparations were begun for the erection of the buildings. Before the close of December lumber was on hand and the erection of a few business houses had begun.<sup>4</sup>

January was a busy month. A correspondent writing from the new town about the 25th of that month said that Wilmont boasted of fifteen business houses and one dwelling—an excellent showing for a town of less than six weeks of age.<sup>5</sup> Among the very first business men to establish themselves in the town were C. W. Becker, who came in December and started the town's first lumber yard; Humiston & Footh, who engaged in the machine and implement business;<sup>6</sup> N. J. Lorge, who engaged in the hardware business; U. G. Cumming & Co., who also started a hardware store; W. H. Spang, who opened a restaurant January 18; Charles Emrich and son, who engaged in the blacksmithing business; Montgomery, Roof & Co., who opened a lumber yard and engaged in the grain and implement business; C. F. Yaeger & Co., who opened a harness shop; T. G. Connelly, who conducted the first meat market; Charles and William Barkleew, who engaged in the livery and draying business; W. J. Corbett, grain buyer; W. P. Devereaux & Co., who built an elevator and engaged in the grain business; the Davenport Elevator Co., who put up an elevator in February; George Baker, who

<sup>3</sup>For the derivation of the name Wilmont see chapter 6.

<sup>4</sup>When the town was first started there were a great many prophecies made by different people. Some made the remark that the townsite would be for sale before two years for a sheep pasture; others asserted that within five years Wilmont would be the second town in Nobles county. But they were both exaggerations.” Wilmont Initiator, Dec. 11, 1900.

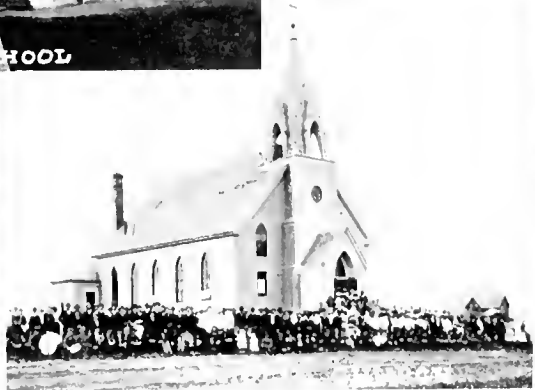
<sup>5</sup>There were certainly some enthusiastic scenes in the town in those days. In one instance, of which we were an eye witness,

a man jumped off the train at noon, and, running to a lumberman, shouted in a loud voice what he wanted in the lumber line, and then shouted for help (carpenter help), and, leading a sill on his shoulder, proceeded to the lot he had purchased, followed by half a dozen carpenters. At nightfall the building was up. It was men of such get-up-and-dust that founded Wilmont.”—Wilmont Initiator, Dec. 11, 1900.

<sup>6</sup>The business was managed by Henry Footh, who made his first sale January 9. Mr. Footh erected the first residence in Wilmont.



# WILMONT VILLAGE



was one of the first contractors to locate in the town; C. W. Mead, who opened a real estate office; and several others.<sup>7</sup> The postoffice was established in February, Mr. C. W. Becker receiving his commission as postmaster on the 13th. He has conducted the office ever since.

All those who engaged in business enjoyed a prosperous trade from the start. A correspondent to the *Worthington Advance* of March 2 wrote:

Despite the youthful appearance of our town, we are doing a business many an older town might be proud of. Forty-five car loads of the various commodities produced in southern Minnesota represented the outgoing business for the short month of February, besides much incoming business.

The building operations and the establishment of new business enterprises continued through the spring months and into summer. In March Scholtes & Poort opened a general merchandise store; L. C. Long & Son founded the *Wilmont Initiator*; and D. A. Nye opened a barber shop. In April Mr. Rosenthal, of Pipestone, established another general store, and Stuntbeck Bros. opened the town's first saloon. Among the other new enterprises that spring were the First National Bank, which began business about May 1 with Edwin Brickson in charge; a drug store, which was opened by R. F. Pepple in June; and a restaurant by Mr. Morgan. Several residences were erected, and before the summer was past four large elevators had been constructed.

<sup>7</sup>The first lady to locate in the village was Mrs. Henry Footh; the second was Mrs. A. L. Phileo; the third, Mrs. N. J. Lorge; the fourth, Mrs. S. L. Long.

<sup>8</sup>Included all of section 36 and the east half of section 35, Wilmont township, and the north half of section 1 and the northeast quarter of section 2, Larkin township.

<sup>9</sup>The petition was signed by Henry W. Footh, Sidney Long, C. W. Becker, W. M. Finley, Charles W. Mead, E. Latourell, Christian F. Yaeger, U. G. Cumming, N. J. Lorge, Ed. G. Werner, C. W. Davis, G. V. Scholtes,

In the latter part of April, 1900, a census of the village was taken, when it was found there were 196 people residing within the limits of a territory which it was proposed to incorporate into the municipality of Wilmont.<sup>8</sup> A petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, asking that body to grant municipal government to the new town,<sup>9</sup> and on April 23 the county board took favorable action. It made provision for holding a special election on May 29 at the harness shop of C. F. Yaeger & Co. to vote on the question of incorporation and named C. W. Mead, U. G. Cumming and William Finley inspectors to have charge of the election.

Forty votes were cast for incorporation and only one was registered against it at the election of May 29. Another election was held June 19, when the first officers of the village were selected. The judges of the election were Charles Emrich, S. L. Long and M. Churchill, and thirty-seven votes were cast. Following is the result of this and subsequent elections held in the village:

1900—President, C. W. Davis; trustees, N. J. Lorge, U. G. Cumming, A. Shelquist; recorder, C. W. Mead; treasurer, James Montgomery; justice, C. F. Yaeger, E. Latourell; constables, Charles Barkeley, John Reilly.

1901—President, Jesse Bean; trustees, W. J. Corbett, A. Shelquist, James Montgomery; recorder, C. W. Mead; treasurer, R. F. Pepple; justice, C. W. Mead; constable, Clem Haley.

1902—President, James Montgomery; trustees, Jesse Bean, A. Shelquist, W. J. Corbett; recorder, S. L. Long;<sup>10</sup> treasurer, Thomas Hayes; assessor, William Tilman; justice, James Currie; constable, H. Hentrich.

M. Doty, J. S. Edelstein, William Emrich, Charles Emrich, John Reilly, John Miller, W. H. Spong, Hugh Reilly, W. H. Barkeley, William J. Corbett, M. N. Schares, Jerry Dirks, A. R. Priest, Henry Christianson, John Burke, Robert Walsh, J. J. Weitzel, A. Shelquist, Gus Grant, George J. Backer, Joseph B. Mackay, Theodore Denner, Charles Alvord, George Geisel, J. P. Spartz, John Lebens, Peter Spartz.

<sup>10</sup>S. L. Long and Edwin Brickson each received 33 votes in the election. The choice was then made by drawing lots.

1903—President, C. W. Mead;<sup>11</sup> trustees, W. H. Sievert, Otto Vogl, H. P. Balgeman; recorder, Edwin Brickson; treasurer, Thomas Hayes.

1904—President, Otto Vogl; trustees, James Montgomery, Peter Spartz, A. Shelquist; recorder, A. B. Williams; treasurer, U. G. Cumming; assessor, W. O. Tilman; justices, G. W. Baker, J. P. Rocrig; constables, John Lebens, Charles Emrieh.

1905—President, O. H. Tilman; trustees, Thomas Hayes, Peter Spartz, A. Shelquist; recorder, Edwin Brickson; treasurer, U. G. Cumming; assessor, W. O. Tilman; constable, John Lebens.

1906—President, O. H. Tilman; trustees, Thomas Hayes, A. Shelquist, Peter Spartz; recorder, J. J. Weitzel; treasurer, U. G. Cumming; assessor, W. O. Tilman; justice, G. W. Baker; constable, John Lebens.

1907—President, O. H. Tilman; trustees, Peter Spartz, A. Shelquist, Thomas Hayes; recorder, J. J. Weitzel; treasurer, U. G. Cumming; assessor, W. O. Tilman; justice, R. W. Ager; constable, L. W. Sowles.

1908—President, W. H. Sievert; trustees, H. W. Larson, Thomas Hayes, A. B. Williams; recorder, J. J. Weitzel; treasurer, U. G. Cumming; assessor, W. O. Tilman; justice, G. W. Baker; constable, Emory Reese.

In December, 1900, just one year after the first building had been erected on the townsite, we find a village of about two hundred people, in which were being conducted the following business enterprises:<sup>12</sup> One bank, two general stores, one clothing store, one grocery store, two lumber yards, two hardware stores, two machine houses, two harness shops, one millinery store, one livery stable, two dray lines, four elevators, one drug store, one meat market, three saloons, one blacksmith shop, one restaurant, one real estate office, one printing office, one barber shop, one jewelry store, one paint shop and about a dozen men engaged in the carpenter business.

There have been no backward steps in Wilmont's history. Since the year of its founding there has been no great activity in building operations or in the establishment of new business enterprises,

but the town has developed into one of the substantial villages of Nobles county. Of the 279 people living in Wilmont at the time the 1905 census was taken, 129 were native born, 98 were Minnesota born, and 52 foreign born. Of the foreign born the countries of birth were: Germany, 23; Sweden, 13; Norway, 2; Canada, 11; Ireland, 2; England, 1.

## SCHOOLS.

When Wilmont was founded it was included in one of the country school districts, the school house of which was too far away to be available. So a building in town was rented, and in September, 1900, the first school was begun.

A new district was organized in July, 1901, and on the twentieth of that month the first school meeting was held, at which C. W. Becker, H. W. Footh and C. Poort were chosen officers. By a vote of forty to nothing the electors of the new district decided to issue bonds in the sum of \$2,600 for the purpose of erecting a school house. A two story building was completed in the fall, and on January 6, 1902, was occupied for the first time. R. B. Moberly was the first principal. The school now employs two teachers and has an attendance of seventy-five students.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

In 1903 a volunteer fire department was organized with C. W. Becker as chief. The town had no water works at the time, and the apparatus consisted of a chemical engine only. The organization was continued up to the summer of 1907. Then, water works

<sup>11</sup>Resigned May 7, 1903, and was succeeded by James Montgomery.

<sup>12</sup>Wilmont Initiator, Dec. 14, 1900.





A BUSINESS STREET



THE CITY PARK



A RESIDENCE STREET



THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

VIEWS OF BREWSTER



having been installed, the company was reorganized and new fire fighting apparatus purchased. H. W. Larson, is chief of the department, which consists of nineteen members.

### WATER WORKS.

For the first six years of the town's existence it was without adequate fire protection and had been badly in need of a system of water works. On two prior occasions the electors had voted in favor of establishing a system, but for various reasons it had not been done. On June 26, 1906, by a vote of 38 to 1, it was decided to issue bonds to the amount of \$1,000 for the purpose. The bonds were sold, and on March 9, 1907, the contract for building a water works plant and installing a system was let by the village council to W. D. Lovell on a bid of \$6,700. The work was completed and accepted August 3, 1907.

### CHURCHES.

Wilmont has three church organizations, all of which have church edifices. These, in the order of their organization, are Presbyterian, German Lutheran and Catholic. Prior to the construction of the first church building religious services were held in the depot. The Presbyterian church was dedicated, free of debt, on October 28, 1900. The Catholic church—Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel—was incorporated August 27, 1903, by Bishop J. B. Cotter, Vicar General James Coyne, Pastor Joseph Zahner, Nicholas Lorge and August Sieve.

### LODGES.

A number of fraternal organizations have lodges in Wilmont. Wilmont Lodge No. 256, I. O. O. F., was instituted

March 3, 1903, with the following charter members: A. B. Williams, Otto Vogl, U. G. Cumming, W. O. Tilman, William Wulf, H. S. Johnson, A. S. Shrauger.

### BREWSTER.

Eight miles northeast of Worthington, on the main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, is the town of Brewster, a compact little city of 273 people, according to the latest enumeration. It is located on section 25, of Hersey township, and is only one-half mile from the Jackson county line. Of the smaller towns of Nobles county Brewster is the most substantially built. Many of the business houses are conducted in handsome brick structures, and the main street of the village would be a credit to many a town of greater population. Surrounding the town on all sides is a level stretch of very fertile farming country, from which Brewster draws its trade.

It is as the village of Hersey that we must consider the early day history of Brewster, and Hersey was one of the very first towns founded in Nobles county. When the old Sioux City & St. Paul railroad was being constructed through this part of the country in the summer and fall of 1871 the officials of the road selected three sites along the sixteen or eighteen miles of its track in Nobles county for stations. These were named Hersey, on the extreme eastern boundary of the county; Worthington, on lake Okabeua; and Bigelow, on the right side of the Minnesota-Iowa boundary line. Hersey was named in honor of General S. F. Hersey, of Bangor,

Maine, who was a director of the Sioux City & St. Paul road.<sup>13</sup>

While the railroad company had made arrangements with Miller, Humiston & Co., the colony people, to build the principal town of the vicinity on lake Okabena, it was decided that the country would develop sufficiently to warrant the establishment of a small town at Hersey station, also. In the month of October, 1871, about the time the road was completed to that point, a side track was laid and a depot (the one now in service) and an agent's cottage were erected on the site of the future town of Brewster. As the road was not in operation during the winter of 1871-72 no agent was stationed there until the following spring and no further steps were taken to found the town of Hersey.

Anticipating the arrival of the hundreds of colonists of 1872, the railroad company, early in the spring, had the survey of the townsite made. It was surveyed by Alex. L. Beach and was dedicated by E. F. Drake, president of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, on April 22, 1872; the instrument was filed in the office of the register of deeds June 10, 1872.<sup>14</sup> W. R. Bennett came early in the spring to take charge of the station for the railroad company,<sup>15</sup> and before the summer was over quite a little town had sprung up on the prairie.

The first building erected on the site, after the depot and agent's cottage, was a store building put up early in the spring by J. T. Smith, of Heron Lake. A. J. Timlin had charge of the store, which had an existence of many years. A. O. Conde moved to the new town about the same time and established a lumber yard, also engaging in the grain business. Martin Heiser opened the second general store in the spring, carrying a stock of hardware and farm machinery in connection.<sup>16</sup> A hotel was opened July 4, 1872, by a man named Humphrey,<sup>17</sup> and John Iverson started a blacksmith shop the same year. During the year the Hersey postoffice was established with A. J. Timlin as postmaster. He held the office for a time and then turned it over to Martin Heiser. Before the establishment of the office the mail had been left regularly at the depot and had been distributed by W. R. Bennett, the agent. This was the extent of the improvements during the year of its birth, but the prospects seemed favorable for a rapid growth. Said a writer in the *Western Advance* of August 31, 1872: "Hersey is becoming quite a village or trading point, and undoubtedly has a fine future. The eye never looked upon a lovelier reach of level country than lies around Hersey and nearly every acre is as rich as a garden."

<sup>13</sup>General Hersey died in Bangor early in 1875.

<sup>14</sup>Additions have been platted as follows:

Beaton's Subdivision of Blocks 10 and 11 Surveyed by Edward Beaton for Otto and Rudolph Beaton; dedicated Dec. 30, 1892; filed Sept. 9, 1893.

Beaton's Surveyed July 17, 1899, for Otto and Rudolph Beaton; dedicated Aug. 25, 1899; filed Sept. 6, 1899.

Beaton's Surveyed May 28 and 29, 1900, for R. J. Beaton, dedicated June 28, 1900; filed July 11, 1900.

Auditor's Subdivision of Blocks 1, 2, 8 and 9 Surveyed by order of the county auditor for Otto Beaton, G. W. Patterson and others; filed Sept. 29, 1902.

<sup>15</sup>Tracts A to F in SW1/4, Section 25, T. 103,

R. 39—Surveyed March 1, 1905, for John S. McCurdy and Frank L. Hagerman; dedicated March 11, 1905; filed March 19, 1905.

<sup>16</sup>Mr. Bennett served until the spring of 1873, when he moved to Worthington and took charge of the station there. He was succeeded at Hersey by Frank Weston, and he by a man named Kennedy.

<sup>17</sup>The Heiser store was the predecessor of the present day Geyerman department store. Peter Geyerman purchased the store from Mr. Heiser in November, 1881.

<sup>18</sup>George Perry took the management of the hotel in the fall of 1872. He was succeeded in the management by Mrs. Watson, and she in 1876 by Dr. Louis Gotthelf.

Alas for the prospects of any town of southwestern Minnesota of that day! Came the terrible grasshopper days, and Hersey, in common with all the neighboring villages, had its prospects blighted. For seven years, beginning with 1873, there was no advancement in the country, but a retrogression. Settlers ceased coming, and many that had come departed. The trade territory surrounding Hersey was especially hard hit by the grasshoppers, and the new town suffered as a result. For several years those who had established themselves in business in Hersey remained, anxiously awaiting better times, but there was absolutely no improvement of any kind until many years later.

The name of the railroad station was changed from Hersey to Brewster in August, 1880. This was brought about as the result of the taking over of the old Sioux City & St. Paul road by the Omaha road. There was a station named Hersey on the line of the latter road in Wisconsin, and to avoid confusion the railroad changed the name of the Nobles county station. There is a conflict of authority as to the origin of the new name. E. F. Drake, who was the president of the Sioux City & St. Paul road, said: ". . . In consequence the village in Nobles county was changed to Brewster, after a director of the Omaha road." A booklet giving the origin of the names of places on the Northwestern system, recently issued by that corporation, gives another version. It says: "The present name was given it in honor of Brewster, a town in Barnstable county, Massachu-

setts, which was named in honor of Elder William Brewster, one of the first settlers in the Plymouth colony." For a number of years the railroad station was known as Brewster, while the postoffice and village retained the name of Hersey. This unsatisfactory state of affairs was remedied in March, 1886, when the postoffice name was changed to correspond with the name of the station.

Even after the grasshopper days the little village did not advance. We find that in 1885 the business town consisted of only one general store, a hotel, depot and school house. No permanent advance was made until the latter half of the nineties. Up to that time Brewster was simply a little trading point, making no pretense of taking a prominent place among the municipalities of Nobles county. With the rapid development of Nobles county farm lands, beginning in the middle nineties, came prosperous times for Brewster. Then the country round about received the settlement and development that had been expected over twenty years before, and Brewster built rapidly into a town of importance. Many new enterprises were established and all prospered.

In the fall of 1898 it was found that the village had a population of 180, and it was decided to begin municipal government. A petition was presented to the Nobles county board of commissioners, asking for incorporation.<sup>18</sup> On this the county law making body took favorable action and named December 14, 1898, as the date for holding an election, when the voters might decide whether or not the village should be in-

<sup>18</sup>The petitioners were E. R. Geyerman, E. G. Myers, Ed. Manuel, George Nelson, P. T. Geyerman, Ed. Berreau, Ed. Geyerman, Leon Morris, J. E. Geissel, John J. Gray, Otto Knuth, Peter Geyerman, Sr., John Wahl, W. H. Shively, John D. Weaver, B. T. McChesney, John Silver, T. J. McCall, Frank Duba,

David V. Lees, John Meier, W. J. Adkins, Ross Nelson, R. J. Beaton, P. Nielson, J. L. McConkey, John Meyer, Otto Berreau, Ole J. Berg, Charles Hogan, William Nielson, Pat McCall, F. L. Hagerman, Joseph Ebert, A. W. Ebert, J. P. Hein, Mike McCall and E. C. Taft.

corporated. Peter Geyerman, Joseph Ebert and Otto Berreau were named judges of election. Of the twenty-eight votes cast on the question only one was against taking action that would bring about municipal government. The articles of incorporation were filed with the register of deeds on December 19, 1898, and on January 9, 1899, the first meeting of the village council was held at R. J. Beaton's hotel. Following is a list of Brewster's citizens who have held elective offices since incorporation:

1899 President, Leon Morris; trustees, F. L. Hagerman, Otto Berreau, R. J. Beaton; recorder, B. T. McChesney; treasurer, F. R. Geyerman; justices, Peter Geyerman, James McConkey; constable, T. M. McCall; assessor, J. L. McConkey.

1900 President, Charles Wagner; trustees, F. L. Hagerman, J. L. McConkey, John Silver; recorder, D. V. Lees; treasurer, John Wahl; justices, E. L. Kelly, Albert Severson; constables, Frank Duba, John Weaver.

1901 President, R. J. Beaton; trustees, F. L. Hagerman, J. L. McConkey, John Silver; recorder, D. V. Lees; treasurer, Leon Morris; justices, Otto Knuth, C. F. Boettcher; constables, I. H. Schultz, J. P. Hein; assessor, A. W. Weinandt.

1902 President, S. M. Stewart; trustees, D. H. McKellar, N. Weinandt, B. T. McChesney; recorder, John Rabeman; treasurer, George Voak; justices, Charles Wagner, James Ebert; constables, John Sorenson, John Hein.

1903 President, D. H. McKellar; trustees, B. T. McChesney, A. P. Jacobs, G. F. Hagerman; recorder, John W. Rabeman; treasurer, A. W. Ebert; justices, John Wey, T. T. Strand; constables, Dennis Silver, John Hein; assessor, A. W. Weinandt.

1904 President, D. H. McKellar; trustees, John Silver, John Meier, Leon Morris; recorder, C. R. West; treasurer, T. T. Strand; justice, E. V. Wilson; constable, Ernest Phillips; assessor, Michael McCall.

1905 President, C. R. West; trustees, Frank Wells, B. T. McChesney, Leon Morris; recorder, Otto Knuth; treasurer, T. T. Strand; justices, J. S. Randolph, John Wey; constables, Charles Harthum, D. V. Lees; assessor, Michael McCall.

1906 President, D. V. Lees; trustees, John Meier, Frank Duba, F. L. Hagerman; recorder, Otto Knuth; treasurer, G. W. Voak; justice, A. W. Ebert; constables, Charles

Harthum, T. J. McCall; assessor, Michael McCall.

1907 President, D. V. Lees; trustees, F. L. Hagerman, Frank Duba, John Meier; recorder, Otto Knuth; treasurer, G. W. Voak; justices, J. S. Randolph, B. T. McChesney; constables, Ed. Olson, F. R. Geyerman; assessor, Michael McCall.<sup>19</sup>

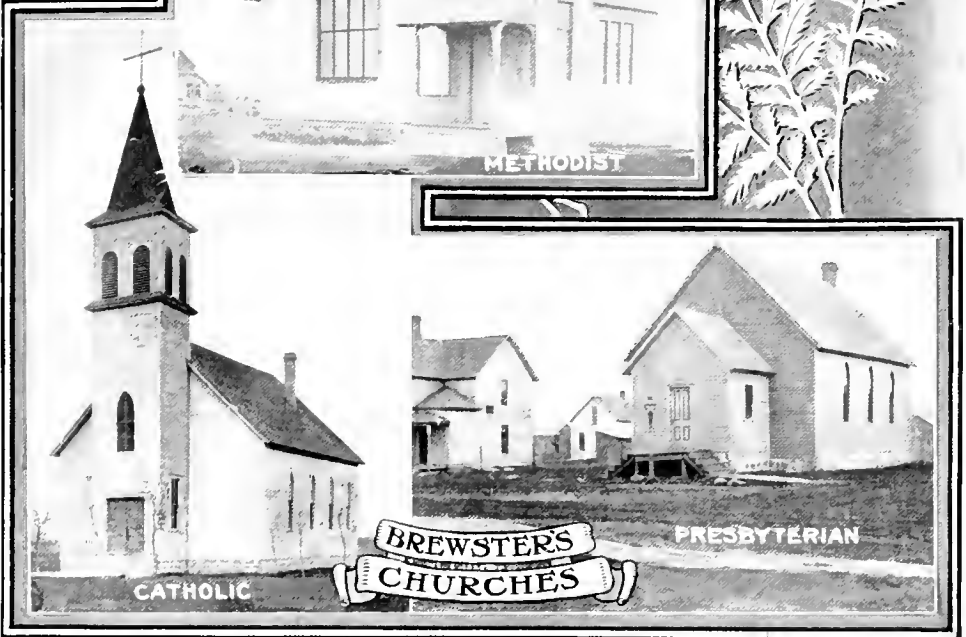
1908 President, D. V. Lees; trustees, John Meier, F. L. Hagerman, Nick Kaufman; recorder, Otto Knuth; treasurer, G. W. Voak; justice, John Wey; constables, Ed. Olson, John Meier, Jr.; assessor, Ed. Tjossem.

Since incorporation Brewster has had a steady growth. The census of 1900 gave the town a population of 234, and this was increased in 1905 to 273. Of this latter 96 were native born, 134 were Minnesota born, and 43 were foreign born. Of the foreign born population Germany furnished 19; Sweden, 1; Norway, 1; Canada, 1; Ireland, 1; Denmark, 7; England, 1; Scotland, 4; Austria, 7; other countries, 1.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

For many years Brewster has wrestled with the question whether or not to establish a system of water works. Many times has the question been fought at the polls and each time has the proposition been defeated. Sometimes a majority of the voters has decided in favor of bonding for water works, but the necessary five-eighths majority was lacking. On May 11, 1902, the vote was 36 for to 50 against bonding for \$5,000; March 8, 1901, it was 39 for to 30 against; April 28, 1901, it was 43 to 31 in favor of bonding for \$7,000 for water works and electric lights; May 13, 1901, the proposition to bond for \$7,000 for water works alone was carried, 45 to 31; April 17, 1905, \$7,000 bonds for water works and a drainage system were defeated by 31 to 39; July 17, 1905,

<sup>19</sup>At the election of 1907 the question of licensing saloons was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 46 to 22.





the proposition to bond for \$7,500 for the same improvements was carried by 37 to 27; May 25, 1906, \$9,000 bonds—\$6,000 for water works and \$3,000 for a drainage system—were defeated by a vote of 29 to 31.

A drainage system was finally completed in the spring of 1907. Bonds to the amount of \$3,000 for the improvement were voted—42 to 14—at a special election held June 25, 1906.

One of the village improvements in which the people take great pride is the public park, located in the heart of the city. The town's sidewalks are nearly all of cement, over a mile of that kind of pavement having been put in during the past year.

#### SCHOOL.

For the size of the town Brewster has one of the best public schools in Minnesota. In the school are eleven grades, taught by five teachers. This gives a complete high school course with the exception of the last year's studies.

#### CHURCHES.

Brewster has five church organizations, all of them having edifices of their own. They are Methodist, Presbyterian, Nor-

wegian Lutheran, German Lutheran and Catholic.

The German Lutheran church was incorporated July 15, 1886, and the first trustees were Charles Mortensen, Charles Leistico and Albert Leistico.

The Presbyterian church was incorporated September 9, 1893, with the following board of trustees: D. McNabb, Roscoe Williams, John Moffatt. Rev. Sulzer was the first pastor.

#### LODGES.

Only one fraternal order, the Modern Woodmen of America, maintains an organization at the present time.

In the early days many of the first settlers of Hersey and the country surrounding were veterans of the civil war, and one of the first organizations there was a strong Grand Army post, which, however, went out of existence before many years had passed. Sibley post No. 19 was organized February 15, 1875, with twenty-three charter members and the following officers: Post commander, Otto Berreau; senior vice commander, G. R. Perry; quartermaster, Martin Heiser; officer of the day, J. W. Miller; officer of the guard, D. Haffy; adjutant, C. A. Barrows; chaplain, O. Chapman; sergeant major, F. Fitzgerald; quartermaster sergeant, Mr. Ebert.





## CHAPTER XX.

### ROUND LAKE, RUSHMORE, BIGELOW.

#### ROUND LAKE.

Nobles county's sixth town is Round Lake, an incorporated municipality of 245 people, according to the last census. It is on the Rock Island railroad, ten miles southeast of Worthington, and is in the southeastern corner of the county. More definitely described, the platted town is on section 24, Indian Lake township, one-half mile from the Jackson county line and two and one-half miles from the Iowa line. The trade territory of the village includes a part of Indian Lake township, extends a short distance into Iowa, and includes the southwestern corner of Jackson county. It is the last named territory from which Round Lake draws its greatest trade. One may travel many miles eastward from the Nobles county town before one comes upon another trading point, and the business of this large farming country is all done at Round Lake. As a business point Round Lake takes high rank. It is a town that has a prosperous look. It is compactly and substantially built, many of the business firms occupying handsome brick blocks. In a business way it is represented by

all lines usually found in a town of its size.

Prior to the year 1882 Round Lake as the name of a Nobles county village was non-existent. Many years before that date, however, the name had been applied to the lake just over the line in Jackson county, about two miles from the village, and also to a Jackson county postoffice. The Round Lake postoffice was established in an early day on the south bank of the lake, but later had been moved to the north side, where J. N. Dodge was postmaster at the time the history of the Nobles county Round Lake begins.

Before the building of the Burlington railroad (now the Rock Island) into Worthington in the fall of 1882 the site of the present day village of Round Lake was unoccupied. Early that fall the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Land & Town Lot company, a corporation connected with the Burlington railroad, selected the site for a station in Indian Lake township.<sup>1</sup> The name first chosen was Indian Lake, after the township, but before the plat was made the name was changed to Round Lake. This change was brought about

<sup>1</sup>"The Burlington folks, we learn, have decided to call the station in Indian Lake township Round Lake. Although in Indian Lake township it is near the county line and near Round lake. They will put a handsome depot

there, and a smart village will spring up which will be quite a center of trade from three counties."—Worthington Advance, Oct. 5, 1882.

through the influence of O. H. Roche, the Chicago board of trade operator, who owned a ranch of nearly 2,000 acres on Round lake in Jackson county. He donated twenty acres of land to the town lot company with the understanding that the station should be called Round Lake, and this was done, although there was general dissatisfaction with the change.

In December, 1882, an eighty acre tract on section 24 was surveyed and the plat was filed in the office of the register of deeds. The tract was divided into one hundred lots. In making out the papers the platted townsite was not properly described, and the defect caused the company to replat the land in 1889. Under the original platting not a lot was sold, although two were given away—one to M. J. Barber and one to John Atol.

Two buildings were erected at the Round Lake station during the fall of 1882, both put up by the railroad company. The first was a section house, which was occupied immediately by a man named Holland, who became the section foreman and Round Lake's first resident. The depot (substantially the depot building of today) was erected immediately after the completion of the section house, but it was a year later when a station agent was sent to take charge of the office.

The efforts of the town lot company to found a town at the new station were not crowned with success, although the point seemed to offer advantages.<sup>2</sup> Until

the fifteenth day of October, 1883, Section Foreman Holland and his crew were the only residents. Then E. A. Tripp came with his family to the station, moved into the living rooms over the depot, and became the station agent, a position he held eight and one-half years.<sup>3</sup>

Although no town had yet made its appearance at the station, in March, 1884, a postoffice named Indian Lake, was established for the convenience of the nearby farmers. Mr. Tripp was the postmaster and handled the mail in the depot.<sup>4</sup> When the Round Lake office, kept by J. N. Dodge in Jackson county, was discontinued a few years later the name of the Indian Lake office was changed to correspond with the station name.

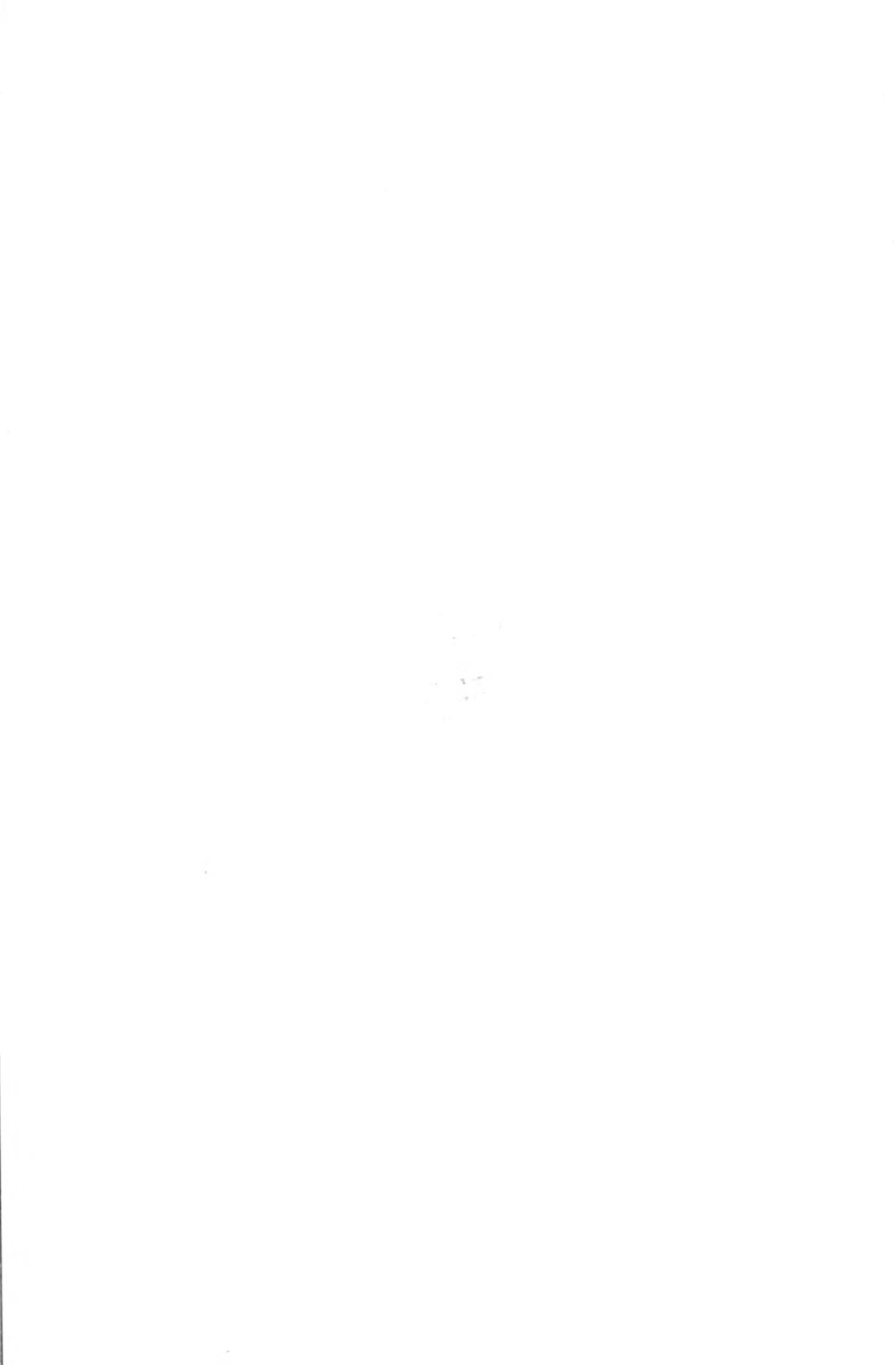
In the fall of 1884 the railroad company erected a warehouse, which was leased to H. E. Torrance, of Worthington, who bought and shipped grain. The business was managed by E. A. Tripp and M. J. Barber. The same fall Mr. Tripp put up a coal shed and added to his many occupations by becoming a coal dealer.<sup>5</sup> In April, 1885, M. J. Barber came up from Marshall county, Iowa, erected a store building and opened a general store, engaging also in the lumber business. He became postmaster and had the office in the store. In May, 1886, N. H. Elliott joined the little community at Round Lake and erected the first residence there, which was located just north of the depot. In the fall of the same year John Atol erected

<sup>2</sup>"Round Lake, the new station on the Burlington road, in Indian Lake township, is the best point we know of in this section for a general store. Here is an excellent opening for a country merchant who can put in a good stock." *Worthington Advance*, Feb. 8, 1883.

<sup>3</sup>E. A. Tripp, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Tripp, was the first child born in Round Lake village. He was born in the spring of 1884.

<sup>4</sup>Round Lake's postmasters have been E. A. Tripp, M. J. Barber, Elias Blakesley, M. J. Barber, E. A. Tripp, J. L. Hogan, A. F. Diehn, Elmer D. Tripp and J. L. Sealey.

<sup>5</sup>There was no great demand for fuel, and Mr. Tripp sold only one car load the first season, and all of that was not disposed of until in the spring.





ROUND LAKE STREET SCENE



HISTORIC INDIAN LAKE

a little building on a lot which had been given him by the town lot company and started a blacksmith shop, which he conducted about one year.

The growth of Round Lake was slow, and in March, 1887, a correspondent claimed a population of 34 for the village. Only a few others located in the village during the late eighties. N. H. Elliott put up a barn and engaged in the livery business. Blackman & Mather opened a hardware store and erected the second residence in the village. R. W. Busby engaged in the blacksmithing business. Late in the year 1889 the Peterson Mercantile company erected a building and opened a general store, which was managed by C. L. Peterson.

During the closing days of 1889 the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Land & Town Lot company replatted the town. The survey was made by L. L. Palmer, the dedication was made by James B. Close, president of the town lot company, December 7, 1889, and the instrument was filed December 23 of the same year.<sup>6</sup>

Very little progress was made during the first half of the nineties. Round Lake during these years continued to hold its place on the map as a country hamlet, but no pretention had yet been made to take its place as one of the progressive towns of the county. A few business houses were maintained and supplied the wants of the farmers of the surrounding country.

With the progressive days of the late nineties and the boom in Nobles county land values, came a change in the standing of Round Lake. It developed from a sleepy hamlet into a bustling little town. New enterprises were established, including a newspaper, founded in the summer of 1898, and the Bank of Round Lake, founded that fall. In August, 1898, the population was found to be 179.

With the progress already made and with bright prospects for future advancement the citizens of Round Lake, in August, 1898, decided to incorporate the town. On the tenth day of August a mass meeting was held, when this decision was reached. A petition was circulated and generally signed by the residents<sup>7</sup> asking the county commissioners to take action in the matter. This was done at a meeting of the board October 4, and on October 11 the first village election was held. Out of a total of twenty-five votes, only one was recorded against incorporation.<sup>8</sup> On October 29 another election was held, when the village's first officers were chosen, and the council met for the first time on November 14. Until 1901 the village was attached to Indian Lake township for election and assessment purposes. That year, by a vote of 31 to 1, the precincts were separated.

Following have been the results of the annual elections since the village was incorporated:

<sup>6</sup>The following additions have been platted: Tripp's—Surveyed June 28, 1892, for E. A. Tripp; dedicated July 30, 1892; filed Aug. 1, 1892.

Tripp's Second—Surveyed for E. A. Tripp; dedicated June 16, 1897; filed April 21, 1898.

Cravens'—Surveyed December 6, 7 and 8, 1898, for J. W. Cravens; dedicated Feb. 1, 1899; filed Feb. 2, 1899.

Boardman's—Surveyed for E. A. Tripp, John Davis, Richard Davis, Nels O. Langseth, Charles Nienaber; dedicated Oct. 21, 1901; filed Dec. 28, 1901.

Reilly, James L. Hogan, Christ Schmidt, James Bixby, James Walker, David Bixby, Fritz Toel, O. L. Bixby, E. D. Tripp, Ed. Edwards, E. J. Denkmann, Martin Gregerson, Charles H. Hayes, H. R. Tripp, Charles Nienaber, A. Hayes, L. P. Gontjes, A. Freeman, John Ireland, Herb Horton, Samuel Edwards, J. W. Rosenberg, John Marz, Samuel Mutton, A. F. Diehn, J. C. Thomsen, O. E. Dahl, J. L. Seeley, Frank B. Mitchell, F. H. Wells, Fred Fiero, Jacob Gregerson, C. E. Horton, C. E. Morgan, Frank Horton, Q. Barnes.

<sup>7</sup>The inspectors of this first election were C. J. Reilly, J. L. Hogan and H. C. Moeller.

<sup>8</sup>The petitioners were H. C. Moeller, C. J.

1898—President, A. E. Diehn; trustees, C. Schmidt, C. J. Reilly, D. Bixby; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justices, H. R. Tripp, A. Hayes; constable, F. H. Wells, James Walker.

1899—President, A. E. Diehn; trustees, C. Schmidt, C. J. Reilly, D. Bixby; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justices, John Ireland, J. L. Flint; constables, T. Horton, Ed. Edwards.

1900—President, Charles Nienaber; trustees, H. C. Moeller, Ed. Denkmann, C. Schmidt; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justice, J. L. Flint; constable, Jacob Gregerson.<sup>2</sup>

1901—President, Charles Nienaber; trustees, H. C. Moeller, Ed. Denkmann, John Marz; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justices, John Ireland, H. C. Carver; constable, Ed. Edwards.

1902—President, Charles Nienaber; trustees, H. C. Moeller, John Marz, S. W. Harrington; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justice, J. W. Johnson; constable, E. H. Wellhausen; assessor, H. R. Tripp.

1903—President, Charles Nienaber; trustees, S. W. Harrington, E. D. Tripp, H. D. C. Katt; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, J. L. Mangelson; justices, W. E. Thielvoldt, H. E. Harrington; constables, Steve Freeman, D. Sutherland; assessor, H. R. Tripp.

1904—President, H. C. Moeller; trustees, John Marz, Charles Anritter, J. L. Mangelson; recorder, J. C. Thomsen; treasurer, Charles Nienaber; justice, J. L. Flint; constable, E. H. Wellhausen; assessor, H. R. Tripp.

1905—President, J. J. Crowley; trustees, Charles Anritter, H. C. Moeller, E. D. Tripp; recorder, J. L. Flint; treasurer, Charles Nienaber; justices, W. E. Thielvoldt, F. E. Scott; constables, D. Sutherland, J. Mercer; assessor, F. A. Tripp.

1906—President, Ben Schwarting; trustees, J. L. Mangelson, E. H. Wellhausen, F. L. Hegardt; recorder, J. L. Flint; treasurer, Charles Nienaber; justices, J. L. Seeley, E. H. Richardson; constable, O. L. Bixby; assessor, H. R. Tripp.

1907—President, B. C. Denkmann; trustees, E. H. Wellhausen, W. H. Thomsen, Theodore Bahls; recorder, Charles Anritter; treasurer, Charles Nienaber; justices, J. L. Seeley, Oscar Anderson; constable, O. L. Bixby; assessor, W. E. Thielvoldt.<sup>2</sup>

1908—President, B. C. Denkmann; trustees, F. L. Hegardt, W. H. Thomsen, J. L. Mangelson; recorder, Charles Anritter; treasurer, Charles Nienaber; justice, J. L. Seeley; constable, J. F. Murphy; assessor, W. E. Thielvoldt.

At this election 26 votes were cast for license and 14 votes against license.

After becoming an incorporated municipality Round Lake continued to advance. The year 1899 was a particularly active one and there was quite a building boom. Several business blocks were constructed and many residences were built. A temporary set-back was occasioned in the fall of the year by a severe epidemic of smallpox. There were about a dozen cases in the village, and four or five deaths resulted. The town was placed under quarantine and during the period of the epidemic business was paralyzed.

By the time the federal census was taken in 1900 the village had a population of 226. Since that date there has been no great increase in numbers, the census of 1905 giving the town a population of 245. Of this number 107 were native born, 93 were born in Minnesota, and 45 were of foreign birth. The countries of birth of the foreign born population were: Germany, 25; Sweden, 8; Norway, 6; Canada, 2; Denmark, 4. While there has been no decided increase in population during the last seven or eight years the town has made rapid strides forward and ranks among the most progressive towns of the county.

On May 2, 1905, Round Lake was struck by a cyclone. Several buildings were completely destroyed and others were damaged to a greater or less extent. The property damage was about \$4,000. Mrs. Marz was injured in the storm.

## SCHOOL.

Before 1881 the village of Round Lake was without a school. On May 16 of that year school district No. 77 was organized, and in the fall a building

<sup>2</sup>For license received 26 votes at this election to 18 against license.

was erected. Miss Lillian Tripp was the first teacher. The district used the old building until the fall of 1898, when the present two-story structure was erected at a cost of \$2,000.

### CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church is the only one in Round Lake. The first religious services were held in the village in 1885, when Rev. Lonsbury, a Methodist minister, conducted meetings in the depot waiting room on two separate occasions. Soon after Rev. E. R. Lathrop, then pastor of the Methodist church of Worthington, conducted services a few times. In 1886 Rev. D. C. Holmes and Fred Graves came, and, at the request of E. A. Tripp, organized the Round Lake Union Sunday school, which had an existence of several years.

The Presbyterian church was organized some years later and Rev. E. M. Lumm became the first regular pastor. For a time services were held in the school house, but later the church edifice was erected. The church was incorporated in March, 1895, with the following trustees: William M. Mosher, E. A. Tripp and John Ireland.

---

### RUSHMORE.

Seventh in size and fifth in age of Nobles county towns is Rushmore, a village of 228 population located on section 19, Dewald township. It is on the Worthington-Sioux Falls branch of the Omaha railroad and is twelve miles west from Worthington and six miles east from Adrian. The geographical location of Rushmore is such that it has a large territory from which to draw

trade, including the greater portions of Dewald, Olney, Ransom and Little Rock townships and small parts of Larkin and Summit Lake townships.

Rushmore is noted as one of the best business points in Nobles county, and it has been during its entire history. With the exception of two large brick blocks the town is built entirely of wood. It has broad streets, which are lined with large shade trees—the result of the foresight of the founders of the town. The pavements of the business streets are nearly all of cement. Nearly all lines of business are carried on in Rushmore. There are two banks, four elevators, two lumber yards, two implement houses, three general stores, two hardware stores, hotel, meat market, newspaper, two millinery stores, two blacksmith shops, livery barn, harness shop and a creamery. During its entire history of thirty years there has never been a saloon conducted in the village, and the sentiment is almost unanimous against the granting of license.

We must go back to the spring of the year 1876 for the beginning of Rushmore's history, although it was two years after that date when the town was founded. In previous chapters has been told the story of the building of the Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad and the selection of two sites in Nobles county for stations on the new road. The first mention, in print, we have of the Rushmore location was on May 25, 1876, at the time the survey for the new road was being made. On that date the Worthington Advance said: "One [station] will be in Dewald, near the farm of Mr. Bedford." Two weeks later (June 8) the same publication said: "There will be a sidetrack and flag station in Dewald, about the middle of

section 19, near the Churchill place." When the road was completed the location was marked on the railroad map as a station, although no side track had been laid and no improvements whatever made. The site was labeled Miller Station, the name being given in honor of Ex-governor Stephen Miller, who was at the time land agent for the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, and who a little later became a resident of Nobles county.

Miller Station, with no inhabitants and consisting of nothing more tangible than a name, was quiescent two years. Then an event of great importance to central Nobles county occurred, which resulted in the building of a town at Miller Station. In the spring of 1878 George I. Seney, a New York capitalist, secured control of extensive railroad lands in the central part of the county and at once began the work of colonizing the lands, bringing out many settlers from New York city and other eastern points. In all colonization schemes it is necessary to have a base from which to operate, and to supply this want Mr. Seney decided to build a town at Miller Station, the site of which he had bought.

In the latter part of May S. M. Rushmore and a party of New York gentlemen arrived on the site for the purpose of founding the town and paving the

way for the future colonization operations of Mr. Seney.<sup>11</sup> Building operations were begun during the first days of June, and there was a great activity all summer. The first building put under way was a two-story frame store building, 22x48 feet, for S. M. Rushmore & Co. A week later the railroad company began the construction of a depot. But before either of these buildings was completed a dwelling house (the one now occupied by C. J. Fox) was finished for Mr. Rushmore. The store was completed early in August and a large stock of goods was put in. Rushmore & Co. also erected an elevator and engaged in the grain business, operating a feed mill in connection. Charles Griffin opened a meat market; Frank Peck, a hardware store; and Mr. Ware, a blacksmith shop.<sup>12</sup> About the middle of August the railroad station was opened and A. F. Horst was installed as agent. About this time the name of the station was changed from Miller Station to Rushmore, the name being chosen in honor of the pioneer merchant. The postoffice was established about the middle of August and was named Rushmore.<sup>13</sup> In the latter part of July a Sunday school was organized.

The townsite plat was surveyed July 20, 22 and 23, 1878, by D. J. Macpherson for George I. Seney; the dedication was made August 20, and the

<sup>11</sup>"On Monday evening last [May 27] Messrs. S. M. Rushmore and George Rushmore with their families arrived in Worthington and took train Wednesday morning for Miller, the new station on the branch in De-wald township. The Messrs. Rushmore were accompanied by Messrs. Paul Schmidt and Charles Griffin, with their families, and by three other gentlemen, Messrs. William Anthes, Charles Sears and Randall. All of these parties are from the vicinity of New York city, except Mr. Randall who is from St. Louis. They have secured the townsite at Miller Station, expect to take lands in the vicinity, and will at once build a large store, 22x40, and begin business. They are mostly Methodists and say they expect to build a neat church there this season. Mr. Rushmore showed us sev-

eral plans for the church, which they expect to build under the auspices of the Church Extension society. The railroad will build a small depot during the present season, and henceforth Miller will be known as one of the thriving villages of the county."—Worthington Advance, May 30, 1878.

<sup>12</sup>John Thompson was the contractor who put up most of the first buildings. He was assisted by C. J. Fox, who was one of the first settlers of Olney township, his homestead being only a short distance west of the village.

<sup>13</sup>The change in name was made because of the fact that there was a Miller postoffice in Minnesota.



plat was filed August 26.<sup>14</sup> A number of lots were disposed of during the year, upon which were erected the buildings before mentioned.

The building of the little village of Rushmore was continued during 1879. In March E. L. Wemple, who had been appointed agent for the sale of town lots, completed a hotel building and opened a hotel which he conducted for more than a quarter century. A church building was erected, a school house was built, and a number of new business enterprises were established. A business directory of the little town, made in the fall of 1879, shows the following:

S. M. Rushmore & Co., general store, feed mill, elevator  
 E. L. Wemple, Rushmore hotel  
 W. A. Turner, hardware  
 A. F. Horst, station agent, lumber dealer, school teacher  
 Frank Peck, tinware  
 W. M. Lockwood, grocery and notion store  
 Thaddeus Scherzinger, jeweler  
 B. H. Wetzel, blacksmith  
 Jonas Bedford, blacksmith<sup>15</sup>

The federal census of 1880 gave the new village a population of 99. An industry of vast benefit was added to the town early in 1881, when Bedford & Co. started a flouring mill.

During the first few years of its life Rushmore had made rapid progress and had grown into a village amply able to

take care of the trade of the surrounding country. Thereafter for many years there was only a slight growth in size and business enterprises. During the eighties and early nineties the town continued to advance slowly with the development of the surrounding country, occasionally adding to its business life by the establishment of some new enterprise. After the hard times period following the panic of 1893 came more prosperous times in Nobles county, and Rushmore again took rapid strides forward. During the closing year of the last century the population had reached 204.<sup>16</sup>

It was at this time that the citizens decided on incorporation. A petition was presented to the county board in March, 1900,<sup>17</sup> and, favorable action having been taken by that body, an election was held March 27, when, by a vote of 32 to 9, the electors decided to have village government.<sup>18</sup> The first officers were chosen at an election April 11, and the village government began immediately after that event. At a special election held May 1, 1900, the new municipality, by a vote of 22 to 0, decided that it should become a separate election and assessment precinct, thereby separating it from Dewald township.

<sup>14</sup>Additions to the original townsite have been platted as follows:

First—Surveyed in July, 1878, for George L. Seney; dedicated Nov. 5, 1879; filed April 10, 1880.

Wood & Bryden's—Surveyed for Wheeler Dowd and Wood & Bryden; dedicated June 1, 1893; filed June 2, 1893.

Bedford's—Surveyed Nov. 5, 1894, for S. B. Bedford; dedicated Dec. 21, 1894; filed Jan. 3, 1895.

<sup>15</sup>About a year ago we visited Rushmore and found a railroad station, a feed mill and elevator building and a store partly built and getting in a stock of goods. Now we find a brisk little town with a general merchandise store, a grocery store, a tin shop, a lumber yard, a jeweler, two blacksmith shops, a neat school house, just completed at a cost of about \$1,500, and the neatest little hotel building in Minnesota.—Worthington Advance, Sept. 11, 1879.

<sup>16</sup>Census taken March 7, 1900.

<sup>17</sup>Signed by G. L. Gray, J. G. Bronk, George Smith, J. Burr Ludlow, August Olson, A. W. Thompson, H. C. Constable, C. J. Fox, A. R. Belke, E. S. Wemple, E. L. Wemple, H. C. Hanson, E. S. Whipkey, Olof Hanson, A. W. Ferrin, E. G. Edwards, W. H. Christianson, C. E. Boddy, F. A. Carrell, John G. Mitchell, J. A. Dahlberg, E. P. Hermann, G. V. Pettit, J. B. Duell, J. Stoven, A. N. Peterson, Frank McCoy, R. Fagerness, Jacob Stalle, William Warring, W. A. Putnam, W. A. Still, N. Feather, A. L. Daugherty, J. D. Pettit, W. J. Daugherty, George Weidman and S. Fagerness.

<sup>18</sup>The inspectors of this first election were A. W. Ferrin, J. G. Mitchell and E. S. Wemple.

The results of the elections for village officers have been:

1900 President, S. B. Bedford; trustees, A. W. Ferrin, William Warring, F. A. Carrell; recorder, W. S. Still; treasurer, J. G. Bronk; assessor, J. G. Mitchell; justices, E. G. Edwards, E. S. Wemple; constables, J. Staib, J. B. Ludlow.

1901 President, S. B. Bedford; trustees, S. T. Wood, A. W. Ferrin, William Warring; recorder, C. E. Boddy; treasurer, J. G. Bronk; assessor, J. G. Mitchell.

1902 President, S. B. Bedford; trustees, William Warring, S. T. Wood, J. D. Pettit; recorder, C. E. Boddy; treasurer, J. G. Bronk; assessor, J. B. Ludlow; justices, E. S. Wemple, E. G. Edwards; constables, H. C. Constable, Henry Thompson.

1903 President, S. B. Bedford; trustees, A. W. Ferrin, William Warring, S. T. Wood; recorder, C. E. Boddy; treasurer, J. B. Ludlow; assessor, J. G. Mitchell; justice, A. A. Rankin; constables, Alfred Reese, E. G. Edwards.

1904 President, S. T. Wood; trustees, H. C. Constable, S. B. Bedford, F. A. Carrell; recorder, Thomas Prideaux; treasurer, J. B. Ludlow; assessor, W. C. Thom; justice, E. G. Edwards; constable, E. H. Bassett.

1905—President, S. T. Wood; trustees, H. C. Constable, S. B. Bedford, F. A. Carrell; recorder, Thomas Prideaux; treasurer, J. B. Ludlow; justice, E. S. Wemple; constables, Jacob Stoven, Melvin Hovey.

1906 President, S. B. Bedford; trustees, H. C. Constable, S. T. Wood, J. H. Bryden; recorder, A. J. Ehrisman; treasurer, J. B. Ludlow; assessor W. C. Thom; constable, Melvin Hovey.

1907 President, J. B. Ludlow; trustees, W. C. Thom, H. C. Constable, W. H. Christianson; recorder, A. J. Ehrisman; treasurer, F. R. Bryden; assessor, S. Fagerness; justice, E. S. Wemple; constables, H. A. Nelson, A. T. L. Thompson.

1908 President, J. B. Ludlow; trustees, W. H. Christianson, H. C. Constable, W. C. Thom; recorder, A. J. Ehrisman; treasurer, F. R. Bryden; assessor, S. Fagerness.

The present decade has been one of progress. From the little hamlet of early days it has grown into a prosperous village of considerable importance. The year 1903 was particularly prosperous. Two handsome brick block buildings that would be a credit to any town of Nobles county were constructed, and several other structures were erected the same year.

The population when the census of

1905 was taken was 228. Of this number 107 were foreign born, 93 were Minnesota born, and 32 were of foreign birth. Of the last Germany furnished 9; Sweden, 6; Norway, 7; Canada, 4; Ireland, 1; Denmark, 4; Wales, 1.

## SCHOOL.

Outside of the large towns Rushmore has the finest school building in Nobles county, and its schools are on a par with the building. Ten grades are maintained, conducted by a corps of able teachers. There is a large enrollment, many children from the surrounding country being students of the Rushmore school.

One of the first institutions established in Rushmore was a public school. The town was settled by men of culture, and one of their first considerations was a school. There were no unoccupied buildings in the town in 1878, and the first school was held in the waiting room of the depot. A. F. Horst, who was the station agent and lumber dealer, added to his duties by becoming the first teacher. The depot as a school room was soon abandoned, and its place was taken by a little dwelling house. A district having been organized, the first school house of the town was completed in the fall of 1879 at a cost of \$1,500.

That building served for many years and was then purchased by a church organization. The demands of a growing population resulted in the construction of the present handsome school edifice, in which the people of Rushmore take great pride.

## CHURCHES.

Rushmore is noted for its churches. Four organizations are maintained—



RUSHMORE  
VILLAGE





Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran Presbyterian and German Lutheran. All have church edifices.

Nearly all the first settlers of Rushmore were Methodists, and steps were early taken to bring about the establishment of a religious society in the new town. For a time services were held in different buildings in the little village, but in the fall of 1879 a church edifice was erected. Rev. W. E. Means was chosen the first pastor, and the Methodist church of Rushmore has had an existence since that time. Those who were particularly active in founding the first church were S. M. Rushmore, A. F. Horst, E. L. Wemple and A. G. Seney. George I. Seney donated the lot at the head of Main street and furnished the material for the building; the congregation donated the work and erected the building.

#### BIGELOW.

The next Nobles county town we are to consider is Bigelow. With a population of 194 (census of 1905) it takes rank as the eighth town in size. It is located on the extreme southern boundary line of the county, and the state of Iowa adjoins the corporate limits. The townsite is on section 31, Bigelow township. It is a station on the main line of the Omaha railroad, ten miles southwest from Worthington. From portions of Ransom and Bigelow townships in Nobles county, and from quite a large territory in northern Osceola county, Iowa, comes the trade which supports the town. Bigelow is a prosperous

looking village and is a good trading point. Nearly all lines of business are represented.

Bigelow was the third Nobles county town to come into existence. Although the location had been selected, the name bestowed, and it had been granted a place on the railroad map so early as the sites of Hersey and Worthington (in 1871), it was behind its sister towns in receiving inhabitants. The railroad had been constructed only so far as Worthington during 1871, and it was not until the next spring that the rails were laid to the site of Bigelow. A little later came evidence of the beginning of a town.

During the spring and summer of 1872, when the colonists were flocking to Nobles county by the hundreds, many settled upon the government and railroad lands in Ransom and Bigelow townships, in close proximity to the future village. Bigelow then looked as large on the map as any other place, and some of those who came expected to find a town there, their knowledge having been gained solely from a study of the map. But until late in the summer of the year the site was occupied only by a tent, which furnished shelter to a construction crew.<sup>19</sup>

The first building on the site was erected in 1872 and was the depot building. S. O. Morse, who now lives at Slayton and who has taken quite a prominent part in state politics, was installed as the first agent. His duties as station agent were not great, and in the late summer he, in partnership with a man named Frothingham, opened a little grocery store in the depot, establish-

<sup>19</sup>One of the new arrivals at the little community in Ransom township, whose knowledge of the new country was limited to the information furnished by his railroad map, declared his intention of going to Bigelow and passing the night at a hotel. He was within sight of the tent that marked the location, and when a neighbor pointed out the "town" he was greatly surprised and decided to seek accommodations elsewhere.

ing Bigelow's first business house. Mr. Frothingham did not remain long, but Mr. Morse continued in the business several years. Later he also engaged in the flour and feed business in the new town. So far as I have been able to ascertain this was the only enterprise started in Bigelow in 1872.<sup>20</sup>

In 1873 the town-site was platted. T. P. Gere surveyed the land for the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, the dedication was made by Elias F. Drake, president of the company, September 24, 1873, and the plat was filed in the office of the register of deeds August 25. The townsite was named in honor of Charles H. Bigelow, who at the present time is the president of the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance company, of St. Paul. Two new stores were started in Bigelow the year the site was platted. In April S. D. Tinnes moved to the new station and opened a general merchandise store, and the same season John DeBoos and John Colvin started a hardware store. The partnership existed only a short time, and after the dissolution Mr. DeBoos continued the business.

James Cowin came to the village in the summer of 1874, and, in partnership with S. D. Tinnes, erected a warehouse, 20x10 feet, and engaged in the grain business. He also opened a lumber yard and sold fuel. A school house

the neatest in the county as the time was erected in the summer, and there was an attendance of twenty-four students that fall. An historical atlas of Minnesota, published in 1874, had this to say of Bigelow:

This is another railroad station, lying near the state line, ten miles southwest of Worthington. It is growing rapidly, and has an

<sup>20</sup>Bigelow begins to make a show of business houses, and like Hersey is destined to a

enterprising class of business men, among whom are hardware, lumber and grain merchants, grocers, etc. Bigelow is the center of a fertile region of beautiful rolling prairie, and will always have a lively business.

There were a few new enterprises started during the latter part of the grasshopper period. E. S. Mills, who had located in the vicinity of the station in 1872, started a cheese factory. In March, 1876, James R. Jones moved to Bigelow and engaged in the mercantile business in the store building which had previously been occupied by S. D. Tinnes. A. V. Randall came the same year from Philadelphia and started a blacksmith shop. Times were anything but good during the perilous days of the late seventies and no advance was made during that period. The federal census of 1880 gave the village a population of only 28.

During the next decade very little occurred that is worthy of being recorded. In 1885 a population of between 60 and 70 persons was claimed, and we find that the business town then consisted of two general stores, blacksmith shop, warehouse, elevator and possibly one or two other small business enterprises. This was the condition up to 1892. On January 25, of that year, Charles L. Davidson, of Hull, Iowa, purchased the Bigelow townsite and began to boom the town. Arrangements were made to open a bank, found a newspaper and start a hotel. For several years thereafter times were lively and Bigelow developed into quite a village.

A population of about 150 was claimed in 1894, and that year was one of advancement, despite the hard times. Ten new buildings were erected during the twelve-month. Again the next year did

fine trade and a prosperous future."—Western Advance, Aug. 31, 1872.

Bigelow forge to the front, making many improvements. A new school house, church, hotel, store building and several residences were added, and preparations were made for further additions the next year.

The growth of Bigelow during the late nineties is shown by the census taken November 16, 1899, when 224 people were listed. Then it was the citizens believed the time had come for incorporation, and at an election held February 13, 1900, by a vote of 37 to 6, it was decided to assume the responsibility of municipal government.<sup>21</sup> The election to choose the village's first officers was held March 14, 1900, and the machinery of the village government was started immediately after.

Those who have held elective office under the village government and the years of their election are as follows:

1900—President, W. C. Wyatt; trustees, E. I. Tripp, H. J. Ruprecht, J. A. Fialka; recorder, William Waterman; treasurer, P. C. Pratt; justices, R. H. Wicks, C. M. Davis; constables, John Brink, L. A. White.

1901—President, R. H. Wicks; trustees, J. A. Fialka, C. F. Modisett, C. A. Bacon; recorder, William Waterman; treasurer, P. C. Pratt; justice, Charles Wilson; constable, F. N. Wood.

1902—President, W. C. Wyatt; trustees, S. Wesby, H. J. Ruprecht, D. T. Cain; recorder, J. A. Fialka; treasurer, P. C. Pratt; justices, P. L. Wyatt, E. H. Brown.

1903—President, J. A. Fialka; trustees, G. W. Foote, S. Wesby, C. F. Modisett; recorder, E. F. Clower; treasurer, J. E. Salstrom; justice, E. F. Clower.

1904—President, J. A. Fialka; trustees, G. W. Foote, S. Wesby, C. F. Modisett; recorder, E. F. Clower; treasurer, J. E. Salstrom; justice, E. F. Clower.

1905—President, J. A. Fialka; trustees, J. P. Mitters, E. H. Brown, S. Wesby; recorder, E. F. Clower; treasurer, J. E. Salstrom.

1906—President, J. A. Fialka; trustees, George Foote, S. Wesby, Owen Hand; record-

er, E. F. Clower; treasurer, J. E. Salstrom. 1907—President, J. E. Salstrom; trustees, Charles E. Yates, Nels M. Sorem, W. C. Wyatt; recorder, C. F. Modisett; treasurer, A. E. Yeske.

1908—President, J. E. Salstrom; trustees, H. J. Ruprecht, Charles E. Yates, Nels M. Sorem; recorder, C. F. Modisett; treasurer, A. E. Yeske; assessor, Dick Reynolds; justice, Pat Condon; constable, F. L. Lane.

The first census after the incorporation of Bigelow was taken in 1905, when there were 194 people living in the town. Sixty of these were born in Minnesota, 106 in other parts of the United States, and 28 were born in foreign climes. Of the foreign born six came from Germany, two from Sweden, ten from Norway, two from Canada, three from Ireland, four from England, and one from Wales.

Bigelow's first church was the Methodist, organized early in January, 1874. The following certificate of organization, filed in the office of the register of deeds January 9, 1874, tells of the event:

This is to certify that G. R. Hollenback, Horace Clemens, W. M. Bear, John DeBoos and S. O. Morse and their successors in office were constituted a board of trustees to be known under the title and name of the Bigelow Methodist Church, located at Bigelow, county of Nobles, and state of Minnesota, in accordance with the several statutes of said state (Sec. 36) on religious societies and in compliance with the discipline of said church, paragraphs 500 to 504, edition of 1872. Done at quarterly conference held in the town of Bigelow, in said county and state, January 4, 1874.

HARVEY WEBB, Presiding Elder,  
WILLIAM M. BEAR, Secretary.

Bigelow Camp No. 4431, M. W. A., was instituted December 23, 1896, with the following charter members: Iver Anderson, David C. Bear, John E. Shore, Edgar H. Brown, Charles C. Erwin, Charles Johnson, Lewis John-

Fialka, A. P. Anderson, Monroe Beard, E. B. Forsyth, V. B. Smead, David C. Bear, John Brink, W. Schroeder, J. H. Harrington, C. M. Davis, Edward E. Blakey, F. E. Walker, William Yahn, F. H. Millard, C. T. Millard, E. B. Michael, W. W. Runger and B. F. Congdon.

<sup>21</sup>Those who signed the petition asking for incorporation were W. C. Wyatt, R. H. Wicks, P. C. Pratt, H. J. Ruprecht, E. I. Tripp, C. F. Modisett, C. W. Hall, J. H. Cass, William Waterman, A. J. Strommer, Frank N. Wood, Herman J. Lester, John Steenback, P. L. Wyatt, J. K. Shaw, Ed. Pederson, J. A.

son, Fred S. Krempien, F. H. W. Kruger, Henry W. Shore, Arthur G. W. Linley, Osva E. Madison, John Pfefferle, Martin J. Scott, John R. Scott, Jr., A. H. Scott, Martin J. Scott, A. J. Strommer, Michael Sorem, Robert H. Wicks, Willis C. Wyatt. The lodge was incorporated June 30, 1902.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### DUNDEE, LISMORE, KINBRAE, READING, ST. KILIAN, LEOTA, ORG.

#### DUNDEE.

Many of the towns of Nobles county have their location just within the county's boundary lines, and as a result the territory from which they draw trade is extended on all four sides beyond the county's confines. But in no case did any town come nearer getting outside the county than did Dundee, which is in the extreme northeastern corner, the boundary lines of Murray and Jackson counties defining the town's corporate limits on two sides. Dundee, located on section one, Graham Lakes township, is a station on the Pipestone branch of the Omaha railroad and is eight miles northwest from Heron Lake. From its old time rival, Kinbrae, which is on the Milwaukee road, it is only a mile and a half. The town had a population of 182 in 1905. All lines of business usually represented in villages of the size are to be found, including a bank, department store, hardware store, hotel, lumber yard, elevators, meat market, blacksmith shop, livery barn, saloons, barber shop, etc.

It was during the summer of 1879 that the land upon which Dundee was afterwards built was selected as a site for a town. The Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company was then building what was at the time known as the Heron Lake & Black Hills railroad, and its first station out from the eastern terminus was located on that part of the road which ran through the northeastern corner of Nobles county. Warren was the name first applied to the station, given in honor of the immortal Joseph Warren, who fell at the battle of Bunker Hill. Early in August the railroad company began the erection of a depot, and on the thirteenth of that month surveyors laid out the town.

While the town was surveyed in 1879 the earliest plat of record in the office of the register of deeds is dated 1891. It was surveyed by B. W. Woolstencroft for F. D. Lindquist and H. A. Scherlie, was dedicated July 31, 1891, and filed August 3.<sup>1</sup>

Great rivalry existed between the Sioux City & St. Paul and the Southern Minnesota railroads at the time of the build-

<sup>1</sup>To the original plat have been added the following additions:

School—Surveyed for F. D. Lindquist and H. A. Scherlie; dedicated September 5, 1898.

Lindquist's Subdivision Surveyed for F. D. Lindquist, B. N. Bodelson and H. A. Scherlie; dedicated June 14, 1898; filed June 20, 1898.

Johnson's Subdivision—Surveyed September 21, 1898, for John Johnson; dedicated Oct. 22, 1898; filed Oct. 25, 1898.

Park—Surveyed Oct. 23 and 24, 1899, for H. A. Scherlie; dedicated Sept. 12, 1900; filed Dec. 31, 1904.

ing of their respective lines, as has been related in a previous chapter, and each corporation determined to build the better town in northeastern Nobles county, the Southern Minnesota founding Airlie (Kinbrae) and the Sioux City & St. Paul the station of Warren.<sup>2</sup> The depot at the latter place was completed about the first of September, and the company at once began the erection of a cottage, which was completed a little later.<sup>3</sup> G. Foils moved to the station and became the first agent. A post-office was established about the first of November, of which Mr. Foils became the postmaster. The office was named Dundee, after the city in Scotland, and thereafter the place was known by that name. Preparations were made for the establishment of a few lines of business. The station agent became a lumber dealer, and a store building was erected, which was expected soon to be occupied.

In the spring of 1880 F. D. Lindquist and H. A. Scherlie opened a store. Only a few other business houses were established in the little town in the early days, and its growth for many years was very slow. Until the arrival of the prosperous times of the middle nineties Dundee was only a little trading point, represented by a very few lines of business. Then came the revival of business all over the country and the appreciation of Nobles county land values, and Dundee,

in common with all the towns of Nobles county, took a new lease of life.

By the first of the year 1898 the town had made such progress that incorporation was deemed advisable. A census taken December 23, 1897, gave the village a population of 187. The citizens of Dundee then petitioned for the incorporation of 1,244 acres of land,<sup>4</sup> and on January 4, 1898, the board of county commissioners granted the petition and named February 15 as the date for holding a special election to vote on the question. W. A. Fields, G. B. Miller and P. H. Randall were named inspectors. By a vote of 35 to 2 the electors decided to incorporate, and on March 8 another special election, presided over by C. W. Aldrich and P. H. Randall as judges and C. P. Swanson as clerk, was held, when the first village officers were chosen. The council met for the first time March 11, 1898.

The results of the several village elections since incorporation are as follows:

1898—President, F. D. Lindquist; trustees, A. R. Schmidt, R. F. Laythe, E. F. Fricke; recorder, C. P. Swanson; treasurer, B. N. Bodelson; justices, J. H. Johnson, G. B. Miller; constables, P. H. Randall, E. H. Sammons.

1899—President, F. D. Lindquist; trustees, E. F. Fricke, A. R. Schmidt, Sigman Rupp; recorder, C. P. Swanson; treasurer, B. N. Bodelson; justice, P. B. Herman; constable, E. J. Sangreen.

1900—President, G. B. Miller; trustees, E. S. Humble, A. R. Schmidt, R. O. Morrison; recorder, P. B. Herman; treasurer, B. N.

<sup>2</sup>Warren will no doubt be a rival of Airlie, as they are but one and one-third miles from each other, but with the advantage of scenery, etc., Airlie will certainly outstrip her in the race. Hope they will both prosper." B. W. Woolsteneroff in *Worthington Advance*, Aug. 21, 1879.

<sup>3</sup>The railroad company has just completed a better depot and cottage at this point than there is on the main line between St. Paul and Sioux City." Correspondent to *Worthington Advance*, Nov. 6, 1879.

<sup>4</sup>The petitioners were F. D. Lindquist, J. H. Johnson, John B. Moore, George B. Miller,

Charles Trumbull, W. S. Miller, O. E. Randall, J. D. Brawand, W. P. Jones, C. W. Aldrich, E. N. Scherlie, B. N. Bodelson, J. F. Burris, H. V. Gallagher, W. H. Lindquist, W. W. Kane, F. A. Ross, A. R. Schmidt, Henry D. Johns, S. Rupp, Swan Erickson, E. H. Sammons, W. G. Clark, R. F. Laythe, Gottlieb Wald, O. A. Nasset, W. R. Fields, M. J. Estey, C. L. Fork, C. S. Fuller, J. Wahl, C. P. Swanson, R. H. Sammons, A. Englund, H. C. Moshka, E. S. Humble, Elias Swenson, A. P. Smithburg, L. D. Randall, P. H. Randall, C. A. Gallagher, C. M. Thomas, J. W. Schield, Fred W. Leistico and Oscar Hawkins.

Bodelson; assessor, W. J. Drake; justice, G. B. Miller; constable, W. P. Jones.

1901—President, G. B. Miller; trustees, J. H. Johnson, Theodore Hawkins, J. H. Kane; recorder, P. B. Herman; treasurer, F. D. Lindquist; assessor, W. J. Drake; justice, P. B. Herman; constable, H. A. Crosby.

1902—President, V. I. Miller; trustees, R. O. Morrison, Theodore Hawkins, A. R. Schmidt; recorder, Charles Hamstreet; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; assessor, W. P. Jones; justices, Charles Hamstreet, O. E. Randall; constable, W. P. Jones.

1903—President, B. N. Bodelson; trustees, F. A. Paseo, A. R. Schmidt, S. H. Brown; recorder, E. S. Humble; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; assessor, Andrew Reuse; justices, C. M. Atwood, James McDonald; constables, W. P. Jones, H. A. Crosby.

1904—President, B. N. Bodelson; trustees, A. R. Schmidt, Haken Johnson, Martin Leutichman; recorder, C. M. Atwood; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; assessor, Andrew Reuse; justice, N. A. Dexter; constables, Andrew Reuse, W. N. Johnson.

1905—President, William Guthrie; trustees, Theodore Hawkins, H. A. Crosby, F. J. Knott; recorder, C. M. Atwood; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; justice, E. H. Sammons; constable, Andrew Reuse.

1906—President, F. D. Lindquist; trustees, A. R. Schmidt, O. H. Johnson, S. H. Nelson; recorder, C. M. Atwood; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; justice, Elmer Johnson; constable, O. H. Johnson.

1907—President, F. D. Lindquist; trustees, S. H. Nelson, A. R. Schmidt, Ole Johnson; recorder, C. M. Atwood; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; justice, Elmer Johnson; constable, O. H. Johnson.

1908—President, F. D. Lindquist; trustees, A. R. Schmidt, Ole Johnson, George Torkelson; recorder, C. M. Atwood; treasurer, J. H. Johnson; assessor, T. B. Maguire; justices, C. S. Jones, M. A. Arens; constable, A. Torkelson.

There were prosperous years following the beginning of municipal life, and in 1900 the federal census showed a population of 217, giving Dundee sixth place among Nobles county towns. Then followed the period when many of the precincts showed a decrease in population, and in 1905 the census figure was 182. One hundred four of these were born in Minnesota, 36 in other parts of the United States, and 42 in foreign countries. Of the foreign born Germany furnished 8; Sweden, 18; Norway, 3; Ireland, 1; Denmark, 2; England, 2; Scot-

land, 2; Austria, 4; other countries, 2.

Dundee maintains one of the best schools to be found in the smaller villages of the county, presided over by Prof. C. S. Jones. The town supports several church organizations, all of which are in a prosperous condition.

## LISMORE.

Of Nobles county's eleven incorporated villages Lismore is the youngest. It is a town of 181 inhabitants, located on the Rock Island railroad and on section one, of Lismore township. Portions of Leota, Willmont, Larkin and Lismore townships comprise its trade territory, which, in my judgment, is the finest and most prosperous part of Nobles county, excepting that surrounding the village of Ellsworth. The village itself is prosperous and enjoys an excellent trade. It is built mostly of wood, but the buildings are all permanent and substantial structures.

Lismore was founded as a direct result of the building of the Burlington railroad, now operated as the Rock Island, through northwestern Nobles county, and came into existence during the summer of 1900. The road had been constructed a part of the distance it now covers during the fall and winter of 1899 and the towns of Reading and Willmont, on the same railroad, had been founded. The work of laying the track was again taken up in the spring of 1900, and the road reached the site of the present town of Lismore at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, June 9. Immediately thereafter was commenced the building of the town.

The story of the selection of the site of Lismore is an interesting one. To Emil Graf and Charles Rieckoff, more

than any others, belong the credit for the existence of the town. When Thomas Brown, the Burlington right-of-way man, was in the vicinity purchasing lands for the road's right-of-way and locating his town-sites he stopped one night at the farm home of Emil Graf, situated some two or three miles northeast of the future town of Lismore. The settlers of the vicinity, who for so many years had been such a long ways from market, were anxious to have a town builded nearby. So they inquired from Mr. Brown the company's intentions relative to the location of town-sites on the new road. That official stated that his instructions were to locate only one town between Wilmont and the junction of the road. Such a decision meant that the proposed town would be built some three miles further west.

But the surveyors, who were then in the field, were having trouble running their lines and getting the grade they wanted. By making a detour to the south it was found that a good grade could be secured, although the mileage would be increased. This course was finally selected, and the lengthening of the road made possible the location of two town-sites. Mr. Brown decided that one site could be selected in the vicinity, and Messrs. Graf and Rieckoff suggested the southwest quarter of section 1, Lismore township, as a site. Mr. Brown agreed to locate the town there if the land could be bought for \$30 per acre, and he, accompanied by the two

gentlemen who were interesting themselves in the matter, went to see Clarence Swannan, the owner. That gentleman promptly demanded \$35 per acre for the quarter. The Burlington agent refused to consider the purchase at that price, and negotiations ceased.

Messrs. Graf and Rieckoff were determined to have the new town in the vicinity, and to raise money for the extra \$800 demanded they scoured the country for subscriptions to a fund. They were successful in raising the money, and under an agreement with Mr. Brown turned the cash over to that gentleman when the Lismore depot was completed. The property had been bought by Mr. Brown in the latter part of March.<sup>5</sup> The question of a name for the village then arose. Several names were suggested, among others that of Graf, in honor of the pioneer settler of the vicinity. Mr. Graf would not consent to be thus honored, and the name Lismore was finally chosen by Mr. Brown, named after the township. The township had been named after a town in Ireland.

County Surveyor Milton S. Smith surveyed the townsite April 23, 24 and 25, 1900; the dedication was made July 23; the papers were filed in the office of the register of deeds July 25.<sup>6</sup> After the coming of the railroad in June it was not long before the building of the town was under way, and in July the first business houses were opened.

The St. Croix Lumber company was

<sup>5</sup>"The new town on the Burlington north of Adrian has at last been definitely located on the southwest quarter of section 1, Lismore township. This week T. H. Brown, the agent of the company, closed the deal for this land, and has located the depot. The site for the new town will be surveyed at once," Nobles County Democrat, March 30, 1900.

<sup>6</sup>Five additions have been platted since the original site was surveyed, as follows:

First Surveyed for Thomas H. Brown; ded-

icated July 23, 1901; filed July 29, 1901.

Graves' Surveyed for Thomas H. Brown; dedicated June 7, 1902; filed June 14, 1902.

Graves' Second Surveyed for Thomas H. Brown; dedicated Nov. 22, 1902; filed Nov. 26, 1902.

Thompson's Surveyed for Albert A. Thompson; dedicated May 27, 1903; filed May 27, 1903.

Graves' South Side Surveyed for Mark Graves; dedicated April 16, 1902; filed April 16, 1902.



LISMORE STREET SCENE



LISMORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

10

the first on the site. Lumber had been hauled from Wilmont and piled on the ground. A sign on the same gave forth the information that it was a lumber yard. This enterprise was immediately followed by others, and before the close of the year quite a little town had taken its place on the prairie. James Beacom erected the first building in the town—now the Leader office—and opened a saloon. The second building completed was the O. B. Bratager store building, and that gentleman opened his store on July 6. James Montgomery built a small elevator and a little dwelling. William Finley was installed as manager of the elevator and occupied the house. Mr. Montgomery also engaged in the lumber business. James S. Ramage opened a lumber yard and hardware store, which were under the management of Arch Priest. The Bank of Lismore opened its doors on September 1, its temporary home being in a lumber yard. Three months later the bank was incorporated as the State Bank of Lismore. Other business enterprises established in 1900 were a livery barn by Anton Halverson, a butcher shop and restaurant by Joseph Stadter, and a blacksmith shop by Andrew Peters.

A number of residences were also erected during the year, and all the buildings of the new town were of a permanent character. The Lismore post-office was established September 22 with O. B. Bratager as postmaster, and that gentleman has since had charge of the office.

During 1901 there was a resumption of building operations in Lismore, and the town received many additions to its business life. A school house, churches and several fine residences were built during the year. On December 6, 1901, the Lismore Leader said:

Lismore, for a place only a little over one year old, has made good and substantial growth. . . . Lismore has one bank, two general merchants, one furniture store, two saloons, two pool rooms, two lumber yards, three elevators, four coal dealers, one hotel, one hardware store, two machinery firms, one blacksmith shop, one livery stable, one dray line and one newspaper.

A census taken April 10, 1902, showed the new village to have a population of 186. After 1901 the growth of Lismore was slow. That year it reached a size proportionate to the trade of the surrounding country. While there has not been increase in population, each year has witnessed improvement in Lismore, and there is yearly increase in the amount of business done.

Lismore was incorporated in the spring of 1902.<sup>7</sup> Emil Graf, Jacob Hendel and Henry Rust were the inspectors of the first election, which was held May 27. Of the thirty-seven votes cast at that time, twenty-three were in favor of incorporation and fourteen were opposed. The town's first officers were chosen June 17, and that same evening the council met and set in motion the machinery of municipal government.

Following is a list of those who have been elected to office during Lismore's political history:<sup>8</sup>

1902—President, Emil Graf; trustees, O. B. Bratager, Frank Hennekes, John Roelofs;

M. Johnson, Theodore Walenting, C. J. Banning, H. C. Frerich, Gerhart Kirkeby, A. T. Halverson, Philip Hendel, Will Wallace, F. Hennekes, Hans Erickson and Albert Halverson.

<sup>7</sup>Nearly all the elections have been hotly contested affairs, and the vote between the two tickets has often been close.

<sup>8</sup>Those who petitioned for incorporation were C. N. Sawyer, Emil Graf, George A. Eychauer, Oscar C. Olson, H. J. Schneider, Henry Holton, William Finley, O. B. Bratager, S. A. Crosley, F. G. McVener, H. J. Kundel, F. J. Forkenbrock, Ludwig Johnson, John G. Van Rossum, Dirk D. Roelofs, John D. Roelofs, Charles Wynia, A. C. Graf, Jacob Hendel, Nick Wester, Fred Zeh, George Pope, John Duell,

recorder, C. N. Sawyer; treasurer, F. J. Forkenbrock; justices, R. W. Frank, William Finley; constables, Fred McVenes, John Ducl.

1903 President, Emil Graf; trustees, O. B. Bratager, Fred McVenes, M. Plemp; recorder, C. N. Sawyer; treasurer, F. J. Forkenbrock; assessor, F. W. Vaughan; justice, A. Peters; constable, W. Duwenhoegger; street commissioner, John Ducl.

1904 President, Emil Graf; trustees, M. Plemp, William Tentler, A. N. Dirsch; recorder, R. W. Frank; treasurer, F. J. Forkenbrock; assessor, William Finley; justices, William Finley, C. E. Hagtow; constables, W. Duwenhoegger, D. Roelofs.

1905 President, Emil Graf; trustees, William Tentler, J. A. Greig, M. Plemp; recorder, W. A. Olin; treasurer, John Roelofs; assessor, William Higgins; justices, C. A. Manning, Fred McVenes; constables, George Greig, Fred McVenes.

1906 President, William Tentler; trustees, A. J. Greig, John Gloyka, M. Plemp; recorder, W. H. Ironck; treasurer, John Roelofs; assessor, William Higgins; justices, L. A. Dickman, O. B. Bratager; constables, Joe Budde, Henry Gloyka.

1907 President, William Tentler; trustees, M. Greig, J. J. Bach, L. A. Dickman; recorder, Emil Graf; treasurer, John Roelofs; assessor, William Higgins; justices, J. E. West, Adolph Miller; constables, Nic Bach, William Higgins.

1908 President, William Tentler; trustees, J. J. Bach, L. A. Dickman, M. Greig; recorder, Nic Barron; treasurer, M. Plemp; assessor, William Higgins; justice, George Cutler; constable, Jacob Hofer.

Lismore's population, according to the 1905 census, was 181, of which 83 were native born, 71 Minnesota born, and 27 foreign born. Of the last named the countries of birth were Germany, 11; Norway, 7; Ireland, 1; England, 1; other countries, 1. The town has a good school and a number of church organizations.

#### KINBRAE.

Although one of the oldest, Kinbrae is the smallest of Nobles county's incorporated villages. One hundred eleven people had their homes there when the

last census was taken. It is located on section 11, Graham Lakes township, on the Milwaukee railroad, and is only a mile and a half from Dundee, its rival town on the Pipestone branch of the Omaha road. The business town consists of a few stores, elevators and shops, which draw their trade from the immediate country surrounding.

Time was when Kinbrae was a larger and much more prosperous village than it now is. For years it held its own with the rival town of Dundee, and for a time was the better village of the two. All lines of business flourished and a big trade was catered to. But Dundee won out in the race for supremacy in northeastern Nobles county. While there has been a retrogression since the boom days of the nineties, Kinbrae still holds its place as a little trading point, and time may bring back its former prosperous days. The jealous rivalry of two railroad corporations was responsible for the founding of two towns so close together, and the towns have been the sufferers ever since.

When the line of the Southern Minnesota railroad (now the Milwaukee) was definitely located in the spring of 1879, speculation was rife as to the location of the towns that would be built on it. A correspondent writing to the Worthington Advance of May 8, 1879, gives us the first information of the selection of the site on Clear lake for one of the towns. "Our Graham Lakes correspondent," says the Advance of that date, "gives further information concerning the road. The line passes about one-half mile north of East Graham lake and one-fourth mile north of Creswell. The contract for grading to Clear

<sup>2</sup>There were three candidates for president of the council. William Tentler and O. B.

Bratager were tied, and the former was chosen by lot.



lake has been let, and the contract to Seven-Mile lake will be let in a few days. We learn that the company design building up quite a town at Clear lake, and another at the south end of Heron lake."

Nothing further is learned of the proposed town on Clear lake from the public prints until late in the summer. Then it is learned that a Scotch company has been formed for the purpose of founding the town, which is to be called Airlie. A company which has purchased a tract of land in the vicinity, it is announced, will make many improvements and start the town with a heavy expenditure of money. B. W. Woolstencroft, who resided there at the time, wrote of the current events early in September as follows:

Our town [Graham Lakes] has the advantage of two railroads now and two railroad towns, viz: Airlie and Warren.

"Airlie" (named for the Right Honourable, the earl of Airlie, K. T., president of the Dundee Land and Improvement company, N. B., owner of the Clear lake townsite, inclosing with its annexed farm 400 acres of land) is situated on the southwest bank of Clear lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in Minnesota. Mr. Easton informed us that the company intended to build a \$10,000 steam elevator, a three story hotel, and that \$15,000 was placed at his disposal for the above purpose, together with the improvements of streets, planting trees, etc. Plowing for tree planting has already begun.

On Friday the 29th a number of gentlemen and their ladies came up on the train to view the place and were decidedly pleased with the situation. Among those present we will mention John Cusson, of Glenallen, Virginia; Prof. S. W. Johnson, wife and daughter, Yale college, Hartford, Connecticut; H. M. Blaisdel and wife, P. Walarton and wife, J. M. Farrar, of Fairmont; J. C.

Easton and wife, L. F. Easton, of Lanesboro.

The Dundee Improvement company was the name of the corporation which contemplated doing so much to start the town of Airlie. During September and October the company started a number of improvements, and a few private enterprises were launched. The large steam elevator, with a capacity of 15,000 bushels, was completed in November. Before the close of the year a hotel building had been erected by the company and a two story store building, 22x50 feet, had been put up by the same people. John Paul, of LaCrosse, Wis., opened a lumber yard, which was under the management of Ole Dahl, and E. B. Hollister opened a drug store.<sup>10</sup>

While Airlie had been the name first selected for the site, when the townsite was surveyed during the month of December, 1879, it was as DeForest, and that became also the name of the railroad station. W. G. Keller surveyed the DeForest townsite for John Paton, John B. Dumont, William Lowson and William Mackenzie. The site was dedicated April 6, 1880,<sup>11</sup> and the instrument was filed May 31.<sup>12</sup>

A petition for the establishment of a postoffice had been sent in to the authorities at an early date, with the request that it be named Airlie, and when the postoffice was granted early in 1880 with Nat Smith as postmaster, that was its name. The name was changed to DeForest to correspond with the name of the townsite and station, in the lat-

<sup>10</sup>"Airlie. This flourishing, rapidly growing town on the Southern Minnesota railroad, situated on section 11, Graham Lakes, only one and one-half miles from Dundee, is to that place what Minneapolis is to St. Paul. The numerous and substantial improvements that are in course of construction here are attracting the attention of business men all over the country. Its location is one of unusual beauty, being on the high rolling banks of charming Clear lake."—Correspondent Worthington Advance, Nov. 6, 1879.

<sup>11</sup>The acknowledgment of the dedication was made by Messrs. Paton and Dumont before J. C. French, a notary public of New York. Messrs. Lowson and Mackenzie made acknowledgment before Matthew McDougall, consul of the United States at Dundee, Scotland.

<sup>12</sup>South addition to DeForest townsite was surveyed by E. W. Woolstencroft for John Paton, William Lowson and William Mackenzie; was dedicated July 31, 1888; and was filed August 20, 1888.

ter part of January, 1882. While there had been a few enterprises started in the little town of Airlie, or DeForest, during 1879 and early in 1880, there had been no rush to the new town, and the federal census of 1880 (June 1) showed a population of only 19. A depot was put up in the fall of that year and a young man named Isal was installed as agent.

So we find that during the first few years of its existence DeForest was a very small hamlet. What town there was came near being wiped out by a fire on April 20, 1883, at which time the large elevator, together with its contents, was destroyed. Only by the greatest effort on the part of the citizens was the depot saved. In August, 1883, the name of the DeForest station was changed to Kinbrae. For a time thereafter the postoffice and townsite were known under the old name, but later these were changed.<sup>13</sup>

The Scotch company that founded Kinbrae soon ceased its labors in the little town, and the townsite passed into the hands of Hanson & Graeger, of Chicago. During the eighties not much progress was made in Kinbrae, although a few business enterprises were started during that decade. When the Kinbrae Herald was issued for the first time on September 20, 1894, its editor claimed a population of 150 for the town. There

were then the following industries: Two general stores, one hardware store, one lumber yard, one blacksmith shop, one stock buyer, two grain elevators, one hotel, a postoffice, depot, newspaper, millinery store, Presbyterian church and a school.

In 1895 W. N. Bickley and W. E. Fletcher purchased the townsite and made preparations to boom the town, and Kinbrae advanced with rapid strides. These gentlemen employed M. S. Smith to resurvey the townsite in May, 1896. The site was dedicated Dec. 23, 1896, and the plat was filed Jan. 4, 1897.<sup>14</sup> Building improvements during 1896 amounted to \$13,000. Among the new enterprises started were a bank, creamery, elevator, stores, and a Methodist church. A census taken December 7, 1895, gave the town a population of 178, and during the following year Kinbrae attained the height of its prosperity.

A petition asking the board of county commissioners to provide for the incorporation of the village of DeForest as platted and recorded in the office of the register of deeds, containing 640 acres, was presented; also a request that the name of the corporation should be Kinbrae was made.<sup>15</sup> The board took the required action early in the year and named February 17, 1896, as the date for holding an election to decide the question. The election was held at Jack-

Kinbrae, but the name of the town and postoffice remains the same."—Worthington Advance, Aug. 23, 1883.

<sup>14</sup>A corrected plat was surveyed by Mr. Smith for the village of Kinbrae and was dedicated in 1903.

<sup>15</sup>The petitioners were A. E. Holmberg, Ole Anderson, Nels Holm, N. W. Nelson, Ole Luft, Charles Hamstreet, Fergus Jones, Joseph Hendy, K. C. Jackson, Fred L. Day, E. Jeffreys, T. H. Cole, Jan Janda, L. T. Dow, T. E. Jemberl, Solomon Johnson, E. Segar, T. E. Cole, H. Poston, J. A. Salomonson, P. J. Fredrickson, S. Hedin, Albert Suess, Olof Nilson, E. L. Cochran, T. J. Larkin, P. E. Winkler, C. M. Thomas, E. F. Richards, E. H. Abright, H. Eric, James Hause, L. P. Miller, E. J. Clark and Joseph Stone.

<sup>13</sup>"There are a half dozen letters at the Worthington postoffice written from as many different places, addressed to Kinbrae and Kinbar, Nobles county. Charles Burdick informs us that there is no such postoffice in the United States. How these letters could come from so many widely separated points, come from men and some from women, and all be addressed to Kinbrae or Kinbar, this county, is one of the mysteries. 'Suthin's gon' to happen.'"—Worthington Advance, Aug. 16, 1883.

<sup>14</sup>"We last week noticed the fact that there were a number of letters at the Worthington postoffice addressed to Kinbrae, Nobles county, and that there was no such postoffice in the county. We have since had the mystery explained. The Milwaukee railroad company has changed the name of DeForest station to

son's hall and was presided over by T. E. Cole, Charles Hamstreet and Nels Holm. Thirty-five votes were cast, of which 28 were favorable to incorporation and 7 were opposed.

The election to select the first village officers was held at the office of the Kinbrae Herald March 10, 1896. Charles Hamstreet and L. F. Miller were the judges and J. A. Salomonson was the clerk of election. Thirty-seven votes were cast. Following was the result of that and each subsequent election held in the village:

1896—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, T. E. Joubert, K. C. Jackson, Joseph Hendy; recorder, A. E. Holmberg; treasurer, T. E. Cole; justices, J. A. Salomonson, E. L. Cochran; constables, O. A. Anderson, T. J. Larkin.

1897—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, K. C. Jackson, S. H. McMaster, W. N. Bickley; recorder, J. A. Salomonson; treasurer, T. E. Cole; constables, J. J. Nimerfroh, Charles Williams.

1898—President, S. W. Laythe; trustees, K. C. Jackson, E. M. Trenkley, T. E. Joubert; recorder, Charles Hamstreet; treasurer, T. E. Cole; justices, J. A. Salomonson, P. P. Wilson; constables, F. D. Richards, J. J. Nimerfroh.

1899—President, E. M. Trenkley; trustees, W. N. Bickley, F. T. Winkler, C. A. Swanson; recorder, Charles Hamstreet; treasurer, S. W. Laythe; justices, E. J. Clark, J. A. Salomonson; constables, F. D. Richards, Ernest Jones.<sup>16</sup>

1900—President, Burgess Jones; trustees, K. C. Jackson, L. F. Miller, W. N. Bickley; recorder, J. H. Clemons; treasurer, S. W. Laythe; justices, J. H. Clemons, Solomon Johnson; constables, Nicholas Paulus, F. D. Richards.

1901—President, S. H. McMaster; trustees, T. E. Joubert, F. E. Ridgeway, Solomon Johnson; recorder, H. W. Pinney; treasurer, W. H. Sanders; justices, H. Brigger, George Golden; constable, Vince Nimerfroh.

1902—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, F. E. Ridgeway, Charles Muck, August Johnson; recorder, J. E. Bailey; treasurer, W. H. Sanders; justices, J. E. Bailey, Joseph Stone; constables, Vince Nimerfroh, George Golden.

1903—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, F. E. Ridgeway, August Johnson, C. E. Fletcher; recorder, J. E. Bailey; treasurer, W. H. Sanders; justices, V. M. Lord, C. S. Muck; constables, F. D. Richards, O. J. Swanson.

1904—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, M. McGlin, M. F. Smith, F. E. Ridgeway; recorder, S. H. McMaster; treasurer, W. H. Sanders; justices, J. H. Swan, Reo Morse; constable, George Golden.

1905—President, L. F. Miller; trustees, M. McGlin, M. F. Smith, F. E. Ridgeway; recorder, S. H. McMaster; treasurer, W. H. Sanders; assessor, J. S. Cocks; justices, Joseph Stone, J. J. Nimerfroh; constables, J. J. Nimerfroh, F. D. Richards.

1906—President, F. E. Ridgeway; trustees, Charles Hunt, John Coffitt, George Golden; recorder, S. H. McMaster; treasurer, M. F. Smith; assessor, Burgess Jones; justices, I. S. Swan, Frank Segar; constable, Wilson.

1907—President, S. H. McMaster; trustees, John H. Coffitt, F. E. Ridgeway, Anton Nelson; recorder, J. S. Cocks; treasurer, M. F. Smith; assessor, J. H. Brigger; justices, Frank Segar, M. Wood; constables, C. A. Swanson, John Nimerfroh.

1908—President, S. H. McMaster; trustees, Charles Hunt, F. E. Ridgeway, Louis Schriber; recorder, M. E. Gillson; treasurer, G. C. Winchell; assessor, H. I. Brigger; justice, E. W. Blettner; constables, C. A. Swanson, John Nimerfroh.

For a short time only after incorporation did Kinbrae advance. The federal census of 1900 gave the village a population of 137, which was a loss of 47 since 1896. Another loss was shown in 1905, when the returns gave a population of 111. This was divided into the following classes: Native born, 43; Minnesota born, 56; born in Germany, 3; Sweden, 7; Norway, 1; other countries, 1.

A school and two churches are maintained in Kinbrae. The Presbyterian church, the older organization, was founded January 10, 1890, with thirteen charter members. J. H. Denton and N. H. Smith were the ruling elders.

## READING.

The largest and most important of the unincorporated villages of Nobles county is Reading, located on the diagonal wagon road and the Rock Island railroad, ten miles northwest from Worth-

<sup>16</sup>At the election of 1899 for license received 29 votes and against license 8 votes.

ington. It is on the southwest quarter of section 24, Summit Lake township, and is nearer the geographical center of Nobles county than any other town-site, its distance from the central point being three miles in a direct line. At Reading is found a community of about a hundred people and the following business houses: Bank, general stores, hardware store, three elevators, two lumber yards, livery stable and blacksmith shop.

Early in the year 1872, when Nobles county was receiving its first big immigration, the southwest quarter of section 24, Summit Lake township, upon which the village of Reading is now located, was filed upon as a homestead claim by Jeremiah Pettus. A contest for the possession of the land was started by Joseph E. Read, who filed for his son, H. H. Read, and in 1873 the papers were secured. Two years later the filing was changed to a preemption. H. H. Read moved upon the land to reside permanently in 1876, and has made that his home ever since.

The site of the present town was farmed by Mr. Read until the Burlington road was built through in 1899. That year, after the route had been selected, Thomas H. Brown, the Burlington right-of-way man, bought for townsite purposes 27½ acres of the southwest quarter of 24 from Mr. Read; five acres in 23 from the same gentleman; and 20 acres from George D. Dayton in 23. The site was selected in October, 1899. It was announced that it was not the intention of the town-site company to build much of a town at the first station,

but that the principal towns would be built further out.<sup>17</sup>

The track was laid to the site of the town early in December and the station was named Reading, in honor of H. H. Read, the pioneer settler.<sup>18</sup> The first train out took with it A. J. Keller, of Emmetsburg, Iowa, who became the station agent. A fool house was taken to the site on a flat car, and until a depot was constructed, served in that capacity. Notwithstanding the determination to limit the business houses of the new town, there were very soon quite a number on the site. So soon as the track was built that far, although the survey of the townsite had not been made, a number of locations were secured for business enterprises. H. N. Douglas and the D. Rothchild Grain company selected sites for elevators by tossing a coin for choice of location. James S. Ramage was given a location for a coal and lumber yard and had stock on cars at Worthington ready to be taken out at the first opportunity.

Although it was in the middle of winter, quite a number erected buildings, and before the opening of spring engaged in business. Stock yards and a depot were erected at once. H. N. Douglas and the Rothchild Grain company bought grain during the winter, loading direct from the wagons into the cars. Woodworth & Jones erected the first business house and engaged in the hardware business. A. N. Cheney erected a building and opened a general store in February. H. N. Douglas put up his elevator during the winter and erected a

<sup>17</sup>"A location for another town has been selected for a station on the Burlington extension, near H. H. Read's in Summit Lake township, twelve acres of ground being purchased for this purpose. It is claimed that it is not the intention or expected that much of a town will be built here, but just a stopping place for trains for the accommodation of passengers. . . . The company will not refuse to permit the erection of an

elevator, and this being the case, there will probably be a store and a postoffice and a paper. . . . It is reported the new town will be named Diagonal and will be located on the southwest quarter of section 24, Summit Lake." *Worthington Advance*, Oct. 20, 1899.

<sup>18</sup>Readville, Readburg, Diagonal and other names had been proposed.

six room house, which was occupied by his grain buyer, Alex Thompson, and family—the first family to locate in the new town. James S. Ramage erected a lumber shed and a house. A. B. French, of Cedar Rapids, started a blacksmith shop and opened a restaurant in the second story of the Cheney store building.

Building operations were continued during the early spring of 1900. A. R. Beilke moved a small house over from Rushmore in February, and a little later erected a building and opened the second general store. The Rothchild elevator was erected that spring. The postoffice was established in March with A. N. Cheney in charge.<sup>19</sup> In May the Summit Lake Presbyterian church, which had been organized October 4, 1893, was moved in from the country, and the school building was brought to the village that fall.

The townsite was surveyed by M. S. Smith in June, 1900, for Thomas H. Brown. The dedication was made June 16 and the instrument was filed June 21. In the fall of 1901 First addition was platted by Mr. Brown.

Several new business enterprises have been established in Reading since the founding of the town, and, although it has not yet grown to a size that would warrant its incorporation, it is a prosperous little community.

#### TELEPHONE COMPANY.

One of the best known corporations of Reading is the Farmers' Mutual Telephone company, incorporated January 2, 1905, with an authorized capital of \$25,000 and with \$9,000 paid in. The line is 150 miles in length and includes on its line the towns of Reading, Rushmore, Willmont and Fulda. The officers

are Frank Baker, president; J. B. Ludlow, vice president; R. J. Jones, secretary; W. F. Moss, treasurer. The company has three hundred subscribers.

#### BANK.

The State Bank of Reading was opened August 2, 1902, with a capital stock of \$10,000 and the following officers and directors: Robert J. Jones, president; Ned Jones, vice president; A. N. Cheney, cashier; N. B. Cheney, Edwin Brickson.

#### SAINT KILIAN.

On the northwest quarter of section 27, Willmont township, three and one-half miles northwest of Willmont village, is the little inland village of St. Kilian. In the town is one general store, conducted on the co-operative plan, a Catholic church and school and a number of residences. For the size of the place St. Kilian is one of the strongest church towns of the country. The church building is an exceptionally fine one and the organization has a large membership. Almost the entire population of St. Kilian is made up of retired or active German farmers and their families.

Willmont township was settled almost entirely by German Catholic farmers. In the early days these settlers were far from the church of their profession, but in the late eighties their numbers had grown until it was believed that a church could be supported. About forty members of the faith formed an organization and authorized Father C. J. Knauf, of Adrian, to buy a forty acre tract of land (the northwest quarter of the north-

<sup>19</sup>Reading's postmasters have been A. N. Cheney, appointed March, 1900; W. H. Eiken-

berry, February, 1905; R. J. Jones, February, 1904; A. R. Beilke, February 25, 1907.

west quarter of section 27) for church purposes. Late in the year 1887 steps were taken to raise money for the erection of a church thereon.<sup>20</sup> Succeeding in this, they erected a building of which the dimensions were 32x18 feet. Father Knauf supplied the pulpit about two years, and was succeeded by Father Gratz.

About two years after this church was built, John Mock opened a general store on the site and a little later quite a village sprang up there. A postoffice was established with Mr. Mock in charge. Andrew Pacholl opened a blacksmith shop, John Meyer started a second general store, Hub Pass engaged in the saloon business, and later Joseph Budde opened the second saloon. The town of St. Kilian, named after the church, became a flourishing little inland trading point, and predictions of future greatness were freely made. It seemed certain that some day there would be a good sized town in northwestern Nobles county, and St. Kilian believed that it was to be the town.

When it became known that the Burlington railroad was to extend and surveyors appeared in the vicinity in 1899, certain it was that St. Kilian's day had arrived. But the building of the road proved the death of St. Kilian's prospects for future greatness. The town was passed by, and the railroad people founded, nearby, the town of Willmont. After that there was general decline. Some of the business houses were moved to the railroad town; others were closed; and today the only business enterprise left in the village is a store. The postoffice was maintained until March, 1907. Then it was discontinued, and since that

date the people of the village have received their mail by rural route from Willmont.

The St. Kilian townsite was surveyed by M. S. Smith for Father C. J. Knauf October 5 to 7, 1891. The plat was dedicated October 27 and was filed December 10, of the same year.

Some ten years after the building of the church the edifice was burned. The congregation then erected the school building, and for one year church services were held therein. The present handsome and substantial church building was then erected. The Church of St. Kilian was incorporated February 27, 1896, by Joseph B. Cotter, bishop of the diocese of Winona; Peter Perrin, vicar general of the same diocese; A. Hechenberger, pastor; and Charles Fritz and Balthasar Heck, lay members.

---

#### LEOTA.

In the extreme northwestern corner of Nobles county, in the center of a prosperous settlement of Hollanders, is the little inland village of Leota, with a population of about 100 people. The platted town is on sections 5 and 8, of Leota township. The village consists of two churches, a general store, postoffice, harness shop, blacksmith shop and a number of residences.

It was during the year 1891 that Leota was founded. The first building on the site was the Dutch Reformed church, erected by the vanguard of Dutch settlers. In the fall of 1891 John and Nick DeBoer and James Tentate erected a second building and established a store, which they have ever since

<sup>20</sup>We learn that there is a movement on foot to build a Catholic church in Willmont, on section 27, where the congregation holds forty acres. Father Knauf, of Adrian, was

here on Sunday last and took a number of subscriptions for the new church. About half the amount has been subscribed."—Worthington Advance, Dec. 15, 1887.



LEOTA VILLAGE



TYPICAL PIONEER HOME.

The Original Home of Martin Kallemeyn, Who was the First Hollander to Locate in Leota Township and Who Was Active in the Colonization of that Township. The Building was 14x24 Feet.





conducted.<sup>21</sup> The postoffice was established in the fall of 1893, with James TenCate as postmaster. With the exception of one year (1907-1908) when the office was discontinued he has ever since served in that capacity.

Herman Hulstof started a blacksmith shop in 1892. The Christian Reformed church was erected in 1898. The same year Jake Kooiman opened an implement house, which he conducted three years. The business was then purchased by Mr. DeGraff, who managed it until his death in 1905. A harness shop was started by John Wassen in February, 1900.

The Leota townsite was surveyed by M. S. Smith for James TenCate. It was dedicated January 1, 1902.

---

### ORG.

Org, the last Nobles county village we are to consider, is unique in many ways. It is the smallest community in the county that could be designated a village; it is said to occupy the highest point of land in Minnesota; it has had more names bestowed upon it than any other Nobles county community; and no one knows why it was burdened with the one it now owns. Org is located on the northwest quarter of section 4, Bigelow township, three and one-half miles southwest from Worthington, and at the junction point of the Sioux Falls

branch with the main line of the Omaha road.

When the Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad was built in 1876 it left the main line at the top of the grade where Org is now located. It seems to have been the intention of the railroad officials to name this point Iselin,<sup>22</sup> but when the running of trains was begun it was designated as Sioux Falls Junction.<sup>23</sup> A section house was put up there, and for ten years was the only thing on the site.

Not until 1886 was an effort made to make any improvement there. In the spring of that year N. A. Call, a farmer and hay shipper, decided to locate there and make it a point of shipment for his hay.<sup>24</sup> The railroad company put in a Y that spring, and in the fall erected a depot. H. Sinclair was installed as operator and agent in November but was succeeded the following month by W. H. Vorhees. Mr. Call put up a large warehouse, and for several years was a large patron of the road. But after these improvements had been made Sioux Falls Junction remained quiescent for thirteen years. The only change during these years was in the name, which became Org in 1890.<sup>25</sup>

In 1899 another attempt to boom the Junction was made, this time with better success. In July Caroline A. Forbes had the townsite platted, and that fall some improvements were made. An elevator was erected and James S. Ramage

<sup>21</sup>The old store building burned down May 1, 1898, but was immediately rebuilt.

<sup>22</sup>This place was originally called Iselin and was named for Adrian C. Iselin, a banker of New York city, who owned much land in the vicinity.—Origin of Place Names, Northwestern Railroad.

<sup>23</sup>Also sometimes referred to locally as "The Summit."

<sup>24</sup>In short, Mr. Call and his neighbors around the summit expect before long to have a station, with telegraph office and all other facilities, at the junction, to be followed by

a postoffice and a thriving village in due time. The summit has long been thought of as a point for a station and village, and its realization has been considered only a matter of time. It seems now about to be realized.—Worthington Advance, May 20, 1886.

<sup>25</sup>In 1890 the name was changed to Org by W. A. Scott, the then general manager of the railroad. No one now living knows why he so named the place, where he got the name or what it means, if it means anything. A legend connects it with 'org' (dorg), bad slang for the word dog.—Origin of Place Names, Northwestern Railroad.

and the Tutthill Lumber company each put up buildings and engaged in the lumber and coal business. Charles King started a general store and became postmaster of an office established soon after he began business. Since that event there has been no improvement in this smallest of Nobles county's villages.

For reasons best known to itself the Omaha railroad has erected a sign board, upon which is the word "Trent," a few feet beyond the junction point, on the branch side. Trent has been duly in-

corporated in the timetables and is a station. The most interesting thing about it is the origin of the name. Here is what the Northwestern railroad in its "Origin of the Place Names" says of Trent:

There is a dispute as to the origin of the name that was selected for this place. One faction asserts that it was named for Trent in the Italian Tyrol of Austria-Hungary, where was held the famous Council of Ghent in 1565-63 and that fixed many religious tenets. The other faction claims that the name was taken from the river Trent in England.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### THE PRESS.

During its newspaper history of thirty-six years Nobles county has, at one time and another, been the home of over thirty newspapers. Most of these have been weekly publications, one was a monthly, and several were dailies, run in connection with the weekly editions, ranging in life from a few issues to five years. Of these thirty-odd publications started, nine weekly papers are in existence at the date of the publication of this volume, as follows: Advance-Herald (Worthington), Chas. Hamstreet, publisher; Worthington Globe, by Peter Thompson; Nobles County Democrat (Adrian), by A. J. Schaeffer; Ellsworth News, by E. E. Lovrien; Rushmore Enterprise, by M. A. Mattison; Round Lake Graphic, by J. L. Flint; Brewster Tribune, by Jesse Hamstreet; Wilmont Tribune, by M. R. Berkhimer; Lismore Leader, by Leader Publishing company.

Going back of the date of the sound of the first click of the type in Nobles county, we must consider the Colony Journal, published at Toledo, Ohio, to make the history of the press complete. This was a publication issued by Dr. A. P. Miller, of the National colony, which was started for the purpose of advertising the Nobles county lands owned by

the colony. It did excellent service in bringing settlers to the county, and many of the pioneers gained their first knowledge of Nobles county from that journal.<sup>1</sup>

Nobles county's first newspaper was the Western Advance, the name of which was later changed to Worthington Advance. In the summer of 1872 the National Colony company, of which Dr. A. P. Miller and Prof. R. F. Humiston were the principal owners, purchased a printing outfit and issued a prospectus, stating that the new paper would begin an existence in June. The material was ordered in time to fulfil the promises of the prospectus, but owing to many delays it was impossible to get out a paper before the last day of August. The name of the publication was selected by Rev. B. H. Crever, who at the outset was to have been connected with the editorial management. M. H. Stevens was finally selected to manage the paper for its owners, with the privilege of buying the plant if his management proved satisfactory to Miller, Humiston & Co.

On the 31st day of August, 1872, the first issue was taken from the press.<sup>2</sup> It was an eight column folio and the

<sup>1</sup>"The Colony Journal . . . has done more to spread abroad a knowledge of the advantages of Minnesota as a home for the emigrants and the capitalist than any immigration document issued at the expense of the state."—Western Advance, Aug. 31, 1872.

<sup>2</sup>The first copy that was taken from the press was given to Mrs. R. F. Humiston, the second to Dr. Geo. O. Moore.

two outside pages were "patent." The subscription price was \$2.00 per year. The editorial utterances were strongly republican, Ulysses S. Grant for president, Henry Wilson for vice president, and M. H. Dunnell for congressman, received many favorable notices in the Advance during the campaign that followed the establishment of the paper. I quote at length from the salutatory:

"We commence the publication of the Western Advance, believing that there is a sufficient demand for a paper of such character as we intend to make it, to insure its success.

Politically, the Advance will support republican principles and such measures as we believe to be for the best interests of our country. Locally, while we shall be consistently republican, we shall countenance no use of the party's strength for personal motives, but regard the goal of the entire community as conducing to our own best interests.

We have not assumed the editorial management of the paper without fully appreciating the local differences, at the present time the subject of much discussion, but we shall steer clear of the personal phase the subject has assumed, deeming our duty to the public to be to advocate the enshrining out of principles, but not to occupy our space in spreading abroad the details of every personal matter that may grow out of their discussion.

We shall in a manner consistent with our ideas of public policy freely and earnestly advocate the principles of temperance, believing, as we do, that intemperance is undermining rapidly not only the social institutions of our country, but is destroying by its demoralizing power the strength of our democratic form of government.

But our main efforts will be devoted to making a home newspaper, such as it will be the duty of every citizen of whatever opinion on local differences to support. Institutions to aid in building up the country cannot be maintained without . . .<sup>2</sup> to

The only copy of the first issue of the Advance known to be in existence is considerably worn and the few words omitted from the above paragraph cannot be made out.

"The Advance, with its present issue, drops the word 'Western' and substitutes instead the name of the town, 'Worthington.' This will be more convenient for exchanges in copying, and will call at a glance where the paper is published to aid serving a better purpose in advertising the place." Worthington Advance, Sept. 12, 1874.

be in perfect harmony, it must be acknowledged that a newspaper with no policy, and drifted about by every local breeze, to endeavor to please all and displease none, would be but a sorry concern. In such we can have no part or interest.

During the first year of its existence the Advance enjoyed prosperous times. Settlers were pouring into the country at a rapid rate, the little village of Worthington was growing by leaps and bounds, and all lines of business flourished. Then came the disastrous grasshopper days, and the newspaper business suffered severely. Mr. Stevens presided over the destinies of the Advance until March, 1874, when he withdrew. The colony company then installed Mr. A. P. Miller as manager. A few months after that gentleman took charge the name of the publication was changed from Western Advance to Worthington Advance,<sup>4</sup> and about the first of the year 1875 he became the owner of the paper, having purchased it from Miller, Humiston & Co.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Miller, who is now in the newspaper business at Los Angeles, Cal., was undoubtedly one of the best newspaper men that ever conducted a Nobles county journal, and he was financially successful. He belonged to the old school of journalism, and no subject was discussed in an impersonal manner. He had a large vocabulary, a good command of the language, wrote his editorials with vitriol, and neither asked nor gave quarter in a word war. Whether he was berating his subscribers for not paying their subscription dues, denouncing his

"The question as to the ownership of the Advance is raised so frequently that some statement of the facts and of the position of the paper seems to be demanded. The Worthington Advance, with all the material, good will, book accounts, etc., is the property of the undersigned. The purchase was made last summer and the necessary papers have been duly executed. Miller, Humiston & Co., the former owners, have no interest in the paper whatever and no more voice in its management than any other citizen or citizens. Let this statement once for all settle the question of ownership . . ."—A. P. Miller in Advance, Jan. 15, 1875.

contemporaries as incendiaries, thugs and blackmailers, laying bare the personal history of political aspirants, or writing poetry, his articles were always interesting and were always read. He succeeded in making an enemy of nearly every man in the community during his reign over the Advance. Repeated efforts were made to start successful opposition papers and cause his retirement, but all such efforts were fruitless, and he conducted the Advance nearly fifteen years. He advocated spiritualism, and for years he filled his paper with the teachings of that belief and berated those who did not agree with him. He once described his beliefs as follows:

"We are a free thinker and an agnostic. But we are also a Christian, a spiritualist, a communist, a socialist, and, if you please, an anarchist. They are all right in part. To sum it up in one word, we are an eclectic."<sup>6</sup>

The Advance continued to be republican in politics under Mr. Miller's management, as it has ever since been. During the grasshopper days the paper was reduced to a seven column folio, but on April 4, 1878, the old form of eight columns was resumed.

The Advance was purchased Nov. 15, 1888, by the late Rev. Robert McCune, who at one time previously had been editor of the Toledo Blade, and he conducted the paper nearly five years. In September, 1893, Carl S. Eastwood, who had previously been proprietor of, and who is at the present time conducting, the Heron Lake News, came to Worthington and purchased the Advance. He at once put in a large power press, added new type and material and made other improvements in the paper. He enlarged it to a six column quarto, and during part of the time printed it all at home.

He attempted the publication of a daily Advance, which had an existence from Nov. 3, 1894, to Jan. 1, 1895, but the venture was not a financial success.

Mr. Eastwood sold his interests March 5, 1896, to H. Hawley. The latter made many improvements in the equipment of the office, adding a Simplex type setting machine, a paper folder, and a lot of other new material. During the first few years he was in charge the Advance was an eight column quarto; in the spring of 1901 it was made a six column quarto, all printed at home, but on Dec. 25, 1903, the "patent" features were resumed. Mr. Hawley demonstrated that a daily paper could live in Worthington by publishing one over five years. The first issue of the Daily Advance was published in September, 1899, and was a three column folio. It was later enlarged to a four column paper, and in 1902 to a six column. Mr. Hawley denied that the venture was a profitable one, and the daily was discontinued Nov. 19, 1904. O. S. Hawley was in charge of the Advance from Jan. 1, 1905, when H. Hawley took the office of register of deeds, to which he had been elected the preceding fall, till August 26, 1905, when the plant was sold.

Thos. Dovery, formerly of Barron, Wis., became the publisher on the last named date, and presided over its destinies until July, 1908. Then the Worthington Advance went out of existence and was succeeded by the Advance-Herald. Mr. Charles Hamstreet, who for many years had been conducting newspapers in different towns of the county, and who had a short time before become the owner of the Worthington Herald, bought the subscription list and good will of the Advance, consolidated the two under the name of Advance-Herald, and

<sup>6</sup>Advance, March 22, 1888.

is now conducting the paper. He has made many additions and improvements and is publishing the best local paper in southwestern Minnesota. It is a six column quarto and is all published at home. Mr. Davery removed the Advance plant to Idaho, where he is now engaged in publishing a paper.

Nobles county's second newspaper was a campaign publication, a two column folio, known as the Claim Shanty Vindicator, which had an existence from Oct. 7 to Nov. 4, 1874. It was published at Worthington by the central committee of the democratic and liberal republican parties, and the Bennett Bros. were the editors. The little plant upon which it was printed was owned by W. R. Bennett. The salutory is so unique that I reproduce part of it here:

Believing that something should be speedily done to counteract the baneful effects produced by the republican press upon the people, it has been deemed advisable to commence the publication of a paper, that thereby some of the evils might be remedied, and that truth might find its way into more remote localities.

To that end the Vindicator will be published every week, and at so trifling a sum that all may have an opportunity to understand what is the best course to pursue at the approaching election. It will faithfully defend what its name implies, the interests of the settlers and particularly those who have pioneered their way into the wilds of the country to build themselves homes, and thereby put something away against the evening of life. In so doing such language will be used that can easily be understood. No attempt will be made at eloquence, but the political situation will be discussed in a fair, impartial and intelligible manner.

So long as the present political party is in power, wrenching from the people their hard earned money, office holders can well afford to buy up republican editors and send their papers broadcast throughout the county, deceiving the people and diverting their attention to some imaginary evil in some distant part of the country, while their substance is being purloined, to again play their "confidence games" and retain their hold upon the offices.

A. P. Miller, the "bought up editor" referred to, facetiously announced the birth of its rival:

"The staff we understand to be as follows: Owner of material and presses, W. R. Bennett; principal stockholders, L. R. Bennett, L. F. Bennett and W. S. Stockdale; editor in chief, L. F. Bennett; associate editors, L. B. Bennett, W. R. Bennett, W. S. Stockdale, Warren Smith and others; city editors, L. F. Bennett, L. B. Bennett, W. R. Bennett, W. S. Stockdale and others; foreman, B. Bennett; business managers, L. B. Bennett, L. F. Bennett, W. S. Stockdale; subscribers, L. F. Bennett, L. B. Bennett, W. R. Bennett, W. S. Stockdale, Major Thurber, Thomas Crever, D. Stone, O. Bigelow."

After the suspension of the Vindicator the little plant was purchased by two Worthington boys, Will S. Langdon and Clayborne Rohrer, who launched the Literary Triumph. This was in the same form and style as its predecessor, except that it was devoted to the interests of young people instead of the democratic party. The first number was issued Nov. 21, 1874, and it was the intention to make the Triumph a weekly publication, but for some reason publication was not very regular. In all eight numbers were printed, the last one being on March 20, 1875. Will W. Loveless, still a resident of Worthington, was reporter for the Triumph for a time. After the suspension the plant was purchased by the Advance.

The next publication to begin life in Nobles county was the Worthington Journal—a paper destined to play quite an important part in the county's early history during its life of a little less than six years. There was more or less dissatisfaction with the policy of the Advance as conducted by A. P. Miller in 1876, and promises of support were given to anyone who would start a new paper in Worthington. Mr. Miller declared

that there was no possible need for a second paper and that it was to be started for spite work.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless the paper came into existence on April 29, 1876, with good support. The Journal was under the management of Major T. C. Bell, who was its editor, and Thomas M. Gruelle, a former employe of the Advance, who had charge of the mechanical department. At the end of the first year Major Bell sold his interests to his partner, and Mr. Gruelle conducted the paper alone for a year and a half. In May, 1878, he enlarged the Journal to an eight column quarto, four pages of which were printed in the office of publication.

In the fire of August 6, 1878, which destroyed Miller hall, the Journal plant was destroyed, all that was saved being a job press and the books and accounts. The loss to the newspaper was estimated at from \$3,000 to \$4,000, and was covered with \$2,500 insurance. A new plant was immediately installed, and publication was resumed. A. S. Lindsay purchased the Journal in October, 1878, and was its proprietor until January, 1880. For a short time in the fall of 1879 Paul Blount had charge of the paper during the absence of Mr. Lindsay, who was on a concert tour. About the first of January, 1880, Mr. Lindsay sold the plant and went to Pana, Ill., to take charge of the Argus. The purchaser of the Journal was Rev. J. C. Ogle, who was at the time superintendent of schools of Nobles county. In October, 1881, J. C. Ogle went to Winnebago City, Minn., to accept a call to fill one of the pulpits there, and the management was turned over to his son, George A. Ogle.

Its publication was continued until February, 1882, when a mortgage on the plant, which was held by Peter Thompson, was foreclosed, and the Worthington Journal became a thing of the past. The plant remained in Worthington, however, and a little over a year later it was used in publishing the Worthington Record, the history of which will be told later. Below is given Mr. Miller's account of the demise of the Journal. It is reproduced, not in the belief that it properly tells the story of the Journal, but rather to illustrate Mr. Miller's style of dealing with a contemporary:

Died—On Thursday, Jan. 26, 1882, of financial exhaustion, congenital scrofula and general moral, social and business leprosy, the Worthington Journal, aged five years, eight months and twenty-eight days. And of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Funeral services from the house. Sermon by one of its fathers, the Rev. J. C. Ogle, from the text—"It sprung up like a sparrowgrass, hopped about like a hoppergrass, and died like a ja-donkey."

Epitaph: "Here lies the Worthington Journal, a misshapen newspaper Caliban. It was conceived in ringism, born in a blaze of rowdyism, and nurtured in spite and fraud."

It never paid its taxes; it burned a \$7,000 building to get an insurance of \$1,800 on its accursed life; and it led a career of fraud, dishonesty and strife. With a few upright and decent men for backers, it was nevertheless a rendezvous and mouthpiece of about all the sneaks, frauds, dead-beats, scandal jockeys, hypocrites and white trash of the community. It died as it lived, physically a Caliban, politically a Guiteau, and morally and socially a Rudolf.

Although Adrian had been founded in 1876 it was several years later before a newspaper made its appearance there. A little advertising sheet, called the Adrian Advertiser, was published for a short time in the spring of 1879, beginning early in March, by Geo. H. Carr, one of the merchants there. But no legitimate newspaper was issued there until May, 1883, when the Guardian was started. In

<sup>7</sup>A half dozen office seekers and a half dozen men animated by personal feeling are about all the men in Nobles county who are

demanding a new paper."—Advance, March 26, 1876.

the fall of 1882 W. M. Patrick, editor of the Mendota (Ill.) Index, decided to come to Adrian and establish a paper to be called the Adrian Press, and went so far as to issue a prospectus to that effect. He expected to start before winter, but did not, and in the spring word was received that he had abandoned the project and was about to engage in the business in Lyndon, Ill.

The people of Adrian were determined to have a paper and opened communication with S. S. Haislett, who had been publishing the Heron Lake Guardian since 1880, with a view to having him locate in the Nobles county town. Mr. Haislett decided to make the change and moved the plant, issuing the first number of the Adrian Guardian on Saturday, May 19, 1883. The motto of the Guardian, conspicuously displayed for so many years was: "While the Guardian will the people's rights maintain, we publish it for bread and butter, not for fame." During the many years he was at the helm of the Guardian, Mr. Haislett issued a creditable publication, and received liberal support from the people of Adrian. He retained the active management until late in August, 1896, when he leased the plant to his son, Orrie M. Haislett, and C. C. Spaulding. Later he again took charge for a short time, but on April 28, 1899, his sons, Orrie M. and S. S., Jr., took the management, and the founder retired from newspaper work. In December, 1899, the firm of O. M. & S. S. Haislett, Jr., was dissolved, the junior member of the firm assuming entire charge.

D. J. and Chas. T. Timmes leased the plant a little later, and for a time conducted it under the firm name of Timmes Bros. In April, 1902, D. J.

Timmes purchased the Guardian and conducted it over three years. Publication was suspended early in November, 1905, owing to lack of support, and Nobles county's second oldest paper went out of existence, after a life of over 22 years. During its early history it was a paying institution, and it assisted materially in making Adrian the prosperous town it has always been. The Guardian was republican in politics.

After the suspension of the Worthington Journal in January, 1882, the plant, which was the property of Peter Thompson, remained idle until the summer of the following year. Then two Sioux Falls printers, A. E. Caldwell and R. J. W. Bloom, were induced to come to Worthington and resuscitate the Journal. Parties in Worthington had given the partners considerable encouragement, and on Thursday, June 7, 1883, they got out the first number of their paper, which they named Worthington Record, having leased the plant from Mr. Thompson. A little over a month later Mr. Caldwell gave up his interest in the paper and returned to Sioux Falls.

Mr. Bloom presided over the destinies of the Record until March 10, 1884, when he relinquished his interest in the paper and turned the property back to Mr. Thompson. The owner then sold to Geo. W. Penn, formerly of New Castle, Pa., who took charge of the paper in April. The new editor changed the politics of the Record from republican to democratic, and it was at the time the only democratic paper south and west of Mankato in the state of Minnesota. Mr. Penn remained in charge only until Nov. 26, 1884, but during this time he demonstrated the fact that he was an able and forcible writer and a good news-

\*This is the same A. E. Caldwell who in more recent years had charge of the Worthington Globe.



paper man. On the last named date F. M. McCormack, formerly of Sheldon, Iowa, leased the plant from Mr. Penn, made it a republican paper, and published it until Jan. 29, 1885. Mr. McCormack issued a good paper, but the necessary support was lacking, and he did not make a financial success of the venture. Mr. Penn returned to look after his interests, found the affairs of the Record in a bad way financially, and on Feb. 21, 1885, the plant was sold at sheriff's sale, being bid in by Daniel Shell, who held a note against Mr. Penn for \$325. The plant was then purchased by C. S. Eastwood, who was the publisher of the Lakefield Citizen, and removed to Ellsworth, where it was used in publishing the Ellsworth News, which was established by G. H. Eastwood.

The next Nobles county paper to be considered in the chronological order of founding was a monthly publication, the Minnesota Home, from which later sprang the Worthington Globe. The publication came into existence as the result of a desire on the part of the real estate dealers of southwestern Minnesota to advertise the country's resources. Originally it was proposed to raise \$2,100 in the seven southwestern counties to be spent in printed matter to advertise the Blue Grass region. Peter Thompson and Geo. J. Day of Worthington, who were then partners in the banking and real estate business, conceived the idea of a publishing company for the purpose of issuing a regular monthly paper, to be the organ of the real estate men.

The plan of the Worthington bankers was adopted, and on May 31, 1884, articles of incorporation for the Minnesota Home Publishing company were filed, with the following incorporators: Joseph Flanders, of Madelia; E. J. Graves, of Heron Lake; Peter Thompson,

of Worthington; Neil Currie, of Currie; and Geo. A. Iselin, of Mountain Lake. The principal place of business was to be Worthington, the capital stock was to be \$10,000, and the corporation was to commence June 1, 1884.

The first number of the Minnesota Home was issued in October, and the paper was published until the spring of 1886. Geo. J. Day was the editor. Five thousand copies were issued each month for free distribution. A Campbell printing press (the one now employed in the Globe office) was installed and other expensive machinery was purchased. A building was erected on Third avenue as the home of the new publication, and the building is still used as a printing office. In the spring of 1886 publication of the Home was discontinued, and its place was taken by the Worthington Globe, mention of which will be made later.

The village of Ellsworth was only about six months old when its first newspaper came into existence—the paper which has ever since been published there. When the Worthington Record suspended in March, 1885, the plant was purchased and moved to the new town in Grand Prairie township, and there, early in April, the first number of the Ellsworth News was printed. It was a seven column folio, republican in politics, and G. H. Eastwood was the owner and publisher. The News celebrated its second birthday by reducing the form to a five column folio and taking in Frank Eastwood as a partner. Soon thereafter G. H. Eastwood became sole owner again. The paper was enlarged to an eight column folio, which form it retained many years.

On June 23, 1892, the office of the Ellsworth News, together with the residence of Mr. Eastwood, was almost entirely destroyed by fire, causing a total

loss of about \$2,500, covered by only \$500 insurance. Several hundred dollars were raised by the people of Ellsworth to assist Mr. Eastwood in replacing his plant, which was done after the paper had missed two issues. On Aug. 24, 1891, the paper was enlarged to a five column quarto, with four pages printed at home. After fourteen years satisfactory service as editor and proprietor of the News, Mr. Eastwood in December, 1898, sold to P. E. Levins, formerly of Clare, Iowa.

Mr. Levins made the News a democratic paper. On March 1, 1901, he enlarged it to a six column quarto, installed a new press, and otherwise added to the equipment and value of the paper. He retained possession about five years, and during that time built up a fine business. E. E. Lovrien, formerly of New Hampton, Iowa, took possession of the News on August 1, 1905, having purchased it two months before, and has since directed its course. October 1, 1906, he made it an all home print paper, and it is now one of the three Nobles county papers which is printed entirely in the office of publication. Mr. Lovrien conducts the News as a democratic paper.

Those who were opposed to the policy of the Worthington Advance under the management of A. P. Miller were ever on the alert to secure an opposition paper. When the Minnesota Home was launched there was a rumor that another local paper was to be published from that office,<sup>19</sup> but the paper did not materialize. In the spring of 1886 the rumor was again revived. It was said that inducements had been offered to the proprietor of a job office in Sioux City to come to

Worthington and launch a second paper. This rumor was verified,<sup>19</sup> and on March 23, 1886, the first number of the Worthington Globe was taken from the press. The Sioux City job printing office had been combined with the Minnesota Home plant. The Globe was started as a republican paper by Edward Hitchcock & Son. It was an eight column folio, with two "patent" pages.

The history of the Globe is a romantic one. Since its founding in 1886 it has had no less than seventeen editors, and it has advocated the policy of every political party that has had an existence during that time. From its office was issued the first daily paper ever published in the county, one being issued by Mr. Hitchcock during the holiday season of 1886—Dec. 17 to 25. The founding of the Globe was not a financial success to the Hitchcocks, and they departed late in 1887. The Globe Publishing company, of which Peter Thompson and Geo. J. Day were the members, became the owner after Mr. Hitchcock departed. In April, 1888, when the dissolution of partnership between Messrs. Thompson and Day took place, the former became the proprietor, and he has had an interest in the plant ever since.

When the founder of the Globe left Worthington in the closing days of 1887 Rev. E. R. Lathrop, pastor of the Methodist church, was made managing editor, and he conducted it until Nov. 22, 1888. Then Frank G. Martin, who had been foreman of the office, assumed charge and was at the head of the paper until Nov. 19, 1891. On the date last named I. J. Williams and Ernest Perry bought

<sup>19</sup>"We hear talk of another paper to be issued from the Minnesota Home office, but we doubt whether Worthington parties have any more money to waste in that way." Advance, March 26, 1885.

<sup>20</sup>"The Globe job printing office, opened by E. Hitchcock & Son, has been packed up and

will be shipped tomorrow to Worthington, Minn., where extra inducements have been offered the proprietors to publish a paper. To the material shipped from this city will be added a large assortment of new type, and the paper will appear about the twentieth of March. It will be called the Globe."—Sioux City Journal, Feb. 28, 1886.



#### GRAND-ARMY FOST

This Picture, Was Taken About 1882 From a Window of the Old Hexagonal School Building, Worthington. It Shows a Portion of the Town to the South of that Building.



#### THE MILLER BLOCK

The Pride of Its Builder, A. P. Miller, Who Stands in front of the Building. From a Photograph Taken Immediately After its Construction in 1882. To the Rear is Shown the Site of Several Present Day Handsome Brick Structures.



the plant, and for a time published the paper under the firm name of Perry & Williams. Mr. Williams was the editor and Mr. Perry the business manager. They changed the form of the paper Dec. 24, 1891, to a six column quarto, with four pages printed at home. The firm was dissolved May 20, 1892, and Mr. Perry became sole publisher.

The ownership had returned to Peter Thompson, and on Sept. 1, 1893, Ernest Perry and E. K. Smith took the Globe on a lease. The first of the following year Mr. Smith became sole manager and conducted the paper until July 1, 1895, as a republican paper. John S. Blair took a lease of the plant when Mr. Smith retired and conducted it as a democratic paper until February, 1899. He issued a creditable journal and rendered his party excellent service. The Christmas edition of the Globe, published by Mr. Blair in 1895, was the largest paper ever issued in Nobles county, both as to number of pages and the amount of advertising carried. A lease was taken in February, 1899, by Dan Devaney and Harry Allen, who were the publishers until May 19, 1899, when the latter became sole publisher. He was succeeded Oct. 1, 1899, by Deacon Donham, who hailed from St. Peter. Mr. Donham ran the Globe as a democratic organ until May, 1900. Then John Watts, of Blue Earth City, took the management and ran the paper two months.

A. E. Caldwell, of Sioux Falls, who for a short time had been part owner of the Worthington Record in 1883, leased the Globe in July, 1900, and announced that he would run a straight democratic paper. He did until June 27, 1902, when he announced that thereafter it would be independent in politics. Mr. Caldwell was a good newspaper man and made the Globe a creditable publication.

He retired from the management August 21, 1903. For a short time thereafter Mr. Thompson was the publisher and O. B. Congdon, who had been employed on the paper for the preceding three years, was made editor and manager. I. A. Roshon conducted the paper under a lease from May, 1904, to Oct. 12, 1905. A. E. Smalley was the next editor, he taking it under a lease from Mr. Thompson when Mr. Roshon retired. He attempted the publication of a daily Globe, which had an existence from Dec. 11, 1905, of about one month. He retired Oct. 14, 1906, when the plant was purchased from Mr. Thompson by J. L. Berkheimer. A daily was issued for a short time in December, 1906, by the new management. Mr. Berkheimer departed in the fall of 1907 for other green pastures, and the ownership of the paper reverted to Mr. Thompson. That gentleman is now the publisher, and Frank Duster is the editor and manager.

For a period of five years, from the time of the establishment of the Globe in 1886 until the starting of Adrian's second paper in 1891, newspaper founding was at a standstill in Nobles county, if we except the Independent, a campaign paper started in September, 1888, in the interests of some of the independent candidates of that year. The sheet was printed in the office of the Worthington Globe and was fathered by E. S. Mills, independent candidate for county auditor.

The farmers alliance was quite a strong organization in Nobles county in the early nineties, and inducements were offered W. O. Lester to start an organ of that party at Adrian in opposition to the Guardian. About the middle of April, 1891, he issued the first number of the Adrian Citizen, a seven column folio. It was enlarged early in the fol-

lowing year to a quarto, but carried six pages of "patent" matter. Mr. Lester continued the publication, with indifferent success, for two years, and then publication was suspended.<sup>13</sup>

Over a year before the *Adrian Citizen* suspended a third paper had made its appearance in the west-end metropolis, making the sixth in the county. This was the *Nobles County Democrat*, which was started in February, 1892, by John E. King, formerly of the *Rock Rapids Review*. As its name implies, it was democratic in politics, and it was the only democratic paper in the county at the time. It was a six column quarto, was printed from new material, and presented a very neat appearance. Mr. King published the paper nearly ten years, and during that time issued one of the best papers ever published in the county. He made a financial success of the venture, which is not always the case with country newspapers. For a short time soon after the establishment F. H. Millard was associated with him in the publication. From Dec. 1, 1894, to July 1, 1895, John S. Blair had an interest in the paper.

A. J. Schaeffer became the owner and editor of the *Democrat* on August 30, 1901, and he has since presided over its destinies. He has maintained the high standard set by the former owner, and today issues one of the best country newspapers in the state. It is a six column quarto, and all eight pages are published at home.

Prior to 1892 there had not been a newspaper established in the county outside of the three leading towns—Worthington, Adrian and Ellsworth. The first

of the smaller towns to support a paper was Bigelow. In February, 1892, there came into existence the *State Line Sentinel*, bearing a Bigelow date line. It was founded by John A. Flower, and was printed in the office of the *Sibley Gazette*. B. I. Tripp was the local editor. The *Sentinel* was published for a short time only.

Three papers were established in the county in 1892. The third of these was the *Nobles County Independent*, which first saw the light of day April 19. The *Independent* was a seven column quarto, with six "patent" pages, was democratic in politics, and was edited by Leon Carr. It had a troubled existence of less than a year, and then Mr. Carr discontinued the paper and removed the plant from Worthington.

Another paper which had a short existence in the county seat town was the *Minnesota Allabanda*, a paper printed in the Swedish language and catering to the whole state. Geo. Bylander was the founder of this publication, which came into being during the hard times period in the fall of 1893. It was independent in politics. Although it gained a circulation of 500 or 600, it did not fill a long felt want, and about the first of April, 1894, the last number was printed. Its suspension is said to have been hastened because of the inability of the publisher to rescue his ready prints from the express office.

Rushmore's first newspaper experience was in 1894, when the *Rushmore Gazette* was founded by Fred H. Millard. The first number was issued Feb. 9, 1894, and was a six column folio, two pages of which contained local news. The paper

<sup>13</sup>"With this issue the *Citizen* completes its second year, and also completes its labors. The move is not new to our minds; in fact we have contemplated taking this step ever since the alliance people failed to fulfil their agreements at the beginning. But circum-

stances have never seemed to warrant closing until the present. We have never considered an alliance or peoples party paper at Adrian as a paying institution unless it could have the active support of its friends, and this has never been given."—*Adrian Citizen*, April, 1893.

was printed in the office of the Nobles County Democrat, at Adrian. Mr. Millard ran the paper some months and then turned the management over to Emmett Carrell. Publication was discontinued early in 1895.

On September 20, 1894, the Kinbrae Herald was established by T. E. Cole and Chas. Hamstreet, under the firm name of Cole & Hamstreet. The plant upon which it was printed was brought from Caliope, Iowa. The Herald was a little four column quarto and was printed on a job press. Mr. Hamstreet was editor and manager and had entire charge of the paper, which was republican in politics. After running it three years under the firm name of Cole & Hamstreet, the junior member purchased his partner's interest and became the sole publisher. In 1897 the paper was enlarged to a seven column folio, which form was maintained until its suspension. In November, 1899, Mr. Hamstreet leased the plant to the Misses Fuller and Lindsey, who ran it till the following February. Thereafter there were several different people in charge, who conducted it for short periods under lease from the owner. Mr. Hamstreet obtained possession in September, 1901, and ran it until February, 1903, when he suspended publication and removed the plant to Rushmore.

One day after the birth of the Kinbrae Herald there came into existence at Worthington the Worthington Herald, founded by T. G. Nicholson. It was a six column quarto, four pages "patent," which form it always retained, and was democratic. Mr. Nicholson was a spicy writer, and the Herald at once leaped into favor. On Nov. 1, 1895, E. K. Smith, formerly editor of the Globe, bought a half interest in the Herald, and the publishers became Nicholson &

Smith. The former was business manager and the latter editor, and the politics became independent republican. Mr. Smith purchased his partner's interest on July 17, 1896, and thereafter ran the Herald as a straight republican paper. For nine years he published the Herald and made it one of the leading county papers from a business and political standpoint. After his election to the office of county treasurer in the fall of 1904, he sold the plant to Nicholas Wienandt, formerly of the Brewster Tribune, who continued it as a republican paper. Nov. 1, 1905, Harvey G. Beckley bought a half interest and was interested in its publication until October 1, 1906, when Mr. Weinandt again became sole publisher. The latter made a financial failure of the venture, and on June 1, 1908, Charles Hamstreet, formerly owner of the Rushmore Enterprise, bought the plant. He conducted the Herald a little over a month and then consolidated it with the Advance, as stated earlier in this chapter.

Very soon after the suspension of the Rushmore Gazette a newspaper man by the name of Brandon brought in a plant from Fulda, erected a building, and commenced the publication of the Rushmore Times, the first number being issued during the closing days of April, 1895. Mr. Brandon did not make his home in Rushmore, but had a local manager named Ralph Tiedens. After a life of about three months the paper was suspended and the plant removed.

The next Nobles county newspaper to come into existence was the Minnesota Signal, which was established at Bigelow in February, 1896, by C. M. Davis. That gentleman was the publisher until December, 1900, when E. F. Clower, formerly of Treton, Iowa, purchased the plant. He published the Signal until

July, 1907, when he disposed of the plant, and Bigelow was without a newspaper for the first time in over eleven years.

Round Lake's first newspaper was launched in April, 1897. This was the Round Lake Wave and was founded by Shepard & Acheson. Harry Acheson secured full control soon after, but the paper was compelled to suspend because of lack of support. It was published a few months only.

For the third time in its history Rushmore had a newspaper in the fall of 1897. It was the Rushmore Magnet, and was published by A. B. Vines, who brought the plant from Beaver Creek, where for some time he had published the Beaver Creek Magnet. This third Rushmore paper was discontinued in July, 1898, and the plant was moved to an Iowa town, where Mr. Vines is still publishing a Magnet.

The only Nobles county newspaper which is now being conducted by the man who founded it is the Round Lake Graphic, which was issued for the first time July 7, 1898, by J. L. Flint. At the time of founding, it was a six column folio, but in 1900 was made a quarto, with two pages printed at home, and that has been its form since. The Graphic is an independent republican paper. That Mr. Flint has given satisfaction to the people of Round Lake is attested by his long newspaper residence there.

For several years the village of Dundee had a newspaper. This was the Dundee Advocate, started in 1898 by G. B. Meller, who put in a new plant and issued the paper as a seven column folio. He sold to B. F. Drake, and in September, 1901, the paper became the property of Chas. Hamstreet. Mr. Hamstreet was the publisher until April,

1905, when he discontinued publication and moved the plant to Rushmore and added it to the equipment of the Enterprise.

The fourth attempt at publishing a paper in Rushmore proved successful, and during the last nine years the little village has had a regularly issued newspaper. The Rushmore Enterprise was started March 24, 1899, by W. H. Christensen and Dr. F. A. Carrell. They had no plant from which to print the paper, and the work was done in Sioux Falls. It was a seven column folio, two pages being "patent." The people of Rushmore have always loyally supported their newspapers, and as the Enterprise was issued for many years more from loyalty to the town than because of any profit, the Enterprise has always been a good paper. Christensen & Carrell ran it a short time and then turned the management over to E. S. Weuple, who was its manager until November, 1901. Under his administration the mechanical work was done, first in the office of the Nobles County Democrat, and later in the office of the Worthington Advance.

On November 7, 1903, the Enterprise Publishing Co. was formed for the purpose of continuing the paper. Among those who comprised the company and who agreed to assist in the work of preparing "copy" were Burr Ludlow, S. B. Bedford, W. H. Christensen, Dr. F. A. Carrell and others. Burr Ludlow took the active management and did the bulk of the work. Under this management the Enterprise was printed in the office of the Advance and was a seven column folio. In the summer of 1903 Chas. Hamstreet, who had been in the newspaper business at Kinbrae and Dundee for many years, came to Rushmore with a plant, bought the subscription list and good will of the paper, and continued its



publication. He got out his first number June 4. He conducted it as a republican paper, and at first it retained the old form of seven columns. On the first of October following he changed the form to a five column quarto, and printed four pages at home. Early in 1906 he discarded the "patent" features and printed all at home. August 1, 1907, the form was again changed to a six column quarto, with four pages printed at home. A new press was added, and the office was otherwise greatly improved. Mr. Hamstreet built up an excellent business and had one of the best paying newspaper offices of the county. Having bought the Worthington Herald, he leased the Enterprise, on June 1, 1908, to M. A. Mattison, and a few weeks later that gentleman bought the paper.

Brewster has been the home of a newspaper since the summer of 1899. In June of that year Allen Flint, of Sibley, took a plant to the Nobles county town and launched the Brewster Beacon. He ran the paper only a short time when the plant was bought by E. L. Kelly, who changed the name to the Brewster Tribune and ran it until the summer of 1900. On July 17 of that year Nicholas Weinandt, later of the Worthington Herald, purchased the paper. He ran it until December, 1902, when J. S. Randolph became the publisher. Mr. Randolph changed the form of the sheet from a six column quarto with two pages of home matter to a five column quarto with four pages at home. He installed a Prouty press and a new jobber, and added lots of other material. Mr. Randolph sold the paper October 5, 1908, to Jesse Hamstreet, who is now its editor. The Tribune is independent republican in politics.

Among the first business enterprises of the new town of Wilmont was the

Wilmont Initiator, which at the time of its founding was the thirteenth paper in Nobles county. It was started March 2, 1900, by L. C. Long & Son, who brought the plant from Magnolia, where it had been in use many years in the publication of the Magnolia Initiator. While L. C. Long was interested in the new paper financially, the management of it was vested in Sidney L. Long, the son, who conducted it until January, 1903. At the start it was an eight column folio; in January, 1902, it was made a six column quarto; in June of the same year a cylinder press was added, and the paper was made a five column quarto.

Mr. Long presided over the destinies of the paper until January, 1903, when W. H. Sievert purchased the plant and installed F. H. Densmore as editor. Mr. Densmore ran it for the owner till June, then leased the plant and conducted it for himself until March 1, 1904. F. B. Duster then had charge of the paper for Mr. Sievert until Nov. 1, 1904. He was succeeded by Chas. Sundberg, who ran it only until Jan. 1, 1905. The Initiator was then purchased by J. D. Casswell, who ran it ten months, and then announced that he had sold the subscription list and that the paper would suspend. It did not, however, and Mr. Sievert regained control by foreclosing a mortgage against the plant. That gentleman then edited the paper until Dec. 8, 1905. Mead & Geisel then took possession on a lease and conducted the paper until May 1, 1906. F. H. Densmore returned and took the lease from Mead & Geisel, operating the paper from May 1, 1906, till Aug. 17, of the same year.

On the last named date the plant was purchased by J. L. and M. R. Berkheimer, who changed the name to Wilmont Tribune, and were its publishers until October, 1906. J. L. Berkheimer

then moved to Worthington to take control of the Globe, and since then M. R. Beckler has been the publisher.

A second paper was started in Ellsworth by Ham Clay in June, 1901. This was the Ellsworth Herald. It was brought into existence at the instance of several Ellsworth people who were not in accord with the views of Mr. Levins, of the News. The field was not large enough to support two papers, and the weaker one went to the wall. The last issue of the Herald was published in October, 1903, and the subscription list was sold to the Adrian Guardian.

For a few months in 1901 a second paper, known as the Kimbrae Chinook, was conducted at Kimbrae. It failed, was revived in October by Guy N. Phillips, of Sioux Falls, but had only a short life.

The Lismore Leader was founded Nov. 29, 1901. C. N. Sawyer was the proprietor, and he made the Leader independent in politics, a policy it has ever

since retained. It was started as a five column quarto, with four pages of home news and four pages of "patent" matter. It was run in that form till Feb. 13, 1903, when it was enlarged to a six column quarto. Mr. Sawyer sold the plant June 17, 1904, to W. V. Olin, who conducted it until Nov. 3, 1905. Then E. J. Conrad leased the plant and was the publisher of the Leader till April 6, 1906, reducing it to a five column paper. C. N. Sawyer & Co. then became the publishers, Mrs. C. L. Wynia being the local manager until Feb. 8, 1907. Charles Orsamus Sawyer, son of the founder, then took charge of the Leader, enlarged it to a six column paper, and ran it until Sept. 6, 1907. It was then decided by the owners to suspend publication and remove the plant, but several of the business men of Lismore, desirous of having the paper continued, formed the Leader Publishing Co., purchased the plant, and have since edited the paper.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### DESCRIPTIVE.

Nobles county is situated in the southern tier of Minnesota counties and close to the western boundary line of the state, only one county intervening between it and the South Dakota line. \*On the north is Murray county; on the east Jackson; on the south are the counties of Osceola and Lyon, Iowa; and on the west is Rock county. Nobles county has twenty townships and its dimensions are 24 by 30 miles. Its exact area is 725.66 square miles, or 465,704.16 acres. Of this area 454,877.12 acres are land; 10,827.04 acres are water.

A glance at the map of Minnesota and at the political division in the southwest corner designated as Nobles county will furnish the information above given. But there will be found nothing to distinguish Nobles from the other divisions in the vicinity, except that it may be noticed that it is covered with a network of railroads, indicating that it has superior transportation facilities, and that there are also many lakes and water courses, indicating possibilities for drainage. The lithographed piece of paper does not convey much idea of the country. A personal inspection is required to learn what it is and what it may become.

The greater part of the county's surface is undulating or rolling prairie. The soil is made up of a drift deposit,

a rich dark colored loam, almost entirely free from sand and gravel, except in Grand Prairie township, and wonderfully uniform throughout the county. The depth of the soil is from two to eight feet, and this is underlaid with a subsoil of porous clay, mixed slightly with gravel. No soil is better calculated to withstand drouth or excessive rainfall, and it is very friable and easily subdued. There are no rock outcrops. The exception to this general description of the soil is the gravelly plain of Grand Prairie township, in the southwest corner, which, geologists tell us, was formed by abundant waters flowing from the moraine at the time of the earlier ice sheet, spreading the coarser materials of the drift over the lower lands. The adjoining area of till rises from forty to seventy-five feet above this plain. The gravelly deposit is now covered by a fertile soil.

Geologist N. H. Winchell has written of the formation of the soil of Nobles and Murray counties as follows:<sup>1</sup>

The western morainic belt, constituting the crest of the principal Coteau des Prairies, rises, in the highest part, in Buffalo ridge, in Murray county, to 1,950 feet above the sea, and it sustains an altitude of 1,800 to 1,900 feet through most of Cameron and Chamardie townships. Further south, through Nobles county, it has an average maximum altitude of about 1,700 feet. The lowest land in Murray county is in the

<sup>1</sup>Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, 1901.

northern part of Holly, 1,250 to 1,300 feet above the sea, the extremes in this county being separated, therefore, about 700 feet. The lowest land in Nobles county is at the point where Jack creek crosses its eastern boundary, about 1,120 feet above the sea, and three hundred feet below the crests of the moraine belt.

The eroded valleys are from 50 to 75 feet deep, and generally a half to three-quarters of a mile wide.

The terminal moraines which cross these counties denote the farthest limit of the ice of the last glacial epoch, there having been a period of rest, and perhaps of readvance, at the place where the eastern, or later, moraine lies. The drift which lies farther west and southwest, occupying Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, was the product of the earlier glacial epoch. It can be inferred that the till to the east of the Coteau des Prairies was of later date than that to the west from the fact that nearly all drainage courses flowing westward take their rise along the eastern margin of the coteau and maintain deep channels through the coteau; while not one that flows eastward rises in the western margin of the coteau. This gave the westward flowing streams an earlier date than the eastward. The latter could not begin until after the withdrawal of the ice, which probably built all the country toward the east and rose several hundred feet above the coteau. While the ice continued and brought forward its moraine materials, the water that resulted from its dissolution was drained off southwestward, and the valleys then formed have existed until the present.

While the county's surface is quite uniformly undulating, about one-sixth is more prominently rolling. The land that may be so classed forms a ridge extending across the county northwest by southeast, and includes a small part of Willmont township, nearly one-half of Lar-

kin, over one-half of Summit Lake, over one-half of Dewald, nearly one-half of Worthington, nearly all of Bigelow and about one-third of Indian Lake. The ridge is from one hundred to three hundred feet higher than the rest of the country and forms the watershed between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The highest point of elevation on this ridge is something over 1,500 feet; the lowest elevation in the county is about 1,120 feet, in Graham Lakes township.<sup>2</sup>

Over ten thousand acres of Nobles county's surface is water, and there are forty to fifty lakes and ponds, great and small. Many of these are beautiful bodies of water. In Graham Lakes township, where the first settlement was made, are the beautiful East and West Graham lakes and Clear lake. At Worthington is lake Okabena, one of the finest bodies of water in southern Minnesota. In the early days another body of water, East Okabena lake, was here also, separated from the west lake by a narrow strip of land. Okabena is a Dakota Indian word, meaning "divided waters."<sup>3</sup> The largest body of water in the county is lake Ocheyda, located in Bigelow, Indian Lake and Lorain townships. The name is a Sioux word meaning Boy lake. In Indian Lake township is found the pretty little lake with the same name as the township. On its

<sup>2</sup>The elevations above sea level of the villages of the county, as taken by the various geologists, are as follows: Worthington, 1,593 feet, Adrian, 1,555, Willmont, 1,735, Brewster, 1,490, Round Lake, 1,550, Rushmore, 1,682; Bigelow, 1,656, Dundee, 1,450, Kimbree, 1,471, Reading, 1,722.

The altitudes (approximately) of points in the several townships, as published in the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota by Warren Upham, are as follows: Graham Lakes, 1,450, 1,500, Seward, 1,550; Willmont, 1,700, Cotton, 1,500, 1,500, 1,480; Round Lake, 1,550, 1,500, Larkin, 1,600, 1,650; Summit Lake, 1,650, 1,500, Elk, 1,550, 1,600, 1,650; Hensley, 1,600, Loring, 1,500, 1,550; Worthington, 1,650, Dewald, 1,600, Westside, 1,500, 1,550, 1,600, Grand Prairie, 1,450, 1,500; Oak Creek, 1,500, 1,500, Raymond, 1,500, 1,550, 1,600; Bigelow, 1,600, 1,650; Indian Lake,

<sup>3</sup>Editor Advance: A correspondent expressed a wish through your paper to learn the meaning of Okabena, the name of the two lakes at Worthington. Okabena is a Dakota word and means literally, "divided waters."

"Lo! on a narrow neck I stand  
Twixt two unbounded seas."

"OKABENA."

"The above is from an old resident of the state who is well posted in Indian names and knows whereof he speaks. The impression has always prevailed here that 'Okabena' had about the same meaning as Chicago, or that Okabena lake meant Skunk lake. We agree with our correspondent who says in a private note: 'We ought to get rid of the abominable meaning Skunk lake, especially as it has no foundation whatever.'" Worthington Advance, Aug. 18, 1881





SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIAN LAKE



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. KILIAN

banks some of the first settlers built their homes. Summit lake is a small body of water in the township of the same name.

Nobles county is well watered. The Kanaranzi and Champepadan creeks and Little Rock river form the main water courses for the western portion, flowing in a southwesterly direction and emptying into the Big Rock river, ultimately finding their way to the Missouri. The principal streams of the eastern portion of the county are Ocheyedan creek, which empties into the Little Sioux; and Jack, Elk and Okabena creeks, which are tributaries of the Des Moines river.

The Champepadan, rising in the southwestern corner of Murray county, flows southwest through Leota township and leaves the county from the western part of Lismore township.

The Kanaranzi has its source in Willmont township at an elevation of 1,670 feet. It flows southwest through Larkin, Olney and Westside townships and leaves the county from the northwest corner of Grand Prairie. At a distance of about eighteen miles from its source "as the crow flies," it has an elevation of 1,427 feet, giving it a fall in that distance of 243 feet. It runs swiftly and has a good volume of water. Its water is clear and the bed of the stream is gravelly.

The Little Rock rises in Summit lake, 1,500 feet in elevation. Its course is southwest by south, and it flows through the townships of Summit Lake, Dewald, Ransom and Little Rock. At a distance of seventeen miles in a bee line from the outlet of the lake its elevation is 1,451 feet, showing a fall of 249 feet. It is a rapid stream, has a gravelly bed and the volume of water is constant throughout the year.

Ocheyedan creek rises in Ocheyda lake, flows south and leaves the county from

the southern part of Bigelow township.

Okabena creek rises in Worthington township, near the village, and flows east through Worthington and Lorain townships.

Elk creek has its source in the township of the same name and flows out through Hersey township.

The main fork of Jack creek rises in the southwest corner of Bloom township and flows east, draining Bloom, Seward and Graham Lakes townships. The other fork rises in Murray county and flows southwest through Seward township and unites with the main fork on the line between Seward and Graham Lakes townships.

Nobles is an agricultural county. According to the latest statistics obtainable there are 1,751 farms of an average size of 260 acres. The principal products are corn, barley, oats, wheat, rye, flax, hay, livestock, dairy products, poultry, fruit and vegetables. The average yield per acre of the cereal crops, according to the last statistics, is as follows: Wheat, 11.68 bushels; oats, 31.58; corn, 29.16; barley, 28.16; rye, 10.78; flax, 10.67. The hay crop averages 1.63 tons per acre; potatoes, 105.84 bushels; miscellaneous vegetables have an average value of \$47.16 per acre. It is universally conceded that intelligent cultivation would result in a large increase of this average.

In the early days the settlers confined their energies almost exclusively to grain farming. Now diversified farming is the rule. Every farmer raises stock and many engage in dairying on a large scale. The live stock of the county in 1907, with the average value per head according to the assessor's figures, was as follows: Horses, 12,395, value \$53,86; cattle, 41,386, value \$17.73; sheep, 27,565, value, \$2.60; swine, 36,804, value

St. 10. In dairying, Nobles county is rapidly coming to the front. In 1906 there were six creameries in the county, the output of which was 627,373 pounds of butter. Since that date several new creameries have been started and the output has been greatly increased.

While agriculture is the principal pursuit, manufacturing occupies an important place among the county's industries. There are fifty manufacturing industries, representing an invested capital of \$138,088.

With financial institutions, schools and churches the county is well represented. There are seventeen banks, the deposits of which are approximately a million and a half dollars. There are one hundred rural schools, eighteen graded schools and several high schools. Forty-eight churches represent the following denominations: Methodist, Presbyterian, German Presbyterian, Catholic, German Lutheran, German Evangelical, Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Mission, Swedish Baptist, Norwegian Lutheran, Congregational, Episcopal, Unitarian, Baptist, Brethren, Bethel Reformed and Christian Reformed.

With transportation facilities Nobles county is well supplied. Of the twenty townships only four do not have railroads passing through them. There is not a farm in Nobles county that is more than ten miles from market.

The main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha passes through the eastern part of the county, on which are the villages of Brewster, Worthington, Org and Bigelow. A branch of this road extends west from Worthington, on which are the villages of Rushmore and Adrian. Another branch of the same road passes through the extreme northeastern part of the county and on this line is the village of

Dundee. Extending diagonally across the county from southeast to northwest is the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, on which are Round Lake, Worthington, Reading, Wilmont and Lismore. A branch of this system also passes through the southwestern corner of the county, on which is Ellsworth. From that village the Rock Island has also a branch extending southward. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul touches the county, passing through the northeastern corner. On its line is the village of Kimbrae.

Rural and long distance telephone lines form a complete network over the county and every community is reached. There are about twenty rural free delivery mail routes, and there are few farms to which mail is not delivered daily.

The total assessed valuation of the county, according to the figures for 1907, is \$8,669,142, of which \$1,510,618 is personal property.

Land can be purchased at from \$30 to \$100 per acre, according to improvements and proximity to markets, and considering the richness of the soil, the excellent markets and the numerous educational and social advantages offered, it is not easy to understand why any homeseekers pass through this country to the bleak prairies of the Dakotas or Canada. Nobles county land, at the price at which it can now be obtained, is cheaper, all things considered, than the Dakota or Canada land at the present prices, for the settlers there will be compelled to expend more than the difference in price to bring those countries up to the condition of this.

The farmer in the older states east and south can dispose of an eighty acre farm, and with the proceeds purchase a quarter section in Nobles county, and in making the change he will lose none of



the advantages and conveniences enjoyed. There will be no frontier hardships to endure, no years of lonely toil in a sparsely settled country, nothing lacking in the way of social pleasures or the advantages of schools and churches.

Another advantage in Nobles county that must not be lost sight of is its proximity to the great primary market. It is within easy reach of the great Minneapolis, St. Paul, Sioux City, Omaha and Chicago markets. Their nearness and the low freight rates in effect insure high prices for farm products sold there and low prices for commodities purchased there.

Nobles county holds most alluring prospects for farmers who are in search

of rich and productive lands close to markets, where they may establish homes amid schools and churches and congenial surroundings. There are some tracts of land yet to be put under cultivation, and there are large farms that may be subdivided, while other farms that are now in the hands of renters might be improved by resident owners.

The county is capable of supporting more than three times as many farmers as it now has. The local creameries want more cream, the merchants want more eggs and poultry, the elevators want more grain, the stock buyers want more cattle and hogs, and all around is a demand for the products of Nobles county that will never be filled.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### REMINISCENT.

#### A PRAIRIE FIRE.

Those who lived in Nobles county during the years of its early settlement will never forget the alarm caused by the approach of a prairie fire. Many of the present generation are sceptical of the dangers to life and property from this source. Others can but marvel at the conditions that made a prairie fire dangerous or even possible. But conditions in the early days differed greatly from those of the present day. Then there were vast stretches of sparsely settled and unbroken prairie, covered with a dense growth of rank grass, which in the low places often grew to a great height. In the fall the grass died and formed a thick covering of highly inflammable material, which "burned like a prairie fire" when it became ignited.

When a heavy wind accompanied one of these conflagrations the effect was thrilling. The flames would race over the prairie with the speed of the wind, leaping, bounding, rushing on its fiery way. By day the air would be filled with smoke and cinders and the atmosphere would become hazy; at night the heavens would be illumined by the blaze, and the bright lines of the raging fires could be seen, often miles in length. After the passing the prairie would be left a blackened waste.

The few scattered settlers were in the greatest danger when one of these fires approached. Many settlers lost their whole belongings, and but few escaped without loss from this source. "Fire-breaks," made by plowing furrows around the buildings or hay stacks, sometimes served as a check to the flames, but with a strong head wind the flames often jumped hundreds of feet, and in such case the breaks were of no use. The favorite method of fighting fire was by "back-firing." When one of the terrors of the prairie was seen approaching with the wind, a fire would be set near the property to be saved. This, small at first, could be controlled and whipped out on the leeward side, leaving the flames to slowly eat their way windward to meet the oncoming lurid destroyer. Sometimes a space of sufficient width would thus be burned over in time to prevent the destruction. In case of a big conflagration fire fighting companies would be organized to go out and contend with the flames, using dampened sacks, quilts, or whatever was handy, to whip out the blaze.

Prairie fires continued a menace to the people of Nobles county many years or until the county had been settled and subdued. Seldom did a fall pass in the early days without one or more disastrous conflagrations in some part of

the county. The story of one of these fires will be given as an illustration.

On Saturday afternoon, October 16, 1855, a dense smoke extending northward for several miles was seen rising above the prairie to the west of Worthington, then practically the only village of the county. It was evident that an extensive prairie fire was raging at some point miles away. As night came on the bright lines of the fire became visible, and by ten o'clock the fires had approached so near the town as to be thought dangerous. Several squads of men went out from Worthington and fought the fire at points where the prairie in the immediate vicinity of town was exposed. The fire approached to within one mile of the village from the west.

The fire had started on the west side of the Kanaranzi. It jumped the creek and burned the whole country from that point to Worthington, burning over the greater portions of Olney, Dewald, Summit Lake and Worthington townships. The damage to property was about \$5,000. The greatest loss was sustained by Mr. Thom, who had about 200 bushels of wheat in the stack burned. A number of persons lost hay, ranging in quantity from one to twenty tons each.

In the early days the starting of a prairie fire, whether intentionally or otherwise, was a crime, and steps were at once taken to apprehend the guilty party. The origin of the fire was soon learned. Spencer Maxwell stated that he had come in from the west during the day and that he had seen the beginning of the fire. He had seen a teamster start a fire for the purpose of cooking his dinner at a point just beyond the Kanaranzi, that the fire got beyond his control and soon covered acres of ground. A stiff breeze was blowing

from the west and the flames spread with great rapidity.

John Alley, who did more than any other man in the community to impress upon the public the importance of preventing prairie fires, insisted that the party should be promptly arrested. Sheriff Bullis, accompanied by Spencer Maxwell, was soon on his way westward to seek the teamster. The officer went as far as Valley Springs, Dakota, where he learned that the man wanted was on the road south of the main traveled Sioux Falls road. He hastened in the direction indicated and arrested the man in Martin township, Rock county.

A Norwegian by the name of Nels Nelson proved to be the man. He was taken to Worthington on the eighteenth and there arraigned before Justice of the Peace Bennett. Nelson pleaded guilty and was fined \$60 and costs, bringing the total up to \$90. Imprisonment in the Blue Earth county jail for ninety days was the alternative of paying the fine. Nelson's story of the start of the fire was as follows: He was engaged in teaming for a Sioux Falls party, and on Saturday was returning to that town from Worthington. After crossing the Kanaranzi he drove aside from the main road into a by-road and started a fire to cook a meal. He whittled some pine shavings and lighted them, when a gust of wind scattered them among the prairie grass, and in a moment the fire was beyond his control.

The story and the evidence of others went to show that the fire was the result of carelessness merely, and that the case was an unfortunate one. Nelson claimed that there was enough money due him in Sioux Falls to pay his fine and the costs, and the court did not impose sentence at once. He was permitted to go to work in Worthington with the under-

standing that he was to pay the fine as soon as the money could be collected. He was pardoned by the governor in November, upon the recommendation of a number of the citizens of the county. Mr. Maxwell received \$100 offered by the county for information leading to the conviction of the guilty party.

---

### "THE WILD GIRL."

The history of Nobles county would be incomplete without a word about Caroline Harrison, "the wild girl," who came to the Graham Lakes country with the early settlers and there lived the rude life of the trappers for a few years. Many stories of her doings—most of them of imaginative origin—have been told, to the effect that she was in reality a wild girl, that she lived alone in the timber on the lake, and that on one occasion she drove a party of surveyors out of the country at the point of a rifle.

Miss Harrison was the eldest daughter of Benjamin Harrison, one of the commissioners appointed by Governor Horace Austin to organize Nobles county. Her mother died when she was quite young and Caroline became the companion of her father. Hunting and trapping, living on the frontier and denied the society of her own sex, she was at home in the company of the frontiersmen. She could play the violin, shoot, trap, chew tobacco and occasionally swear. While she was short in stature she weighed perhaps 180 pounds, and, notwithstanding her weight, could walk thirty or thirty-five miles in a day, lift a twenty-five pound sack of shot from one shoulder to the other, swim a mile or more without apparent fatigue, and

was in fact an athlete of no mean proportion.

Her rough manners were the result of her association, as was demonstrated when she began her association with the neighbor women. She then began to check her rude habits, and before she left the county she had given up all except the violin. She afterward fell heir to a small sum of money and had the good sense to use it in obtaining an education.

---

### WORTHINGTON'S FIRST SALOON.

All the old-timers are familiar with the efforts put forth to make Worthington a temperance town, which efforts were successful for several years during the early history of the town. However, numerous efforts were made by several different parties to sell liquor, which efforts generally resulted disastrously. We have the story of the first saloon—if it may be so termed—which opened in Worthington from one who was a resident of the village at the time. From the facts regarding this first attempt we may form the opinion that this initial "drunk shop" did very little harm.

One of the enterprising business men, in the fall of 1841, shipped in a five gallon jug of whiskey. Then came the blockade, and no more could be procured until late the next spring, but this did not prevent the storekeeper from doing a thriving business in his side line. There were two residents of Worthington who were regular patrons of this five gallon jug, who were wont to toss a coin several times a day to decide who should "buy."

Knowing that it was impossible that any more should have been shipped in and that the supply at the start was

limited as stated, these two gentlemen, along in the spring, began to make calculations and found to their great surprise that they must have consumed at least forty gallons of the liquor. This was a stunner and hard to reconcile with the facts. It began to dawn upon these gentlemen that perhaps the liquor had been adulterated, and they called upon a friend to investigate the matter. The friend was one who did not drink, and his judgment was asked for that reason. They figured that, as they had been accustomed to drinking the liquor, their taste might have become perverted, and that the non-drinking friend would be a better judge of the liquid than they who had become so accustomed to it.

So they asked him to sample the liquor and ascertain if he could find any trace of whiskey in it. This the friend consented to do. First he smelled the cork, and then tasted the contents of the bottle. After several trials he gave it as his opinion that the cork had a perceptible odor of whiskey, but that he could detect no trace in the bottle. And so it proved to be. When a quart of whiskey had been sold a quart of rain-water had taken its place, and so gradual had been the change that the tastes of the customers had been educated up to drinking rainwater.

This is a true story.

---

#### BATTLE OF STONY POINT.

In 1896 some Worthington gentlemen found in lake Okabena an old-fashioned single-barreled shot gun of the style in use years ago. The barrel of the gun was deeply encrusted with rust, and the stock, which was of black walnut, was badly eaten and washed thin by incessant

contact with the waves of more than a quarter of a century. How the old gun came to be there was of course an unsolved mystery, but the Worthington Herald editor had a dream and printed it. Here is the story he wove about the old gun:

"Away back in the early sixties, so the story runs, a party of Sioux Indians belonging to the band of the ferocious and blood thirsty Inkpadulah, who conducted the massacre at Spirit Lake, were encamped at Stony Point [on West Okabena lake] laying in a supply of fish. This was but a few days after the Spirit Lake butchery, and United States cavalry was scouring the country in search of the terrible chief and his band.

"While the Indians were quietly fishing a detachment of soldiers suddenly appeared behind them, deployed in a semi-circle, so that escape to the north, south and east was impossible. In this predicament the Indians plunged into the lake, which was very deep in those days, and by swimming under water all but one managed to elude the bullets of their pursuers and escape in safety to the other side. They took their weapons with them. The one mentioned, when about two hundred yards from the shore, raised himself from the water to yell defiance at the troops on the bank. It was his last yell on earth. A sharp crack from a musket, a short struggle in the water, and the Sioux brave sunk to a watery grave. Finding it useless to continue the pursuit, the soldiers took the back trail to the eastward."

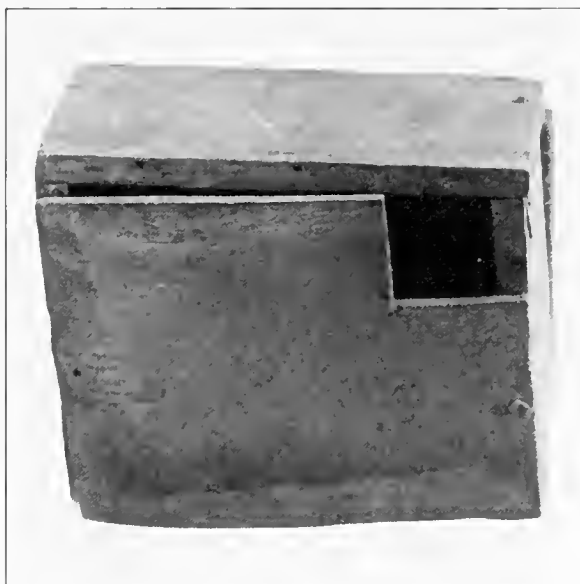
---

#### THE DIAGONAL ROAD.

One of the best known public thoroughfares of southwestern Minnesota is the diagonal wagon road which extends



THE RAGING KANARANZI



RELIC OF THE EARLY DAYS

The above is a picture of a pine box, five inches wide, six inches long, and two inches deep, covered with a shingle, which for many years was the only piece of furniture that adorned the postoffice at Hebbard and later at Adrian. In it were kept the stamps and small change of the Hebbard office, and when the postoffice was moved to the new town of Adrian the primitive postoffice box was taken along. Many west end residents will recognize this reminder of pioneer days. The box is now in the possession of A. J. Rice, having been presented to him by Thomas H. Childs in 1891. The latter succeeded Sam Hebbard as postmaster of Hebbard office and became Adrian's first postmaster.

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1900



from Worthington due northwest, diagonally across the sections, for a distance of about fourteen miles, ending a mile and a half east of Wilmont. To realize the importance of this road in the early days it must be remembered that up to recent years the whole of northwestern Nobles county—a rich and productive territory—was without a railroad and far from market. Until the Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad was built and Adrian and Rushmore were founded the trade of this whole northwest country came to Worthington, and after that event much of it went to the county seat town. The building of the diagonal road shortened the route to market several miles and proved of great benefit to the farmers and the business men of Worthington.

To B. W. Lyon belongs, primarily, the credit for the making of the road. It was he who conceived the idea, and he who drew up the petitions and circulated them. The county commissioners took favorable action and formally established the road as county road No. 9. Surveyor B. W. Woolstencroft laid out the road, in which he was assisted by Mr. Lyon. The latter was the first to drive a team (an ox team) over the proposed road, which he did without making a single detour from a straight line. The railroad company donated the land of its sections over which the road passed and took a friendly interest in the proceedings. Efforts to make the diagonal road a thing of beauty as well as useful were made. The railroad company offered free of charge willow shoots to line the road if the farmers and others would plant them. Along only a short distance of the road were the trees planted.

The diagonal road was kept in repair and became the most traveled thoroughfare of the county. After the building

of the Burlington road, however, and markets had been established at several points in northwestern Nobles county, the old road lost much of its usefulness. Then the northwestern end had little except "through" travel on it, and it was kept in repair under protest. In 1902 a petition was presented to the county board, signed by many farmers along the road who considered the land of more value for farming than for road purposes, asking that it be abandoned. Remonstrances poured in protesting against any such action, as much from sentiment, possibly, as from any other cause. The action of the board is related by the commissioners' journal of November 20, 1902:

"On motion the petition was rejected on account of the overwhelming remonstrances. The petition was not reasonable on its face."

---

#### A MIRAGE.

The year of the arrival of the National colonists to Nobles county was one of interest in many respects, and not the least item of interest were the mirages which occurred. The autumn of that year, from the middle of September to the middle of October, was a genuine Indian Summer. The nights were crisp and frosty, but the days were soft and crystal clear, and the hum of the thresher could be heard for miles.

On some mornings the looming mirage cast a glamour over the prairies and changed them into an enchanted land. People at first doubted their senses and feared for their reason when they saw the country for fifty miles in all directions raised into view, lakes,

groves, villages, not ordinarily visible, appearing like apparitions invoked by some enchanter's wand.

The most wonderful phenomenon of this nature occurred October 1, 1872. The mirage lasted until nearly an hour after sunrise and was witnessed by many people. Upon those who saw it, it had almost a weird effect and threw a sort of poetic glamour over the whole region which lasted a long time after the vision was gone. So clear was the atmosphere and so distinct were remote objects that the houses in the village of Hersey, not ordinarily visible from Worthington, were revealed almost to their foundations. The timber on Graham lakes appeared like a grove half way between Worthington and the horizon, and as far north as the eye could reach there were dim outlines of more timber, probably on lake Shetek, between thirty and forty miles distant. The line of timber along Des Moines river could be traced from Jackson to Windom. Groups of houses stood out on the prairie in every direction, looking like small villages. It certainly was a fairy land upon which the early settlers gazed in wonder.

#### THE FIRST CIRCUS.

Things of small importance in themselves are sometimes treasured in the memory because of association. So it happens that the coming of a circus—the first in the county—is remembered by many of the early settlers. It was in the summer of 1873 that Barnum & Bailey's circus exhibited in the little town of Worthington and thereby added to the early history of the village.

That place was selected for an exhibition point for a two-fold reason—first, because the long "jumps" between show towns on the western frontier made necessary a stop at some smaller town, and second, because of the fact that the lake at Worthington offered a splendid wallow for the animals of the menagerie. It was a big day for Worthington, and the little village was filled to overflowing. From Dakota, Iowa, and southern Minnesota points people by the hundreds came to see the circus, many making a two and three days' trip.

#### AN OLD STOVE.

In several places in this volume, mention has been made of a party of Scandinavian railroad laborers who in 1871 took claims near the Bigelow-Indian Lake township line and became early and permanent settlers. Those men became identified with the part of the county in which they located, and nearly all of them are residents of the county today.

Four members of the party, Hans Nyström, Erick Malilberg, C. J. Wickström and Peter Wickström, have the honor of having bought the first stove in Nobles county. In the fall of 1871 these gentlemen went to Worthington and in partnership invested thirty dollars in a cook stove, buying from H. W. Kimball, who had just opened his hardware store, the first one in the county. During the first winter all members of the party made their homes at the house of E. Nordquist, in Indian Lake township, and there the stove was initiated to the rigors of a Minnesota winter climate.

In the spring of 1872 each of the settlers moved onto his own claim, and the stove was purchased by Hans Nystrom. In his pioneer home it saw service many years, and into its fire-box were stuffed many thousand twists of hay—the fuel in general use in early days. The old stove was on duty at the Nystrom home until three years ago, and then, its days of usefulness having passed, it passed into the hands of a junk dealer.

### TRIBULATIONS.

Many stories—some of amusing nature now, but of a serious nature at the time—have been told of early day life in Nobles county. During the terrible grasshopper scourge the settlers suffered unrecorded trials. The stories of such alone would fill a volume of this size.

Indicative of the times, it has been related that a prominent and, later, successful farmer of Summit Lake township was one winter's day hauling a load of hay to Worthington, with the proceeds from the sale of which he expected to buy provisions. The weather was unpleasant and the snow was deep. Over miserable roads he was having anything but a pleasant time and successful trip, and on seven occasions the load tipped over. On one such he was assisted in getting the load to rights by D. W. Chute, another Summit Lake farmer. The unfortunate owner of the hay was disgusted and exclaimed:

"If we were not out of flour I would set fire to the d— load."

### THE FIRST DEMOCRAT.

Almost without exception the first settlers of Nobles county were repub-

licans. It may be said, *en passant*, that the county has not got over it to this day, but in the early days it was so unanimously republican that the casting of a democratic vote was an event.

At the election of 1841, out of a total vote of 19, there was only one democratic ballot. Horace Austin, republican, for governor received 18 votes, and Wintrop Young, democrat, received one vote, and so on down the state ticket, for lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general and associate justices of the supreme court. The lone democrat was Michael Maguire, of Graham Lakes township, who then, and ever since has, "voted it straight." He is the father of the democratic party of Nobles county.

Far from the centers of political strife, the little community on Graham lakes took no great interest in anything but local politics, but a few of the leaders took it upon themselves to do a little electioneering for the state ticket. Mr. Maguire at that time had no hide-bound party affiliation, but it was surmised he had leanings toward democracy. A few of the influential men of the community argued long and persistently with Mr. Maguire on the infallibility of the republican party and the shortcomings of the opposition.

"They bounded me almost to death," said Mr. Maguire when asked about the incident, "talking their politics, and I finally made up my mind to vote the democratic ticket to spite them. They made a democrat of me for good."

### INCIDENT OF THE SIXTIES.

The following account of an incident connected with the early days in

Granam Lakes township was written by Judge B. W. Woolstencroft in 1877, eight years after the event described:

"When we first came to Nobles county our nearest market was Jackson, thirty miles distant, and the nearest flouring mill was at Garden City, eighty miles away. We were often on the road in severe weather and had many a narrow escape from the blinding snow or high water in the streams.

Early in the spring of 1869 John Freeman and E. J. Clark started to Jackson for provisions. They had a team of horses belonging to Stephen Muck. On arriving at Heron lake outlet they found the stream terribly swollen with the recent thaw, but, nothing daunted, John took a 'fresh chew of tobacco to float on' and drove in. When half way across the stream the wagon turned over, precipitating them into the water. Clark, though an indifferent swimmer, got ashore, but Freeman was drowned. His body was found some days afterward about sixty rods down the stream, where he had caught hold

of a willow, which must have been several feet under water at the time he was drowned.

"Thus perished one of Nobles county's first settlers. He was a comparative stranger to us all, having been with us but a few months, yet he had made friends of all by his joyous, joking, happy way. He was a native of Vermont, was an orphan, and had a sister somewhere in the states, but we never knew where, and in all probability she does not know of her brother's tragic end. Mr. Muck's horses were drowned, and it was a sad loss to him indeed. Clark gave the fur they were taking to Jackson to a man by the name of Stone, to deliver to the buyer. Other parties sent fur and money until the whole amounted to about \$250. It proved too big a temptation to the fellow and we have never seen him, fur, or money since. This was the most disastrous trip to Jackson we know of and was a terrible shock to the settlers."

# BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

2. The second part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.





PROFESSOR RANSOM L. HUMISTON (1822-1889)

Head of the National Colony Company, Founder of Worthington,  
and a Most Conspicuous Figure in the Early History  
of Nobles County.



## BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY.

PROFESSOR RANSOM F. HUMISTON (1822-1889), guiding spirit of the National Colony company and founder of Worthington, was responsible, more than any other man, for the rapid settlement of Nobles county in the early days, and during the years he made his home in the county was by far its most prominent resident. In the historical part of this volume is to be found much of his life's history, which otherwise would have its place in this biography.

Prof. Humiston was born at Great Barrington, Berkshire county, Mass., July 3, 1822, and from that place the family moved, in May, 1833, to Hudson, Portage county, Ohio. Our subject was educated in the Western Reserve college and took up teaching as his life's work. While yet quite young he took high rank among the educators of Ohio. For several years he was superintendent of the schools of Cuyahoga Falls, an important manufacturing center of northern Ohio. From there he went to Cleveland, purchased buildings on "University Heights," then a sparsely settled suburb of Cleveland, and established a classical school called the Cleveland Institute. He there introduced a new feature which has since been copied in many of the colleges of the country, namely, a military training for the students. Prof. Humiston's school was successful and popular. He was not only a wise manager, a good disciplinarian and popular educator, but also a public spirited and enterprising citizen. Around this school there grew up an educated and refined community.

Selling his school property in 1867, Prof. Humiston started the next year on a tour of Europe, Asia and Africa, in which countries he spent two years. Returning home and being possessed of a handsome competency and made sanguine and hopeful by his previous successes, Prof. Humiston conceived the idea of founding a colony somewhere in the great west which should, so far as he could make it, be a center of educational and moral influence. After visiting various localities, he selected Nobles county, Minn., as the place for making realities out of his mental projects. It was in 1871 that he formed the National Colony company, secured control of a large tract of railroad lands in Nobles and adjoining counties, founded the village of Worthington, and began his life in the new country.

Amid the extraordinary trials of the grasshopper period he was among the most undaunted, hopeful and helpful. So far as the colony was successful, it was due to his generous, wise and vigorous endeavors. The misfortunes of the colony were such that no human skill could foresee or prevent. For all the good he did, and for the larger good he meant to do for it, Nobles county owes him a meed of hearty praise and an enduring monument to fitly perpetuate his memory. He lost practically all his fortune in financing the colony company, and departed the county in the late seventies.

After leaving Nobles county Prof. Humiston returned to the east and devoted his time to educational matters and to perfecting several patents. He died in April, 1889.

STEPHEN MILLER (1816-1887). Among the distinguished men who have made Nobles county their home at one time or another since its settlement none was more highly honored than Stephen Miller, Minnesota's war governor, who made his home at Worthington from 1878 until his death in 1881.

Governor Miller was born in Cumberland (now Perry) county, Pennsylvania, in 1816. He acquired a common school education and served an apprenticeship to the milling business, after which he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and for many years conducted a forwarding and commission house in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In 1839 he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Funk, of Dauphin county, Pa., and to them were born three sons and one daughter, the latter dying in infancy. The sons were Wesley F., who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg; Stephen C. and Robert D.

In 1849 Mr. Miller was elected prothonotary of Dauphin county in his native state and held the office until 1855, when he resigned to accept the position of flour inspector of the city of Philadelphia, to which he was appointed by Governor James Pollock. During a part of the period of his incumbency of this office and before including the exciting state canvass of 1854 he edited and published the Pennsylvania Telegraph, a leading organ of the whig party.

At the expiration of his term as flour inspector, in the spring of 1858, Mr. Miller came to Minnesota and located at St. Cloud, where he established a grocery and commission business, which he conducted until the commencement of the civil war, in April, 1861. During these years he took quite a prominent part in Minnesota politics. He was a delegate to the republican national convention at Chicago in 1860 and headed the electoral ticket in the fall of that year, when he and his associates were successful by nearly 10,000 majority. During that campaign he and C. C. Andrews, then a Douglas candidate for elector, later a brigadier general, held some fifty joint discussions in the principal cities and towns of the state.

In March, 1861, Mr. Miller was commissioned receiver of the land office at St. Cloud, and in May of the same year was

offered the position of captain in the United States army, both of which appointments he declined. At the commencement of the civil war he and his son, Wesley F. Miller, enrolled themselves as private soldiers in the First Minnesota regiment. On April 29, 1861, he was mustered into the service as lieutenant colonel of the First Minnesota. He was commissioned colonel of the Seventh regiment of Minnesota volunteers Sept. 26, 1862, and was made brigadier general of volunteers by the president Oct. 26, 1863. He took part in many of the important battles of the civil war and played an important part in the Sioux war, serving under General Sibley. He was in charge of the forces at Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862, which executed the thirty-eight Indians.

Brigadier General Miller was elected governor of Minnesota on the republican ticket in November, 1863, and on Jan. 12, of the following year, resigned his command to accept the office. He served until Jan. 8, 1866, being in the executive chair during the closing days of the civil war. In many ways he showed his patriotic impulses and his zeal for the salvation of the country.

After the expiration of his term as governor, President Grant, like President Lincoln, tendered him positions in the civil service, but he declined them all. From June, 1871, to September, 1878, Governor Miller resided at Windom, being employed as field agent of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad company. He served one term in the Minnesota house of representatives (1873), having been elected to represent six counties in southwestern Minnesota. He was presidential elector at large in 1876 and was the messenger to bear the electoral vote to Washington.

Governor Miller, while still in the employ of the railroad company, came to Worthington to reside in September, 1878, and made his home there until his death, which occurred on Thursday night, Aug. 18, 1881. His remains are buried in the Worthington cemetery.

DANIEL SHELL. No man in Nobles county has played a more important part in the political and business life of the county

than has Daniel Shell, of Worthington. Coming to the county and village in the closing days of 1871, just after the village came into existence, Mr. Shell, then a young man, at once became identified with the interests of his village and county, and has ever since been an important factor in the development of the community.

Daniel Shell was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Nov. 26, 1843, the son of David and Lavina (Kentner) Shell, natives of Canada and New York state, respectively. The Shells are of German ancestry, but settled in the United States at a very early day, and for several generations were residents of the Empire state. Daniel Shell, the paternal grandfather was a native of New York and an influential and prosperous farmer. David Shell, the father of our subject, while a native of Canada, was raised in New York. The mother of Mr. Shell, of this sketch, was a daughter of Conrad Kentner, who was of German descent and a descendant of one of the pioneer families of St. Lawrence county.

Mr. Shell was the fourth son and sixth child of a family of eleven children. His early boyhood was spent in attending the public schools of St. Lawrence county. When he was eleven years of age the family moved to Sauk county, Wis., and located on a farm, and there the subject of this biography grew to manhood. His educational advantages were such as the district schools of the locality afforded, although later he became a student in a high school.

On reaching his majority Mr. Shell started out in life on his own account. In the winter of 1865 he formed a partnership with two brothers, Conrad and Levi, and engaged in the lumber business in Wisconsin under the firm name of Shell Bros. He went into the pine woods and engaged in logging and milling, the firm having purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land. A retail yard was established at Salem, Wis., which the brothers operated until 1871, when Daniel Shell came to the new town of Worthington.

It was during the month of December that Mr. Shell came to Worthington. He was a member of the firm of Henry Young & Co., which established a lumber yard in the little village, and came to assist in the management of the yard. After the busi-

ness had been conducted in Worthington a few months, it was moved to Sibley, Iowa, at which point Levi Shell became the manager. Before the change in location was made, Daniel Shell had (in March, 1872) erected a building on Main street and opened a livery stable, of which he was the proprietor for many years. In 1873 he received the contract for carrying the mail from Worthington to Sioux Falls, S. D., and conducted the mail route five years. He operated a stage line in connection, which he built up into a large and profitable business. He leased the Worthington hotel building in 1874, bought it a short time afterward, and was the landlord for thirteen years.

Mr. Shell embarked in the real estate, loan and insurance business in 1876 and has had an office in Worthington ever since. In June, 1895, he formed a partnership with M. P. Mann, and from that date to Jan. 10, 1906, the business was conducted under the firm name of Shell & Mann. Since the last named date he has conducted the business alone. In the early days he invested his money in Nobles county lands, and is today one of the largest landowners of the county. Besides the lines of business mentioned Mr. Shell has been identified with many other enterprises of a local nature. He was one of the organizers of the Minnesota Loan & Investment company and of the Beaver Creek Bank, of Rock county. When the Worthington National Bank was organized early in the year 1908, he was made vice president and director of the new institution.

In politics Mr. Shell is a pronounced republican, and has taken a very active part in local, state and national politics. At the first village election, in 1873, he was elected village assessor and served one term. He was elected member of the village council in 1874, 1875 and 1876, and served as president of the council in 1879-80-81-85-86-89-90-91-93-94. From 1890 to 1904 he was a member of the Worthington school board. He was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1881, was reelected in 1884, and served until the beginning of the year 1887. During these years he was chairman of the board. Mr. Shell was chosen a delegate to the republican national convention which was held at Minneapolis in 1892, and was a member

of the committee that notified Benjamin Harrison of his nomination. In the fall of 1892 he was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota legislature from the district comprising the counties of Nobles, Murray, Rock and Pipestone, and was reelected in 1894 and again in 1896. In 1898 he was elected to the senate from the newly formed district comprising the counties of Nobles and Murray, and served eight years in that body, receiving the nomination and election again in 1902. In the early nineties, when it was decided to build a new state capitol, Mr. Shell was appointed member of the capitol commission by the governor, and served about one and one-half years. During the time he was on the commission, the plans for the new building—one of the finest state houses in the United States—were drawn and accepted. Mr. Shell resigned upon the passage of a law which brought into doubt the legality of a member of the legislature holding another office in the state administration.

Mr. Shell was married in 1867 to Miss Samantha McClintock, daughter of Hugh McClintock, of Salem, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Shell are the parents of three children—Winnifred, Lee M. and Marjorie. Mr. Shell is prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity. He was a charter member of the lodge at Worthington, and is a Knight Templar and a member of the Mystic Shrine.

JULIUS A. TOWN, attorney at law, Worthington, is one of the pioneers of Worthington and Nobles county, and has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the village and county for the last thirty-six years. He is a prominent member of the bar of southwestern Minnesota, is active in county, congressional and state politics, and is one of the best known G. A. R. men of Minnesota.

Julius A. Town was born in Steuben county, Indiana, September 27, 1844. His father, A. Town, and his mother, Rebecca (Simmons) Town, were both natives of Vermont, as had been their families for several generations. The Town family is English stock and emigrated to America in colonial days. Our subject's maternal grandfather was a veteran of the war of the revolution, serving as a volunteer under

General Stark, and took part in the battle of Bennington.

For the first eleven years of his life the subject of this sketch lived in the county of his birth. Then he came with his parents to the territory of Minnesota, locating at the new town of Owatonna October 5, 1855. His father erected the first frame building on the site of that town and was the second to engage in business there. Young Town, who had started his schooling in Indiana, now attended the schools of Owatonna until the outbreak of the civil war. While not engaged with his studies he worked on a farm and clerked in his father's store.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers to put down the rebellion, J. A. Town was among the first to offer his services, and he was mustered into the service of the United States in company E, of the Fourth Minnesota volunteer infantry, October 19, 1861. He was discharged June 28, 1862, by reason of having typhoid fever in camp, but reenlisted in the same company and regiment November 11, 1862. He served until the close of the war, being discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, July 19, 1865.

His first service was at Fort Snelling, Minn., where his regiment remained until April, 1862. The command then went south and joined Halleck's army in front of Corinth. The first siege of Corinth followed, and Mr. Town's regiment took a part in that campaign. The next campaign in which our subject took part was with Grant south of Memphis, in an endeavor to reach Vicksburg overland. In the spring of 1863 the forces returned to Memphis and immediately started down the river by boat on the next Vicksburg campaign. The forces went down through the Yazoo pass, and tried to reach the important Mississippi town by way of the Yazoo river. A return was made to Mulligan's bend, and in the latter part of April, 1863, the troops started out again under General Grant. Mr. Town marched with the forces to Brunsberg and was in all the battles of the Vicksburg campaign, including Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, and the charge on Vicksburg of May 22. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and was present at the surrender of the city. He stood in the

lines while Generals Grant and Pemberton arranged the terms of surrender, and on the morning of July 4, 1863, he marched with his regiment into the surrendered city, the Fourth Minnesota being the first regiment of Union troops to enter the city after the surrender.

After a few months of garrison duty, in the latter part of September, the troops returned to Memphis, and from there marched to Chattanooga and took part in the battle of Missionary Ridge. Thereafter until the fall of 1864 he and the command, of which he was a part, did garrison duty. On the 5th of October he again engaged in fighting, taking part in the battle of Altoona, Ga. On November 9 was begun the famous march of Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, and our subject shared in all the vicissitudes of that memorable campaign. He was in the fighting in the advance on Savannah, and on the way north took part in the battle of Bentonville, N. C. He also witnessed the surrender of General Johnson near Raleigh. Marching by way of Richmond the forces arrived at the capital of the country, and took part in the grand review. The war was then over, and the Fourth Minnesota was ready for discharge. The men marched to Louisville, Ky., and later to St. Paul, Minn., where they were discharged on July 19, 1865, although their muster out papers were dated Louisville.

After the war Mr. Town returned to Owatonna and devoted the next few years of his life to finishing his education. For one year he attended the public school at Owatonna, then spent one year studying in a business college in Chicago. Another year was passed in Hillsdale college, Michigan, and his education was completed in the university of Minnesota, which he attended for a total of about one year's study in the winters of 1869-70 and 1870-71. During these years he also engaged in teaching school for about one year, teaching at Geneva, Waterville and near Chatfield, all in Minnesota.

It was in the spring of 1871 that Mr. Town finished his studies at the university of Minnesota. That fall he moved to Windom, then a town just starting on the new St. Paul & Sioux City railroad, and for three months sold lumber there. That same fall he established the first lumber

yard in Heron Lake. January 25, 1872, is the date of his permanent settlement in Nobles county and Worthington, and there are few men whose arrival in Worthington antedates that of Mr. Town. He immediately took charge of the lumber yard of Crocker Bros. & Lamareaux, operated the yard one year for that company, and then purchased the business. He disposed of his business in the spring of 1874.

On November 2, 1875, he was elected sheriff of Nobles county on the republican ticket, defeating W. S. Stockdale. Two years later he was reelected, defeating B. F. Johnson. After going out of office at the beginning of the year 1880, he commenced the study of law in the office of George W. Wilson. He was admitted to the bar March 8, 1883, before M. J. Severance, and since that date has been practicing at Worthington.

Mr. Town has always taken an active interest in politics, and has held many offices of trust in the gift of the electors of the county and village. When Worthington township was organized in the spring of 1872, he was chosen town clerk and attended the first meeting held on March 20. When Independent school district No. 5 was organized Mr. Town was a member of the board and served continuously six or seven years. In later years he again became a member of the board and served nine years. He was county commissioner for six years, and during that time was the chairman of the board. He was appointed village attorney when that office was established in 1887 and with the exception of the years 1895, 1905, 1906 and 1907 has ever since received annual appointment.

Mr. Town was a charter member of Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R., and has been a member of that organization ever since, having served as commander several times. He has also served three terms as commander of the Southwestern Minnesota Veterans association, and is one of the active members of that organization.

ERLAND W. HESSELROTH, of Graham Lakes township, is one of the very earliest settlers of Nobles county, having resided here since the spring of 1870. During the pioneer days he took a very active part

in the political and social life of the county, and was one of Nobles county's first public officers.

Mr. Hesselroth was born in Dahlands, Bosme lan, Sweden, May 28, 1834, the son of Carl and Anna (Berg) Hesselroth. His parents died in Sweden, his father in 1848, aged 47 years, and his mother in 1850, aged 50 years. Young Hesselroth was educated in his native land and resided there until he was 20 years old. For two years he was employed as clerk in an iron foundry. He came to America with an uncle in 1854 and located at LaCrosse, Wis., where his relative bought land, and that was his home until the outbreak of the war. Two winters he spent working in the logging camps of northern Wisconsin, and during the rest of the time he claimed LaCrosse as his home he was employed at farm work and in sawmills.

He was enrolled in company A. of the 20th Wisconsin volunteer infantry, on July 14, 1862, at LaCrosse, and served in that regiment until Aug. 24, 1863, when he was discharged at Carleton, La., because of disability arising from wounds received at the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., on Dec. 7, 1862. He was in a hospital at Fayetteville, Ark., for two or three months, and in February, 1863, was taken to the hospital at Springfield, Mo., in which he remained until early in April. He had then sufficiently recovered to rejoin his regiment, and with it he took part in the closing acts of the Vicksburg campaign. After his discharge he was out of the service one year. Then he reenlisted, on Aug. 30, 1864, in the first battery of Wisconsin artillery, but saw no more active service, being placed on garrison duty at Baton Rouge, La. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war, his discharge being dated June 26, 1865.

After his service with the army Mr. Hesselroth returned to his Wisconsin home, but in the spring of 1866 he moved to Rochester, Minn., where for four years he worked in the harvest fields and at other occupations. In the spring of 1870, with five companions, he set out for the Sioux Falls country. While the party was passing through the Graham Lakes country they found a few settlers, who induced them to locate there, and about the 15th of May

all took claims. Mr. Hesselroth filed a soldier's homestead on the southeast quarter of section 34, Graham Lakes township, and in the fall of the year built a cabin thereon. For 38 years, with the exception of five years from 1902 to 1907—spent in Worthington, he has lived there.

At the county's first election, held in November, 1870, Mr. Hesselroth was elected judge of probate and served until late in 1872, when he resigned and W. M. Bear was appointed. He was also Graham Lakes township's first justice of the peace, and served several terms. He was the second assessor of the township, and served one term. For many years he was a member of the township board of supervisors.

Mr. Hesselroth was married in Cottonwood county Nov. 23, 1875, to Clarissa Oakes, a native of Genesee, Mich. To this union have been born three children: Lawrence Hilmer, born Sept. 14, 1876, died when 12 years old; Anna Nancy (Mrs. Roy Rose), born Jan. 31, 1878, residing in Graham Lakes township; Hilda Lucia, of Worthington, born March 29, 1881.

EDWIN R. HUMISTON, retired contractor and builder of Worthington, is one of the very few residents of that city who was present at the founding of the town. From the fall of 1871 to the present day he has resided continually in that city, and no man in Worthington is better entitled to a place in this history than is Mr. Humiston.

Mr. Humiston was born in Great Barrington, Mass., May 6, 1827, a descendant of colonial settlers. The founder of the American branch of the Humiston family came from England after the fall of Cromwell, and became prominent in American history. The father of our subject was Caleb Humiston, who was born in North Haven, Conn., in 1779; his mother was Polly (Todd) Humiston, who was born in the same Connecticut town, and who was of Scotch Irish descent. The father died in Hudson, Ohio, in his 76th year, while his mother lived to the extreme age of 91 years, dying in Cleveland, Ohio.

The family moved from Massachusetts to Hudson, Summit county, Ohio, in May, 1833, and there Edwin R. Humiston grew to

manhood. He secured an education in the common schools of the Ohio town and in Hudson academy, and made himself useful in a brick yard, of which his father was the owner. He also served a three years apprenticeship at the carpenter trade there. In the fall of 1855 Mr. Humiston moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where for one year he was employed by the Galena Packing Co. and the Dubuque Improvement Co.

In 1856 Mr. Humiston moved to St. Peter, Minn., where he erected a large grist and saw mill for Col. B. F. Pratt, and where for two years he served as millwright and engaged in machine work. It was during his residence there that the Spirit Lake massacre occurred in 1857, and Mr. Humiston was one of forty men who volunteered at St. Peter on April 12 to go out and punish those Indians who had participated in the massacre. The volunteers spent some time on the trail, but were unsuccessful in overtaking the hostiles. Mr. Humiston moved to Cleveland, Lesueur county, in 1858, and there he remained until he became a resident of Nobles county in 1871. During the years he lived there he engaged in contracting and building, and served one term as county commissioner of Lesueur county.

In the fall of 1871 Mr. Humiston moved to the village of Worthington, then just starting, of which his brother, Prof. R. F. Humiston was the founder. For several years he did contracting and building and erected many of the first business and residence buildings in the city. For the past twenty years he has been retired from active pursuits. In 1888 he was elected register of deeds of Nobles county and served two years. He has been an ardent republican ever since the birth of that party. His first vote was cast for Martin VanBuren, the Free-soil candidate for president, and he has voted for every republican nominee for president, with one exception, when he was a resident of St. Peter, Minn., in 1856, Minnesota then being a territory.

Mr. Humiston was married at Cleveland, Minn., May 13, 1858, to Mary A. Davis, daughter of John and Catherine Davis, of Licking county, Ohio. To them have been born six children, as follows:

Fred L., clerk of court of Nobles county, born Feb. 14, 1859; Willis I., born in Cleveland Dec. 25, 1860; Henry S., born in St. Peter Aug. 27, 1862, died Aug. 27, 1904; John D., born in Cleveland Dec. 7, 1865; Edwin Ray, born in Cleveland March 29, 1868; Mary K. (Mrs. Arthur Jones), born in Cleveland Oct. 2, 1870.

DR. GEORGE O. MOORE, president of the State Bank of Worthington, was one of the very first of the colonists to arrive in Nobles county, and Worthington has been his home ever since January, 1872.

Dr. Moore was born in Iowa City, Iowa, March 28, 1842, the son of Benjamin P. and Emily (Bliss) Moore. The father was of Irish descent. He was born in Bradford, Vermont, Sept. 20, 1801, learned the carpenter trade, and moved to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1841. There he assisted in the erection of the Iowa capitol building, which is now the state university building. Later he moved to Delphos, Ohio, where he engaged in the mercantile business, and where he died of cholera July 18, 1853. Our subject's mother was of Scotch descent. She was born in Vershire, Vermont, Feb. 18, 1807, and died Feb. 4, 1895.

Dr. Moore received a common school education and then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1867. Then he entered upon the practice of his profession, which he followed five years in Indiana and Ohio. On the 26th day of January, 1872, Dr. Moore arrived in Worthington, coming as a member of the colony, and that village has been his home ever since. His decision to join the colony and come to Nobles county was reached through the influence of the late Rev. Robert McCune. He first became acquainted with Rev. Robert McCune while that gentleman was pastor of a church in an Ohio town. Later when the preacher became managing editor of the Toledo Blade and the colony company was using that paper to advertise the colonization scheme, Rev. McCune urged Dr. Moore to join the colony and locate in the new village of Worthington.

In the village of Worthington Dr. Moore practiced medicine until 1883. Since that time he has been connected with the Bank

(now State Bank) of Worthington, at first as cashier and later as president. He was one of the organizers of the Minnesota Loan & Investment Co., and became its secretary. Dr. Moore is a prominent and influential member of the Union Congregational church of Worthington, and was one of the charter members. He has never held public office, has never used intoxicating liquor as a beverage, nor tobacco in any form, and has never been kept from active duty a single day on account of illness.

Dr. Moore was married Dec. 2, 1869, to Clara F. Foster, of Masonville, Delaware county, N. Y. To them have been born one son George F., born in 1872, and now engaged in business in Chicago.

ISAAC HORTON (1822-1890). Among the first settlers of Nobles county, and the very first to settle in what is now Indian Lake township, was Isaac Horton.

Mr. Horton was born in Oneida county, N. Y., in 1822. In a very early day he moved to Michigan and was there employed as a millwright. Returning to New York state, he was married, and then came to Minnesota, settling on Indian land near Lake City. Later he moved to Olmstead county, where he purchased land. In the year 1867 he moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, rented a farm near that place and for two years engaged in farming.

It was during his residence near Spirit Lake that Mr. Horton first became acquainted with the country which was later to be organized as Nobles county, and so early as 1867 he visited the Indian lake country hunting elk, in the taking of which he was always successful. He liked the looks of the country, and decided that some day he would make it his home. On May 6, 1869, at a time when there was not a settler in the whole of Nobles county outside of Graham Lakes township, he came to the county and filed a preemption claim to the east half of section 31, on the east shore of Indian lake. On October 3, of the same year, he brought his family from Spirit Lake, erected a log house (18x21) of oak logs cut from his claim, and for seventeen years made his home there. He then sold and purchased the southwest quarter of section 22, Indian Lake, erected a good house

thereon, and resided there with his family until his death, which occurred in October, 1890. Although Mr. Horton would never accept an office, he took a prominent part in the affairs of the county during the early days. The first county election in which the people of Indian Lake township participated was held at his house.

The widow, Charlotte (Hare) Horton, resides at Round Lake and is 77 years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Horton were born the following children: John (deceased), Elvira (Mrs. J. P. Stevens), Little Falls, Minn.; Elma (deceased), Hattie (Mrs. Al. Tygall), Corvallis, Oregon; Cora (Mrs. F. H. Wells), Salem, Oregon; Frank H., Round Lake; Charles, Round Lake; Lucy (Mrs. Henry M. Anderson), Bloom township; Clara (Mrs. Elmer Tripp), Round Lake; Emma (Mrs. Dan Bixby), Worthington; Herbert, Worthington; Lottie (Mrs. Herman Miller), Round Lake.

WILLIAM WIGHAM, of Adrian, is the oldest resident of that town, having been among the few who engaged in business in the little village in the fall of 1876. He is also one of the early settlers of the county, and has made his residence here since 1873.

In Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 28, 1837, William Wigham was born, being the son of William and Catherine (Platt) Wigham. In the year 1850 the family moved west and settled in Iowa county, Wis. There the head of the family bought a farm, and on it the subject of this sketch was raised and made his home until 1862, when he entered the army.

William Wigham was twenty-four years of age when he raised a company of infantry in his home county, which was designated company G, and was assigned to the 27th Wisconsin volunteer infantry. He was made captain of the company, his commission being dated Aug. 15, 1862, and served in that capacity until August, 1865, when he was mustered out of the service. Captain Wigham and his company were first sent into Kentucky and Tennessee, where for some time the troops were engaged in skirmishing. In May, 1863, they took part in the siege of Vicksburg, going up the Yazoo river and getting in the rear of the city. After the capitulation of the southern city, in August,



1863, Captain Wigham with his command was sent to Helena, Ark., where preparations were made for the Arkansas campaign. He took part in the capture of Little Rock, and during the fall and winter of 1863-64 participated in a number of small skirmishes.

About the first of March, 1864, Captain Wigham started in the campaign to cooperate with General Banks under General Steele in the memorable Red River campaign. There was fighting and skirmishes nearly every day, one of the principle battles being at Prairie de Ann. After the union forces had captured Camden they learned of General Banks' defeat. The rebels, 30,000 strong, then were enabled to turn their attention to the forces to which Captain Wigham belonged. They swooped down upon the small force of union soldiers, who were forced into a disastrous retreat. All the equipment was lost and the soldiers were in sorry plight. At Jenkins Ferry, in the line of retreat, was fought one of the big battles of the campaign. The winter of 1864-65 was spent in scouting expeditions near Little Rock. In the spring of 1865 Captain Wigham's command went to Mobile and took part in the fighting there, where he was at the close of the war.

After the war Captain Wigham returned to his old home in Wisconsin and engaged in farming until the fall of 1866. He was then elected sheriff of Iowa county, and served a two year term. For a short time he was judge of probate of the same county, having been appointed to complete an unexpired term. In 1871 he went to Solomon City, Kansas, where for two years he was engaged in the Texas cattle business. After a short time spent in his Wisconsin home, Captain Wigham came to Nobles county, arriving on the 30th day of May, 1873. He took a homestead on section 18, Little Rock township, and a free claim on section 12, Grand Prairie township. He engaged in farming on his Little Rock township property until the fall of 1876. He then moved to Adrian village, which was just being founded, and engaged in the mercantile and grain business. He disposed of his business interests in Adrian in 1879, and in the spring of 1880 removed to his farm, where he resided until the spring of 1896.

During nearly all of the time he resided on the farm he held township office, ranging

from chairman of the board of supervisors down. On November 13, 1882, Captain Wigham was appointed judge of probate of Nobles county to complete an unexpired term caused by the resignation of L. S. Nelson. In the fall of 1883 he was elected county treasurer and served a three year term. Coming to Adrian in 1896, he has since lived a retired life. He has held the office of village assessor for the last eleven years. In 1894, when the Little Rock Mutual Fire Insurance company was organized, Captain Wigham was one of the principal stockholders, and for twelve years was president of the company.

Captain Wigham was married at Dodgeville, Wis., Nov. 28, 1867, to Sybella E. Bishop. To them have been born eight children, of whom the following five are living: William M., register of deeds and newspaper man of Mahanomen, Minn.; Mary (Mrs. Chas. Wombill), of Mahanomen; Charles, of Westside township; Earl, of Mahanomen; Edith, of Adrian. His son Earl was the first male child born in the village of Adrian.

ROBERT SHORE is one of the pioneer residents of Ransom township and of Nobles county. During a residence of thirty-five years in Ransom he has taken a very active part in the agricultural, official and literary life of the county, and is one of Nobles' best known men. He is a self made man. At an early age he was thrown upon his own resources, and, unaided, he has worked his way steadily upward from humble circumstances.

Robert Shore was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, England, Nov. 24, 1828, the fourth child of Charles and Sarah (Hill) Shore. The father was a spinner by trade, and spent his entire life in England. Mrs. Shore, the mother of Robert Shore, died in Pennsylvania in 1875.

At a very early age Robert Shore began working in a cotton mill, and when fourteen years old he devoted his entire time to that work. Then he gave up his day school, but attended night school until he was twenty-two years old, thus obtaining a good education. In 1850 he married Eliza Greenhalgh, youngest daughter of John and Betsy (Ingram) Greenhalgh. Mr. and Mrs. Shore re-

sided in England one year after their marriage, and then, in March, 1851, they took passage in a sailing vessel from Liverpool to New York, which reached its destination after a voyage of six weeks. Mr. Shore located at Benton, Lafayette county, Wis., where for fourteen years he was employed in the lead mines. Removing to Grant county, in the same state, with the money he had saved from his earnings as a miner, he purchased eighty acres of land and engaged in farming and stock raising.

In February, 1865, Mr. Shore enlisted in company K, of the 11th Wisconsin infantry, under Colonel George Symmes, of LaCrosse. The regiment went to Nashville, Tenn., and thence to Paducah, Kentucky, where it engaged in guard duty, Mr. Shore serving as clerk at regimental headquarters. He was mustered out with his regiment in August, 1865.

Returning from his army service, Mr. Shore continued in the farming and stock-raising business in Grant county, devoting his time to these pursuits during the summer months and engaged in teaching school during the winters. He taught fifteen terms of school. During the time of his residence in Wisconsin he served several years as postmaster of Harelson. In June, 1872, Mr. Shore came to Nobles county and took as a soldier's homestead 160 acres of land on section 22, Ransom township. At the time of filing he broke some land, and then he returned to Wisconsin. He visited his land again in September, bought lumber and contracted for the erection of a house. On April 1, 1873, he and his family arrived in the county to make permanent residence, and his home has ever since been on his original homestead.

Mr. Shore and family suffered all the hardships of pioneer life, and the family has become one of the most respected in the township. Mr. Shore has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. During the whole period of his residence here he has held some township or school office. He is a republican, and in 1877 he was elected county commissioner on that ticket, serving a two year term as chairman of the board. When Ransom postoffice was established in the spring of 1896 Mr. Shore was appointed postmaster and served until the office was discontinued in recent years be-

cause of the establishment of the rural free delivery routes. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shore are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Ransom.

Mr. and Mrs. Shore are the parents of the following children: Charles, John E., Robert W., Thomas E., Henry W., all Ransom township farmers; Mary E. (Mrs. Coleman Guernsey), of Worthington.

WILLIAM PARRY is one of the oldest settlers and best known residents of Little Rock township. He has resided on the farm where he now lives thirty-six years, during which time he has taken an active part in the affairs of the community. He owns 480 acres of land in Little Rock, his home place being the northeast quarter of section 26.

William Parry was born at Anglesea, in North Wales, on March 28, 1830, the son of Richard and Elenor Parry, both of whom died in their native land. Upon reaching his majority he came to the United States, arriving in May, 1851. He went to Waukesha county, Wis., remained there six months only, and then moved to Iowa county, of the same state, which was his home until his arrival in Nobles county in 1872. For a few years he engaged in the lumber business, livery business and other occupations in the town of Mineral Point, and then became a farmer.

It was during his residence in Wisconsin that Mr. Parry enlisted for service in the union army during the civil war. He joined company E, of the 30th Wisconsin infantry, Aug. 22, 1862, and served until his muster out at Louisville, Ky., just before his three year term had expired. His regiment was on provost duty during the entire period of enlistment, in which duty Mr. Parry saw service in many parts of the country.

It was during his army service that Mr. Parry conceived the idea of some day making his home in the new country of southern Minnesota. His duties had called him to southwestern Minnesota, to the country north of Nobles county, and, liking the lay of the land, he decided that some day he would return and make his home there. In the spring of 1872 a party of Dodgeville, Wis., people consisting of William Parry, William Faragher, Jr., Geo. Higgins, Henry Faragher, William Quine, wife and baby,

Thomas Quine, William Jones, John Quine and John Quine, Jr., set out for the new country. Their first stop was in Iowa, east of Sibley, where all selected land for filing. There they met a man named Hugh Jones, who told them of the beautiful country lying along the Little Rock to the north. All accompanied him to the new land and in May the entire party filed on land in what was later formed into Little Rock township.

Mr. Parry selected the northeast quarter of section 26 for his homestead. He then returned to his old home, but came back to his claim on Oct. 4, making the trip by team, and his home has been on his homestead ever since. He encountered all the hardships and trials of the pioneer carving a home out of the wilderness. During the grasshopper days he suffered a partial failure of crops each year, but managed to harvest a part of a crop each season.

For four or five years Mr. Parry served as postmaster of Little Rock postoffice, which was located at his home. He was in charge of the office at the time of its discontinuance owing to the establishment of rural mail routes. He served a four year term as county commissioner, having been elected on the republican ticket from the Fourth district in 1884. He was chairman of the Little Rock township board for several years and has served on the school board of his district at many different times.

Mr. Parry was married at Mineral Point, Wis., Jan. 2, 1860, to Elenor Frances Campbell. She was born in Ireland in 1837, the daughter of English and Scotch parents, and came to the United States when a child. She died at the family home in Little Rock township Feb. 16, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Parry were the parents of four children—Eugene, of South Dakota; William, who farms the home place; Annette and Mary (Mrs. Levi Rue).

**MILES BIRKETT.** On the 18th day of May, 1871, Miles Birkett, James Walker, now postmaster of Ellsworth; and George Barnes, now deceased, filed on home-lands in Grand Prairie township. They have the honor of being the first to take claims in that township as well as in the western part of Nobles county. Miles Birkett still resides on the claim he took in that early day.

Ontario, Canada, is the birthplace of Mr.

Birkett. He was born Aug. 2, 1843, and is the son of parents still living, their home being at Belmont, Iowa. William Birkett, his father, was born in England in 1820, and came to Canada when a young man. Our subject's mother is Margaret (Coleman) Birkett. She was born in England in 1822, and came to Canada when eleven years of age.

When Miles was eleven years of age the family moved to Rock Island county, Ill., which was the home of our subject for seven years. He then went to Franklin county, Iowa, and resided there until he enlisted in the army. In July, 1862, he enlisted, and served until August, 1865, in company H, of the 32nd Iowa volunteer infantry. His regiment was assigned to the western army, and most of his service was in the west.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Birkett returned to Franklin county and engaged in farming, which he followed there until 1871. Arriving in the new country, he took as his claim the northeast quarter of section 18. Moving onto it the same fall, he has ever since made his home there. He has added to his original land by the purchase of an eighty acre tract on section 17. During the pioneer days Mr. Birkett suffered all the hardships common to the times.

Mr. Birkett was married in Geneva, Franklin county, Iowa, May 7, 1867, to Miss Martha J. Boots, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of Martin and Rebecca Boots, both deceased. Mrs. Birkett was born Jan. 6, 1848. To Mr. and Mrs. Birkett have been born twelve children, of whom the following eight are living: Myrtle (Mrs. Ed. Hallis), of Salem, S. D.; Lulu (Mrs. M. R. Myers), of Beaver Creek, Minn.; Pearl, of Expansion, N. D.; Gertie (Mrs. Mart Chatfield), of Minot, N. D.; Mabel, a stenographer with the Northwestern Life at Sheldon, Iowa; Lillian, a stenographer of Laverne; Artie, at home, and Jenevieve, at home.

Mr. Birkett is a member of the Congregational church and of the G. A. R. and K. P. lodges. He has held the office of chairman of the township board and has served on the school board. He was elected county commissioner from the old third district in 1880 on the republican ticket and served a two year term.

**OLE FAUSKEE.** When Ole Fauskee, farmer, residing in Indian Lake township on the north bank of Ocheda lake, became a resident of Nobles county, the settlers were few and far between. The only portions of the county in which there were settlers were Graham Lakes and Indian Lake townships, and, according to the federal census taken just about the time he arrived (1870), there were 117 inhabitants. Mr. Fauskee ranks as one of the pioneers of pioneers, and there are only a very few men in the county whose settlement antedates his.

Mr. Fauskee is a native of central Norway, where he was born Oct. 19, 1842, the son of Andrew O. and Gertrude (Fortness) Fauskee. Both his parents are dead, his father having died in Stearns county, Minn., and his mother having died in Norway when her son was thirteen years of age. In his native land Mr. Fauskee resided until nearly 25 years of age. He secured a common school education, and his boyhood days were spent assisting his father on the farm. Three years before coming to America he bought a small farm and engaged in farming for himself.

With the hope and expectation of bettering their condition he and his father came to America, arriving in Quebec, Canada, about the first of June, 1867. Ole went at once to Winneshiek county, Iowa, of which Decorah is the county seat, and there for three years he worked for wages as a farm laborer. Many residents of Decorah and vicinity were moving west and seeking homes in northwestern Iowa, and Mr. Fauskee decided to do likewise with the intention of becoming a land owner. He and his family, consisting of a wife and three children, and his brother, Ole A. Fauskee, started out to make the trip overland with one young ox team. When the party arrived at a point in Iowa, just south of the Nobles county line, the team gave out, and it was due to this accident that Mr. Fauskee became a resident of Nobles county. When the team gave out the brothers decided to look for suitable locations in the immediate vicinity and to abandon the idea of trying to reach the land for which they had started. They left the family and oxen at the point where they then were, and on foot set out for the north. They arrived at lake Ocheda, liked the looks of the country, and decided to locate. In

the immediate vicinity they had been preceded by only two settlers, John Chris Johnson and Ole Ellingson. There were two or three families residing on Indian lake; otherwise the nearest settlers were miles away. The two Fauskees walked to Jackson, where the land office was then located, and on June 8, 1870, filed on their claims. The subject of this sketch took as a homestead the north-west quarter of section 6, Indian Lake township, on the north bank of the lake, which his brother preempted a quarter on the same section.

After making their filings the brothers walked back to the camp, and from that point drove up to their new homes. Finding a few logs that had been left by the Indian trappers, who by that time had left the neighborhood, the Fauskees erected a house. They banked sods up around the logs and covered the whole with hay. In this the family lived five years, at the end of which time a house of lumber was erected. Jackson was then the nearest town, and there all the trading was done until Worthington was founded. Before the coming of the railroad, Mr. Fauskee farmed on only a small scale, and raised nothing for market. The grass-hopper days and prevailing hard times proved a severe blow to the Fauskee family, but the storm was weathered, and today Mr. Fauskee is in comfortable circumstances. He has made his home on his original claim ever since taking it up, but has added to it, until he now has a well improved farm of 255 acres.

Mr. Fauskee was married in Norway Dec. 26, 1863, to Ingelorg Snortum. To them have been born thirteen children, as follows: Ole, of Indian Lake; Julia (Mrs. Collier), of Chicago; Newton, of Worthington; Merle, died in infancy; Mary, of Wisconsin; Albert, died January, 1907; Lena (Mrs. M. Wright), of Spencer, Iowa; Anna, of Canada; Emma, deceased; Gilbert, deceased; Emma, at home; Emil, of Worthington; Joseph, deceased.

**JOHN HART.** There are few men living in Nobles county today who can claim a longer period of continuous residence than can John Hart, who lives on his original soldier's home-stead in Graham Lakes township, taken in the year 1870. He came at a time when there were only about one hun-

dred inhabitants—men, women and children—residing in the whole of Nobles county, and of these original settlers only a very few remain. He passed through all the trials and hardships of pioneer life in this, then, new country, and his biography is well entitled to a place in this volume.

He was born in East Hanover, Pa., Oct. 15, 1837, and there he passed his boyhood days, securing a common school education and working on the farm. When the civil war broke out he was among the first to offer his services to his country. He enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment in May, 1861, for a three months service, at the end of which time he received his discharge. He immediately reenlisted for a three years' term, and served until his term expired in 1864, taking part in the battle of Gettysburg and many other famous battles of the civil war. Not content to return to private life while there was fighting to be done, Mr. Hart reenlisted as a veteran and served until the close of the war, taking part in the grand review at Washington in May, 1865.

Immediately after his retirement from the army he came west and located in Wabasha county, Minn. For a year or two he was engaged in logging and rafting on the Mississippi, but thereafter devoted himself exclusively to farming. During his residence at Wabasha he was married (in 1867) to Miss Bridget Maher, who was born near Galena, Ill., but who had come to Wabasha in 1862. To Mr. and Mrs. Hart have been born six children, as follows: James, Jennie (Mrs. Burgess Jones), John, George, Fred and Harry.

Mr. Hart moved with his family to Blue Earth in 1869. Looking for a home in the new country to the west, Mr. Hart came to Nobles county in the spring of 1870, and took as a soldier's homestead the southeast quarter of section 20, Graham Lakes township, at a time before the county was organized. He then returned to his home in Blue Earth, but returned to his new home with his family in 1871, and ever since that date has resided here, devoting himself to farming.

During his long residence in Graham Lakes he has held various townships offices, and for 27 years has held the office of treasurer of the school district in which he lives. He

is a member of the Catholic church and of the Odd Fellows lodge.

R. L. ERSKINE, now a resident of Mountain Grove, Mo., was one of the very earliest settlers of Nobles county, having taken up his residence in Indian Lake township when the Indians living there outnumbered the whites. When he came here Nobles county had not yet been organized and there were not 100 white people living in the whole county. He took a prominent part in the affairs of the county in the early days and was one who helped to bring about the organization of Indian Lake township, the second one to be vested with township organization.

Mr. Erskine was born Jan. 16, 1832, on board a sailing vessel on which his parents were taking passage from England to America. The family first settled in Maine, and there the subject of this sketch was raised. After growing to manhood he located in Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and other southern states. During the time he was in the south three years were spent in the business of starting saw mills, instructing the crews, etc. Five years of his early life were spent on the sea.

Mr. Erskine finally settled in Illinois and engaged in farming, and there we find him at the time of the outbreak of the civil war. He enlisted in an Illinois regiment and served 18 months as a private. During this service he was wounded in the leg, but not seriously. After his muster out he returned to his old home in Illinois, where he lived for a few years, and then moved to Chickasaw county, Iowa. In 1868 he moved to Okoboji lake, Dickinson county, Iowa, where he lived for one year. Then, desiring to find a home in the new and unsettled country, he came to Nobles county in the fall of 1869 and builded himself a home on the east shore of Indian lake. That was his home until 1894, when he sold out his holdings here and with his wife moved to Mountain Grove, Wright county, Mo., where they still reside. He has now retired from active life.

R. L. Erskine was married in Illinois in 1855 to Louisa Fletcher, who had been born and arised in that state. They were the parents of ten children, of whom nine are still living.

HANS NYSTROM, of Bigelow township, is one of the pioneer settlers of that township, having come with the very first settlers there. He was born in Jemtland, Sweden, April 6, 1846. His parents were Peter and Martha (Hanson) Nystrom, both of whom died in Bigelow township, the former in 1892, the latter in 1898.

Hans received an education in the Swedish schools and was raised on a farm. After reaching an age when he was able to do a man's work he began work in the copper mines. At this work he was engaged four years in Sweden and three years in Norway. He came to America in 1870, arriving in Quebec, Canada, on May 9. From there he went to Milwaukee, Wis., and then direct to Holland, Mich., where he worked for a short time on the railroad. In the latter part of the year 1870 he went to Duluth, where he worked three months, and then proceeded to St. Paul. There he secured work for a short time on the Wisconsin Central railroad, and in the early part of March, 1871, secured work on the Saint Paul & Sioux City railroad, which was then building through southwestern Minnesota. While thus employed, in the summer of that year, he came to Nobles county with several of his companions and took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 24, Bigelow township. After making his filing he continued his work on the railroad, but early in the spring of 1872 moved onto his claim, and that has been his home ever since. His place is finely improved and he has one of the finest groves in the vicinity, the start of which was from cuttings secured from a place near the village of Jackson. Mr. Nystrom made the journey on foot to secure them in the early days. He farmed his land until the year 1908, when he retired from active business, having turned the management of the place over to his sons. In addition to his homestead Mr. Nystrom owns a quarter section of land adjoining.

In Sweden Mr. Nystrom was united in marriage to Anna Olson. They are the parents of the following named children: Tilda (Mrs. Frank Blix), of Indian Lake; O. H., a farmer of Bigelow township; Hannah (Mrs. A. J. Ohnd), of Worthington; Emma (Mrs. Anton E. Holm), of Indian Lake; Peter H., Minnie, Dan and Henry, who reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Nystrom and all the children

are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake, the parents having held their membership since 1875. For several years Mr. Nystrom served as director of the school district in which he lives.

CAPTAIN CHARLES B. LOVELESS (1823-1890) was one of the prominent residents of Worthington during the early days and took an active part in local affairs. Captain Loveless was born in Maine in 1823. His father was a native of Connecticut and his mother of Nova Scotia. At the age of ten years he shipped as cabin boy on a coasting vessel, and followed the sea two years. Returning, he learned the trade of blacksmith and machinist and became very skilled in his work. He learned his trade in Schenectady, N. Y., but most of his business life was spent in Syracuse, N. Y. He was the inventor of several useful articles, and the opening of the war of the rebellion found him on the highway to distinction and wealth as an inventor, machinist and business man.

When the war broke out Mr. Loveless was in Portland, Maine, the proprietor of a patent gas works. He at once sold his business and set about recruiting a regiment of cavalry, using his own means while so doing. He raised part of two regiments and was mustered into the service in July, 1861, as captain of company B, third regiment New York cavalry. He served two years with fidelity and gallantry.

After leaving the army Captain Loveless engaged in the manufacture of stoves in the city of New York, part of the time traveling over the country selling his goods. He came to Worthington in 1872 with the vanguard of the colonists, built the Lake View hotel and opened a blacksmith shop and carriage manufactory. He sold his vehicles quite extensively in the new settlements of southwestern Minnesota. He became prominent in anti-saloon matters, as he had been in anti-slavery matters before the war, and identified himself with the temperance movement in Worthington. In this he became a leader. He was Worthington's first justice of the peace, having been chosen at the first election in

March, 1873. He was elected a member of the village council in 1875 and again in 1877. He died at Worthington Dec. 29, 1890.

Captain Loveless was married in 1847 to Miss Mary C. Page, who died in February, 1889. To them were born the following children: William W. and Joseph P., both residents of Worthington; Alida, Ella and Charles, all of whom died in infancy. On Oct. 29, 1890, just two months before his death, Captain Loveless was married to Mrs. Sylvia E. Wood, of Syracuse, N. Y.

REZEAU B. PLOTTS. Among the pioneer settlers of Nobles county few have taken a more active part in the affairs of the county than has R. B. Plotts, of Worthington. Coming to the county with the vanguard of the colonists early in 1872, he at once became identified with the interests of the community, and took part in many of the stirring events of pioneer days.

The life of R. B. Plotts has been an eventful one. He was born at Mount Holly, N. J., Jan. 29, 1837, the town of his birth being but eighteen miles from the city of Philadelphia. His great-great-grandfather was a native of Germany, who came to the United States and became one of the early settlers of New Jersey, founding the American branch of the Plotts family. Our subject's father was Rev. Conley Plotts, a Princeton graduate and a man of considerable prominence in educational circles in the eastern states, a teacher as well as a preacher, who for many years was owner of the academy at Mount Holly, which he and his brother John founded, and in Philadelphia was engaged in school work in several educational institutions. Our subject's mother was Anna F. (Frankfort) Plotts, who was a native of Philadelphia, and the descendant of another old American family. Both the Plotts and Frankfort families were prominent in Revolutionary times. One member of the Frankfort family was a personal friend of General Washington, and Mr. Plotts, of this sketch, has in his possession an old desk which was his grandfather's and at which General Washington has sat. Another one of Mr. Plotts' ancestors was a member of the

Boston tea party, and another served with John Paul Jones.

R. B. Plotts began his education when four years of age, receiving instruction from his father. In 1842 the family moved to Philadelphia, and there he completed his education graduating from the central high school—a school corresponding to the present day college—in 1853. Upon quitting school Mr. Plotts entered the employ of Reany, Neafie & Levy, in Kensington, Philadelphia, and remained with that firm four years, learning the machinist's trade. Thereafter he worked as a journeyman machinist in different parts of the country whenever he could find work. When not able to obtain work at his trade he taught school in Iowa and Wisconsin. In the spring of 1859 he moved to Williamsport, Pa., to which place his parents had moved while he was learning his trade. There he remained until early in the year following, working part of the time in the railroad shops. After a short sojourn in Norfolk, Va., Mr. Plotts went to Richmond, Va., where he made his home until February or March, 1861. On the last train that left Richmond for the nation's capital before the opening of hostilities between the north and south had cut off communication Mr. Plotts was a passenger.

He went at once to Williamsport and made application for admission to the navy, and on July 1, 1861, was accepted. In August the sloop of war Richmond, to which he was assigned, sailed from the Brooklyn navy yard, and cruised for about a month in pursuit of the rebel ship Sumpter. Then the vessel reported for duty at Pensacola, and was sent to blockade the mouth of the Mississippi river, where it relieved the Brooklyn. After being on blockade duty for a short time the Richmond, on October 1, sailed to the head of the passes, where it remained until the morning of October 12. That day it engaged in battle with the rebel ram Manassas. In the engagement the rebel ship collided with the Richmond, broke a large hole in its side and did considerable damage. After fighting for about an hour and a half the vessels separated, neither having gained a victory.

Mr. Plotts participated in many hard

for his services on board the Richmond from 1860 to 1863. In the last named year he was transferred to the Nipsic, and during the next nine months was with the South Atlantic Squadron. Most of the time his vessel was off Charleston, in the vicinity of which it participated in many engagements. In July, 1864, Mr. Plotts was assigned to the ship Ontario, on which he served during two severe engagements, his vessel being in the fight in Mobile bay against Fort Morgan. The squadron continued in the vicinity of Mobile bay until the close of the war. For some time Mr. Plotts was in the hospital as the result of hardships and exposure through which he had passed. Later he was ordered to New Orleans, whence he was ordered north on sick leave. He returned home, where he remained until 1866, being retired from duty in January, and late in the same year was ordered on duty again and was stationed at League Island, Philadelphia, where he was four years. In 1867 he was given the office of post-assistant engineer, with the rank of lieutenant. He was retired from active duty Oct. 1, 1870, and is still on the retired list. On June 29, 1906, he was promoted to the office of chief engineer, with the rank of lieutenant.

After being placed on the retired list Mr. Plotts returned to Williamsport, Pa., where he remained a little over a year. He decided to cast his lot with the west and on March 6, 1872, arrived with the colonists in Nobles county. He settled on a farm in Elk township, where he engaged in farming until February, 1877. He then moved to Worthington, which has since been his home. During his long residence in the county Mr. Plotts has been very active along many lines of endeavor and has many times been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He was the first clerk in Elk township. On May 29, 1880, he was appointed village recorder to succeed N. A. Parlow, resigned, and was elected to the office in 1881, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86. He was village assessor in 1894 and village clerk in 1901. In the early days he served several terms as deputy sheriff, and was acting sheriff during the latter part of Sheriff Miller's last term. He was elected and served several terms as county coroner. Mr. Plotts has

been a member of the Masonic order since 1873, and for twenty years has been secretary of the Worthington lodge. He is also a member of the G. A. R.

At New Orleans, La., on July 23, 1864, Lieutenant Plotts was married to Miss Kate Slavin, daughter of Edward and Anna (Davis) Slavin, natives, respectively, of Ireland and England. Mrs. Plotts was born at Galveston, Texas, June 23, 1845, and died in Worthington April 2, 1885. To Mr. and Mrs. Plotts were born the following children: Emily C., Martha W., Lillian C., Nellie M., Phillip E., John Manning and Walter J. All are living except the last named, who died in September, 1888. The first born, a son, died at birth; also two daughters died in infancy.

ARTHUR J. RICE, of Adrian, is one of the pioneer residents of that city, having resided there continuously since September, 1877. During all these years he has been closely identified with the development of the west end metropolis, and in later years he has had a part in the history of two other Nobles county villages, Ellsworth and Lismore. In the former town he conducted a branch drug store for a number of years, and in the new town of Lismore he has worked energetically for its development.

Mr. Rice descends from colonial stock. The founder of the American branch of the Rice family was among the very earliest arrivals in the new world, and located in the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts. The family later became residents of Connecticut, and finally permanently settled in New York state. On his mother's side Mr. Rice also comes from one of the old families of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The father of our subject was Nelson Rice, the mother Phoebe (Welch) Rice. To these parents was born Arthur J. Rice on August 28, 1856, in Harrison township, Potter county, Pa., where his parents were residing temporarily. His boyhood days were spent on a farm near Whitesville, in Allegany county, N. Y. There he attended the public schools, and there he learned the drug business under Dr. J. G. Horton.

At the age of twenty years Mr. Rice came to Nobles county, arriving in Worthington in September, 1876. For one year he was



employed as clerk in Dr. R. D. Barber's drug store. Then he moved to the new town of Adrian, started in the drug business for himself, and has ever since made that city his home. He continued in the drug business until 1893, when he disposed of his property and engaged in the land business on a small scale. Later he became the traveling representative of the Western Bridge company, of Chicago, his territory being Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and northwestern Iowa. In 1896 he was elected county commissioner and served a four year term. He organized the State Bank of Lismore, in the new town on the Rock Island road, in September, 1900, and has since held the office of cashier in that institution. The greater part of his time is now taken up with his duties in Lismore, but he still remains a resident of Adrian.

Mr. Rice was married May 22, 1879, to May Hitchins. They are the parents of four sons, Dr. Geo. D. Rice, born Aug. 30, 1880, of Pipestone, Minn.; Dr. A. N. Rice, born Jan. 23, 1881, of Adrian; Kenneth Rice, born Oct. 4, 1890, and Carl Rice, born Sept. 12, 1893, both of Adrian.

Mrs. Rice is the daughter of Geo. and Anna Hitchins, who moved to Adrian from Little Rock township in 1883, and where they both died. She was born in Iowa county, Wis., March 22, 1857.

Mr. Rice is a Mason, being the first to receive the Third degree in Adrian when the lodge was working under dispensation. In after years he was Master of Roman Eagle lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 175, Adrian.

E. L. WEMPLE (1835-1908). One of the oldest and most respected citizens of Rushmore was E. L. Wemple, who was one of the founders of that village and who made his home there from 1878 until his death in August, 1908. Well educated and well informed, he kept posted on all current affairs, and was a competent critic of all literary and musical subjects. He was a man of decided opinions on all questions of right and wrong, and was a power in the community in which he lived so long.

E. L. Wemple descended from one of the old American families, some of his ancestors taking a very prominent part in the war of the revolution. He was born at Fonda, N.

Y., May 31, 1835, and there he lived till sixteen years of age. Then he went to New York city, obtained employment in a wholesale house, in which business he was engaged for many years. In 1866 he accepted a position of art decorator for the Singer Manufacturing company and was engaged in that work for twelve years.

In 1878 Mr. Wemple gave up his position in the metropolis and came to the little village of Rushmore, being among the first to locate there. His family came the next year, and it was decided to make Nobles county their future home. In the spring of 1879 he erected the first hotel building in the town—the building now used as the family home—and engaged in the hotel business, a business which he followed for just a quarter of a century. Owing to feeble health he closed the hotel in 1904.

During his long residence in Nobles county Judge Wemple took a prominent part in the affairs of the county. In 1886 he was elected judge of probate on the republican ticket and served one term. He was postmaster of Rushmore from 1898 to 1903, when he resigned. For twenty-one years he was treasurer of the Rushmore school board. He held the office of treasurer of Dewald township for six years, and served as justice of the peace many years.

January 17, 1858, Mr. Wemple was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Seober at New York city. Mrs. Wemple also descends from one of the old American families who took prominent part in the revolutionary war. She was born June 29, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Wemple are the parents of five children, all of whom are living. They are: Edwin S., born in New York city Jan. 19, 1859, now living in Rushmore; A. S., born July 11, 1861, living in Minneapolis; Lillian (Mrs. Anton Schaefer), born Nov. 24, 1865, living in St. Paul; Grace R. (Mrs. W. H. Booth), born Jan. 13, 1869, living in Sioux Falls, S. D.; James, born Dec. 15, 1872, living in New York state.

WILLIAM THOM (1834-1907). During a residence of thirty-five years in Nobles county, the late William Thom, of Olney township, was one of the most highly respected residents of central Nobles county. When he came to the county in 1872 he was possessed

of very little means, and during the grass-hopper period these were reduced to almost nothing. He stayed with the country, however, and became one of the largest land-owners in his vicinity, at the time of his death in 1907, being the owner of 1,500 acres of land in Nobles county; also a tract in Canada and a quarter section in North Dakota.

William Thom was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, Sept. 9, 1834, and in his native land was reared and educated. In 1854 he severed home ties and sought his fortune in the new world, landing in America in the spring of that year. He was then without means, but had plenty of pluck and ambition. Immediately upon his arrival he went to Kenosha, Wis., where for three years he worked on his uncle's farm. In the spring of 1857 he moved to Steele county, Minn., preempted 160 acres of land, upon which he settled and lived until 1865. He then disposed of his property in Steele county, moved to Houston county, purchased a farm there, and engaged in farming until his arrival in Nobles county.

In May, 1872, Mr. Thom came in this county, took a claim of eighty acres in Olney township (the west half of the south-west quarter of section 12), and soon thereafter became a resident of the county. He erected a house on his claim in 1873, and the following year brought his family to the new home. On that place he resided until his death on Jan. 20, 1907. He took a commendable interest in local affairs, directing his influence along the line of progress and for the good of the community. For many years he held office in his township. He was a charter member of the Rushmore Presbyterian church, of which he was ruling elder at the time of his death. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Rushmore, which came into existence in 1903 and was its president from the time of organization until his death. He owned the majority of the stock of that financial institution.

Mr. Thom was united in marriage at Houston, Minn., March 20, 1865, to Miss Eliza Mitchell. She was also born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and came to America on the same ship that brought her future husband. She was born May 20, 1848, and died April 20, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Thom were the par-

ents of eleven children, of whom seven are living. The children are Annie M., died April 13, 1894, aged 29 years; Frank V., residing in Olney; James A., died in 1899, aged 30 years; William C., banker of Rushmore; John D., died April 10, 1896, aged 21 years; Arthur G., Olney; Roy C., Olney; Bertha M. (Mrs. W. R. McChord), Olney; Lillian B., Olney; Robert R., died March 2, 1905, aged 16 years; Pearl E., Olney.

OSCAR D. BRYAN. One of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county and one of the very first to take up a residence in Grand Prairie township is O. D. Bryan, who is one of the members of the board of county commissioners. He is one of the few Nobles county homesteaders who have resided continuously on the land they secured from the government, and his residence on the one farm covers a period of thirty-seven years.

Mr. Bryan was born in Geauga county, Ohio, Nov. 21, 1845, the son of James M. and Sarah (Rockwell) Bryan, who were both natives of New York state. James M. Bryan moved west when a young man and located in Ohio. He is now living with a daughter in Hancock county, Iowa, and is ninety years of age. The mother of our subject died in 1860.

When Oscar was four years old the family moved to Buchanan county, Iowa, and that was his home until past eighteen years of age. On Feb. 29, 1864, he enlisted in company E, of the Fifth Iowa volunteer infantry, Captain Daniel S. Lee, and served in the army until the close of the war. He was transferred to company G, of the Fifth cavalry, Aug. 8, 1864, and served as bugler of that company until he was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., on Aug. 11, 1865.

After the war Mr. Bryan returned to his old home in Buchanan county, Iowa, and resided there until 1870. He then spent one year in Wright county, Iowa, and then, in June, 1871, came to Nobles county. He filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 18, Grand Prairie township, and he has since resided on the place. He has sold one-half of the original farm, but still owns the west half of the quarter. He experienced all the hardships that were the lot of the pioneer settlers and, as he expresses it, "got everything that was coming to an early Nobles county settler."





PETER THOMPSON  
A Pioneer of 1871.

Mr. Bryan was married in Wright county, Iowa, Oct. 19, 1872, to Lyda Sprague, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Charles and Mary Sprague. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan are the parents of the following living children: Jennie, born in Wright county, Iowa, Dec. 11, 1873; Ralph, born in Nobles county Nov. 21, 1882; Vera, born in Nobles county Aug. 26, 1891.

Mr. Bryan has been a lifelong democrat and has taken an active part in local politics. He voted for Samuel Tilden and has since upheld the principles of democracy. He is rightly called the father of democracy of Grand Prairie township. In July, 1903, he was appointed county commissioner from the fourth district to fill the unexpired term of P. C. Pratt, resigned. In 1904 and again in 1906 he was elected on the democratic ticket without opposition and is now serving on his third term. For thirteen years he served as chairman of the Grand Prairie township board, and was treasurer of school district No. 39 from the date of its organization up to fifteen years ago. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Workmen lodges.

**PETER THOMPSON.** In the whole of Nobles county there is no man who enjoys a larger acquaintance than does the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. Coming to the county with the vanguard of the colonists, he at once became identified with its business, social, religious and political life. In an unassuming and unpretentious manner he became a leader. He has engaged in more business enterprises than any other man in the county. During his residence of thirty-six years in the county he won the respect and esteem of all with whom he was thrown in contact.

Peter Thompson is a Scandinavian by birth. He was born in Jerfjo, Helsingland, Sweden, Jan. 27, 1839, the son of Peter and Karin (Goranson) Thompson. The father lived to an age of 87 years, passing away at Waupaca, Wis., about 1896. The mother lived to be 94 years of age, and died in the same Wisconsin town in 1903. In his native land Mr. Thompson lived until he was eleven years of age, and there he secured the foundation of his education in the Swedish public schools. In 1850 the family came to America and located at Pine Lake, Wis. They

were residents of that place only one year, when they moved to Waupaca, in the same state. There young Thompson engaged in farm work for two years, working during the summer months and attending school in the winters. He then took employment in a drug store, at which business he was engaged five years. During the first few years of his work there he was employed only part of the time, and he took advantage of the conditions to further his educational ambitions, attending the public schools whenever opportunity afforded. He became proficient in the drug business, and during the latter part of his employment was given entire charge of the store, with two men under him.

In the fall of 1858 the Thompsons became residents of Minnesota, making their home in Carver county. In the village of Carver Peter Thompson grew to manhood. For five years he was a clerk in a general store; the next year was spent as clerk on a steamboat plying the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. He then started in business for himself, conducting a general store at Carver for seven years.

When it became known that the railroad was to be built through the southwestern portion of Minnesota and that the hitherto frontier country was to be opened, Mr. Thompson decided to cast his lot with the new country. One of his friends was J. O. Brunius, of Carver, who was one of the surveyors of the Sioux City & St. Paul company. Through him Mr. Thompson became interested in the Nobles county country. The surveyor gave Mr. Thompson the description of a piece of land along the new road, and in September, 1871, he went to Jackson, and in the land office there filed on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 31, township 103, range 40—the first filing made on land in what is now Elk township. He made the filing on the recommendation of Mr. Brunius, and had not visited Nobles county at the time. Mr. Thompson was a personal friend of Ex-governor Stephen Miller, who was at that time the agent of the railroad company, and that official kept Mr. Thompson informed of the doings of the railroad company and the operations of the National colony.

Realizing the advantages of being on the ground early, Mr. Thompson came to the site of the proposed new town of Worthington early in October, 1871. The day after his ar-

rival the surveyors came and laid out the town. The next day Mr. Thompson purchased three lots, the first sold in the town. Two business lots were purchased on Ninth street, where the store of Mr. S. V. Wyckoff now stands. The third was at the corner of Eleventh street and Third avenue, where the purchaser proposed to erect a residence. He remained only a few days, and then returned to his home in Carver. On Sunday, April 16, 1872, he returned to the new town, coming on the first regular train that ran into Worthington. He brought with him three or four car loads of lumber and several carpenters, and at once commenced the erection of his store building on Ninth street.

Besides his general store, he engaged in several other lines of business, establishing them in 1872. He engaged in the farming machinery business, which he conducted until 1886. He built a warehouse (the building now stands in the rear of the Worthington Globe office) and engaged in the grain business. He also engaged in the real estate business, in which he has ever since been interested. He disposed of his store in 1879, selling to R. W. Lyon, and discontinued his grain business about the same time. In 1878 he started in business in Adrian, his enterprises there being managed by A. M. Crosby. He purchased a stock farm near there, built an elevator and engaged in the agricultural machinery business. He conducted these enterprises until March 30, 1886, when he sold to A. G. Lindgren.

Mr. Thompson prepared a set of abstract books in 1879, and since that date has been engaged in the abstract business. He received the appointment of official county abstractor in 1901. On the first day of January, 1880, in partnership with Geo. J. Day, he founded the Nobles County Bank, of which he was president. On Feb. 13, 1885, he became sole owner of the bank, and thereafter until 1891 he was engaged in the banking business. He then sold to Lynd and Evans, since which time he has been engaged in the abstract, real estate, insurance and loan business. For many years he has been the owner of the Worthington Globe plant, and is at the present time the publisher of that paper.

In an official capacity Mr. Thompson has served his city and county many times. He was elected the city's first treasurer in 1873 and again the following year. He was presi-

dent of the village council in 1876 and 1877. He was elected county treasurer in 1877, and served a two year term. He was chosen county commissioner in 1892, and became chairman of the board. He resigned the office in July, 1893.

In church matters he has taken a prominent part. He was instrumental in organizing the Swedish Lutheran church in 1872, and took a prominent part in its reorganization in 1876. From the date of the first organization he has held the office of deacon—a continuous service of thirty-six years. At times he has also held the offices of treasurer and trustee.

He took part in many of the events of historical importance that have been described in the historical section of this work. Among other things, he took part in the organization of township government in Bigelow township. He was a notary public, and in the spring of 1872 swore in the first officers of that township, the initial meeting having been held at the home of Lars Elofson on section 14.

Peter Thompson was married at Carver, Minn., March 18, 1860, to Christine Danielson. Mrs. Thompson was born in Sweden, came to the United States and to Carver, Minn., in 1854, and there met her future husband. Her father died when she was an infant; her mother died at her home in Carver in 1905, at the advanced age of 93 years. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of two daughters: Hannah (Mrs. Fred Parker), of Duluth, Minn., and Nellie (Mrs. James W. Parker), of Sioux Falls, S. D.

W. A. DILLMAN. For forty years W. A. Dillman has been a resident of Nobles county, and with one exception he is the county's oldest pioneer now living in the county. When he came to the shores of the Okabema Lakes in the fall of 1868 there was not a human being within a radius of many miles; no railroad had yet penetrated the county; Worthington had not been thought of; and but few men had seen the sights which greeted his eyes. The site of Worthington was then the home of the muskrat, fox and other fur bearing animals.

W. A. Dillman was born in Ohio January 8, 1811, the son of George Dillman and Tildy (Dillman) Dillman, who were both natives of

Ohio. When "Andy," as he is commonly called, was one year old his parents moved from their Ohio home to Columbus, Indiana, and there the subject of this sketch spent his early life. During the winter months he attended school in a little log school house, and during the summer months he worked on the farm. This life continued until he was seventeen years old; then he took up the life of a soldier, and for over four years was a union soldier, taking part in some of the hardest campaigns of the civil war.

He entered the service on June 2, 1861, enlisting in company G, of the 22nd Indiana volunteer infantry. He reenlisted in the same company and regiment December 23, 1863. He fought under Generals Curtis, Buell, Rosecrans, Grant, Sherman and other generals, and took part in some of the most severe battles of the civil war, including Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Atlanta, and other minor battles. In the battle of Rocky Face Ridge, or Buzzard's Bay Roost (Rocky Face ridge being an inaccessible spur of the Alleghenies, cloven by Buzzard's Bay gap), Mr. Dillman, while fighting under General Sherman, was wounded in the fleshy part of the leg. This occurred May 11, 1864, and Mr. Dillman was off duty as a consequence until August. Almost immediately after going on duty, he was again wounded slightly. This was at Jonesboro and occurred September 1. From Chattanooga to Atlanta the command had almost incessant fighting. After the capture of the last named city Sherman's command, of which our subject was a member, proceeded on the famous march to the sea, arriving in Savannah in December, 1864. From there it started north to get to the rear of Richmond. At Raleigh, N. C., occurred a skirmish, in which Mr. Dillman took part. The command then proceeded to Richmond, and from the capital of the Confederacy to the capital of the nation, where the troops took part in the grand review on May 24, 1865. Mr. Dillman, although at the time a mere boy, was made a corporal, which office he held one year. He was later promoted and during the last year of his service he was a sergeant. During the summer of 1865 the regiment of which Mr. Dillman was a member was ordered to Mexico to take a part in the Maximilian squabble, but had proceeded only so far as Louisville, Ky., when orders

were received for the regiment's muster out. About the first of August the 22nd Indiana was mustered out at Louisville, although the breaking up of the regiment did not take place until some little time later at Indianapolis, Ind.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Dillman returned to Columbus, Ind., where for two years he was engaged in farming, carpenter work and odd jobs. In June, 1868, he decided to go west, and that month located at Blue Earth, Minn. In September of the same year he, in company with John Wilson and Frank Fortner, came to the present site of Worthington, built a sod and log shanty on the east bank of East Okabena lake, and engaged in trapping the fur bearing animals which were there in abundance. During the next few years Mr. Dillman spent the trapping seasons in this vicinity. The story of this part of his life can be found in the history chapters of this work.

Mr. Dillman came to the county to locate permanently in 1871. He located a soldier's homestead on the southeast quarter of section 34, Worthington township, filing his claim in April, and thus became one of the first permanent settlers in that part of the country. That year he worked with one of the crews that was constructing the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad, the first railroad to penetrate the county. For several years afterward he divided his time between trapping, working on the railroad and farming. These occupations he followed until about 1885. Then he settled on his farm and made that his home until about 1894, when he moved to Worthington, and that city has been his home since. Nearly all the time he has been in Worthington he has operated a billiard hall.

"Andy" Dillman is certainly a pioneer of pioneers; he has seen Worthington grow from the home of the muskrat to a prosperous city—something which it has been the lot of no other man to witness.

GEORGE T. BULICK. One of the pioneers of Nobles county, one of the county's largest land owners and most successful farmers is Geo. T. Bulick, who resides at Reading. During his residence in the county, extending over a period of time from 1873 to the present, Mr. Bulick has passed through all the

degrees of poverty and prosperity. During the disastrous grass-hopper days he was the poorest of the poor and has known what it means to go hungry. For two weeks he and his wife lived on water and flour gravy. During these darkest days in the county's history his only income was what little he could make from the trapping of muskrats. Without sufficient means to pay his way out of the country, he was compelled to remain, and today he is glad of it. He is the owner of 1,600 acres of land in Summit Lake township.

Mr. Bulick's life history is one of interest. He was born in Oaktown, Center county, Pa., Sept. 2, 1848. His father was Joseph Bulick, a blacksmith, who was born in New Jersey, and who died in Pennsylvania in 1875, aged 75 years. The family came originally from Wales, but for several generations had lived in America. Our subject's mother was Maria (Pugh) Bulick, who was born in England, came to America when a child, wedded Joseph Bulick Sept. 17, 1839, and died in 1891 at the age of 80 years.

Only limited advantages were accorded George T. Bulick for obtaining an education. At the age of fifteen he left home to make his own way in the world, and the next year enlisted in the United States service to fight for the preservation of the union. After making seven attempts to enter the service he was finally successful, and on Sept. 29, 1864, he was enrolled as a member of company L, of the 99th Pennsylvania volunteer infantry, which became a part of the Second army corps. He was at once sent to the front, and participated in some of the most severe fighting of the war. At the battle of Petersburg, in November, he was so severely wounded that he was given up to die by the surgeons. He had just been relieved from picket duty and was entering the door of a bomb proof when a mortar shell struck and penetrated the bomb proof, in which were a number of his comrades. The missile of death came through the bomb proof and exploded, breaking four logs and letting in about five feet of earth from the top. This damage let the logs and earth down upon the inmates of the enclosure. Two of the men were instantly killed and two others were seriously wounded. The exploding bomb broke Mr. Bulick's right leg and two of his ribs; the bone in his upper

arm was split, and a slug from the bomb entered his chest, through the collar bone, and was removed from the lung by the surgeons. The cap of his shoulder was also injured. For two weeks he was unconscious, and for five months he was in a hospital. After this accident he was transferred to company A, of the 199th regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, 24th corps. He was mustered out at Richmond and received his discharge at Philadelphia July 8, 1865. Because of his injuries Mr. Bulick has drawn a pension ever since his discharge. He now draws \$17 per month.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Bulick returned to his home in Pennsylvania and for one year worked in a saw mill. He then devoted himself to huckstering, which was his employment for six years. Our subject decided to go west and seek his fortune in some new country. With a companion he started out early in the year 1873 and visited Nebraska. They did not like the country, and, as Mr. Bulick's companion had some advertising matter which set forth in glowing terms the advantages of Nobles county, they decided to come to the land of promise. They arrived in the month of April, 1873, and Nobles county has been the home of our subject ever since.

He immediately filed a homestead claim to the southwest quarter of section 22, Summit Lake township. That summer he went to Rochester, Minn., where he worked on the streets and at farm work. It was during his stay in Rochester that he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Kineh, a native of Huntington county, Pa., and a daughter of John and Eliza (Leathers) Kineh. This union has resulted in the birth of ten children, of whom the following are living: Anna E. (Mrs. Robert Black), Dewald; Emma J. (Mrs. John Green), Summit Lake; Ida M. (Mrs. James Baird), Summit Lake; Frank G. (married Gertie Johnson), Reading; Effie M. (Mrs. Raymond Conner), Superior, Wis.; William J., Reading.

Early in 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Bulick came to their claim in Summit Lake. Without means to erect a suitable residence, Mr. Bulick built a dug out, which was done by simply digging a hole in the ground and covering the opening with boards. In this he lived only a short time, and then built a more pretentious home—a frame building 12x16



feet, covered with sods. In May, 1875, he took as a tree claim the southeast quarter of section 28, Summit Lake township, and later made his home on that, planting trees and erecting a good house. There he resided until 1901, when he erected a fine house in the village of Reading, and has since made his home there, managing his many farms from that place. Mr. Bulick owns all of section 27, the south half of 28, 260 acres in 23, 162 acres on the northeast quarter of 2, Summit Lake township, and two houses and lots in Reading. He engages largely in stock raising, and has large herds of cattle and sheep. Nearly all of his land is tilled.

Politically Mr. Bulick is a republican. In township and school matters he has held office during nearly all the time he has resided in the county. In the early days he served several terms on the township board, and was township treasurer for many years. He also held the office of school treasurer for a long time. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Reading. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a Woodman.

CHARLES A. SUNDBERG. A pioneer settler of Nobles county and one of the first, if not the first, settlers of Dewald township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He took a homestead claim in Dewald in April, 1872, and that place has been his home ever since—a period of continuous residence of over thirty-six years.

Charles A. Sundberg was born in the copper mining district of Bersbo, Sweden, April 25, 1841. His father was Jonas Sundberg, who followed the occupation of miner all his life as had his father before him. The mother of our subject was Annie (Anderson) Sundberg. Both his parents died in Sweden in the early seventies. Although beginning the work which his ancestors had followed for so many years at the tender age of eight years, Charles managed to receive a common school education, receiving instruction in the branches taught in the lower grades. From eight to twelve years of age he did light work on the surface, but when he reached the latter age he was sent below and instructed in the duties of mining. He continued to follow that occupation until 1864.

On the second day of September, of the

last named year, he landed in Boston, determined to seek his fortune in the new world. Experienced only in the copper mining business, Mr. Sundberg sought employment at his trade. He went at once to Houghton, Mich., and there for two and one-half years was employed in the copper mines of that district. He then worked for the same length of time in the iron mines at Ishpeming. He then determined to give up the life of a miner, and in June, 1869, moved to Jasper county, in southwestern Missouri. There he bought an eighty-acre farm, and during the next three years gained his first knowledge of farming.

Because of sickness in the fever and ague district of Missouri, Mr. Sundberg decided to seek a home in a more healthful clime. He decided to go to Jackson county, Minn., about which country he had heard, and set out to make the trip overland—a trip which consumed five weeks' time. When the party was about half way across the state of Iowa, a man was met who told Mr. Sundberg of the new country in Nobles county and of the organization and plans of the National colony. So glowing were the accounts told by the stranger that Mr. Sundberg decided to change his course and go to Worthington. This was done and the family arrived in the little village on the bank of lake Okabena on April 15, 1872. After one week spent in that village Mr. Sundberg joined the National colony and took as a homestead the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2, Dewald township, and as a tree claim the west half of the same quarter. There he has resided ever since.

At the time he built his house there was not another habitation in sight, but so rapid was the settlement immediately afterward that thirty days later Mr. Sundberg was able to count many houses and shacks from the top of his building. He went through all the pioneer experiences of early life in Nobles county and weathered the hard times—and harder times were never known in any country than those of the seventies in Nobles county. Without sufficient funds to leave the country during the darkest days of the grasshopper scourge, and not knowing of a better place to go to had he the means, Mr. Sundberg remained and has become one of the substantial farmers of eastern Nobles county. He has an excellent apple orchard

of 300 trees on his farm, and also raises considerable small fruit. In past years he has gained a reputation as a strawberry gardener, some seasons having sold several thousand quarts of the finest berries to be found on the market. He is not now so actively engaged in agricultural and horticultural pursuits as formerly, and soon expects to retire. Mr. Sundberg has always taken an active interest in school matters, and for sixteen years served as treasurer of the school district in which he lives.

On Sept. 9, 1865, at Houghton, Mich., occurred the marriage of Mr. Sundberg to Johanna Matilda Wallin. Mrs. Sundberg is a native of Sweden and came to the United States on the same boat which carried her husband-to-be. They are the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living: Annie (Mrs. Svante Kall), Worthington; Frank; Ellen (Mrs. Frank Bowman), Brinsmade, N. D.; Minnie (Mrs. J. Schechter, Jr.), Elk township; Amanda (Mrs. John Bohberg), Worthington; Selma (Mrs. Carl Bostrom), Lewisburg, Minn.; Esther, at home. The first born Carl died at the age of one and a half years. Hilda Josephine, born Jan. 21, 1879, died Aug. 14, 1900.

**WILLIAM DWYER.** Among the few surviving pioneers of Nobles county whose date of arrival antedates the coming of the railroad is William Dwyer, who has made his home on his Lorain township farm since the summer of 1871. He is the oldest settler of that township, and has passed through the period of grass-hopper visitation, Indian scares, blizzards, prairie fires and other experiences of pioneer life.

Mr. Dwyer was born in county Limerick, Ireland, and was the son of Tom Dwyer and Mary (Plumen) Dwyer, both of whom died in their native country. When about 20 years of age young Dwyer came to America. He remained a few weeks in New York city looking for work, which he was unable to find. From the metropolis he went to Burlington, Vt., where he succeeded in finding work, and where he remained four months. We find him next in the vicinity of Buffalo, N. Y., working on the railroad. He remained there only a short time and then went to Chicago, when that place was a frontier village, and when there was not a mile of rail

road west of there. He went to LaSalle, Ill., and for seven years was employed on a packet boat, working at railroading and other occupations. One winter was spent at Independence, Iowa, and one at Marshalltown, and a short time at Cedar Rapids. At the time of the outbreak of the civil war he went to Ottumwa, Iowa, making the trip afoot. He remained there part of one summer and then returned to Illinois, locating near Freeport. During the short time he was there he worked at teaming, owning a team at that time. He next went to Beloit, Wis., and worked near there one winter. The next year was spent at McGregor, Iowa, the next at Hokah, Minn., near LaCrosse, Wis., and in 1869 he moved to Albert Lea, where he remained two years.

In June, 1871, he and his eldest son, Daniel, came to Nobles county and secured work on the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad, then building through this part of the country. During all of his previous life he had never settled permanently; when he came to Nobles county and saw the possibilities of this new country he decided to take a home here, and as a result of that decision he has been a resident of the county forty-seven years. He took as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 10, Lorain township, and in the fall of the year went back to Albert Lea, and brought his family to the new home. During the first year he broke out forty acres and commenced farming, which he and his sons have continued ever since.

Mr. Dwyer was married at LaSalle, Ill., in the summer of 1856 to Mary Ryan. She died at the family home in Nobles county in 1877. To them were born eight children, as follows: Daniel, unmarried, resides on the home farm; Thomas, a fine repairer of Butte, Mont., where he has lived 25 years; William, who resides with his father on the home farm; John, at home; Bertha, at home; Annie (Mrs. Peter Williams), residing in California; Katie, (Mrs. Hugh Gallagher), Moscow, Idaho; Mary (Mrs. John Gallagher), Chatlaroy, Wash., near Spokane.

**CHARLES E. FOX,** a retired farmer of Rushmore, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having lived here since the summer of 1872.

He is of Dutch-Scotch descent. His grandfather, Peter Wermoth Fox, was born in Holland and came to America in 1784 with a colony that settled the Mohawk valley in New York state. One of his sons was John P. Fox, the father of the subject of this sketch. He was born at Palentine, Montgomery county, N. Y., in 1807, and died Jan. 1, 1852. His wife, the mother of the Mr. Fox of this sketch, was Mary (McKay) Fox, who was born at Fall Hill, Herkimer county, N. Y., in 1808. She died in August, 1905, at Scriba, Oswego county, N. Y., at the advanced age of 97 years. She was the daughter of William and Margaret McKay, the former a native of Scotland, the latter of Dutch descent.

To these parents at Mendon, Montgomery county, N. Y., was born Charles J. Fox on Oct. 25, 1831. The county of his birth was his home until 1856. There he received a good common school education in the country and graded schools. When a boy eight years of age he went to live with a relative who was engaged in the mercantile business in Fort Plain, Montgomery county, N. Y., and during the time he was going to school he helped in the store. After his school days he became a salesman in the store and was thus employed five years. He was then made constable of Mendon township and served several years. In 1852 he received the appointment of deputy sheriff of Montgomery county and served in that capacity for three and one-half years.

In the spring of 1856 Mr. Fox decided to cast his fortunes with the west, and located near Watertown, Wis. There he bought an 80-acre tract of timbered land, started to clear it, gave up the job, and after owning the property about one year, he sold it. He then secured a position as clerk in a store at Concord, Wis., at which he was employed until the outbreak of the civil war.

He enlisted Jan. 1, 1862, at Milwaukee in company D, of the 9th Wisconsin infantry, and took part in some of the severest fighting of the west in the army under command of General Fremont. He was mustered out with his regiment in the fall of 1863 when only 284 men were left in the regiment. During this enlistment Mr. Fox served as corporal and most of the time his duties were in the commissary department. Mr. Fox

reenlisted Jan. 4, 1864, in company D, of the 35th Wisconsin infantry, under the command of Col. Henry Orff. The regiment took part in the Red River expedition, and it was during this campaign that Mr. Fox was wounded in the ankle. From that campaign the regiment went to New Orleans and then to Port Hudson, and was later sent in pursuit of General Price. The battle of Duvall's Bluff was participated in by the Wisconsin regiment and for eleven days the soldiers were under fire in the Mobile campaign. During this fighting Mr. Fox was wounded in the head quite severely. After the surrender of Lee the regiment was sent to Brazos, Texas, and there did garrison duty until its muster out. Mr. Fox was taken sick while there and sent to the hospital. Soon after he enlisted the second time the subject of this sketch was made sergeant, and during the greater part of his enlistment was acting orderly sergeant and drew the pay of that office. He was mustered out Aug. 1, 1866.

After receiving his discharge from the army Mr. Fox returned to Wisconsin, remained there only a short time, and then returned to his old home in New York state. There he was engaged in farming until 1872. Again the western fever seized him and he returned to Wisconsin. There he met parties who were about to set out on a trip to the new country still farther west, and he went with them. He arrived in Worthington June 23, 1872, and decided to locate in Nobles county. He immediately took as a soldier's homestead a quarter section of land on section 26, Olney township, two miles west of the present village of Rushmore, and there he made his home until 1891. Besides farming, he also engaged in carpenter work, and many of the first buildings in Rushmore were erected by him. In 1891 he retired from active work and moved to Rushmore, where he has since resided.

Mr. Fox was married at Fort Plain, Montgomery county, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1854, to Miss Rose Fornerook, eldest daughter of William L. and Sarah (Waterman) Fornerook. To them have been born seven children: Mary, died in infancy; Charles; John A., Keokuk, Iowa; Martha E. (Mrs. George Morton), St. Paul; Edwin, died in 1891; Flora (Mrs. C. B. Andrews), Rushmore; Cora, residing at home.

Mrs. Fox died at her late home in Rushmore Jan. 9, 1908, at the age of 71 years and 7 months.

Politically Mr. Fox is a republican, and very few men have the party record he has. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, the first republican candidate for president, and his last for Theodore Roosevelt. In his township and school district he has held many offices during his long period of residence in the county. He is a member of Stoddard Post No. 31, G. A. R., and of the Rushmore Methodist church.

**HENRY HOLMES.** Among the few surviving settlers of Nobles county who came prior to railroad days and who suffered the hardships incident to those days is Henry Holmes, who has resided continuously on his farm there since the spring of 1871. Mr. Holmes is an Englishman by birth, having been born at Sandgate, Kent county, in November, 1846. His parents were William and Mary Elizabeth (Darel) Holmes, the former dying in England July 5, 1882.

It was on the 29th day of August, 1868, that Mr. Holmes gave up a seafaring life and turned his endeavors to less strenuous occupations. For a short time he worked in a pipe works factory in Pittsburg and in a boiler shop at St. Louis. During the summer of 1869 he traveled over a large part of the country, working in the harvest fields of Illinois, Missouri and about Rochester and Garden City, Minn. Thereafter he resided in Blue Earth county until the spring of 1871. On the sixth day of May of that year he came to Nobles county and joined the little colony that had settled in the Graham Lakes country. Taking a homestead claim of eighty acres on section 30, he began the life of a farmer, which he has ever since followed. He has added to his original homestead claim by the purchase of eighty acres in section 31. Mr. Holmes has served several years as a member of the township board of supervisors and has also been a member of the school board.

In Blue Earth county on Feb. 19, 1872, Mr. Holmes was married to Miss Agnes Larkin, who was born in Green Lake county, Wis., in 1855. She is the daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth (Milligan) Larkin. To Mr. and Mrs. Holmes has been born one child Mary Elizabeth.

**BENJAMIN F. THURBER,** of Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having had a continuous residence here of thirty-six years. He has taken an active part in county and local affairs during this long period and is one of the valued residents.

Mr. Thurber was born in Corning, Steuben county, N. Y., March 20, 1838, a son of Hazekiah and Phoebe (Calkins) Thurber. The father was born in the Empire state, the mother in Vermont, and the paternal grandfather, Amos Thurber, was also a native of New York state. Our subject was one of a family of nine children—five sons and four daughters seven of whom reached maturity. He attended the public schools of his native town and resided there until 17 years of age. He then went to Auburn, N. Y., in the high school of which town he completed his education, his vacations being spent working as an attendant in the Auburn asylum for insane convicts.

On the 19th of September, 1861, at Auburn, N. Y., Mr. Thurber enlisted as a private in company A, of the 75th New York volunteer infantry, under Col. John A. Dolge, and served in the army three years, two months and ten days, being mustered out November 26, 1864. He served as first sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain, and in August, 1864, received the commission of major, which he held until his discharge from the army. Major Thurber participated in many severe engagements and campaigns. During the early part of the war his regiment saw service in Florida and Louisiana; later it became a part of the army in Virginia. The regiment was first sent to Santa Rosa island, off the south coast of Florida, from whence it was transferred to Pensacola upon the evacuation of the navy yard there by the enemy. In September, 1862, one year after his enlistment, Mr. Thurber was sent with his regiment to New Orleans, La., and in that state he took part in several severe engagements. Among the battles there was that of Camp Bisland. He had charge of the skirmish line that captured the gunboat Cotton at Bayou Teche.

After spending the winter of 1862-63 in New Orleans the regiment of which Mr. Thurber was a member started out on the campaign through the state under command of General Banks. It went to Alexandria and then to Port Hudson, where the forces ar-

rived May 26, 1863. The day following the arrival Mr. Thurber took part in the charge on Port Hudson. Thereafter for forty-four days the 75th New York regiment engaged the enemy in siege, fighting almost continually, and losing about two-thirds of the command in killed, wounded and captured. On June 14, during a charge on a fort, Mr. Thurber was wounded in the right knee by a rifle shot from the enemy's picket line. He was disabled and off duty until November, when he rejoined his regiment at New Iberia, La. There he took command of his regiment, having been promoted to the rank of captain. On the last day of the year 1863, he reenlisted his regiment as veterans.

Early in the spring of 1864 Mr. Thurber took a veteran's furlough and returned to his home. Later in the spring he reported at Washington and was ordered with his regiment to New Orleans, where he remained until June. Then the regiment was ordered to join General Grant at Petersburg, Va. In the latter part of July the regiment moved to Tanleytown, near Washington, where it became a part of the forces under General Sheridan. In the battle of Winchester the lieutenant colonel of the regiment was killed, and thereafter Major Thurber was the regimental commander. He led his regiment in the fight at Fisher's Hill, and then took part in the Shenandoah campaign of General Sheridan. He participated in the fight at Cedar Creek Oct. 19, 1864, and the next month took the regiment home to Auburn, N. Y., and mustered it out.

Major Thurber was much broken down in health after the war, owing to his arduous service, and for five years did not engage in active business. He then engaged in farming near Auburn, and was so engaged until the spring of 1872. He came with the early settlers to Worthington in April, 1872, and took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 14, Worthington township, just north of the village, now the Geo. W. Patterson farm. There he resided until 1885, farming and engaging in carpenter work and contracting. He then moved to the village, which has since been his home. Major Thurber has taken an active part in local affairs. For many years he served as street commissioner of Worthington, has been a member of the school board and of the

board of health. He is a member of Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., and served as master several terms. He has taken the Royal Arch degrees and served as high priest, and he is a member of the veteran association of the Masonic fraternity of Minnesota. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On the 14th of November, 1873, was consummated the marriage of Mr. Thurber and Miss Jane M. Bear, of Bigelow, who was born in Ohio and in her early childhood came to Nobles county with her parents, Rev. William M. and Mary Bear. She died at her home in Worthington May 20, 1888. Major Thurber is the father of five living children, as follows: William L., a graduate of the Worthington high school and of Hamline University, now a patent examiner at Washington, D. C.; Henry Albert, in the restaurant business in Worthington; Bessie A., wife of Walter Ager, professor of the Wilmont school; Barlow J., who farms his father's farm in Bloom township; Benjamin Lyle, clerk at the Worthington hotel.

STEPHEN MUCK (1822-1897) was the first and for a time the only settler of Nobles county. As many of the items of his life's history have been told in the historical part of this volume we shall here give simply a brief outline of his biography. He was born at Frankfort, Ky., Oct. 9, 1822, and Kentucky was his home during his early life, where he worked as a coal miner.

Mr. Muck was married at Frankfort in 1848 to Miss Louisa Brumbau, and to them were born six children, three boys and three girls. Mrs. Muck died in 1865. At the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Muck left Kentucky and took his family to Schuyler county, Ill., where he spent several years in the coal mines. In 1866 the family moved to Dallas county, Iowa. From that place Mr. Muck corresponded with a brother, Joseph Muck, who was a resident of Jackson county, Minn., and was induced to come to the new country of southern Minnesota.

It was in the month of May, 1867, that Stephen Muck pushed out into the unsettled country about Graham lakes and squatted on land on the bank of West Graham lake, land which when surveyed proved to be on section 22. There he built a log structure,

the first house of wood in the county. In the fall of the year he moved the family out from Jackson, where they had been living during the summer. For several years he spent his time trapping, as did the other settlers of the time, and later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He resided continuously on his farm from 1867 until the time of his death, July 18, 1897.

BENJAMIN F. YOUNG was one of the earliest settlers of Elk township and is the second oldest settler now living in that township, having resided there thirty-four years. He is a Vermonter by birth, having been born in Caledonia county May 24, 1854. He is the son of Loren W. Young, who was born in New Hampshire Dec. 7, 1803, and died Nov. 30, 1898, and Betsy (Harvey) Young, who was born in Vermont May 23, 1814, and died Dec. 14, 1877. Both the Young and Harvey families are old ones in America and both the grandfathers of our subject served in the war of the revolution.

Mr. Young lived on a farm in Vermont until 19 years of age, and then, in the spring of 1873, he came west as the result of a request of a relative who had a claim near Sibley, Iowa. He first located at Sibley, but the following year moved to Nobles county and took as a tree claim the southeast quarter of section 6, Elk township. During the first five years of his residence here he worked out by the month, in order to get a start. Then, in the spring of 1878, he moved onto his farm, and there he has since resided. During his long residence in Elk township he has held some office almost continually, having been supervisor, assessor, justice of the peace and school director.

Mr. Young was married at Worthington Nov. 25, 1880, to Charrie E. Miller, daughter of M. L. Miller and Sarah (Hunt) Miller, pioneers of 1872. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller were natives of Ohio; the former died March 10, 1903; Mrs. Miller is still living. Mrs. Young is a native of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Young have been born eleven children, as follows: Sadie, died in infancy; Corrie (Mrs. William Whelan), born June 10, 1883, residing in Ill.; Mabel, died in 1901, aged 16 years; Ade (Mrs. Wm. Melanck), born Nov. 28, 1887; Lois, born Feb., 1890; Loren W., born Dec. 24, 1892; Ora, born

Dec. 2, 1894; Mice, born March 1, 1897; Lloyd, born May 21, 1899; Myrtle, born Aug. 16, 1900; George, born Feb. 9, 1902.

JAMES P. CAMPBELL, of Grand Prairie township, is one of the oldest settlers living in that precinct, having resided there continuously since 1876. He owns 240 acres on sections 26 and 27.

Mr Campbell was born in Ripley county, Indiana, June 13, 1855, the son of F. M. and Mary Ann (Huckstep) Campbell. The father was born in Ripley county, Ind., Jan. 1, 1828, and died in Cook county, S. D., April 14, 1907. Our subject's mother was born in the same county. She died in 1865.

When James was three years old he moved with his parents to Dodge county, Minn., and there he resided until he became of age, securing a country school education and working on the farm. W. H. Kelly, who had taken a claim in Grand Prairie township, stopped at the Campbell home in Dodge county one day and spoke favorably of the new Nobles county country. He urged young Campbell to take a look at the country, and the young man did so. It was on April 18, 1876, that he first landed in Nobles county. He bought the relinquishment of Mr. Kelley's eighty acre claim and proved up on it, later adding by purchase the other eighty to the quarter, and about 1900 he bought another eighty acres adjoining. His home has been in Grand Prairie township ever since. He encountered many setbacks during the latter part of the grasshopper scourge, but with the passing of those days came prosperous times.

Mr. Campbell was married at Sibley, Iowa, Nov. 27, 1878, to Etta Mann, daughter of Nelson B. and Lydia (Beede) Mann. She was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, Nov. 27, 1865. To them have been born the following named children: Elma J. (Mrs. W. E. Mann), of Olney township; Cora Ellen, deceased; James Edward, deceased; George F., residing at home; Nellie M., deceased; Pearl, deceased; James E., at home.

Mr. Campbell is supervisor of the township and has held the office nearly all the time since residing in the county. He has served four years as director of school district No. 51, and prior to that was clerk of the district for six years. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge of Ellsworth.

S. B. BEDFORD, state senator from the Nobles-Murray, district, cashier of the State Bank of Rushmore, and prominent in the business, political and religious life of the community in which he lives, is one of the best known men in Nobles county. Coming to the county when a boy sixteen years old he has grown up here and identified himself with the interests of the county as few men have.

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm in Sullivan county, Pa., Oct. 10, 1857, the son of Jonas Bedford and Lydia (Mollenox) Bedford. His father was a native of Yorkshire, England, and came to America when a child; he died in January, 1899. His mother was born in Pennsylvania and is still living at her home in Rushmore.

Jonas Bedford came to Nobles county May 1, 1842, took a homestead two miles southeast of the present village of Rushmore, and remained a resident of the county until his death. The family came on April 2, 1873, and that is the date of the arrival of Senator Bedford to the county. His early schooling was obtained in the common schools of his native county in Pennsylvania; he completed his education with a four years' course in the public schools of Worthington.

At the age of 19, after quitting school, S. B. Bedford secured employment in the drug store of R. D. Barber at Worthington, and there he remained four years. He secured a diploma as a registered pharmacist and in the spring of 1880 bought out a small drug store in Rushmore, and that village has been his home ever since that event. In the fall of the same year he bought out the general merchandise store of S. M. Rushmore, that pioneer merchant after whom the town was named, in which business Mr. Bedford was engaged until recent years. In 1894 he established the Bank of Rushmore, which he conducted until the spring of 1903, when it was reorganized into the State Bank of Rushmore. Mr. Bedford has been cashier of the institution ever since its founding. Besides his banking business, Mr. Bedford is interested in many other business enterprises in the village in which he lives.

Mr. Bedford has been many times elected to office within the gift of the people of the township, village, county and district in which he lives. Before the incorporation of

Rushmore he served many terms as member of the board of supervisors of Dewald township, township clerk and township treasurer. From 1880 to 1894 he served as postmaster of Rushmore. He was county commissioner from 1884 to 1888. When Rushmore was incorporated in 1900 he was elected president of the council, was reelected in 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1906. During the years 1904 and 1905 he served as trustee. Mr. Bedford has been a life long republican and has taken a prominent part in the political affairs of the county, attending county and state conventions in nearly every campaign. In the fall of 1906 he secured the nomination, by primary ballot, on the republican ticket, for state senator from the Nobles-Murray district, his opponent being Hon. Daniel Shell. At the general election he was elected, defeating John F. Flynn, the democratic nominee, and now represents the district in the state house. His term expires in 1911.

Mr. Bedford was married in October, 1880, to Miss Alida Detmering. To them have been born six children, one dying in infancy, as follows: Bessie (Mrs. Burr Ludlow), Rushmore; Mabel (Mrs. A. C. Constable), Goodland, Ind.; Clayton, Rushmore; Alida, Rushmore; Arba, Rushmore.

HENRY DAVIS (1847-1887). During a residence of sixteen years in Worthington in the early days Henry Davis ranked as one of the leading spirits of the little town. He was held in high esteem by the people with whom he was associated, and is remembered kindly by all the early settlers.

Mr. Davis was born in Ohio Jan. 1, 1847, next to the youngest of a family of nine children. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Davis, were born in Wales, came to America and settled in Ohio, where they were married. They died in Mankato in recent years. In the early fifties, before the town of Mankato was organized, the Davis family moved to that frontier village, and there the subject of this biography grew to manhood.

In the summer of 1871, when it became known that a town was to be founded on lake Okabena, Henry Davis came to the site of the proposed town, and before the land was surveyed started a store and be-

came the first business man of Worthington. His store building was a sod shanty, located near the present site of the flouring mill. In that he had his store for a short time, and then built a frame building on Main street, which was replaced by his brick building a few years later. When the Black Hills boom was on in the late seventies Mr. Davis left his wife in charge of the Worthington store and started with a stock of goods for the new country. In a little town near Deadwood he opened a store and secured the cream of the business. Although gone only from April to August, so prosperous were the times during the boom that he made considerable money. Returning to Worthington he erected his brick store building and the handsome residence on Fourth avenue, where his widow now resides.

Mr. Davis was married at Worthington June 1, 1873, to Anna Uveling, daughter of Peter and Rosa (Bosting) Uveling. Mrs. Davis was born in Luxemburg, Germany, came with her parents to America when a child, and lived in Wisconsin until her marriage to Mr. Davis. They were the parents of one child a boy, who died in infancy.

Mr. Davis left considerable property at the time of his death, which Mrs. Davis, with rare business ability and sagacity, has well taken care of and added to. She now owns about 1,500 acres of farm land in Minnesota, Canada and the Dakotas, beside residence property.

Mr. Davis died at his home in Worthington of consumption Sept. 5, 1887.

ERICK B. PAUL, retired farmer of Worthington and one of the county's pioneers, has led an eventful life. He was born in Norway April 17, 1841, and came to the United States with his parents in the fall of 1848. They settled in Wyoming valley, Iowa county, Wis., where the head of the family pre-empted a quarter section of land and engaged in farming. There Erick made his home until the outbreak of the civil war.

When the call for volunteers was made in 1861, Mr. Paul enlisted in company C, of the 12th Wisconsin infantry, and served throughout the war. He received his discharge at Natchez, Miss., in January, 1864, but immediately re-enlisted as a veteran and

received an honorable discharge May 30, 1865. During the fore part of his service his regiment was on the western plains, but he was soon transferred to the army of Tennessee and saw considerable fighting. He was with Grant and Sherman in Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, and participated in the capture of Memphis and the siege of Vicksburg. In the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, he played an heroic part. He was the first of fifty men to volunteer to go up the mountain to ascertain the strength and situation of the Confederates. This little party was attacked June 15, 1864, by a force from Ben Hill's division, and, so far as Mr. Paul knows, he was the only one of the fifty to escape with his life. He was shot twice, and to this day carries one of the bullets he received. He was taken prisoner, and for five weeks was in the Confederate hospital at Atlanta, Georgia. Then he was taken to Andersonville prison, where he remained until the close of the war. With a fellow prisoner he made his escape from that noted prison, but was re-captured eighteen days later, near Jacksonville, Florida, and returned to the jail on Christmas day, 1864. The companion with whom he escaped was shot and killed. At the time of his return to prison Mr. Paul was without clothing. He was promised a Christmas dinner upon his return, but did not receive it. Just forty years later he returned to the scene of his incarceration and took that Christmas dinner.

After the war Mr. Paul went back to his old home in Wisconsin, but remained there only a short time. During the next two years he roughed it on the western plains in company with "Wild Bill." He then returned to Iowa county, Wis., and engaged in farming on a farm which he had previously bought. Selling out there one year later, he came to the new country of Nobles county, in May, 1870.

It was on August 4, 1870, that Mr. Paul preempted the southwest quarter of section 20, Indian Lake township. Only a few settlers had had the hardihood to make their homes in Nobles county at that time, and Mr. Paul's neighbors were not many. He claims to have been the first to receive a deed to a quarter section of land in Nobles county. He was one of the first Nobles county farmers to turn attention to apple



raising, and his success was the signal for many others engaging in the business. Mr. Paul lived on his farm until 1902, when he sold and moved to Worthington, where he has since lived a retired life. He owns a residence in Worthington and property in Madison, Wis. He holds a membership in the G. A. R.

Our subject was the son of Edward Paul, at one time a body-guard to the king of Norway and Sweden, and an experienced military man. He was a sergeant in the same company and regiment of which his son was a member. He was taken sick at the siege of Vicksburg and died on the hospital boat "Belle of Memphis" on a trip from Vicksburg to Memphis. He is buried in the National cemetery at Memphis, and over his grave his son has erected a fitting monument. There Erick has been several times to see his father's grave, arranged in the bivouac of the dead.

ROBERT L. DAUGHERTY is one of the pioneer settlers of Dewald township. He resides on the southwest quarter of section four, of that township. His father, Robert Daugherty, was one of the best known men in the township, having homesteaded there when there were only a few other settlers in the vicinity. The elder Daugherty was born in Scotland—in the city of Glasgow—in April, 1830, and came to the United States when a young man. He was a puddler by trade, and followed that occupation all his life until he came to Nobles county. The first years of his residence in the new world were spent in New Jersey. He was a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted in company B. of the 4th New Jersey infantry, in 1861. He was severely wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, and soon thereafter received his discharge. He then returned to Trenton, N. J., where he lived until 1870. His wife, Jane (Marshall) Daugherty, survives him and is living in Dewald township.

To these parents was born Robert L. Daugherty on March 4, 1858. His boyhood days were spent in that New Jersey city. In 1870 the family moved to Champaign county, Ill., which was the home of our subject for two years. There the Daughertys came in contact with advertising mat-

ter of the National colony, which proposed to settle the new country of southwestern Minnesota, and it was decided to seek a home in the west. May 16, 1872, is the date of the arrival of the family in Worthington. The elder Daugherty at once filed on the southeast quarter of section eight, Dewald township. At the time of taking up their residence in that township, the only other settlers in that township were Messrs. Pepple, Lambert, Houghton, Sherlie, Dewald, Churchill, Joe Mason, Joe Poots, W. R. D. McChord, A. B. McChord, Richard Berggraf, Tom Childs and Sam Childs. Robert Daugherty, Sr., died Sept. 15, 1903.

Robert L. lived with his parents on the homestead until 1890, when he began farming for himself on the southwest quarter of section four, which has since been his home. During his residence there he has served many years as a member of the school board of his district. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore.

Mr. Daugherty was married Feb. 5, 1889, to Miss Gertrude Ager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Ager, of Worthington. Mrs. Daugherty is a native of the state of Ohio. To them have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home: Albert, Esther and Clifford.

HENRY M. ANDERSON. The oldest Nobles county settler now living in Bloom township and one of the pioneers of the county is Henry M. Anderson, who came with the settlers of 1872.

Mr. Anderson is a Norwegian by birth, having been born near the city of Christiania in December, 1857. His father, Martin Anderson, died in the spring of 1873, at the age of 45 years, and is buried in the Indian Lake cemetery. His mother, Mary Anderson, died in 1905. The family came to America in the fall of 1871 and first settled at Lansing, in Allamakee county, Iowa. That winter they removed across the state line to Brownsville, in Houston county, Minn., where the father secured work on the Southern Minnesota railroad.

It was on the third day of July, 1872, that the family arrived in the little village of Worthington with the determination of making a home in the new country. The parents of our subject at once moved to Horton

township, Osceola county, Iowa, just over the line from Indian Lake township, where they took a homestead claim. Henry did not move to the claim with his parents but moved to the home of J. N. Dodge, on the bank of Round lake, where for four or five years he was employed herding cattle. For several years thereafter he worked out at different places, making his home at Isaac Horton's, in Indian Lake township. In the spring of 1881 Mr. Anderson started in the well boring business, which he continued, in connection with his farming operations, until ten years ago. He moved to Bloom township in 1886 and bought a homestead relinquishment to the northwest quarter of section 20, proving up on it some years later. He has since added to his real estate holdings by the purchase of the northeast quarter of the same section and eighty acres in Murray county. His home has been on his present farm twenty-two years.

Mr. Anderson was married Nov. 18, 1883, in Indian Lake township to Miss Lucy Horton, daughter of the late Isaac Horton and wife, pioneer settlers of Indian Lake. Mrs. Anderson was born in Olmstead county, Minn., Feb. 24, 1866. To them have been born the following children: Iva May (Mrs. Chas. Weitzmann), of Bloom, born May 1, 1884; Henry Leroy, born Dec. 17, 1888; Lena Pearl (Mrs. John Whalen), of Wilmont, born May 8, 1891; Martin Isaac, born Dec. 7, 1895; Bertha Louisa and Lilly Frances (twins), born Jan. 26, 1901, died Feb. 9 and Feb. 13, 1901, respectively; Justin Thomas, born Nov. 23, 1903; Rolland Earl, born Oct. 6, 1906.

Mr. Anderson has held several official positions during his residence in the county. He has served as treasurer, clerk or director of old school district No. 71 and of the new district, No. 103, during nearly all of the time he has lived in Bloom township, and is now a director. He served two terms on the Bloom township board.

HENRY H. READ, in whose honor the town in which he now resides was named, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county. He is a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was born Feb. 17, 1851, son of Joseph E. and Czarina (Honsler)

Read, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively. Both parents are dead, the mother having passed away in 1884 and the father four years later. On his father's side Mr. Read is of German and Irish descent; on his mother's side, German.

In his native county Mr. Read lived until he was four years of age, at which time the family moved to Pulaski county, Ind., when that part of the state was a new and wild country. Henry Read received his education in the Pulaski county schools, finishing with a course in a graded town school in Ohio. In the fall of 1868 the Reads moved to Shelby county, Ohio, and there our subject lived, engaged in farm work, until April, 1873. He was married in Logan county, Ohio, April 17, 1873, to Eliza Catherine Hill, daughter of George and Jane (Gish) Hill. Her father died in 1891; her mother in 1905. Mrs. Read's great grandfather came to America when an infant and founded the American branch of the family. Both the parents died during the trip over, and the passengers, not knowing the family name, took care of the infant and named him Hill.

After his marriage Mr. Read moved to Worthington, arriving in that town May 2, 1873. He contested a tree claim on land upon which the village of Reading is now situated, but by reason of the grasshopper scourge changed the filing to a preemption and proved up on it. He did not at once move onto his land, but from 1873 to 1876 farmed his father's farm on Loon lake, in Jackson county. In the last named year he took up his residence on his Summit Lake township farm, and that has been his home ever since. For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Read lived in a little shack, which was without a floor and many other accommodations.

When Reading was founded in 1899, Mr. Read retired from active farm work. In the early days he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Summit Lake township three or four years, was township treasurer one term, and has held the office of director or clerk of school district No. 7 nearly all of the time he has resided in the county. Mr. Read is a member of the prohibition party and a temperance worker. It has been largely through his influence that saloons have been kept out of Reading.

OLE A. FAUSKEE, of Bigelow township, is one of the oldest living pioneers of Nobles county, having had a continuous residence here of over thirty-eight years. He was born in Waldurst, Norway, March 5, 1845, and spent the first twenty-two years of his life in his native land. His early days were spent on his father's farm. After obtaining a primary education in the district schools he entered Land's seminary, from which institution he was graduated in 1864. He then spent one summer in Aesker seminary, near Christiana, studying military matters, singing and other branches. After securing his education he engaged in teaching, which he followed two years prior to his coming to America.

He arrived in the new world July 1, 1867, and located first at Decorah, Iowa. During the fall he spent most of the time traveling, visiting Chicago, LaCrosse, and other places. Then he entered an English school at Decorah, where he was a student several months, taking a high school course. He made his home with Professor Breckenridge of the school, and improved his opportunity of taking private lessons in English, repaying the professor by teaching him the Norwegian language. So proficient did Mr. Fauskee become in the use of the English language that he was teaching an English school near Decorah the second winter after his arrival in America, an occupation he followed two or three years.

In 1870, in company with his brother, Ole Fauskee, and the latter's family he came to the then thinly settled Nobles county and his home has been here ever since. He took a preemption claim on section 6, Indian Lake township, and six months later took as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 12, Bigelow township, where he now resides. On his preemption claim he built a log house, which was burned by a prairie fire. The house on his homestead was a dugout, in which he lived about three years. During the winter of 1870-71 he returned to Iowa and taught school, but came back to his claim the next spring.

Mr. Fauskee was married in Faribault county, Minn., March 14, 1873, to Hannah Johnson, daughter of Jacob and Maria (Knutson) Johnson. Mrs. Fauskee was born in Wisconsin but went to Fillmore county, Minn., with her parents when a baby. To

Mr. and Mrs. Fauskee have been born the following children: Albert Julius, of Worthington, born Feb. 20, 1874; Minnie Josephine (Mrs. Oscar Pearson), of Worthington, born May 11, 1875; Ida Louise (Mrs. Rod Hecox), of Barron, Wis., born March 15, 1877; Annie Julia, of Minneapolis; Henry Oscar, of Barron, Wis., born Aug. 13, 1881; David H., of Worthington, born March 1, 1883; Daniel W., of Bigelow township, born Dec. 19, 1885; Ella Marie, born Feb. 24, 1889, died July 3, 1893.

In local affairs Mr. Fauskee has taken an active interest during his long residence in the county. He served as the first assessor of Bigelow township. In the early days he served as township clerk for some time and was township treasurer three years. Mrs. Fauskee served as clerk of school district No. 83 for three years.

JOHN HANSBERGER. Among the old time residents of Nobles county and among the very first to settle in Lorain township is John Hansberger, who has resided on his present farm thirty-six years.

Mr. Hansberger is a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he first saw the light of day on Dec. 18, 1838. His parents, Joel Hansberger and wife, were natives of the same county, the father having been born in 1808 and the mother in 1812. When John was a boy his parents left the old home in Pennsylvania and sought a location in Ohio, stopping first in Pickaway county, subsequently going to Fairfield county and finally to Sandusky county. The subject of this biography accompanied his parents on their several moves and remained in Ohio until 1872.

On September 7, 1861, Mr. Hansberger enlisted in company K, of the 17th Ohio infantry, and was a member of that company and regiment until July 16, 1865, when he received his discharge at Louisville, Ky. He participated in the battles of Mills Springs, Corinth, Stone River, Chickamauga, Raseca, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jones-boro, Savannah, Gold-boro and Raleigh.

With the colonists of 1872 came Mr. Hansberger to Nobles county. He took as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 20, in what was later organized as

Lorain township, and on that farm he has since made his home. He has a beautiful home and a well improved farm and is one of the best known agriculturists of eastern Nobles county.

In Fairfield county, Ohio, in November, 1867, Mr. Hansberger was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Catherine Myers, who is of German and English descent, but who descends from a long line of American ancestors. The mother was reared a Quaker. She was born in Bucks county, Pa., in 1808 and died in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1868. The father was also a native of Bucks county, having been born in 1804 and having died in Ohio in March, 1890. To Mr. and Mrs. Hansberger have been born the following children: William L., born Dec. 10, 1868; Lizzie R. (Mrs. E. C. Wilson), born Feb. 25, 1872; Luella C., born April 27, 1875; Victor Clyde, born Feb. 11, 1878; James Arthur, born Sept. 19, 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansberger are members of the Methodist church of Worthington. He belongs to Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R. For the last twenty years he has held the office of township treasurer and has been a school director for several years.

JOHN A. SPAFFORD, of Ewington township, Jackson county, was one of the very earliest settlers of Worthington. Although he has been a resident of Jackson county for a good many years his farm is just over the line from Nobles county and he is more closely identified with the history of Nobles county than he is with the county in which he lives.

Mr. Spafford descends from one of the oldest families of America. For several centuries before the American family was founded the Spaffords, or Spoffords, as the name was originally spelled, were a people of high rank in England. So early as 1066 we find the name in the Domesday Book, which is a book of record of the lands of England as parcelled out after the conquest of William, Duke of Normandy. The American branch of the family was founded by John Spafford, who came to America in 1638 with a colony under the leadership of Rev. Ezekiel Rogers. The colony was composed of many families from Yorkshire and made settlement in April, 1639, between

Newbury and Ipswich, in Massachusetts. The name of John Spofford appears on the record of the first division of lands into homestead lots, which was made in 1643. His lot consisted of one and one-half acres, and was located on Bradford street, so called, near the center of the present town of Rowley. In the spring of 1669 he moved to Spofford's Hill, in the west part of the town, and he was without doubt the first settler of Georgetown and the progenitor of all of the name in the United States and Canada. His wife was Elizabeth Scott, who came to America in the ship Elizabeth in 1634, when nine years of age.

The John A. Spafford of this sketch belongs to the eighth generation in this descent. One of the sons of the original John Spofford was also named John. He lived on the site of the original settlement on Spofford's Hill, in what is now Georgetown, Mass., where he died April 27, 1696. Jonathan, son of John, was a resident of Rowley, where he died Jan. 16, 1772, aged 89 years. Jacob, son of Jonathan, emigrated to Salisbury, Conn., where he lived for many years, and where he died. Col. Solomon Spafford was a son of Jacob Spafford. He moved from Connecticut to Hallowell, Canada, at which place he died Feb. 2, 1837. One of the sons of Col. Solomon Spafford was Ira Spafford, who was born in Vermont, emigrated with his father to Canada, and settled at Hallowell, now Athol. One of his sons was Heman Spafford, the father of the subject of this sketch. Heman Spafford was born in Prince Edward county, Ontario, Canada, Feb. 8, 1805, and died in Picton, Prince Edward county, August 26, 1876. He was married to Cecelia Abrams, who was born in Ireland in 1812 and died in Bloomington, Ill., June 14, 1894.

To Heman and Cecelia Spafford was born John A. Spafford. His birthplace was Picton, Prince Edward county, Ontario, and the date of his birth was August 20, 1837. In his native county he grew to manhood. His early life was spent in securing a common school education and in working on the farm. When twenty-four years of age he left home and sought his fortune in the west. He departed from his native town on the 15th of April, 1861, and arrived in Chicago three days later. There he secured employment in the grain commission house

of Baker & Spafford, for which firm he worked two years. In August, 1863, Mr. Spafford moved to Wapella, DeWitt county, Ill., where for two years he was grain buyer for a Chicago commission house.

During those two years he made considerable money, but owing to a general collapse in prices at the close of the civil war, he lost it all, and what was still worse he found himself considerably in debt. During the winter of 1865 he was engaged in buying and sacking corn and oats for the commissary department of the government through a sub-agent, who, at the close of the war, found himself over-stocked with grain for which the government would have no use. Mr. Spafford had contracted for much grain from the farmers, advancing some money on each lot, and when the department's demand was cut off, and the markets in the large grain centers tumbled fifty per cent or more, there was nothing left for him to do but take in the contracted grain at former prices, to wit: 65 to 70 cents per bushel for oats and 75 to 80 cents per bushel for corn, and put it on the Chicago market at 30 to 40 cents per bushel. In this deal his fortune was swept away, and for six or seven years he knocked about at various occupations until his removal to Nobles county.

With the rush of homeseekers to southwestern Minnesota in the spring of 1872 came Mr. Spafford, the date of his arrival in Worthington being May 9. For a time he made his home in the new town, engaging in teaming for L. N. Sater, the pioneer lumber dealer, and other business men. In June he filed a homestead claim to the north-west quarter of section 26, in Ewington township, Jackson county, which is now his home. Three months later he returned to his old home in Illinois, straightened out his business affairs there, and on Oct. 6 returned with his family. He lived in Worthington until the spring of 1873, and then moved onto his homestead. He began farming then, but the grasshoppers took nearly everything, and late in the fall of 1875 he was forced to return to Worthington and seek employment. He secured work in the flouring mill, in the fall of 1876 being promoted to the office of head bookkeeper. His residence was in Worthington about a year and a half, and then he returned to the farm, which has been his home ever since.

Mr. Spafford holds a record as a township officer which is equalled by few men. With the exception of the first year he has held a township office ever since Ewington township was organized. He was elected town clerk in 1881 and held the office for twenty-five consecutive years, finally giving up the office in 1906. Still longer service has he seen in the school district. When the district was organized in 1875 he was elected to the office of treasurer and a few years later to that of clerk. He still holds the office, making a continuous service of thirty-three years. Besides the offices mentioned he has been township assessor, member of the board of supervisors, and for a short time was chairman of the board.

In 1894 Mr. Spafford applied to the post-office department for an office to be located on his farm. He was successful in his efforts, and in September of that year the office, named Spofford in his honor, (although the name was incorrectly spelled) was put in operation, with Mr. Spafford as postmaster. The next year he opened a general store and operated it in connection with the office. He continued this business six years, and then sold out the store and resigned the post-mastership.

Mr. Spafford was married in Bloomington, Ill., April 5, 1865, to Mary Stoutz, daughter of Geo. Stoutz, a coach builder in the shops of the Chicago & Alton Railway company. To this union have been born seven children as follows: Edith Cecelia (Mrs. Joel Edward White), Aberdeen, S. D.; George Walter, Ewington township; William Charles (died in 1874, aged four and one-half years); Frank Addison, Ewington township; Clara Augusta (Mrs. Robert Edward Davis), Worthington; Emma Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles E. Gehrke), Ewington township; John Heman, Ewington township.

Mr. and Mrs. Spafford were both charter members of the Methodist church of Worthington, having brought letters from their church in Illinois.

EDWIN S. TERRY, of Worthington township, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having come with the vanguard of the settlers of 1872 and having made his home on his original homestead ever since.

In the village of Henrietta, seven miles

south of the city of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Terry was born July 5, 1831, the descendant of a long line of American ancestry. His parents, Ransler and Polly (Jones) Terry, were natives of Long Island, N. Y. In his native town Mr. Terry was reared and educated and after growing to manhood engaged in farming. With the exception of four years when he was engaged in the oil business in Pennsylvania he followed the occupation of farmer in New York state until the year 1871.

In the last named year Mr. Terry started out to look for a home in the west. He stopped off for a short time in Michigan and then went to Chetopa, Kansas, where he passed the winter of 1871-72. A friend by the name of Branch had a claim and was living in Nobles county at this time, and through him Mr. Terry heard of Nobles county and decided to try his fortunes in the new country. It was in March, 1872, that he arrived in the county and purchased a homestead relinquishment from a man in Spirit Lake to the southeast quarter of section 20, Worthington township. There he builded him a home and there he has resided ever since, a continuous residence of over thirty six years. He and family suffered from the grasshopper scourge, the severe winters, the prairie fires and other hardships incident to pioneer life.

On April 4, 1874, at Henrietta, N. Y., Mr. Terry was united in marriage to Miss Emma Davis, daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Mary (Bell) Davis, both natives of Vermont, but residents of Greece, N. Y., at the time of the birth of Mrs. Terry. To Mr. and Mrs. Terry have been born the following named children: Mary Abby (Mrs. Clyde Ager), Worthington; Edna and William, who reside at home.

In the early days Mr. Terry served two years as a member of the board of supervisors. He was a member of the school board of district No. 48 for eight or ten years.

**GARDNER ESTES.** One of the pioneer settlers of Elk township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Malden, Mass., (the town is now known as Everett) June 21, 1831. His father, Zera Estes, a native of Massachusetts, was born

Jan. 9, 1805, and died April 9, 1895. His mother was Lydia (Vinning) Estes, also a native of Massachusetts, who was born July 12, 1812, and died March 4, 1900. Both parents of our subject descended from colonial stock, one of the Vinning family having taken a part in King Phillips war (1675-76) and others in the war of the revolution.

Gardner lived in Malden until he was twenty-one years of age. He secured a common school education, and in 1855 went to Troy, N. Y., where for four years he was in the tannery business—a business he followed until he came to Nobles county. After leaving Troy he lived in Pennsylvania several years, and thereafter in the towns of Spencer and Candor, N. Y., and other places in the same state.

He came to Nobles county April 2, 1873, and took as a home-stead the east half of the northeast quarter of section 28, Elk township. That has been his home ever since, and few Nobles county men have lived for a longer time on one farm. In the early days he worked at his trade in Milwaukee, Wis., part of the time, but his home was always in Nobles county. During his long residence in Elk township Mr. Estes has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He was township supervisor ten years, being chairman of the board part of the time. He was treasurer nineteen consecutive years and held the office of clerk of the school district twenty one years.

Mr. Estes was married at Newfield, N. Y., May 16, 1865, to Sarah E. Johnston, a native of New York state and the daughter of John C. and Hester (Wooster) Johnston, descendants of early settlers in New York state. To Mr. and Mrs. Estes have been born the following children: Minnie (Mrs. Theo. Hinrichs), born Feb. 23, 1867, Worthington township; Fred Johnston, born Oct. 3, 1869, now of Casselton, N. D.; Lydia (Mrs. Carroll S. Mabce), born April 5, 1874, now of Ithaca, N. Y.

**ERICK MAHLBERG.** Among the pioneer settlers of Nobles county is the man whose name heads this sketch—a man who has made his home in Bigelow township thirty-seven years, having come with the first who took claims in that township.

Mr. Mahlberg was born in Sweden Dec. 28,

1836, the son of Halvor and Carrie (Erickson) Mahlberg. His parents died in Sweden in recent years. During the thirty-six years of his life that he lived in his native country Mr. Mahlberg worked at many occupations. He worked in the mines, in the timber, at farming, and learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for several years.

In company with several other of his countrymen, many of whom are now residents of Nobles county, he came to the United States in 1870. He spent the first summer in Michigan, and then went to St. Paul, where he remained only a short time. At Hastings, Minn., he and his companions secured work with a railroad construction crew and spent the first winter near that village. In the spring of 1871 the party went to St. James, which was then the end of the new Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, and secured employment as graders. Mr. Mahlberg accompanied the other members of the party when they left the work to make filings on land in Nobles county, he taking as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 12, Bigelow township. That land has been his home ever since. In recent years he has given over the active management of the farm to his sons, Fred and Carl.

Soon after his arrival in Nobles county Mr. Mahlberg was married at Worthington to Christine Erickson. To them have been born the following children: Alfred, a Bigelow township farmer; Annie (Mrs. John Swanson), of Eagle Bend, Minn.; Carrie (Mrs. John Benson), of Worthington; Emil (deceased), Fred, Ida, Carl and Otto. The last four named reside on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Mahlberg and family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

ANTHONY THOMPSON. When there was hardly a settler in the whole of western Nobles county, in June, 1871, a small party of men came out from Wisconsin and settled in what later became Little Rock township. Among these was Knute Thompson and his son, the subject of his biography, who, with the others, became the first settlers of the township. Knute Thompson is now living in the state of Washington. His wife, Annie (Arne-son) Thompson, is dead.

To these parents Anthony Thompson was born in Iowa county, Wis., Oct. 18, 1851. He was raised on his father's farm and came to Nobles county with his parents when less than twenty years of age. The father homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 14, and on that place Anthony resided until his parents left in 1876. Upon becoming of age he took as a tree claim a quarter section of land on section 14. A little later he filed a homestead claim to the north half of the southeast quarter of section 14.

Discouraged by the depredations of the grasshoppers and the severe winters, Mr. Thompson decided to leave the county, and in 1877 he sold his land rights, receiving about \$175 for the 240 acres, and went to Woodbury county, Iowa. He was there two years working out as a farm laborer, and then went to Nebraska, where he remained six months. Not finding land there to suit his fancy, he returned to Nobles county. He farmed rented land for two or three years and then bought eighty acres of his present farm on section 11, and has made his home there ever since. He now owns 240 acres on sections 11 and 15.

Mr. Thompson was married in Little Rock township Oct. 24, 1878, to Annie Anderson, who was born in Norway in 1849 and who came to America when four years old. They are the parents of two children—Oscar and Elmer, both of whom reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has served as director of school district No. 11 for several years.

R. W. MOBERLY, now a resident of Oklahoma (postoffice address Chickasha, Okla.) was one of the earlier settlers of western Nobles county and spent the best years of his life in this county, removing to the south in 1901.

He was born in Owensboro, Kentucky, April 26, 1847. His father, Lewis B. Moberly, was also a native of Kentucky and died in 1894. His mother, Susan (Owen) Moberly, was born in Kentucky and died in 1864. The first seventeen years of our subject's life were spent on his father's farm in Kentucky. During the summer months he worked on the farm, and during the winter attended

the district schools. In the spring of 1864 his father sold the home place in Kentucky and moved to Clay county, Ill. There R. W. Moberly worked on the farm until the fall of 1866, when he entered the high school at Flora, Ill., of which school he was a student for one year.

After quitting school Mr. Moberly traveled for a patent medicine firm, which work he was engaged in until the spring of 1868. Then he went to Quincy, Ill., and in July, of the same year, he removed to Winona county, Minn. Four years were spent in southeastern Minnesota. Summers he would engage in work on the farm, and winters he taught school. These occupations were varied by occasional trips down and up the Mississippi river, working in several different localities. While in Winona county Mr. Moberly came in contact with the literature of the National colony and he decided to cast his lot with those who were booming the new country. He accordingly started for Worthington, arriving in that frontier village May 23, 1872, shortly after the railroad trains began making regular trips. He immediately filed a preemption claim to the southeast quarter of section 11, township 102, range 42, then an unorganized township, now the township of Olney. Accompanying Mr. Moberly was J. V. Bartow. These two gentlemen entered their claims in the land office at Jackson on the same day, and were the third and fourth to make filings in Olney township, being preceded by S. D. Timmes and Andrew Anderson.

Mr. Moberly took an active part in the organization of the township in which he had selected his home, and when the township was formed in July, 1873, he was made the first town clerk. The township was first called Hedbard, later New Haven, and finally the name Olney was selected, the name being suggested by Mr. Moberly. For the first four or five years after settling in Nobles county Mr. Moberly, in common with all the early settlers, suffered greatly from the grasshoppers, seeing crop after crop destroyed by the pests. He spent the winter of 1873-74 working in the woods near Minneapolis, he having suffered an almost total failure in 1873. Again in 1874 he lost his entire crop, and that winter he and his family moved back to Winona county, where he

engaged in school teaching. They returned to the Nobles county farm in the spring of 1875 and again fought with the hoppers for a portion of a crop. Mr. Moberly sold his Olney farm in the spring of 1877 and removed to Westside township, taking a homestead claim on section 10. He made final proof on his claim and lived there until the fall of 1883, farming during the summer months and teaching school during the winter months.

In the fall of 1883 he sold his farm and moved to Adrian, taking employment with his brother-in-law, James Cowin, in the grain and lumber business. He was appointed deputy county treasurer by Captain William Wigham in February, 1884, and that fall his family moved to Worthington. He held the deputyship two years. Then, in 1886, he was elected county treasurer, being endorsed by both the republican and democratic parties, his only opposition being a prohibition candidate who received 102 votes. He was nominated by the republicans in 1888 and was reelected by a big majority over both the democratic and prohibition nominees, his principal opponent being H. C. Shepard. Again was he reelected treasurer in 1890, defeating Mr. Shepard again. He was nominated for the same office by the republicans in 1892, but was defeated by E. W. Goff, the democratic nominee, by six votes. He was nominated by the republicans for county auditor in 1891, and was defeated by J. J. Kendall, the democratic and peoples party nominee, by 36 votes. In addition to his service in the treasurer's office Mr. Moberly served in an official capacity for several years in Olney and Westside townships. He served as clerk of Olney from 1873 to 1877, with the exception of one year. He was elected chairman of the board of supervisors of Westside in 1877. The next year he was elected clerk, and held that office until his removal to Adrian in 1883.

To fill the unexpired term of postmaster of Worthington of Frank Lewis, Mr. Moberly was made deputy in the spring of 1890, and served one year as acting postmaster, Mr. Lewis having left the city. After his retirement from public office Mr. Moberly entered into a partnership with A. C. Hedberg and engaged in the real estate business in Worthington. For only a short time was the firm of Hedberg & Moberly in existence;



then Mr. Moberly engaged in farming in the vicinity of Worthington. The hard times following the panic in 1893 caused Mr. Moberly to meet with financial reverses, from which he was several years in recovering.

During the years 1899 and 1900 he was immigration agent for the Santa Fe road, his work consisting in making up parties of immigrants from Nobles county bound for Oklahoma. At the opening of the Kiowa and Commanche Indian reservation in September, 1901, he secured a claim near Chickasha, I. T., the land being just over the line in Oklahoma. There he engaged in farming and there he has since made his home.

Mr. Moberly was married at St. Charles, Minnesota, March 17, 1872, to Miss Annie Campbell of St. Charles. She was of Scotch parentage, having been born at Barry, Pike county, Ill., August 24, 1852. Both her parents died of cholera soon after their arrival in America and the birth of Mrs. Moberly. Mrs. Moberly died at Worthington June 19, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Moberly were born six children, as follows: Susan M. (now Mrs. H. H. Smith), Stewart, Minn.; Lura C. (now Mrs. W. C. Poland), Livermore, Cal.; Russell B., Worthington; Archie L., Worthington; Maude (died in infancy); Mary D. (now Mrs. Thos. Moore), Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Mr. Moberly is a member of the Baptist church of Worthington. He is also a member of Worthington Lodge No. 65, A. O. U. W., having held the office of past master workman of that lodge for many years.

HANS NELSON, of Ransom township, is one of the very first to locate in that township, and he is one of the very few there who are living on their original homestead. He owns a half section of land on sections 20 and 19.

Mr. Nelson was born in Norway Dec. 19, 1833, the son of Nels and Betsy (Jenson) Hansen, both of whom died in Norway, the former when Hans was only three years old. Our subject was raised on his father's farm and made his home there until he was nearly twenty-one years of age. He came to the United States in 1854 and located in Iowa county, Wis., where he engaged in farming until 1871. During his residence there he entered the union service during the war of the

rebellion, enlisting in the 49th Wisconsin volunteer infantry in January, 1864, and serving a little less than one year. He saw service in Missouri, most of his time being spent guarding prisoners and on provost duty.

In the month of November, 1871, Mr. Nelson, accompanied by Gullick Gullickson, came to Nobles county and took as a soldier's homestead the northwest quarter of section 20, Ransom township, and remained in the county seven or eight weeks. He then returned to Wisconsin, but came back in the spring of 1872 and spent the summer here. He broke out a part of his land, erected a "shack," and then returned to his old home. In the spring of 1873 he came back to his homestead with his family and has ever since made his home on the place. He added to his original quarter section later by the purchase of another quarter adjoining. During the grasshopper days Mr. Nelson did not suffer so severely as many of the pioneer settlers did. He raised only a limited acreage of grain, devoting most of his energies to the raising of stock, and so was enabled to weather the hard times brought on by the hoppers, and was not obliged to take the relief offered to the destitute.

Mr. Nelson was married in Iowa county, Wis., in the fall of 1856 to Caroline Davis, nee Peterson, a native of Norway. They are the parents of the following named children: Ellena (Mrs. Jens Langseth), of Indian Lake; Liza (Mrs. Fred Thompson), of Dewald; Nokolena (Mrs. C. D. Thompson), of Johnstown, Nebraska; Julia (Mrs. J. O. Arowick), Silverton, Oregon; Anna M., Laura E. and Hannah S., who live at home. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Lutheran church of Ransom and is one of the charter members.

THOMAS GUNDERSON. Among the first settlers of Olney township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, who has resided on the farm he now occupies thirty-five years.

Thomas Gunderson was born in Iowa county, Wis., Jan. 7, 1851, and was the son of Ole and Hviel (Venass) Gunderson. Both parents were born in Norway and were married there. They came to the United States in 1847, located in Wisconsin, and later came to Nobles county. The father died in Olney township in June, 1892, aged 72 years; the

mother died in Olney in 1874, and was 45 years of age.

Thomas secured his education in Iowa county and was raised on his father's farm. The father came to the county in June, 1872, and filed a homestead claim to the southeast quarter of section 30, Olney township, being among the first to file on land in that township. During the fall he erected a little house on his claim and broke some land. He spent the winter in his old home in Wisconsin, and returned to his claim early in the spring of 1873. The family came later, arriving in June. During the early days the family suffered some hardships, but were not in as poor condition as many of the neighbors. The head of the family had property and some money, and the days of adversity were weathered. The grasshoppers took two crops entirely and did damage to several others. At the time the family settled in Olney, Worthington was the nearest trading point, and from that village lumber and provisions were hauled. Thomas Gunderson and his father worked the home farm together until 1890. Since that date our subject has farmed the place alone. In addition to the original homestead, Mr. Gunderson now owns eighty acres adjoining. He raises thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs and considerable graded stock.

Mr. Gunderson is a member of the Lutheran church of Adrian. He served seven years as clerk of school district No. 43 and was then elected treasurer, which he held nineteen years, resigning the office in July, 1907. Mr. Gunderson has never married.

HENRY SLATER, stockraiser and farmer of Larkin township, is the oldest settler now living in that township, his residence there covering a period of many years. He owns 320 acres of land on sections 11 and 12, only a short distance south of Wilmont, and he has the home farm finely improved.

Mr. Slater was born in Germany Feb. 2, 1851, the son of Henry and Dora Slater, now living in Red Wing, Minn. The father, who is now 74 years of age, came from Germany in 1854, homesteaded in Goodhue county, and has made his home there ever since. Our subject's mother is 75 years of age.

For only six months did Henry Slater live in the land of his nativity. Coming to America in the year of his birth, he was raised on his father's farm in Goodhue county, Minn., and made his home there till past twenty years of age. In the fall of 1874 he came to Nobles county with a party of about fifteen men, spent two weeks looking the country over, and then returned to his old home. In April, 1875, he came out again with his father, who took a homestead of eighty acres on section 2, Larkin township. A year or two afterwards our subject bought from Sherman Harding, of Worthington, the homestead relinquishment to the southwest quarter of section 12, paying \$75 for the same, and on that place he has resided ever since. He bought his other quarter section in 1898. During the pioneer days Mr. Slater suffered from the inroads of the grasshoppers and other annoyances of those days. But, not having sufficient means to get out of the country, he was obliged to remain and today he is in comfortable circumstances and glad that he stayed. His first home was a 10x12 frame shanty, and his stable was built of sods.

In Chisago county, Minn., Mr. Slater was married in January, 1881, to Kellen Adelman, who was born in Germany, but who came to America when a girl. To Mr. and Mrs. Slater have been born the following named children: Otto, of Browns Valley, Minn.; William, Barnard, Henry, Hubbard, Bertha (Mrs. George Miller), of Browns Valley, Minn., and Rosa. All except the two whose addresses are given reside at home.

Mr. Slater is a member of the Catholic church of Wilmont. In the early days he took part in the organization of school district No. 84, and has served as a director of the district ever since. He served on the Larkin township board for about fifteen years, and has always been active in local affairs.

CHARLES J. WICKSTROM, retired farmer of Worthington, is one of the county's pioneers and one of the very first to locate in Bigelow township. He was born in Jemtland, Sweden, May 4, 1848, and was the son of Aaron and Mary (Peter-son) Wickstrom. The father died in Sweden at the age of 41 years when our subject was seven years

old. The mother died in Sweden in 1899 at the age of 83 years.

Until he was eighteen years of age Charles Wickstrom lived in his native land, working on farms, in the mines and at other work. He went to Trondjam, Norway, in the fall of 1866, and was there one year working in the mines. He then moved to a place near the city of Stavanger, Norway, where he followed the occupation of miner about two years.

It was in May, 1870, that Mr. Wickstrom, accompanied by Erick Mahlberg, now of Bigelow township, his brother Peter Wickstrom, Hans and Ole Nystrom, of Indian Lake township, left Scandinavia and came to America. During the first year of his residence in the new world he was employed at various occupations in different parts of the northwest. He located first in Holland, Mich., where he remained only about six weeks. Going from there to Muskegon, Mich., he was unable to find work, but remained in the vicinity two or three weeks. He then went to Duluth when that city was just starting, and remained there two months. His next stopping place was St. Paul, where he remained a few weeks, and then he went to Hastings, where he worked in the quarries and on a railroad bridge during the winter of 1870-71.

Messrs. Wickstrom and Mahlberg went to Minneapolis early in the spring of 1871 and were there joined by a party of gentlemen who had just arrived from the old country—men who later came to Nobles county and most of whom are still residents of the county. In the month of April the party went to St. James, where workmen were building the new St. Paul & Sioux City railroad. Under the leadership of L. B. Bennett this party of Swedish workmen took employment with the construction crew and assisted in the building of the railroad from St. James to LeMars, Iowa, continuing with the work until Oct. 28, 1871.

But before that date the members of the party had decided to give up working for wages and to build themselves homes in the new country through which they were passing. In May the party took homesteads in Bigelow and Indian Lake townships. A party of four, consisting of our subject, his brother, Peter Wickstrom, and Hans and Ole Nystrom, decided to locate on section 24, Bigelow township. Lots were drawn for the se-

lection of the land, and the northeast quarter was the parcel drawn by Mr. Wickstrom. After quitting the railroad work on Oct. 28, the party returned to Nobles county and took possession of their claims. Each erected a claim shanty on his land, but six gentlemen made their home on the Nordquist claim, in Indian Lake township, where they erected a sod house in partnership.

Mr. Wickstrom continued to make his home on the Nordquist claim until November, 1872, and then moved onto his own land. Having permanently established himself in the new world, Mr. Wickstrom sent to Sweden for the lady who was to become his bride. He was married in what is now known as the Wyckoff building on Ninth street, Worthington, on Dec. 24, 1872, to Miss Bertha Peterson, who was born in Sweden April 30, 1848. Strange as it may seem, it was somewhat of a task to fulfil the requirements necessary for a wedding in those early days. It was first necessary to secure a marriage license and to locate the proper officer from whom to secure that necessary document. The county seat of Nobles county at that time was scattered all over Graham Lakes township. Accompanied by Erick Mahlberg, who was married at the same time, Mr. Wickstrom walked to the county clerk's office in Graham Lakes, where the license was procured. Returning to Worthington they secured the services of Rev. William M. Bear and were married. To Mr. and Mrs. Wickstrom were born the following named children: Alfred, of Milwaukee, Wis.; Peter of the same city; William M., who resides on the home farm; Emma (Mrs. Ole H. Nystrom), of Bigelow township; Oscar (deceased); Joseph, who lives on the home farm. Mrs. Wickstrom died Oct. 19, 1894. The second marriage of our subject occurred in Bigelow township Aug. 11, 1897, when he was wedded to Annie Larson, who was born in Sweden in 1857, and came to the United States in 1865.

When Mr. Wickstrom established his home in Nobles county he had only about \$200, and during the early days he suffered many hardships and privations. The grasshoppers took the crops nearly every year, and for many years no headway was made. However, he determined to remain and wait for better times. He had a home and was a landowner, which he never before had been.

He made his home on the farm until May, 1907, when he retired from active business and moved to Worthington. He owns 480 acres of improved land in one body in Bigelow and Indian Lake townships.

Mr. Wickstrom tells many stories of adventures in prairie fires and blizzards during the pioneer days. He narrowly escaped losing his life in blizzards on three separate occasions, the narrowest escape being during the hard storm of January, 1873. In company with Jonas Moberg he was returning to his farm from Worthington with ox teams, when the terrible blizzard struck. They became lost in the storm, and only by perseverance and good fortune did they reach the home of Gust. Swanson, on the bank of Ocheysla lake, where they secured shelter. Although Mr. Wickstrom was only a short distance from his home, it was three days before he was able to make the journey home.

During his long residence in Bigelow township Mr. Wickstrom frequently held offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He served as township supervisor several years, and for many years was a member of the school board of the district in which he lived. He is a member of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake township.

GEORGE SLADE, proprietor of the Slade hotel, Adrian, is one of the early settlers of the west end of the county, having resided there since he was twenty-one years of age. Mr. Slade was born in Albany, N. Y., July 21, 1854, the son of William and Sarah B. (Sheppard) Slade.

William Slade, our subject's father, was born at Winhall, Bennington county, Vermont, March 16, 1822, moved to Troy, N. Y., with his parents when five years of age, and to Albany a few years later. He moved to Merrimack, Wis., in 1855, to Baraboo, Wis., in 1868, and to Nobles county in 1885, where he died Sept. 29, 1889. Our subject's mother was born in New London, N. H., and died in Wisconsin April 27, 1859.

Geo. Slade was taken to Merrimack, Wis., by his parents when a child, and there he lived on a farm until he became of age. He attended the common schools of Merrimack and completed his education in Jefferson Liberal Institute, of Jefferson, Wis. In

May, 1875, he came to Nobles county and took as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 14, Westside township—land which he still owns. For a time after his arrival in the county, Mr. Slade worked on the farm of Ira E. Crosby, three miles west of the present city of Adrian. He then farmed his own place ten years. Removing to the village of Adrian, he purchased the Central hotel of L. S. Roberts and ran it five years. He then tore down the building and erected in its place the handsome brick block in which are housed the Hotel Slade, the First National Bank and Albert Zollmer's saloon. Mr. Slade conducts one of the best hotels in southwestern Minnesota. He owns the Hotel Slade livery barn, which is run in connection with the hotel.

Mr. Slade was married at Worthington, Dec. 28, 1879, to Annette R. Dunham, who had been a school teacher in the Crosby district of Westside township. To Mr. and Mrs. Slade have been born three sons and three daughters, all living. They are Roxy (Mrs. Fred Schuster), born in Westside township Aug. 30, 1880, now living at Rochester, Minn.; Charles W., born in Westside township Nov. 12, 1883; Music, born in Adrian July 23, 1885; Max D., born in Adrian Nov. 23, 1888; Boris, born in Adrian March 1, 1891; Fred D., born in Adrian April 2, 1896.

Mr. Slade has been a member of the Masonic order twenty-two years. He has served as deputy county sheriff for the last ten years and served two terms on the Adrian village council.

EMIL GRAF, president of the State Bank of Lismore, secretary and one of the organizers of the Willmont Mutual Fire Insurance company, and a retired farmer, is a pioneer not only of Nobles county but of Minnesota, having become a resident of the territory in 1850. His home is in Lismore village.

Emil Graf was born in Switzerland, at Stein on the Rhine, March 22, 1839, one of the two children composing the family of John J. and Margarett (Strasser) Graf. The father died at Franconia, Minn., in 1875, aged 66 years. The mother died in the same place, after having lived over eighty years.

The educational advantages of our subject were limited to three years schooling (from

six to nine years) in his native country. In April, 1849, the Graf family left their old home in Germany and set sail from Havre, France, for the new world. They accomplished the voyage to New Orleans in thirty-four days, and were eight days longer making the trip up the Mississippi by boat to St. Louis, where they first located. In June, 1850, the family moved to Minnesota territory and located at a point four miles north of Stillwater. There the head of the family purchased a tract of government land and engaged in the gardening and dairy business, Emil assisting in the work. In 1859 the Grafs moved to Marine Mills, Minn., where the father and son engaged in the brewing business, which had been the father's occupation in the old country.

Emil Graf enlisted in company B, of the famous First Minnesota regiment, on April 29, 1861, and was in the service three years, being mustered out at Philadelphia in 1864.

Immediately after his discharge from the army, on May 8, 1864, Mr. Graf was married at Philadelphia to Miss Frederica Zeh, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Jan. 10, 1843, the daughter of Frederick and Barbara Zeh. The family emigrated to America in 1852 and located in Philadelphia. Following are the names of the living children of Mr. and Mrs. Graf: Caroline C. (Mrs. William M. Stevens); Emma M. (Mrs. John B. Disch); Adolph C., Emil F., Eda C., John C. and Clara S. (Mrs. B. Grapes).

After his marriage Mr. Graf again located at Marine Mills, Minn., and reentered the brewing business, which he continued until 1869. He then sold out and started a general merchandise store in the same town, and conducted that ten years. He came to Nobles county with his family in 1879 and took a homestead in Willmont township, upon which he resided until 1900. He then took up his residence in the village of Lismore, in the founding of which he took an active part. He has entered very actively into the business life of the village and is identified with many enterprises. In a political way he has also played an important part. He was elected county commissioner from the second district in 1883 and served a three year term. For many years he was township clerk of Willmont township.

EDWARD E. FIELDS, of Little Rock township, has the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of that township, having made his home on the farm upon which he now lives over thirty-seven years. His home is on the northeast quarter of section 22, and he also owns eighty acres on section fifteen.

Mr. Fields was born in Dane county, Wis., twenty miles west of Madison, in April, 1851, and was the son of Norwegian parents, Erick and Annie Fields. The former died in Dane county, Wis., in 1851, when the subject of this sketch was four months old. The mother died in Dane county in 1886. In early boyhood Edward was "bound out" to a farmer and worked at farm work until he came to Nobles county.

It was in the latter part of May, 1871, that Mr. Fields, Knute Thompson, Henry Bostie and Mr. Roberts came to Nobles county and located in Little Rock township. All took homesteads, but our subject is the only one who has remained. He broke the first land in the township, plowing ten acres where the grove on his farm is now located. During the pioneer days he suffered many hardships and privations. During the grasshopper days he frequently had to use one-third of his crop for the next year's seed.

Mr. Fields was married at Round Lake to Emma Tweeten, who died in 1888. By this marriage four children were born—Mrs. Herbert Pratt, of Worthington; Edwin, who resides near Bigelow; Mrs. Frank Klein, who resides on the home farm; and Henry, who lives at Burlington, Colorado. In the early days Mr. Fields affiliated with the Lutheran church and was one who planned for the building of the Little Rock church.

HENRY NELSON, retired farmer and capitalist of Ellsworth, was a home-steader in, and one of the early settlers of, Grand Prairie township, having come to the county in the spring of 1874.

Mr. Nelson is a Norwegian by birth, having been born in Gran Hadeland Sept. 18, 1845, the son of Nels and Maran (Erickson) Nelson, both of whom died in their native country. He came to the United States in 1867 and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa,

near the town of Decorah. There he lived two years, and then moved to Lafayette county, Wis., which was his home until he came to Nobles county. During his residence in Iowa and Wisconsin Mr. Nelson worked at different occupations—on farms, in the pines and at other pursuits.

April 10, 1874, was the date of the arrival of Mr. Nelson to Nobles county. He at once filed a homestead claim to the southeast quarter of section 22, Grand Prairie, upon which he resided thirty-two years. At the time of settlement there he erected a house, 14x18 feet, eight feet high, which at the time was one of the most pretentious in the neighborhood. During the grasshopper lays he lost nearly every crop and suffered many hardships common to the lot of the settlers of that date. In 1906 Mr. Nelson rented his farm to his sons and moved to the village, where he now lives a retired life.

Mr. Nelson was married in Grand Prairie township April 23, 1874, to Carrie Larson, who was born in Norway and came to America in 1869. She is the daughter of Lars Larson, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been born eight children, all living.

In the early days Mr. Nelson served several terms on the Grand Prairie township board and was on the school board of his district there for many years. He is now a member of the Ellsworth board of education.

**HENRY NOLTE.** One of the prominent and successful farmers of Grand Prairie township is Henry Nolte, who has been engaged in farming there for the last twenty years.

Mr. Nolte was born in Lippe Detmold, Germany, on July 21, 1845. His parents were Henry and Sophia (Kraicht) Nolte, both of whom are deceased, the father having died in Franklin county, Iowa, in 1885, aged 73 years, and the mother on July 14, 1894, aged 75 years.

In his native country Mr. Nolte resided until he was twenty-one years of age. There he was educated in the common schools, supplemented by a two years' course in English after coming to America. Until he was fifteen years old he lived on a farm. Then he took employment in a brick yard, at which business he was employed until he came to America in 1866. He departed from Germany

on a sailing vessel on March 17 and landed in New York on May 9. Going at once to Ogle county, Ill., Mr. Nolte rented a farm and engaged in farming there until the spring of 1875. The preceding fall he had bought 170 acres of land in Franklin county, Iowa, and in the spring he took up his residence there and engaged in farming until the spring of 1888. It was in 1879 that he met with an accident, having his right hand mangled in a corn sheller.

In 1887 Mr. Nolte decided to change his location, due to poor school facilities. He had a family and was three miles from school. The opportunity for an advantageous sale affording, Mr. Nolte disposed of his farm in Franklin county and set out to look for a new location. He came to Nobles county in the fall of 1887, liked the looks of the country and decided to invest. He bought four hundred acres of his present farm on section 7, Grand Prairie township, and in the spring of 1888 moved onto the place, and it has been his home ever since. When he came to the county Mr. Nolte had only \$1,200, and the farm he bought was only slightly improved. Today he has one of the finest improved farms in the vicinity, including a beautiful grove and a fine orchard. During the time of his residence in the county Mr. Nolte has prospered. He is now the owner of the east half of section 7, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 7 and the northwest quarter of section 5, all in Grand Prairie township, a section of land in Saskatchewan, valued at \$20 per acre, and two sections in Kit Carson county, Colorado, valued at \$12 to \$15 per acre. Until recently he owned other Nobles county property.

Mr. Nolte engages in stock raising quite extensively as well as grain farming, raising a considerable number of cattle and hogs. He holds stock in the First National Bank of Ellsworth and also in the State Bank of Magnolia, of which institution he is one of the directors. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Ellsworth. In politics he is independent but takes an active part. He served as township assessor one year and has been a school officer during nearly the whole time of his residence here. For seven or eight years he was a director of district No. 39, and since retiring from that office he has held the office of treasurer of the district, having served about ten years.

Mr. Nolte has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Ogle county, Ill., on June 11, 1872, when he led to the altar Miss Gesiene Essman. She died Dec. 28, 1893. To them were born the following children: Louise (Mrs. Albert Rust), born Aug. 2, 1873, died April 3, 1901; Henry, born Jan. 10, 1875; Herman, born Feb. 17, 1876; Adolph, born March 12, 1878, died Sept. 6, 1878; Charles, born May 9, 1879; Minnie, born March 23, 1882; John, born April 12, 1884, died Sept. 8, 1884; Fred, born Oct. 1, 1885; John, born Jan. 17, 1888; Gesiene, born Sept. 4, 1889, died Feb. 12, 1890; Gesiene, born Oct. 4, 1890; Bernhardt, born March 10, 1892. All of the living children are residents of Grand Prairie township. On December 4, 1894, Mr. Nolte was married to Mrs. Minnie Krueger, who died July 31, 1907. To them were born two children, as follows: Marie, born July 29, 1895; Alvina, born Dec. 13, 1899.

SYVERT D. TINNES, retired farmer of Adrian, is one of the oldest settlers of western Nobles county, having been the first to take a homestead in what later became Olney township. Mr. Tinnes was born in Norway July 25, 1823, and came to the United States in 1843. He located in Iowa county, Wis., which was his home twenty-eight years. There he engaged in farming and mercantile business. He was married there to Matilda B. Lindgren, who was born in Sweden and came to America when a child. They have four living children—D. J., of Northwood, N. D.; J. F., G. E. and Mary, of Adrian.

In 1871 Mr. Tinnes came to Nobles county and settled on section 34, Olney township, and acquired title to the whole of that section. His family came out the next year, and that became the family home. He farmed there until about twenty years ago, when he retired and moved to Rushmore. After one year spent in that village, he moved to Adrian where he has since lived a retired life. He still owns 420 acres of section 34, Olney.

FREDERICK PANK. When Fred Pank took his homestead claim in Willmont township in 1877 there were only two permanent settlers in the township—Thos. Klasy and William Moody. He is therefore one of

the pioneers of Willmont and the township's oldest settler. He still owns his homestead, the east half of the northwest quarter of section 30, and in addition owns 560 acres of land in sections 14 and 24, Leota township.

Mr. Pank was born in the province of Pommern, Prussia, July 17, 1850, the son of Frederick and Caroline (Metz) Pank. In his native land the elder Pank owned and conducted a brick yard. He died there in 1906, aged 83 years. His wife died several years earlier at the age of 68 years. Fred spent his boyhood days in Pommern and was educated there. Under his father's direction, after becoming old enough to work, he learned the brick mason's trade.

Our subject decided early in life to try his fortunes in the new world and in 1868 set sail for America, arriving in New York on Nov. 4. The first three years were spent in New York city, working at his trade. He then came west and located at St. Paul. In that city he was one year, holding a position in a brewery. The next six years of his life were spent in Stillwater, five years as a watchman and one year as an employe in Wolf's brewery.

After working in Stillwater for twenty-eight days, on March 24, 1872, the brewery burned. Mr. Pank was in the brewery at the time of the fire and jumped from a third story window. All that he possessed was burned. His bedfellow and another roommate were burned to death, while Mr. Pank awoke just in time to escape from the burning building. The next year, on June 11, while working as a watchman, he went into a gas house, which exploded. He got out in some way not known to himself, but was badly burned. By care of good physicians he soon recovered.

In the fall of 1877, in company with a party of Stillwater men who were looking for lands to homestead, Mr. Pank came to Nobles county, the exact date of his arrival in the county being October 11. He at once filed a claim to eighty acres of land as described above and then returned to Stillwater. In the spring of 1878 he returned to Nobles county, took up his residence on his claim, and that has been his home ever since. Three years after his arrival Mr. Pank took as a tree claim the

southeast quarter of section 24, Leota. His other possessions have been acquired by purchase. Mr. Pank has a fine home and a well improved farm. He is a breeder of Polled Angus cattle.

At Stillwater on March 21, 1873, Mr. Pank was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Rehder, who was born in Holstein, Germany, June 1, 1851. She is the daughter of John and Dorothea (Kortum) Rehder who came to the United States in 1866 and located near Stillwater. Mr. and Mrs. Pank are the parents of the following named children: Rosa J. (Mrs. M. S. Gole), Osheyan, Iowa; Edward H., a farmer of Leota township; Martha C. and Florence, who reside at home. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

Fred Pank has served as township treasurer for the last twenty-four years, and prior to his first election to that office served as a member of the board of supervisors from the time of the organization of Willmont township, in which event he participated. For nine years he served as director of school district No. 66. He has been treasurer of the Willmont Mutual Fire Insurance company since its organization; is a director and shareholder of the Lismore State Bank, and a director of the Farmers elevator at Lismore. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Workmen lodges of Adrian.

M. S. BOYLE, of Lismore township, is the oldest settler now living in that precinct. He owns and farms the east half of section 24. Mr. Boyle is the son of the late Michael and Bridget (Finnegan) Boyle, natives of Ireland. The father died Oct. 1, 1891, aged 76 years. The mother died March 6, 1899, aged 75 years.

Our subject was born in Green Lake county, Wis., May 17, 1853. He was raised on his father's farm and made his home there till the spring of 1874. Then, having reached his majority, he left home. After making a trip down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to Burlington, Iowa, and lock up the St. Croix river, he engaged in timbering.

In the month of July, 1876, he came to Nobles county, determined to make his home in the new country of southwestern Minne-

sota. A brother had been in the neighborhood so early as 1865 while in the service on an expedition after Indians, and had always declared that southwestern Minnesota was destined to become a great country and that some day he would make his home there. He accompanied his brother, M. S. Boyle, to Nobles county, in 1876. Captain Aiken Miner located our subject, who on the 26th of July filed a homestead claim to the northeast quarter of section 26, Lismore township. Although claims had been taken in the township prior to this time, there was not an actual settler in the township at the time Mr. Boyle erected his "shack" and became a resident. He broke up a small tract of land the first season and began farming.

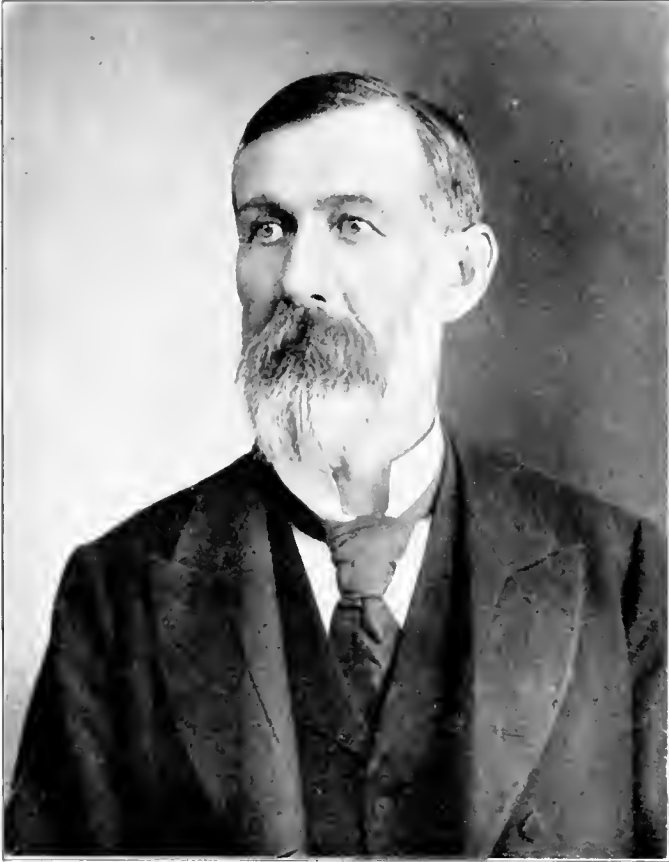
From the date of filing on the claim until 1894 Mr. Boyle divided his time between his Nobles county farm and the timber camps on the St. Croix river. He spent his summers farming and winters working in the woods. He bought his present 320 acre farm in 1889, and in 1891 made his improvements and moved on. That has been his home ever since, with the exception of five or six years spent in Adrian, where he engaged in the stock business. Mr. Boyle engages extensively in the stock business and raises thoroughbred Hereford cattle and Oxford Down sheep.

Mr. Boyle was married at Adrian May 15, 1879, to Mary O'Day, a native of Fond du Lac, Wis., and a daughter of Michael and Mary O'Day, both deceased. To them have been born the following children: May C., born April 15, 1880; Helen Mary, born March 29, 1882; Isabel, of Black Duck, Minn., born March, 1886; Edward D., born Feb. 12, 1889; Ethel, born May 20, 1893; Margaret, born Aug. 2, 1896. In the early days Mr. Boyle served five or six years as a member of the Lismore township board.

The brother of M. S. Boyle referred to is Dennis Boyle, well known to all the old settlers. While he never made his home in Nobles county, he had large land interests, made big improvements, and was interested in stock raising. At one time he owned 1,700 acres of land and had it all in growing grain. M. S. Boyle also engaged extensively in farming. He opened up for crops over 1,000 acres, a part of which he has since sold. The Boyles were among the most ex-



PLATE 1  
THE TEMPLE OF  
APOLLO AT DELPHI  
FRONT VIEW  
1874



JUDGE B. W. WOOLSIENCROFT

Who Settled in the Graham Lakes Country July 4, 1867,  
and Became One of the County's First Settlers.

tensive farmers and opened more land than any other two men in northwestern Nobles county.

REV. BENJAMIN HECK CREVER (1817-1890). One of the most prominent and best known residents of Worthington in the early days of its history was Rev. B. H. Crever, who played a very important part in the religious and educational history of the town during the days when the village claimed only a handful of residents.

Rev. Crever was born at Carlisle, Pa., March 16, 1817, the son of James and Mary Crever. He learned the printer's trade in his father's office in his native town, but did not follow that occupation for long. He became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Carlisle in 1835, with which denomination he affiliated fifty-five years, and of which he was a minister fifty years. Soon after joining the church he became a student at Dickinson college for the purpose of preparing himself for the ministry, and in 1840 he was admitted to the Baltimore conference. He had not at that time completed his course of study in the college, but he was subsequently honored by his alma mater with the degree of A. M. and D. D. He at once began his duties as a minister of the gospel in Virginia, and in the third year of his ministry was assigned to the well known Baltimore charge.

In 1846, because of impaired health, Rev. Crever, was compelled to give up regular work. He then took up educational work, which he followed four years, establishing a private school at Milton, Pa. He was also one of the founders of Williamsport Dickinson college, and for two years was an instructor there. In 1850 he again took up ministerial work, and during the next decade was pastor of important churches in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He was assigned to the Frederick City, Maryland, church in 1861, the city which was the gateway for the federal armies to and from the battlefields of Virginia. Rev. Crever was a staunch union man, and he was appointed by the government chaplain in charge of all the hospitals of Frederick City and vicinity. He resumed his duties as a minister in 1866 and was assigned to the Carlisle district. Soon thereafter he became presiding elder

and served in that capacity four years. In 1868 he was honored with a seat in the general conference.

It was in 1872 that he and his family came with the colonists to Worthington, seeking a much needed rest. He at once became one of the prominent members of the little community, was one of the first to build a residence in the village, was pastor of the first church and for a time was principal of the Worthington seminary. He was one of the organizers of the Colony Christian Union, and was its pastor during the year of its existence. He then organized the Methodist church of Worthington, and was its pastor for some time.

In March, 1875, Rev. Crever returned to his own conference and preached the gospel until 1886, when he took a superannuated relation. He was taken ill in May, 1889, from which he never fully recovered. He took to his bed March 26, 1890, and died April 15, of the same year at the residence of his son-in-law, Rev. C. T. Dunning, in Hanover, Pa.

Rev. Crever was married, his wife dying in October, 1886. They were the parents of five children, only one of whom grew to maturity—Mary H., wife of Rev. C. T. Dunning, now residing at Mechanicsburg, Pa. An adopted son, Thomas H. Crever, is still a resident of Worthington.

BENJAMIN W. WOOLSTENCROFT, is judge of probate of Murray county and resides at Slayton. Although Judge Woolstencroft has not been a resident of Nobles county for nearly thirty years, no man living is more entitled to recognition in a work of this kind than he. Without fear of contradiction, we will state that Mr. Woolstencroft took a more prominent part in the early history making of Nobles county than any other man. He came to the county on July 4, 1867, when there were only two other settlers in the whole county—a county which now boasts a population of over 15,000 people. From the date of his arrival he took a prominent part in the affairs of the settlement, and more than anyone else, he was responsible for the organization of the county government in the fall of 1870, being designated by Governor Austin as one of the three commissioners to perfect the organization. A

complete sketch of the life of Judge Woolstencroft would fill a volume, and we regret that only a brief outline can be here given. The reader is referred to the history part of this work for many items of interest in the life of Mr. Woolstencroft.

Benjamin W. Woolstencroft was born February 22, 1846, in Jefferson Barracks, Mo., the son of Benjamin and Mary A. (Keer) Woolstencroft. Benjamin Woolstencroft, Sr., was a soldier in the regular army, being a sergeant in company K, First U. S. infantry. Soon after the birth of his son he started with his regiment for Mexico to take part in the Mexican war, and Mrs. Woolstencroft moved with her children to their farm in Clayton county, Iowa, where our subject was raised and received his education. Although only a boy 16 years old at the time of the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Woolstencroft enlisted as a private in company L, of the Sixth Iowa cavalry, and served from 1862 to 1864.

On Dec. 18, 1866, Mr. Woolstencroft was married to Susan D. Ansecomb, and to them have been born seven children, as follows: Minnie M., Arthur A. (deceased), James W., Mark, Belle, John and Lulu.

The newly married couple decided to seek a new home in the west, and it was while out looking for a new location that Mr. Woolstencroft learned of the beautiful country around Graham lakes, and as it was on his route west he decided to take a look at it. Arriving there with a party of friends who were on the same mission he was so delighted with the appearance of the country that he and his friends immediately took claims there. This was on the fourth day of July, 1867, and Joseph and Stephen Muck were then the only settlers in the whole county. The lands were as yet unsurveyed, and these early settlers held their claims by "squatters'" rights. For several years Mr. Woolstencroft and his neighbors engaged in trapping for a living, there being no mills or market for any grain they might attempt to raise, but there was a good market for their furs, and fur bearing animals were then plentiful in Nobles county. After a few years when settlers began to come in numbers Mr. Woolstencroft engaged in farming and civil engineering, and resided in the county until 1879, when he took up his residence in Murray county. That county has

since been his home. In 1882 he bought the Fulda Farmer, changed the name to Murray County Republican, and published that for eight years.

Few men of his age can show a longer service as a public official than Mr. Woolstencroft. He served as county commissioner of Nobles county from the time of the county's organization in October, 1870, till the election in the fall of 1871. Then he was elected county surveyor and served six years. After his removal to Murray county he served 18 years as county surveyor there. He was president of the Fulda school board ten years, president of the Fulda village council two years, served a time as reeorder, was chairman of the republican county central committee, was secretary of the same organization, served twelve years as justice of the peace, has been assessor a number of years, and was elected to his present office, judge of probate of Murray county, in 1894 and served continuously since, his present term expiring January, 1909. He was a charter member of Zach. Taylor Post No. 42, G. A. R., Fulda, and was its commander and adjutant for a number of years. He is now a member of Logan Post No. 162, Slayton.

[Since the above biography was put in type Judge Woolstencroft has died, having passed away at his home in Slayton on Saturday, Oct. 17, 1908.]

WALTER R. D. McCHORD. Among the pioneer settlers of central Nobles county none is better known than the subject of this biography, who homesteaded in Dewald township in 1872 and who has ever since made his home there.

Mr. McChord was born in Preble county, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1848, the son of R. W. and Sarah (Wolf) McChord. Both parents were natives of Ohio and both died in Iowa, the father in 1873 and the mother on April 3, 1886. From Preble county, Ohio, the family moved to Lee county, Iowa, in 1856, and there our subject grew to manhood, working on his father's farm.

In 1872 he came to the new Nobles county country and homesteaded 86 acres in the southwest quarter of section 18, Dewald township, upon which place he has ever since resided. Settlers were few and far between

at the time, and in Dewald there were not to exceed ten settlers. He erected a "shack" and began farming, experiencing many of the hardships incident to pioneer life.

On November 7, 1876,—the date of the election of President R. B. Hayes—Mr. McChord was married in Dewald township to Miss Maggie Churchill, daughter of J. B. and Margaret (Getman) Churchill. J. B. Churchill was one of the first settlers of Dewald, taking his claim on section 20 in March, 1872. At the time his house was the only one on the line between Worthington and Luverne. He removed from the county in 1878 and went to California, buying property in Los Angeles and Ontario. He died at Santa Monica, Cal., Jan. 16, 1899, at the age of eighty years. Mrs. Churchill was a native of New York state and died there in 1865. Mrs. McChord was born in New York Aug. 14, 1860, and came to Nobles county with her father when a child twelve years old. To Mr. and Mrs. McChord have been born two children: Mary Olive (Mrs. R. F. Kerr), of Dewald, born Sept. 15, 1877; Bertha Elizabeth (Mrs. R. C. Thom), of Olney, born Sept. 11, 1883. Mr. McChord is a member of the M. W. A. lodge and Mrs. McChord belongs to the Rushmore Methodist church.

**OLE NYSTROM.** Among the very first settlers of Bigelow township was a small party of Scandinavians, among which was the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Jemtland, Sweden, April 12, 1849, the son of Peter and Martha (Hanson) Nystrom.

During the first twenty-one years of his life Ole Nystrom lived in his native land. When he was sixteen years of age he began working in the copper mines and followed that occupation during the greater part of his residence there, although he worked at farm work some. In company with his brother, Hans Nystrom, he came to America in 1870 and went to Milwaukee. In the vicinity of that city the brothers worked on the railroad for six weeks. They then went to Duluth, where they worked in the stone quarries till late in the fall, and thereafter engaged in railroad work in Wisconsin until the spring of 1871.

He then went to St. James, Minn., and

secured work on the railroad that was building through southwestern Minnesota. There a partnership was formed by L. B. Bennett, Ole Nystrom, Hans Nystrom, Elof Nordquist, Erick Mahlberg, Peter Wickstrom and C. J. Wickstrom, who secured a contract from the head contractor to do grading on the new road and worked along the line from St. James to Sioux City. During the month of June, 1871, the members of the party left their work at Windom and, under the leadership of Mr. Bennett, took claims south of the prospective town of Worthington, all in Bigelow township except Mr. Nordquist, who filed on land in Indian Lake. Ole Nystrom took as his claim the northwest quarter of section 24. A short time after making his fling he put up a little sod shanty but did not make his permanent residence there until two years later, putting in most of his time working on the road. He moved onto the place in 1873 and began farming. He lived in the sod shanty until 1877, when he erected his first frame house. On his original homestead he has lived ever since. He has added to his possessions by the purchase of 120 acres of land in the same vicinity.

Mr. Nystrom was married in Bigelow township May 13, 1892, to Christine Moberg, daughter of the late Jonas Moberg and Elizabeth Moberg. Mrs. Nystrom was born in Sweden, came to the United States in 1870 and to Nobles county in the fall of 1871. To them have been born the following children: Myrtle, Alice, Reuben. Mr. and Mrs. Nystrom are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake.

**ALLEN CHANEY (1811-1892)** was a pioneer settler of Nobles county, having come in 1872 as a member of the National colony, and for many years took a prominent part in the affairs of the county and the community in which he lived.

Allen Chaney was born at Barnard, Vermont, August 8, 1811, a descendant of one of the earliest colonial families, which came from England in the first half of the seventeenth century. John Chaney (the spelling of the name has been changed by one branch of the American family) was the founder of the American Chaney and Cheneys. The first mention of the family in official records is the following from the pen of that

noble man, Rev. John Eliot—"Apostle to the Indians" while that preacher was at Roxbury. In the record of his church Eliot wrote:

"John Cheney he came into the land in the year 1635, he brought 4 children, Mary, Martha, John Daniel, Sarah his 5th child was borne in the last month of the same year 1635, ead February, he removed from a church to Newbury the end of the next year 1636. Martha Cheney the wife of John Cheney."

The family was a respected one in Newbury and intermarried with the best families there. John Cheney held office, being on the board of selectmen more than once. The descent from this founder of the family to the subject of this sketch is direct. Daniel Cheney, son of John Cheney, was born in England about 1633 and died at Newbury, Mass., Sept. 10, 1694. John Cheney, son of Daniel Cheney, was born in Newbury July 10, 1676, and died in 1728. Moses Cheney, son of John Cheney, was born Oct. 20, 1715, and served in the war of the revolution. Moses Cheney, Jr., son of Moses Cheney, was born in Newbury Feb. 28, 1764. He removed to Orange, Mass., about the year 1790. It was this member of the family that brought about the change in the spelling of the name. One day Moses Cheney, Jr., purchased a volume at a book store and requested the book seller to write his name in the book. The storekeeper explained to Mr. Cheney that the name was French and meant "oak," that in the French language the e had the sound of a, and that the proper pronunciation of the name was Chaney. Moses Cheney, Jr., was so taken up with the explanation that he changed the spelling of the name, and the revised spelling has been followed by all his descendants, although a large part of the American family still spell the name with the e. Luther Chaney was a son of Moses Cheney, Jr. He was born at Orange May 9, 1728, and was the father of our subject. He was an inkkeeper, farmer and blacksmith, resided at Orange several years, and then removed to Barnard, Vermont, where he lived many years and where he died Dec. 2, 1811. His wife and the mother of Allen Chaney was Sabra Allen, who died June 3, 1885, aged 96 years.

Allen Chaney lived in Barnard, Vermont, until 1829, when he went to Ogdensburg, N.

Y., to accept a position as clerk in the hardware store of his uncle, E. B. Allen. A little later he took a partnership in the business, and for many years his home was at Ogdensburg, later becoming a manufacturer of iron and steel goods. In 1866 he removed to Detroit, Mich., where he engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery, and that city was his home until his removal to Nobles county in 1872. Upon his arrival in Worthington he gave up his manufacturing pursuits and became a farmer, taking a home-stead in Worthington township, where he resided until his death, twenty years later.

During his long residence in Nobles county Mr. Chaney took an active part in the religious, social and political affairs of the community in which he lived. He took a leading and prominent part in the organization of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington, which was organized in February, 1873, and for many years he was ruling elder in that church in fact, from the date of organization until his death. In 1876 he was elected county surveyor and served one term. He was an officer of Worthington township during all the time he was a resident there—over twenty years. He held the offices of supervisor, treasurer, assessor, etc.

Allen Chaney was twice married. His first marriage was to Miss Susan Angelina Caryl, daughter of William Caryl. She was born in Barnard, Vermont, March 30, 1811, and died at Ogdensburg, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1850. His second marriage occurred in May, 1853, when he was united in marriage to Miss Candace Coan Rumsey, daughter of David Rumsey. She was born in 1826 and died in February, 1865. Mr. Chaney was the father of six children, as follows: Julia Maria, born March 1, 1841, resides at Worthington; Catherine Rumsey, born Aug. 5, 1854, married June 19, 1873, to J. A. Town, died July 17, 1890; Allen Miller, born March 16, 1856, resides at Minneapolis; David Rumsey, born Jan. 18, 1858, resides at Dundee, Minn.; Roberta Van Valkenburg, born Aug. 20, 1860, married Dec. 30, 1890, to James Mackay, resides at Worthington; William, born Feb. 10, 1865, resides at Worthington.

Allen Chaney died at his home in Worthington township Dec. 20, 1892.

**SEVERT A. JACOBSON.** Among the early day settlers of Olney township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He having made his home on the farm where he now lives (the southwest quarter of section 28) thirty-two years.

Mr. Jacobson was born in Norway April 28, 1852, the son of Andrew and Inger (Severson) Jacobson, the former born Jan. 12, 1804, the latter March 10, 1824. Andrew Jacobson died in his native land Jan. 12, 1871; his wife died there in August, 1904.

Severt grew to manhood on his father's farm in the old country. In the spring of 1872—the year following his father's death—he emigrated to America, first locating in Lafayette county, Wis., where for four years he worked at farm work by the month. He came to Nobles county in March, 1876, and bought a relinquishment to the quarter section where he now lives. The only improvement on the land at that time was a little "shack," covered with a hay roof. Today he has a finely improved farm, one of the finest in southern Olney township. During his long residence in Nobles county Mr. Jacobson has taken active part in local affairs. He has been a director of school district No. 43 during nearly the entire period of his residence in the county, and for many years was a member of the board of supervisors. He affiliates with the Odd Fellows, Woodmen and Workmen lodges and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Jacobson was married at Monroe, Wis., March 22, 1875, to Miss Mary Johnson, a native of Norway, and a daughter of John Johnson, who died in Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson have been born seven children, of whom the following five are living: Albert, manager of a department store at Belgrade, Mont., born Dec. 1, 1876; Samuel, living on the farm, born March 8, 1881; Annie (Mrs. Fred Schrader), of Belgrade, Mont., born Oct. 6, 1886; Minnie, residing at home, born July 12, 1888; Edwin, of Belgrade, Mont., born Dec. 2, 1890. Of the other two children, John died in infancy. Charlie, who was manager of a department store in Montana, met his death by drowning July 23, 1906, at the age of 22 years, 10 months and 1 day.

**DR. THOMAS G. NEWELL,** practicing physician and dentist of Adrian, was one of

the first settlers of the village, and has taken a very active part in the affairs of his town. He has the honor of having operated the first telegraph instrument in Adrian and of serving as the first mayor.

Dr. Newell was born in St. Clair, Mich., Feb. 4, 1858, of Scotch parentage. At the age of 11 years he went to Rochester, Minn. At an early age he learned telegraphy, and for a time was employed on the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad as relief agent. On Sept. 19, 1877, he went to the new town of Adrian, on the newly constructed Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad, and took the position of station agent and telegraph operator. He installed and operated the first telegraph instrument, and was in charge of the office until 1885. Freight and passenger rates were just about double what they are now, passenger rates being five cents per mile, and telegraph tolls were very high. Ninety cents was the cost of sending a telegram to St. Paul, and \$1.55 to Chicago.

During this first period of his residence in Adrian, Mr. Newell did much for the good of the town. Through his influence with the railroad company the village received its public park of six acres, the land being donated by the railroad company. When the town was incorporated in 1881 he was chosen the first mayor and was reelected the following year and again in 1883. He gave up his position as agent in 1885, and was succeeded by his brother, Henry Newell, who is now agent for the Santa Fe road at Redlands, Cal. He was in turn succeeded by another brother, Geo. A. Newell, who is now assistant freight agent of the O. R. & N. railway, with headquarters at Wallace, Idaho.

After surrendering the station in 1885 Mr. Newell left Adrian, and was absent ten years, during which time he resided in several different places. While away he attended a medical and dental school at Kansas City, Mo., from which he received diplomas in both medicine and dentistry. Dr. Newell returned to Adrian June 10, 1895, and began the practice of his profession, which he has since followed. In addition to his city property he owns two farms—one of 160 acres on section 5, Olney township; the other of 160 acres on section 27, Larkin township.

Dr. Newell was married at Adrian Aug. 16, 1882, to Annie Clark, of Worthington. To

them have been born eight children, as follows: Thomas W., born at Elysian, Minn., June 21, 1887; Raymond, born at Amenla, N. D., Aug. 27, 1888; Annie, born at Cando, N. D., Oct. 19, 1891; Rosa, born at Shakopee, Minn., Sept. 19, 1893; Cecylia, born at Adrian May 8, 1895; Yelieve, born at Adrian Aug. 16, 1898; George, born at Adrian Oct. 7, 1900; Antonio, born at Adrian Oct. 4, 1904.

ROBERT SELL is one of the pioneers and best known farmers of Willmont township, having made his home on the farm where he now resides over thirty years. He is a native of Colberg, in the province of Pommern, Germany, and Aug. 27, 1854, was the date of his birth. His father is Louis Sell, who was born in Germany Feb. 9, 1828, and was the owner of a brick yard in his native country. He came to America and to Carver, Minn., in 1868, where he engaged in farming and where he now lives. Our subject's mother, Caroline (Dummer) Sell, died in Germany Oct. 5, 1866, aged 34 years.

Robert Sell was raised on a farm and received his education in his native country. He came to the United States with his father, landing in Baltimore June 7, 1868. They located at Carver, Minn., and near that village Robert worked on his father's farm until he was nineteen years of age. He then went to Stillwater and for five years worked in the sawmills and at other kinds of work.

During the month of March, 1878, Mr. Sell came to Nobles county and became one of the early settlers of northwestern Nobles county. He homesteaded the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, Willmont township, and has ever since resided on the place. He has added to his real estate possessions until today he owns 400 acres of land in Willmont and Leota townships. One eighty acre tract he bought at the time of settling there for six dollars per acre. Another eighty he bought five years later at seven dollars, and recently he bought his last quarter at fifty dollars. His first home was a frame building, 12x14 feet, and his farm was built of sod. Later he added to his house, and continued to live in it till 1900. That year he erected his present handsome farm home. Mr. Sell raises considerable stock besides carrying on general farm-

ing. He has retired from active work himself and the farm is managed largely by his sons.

In the village of Adrian on Oct. 29, 1878, Mr. Sell was married to Mary Tabbert, daughter of John and Dora Tabbert, both deceased. Mrs. Sell was born near the city of Berlin, in Brandenburg, Prussia, March 12, 1856, came to the United States with her parents when three months old, and settled in Carver county, Minn. To Mr. and Mrs. Sell have been born eleven children, as follows: Elizabeth, died Feb. 10, 1890, aged 10 years; Emma (Mrs. R. Bartell), of Brookings, S. D.; Edith, Louis, Mathilda, Reinold, died March 30, 1899, aged 10 years; Carrie, Roy, Bertha, Mary, Robert.

When the township of Willmont was organized Mr. Sell was one who took part in bringing about the organization. He served as chairman of the board of supervisors from 1900 to 1907. He has always taken an active part in business enterprises which have been established in his neighborhood. He was one of the organizers of the Lismore Farmers' Elevator company and is one of the trustees of the company. He put up the Robert Sell telephone line and is manager of the line and vice president of the company. Fraternally he is connected with the M. W. A. lodge.

ALBERT A. THOMPSON, whose farm is just outside of the village of Lismore, is one of the pioneer settlers of that township. His farm consists of 400 acres in Lismore and Leota townships.

Mr. Thompson was born near the city of Christiania, Norway, in 1854, the son of Andrew Thompson. Both his parents died in Lafayette county, Wis., their deaths occurring only one year apart. Albert was one of a family of six children. The family emigrated to the United States when our subject was thirteen years old and settled in Lafayette county, Wis. There Albert lived until twenty years old, working on farms for fifteen dollars per month. He then started out with an ox team and drove through to Nobles county. The first two years in the county he broke prairie land in Grand Prairie township, making his home in a "shanty" which consisted of an overturned wagon box. In 1876 he took as a tree claim



the northeast quarter of section 2, Lismore township, and on that place he has since lived. Later he bought the southeast quarter of section 2 and the southwest quarter of section 35, Leota township.

During his residence in his new home in the early days, Mr. Thompson went through many pioneer experiences. He suffered some from the grasshopper scourge, and many were the inconveniences and hardships he endured on account of his isolated location during the long and severe winters. On one occasion it took him five days to make a trip to town and bring back an hundred pounds of flour. The trip was made on snow shoes and the flour was hauled back on another pair of the shoes.

Mr. Thompson is a stockholder in the telephone company in his neighborhood and in the Farmers' Elevator company of Lismore. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lismore township and helped build the church. He also holds a membership in the M. W. A. lodge. He served as school director of his district five years, and was road boss seven years in the early days. He built the first bridge put in on the road between Lismore and Adrian. After the village of Lismore was founded Mr. Thompson engaged in the stock shipping business for a number of years. He shipped out the first car load of hogs from the new town.

Mr. Thompson was married in Mankato, Minn., June 10, 1878, to Bertha Colson, who was born in Norway and who came to America when sixteen years of age. To these parents have been born thirteen children, all living. They are: Ida, born March 28, 1879; Frank, born Dec. 14, 1880; Genevra Sarah, born Feb. 28, 1883; Joseph A., born March 10, 1885; Henry A., born Jan. 26, 1887; Alpha, born April 26, 1889; Anna M., born June 26, 1890; Myrtle G., born July 19, 1892; Ethel M., born June 5, 1896; Elmer W., born Feb. 20, 1898; Isabel C., born Aug. 2, 1900; Bertha L., born March 28, 1902; Lloyd L., born July 3, 1903.

ANDREW BUCHAN, a pioneer, and for many years a resident of Nobles county, now lives at Custer, Washington. He was born in Steuben county, New York, September 25, 1836. When twelve years of age he moved with his parents to Racine county,

Wis. There he secured his education and grew to manhood. He was married in Dover township, Racine county, in April, 1857, to Miss Delia A. Blandin, who was born in Steuben county, N. Y., April 23, 1837.

Early in the year 1860 Mr. and Mrs. Buchan moved to Kansas, but because of the disturbances there they returned to Wisconsin that same fall. In the spring of 1861 they took up their place of abode in Sheldon, Houston county, Minn., where Mr. Buchan engaged in farming.

On August 20, 1862, he enlisted at Caladenia, Minn., in company F, of the 10th Minnesota volunteer infantry, and served with the union forces two years. He was first stationed at Fort Snelling. From there his command went to Mankato, in the vicinity of which he took part in the famous Sioux campaign, pursuing the noted chief, Sitting Bull, to Devil's Lake and beyond, into the British possessions. Mr. Buchan was present at the hanging of the 38 Sioux Indians at Mankato—the final act of the Sioux war.

After the suppression of the Sioux outbreak, Mr. Buchan went south and took part in the Vicksburg campaign. There he took sick and nearly died, being discharged because of disability on April 20, 1864.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Buchan returned to his old home in Wisconsin, but in the spring of 1865 again took up his abode in Houston county, Minn., where he engaged in farming until 1872. He came in contact with the literature of the National colony, which was advertising Nobles county, and decided to cast his lot with the early settlers of the new country. He made the trip overland in two wagons, bringing his family with him, and arrived in Worthington May 29, 1872. He at once took a homestead claim on the northwest quarter of section 12, Worthington township, about two miles north of Worthington, and there he lived and engaged in farming until about 1885. For about two years, soon after moving to Worthington, he engaged in the machinery business in company with E. N. Safer. In 1885 Mr. Buchan purchased a place in Worthington, where he resided three years.

In December, 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Buchan removed to Colfax, Cal. Later they took up their residence at Eugene City, Oregon, where

they lived several years. From there they removed to Custer, Washington, which place is now Mr. Buchan's home. Mrs. Buchan died in October, 1908.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Buchan, as follows: Edward F., photographer at Worthington; William H., city engineer of Worthington; and Alfred J., born in Houston county, Minn., March 8, 1868, and died at Ogden, Utah, July 12, 1891.

CHARLES C. BOOTH, Seward township farmer, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county, having lived here since he was five years of age. He is the son of William H. Booth, of Seward, and was born near Mankato, in Blue Earth county, Minn., Nov. 20, 1866.

In 1872 the family moved to Nobles county and the father took a homestead in Seward township, where he has ever since resided. One of the first sights to greet the eye of young Booth upon his arrival was a herd of 25 elk, which he saw about a mile west of his present home. Our subject was raised on his father's farm and secured his education in the schools of Nobles county. He was married Nov. 20, 1887, to Miss Minnie Cosper, a daughter of D. Jason Cosper, and a native of Roseau, Ill., where she was born April 10, 1866.

After his marriage Mr. Booth secured his farm of 89½ acres on the southwest quarter of section 26, and has since engaged in farming for himself. He is a member of the Methodist church of Seward township, which was built on his father's land, and which was built principally by him in 1896. Fraternally he is a member of the M. W. A. and I. O. O. F. lodges. During the last ten years he has held the office of school treasurer of district 38.

Mr. and Mrs. Booth are the parents of the following children: Elsie, born Sept. 30, 1888; Clyde, born June 1, 1894; Alma, born April 24, 1894; Floyd, born Nov. 27, 1897; Ruth, born March 30, 1901.

LEWIS LARSON, One of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county is Lewis Larson, who came to the county with his parents in 1871

when a boy eleven years of age. He is a Bigelow township farmer, owning 440 acres in sections 26, 25 and 28, as well as 230 acres in Sioux Valley township, Jackson county.

Lewis Larson was born in Jemtland, Sweden, Oct. 7, 1860, the son of Peter and Brita (Landberg) Larson. The father was born in 1828, and died in Bigelow township April 17, 1904. The mother still lives in Bigelow township. The family came to America in June, 1869, and located in Minnesota. From June until the fall of the year Peter Larson worked near Minneapolis on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad, which was then building. About the middle of December he moved to the city of Minneapolis, where he worked on a tunnel and kept boarding house for the workmen.

It was during the year 1871 that the family moved from Minneapolis to the new county of Nobles county. The father took as a homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 26, Bigelow township, which was his home until his death, thirty-three years later. Having only about \$350 when the family arrived in the county, many hardships were endured during the first few years residence there. For some time the family home was a dug-out. The head of the family secured employment on the new railroad, working with the gravel crew, thus securing enough to support the family. The crops were almost a total failure during the gra-shopper days.

Until he was twenty-three years of age Lewis Larson resided on the home farm, although spending part of the time working out at farm and railroad work. In 1883 he moved to Sioux Valley township, in Jackson county, where he purchased a homestead right, to which he in time secured title. For almost thirteen years he was engaged in farming there, and then, upon his brother's death, he returned to Nobles county to take charge of the home farm.

Mr. Larson was married near Lake Park, Iowa, on November 28, 1889, to Hersa Hardy, a native of Gool Thunder, Minn., and a daughter of C. M. and Margaret Hardy. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born the following children: Bessie, born Oct. 1, 1890; Winnie, born Oct. 10, 1892; Edna, born July 13, 1897; Viola, born Oct. 10, 1898.

**ARJEN RUST.** One of the large land owners and prosperous farmers of Summit Lake township is Arjen Rust, whose residence is on section 33. He owns 1,100 acres of land, nearly all of which is located in Summit Lake township. He has all of section 33 except the southwest quarter, the northwest quarter of 34, the northeast quarter of 32, the southeast quarter of 16, the west half of the northeast quarter of 16, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 4, Dewald township. In addition to this land in his own name, his sons own 240 acres in sections 21 and 15, Summit Lake. Of this land Mr. Rust farms a little over 700 acres and rents the rest. Among other real estate he owns 160 acres in Pipestone county, Minn.

Mr. Rust was born in Hanover, Germany, Feb. 20, 1847, the son of Harm and Gretja (Ramars) Rust. His father died in Butler county, Iowa, at the age of 84 years. His mother died in Summit Lake township in 1903 at the age of 91 years. Mr. Rust was raised on a farm in his native country, which was his home until nearly twenty years of age. He came to the United States in 1866, arriving at Freeport, Ill., June 4 of that year. One year he worked in the city of Freeport, and during the next three years was engaged at farm work in the vicinity. He moved to Butler county, Iowa, and worked for wages until 1877, when he was married.

The date of Mr. Rust's marriage was Feb. 11, 1877, when he was united in marriage at Baileyville, Ill., to Gesina Lubbers, a native of Germany. To them have been born the following children, all residents of Nobles county: Harm, Henry, Aaron, George, Albert, Bernard, Annie and Ella.

After his marriage Mr. Rust began farming for himself in Butler county, which he followed there until 1887. That year he came to Nobles county and bought the north half of section 33, Summit Lake township. Later he bought the other property described before and has ever since been engaged in farming. Mr. Rust was a member of the township board two years and was road overseer for many years. He has served as director of school district 88 since it was organized. He is a member of the Worthington Baptist church.

**GUY C. FELLOWS.** One of the pioneer settlers of Elk township and one of the best known farmers in that precinct is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He has been engaged in farming there for thirty-one years.

Mr. Fellows is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Houston county May 18, 1837. His father was Milton Fellows, one of the prominent men among the early day settlers of the county. He was born at Haverhill, New Hampshire, April 29, 1830, and in an early day came to Minnesota. He enlisted in a Minnesota regiment at Riceford and served during the civil war, taking part in many important engagements. In May, 1877, he came to Nobles county and took a homestead claim in Elk township, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred May 4, 1880. Milton Fellows was married to Julia Buckland July 4, 1851. She was born in New York state April 1, 1835, and died at the family home in Nobles county July 5, 1885.

Guy Fellows lived with his parents in Houston and Fillmore counties until he was ten years of age. The family then moved to Ray county, Mo., and there Guy spent the next ten years of his life. He was raised on his father's farm and received a graded school education in Minnesota and Missouri. It was in May, 1877, that Guy came to Nobles county with his parents, and his home has ever since been on the southeast quarter of section 10, Elk township. Upon reaching his majority he took a homestead claim in Bloom township, but on account of his father's illness he was forced to relinquish it. After the death of the elder Fellows the heirs proved up on the homestead. Guy purchased the interest of the other heirs and has farmed the place ever since the death of his father.

At Worthington on May 22, 1883, Mr. Fellows was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Green, who was born in Buffalo county, Wis., in 1858. To them have been born the following children: Amos Vergil, Edna May, George Clement, Julia Irene, Ida Belle and Minerva, all of whom reside at home.

Mr. Fellows has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the community in which he resides. He has served as Elk's

town clerk for sixteen years. He is clerk of his school district and has held a school office for the last twenty years or more. He has also served as township assessor. He holds a membership in the Odd Fellows lodge of Worthington and was one of the charter members of that lodge.

JAMES H. MAXWELL, of Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having arrived with the colonists of 1872, and having made his home here ever since.

Mr. Maxwell was born in Lyndon, Whiteside county, Ill., Feb. 19, 1845, the son of Ambrose L. and Artemisia E. (Hulce) Maxwell, of Scotch and German descent, respectively. The father of our subject was born in Delhi, Delaware county, N. Y., and died at Worthington March 3, 1901. The mother was born in Deposit, Delaware county, N. Y. She died Dec. 12, 1886. J. H. Maxwell was raised on a farm, and during his boyhood days divided his time between farm work and attending school. In the public schools of Lyndon and other points in Whiteside county he secured his education, completing it with a one year's course in the school of Buffalo, Ill. With the exception of one year in Ogle county, Ill., and one year in the army Mr. Maxwell resided in the county of his birth until his arrival in Nobles county in 1872.

He enlisted in company B, of the Seventh Illinois cavalry, at Polo, Ill., Sept. 5, 1861, and was immediately sent to the front, seeing service with Gen. Pope in southeastern Missouri. By reason of sickness, his service was short, and he was discharged Feb. 21, 1862. He reentered the army June 1, 1862, when he enlisted at Polo in company K, of the 69th Illinois infantry, for a period of three months. The enlistment of this regiment was for the sole purpose of guarding rebel prisoners in Chicago and for transferring them to Vicksburg for exchange. The regiment took 10,000 prisoners south and successfully managed the exchange. Mr. Maxwell secured his discharge Oct. 6, 1862.

After his army service Mr. Maxwell returned to his home in Whiteside county, Ill., and during the year 1863 engaged in farming. In June, 1864, he began learning the carpenter's trade, under his father's tutor-

age, and followed carpentering during the remaining eight years he lived in Illinois. Mr. Maxwell first became acquainted with Nobles county through the advertisements of the National Colony company in the Toledo Blade, of which publication he was a subscriber. Although the advertisements did not state where the colony was to be located, Mr. Maxwell became interested, and decided to cast his lot with the colony. In the summer of 1872 he made the start, making the trip by team, and bringing with him his wife and two children.

He arrived in Worthington August 16, and soon thereafter filed a soldier's homestead on section 12, of Dewald township, where he took up his residence. In 1874 he lost his crop by grasshoppers, and in October he and his family returned to Illinois. There he spent the winter working at his trade, but returned to his claim in the spring of 1875. That year he raised a big crop, but the following year lost all by the hoppers. He and the family again returned to Illinois, making the trip by team, but in August, 1877, he came back to Nobles county, which has been his home ever since. He resided on the farm until 1895, when he moved to Worthington, since which time he has worked at his trade.

Mr. Maxwell has taken a prominent part in politics ever since he has lived in the county. He was chosen supervisor of Dewald township at the first annual meeting in March, 1873, and thereafter until his removal from the township, twenty-two years later, he held the office of supervisor or justice of the peace continually. He also served as clerk of the school board of the district in which he resided practically all of that time. He has been a member of the county canvassing board more times than any man now living in the county. In 1892 he was the farmers alliance and democratic nominee for the office of representative from the district composed of Nobles, Murray, Rock and Pipestone counties, and out of a total vote of about 5,500 he came within 65 votes of being elected.

At Lyndon, Ill., on May 10, 1864, occurred the marriage of Mr. Maxwell to Sarah L. Scott, to whom was born one daughter, Carrie L. Maxwell, now living in New York. Mrs. Maxwell died in 1870.

Mr. Maxwell's second marriage occurred Aug. 23, 1871, at Erie, Ill., when he was

united in the bonds of matrimony to Mrs. Nellie Coburn. To this union have been born six children, as follows: Louis (deceased), Maurice, now of Ballard, Wash.; Willie (deceased), Ruth (Mrs. William A. Saxon), of Worthington; Florence (Mrs. Merle Meacham), of Ballard, Wash.; Lucile (deceased).

Mr. Maxwell is a member of the First Baptist church at Worthington and of the G. A. R.

**JOHN J. FITCH.** Among the few surviving settlers of Nobles county who came prior to colony days is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, now living a retired life at Worthington. For over thirty-seven years Mr. Fitch has been a resident of Nobles county, and few are there who have a longer period of continuous residence to their credit.

Mr. Fitch was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1844, and when eleven years of age moved with his parents to Jefferson, Wis. There he grew to manhood, and there for several years he engaged in teaming. He entered the union service during the war of the rebellion, enlisting in company F, of the 23th Wisconsin volunteer infantry Aug. 14, 1862. He was at once sent to the front and participated in the battles of Port Gibson, Clinton, Raymond and Jackson, in Mississippi and Champion Hill. In the last named engagement, which occurred May 16, 1863, he was struck by grape shot in the left thigh and so badly wounded that he was given his discharge in the summer of 1864.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Fitch returned to his home in Wisconsin and again took up his occupation of teaming. In 1871 he went to St. Paul, and there secured the position of head teamster with Col. A. A. Allen, railroad contractor, who had the contract for grading the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad through this part of the state. Mr. Fitch early in the year 1871 set out on his new duties, and supervised the work of grading along that part of the road which passed through Nobles county. He was the first man to drive a team through Hersey township along the right of way of the proposed new railroad. Soon after his arrival in this part of the country he decided to make his future home here, and in June, 1871, filed on the northeast quarter of section

34, Hersey township. He was among the first to secure a homestead in the new country, and is one among the very few, if any, who still own the land of their original filing.

For a little over two years Mr. Fitch held the position of head teamster under Col. Allen. Then in the fall of 1873 he moved onto his homestead, and during the next twenty years engaged in farming. He was married at Worthington July 9, 1878, to Millie Campbell, daughter of Robert and Grace Campbell. Mrs. Fitch's parents were natives of Scotland, but both came to America when young and were married in New York state. To Mr. and Mrs. Fitch have been born five children of whom are living: Nettie, born in Hersey township July 15, 1882, married to Fred North, and now lives in Larimie, Wyoming; Mary, born in Hersey township, now a school teacher of Lorain township; Roy, born Oct. 21, 1888, now residing with his parents.

Mr. Fitch left the farm in October, 1893, and has since lived a retired life in Worthington, where he owns a fine residence.

**EDWARD H. BASSETT** (1842-1897), during a residence of twenty-two years in Dewald township, became one of the highly respected citizens of Nobles county and a power for good in the community in which he lived.

Mr. Bassett was a native of New Haven, Conn., where he was born Dec. 21, 1842. He descended from a Scotch family which had resided in America several generations. The grandfather of our subject was Henry Bassett, who was also a native of Connecticut. Our subject's parents were Henry and Minerva L. (Linds) Bassett. Henry Bassett was a cabinet maker by trade, but spent much of his time farming. From New Haven, Conn., he moved to Bristol, Kenosha county, Wis., where he worked on a farm until 1850, and then moved with his family to Benton county, Iowa. In 1853 he moved to Morristown, Rice county, Minn., where he preempted 160 acres of land and farmed until 1865, when he sold out and moved to Faribault. He died there Jan. 4, 1878.

Edward H. was the eldest child. He accompanied his parents on their various removals, and attended the public schools until 12 years of age. He then worked at farm

work until 18 years old. When the civil war broke out we find him residing at Morristown, Minn. He enlisted April 29, 1861, in company G, first Minnesota volunteer infantry, the regiment that covered itself with glory on the battlefield of Gettysburg. He was at once sent south and began an active campaign. He took part in thirty-four battles of the war, including the first battle of Bull Run, Fair Oakes, Antietam, Mine Run and Gettysburg. After a three years' service, Mr. Bassett returned home for a short visit, and then re-enlisted in battery L, first Minnesota heavy artillery. He went to Chattanooga, Tenn., and took part in the battle of Nashville and other engagements. He was honorably discharged Sept. 27, 1865.

After the war Mr. Bassett returned to his home in Morristown, Minn., and the following year went to Redwood county, where he remained part of one season. He then removed with his parents to Faribault, and in that city on March 22, 1871, was united in marriage to Hattie A. King, eldest daughter of Benjamin and Sallie (Norton) King, natives of Vermont. Mrs. Bassett was born in Vermont and came with her parents to Minnesota when fourteen years of age. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bassett located in Lesueur county, Minn., where they resided on a farm until 1875. That year they came to Nobles county and Mr. Bassett took a soldier's homestead of 160 acres in Dewall township, just north of the present village of Rushmore. There he resided until his death, which occurred April 9, 1897. Mrs. Bassett resides on the home place, which is one of the finest improved farms in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Bassett were the parents of eleven children, of whom the following nine are living: Carrie, Lewis B., Elmer H., Geo. H., Edward N., Edna A., Bernice A., Morton H., Marguerite.

FRANK ELLSWORTH is one of the pioneer settlers of West-side township, having made his home there since he was less than eight years of age. He is the son of the late John A. and Laura (Fish) Ellsworth.

John A. Ellsworth was born in Hlicia, N. V., Oct. 14, 1828, and when a young man moved from there to Saranac, Mich., with his parents. In Michigan he helped clear a farm

in the forests, and made his home at Saranac until 1865. He worked on the farm, caught school and engaged in the mercantile business. In 1865 he moved to Blue Earth county, Minn., where he lived until May, 1872. During that month he and his family arrived in Nobles county. He took as a soldier's homestead the northeast quarter of section 18 the first homestead entered on land in West-side township—when there were only two houses on the road between Laverne and Worthington. John A. Ellsworth moved to Adrian in 1896, and lived there until his death, which occurred July 17, 1901. Laura Ellsworth, the mother of our subject, was born in Whitehall, N. Y. She is now living in Adrian at the age of 74 years.

To these parents Frank Ellsworth was born at Saranac, Mich., Nov. 2, 1864. One year after his birth the family moved to Blue Earth county, Minn., and in May, 1872, he came with them to Nobles county. He was educated in the district schools of West-side township and was raised on the farm. His home has been on the original homestead ever since his arrival, with the exception of three years spent in South Dakota prior to his marriage and one year spent in St. Paul. He now owns and farms 320 acres of land on sections 18 and 7.

Mr. Ellsworth was married at Sioux Falls July 9, 1891, to Miss Nell Beaty, who was born in Virden, Ill., March 24, 1868. She is the daughter of James and Mary (Lewis) Beaty. To Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth have been born four children: Clifford, born Feb. 1, 1893; Lucile, born Oct. 14, 1894; Phyllis, born May 23, 1899; Mitford, born Jan. 18, 1901.

At various times Mr. Ellsworth has served on the West-side township board and his wife was clerk of school district No. 50 for eleven years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

JAMES NAYLON, a farmer of Grand Prairie township, living a few miles south of Adrian, is one of the early settlers of western Nobles county, having made his permanent home there for thirty years.

Mr. Naylon is a native of County Clare, Ireland, where he first saw the light of day on June 12, 1836. His father, James Naylon, died in Pennsylvania in 1872, and his

mother, Nora (Maloney) Naylor, died in Minnesota in 1881. The parents had come to America about 1840 and located in Canada, but later moved to Springwater Valley, in New York state. At that place our subject joined them in 1854, having arrived in New York city in June of that year.

During the first two years of his residence in the new world James Naylor lived at Springwater Valley, where he spent most of his time attending school. The family home was then made at Elmira, N. Y., and there Mr. Naylor did his first manual labor. His father and brothers were engaged in railroad construction work, and that was the nature of his first work. They assisted in the building of a railroad south from Elmira to Williamsport, Pa., and there the family located. Mr. Naylor made his permanent home in that city until 1874, working in saw mills and at railroad work.

The subject of this biography came west in 1873 and purchased a farm near Rochester, Minn., and the following year moved out with his family. There he engaged in farming until the spring of 1878. In the fall of 1877 he came to Nobles county and contracted to buy the farm upon which he now resides—the northwest quarter of section 1, Grand Prairie township. He then returned to his home in Olmstead county, and in May of the following year returned to Nobles county with his family and erected the buildings and made other improvements on his farm. Owing to the operations of the grasshoppers he did not at once begin farming, but for the first three years ran a boarding house in the new town of Adrian. At the end of that time he moved onto the farm, and that has been his home ever since.

Mr. Naylor was married in Williamsport, Pa., April 11, 1868, to Margaret Naegle, who was also a native of Ireland. To them have been born the following children: John, Michael, Joseph, Ellen and Grace. All the children reside at home except Joseph, who lives in Vancouver, B. C. Mr. and Mrs. Naylor are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

Mr. Naylor has taken an active part in the affairs of the community in which he has resided and has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. While living in Adrian, before the incorporation of

that village, he served as supervisor of Olney township and as clerk of the Adrian school board. When the village was incorporated in 1881 Mr. Naylor was elected one of the first trustees. After moving to Grand Prairie he served as clerk of the township for eleven or twelve years and for many years was a member of the school board of the district in which he resided.

JOHN P. VAIL, a retired farmer residing at Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having made his home here continuously since 1872. During the greater part of this time he resided in Seward township, but since 1896 his home has been at Worthington.

John P. Vail was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., May 26, 1833. He descends from one of the colonial families of America, and the family can be traced back to the year 1309 in England. The founder of the American branch of the family was Jeremiah Vail, whom we find living at Salem, Mass., in the year 1639, engaged in the blacksmith business. He left three children, all born in Salem, from one of whom is descended our subject. The paternal grandfather of John P. Vail was David Vail, born at Chester, Orange county, N. Y., July 23, 1763. He was a weaver by trade, and later moved to Smith's Cove, N. Y., and at the time of his death lived at Newfield, Tompkins county, N. Y. One of his sons was John Vail, the father of our subject. He was born in New York state August 26, 1785, and died in 1878. He was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Strang, the mother of our subject. She was born May 30, 1803, and died about 1870.

Mr. Vail lived in the county of his birth until 22 years of age. There he secured a country school education, and there during his early years he worked on farms in that vicinity. He moved to Rockford, Ill., in 1855, and near that city he engaged in farming until the outbreak of the civil war. He enlisted in company K, of the 74th volunteer infantry, August 6, 1862, and was at once sent to the front. He took part in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, and in the last named engagement was seriously wounded on December 31, 1862. So serious

was his wound that from that time until his discharge, July 22, 1865, he was in hospital at Camp Dennison, Ohio.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Vail returned to his old home at Rockford, but soon afterward moved to the extreme northern part of Illinois, near Beloit, Wis. There he engaged in farming until his removal to Nobles county in 1872.

Mr. Vail was married at Rockford, Ill., Feb. 5, 1857, to Sophronia H. Sisson. She died October 19, 1883, at the family home in Nobles county, and was the first person buried in the Seward cemetery. To that union five sons were born: Louis Baldwin and Jay C., both of whom have died; Ora S., Amos P. and James R. Ora S. is now superintendent of the Breckenridge, Minn., schools. For ten years prior to accepting that position he was superintendent of the Canby, Minn., school. Amos P. farms the old homestead in Seward township. James R. is in the civil service, being collector of customs at Linden, Washington. Mr. Vail's second marriage occurred September 15, 1875, when he was united in marriage to M. Jennie Linderman, daughter of Luther G. and Olive M. Linderman. One child, a boy who died in infancy, was born to this union. An adopted daughter, Daisy Luella Vail, is one of Nobles county's school teachers.

October 6, 1872, was the date of the arrival of Mr. Vail to Nobles county, he having filed on the land in June of the same year. He filed a soldier's homestead claim on the northwest quarter of section 22, Seward township, which land he still owns. There he engaged in farming and made his home until 1896. He passed through the grasshopper scourge, the Indian scare, and other unpleasant incidents of Nobles county pioneer life. While enduring many hardships in the early days, he prospered, and is now rated as one of the solid men of the county. He retired in the fall of 1896, moved to Worthington, and has made his home in that city since, where he has one of the finest residences in the place.

The standing of Mr. Vail in the community in which he lived for 24 years is best attested by the fact that during his entire residence there he was a township officer. Immediately after his arrival in the fall of 1872, he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors of Seward township.

Thereafter at different times he was a member of the township board, clerk of the board, roadmaster and school director. He was appointed postmaster of Seward post-office when that office was established in 1874 and served three years. He was one of the organizers and builders of the Seward Methodist Episcopal church and always took a prominent part in church matters. Mr. and Mrs. Vail are both members of the Worthington Methodist church, and Mr. Vail is one of the trustees.

ROBERT BIRD (1836-1903) was one of the pioneer residents of Nobles county, having come to the new country in 1872 and having made his home here from that time until his death in 1903. The story of his life is an interesting one.

He was born in Edinburg, Scotland, Dec. 31, 1836, and the first fifteen years of his life were spent in his native land. He came to the United State in 1851, returned to Scotland the following year, but remained only a few months. During the civil war Mr. Bird served nine months as teamster with the Union army. In 1861 he started to cross the plains from Atchison, Kansas, to California, going by way of Salt Lake City, and arrived in San Francisco several months later. In that coast city he resided until 1869, when he took employment with a company to go to Alaska to trade with the Indians. He traversed the Yukon river as far as the little village of Anvik, and was employed with this work nineteen months, at the end of which time he returned to the States. In 1871 he made a trip to New Zealand. Returning to America he settled in Dupage county, Ill., near the city of Chicago.

In Dupage county, Ill., on Jan. 20, 1872, Mr. Bird was married to Miss Dorathea Blome, who was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, and who came to the United States and to Illinois in 1870. She was the daughter of Frederick and Margaret (Hainfield) Blome, who came to the United States the year after their daughter. The father died in Dupage county, Ill., in 1885, aged 57 years. The mother died Feb. 7, 1904, aged 72 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Bird were born the following children: Marion (Mrs. A. E. Veske), of Bigelow, born



May 25, 1874; Robert, born Feb. 16, 1877, died March 12, 1878; Rudolph, born July 28, 1879; Fred, born June 27, 1882; Margaret, born July 21, 1889.

Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bird came to Nobles county and settled on the farm where the widow and children now reside. Coming to the new country at this early date they passed through all the hardships which the pioneers were subject to. Mr. Bird died at his home in Bigelow township March 26, 1903. Since his death Mrs. Bird and sons, Rudolph and Fred, have operated the farm.

F. H. THOMPSON, Seward township farmer, is one of the pioneer settlers of that township and is conversant with most of the incidents of pioneer life in Nobles county. Coming to the county when a boy thirteen years old, he grew to manhood here.

Mr. Thompson was born in Augusta, Maine, April 14, 1860, the son of B. B. Thompson, now of Seward township. His mother died at the age of 63 years. When he was a year and a half old he was taken by his father to Mauston, Juneau county, Wis., and there he lived until the spring of 1873. He then set out in life for himself, and on March 28, 1873, arrived in Nobles county. He had known W. H. Booth before that pioneer settler had come to Nobles county, and he came to his Seward township farm, and for two years was employed by him. He spent the next winter husking corn in O'Brien county, Iowa. He then rented the east half of the southwest quarter of section 24, Seward, bought a yoke of oxen, and for one year farmed for himself.

When the Milwaukee road was built in 1879 Mr. Thompson went to Fulda and took employment in the round house there, where he was employed eight years. He started with a minor position, but was later made dispatcher of the round house. During the time he was so employed he spent part of the time firing on the road. Giving up his position on the road, he entered the employ of L. L. Coburn, of Chicago, who had large land interests near Fulda. For sixteen months he had supervision of Mr. Coburn's farms. He then bought teams and for a short time was engaged in putting up hay for William Howard in the country north of

Fulda. Mr. Thompson then reentered the employ of the Milwaukee road and was in the Fulda roundhouse until the division was removed from that village.

Mr. Thompson then purchased of A. Boysen the south half of the southwest quarter of section 23, Seward, and has since engaged in farming operations there. He rents 160 acres of land which he tills in addition to his own farm. He served as clerk of school district No. 38 for six years, and under his administration the debt of the school was wiped out. He is now serving his third term as road overseer. He belongs to the Methodist church of Seward and is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and M. W. A. lodges of Fulda.

Mr. Thompson was married at Fulda Dec. 26, 1888, to Emma Worby, a native of Dwight, Livingston county, Ill., and a daughter of Thomas and Frederick Worby, who now reside at Creston, Wash. To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been born the following children: George, born Jan. 2, 1891, died Feb. 26, 1891; Alta, born March 15, 1893; Marvin, born Nov. 28, 1894; Everett, born Jan. 18, 1898; Nellie, born Jan. 24, 1900; Edith, born July 31, 1902; Maybelle, born May 12, 1904, died Oct. 9, 1904.

GEORGE W. WILSON, attorney at law, has been practicing his profession at Worthington for the last twenty-eight years, and is one of the leading members of the bar of southwestern Minnesota. During his long residence in Nobles county he has ever taken a prominent part in the affairs of his county and the city in which he has made his home.

George W. Wilson was born October 2, 1844, at Wilson, Ohio, a village named in honor of the family. His father, Robert M. Wilson, and his mother, Margaret (Plummer) Wilson, were both natives of the same state. When George was seven or eight years of age the family moved to Brown county, Ohio, and there our subject grew to manhood. He received his education in the country schools of Brown county and the city school at Hamersville, in the same county. After quitting school he taught for two or three years in Adams and Brown counties. At Hamersville he was engaged in the mercantile business for about five years, and in 1866 was

appointed postmaster of that town by President Andrew Johnson, which position he held four years. During the years between 1865 and 1870 he was town clerk and town treasurer of Hamersville. During these years he studied law, and late in the sixties was admitted to the bar at Georgetown, Ohio. He practiced his profession on a limited scale in his native state before moving west.

In 1870 Mr. Wilson moved to Olathe City, Kansas, and opened a law office. He was very successful in his practice there, and in the spring of 1872 was elected municipal judge. He was reelected in 1873 and again in 1874, the last time for a two year term. Believing that Nobles county, Minnesota, offered superior advantages, he moved to Worthington in the spring of 1880, and that city has ever since been his home. He had hardly established a residence in this county when he was elected county attorney (November, 1880). He was reelected in 1882, and so served four years in that capacity. Since moving to Worthington he has been elected to other positions of trust. In 1884 he was elected mayor of the village and served one year as the head of the city government. He was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota legislature from Nobles and Murray counties in 1902 and served one term in a very acceptable manner to his constituents. Mr. Wilson has been a life-long republican, and his election to the various offices has been as the nominee of that party.

JUNIUS F. CASS is one of the county's early settlers and the owner of one of Summit Lake's finest farms. His farm consists of 320 acres, comprising the southeast quarter of section 31, Summit Lake, and the northeast quarter of section 3, Dewald, which are adjoining pieces of land. When Mr. Cass came to the county in 1878 the land was raw prairie. His residence of thirty years has wrought many changes there. Where was then nothing but prairie land is now to be found a comparative wooded country, he having one of the finest groves of the county. This furnishes fuel for domestic purposes, and he has sufficient to last a generation. His buildings are all comparatively new and up-to-date in every respect; the location is a slightly one, and the land is very productive.

The subject of this biography furnishes an excellent illustration of what a man can accomplish with no other capital than energy, perseverance and good management. He began life for himself in early boyhood, and since that time has been dependent upon himself entirely. Mr. Cass was born on his father's farm at Bowen's Mills, Richland county, Wis., May 14, 1855. His paternal ancestors were early settlers of New Hampshire. In a very early day one of the Casses was a party of eight who emigrated to Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, when that part of the country was an undeveloped wilderness. In Stanstead was born James M. Cass, the grandfather of our subject, on March 24, 1808. He moved from there to Ohio in 1835, and to Sauk county, Wis., in 1847. Four years later he became a resident of Richland county, Wis. Our subject's father was Hiram Osman Cass, who was born in Brunswick, Canada, Jan. 27, 1831. He was married to Cloa Manley, a native of Tolland county, Conn., and they began their domestic life at Bowen's Mills, Wis. For many years Hiram Cass was a farmer, but spent his later years operating a sawmill at Loyd, Wis., where he died April 26, 1896. His wife died about 1862.

Junius F. Cass, whose name introduces this review, spent his boyhood days in the county of his nativity. He received his education in the district schools and in the Sextonville and Richland Center high schools, having been a student at the latter institution three years. He finished his education when sixteen years of age and then began life for himself. In 1872 he began working at farm work in Winona county, Minn., where he was thus engaged six seasons, his official residence during this time being in Wisconsin. During the time he was working in Minnesota he also spent some time learning the carpenter trade, which he followed several years.

During the month of October, 1878, Mr. Cass came to Nobles county, and this has been his home ever since, making a continuous residence of thirty years. He at once filed a preemption to the southeast quarter of section 31, Summit Lake township, and later filed a homestead claim to the same property and proved up on it. During the first five years of his residence here he farmed on a small scale, but devoted most of

his time to his trade, having erected many of the first buildings in the community in which he lived. He also worked at his trade some in Sanborn, Iowa, during these years.

Mr. Cass was married at Richland Center, Wis., Jan. 26, 1884, to Minnie E. Soule, who was born Dec. 9, 1859, in Richland county, Wis., only one-half mile from the birthplace of her husband. Her parents were James J. and Fannie M. (Thompson) Soule. The former was born in Illinois Feb. 2, 1828, and was a son of John J. Soule, a native of Dutchess county, N. Y. On the 18th day of November, 1851, he married Miss Fanny Thompson, who was born Nov. 2, 1833, and was a daughter of Aaron Baker and Lydia (Hamilton) Thompson. The former was born in Surrey, N. H., and was a son of William and Betsey (Baker) Thompson, the former born July 13, 1776, the latter on the day of the nation's birthday—July 4, 1776. Mr. and Mrs. Cass became the parents of five children: Cloa Grace, born Jan. 23, 1885; Fannie May, born May 16, 1886; Leona Maude and Fred James (twins), born May 18, 1888, the latter dying in infancy; George Lee, born Oct. 27, 1893. The four living children reside at home.

After his marriage Mr. Cass devoted his time exclusively to farming, and he has ever since made his home on the land he took in 1878. During the last eight years he has devoted most of his time to the raising of sheep, of which stock he has about 200 head. Besides the half section of Nobles county land that he owns Mr. Cass has city property in Ladysmith, Wis.

Mr. Cass has held a township or school office ever since his arrival in the county, with the exception of the first year, and he has held every township office with the exception of chairman of the town board. Beginning in 1879 he served as constable for many years; he was town clerk ten years; and has held the offices of supervisor, justice of the peace, assessor and treasurer. He has been clerk of school district No. 88 ever since the district was organized about twelve years ago. Mr. Cass is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Worthington and of the M. W. A. lodge of Reading. He was one of the organizers and is a stockholder in the Reading Mutual Telephone company.

PETER GEYERMAN, senior member of the mercantile firm of P. Geyerman & Sons, Brewster, has been a resident of the town in which he lives twenty-seven years, and has lived in Minnesota over fifty years. He participated in the stirring events of pioneer days, and is not unfamiliar with the whistle of Indian bullets.

Peter Geyerman was born in Germany Dec. 13, 1825, the son of Henry and Christina (Nell) Geyerman. His father, a weaver and a veteran of Napoleon's army, was born Dec. 6, 1791, and died Nov. 5, 1841. His mother was born in Germany in 1795 and died in Aurora, Ill., in 1854. Mr. Geyerman came to America July 7, 1851, and located first at Milwaukee, Wis., near which place he worked on a farm for a few weeks. Then for a short time he worked on the Michigan Central railroad in Indiana, but soon began chopping wood in northern Illinois, at which he was engaged two years. He purchased a tract of timber land in Illinois along the line of the Chicago & Aurora railroad in 1853, and during the next two years was in the mercantile business in Aurora.

In 1855 Mr. Geyerman came to Minnesota territory, and took a preemption claim in Carver county. Two years later he sold out and moved to Shakopee, where for twenty-five years he was in the mercantile business. On Oct. 5, 1881, he came to the little town of Brewster (Hersey, it was then called) and started a general merchandise store, in which he has been interested ever since. He has taken into partnership two sons—Rudolph and E. A. Geyerman—and the business is now conducted under the firm name of P. Geyerman & Sons.

Mr. Geyerman was married at Shakopee, Minn., to Amelia Berrean, who bore him six children, of whom the following are living: Rudolph, of Brewster, born March 7 1864; E. A., of Brewster, born in 1867; Dr. Peter T., of Worthington, born Aug. 20, 1874.

MICHAEL REITER, ex-sheriff of Nobles county, and a Grand Prairie township farmer and stockraiser, has been a resident of the county twenty-four years. He was born in Kenosha county, Wis., Jan. 9, 1864, the son

of Jacob and Mary Seivert Reiter. The father is a native of Germany, but came to the United States when a boy. He is now living in Kenosha county, Wis., and is 78 years of age. Our subject's mother was also a native of Germany. She died in Wisconsin in 1901.

Mike Reiter was raised in his native county on his father's farm, and there secured a common school education. In 1884 he left home and went to Oscoda county, Iowa, where he spent the summer season working on a farm. In the fall of the same year he came to Nobles county and secured employment in the threshing business and at farm work, spending the winter in the western part of the county. During the summers of 1885 and 1886 he worked on the farm of William Althoff, working at the threshing business during the falls. He purchased a team of horses in 1887 and thereafter until 1890 he was engaged in western Nobles county in breaking prairie land and threshing.

At Adrian on Jan. 28, 1890, occurred the marriage of Mr. Reiter to Miss Mary Vogelsberg, a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude Vogelsberg and a native of Kenosha county, Wis. To them have been born the following children, all of whom live at home: Frances, Joseph, Susie, Jacob, Katie, Tracy, Victoria, Golia, and Vincent.

After his marriage Mr. Reiter rented the farm where he now lives the southeast quarter of section 5, Grand Prairie township and that has been his home ever since. He purchased the farm in 1893 and later bought eighty acres of land on section 30, Westside township, which he still owns. The home place cost him \$28 per acre land that today is worth \$100. He engaged in the farming business there until the first of January, 1901, when he moved to Worthington to accept the office of sheriff of Nobles county, to which office he had been elected on the democratic ticket in the fall of 1900. He served a two year term and then returned to his farm, where he has resided since. Mr. Reiter engages in stock raising quite extensively, having high grade cattle, horses, hogs and sheep. Since the year 1894 he has been engaged in the office business, having practically all the work at the west end of Nobles county as well as portions of nearby counties.

In the councils of the democratic party Mr. Reiter takes an active interest and important part, having attended many county and state conventions. Prior to his election as sheriff, Mr. Reiter served six years as a member of the Grand Prairie township board, and upon his return to the township he was chosen chairman of the board of supervisors, an office he has held ever since. He is a director of school district No. 39, which office he has held three years. He is a member of the Catholic church of Ellsworth and of the Catholic Order of Foresters of the same village.

FRANCIS NELSON, of Graham Lakes township, has resided in Nobles county and the township where he now lives ever since he was three years of age, and is therefore entitled to rank as one of the pioneer settlers. He was born in Kroghville (a town, now extinct, named in honor of his mother's family,) near New London, in Waupaca county, Wis., on Feb. 1, 1869. Anton Nelson, our subject's father, now resides in Kluhbrae. His mother was Annie (Krogh) Nelson, who died Nov. 23, 1893, at the age of 55 years.

In 1871 Anton Nelson had come to Nobles county and traded a span of horses to B. W. Woodsteneroft for 208 acres of land on section 26, Graham Lakes township, and in the spring of 1872 Francis and the rest of the family came out to the new home. For many years the family lived in the log house on the bank of the lake that had been erected by the original settler, and later for many years in a new house erected on the same land. The Nelsons experienced all the hardships and privations incident to the pioneer life of Nobles county, losing their crop each of the seven years of the grasshopper visitation.

Until he was eighteen years of age Francis lived on the home farm. During this time he secured a good education. After obtaining a primary education in the country schools of Graham Lakes township he attended the public schools of Fulda one year and the Worthington high school three years, lacking one year of graduating from that institution. After he left the home place Francis began to shift for him-

self, and in 1891 purchased his present farm on section 27 at the south end of East Graham lake, where he has since been engaged in farming. In addition to his general farming he makes a specialty of thoroughbred horses and has a number of fine pedigreed Percheron horses. He holds a membership in the Odd Fellows lodge at Dundee. He has served as assessor of his township four years.

Mr. Nelson was married in Jackson county on Nov. 28, 1902, to Miss Celeste Foote, a native of the county in which she was married. To them have been born the following children: Clara, born Sept. 28, 1903; Robert, born June 25, 1905; Julius, born April 1, 1906; Evelyn, born Sept. 21, 1907, died Dec. 23, 1907.

GEORGE D. DAYTON, of the Dayton Dry Goods company, one of the large department stores of Minneapolis, was for nineteen years a resident of Worthington. During that time he was one of the most prominent citizens, taking a very active part in its business, social, educational and religious life.

Geo. D. Dayton was born in Clifton Springs, N. Y., March 6, 1837, the son of D. D. Dayton, who died Aug. 3, 1881, and Caroline W. (Draper) Dayton, who died in 1886. When the subject of this sketch was three months old the family moved to Geneva, N. Y., and in that town he was raised and received his education. There also he engaged in the lumber business after reaching manhood.

In March, 1883, Mr. Dayton came to Worthington and purchased the Bank of Worthington from Thos. H. Parsons. This he conducted for a number of years as a private bank, and then reorganized it into a state bank, and was its president until 1898, when he sold his interest. In 1884, he, in company with J. P. Moulton and other Worthington capitalists, organized the Minnesota Loan and Investment company, an institution that proved of great value to Worthington and Nobles county. Mr. Dayton was chosen president and has been at the head of the institution ever since. During the panic of 1893 and the period of hard times following Mr. Dayton piloted the bank and investment company safely through and took care of the patrons of those institu-

tions. Not a business man who had his account with either failed. As president of the investment company, Mr. Dayton platted Clary's addition to Worthington and was largely instrumental in the settlement of that part of the city.

Mr. Dayton became interested in many business enterprises while residing in Worthington. Among others was the Worthington mill, which was bought in 1885. The Worthington Milling Co. was organized and successfully operated the mill. Another enterprise, which, had it been successful, would have resulted in the greatest good to the county, was the Minnesota Northern Railroad company, organized in the early nineties by Messrs. Dayton, Moulton and others. It was proposed to construct a line of railroad from Worthington northward to either the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern, and the work had progressed so far that construction work was about to begin when the failure of Baring Bros., of London, caused a permanent suspension of the work.

During his residence in Worthington Mr. Dayton took a great interest in educational matters. He served as a member of the school board twelve years, during all of which time he was president or treasurer of the board, and he was largely instrumental in bringing about the erection of Worthington's school house. He was active in church work, serving as elder, trustee and Sunday school superintendent of the Westminster Presbyterian church.

In 1902 Mr. Dayton moved to Minneapolis, in which city he engaged in the mercantile business, being the principal owner of the store of the Dayton Dry Goods Co. Besides the mammoth store at the corner of Seventh and Nicollet, he has other business interests in Minneapolis and has large land interests.

Mr. Dayton was married in Yates county, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1878, to Emma W. Chadwick, daughter of Prof. Edmund Chadwick. To them have been born four children—D. Draper, treasurer of the Dayton Dry Goods Co.; Caroline W., George Nelson and Josephine.

EDGAR A. TRIPP, ex-mayor of Worthington, and proprietor of the Worthington flouring mills, has lived in Nobles county twenty-five years, and during all of that time has

taken a prominent part in the affairs of the community in which he lived, as well as the county as a whole, and has held many offices of trust within the gift of the people.

He was born near the little inland possession of Lee Center, in Lee county, Ill., December 29, 1850, the eldest of fourteen children. His father, David Tripp, was born in New York state in 1828 and died Aug. 14, 1889. His mother, Emily (Mayo) Tripp, was also a native of New York state, having been born there in May, 1831. She is still living in Round Lake village. The Tripp family is an old one in America, and came originally from the north of England. The first American settlement was made in Connecticut, but later the branch from which our subject is descended became residents of Onondago county, New York, and there they lived for several generations.

Edgar A. lived in Lee county, Ill., until eighteen years of age, receiving his education in a little red country school house, and when not engaged with his studies worked on the farm. In February, 1869, he drove to Marshall county, Iowa, preceding his parents several months, and there he was destined to pass many years of his life. His father erected a dwelling there, which proved to be the first building erected in the town of Liscomb. For two years after coming to Iowa our subject attended a graded school; then for two years more he engaged in farming. He began teaching school in 1874, and for several years was thus employed, teaching in country and town schools, and finishing his teaching as principal of the Liscomb school.

In the meantime Mr. Tripp had learned the telegrapher's trade and in the spring of 1881 he gave up teaching and took a position with the Iowa Central Railroad company as a telegraph operator. For several months he was on the extra list, and was assigned temporarily to the stations at Mason City, Ackley, and other places. In the fall of 1881 he began working for the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad company, and secured a regular station at Holland, Grundy county, Iowa, as telegraph operator, station agent, express messenger, etc. He held this position until March, 1883. During the summer of 1883, in company with a partner, he engaged in farming near Holland.

He sold out his farming interests to his partner and accepted a position as station agent and telegraph operator at the new station of Round Lake, Nobles county, arriving there on October 15, 1883. He had charge of that station for eight and one-half years. During this period he was also engaged in the hay, lumber and other businesses, for several years being practically the only resident of the village. In the early spring of 1892 Mr. Tripp engaged in farming and stock raising, having purchased a tract of land within the limits of the village, and his home was in Round Lake until December, 1896. Then he moved to Worthington, having been elected that fall to the office of county auditor, and the county seat town was his home until the present year.

Mr. Tripp has held many official positions since coming to Nobles county. The first of these was in 1886, when he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors of Indian Lake township, which office he held many years. He also served as town clerk several terms. He helped to organize school district No. 77 (Round Lake) and was the first clerk, holding the office six years. He was appointed county commissioner in January, 1894, to succeed C. L. Peterson, who moved from the county. In the fall of that year he was elected to succeed himself, making the race as the nominee of the republican party, of which party he has always been a member. In 1896 he was elected county auditor, was reelected in 1898 and again in 1900. At the expiration of his last term, in the beginning of the year 1903, he retired without suffering defeat. In 1892 he was elected a member of the school board of Independent district No. 5 (Worthington) for a three year term, and was reelected in 1905 for a term of the same length. In the village of Worthington Mr. Tripp has also held office a number of times. He was elected a member of the council in 1902 on the citizens' ticket and served one year. In 1903 he was elected president of the council, or mayor, on the against license ticket, and served one term. He was elected to the same office in the spring of 1907, and served one year.

After leaving the auditor's office in 1903 Mr. Tripp made his home in Worthington, and occupied himself looking after his farming interests. In June, 1906, he purchased a





THE LATE CHARLES SAVON AND MRS. SAVON  
Who Were Among the Earliest Settlers of Indian Lake Township.



one-half interest in the Worthington flouring mill, M. J. Barber being the owner of the other half interest. In the spring of 1907 Mr. Tripp bought out his partner, and since that time has been the sole owner. In the spring of 1908 he again took up agricultural pursuits, and now resides on his farm in Jackson county.

Edgar A. Tripp was married at Liscomb, Iowa, July 18, 1878, to Miss Jennie Elliott, daughter of George and Abi Elliott. To them have been born the following children, all living at Worthington: Frederick A., David O., Oakley R., Mildred, Grace, H. Edgar, Leslie E.

Mr. Tripp is affiliated with many lodges, holding membership in Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., Living Arch Chapter No. 28, R. A. M., Independent Order Odd Fellows No. 219, Ancient Order United Workmen No. 165, and Degree of Honor, Okabena Lodge No. 18. He is also a member of the Worthington Presbyterian church.

CHARLES SAXON (1834-1903) was one of the earlier and best known settlers of Indian Lake township. From 1872 to the time of his death in 1903 his permanent residence was on the land he homesteaded—the southeast quarter of section 30.

Mr. Saxon was born near the town of Wasdena, in the southern part of Sweden, Oct. 5, 1834, the son of a carpenter. The first eighteen years of his life were spent in his native country, where he secured a common school education and began learning the carpenter's trade under the instruction of his father. The family came to America in 1852 and located at Rock Island, Ill. There for two years Mr. Saxon, Sr., worked at his trade and his son assisted him. Charles removed with his parents to Fulton, Ill., in 1854, and during the next ten years he was employed in a sash and door factory. He took up his residence on a farm near Winona, Minn., in 1864, and for about two years engaged in tilling the soil. He then returned to Fulton, Ill., and again took a position in the sash and door factory, remaining there two years, making a total service of twelve years in that business. From Fulton he moved west in 1868, and located in Allamakee county, Iowa, from which place many of the early settlers of Indian Lake township

came. There he purchased a farm and during the next four years he engaged in agricultural pursuits.

During the years 1870 and 1871 many of the Scandinavian farmers of Allamakee county, Iowa, came to Indian Lake township, in Nobles county, and filed on claims. Among this number was Mr. Saxon, who came up in the fall of 1871. He filed a claim to the southeast quarter of section 30, built a shanty thereon, and then returned to his Iowa home. To hold the claim it was necessary to return the next spring. Mrs. Saxon and two of the children came up first, arriving on the place in May. The husband with two more of the children arrived on June 8, and thereafter to the time of his death, that was Mr. Saxon's home. The family passed through all the trials and tribulations incident to the life of Nobles county pioneers. Mr. Saxon took an active part in the affairs of the township during his life. For a good many years he served as a member of the township board and also held other offices of the township. He was a member of the Indian Lake Baptist church.

Mr. Saxon was married Sept. 2, 1862, in Allamakee county, Iowa, to Augusta F. Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson. She was born Dec. 19, 1839, and still lives on the home place in Indian Lake township. To this union were born nine children, seven of whom are still living. They are John A., Frank, William A., August Wallace, Ida C. (now Mrs. Samuel C. Anderson, of Allamakee county, Iowa); Charles R., Walter A., Leonard (died in infancy), Oscar (died in infancy). All of the children now living, except Mrs. Anderson, reside in Nobles county.

Mr. Saxon died March 10, 1903.

KNUTE THOMAS. Among the pioneer settlers of Nobles county and of Little Rock township is Knute Thomas, who has resided on his Little Rock township farm over thirty-seven years. He is a native of Noudahl, Norway, and was born April 5, 1850. His father's name was Tostend, who died when Knute was three years old. His mother, Julia Tostend, died in Nobles county in November, 1889.

When he was nine years of age Knute, accompanied by his mother and three other

children, came to the United States and located in Iowa county, Wis. There he resided, working out on farms and at other work, until he came to Nobles county at the age of twenty-one years. Gunder Joul and Erick B. Paul (the latter now living in Worthington), old acquaintances of the Thomas family, had come to Nobles county in 1870 and settled in Indian Lake township. They wrote back to their friends in Iowa county, telling them of the glories of the new country and of the advantages to be obtained here. A party of six, including Knute Thomas, was made up, and all drove through to Nobles county, each having a rig of his own. They arrived during the month of July, 1871, and all took homesteads in Little Rock township, which then had not been organized or given a name.

Mr. Thomas took as a preemption claim the northeast quarter of section 10, in time proved up on it, and has ever since made it his home. During the first three or four years he spent most of his time working out in the Wisconsin pineries, but made his home on the claim during the winter months. In 1872 he erected a sod house on his claim, covered the building with straw, which served for a roof, and made his home in that several years. Later the sod building was replaced by a frame "shack," 12x11 feet. This was replaced in 1885 by his present commodious house. During the pioneer days Mr. Thomas suffered many hardships. He farmed on only a small scale, but even a small crop he was not permitted to reap, for the hoppers took nearly his entire crop each year.

In Dodgeville, Wis., on Dec. 8, 1886, Mr. Thomas was married to Mrs. Maline (Datter) Thompson, who was born in Norway and who came to Wisconsin when a child. They are the parents of three children—Thom Albert, born Nov. 11, 1887; Laura Jane, born June 26, 1889; Oscar Nicholas, born June 1, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Little Rock township.

GUSTAVUS SWANBERG, of Worthington, is manager of, and one of the principal owners of, the Hub Mercantile company's store, and is chairman of the board of county commissioners of Nobles county, of which body

he has been a member for the last eight years. The history of Mr. Swanberg's life is one that may be read with profit by many a young man starting in life without advantages and with small prospects of getting to the front. Arriving in Nobles county when a lad of 21 years, without money, without friends and without knowledge of the language of the country, he set to work to educate himself and to fight the battles of life. So well has he succeeded that today he ranks among the most successful business men of Worthington, and in a political way has been honored time and again by the electors of Nobles county.

The subject of this sketch was born in Hardlund, Kall socken, Jemtland lan, Sweden, Dec. 8, 1860, the son of Stefan Stefanson and Igeborg (Grelson) Stefanson. His father was a farmer and store keeper, and died in his native land in 1888. His mother came to America shortly after her husband's death, and now resides with her son at Worthington.

Gust attended the common schools of his native country until 15 years of age. He was then employed for a time on the government railroad, clerking in a place where the railroad furnished materials and supplies for the workmen. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the Swedish army, serving in Jemtland feltjagare corps, Lif company (consisting of 135 men), for two years and three months. The military post where he was stationed was located on an island called Froso, in a large inland lake called Storsjon, near the city of Ostersund. On leaving the army he received an honorable discharge. Up to the time of his enlistment, Mr. Swanberg's legal name was Gustavus Stefanson, and the change to Gustavus Swanberg was brought about in this manner: The laws of Sweden at that time forbade any man serving in the army to have a name ending in "son," giving the soldier the right to select any other name he might fancy, however. Gust Stefanson selected the name Swanberg, and thereafter that was his legal name. Mr. Swanberg still has a clergyman's certificate in his possession to show under what circumstances the name was changed.

Shortly after leaving the Swedish army Mr. Swanberg set sail for America, arriving in New York Nov. 17, 1881. From the metropolis he came direct to Worthington. He at

once started to go to school in Bigelow township that he might acquire a knowledge of the English language. The next summer he started working with a grading crew that was making the grade for the branch of the Burlington road which runs from Spirit Lake to Worthington. During the winter of 1882-83 he again took up his studies in the Bigelow township school where he had studied the previous winter. This term his teacher was Miss Hannah Peterson, who later became his wife. In the summer of 1883 Mr. Swanberg went to Wahpeton, N. D., and secured work with a carpenter's crew on the C., St. P., M. & M. railroad. He worked there that summer, and the following winter chopped wood at Delano, Minn., 30 miles west of Minneapolis. In the spring of 1884 he went to Lemars, Iowa, where he worked until fall with a crew putting in switches in the yards for the C., St. P., M. & O. Railroad company. Then, not being satisfied with the practical knowledge he had acquired of the English language, in the fall of 1884 he hired out to an American farmer, where the Swedish language was not spoken, and remained there until the formation of the Swedish Mercantile company at Worthington in February, 1886.

Mr. Swanberg then secured employment with that firm as clerk, in which capacity he remained until the spring of 1889. On the last named date he became manager of the company and conducted the store in Worthington until the spring of 1903. Then, together with J. P. Peterson and F. O. Peterson, he bought the majority stock and formed a company, the title of which is the Hub Mercantile company. Mr. Swanberg is now serving as secretary, treasurer and manager of that company.

In August, 1889, Mr. Swanberg was married to Miss Hannah Peterson at Sioux Falls, S. D. Miss Peterson was born at Lansing, Allamakee county, Iowa, April 18, 1862, and her home was with her parents in Indian Lake township. Five sons and one daughter have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Swanberg, as follows: Stanley, Gwendolin, Edmund, Franklin, Lloyd and Lester, the last two named being twins. All the children are living.

Mr. Swanberg first held public office in 1892, when he was elected a member of the city council. Three years later he was

elected city recorder. In 1900 he was elected county commissioner on the republican ticket by the electors of the fifth district to a four year term. During two of the years (1903 and 1904) he served as chairman of the board. He was reelected in 1904, and was again elected chairman in January, 1907. In the spring of 1906 he was appointed a member of the Worthington school board to fill an unexpired term, and at the regular school meeting in July of that year he was elected to a three year term.

In 1890 Mr. Swanberg joined the Baptist church of Worthington, and is still a member of that church, taking a prominent part in the affairs of that organization. Fraternally he is a member of the A. O. U. W. and K. P. lodges of Worthington.

MICHAEL CRUIT, farmer and stock raiser of Bloom township, is one of the early settlers of that township. He owns the south half of section 30, a short distance from the village of Wilmont, one-half of which he homesteaded.

Mr. Cruit was born in Queens county, Ireland, in July, 1855, the son of John and Ellen (Wall) Cruit. His parents both died in Ireland, the former in 1870, aged 55 years; the latter in 1872, at the age of 47 years. In his native land Michael was raised on a farm, living there till eighteen years of age. In the spring of 1873 Mr. Cruit came to the United States. He spent his first summer in the new world working on a farm near New York city, in Westchester county.

From New York city Mr. Cruit went to Savannah, Ga., where he spent a year and a half working on the freight docks. He then returned to the metropolis and during the next six years was an employe of the Dodge Express company, his duties being to haul in trucks the United States mail from the docks to the postoffices. Our subject came to Nobles county in the spring of 1880 as a member of Bishop Ireland's company, bought an eighty acre farm in Lismore township, north of Adrian, and engaged in farming there three years. He then sold out and took as a homestead claim the southeast quarter of section 30, Bloom township, upon which he proved up six or seven years later. He then bought of Theo. Hinrichs that gentleman's tree claim—the southwest quarter

of the same section—making his present farm of 320 acres. In addition to his grain farming, Mr. Cruit engages extensively in stock raising.

In the city of New York on Feb. 28, 1876, Mr. Cruit was united in marriage to Mary Welsh, a native of Kilkenny county, Ireland. She died in 1896. To Mr. and Mrs. Cruit were born the following named children: John (deceased), Sarah (Mrs. Henry Martin), of Minneapolis; Mike, of Minneapolis; Henry, Thomas, Jerry and Peter, living at home.

Mr. Cruit is a member of the Catholic church of Wilmont. He was a supervisor of Bloom township for six years, was road overseer five years, and a director of school district No. 71 for six years.

FRANK T. GRAVES (1854-1907). One who played an important part in the affairs of the community in which he lived and who was held in high esteem by his neighbors was Frank T. Graves, who was a resident of Nobles county from 1876 until the time of his death in 1907.

Mr. Graves was born in Kinderhook, N. Y., July 23, 1854, and was the son of Luther and Lucy Graves. Both his parents died in Ohio, the former in 1862 and the latter three years later. The family had moved from New York state to Canfield, Ohio, when Frank was a baby. After the death of his parents, when twelve years of age, he went to Sunderland, Mass., and on a farm near that city he was reared by a friend of the family. In 1876 he left his home in the east and came to Nobles county in company with his brother, Fred, and a Mr. Hubbard. During the first year of his residence here he worked on the farm of R. B. Plotts in Elk township, and thereafter for a short time for Bedford & Miller. He then bought a relinquishment to a homestead claim to the northeast quarter of section 26, Ransom township, and thereafter until the time of his death engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Graves died March 14, 1907.

In matters political Mr. Graves took an active part. He served a number of terms on the Ransom township board and was assessor of the township for several years. He was elected county commissioner on the republican ticket from the fourth district in 1890 and served a four year term.

It was during his incumbency that the present county court house was erected. He served as a director of school district No. 19, Ransom township, for many years. He was a member of the Ransom Methodist church.

Mr. Graves was married April 7, 1881, to Miss Carrie Dow, a native of Iowa City, Iowa, and a daughter of Geo. W. Dow, of Worthington. To them were born the following children: Roy, who died in infancy; Bertha (Mrs. I. A. Milton), of Ransom; Anna L. and Arthur, who reside at home.

THOMAS G. COWIN (1842-1900). Among the pioneer settlers of Little Rock township and Nobles county was Thomas G. Cowin, who drove through with a covered wagon from Milwaukee, Wis., in 1872 and homesteaded in Little Rock township.

Mr. Cowin was born on the Isle of Man Sept. 18, 1842, and came to the United States in 1867. He was a miner by occupation and from the date of his arrival in America until he came to Nobles county he followed that occupation, working in the mines of Superior, Wis., in Colorado and in California. Upon his arrival in Nobles county he took as a homestead the east half of the northeast quarter of section 18, securing his final papers July 29, 1884. Upon this he built a sod shanty, in which he lived several years, and engaged in farming until his death, which occurred Sept. 11, 1900. On Aug. 6, 1878, Mr. Cowin purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of section 18, Little Rock township.

Mr. Cowin's first naturalization papers were taken out at Central City, Colo., April 1, 1872. His second papers were issued at Worthington, Minn., in 1878, at the March term of court. Henry Nelson and H. K. Neynes were witnesses to the last named papers.

Mr. Cowin was married in Milwaukee, Wis., on Sept. 4, 1873, to Miss Annie May, who was born Feb. 21, 1852, and who died July 25, 1895. To them were born the following children: Annie May, born July 29, 1874, died Oct. 15, 1892; Jessie Mandena (Mrs. Joseph H. Skillicorn), of Wadena, Minn., born Nov. 18, 1875; Joseph T., of Little Rock township, born Dec. 8, 1878; Lilly Kaye Elizabeth, of Little Rock township, born Dec. 26, 1882; Everett Garrett, born July 12, 1892.

Joseph T. Cowin, who farms the original homestead, was born on the farm where he has spent his entire life on Dec. 8, 1878. He worked for his father until the latter's death in 1900, and since that date has engaged in farming for himself. He is unmarried. During the last three years he has held the office of clerk of school district No. 13, the school in which he received his education. He is secretary of the Little Rock Township Farmers' Telephone line.

EDWARD COOPER, one of the most extensive stockmen of Nobles county, resides at Adrian, which town has been his home since 1877. Mr. Cooper is of English birth, having been born in the town of Freethought, in the county of Norfolk, on October 13, 1850, the son of George and Martha (Male) Cooper.

George Cooper in his native land was a live stock man and shepherd. The family came to the United States in 1856 and settled in Orleans county, New York. There the elder Cooper became an extensive breeder and feeder of stock and became the possessor of several hundred acres of land. He died there in 1904 at the age of 87 years. His wife died about 1898.

Coming to America with his parents at the age of six years, Edward Cooper lived on a farm in Orleans county until twenty-three years of age. He received a common school education there and an academic education at Mendina, N. Y. Leaving home in 1873, he went to Colo, Story county, Iowa, and engaged in the lumber and stock business. Four and one-half years later he sold out and moved to the new town of Adrian.

Upon his arrival in Adrian Mr. Cooper engaged in the stock business, which he has ever since followed. He is one of the largest horse, cattle and hog buyers and shippers in southwestern Minnesota. Several years after his arrival to Adrian he bought the north-east quarter of section 24, Westside township, which is now within the corporate limits of the village. Upon that land he has built a beautiful home, which occupies one of the most prominent and picturesque sites in the city. The outside surroundings are beautiful and the improvements of the house are all modern. Mr. Cooper with his own

hands planted the shade trees, shrubbery and evergreens which adorn the grounds.

In addition to the home place Mr. Cooper owns a quarter section of land in Willmont township and an 880-acre tract near Glenwood, Minn., which is considered the finest stock and grain farm in the state. In partnership with his son, Lee, he also owns 800 acres of land in Sergeant county, S. D., and 120 acres in Westside township.

Mr. Cooper was married at Cambridge, Story county, Iowa, January 1, 1880, to Olive Chandler, who was born in that county May 9, 1859. Her parents, Sereno and Laura (Tillotson) Chandler, both deceased, were natives of Maine. To Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have been born eight children, all of whom are living. They are Grace M., wife of Dr. Charles McMann; Maude O., Lee E., Clayton C., lawyer of Mahanomen, Minn.; Edgar, Ruth L., Paul W. and Florence E.

During the period of his residence in Adrian Mr. Cooper has served several terms on the village council and on the school board. He is a member of the Masonic, Workmen and Woodmen orders.

AGRO A. ABBOTT, of Indian Lake township, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, and has had a continuous residence here for thirty-seven years. During all of that time his home has been on the north-east quarter of section 28, Indian Lake, which land he took as a homestead in 1870.

The Abbotts are of colonial stock and came from England in 1634, settling in Massachusetts, where the home was until 1773. In that year the great grandfather of the Mr. Abbott of this sketch removed to Vermont and settled in Stockbridge on land which is known to this day as the "old Abbott ranch," a tract of land containing about six hundred acres.

A. A. Abbott was born in Stockbridge, Vt., January 25, 1834. His father was Justin Abbott, born in 1807; his mother was Sarah A. (Gibbs) Abbott, born in Bethel, Vt., in 1816. His boyhood days were spent in the state of his birth, and there, at Royalton, he was married in 1855 to Ellen A. Green. Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are the parents of four children, all of whom are living and have families. From 1862 to 1865 Mr. Abbott served in the war of the rebellion.

Three years after his discharge from the army he decided to come west, and in 1868 he located in Iowa. Two years later he came to Nobles county, which had not yet been organized, and took a homestead claim in Indian Lake township. The next year (1871) he moved up to his claim with his family, and that has been his home ever since. There was then not a town in the county, nor had the railroad been completed this far. He hauled his lumber for the house from Winlom, a town then just coming into existence. Mr. Abbott at once took part in the affairs of the community and became one of the prominent citizens of Indian Lake township. He assisted in the organization of the township and for many years was an officer thereof. He has the honor of having served as a member of the first grand jury drawn in the county—that of 1872.

Mr. Abbott now has one of the finest improved farms in the township. He raises blooded stock, making a speciality of Aberdeen Angus cattle, Poland China swine and White Wyandotte chickens.

HORACE J. LUDLOW, proprietor of the famous Ludlow fruit farm, known as Okabena Orchards, on the south shore of Okabena lake, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county, having resided here permanently since 1875. The farm upon which he resides is within the city limits of the village of Worthington and was the first land farmed in the vicinity. The claim was taken by G. J. Hoffman before Worthington was founded and before the railroad had penetrated Nobles county. The orchard which has since become famous all over southwestern Minnesota was started by Mr. Hoffman from seed which was secured from Peter Gideon, of Excelsior, and the noted Okabena apple was started from that seed. Mr. Ludlow now has about 400 trees in his orchard, and raises every kind of fruit that the climate will permit. He has spent \$3,000 in experimenting with fruit, and today has the finest orchard in the county. He has been a member of the state horticultural society for many years, and is an experienced horticulturalist.

Mr. Ludlow was born in New Providence, N. J., Jan. 7, 1843, a descendant of the early Massachusetts settlers. Away back in co-

lonial days his ancestor came from England and cast his lot with the Massachusetts colony, and in his honor was named the town of Ludlow. Members of the family drifted into New Jersey, and in that state was born the great grandfather of our subject, Gen. Geo. Ludlow, who played such a prominent part in the Revolutionary war. In that state was also born Aaron M. Ludlow, our subject's father. He was born Sept. 25, 1801, and died Sept. 7, 1852. On his mother's side Mr. Ludlow also descends from early American settlers, who came originally from Germany. His mother, Jane (Osborn) Ludlow, was born in New Jersey Oct. 12, 1810; she died in 1895 and is buried in the Worthington cemetery. In the early days the Osborns resided in Ohio, but later that branch from which Mr. Ludlow descends became residents of the same part of New Jersey in which the Ludlows resided.

Until he was thirteen years of age Mr. Ludlow lived in New Providence, N. J., attending the public schools during the winter months and working during the summers. In 1856 he moved to Pittston, Pa., and during the next two years was employed as a clerk in the general store of Clark & Saxe. Returning to his old New Jersey home, he worked on the farm during the summer of 1858. In the fall he went to Jersey City and accepted a position as clerk in the retail grocery store of M. R. Case. He served as clerk two years, and then took the management of the store, sharing in the profits and clearing over \$1,000 during the year he was the manager. In company with Cyrus Lawrence he then purchased the store, the partnership continuing two years. Selling out in Jersey City, Mr. Ludlow returned to his old home, where he remained two years. In 1865 he went to New York city, and for four years was a traveling salesman in the employ of King-bury, Abbott & Co., dealers in hats, his territory being in central Illinois. In 1869 he set out to learn the sewing machine business with an uncle, Ezra Ludlow, of Elizabeth City, N. J. For two years he worked with his uncle at the business, and then for a little over two years he was the manager for the Singer Sewing Machine Co., to which position was attached a good salary.

Mr. Ludlow decided to invest his money in western lands, and while searching for suit-

able investments came to Worthington, arriving there May 20, 1875. He invested in some of the cheap lands then to be found in Nobles county, and decided to make his permanent home here. In September, 1875, he purchased the hardware stock of Hewitt & Martin, and conducted the store twelve years. He then sold to C. St. John Cole, and opened a grocery store in Worthington, which he ran only a short time. In the fall of 1882 he had purchased 87 acres of the old Hoffman homestead on the south shore of the lake, and for two or three years made his home there. In the spring of 1876 he erected a residence in the village, made his home there, and engaged in the nursery business. In 1895 he moved onto the farm again, and has since resided there. He now owns 208 acres of land in one body on the lake shore, and during the year 1907 erected one of the finest residences to be found on any Nobles county farm.

Mr. Ludlow was married at Ripon, Wis., April 14, 1873, to Mary E. Barlow, daughter of J. B. Barlow, who was one of the early settlers of Ripon, having come there in 1852 from Delhi, N. Y. Mrs. Ludlow is a native of Hobart, Delaware county, N. Y. To Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow have been born five children, as follows: Milton, of Worthington; Joseph Burr, of Rushmore; Una, who died when two and one-half years of age; Helen, of Worthington; Herbert Dwight, of Worthington.

GEORGE JAY. Among the pioneer settlers of Nobles county is George Jay, of Ransom township, who took his homestead there in 1872. Mr. Jay was born in Herefordshire, England, April 20, 1851, the son of Thomas and Sophia (Weager) Jay, both deceased.

Mr. Jay was raised on his father's farm in England and in his native country he was educated. He came to the United States in 1870, his parents coming one year later. He located at Columbus, Ohio, where for two years he was an employe of the street railway company. He served as conductor and driver during the greater part of the time, but during the last six months was foreman.

Seeing the advertisement of the National Colony company in the National Agriculturist, Mr. Jay and his parents decided to join

the colony and trust their fortunes in the new country, the advantages of which were so handsomely pictured. They made the trip from Columbus by team and arrived in Worthington on the 9th or 10th day of May, 1872. On the second day after their arrival the Jays went to look at land in Ransom township. Father and son each selected an eighty-acre tract on the southeast quarter of section four and went to Jackson to make their filings. They returned, broke out about twelve acres of prairie land, and on May 17 commenced planting corn.

During the unhappy times of the seventies Mr. Jay endured many hardships, losing several crops during the grasshopper scourge. In order to make a living during these perilous times he engaged in trapping, which occupation he followed several years. During the severe blizzard of January, 1873, Mr. Jay had a narrow escape from losing his life in the storm. Becoming lost while out with the oxen, he reached safety only by seizing one of the oxen by the tail and following the sagacious animal, which piloted him to safety. In the early eighties Mr. Jay left the county and spent three years in Dexter, Iowa, where he engaged in farming and running a coal shaft. Except that absence and three years (1894-1897), which he spent in the village of Rushmore, Mr. Jay has lived on his original homestead ever since his arrival in 1872.

Mr. Jay was married at Bigelow Nov. 14, 1903, to Miranda Brooks, a native of North Carolina.

NICHOLAS KAUFMAN, proprietor of a Brewster furniture store, came to Nobles county when one year of age and has been a resident of the county ever since. The father of our subject was John Kaufman, one of the old settlers of the county and a prominent man in Brewster. He was born in Schiers, Switzerland, in 1840, learned the trade of cabinet maker in the old country, came to the United States when a young man, and engaged in farming in Hersey township and mercantile pursuits in Brewster from 1873 until his death in August, 1907. Nicholas Kaufman's mother is Johanna (Lenzen) Kaufman, who was born in Germany, came to the United States when seven years of age, and was married in Carver county, Minn. She is the mother of the following

children: Nicholas, Tillman, Margaritha and Elisabeth.

Nicholas Kaufman was born in Carver county, Minn., April 14, 1872, and came to Hersey township with his parents when one year old. He was educated in the Brewster public schools and in the Breck school at Wilder, and made his home on the farm until 1902. In that year he bought his father's store at Brewster, and has since been engaged in the furniture and implement business. Besides his business property he owns eighty acres of land in section 15, Hersey township. In 1896 Mr. Kaufman was elected assessor of Hersey township and held the office two years. In recent years he held the office of town clerk, giving up the position in March, 1907.

Mr. Kaufman was married June 12, 1906, to Ida L. Kasper, and to them have been born one child—Florence R.

THEODORE BOFENKAMP, proprietor of the Ellsworth meat market and dealer in live stock, is one of the pioneer settlers of the village, having made his home there continuously for the last twenty-three years.

Mr. Bofenkamp was born near Burlington, Wis., June 17, 1862, the son of Lambert and Anna (Lindermann) Bofenkamp, natives of Germany and Wisconsin, respectively. The father came to America when a young man and died at Belleplaine, Minn., in 1895, aged 84 years. Mrs. Bofenkamp is living and is now 70 years of age.

When our subject was five years of age the family moved from Wisconsin to Belleplaine, Minn. After a five years' residence there they moved to Kansas and for four years resided at Washington. Returning to Belleplaine they again established themselves in that town, and there our subject was educated and spent most of his younger days.

In 1885 Theodore Bofenkamp came to the little town of Ellsworth, where he has ever since made his home. For several years he worked at the carpenter trade and helped build many of the principal business houses and residences of the village. He then started a dray line, which he conducted six years. During three years of this time he also served as city marshal. Selling out his dray business, he remained inactive one year, and then in January, 1903, started an oppo-

sition butcher shop in Ellsworth. After running this one year he purchased the shop he is now conducting. He owns his business and residence property in the village and 38 acres of land adjoining the town on the north.

Mr. Bofenkamp was married in Carver county, Minn., Jan. 13, 1886, to Miss Therresa Govy, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Matthias Govy, a native of Germany. To them have been born eight children, as follows: Matthias, born Feb. 24, 1889; Rosa, born Dec. 2, 1890; Clara, born Feb. 6, 1893; Katie, born June 17, 1894; Mary, born March 28, 1896; Frank, born Feb. 17, 1898; Joseph, born March 6, 1900; Theodore, born March 4, 1903. The family are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Bofenkamp belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

HENRY ROLL is a retired business man of Ellsworth, in which village he has had his home twenty years. He is a native of Buffalo, N. Y., and was born June 16, 1862. His father, George Roll, a native of Germany, came to America when sixteen years of age and located in Buffalo, where he lived until his death in January, 1899, at the age of 83 years. His mother, Gertrude (Gerge) Roll, was also a native of Germany. She died April 23, 1899, at the age of 78 years.

Until he was fourteen years of age Henry lived in his native city, and then he moved west and located in Michigan. Early in life he learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed many years. From Michigan he went to Chicago, and in 1880 moved to Mankato, Minn. In that city and in neighboring towns he worked at his trade a number of years. Mr. Roll located in Ellsworth in 1888, bought a blacksmith shop, and conducted it twelve years. He then sold out and has since lived a retired life. He owns 240 acres of farm land in Swift county, Minn., a tract in Duell county, S. D., and a fine home in the village of Ellsworth.

In Kenosha, Wis., Mr. Roll was married to Mary Lichter, who was born Nov. 3, 1867, in the county in which she was married. Her parents, Peter and Barbara Lichter, were natives of Germany, the former coming to America at the age of twenty-two years and the latter when a babe of one year. Mr.



Lichter located in Racine, Wis., where he lived until his marriage March 30, 1858. He then bought a farm, upon which he lived forty years. Disposing of his farm, he moved to Kenosha village, and died there March 10, 1906, at the age of 74 years. Mrs. Lichter is living in Kenosha at the age of 70 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Roll have been born the following named eight children: Lillian, born March 26, 1890; George, born April 9, 1892; Alfred, born March 3, 1894; Florence, born Aug. 27, 1898; Sylvester, born Oct. 5, 1900; Gerald, born Aug. 24, 1902; Mary, born Aug. 1, 1905; Leona, born April 15, 1908.

Mr. Roll has served one term as president of the Ellsworth village council and three terms as councilman. He is now a member of the board of health. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and he is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

PETER H. ACKERMAN, of Dewald township, is a fruit and grain farmer. His farm consists of 120 acres in section 2. He has it finely improved and makes a specialty of fruit growing. He has on the place over one hundred apple trees, besides many other kinds of fruit.

Mr. Ackerman was born in Holstein, Germany, Oct. 18, 1846, the son of Peter and Telge (Hanson) Ackerman. The mother died when the subject of this sketch was eight years of age; the father passed away in 1883. Peter H. lived in his native country until his 27th year. There he secured an education in the village schools, and after boyhood days worked as a laborer by the month. When 23 years of age he joined the German army and took part in the French-German war, being in active service from the fall of 1869 till the fall of 1871.

In the spring of 1873 Mr. Ackerman came to the United States and located at Clinton, Iowa. For two years he was employed near that city as a farm laborer. He then moved to Grundy county, Iowa, which was his home until 1882. The first two years in Grundy county were spent in working by the month. He then rented land and farmed for himself during the remainder of his residence there. In 1880 he purchased a quarter section of land in Hancock county, Iowa, and in 1882 moved to that location.

There he engaged in farming nineteen years. In 1901 he came to Nobles county, bought his present place of 120 acres, and has since made his home there.

Mr. Ackerman was married at Grundy Center, Iowa, Nov. 2, 1877, to Mary Hamo, who is a native of the same place as is her husband. To these parents have been born six children, as follows: Gusta (Mrs. Chas. Davis), Des Moines, Iowa; Emma, a school teacher residing at Wesley, Iowa; Anna (Mrs. Charles Morton), Rushmore; Margaret, Minneapolis; Clara (Mrs. N. Baker), of near Mt. Vernon, Iowa; Harry, residing at home.

Mr. Ackerman is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge of Reading. During the last six years he has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 15.

HENRY PFEIL, breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle and Poland China hogs, is one of the well known farmers of Bigelow township, where he owns 640 acres of land, most of which lies on the north bank of Ocheyda lake. He devotes his energies almost exclusively to the breeding of stock, the greater part of his land being farmed by his sons, Walter and George.

Mr. Pfeil was born in the province of Hesse Nassau, Germany, June 7, 1860. Both his parents died when he was an infant. He came to the United States in 1872 and lived in Benton county, Iowa, until he was thirty-three years of age. Until he was twenty-four he worked at farm work for wages, then he married, rented a farm and conducted it nine years. It was in February, 1893, that Mr. Pfeil came to Nobles county and bought eighty acres of land in Bigelow township—the start of his present large farm. It was then unimproved land; today it is graced by some of the finest farm buildings in the township.

At LaPorte, Iowa, on Oct. 16, 1884, Mr. Pfeil was married to Miss Lena Schuck, daughter of the Rev. Nicholas and Catherine (Hammann) Schuck. She was born in Washington county, Wis., April 15, 1859. They are the parents of seven living children, as follows: Walter, born Aug. 6, 1885; George, born March 16, 1886; Katie, born Nov. 7, 1892; Ruth, born Dec. 19, 1894; Roy, born Oct. 29, 1895; Sarah, born May 15, 1896; Phil-

ip. born Feb. 3, 1902. Two other children, Howard and Lilly, are deceased, the former having died at the age of five years and the latter aged three. Mr. and Mrs. Pfeil and family are enrolled as members of the German Evangelical church of Worthington. Mr. Pfeil is a member of the school board of district No. 28. For seven years prior to 1905 he served as a member of the Bigelow township board.

FRANKLIN H. LYON (1859-1908) was one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Worthington township, one of the pioneers of the county and one of the best known farmers in the vicinity of Worthington. He resided here since 1871, coming with his parents from Kane county, Ill., in which county he was born Jan. 17, 1859. He was the son of Burr W. and Emily (Haines) Lyon, now residing at Worthington.

Franklin received his education in the schools of Kane county and Worthington, attending the public schools in the latter place when they were held in the memorable Miller hall and also in the old eight-sided frame building which did duty for so many years. The first two years of his life in Nobles county were spent in Worthington. Then he moved onto the farm where he lived so many years, two miles north of Worthington, and there he resided until his death on April 12, 1908.

Mr. Lyon was married Feb. 22, 1882, at Worthington to Effie I. Wilcox, whose parents resided at Zumbrota, Minn. To them have been born the following children: Nellie, Florence (deceased), Gladys, Clifford, Vernon.

After his marriage Mr. Lyon purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10, Worthington township, and with that as a start added to his possessions until he owned 300 acres in one piece of land. Until recently he also owned 40 acres additional. He raised thoroughbred stock and had some of the finest herds in the county. He raised Aberdeen-Angus cattle, Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs.

During his residence in Worthington township Mr. Lyon served two years as township supervisor and was treasurer of his school district for the last twelve years of his life.

FRED H. TIEMENS, ex-county commissioner of Nobles county and a resident of twenty years standing, is one of the well known farmers of Bloom township. He owns and farms 320 acres of land on sections 10 and 15.

Mr. Tiemens is of German birth, having been born in the province of Oldenburg, Feb. 14, 1867. His father Henry Tiemens was a farmer. He died in the old country in 1881 aged 41 years. Our subject's mother is Fredericka (Doden) Tiemens who makes her home with her son. She is 67 years of age.

In his native country Fred received his early training, being raised on a farm. In the fall of 1883, at the age of sixteen years, he set out alone for America. He located at Milford, Iroquois county, Ill., where for a little over five years he worked as a farm laborer. He came to Nobles county in January, 1889, and located on section 25, Willmont township, where for two years he farmed rented property. In 1892 he bought his present place and has since made his home there.

Mr. Tiemens has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Willmont township on May 1, 1890, when he was united in marriage to Mary Popken, who died in September, 1898. To this union were born the following children, all of whom reside with their father: Freda, Nettie, William and Ella. He was married the second time in Bloom township on Sept. 11, 1903, to Paulina Mueller. To them have been born four children: Annie, Paula, Alma and Frank.

In a political way Mr. Tiemens has taken quite an active part. He is assessor of Bloom township and is a director of school district No. 70, which office he has held for six years. For nine years he was clerk of Bloom township. In 1898 he was elected county commissioner from the second district on the republican ticket and was re-elected in 1902, being one of the county's law makers eight years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Priesden.

IRA TURNER (1817-1890) was one of the pioneer settlers of Elk township, in which he resided from 1872 until his death eigh-

teen years later. Mr. Turner was born in Massachusetts May 1, 1817. Early in life he moved to Oswego county, N. Y., where he resided until his removal to Nobles county in 1872, being engaged in farming and other occupations. There he was married April 13, 1843, to Miss Sallie M. Myers, who died about 1878.

Mr. Turner was a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted at Oswego, N. Y., in the 47th New York volunteers in 1862. He served fifteen months, taking part in the battle of Gettysburg and other noted engagements. He came west in May, 1872, and took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 18, Elk township. There he lived and engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death on Jan. 30, 1890. He united with the Methodist church in 1850, and continued a member until his death.

PETER C. ANDERSON is a stockraiser and farmer of Bigelow township, having made his home there for the last twenty years. He is the owner of 240 acres of land on sections 8 and 5 and 200 acres in Kandiyohi county, Minn.

Mr. Anderson is a native of Skane, Sweden, where he was born Dec. 13, 1849. He was the son of Andrew Olsen and Catherine (Swenson) Olsen, both deceased. His father came to the United States in 1870 and located in Knox county, Ill. He later resided in Henry county, Ill., and after the death of his wife made his home with his son. He died in Nobles county in November, 1894, aged 85 years. Our subject's mother died in Henry county in 1882, aged 63 years.

P. C. Anderson came to America in 1868 and settled in Ford county, Ill., where for nine years he worked at farm work. During the next three years he farmed on rented land; then he bought a farm and conducted it eight years. In 1888 he sold out his Illinois property and moved to Nobles county, where he bought a part of his present farm, and where he has ever since resided. He engages extensively in stock raising, making a specialty of cattle and hogs. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Bigelow township board, having held the office five years. He has also been treasurer of school district No. 80 ever since

the district was organized, and for three years served as township assessor.

At Gibson City, Ford county, Ill., on Feb. 10, 1848, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Larson, who was born in Sweden and who came to America in 1870. They are the parents of the following children: Albert, born June 30, 1878, now engaged in managing his father's Kandiyohi county farm; William, born Aug. 23, 1879; Lynn, born Oct. 4, 1881, in the implement business at Pennock, Minn.; Victor, born July 5, 1884; Jodie, born July 15, 1886; Chloe, born Sept. 3, 1887; George, born July 4, 1889; Harry, born Jan. 13, 1891; Amel, born Aug. 11, 1895; Bennie, born July 23, 1898; Raymond, born May 3, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

ASHER M. HAGERMAN, a Lorain township farmer, has resided in Nobles county for the last twenty-three years, during all of which time he has been engaged in farming. He is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born at Williamsport, Lycoming county, of that state in 1854, the son of Joseph L. Hagerman and Mary (Mafer) Hagerman. Both his parents were natives of the same state. His mother died in Pennsylvania in 1867; his father in Iowa in 1897. The Hagermans are one of the old families of the Keystone state, and were among the first to settle in the Lycoming country. For several generations they have resided there, and many of the prominent people of that county bear the name of Hagerman.

Asher was brought up in the county of his birth and lived there until his twenty-sixth year. He received a common school education, and spent his early years in working on the farm and at logging. In 1880 he moved to Hudson, Blackhawk county, Iowa, and for four years was engaged in farming there. In the fall of 1884 he came to Nobles county and purchased the southeast quarter of section 3, Lorain township, and the following spring he came to the county to live. During the first four years of his residence here he lived on the Disbro farm, one mile northwest of Worthington. He then moved to Lorain township,

purchased the northeast quarter of section 10, and has since made that place his home, farming the half section he now owns there.

During his residence in Lorain township he has served on the town board six years, has been township assessor five years and clerk of the school district for six years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hagerman are members of the Brewster Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Hagerman was married at Williamsport, Pa., Feb. 5, 1874, to Miss Slade. To them have been born three children—Albert, James and Charlotte—all of whom are living at home.

OLE B. JOUL is one of the pioneer residents of Little Rock township, where he has made his home thirty-five years. He is a Norwegian by birth, having been born near the city of Christiania on Oct. 4, 1861. His parents were Nicholas and Bertha (Ulwin) Joul, both of whom died at the Little Rock home.

The father of our subject was born in Norway May 24, 1835. He left his native country with his family April 22, 1867, and arrived in Iowa county, Wisconsin, June 28, of the same year. There he continued to make his home until 1873, when the family moved to Nobles county. He died in Little Rock township Jan. 21, 1886. Our subject's mother was born in Norway Oct. 11, 1834, was married there to Mr. Joul Dec. 26, 1859, and died in Little Rock township Nov. 19, 1889.

It was as a boy twelve years of age that Ole Joul first came to Nobles county. Gunder Joul, a brother of Nicholas Joul, had come to Nobles county and settled in Indian Lake township in 1871, and it was acting upon his advice that the family moved from Wisconsin to the new country of Nobles county. The trip was made overland with a team of oxen. The father, after looking the country over, decided to take his homestead in Little Rock township and filed upon the northeast quarter of section 11. Sore were the trials and great were the hardships during the first few years. The family was the possessor of only about 75 cents in money, a team of oxen and three cows. They were without means to erect even a sod shanty dur-

ing the first summer and lived under the canvass covering which had afforded shelter for the prairie schooner. The father went to the harvest fields in the eastern part of the state, walking most of the way, and earned sixty dollars. With this a shanty was built and the family lived through the first winter. The terrible grasshopper scourge came and for many years the family lived a precarious existence. For six years they lived in the sod shanty which did not boast a floor. Without the means to leave the country, the family continued to reside on the claim, and in time brighter days arrived.

Ole Joul secured an education in the district schools of Little Rock township and grew to manhood on his father's farm. After his father's death, which occurred in 1886, he and his brother, Gust, farmed the home place until 1897. That year he moved onto his present place which had been purchased some time before. He erected the buildings and otherwise improved the farm. His present place is on the southeast quarter of section 11. Besides a fine house he has an excellent grove and quite an orchard of apple and other fruit trees.

Mr. Joul was married in Humboldt county, Iowa, July 2, 1891, to Miss Tina Stensby, a daughter of John and Mary Stensby, who are now residents of Iowa. Mrs. Joul was born in Norway April 14, 1887. They are the parents of the following children: Joseph, born April 18, 1892; Minnie, born April 10, 1894; Harry, born June 19, 1896; Pearl, born July 31, 1898; Viola, born Oct. 24, 1900; Oscar, born Nov. 24, 1902; Millard, born Aug. 26, 1906.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Joul are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Little Rock township. Mr. Joul being one of the charter members of the church. Mr. Joul is clerk of the school board of district No. 11, and he has held the office twelve years.

JOHN D. ELY resides in Dewald township, his home being on the southwest quarter of section 13, six miles west of Worthington, where he has resided for the last seventeen years. When he purchased his place in 1891 there were no building improvements and only a small part of the land had been broken; today his farm is finely im-

proved and he has established himself as one of the substantial farmers of Dewald. He raises stock quite extensively and devotes his energies principally to dairy cattle, believing that in them, rather than in beef stock, lies the future prosperity of Nobles county farmers.

Mr. Ely descends from French stock. Sometime in the eighteenth century the Elys were forced to leave their native country and seek a home in England because of strife between the Protestant and Catholic adherents, the Elys being Protestants. In the new home they encountered the same difficulties and were forced to leave England. The family, in company with others of their faith, migrated to a small island to the south of Ireland, where a permanent home was established. The island is now known as Ely, having taken the name from the family, the biography of whose descendant we are now writing. The American branch of the family was founded in an early day. Two brothers, one of them Nathaniel Ely, from whom descends the subject of this sketch, came to America and settled in New York state. The family became a prominent one, and when the revolutionary war broke out several of the name took part in the war for freedom. One of them served as a colonel in the American forces.

John D. Ely was born in Dekalb county, Ill., Oct. 6, 1856, the son of Joseph and Anna (Woodard) Ely. His parents were natives of New York state and are now living in Rock county, Wis. For only two years did the subject of this sketch live in his native state, his parents moving to Walworth county, Wis. Eight years of his life were spent there, and the following ten in Rock county, Wis. He left home in 1876 and for two years was employed on his uncle's farm in Ogle county, Ill. He then rented his grandfather's farm in the same county and was in business four years for himself. He came west in the spring of 1882, took a homestead in Hand county, S. D., and engaged in farming there for nine and one-half years. He came to Nobles county in the fall of 1891, bought the southwest quarter of section 13, Dewald, and has made his home there since.

At Rochelle, Ill., on Oct. 23, 1880, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ely to Addie Eyster, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Billman)

Eyster. The father died May 1, 1889, the mother on Feb. 4, 1867. Mrs. Ely was born in Rochelle March 26, 1861. To these parents have been born four children, as follows: Ollie Ann (Mrs. Arthur Boddy), born Aug. 27, 1881, residing in Saskatchewan, Canada; Nettie Marr (Mrs. Henry Dilly), born Sept. 13, 1883, residing in Summit Lake township; Addie Viola (Mrs. Richard Matheson), Elk township, born Sept. 26, 1885; Lois Irma, born Feb. 2, 1893, residing at home.

During his residence in Nobles county Mr. Ely has been clerk or member of the school board of district 42 ever since becoming a resident here with the exception of the last three years. He has also held the office of road overseer for many years.

FRANCIS A. DURFEE is one of the big farmers of Summit Lake township, owning and farming all of section one. In addition to his general farming Mr. Durfee engages extensively in stock raising, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle. He has been a resident of the county fifteen years.

Mr. Durfee was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., May 23, 1846, the son of Jonathan and Mary Ann (Boucher) Durfee, natives of the state of Massachusetts. The father died in the state of New York in the spring of 1869, aged 47 years. The mother died in New York in 1890. The family moved to Iowa in 1866, and in that state Francis Durfee lived until he moved to Nobles county, and engaged in farming. In 1893 he came to Nobles county and purchased section one of Summit Lake township, then in a wild state, and has since made his home there. His farm is now highly improved with buildings, fences, etc.

Mr. Durfee was married in Sioux county, Iowa, Sept. 12, 1884, to Miss Mary Rowe, a native of Ontario. Her parents were John and Mary (Crawford) Rowe. Her father was an Englishman by birth, came to America when a young man and located in Canada, later becoming a resident of Sioux county, Iowa, where he died in 1900, aged 81 years. Mrs. Durfee's mother was born in the north of Ireland and came to America when a child. She is now living at Sheldon, Iowa, at the age of 85 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Durfee have been born three children:

William F. Lörn in Sioux county, Iowa, June 6, 1885; John H., born in Sioux county, Iowa, April 30, 1887; Charlotte, born in Summit Lake township June 12, 1900. Both Mr. and Mrs. Durfee are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Durfee is a Mason, being a member of the lodge at Fulda. He served several terms on the township board, and is at present township treasurer. He also has held membership on the school board of district No. 82.

FRED A. FINK, retired merchant of Ellsworth, is one of the pioneer residents of that town and has seen it advance from a prairie to one of the finest little villages in Nobles county.

Mr. Fink was born in Jefferson county, Wis., March 23, 1861. He was left an orphan, his father dying soon after his son was born, and the mother dying near Sumner, Iowa, in 1870. From Wisconsin the family moved to Bremer county, Iowa, when Fred was three years old, and in that county he was raised on a farm and lived until May 14, 1882. In company with a brother he then left home and went to Mitchell, Dakota territory, where he remained only two months. From there he went to Rock Rapids, Iowa, and spent the summer of 1882 working at the carpenter's trade for Close Brothers, owners of large land interests in Lyon county, Iowa, and Rock county, Minn. Mr. Fink spent the fall and winter of 1882-83 working in Nobles county. He worked for L. L. Bryan during the summer of 1883 on that gentleman's farm just over the line in Rock county. Returning to Rock Rapids, he worked during the next winter for his brother, who was in the hardware and grain business. He next went to Adrian, took employment from James Cowin, where he worked in the lumber and grain business until October 1, 1884.

On that date he moved to the new town of Ellsworth and opened a hardware store, the sixth business house in the town. He remained in the hardware business fourteen years, selling out in 1898. Since then he has lived a retired life, looking after his numerous land interests. He owns a fine residence property in Ellsworth, 500 acres of land in Kanaranzi township, Rock county,

two miles west of Ellsworth, and a section of land in Alberta.

Mr. Fink was married Sept. 2, 1885, near Ellsworth, to Kittie B. Bryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Bryan, now of Laverne, and early day settlers of Grand Prairie township. Mrs. Fink was born near Independence, Iowa. To them have been born one child, Gladys, one of the teachers of the Ellsworth public schools.

JAMES GREIG. One of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county and the oldest one now living in Olney township is James Greig, who resides on the land he took as a homestead in 1872.

Mr. Greig is a native of Scotland, having been born there Oct. 12, 1850, and having made his home there during the first nineteen years of his life. His parents, Alexander and Jane (McCratchie) Greig, are still living in their native country, the former aged 85 years and the latter aged 78 years.

In 1869 James Greig came to the United States and located in Houston county, Minn., where he worked on a farm until 1872. In the fall of that year he, in company with William Thom, J. C. Thom, A. Simpson and William Carr, came to Nobles county and filed a homestead claim to the south half of the northeast quarter of section 10, Olney township. It was on the second Tuesday of November, 1872,—election day, when Grant defeated Greeley for the presidency—that these gentlemen, while looking over the country, were caught in a severe blizzard on the northeast quarter of section 14, Olney township, and came near losing their lives. By taking two wagon boxes and placing them together they were enabled to build a rude shelter and prevent fatal results. They were thus imprisoned two days. Then the party packed up their goods, went to Worthington for a few days, and then returned to their old homes in Houston county, having reached the conclusion that Nobles county weather was too severe. Thereafter until 1879 Mr. Greig spent the greater part of his time in his old home, but after the grasshopper days he returned and made his permanent home in Olney.

On April 30, 1873, in Houston county, Mr. Greig was married to Miss Mary J. Mitchell,

a native of that county and a daughter of James Mitchell. They are the parents of the following children: James A., George T., Ida, Mabel (Mrs. W. W. Dunning), of Larkin township; Fred, Dan, Roy, Ralph and Lester.

Mr. Greig is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Workmen lodge. He was a school clerk from 1886 to 1907.

JOHN N. LENZ. One of the big land owners and progressive farmers of Grand Prairie township is John N. Lenz, an old time resident of southwestern Nobles county. He owns 640 acres of land on sections 17, 16 and 18.

Mr. Lenz was born in Kenosha county, Wis., May 25, 1859, the son of Nicholas Lenz, who now lives near New Prague, in Scott county, Minn., and Gertrude (Rosenplanter) Lenz, who died in Scott county Aug. 1, 1906. When he was one year old the family moved to Scott county, Minn., and there he made his home on the farm until the early eighties. He came to Nobles county first on June 18, 1881, driving through from Scott county with an uncle, J. J. Lenz. He was here only six days, but returned in the spring of 1882 and began farming the southeast quarter of section 17, Grand Prairie township, which had been purchased by his father. He broke out 45 acres of land and put it into crop as well as 30 acres which had been broken before, and that fall harvested it. He spent the winter of 1882-83 in his old home. Returning the next spring, he erected a house, 16x24 feet, on the place, which had been given him by his father, and has made his home there ever since.

In Scott county, Minn., on Jan. 23, 1883, Mr. Lenz was united in marriage to Lizzie Geisin, a native of Scott county and a daughter of John and Helena (Hoffman) Geisin. To them have been born the following children, all of whom reside at home: Nick, Charles, William, Henry, Frank, Rosie, George, Johanna and Arthur.

Mr. Lenz has held the office of treasurer of Grand Prairie township for the last seven years. He is a member of the Catholic church of Ellsworth, of the C. O. F. of Ellsworth, St. Joseph's society of Adrian, and Knights of Columbus, of Sioux Falls.

ARTHUR S. FIRTH. The subject of this sketch is a Lorain township farmer, his home being on the northwest quarter of section 6. There are not many people in the county who have to their credit a longer period of continuous residence than he, Lorain township having been his home ever since September, 1871.

Robert Firth, his father, also resides on the home place in Lorain. He was born in Leeds, England, June 21, 1828, and that was his home until 20 years old, when he came to America and located at Utica, N. Y. Residing at that place until just before the civil war, he then took up his residence at Whitewater, Wis. There he enlisted in the 28th Wisconsin infantry and served three years in the union army. Returning to Whitewater after the war, he engaged in the shoe business. On September 30, 1871, he arrived with his family at Worthington and became one of the county's earliest settlers. He took as a homestead the northwest quarter of section 6, Lorain township, and ever since has made his home there. He was married in New York state in 1850 to Patience Stephenson, who was born in Lancashire, England, in 1832, and who died in 1901.

To these parents was born Arthur S. Firth at Whitewater, Wis., on September 10, 1866. He removed to Nobles county with his parents when a child five years old, and here he grew to manhood and has since resided. He secured his education in the district schools of Lorain township and in the public schools of Worthington.

Mr. Firth was married at St. Charles, Minn., Nov. 18, 1898, to Lizzie Scofield, who was born at Utica, N. Y. To them one child has been born, Milton R., born on the farm June 6, 1899.

Mr. Firth is the next youngest of a family of five living children. They, with the dates of their birth, are as follows: Robert A., born Jan. 28, 1854; William L., born Oct. 18, 1859; Joseph S., born April 16, 1863; Arthur S., born Sept. 10, 1866; Emily E., born Sept. 10, 1879. One brother, Hiram, died at the age of two and one-half years.

LUDWIG VON HOLTUM, of St. Kilian, is one of the large land owners and suc-

cessful farmers of Willmont township. He owns 920 acres of land in Willmont and Larkin townships, all within a short distance of his home in St. Kilian.

Mr. Von Holtum was born in Rhineland, Germany, April 7, 1852. He was the youngest member of a family of eight children, of whom four are now living, all except himself in Germany. His parents were John and Theresa (Radmacher) Von Holtum, both of whom died in Germany at advanced ages. The father was born in 1788 and died in 1873; the mother was born in 1806 and died in 1894.

Emigrating to America in July, 1882, Mr. Von Holtum came direct to Nobles county. He bought the southeast quarter of section 32, Willmont township, then prairie land, and built his home there and engaged in farming. He met with prosperity and gradually became the owner of other real estate until he has become one of the county's large land owners. He resided on the home farm, which he handsomely improved, until October, 1899, when he moved to St. Kilian. In that little inland village he has since resided, conducting his farming operations from that point.

In Adrian on Jan. 13, 1885, Mr. Von Holtum was united in marriage to Amelia Moser, daughter of Joseph Moser, of Willmont township. She was born in Washington county, Wis., in March, 1864. To them have been born the following children: Theresa, born Dec. 18, 1885; Ludwig, born Nov. 23, 1887; Mary, born Feb. 9, 1891; Johnnie, born Dec. 11, 1893; Henry, born March 19, 1896; Helena, born Dec. 9, 1898; Edmund, born Dec. 30, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Von Holtum are members of the Catholic church.

ANTON NELSON, a retired farmer living at Kinbrae, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having been a resident of Graham Lakes township since 1871.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sweden Oct. 4, 1832, and that was his home until he was 17 years of age. At the early age of 12 years he began working in a flouring mill, learned the trade, and followed that occupation until his arrival in Nobles county. From Sweden he went to Denmark, where he worked at his trade several years, and

then to Germany, where he was for several years. In 1860 he came to the United States and located in Jefferson county, Wis., where he was in the milling business until 1871. In the fall of that year he drove from his Wisconsin home to the Graham Lakes country, of Nobles county, bought a homestead claim of B. W. Woolstencroft on section 26, proved up on it, and continuously resided there until 1903. He then moved to the village of Kinbrae, where he has since lived a retired life.

WILLIAM TENTLER, real estate dealer and mayor of Lismore, is an old settler of northwestern Nobles county, where he has lived since the spring of 1885. He is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, where he was born Dec. 27, 1860, the youngest of a family of three children. The other members of the family are Mary and Bertha, of whom the former lives in Solon, Iowa, the latter in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

William lived in his native city until past fifteen years of age, and then moved to Johnson county, Iowa. He completed his education in the schools of Solon, in Johnson county, and for eight years worked on the farm in that county. He then moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he lived one year. He arrived in Nobles county in April, 1885, and located in Leota township, where for seventeen years he lived and engaged in farming, having purchased the west half of section 16 (school land)—real estate which he still owns.

In 1902 Mr. Tentler and Mark Graves bought from the railroad company the Lismore townsite, and the following year he moved to the village. Since then he has lived in the village and has been engaged in the real estate business, handling Canada land and city property in Winnipeg.

Mr. Tentler has always taken an active part in the public affairs of the community in which he has lived. While living in Leota township he served on the township board several years, was assessor two years, and a member of the school board several terms. In Lismore village he served as councilman during the years 1904 05 06, and since then has been the city's mayor. He is also clerk of the Lismore school board.

In Adrian on March 19, 1890, Mr. Tentler



was married to Miss Louise Ladehoff, who was born in Wisconsin Feb. 15, 1870. Her parents were Hans and Margaret Ladehoff, natives of Germany. Both parents came to the United States when young and Mr. Ladehoff located first in Davenport, Iowa. Later he moved to Wisconsin, where he was married. The family came to Westside township, in Nobles county, in the early seventies and took a homestead, and there made their home many years. Mr. Ladehoff died in Brown's Valley, Minn., in December, 1907; Mrs. Ladehoff died in Westside township in February, 1896. Of this family Mrs. Tentler was the next to the youngest. The other children are: Edward, who died in 1898; Henry, who lives in Alaska; John, of Brown's Valley, Minn.; Jennie, who lives in the Black Hills; Emma, of Brown's Valley; Tressie, of Edgerton; Minnie, of California.

Mr. and Mrs. Tentler are the parents of the following named children: Elfie, born May 12, 1891; William, born March 12, 1894; Edward, born Nov. 9, 1896; Minnie, born Dec. 28, 1897.

JOHN A. BRATSBERG, member of the Ellsworth firm of Crowley & Bratsberg and of the Ellsworth Produce company, has been a resident of Nobles county ten years. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, Feb. 4, 1868, the son of John A. and Ingeborg (Bratsberg) Bratsberg. The father of our subject was born in Trondhjem, Norway, came to the United States in 1865, and located in Michigan. He later took up his residence in Iowa, and died in that state in 1895, aged 64 years. Our subject's mother, who was also a native of Norway, is still living at Lester, Iowa, and is 72 years of age.

Mr. Bratsberg of this sketch lived in his native county only one year when the family home was made at McGregor, Iowa, and in that village he lived until 14 years of age. There he attended the common and high schools, and later he completed his education with a course of study at Valder's Business college, of Decorah, Iowa. Returning to his native county when fourteen years old, he resided there five years and then went to Woonsocket, S. D., where for seven years he was employed as clerk in a store.

He came to Nobles county in January, 1898, and was one of the organizers of the firm of Scholtes, Crowley & Bratsberg, which was succeeded in 1906 by the firm of Crowley & Bratsberg. He has been one of the active owners of the "Big Store" ever since he came to Ellsworth.

At Volney, Iowa, on Feb. 4, 1892, Mr. Bratsberg was married to Miss Myrtle Entwisle, daughter of Caleb and Margaret Entwisle. To them have been born two children—Mercedes, born in Woonsocket Nov. 22, 1892; and Vivienne, born in Woonsocket Jan. 7, 1895. Mr. Bratsberg is a member of the Ellsworth board of education and is at present serving as treasurer.

J. FRANK GREEN is a Worthington township farmer who has lived in the county thirty years, during all of which time he has been engaged in farming. He came to the county in 1878 with his parents from Mishamokwa, Wis., at which place he was born Nov. 1, 1857, and where he had lived up to the time of his advent to Nobles county. He is a son of J. B. Green, who resides in Worthington. His mother was Julia Ann (Letteer) Green, a native of New York state; she died in 1895.

The early days of J. F. Green were spent on his father's farm in Wisconsin. On the 22nd day of April, 1878, the family arrived in Nobles county and at once took up its residence on the northeast quarter of section 8, Worthington township, which Mr. Green, Sr., purchased, and which is now owned by the subject of this sketch. Frank lived on the home place for a few years, and then spent one year in Huron, S. D. Returning to Nobles county, he accepted a position on the Roche farm in Jackson county, where he was employed for two years. He then lived on the home farm for two years, which brings the story of his life up to the time of his marriage. He was wedded to Miss Lizzie Kennefiek at Michigan City, Ind., Dec. 9, 1888. Mrs. Green was born in Ireland and came to this country with her parents when a child less than one year old. Mr. and Mrs. Green are the parents of two children, James Lee, born Oct. 9, 1889, and Julia, born April 11, 1893.

After his marriage Mr. Green rented a quarter section farm adjoining his father's

placed and worked it one year. He then rented the Wilcox place on section 4, Worthington, and lived there two years; two years more were spent on the Bonnie Prince farm on section 20, Worthington, and then he rented the home farm, where he has lived since, buying the property from his father in 1899.

Mr. Green has been school clerk of his district for the last eleven years, and is now serving a term as township clerk, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1906.

**JAMES MONTGOMERY**, capitalist, banker and real estate dealer of Worthington, although a resident of the county for only a few years, has taken a very active part in the business life of the several communities in which he has lived.

Mr. Montgomery was born in the county of Fermanagh, Ireland, Feb. 19, 1847, and came to the United States in 1860. He located in New York state, where he lived four years. In 1864, when only seventeen years of age, he enlisted in company G, of the Fourth U. S. infantry, and served three years, being mustered out of the service at Prescott, Arizona, in 1867. During the last two years of his service he was on the frontier, taking part in campaigns against the Indians. At the close of his army service Mr. Montgomery took a position as government mail carrier, and for two years carried the mail between the towns of Prescott and Tucson, Arizona.

In 1869 the subject of this biography returned to the east, settled in Butler county, Iowa, bought a farm there, and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1881. He then spent two years farming in North Dakota, but returned to his Iowa farm, where he remained until 1891. In the last named year he sold out his interests in Butler county and purchased a farm in Emmett county, Iowa, where he remained one year. In 1892 Mr. Montgomery engaged in the lumber business at Ellsworth, which was his business five years. The next two years were passed in Estherville, Iowa, where he built a residence. Disposing of his property there he moved to Dickinson county, Iowa, and invested in land on the Rock Island road, upon which he platted the town of Montgomery.

When the Burlington road (now the Rock

Island) was extended from Worthington to Hardwick, and the new towns of Wilmont and Lismore came into existence, Mr. Montgomery went to Wilmont and embarked in the elevator, lumber, coal and farm implement business, with a branch at Lismore. Two years later he sold out these business interests and went into the real estate and banking business at Wilmont. He is first vice president of the First National Bank of Wilmont, an office he has held seven years, and is also president of the Wilmont Townsite company. During his residence in Wilmont he took an active interest in local matters and was several times elected president of the village council. In the fall of 1907 Mr. Montgomery moved to Worthington, where he has since resided, devoting his time to looking after his real estate and banking interests. He owns about 1,000 acres of Nobles county land, in the townships of Bigelow, Worthington, Dewald, Wilmont and Bloom; 640 acres in Traverse county, Minn.; 300 acres in Red Lake county, Minn.; and residence property in Worthington.

Mr. Montgomery was married at Green, Iowa, in 1877 to Mary E. Lucas, as a result of which union six children were born. All are dead with the exception of the youngest, Ada, born at Green, Iowa, May 15, 1888. Mrs. Montgomery died in 1894. Our subject's second marriage occurred at Ellsworth, Minn., March 29, 1896, when he was married to Mary E. Toomey, daughter of Jerry and Ann Toomey. One daughter has blessed this union, Ruth, born at Estherville, Iowa, July 2, 1898. Mrs. Montgomery was born in Newport, N. Y., Oct. 17, 1809, and in that state she was raised and educated.

**JOHN H. SCOTT**, retired farmer, residing at Worthington, has been a resident of Nobles county since the fall of 1871, making a continuous residence here equalled by only a few of the pioneers. During the greater part of this time his home was in Ransom township, but since 1900 he has retired from active life and has made his home in the county seat town.

Columbus, Bartholomew county, Ind., is the birthplace of Mr. Scott, where he was born Sept. 7, 1842. His father, Jasper H. Scott, was born at Hillsborough, Ohio, May



JOHN H. SCOTT

Who Came to Nobles County in September, 1871, and Became the  
First Settler of Ransom Township.



16, 1820, and died at Traer, Iowa, May 27, 1889. His mother, Elizabeth (Hawkins) Scott, was born at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 26, 1824; she died at Traer, Iowa, Dec. 10, 1901. Until the subject of this biography was ten years old he lived with his parents in the county of his nativity. Then the family removed to Ogle county, Ill., and that was the family home until 1858, when a residence was established in Tama county, Iowa. Thereafter until 1871, when Mr. Scott became a resident of Nobles county, Tama county was his home, although more or less time was spent away from the parental roof. He received a common school education, beginning his studies in Iowa and continuing them in Illinois and Iowa.

From the town of Buckingham (now Traer), Iowa, Mr. Scott enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, in company F. of the 28th Iowa volunteer infantry, and served a little less than three years in the war of the rebellion, being mustered out May 27, 1865. His service was in the army of the west, where he took part in the siege of Vicksburg, the siege of Jackson, and the battles of Fort Gibson, Raymond, Edward's Station, Champion Hill and a number of less important battles. On April 8, 1864, he was seriously wounded at the battle of Sabine and Cedar Cross Roads, Louisiana, and was taken prisoner. He was held a prisoner by the southern army until June 18, 1864, when he was paroled and sent to New Orleans. There he was taken to St. James hospital, where he remained three or four weeks; then he was taken to Jefferson Barracks hospital at St. Louis, where he was taken care of until about the first of January, 1865. He was then transferred to a hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, where he was a patient until the close of the war.

Upon receiving his discharge Mr. Scott returned to his old home in Tama county, Iowa, and for about a year and one-half engaged in farming. He then went to Dunlap, Iowa, and made his home with an aunt, being employed there about two years as foreman of a cattle ranch. Returning again to his Tama county home, he remained until the fall of 1871.

Hearing of the new country in southwestern Minnesota which was then being opened because of the building of the railroad in that direction, Mr. Scott decided to

build himself a home in the new country. He drove up, looked the country over, and decided to remain. He first entered the county in September, 1871, before the railroad had been built this far, although the grading was then being done. He entered a soldier's homestead upon the northwest quarter of section 24 in what was later organized into Ransom township, and became one of the first settlers of that township. The first few years of his residence here were anything but encouraging. The grasshoppers came, and with them came times that tried men's souls. Mr. Scott had total crop failures two years; another two years he reaped only a partial crop. But he stayed with the country, and today is rated among the most prosperous men of the county. He remained on his Ransom township farm until 1900, and then took up his residence in Worthington, where he has since made his home. He owns one of the finest residences in Worthington and still holds considerable valuable property in Ransom.

In December, 1869, Mr. Scott was united in marriage at Buckingham, Iowa, to Sarah A. Belknap, daughter of Martin A. Belknap. To them have been born seven children, all of whom are living. They are: Nelson O. Portales, N. M.; Mary (now Mrs. Michael Sorem), Bigelow, Minn.; John R. Culbertson, Mont.; Ormanda, Ransom township; Martin J. Culbertson, Mont.; Jefferson G., Calvin, N. D.; Bessie, living at home.

During his residence in Iowa Mr. Scott served as assessor in 1866 and 1867; and was deputy county treasurer of Tama county in 1867 and 1868. In Ransom township he served several years as member of the board of supervisors, and was township treasurer fourteen years. The office of road overseer and other minor offices were also held by him at different times. For many years he was a member of the school board of his district in Ransom.

All his life Mr. Scott has taken an active interest in religious matters, and is now a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington and holds the office of trustee of that organization. He has helped build four different churches. The first was at Buckingham (now known as Traer), Iowa; the next was the Ransom Methodist church; then the Bigelow church; and last the handsome Methodist church of Worth-

ington. When the last named was built Mr. Scott was chairman of the building committee and also chairman of the board of trustees. The only lodge with which he affiliates is Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R.

WILLIAM F. MOSS, county commissioner from the second district, and a Summit Lake township farmer, has lived in Nobles county nearly twenty-three years. He owns a 480-acre farm, all of which is in Summit Lake township except 80 acres, which adjoins his other land and lies in section 1, Dewald. His place is finely improved, and he has a splendid orchard of 400 trees.

Mr. Moss is of German birth, having been born in Mecklenburg. He is the eldest of a family of five children, all of whom except himself are living in New York state. His father is Joseph Moss, who came from Germany in 1870, and who now resides at Bushell's Basin, near Fairport, N. Y., aged 83 years. The mother of our subject was Hannah (Smith) Moss, who was born in Germany and died in New York state in 1888.

On November 16, 1870, Mr. Moss came with his parents to the new world and located at Fairport, N. Y. In the vicinity of that town he worked for wages until 1883, when he came west and located at Marcus, Iowa. There he farmed two years and then moved to Nobles county. He purchased property in Summit Lake township, and there he has resided ever since.

At Pittsford, N. Y., in February, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Moss to Miss Mary Schroeder, a native of Germany. They are the parents of the following children: Henry, Emma, Roy, Lilly, Minnie and Clarence.

Mr. Moss has taken quite an active part in local politics. He has served several terms as chairman of the Summit Lake board of supervisors, and has also been treasurer of the board, as well as clerk of the school district in which he resides. In 1906 Mr. Moss was elected a member of the board of county commissioners on the republican ticket, and is now, serving the second year of the term. He is treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Telephone company and is secretary of the Reading Threshing company.

JACOB H. SCHUCK is one of the substantial farmers of Bigelow township, having made his home there during the last twenty-three years. He owns the northeast quarter of section 3, the west half of the north-west quarter of the same section and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 3. He was born in Washington county, Wis., Dec. 26, 1856, the eldest of a family of seven children, all of whom except himself and a sister, Mrs. Henry Pfeil, reside in Iowa.

The father of our subject was Rev. Nicholas Schuck, who was born in Prussia Oct. 20, 1832. He came to the United States when twelve years of age and settled in the timber district of Wisconsin, twenty miles north of Milwaukee, which was at the time a small village. He bought an eighty acre farm there, engaged in agricultural pursuits a short time and then entered the ministry, becoming one of the pioneer ministers and circuit riders of Wisconsin. He continued in the ministry until his death, which occurred at LaPorte, Iowa, on March 20, 1892. Our subject's mother was Catherine (Hamann) Schuck, who was born in Rhine province, Germany, and came to the United States when 22 years of age, marrying Mr. Schuck shortly afterwards. She died at LaPorte, Iowa, Sept. 20, 1902, aged 73 years.

Until Jacob Schuck was eighteen years of age the family had no permanent home, but resided in different parts of Wisconsin where the duties of Rev. Schuck called him. Then a permanent home was established in Blackhawk county, Iowa, where the elder Schuck owned a half section of land, part of which was bought from the government. The subject of this biography worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-three years old. Then he rented his parent's farm and conducted it four years. In 1884 Mr. Schuck purchased his Bigelow township farm and in the spring of 1885 moved onto the place, made the many improvements, and has since resided there. The land is now farmed by our subject's sons, Ervin and Philip.

Mr. Schuck was married at LaPorte, Iowa, Dec. 26, 1882, to Miss Anna Pfeil. She was born in Germany May 24, 1855, came to the United States when nine years of age, and prior to her marriage resided in Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schuck have been born eight children: Addie, born Nov. 26, 1884; May, born Jan. 25, 1885; Ervin, born May 13, 1889; Philip, born April 3, 1888; Eunice, born Feb. 22, 1891; Lena, born Sept. 16, 1893; Frank, born May 13, 1895; Anna. The two first named were born in Blackhawk county, Iowa; the others in Nobles county. The family are members of the German Evangelical church of Worthington. Mr. Schuck has held numerous township and school offices in Bigelow township.

C. F. MODISETT, proprietor of the "Rose Hill farm" (north half of section 31, Bigelow township), located within the corporate limits of the village of Bigelow, is an early day settler of that village. He was born at Terre Haute, Indiana, May 25, 1861, the son of Charles Cole and Margaret (Lyons) Modisett. The father was born in West Virginia. He drove through by ox team to Indiana in the late forties and became a homesteader in the Hoosier state. He died in Vigo county, of that state, in 1863, when our subject was eighteen months old, aged 55 years. Margaret Lyons was a daughter of Captain Lyons and was born on Fort Harrison prairie, in the Wabash valley. She died in Vigo county, Indiana, in 1881, at the age of 51 years.

On a farm near Terre Haute, C. F. Modisett spent the first eighteen years of his life. Then he went west and first located in Sac county, Iowa, where he spent one year on a farm. Going from there to Wayne county, Nebraska, he bought a farm. At the time of making the deal he had only five dollars, which he deposited to bind the bargain until he could return to his old home in Indiana. There he sold a piece of brush land, by which he raised enough money to make the first payment on the land. In Wayne and adjoining counties Mr. Modisett lived several years. Then he moved to Alton, Iowa, and worked in a flouring mill.

In 1883 Mr. Modisett moved to the village of Bigelow and for one year ran the elevator of the Iowa Land company—the first steam elevator of the village. The next year his headquarters were at Alton, from which village he traveled on the road for the mill company. Returning to his old home near Terre Haute, Mr. Modisett

started a feed mill. The venture proving unsuccessful, he lost everything he had. We next find him in Fillmore county, Nebraska, trying to recoup his fortunes by working at farm work. In July, 1887, Mr. Modisett returned to Bigelow, and that village has ever since been his home. He took a position in the general store and elevator of John DeBoos, the pioneer merchant, which he held twelve years. He bought his present farm in 1898, and the following year moved onto the place, and has ever since resided there.

In addition to his duties in the store Mr. Modisett wrote insurance and dealt in real estate. He served as postmaster seven years, receiving the appointment during President Cleveland's first term. He was clerk of Bigelow township eight years and chairman of the board of supervisors three years. He was a member of the village council during 1901, 1903 and 1904 and has been village recorder since the spring of 1907. Fraternally, he is a member of the M. W. A.

Mr. Modisett was married in Bigelow May 24, 1888, to Louisa B. DeBoos, a native of Arena, Wis., daughter of John and Theresa (Gray) DeBoos, early day settlers of Bigelow, now residents of Sibley. To Mr. and Mrs. Modisett have been born the following children: Charles C., born July 13, 1889; Leona B., born Aug. 11, 1891; Cecil B., born Sept. 11, 1893; David L., born Nov. 8, 1895; Dorothy J., born Oct. 14, 1897; John D., born Nov. 1, 1900; Margaret L., born April 5, 1905, died June 3, 1905; Alma L., born Feb. 17, 1907.

JOHN W. SHAW is one of the substantial farmers of Little Rock township. He has been a resident of the township twenty-eight years and owns the northwest quarter of section 22. He was born at Mineral Point, Wis., Oct. 17, 1858, the son of William and Mary Ann (Campbell) Shaw. His parents were born in Ireland, fourteen miles from Granard, between Dublin and Belfast. The father came to the United States in 1851 and located in Wisconsin. He died Jan. 15, 1906. The mother came to America in 1847. She died Feb. 1, 1896, and was 62 years and one month old at the time of her death.

Until he was past twenty-one years of age John lived on his father's farm in Fenimore township, Grant county, Wis. In the spring of 1880 he accompanied his father to Nobles county, arriving here on the 16th day of April, the family following in the fall. The father located on the southwest quarter of section 12, Little Rock. John worked out the first year and then began teaching school. He taught nineteen terms of school in Little Rock township and one in Grand Prairie. He bought his present farm in 1883 and the next year began to farm it, although he did not make his home on the place until after his marriage.

His marriage occurred at Worthington on March 16, 1889, when he wedded Miss Ellen Olson, a native of Iowa county, Wis., and a daughter of Andrew and Annie (Thompson) Olson, both of whom are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have been born the following named children: Alfred G., born Nov. 3, 1893; Esther A., born May 13, 1897; Curtis J., born Jan. 11, 1901.

Mr. Shaw has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He was elected county commissioner from the Fourth district on the republican ticket in 1898 and served a four year term. He was assessor of Little Rock township many years, was justice of the peace six years and town clerk nine and one-half years. For many years he has been clerk or director of school district No. 12 and is now holding the latter office. He was federal census enumerator in 1890 and in 1900.

CHARLES NIENABER, president of the State Bank of Round Lake, has been a resident of that village since 1894 and has been engaged in many business enterprises there. He was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, Dec. 13, 1864, the second youngest of a family of ten children, of whom the following five are living: Emma, John, Mary, Charles and Lena.

The father of our subject was Frederick Nienaber. He was born in Germany June 11, 1818, and came to the United States in 1854. He located in Muscatine county, Iowa, upon his arrival and resided there, engaged in farming, until his death, which occurred Jan. 26, 1900. Our subject's mother was

Mary (Fintel) Nienaber. She was born in Germany and died in Muscatine county Jan. 25, 1887, aged 62 years.

Charles Nienaber was raised on his father's farm in Muscatine county and there received a common school education. At the age of twenty-two years he rented his father's farm and conducted it two years. At the end of that time he sold out and went to the Pacific coast, where he spent a year traveling. Returning to Iowa, he went to Davenport and took a course of study in the Davenport Business college.

The date of Mr. Nienaber's advent to Round Lake was June 4, 1894. Soon after he became a member of the firm of H. H. Sindt & Co. and erected the first elevator put up in the village. Three years after the founding of the firm Mr. Sindt sold out to Ed. Denkmann and thereafter the business was conducted under the firm name of Nienaber & Denkmann, which had an existence until June, 1900. The partners then sold to S. W. Harrington, and he to the Tuthill Lumber company. In July, 1900, Mr. Nienaber entered the Bank of Round Lake as its cashier, and has been in the banking business ever since. During two years of the time he held the position of cashier he conducted a general merchandise store.

The Bank of Round Lake, of which Mr. Nienaber took the position of cashier, was started as a private bank in October, 1898, with John W. Cravens as president and C. W. Flint as cashier, those gentlemen being the principal stockholders. The bank was a private concern until February, 1906, when the interest of Mr. Cravens was purchased by a number of stockholders and the institution was reorganized as the State Bank of Round Lake. Mr. Nienaber then became president, and he has held that position since. The bank has a capital and surplus of \$37,000, and does a general banking business, makes real estate loans and writes insurance. The present home of the bank was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$10,000, including fixtures, vaults, safes, etc.

Mr. Nienaber is a large property owner. He has three acres in the village and several lots in Cravens' addition. He owns eighty acres in section 35, Indian Lake township; 240 acres in Jackson county; a quarter section near Westbrook, in Cottonwood county;



100 acres in Sherburne county, Minn., and 320 acres in Canada.

At Lake Park, Iowa, on Dec. 21, 1892, Mr. Nienaber was married to Mary Mundt, who was born in Germany Jan. 11, 1875, and who came to the United States at the age of six years. She is the daughter of Reimer and Anna Mundt, who reside in Jackson county. To Mr. and Mrs. Nienaber have been born the following children: Anna, born June 17, 1894; Ivy, born Oct. 7, 1895; Pauline, born April 2, 1898; Fred, born Feb. 8, 1900; William, born Dec. 5, 1901; John, born Aug. 27, 1903; Leroy, born Oct. 18, 1905; Alfreda, born March 4, 1908.

Mr. Nienaber has always taken an active part in the affairs of the community in which he resides and has assisted materially in the growth and welfare of the village of Round Lake. He has served as clerk of the village school board since 1895. Before the incorporation of the village of Round Lake he served some time as a member of the Indian Lake township board, and after the incorporation was president of the village council four years.

F. A. TORRANCE, member of the firm of F. A. Torrance & Son, proprietors of Worthington's "Big Store," is one of Nobles county's early settlers, having resided in the county continuously thirty-five years.

Mr. Torrance was born in Bennington county, Vermont, in 1851, the son of Andrew J. and Anna (Far) Torrance, natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively. The father died in Worthington in 1886; the mother in December, 1893. The American branch of the Torrance family was founded by the great grandfather of our subject, who came from Scotland.

Until he was seventeen years of age F. A. Torrance resided in his native county. Then, in 1868, he came west and settled in Olmsted county, Minn., where he worked on a farm one and one-half years. He returned to Vermont, engaged in farming and lumbering there about eighteen months, and then returned to Olmsted county, accompanied by his parents. In 1873 Mr. Torrance came to Nobles county and took as a homestead eighty acres on section 11, Olney township, purchasing another eighty adjoining soon after. There he lived during the

whole seven years of the grasshopper scourge, endeavoring to farm, but not once did he raise a crop. Each year his fields were swept bare, and no season did he raise a sufficient supply of potatoes for his own use, nor feed for his horses. One year the hoppers left a part of a crop, but the grain that year was blighted. In 1879 he sowed one hundred acres, but did not harvest a bushel of grain.

Discouraged with the outlook, Mr. Torrance left the farm in 1879, moved to Worthington, and accepted a position in the store of his brother, Henry E. Torrance, who had begun business there in 1876. F. A. 1895, when he purchased an interest in the business and the firm became H. E. Torrance & Bro. In the spring of 1902 H. E. Torrance died, and from the estate Mr. Torrance of this sketch and his son, R. H. Torrance, purchased the former owner's interest, and since that time the store has been conducted under the firm name of F. A. Torrance & Son. The store is the largest one in Worthington and is housed in the handsome brick block erected by H. E. Torrance in 1892.

Mr. Torrance was married in Olmsted county, Minn., in 1876 to Sophia Fender. To them have been born the following children, all residents of Worthington: Richard H., Jennie E. and Rayland C.

Mr. Torrance is a member of Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., of Worthington.

OLE OLSEN is one of the early settlers of Summit Lake township. He owns the northwest quarter of section 2, which he settled on as a homestead in 1882, and upon which he has ever since resided. He encountered many hardships getting a start, but has overcome all the obstacles and today is in prosperous circumstances. He is an enthusiastic admirer of Nobles county and its institutions.

Mr. Olsen is one of a family of five boys, of whom four are living, and all of whom except himself live in Wisconsin. His parents were Ole and Emily (Olsen) Goldborg. The father was a soldier in Norway and his occupation was that of a farmer. He came to the United States in 1866 and settled in Iowa county, Wis., where he died at the

age of 77 years. Our subject's mother died in Iowa county, Wis., at the age of 70 years.

To these parents Ole Olsen was born in Norway on May 9, 1842. He was educated and confirmed in his native country and made his home there until 1867, working on his father's farm. Coming to the United States he located in Iowa county, Wis., where for ten years he worked on his father's farm. For the next few years he worked in Madison, Wis. Mr. Olsen arrived in Nobles county in 1882, bought a homestead relinquishment to his present farm in Summit Lake, and has ever since made his home there.

In Iowa county, Wis., on Dec. 14, 1871, Mr. Olsen was united in marriage to Miss Georgana Hansen, who was born in Norway and came to America when 19 years old. They are the parents of the following six living children: Josephine, born Dec. 10, 1872; Bertie, born Sept. 13, 1874; Clara, born June 29, 1877; Ole, born Dec. 3, 1879; Dick, born June 22, 1884; Oscar, born April 26, 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Olsen are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He was one who scoured the organization of school district No. 82 about fifteen years ago, and for several years served as a director of the district.

W. W. JENKINS. In only a few of the townships of Nobles county are there any great number of the pioneer settlers left. In Indian Lake, Bigelow and Little Rock they are to be found in greatest numbers, and among those in the last named is W. W. Jenkins, the subject of this biography. He has resided on his homestead, the north-west quarter of section 32, ever since the spring of 1872.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Mercer county, Ill., on Oct. 16, 1844, the son of Sylvester and Rebecca (Watson) Jenkins. Sylvester Jenkins was born in Boston, but moved to Mercer county, Ill., in an early day and was one of the pioneers of that section of the state. He homesteaded in Nobles county in 1872 and resided in Little Rock township until 1894, when he moved to Kansas. After a six years' residence there he moved to Arkansas, where he now lives at the age of 87 years. Our subject's mother died in Mercer county in 1850.

In the county of his birth Mr. Jenkins lived until he came to Nobles county. He enlisted in company C, 16th Illinois volunteer infantry, Jan. 13, 1864, and served eighteen months in the first brigade of the second division of the fourteenth army corps, being discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, July 8, 1865. He was in General Sherman's army and was with the forces of that command all the way from Chattanooga to the close. He participated in the grand review at Washington after the close of the war.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Jenkins, accompanied by his wife and two children, drove through from Mercer county, Ill., to Nobles county. He took his homestead in Little Rock township and has always lived on it since. His first home in the new country was a sod house, in which he lived seven years. He then bought the old school house of district 14—one of the first erected on the prairie—and made his home in that until 1898, when he erected his present home.

Mr. Jenkins was married at Aledo, Mercer county, Ill., Aug. 10, 1869, to Miss Sarah M. Boynton, a native of Maine. To them have been born the following named children: Lucy (deceased), Addie (Mrs. John Webber), Charles, Nancy (deceased), Nettie (deceased), Vinnie (Mrs. August Nienkerk), Arthur and Luther (twins), Lottie (Mrs. Frank Nienkerk), and George. Mr. Jenkins is a member of the G. A. R.

FRED KUHLE owns and resides on the west half of section 2, Dewald township. He has been a resident of Nobles county nineteen years. He was born in Schleswig Holstein, Germany, April 14, 1863, the son of a tailor. Ben Kuhl, the father, died in Germany in May, 1875, at the age of 45 years. Annie (Sass) Kuhl, the mother, died in Illinois July, 1891, aged 55 years.

Fred lived in his native country until a little past seventeen years of age. He secured a country school education and at the age of fourteen began working at the miller's trade, which he followed until his removal to America. His departure from the old country was not without exciting experiences. In company with a cousin he decided to leave his native land and seek a fortune in the new world. The cousin had

been drawn for service in the army and Fred was within the age limit, and neither were permitted, under the German laws, to leave the country. At the port from which they sailed an agent was found who, upon the receipt of 25 marks from each, made it possible for them to evade the law. The agent to whom the cousin paid his fee proved to be a detective, and this seriously interfered with the plans of the cousins. Fred sailed from the Fatherland to England and from there to the United States. The cousin was retained as a witness against the immigration agents, who served sentences for their enterprise, but was permitted to fellow on a later boat. Fred landed in New York on September 15, 1880, after a stormy voyage of 21 days on the water. Owing to this delay and by the merest chance the cousins were reunited on this side of the water.

Mr. Kuhl went at once to Davenport, Iowa, where he was successful in getting a position in a flouring mill. He was about to begin work when the mill burned down. He was then without money, and the prospects were not the brightest. Successful in getting work, however, he spent the next three years of his life working for wages. One year of this time was in the vicinity of Davenport; the other two years at Monmouth, Ill. He then rented a farm near Monmouth and spent two years on that. From Illinois he went to Benton county, Iowa, and for four years farmed rented land.

In the fall of 1899 Mr. Kuhl came to Nobles county and became a land owner. He purchased the northeast quarter of section 30, Elk township, and lived there three years. Owing to the failure of the Frederickson company, through which agency the land had been purchased, Mr. Kuhl lost the land. He then rented the whole of section 33, Elk township, broke out the land, and made his home there two years. In 1894 he bought the southwest quarter of section 2, Dewald, and moved to his new possessions. Three years later he bought the northwest quarter of the same section. Besides these 320 acres of land, he now owns a quarter section in Clay county, Minn., near Moorhead. In the spring of 1902 Mr. Kuhl rented his farm and moved to Worthington, where he resided five years. During that time he

was engaged in the management of a billiard hall and bowling alley, in the insurance business and in working for a creamery company. He returned to the farm in the spring of 1907 and has since made his home there.

Mr. Kuhl was married in Illinois April 1, 1884, to Mary Will, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Will. Both her parents are dead, her mother having died when she was two years old and her father in 1904. She was born in Germany, and as a girl worked in the same mill in which her husband was employed. They were engaged in the old country and Miss Will came over the year after her future husband did. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhl have been the parents of four children, only one of whom survives: Annie, died when six months old; Ben and Peter, twins, died in infancy; Charlie, born Sept. 4, 1892, residing at home.

A. A. KLIFFGARD has been engaged in farming in Graham Lakes township twenty-two years. He owns 160 acres of land on section three. Mr. Kliffgard was born in Norway June 20, 1847, the son of Arna and Sarah Kliffgard. The father was born June 20, 1816, and died Sept. 20, 1902. The mother died in Norway in 1853.

Our subject received a common school education in his native land and came to America in 1867, settling at Blue Mounds, Wis., where he engaged in farming nineteen years. He came to Nobles county in 1886 and moved onto the farm which has ever since been his home.

Mr. Kliffgard was married in Wisconsin Jan. 1, 1878, to Mary Kliffgard, who was born in Norway Sept. 14, 1847, and came to the United States and to Wisconsin in 1849. They are the parents of the following children: Sam Anton, Isaac, Annie Sophia and Emma. One child died in infancy. Mr. Kliffgard is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

HENRY TITENBERG, whose home farm is located within the limits of the village of Wilmont, is one of the earlier settlers of northwestern Nobles county and a homesteader. He was born in Red Wing, Goodhue county, Minnesota, July 20, 1860, the

son of German parents. His father, Anthony Titenberg, died when Henry was only two years old. His mother, Elizabeth Titenberg, died in 1900.

During his minority Henry worked on his father's farm near Red Wing and secured an education in the schools of that city. When he was of age, in 1881, he came to Nobles county and took an eighty-acre homestead in Larkin township, only a short distance from the present village of Wilmont. At that period the settlers were few and far between and Mr. Titenberg went through many of the experiences of pioneer life which had been experienced by the earlier settlers in other portions of the county. He has fought prairie fires, weathered the blizzards, and gone through nearly every thing except fight the grasshoppers. From 1881 to 1885 he divided his time between his Larkin township homestead and his old home in Red Wing. During these years he improved the place, and in 1885 moved out permanently. That was his home until 1900, when he moved to Wilmont and purchased a quarter section of land within the limits of the new village. Besides the farm upon which he now resides, Mr. Titenberg owns 300 acres of land in Larkin township. In addition to his farming interests, he engages to some extent in buying and shipping cattle.

Henry Titenberg was married at Red Wing Feb. 10, 1886, to Lena Persig. They are the parents of ten children, all of whom are living at home. They are: Emma, Julia, Annie, Carrie, Lilly, Tony, Herbie, Jennie, Regina and Hattie.

ANDREW E. LUCHT, of Bloom township, owns and farms 240 acres on sections H and 15. He is a native of the province of Hanover, Germany, where he was born June 1, 1860. He is a son of Everich and Peterke (Meyer) Lucht. The father is a retired farmer now living in Crescent City, Iroquois county, Ill., and is 77 years of age. The mother died in Illinois in 1875 at the age of 46 years.

Andrew came to the United States with his parents in 1865, landing during the month of June. The family located in Livingston county, Ill. After two years a residence was established near Minonk, in Woodford

county, where the family resided three years. The next four years were spent near Eureka, in the same county, and then in 1874 the Luchts moved to near Milford, Iroquois county, where our subject lived until 1890. He lived on the farm with his father until 1882 and then began farming for himself on rented land. In March, 1890, Mr. Lucht came to Nobles county and bought the farm where he has ever since resided. The land was then raw prairie, a vast difference from the finely improved farm that now graces the spot.

Mr. Lucht was married in Iroquois county April 14, 1882, to Talke Schmidt, who was born in Livingston county, Ill., May 20, 1866. She was the daughter of Oltman and Almuth Schmidt, who died at the family home in Bloom township, the former in 1907, the latter in 1905. To Mr. and Mrs. Lucht have been born the following children: Peterka Annie (Mrs. Wm. Koehn), of Bloom, born Jan. 17, 1883; Oltman A., born Nov. 9, 1884; Fred A., born June 14, 1889; Arend A., born Sept. 19, 1892; Jonas A., born March 13, 1895; Alma, born Sept. 8, 1898; Katie, born Aug. 3, 1903. All except the married daughter reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lucht are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Pfingsten.

For about ten years Mr. Lucht was treasurer of school district No. 70 and he was a Bloom township supervisor for four years.

LEONARD GUNDERMANN. The gentleman whose name heads this sketch has been a resident of Seward township, Nobles county, for the last twenty-two years. He is a German by birth, having been born in the province of Bavaria, Oct. 6, 1861. His father was George Gundermann, who died in his native country Dec. 26, 1875. His mother, Margareta (Wolff) Gundermann, resides in Seward township.

Mr. Gundermann resided in Germany until 25 years of age. There he got his education and until he obtained his majority he worked on his father's farm. He then entered the German army and served a term of three years. He came to America in the spring of 1886 and located first at Dwight, Ill. There he remained only about four months, and then came to Nobles county, arriving August 10. He then bought

the northeast quarter of section 10, Seward township, and that place has been his home ever since. Later he purchased 80 acres of land adjoining. Mr. Gundermann has prospered since coming to his adopted country, and he has a finely improved farm. In 1895 he struck an artesian flow of water on his farm, which since that date has furnished a constant flow of water, supplying more than he needs. During the thirteen years it has been flowing there has not been a cessation or a diminution of the flow.

Mr. Gundermann was married Oct. 12, 1886, at Fulda to Margaretta Lober, daughter of George Lober. To them have been born eleven children, all of whom are living at home. They are George, Minnie, Fred, Mary, Lydia, Carl, John, Otto, Lawrence, Ernest and Adolph.

Several township and school offices have been held by Mr. Gundermann during his residence in Seward township. He has held the office of town treasurer since 1900, was director of school district No. 57 for about twelve years and since 1906 has been serving as clerk of the district, and during the last four years has been road overseer.

**PETER H. OSBON.** With the possible exception of Indian Lake and Bigelow townships there are more homesteaders living in Little Rock township than any other portion of Nobles county, and among these is the man whose name heads this sketch. Peter Osbon was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, July 4, 1844, the son of Hans Paulson and Cella Paulson. Both his parents are dead, his father having died in 1853 and his mother when he was only seven years of age. Until he was twenty-five years old Mr. Osbon lived in his native country. During the greater part of this time he was on the farm, but eight years of it were spent in the Swedish army.

It was in 1869 that Mr. Osbon came to America. He first located at Okolona, Miss., sixty miles from the city of Mobile, where for a few months he worked at woodchopping. From there he went north and located at South McGregor, Iowa, where he remained a little less than a year working on the Dubuque & St. Paul railroad, which was then being built. He next took employment with the Wisconsin Central, which

was then being constructed through Wau-paca county, Wis. He was there nearly one year and then began work on the Chicago & Northwestern at a point six miles from Sparta, Wis.

On the seventh day of May, 1873, Mr. Osbon came to Nobles county and it has been his home ever since. For five years he farmed rented land on section 22, Ransom township. Soon after his arrival, however, he filed a preemption claim to 80 acres of land on section 12, Little Rock, and bought a homestead relinquishment to the other eighty acres of the same quarter, and in time proved up on both. After leaving Ransom township he erected buildings on his own property and moved to his own land. On that place and on adjoining property, which he bought later, Mr. Osbon has resided continuously since. He now owns 480 acres in one body.

Mr. Osbon was married at Prairie du Chien, Wis., in June, 1871, to Anna Swenson, who was born in Sweden and came to America at the same time her future husband did. They are parents of the following children: H. Osbon, who farms 200 acres of his father's farm; Sandol, who also farms 200 acres of the home place; Emma (Mrs. Louis Johnson), who lives in Little Rock township. Mr. and Mrs. Osbon are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Ransom township.

**FRED SCHINKEL** is an Elk township farmer who has lived in Nobles county eighteen years. He owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 9. Mr. Schinkel was born in Grundy county, Iowa, April 8, 1874, the son of the late Andrew and Mary (Klie) Schinkel. The former was born in Germany Sept. 4, 1824, and died at Worthington March 14, 1896. The latter was also a native of Germany, having been born Oct. 2, 1828; she died Aug. 6, 1880.

Our subject received his education in the country schools of Grundy and Blackhawk counties, Iowa, and made his home in the former until 1890. He then came to Nobles county with his parents, and for two years lived with his father on the farm in Dewald township. Thereafter for several years he worked at farm work in differ-

ent parts of the county. He was married at Sioux Falls, S. D., March 3, 1899, to Mamie Baker, a native of Chicago and a daughter of Geo. Baker, of Worthington. They have two children—Roy and Alice.

After his marriage Mr. Schinkel moved onto the farm where he now resides, having purchased it two years before his marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Schinkel are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading, and the former is treasurer of school district No. 29, which he has held for the last five years.

**W. I. HUMISTON.** Among the business and professional men of Worthington are many who came to the town as boys, and among the number is the subject of this biography, who came in June, 1872, and who has ever since made his home here.

Mr. Humiston is the son of Edwin R. and Mary A. (Davis) Humiston. He was born in Lesneur county, Minn., on Christmas day, 1861. The night following his birth the log cabin in which the family lived was burned to the ground, and his mother, taking the infant in her arms, waded the snow drifts over a trackless forest two miles to the nearest neighbor, a feat that only a woman of the pioneer days could have accomplished.

In his native county Will Humiston lived until June, 1872. Then he came to Worthington with the family, the father having arrived the year before. He was educated in the public schools of the village, attending the school winters and herding cattle summers, which occupation he began at the age of thirteen years. In June, 1885, he went into the hardware business as the senior member of the firm of W. I. Humiston & Co., and was so engaged eighteen years, part of the time being sole proprietor of the store. After going out of the hardware business Mr. Humiston engaged in the implement business, which he conducted three years. He is now engaged in raising thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. He owns a fine home in the city and ten Nobles county farms.

In 1887 Mr. Humiston was married in Worthington to Lilly L. Glass, a native of Kentucky, and to them have been born three children: Lee L., Lillian and Harry.

Mr. Humiston served six years as a member of the Worthington village council. He is a member of the Masonic lodge.

**MICHAEL SOREM,** of Biglow, is the proprietor of that village's only hardware store. He has been a resident of Nobles county for many years, during which time he has been engaged in farming in Ransom township and in business in Bigelow.

Michael was born in Grundy county, Ill., June 4, 1870, the son of Mons N. and Sarah (Ostrem) Sorem, now of Ransom township. Mons Sorem was born in Norway May 12, 1840, and came to the United States in June, 1867. After a nineteen years residence in Grundy county, Ill., where he was engaged in farming, he came to Nobles county and bought the south half of section 21, Ransom township, upon which he has since resided. Our subject's mother was born in Norway March 31, 1838, was married to Mr. Sorem in her native country, and is now living.

In Grundy county, Ill., Michael received a common school education. After he had come to Nobles county at the age of sixteen years he completed his education with a one year's commercial course at the Breek school, of Wilder. He resided on his father's Ransom township farm until twenty-one years of age. Then he bought the northeast quarter of section 15, Ransom, and engaged in farming for himself, which he followed until January 1, 1903. On the last named date Mr. Sorem moved to Bigelow and, in partnership with his brother, N. M. Sorem, bought the hardware store of R. H. Wicks. The brothers conducted the business as partners until Nov. 1, 1906, when our subject became sole proprietor, since which time he has conducted the business alone.

In Ransom township, on December 18, 1895, Mr. Sorem was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Scott, who was born in Ransom township September 27, 1872, and who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Scott, pioneer settlers of Ransom township. To this union have been born four children: Evelyn Ruth, born Dec. 6, 1896; Mabel Irene, born Feb. 24, 1901; Edna Lillian, born March 17, 1903; Clifford Michael, born June 20, 1904.

While living in Ransom township Mr. Sorem served two years as a member of the township board and was treasurer of school district No. 27 for five years. He is now clerk of district No. 27. He is a member of the Methodist church of Bigelow.

**VICTOR ANDERSON.** One of the heaviest land owners of Bigelow township and one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers is Victor Anderson, who has lived in the county sixteen years. He owns nearly 800 acres of land, including all of section 17 except 104 acres on the southwest quarter, west of the railroad; eighty acres on section 16 and 175 acres on section eight. When he came to the county in 1892 his farm was prairie land and without improvements of any kind; today he has one of the best improved farms in the vicinity. He engages in stock raising and has large herds of cattle, hogs and sheep.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden Dec. 13, 1860. He is one of a family of five children and is the son of the late Gust Anderson and Mary Anderson. The father came to the United States in 1867 and located first in Dekalb county, Ill. Later he moved to Rock Island, Ill., where he resided until 1904, when he moved to Tacoma, Washington, at which place he died April 15, 1907, aged 78 years. The mother of our subject is now 70 years of age and resides at Tacoma.

Victor Anderson came to the United States with his parents in 1867 and for ten or eleven years lived with them in Dekalb county, Ill. He then took up his residence in Sac county, Iowa, where he resided about fifteen years. During the last ten years of his residence there he rented land and engaged in farming. On March 1, 1892, he came to Nobles county and located on his present farm, 320 acres of which he had purchased before coming to the county. He improved the farm and engaged in farming and stock raising until the spring of 1904. He then rented the farm and moved to Worthington, where he resided three years. At the end of that time he again took up his residence on the farm. In addition to his Bigelow farm property he owns a house on Fourth street in Worthington. During the years 1901, 1902 and 1903 Mr. Anderson served as supervisor of Bigelow township, and during 1903 served as director of school district No. 80.

In Chicago, on March 26, 1883, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Annie Peterson, a daughter of E. L. Peterson, also a resident of Bigelow township. Mrs. Anderson was born in Sweden and came to the

United States with her parents when a child. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of the following children: Mabel, born Sept. 27, 1884; Ida, born Sept. 7, 1888; Ralph, born June 10, 1891; Bessie, born Feb. 13, 1895. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington. Mabel was united in marriage to Chas. M. Pannell July 23, 1908, while Ida married C. L. Newman on May 18, 1908.

**JOHN C. THOMSEN** is the senior member of the hardware, furniture and implement house of Thomsen Bros. & Mangelson, Round Lake, which village has been his home for the last fifteen years. Starting in there as a clerk, a few years later he entered the business arena for himself, and now is the head of one of the most popular business houses of the village.

Mr. Thomsen is the son of Matt Thomsen and Annie (Peterson) Thomsen, who now reside at Holstein, Iowa. He was born in Germany in 1869. When a boy five years old he came with his parents to America, who first settled at Walcott, Iowa, and there he resided at the family home until 1879. Then he moved to Holstein, Iowa, made his home with an uncle, and from that time earned his own living. His education was begun in the public schools of Walcott, and after moving to Holstein he completed his common school education there. In 1892 he completed his education at Davenport, Iowa, taking a business course in the Davenport Business college.

In July, 1893, Mr. Thomsen came to Round Lake, then a little village with some half dozen business houses, and entered the employ of Moeller & Diehn, dealers in general merchandise, and was with that firm for six and one-half years. On the first day of February, 1899, in partnership with John L. Mangelson, he opened a hardware and furniture store in Round Lake. The firm prospered, and on Jan. 1, 1905, a stock of implements was added to the business, and another partner was added to the firm. William Thomsen, a brother of our subject, entered the firm, which now became Thomsen Bros. & Mangelson.

Mr. Thomsen was married September 4, 1901, at Round Lake, to Miss Esther Klingloof. To this union has been born one child,

Milton, born Oct. 7, 1902. When the village of Round Lake was incorporated in the fall of 1898 Mr. Thomsen was elected village recorder, and for six consecutive years thereafter he was reelected to the same office, serving until the spring of 1905. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Round Lake.

ROBERT L. MORLAND, druggist, of Worthington, has devoted his life to the drug business, having started work in a drug store when twelve years of age and having followed the business continuously ever since.

Mr. Morland was born in Stranraer, Scotland, in 1864, the son of Robert L. Morland, of Worthington, and Margaret (McMeikan) Morland, who died at Worthington Dec. 28, 1907. He received his education in the schools of the Free Church of Scotland and in Stranraer academy, and in 1876 entered the employ of Richard Ker, who was in the retail drug business in Mr. Morland's native town. After a service of five years with Mr. Ker, Robert Morland went to Liverpool, where for two years he was in the employ of Evans Sons & Co., the largest drug manufacturing and wholesale dealers in Great Britain, and one of the largest in the world. In 1884 he went to Dublin, where for three years he was in the employ of Hunt & Co., wholesale and manufacturing druggists.

It was in 1887 that Mr. Morland came to America and located in Montreal, Canada, where he took a position with Evans Sons & Mason (now Evans & Sons, limited), the Montreal branch of Evans Sons & Co., of Liverpool, with whom the subject of this biography had been associated in England. In his new position Mr. Morland had charge of the department of pharmaceuticals and chemicals. In 1892 he gave up his work in Montreal, went to Chicago, and entered the employ of Buck & Rayner, retail druggists at the corner of State and Madison streets. During the year 1893, while the Columbian exposition was in progress, Mr. Morland had charge of the store nights, and after the fair he was made manager of the store, which position he held until the last day of December, 1897.

In January, 1898, Mr. Morland came to Worthington, purchased the drug store then

owned by Chas. H. Babcock, and has since conducted the store. In May, 1903, he was appointed a member of the state board of pharmacy by Governor Van Sant, and at the next meeting of the board, in January, 1904, he was chosen president, an office to which he has been elected annually since. In local public matters Mr. Morland has always taken an active part. He is a member of the Carnegie library board and is president of the Worthington commercial club.

Mr. Morland was married at Cottage Grove, Minn., Nov. 7, 1906, to Mrs. Edith Dolan.

CHARLES W. SIPES lives in Bloom township, where he owns the north half of section 30. He is of Holland and Scotch descent on his father's side and of English descent on his mother's. It was his paternal grandparents who came to the United States and founded the American branch of the Sipes family. His mother's parents emigrated from England. James Sipes, our subject's father, was born in Bedford county, Pa., in the year 1800, and died in February, 1888. Nancy (Smith) Sipes was the name of his mother. She was born in Bedford county, Pa., in 1808 and died in 1886.

To these parents Charles Sipes was born in Bedford county, Pa., Dec. 26, 1837. In his native county young Sipes lived until he was seventeen years of age. He secured a common school education there and was farm raised. After becoming old enough to work he was hired out to a farmer. Leaving home at the age of seventeen he went to Delaware county, Ohio, and after working on a farm there one year, he went to Carroll county, Ill. There he worked out as a farm hand a year and a half, and then in the spring of 1856 he went to St. Anthony Falls, where the city of St. Paul now stands, in an unsuccessful endeavor to find work. The future capital of Minnesota was then a little village only one-half as large as Wilmont is today, and Minneapolis did not have a place on the map. From Minnesota Mr. Sipes went to Tama county, Iowa, arriving there March 20, 1856, purchased a small farm there and engaged in farming until the spring of 1880.

It was during his residence in Iowa that Mr. Sipes, in September, 1862, enlisted at Toledo, Iowa, in company F, of the 28th



Iowa infantry. He served a three years' enlistment, taking part in the Vicksburg campaign under Grant, the Red River campaign under Banks, the campaign in the Shenandoah valley under Sheridan, and in the operations around Savannah. In the latter city he was mustered out on Aug. 14, 1865.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. Sipes moved to Sac county, Iowa, and engaged in farming till 1892. That year he came to Nobles county and located on the south half of section 20, Larkin township, where he farmed until 1901. That year he sold out and bought his present Bloom township farm. Mr. Sipes is a Mason, holding a membership in Roman Eagle lodge No. 175 (Adrian).

In Tama county, Iowa, in March, 1858, Mr. Sipes was married to Mary Cronk. She died in 1888. One child was born to them—James Henry, now of Luverne. Mr. Sipes was married the second time on Christmas day, 1893, at Shaylor, Iowa, to Jane Kyle, a native of Canada. To them have been born William R. and Caroline M. (twins), born Nov. 25, 1894.

FRANCIS E. McLEAN, ex-United States marshal, now rural mail carrier out of Adrian, is one of the early day settlers of western Nobles county, his residence here extending over a period of more than thirty years.

Francis E. McLean is the second of a family of six children, all living, and he was born in the city of Milwaukee, Wis., October 7, 1850. His father, James McLean, was born in the city of Liverpool, England, and came to the United States at the age of 26 years and first located in Detroit, Mich. He was a plasterer by trade, and in following that occupation lived in many different places in the United States—in Detroit, Milwaukee, Peoria, St. Cloud, Tacoma and Mandan, N. D. He died in the last named city on Feb. 14, 1894, at the age of 80 years. Ellen (Barron) McLean was the name of the mother of our subject. She was a native of County Carlow, Ireland, came to America when a child and located at St. Thomas, Canada. She later moved to Detroit, Mich., where she was married to Mr. McLean. She died when the subject of this sketch was sixteen years old.

When Francis was one year old the family moved from Milwaukee to Peoria, Ill., and

in 1862 to Stearns county, Minn. Two years later the family home was made at St. Cloud, Minn., and there our subject attended the public schools and St. John's college. He lived there until 1871, and after his school days, learned the plasterer's trade, receiving instruction from his father.

In 1871 he left home and went to Duluth, where he worked for the Mississippi & Lake Superior Railroad company, plastering depots and section houses along the line of the road from Duluth to Thompson's City. In the fall of 1871 Mr. McLean went to Chicago, where he followed his trade until the spring of 1876. He then worked at his trade in the towns of northern Minnesota for one year, and in the spring of 1877 went to Fort Custer, Montana. The Northern Pacific railroad at that time extended only to Bismark, N. D., and the trip to Fort Custer was made by boat from that point up the Missouri, Yellowstone and Big Horn rivers. Mr. McLean had enlisted for six months service as an artisan to assist in the construction of the fort, and during that time was under military rule. He left the job and returned to Benton, Minn., in which village and in Minneapolis he remained until April, 1878.

On April 10 of the last named year Mr. McLean came to Nobles county and took a homestead in Leota township. His homestead claim consisted of the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, and he bought in addition the northeast quarter of the same section, which was a tree claim. Here he lived, engaged in farming, about ten years. Moving to Adrian from the farm, he worked at his trade in that village until September, 1907. He received the appointment as rural mail carrier August 15, 1901, and has since been engaged in the mail service. During the years that Gilbert Anderson served as sheriff of Nobles county Mr. McLean was deputy sheriff, and he was United States marshal during R. T. O'Connor's administration. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen and Knights of Pythias lodges.

Mr. McLean was united in marriage at Avoca, Minn., February 4, 1880, to Kate E. Ryan, a native of Greenwale township, Minn., and a daughter of Timothy and Mary (McCarthy) Ryan, natives of Ireland. The former is dead; the latter lives at Mendota,

Minn., and is 72 years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. McLean have been born ten children: James, Grace E. (Mrs. Olive B. Crane), Mary J., Catherine E., Francis E., William J., Agnes, John D., Neil and Richard L.

B. F. KIZER, retired farmer and capitalist of Wilmont, is one of the highly respected citizens of that village, and his life's history is an interesting one.

Mr. Kizer was born in Cedar county, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1838. His father was Abraham Kizer, who was born in Virginia, but who came to Iowa when that commonwealth was a territory, and was among the pioneer settlers. He located in Cedar county and engaged in farming. There were Indians in that part of Iowa when he made his home there and for many years afterwards, and the settlers sometimes had trouble with them. The nearest market was Dubuque, eighty miles away. The Kizer family had many and varied experiences during the pioneer days. Abraham Kizer died in December, 1899, and was 98 years of age at the time of his death. He was of German descent, but the family had resided in America for many generations. Our subject's mother was Maggie (Lipsie) Kizer, of Irish descent. She died in 1897, aged 84 years.

When B. F. Kizer was twelve years of age the family moved over the line into Scott county, and that was his home for many years. He was educated in the country schools of Scott county and was raised on his father's farm. For two summers during war times Mr. Kizer was a freighter, hauling goods from Plattsmouth (where the river Platte empties into the Missouri) to Denver. Returning to Scott county after this service he engaged in farming for himself, which he followed three years. He then moved to Buchanan county, Iowa, bought a quarter-section of prairie land, broke it out, and farmed six years.

From Buchanan county Mr. Kizer went to Benton county, Iowa, bought 160 acres of wild land there, and farmed until 1880. He then bought eighty acres in Osceola county, one mile south of the Nobles county line, and farmed it four years. In 1884 he sold out there and bought 240 acres of school land in Little Rock township, Nobles county, paying therefor \$6.00 per acre—land which

he still owns and which today is worth \$65 per acre. Mr. Kizer farmed his Little Rock land until 1906, when he rented it and moved to Wilmont. He owns a ten acre tract in the village, all fenced and cut up into lots. A few years ago Mr. Kizer underwent a severe operation at Sibley, one of the most remarkable surgical operations on record, and he is now enjoying good health.

In Cedar county, Iowa, on April 12, 1863, Mr. Kizer was married to Isabella Beekworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Beekworth. The former was born in Vermont, but later moved to Canada, where Mrs. Kizer was born April 4, 1848. Mr. Beekworth later returned to the United States and died in Missouri. Mrs. Kizer's mother was also a native of Vermont. She died when Mrs. Kizer was a child.

Mr. and Mrs. Kizer are the parents of the following named children: Margaret S. (Mrs. Ed. Botwick), of Harris, Iowa, born Jan. 30, 1864; Ida May (Mrs. T. J. Stage), of Sibley, Iowa, born Feb. 27, 1866; G. E., of Little Rock township, born June 6, 1868; Sidney, of DeSmet, S. D., born July 26, 1871; R. Frank, of Little Rock township, born Nov. 27, 1882; Eva Isabell (Mrs. Emery Reese), of Wilmont, born March 30, 1884.

JAMES L. McCONKEY is postmaster at Brewster and a member of the board of county commissioners of Nobles county. He was born in Cordova township, Lesueur county, Minn., Aug. 3, 1862, the son of William and Mary (Hess) McConkey. The father was born in Ireland, came to America when a boy, and to Lesueur county, Minn., in August, 1856, where he still resides. The mother was born in Catskill county, N. Y., and died in Minnesota in March, 1906, aged 68 years.

Mr. McConkey was educated in the public schools of Lesueur county, and that was his home until July, 1892, when he established his residence in Jackson county. After a residence there of two years, he moved to Brewster, where he has since resided. In September, 1897, he received the appointment of postmaster of Brewster, and has since presided over that office. He served as constable of Hersey township in 1895 and 1896, was assessor of the same precinct in 1899,

and was chosen justice of the peace in 1900. From 1900 to 1902 he served on the Brewster village council, and in 1904 was elected county commissioner, which office he still holds.

At Cordova, Minn., in April, 1884, Mr. McConkey was married to Rosa Starner, who was born at Jordan, Scott county, Minn., Aug. 24, 1865. To them have been born three children, as follows: Clyde J., aged 22, a student at the Minnesota state university; Maude Marie, aged 20, married Jan. 1, 1908, to Fred Bork, of South Dakota; Emily Lois, aged 18, a Jackson county school teacher.

Mr. McConkey is a member of the Presbyterian church and the M. W. A. lodge. He owns two farms, one of 160 acres in Ewington township, Jackson county, and the other of 160 acres in Cottonwood county.

JAMES R. SELBY owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 32, Hersey township, that township having been his home for the last twenty-eight years. He was born in Vernon Center, Blue Earth county, Minn., Feb. 18, 1865, the son of Thomas W. Selby and Adeline A. (Crowe) Selby. His father, a native of Indiana, is still living, his home also being in Hersey. His mother was a native of Nova Scotia. She died Feb. 8, 1900.

James R. lived with his parents at different points in Blue Earth county until past fifteen years of age. There he secured a common school education in the district schools, and like most boys raised on the farm, he spent the summer months assisting in the farm work. In November, 1880, he moved with his parents to Nobles county, and until his marriage in 1887 he lived with his parents on their farm on section 28, Hersey township.

On December 22, 1887, occurred his marriage to Miss Minerva J. Paine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Paine, now residing at Worthington. Four children have blessed this union. Orval and Myrtle are living with their parents; two died in infancy. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Selby purchased the quarter section farm where he now resides, and has since made that place his home.

During his residence in Hersey township

Mr. Selby has been honored on numerous occasions by election to office by the votes of his neighbors. For six or seven years he held the office of township treasurer, and during the last eight years he has been clerk of the school district in which he resides. Other offices he has held are justice of the peace, road overseer and constable. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge of Worthington.

DANIEL W. CHUTE, retired farmer and merchant of Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having come during colony days and having made his home here thirty-six years.

Mr. Chute is of English descent, both his grandfathers, Daniel Chute and Pharaoh Raudall, having been born in England and having come with a colony to Nova Scotia in an early day. The parents of our subject were Daniel and Mary (Randall) Chute, both natives of Nova Scotia. The father was born in 1807 and died in Nevada in 1873. The mother was born in 1816 and died in 1906.

Daniel Chute, of this sketch, was born in Mount Clemens, Mich., in 1851. On Dec. 1, 1854, the family moved from Michigan to Eyota, Olmsted county, Minn., and the North Star state has been the home of our subject ever since. Southern Minnesota was very thinly settled at the time of the arrival of the Chute family, and they suffered all the hardships incident to pioneer life. The head of the family took a pre-emption claim, and the family home was there for about six years. The next location was Albert Lea, near which city Mr. Chute, Sr., became the owner of over a section of farming land. Our subject made his home there until 1872, securing an education in the public and high school of Albert Lea and engaging in farming. He secured a start in life there, and when he arrived in Worthington on September 18, 1872, had about three thousand dollars.

Two days after his arrival Mr. Chute filed on the southeast quarter of section 18, Summit Lake township, as a tree claim and the south half of the northeast quarter of the same section as a homestead property which he still owns. During the winter of 1872-73 he returned to his old home in Al-

bert Lea, completed his education, and in the spring returned to his claims. He engaged in farming and stockraising there for many years. During the early days he had many ups and downs, at one time losing all his possessions except his tree claim and homestead (which were practically valueless at the time) and a few cattle. He lost seven crops by grasshoppers and five by hail in the days when the country was new. By fortunate real estate speculations Mr. Chute has prospered, and is today rated as being worth over \$50,000. In addition to his Summit Lake township farm, he owns the southwest quarter of section two, Bloom township, about \$20,000 worth of Worthington city property and \$8,000 worth of Wilmont city property.

In 1895 Mr. Chute retired from active farm work and moved to Worthington. In that city for three or four years he engaged in the hotel, grocery and meat business. He returned to his farm again in recent years, but during the present year retired from active work and is again a resident of Worthington. During his residence in Summit Lake township Mr. Chute served as clerk of the school district in which he resided, and was road overseer about ten years.

Mr. Chute was united in marriage at Warsaw, Ill., on Oct. 3, 1875, to Emma Howard, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of William A. and Sarah (Kieser) Howard. They have no children.

JOHN E. SHORE is one of the pioneer residents of Ransom township, having made his home there since he was a boy seventeen years of age. He is the son of Robert and Eliza (Greenhalgh) Shore, also of Ransom township, and was born in Grant county, Wis., May 2, 1856. On his father's farm in that county he passed his boyhood days, and there he received a common school education.

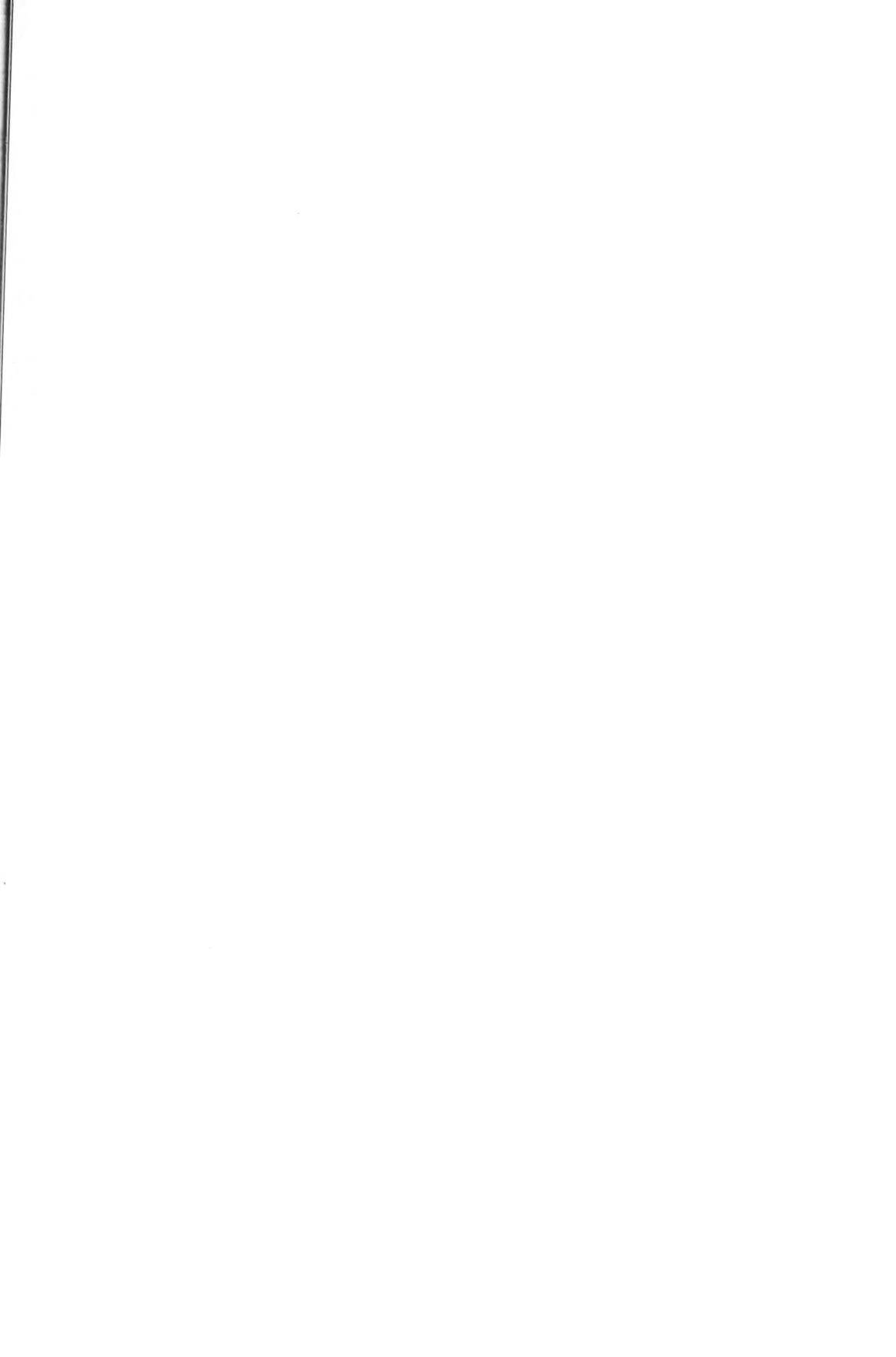
During the month of April, 1873, he came to Nobles county with his parents and for several years resided on his father's homestead in Ransom township, working on his father's place and for neighboring farmers. In 1885 he began farming for himself, having rented the northwest quarter of section 10, Ransom. In 1889 he moved onto his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 22, which he had purchased some time

before. He erected the buildings and made the other improvements, the land having been raw land when he purchased it. In addition to the home farm he now owns the southwest quarter of section 14.

Mr. Shore was married at Parker, S. D., July 1, 1885, to Libbie Guernsey, daughter of Amasa and Loretta (Copeland) Guernsey, who were natives of New York state. Mrs. Shore was born in New York state Jan. 13, 1865. To them have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home: Alice, born July 13, 1886; Harold, born Nov. 23, 1889; Raymond, born Feb. 25, 1893; Howard, born May 5, 1897; Loretta, born Aug. 20, 1904. Mr. Shore served as treasurer of Ransom township for several years and has held other minor offices. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Bigelow.

WILLIAM KERR, now a resident of Eugene City, Oregon, was one of the early settlers of Nobles county and for many years made his home here. He was born in Millport, Scotland, Aug. 16, 1848; came to America with his parents when a boy, and located near Springfield, Ill. Later he moved to Houston county, Minn., and in June, 1872, came to Nobles county. He took a homestead and for three years in succession lost everything by the grasshoppers. Discouraged with the outlook, he returned to eastern Minnesota, locating in Steele county, where he worked out during the winter months. The third year he went to Houston county, and for five years farmed on rented land there. In March, 1882, he returned to Nobles county. For five years he lived in Dewald township, then moved to Larkin township, which was his home until September, 1902, when he and his wife went to Eugene City, Oregon, which place has since been their home. During his residence in Nobles county Mr. Kerr held many offices of trust in the township and school district in which he lived.

William Kerr was married at Owatonna, Minn., Jan. 5, 1871, to Margaret Thom, who was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Feb. 8, 1849. They are the parents of eight children: Daniel Walker, born Oct. 31, 1871; Robert Francis, born Aug. 29, 1873; Helen L., born Jan. 29, 1876; Jessie Belle, born April 6, 1878; Arthur Fredric, born March 12, 1884;





THE LATE REV. FATHER C. J. KNAUF

A Pioneer Settler of Adrian, Resident Manager of the Catholic  
Colony Company, and an Active Participant in the Early  
History Making of Western Nobles County.

Alice Winifred, born March 12, 1884; Raymond Earle, born April 28, 1888; William Bryce, born March 9, 1892.

JOHN B. FEENEY, Little Rock township farmer, has resided on the farm where he now lives for twenty-eight years. He is a native of Kings county, Ireland, and the son of Keran Feeney and Dora (Scully) Feeney, both of whom are dead.

When he was five years old he came with his parents to America and located in New York city, which was his home for thirty-five years. After growing to manhood he became a sailor and for many years was engaged in the coast trade. Ten years of his life were spent as a canal man, operating on the Delaware & Hudson canal.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. Feeney decided to go west and make himself and family a home there. He started for Douglas county, Minn., but when he arrived in St. Paul he met Bishop Ireland, who induced him to come to the Nobles county country, in which he was then interested, and Mr. Feeney did so. It was in the month of March that he first set foot on the soil of Nobles county. He at once bought a timber claim right to the north half of the southeast quarter of section 18, Little Rock township, his present home, later changed it to a homestead filing, and proved up on the property. Two years later he purchased the northeast quarter of section 27, in the same township. Although he had had no previous experience in farming, Mr. Feeney set to work to improve the place and has been engaged in farming ever since. He is a member of the Catholic church of Adrian.

Mr. Feeney was married in New York city to Annie Cummings, a native of that city. To them were born the following children: K. J., of Little Rock township; Annie Gertrude (Mrs. John O'Hearn), of Seattle, Wash.; Mary Agnes and Elizabeth V., who reside at home.

JOHN CROWLEY, senior member of the firm of Crowley & Bratsberg, proprietor of Ellsworth's "Big Store," has been in business in that village for many years. He is a native of Grundy county, Ill., where he was

born Dec. 22, 1869, the son of Cornelius and Ellen (Reiley) Crowley. The father was born in Marseilles, Ill., where he lived during his entire life, having died there in June, 1897, aged 55 years. Our subject's mother was born in County Meade, Ireland, and came to the United States when three years of age. She died in February, 1905, aged 56 years.

In his native county Mr. Crowley lived eighteen years. He was educated in the public schools and in the Northern Indiana Normal school of Valparaiso. Leaving home after his school days he went to Chicago, where for some time he worked for the South Side street car company. He then came west and for one year was on a farm at Rock Rapids, Iowa. During the next two years he engaged in farming in Rock county, Minn., where he purchased a farm. Giving up farming he moved to Ellsworth, where for one year he clerked for F. J. Schoweiler. He then formed a partnership with Barney Ball and engaged in the clothing business, which the firm conducted only one year. In January, 1898, the firm of Scholtes, Crowley & Bratsberg was formed, which engaged in the general merchandise business and had an existence until 1906. At that time Mr. Scholtes severed his connection with the firm, which was succeeded by the firm of Crowley & Bratsberg. The store is housed in a handsome brick block which was erected in 1900, and carries one of the largest stocks of general merchandise in Nobles county. Messrs. Crowley & Bratsberg are also members of the Ellsworth Produce company, which was founded in March, 1908, to conduct a wholesale business in eggs, poultry, potatoes and melons, buying from the merchants of the surrounding towns and shipping in car load lots. Within two months after beginning business the firm had shipped eight car loads of eggs and five of potatoes.

Mr. Crowley was married in Ellsworth Oct. 6, 1898, to Miss Margaret Carey, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Carey. Mr. and Mrs. Crowley are the parents of the following children: Frances, Emmett, Redmond, Arthur, Bernard and Margaret. Mr. Crowley is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. lodge. He is one of the trustees of the Ellsworth village council.

NICK EPPERS has resided on his farm in Grand Prairie township for twenty-four years and is one of the many successful farmers of southwestern Nobles county. He was born in Kenosha county, Wis., Oct. 26, 1857, the son of Nick and Katherina (Lenz) Eppers. The father was born in Germany in 1829, came to the United States and located in Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1857, just one month after the birth of his son. Our subject's mother was also a native of Germany. She came to America and was married in Wisconsin. She now resides in Kenosha county and is 72 years of age.

Nick was raised on a farm in Kenosha county, which was his home until past 26 years of age. During the last two years of his residence there he engaged in farming for himself. Some of his acquaintances and neighbors had come to Nobles county, Minn., and it was due to their representations that Mr. Eppers decided to locate in the same community. On the last day of October, 1884, he arrived in the county, having disposed of his interests in Wisconsin. He at once purchased the northeast quarter of section 2, Grand Prairie, and ever since has made his home there. Later he purchased other property and now owns, in addition to his original purchase, 40 acres in the southeast quarter of section 2, and the south half of the southwest quarter of section 36, Westside township.

In Scott county, Minn., on Feb. 16, 1885, Mr. Eppers was married to Gertrude Bonzlet, who was born in Kenosha county, Wis., Jan. 21, 1860. To this union have been born the following children: Sophia, born June 17, 1888; Clara, born Jan. 16, 1890; Bertha, born Oct. 25, 1891; Osear, born Jan. 3, 1894; Matilda, born Dec. 4, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Eppers are members of the Catholic church of Adrian and he is a member of St. Joseph's society. Since residing in the county he has served nine years as clerk of school district No. 49 and now holds the office.

Mr. Eppers has a finely improved farm and is a successful farmer. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred stock, raising large numbers of Shorthorn cattle and O. I. C. swine.

A. M. FEATHERS, of Larkin township, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county, having resided here continuously since 1876. He was born at Dodgeville, Wis., Dec. 14, 1864. His father was a native of Canada and was of Irish descent. His mother was born in Dodgeville, and was of Scotch, Irish and French descent.

In November, 1876, at the age of twelve years, Mr. Feathers came to Nobles county and for three years worked on J. R. Jones' farm near Bigelow. He then went to Adrian and for twenty years was in the general merchandise store of Mr. Jones, acquiring an interest in the business before severing his connection therewith. In 1901, he sold out at Adrian and moved onto the Larkin township farm, where he has since resided. The farm is the northwest quarter of section 8, and was purchased in 1893.

In 1888 Mr. Feathers was elected recorder of Adrian village and served one year. He is now chairman of the Larkin township board of supervisors and is serving his second term. He is a member of the Unitarian church and of the Masonic and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Feathers was married at Adrian in 1887 to Miss Frances Haislet, daughter of the late S. S. Haislet, founder of the Adrian Guardian. She was born in New Hampton, Iowa, and moved with her parents to Heron Lake in 1880 and to Adrian a few years later. She taught school in Adrian before her marriage. Mrs. Feathers died in 1892. The second marriage of our subject occurred in 1895, when he wedded Miss Sallie Prideaux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Prideaux, of Worthington. She was born in Dodgeville, Wis., and came to Nobles county with her parents in 1872. Mr. Feathers has eight children, named as follows: Rowena, Clifford, Clara, Dorothy, Lyman, Louise, McDonald and Mary.

JOSEPH HARTMAN, of Willmont township, is one of the earliest settlers of that precinct, having located there at the time of the arrival of Fred Hartman, Peter Lebens, Robert Sell, Fred Pank and Emil Graf—the township's pioneers. He owns 320 acres of land on sections 34 and 35 and has resided on his farm since his arrival thirty years ago.



Joseph Hartman's parents were Fredolin and Carrie (Kleever) Hartman. Both parents died in Germany, the mother in January, 1867, at the age of 42 years, the father in Germany on April 25, 1908, at the age of 82 years. Joseph was the eldest of a family of three children, two sisters living in Germany. He was born in Germany Oct. 23, 1854, and came to the United States in 1871, arriving during the month of October. The first four years of his life in the new world were spent in Boston and the next two near Minneapolis.

Our subject came to Nobles county October 5, 1877, and filed a homestead claim to the farm upon which he now resides. In March of the next year he moved down to his land and began farming. Later he bought 160 acres adjoining. He has improved the place with groves and buildings, and today has a fine home. He erected his present house in 1888.

Mr. Hartman was married at Waconia Minn., Jan. 21, 1879, to Frances Adelman, who was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1867. She died on the home farm March 1, 1897. To this union nine children were born: Annie, George, Frank, Fredo, Mary, Leo, Bannie, Francis and Carrie. Mr. Hartman's second marriage occurred at St. Kilian in September, 1900, when he wedded Mrs. Carrie Hartman, who was born in Germany in 1852.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartman are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian. In the early days he served as a director of school district No. 16.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY, retired farmer and capitalist of Ellsworth, has been an actual resident of Nobles county only eight years, but he was an early settler of Midland township, Lyon county, Iowa, just over the line from Nobles county.

Mr. Wheatley is an Englishman by birth and spent his early days in that country. He was born May 21, 1847, the son of Charles and Mary (Middlewood) Wheatley, and is the next oldest of eight living children. The living brothers and sisters are: George, who is sheriff of Lyon county, Iowa; Charles and M. W., Lyon county farmers; Mrs. Joseph Bramley, of Little Rock, Iowa; Mrs. E. Walker, of St. Croix Falls, Wis.;

Mrs. M. L. Connell, of England; Mrs. E. F. Lambert, of Scotland. The father of our subject and of these children died in England in the fall of 1876, aged 52 years. His wife was born in England, but came to the United States when a child. She returned to her native land at the age of nineteen years and was there married to Mr. Wheatley. She remained in England until a few years after her husband's death, then took up her residence in the United States, lived here a few years, and then returned to England, where she died in 1896, aged 72 years.

William Wheatley was raised and educated in England, and after reaching manhood engaged in the wholesale mercantile business in Manchester. He came to the United States in April, 1884, and located on a farm in Lyon county, Iowa. His decision to come to the new world was made through the representations of an uncle, Geo. Middlewood. The latter had come to the United States when a boy and had accumulated considerable wealth in lands and stocks, having been engaged in the malting and brewing business in Cincinnati. To each one of the Wheatley children—eight in all—he gave a farm in Lyon county, Iowa. The uncle returned to England at an old age and died there about fifteen years ago, aged 85 years.

On his Lyon county farm Mr. Wheatley resided sixteen years. During his residence there he prospered and added considerable to his holdings. He now owns 1,040 acres of land there all in one body and all well improved. In 1900 he moved to Ellsworth village and has since lived a retired life, looking after his farms, all of which are rented. Of Midland township, Lyon county, he served ten years as treasurer. He is a member of the Congregational church and of the Knights of Pythias lodge.

In Chicago, Ill., on June 14, 1884, Mr. Wheatley was married to Mrs. Jennie Thompson, a native of England. To them has been born one child, Raymond A., born in Lyon county July 21, 1887. The boy is now a student at Drake university.

CHARLES J. SMALLWOOD, of Worthington, is proprietor of the Worthington telephone exchange and of several connecting lines, and is president of the Midland Telephone company, an incorporated organiza-

tion with headquarters at Adrian, which also owns several connecting county lines. He has been a resident of Worthington since 1893, has engaged in several different lines of business, and has been prominent in the affairs of the community in which he lives.

Mr. Smallwood was born in Melleny county, Ill., Sept. 25, 1865, the son of Thomas B. and Sarah (James) Smallwood. The father of our subject was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1810, came to the United States when a young man, and located in McHenry county, Ill. in that county and in Milwaukee, Wis., he lived practically all his life, dying in the latter city June, 1898. Our subject's mother was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James, early settlers of Milwaukee. She died in that city in 1855.

When Charles J. Smallwood was a mere lad the family moved to Milwaukee, and in that city he was reared and educated, attending the public schools and an academy of that city. After his school days Mr. Smallwood learned telegraphy and entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad company, holding the position of telegraph operator at various points along one end of that road and learning train dispatching. About 1881 he took a position as train dispatcher with the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road with headquarters at St. Paul, and there he was employed one year. He was then promoted to the position of chief train dispatcher for the Omaha company, with headquarters at Omaha, Neb., and he was thus employed until 1893.

After giving up his work with the rail road company, Mr. Smallwood moved with his family to Worthington. For several years he was engaged in the lumber and grocery business, and then he put in the first telephone exchange in the city. Starting with about 45 subscribers, Mr. Smallwood has built up the business until today he has 400 subscribers in the city, with numerous rural lines operated in connection.

Mr. Smallwood was president of the village council in 1895. For the past eight years he has served as a member of the school board, as treasurer of that body. He is a member of the Carnegie library board and is secretary of the Chautauqua association.

At Rochester, Minn., Aug. 11, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Smallwood to Miss Florence Moulton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

J. P. Moulton, of Worthington. Mr. Moulton was one of the prominent business men of Worthington. He died at Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 29, 1893, where he had gone in the hope of benefitting his health. Mrs. Moulton died at Worthington Feb. 13, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood are the parents of three children. Justin T. was born at Worthington June 23, 1882, was graduated from the Worthington high school in 1902, studied three years at Carleton college and then entered the medical department of the Minnesota state university, from which he was graduated in June, 1908. Mary E., now the wife of J. A. Cashel, a Worthington attorney, was born at Omaha, Neb., Oct. 27, 1888. Charles Moulton was born in Worthington, Minn., Nov. 29, 1895.

[Mr. Smallwood died at his home in Worthington, Oct. 22, 1908, after the above biography was put in type.]

FRANCIS A. STEVENS, of Worthington, is court commissioner for Nobles county. He has resided in the county thirty years. He is a native of New Hampshire, born at Charleston Sept. 21, 1835, the son of Henry and Dorothy (Gove) Stevens, natives of the same state.

In the schools of his native state Frank Stevens received his education, and when about twelve years old was employed in a cotton mill, which occupation he followed two years. He next worked at the cutler's trade, being employed in a shop for several years. Mr. Stevens came west in 1860, and located at Claremont, Dodge county, Minn. There he purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1878. In the fall of 1864 he enlisted in the Second light battery, Minnesota Volunteers, and served in the war until the fall of 1865. The battery took part in several important battles of the war, including Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Stevens returned to Dodge county and again took up his farming duties. In 1878 he came to Nobles county and settled in Leota township, taking as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 10. He farmed that property until the beginning of the year 1887, when he moved to Worthington, which place has since been his home. He

was elected clerk of court in 1886 and served twelve consecutive years, having been reelected in 1890 and 1894. During his residence on the farm he took an active part in local politics. He assisted in the organization of Leota township, and held several offices under the township government. After his last term of office expired, Mr. Stevens held the office of justice of the peace in Worthington village for a number of years, and during the last nine years has been court commissioner. He is a member of Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R.

Mr. Stevens was married at Croydon, N. H., July 4, 1856, to Helen M. Mitchell, a native of that state. She died at Worthington Jan. 31, 1891. Five children were the result of the union, of whom the following three are living; Herbert E., Henry and Nellie M. Mr. Stevens was married the second time to Hannah Hoynes, of St. Paul, in 1895. To them was born one child, a son, who died.

HANS C. CARSTENSEN, proprietor of the hotel and saloon at Round Lake and owner of several pieces of business property in that village, was born in Germany May 16, 1866, the son of A. Carstensen, who died in his native land in 1907, at the age of 71 years. The first sixteen years of his life were spent in Germany, where he received an education and worked in his father's butcher shop.

Mr. Carstensen came to the United States in 1882 and located near Davenport, Iowa, where for five years he worked at farm work. He went to California in 1887 and remained there two years. Returning to Davenport he spent two years teaming and then went back to California and for two years engaged in gold mining in Eldorado county. In 1894 he located at Holstein, Iowa, and in 1897 at Walcott, Iowa, where he engaged in farming three years. He moved to Jackson county, Minn., in the spring of 1901, and engaged in farming in Ewington township three years. His next move was to Round Lake village, where he started a saloon on September 1, 1903. He bought the hotel property in 1906 and in October, 1907, remodeled the building, installed steam heating apparatus and water works, and refurnished it throughout. He has one of the finest appointed hotels in Nobles county.

At Davenport, Iowa, May 21, 1897, Mr.

Carstensen was married to Mrs. Emma (Nienaber) Walker, a native of Muscatine county, Iowa, and a daughter of Fied Nienaber. To Mr. and Mrs. Carstensen have been born two children: Hilda and Marie. By her former marriage Mrs. Carstensen is the mother of seven children: Lena (Mrs. H. Kunze), Hannah (Mrs. B. Bliedorn), Emma (Mrs. M. Reistoffer), Laura, Lilly (Mrs. John Bliedorn), Annie and Peter.

DR. EDWIN RAY HUMISTON, of Worthington, has resided in that city since he was a boy four years old. He was born in Cleveland, Lesueur county, Minn., March 29, 1868, the son of Edwin R. and Mary A. (Davis) Humiston, who are now living in Worthington.

In the spring of 1872 the Humiston family came to Worthington to share the fortunes of the colonists, and Ray grew to manhood in that city. He received a common school education in the Worthington public schools, and in 1886 began working in C. W. Smith's drug store. In 1889 he became a student in the pharmacy department of the Northwestern university, of Chicago, from which he received his diploma in 1890. Returning to Worthington, he purchased a half interest in the drug store of E. E. Warren, and in 1893 bought out his partner's interest. He conducted the drug store until 1900, when he sold out and moved to St. Paul. During the time he conducted the store at Worthington he served nine years as a member of the Minnesota board of pharmacy, having been appointed by Governor Merriam in 1890. During the last two years of his service he was president of the board.

Upon his removal to St. Paul in 1900 he became a student in the medical department of the University of Minnesota, and three years later was graduated from that institution. He spent one year practicing in a St. Paul hospital, and then came to Worthington and commenced the practice of his profession, in which he has since been engaged.

Dr. Humiston was married in 1892 to Miss Kitty Moulton, a native of Boston, Mass., and a former teacher in the Worthington public schools. To them have been born two children, Burr and Kathryn.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Humiston are mem-

bers of the Union Congregational church of Worthington. The doctor is a member of the M. W. A., the A. O. U. W., the W. O. W. and K. P. lodges. He served one term as a member of the Worthington city council, having been elected in 1907.

MATT PINT, of Ellsworth, has been a resident of Nobles county for the past twenty-four years. He is the son of the late Matt Pint and Lucy (Lichter) Pint.

Matt Pint, the father of our subject, was one of the best known and highly respected residents of western Nobles county. He was born in Germany in 1833 and was a wagon-maker by trade. He came to Canada in 1854, where he followed his trade one year. Moving from there to Chicago, he worked at his trade two years, and then located at Racine, Wis., where he worked in the Mitchell wagon shops one year. In 1858 he located in Kenosha county, Wis., and engaged in farming for several years. He moved to Belleplaine, Scott county, Minn., in 1863, and that was his home until the spring of 1884, when he came to Nobles county. Upon his arrival here he purchased the northeast quarter of section 4, Grand Prairie township, and that was his home until his death, which occurred Nov. 4, 1907. The mother of our subject was also of German birth. She came to America when a child and was married to Mr. Pint at Racine, Wis. She died at Belleplaine in 1883, aged 42 years.

Matt Pint, of this sketch, was born in Brighton, Kenosha county, Wis., on Dec. 6, 1862, and the next year the family moved to Belleplaine, Minn. The trip was made overland, the Mississippi river being crossed at McGregor, Iowa. In 1884 he came with his father to Nobles county, which has been his home since that date. He worked on the farm for his father until 1891, after which he engaged in farming for himself for several years. In 1897 he moved to Ellsworth and engaged in the saloon business, in which business he continued eleven years. Disposing of his business interests, he has since been engaged in writing insurance.

Mr. Pint was married in Allenton, Wis., Feb. 5, 1891, to Miss Maggie Ruffing, who was born in that village May 20, 1862. She is the daughter of Peter and Margaret

(Miller) Ruffing. Her father, who is now 73 years of age, resides on a farm in Wisconsin and is a native of Germany. Mrs. Pint's mother died at Allenton, Wis., in 1890, aged 50 years. Mr. and Mrs. Pint are the parents of the following children, all of whom reside at home: Eva, born April 5, 1892; Katie, born Nov. 9, 1893; Elanora, born Oct. 22, 1895; Verna, born Nov. 1, 1898; Victoria, born Oct. 5, 1901; Lucas, born May 6, 1904. Both parents are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Pint is a member of the C. O. F. and of St. Joseph's society.

While residing on the farm Mr. Pint served as township assessor during the year 1895. He was also clerk of school district No. 33 one term and for six years was constable of Grand Prairie township.

CHRISTOPHER R. WEST is cashier of the Brewster State Bank and a large holder of Nobles county real estate. While he has been a resident of Nobles county only about six years, he has taken an active interest in the business and social life of the community and is one of the best known citizens of Brewster.

Mr. West was born near Marshalltown, Iowa, Oct. 23, 1862, the son of Soren and Anna C. (Ravnos) Oleson, he having taken the name of West in 1882 on account of mail complications. Soren Oleson was born near Stavanger, Norway, in the year 1827, came to the United States and to Manitowac, Wis., in 1854, and after a short residence there moved to Henry county, Iowa. There in 1858 he was married to Anna C. Ravnos, the mother of our subject. Soon after the marriage the couple moved to the wilds of Marshall county, Iowa, and were pioneers there and the first Norsemen to locate in that part of Iowa, where is now a large population of that nationality. Soren Oleson died in Marshall county, where he had lived so long, on Sept. 9, 1879, at the age of 52 years. Anna C. Ravnos was also born near Stavanger, Norway, the date of her birth being March 31, 1832. She came to the United States in 1856 and is now living with a son, O. S. West, at Paulina, Iowa. She is 76 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Oleson were the parents of four children, of whom three are now living—O. S.

West, of Paulina, Iowa; Mrs. Julia A. Norland, of Gaza, Iowa, and the subject of this biography.

Christopher was raised on his father's farm in Marshall county. He received a district school education and was a student one year at Friend's academy, of LeGrand, Iowa. Later in life he took a business course in the Sioux City Business college. When our subject was seventeen years of age his father died. Although then young in years he took the management of the farm and ran it until 20 years of age. Then with his mother and the other children of the family he moved to Paulina, Iowa, where they bought a farm and where our subject lived until 1895. Having been elected treasurer of O'Brien county in the fall of 1894, he took office at the beginning of 1895 and served a two year term. He then opened an abstract office in Primghar, Iowa, which he conducted two years, and during the next three years was engaged in the real estate business in the same town.

It was in 1902 that Mr. West moved to Brewster and entered the banking business, in which he has been engaged since as cashier of the Brewster State Bank. This institution was organized August 1, 1902, and succeeded the Bank of Brewster, which had been organized in 1897 and which had been conducted by Geo. W. Patterson and Samuel Stewart. The first officers of the later organization were: C. C. Moffit, president; A. P. Jacobs, vice president; C. R. West, cashier; T. T. Strand, assistant cashier. The only changes in the personnel of the management have been in the matter of vice president. D. H. McKeller succeeded Mr. Jacobs to the office and Geo. W. Voak has since succeeded him. The bank has a surplus and capital of \$28,000 and deposits of \$73,000. The directors are the above officers and W. M. Smith, of Sheldon, Iowa, who is a stockholder. The bank building was put up in the summer of 1902 and cost, with the fixtures, \$6,000.

Mr. West owns 600 acres of well improved land adjoining the village of Brewster on the south, 368 acres in Graham Lakes township and 400 acres in northern Minnesota, and has an elegant home in Brewster. He holds the office of president of the Brew-

ster school board, was mayor of the town in 1905 and recorder in 1903 and 1904.

At Paulina, Iowa, on May 10, 1887, Mr. West was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Crosbie, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. West have an adopted son, Theodore Sampson West, aged 17 years.

NEWTON FAUSKEE, sheriff of Nobles county, although a young man, is one of the oldest pioneers now living in the county, he having resided here for the last thirty-eight years. He was born in Decorah, Winneshiek county, Iowa, April 27, 1869, the son of Ole Fauskee and Isabella (Snortum) Fauskee. His parents, both of whom are still living in Indian Lake township, are natives of Norway, coming to America about 1866. In the spring of 1870, when Nobles county was inhabited by only a few families (settlement being confined exclusively to Graham Lakes and Indian Lake townships), the Fauskee family came to the new country and became pioneer settlers. Mr. Fauskee settled on section 6, Indian Lake township, where he has ever since resided. Then Worthington was undreamed of, and Jackson was the nearest trading point, and from that frontier village the supplies were secured. No railroad was as yet built in the county, and the nearest trading point was many miles away.

Newton, at the time of his arrival in the county, was a baby one year old. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm. In the country schools of Indian Lake and nearby townships he acquired his education, attending school until 18 years of age. During the summer months he worked on his father's farm during these years he was obtaining his education. Later he acquired an interest in land and other property, and in partnership with his father engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until the fall of 1897.

At that time he moved to Worthington and accepted a position as deputy sheriff under Sheriff Gilbert Anderson. For three and one-half years he acceptably filled this office. He was reappointed deputy sheriff in January, 1901, by Sheriff Mike Reiter, served until April 30, of the same year, and then resigned. After his resignation he went to

work for the McCormick Machine company as traveling salesman, and continued in that business until the fall of 1902.

He then became a candidate for the office of sheriff, being nominated on the republican ticket at the primary election, defeating L. L. McCartney, Chas. King and Levi Rue for the nomination, and at the general election in November being elected over the democratic nominee, Mike Reiter. He was reelected in 1904, defeating Matt Bryan and Chas. Heitritter for the republican nomination by a majority vote, and being elected over J. N. Holbrook at the general election by an enormous vote. Again was he victorious at the polls in 1906, securing the republican nomination over Messrs. Scriven and W. M. Cline by a majority vote of 913 out of a total vote of less than 1,600. At the general election he had no opposition. Mr. Fauskee has made an excellent record as sheriff of Nobles county. He has done his duty without fear or favor, and he has become a terror to evil doers.

On August 17, 1901, Mr. Fauskee was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Johnson, of Dewald township. Two daughters, Genevieve and Alice, have been born to this union.

HAKEN JOHNSON, although an actual resident of Nobles county only a few years, is entitled to be classed as one of the pioneer settlers. He lived on a farm in Jackson county only two miles from Dundee for many years, and since 1901 has resided in the village. He is a large property owner, being the proprietor of 725 acres of farming land.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden in 1851 and secured a common school education in his native land. He came to America in 1868 and located at Red Wing, Minn. In the spring of 1879 he moved to the Dundee country, buying land two miles east of Dundee, and there he lived and engaged in farming for twenty-two years. For a short time he served as a commissioner of Jackson county, having been appointed to fill a vacancy, and held various township and school offices during his long residence there. In 1901 Mr. Johnson retired from active

farming and moved to Dundee. He went into the implement business and was so engaged five years. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, of the Scandinavian Relief association of Red Wing, and of the M. W. A. lodge.

In Goodhue county, Minn., in 1874, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Maggie Landberg, a native of Sweden. She died in August, 1890. His second marriage occurred in Cottonwood county in 1892, when he was wedded to Miss Betsy Erickson, who was a native of Goodhue county. Mr. Johnson is the father of seven children, four of whom were borne by his first wife. They are as follows: Henry, Hilma (Mrs. V. I. Miller), of Westbrook, Minn.; Ole, Oscar, Arthur, Harry and Harwood. All the boys live at Dundee.

OLE A. BRANDT, of Larkin township, has lived on his present farm a quarter of a century and is one of the old time settlers of the township. He is a native of Norway and was born Nov. 1, 1851. His parents died in their native land, the father when our subject was a child, the mother in 1901.

Mr. Brandt came to America and to Nobles county in 1878, and first settled near Ellsworth. After residing four and one-half years in that part of the county he moved to Larkin township in the spring of 1883, bought a homestead relinquishment to the northwest quarter of section 22, proved up on it and has ever since engaged in farming it. His farm is well improved and has a fine grove surrounding the buildings. He engages in stockraising to a considerable extent and makes a specialty of sheep raising.

In Norway in 1877 Mr. Brandt was married to Miss Mary Nelson, and to them have been born nine children: Minnie (Mrs. Henry Thompson), of Rushmore; Olga (Mrs. Carl Salte), of near Lismore; Albert, John, Ida, Anna, Clara, Emma and Olive. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Brandt is a member of the Larkin board of supervisors and has served in that capacity during the last six years. He has served on the school board of district No. 60 in various capacities.

PETER LEBENS is one of the early day settlers of Willmont township, having taken the claim to the farm upon which he now resides thirty years ago. His farm consists of 320 acres of land on sections 28 and 33.

Mr. Lebens is a Hollander by birth. He was born March 1, 1851, the son of John N. and Annie (Kakals) Lebens. The former died in Scott county, Minn., in 1898, aged 88 years, the latter in Carver county, Minn., at the age of 56 years. Peter came to the United States with his parents in 1863, when he was twelve years of age, and located in Carver county, Minn. There he was raised on his father's farm and there he made his home until 1880. During the last three years of his residence there he rented his father's farm and engaged in business on his own account.

In October, 1878, Mr. Lebens came to Nobles county and filed on the southeast quarter of section 28, Willmont township. Immediately after making the filing he returned to his home, but came back again in the following spring with a brother. He broke thirty acres of his claim, erected a sod shanty that year, but did not make his permanent residence here that year. In the spring of 1880 he brought his family to the new home, erected a frame building, and began farming. On that farm he has ever since resided.

Mr. Lebens was married at Shakopee, Minn., Oct. 20, 1875, to Margaret Thole. She was born in Westphalia, Germany, Oct. 15, 1854, and died at the family home in Willmont township Feb. 20, 1892. This union resulted in the birth of the following children: Annie (Mrs. Peter Benselef), of Watertown, S. D.; John, marshal of Willmont village; Joseph, of Lismore; Lizzie, of Iowa; Herman, of North Dakota; Henry, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Peter, of North Dakota; William, of North Dakota.

The second marriage of Mr. Lebens occurred in St. Paul Jan. 25, 1894, when he wedded Maggie Schnier, who was born in Scott county, Minn., in October, 1858. To them have been born the following children: Clara, Mary, John (deceased), Maggie, Frances and Charles. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian. Mr. Lebens served as supervisor of Willmont township two years and was road overseer three years.

JOHN DeBOER, senior member of the firm of DeBoer & TenCate, proprietor of the general merchandise store at Leota, is a native of Dolton, Cook county, Ill., where he was born Aug. 7, 1868.

The parents of our subject were John and Anke (Sieben) DeBoer. The father was born in Edam, Holland, in 1834, and came to the United States in the early sixties. He bought a farm in Cook county, Illinois, adjoining Chicago on the south, where he resided until his death in 1878. This farm was held by the heirs until 1907, when it was sold for \$500 per acre. Anke DeBoer was also born in Holland. She died in Cook county July 16, 1884, at the age of 39 years. John is one of a family of seven children.

John DeBoer lived in Cook county, Ill., until he came to Nobles county in 1892. During the first eighteen years of his life he lived on his father's farm. He then began working at the carpenter trade, which he followed in Chicago and the suburban towns for a number of years. In January, 1892, he came to Nobles county and in partnership with his brother, Nicholas DeBoer, and James TenCate, established the firm of DeBoer & TenCate and started a store in Leota township, where the little village of Leota has since made its appearance. At the time the only other building in the vicinity was the Dutch Reformed church. The store has been conducted under the same management ever since, and the partners have always enjoyed a prosperous business.

Mr. DeBoer was married in South Holland, Cook county, Ill., March 4, 1898, to Maud Bode, a native of Riverdale, Ill., and a daughter of Henry Bode, of South Holland. This union has resulted in the birth of four children: John S., Henry B., Anke and Elizabeth.

Mr. DeBoer owns the northwest quarter of section 2, Leota township, and six acres in Leota village. He is the chairman of the Leota township board of supervisors and has held the office four years. He served as township treasurer two years.

WILLIAM E. MADISON, mayor of Worthington, and member of the firm of Oliver & Madison, proprietor of the Worthington

meat market, has lived in Nobles county since he was three years old. He was born in Columbia county, Wis., April 16, 1868, the son of William and Sarah G. (Ellis) Madison. William Madison, Sr., was born in Lincoln, England, came to the United States in 1848, to Nobles county in 1871, and died in Wisconsin. Our subject's mother was also born in England. She now resides in Wisconsin.

On November 22, 1871, when the first Nobles county town was just being founded, the Madison family came to Worthington. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 4, Lorain township, a few miles northeast of the town, and that was the family home five years. The family home was then established in Worthington, where the elder Madison purchased the meat market then owned by Otis Bigelow. He conducted that until 1884, when he returned to his old home in Wisconsin. The subject of this sketch, however, remained in Worthington, and that has been his home ever since. He secured an education in the Worthington public schools, and during the last few years his father was in business there assisted in the shop. After Mr. Bigelow again entered into the butchering business Will Madison took a position with him, learned the butcher's trade, and, with the exception of a few years, has followed that occupation ever since. In the spring of 1892 Mr. Madison and William E. Oliver purchased the Bigelow market, and under the firm name of Oliver & Madison conducted the store until November, 1901, when they sold to E. L. Nance. Thereafter until Feb. 1, 1907, the partners were engaged in the stock business. Then they repurchased the meat market and have since been its proprietors.

Mr. Madison has taken an active part in village affairs, and on numerous occasions has been called to serve the city in an official capacity. He served as a member of the council in 1898-99-01 and 1905, was village recorder in 1904, and president of the council in 1906, and was again elected to that position in 1908.

At Lake Park, Iowa, on Oct. 15, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Madison to Clara C. Pearson. To them have been born two children—Marie and Helen.

P. F. NOLAN, farmer and stockraiser of Little Rock township, is a native of county Kildare, Ireland. He was born nineteen miles east of the city of Dublin on July 20, 1838. His parents, John and Mary (Brinnen) Nolan, both died in their native land.

Until he came to the United States in 1861 Mr. Nolan, after growing to manhood, worked on a stock farm and became very proficient in the care of stock. He located at Woburn Center, Middlesex county, Mass., in 1861 and learned the leather manufacturing trade, which he followed twenty years. During the last thirteen years of his residence in Woburn Center he was foreman in the plant in which he worked so long.

In 1881 he joined the Catholic colony and came to Nobles county. He purchased his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 17, Little Rock township, paying therefor \$6.50 per acre, and has ever since been engaged in farming. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred stock and has large numbers of cattle, hogs and horses. He is a member of the Catholic church of Ellsworth. For nine years he held the office of director of school district No. 13.

Mr. Nolan was married in Ireland Sept. 15, 1861, to Mary Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Nolan have been the parents of the following children: Mary Ellen (Mrs. Sylvester Jenkins), Sioux City, Iowa; Marcella (Mrs. Burnham Adams), Jackson, Tenn.; John (married Mary Smith, of Mankato), New Ulm, Minn.; Celia (deceased); Lizzie, Omaha, Neb.; James, at home; Gertrude (Mrs. Edward Blevins), Fairfax, Mo.; Margaret, Boise, Idaho; Josephine, at home; Frank, at home.

HENRY OLSON, retired farmer of Lisimore, was born in Norway April 5, 1853, the son of Ole Halvorson and Celia (Rasmuson) Halvorson. Our subject's father died in his native country in 1863 at the age of 60 years. His wife lived to the age of 90 years, dying in the old country in 1905.

Henry Olson emigrated to the United States in 1881 and during the first ten years lived in Grundy and adjoining counties in Illinois, engaged in tiling. He moved to Nobles county in 1891 and bought the



northeast quarter of section 28, Leota township, then unimproved, and for fourteen years made his home on the farm. He then rented his place and moved to Lismore, in the north addition to which place he owns 22½ acres. In addition to the home place Mr. Olson also owns the northwest quarter of section 34 and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 21, both in Leota township, making a total acreage of 400 acres.

Mr. Olson was married in Kendall county, Ill., Oct. 15, 1891, to Alice Heckerson, who was born in Norway Nov. 12, 1867, and who came to the United States with her parents when a child of thirteen years and located in Kendall county. Her father was Lars Heckerson, who died in Kendall county in 1893 at the age of 63 years. Her mother, Julia (Peterson) Heckerson, now lives at Big Grove, Kendall county, Ill., and is 77 years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Olson have been born four children: Celia, born Oct. 5, 1892; Lulu, born Sept. 25, 1897; Elmer, born Aug. 26, 1899; Mabel, born April 9, 1904.

The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lismore township, the church having been built through the instrumentality of Mr. Olson, Chris Nash and others. He was secretary of the church society ten years and is now a trustee. Mr. Olson was appointed administrator of the estate of the late Mrs. Sarah Olson, his wife's sister-in-law.

CHRIST NASH is one of the big grain and stock farmers of Lismore township and has made his home on his present farm twenty-eight years. He owns the northwest quarter of section 10 and the southwest quarter of section 3. When he bought his homestead right in 1880 there were no improvements on the place. He now has improvements valued at \$5,000 and has one of the many fine homes of Lismore township.

Christ Nash was born in Norway March 28, 1852, the son of Ole and Christina Nash. The father died in Norway about ten years ago, aged 70 years; the mother about eight years ago, aged 80 years. Christ is the youngest of a family of eight children, of whom the following six are living: Austin, Isabelle, Christina, Bertha, Annie Marie and

Christ. Two children, John and Ole, have died.

Our subject was educated in the common schools of his native land and lived on his father's farm until twenty years of age. He came to America in 1872 and settled in Lee county, Ill., where for eight years he engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1880 and bought a homestead relinquishment to his present farm, later buying the other quarter which he owns, and he has since been engaged in farming and stockraising. He raises pedigreed Short-horn cattle and lots of other stock.

Mr. Nash was married in Norway in February, 1886, to Miss Elizabeth Hague, having returned to his native land for his bride. Mrs. Nash is a daughter of Gilbert and Ragnhild Hague. Mr. and Mrs. Nash are the parents of the following named children: Otto, Gilbert, Christina, Regina, Lizzie, Clara and Arthur.

Mr. Nash is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, which was built upon land he donated ten years ago. He was one of the organizers of the church and it was largely through his activity that the church was built. When school district No. 78 was organized Mr. Nash was chosen treasurer of the district and served in that capacity eight years.

ESLER KENT SMITH, treasurer of Nobles county, resides at Worthington, and that city has been his home since he was a boy seven years old. His birthplace was Williamsfield, Ohio, and the date of his birth was March 3, 1867. His father, Samuel M. Smith, and his mother, Harriet O. (Kent) Smith, both natives of Ohio, are still living and reside at Omaha, Neb. The genealogy of both of the Smith and Kent families can be traced back to colonial times. The great grandfather of our subject on the maternal side was a veteran of the Revolutionary war.

Until he was five years of age Esler lived with his parents in the town of his birth and other villages in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. His father was a minister of the United Brethren church and changes in assignment to different pulpits caused the family to change their place of abode frequently.

Early in 1872 the family joined the National colony, which was then engaged in bringing settlers to Nobles county, and in May of that year arrived in Worthington. Arriving here, Mr. Smith was dissatisfied with the prospects, or rather, believed that he could do better elsewhere, and was induced to locate at Mountain Lake and removed to that place almost immediately after his arrival in Minnesota. There he took a homestead, but in March, 1874, returned to Worthington. Esler received his education in the public schools of that city, going through the graded and high school and finishing the course about 1883. But before he had quitted school he had started to learn the printer's trade. On the first day of April, 1880, he made the type click for the first time. This was in the office of the Worthington Journal, then published by Geo. Ogle. After five months' employment on that paper, he entered the employ of A. P. Miller, then the publisher of the Advance, with whom he remained until June 18, 1881.

On the last named date he was taken seriously sick, and for a long time was unable to engage in any kind of work. Recovering from his long illness, he again entered school. After quitting school in 1883, he worked at the printer's trade and for a short time was engaged with a surveying party. He continued to be a journeyman printer, working on various papers until 1893. On September 1 of that year, in company with Ernest Perry, he leased the Worthington Globe from Peter Thompson. Mr. Perry withdrew from the firm on the first day of the next year on account of ill health and died a few months later. Mr. Smith then took over the lease and continued to publish the paper until July 1, 1895. On November 1, of the same year, he purchased a one-half interest in the Worthington Herald from T. G. Nicholson and assumed the editorial management. In July of the next year he purchased the remaining interest and became the sole publisher. He continued to own and publish the Herald until November, 1904, when he sold to N. Weimant and entered upon his duties of county treasurer, to which office he had just been elected.

Mr. Smith was elected village recorder in 1897 and the following year was elected

member of the city council. He was elected county treasurer in November, 1904, and was reelected two years later, and is now serving on his second term. He is a republican and has always taken an active interest in Nobles county politics.

GEORGE W. DEALAND, after having spent many years of his life as an educator, came to Nobles county in 1895, purchased land in the southern part of Worthington township, and since that date has been engaged in farming.

He is a New Englander by birth, having been born in Carroll county, N. H., Dec. 21, 1850. His father, Thomas T. Dealand, was a native of the same state, and for many generations the Dealand family have resided there. His mother was Mary E. (Beals) Dealand, a native of Massachusetts, the Beals being among the early settlers of Massachusetts. Both his parents are dead.

Mr. Dealand spent his boyhood days in his native state, where he attended the public schools. He entered New Hampton academy, of New Hampton, N. H., from which he was graduated in 1874. He then entered a state normal school at Bridgewater, Mass., but before completing the course, when about 25 years of age, he removed to Indiana. There he became a student in the Indiana state normal school, and was graduated from that institution a few years later. Before removing from New England he had begun his career as an educator, having taught in graded schools in New Hampshire and Vermont for four or five years. After his graduation from the Indiana school he resumed his profession, and during the next fifteen years he was thus employed in schools in different parts of Indiana. During his residence in the Hoosier state he served from 1886 to 1890 as county superintendent of schools of Vermillion county.

While still residing in Indiana Mr. Dealand became acquainted with Nobles county, and before taking up his residence here had made several visits to his future home. In 1885 he purchased the southwest quarter of section 33, Worthington township, and a little later he bought 205 acres in section 31, of the same township. Besides these two properties Mr. Dealand now owns a small

tract in section 4, Bigelow township. Giving up his school work in 1895, he moved to Nobles county and has since made his home on his farm near Org.

While Mr. Dealand now devotes his energies to farming, he takes an active interest in politics and school matters. He has been a member of the board of supervisors of Worthington township for ten years, and with the exception of two years, was chairman of the board during that time. He has been clerk of school district No. 48 for the last six years. He is a member of the Masonic lodge of Worthington.

On August 1, 1893, occurred the marriage of Mr. Dealand to Amy Royse, daughter of Andrew J. Royse, of Indiana. They are the parents of two children, Alma L. and Mar-  
ian H., both of whom reside at home.

D. J. ANDRESEN is an Elk township farmer who was born near the city of Schleswig, Germany, (at the time, however, a part of Denmark) July 11, 1856. His father was Andreas Andresen, who died in his native land Oct. 18, 1891. His mother was Christina (Nissen) Andresen, who died in the old country in 1873.

The boyhood days of our subject were spent on the farm and securing a common school education. He learned the mason's trade and followed that occupation three years before coming to the United States. He arrived in the new world in March, 1883, and went first to Grundy county, Iowa. He was there only a few weeks and then moved to Tama county. For four years he worked at farm work for wages; then rented land and farmed for himself six years. In 1892 Mr. Andresen came to Nobles county and farmed one season in Summit Lake township. In January, 1893, he moved onto the northeast quarter of section 30, Elk township, which he had purchased in 1891, and has ever since made his home there.

Mr. Andresen was married Feb. 8, 1888, in Grundy county, Iowa, to Mary Paulsen, who was born in Germany Oct. 16, 1866, came to the United States and to Grundy county, Iowa, July 24, 1885, and made her home there until she came to Nobles county with her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Andresen are the parents of the following children,

all of whom are living at home: Annie, Henry, John, Willie, Carl, Christina, Hans, Rosa and Roland. They are members of the German Lutheran church of Rushmore. Mr. Andresen has served several years as director of school district No. 6, and for two years was road overseer.

HENRY HORNSTINE, Dewald township farmer, has resided in the county fourteen years. He is a German by birth, having been born in Hessen May 11, 1856, the son of John and Lizzie (Cloud) Hornstine. His mother died in 1874; his father in October, 1882.

The family came to America in the fall of 1865 and located in Lee county, Ill., and that was the home of our subject several years. Two years were spent in Marion county, Iowa and then for two years more the family resided in their old home in Illinois. During these years when he was growing to manhood Henry worked on the farm. In 1879 he went to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, and for one year was foreman of the Will ranch near that city—a ranch upon which were employed four hundred men. He then spent two years in Woodbury county, Iowa. He was married there April 24, 1880, to Minnie Wagner, a native of Germany. To them have been born the following children: Otto, who died when two years of age; Lizzie (Mrs. Edward Sanger), of Dewald township; John, Nellie, Frank, George, Bessie and Henry, all residing at home.

From Woodbury county Mr. Hornstine moved in 1881 to Plymouth county, Iowa, and there he resided two years. He then moved to Battle Creek, Madison county, Neb., where he farmed three years. Going thence to Keyapaha county, Neb., Mr. Hornstine took a homestead, upon which he lived and farmed eight years. He came to Nobles county in 1894 and located on the northeast quarter of section 26, Dewald, which land he rented. In 1898 he bought his present place—the southwest quarter of section 25, Dewald—and on it he has since made his home. In addition to his Nobles county property Mr. Hornstine owns a quarter section in Wilkin and a quarter section in Big Stone counties, Minn. He

raises considerable thoroughbred stock, having Shropshire sheep and Duroc-Jersey swine.

Mr. Hornstine has served as school clerk of district No. 97 for the past six or seven years, and has been road supervisor of the two districts in which he has resided. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge of Worthington.

WILLIAM W. LOVELESS, proprietor of a Worthington grocery store, has been a resident of that town since he was seventeen years of age. He was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., April 21, 1857, the son of Captain Charles B. and Mary C. (Page) Loveless.

In the county of his birth he was raised and received his primary education. He completed his education in the University of Kentucky, at Lexington, where he was a student during the years 1870 and 1871. He came to Worthington with his parents in 1872, arriving in that village on June 20. He spent the first five years working in his father's hotel and livery, and then for one year was manager of the Hotel Luverne. Returning to Worthington, he accepted a position as clerk in H. E. Torrance's store which he held six years.

After spending one year in Pueblo, Col., he returned to Worthington and managed the Lake View hotel until his father's death in December, 1890. In the fall of 1892 Mr. Loveless opened a grocery store, which he has ever since conducted. He erected a handsome brick block in 1900, in which his store has since been located.

Mr. Loveless was married at Worthington in April, 1885, to Miss Iva Belle Allen, a native of Ripon, Wis., and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Allen, of Worthington. They are the parents of the following children: Clifford, Arcoline, Willie D. and Mildred.

In religious, social and business matters Mr. Loveless has always taken a prominent part. He has been ruling elder of the Presbyterian church for many years, and during the last eight years has been superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school. He is a member of the prohibition party, and in 1902 was the nominee of his party for secretary of state. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens National Bank of Worthington.

JOHN CONDON (1839-1904) was for twenty-four years a resident of Grand Prairie township and Ellsworth village. He was born in Ireland in 1839, and came to the United States when a young man. His home was in Boston until 1880, when he became a member of Bishop Ireland's colony and came to Nobles county.

Arriving in this county, he at once purchased from the colony managers the northwest quarter of section 29, Grand Prairie, and that was his home until his death, which occurred in 1904. His wife was Margaret Condon, whom he married in Boston. She was born in Ireland and died at the family home in Grand Prairie township in 1901, aged 65 years. Mr. and Mrs. Condon were the parents of six children, all of whom are living. They are James, Niel, George, W. J., Mary (Mrs. Mike Hollaren) and Bridget (Mrs. C. A. Bird). The sons all make their home on the home place; the daughters reside in Ellsworth. George Condon owns the home quarter, James owns the northeast quarter of section 31, and W. J. owns the southwest quarter of section 19, all in Grand Prairie.

GEORGE ASQUITH has made his home in Larkin township during the last twenty-two years and is one of the older settlers of that precinct. He owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 7 and also has residence property in the village of Lismore.

Mr. Asquith was born in Huron county, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 26, 1861, the son of George and Elizabeth (Kilbern) Asquith. His parents were English, but came to Canada about 1858. The father, who was a sailor, was born in 1828 and died April 6, 1907. The mother died in Ontario in 1893.

Until he was 22 years of age George Asquith lived in Ontario, in the vicinity of his birth place. At the age of twelve years he began working in a saw mill, packing shingles. Later he was given a position as engineer, and during the last six years of his residence in Canada was so employed. Leaving Canada, Mr. Asquith went to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where for thirteen years he was employed as a farm laborer. In the fall of 1885 he bought one eighty of his present farm, which was

then raw prairie land, paying therefore \$7.50 per acre, and in 1886 he moved onto the land. Later he bought the other eighty acres of his farm, for which he paid \$10.00 per acre. Ever since his arrival so many years ago Mr. Asquith has resided on his farm, having seen the country advance from a trackless prairie to a fine farming country. He engages in stock raising extensively, raising Poland-China hogs, Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Plymouth Rock chickens.

During the first three years of his residence in the county Mr. Asquith lived the life of a bachelor. On July 30, 1889, at Acadian he was united in marriage to Annie Whalen, who was born in Kings county, Ireland, in 1861 and who came to the United States when sixteen years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Asquith are members of the Catholic church of Lismore. During the last eight years he has served as assessor of Larkin township.

OLLIE B. BRATAGER, postmaster of Lismore and proprietor of that village's leading merchantile establishment, is a native of Jackson county, Minnesota, and the son of the late Lars I. and Bertha Bratager.

The father of our subject was born in Norway in 1833, came to the United States in 1863, and located in Wisconsin. In 1865 he moved to Jackson county, Minnesota, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of our neighboring county. His home was in Jackson county until his death in 1905. Mrs. Bratager died in Jackson county, when her son was twelve years of age. Ollis is the youngest of a family of six children, all living.

Until he was eighteen years of age Mr. Bratager lived in his native county. He was educated in the public schools, finishing his schooling with a course in the Sioux Falls Business college. In 1894, in partnership with George Chisholm, he engaged in the merchantile business at Beaver Creek, Minn. The partners conducted the store until 1898, when Mr. Bratager sold out to his partner and moved to Sherman, S. D. There he opened a general merchandise store, which he conducted a year and a half, serving as postmaster of Sherman during the greater part of the time.

When the new town of Lismore started

in the spring of 1900 Mr. Bratager was one of the first business men to come to the site of the new town, arriving there in the month of April. When he bought the lot where his store was erected the site of the town was a plowed field, and when he erected his store building it was the second one in the village. He opened his store on July 6, 1900, and has conducted it ever since. He carries a stock of general merchandise valued at from \$8,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Bratager received the appointment of postmaster of the village when the office was established, opened the office on September 22, 1900, and has served ever since.

In the city of Minneapolis, on Dec. 18, 1891, Mr. Bratager was married to Miss Bertha Welliver, a native of Independence, Iowa, and a daughter of Francis Welliver. They are the parents of the following named children: Grace Beatrice, born Oct. 2, 1892; Lillian Fedora, born May 12, 1898; Gladys Wenefred, born March 24, 1901; Orlando Burdett, born Jan. 5, 1906.

Mr. Bratager was one of those who in the summer of 1900 brought about the organization of the Lismore school district, and he was chosen a member of the board, serving three years. He served three years as a member of the city council. Mr. Bratager is a member of the Odd Fellows, Woodmen and Workmen lodges, having been a member of the last named order for the last fifteen years.

Mr. Bratager assisted in the work of incorporating the village at a time when the place was so small that it was necessary to take in five square miles of the surrounding farming country in order to get sufficient population to incorporate. The farmers consented to this movement on the promise that the town's limits would be cut down and reincorporated as soon as the population would justify such a course. In just one year this promise was fulfilled, and the limits of the village were reduced to less than one-half section.

THOMAS H. HAGGE has been engaged in farming in Elk township twenty-one years, his present farm being the northwest quarter of section 26, which is a finely improved tract of land. Mr. Hagge was born in Prussia Nov. 4, 1867, the son of Klaus

and Katie (Kuhl) Hagge. His father died in Benton county, Iowa, June 9, 1902; his mother died in 1884.

Mr. Hagge's boyhood days were spent in his native land. There he secured a common school education and assisted with the work on his father's farm. In 1883 he came to the United States and located in Benton county, Iowa, where he lived four years, working for wages at farm work. He then came to Nobles county (1887), traded a threshing machine for a piece of land in Elk township, and that township has been his home ever since. He purchased his present place a few years ago. During the last nine years he has served as treasurer of school district No. 6, and for the last five years has been a member of the township board.

On March 17, 1889, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hagge to Miss Ida Dohlheim, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dohlheim, of Elk township. To them have been born three children, all living at home. They are Henry C., John H., and Arma.

MILTON P. MANN, real estate dealer, Worthington, is one of the pioneer residents of Nobles county, having lived here for thirty-five years. He was born in Fulton county, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1857, the son of James A. and Mary J. (Stillwell) Mann, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The father died at Worthington in 1874; the mother is still living in Portland, Oregon.

During the first ten years of his life Milton Mann lived in the county of his birth, removing with his parents in 1867 to Bedford county, in the same state. There, at the town of Everett, he began his schooling. The family came west a few years later, arriving in the little village of Worthington in March, 1873. For two years after the arrival in Nobles county Milton lived with his parents on a farm in Lorain township. Then he moved to Worthington, and that city has been his place of residence ever since. He attended the Worthington public school and for a time was a student at the Worthington seminary, that institution of higher learning established by Prof. R. E. Humiston, at about the time he founded the city of Worthington.

In 1876 our subject entered the employ of Daniel Shell, who was at that time proprietor of the Worthington hotel, and for five years was clerk at that famous hostelry. Then, in 1881, he became an employe of the Nobles County Bank, whose president was then Peter Thompson. During the next fourteen years of his life he was identified with that institution, for a time as bookkeeper, and later as cashier. After the failure of the bank—the result of the panic of 1893—Mr. Mann took a prominent part in the reorganization of the institution.

After severing his connection with the banking business in 1895 he and Daniel Shell founded the real estate firm of Shell & Mann, which had an existence of eleven years. In 1906 the firm was dissolved and Mr. Mann has since that time conducted a real estate office for himself.

Mr. Mann was elected city treasurer of Worthington in 1892 and was reelected the following year. In 1903 and 1904 he served as a member of the city council, and in 1904 and 1905 he was a member of the school board of independent district No. 5.

His marriage to Millic Montgomery occurred at Worthington on December 4, 1883. Four children have blessed this union, namely: Clinton L., James M., Grace VanEtten and Genevieve Orlina, all of whom are living at Worthington. Mr. Mann is an active church worker and has been a member of the Congregational church of Worthington since January, 1875.

PHILIP ANTON (1854-1896). Prominent in business and social circles and held in high esteem by all his neighbors and associates was Philip Anton, who lived in Worthington and the vicinity from 1886 till his death in 1896. He was born at Germantown, Wis., August 27, 1854, and was of German descent. His father, Philip Anton, was a native of Grundersblum, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, where he was born April 20, 1826. He emigrated to the United States in 1848. His wife, and the mother of Philip Anton of this sketch, was Elizabeth Magdalena (Harman) Anton.

The Antons moved from Wisconsin to Blackhawk county, Iowa, when the late Philip Anton was a child, and in the vi-

cinity of Laporte he was raised and grew to manhood. Until his twenty-third year he was employed on his father's farm, then he moved onto one of his father's places and began farming for himself. In the spring of 1886 he sold out his interests in Iowa and came to Nobles county. He purchased a farm in Worthington township, one and one-half miles south of the village of Worthington, and for several years devoted his energies to farming.

In 1890 he took up his residence in Worthington and accepted a position with the Farmers' Mercantile Co., and continued with that firm several years, until the firm failed. He then accepted a position with the Union Mercantile Co., of which Chas. Salstrom was manager, and continued with that firm until his death, September 15, 1896.

Mr. Anton was married in 1877 to Elizabeth Pfeil, who survives her husband and lives on the home place south of Worthington. To them were born five children: Nellie, who died in infancy; Jennie (Mrs. John Apel), Elk township; Lilly (Mrs. Otto Schmuser), Lake Park, Iowa; Charlie, born Sept. 11, 1886, now engaged in farming the home place; Walter, born September 27, 1888, residing in Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Anton was prominent in church work. He became a member of the Evangelical Association while living in Iowa, and he was one of the founders of the church of that denomination in Worthington.

HARRY R. TRIPP is register of deeds of Nobles county, and resides at the county seat, his home having been at Round Lake prior to his election. He was born at Liscomb, Marshall county, Iowa, May 12, 1871. His father, David Tripp, a native of New York, died August 14, 1889. His mother, Emily R. (Mayo) Tripp, also a native of New York, is still living, her home being at Round Lake.

Harry spent his boyhood days in the town of his birth, attending the public schools of Liscomb until 15 years of age. On August 2, 1886, he came to Nobles county for the first time, remained here only until Sept. 22, of the same year, then went back to his old home and almost immediately left for Chicago. There he remained nearly three years, most of the time working for

his father in the drayage business and in a grocery store. During six months of the time he was in Chicago he attended a private school of telegraphy.

He came to Nobles county to live in August, 1889, locating at Round Lake. There, under his brother, E. A. Tripp, he finished learning telegraphy, and until 1892 was employed in the Round Lake depot. In August, 1892, he accepted a position as station agent and telegraph operator on the B. C. R. & N. at Harris, Iowa. In January, 1893, he was transferred to the station at West Bend, Iowa, which he resigned the next month on account of ill health. Mr. Tripp then returned to Round Lake, where he was engaged in the hay business until July 29, 1897, when he met with an accident that resulted in the loss of one of his limbs. As soon as he was able (in the fall of 1897) he took employment as bookkeeper for H. C. Moeller, then engaged in the lumber, grain and coal business at Round Lake. He was with Mr. Moeller until January, 1900. During the summer of that year he engaged in farming, and the next winter clerked in the general merchandise store of Grant & Johnson at Round Lake. From the spring of 1902 till the fall of 1903 he was engaged in farming and other occupations. He then took charge of E. A. Tripp's stock farm in the village of Round Lake, which he conducted one year. He began work in September, 1904, in the general merchandise store of Chas. Nienaber, Round Lake, which position he held two years.

Harry Tripp was nominated by primary election, in September, 1906, on the republican ticket for the office of register of deeds, and was elected at the general election the following November. Besides the office he now holds he has been assessor of Round Lake village and Indian Lake township for several years.

His marriage to Miss Lillie Erskine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Erskine, pioneer settlers of Nobles county, occurred January 5, 1893. Miss Erskine was born in Indian Lake township. To Mr. and Mrs. Tripp have been born four daughters and one son—Gladys, Joy, Marjorie, Emma and Hugh Marvel, all of whom are living.

Mr. Tripp is a member of the Odd Fellows and A. O. U. W. lodges of Worthington.

BERMAN A. LAIS is one of the pioneer settlers of Willmont township and is one of the precinct's extensive land owners, farmers and stock raisers. Mr. Lais is a native of Germany. He was born Sept. 19, 1846, the youngest of a family of three children. His father was a linen weaver, Herman Lais by name, who died in Germany at the age of 72 years. Our subject's mother was Rosa (Schelshorn) Lais. She died in Germany Sept. 2, 1852, aged 42 years.

In his native land Mr. Lais learned the shoemaker's trade, which occupation he followed several years. He came to America in 1873 and located at St. Charles, Minn., where for six years he worked at his trade. During the month of April, 1879, he came to Adrian, and his home has been in Nobles county ever since. In company with Conrad B. Keller Mr. Lais opened a shoe store in the little west end village, which was conducted under the firm name of Lais & Keller until the fall of 1886. Upon his arrival to the county, Mr. Lais took as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 8, Willmont township, and preempted the northwest quarter of the same section, and in 1885 he moved onto the farm. He has since acquired other land until today he owns 720 acres, all in a body in Willmont township. He raises stock extensively and breeds Galloway cattle.

Mr. Lais was married at St. Charles, Minn., in June, 1874, to Miss Mary Keller, also a native of Germany. She died at St. Charles in September, 1877, after having borne him two children, of whom one, Alfonso, is living, residing at Templeton, Iowa.

The second marriage of Mr. Lais occurred at St. Charles Sept. 7, 1879, when he was wedded to Mrs. Speeter, a native of Wisconsin. To them have been born the following children: Felix, Emil, Edmund, Marcus, Gregor, Henry, Joseph and Helena. By her former marriage Mrs. Lais is the mother of two sons, Frank and George Speeter. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian.

For many years Mr. Lais served as chairman of the board of supervisors of Willmont township. He has been treasurer of school district 67 since its organization in 1887.

C. A. BIRD, cashier of the First National Bank of Ellsworth, has resided in that village twelve years, and during that time has taken a prominent part in the business affairs of the town. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born at Fountain, in Fillmore county, July 18, 1869, one of a family of ten children, all living.

Our subject's father was John Bird, who was born in Quebec, Canada, but who came to the states when a young man and located at Joliet, Ill. Thereafter he resided in Iowa, eastern Minnesota, and finally in Cherokee county, Iowa, where he died about 1888, aged 55 years. The mother of Mr. Bird of this sketch is Ann (McNally) Bird, who now lives at Marcus, Iowa, and is 70 years of age. She was born in Ireland, but came to America when two years of age.

The family moved from Minnesota to Marcus, Iowa, when C. A. Bird was five years of age. In that town he secured his public school education, later taking a course at a business college in Omaha, Neb. He taught several terms of school at Marcus and then took a position with the Walter A. Wood Harvesting Co., at Omaha, with which firm he was connected three years. He then returned to Marcus and resumed his profession of teaching, which he followed till 1896. That year he came to Nobles county and took up his residence in Ellsworth. In partnership with a brother, W. G. Bird, he engaged in the saloon business three years. In 1899 he opened a real estate office, which he conducted until September, 1900. At that time the First National Bank was organized and Mr. Bird entered the bank as assistant cashier. Three months later he was made cashier, which position he has since held. The bank has a capital stock of Porter, president; T. M. Williams, vice president; \$25,000 and has the following officers: James dent; C. A. Bird, cashier; E. L. Tschirgi, assistant cashier.

Mr. Bird was married in Ellsworth Jan. 25, 1899, to Miss Brigie Condon, a native of Boston, Mass., and a daughter of John Condon, one of the early settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Bird are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth. He is a member of the M. W. A. and Knights of Columbus lodges, the latter at Sioux Falls.



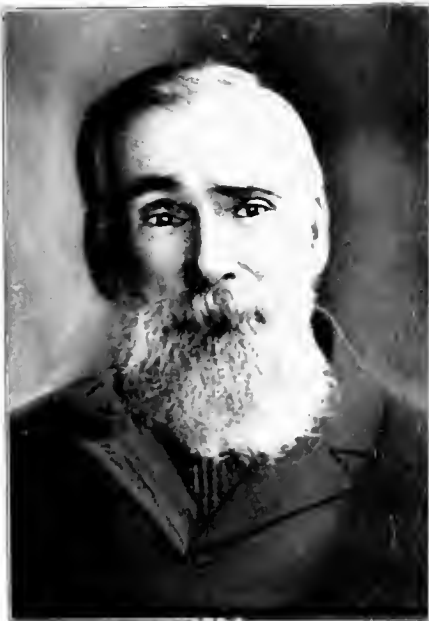




STEPHEN MUCK (1848-1897)  
Nobles County's First Settler.



STEPHEN MILLER (1816-1881)  
Minnesota's War Governor.



HENRY BRAYTON (1832-1906)  
A Pioneer of 1869.



WILLIAM DWYER  
First Settler of Lorain Township.

HENRY BRAYTON (1832-1906) belonged preeminently to that class of sturdy pioneers who are fast passing to the great beyond and who are leaving us such a rich heritage in the memory of their unselfish lives. No one of the earlier settlers of Nobles county was held in higher esteem than was he. When he took up his residence on the bank of Indian lake on Sept. 29, 1869, there were very few white people living in the county and what few there were lived in a community on Graham lakes. Camped all around his place on the lake were Indians, who made their living by trapping; in order to secure lumber for his house it was necessary to haul the lumber from Mankato; Mrs. Brayton was the only white woman within a radius of many miles; for a time the family was cut off entirely from associates. We of this day can hardly imagine the conditions as they existed during the period of very early settlement of Nobles county. Then a treeless, unimproved, trackless prairie, almost uninhabited; now a rich, fertile country inhabited by thousands of thrifty inhabitants, with towns, villages, churches, school houses, and farm houses everywhere. Surely the change wrought in less than forty years has been marvelous! It is of the life of one of the men who brought these conditions about that we are permitted to write, in a space all too brief to do justice to his memory.

Henry Brayton was born in Washington county, New York, March 6, 1832, and his early youth was spent among the pioneers of western New York, in Erie county, near Buffalo. He was destined to spend most of his early life as a pioneer, and in 1853 he moved to Delaware county, Iowa, with the first settlement of that community. When he arrived there there was not a mile of railroad nearer than Rockford, Ill. In that early day he established a boot, shoe and harness shop at Delhi, and in that frontier village he lived for about fifteen years. From that point he enlisted in 1861 as regimental musician under Col. Peters, and served until discharged on account of sickness. In 1868 he again determined to push out into the frontier, and located near Humboldt, Kansas. There he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. But the

ague attacked the family and he was obliged to leave the country.

In a search for a healthful country he came to Spirit Lake, Iowa, making the trip by team. There he learned of the new country lying to the north, just over the line in Minnesota, where a few people had been and taken claims. About the middle of May, 1869, he drove up to Indian lake, liked the looks of the country, and decided to make his future home there. On Sept. 29, 1869, he filed a soldier's claim to land on the west shore of Indian lake—land which was his home for thirty-seven years, and where his widow still resides. Hauling lumber from Mankato, he built a frame house, one of, if not the, first frame houses erected in Nobles county. When the county was organized in the fall of 1870 he took a prominent part in the work, and took his place as one of the prominent men of the new county. He was elected to the office of county treasurer in the fall of 1871 and served one term when the county seat was in Graham Lakes township. He helped to organize Indian Lake township and for many years was township treasurer. After the pioneer days he did not take a very active part in politics, but devoted his energies to the improvement of his home. He resided on his farm on Indian lake until his death, which occurred April 15, 1906.

Mr. Brayton was married at Chicago, Ill., Sept. 28, 1865, to Miss Celestia A. Clough, of Concord, N. H., where she was born and raised, the date of her birth being July 26, 1852. Miss Clough belonged to one of the prominent New England families and received a good education. She was a talented singer, and for one year was engaged in singing in the Presbyterian church of Concord, of which Dr. Theo. Parker was the pastor. For these services she received a salary of \$1,500 a year. Occasionally Henry Ward Beecher exchanged pulpits with Dr. Parker, and Mrs. Brayton knew that eminent divine personally. She was also intimately acquainted with Harriet Beecher Stowe, that lady boarding at the Clough home while she was engaged in writing that great American novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

To Mr. and Mrs. Brayton were born three children, Matt Brayton, who lives on the home place, and a sketch of whose life

appears elsewhere in this volume; Luma, who died when one year of age; and Bert Cough Brayton, who died June 1, 1907. Bert Brayton was born and raised in Nobles county and was held in high esteem by all his associates. He was a natural musician, being master of the violin, mandolin and guitar. He was the organizer of a band of twenty pieces and was its leader.

JOHN SAXON, a retired farmer of Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county. He was born in Sweden November 18, 1845, the son of John and Christine Saxon. The family came to America in 1852 and located at Moline, Ill. Two years later they moved to Fulton, Ill., and there the next year both parents died.

Our subject continued to live in Fulton until 1864, when he moved to Winona, Minn. He entered the union army in February, 1864, and served until the close of the war, most of his service being in North Carolina. Near Winona he lived practically all the time from the close of the war until his arrival in Nobles county early in 1872, working on a farm.

From St. James he came to Worthington by stage, and on February 7, 1872, filed a homestead claim to the southwest quarter of section 30, Indian Lake township. He came with his brother, Charles Saxon, Jerry Haines and a Mr. Perkins. All four took claims, but the two last named abandoned them and soon moved away. On his Indian Lake homestead, Mr. Saxon lived, engaged in farming, until May, 1907, when he rented the farm to his nephew, Wallace Saxon, and moved to Worthington, since which time he has lived a life of retirement. During the year 1908 he erected a home in the city.

Mr. Saxon was married August 13, 1880, to Miss Martha Johnson in Worthington. She, also, is a native of Sweden. She came to the United States with her father, Louis Johnson, in the fall of 1878. Her father took a homestead claim on section 20, Indian Lake township, and still resides there with his wife. Both are 81 years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Saxon have been born five children: Unda (Mrs. Andrew Christianson), of Denver, Colorado; George, of Worthington; Violet, Ethel and Earl.

For several years Mr. Saxon served as director of the school district in which he lived in Indian Lake township and was road overseer for a number of years. For three years Mr. Saxon was postmaster of the Saxon postoffice, situated on his farm. It was discontinued upon the advent of rural free delivery.

WILLIAM E. BLOOM, of Worthington, ranks among the early settlers of Nobles county, having resided here permanently since 1873. He is a native of Green county, Wis., where he was born Oct. 19, 1860, the son of Fred and Mary Ann (Robey) Bloom. His mother died in 1868, and his father is now in the mercantile business at Woodstock, Minn.

Fred Bloom, our subject's father, was one of the prominent citizens of the county in the early days. He was a native of Switzerland, but came to America when twelve years of age, and went from New York to Milwaukee, Wis., by way of the Erie canal and the great lakes. He settled in Rock county, Wis., but remained there only a few years, and then went to Green county, where he was married. In 1873 he came to Nobles county and took as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 32, Seward township, where he resided many years. He took an active part in politics, and in 1878 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, later being chosen chairman of the board. He served an unexpired term as superintendent of schools, receiving the appointment in 1882.

William E. Bloom lived on his father's farm in Seward sixteen years, and then moved to Worthington, where he has since resided. During nearly all of this time he has been engaged in the house moving business, and has built up a lucrative business, his work calling him to all parts of southwestern Minnesota. Mr. Bloom is a member of Fraternity lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., and during the years 1906 and 1907 was Worshipful Master.

On July 24, 1881, Mr. Bloom was married at Worthington to Estellah Parshall, daughter of James Parshall, an early settler of Seward township. To them have been born five children: Ethel, born Aug. 24, 1882; George, born June 14, 1885; Harry

born Feb. 1, 1887; William, born Jan. 16, 1894; Barbara Catherine, born Oct. 2, 1898.

ASMUS NAZARENUS, Elk township farmer, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Jan. 8, 1857. His father was Peter Nazarenus, who died in Koppeln, Germany, in August, 1901, aged 68 years. His mother was Christina (Schmoek) Nazarenus, who died in 1869, aged 34 years.

In his native country Mr. Nazarenus resided until 25 years of age and engaged in farm work. He came to the new world, arriving in New York city Feb. 22, 1882, and located at Luzerne, Benton county, Iowa. There for two and one-half years he worked for wages at farm work, and then moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Near that city he resided two and one-half years, for a short time working for wages, the rest of the time farming on shares. He moved to Plymouth county and there farmed three years. In 1889 Mr. Nazarenus came to Nobles county and bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 13, Elk township, and engaged in farming. Three years after his arrival he purchased the other eighty acres of the quarter, and in 1896 he purchased the northeast quarter of section 24, making a half section in one body he now owns. Until February, 1903, he lived on the farm; then he moved to Worthington, where he resided one and a half years. He then erected his buildings on his property on section 24, and has since been engaged in farming it.

Mr. Nazarenus was married in Benton county, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1883, to Emma Jannar, who was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, and who came to the United States in January, 1883. They are the parents of the following children: Johannes, born June 13, 1885, now farming in Elk township; Annie, born June 5, 1887, now of Watertown, S. D.; Alfred, born April 3, 1896, now residing at home. Mr. and Mrs. Nazarenus are members of the German Lutheran church of Brewster.

ROBERT J. JONES, president of the State Bank of Reading, was one of the first settlers of that little village and erected the first business house in the town. He has taken an active part in the affairs of the

village, and is interested in several business enterprises besides his banking business.

Mr. Jones was born in Iowa county, Wis., Sept. 18, 1869. His father was David J. Jones, a native of Wales, who died in 1889. His mother, Mary J. (Jones) Jones, was born in Wisconsin and is still living. The family moved to a farm near Sibley, Iowa, in 1873, and there the subject of this biography was raised. He secured an education in the country schools of Osceola county and in Hull (Iowa) academy, where he took a two-year business course. In 1888 the family moved to Ocheyedon, Iowa, where Mr. Jones, Sr., engaged in the mercantile business. Robert managed the store until 1890.

For two years thereafter he taught a country school, and in 1892 took employment with the Porter Lumber company, of Ocheyedon, with which firm he continued until 1898, being bookkeeper and assistant cashier. He next entered the newspaper business, managing the Ocheyedon Press until the fall of 1899, when he disposed of his interest and moved to Nobles county. During his residence in Ocheyedon he served three years as village clerk and two years as assessor. Upon his arrival in Nobles county he went at once to the site selected for the town of Reading, on the new railroad, erected the first building in the village, and engaged in the hardware and lumber business. He remained in the lumber business three years and ran the hardware store until 1906. He was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Reading, which opened its doors August 2, 1902, was elected president at that time, and still holds the office. He took the active management of the bank in the fall of 1904. He was appointed postmaster in February, 1904, and served three years. He is secretary and general manager of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Co., a corporation with a paid-up capital of \$9,000.

Besides his business interests, Mr. Jones has time to devote to public and social matters. He has been town clerk of Summit Lake township since 1901, and for two years was a director of school district No. 7. He is a member of the Masonic lodge of Worthington, the M. W. A. and Yeomen of Reading, and of the Reading Presbyterian church.

Mr. Jones was married at Ocheyedon,

Iowa, April 21, 1897, to Jean A. Woodworth, daughter of C. Woodworth, of that city. They are the parents of two children, a daughter, Mary Gladys, and an infant son.

**HENRY SCHINKEL.** One of the well known Dewald township farmers is Henry Schinkel, whose place is the southeast quarter of section 11. He owns in addition 260 acres in section 12 and 527 acres in Pope county, Minn., which latter he purchased in 1892.

Mr. Schinkel was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Jan. 3, 1871. His father, Andrew Schinkel, was born in Germany Sept. 4, 1824. The elder Schinkel came to the United States when 21 years of age, lived here 6 years and then returned to his native country, where he resided sixteen years. Coming to America again in 1869, he made this country his home until his death, which occurred at Worthington March 14, 1896. The mother of our subject was Mary (Klie) Schinkel. She was born in Germany Oct. 2, 1828, and died in Grundy county, Iowa, Aug. 6, 1889.

Until he was twenty years of age Henry Schinkel lived on his father's farm in Grundy county, Iowa, securing a common school education and assisting in farm work. In 1891 he came with his father to Nobles county and for a short time resided on the farm in Dewald township. When he became of age the next year he went to Colorado Springs, Colo., and there he was employed in mining and other occupations for two years. Returning to Nobles county, he took charge of his father's farm and managed that for six years. After his father's death in 1896 he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the home farm, and latter purchased the other property which he now owns. For a few years he turned the management of the farm over to a renter, and for about one year of this time resided in Pope county, Minn., looking after his business interests there. He again took possession of his Dewald township farm in 1903, and that has since been his home.

Mr. Schinkel was married at Worthington Nov. 11, 1902, to Lizzie Baker, daughter of Geo. Baker. Mrs. Schinkel was born in Chicago. To this union has been born one child Millie born Feb. 11, 1904.

**CASPER BECKER.** Larkin township farmer, has resided in Nobles county twenty-three years. He was born near the city of Pardelborn, in Westfallen, Prussia, Sept. 3, 1861, the son of Manuel and Elizabeth (Theala) Becker. Both parents died in their native land, the father Sept. 27, 1877, aged 70 years, the mother in 1898, aged 68 years.

Casper Becker lived in Germany twenty-four years. He was town raised and when fifteen years of age he started learning the shoemaker's trade, which he followed until the fall of 1881. He entered the German army Nov. 9, 1881, and served at Kihl, on the Rhine, until his discharge Sept. 21, 1884.

The following spring Mr. Becker sailed for America, arriving in New York on May 1, with two companions, Frank Wipperman and A. Becker. He came west direct and arrived in the little village of Adrian on May 5. During the first two months after his arrival he worked at odd jobs for his board, and then put in two weeks working on the railroad. He then worked for Mr. Nyens in Little Rock township for three months and thereby earned \$75. After six weeks spent with a threshing crew, he secured steady employment with Joseph Mulroy, in Lisimore township, and worked on one farm one year.

This brings him up to the date of his marriage, which occurred at Adrian on Nov. 27, 1886, when he wedded France Goke, who was born in Germany in 1861 and who came to the United States in May, 1886. To them have been born the following children: Mary Katie, born Oct. 7, 1887; John, born Aug. 29, 1889; Elizabeth Katie, born Dec. 23, 1890; Frances, born Nov. 23, 1891; Frank, born March, 1894, died September, 1894; John Casper, born Jan. 6, 1896; Lizzie, born Sept. 30, 1898.

After his marriage Mr. Becker took employment on the railroad, and was a section man from 1886 to 1890. He then rented land on section 18, Larkin township, which he farmed five years. The next eight years he farmed rented land on section 20, of the same township. He then moved onto his present farm, the southeast quarter of section 16, Larkin, and has since been engaged in farming it. He had bought eighty acres of his farm in 1891; the other eighty in 1900. He erected the buildings when he moved on in 1903.

Mr. Becker is a member of the Catholic church of St. Kilian and of St. Joseph's society of Adrian. He has had lots of sickness and has seen many hard times during his residence in Nobles county, but he has weathered all the storms of adversity and is now in prosperous circumstances.

THOMAS LARKIN owns a 200-acre farm in Grand Prairie town-ship, a short distance east of Ellsworth, upon which he has lived continuously twenty-eight years. He is a native of county Galway, Ireland, and was born Nov. 28, 1848. His parents were John and Ellen (Ryan) Larkin, both of whom died in Illinois, the father in 1874, at the age of 58 years, the mother in 1889, aged 65 years.

Thomas Larkin arrived in the United States March 25, 1855, and for many years lived near Streator, Ill. That was his home until 1880, with the exception of four years, two of which were spent in Texas and two in Missouri. He came to Nobles county in September, 1880, and bought the farm on which he now lives. The place was then unimproved; today he has an elegant home and a finely improved farm.

The marriage of Mr. Larkin occurred in LaSalle county, Ill. He was married Feb. 15, 1882, to Mary Ann Rohan, who was born in LaSalle county in 1852. To them have been born four children: John, born June 4, 1884; Charlie, born July 10, 1890; Winnie, born May 3, 1886; Annie, born Aug. 3, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Larkin are members of the Catholic church.

FRED SCHMITZ is one of the successful farmers of Willmont town-ship. His farm consists of 240 acres of land on sections 28 and 29, upon which he has lived for more than a quarter of a century. He is a German by birth, having been born in Cologne Sept. 14, 1852. His father, Peter Schmitz, was born in 1812 and died in Germany Nov. 3, 1880. His mother, Agnes (Paas) Schmitz, was born in 1820 and died in September, 1902.

During the first thirty years of his life Fred Schmitz lived on his father's farm in Germany. Excluded from this should be

the years 1872-75, when he was with the German army stationed at Posen. As a result of the advertising of the Catholic colony company, which settled western Nobles county, Mr. Schmitz decided to leave his native country and seek a home in Nobles county, Minnesota, about which the advertising told in such glowing terms. It was on the 24th day of July, 1882, that Mr. Schmitz landed in New York and five days later when he arrived in Adrian. He at once bought the southwest quarter of section 28, Willmont town-ship,—the homestead of Daniel Fritz—paying for that and two yoke of oxen the sum of \$450. Upon that land he builded his home, and there he has resided ever since. He added to his real estate holdings by the purchase of the south half of the southeast quarter of section 29 in 1890.

In the business and political life of the community in which he lives Mr. Schmitz has always taken an important part. He is clerk of school district No. 66, and has held the office fifteen years. For seven or eight years he served as a member of the Willmont board of supervisors. In company with Emil Graf and Roman Hartman, Mr. Schmitz some twelve years ago organized the Willmont Fire Insurance company, one of the strong financial concerns of Nobles county. Mr. Schmitz has held the office of director of the company ever since it was organized. The company does practically all of the fire insurance business in seventeen townships in Nobles, Rock and Murray counties.

Mr. Schmitz was married in Adrian Jan. 11, 1886, to Mary Studeny, born in Minneapolis Nov. 1, 1868. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Studeny. Her father died in 1902, her mother in 1905. To Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz have been born the following children, all of whom live at home: Fred W., born Aug. 17, 1888; Peter Joseph, born May 1, 1890; Josephine Maria, born April 17, 1892; Lizzie Kolp, born Dec. 30, 1894; William John, born July 9, 1897; Joseph Peter, born August 9, 1900; Mary Theresia, born July 25, 1903; Lena Maria, born Dec. 1, 1905; John, born May 1, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian.

OLOF G. GRUNDSTEN, of Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having arrived here in the spring of 1872, and having ever since made his home in Worthington.

Mr. Grundsten was born in Offerdal, Jemtland län, Sweden, March 9, 1837, and lived in his native land until 33 years of age. He received his education in his native country, and after growing to manhood learned the trade of painter, which he followed many years. He was married June 9, 1861, to Miss Sophia U. Larson. To them were born two children, both of whom died. Nels died at the age eight months, and Emma Louisa when six years, nine months and one day old, on May 12, 1878.

In 1870 Mr. Grundsten came to the United States and located at Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa, where for two years he worked at his trade. Many settlers of Allamakee county had come, and were coming, to the new country of Nobles county, and the subject of this sketch decided to make his future home in the land of promise. He arrived in Worthington on May 2, 1872, coming on the second passenger train that ran into Worthington in the spring of 1872. In the frontier town he worked at his trade for several years. In 1886 he organized the Swedish Mercantile company (later reorganized as the Hub Mercantile company), one of the best known mercantile firms of the city, and for about seventeen years was its president. He still owns stock in the company. For several years he was grain buyer and manager for the same company's elevator. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens National Bank, serving as trustee for two years, and now holds the office of vice president, and has been identified with other business enterprises in Worthington. Since 1903 he has not participated actively in business, and lives a retired life. He owns 160 acres of land in Indian Lake township, which he preempted in 1873, and a fine residence in the city, where he and his wife reside.

Mr. Grundsten served the city in an official capacity many years. He was a member of the board of trustees in 1882, 1883, 1896 and 1897, and was assessor from 1884 to 1888, inclusive, and in 1892. He is a member of the Masonic and the A. O. U. W. lodges.

HUGH MITCHELL. One of the pioneers of Nobles county and of Bigelow township is Hugh Mitchell, who came with the colonists of 1872 and who has been engaged in farming ever since. He was born in the state of New York Jan. 20, 1849, the son of John and Sarah (Voorhees) Mitchell, both natives of New York state. In his native state Mr. Mitchell resided until he came to Nobles county in the spring of 1872. He homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 18, Bigelow township, and on that farm made his home until March, 1908, when he rented the farm to his son-in-law, Victor Gustafson, and moved onto a forty acre tract on section 6.

Mr. Mitchell was married in Bigelow Dec. 28, 1883, to Miss Dora Mills, a native of New York state and a daughter of E. S. Mills, at one time county auditor of Nobles county and a man prominent in the affairs of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell have been born the following children: Mary (Mrs. Victor Gustafson), born April 20, 1889; John Edward, born Sept. 20, 1885.

Mr. Mitchell and his wife are members of the Methodist church of Bigelow and he is a member of the M. W. A. lodge. For several years he served on the school board of district No. 80.

DAVID HERLEIN is one of the big farmers of Nobles county, he being the owner of the whole of section 7, Worthington township. He has been a resident of the county for the last twenty years. Bureau county, Ill. is the place of his nativity, and July 22, 1861, was the date of his birth. He is the son of Peter Herlein and Sabina (Schueckel) Herlein. His father was a native of Germany and died in January, 1893. His mother resides in Bureau county, Ill.

The elder Herlein was a farmer and David grew to manhood on his father's place in Illinois. There he secured a common school education and resided until he was 26 years of age. In 1886 Peter Herlein had come to Nobles county and purchased section 7, Worthington township, for which he paid \$10.25 per acre land which is today easily worth \$60 per acre. In March, 1888, David came to Nobles county, located on the land, and has since that date been engaged in its



cultivation, he being now the owner of the tract. Since locating here he has purchased a half section of land in Wadena county and a quarter section near Hinekley, both of which he still owns. He devotes his energies largely to the raising of stock and has some of the finest herds in the county. Mr. Herlein has held a school office for many years past. For several years he was director of the district in which he lives, and for the last four years he has held the office of treasurer.

Mr. Herlein was married at Iowa City, Iowa, July 2, 1896, to Emma Erhart, to whom have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home: Emma, John and Edna.

Besides being rated as one of the successful farmers of Nobles county, Mr. Herlein has gained notoriety in another way. He is one of the best rifle shots in the United States, and is the possessor of over a dozen gold medals secured in tournaments held by the Upper Mississippi Schutzen Bund. In 1886 he won the championship prize given by the association, winning over 250 contestants representing the states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Ohio. At that shoot he made a score of 219 out of a possible 250, and the score has never been beaten, although the targets now in use are larger, having three-fourths inch rings instead of one-half inch. Had the target been the size of those now in use his score would have been 232. Mr. Herlein joined the association when nineteen years of age, and at the first shoot after becoming a member of the team he took first prize. He has attended nearly every shoot since he has become a member of the organization and his medals cover a period from 1880 to date.

HENRY KUNZE, of Elk township, has resided in the county sixteen years. He is a native of Germany and was born June 2, 1850, the son of Henry Kunze and Mary Kunze. His father died in Crawford county, Iowa, in 1887; his mother died in Germany in 1872.

Mr. Kunze lived in Germany until 20 years of age, living with his parents on a farm. He came to America in 1870 with a sister and located in Jackson county, Iowa.

For a few years he worked at farm work for wages, then rented a farm and for six or seven years was in business for himself. He moved to Crawford county, Iowa, in 1882, bought an eighty acre farm, and during the next ten years was engaged in the care of that. Mr. Kunze came to Nobles county in 1892 and purchased the southwest quarter of section 12, Elk township, which place has since been his home. Later he bought one-half of section 11, in the same town, which he still owns.

March 14, 1875, Mr. Kunze was married in Jackson county, Iowa, to Mary Harms, daughter of Henry Harms, then of Jackson county. Mrs. Kunze is a native of the county in which she was married, having been born in 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Kunze are the parents of twelve children, as follows: Henry, Hersey township; Minnie (Mrs. Carl Will), Brewster; Fred, died in 1898; Rosie (Mrs. Jos. Martin), Worthington; Louis, Montana; Willie, Otto, Doris, Amil, John, Harvey and Amanda. The seven last named reside at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kunze are members of the German Lutheran church of Worthington. Mr. Kunze has held the office of road overseer for several years.

FRANK GLASGOW, superintendent of bridges and buildings on the Sioux City division of the Omaha railroad, with headquarters at Worthington, has resided in Worthington since 1878. He has held the position he now holds with the railroad company twenty-five years, and has had a continuous service with the Omaha road of thirty-two years. During his long residence in Worthington Mr. Glasgow has become identified with the business and social life of the city to a considerable extent.

Mr. Glasgow was born in Constantia, Oswego county, N. Y., on the 17th day of August, 1843, the son of John and Eliza (Buckley) Glasgow, both natives of the Emerald Isle. When young the parents emigrated to the United States, and in New York their marriage was celebrated. The father, who was a contractor and builder, died at Worthington in January, 1888. His wife had preceded him to the other world, having passed away in Wisconsin in 1866.

Until he was ten years old Frank Glasgow

lived in his native county in New York state. Then he accompanied his parents to Wisconsin, in which state he grew to manhood. He secured a good education in the common and high schools of Wisconsin, and after completing his studies he worked at the carpenter's trade with his father. When he reached his majority, in 1861, he enlisted in company D, Fifth Wisconsin volunteer infantry, commanded by Col. Thomas S. Allen. For eighteen months Mr. Glasgow served as a soldier in that regiment, taking part in the battles in and around Petersburg. He was with the army of the Potomac until after the surrender of General Lee, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865.

After the war Mr. Glasgow returned to Wisconsin and continued working at his trade. In 1870 he moved to Mankato, Minn., where he engaged in contracting and building for eight years. In 1878 he came to Worthington, where he entered the employ of the Omaha Railroad company in the construction of bridges and buildings, and two years later was made superintendent of the Sioux City division, with headquarters at Worthington. He has held the position ever since, having constructed the bridges, depots and other buildings, and kept them in repair, along the 275 miles of his division.

In the business, political and social life of Worthington Mr. Glasgow has played an important part. He served as a member of the village council in 1886 87 88 89-90 91 94 96, and was mayor of the city in 1897 and 1898. He has served as a member of the school board and of the old library board. When the Carnegie public library was opened he was named as one of the members of the board, a position he still holds. He is a member of Stoddard Post No. 31, G. A. R., and for several years was its commander. He is also a member of Okahoma Lodge No. 72, K. P. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens National Bank in 1903, and has held the office of second vice president since that date.

Mr. Glasgow has been twice married. In 1882 was solemnized his first marriage to Miss Mary A. McHale, of Mankato, Minn., a native of the Empire state. To them were born two children: John F. and Edith. Mrs. Glasgow died in Worthington Nov. 11, 1904. His second marriage occurred Feb. 11,

1907, when he led to the altar Miss Mary J. Fahy, of Worthington. Mrs. Glasgow's parents were born in Ireland. Her father died Nov. 6, 1907. Her mother is still living at Graceville, Minn., where the Fahy family resided for over a quarter of a century.

Mr. Glasgow owns a handsome residence in Worthington, at the corner of Fifth avenue and Eleventh street, where he resides, and other city property and farm lands. In Mankato he owns a house and lot at the corner of Fifth and Main streets.

ERICK ANDERSON owns and resides on the southwest quarter of section 1, Dewald township, which place has been his home for the last thirteen years. He is a native of the town of Carlsham, Sweden, where he was born June 1, 1866. He is the son of Andrew Anderson, now residing in Illinois. His mother was Bertha (Hanson) Anderson, who died in Sweden in 1875.

Erick received a common school education in his native country and his boyhood days were spent on his father's farm. In 1882, when sixteen years of age, he came to the United States, preceding his father two months. The family located in Kirkland, DeKalb county, Ill., and in the vicinity of that town Erick Anderson spent thirteen years working at farm work for wages. In the spring of 1895 he moved to Nobles county and located on the property where he has since resided. This property he had purchased in 1887.

Mr. Anderson was married in Dewald township June 29, 1898, to Natalia Carlson, daughter of the late Swan Carlson. Mrs. Anderson is a native of Sweden, having been born in Vastergotland Aug. 3, 1874, and came to the United States in 1886. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born five children: Oscar Edward, born Oct. 20, 1899, died July 15, 1901; Walter Raymond, born March 1, 1902; Clarence Willard, born July 24, 1903; Esther Verna, born Dec. 6, 1905; Mabel Lillian, born Oct. 8, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Lutheran church of Worthington, of which he is a trustee. Mr. Anderson is a director of school district No. 15.

GUST OLSON, member of the firm of Olson & Waage, implement dealers of Round Lake, is a native of Round Lake township, Jackson county, Minn., where he was born Jan. 10, 1874. He is the son of Knut and Olene (Olson) Olson, of Jackson county.

Knut Olson was born in Kopervik, Norway, Jan. 13, 1850, came to America in 1871 and located near Deerfield, Deau county, Wis. In the spring of 1873 he took as a home-stead the northeast quarter of section 28, Round Lake township, upon which land he still resides. Our subject's mother was born in 1846 in Stavanger, Norway, and was married to Mr. Olson in Wisconsin in November, 1872. They are the parents of the following children: Gust, of this sketch; Ellen (Mrs. C. J. Hanson), Jackson county; Anna (Mrs. John Hemmingson), Jackson county; Lena (Mrs. E. O. Hanson), Jackson county; Severin, Jackson county.

Gust Olson was raised on his father's farm and secured a country school education. During his boyhood days the nearest school was nine miles from his home, and his schooling was obtained under difficulties. Gust assisted with the farm work until he was twenty-two years of age. Then he moved to Dickinson county, Iowa, and in partnership with his brother-in-law, C. J. Hanson, engaged in farming one year. During the next year and a half he was the manager of the implement house of J. R. Jones at Fenton, Iowa. In January, 1900, he moved to Round Lake village and took a position with Grant & Johnson, general merchants and implement dealers, with whom he was associated until they sold out in 1905. He continued to work for Walker & Austin, the purchasers, until January, 1906. After a two months' trip to Texas and Arkansas, Mr. Olson returned to Round Lake, and in company with Bert Waage bought the implement business of his former employers, and has since conducted the business.

Mr. Olson was married at Aurelia, Iowa, Feb. 3, 1907, to Emily E. Parker, daughter of Louis Parker. Mr. Olson is a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife is a Presbyterian.

CHARLES BARNARD is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county and a successful farmer of Little Rock township. He was

born in Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wis., Feb. 11, 1856, and is a descendant of one of the old families of New York state.

William Barnard, our subject's father, was born in New York in 1829, but was raised in Canada. About 1849 he went to Iowa county, Wis., where he died in 1885. Our subject's mother was Margaret (Jones) Barnard. She was born in Wales, but came to America with her parents when thirteen years of age and located at Springgreen, Sac county, Wis. She died at Little Rock, Iowa, in 1894.

In Iowa county, five miles north of the town of Dodgeville, Charles Barnard grew to manhood. He received a country school education and was employed on his father's farm until seventeen years of age. After that, until the year 1878, he worked out at farm work by the month. It was on the twelfth day of March, 1878, that Mr. Barnard first saw Nobles county. He took a position as a farm hand with J. J. Leece, who conducted a farm in Grand Prairie township, and was employed by him during the first season. The next year he went to Lake county, S. D., and was employed by Austin Ayers one season. Returning to Nobles county, he worked the next season for M. E. Crosby, who at the time lived north of Adrian. Mr. Barnard then decided to begin farming for himself and purchased from Tom Quine the homestead right to the west half of the southeast quarter of section 32, Little Rock township, and in time proved up on it. About the year 1885 he bought the other 80 acres of the quarter. His home has been on the homestead ever since taking possession of it.

Mr. Barnard was married at Sibley, Iowa, Dec. 19, 1882, to Miss Belle James, a native of Iowa county, Wis., and a daughter of R. T. and Elizabeth James, of Little Rock, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Barnard have been born the following children: John H., Little Rock township farmer, born Jan. 17, 1884; William B., Lyon county, Iowa, farmer, born Feb. 25, 1886; Milton, born Dec. 23, 1889; Jennie, born April 18, 1892; Maggie, born May 5, 1895; Roy and Raymond (twins), born Sept. 2, 1899. The five children last named reside at home. Mr. Barnard is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Little Rock, Iowa. For four years he served as director of school district No. 11.

G. KNIPS, who resides on a farm in Lismore township, just outside of the village of Lismore, is one of the first men to take a claim in Leota township and one of the oldest settlers of northwestern Nobles county.

Mr. Knips was born in Germany Aug. 15, 1832, the son of Kasper Joseph Knips, who was a judge in his native land. Our subject learned the brewer's trade in Germany and came to the United States in 1852. He located in St. Louis, where for five years he was in a malt house. Moving to Stillwater, Minn., in 1857, he started a brewery there, which he conducted twenty years. He came to Nobles county in 1877 and took a homestead and tree claim on section 22, Leota township, when there were only two settlers in that township. He resided on the farm there until 1903, when he bought his present eighty acre farm on section 2, Lismore township, since which he has made his home on the edge of town.

In the city of St. Louis on Oct. 10, 1854, Mr. Knips was married to Miss Maud Wellhausen, a native of Germany. She died in 1888, aged 62 years. To them were born eight children as follows: Robert, William, Amel, Louis, Otto, Eugene, Clara, Emma.

For several terms Mr. Knips served as chairman of the Leota township board of supervisors and he was also director of school district No. 75 for many years.

JOHN S. BLAIR, of Minneapolis, made his home in Nobles county from June, 1892, to July, 1899. He was born in Eureka, Woodford county, Ill., April 6, 1869, a son of Leander V. and Martha L. (McGowan) Blair, who were natives of Brown county, Ohio, and who now reside in Clarinda, Iowa. Mr. Blair received his education in the common and graded schools of Eureka, and in 1885 was appointed deputy postmaster of that place, which position he filled until 1889, when he resigned to take a position with a Chicago publishing house.

In 1892 Mr. Blair came to Worthington and took employment as traveling salesman in Minnesota and South Dakota for the Worthington Cigar company, which firm he was with until December, 1893. The next month, in company with C. W. Schultz, he began business under the firm name of

Blair & Co., dealers in shoes. Two disastrous fires within a year with heavy losses compelled them to abandon the business. In December, 1894, Mr. Blair went to Adrian and joined John E. King in the publication of the Nobles County Democrat. In June of that year he returned to Worthington and took charge of the Worthington Globe, which he published until 1899, when he was appointed deputy state weighmaster by Governor John Lind and removed to Minneapolis. In August, 1901, Mr. Blair accepted a position with the Duluth Elevator company, and is still employed by that company in the capacity of assistant secretary.

On Nov. 27, 1895, Mr. Blair was united in marriage to Lillian C. Plotts, daughter of Rezeau B. and Katherine L. (Slavin) Plotts, of Worthington. Two children have been born to them Katherine L., born March 14, 1898, and Lee Plotts, born Nov. 10, 1902.

Politically Mr. Blair has always been a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party. He has had some preference in a political way. He was deputy postmaster of Eureka, Ill., and for a time was employed in the county recorder's office. In Nobles county he served as chairman of the democratic county central committee, four years, was a member of congressional and state committees, and represented the second congressional district in the national convention in 1896, when W. J. Bryan was first nominated for the presidency. Mr. Blair was a candidate for register of deeds of Nobles county in 1896 and was defeated by A. G. Lindgren.

Mr. Blair is a member of the Masonic lodge Ark. No. 176, A. F. & A. M., Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America.

LAWRENS KREIN owns and farms 240 acres of land on sections 7 and 8, Leota township, and also owns twelve and one-half acres in Graves' addition to the village of Lismore. He is a native of Sheboygan county, Wis., where he was born Dec. 6, 1858.

The parents of our subject were Cornelius and Susan (Zeeveb) Krein, and Lawrens is the second oldest of a family of four children, the others being John, Henry and Jane.

The father of this family was born in Holland in 1825. He came to the United States when ten years of age and located with his parents in Sheboygan county, Wis., when the only other human beings in the vicinity were Indians. The family carved a home out of the forests and cleared a forty acre farm. Cornelius Kreun died there in 1865. His wife, also a native of Holland, married again after her first husband's death. She died in Sioux county, Iowa, in 1890.

Lawrens was raised on a farm in his native county and resided there until eighteen years of age. He then moved to Fillmore county, Minn., where he engaged in farm work six years. He next moved to Sioux county, Iowa, where he also worked for wages at farm work. He moved to Nobles county in October, 1891, and bought the farm upon which he has ever since lived. At the time there was not a stick on the place, nor was there a foot of land broke.

Mr. Kreun was married in Fillmore county, Minn., Feb. 14, 1879, to Miss Hattie Hof-tiezer, who was born in Holland and came to the United States with her parents when twelve years of age. Her parents were H. J. and Christina Holtieser, who located in Fillmore county upon their arrival from Holland. Both are dead. To Mr. and Mrs. Kreun have been born seven children: Charlie, born July 23, 1879; Kate, born Jan. 10, 1881; Samuel, born Dec. 11, 1883; John, born Oct. 23, 1887; Annie, born Sept. 7, 1890; Laura, born Sept. 12, 1894; Alfred, born Jan. 6, 1897. The family are members of the Dutch Reformed church. Mr. Kreun served as a member of the Leota township board from 1894 to 1906.

C. W. BECKER, lumber dealer and post-master of Wilmont, has been a resident of Nobles county for twenty-one years and has the honor of having been the first business man to locate in the new town of Wilmont. He is a native of Germany, having been born in the province of Westphalia. He is the son of Gustaf Becker and Marie (Lang) Becker. Both his parents are dead, his mother having died in her native country in 1881, and his father in the same country in 1906.

C. W. Becker came to America in 1887, and the same year is the date of his arrival

in Adrian, Nobles county. He at once began work in A. M. Becker's store there, and he was thus employed for six years. He then took employment with N. P. Hanson & Co., lumber leaders, and was with that firm from 1893 to December, 1899. That month he resigned his position and moved to the site of the future Wilmont and started in the lumber and coal business for himself—the first business house of the town. He became the townsite agent, being employed by Thos. H. Brown, and had charge of the sale of lots of the new town.

He at once took an active part in the affairs of the new town. He prepared and circulated the petition asking the county commissioners to take favorable action toward incorporating the village in 1900. When the Wilmont postoffice was established he was appointed postmaster, his commission being dated Feb. 6, 1900, and he has held the office ever since. He has been a member of the Wilmont school board ever since the district was organized.

Mr. Becker was married at Adrian June 3, 1897, to Gertrude Chandler. To them have been born three children: Max Wilfred, Paul Gustave and Florence Gertrude, all of whom are living at home.

ANDREW JOHNSON is one of the early settlers of Westside township. He owns three hundred acres of land in one body on sections 10 and 11, where he has a fine home. He has lived on his present farm over a quarter of a century.

Mr. Johnson is of Swedish birth, having first seen the light of day in Westerjemtland on June 18, 1849. His father was a laborer, John Peterson by name, who was born in 1826 and died in his native land in 1882. Our subject's mother, Annie (Anderson) Peterson, was born in 1823 and died in Sweden in 1868.

In his native country Andrew Johnson lived until 1878, working out at farm and railroad work from the time he was old enough to be of any service whatever. In the year last mentioned he went to Norway and during the next two years worked on a railroad seventy miles north of the city of Christiania. He then sailed for the new world and landed in New York city on May 31, 1880. Coming direct to Nobles county,

he took employment on the section at Adrian, and was so engaged two years, spending the harvest seasons working in the fields of Westside township. He then moved onto the farm where he has ever since resided. His wife was the owner of the eighty where the home was builded. Two years later he bought another eighty acres and later purchased the rest of his property. There was only a "slack" on the farm when he first located on the place; now he has one of the finest farm homes in the township. He engages extensively in stockraising, breeding thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey swine and well graded cattle and sheep.

Mr. Johnson was married in the fall of 1881 at Luyerne, Minn., to Hannah Isaacson, a native of Norway. To them have been born the following named children: Laura, born Aug. 27, 1884; William, born Oct. 9, 1886; Amanda, born July 17, 1889; Oscar Raymond, born Oct. 14, 1891; Lottie, born Dec. 9, 1894. By a former marriage Mrs. Johnson is the mother of the following named children: Isabel (Mrs. John Isaacson), of Allison, Butler county, Iowa, born Dec. 7, 1875; Christina (Mrs. Iver Erickson), of Crookston, Minn., born March 5, 1877; Ida (Mrs. Charles Miller), of Bristow, Butler county, Iowa, born Jan. 25, 1879; Annie (Mrs. Carl Andra), of Turtle Lake, McLean county, N. D., born July 1, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Adrian.

Mr. Johnson is a self educated man, having had not a day's schooling in his life, his early days having been spent in earning a livelihood. By careful home study in later years he has made himself a fairly well educated man. He has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the community in which he has resided so many years. He served on the Westside township board five years, and during three years of that time was the chairman. He is now the township treasurer and has held the office two years. He is also treasurer of school district No. 61, having held that office continuously for the last twenty-six years.

CHARLES A. SANDS, president of the First National Bank of Adrian and mayor of Adrian, is one of the pioneer residents of his town, having made his home there since

he was twelve years of age. He was born in Berlin, Wis., Aug. 12, 1866, the son of John and Mary (Finnegan) Sands, natives of Ireland. His father came to the United States in 1831 and to Adrian in 1878, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1891. His mother is 77 years of age and resides in Adrian.

Charles Sands came to Adrian with his parents in 1878, and that village has been his home ever since. He was educated in the Adrian public schools. His first business experience was in the grain business, for some time being employed as grain buyer for the Peavy Elevator company. In 1891 he engaged in the hardware business as a member of the firm of Roll & Sands. This firm was in business until 1901, when Mr. Sands purchased his partner's interest, and thereafter until 1906 he conducted the business alone. In the last named year he sold out to Weyer & Dumbel and went into the banking business. He became president of the First National Bank, which position he still retains.

Mr. Sands has always taken an active interest in local affairs. He is a member of the board of education and mayor of the city, having been elected in 1907 and re-elected in 1908.

At Des Moines, Iowa, on Oct. 15, 1888, Mr. Sands was married to Miss Catherine Sullivan. To them have been born four children, of whom the following two are living: Olive, born in Adrian June 10, 1891; Paul, born in Adrian Sept. 5, 1894.

GUST JOUL has resided upon the farm in Little Rock township where he now lives ever since he was five years old, having arrived there with his parents on July 3, 1873. He is the son of the late Nicholas and Bertha (Ulwin) Joul, and was born in Iowa county, Wis., Sept. 17, 1868.

Coming to the county with his parents as a child, he went through all the experiences of pioneer life. His schooling was obtained in the school of district No. 11, and his boyhood days were spent on the farm. After his father's death in 1886 he and his brother, Ole, farmed the home place the northeast quarter of section 14, Little Rock township the partnership existing until 1897. Since that date Gust Joul has owned and farmed the home place for himself.

He was married in Luverne, Minn., Oct. 22, 1904, to Julia Bakke, who was born in Norway, came to the United States in 1890, and who, prior to her marriage, resided in Luverne. Mr. Joul was one of the charter members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Little Rock, and he and his wife are now members of that church. On several occasions Mr. Joul has served his township in an official capacity. For two years he was a member of the township board, served two years as assessor, and was township treasurer one year. He was treasurer of the school board of the district in which he resides for a number of years.

FRANK D. WELLS is manager and member of the firm of F. D. Wells & Co., which is composed of himself, and P. Geyerman & Sons. The firm has a well equipped hardware store at Brewster which was organized under the present title Jan. 1, 1907, succeeding the Brewster Hardware company, one of the pioneer firms of the city.

Frank Wells was born in Sandwich, Dekalb county, Ill., April 5, 1869, one of a family of six children. His father, David A. Wells, was born in Massachusetts in 1820. When a young man he moved to New York state and in 1857 to Sandwich, Ill., where he lived the rest of his life, dying Feb. 19, 1883. He was a millwright and contractor and during the last thirty years of his life was engaged in putting up elevators. He was the inventor of the elevator grain dump system. Our subject's mother is Elizabeth (Perry) Wells, a descendant of Commodore Perry, the hero of the war of 1812. She was born in Canada in 1836 and came to the states when a girl. She married William Kellam, who was killed in the civil war, in 1850, and in 1855 moved to Little Rock, Ill. She was married the second time in 1866 at Sandwich, Ill., to David Wells. She is now living in Sandwich with a son, Levi Kellam.

In his native town Frank was educated and made his home until he became of age. In 1890 he engaged in farming in Dekalb county, and followed that occupation many years. He farmed there four years, in O'Brien county, Iowa, three years, and in Clay county, Iowa, four years. In 1901 he moved to Jackson county, Minn., bought a

farm in Ewington township, and farmed it two and one-half years. He then moved to Brewster and engaged in the implement business, which he conducted two and one-half years. At the end of that time he sold to N. A. Arvidson, and on January 1, 1907, bought an interest in the hardware store and has since been its manager.

Mr. Wells was married in Dekalb county March 8, 1892, to Miss Esther Bend, who was born in that county in 1866. She is the daughter of Lewis and Jane Bend, natives of England. Her mother died in 1891; her father is 78 years of age and resides on the old homestead he purchased in an early day. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells have been born the following children: \* Ila, born March 3, 1893; Effie, born Feb. 13, 1894; Harvey, born July 20, 1896; Emma, born June 21, 1897; Alice, born June 2, 1899.

Mr. Wells owns a home in the village. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge and in 1905 served as member of the village council.

MILTON S. SMITH, Nobles county surveyor, has resided in the county since 1879. He was born in New Brunswick, N. J., January, 1852, the son of Richard R. Smith, now a resident of St. Paul, and Julia A. (Stelle) Smith, deceased.

In 1857 Milton accompanied his parents to Minneapolis, where the family resided nine years. They moved to Faribault in 1866, and there the subject of this sketch resided until 1879. He secured an education in the public schools of Minneapolis and Faribault. When he was nineteen years of age Mr. Smith returned to Minneapolis, where for two years he held a position in the city engineer's office, having charge of the survey for grades and sewers. He returned to Faribault, and in company with his father became the representative of a lumber company and had charge of the Faribault office. After two years in this capacity he and his father bought the office and continued in the lumber business until his removal to Worthington.

Mr. Smith came to Nobles county in 1879 and from then until 1891 he engaged in farming on different farms in the vicinity of Worthington. He then took up his residence in Worthington, and was appointed city en-

gineer. He has served in that capacity ever since. For seven years he also served as city clerk. A vacancy occurring in the county surveyor's office in 1891, he was appointed to complete the unexpired term, and since that time has been regularly elected every two years. He now also holds the office of county superintendent of roads, to which he was appointed in 1906. Besides his official duties he engages in surveying for private account, and since taking up his residence in Worthington has done most of the surveying in Nobles county. In recent years he has been engineer in charge of the survey of eight drainage ditches in Nobles county, three in Iowa, one in Rock county and one in Cottonwood county.

Mr. Smith was married at Faribault, Minn., July 21, 1874, to Flora E. Ingram, who died in Worthington Aug. 14, 1886. To this union were born three sons, as follows: Samuel Stelle, a Worthington attorney; Robert R., engaged in the implement business at Worthington; Byron E., of Schneetady, N. Y.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Baptist church, having been one of the charter members and having served several years as clerk of the church society. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Maccabee lodges.

CHARLES SHORE is a resident of Ransom township and is the eldest son of Robert and Eliza (Greenhalgh) Shore, residents of the same township. He was born in Benton, Lafayette county, Wis., July 4, 1852. When he was one year old the family moved to Grant county, in the same state, and that was his home until 1873. He then moved with his parents to Nobles county, and in Ransom township he has made his home ever since.

From the time of his arrival to the county up to 1892 Mr. Shore resided on his father's farm and worked out at farm work. He then married and located upon his own farm—the southeast quarter of section 16, Ransom—which he had purchased in 1875. There he has since been engaged in farming for himself.

The date of his marriage was Feb. 18, 1892, when he wedded Miss Harriet E. Milton, a native of southern Wisconsin, and the

daughter of Isaac and Helen (Cole) Milton, of Ransom township. To Mr. and Mrs. Shore have been born the following children: Chester M., born Feb. 17, 1893; Wilbur E., born Oct. 6, 1895; Arthur W., born Sept. 12, 1897; Mary E., born Aug. 21, 1899; Carrie, born Aug. 3, 1900, died March 25, 1908; Roy, born Oct. 9, 1905; Ruth Irene, born Feb. 13, 1908. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shore are members of the Ransom Methodist Episcopal church. During the years 1901 to 1903, inclusive, Mr. Shore served as a member of the board of supervisors of Ransom township.

NICK H. NEYENS is a pioneer settler of Nobles county, having come with the colonists of 1872. He lives in Grand Prairie township, where he owns a 320 acre farm on section 24.

Mr. Neyens was born in the city of Chicago June 27, 1855. His father, Herman K. Neyens, was born in Holland in 1826 and came to the United States in 1845. He located in Chicago, later moved to Dubuque, Iowa, spent six years in Iowa county, Wis., and came to Nobles county in 1872. During the year 1900 he moved to Sibley, Iowa, where he died in July, 1905. Our subject's mother, Annie (Peckler) Neyens, also a native of Holland, now lives at Sibley.

When Nick was a child one or two years old the family moved to Dubuque, remained there one year and then took up residence in Iowa county, Wis. There he was educated in the district schools and raised on a farm. Nick accompanied his father and brother when they came to Nobles county in the spring of 1872. The father homesteaded a quarter section on 30, Little Rock township, and on that farm our subject resided until 1885. He then moved onto his present place, which he had taken as a tree claim, and on that has since engaged in farming. During the early days the family suffered many hardships, and for three or four years during the grasshopper period lost nearly everything. In order to secure enough ready cash to live on the father and elder children had to go down into Iowa and work out. The prairie fires often wrought havoc with their possessions, the elder Neyens losing 60 tons of hay and 20 acres of wheat from that source in one day.



At Adrian in November, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Neyens to Mary Carey, a native of New Jersey. To them have been born three children: Thomas, John and Leo. The family are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth. Mr. Neyens served as supervisor of the township three years.

WILLIAM BOFENKAMP, proprietor of the leading Ellsworth hardware store, has made his home in that village almost from the time of the founding of the town, and has been in the hardware and implement business during the last eight years.

Mr. Bofenkamp was born in Burlington, Wis., Oct. 6, 1866, the son of Lambert and Anna (Lindermann) Bofenkamp. His father was born in Germany and came to America when a young man. He died at Valley Plain, Minn., in 1895, aged 84 years. His mother was born in Wisconsin and is living at the age of 66 years.

The Bofenkamp family moved from Wisconsin to Belleplaine, Minn., when the subject of this sketch was two years old, and that was the home five years. Then a residence was made at Seneca, Kansas, and our subject lived there four years. Coming back to Minnesota by the overland route, the family located at Union Hill. There William completed his education which had been begun in Kansas, and lived on his father's farm until he was seventeen. After that he worked at carpentering for a few years.

It was in June, 1885, that Mr. Bofenkamp came to the recently founded town of Ellsworth, since which time he has resided there. For the first three years he engaged in carpenter work and with a crew of bridge carpenters. The next two years he tended bar for Michael Fahey, and then in partnership with Henry Fischenich he engaged in the livery business, with which he was identified only eight months. He then bought a half interest in the saloon business from his brother, Theodore, and in partnership with Henry Whalen conducted the business two years. At the end of that time he bought his partner's interest and conducted the saloon alone for six years. During the next two years he engaged in the feed business, buying the feed store of T. A. Towsley. In 1900 he purchased the hardware store and has since conducted the business. In addition

to the hardware store and implement building, Mr. Bofenkamp owns two residences in the village and a quarter section farm in Westside township.

At Adrian on Sept. 16, 1890, Mr. Bofenkamp was married to Miss Mary J. Lenz, daughter of the late Peter Lenz. To them have been born the following children: Raymond, born Sept. 13, 1891; Celia, born Jan. 13, 1894; Ferdinand, born Oct. 28, 1898; Regina, born April 18, 1901; Mary, born Dec. 14, 1902; Lambert, born June 6, 1905.

During his long residence in Ellsworth Mr. Bofenkamp has taken a prominent part in local affairs. In 1898 he was elected a member of the village council, which office he held seven years. He was then elected president of the council, in which capacity he served until the spring of 1908. During his administration the city hall, water works, opera house and jail were erected and four steel bridges were put in. He served on the board of education during the same length of time, during which was erected the handsome public school building. Mr. Bofenkamp is a member of the Catholic church and of the C. O. F. and Knights of Columbus lodges.

JOHN F. O'CONNOR, proprietor of the Leota Stock farm, is one of the big farmers and stock raisers of Leota township, as well as one of the county's pioneers. He owns 640 acres of land on sections 18, 17, 19 and 20, Leota, and a half section in Pembina county, N. D. He breeds Belgium horses, Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Duroc-Jersey swine and has large herds of each. He also buys and ships stock from Kenneth.

Mr. O'Connor's life history is one of interest. He is the son of Robert and Catherine (Foster) O'Connor, both deceased. The father was born in County Kildare, Ireland. In 1818, being a colonel in the rebel or insurgent army, he was forced to flee his native country and came to the United States. He and his half brother, Charles O'Connor, now a noted criminal lawyer of New York city, were smuggled aboard an American ship by an aunt, who was the wife of the mayor of Dublin and made the trip in safety to the land of the free. The English crown had confiscated 300,000 pounds from the estate of the brothers, the estate now known as the

Lord Pertarllton estate, located in the town of Monasterevin, in the county of Kildare.

After arriving in the new world Robert O'Connor worked for a time in a dry goods store in New York city, and later engaged in the real estate business there. Leaving the metropolis, he went to western Pennsylvania and engaged in the oil business, becoming a member of the firm of O'Connor, McAllister & Hughes. The partners were highly successful and became millionaires. Later their business was cornered and they were forced out of business by a powerful oil company—a company which developed into the all-powerful Standard Oil company. Practically bankrupt, Robert O'Connor in 1868 moved west and located in Fillmore county, Minn. There he made his home with his son, John, until his death, which occurred at the age of 56 years.

Our subject's mother was born near Waynesburg, Pa., in 1831. She died at the home of her son Nov. 13, 1907. John is the oldest of a family of six living children of these parents. The other children are Mary, Sarah, Charles, Major and Agnes.

John O'Connor was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 5, 1856. At the age of twelve years he moved with his parents to Fillmore county, Minn., and there he resided on the farm until 1873. That year he moved to Worthington, which was his place of residence two years. During this time he was employed by Daniel Shell as a stage driver on the mail route from Worthington to Yankton, S. D., a distance of 104 miles. He was then transferred to Laverne and ran a mail route out of that place until the Omaha branch was built to Sioux Falls.

During the winter of 1876 Mr. O'Connor bought a homestead right to the southeast quarter of section 18, Leota township, from William Cahill, paying therefor a fur coat and fifteen dollars in cash. He did not take possession of his claim until 1888. In the meantime he was engaged in several different occupations. For some time he worked at the carpenter trade in the new towns of Laverne and Adrian. Then he took employment with Chief Engineer Pard Brown and his assistant, T. P. Healy, who had the contract to survey the line of the Northwestern railroad from Tracy to Pierre, S. D. He left with the crew from Laverne on April 7, and did not see a white man, with the

exception of the members of the crew, until he reached Pierre in November.

In 1884, when the Burlington road was builded through the southwestern corner of Nobles county and the village of Ellsworth was founded, Mr. O'Connor moved to that place, and for a time bought grain there for Rice & Larrabee. He erected the first building in the town, which was a grain flat-house, put up for the firm with whom he took employment. Later he became the grain buyer for H. E. Torrance. In 1886 he went into the grain and implement business in Ellsworth for himself and was in business two years. Through the connivance of certain parties Mr. O'Connor failed in business and lost almost his entire fortune. He then, in 1888, moved onto his homestead claim, and has ever since been engaged in farming. He has met with success and has prospered to a flattering degree.

Mr. O'Connor was married at Currie, Minn., Feb. 20, 1888, to Jennie Oliver, who was born in Stillwater, Minn., in 1866. She is the daughter of C. A. and Margaret Oliver, natives of Boston. To Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have been born three children: Robert, Harry and Margaret.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor are members of the Catholic church of Kenneth and he belongs to the M. W. A. and K. P. lodges of Edgerton. During his long residence in Leota township Mr. O'Connor has held many offices of trust in the gift of his neighbors. For several years he was a member of the township board and has held the offices of assessor and justice of the peace. He also served as a member of the board of directors of school district No. 105.

C. E. HARDING is a Graham Lakes township farmer who has been a resident of the county for a good many years. He was born in Rockland, Maine, Nov. 18, 1865, son of E. Harding, a Maine fisherman and a veteran of the civil war.

Young Harding lived in his native state until eight years of age. He then came west and made his home in Faribault county, Minn. Later he came to Kinbrae, Nobles county, and for nine years was engaged as a grain buyer in that village. He then purchased a farm on East Graham lake, and has since been engaged in farming. He is a

member of the Methodist church and of the Woodmen and Odd Fellows lodges. He has served four years as school treasurer of the district in which he lives.

Mr. Harding was married at Delavan, Fari-bault county, in 1881 to Miss Mary Hall, to whom have been born the following children: Grace, Arthur, Lulu, Roy and Ethel.

HUBERT PASS, of Wilmont village, is one of the pioneers of the county. He was born in Prussia Dec. 11, 1860, the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Coelmen) Pass. Both parents live with their son in Wilmont, the former at the age of 84, the latter aged 90 years.

The family, consisting of father, mother, and five children, came to America in 1862 and located at Shakopee, Scott county, Minn. There Hubert was raised and educated. The father came to Nobles county in the fall of 1876 and took a homestead claim on section 28, Willmont township. In February, of the following year, the father and our subject came again to the county and have resided here continuously ever since. Hubert lived on the home farm until 1893, when he opened a saloon in St. Kilian. This he conducted personally until 1900, and he still owns the property. When the village of Wilmont started in 1900 he moved to the new town, and in partnership with Theo. Slottman erected a building and engaged in the saloon business. He conducted the business until the spring of 1908, since which time he has lived a retired life. He owns residence property in the village and the saloon building.

Mr. Pass was first married at Red Wing, Minn., June 7, 1887, to Lillie Hellmeller, who died September 22, 1894. To them were born two children—Joseph, born Nov. 17, 1888, and Frank, born June 10, 1893. The second marriage of Mr. Pass occurred at St. Kilian June 7, 1897, when he married Barbara Schmit, who was born in Chicago May 9, 1878. They are the parents of the following named children: Lena, born March 1, 1898; Lillie, born Feb. 4, 1900; Henry, born June 8, 1903; Lizzie, born July 4, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Pass are members of the Catholic church. He was township clerk of Willmont five years.

CHARLES HAMSTREET, editor and publisher of the Worthington Advance-Herald, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest (in point of service) newspaper man in Nobles county, having been engaged in the business in the county almost continuously since 1894.

Mr. Hamstreet is of Dutch descent, the family having come originally from Holland, although his ancestors have lived in America many generations. He is the son of John H. Hamstreet and Francis (Clapper) Hamstreet, now residents of Clear Lake, Iowa. Mr. Hamstreet, Sr., was born in New York state Nov. 13, 1842; Mrs. Hamstreet was born in Sharon, Wis., Nov. 17, 1848. To these parents was born the subject of this biography at Darlington, Wis., March 15, 1869. When he was seven years of age his parents moved to Sharon, Wis., and that was the family home for the next ten years. In the country schools near that Wisconsin town Charles was educated, attending until he was 17 years of age. Then the family moved to Clear Lake, Iowa, and our subject completed his education with a two years' course of study in the high school. After his school days young Hamstreet worked on the farm for several years in the vicinity of Clear Lake.

During his residence in that Iowa town he became enamoured of the printer's trade and at odd times picked up knowledge of the "case" in the office of the Clear Lake Mirror, then published by Cooley & Asplin. This was enough to make him hunger for more knowledge of the "art preservative," and in the fall of 1891 he became an apprentice in the office of the Paulina Times, of Paulina, Iowa, and worked thirteen months under O. D. Hamstreet, an uncle, who was then the publisher. Resigning his position there in December, 1892, he went to Hartley, Iowa, and took charge of the mechanical department of the Hartley Herald, which position he held until September, 1894. That was the date of his arrival in Nobles county. He went to Kinbrae and in partnership with T. E. Cole established the Kinbrae Herald, the firm name being Cole & Hamstreet. Although Mr. Cole owned a half interest in the business, it was under the sole control of Mr. Hamstreet, and in April, 1898, the latter acquired complete ownership. He ran the

herald until Nov. 1, 1899, when he sold, but was obliged to take the paper back the next February. He continued the publication until March, 1900, with the exception of short periods, when he had it leased. During this time he was absent from Kinbrae from November, 1899, to September, 1901, when he worked in the wholesale paper house of the Chicago Newspaper Union at Sioux City.

Not content with one newspaper, Mr. Hamstreet, on September 15, 1901, purchased the Dundee Advocate and was the publisher of that journal until April, 1905. After discontinuing the publication of the Kinbrae paper Mr. Hamstreet, in June, 1903, went to Rushmore, purchased the subscription list and good will of the Rushmore Enterprise, brought down the plant of the Kinbrae Herald, and published the Rushmore paper until his removal to Worthington in June, 1908. The plant at Rushmore was added to in 1905, when the Dundee Advocate was discontinued. Shortly after buying the paper the sheet was enlarged, a new jobber was installed, a gasoline engine purchased and other improvements made. Then in the summer of 1907 he added a three revolution Hoe press, and now the plant is one of the finest newspaper offices in Nobles county. June 1, 1908, Mr. Hamstreet moved to Worthington and purchased the Herald of that city, publishing the same until July 7, of the same year. At that time he purchased the Worthington Advance and consolidated the two papers under the name of the Advance-Herald.

Mr. Hamstreet has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Kinbrae June 24, 1896, to Miss Gertie A. Jones, daughter of Burgess Jones, of that village. Mrs. Hamstreet died June 24, 1900. To this union was born one child, Everette. Mr. Hamstreet's second marriage was solemnized at Avoca Oct. 28, 1902, when he was married to Miss Andrina Nelson, of Avoca. To them has been born one child, Gladys.

During his residence in Kinbrae Mr. Hamstreet served two years as village recorder and justice of the peace, and held the same offices for a like period in Dundee. He was appointed postmaster at Rushmore Sept. 3, 1903, which office he held until his removal to Worthington. He was president of the board of education of the Rushmore schools

for two years. In a fraternal way he is associated with the Masonic lodge, the M. W. A. and the Yeomen, all of Worthington.

FRANK E. WILLIAMS is a farmer of Elk township who has lived in Nobles county twenty-two years, having come here when a boy twelve years of age. He was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Jan. 20, 1874, the third child of the late J. B. Williams and Julia A. (Taft) Williams, who resides in Lorain township.

The subject of this sketch lived in Grundy county, Iowa, until nine years of age, when he moved with his parents to Blackhawk county, of the same state. Three years the family lived there, and then, in 1886, they came to Nobles county. Until 1894 Frank lived on the farm in Lorain; then he began farming for himself, an occupation he has since followed. He now owns the southeast quarter of section 36, Elk, but in addition to farming this he rents 240 acres.

Mr. Williams was married Sept. 7, 1899, to Mary A. Hilary, of Elk township. To them has been born one child, Emmet. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are members of the Dunkard church of Elk township. Mr. Williams has held the office of road overseer for the past two years.

WILLIAM OXFORD, Seward township farmer, has been a resident of the county for the past eighteen years. He owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 33, which he purchased two years before becoming a resident of the state. He was born in Covington, Fountain county, Ind., Sept. 23, 1854, where he resided until in the early sixties, when his father enlisted in the army and his mother moved, with the children, to Terre Haute, Ind. Here the subject of this sketch grew to early manhood and attended school. At the age of seventeen years he moved to Troquois county, Ill., and worked on a farm two years, then back to Indiana two years, and returning to Troquois county, he married and engaged in farming on rented land.

In March, 1890, Mr. Oxford moved to Nobles county and rented a farm in Graham Lakes township, upon which he resided that summer, and that fall moved onto the Hilden farm in Seward township, which he





HOME OF AUGUST ANDERSON, INDIAN LAKE



AN OLD ORCHARD

The Result of the Labor of E. B. Paul on His Indian Lake Farm.

rented and farmed four years. In 1895 Mr. Oxford moved onto his farm in Seward township, where he has since lived, and has prospered.

William is the son of Elias Oxford, a native of Perrysville, Vermilion county, Ind. Elias Oxford lived in Perrysville until after his marriage, when he moved to Covington, in the same state, where he resided until he enlisted in the union army. At the beginning of the war he enlisted in the Seventy-second Indiana volunteer infantry at Covington. A few months after joining the army he was taken prisoner and was incarcerated in the old Libby prison in Richmond, Virginia. Nine months later he was exchanged and sent to Washington, where he died six days after gaining his freedom from the effects of prison life. William Oxford's mother is Frances (Gilbert) Oxford, who resides in Terre Haute, Ind. William is the next to the oldest of a family of three children who bear the name of Oxford. His mother married the second time and he has one half-sister living.

William Oxford was married in Iroquois county, Ill., on the farm of the bride's parents, Dec. 23, 1873, to Abigail McSorley, a native of Iroquois county, her parents being James and Fannie McSorley. The former is dead; the latter is residing at Mardinton, Ill. To this union five children have been born—three boys and two girls. Those living are: Charlie E., Roscoe C. and Frances F.

Mr. Oxford has been honored by office on several occasions since becoming a resident of the county. He is justice of the peace of his precinct, having held the office for the past three years; is the present treasurer of school district No. 37, and is road overseer of district No. 5.

**WILLIAM CHANEY** is a member of the Worthington firm of Chaney & Mackay, furniture dealers and undertakers, and has been a resident of Nobles county for the last thirty-six years. He was born at Ogdensburg, N. Y., Feb. 10, 1865, the youngest son of Allen Chaney and Candace (Rumsey) Chaney.

When the subject of this sketch was about two years of age his father moved to Detroit, Mich., and that was the family home for five years. In July, 1872, the family

came to Nobles county with the National colony and settled in Worthington township, just west of West Okabena lake. There William spent his boyhood days, securing his education and working on his father's farm. For several years he attended the country schools of Worthington township; then in 1880 he went to the Mankato high school for a one year term, and the following year completed his schooling in the high school at Waseca. He then returned to his home in Worthington township and worked on the farm until his father's death in 1892. He then moved to Worthington and went into the hay business in company with John Newton, which business he was engaged in for three years. August 1, 1898, he became the manager of the Hubbard & Palmer elevator at Worthington, and was the local representative of that firm for a number of years. He made a change in business on May 1, 1902, when, in partnership with James Mackay, he bought the furniture and undertaking business of H. M. Palm & Son, and the firm of Chaney & Mackay has since continued an existence.

William Chaney was married at Rochester, Minn., Aug. 18, 1903, to Miss Avalin L. French, daughter of Corvin French, one of the earliest settlers of the Rochester country, he having taken up a residence there in 1858.

Mr. Chaney is a member of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington and one of the prominent church workers. He has held the office of trustee and is now an elder of the church. In the Sunday school of that church he holds a unique record. He started in the primary class, has been a member of every class in the school, and at one time or another has held every office of the school.

**AUGUST ANDERSON.** Among the pioneer settlers of Nobles county is August Anderson, of Indian Lake township, who has resided permanently on the northwest quarter of section 28, since the spring of 1872. He has a finely improved farm and one of the handsomest farm residences in the county, which was erected in 1905. For many years he served as treasurer of Indian Lake township and he is now clerk of the school district in which he lives, having held the office during the last eighteen years.

Mr. Anderson is the son of A. E. Larson (1813-1853) and Marie Charlotte (Peterson) Anderson (1821-1898). He was born in Orebro, Sweden, August 17, 1841, in which place he lived twenty-eight years. He worked on his father's farm until twenty-five years of age, securing seven years' schooling during this time. In the fall of 1866 he began work in his brother-in-law's tannery, about 27 miles from Orebro, at which work he was employed until the spring of 1869. He then decided to come to the new world, and arrived in New York April 28, 1869. He went at once to Chicago, intending to seek work in a tannery and complete his apprenticeship in that trade. He spent two weeks in Chicago, looking for that kind of work, but was unsuccessful. He went to Lansing, Iowa, arriving there May 16. There he hired out on a farm and worked that summer.

He was married in Allamakee county Dec. 23, 1869, to Clara Josephina Peterson, daughter of John Peterson, of that county. Immediately after his marriage he rented a farm, and for the next two years was employed in agricultural pursuits. Ambitious to secure a home of his own, and not possessing the means to purchase one, he decided to seek one in the new country of Nobles county, where a few people from Allamakee county had already been. In September, 1871, he drove up to Indian Lake township, looked the country over, liked the looks of it, and decided to locate there. He filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 28, and then returned to his home in Iowa. He came up again in March, 1872, built a small cabin, and in June brought up his family. There he has made his home ever since, a period of thirty-six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of six children: Frank Aldrich, Indian Lake township; Emma Augusta (Mrs. Peter Norberg), Sioux Falls, S. D.; David, Seattle, Wash.; Della (Mrs. N. Nelson), Minneapolis; Willie Roy, Indian Lake township; Ansel Alven, Indian Lake township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake, of which his children, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law are also members.

WILLIAM H. MORRISON, who is engaged in farming in Little Rock township, is a na-

tive of the county, having been born on the farm where he now lives April 24, 1874.

The father of our subject, Charles H. Morrison, was one of the pioneer settlers of the county and now lives a retired life at Little Rock, Iowa. He was born in New York state in 1836, and in an early day moved to St. Lawrence county, Wis., where he engaged in farming until 1872. On Sept. 21, of that year, he arrived in Nobles county and took as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 26, Little Rock township. For several years he and his family lived in a shanty and during three years of the grasshopper scourge lost everything. Mr. Morrison lived on the farm until June, 1898, when he leased the farm to his son and moved to town. Our subject's mother is Elizabeth Ann (Emerson) Morrison. She was married to Mr. Morrison Feb. 15, 1855.

During the entire period of his life of thirty-four years William H. Morrison has lived on the Little Rock township farm. He secured a country school education, and prior to 1895, worked for his father. Since that date he has been farming for himself. He holds the office of clerk of school district No. 12, which he has had for the last three years.

Mr. Morrison was married in Osceola county, Iowa, Feb. 23, 1898, to Harriet Stevens. She was born in Delaware county, N. Y., and was the daughter of Wesley and Harriet Stevens, both of whom died when Mrs. Morrison was an infant. Her father was a veteran of the civil war. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Morrison—Wesley Harris.

JOSEPH BURR LUDLOW, mayor of Rushmore, and interested in many of the principal business enterprises of that village, is a native of Nobles county. He was born in Worthington Aug. 28, 1876, the son of Horace J. and Mary E. (Barlow) Ludlow, who still reside in the county seat town.

Burr resided in Worthington with his parents until 1893, when he removed to Rushmore, and that village has been his home since. During his boyhood days he attended the Worthington public school and worked on his father's fruit farm, within the corporate limits of Worthington. He went through every department of the



Worthington public school and was graduated from the high school in 1897. He then took a term in Carleton college at Northfield, attending that institution in 1898-99. In 1899-1900 he took a course in the Minnesota School of Business, being graduated in the spring of 1900.

When he came to Rushmore in 1893 he took a position in S. B. Bedford's store, and while not attending school worked there for many years. In 1902 he began work in the Bank of Rushmore, of which S. B. Bedford was the owner. In the spring of the following year the institution was reorganized as the State Bank of Rushmore; then Mr. Ludlow took an interest in the bank and became assistant cashier, which position he still holds. He is also interested in many other business enterprises in the village of Rushmore. He is a member of the Rushmore Land Co., dealers in real estate; is manager and secretary of the Bedford Land & Loan Co., which owns the handsome state bank building; is vice president of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Co. of Nobles County; is a member of the firm of Ludlow & Christenson, stock buyers; and has stock in the Christenson Elevator Co. Besides these for a number of years he found time to edit and manage the Rushmore Enterprise.

In village affairs he takes an active interest and has held a village office ever since the town was incorporated in 1900. That year he was elected constable and served a two years' term; in 1902 he was chosen assessor and served one year; during the next four years he was village treasurer; then in the spring of 1907 he was chosen president of the council, which office he still holds. Besides these village offices he has also held other offices of trust. In April, 1905, he was appointed one of the inspectors of materials in the construction of the new house of representatives at the national capital, and several weeks were spent in Washington with these duties. In 1904 he was appointed by Secretary of the Treasury Shaw a United States customs notary, which he still holds.

Mr. Ludlow was married at Rushmore on May 20, 1903, to Miss Bessie Bedford, daughter of Senator and Mrs. S. B. Bedford. To them have been born two children, Horace Bedford and Jean Elizabeth.

MIKE HOLLAREN, of Ellsworth, has been engaged in business in that village for the last eighteen years. He is a native of Bath, Maine, in which city he was born Oct. 27, 1861.

The father of our subject is John Hollaren, who is now a resident of Missouri and who is 73 years of age. His mother died in 1866. John Hollaren is a native of Ireland. He came to the United States in 1858 and located at Bath, Maine. Twelve years later he took up his residence in Woburn and in 1880 came to Nobles county as a member of the Catholic colony. Until 1898 he resided in Grand Prairie township, and then moved to Missouri.

Mike Hollaren was nine years of age when the family home was made at Woburn, Mass. There he resided, attending school and learning the carrier's trade, until the family came to Nobles county. It was on the first day of April, 1880, that he landed in Adrian, and Nobles county has been his home ever since that date. For several years he farmed in Grand Prairie township. He moved to Ellsworth in 1886 and for a few years worked at different occupations, having the management of an elevator there for some time. In 1890 he went into the restaurant business, conducted that two or three years, and then purchased from Dan Sweeney the business which he has since conducted. He now deals in confectionery, musical instruments and sundries, and has built up an excellent trade.

Mr. Hollaren was married at Ellsworth Nov. 16, 1886, to Miss Mary Ellen Condon, who was born in Woburn, Mass., April 13, 1862, the daughter of John Condon and Margaret Condon, who came to Grand Prairie township in 1880 and who died in 1904 and 1901, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Hollaren have been born eight children, of whom are living: Margaret, born Sept. 3, 1887; Frank, born Oct. 17, 1889; Mary, born Nov. 25, 1888; Mae, born Dec. 23, 1891; William, born Feb. 9, 1894; Ronald, born March 20, 1896; Helen, born Sept. 11, 1898; Vincent, born Sept. 3, 1904.

In the religious, social, official and educational matters of his community Mr. Hollaren has taken an active part. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the A. O. H.

A. O. U. W., C. O. F. and K. of C. lodges. He has served several terms as member of the township and village boards, and for several terms a member of the Ellsworth board of education, of which he was at one time president.

MARTIN M. McCANN has farmed eighteen years in Leota township. He is one of the large land owners of western Nobles county, owning 900 acres of land in Leota, Lismore and Larkin townships.

Martin McCann was born in Crawford county, Wis., March 12, 1857. He is the son of James and Mary McCann, natives of Ireland. The former was born in Dublin and came to the United States when about twenty-five years of age. He served in a Wisconsin regiment during the war of the rebellion and is now living in Prairie du Chien, Wis., at the age of 80 years. His wife is also living and is 72 years of age.

Until he was nineteen years of age Martin lived on the home farm in Crawford county, Wis. He then went to Clayton county, Iowa, where he worked out three years. The next three years were spent in Sioux and Lyon counties, Iowa, teaching school during the winter months and working at other occupations during the summers. During the time he was residing in Iowa, Mr. McCann took a homestead and tree claim in Hutchinson county, S. D., and in 1882 he moved onto the claim and there engaged in farming until 1891. During the time he lived there he taught several terms of school.

In the spring of 1892 Mr. McCann moved to Nobles county and located in Leota township, on section 27, where he now resides. He had purchased the half section there in 1891, the land then being wild prairie. He has made many improvements on the place, and has one of the fine farm homes of Leota township. He now rents a part of his farms and intends soon to reside in Lismore, where he has recently erected a fine home and where he owns eighteen and one fourth acres.

Mr. McCann was married at Sheldon, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1882, to Annie L. Buckley, born in Iowa county, Wis., Nov. 12, 1865. She is the daughter of Philip and Mary Buckley, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. McCann have been born the following named children, of whom all except the two first named reside at

home: Philip J., of Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, born Aug. 15, 1883; Eva (Mrs. Thomas King), of Moosejaw, born Aug. 30, 1885; Rosa, born Feb. 1, 1887; James, born March 10, 1889; Anna L., born Sept. 19, 1891; Lucy Agnes, born Jan. 26, 1894; Leo Alfred, born Jan. 2, 1896; Esther, born March 15, 1898; William Martin, born Oct. 6, 1901; Francis Raymond, born May 15, 1904; Lawrence Paul, born Feb. 3, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lismore.

EDWARD F. BUCHAN, of Worthington, is one of the oldest business men of that city, having conducted a photograph gallery there for the past twenty-eight years. He was born at Dover, Wis., June 11, 1858, the oldest son of Andrew and Delia N. (Blandin) Buchan, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. His early boyhood days were spent in the county of his birth and in Houston county, Minn., where his parents moved in the spring of 1865. Edward started his schooling in Houston county and finished his education in the grammar school at Worthington. From 1872 to 1879 he lived with his parents on the homestead near Worthington and endured all the trials incident to the grasshopper period.

In 1879 Mr. Buchan went to St. Paul and during that winter learned the photographer's trade. Returning to Worthington, he opened a gallery on April 20, 1880, in a building where the postoffice now is, a business in which he has been engaged ever since.

Mr. Buchan was married at Worthington May 14, 1882, to Miss Emma L. Mott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mott, who were pioneer residents of the county. Mrs. Buchan was born at Dowagiac, Mich., May 14, 1859, and died at Worthington November 2, 1902. Two children were born to this union Hale, who died March 8, 1884, aged seven months, and Verna V., born June 29, 1895.

Mr. Buchan has been a member of the Presbyterian church of Worthington since March 24, 1874, and has always been an active member, taking a prominent part in church work. He was elected elder of the church in April, 1886, to succeed his father, and has held the office ever since, during which time he has held various other offices in the church and the Sunday school.

Ever since the St. John campaign of 1884 he has been identified with the prohibition cause, and is one of the prominent members of that party in Nobles county, and has taken a very active part in the campaign against the liquor traffic.

DICKSON S. LONG, of Worthington township, owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 28, which has been his home for the last sixteen years. Mr. Long was born in Greenville, Pa., Oct. 12, 1849, the son of Samuel and Nancy (Christy) Long. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania and both died in Iowa, the former at the age of 73 years, the latter aged 79. Our subject is of English and Scotch descent.

Mr. Long was educated in the public schools of Greenville, Pa., and was in the hardware business there five years. He left home in 1869 and spent two years farming in Fulton county, Ill. He went to Girard, Kansas, in 1871, but remained there only six months. He then located at Morningsun, Iowa, where he engaged in farming and stockraising until 1892. That year he came to Nobles county and bought his present farm, where he has since resided.

Mr. Long was married at Morningsun, Iowa, on March 5, 1874, to Marnitta Stafford. They are the parents of the following named children: J. E., of Dewald township; Frank, of Kansas City, Mo.; Joseph and Ralph, who live at home.

JAMES NEFF, Bloom township farmer, was born at Monroe Falls, Summit county, Ohio, Nov. 5, 1865, the son of John and Eliza (Paulus) Neff, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. Both parents were natives of Ohio, the father having been born Jan. 22, 1829, in Portage county, the mother, Aug. 10, 1836, in Summit county. The former died near Sibley, Iowa, Feb. 12, 1883; the latter lives at Ashton, Iowa. John Neff's parents, Conrad and Mary A. (Cline) Neff, were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Neff's parents were Jacob Paulus and Annie (Brocher) Paulus, natives of Pennsylvania.

In 1870 the family moved from Ohio to Hardin county, Iowa, and the next year to near the site of the present town of Ashton, in Osceola county, becoming pioneers of that

county. On the Osceola county farm James Neff was reared and in the country schools of that county he was educated. After his father's death in 1883 he farmed the home place for his mother and was so engaged until 1898. In the fall of that year he moved to his present farm—the northwest quarter of section 5, Bloom township, which his mother had bought, and there he has since made his home.

Mr. Neff was married at Sibley, Iowa, March 31, 1892, to Ella Kimball, who was born Aug. 3, 1859. She is a daughter of Isaac and Clarissa (Weston) Kimball. Her father resides with her daughter. The mother was born in Rockford, Ill., July 5, 1846, and died at Sibley, Iowa, July 6, 1891. To Mr. and Mrs. Neff have been born two children: Charles, born June 21, 1893; Harold, born Nov. 6, 1900.

JAMES BAIRD, who resides on a farm in Summit Lake township, near the village of Reading, has been a resident of Nobles county nearly a quarter of a century, during all of which time he has been engaged in farming, with the exception of one year spent in Rushmore.

Mr. Baird is a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and was born Jan. 31, 1843. His parents were James and Jessie (McCle) Baird, both of whom died in their native land, the former in 1866, the latter in 1856. Our subject lived in Scotland until forty years of age. At the age of thirteen he became a shepherd and followed that occupation during all the time of his residence in his home land.

It was in the spring of 1883 that Mr. Baird came to America. He went first to Montana, where he spent the first summer working through the west. The winter of 1883-84 he on the Northern Pacific railroad, then building spent in St. Paul and the following spring he came to Nobles county. In partnership with John McKenzie he bought a quarter section of land in Dewald township, upon which he lived five years. He then sold out and rented a half section of land in Dewald, which he farmed six years. Moving to Ramsom township, he made his home there until the spring of 1908, and then moved to his present place near Reading. While engaging to some extent in general farming, Mr.

Baird makes a specialty of sheep raising, to which he has devoted his entire life. He raises thoroughbred Shropshires and has some fine ones.

Mr. Baird was married in Scotland in 1868 to Jessie McKenzie, who died eight years later. To them were born the following named children: Jessie (Mrs. Peter Mactier), of Summit Lake; James, of Summit Lake; Ivo, of Ransom; John, of Reading. Mr. Baird was married the second time in 1900 to Loretta J. Pettit, who died the following year.

Mr. Baird is a member of the Rushmore Presbyterian church, of which he has held the office of elder. He was assessor of Ransom township for several years and also held school offices there a number of times.

S. A. VOSS, Bigelow township farmer, owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 29 and the northwest quarter of section 33. He is the son of Albert and Catherine (Tiddens) Voss, who now reside at Little Rock, Iowa, and he was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Aug. 22, 1870. In his native county Mr. Voss resided until he was of age. He then moved to Nobles county, bought the land where he now resides, and has since been engaged in farming the property. Mr. Voss is a member of the school board of district No. 108.

In Grundy county, Iowa, on Feb. 26, 1892, Mr. Voss was married to Miss Ellen Bunger, a native of Hardin county, Iowa, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nannie Bunger. She was born Nov. 10, 1870. To Mr. and Mrs. Voss have been born eight children, the oldest dying in infancy. Those living are: Catherine, born Aug. 18, 1894; Nannie Bunger, born June 16, 1896; Albert Sibrand, born Feb. 14, 1898; Temmo Gerhardus, born March 20, 1899; Tena Marie, born Feb. 26, 1901; Herbert Herman, born June 16, 1904; Minnie Harriet, born July 19, 1908.

FRED L. HUMISTON is clerk of the district court of Nobles county and one of the pioneers of Worthington, having been a resident of that city since June, 1872. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born in

Lesueur county in 1859, the son of Edwin R. and Mary (Davis) Humiston, both of whom are living and reside at Worthington.

Fred received his early schooling in the common school of Lesueur county, and after his removal to Worthington completed his education in the Worthington public schools. His first business venture was in 1883, when, in company with Otis Bigelow, he established a meat market in Worthington, which business he was connected with until 1886. He then sold out his interest in the firm of Bigelow & Humiston and removed to Los Angeles, Cal., where for two years he was engaged in the real estate business. Returning to Worthington in July, 1888, he and his brother, W. I. Humiston, bought out the hardware store of J. F. Humiston and established the house of W. I. Humiston & Co. The brothers conducted this business until 1898, when they sold out. Since that time they have maintained a partnership in the ownership of several farms in Nobles county, northern Minnesota and North Dakota, and are extensive land owners.

Mr. Humiston has served one term on the Worthington village council, having been elected in March, 1892. He was elected clerk of the district court of Nobles county in the fall of 1898, again in 1902, and again in 1906, making a continuous service of nearly ten years. He is a republican and is prominent in the councils of his party in county and state.

In 1886 occurred the marriage of Mr. Humiston to Miss Gertrude Warren, daughter of Dr. Warren, one of the pioneer settlers of Worthington. Mrs. Humiston died in 1892. To this union was born one child, Gladys, born February 20, 1888. In 1897 Mr. Humiston was united in marriage to Miss Genevieve Emleo, to whom have been born three daughters, Dorothy, Genevieve and Ruth, the last named dying in 1905.

WESTERN M. CLINE owns and farms 400 acres of land in Summit Lake township. He is a native of Butler county, Iowa, where he was born Jan. 23, 1864. He is one of a family of eight children: Frank M., John C., Erwin E., Mattie J., Western M., Milan S., Minnie A. and Lillie A. The father of

this family was Alexander Cline, who was born in Lycoming county, Pa., and who moved to Butler county, Iowa, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of that part of the state. He spent the greater part of his life there, and died near Lawton, Oklahoma, July 24, 1903, aged 73 years and 7 months. Our subject's mother was Elizabeth (McCullum) Cline, also a native of Pennsylvania. She died at Bristow, Iowa, Nov. 28, 1899, aged 65 years.

Our subject spent nearly his entire life in Butler county. He was educated in the district schools and after growing to manhood engaged in farming. He sold out in the spring of 1900, and on March 6, of that year, arrived in Nobles county. He located on his farm—the north half of section 9, Summit Lake—which he had purchased in the fall of 1898. The farm was then raw prairie and unimproved in any way. He has spent several thousand dollars in bringing it up to his present condition. He added to his original farm in 1902 by the purchase of eighty acres in section 4.

Mr. Cline was married in Butler county, Iowa, May 24, 1887, to Miss Alta Gatliff, a native of Kansas and a daughter of Reese B. and Harriette Gatliff. Mr. and Mrs. Cline are the parents of three children: Parley L., Eola M. and Zenas R.

Our subject and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading. He is a member of the M. W. A. and Royal Neighbors lodges, and a stockholder in the Farmers Mutual Telephone company of Reading. During the last seven years he has been a member of the Summit Lake township board, and during the last four years has been treasurer of the school district.

F. W. STANTON is cashier of the German State Bank of Ellsworth and has lived in that village thirteen years. He is a native of Newcastle county, Delaware, where he was born Dec. 14, 1855, the son of Isaac B. and Seraphina Stanton, both of whom are dead.

At the age of fifteen years Mr. Stanton moved from his native county to Chester, Pa., and in 1875 located at Bloomington, Ill. He came to Minnesota in 1885 and for ten years made his home in Rock county. He took up his residence in Ellsworth in 1895,

and from that date until Jan. 1, 1897, managed the elevator of E. A. Brown. He then took the position of cashier of the Citizens Bank, now the German State Bank, and has since conducted the bank's affairs. The institution was formerly styled the Citizen's Bank and opened for business Oct. 1, 1893. Brown and Huntington, of Laverne, were the owners. A reorganization was effected July 23, 1903, when the German State Bank took the place of the old institution. It has a paid up capital of \$15,000, with about twenty stockholders, nearly all of whom are residents of Nobles county. The officers are: E. A. Brown, president; Poppe Hickman, vice president; F. W. Stanton, cashier; W. F. Marten, assistant cashier. Besides his business interests Mr. Stanton takes an interest in local public matters. He was a member of the Ellsworth school board several terms and at present is a member of the village council, and served several terms as president of the council. He is a K. P. and a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Stanton's marriage occurred at Bellflower, Ill., March 4, 1882, when he wedded Miss Anna V. Skidmore, a native of Illinois and a daughter of George and Margaret Skidmore. To them have been born four children, as follows: Cleo M., born June 1, 1888; Morgi S., born May 10, 1891; Delaware T., born March 5, 1895, and Alice M., born Aug. 5, 1897.

JOHN McCARTHY, Little Rock township farmer, has made his home on the farm where he now resides ever since he was seven years of age. He is a native of the city of Boston, where he was born Jan. 9, 1873, the son of the late Dennis McCarthy and Catherine (Collins) McCarthy.

Dennis McCarthy was born in the county of Cork, Ireland, on Christmas day, 1840, and resided in his native land until 21 years of age, engaging in farming. He arrived in the new world Aug. 15, 1864, and located in Boston, where he worked at the paving business. He was united in marriage at Boston on Feb. 19, 1865, to Catherine Collins, who survives her husband and resides on the Little Rock farm. To them were born the following children: Dannie, Nellie, Mary, John and Dennis. The first three named are deceased. The other two reside with their

mother. Dennis McCarthy died Nov. 30, 1904.

It was on the first day of April, 1880, that the family arrived in Adrian as members of the Irish Catholic Colonization association, determined to make their future homes in Nobles county. The father bought the south-east quarter of section 17, Little Rock township, and that has been the family home ever since.

John McCarthy has been engaged in farming the home place for the last fifteen years. In addition to the home farm he now owns an eighty acre tract on section 7. He is a member of the Catholic church and is unmarried.

JOHN S. COX, a well known resident of Nobles county, resides on his farm in Olney township, two miles northeast of Adrian. He was born in Towanda, Ill., in 1865. Later he moved with his parents to Gibson City. In 1880 he married Miss Dineen, of Ottawa, Ill.

Mr. Cox moved to Adrian about twenty years ago where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He has at present about twenty-five head of Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

The family of Mr. Cox consists of five daughters and four sons. The eldest daughter resides in Chicago, and the others live at home.

CHARLES S. MUCK. The oldest settler residing in Nobles county is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, now a resident of Kinbrae. Forty-one years is the period of his residence in Nobles county a record held by no other person.

Charles Muck is the son of Stephen and Louisa (Brumbau) Muck, and was born in Schuyler county, Ill., April 27, 1865. His mother died in the year of his birth, and the next year his father took the children to Dallas county, Iowa. In the latter part of May, 1867, when the subject of this sketch was two years old the family moved to Jackson, Minn. There the children remained until the fall of the year and then joined the father on his claim on Graham lake in Nobles county.

Charles Muck has ever since made his home in the county. He received his education in the country schools of Graham

lakes township, the first school he attended being in the open under a large elm tree on the island in Graham lake. He worked on his father's farm during boyhood days and made his home on the original homestead until 1901. That year he moved to Kinbrae, which place has since been his home. During the latter part of his residence on the farm he served four or five years as township supervisor.

JOHN B. BRUNS is one of the early settlers and successful farmers of Willmont township. He owns 440 acres of land in Willmont township, all within a short distance of his home farm, which is the north-east quarter of section 29. His wife owns 40 acres on section 27, in the same township.

Mr. Bruns is a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born June 18, 1843, the son of Henry and Mary (Huser) Bruns, both deceased. Until he was thirty-two years of age he resided in his native land. At the age of twelve years he began working at the carpenter's trade, followed that occupation during all the time he lived in the old country, and became a highly skilled workman.

On the tenth day of June, 1875, Mr. Bruns arrived in the new world, landing at Baltimore. He moved at once to Shakopee, Scott county, Minn., where for one year he worked at his trade. He then went to Defiance, Ohio, worked at his trade there one year, and then returned to Shakopee. He continued working at his trade there until 1886, with the exception of three months in 1885, which were spent on a visit to his old home in Germany.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Bruns came to Nobles county, bought the northeast quarter of section 29, Willmont township, for which he paid \$7.25 per acre, and on October 13, of the same year, moved onto the place with his family. He has made his home on the farm ever since, and has added to his possessions until he has property as noted above. He has worked at his trade some since coming to the county, and a monument to his work are the fine buildings on his farm, all of which he erected himself. He has one of the many fine farm homes of Willmont township.

Mr. Bruns was married at Defiance, Ohio, Oct. 25, 1877, to Mary C. Schmitz, daughter of William and Tekla (Eising) Schmitz. Mrs. Bruns was born in kreis Pappenburg, Germany, Aug. 23, 1849. This marriage has resulted in the birth of the following named children: Mary (Mrs. Frank Diekman), of Leota township, born Dec. 19, 1878; Henry, born Jan. 12, 1881; John B., Jr., born Aug. 20, 1882; William G., born April 19, 1884; Annie IL, born Nov. 19, 1885, died Dec. 23, 1891; Joseph J., born June 12, 1891. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian.

Mr. Bruns was one of the organizers of the Willmont Mutual Fire Insurance company and has served as a director of the company ever since it was founded in 1895. He served as treasurer of school district No. 66 for nine years.

RUFUS K. DOE, Olney township farmer and breeder of Poland-China hogs, is among the early day settlers of Olney, having resided there twenty-six years. He is a native of Minnesota, and has resided within the boundaries of the state all his life. He was born at Rochester on Feb. 27, 1866.

Our subject's father was Richard K. Doe, who was born in Vermont, but who, when a young man, removed to Lowell, Mass., and engaged in the boot and shoe manufacturing business. In 1864 he came west and settled at Rochester, where he engaged in the wholesale shoe business. This was before railroads had penetrated into Minnesota very extensively, and Mr. Doe employed many men and teams to distribute his goods throughout the state. In 1871 he moved to Claremont, Dodge county, and entered into the general merchandise business. He sold out in 1882 and came to Nobles county, homesteading the northwest quarter of section 6, Olney township. There he farmed until 1884, when he died at the age of 58 years. The mother of our subject was Laura (Bartholomew) Doe, who was born in Buffalo, N. Y., and died in 1883, aged 48 years.

Rufus Doe, of this sketch, accompanied his parents to Nobles county, and after his father's death purchased the farm from the heirs, and has since been engaged in farming. In 1890 he added to his holdings by the purchase of the east half of the south-

west quarter of section 6. For seventeen years he has served as a member of the board of school district No. 51, and for two years was a supervisor of Olney township.

Mr. Doe was married at Hamline, Minn., Sept. 10, 1892, to Miss Mary Gloyka, who was born in Illinois in 1871. They are the parents of the following children: Flora, Roland, Frank, Lillian, Mamie and Myrtle, the last two named being twins. Mr. and Mrs. Doe are members of the Unitarian church of Adrian.

WILL E. OLIVER, member of the firm of Oliver & Madison, proprietors of a Worthington meat market and dealers in live stock, has resided in the county since he was a boy. He was born in New Ipswich, N. H., Oct. 30, 1866, the son of L. C. and Sarah (Harding) Oliver.

L. C. Oliver was one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county. He was born in New Hampshire, and came to Nobles county in 1878, taking a homestead of 160 acres on section 32, Summit Lake township. He took a prominent part in the affairs of his community, and for a time was commander of the G. A. R. post at Worthington. He left the county in 1893 and located at Watauga, Oklahoma, where he engaged in the livery business and where he died April 11, 1906. Our subject's mother was born at Auburn, N. Y., in 1842, and died at Peterboro, N. H., in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Oliver were the parents of the following children: Will E., of this sketch; Katie W., of St. Paul; Gertrude, of Seattle, Wash.; Frank P., who died in Worthington in 1880, aged 11 years.

W. E. Oliver came to Worthington Aug. 22, 1882, and for several years worked on the farm. He then began working in a butcher shop, and in 1889, in partnership with W. E. Madison, opened a butcher shop and engaged in the stock business—a partnership which has had a life of nineteen years. The firm of Oliver & Madison is the oldest stock shipping firm in the city.

At Worthington on Sept. 30, 1896, Mr. Oliver was married to Miss Emma S. Pepple, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Pepple. They are the parents of four children: Ernest, born Aug. 18, 1897; Walter, born May 12, 1899; Dorothy, born Oct. 28, 1901; Della, born Dec. 25, 1902.

Mr. Oliver is a Mason, Woodman and Yeoman. He served one term as a member of the village council, elected in 1903.

JOHN NELSON owns a farm on the west shore of Okabema lake, three miles from Worthington. He has lived in Nobles county twenty-one years. Mr. Nelson was born in Sweden Feb. 12, 1857, the son of Andrew Nelson, now of Worthington, and Nellie Nelson, who died in Sweden in 1868.

In his native country John Nelson secured his education and worked at farm work until 1880. That year he came to America and on April 13 took up his residence at Burlington, Iowa. There he took employment in the building department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, with which he was connected seven years. On the thirteenth of April, 1887, Mr. Nelson came to Nobles county and located on section 16, Elk township, where he bought 240 acres of land and engaged in farming until 1900. Disposing of his Elk township property at that time he bought the northeast quarter of section 28, Worthington township, and has since made his home there. During his residence in Elk Mr. Nelson served four years as a township supervisor.

Mr. Nelson was married in Elk township March 11, 1892, to Annie Anderson. To them has been born one child, A. Ruht.

CHARLES M. CRANDALL, attorney at law of Worthington, has made his home in Nobles county twenty three years. He was born and raised in Illinois. After receiving a high school education he engaged in teaching, which he followed two years. Thereafter he engaged in clerical work. In 1886 he moved to Ellsworth, where he was in business several years.

Mr. Crandall was graduated from the law department of Union University of New York in 1894, since which time he has been practicing his profession in Worthington. He has served eight years as county attorney of Nobles county, having been elected on the republican ticket in 1896, 1898, 1900 and 1904. He is president of the Carnegie library board, and has held several minor village and school offices.

FRANK BAKER is a Summit Lake township farmer who resides only a short distance southwest from Reading. He owns 200 acres of land in sections 26 and 35 and has made his home there since 1902. Mr. Baker was born near Adrian, Mich., on April 12, 1860, and descends from an old New York state family, the American branch of which was founded by an Englishman who came in colonial days. Levi Baker, a farmer, was the father of our subject. He was born near Adrian, Mich., July 30, 1837, and died Aug. 14, 1901. Our subject's mother was Sophronia E. (Mason) Baker, who was born near Adrian June 17, 1840, and who died in 1892.

In the place of his birth Frank Baker lived until fourteen years of age. Then he moved with his parents to Butler county, Iowa, and that was his home until his arrival in Nobles county. During the greater part of his residence there he engaged in farming. One year he spent working at the printer's trade. He came to Nobles county in 1902, bought his farm, and has been engaged in farming there since. He was one of the organizers of the Reading Mutual Telephone company and was its first president, serving in that capacity three years.

Mr. Baker was married Feb. 21, 1884, at Allison, Butler county, Iowa, to Annie E. Dopking, a native of Monroe county, Wis., and a daughter of George M. and Abigail (Jarvis) Dopking. To them has been born one child, named Lulu.

Mr. Baker is a member of the Presbyterian church of Reading and of Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., Worthington. He served on the Summit Lake board of supervisors four years and during the last year of his service was chairman of the board.

MARTIN KALLEMYEN, of Leota township, is a native of Mahaska county, Iowa, where he was born June 10, 1849. He is the son of John William and Tryntje (Verner) Kallemyen. The father was born in Holland and came to America at the age of 60 years. He located in Mahaska county, Iowa, where he lived until his death in 1862, at the age of 75 years. Our subject's mother, also a native of Holland, died in



Mahaska county in 1878, at the age of 68 years.

On his father's farm in Blackoak township, Mahaska county, Iowa, Martin lived until he was seventeen years of age, spending most of that time getting his education. He moved to Ackley, Iowa, in 1866 and worked at farm labor three years. After his marriage, which occurred at the end of that time, he rented a farm in the same vicinity and farmed three years. He moved to Sioux county, Iowa, in 1873, and became a pioneer settler of that county. He bought a homestead relinquishment there, proved up on the land, and farmed six years. During the next five years he was engaged in the hardware business in Hospers. Disposing of that property, he bought a farm two miles north of Hospers and engaged in agricultural pursuits several years.

During the year 1889 Mr. Kallemiyen came to Nobles county and bought 200 acres of land on section 9, Leota township, upon which he lived three years. He then bought a half section in Murray county and farmed that eight years. The next six years were passed in Leota village, during three and one-half years of which time he carried mail out of Leota. In 1906 he bought the sixty acre tract of land on section 6, where he now lives.

Mr. Kallemiyen was the first Hollander to locate in Leota township, and it was he who was responsible for the settlement of Hollanders in that precinct. Being pleased with the country to which he had come in 1889, he visited a Hollander settlement in Sioux county, Iowa, and induced many to sell and locate there. All who came and have remained here have prospered.

In Ackley, Iowa, in November, 1869, Mr. Kallemiyen was married to Martha Kooiman, a native of Andyk, Holland. To them have been born the following children: Tryntje, born Dec. 16, 1871; Gerret, born Nov. 13, 1873; Lena, born Jan. 7, 1876; Willhemina, born March 23, 1878; Marie, born April 23, 1880; Jan Willem, born March 13, 1882; Jacob, born July 2, 1884; Susanna, born Nov. 15, 1886; Martha, born Jan. 29, 1889; Martin, born May 1, 1891; Klaus, born June 13, 1898; Pieter, born June 17, 1897.

Mr. Kallemiyen has served seven years on the town board during his residence in Murray county. Mrs. Kallemiyen served six years

as a member of the school district while a resident of Murray county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kallemiyen are members of the Dutch Reformed church. Our subject and John Kroon were named a committee in the early days to select and purchase the site for the Presbyterian church of Leota, which was a year later made the Reformed church.

JOHN BUSCHMAN, Willmont township farmer, owns the southwest quarter of section 14, and has made his home there during the last sixteen years. He is a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and Sept. 20, 1871, is the date of his birth. His parents, Barney and Kate (Eich) Buschman, natives of Germany and Racine county, Wis., respectively, live in Winneshiek county, Iowa. The father was born in 1838 and came to the United States eighteen years later.

John was raised on his father's farm and made his home in Winneshiek county until 1892. That year he came to Nobles county, bought his farm in Willmont township, and has ever since resided thereon. He holds the office of director of school district No. 65 and has had the office for the past five years. Prior to being elected director he held the office of treasurer of the district for five years.

Mr. Buschman was married at St. Kilian Sept. 26, 1893, to Elizabeth Kleve, daughter of Anton and Margaret Kleve. Her mother lives in Winneshiek county, Iowa; her father is dead. Mrs. Buschman was born in Winneshiek county Sept. 21, 1868. To Mr. and Mrs. Buschman have been born the following named children: Maggie, born Oct. 15, 1894; Henry, born Oct. 6, 1896, died Dec. 20, 1896; Julia, born Dec. 3, 1897; Hugo John Henry, born Nov. 24, 1899, died Sept. 5, 1901; Hilla, born June 27, 1903; Hugo, born July 27, 1905; Walter, born Jan. 18, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian, and Mr. Buschman is a member of the C. O. F. of Adrian.

H. W. LARSON, junior member of the firm known as the Willmont Creamery company, was born in Neenah, Wis., Sept. 7, 1879, the son of A. C. and Lena (Anderson) Larson. The father, a native of Denmark, came to the United States when a young

man and located in Wisconsin, in Polk county, of which state he is now a resident at the age of 60 years. Our subject's mother, also a native of Denmark, died in Neenah, Wis., in 1892, at the age of 37 years.

Mr. Larson was educated in the district schools near Neenah and in the normal school at Oshkosh. He lived near Neenah until fifteen years of age and then the family moved to Freeborn county, Minn., where he resided on the farm with his parents two years. He then went to Clark's Grove, Minn., where he took employment in the first creamery separator plant operated in the state of Minnesota, with which he was connected two years. During the next four years he was located at Hartland, Minn., where he had charge of a creamery plant. Then he returned to his home, where he worked in a creamery two and one-half years.

It was in March, 1906, that Mr. Larson came to Wilmont and bought a half interest in the Wilmont creamery, of which he has since had charge. This creamery was first started in the summer of 1902, by Smith & West. There were several changes in the ownership before Mr. Larson became identified with the business, A. V. Smith, of Hardwick, retaining an interest all the time, however, and that gentleman is still a part owner of the plant. Mr. Larson has added new machinery and made other improvements in the plant, and the result is an increased and increasing patronage. The creamery is one of the best in the country and has capacity for all future demands.

Wherever Mr. Larson has been engaged in the creamery business he has established a record as a butter maker, and during the years he has been so engaged has taken a number of prizes. At the Minnesota state fair in 1900 he received third prize, and second prize at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo. He was awarded a bronze medal at the St. Louis exposition, and at the Wisconsin State Buttermakers' convention in 1904 he won the gold medal on grand sweepstakes.

Mr. Larson is a member of many fraternal orders. He belongs to the M. W. A., Yeomen, Odd Fellows and Masonic orders. Of the latter order he holds membership in the Blue Lodge at Neenah, Wis., in the Royal Arch at Worthington, and in the Commandry at Luverne.

HENRY BURGESON is a Graham Lakes township farmer, who after having followed the sea the greater part of his life, came to Nobles county twenty-one years ago, and has since been engaged in the less strenuous life of an agriculturist.

He is a Norwegian by birth, having been born in Stavanger March 25, 1843, the son of Burgess Burgeson, a farmer. He attended the common schools until fourteen years of age, and then began work in a cabinet shop, which occupation he followed for six years. At the age of 20 he went to sea, which he was destined to follow twenty-three years. During the first three or four years of his life aboard ship he served as a carpenter. Then he took a one year's course in a navigation school, and thereafter served as a seaman. For eleven years he was a captain, and during that time sailed the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and North seas.

In 1886 Captain Burgeson quit the sea, came to America, and direct to Nobles county. He purchased the northwest quarter of section 14, Graham Lakes, at that time, and has ever since been engaged in farming that property.

Mr. Burgeson was married in Norway in 1869 to Christina Davidson, who died in 1881. Three children were born to this union, Bernhard, Harry and Johanna.

JOSEPH G. MURPHY, implement dealer of Adrian, and member of the board of county commissioners, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county and a pioneer of the west end. He was born at Portage, Wis., Sept. 13, 1855. His father, Joseph Murphy, was born in Ireland, came to the United States in 1847, and located at Portage, Wis. There he engaged in farming and freighting between Milwaukee and Portage before railroads were built in that part of the country, and in that town he died. Our subject's mother is Elizabeth (Mason) Murphy, who was born in Dublin and is still living in Portage. She has nine children living eight sons and one daughter.

Mr. Murphy was educated in his native state and engaged in farm work near Portage until 1876, when he went to Rochester, Minn. There he remained until the fall of 1877, when he came to Nobles county and took an eighty-acre homestead on section 30, Leota township. For several years he work-

ed on the farm of Thos. Grace, three miles west of the village of Adrian, three years of which time he was foreman of the farm. He then went onto his own place and farmed it three years. In 1888 he moved to Adrian, bought a dray line, and ran it five years. He purchased the Grant & Hanna implement house there in 1890, and ever since that date has been engaged in the implement business.

Mr. Murphy was married at Rochester, Minn., Jan. 16, 1883, to Bridget C. Ryan, daughter of Daniel and Bridget Ryan, of Rochester. To Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have been born two daughters: Elizabeth (Mrs. Robert Thom), of Kenneth, born Sept. 19, 1884; Mary (Mrs. Joseph Lenz), of Grand Prairie, born Oct. 15, 1885. Before their marriage both daughters taught three years in Nobles county's schools.

When Leota township was organized Mr. Murphy was elected chairman of the board of supervisors and served two terms. He served eight years as constable of Adrian village, and was a member of the village council in 1904 and 1905. He was elected county commissioner from the third district on the democratic ticket in 1900 and was re-elected in 1904. During the year 1906 he served as chairman of the board.

Mr. Murphy is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He owns eighty acres of land in section 3, Olney township, and six lots in the village of Adrian.

MADISON J. BRYAN, of Worthington, is one of the earlier settlers of Nobles county, having made his home here since 1873, the greater part of this time having been spent in Grand Prairie township.

He was born near Courtwright, Delaware county, New York, in 1844, the son of J. M. Bryan and Sarah Jane (Rockwell) Bryan. The father was a native of New York state, and is still living, at the age of 90 years, at Ellsworth. The mother, also a native of New York state, died in 1860.

When Matt was about one and one-half years of age his parents moved to Genoa county, Ohio, which was the family home until 1852. On the last named date another move was made, and the family took up residence at Independence, Buchanan county,

Iowa. There Matt engaged in farm work on his father's place and secured a common school education.

On June 29, 1861, Mr. Bryan, then a boy of 17 years of age, enlisted in company E, of the 5th Iowa volunteer infantry, and served during the war. He was a member of the 5th Iowa infantry until Jan. 4, 1864, when he was mustered out. He immediately reenlisted and was transferred to the 5th Iowa cavalry, becoming a member of company G. He received his final discharge from the army at Nashville, Tenn., September 19, 1865. His record as a soldier was excellent, and his discharge was an honorable one. For a time he served as corporal, later as sergeant, and finally was promoted to be orderly sergeant.

His service was in the army of Tennessee, and at different times he was under Generals Fremont, Pope, Rosecrans, Grant, Wilton and Thomas. He saw severe fighting, taking part in the battles of Inka, Corinth, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and other important engagements. He was in the severe fighting about Memphis and took part in the siege of Chaitanooga. Later, in 1864, he took part in the Vicksburg campaign.

After his muster out in the fall of 1865, he returned to his home at Independence, Iowa, and near that city he engaged in farming until 1873. April first of that year is the date of his arrival in Nobles county. In Grand Prairie township he located a homestead, and there he made his home until the town of Ellsworth started in 1884. He then moved to the new village and engaged in business. Ellsworth continued to be his home until about the year 1895, when he moved to Worthington, and that city has been his place of residence since. At the county seat he has been engaged in various occupations. At present he has charge of Dr. Gould's veterinary hospital.

Mr. Bryan was married at Independence, Iowa, November 28, 1866, to Etta P. Washburn, daughter of Henry and Anna Washburn. Three daughters and one son have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, all of whom are living. They are as follows: Cora (now Mrs. George Woolf), Clinton, Iowa; Lucy (now Mrs. William Nisbett), Worthington; Mattie M. (now Mrs. Alphonse Thomas), Worthington; Charles V., Worthington.

While a resident of Ellsworth Mr. Bryan served two or three years on the village council. He was nightwatchman of Worthington village during the years 1899 and 1900.

LOUIS K. FISCHER, of Dewald township, owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 27. He was born in Germany April 13, 1874, the son of George and Paulina (Kaiser) Fischer.

The family came to America in 1883 and located in Washington county, Wis., lived there three years, and then, in the spring of 1887, came to Nobles county. The father bought the southeast quarter of section 27, Dewald township, and on that farm our subject resided until after his father's death, which occurred in 1901. He moved onto his present farm in 1902, having bought the place two years before. With the exception of the year 1903, which he spent in Worthington conducting a blacksmith and machine shop in partnership with his brother, Henry, he has resided on the farm ever since.

Mr. Fischer was married in Worthington in August, 1902, to Freida Kampff, who was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1900. To them have been born three children: Annie, Gertie and Gertrude. Mr. Fischer is a Lutheran.

PETER SCHOLTES, foreman of the C. R. I. & P. round house at Ellsworth, is of German birth, and was born March 31, 1857. His father, Jacob Scholtes, came to the United States in the early eighties and located in Dunkirk, N. Y., where he died in 1895, aged 76 years. His mother, Mary (Banz) Scholtes, died in the same town a few years after her husband at the age of 77 years.

In the fall of 1879 Peter Scholtes came to America and located at Jordan, Minn., where he spent the first winter. Then he took up his residence at Union Hill, Minn., where he resided until the spring of 1885, when he came to Nobles county, which has been his home ever since. During the summer of 1885 Mr. Scholtes worked on a farm and then moved to Ellsworth at a time when the town was only one year old. For two and a half years he worked on the section

at that point, and then took a position as hostler at the round house. He has been an employe of that institution ever since, and for the last five years has been foreman.

Just prior to his leaving for America Mr. Scholtes was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hempler. To them have been born the following children: William, of Oregon; Peter, an engineer with headquarters at Estherville, Iowa; Matthew, a fireman of Estherville, Iowa; Henry, a fireman who makes his home at Watertown, S. D.; Mayme, who is clerk in a general store at Larchwood, Iowa; Anna, an inmate of the convent at Rochester, Minn.; Henry, Frank, John, Clara, Josephine, Lizzie and Rosa, the latter seven residing at home.

Mr. Scholtes is a member of the Catholic church and of the A. O. U. W. and C. O. F. lodges. He is master workman of A. O. U. W. lodge No. 182.

ANDREW EVENSON is a farmer whose farm is in section 25, Hersey township, within the limits of the Brewster incorporation. He is a native of Norway and was born Jan. 4 1865, the son of Even and Mary (Severson) Hillek. The mother died in Norway in 1868; the father in South Dakota in 1887, aged 67 years. Andrew is the youngest of a family of eight children, of whom the following named six are living: Julia, Mary, Carrie, Severt, Ole and Andrew.

Andrew came to the United States with his father in 1878 and located in Alba township, Jackson county, where he lived two years. The family then moved to Brule county, S. D., where the father took a homestead and where he died in 1887. The following year Andrew moved back to Jackson county and bought a farm. After farming that eight years he sold out and bought his present place in Brewster, where he has since resided.

Mr. Evenson was married at Jackson, Minn., Dec. 12, 1891, to Miss Mary Anderson, who is a native of the county in which she was married. She was born May 7, 1874, and is a daughter of Ole and Emma (Anderson) Anderson, early settlers of Jackson county.

In Alba township Mr. Evenson served as a school director. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Brewster.

JOHN ALTHOFF farms 240 acres of land in Olney township, his home place being on section 30. He was born in Walworth county, Wis., Sept. 6, 1875, and is the son of William and Kate (Vogelsberg) Althoff, of Grand Prairie township, natives of Germany and Wisconsin, respectively.

In his native county John resided until eight years of age. He then came to Nobles county with his parents and resided on his father's farm in Grand Prairie township until 1902. That year he moved onto his father's Olney township property, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Althoff has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Adrian on Sept. 2, 1902, when he wedded Kate Martini, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Martini, and a native of Pennsylvania. She died March 2, 1904. Mr. Althoff was married the second time at Ellsworth on Jan. 9, 1906, to Lena Martini, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martini, and a native of Nobles county. By the second marriage one child has been born, named Clara. Mr. and Mrs. Althoff are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

GEORGE HOFFMEISTER has been engaged in farming in Lorain township for the last eighteen years, being the owner of the southwest quarter and the west one-half of the southeast quarter of section 1, in that township. He is a native of Chicago, Ill., where he was born Sept. 2, 1857. His father, George Hoffmeister, and his mother, Elizabeth (Topfer) Hoffmeister, were both born in Germany, and both came to America when young.

When the subject of this sketch was two weeks old his parents moved from Chicago to New Bremen, Ill., and there he was brought up and lived until 17 years of age. In 1874 he moved with his parents to Boone, Boone county, Iowa. In different parts of Boone county young Hoffmeister lived and engaged in farming until 1890. That year he moved to Jackson county, Minn., where he lived from March till December 1. He then purchased his land in Lorain township, Nobles county, and has resided there since that date. For the last eight years he has been treasurer of the school district in which he lives.

Mr. Hoffmeister was married at Ogden, Boone county, Iowa, Sept. 16, 1880, to Annie Elizabeth Schaffner. To them have been born the following children: Chris G. H., married and lives in Jackson county; Frank Joseph, Charles Herman, Martha Margaret (now Mrs. W. L. Pigman), lives in Jackson county; Annie Augusta, Ray Roy, Elmer Edward and Everett Ernest. All except Chris and Mrs. Pigman reside at home.

L. H. BECKLEY, market gardener of Worthington, is one of the citizens who has a period of over thirty years residence in Nobles county to his credit. Mr. Beckley is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was born May 2, 1844. He is one of a family of eight children. His father, Joseph Beckley, was a native of New York state, who went to Michigan in 1832 and became a pioneer of that state. He died about fifteen years ago at the age of eighty years. Clarasa (Sweetland) Beckley was the name of our subject's mother. She died at the age of 78 years.

L. H. Beckley resided with his parents in Kalamazoo until twenty-one years of age. Then he went to Barry county, Mich., and engaged in farming, which he followed until 1877. In September of that year he moved to Nobles county, bought a farm in Dewald township, and engaged in farming there for a number of years. During the time that he was engaged in farming he conducted a meat market in Worthington a year and a half, having purchased the pioneer market from Otis Bigelow. Removing from Dewald township, Mr. Beckley located on the Newkirk farm, and in 1894 moved to Worthington. He bought a six and one-half acre tract of land in the village, and for the last fourteen years has been a market gardener.

In Portage township, Kalamazoo county, Mich., Mr. Beckley was united in marriage to Martha Austin on Jan. 16, 1867. She is a daughter of H. M. Austin and was born in Ohio in August, 1843. To Mr. and Mrs. Beckley have been born five children, of whom the following three are living: Eugene E., a miller living at Blue Earth, Minn.; Harvey G., a printer at Minneapolis; Jennie M., of Worthington.

Mr. Beckley is a member of the Congregational church and of the A. O. U. W. and Degree of Honor lodges.

JOSEPH F. ULLRICH, farmer, Worthington township, has made Nobles county his home for the last twenty years. His home farm is the northwest quarter of section 19; in addition to this he owns another quarter section in Worthington township.

He was born in Cook county, Ill., Dec. 5, 1858, the son of Magnus and Mary (Ruppert) Ulrich, both deceased. When the subject of this biography was less than a year old his parents moved to Lake county, Ill., and there he was raised and made his home for thirty years. During all of that time, after he had come to man's estate, he was engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1888, bought the land where he now lives, and has ever since made his home here. During his long residence in Worthington township he has held many offices. He has served on the township board, been road overseer and clerk of the school district.

Mr. Ullrich was married Oct. 24, 1882, at Fremont Center, Lake county, Ill., to Emma Tekampe, a native of that county. They have been the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living. They are Edna, deceased; Eddie, Willie, Augusta, Albert, Herbert, Mary, Josephine and Raymond.

LEVI H. HAWKINS, of Summit Lake township, is a native of Winchester, Frederick county, Virginia, as were his ancestors for several generations. His father, John Hawkins, is now living in the state of West Virginia. His mother, Emma (Raney) Hawkins, died in her native state thirty-five years ago.

To these parents Levi Hawkins was born Oct. 14, 1857. He secured an education in his native state, was reared on a farm there, and made his home in Virginia until 1882. In the fall of that year he moved to Will county, Ill., and farmed there four years. He then moved to Sioux county, Iowa, and engaged in farming until 1893. That year he arrived in Nobles county, bought his farm northwest quarter of section 12, Summit Lake township, and has resided there since. In addition to the home farm he owns eighty acres one mile south of his home.

Mr. Hawkins was married in Illinois Feb. 22, 1886, to Lucinda J. Patterson, a native of Illinois. To them has been born one child, Pearl, born May 9, 1890.

In local public affairs Mr. Hawkins has always taken an interest, and has held several township and school offices. He has been school treasurer for the last nine years and township assessor for the last five years. He served as road boss for several years and is now road inspector for Summit Lake township. He served on the town board one year. Mr. Hawkins is a member of the Presbyterian church of Reading, of the M. W. A. of Reading, and of the I. O. O. F. of Worthington.

JOHN F. FLYNN, attorney at law, Worthington, has been a resident of Nobles county for twenty-eight years, having spent nearly his whole life here, and he enjoys an acquaintance throughout the county equalled by but few men. He was born in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, Dec. 12, 1871, being next to the eldest of nine children, all but one of whom are still living. His father, Andrew Flynn, was a native of Ireland. He died at his home near Ellsworth in 1885. His mother, Susan (Canole) Flynn, also a native of Ireland, is still living at Ellsworth.

John accompanied his parents to Nobles county when they moved here April 20, 1880, and the county has been his home ever since. Their first place of residence was on section 31, Grand Prairie township, and that was the home of our subject for many years. He had started his schooling at Wernerville, Wis., and after his arrival in Nobles county he attended the district school of Grand Prairie township, and later, when the town of Ellsworth was founded in 1884, he was a student in the graded schools of that village. Completing the course there in 1893, he began teaching school just over the line in Iowa. During the winter of 1894-95 he attended the Sioux Falls business college, and the following summer worked on the farm. The next winter he again went to school, taking one term in a preparatory school at Sioux City.

He then decided to enter the law business, and on May 12, 1896, he entered the law office of C. M. Crandall at Worthington, where he was a student for about a year and a half. In September, 1897, he began his studies in the law department of the Minnesota state university, and completed a two years' course in one year. He returned to Worthington in June, 1898, and

again entered Mr. Crandall's office. The following November he moved to Ellsworth and opened a law office, although at the time he had not been admitted to the bar. He took the examination of the state board at once, however, and on Jan. 9, 1899, was admitted to the bar. He continued his practice at Ellsworth until 1905, when he moved to Worthington. In addition to his law business Mr. Flynn was interested in other lines of business. In company with C. A. Bird and P. F. Levins he formed the real estate firm of Flynn, Levins & Bird, and was a member of that firm several years. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Ellsworth, which was granted a charter in 1901, and was made vice president of the bank. He resigned that office in 1906, but is still a director. In 1903 he was one of the founders of the Ellsworth Land & Town Lot company, which purchased the Ellsworth townsite. He was made president at the time, an office he still holds.

During all the time of his residence in Ellsworth Mr. Flynn was village attorney, and he drafted many of the ordinances of that village. He also served one term as recorder of that village. Mr. Flynn is one of the wheelhorses of the democratic party of Nobles county, and no democrat takes a more active interest in the affairs of his party than does Mr. Flynn. In 1902 he received the democratic nomination for state senator from the Nobles-Murray district and was defeated by Daniel Shell by a majority of 748. Again in 1906 was he honored with the nomination, and came within 67 votes of carrying the county against S. B. Bedford, who was elected.

Mr. Flynn removed to Worthington in February, 1905, formed a partnership with J. A. Cashel, a graduate of Ann Arbor, and since then has been practicing law in the county seat town. Fraternally Mr. Flynn is associated with the Modern Woodmen of America and Catholic Order of Foresters, of Ellsworth. He owns 570 acres of real estate in the vicinity of Worthington and owns his own home in the city.

JACOB C. HOFFER, marshal of Lismore, was born near Freeport, Ill., Feb. 19, 1871, the son of Naerious and Aurelia (Dedrich)

Hoffer. The father was born in Baden, Germany, and emigrated to Canada when a boy. There he learned the shoemaker's trade, and in the early sixties moved to Stephenson county, Ill., where he engaged in farming. Later he moved to Hardin county and then to Kossuth county, Iowa. He now resides at Ackley, Iowa, and is 85 years of age. Our subject's mother was born in France and moved to Canada when a child, in which country she married Mr. Hoffer. She died May 16, 1906, at the age of 78 years. Jacob is the next youngest of a family of twelve children, all living. They are Kate, Joseph, Caroline, Mary, William, Agatha, Lydia, John, Matilda, Edward, Jacob and Rosa.

When Jacob was three years of age the family moved from Stephenson county, Ill., to Ackley, Iowa, and there he lived until twenty-one years of age, attending school and working on his father's farm. Near the town of Wesley, in Kossuth county, Iowa, the family next located, and there our subject spent several years working on his father's farm. On the seventh day of March, 1900, he left home and located in Nobles county. For three years he engaged in farming and then moved to Lismore and engaged in the saloon business in partnership with Jacob Hendel. After nearly four years of that business he sold out and started a harness shop, which he conducted for a time and then sold out. By appointment Mr. Hoffer has held the office of marshal for several years. In the spring of 1908 he was elected to the office and now devotes his entire time to his official duties.

In Adrian on April 27, 1898, Mr. Hoffer was married to Rosa Kessler, a daughter of John and Mary Ann Kessler, of Lismore. Mrs. Hoffer was born in Germany and came to the United States when a child. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoffer have been born the following children: Marie, Julius, Lucretia, Alfonso, Bernard, Viola and Raymond. The family are members of the Catholic church.

JOHN F. GILOMEN. One of the old timers and best known farmers of Hersey township is John F. Gilomen, who owns and farms 480 acres on section 12. He is a native of Switzerland, having been born in Canton Berne on Jan. 21, 1862. His parents,

Benedict and Elizabeth (Dick) Gilomen, are still living, making their home in their native country.

Until reaching his majority Mr. Gilomen lived in Switzerland, securing an education and working at the carpenter's trade, and for six weeks served in the Swiss army. In 1883 he came to America and located in eastern New York, where he worked about four months. From there he went to Connecticut, where for one year he followed the carpenter trade. He came to Minnesota in the spring of 1885 and for six months worked at his trade in Heron Lake. He then took up his residence in Graham Lakes township, of Nobles county, taking employment on the farm of John Hallamek.

On November 13, 1885, he was united in marriage at Worthington to Miss Ositha Hallamek, daughter of John Hallamek, of Dundee. To them have been born the following children, all residing in Hersey township: Edward, Mary (Mrs. Adam Ruckelhausen); John, Augusta, Rudolph, James, William, Paul, Otto and Louise.

In 1887 Mr. Gilomen bought his present farm, where he has resided ever since. His first purchase was a quarter section, which he bought for eight dollars an acre on time. He has been adding to his possessions until today he owns the 180 acres in section twelve as well as 115 acres just out of Brewster. Besides his general farming he raises lots of stock, and his farm is finely improved. Mr. Gilomen has served as treasurer of school district No. 46 for the last sixteen years.

FRANK HAEGLE, of Lismore township, is one of the pioneer settlers of that township, having made his home there nearly thirty years. He is a native of Germany, having been born at Grafenhausen, Bolen, on Dec. 11, 1863. He is the son of Joseph and Augusta (Mutschler) Haegle. The father was born in Germany April 27, 1832, and now makes his home with his son in Lismore township. In the fall of 1907 he visited his old home in Germany, returning the next spring well satisfied with the farming conditions of this country. He enjoys good health and assists in the farm work. The mother was born in Germany in March, 1833, and died in Nobles county Oct. 18, 1896.

The Haegle family emigrated to the United States in 1872 and located at Mankato, where they arrived October 16, with only \$80 in their possession. The head of the family rented land near that city and engaged in farming on it four years, working hard during the time he could spare from the farm in the hardwood timber. At the end of the four years he bought an eighty acre tract eight and one-half miles from Mankato, put twenty acres of it into crop, and farmed it two years. Grain and wood were then very cheap on that market, and he concluded that the place was too small and that, as his two boys and one daughter were growing up, he would look for land in some new country.

Early in the spring of 1878 Joseph Haegle, accompanied by two other early settlers of Blue Earth county, William Kemach and Robert Heidwinkle, came to Nobles county to look the country over with a view to investing. They traveled over a large part of western Nobles county on foot, as there were no livery rigs to hire. On the first noon out they took lunch by the side of a huge boulder, which stands opposite the farm of Rufus Doe, on the line between Olney and Westside townships. This was the third day of March, 1878. The prairie grass of the year before had just burned off and the country along the Kanaranzi creek looked very rough and bluffy, and Mr. Haegle's companions decided that they would not locate in the country. Twenty eight years later these two gentlemen again visited the country and expressed their surprise at the wonderful development.

Joseph Haegle was not discouraged by the looks of the country, he being a hard working man, and decided to locate. He purchased from Peter Thompson for \$300 that gentleman's tree claim to the northwest quarter of section 24, Lismore township, then nothing but wild prairie land with no improvements. He broke forty acres of land that spring with two horses that he had brought with him and erected the old claimanty that can be seen today standing in the middle of the yard of the home place. During the months of June and July he erected a frame dwelling house, and in October, of the same year, the family came down from Mankato, locating on the farm which has ever since been the family home.



The family was poor when they came to the county, and for some time suffered all the hardships of pioneer life. Forty acres of wheat were planted in the spring of 1879, and when the hoppers came that year they ate it almost to the ground for five rods around the whole forty acres. This was a severe blow to the new arrivals, and for the first few months in 1879 they lived on starvation fare. Their condition was relieved on July 28, 1879, by the arrival of \$303, Mrs. Haegle's share of her father's estate. The family continued to battle with the hardships and in time came upon prosperous days. There were some well to do homesteaders in the Haegle neighborhood who lost several thousand dollars during the unfortunate time in Nobles county's history. They were discouraged on account of the dry weather and the ravages of the grass-hoppers and left the country, and today some of them are in very poor circumstances.

Frank Haegle secured three years' schooling in Germany and three years in the schools of Mankato. Until he was twenty-one years old he lived with his parents. At that age he rented the home farm and has been engaged in farming since. In 1885 he bought eighty acres of his present farm in section 13, Lismore, and two years later he bought the other eighty of the quarter.

Mr. Haegle was married at Adrian March 19, 1890, to Miss Ida Sieren, who was born eight miles east of Mankato on March 23, 1864. Her father, John Sieren, settled in Blue Earth county in 1856, and resided there until 1902, when he moved to St. James, where he now lives. Mrs. Haegle's mother was Margaret (Wagner) Sieren, who died June 2, 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. Haegle have been born the following children: Mary M., born Oct. 18, 1891; Appalona A., born Nov. 30, 1892; Joseph H., born March 28, 1894; John M., born May 4, 1896; Susan B., born Sept. 12, 1898, died June 2, 1899; Anna K., born April 15, 1900; Rosella A., born Sept. 10, 1901; Edward M., born Nov. 9, 1903; Francis K., born Sept. 8, 1905. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lismore.

JAMES TENCATE, post-master of Leota and member of the firm of DeBoer & TenCate, proprietors of the store at Leota, was

born in Holland May 6, 1865, the son of John and Carrie (Corgsbrong) TenCate.

The family came to the United States in 1872 and located in Holland, Mich., where the head of the family worked at the shoemaker's trade, and where he died in 1881, at the age of 66 years. The mother died in the same town in 1907, aged 83 years. James is one of a family of eight children.

After his father's death in 1881 James TenCate moved to Alton, Sioux county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until he came to Nobles county eleven years later. Sixteen years ago he came to Nobles county and with John and Nicholas DeBoer engaged in the mercantile business at Leota, where he has since made his home. When the Leota postoffice was established about thirteen years ago Mr. TenCate was appointed postmaster and has held the office continuously ever since with the exception of the year 1907, during which year the office was discontinued. He owns 260 acres of land on sections 8 and 6, Leota township, which he purchased in 1896.

Mr. TenCate is a man of family, having been married at Orange City, Iowa, March 13, 1887, to Julia DeBoer, a native of Dolton, Ill., and a daughter of John DeBoer. To them have been born six children, as follows: Carrie (Mrs. Gerrett Kooiman), of Leota township; Annie, John, Johanna and Herman.

The family are members of the Christian Reformed church of Leota. Mr. TenCate has served as treasurer of Leota township for the last eight years.

PATRICK GLYNN, who owns a farm of 240 acres in Westside township, only a short distance southwest of Adrian, is one of the old settlers of the county. He is a native of County Claire, Ireland, where he was born in 1845. His father, Thomas Glynn, died in Ireland when our subject was a small child. His mother, Johanna (Cusick) Glynn, is also dead, having died in Michigan.

Mr. Glynn came to America in 1857 and located at Paynesville, Ohio, where he lived three years. He then went to Columbus, where he resided many years. He worked in a foundry in that city some time and

at other occupations, and during part of the time he was there engaged in farming. During the years 1874-75 he worked in the railroad shops in Sacramento, California, but returned to his old home in Cleveland.

While living in that Ohio city Mr. Glynn came in contact with advertising literature concerning the Nobles county country which had been prepared by Bishop Ireland, the head of the colonization company, and decided to try his fortunes in the west. He sold his residence property there and on May 20, 1879, arrived in the county which has ever since been his home. He bought a quarter section of land on section 33, Westside township, for which he paid \$7 per acre, and engaged in farming. He conducted the farm until 1892, when, on account of the poor school facilities in his immediate neighborhood, he sold and bought his present farm on section 23, for which he paid \$16 per acre. That farm has ever since been his home.

Mr. Glynn was married to Mary Kinsella September 3, 1877, in St. John cathedral in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, by Rev. Father Thorpe. She is a native of County Carlow, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Glynn are the parents of the following children: Henry, Mary, Annie, John, Kathryn, Margaret, Agnes, Sarah and James. Mr. and Mrs. Glynn are members of the Catholic church.

THOMAS LENZ, SR., resides in Grand Prairie township, his farm being one mile north of the village of Ellsworth and consisting of 240 acres on section 21.

Mr. Lenz was born in Scott county, Minn., Dec. 21, 1862, and is a son of Nicholas Lenz, who now lives in Scott county at the age of 87 years. In his native county Thomas was educated and resided on his father's farm until 1899. He then came to Nobles county and located in Grand Prairie township, where he has since been engaged in farming. He bought his present farm fourteen years ago.

In Scott county Mr. Lenz was married Feb. 11, 1890, to Miss Margaret Witt, a native Minnesotan. They are the parents of the following ten children: Lena, Bertie, Eddie, Lizzie, Julia, Dora, Gelia, Julia, Victoria and Raymond. Mr. Lenz is a member of the Catholic church, of the C. O. F. and St. Joseph's society.

SAMUEL ALLEN, contractor and builder, has resided in Worthington since 1876, and has erected many of the finest public and private buildings of the city. Among others, he built the first brick building of the town Masonic temple—the city hall, Carnegie library, Worthington National Bank building, Peterson & Stitser block, the Morland and Lewis block, German Evangelical church, Wilson store building and the Chaney & Mackay store building.

Mr. Allen was born in Worcester, N. Y., Oct. 30, 1832, the son of Justin and Margaret (Russ) Allen, natives of New York state and members of one of the old families of that state. In the place of his nativity Mr. Allen learned the carpenter's trade. In 1856 he came west and located at Ripon, Wis., where he worked at his trade twenty years. In the spring of 1876 he came to Worthington, where he has ever since resided, following the occupation of carpenter and contractor.

Mr. Allen was married at Ripon Oct. 10, 1860, to Mary E. Clifford, daughter of William Clifford. Mrs. Allen was born in Weare, N. H., Nov. 30, 1839. To this union were born eight children, of whom seven are now living, as follows: Romaett (Mrs. C. H. Saulpaugh), Mankato, born Oct. 3, 1863; Ina Belle (Mrs. W. W. Loveless), Worthington, born Nov. 2, 1864; Josephine Estella (Mrs. Stanley Moore), Worthington, born Jan. 31, 1867; Gay Grant, Worthington contractor, born July 28, 1868; Myron Reed, an electrician of Watertown, S. D., born July 13, 1872; Harry E., Worthington, born June 22, 1874; Carrie Ivanette, teacher of shorthand at Minneapolis, born April 29, 1876.

PETER N. BEHR, Seward township farmer, is one of the successful agriculturists of that precinct, where he has resided on the southwest quarter of section 28 since 1885. He was born in Schleswig Holstein, Germany, Aug. 3, 1861. His parents were Christian Behr and Maggie (Hausen) Behr, both natives of Germany, where the latter died in 1871. The husband and father came to the United States in 1882 and bought a few acres of land in Clinton county, Iowa, where he resided with a daughter until his death in March, 1887, being about 75 years of age at the time of his demise.

Peter N. Behr grew to early manhood in the country of his nativity, living with his parents and attending school until seventeen years old, when he worked out for a period of two years. In 1881 he emigrated to the United States, and selected Teeds Grove, Iowa, as his first place of residence, near which place he worked on a farm two years. Then he moved to Clinton, in the same state, and bought a team and ran a dray two years. Disposing of his business in Clinton in 1885 he came to Nobles county, Minn., and bought the southwest quarter on section 28, Seward township, and returned to Clinton, where he worked as teamster for C. Lamb & Son, lumber dealers, for two years. He then moved back to his farm in Nobles county and began the work of improving the place, there being nothing on the farm but an old "shack" and only a few acres had been broken when he purchased it. He now has a model farm, and in the last few years has made the place more profitable by a complete system of tiling. He has added to his possessions by the purchase of the adjoining quarter section on 29. He is an extensive grain raiser, and has large herds of finely graded cattle and hogs.

Mr. Behr was married in Clinton, Iowa, March 9, 1889, to Dora Siemens, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in 1882, her parents being Peter and Annie Siemens, who reside in Tama county, Iowa. To this union have been born seven children, as follows: Annie, Christ, Dora, Mary, Maggie, Minnie and Martha.

Mr. Behr has held office almost continuously since residing in the county. He was township assessor seven consecutive years, has been a member of the township board a number of years and is at present holding the office of president of that body. He was clerk of school district No. 37 three years, and was a director of the same district for a number of terms. The family affiliates with the Pfingsten German Lutheran church.

HARRY RUPRECHT, breeder of Hereford cattle and an extensive grain and hay farmer, has his farm home within the limits of the village of Bigelow. He was born in Galena, Ill., March 17, 1871.

Frank Ruprecht, the father of our sub-

ject, was born in Prussia Dec. 24, 1824, where he resided until 1859, securing an education and working as a clerk. Coming to the United States in 1859, he located in Galena, Ill., where for twelve years he engaged in mercantile pursuits. Removing to Missouri, he engaged in the mercantile business several years, and then moved to Bigelow, where he has since resided. The mother of our subject is Mary (Welp) Ruprecht, who was born in Wisconsin in 1844. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ruprecht are the parents of six children: Lou, Harry, Emma, Pauline, Anna Belle and May.

Until he was fourteen years old Harry lived in Galena, attending school. He came to Nobles county in 1885 and located with his parents on the farm where he has since lived. He farms eleven acres in the village limits, upon which the house is located, the southeast quarter of section 31, Ransom, and the northwest quarter of section 27, Ransom, land which came into the possession of his grandfather, Gerhard Welp, in 1884. Since the death of his grandfather in 1894 Harry has had the management of the farms.

Mr. Ruprecht is a member of the Bigelow village council and has held several offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors.

JOHN P. PETERSON (1859-1904) was one of the pioneer residents of Nobles county, and during a residence of many years here played an important part in the affairs of the county in a business, social and political way.

Mr. Peterson was born near Lansing, Allamakee county, Iowa, Aug. 25, 1859, next to the youngest of a family of seven children. His parents were John and Johanna Peterson, who were born in Sweden, where they attained maturity and were married. They came to the United States in 1840, resided a while in western Illinois, and then moved to Allamakee county, Iowa. Mr. Peterson, Sr., engaged in carpentering and farming and died on his old homestead near Lansing in 1864.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch was reared on his father's farm and secured a primary education in the district schools. He came to Worthington in 1872 and for two years attended the graded

schools of that city. At the end of his school days he became a clerk in the general store of L. E. Kimball, one of the pioneer business men of Worthington, and later was employed as clerk in a Worthington grocery store. He then taught a country school two terms, after which he went to Wisconsin and spent a year in the logging district. Returning to Nobles county he farmed two years, and then spent two years as an employe in the real estate office of L. Franklin & Co., Minneapolis.

Mr. Peterson returned to Nobles county in 1884 and became the manager of H. E. Torrance's general store in the town of Ellsworth, which had just been founded. He was the manager of the store two years, and then he started in the grain business at Ellsworth on his own account, later engaging in the same business at Worthington. He also embarked in the mercantile business at Worthington as a member of the firm known as the Swedish Mercantile Co., later reorganized as the Hub Mercantile Co.

In 1894 Mr. Peterson was elected county treasurer on the republican ticket and was reelected in 1896 and 1898. At the close of his last term, Jan. 1, 1901, he again entered the mercantile business, in which he was engaged at the time of his death. He died March 17, 1904, and was buried in the Worthington cemetery, the funeral being under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias lodge, of which organization he was deputy grand chancellor several terms. He also held a membership in the M. W. A. and W. O. W. lodges.

Mr. Peterson was married in 1889 to Miss Alma Turner, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, a daughter of Jesse K. and Elizabeth Ann (Hughes) Turner. Mrs. Peterson was born in Marshall county, Iowa, Feb. 14, 1870. Her mother died when she was four years of age. Her father, a native of Illinois, and for some years a resident of Worthington, now resides in Grangeville, Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were the parents of three children, as follows: Roland A., born in Worthington Dec. 29, 1894; a son who died in infancy; Helen M., born in Worthington Feb. 2, 1897. Mrs. Peterson and her two children now reside in Worthington.

L. W. ABBOTT is Nobles county's superintendent of schools and resides at Worthington. He has been a resident of Nobles county since 1888. His birthplace is Athens county, Ohio, where he first saw the light of day on April 8, 1868. Mr. Abbott descends from colonial stock, the family having taken up its residence in America at a very early day. For several generations the family resided in Pennsylvania, but in later years removed to Ohio. John Abbott, the father of our subject, was a native of Morgan county, Ohio, where he was born in the year 1815, and where he died in 1889. Mahala (Brown) Abbott, his wife, was born in Athens county, Ohio, about 1828, and died in 1875.

L. W. Abbott spent the first twenty years of his life in Athens and Meigs counties, Ohio. His first schooling was received in the village schools of Hemlock Grove, Meigs county. Later he attended Plains academy, at Tupper's Plains, Ohio, a preparatory school which corresponds to the high school of Minnesota. He was graduated from there when sixteen years of age, and immediately entered the Ohio state university at Athens, which he attended for two years.

In 1887 he began teaching school, which profession he has followed ever since. His first school was at Atlanta, Ohio, where he taught one year. In March, 1888, he arrived at Ellsworth, Minnesota, and Nobles county has been his home ever since. For several years he conducted country schools in the vicinity of Ellsworth, and in 1892 and 1893 had charge of the Little Rock, Iowa, school. Thereafter he taught in several different schools in northern Iowa until 1897, when he returned to Ellsworth, and until January 1, 1901, engaged in his chosen occupation.

Mr. Abbott was elected county superintendent of schools of Nobles county on the republican ticket in November, 1900, was reelected in 1902, 1904 and 1906. In February, 1902, he changed his place of residence from Ellsworth to Worthington, and has since made his home in the county seat town. He has made an enviable record as superintendent, and his popularity is attested by his numerous reelections. The only other public office ever held by Mr. Abbott was justice of the peace of Ellsworth village, which he held from 1898 to 1902.

At Rock Rapids, Iowa, June 3, 1893, Mr. Abbott was married to Miss Nellie A. Beede, daughter of John Beede, of Waukon, Iowa. To them have been born three children—Albert Sidney, born March 6, 1894; John Gordon, born January 15, 1899; Nellie Garnet, born November 30, 1901.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are members of the Congregational church of Worthington, having united in the summer of 1902, and take an active interest in church and Sunday school work. Mr. Abbott helped to organize, and was the first superintendent of, the first Sunday school conducted in Midland township, Lyon county, Iowa, the school having been started in the summer of 1888. He is a member of the United Workmen and Yeoman lodges of Worthington.

AXEL E. LARSON, of Elk township, is a native of Nobles county, having been born in Hersey township Oct. 5, 1878. He is the son of Charles and Emily (Elofson) Larson, of Hersey.

Not only was he born in the county, but his home has been here ever since. He was raised on his father's farm in Hersey township and was educated in the schools of district No. 53. In the spring of 1904 he left his father's place and began farming for himself on section 25, Elk, where he rents a half section.

Mr. Larson was married at Worthington March 22, 1904, to Hulda Jacobson, who is also a native of the county, having been born in Bigelow township. To them have been born the following children: Clifford, born Jan. 20, 1905; Raymond and Albert (twins), born April 19, 1907. Both Mr. and Mrs. Larson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

AUGUST WASS, a Bigelow township farmer, is the next to the youngest son of Alfred and Christina Wass, who also reside in Bigelow township. Alfred Wass and wife were married in Sweden and came to the United States in 1882. For six years they resided in Emmet county, Iowa, then came to Nobles county in 1888 and since that date have made their home in Bigelow township. To Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wass were born the following children: Carlestone, Mary,

Frank, Emma, Axel, Freda, August and Augusta.

August Wass, of this sketch, was born in Sweden July 28, 1872, and came to the United States with his parents when ten years of age. After six years spent in Emmet county, Iowa, he came with his parents to Nobles county. Until 1902 he lived with his father on section 8, Bigelow township. Then he bought his present farm of 240 acres on section 7, since which time he has been engaged in farming for himself.

Mr. Wass was married at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 14, 1900, to Miss Tillie Johnson, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States a few years before her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Wass have been born the following children: Mabel, born Nov. 7, 1901; Louis, born March 14, 1903; Blenda, born July 20, 1907.

WILLIAM CLARK, A veteran of the Mexican war and a pioneer of Nobles county is William Clark, who resides at Worthington. He was born at Belfast, Ireland, February 12, 1820. Although Ireland is his native country, his parents were English and Scotch. His father was Joseph Clark, a native of England, and his mother's maiden name was McCashlin, a Scotch family.

William Clark's boyhood days were spent in England. When about fifteen years of age, in 1835, he started for Australia, got as far as the Cape of Good Hope, then changed his mind and came to America. He made his home in New York for many years, working at different occupations. In 1857 he joined a party of pioneers who were coming west. During the trip a short stop was made at Marengo, Ill., and there on March 20, 1857, he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Lane, another member of the party, a lady who has been his life's partner for over 50 years. Mr. and Mrs. Clark came to Lake City, Minn., and became pioneers of the state, as later they did of Nobles county. Near Lake City Mr. Clark purchased a farm, and there he and his wife made their home until 1873.

On the last named date they came to Nobles county and purchased a farm in Ransom township, where they made their home until 1882. Then they moved to Worthington, at which place they have lived ever since.

Mr. Clark is one of the few surviving veterans of the Mexican war. During several of the campaigns of that war he served as orderly to General Winfield Scott. He left the service shortly after the battle of Mexico.

EDWIN S. WEMPLE, proprietor of the Rushmore hotel and restaurant, is one of the early day settlers of that village. He is the son of the late E. L. and Elizabeth (Seeber) Wemple and was born in New York city Jan. 24, 1859. At the age of ten years he moved with the family to Elizabeth City, N. J., and there he lived eight years, securing an education in Westminster academy, of that city.

In 1877, at the age of eighteen years, Edwin went to Chicago and for six years was employed in a wholesale dry goods house. Moving to Rushmore in 1883, when that town was a little hamlet, he engaged in farming his father's property near town, at which he was engaged until 1887. The next three years of his life were spent as a grain buyer for the Peavy Elevator company in Rushmore. He went to Sioux Falls, S. D., in 1890, and for one year was clerk in the county auditor's office there. During the next five years he engaged in the real estate business in that South Dakota city. Returning to Nobles county in 1896, he farmed several years and then moved to town, engaging in the grocery and restaurant business. In 1903 he opened the hotel and has conducted the business ever since.

Mr. Wemple was married at Worthington May 24, 1890, to Sarah A. Cummings, a native of Preston, Minn., and a daughter of B. F. and Jennett (Boden) Cummings, who now reside at Preston. Mrs. Wemple moved to Worthington with her parents when a child and resided there until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Wemple have been born two children: Lillian E., born in Rushmore May 28, 1894; Edwin L., born at Sioux Falls March 8, 1893.

Mr. Wemple has served as justice of the peace for the past ten years and was Dewall township clerk from 1885 to 1889. He is a member of the Yeomen lodge.

JOHN A. SAXON, Indian Lake township farmer, is the eldest son of Charles Saxon

(deceased) and Augusta (Anderson) Saxon. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1863, and the first nine years of his life were spent on his father's farm there. The date of his arrival to Nobles county was June 8, 1872, and ever since that date he has resided in this county, making a continuous residence of thirty-six years.

While he was growing to man's estate John A. made his home on his father's farm. More or less of the time he was engaged in different occupations at various places, but his home was always in Indian Lake township.

He was married to Carrie Brennen Dec. 19, 1891. To them have been born four children—Mamie, Jennie, Edward and Olive—all of whom reside with their parents on the Indian Lake farm.

After his marriage Mr. Saxon rented the west half of the southeast quarter of section 29, Indian Lake, and engaged in farming, which has been his occupation ever since. About 1895 he purchased the farm, and later he also purchased a quarter section in section 32, adjoining the home place.

Mr. Saxon has taken an active part in the affairs of his township and school district. He has been a member of the township board of supervisors for the last five years, and has served three years as school director of his district. In a business way he is interested in the telephone line which serves that part of the county, holding an office in the company which operates the line. He is a member of the Baptist church of Indian Lake.

FRED FREMMING, Ransom township farmer, is a Norwegian by birth, having been born near the city of Christiania Sept. 12, 1871, the son of Ben and Mary (Larson) Fremming, who reside with their son in Ransom. Until he was over twenty years of age he lived in his native country, and during the last three or four years there worked in a big depot at Aiswalf.

On April 6, 1892, Mr. Fremming landed in America and came direct to Nobles county. For three or four months he worked on the section at Rushmore and then began to work at farm labor in that vicinity. For two years he worked for Lewis Larson and two years for Jens Johnson. Next he ren-

ted a Ransom township farm and farmed it two years. He then moved to Wilmar, Minn., where he farmed two years. Returning to Nobles county he bought the southwest quarter of section 18, Ransom, and has since been engaged in farming it. In addition to his general farming Mr. Fremming makes a specialty of stock, and raises thoroughbred Holstein cattle.

In Ransom township on Nov. 12, 1895, Mr. Fremming was united in marriage to Miss Clara Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larson, of the same township. They are the parents of the following children: Lester Mabel, Evelyn, Violet, Helen and Pearl. Both parents are members of the Ransom Lutheran church.

JOSEPH P. HANSEN, Grand Prairie township farmer, has been engaged in farming on his present place during the last twenty-two years. He was born in Bedburg, in the province of Cologne, Germany, Oct. 19, 1837, son of Carl Joseph and Mateline (Schnell) Hansen. The father was a tailor by trade. He was born Nov. 16, 1816, and died in Fulda, Noble county, Ohio, April 22, 1892. The mother was born in 1821 and died in Pomeroy, Ohio, June 17, 1898.

Germany was the home of Mr. Hansen until 1881. At the age of thirteen years, in 1870, he began learning the baker's trade in the city of Cologne and served an apprenticeship of three years. During the next four years he worked at his trade for several different firms in the same city, and then opened a shop of his own in Bedburg, which he conducted two years. He then entered the German army and served two years (1878-1880), his place of service being in the city of Cologne.

On May 16, 1881, Mr. Hansen landed in New York city, determined to make his future home in the new world. His intentions were to go direct to Cleveland, Ohio, but while in the metropolis of the country he was robbed of his money and other valuables. This necessitated a change of program. He secured work on a farm in Connecticut, and after one month's labor had enough money to take him to his destination. Arriving in Cleveland, he worked nine months in a foundry, and then went to Pomeroy, Ohio, where he tended bar in a saloon until 1885.

On March 19, 1885, Mr. Hansen first set foot on Nobles county soil, but after remaining a few days departed, and during the summer worked in St. Paul. He came back in the fall and worked with a threshing crew. He then went to Scott county, Minn., where he was married and spent the winter of 1885-86.

The date of his marriage was Jan. 26, 1886, at which time he led to the altar Katie Bonselst, a native of Kenosha county, Wis. To them have been born these children: Therese, born Feb. 22, 1889; Elenora, born March 3, 1891; Carl, born Feb. 4, 1893; Emil, born Feb. 28, 1895; Beda, born Jan. 1, 1897; Walter, born Jan. 15, 1899; Richard, born April 9, 1901; Joseph, born Nov. 11, 1903; John, born Jan. 12, 1906.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Hansen and his bride came to Nobles county to make their permanent home and located on their present farm, which had been bought in the summer of 1885, and where they have since resided. Besides managing his farm, Mr. Hansen has other business interests. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Adrian and in the Westside Telephone company. He is a member of the Catholic church of Adrian and of the D. R. K. U. G. V. M. lodge of St. Paul. For six years he served as treasurer of school district No. 49.

HENRY STUNTEBECK, carpenter and thresher of Wilmont, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, Nov. 21, 1873, the son of Bernard and Catherine (Eilers) Stuntebeck, both of whom are living in their native land, the father at the age of 71 years and the mother aged 64 years.

In Oldenberg Henry lived until he was past sixteen years of age, getting an education and working at the carpenter trade. He landed in Baltimore April 14, 1890, and went immediately to Alton, in Sioux county, Iowa, where he remained until February, 1891, working on the farm and at his trade. He then moved to Elwood, Lyon county, Iowa, where he was until 1894, working at his trade and running a threshing machine engine during the falls. He went back to Alton in 1891 and spent two years there working at carpenter work.

Mr. Stuntebeck spent the summer of 1896 in Lemars, and that fall came to

Nobles county, where he bought and operated a threshing machine. He spent the winter in Lemars, but in the spring of 1897 went to Edgerton and worked at his trade. He threshed during the fall of 1897 in Willmont and Larkin townships, and then moved to Ashton, Iowa, where he remained until August 1, 1898. He then came back to Nobles county, and has ever since resided here, working at the carpenter trade and operating his threshing machine. Prior to his marriage, which occurred in 1905, he resided in the country; since then he has made his home in Willmont, where he owns a fine home and three lots. He owns a half section of land on sections 7 and 8, Dewald township. When the village of Willmont was founded in 1906 Mr. Stuntebeck put up the town's first building the postoffice and lumber office of C. W. Becker and has erected many of the town's principal business and residence buildings. He also built many of the fine farm homes in Willmont township.

At St. Killian on Nov. 21, 1905, Mr. Stuntebeck was married to Elizabeth Peterburs, daughter of Henry and Mary (Thole) Peterburs, of Willmont township. She was born in Shakopee, Minn., Oct. 26, 1881. To them has been born one child, Bernard, born July 21, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Stuntebeck are members of the Catholic church.

CHARLES H. DENTON, of Graham Lakes township, has been a resident of Nobles county ever since he was an infant in arms. He was born in St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 4, 1879, the son of the late J. H. Denton, one of the most prominent men of Graham Lakes township. J. H. Denton was born in Essex county, N. Y., in 1831, and died in Nobles county, March 4, 1902.

Charles H. Denton came to the county from St. Paul as an infant, and grew to manhood here. He received an education in the school of district 31, and since growing to manhood has been engaged in farming. He now owns 320 acres of land in section 33, Graham Lakes. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. During four and one-half years he served as treasurer of the school district in which he lives.

Mr. Denton was married at Dundee April 22, 1903, to Miss May Kochly, who was born in Kankakee county, Ill. To them has been one child John Raymond.

ISAAC ISAACSON. After devoting his life to the milling business, Mr. Isaacson, in 1901, moved to Nobles county and has since been engaged in farming. He owns the southeast quarter of section 32, Leota township, which he bought at the time of his arrival.

Mr. Isaacson was born in Norway March 10, 1845, the son of Isaac and Ada Ingebor (Nelson) Isaacson. The father was an early day settler of Leota township, having come there direct from Norway in 1880. He bought the southwest quarter of section 31, the farm now owned by the family of the late Chris Haibek, his son, and on that place he resided until his death, which occurred in 1886, at the age of 65 years. Our subject's mother died at the home of her son, Chris Haibek, in November, 1900, at the age of 79 years.

In his native country Mr. Isaacson worked at the cabinet maker's trade and followed the sea for a few years. He came to the United States in 1871 and located at Whalan, in Fillmore county, Minn. He took up the work of a millwright and for sixteen years was an employe of W. W. Corgill & Fall in mills at Whalan and Houston. He then bought a custom mill at Whalan and went into business for himself, conducting the mill for sixteen years. Selling out in 1901, he moved to Nobles county, bought his present farm (then without improvements), and engaged in farming. He now has one of the fine farms of Leota township.

Mr. Isaacson has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Norway, in 1868, when he wedded Bertha Beaurm. She died in Houston, Minn., in June, 1883, at the age of 36 years. As a result of this union eight children were born, of whom the following five are living: Hannah (Mrs. Peter Ellingson), wife of a Sioux Falls automobile dealer; John B., proprietor of a department store at Allison, Iowa; Mary (Mrs. John Jacobson), of Sioux Falls; Ingebor, a school teacher of McLean county, N. D.; Eda Berthema, who resides at home.

The second marriage of Mr. Isaacson occurred at Houston, Minn., Dec. 26, 1883, when he wedded Carrie Ingerbritson, who was born in Norway in 1855, and who came to the United States with her parents when a child five years old. She is the daughter of Austin and Gunnel (Swenson) Ingerbrit-



son. Her father came to the United States at the time of the civil war and located in Fillmore county, Minn., where he now lives on a farm. Her mother died in Fillmore county in 1904, at the age of 67 years. Mr. and Mrs. Isaacson are the parents of five children, as follows: Osear, Ruben, Gina, Charlotte, a school teacher of district 59; Isaae Herman, Esther Lillian, Lida Theolena. Both parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod church, of Kenneth. He has held the office of director of school district No. 59 for the last three years.

EDWIN C. PANNELL, auditor of Nobles county, is one of the very early residents of Worthington. He was born in Caryville, N. Y., but before the outbreak of the civil war moved to Rockford, Ill. Later he became a resident of Faribault county, Minn., and in the fall of 1871, when the village of Worthington was just beginning, he came to that place, and has resided there ever since. He entered into the draying business at an early day and was proprietor of the Worthington dray line until 1903.

Mr. Pannell has held several offices of trust within the gift of the people of his city and county. He served as a member of the council in 1893, 1894 and 1896; was treasurer in 1898; and was president of the council in 1899 and 1900. He was elected county auditor on the republican ticket in 1902, was reelected in 1904 and again in 1906, and is now serving his third term.

C. H. KUNZE is a resident of Worthington township, where he is engaged in farming the west half of section 21, of which he is the owner, as well as a quarter section in Elk township. Mr. Kunze is of German birth, having been born in Hanover June 2, 1850. He is the son of Henry Kunze and Mary (Luman) Kunze. His mother died in Germany in 1870; his father died in Crawford county, Iowa.

Mr. Kunze lived in his native country until sixteen years of age. He then set sail for America in company with a sister and located in Jackson county, Iowa. There he resided eight years, six years of the time being spent in working for an uncle, and the remaining two being employed in farm-

ing for himself on rented land. He removed to Crawford county, Iowa, in 1874, bought a 200-acre farm, and made that county his home until 1895. He then sold out his interests there and came to Nobles county, purchasing land in Worthington and Elk townships. He did not at once move onto his land, but lived six months in Worthington, then returned to his old home in Iowa, spent the winter there, and returned to his new home in Nobles county in the spring of 1896. He then moved onto his Worthington township property and has resided there since that time. He has been treasurer of his school district for the last ten years.

Mr. Kunze was married Feb. 15, 1876, in Germany, while on a visit to his native country, to Sophia Elss. To them have been born the following children: Henry, Worthington township; Willie, Christ, Frank, Bennie, Walter, Emma, Bertha (Mrs. Ben Grove), Worthington township; Martha and Lottie. All except Henry and Mrs. Grove reside at home.

HERMAN MOHR has been a resident of Nobles county for the last twenty years. He resides in Bloom township, where he owns 240 acres on section 8. Mr. Mohr was born in Germany April 19, 1858, the eldest of a family of five boys, sons of Hans and Wibke (Carpisen) Mohr. The former died in Carroll county, Iowa, in 1898, aged 54 years; the latter lives in that county and is 73 years of age.

Herman came to the United States with his parents in the fall of 1881, after having served three years in the German army, and located in Carroll county, Iowa, where he resided six years. For a few years he worked out at farm work, but after his marriage he rented land and engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1888 and bought an eighty acre tract of land on section 9, Williston township, where he farmed fourteen years. He then sold and bought the property in Bloom, where he has since lived.

Mr. Mohr was married in Carroll county, March 25, 1886, to Margaret Ghrt, who was born in Germany, but who came to America with her parents when eighteen months of age. Her father died in Carroll county, 1890.

ing the second year after his arrival from the old country, aged 51 years. Her mother died in the same county in 1902, aged 67 years. Mr. and Mrs. Mohr are the parents of five children: Willie, aged 19; Amanda, aged 17; Amelia, aged 13; Ida, aged 11, Emil, aged 9. Two children died in infancy.

In Willmont township Mr. Mohr held the office of supervisor four years and was on the school board of district No. 63 for several years. He is now a member of the Bloom board and is serving his second year as director of school district No. 74.

WILLIAM MALCOLM, of Bigelow township, owns and farms 327 acres on sections three and four. He is a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, where he was born July 27, 1855. At the age of 26 years he left his native land and went to the island of Trinidad, where for three and one-half years he held the position of overseer of a large sugar plantation. He then crossed South America to the Panama canal, stopped there a short time, and then went to San Francisco, Cal. In that city he was in the hospital several weeks, his health having been broken down by his long residence in the tropics.

After leaving the hospital Mr. Malcolm went to Lemars, Iowa, and engaged in farming. During the month of December, 1886, he returned to Scotland, and on Jan. 27, 1888, was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Horne. To them were born the following children: Willie, Margaret and Mary. Mrs. Malcolm died Aug. 3, 1901. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm returned to the United States and took up their residence in Jackson county, Minn., where Mr. Malcolm owned a quarter section of land. After farming there eighteen months, he sold out and moved to Nobles county, buying the Bigelow township farm where he has ever since resided. During his residence here he has served ten years as director and treasurer of school district No. 28.

EDWIN J. JONES, county attorney, has been a resident of the county since he was one year old. He is the son of James R. and Annie (Higgins) Jones, of Adrian, natives of Wales and Ireland, respectively.

Born in Dodgeville, Wis., March 12, 1875, he was brought with his parents when only one year old to Bigelow, Minn., where his father engaged in the mercantile business. After spending four years in that little village the family moved to Adrian, where the elder Jones engaged in the mercantile business and founded the Bank of Adrian. Edwin spent his boyhood days in the west end village. He attended the Adrian public schools, and in 1892 became a student at the Minneapolis academy, from which institution he was graduated in 1894. The next two years of his life were passed as a student in the law department of the university of Minnesota, from which he received his diploma in 1896.

Immediately after graduation he returned to Adrian and began the practice of his profession and assisting in the management of the bank. He completed his law studies in 1897, when for six months he read law in the office of J. A. Town, of Worthington. Mr. Jones was elected county attorney on the republican ticket in November, 1902, and served a two year term. After the expiration of that service he became a member of the law firm of Town & Jones, with which he was connected until Jan. 1, 1907. He then again entered upon his duties as county attorney, having been elected in November, 1906, and he is now serving on that term.

Mr. Jones was married April 15, 1903, to Miss Eunice Cowin, of Adrian. To them have been born two children: Dorothy Lucile and Marjorie.

FREDERICK M. SADLER is the proprietor of Ellsworth's electric lighting system, which he installed during the current year, the work having been begun on May 11, 1908, under a twenty five year franchise granted by the village council. The plant is an up-to-date one of 650 light power and the machinery installed is all new.

Mr. Sadler was born in Tama City, Iowa, July 14, 1869, the son of Marion and Hulda (Aldrich) Sadler. At the age of seven years he went with the rest of the family to Franklin county, Iowa, which was his home four years. One year was spent in Toledo, Iowa, where he began working in an iron foundry. Going to Cedar Rapids, he took

employment in the blacksmith department of the Ogden Plow works. Giving up his position with that company he took a position in the shops of the C. R. I. & P. Ry., at which he was employed eight or nine years. He then served as city electrician two or three years. Securing the position of chief engineer and master mechanic of the Iowa penitentiary at Anamosa, Mr. Sadler continued in that position two years, and then resigned on account of ill health. After some time spent as extra foreman in the Burlington shops, in February, 1903, he moved to Ellsworth, Minn., and for a time was division foreman for the Rock Island road at that point. He then bought out Barnes Bros.' machine and blacksmith shop there and conducted the business until May, 1908, when he sold the business to his brother, Arthur M. Sadler, and commenced work on the electric lighting plant.

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on July 28, 1890, Mr. Sadler was married to Miss Clara Rosenerants, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of Martin Rosenerants. To them has been born one child, Bertha, born March 18, 1892.

Mr. Sadler served three years as member of the Ellsworth village council prior to the spring of 1908. He is now chief of the Ellsworth fire department. Fraternally, Mr. Sadler is a Mason, being a member of lodge No. 25, Cedar Rapids; a K. P., M. W. A. and A. O. U. W.

ADAM OLSON owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 1, Ransom township, which has been his home for the last seventeen years. He was born in Sweden Oct. 7, 1857, the son of Ole Johnson and Sarah (Anders) Johnson. His father died at the age of 40 years, two years after the birth of his son. His mother, who was the daughter of a soldier of the Swedish army, died in her native country in the spring of 1885, aged 65 years.

The subject of this sketch is the next to the eldest of three living children. A sister, Johanna Olson, lives in Sweden. A brother, Fred, was born in Sweden, came to the United States in 1884, resided here till 1904, when he returned to his native land, married and is now engaged in farming.

Adam Olson came to the United States in 1885 and for one year worked in the saw

mills and in the timber in Wisconsin and Michigan. In 1886 he went to Cherokee county, Iowa, where he was employed at farm work for several years. He came to Nobles county in the spring of 1891 and bought his Ransom township farm, where he has ever since resided. He is unmarried.

JOHN CHEPA resides in Graham Lakes township, where he owns and farms 121 acres in the southwest quarter of section 20 and the northwest quarter of section 29. He came to Nobles county thirty years ago and has ever since made his home here. He was born in Aultmolation, in the province of Mahern, Austria, in February, 1865. His father, Frank Chepa, died in the fall of 1904. His mother, Annie (Fox) Chepa, died in Nobles county during the severe winter of 1880-81.

When John Chepa was twelve years of age the family emigrated to America, and during the first year of their residence in the new world lived in Mankato, where the elder Chepa worked at the tailor trade. In the spring of 1878 the Chepa family came to Nobles county with the hope of bettering their condition. When they arrived they were practically without means and had not even sufficient to purchase a yoke of oxen. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 20, Graham Lakes township, and that has been the family home ever since. Until he was 27 years old John Chepa lived on his father's farm. He then began farming the place for himself and has added to his possessions by purchasing a quarter in section 29, which he secured in 1898. He now has a finely improved farm and is in prosperous circumstances.

Mr. Chepa was married in June, 1891, at Fulda to Mary King, a daughter of August King, one of the early settlers of Graham Lakes township.

Mr. and Mrs. Chepa are members of the Catholic church at Fulda. Mr. Chepa has held several offices within the gift of the people of his township. He was a member of the township board four years and during the last four years has held the office of township treasurer. He is also clerk of school district No. 31, which office he has held six years.

PATRICK O'CONNOR, proprietor of the Commercial hotel of Wilmont, is an early day settler of Nobles county. He is a native of Westport, Ontario, Canada, where he was born Oct. 26, 1853, the eldest of a family of three children. His father was John O'Connor, who was born in Ireland, and who emigrated to Canada in an early day. He saw service in the Union army during the war of the rebellion and died in Canada in February, 1881. Our subject's mother was Annie (Cunningham) O'Connor. She was born in Ireland and died in Canada in the fall of 1906, aged 71 years.

Pat came to the states in the fall of 1877 and during the first three or four years was unsettled as to location. He moved to Worthington in 1881, and has ever since been a resident of the county. During the first six or seven years he engaged in the saloon business. Later he operated a dray line, was street commissioner of Worthington for many years, and for a time was a bridge carpenter in the employ of the Omaha railroad. He moved to Wilmont in the winter of 1904 and opened a saloon, which he conducted nine months. He then started the Commercial hotel, and has been its landlord ever since.

Mr. O'Connor was married at Worthington in February, 1884, to Margaret Kennedy, who was born in Ireland and who came to the United States when a child. To Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have been born four children—Mamie, Winnie, John and Raymond. The family are members of the Catholic church.

N. H. COOK, stockraiser and farmer of Leota township, is a homesteader of that precinct and one of its early day settlers. He owns 320 acres on sections 8 and 17. He raises thoroughbred hogs and sheep and is an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Cook was born in Eastport, Maine, July 11, 1847, the only son of Miss and Elizabeth (Runnels) Cook. The father was born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to America when a young man, and located at St. Johns, New Brunswick, where he engaged in lumbering and milling businesses. Later he moved to Eastport, Maine, where he engaged in the lumbering business and became a ship builder. There he died in 1866 at the age of seventy years. Our subject's mother was a native of England. She died at Eastport, Maine, about 1888.

In his native city Mr. Cook grew to young manhood, securing a good education. In 1865 he left home and located in Saginaw, Mich., where for four years he was foreman of a timber crew. From Michigan he went to Eau Claire, Wis., where he was an employe of the Rust & Owen Lumber company for eleven years. In 1876, before severing his connections with the lumber company, Mr. Cook came to Nobles county and filed a homestead claim to the southeast quarter of section 8, Leota township. Thereafter until 1880 he divided his time between his Nobles county claim and the timber camps of Wisconsin. He made his permanent home on the farm in 1880, and has ever since made his home there. He bought his 160 acres on section 17 soon after locating in the county.

Mr. Cook was married at Gilford, Maine, to Miss Martha Adams, a native of the Pine Tree state and a daughter of Joshua and Zuba Adams. To Mr. and Mrs. Cook have been born the following children: Charles, Alvin, Alton, Sidney and Alfie.

For many years Mr. Cook served as a member of the Leota township board and on the school board of district No. 99. He holds a membership in many of the leading fraternal organizations, being a member of the Masonic lodge of Pipestone, and of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Woodmen.

THOMAS P. NOONAN. Among the older settlers of Lismore township is Thomas P. Noonan, who owns and farms a half section of land on sections 22 and 23. He has been a resident of the county twenty-seven years.

Mr. Noonan was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 13, 1857, in which city his parents had located some two or three years before, upon their arrival from Ireland. When the subject of this sketch was about two years of age the family moved to Fulton county, Ill., which was his home until his arrival in Nobles county in 1881. There he was raised on a farm.

The elder Noonan was a carriage maker by trade. He served in the union army during the war of the rebellion. He enlisted in company C, of the 90th Illinois infantry, in 1862 and served three years, taking part in three severe battles and many smaller ones. At the battle of Lookout Mountain he re-

ceived a gunshot wound in the left shoulder. He died at Philadelphia in February, 1905. Our subject's mother died in the fall of 1898.

In the spring of 1881 Mr. Noonan came to Nobles county and located on the farm where he has ever since resided. He has a finely improved farm, and in addition to his general farming raises registered stock. He is a stockholder in the Lismore Farmers' Elevator company, of which he holds the office of president. He held the office of supervisor several years and at the present time is chairman of the board. He is also clerk of the school board of district No. 68.

Mr. Noonan was married at Luverne, Minn., June 2, 1888, to Catherine McGee, a native of Ireland. She came to the United States with her parents in 1876 and located at Providence, R. I. Her father died in Scotland, and in 1880 she came to Nobles county and Lismore township with her mother and a brother. To Mr. and Mrs. Noonan have been born the following children: Anna, Bessie, Alice, Thomas, Lillian, Mary and Katie. Mary died at the age of fifteen years and Katie in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Noonan are members of the Catholic church.

PETER LENZ, JR., proprietor of a hardware store at Adrian, has lived in Nobles county since he was sixteen years of age. During the first ten years of his life in Nobles county he lived on a farm in Grand Prairie township; since 1903 he has made Adrian his home.

Peter Lenz is the second of a family of thirteen children, all of whom are residents of Minnesota, except Mrs. John Witt, who lives at Watertown, S. D. His father, the late John J. Lenz, was one of the large land-owners of southwestern Nobles county and an early settler of Grand Prairie township. John J. Lenz was a native of Germany and emigrated to the United States when twelve years of age. He first settled in Wisconsin, where he lived a few years, and then located in Scott county, Minn., becoming one of the pioneer settlers of that part of Minnesota and taking his claim when the country was yet occupied by Indians. He moved from Scott county to Grand Prairie township, Nobles county, in 1883, where he became the owner of several fine farms. He

resided on the farm there until his death, which occurred in 1893. Several of his sons are now prominent farmers of that part of the county. Our subject's mother is Anna Maria (Klinkhammer) Lenz, also a native of Germany. She makes her home on the Grand Prairie township farm and is 68 years of age.

To these parents, at Belleplaine, Scott county, Minn., Peter Lenz, Jr., was born on the sixteenth day of January, 1866. In the county of his birth he lived until 1883, and came then with the family to Nobles county. Until 1903 he lived on the home farm (the northwest quarter of section 4, Grand Prairie), engaged in farming and threshing. He then took up his residence in Adrian, and that village has since been his home. There he continued his threshing operations during the fall months, spending the rest of the year traveling for the Minneapolis Threshing Machine company. In these occupations he was engaged until August 26, 1907. On that date he went into the hardware, implement and engine business, buying a new stock throughout.

Mr. Lenz was married in Adrian May 29, 1894, to Helena Pint, a daughter of Matt Pint, deceased, and a native of Scott county, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Lenz are the parents of the following living children: Odelia M., born June 12, 1895; Lucia A., born Jan. 6, 1897; Cecelia E., born Dec. 2, 1898; Norbert J., born July 7, 1900; Rainer G., born Aug. 17, 1902.

The family are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Lenz holds membership in the Catholic Order of Foresters, being Chief Ranger of this court, which is registered as St. Adrian's Court No. 1012. He was assessor and member of the township board in Grand Prairie for a number of years.

CHARLES MORTON CORY, Nobles county's judge of probate, has been a resident of this county since 1891. A perusal of the genealogy of the Cory family discloses the fact that it is one of the first families in America. Away back in the year 1400 A. D., nearly a hundred years before Columbus discovered America, there was born William Cory, in Norfolk, England. This is as far back as the records go, and for the first two hundred years only limited data of the

family's history has been preserved, but enough has been preserved to show that the family was one of importance in England. Robert Cory, a son of Thomas Cory, and a descendant of William Cory, was knighted in 1612 and granted a coat of arms. Another member of the family, Thos. Cory, a son of John Cory, born in England in July, 1610, was made judge of the court of common pleas and chief prothonotary of the queen's temple. He was knighted and granted a coat of arms in 1639 during the reign of King Charles II. The American branch of the family was founded by John Cory, who was born in England in 1690 and came to America in 1659, settling in New York. From this founder of the American branch the genealogy of our subject can be traced direct. John Cory, Jr., was the first son of John Cory. He was a resident of New Jersey and was a farmer and merchant. Elanthon, son of John Cory, Jr., was also a resident of New Jersey, and died Jan. 4, 1785. One of his sons was Jeremiah Cory, a native of New Jersey. Noah Cory was the second son of Jeremiah. He was born in New Jersey March 20, 1770, and later became a resident of Ohio. In that state on Aug. 3, 1807, was born Jeremiah Cory, the father of our subject. He was married to Mary A. Bennett and died April 1, 1874.

Charles Morton Cory was born Jan. 12, 1866, in Boone county, Indiana. His boyhood days were spent on the farm in his native state. In 1881 he entered a Quaker parochial school at Sugar Plain, Indiana, which he attended for one year. He entered Wabash college, Crawfordsville, Ind., in 1882, taking a two years' course. He came to Minnesota in 1885, settling at Excelsior, and for two years was engaged in newspaper work, reporting for different twin city newspapers the Lake Minnetonka news. At the same time he was studying law in the office of Hon. J. H. T. James, of Excelsior. In 1887 he entered Carleton college, Northfield, Minn., and took a two years' course. He then entered the law department of the Minnesota state university, at which institution he was a student for one year.

After leaving the university he was employed as superintendent of the money order and registered letter department of the post-office at Mankato, Minn. He held that position until he was admitted to the bar, which

was in May, 1891. The following month he located at Adrian and began the practice of his profession. In March, 1892, he was elected village attorney of Adrian and served for three successive years. He was elected judge of probate of Nobles county in 1892, and has been reelected seven times, serving continuously since that date. In 1895 he removed from Adrian to Worthington, and has been a resident of the latter city since that time. In addition to that office Judge Cory has at different times held the office of deputy clerk of court, deputy register of deeds and deputy county treasurer. Politically Judge Cory is a republican.

AMOS VAIL, of Seward township, is one of the pioneers of Nobles county, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Vail, of Worthington, who were among the first settlers of Seward township.

In Boone county, Ill., Amos Vail was born on May 28, 1870. When two years of age he was brought by his parents to Nobles county, and until he was eight years of age lived on the Seward township homestead. The family then returned to the old home in Illinois, but five years later returned to Nobles county, and our subject has resided in the county continuously since. Amos lived on his father's farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-three years. He then began farming for himself on the northeast quarter of section 22—land which his father had bought from Geo. Horton. After nine years there he moved onto the original homestead, and has since been engaged in farming that place.

The date of Mr. Vail's marriage was Dec. 27, 1893, when he led to the altar Miss Salina Shanks, a daughter of William Shanks, now a resident of North Dakota. Mrs. Vail is of Scotch parentage, but was born in northern Ireland on Dec. 15, 1873. To these parents have been born the following children; Clarence, born Oct. 24, 1894; Edythe, born June 24, 1899; Dorothy, born Oct. 4, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Vail are members of the Presbyterian church of Fulda. Mr. Vail is a member of the Brotherhood of America. He has served seven years as clerk and six years as treasurer of school district No. 37.

**NELS MOBERG.** Among the pioneers of Nobles county whose date of arrival antedates the building of the railroad is Nels Moberg, who came with his parents when four years of age. His father was Jonas Moberg, who was born in Sweden in 1835 and who died in Nobles county August 9, 1900. The mother of our subject is Elizabeth (Greenland) Moberg, who resides with her son in Bigelow township. To these parents in Harpen, Jemtland, Sweden, was born Nels Moberg on the second day of November, 1867.

The family emigrated to the United States in 1870 and came direct to Minnesota. After a short residence in Minneapolis the family home was made at Anoka. In the spring of 1871 Jonas Moberg came to Nobles county for the purpose of obtaining a home in the new country. He filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 26, Bigelow township, and in the fall of the same year he was joined by his family, who moved onto the claim, in January, 1872. The family home has been on that land ever since. Two total crop failures were experienced during the grasshopper days, and the family suffered much from the other incidents of pioneer life.

Until he was twenty-three and a half years old Nels worked for his father on the farm, then began farming for himself, buying part of his present farm soon afterward. He now owns 160 acres on sections 26 and 23. He farmed and engaged in stock raising until the spring of 1906. He then moved to Duluth, where for two years he was a foreman for a contractor who was engaged in street and sewer work. He moved back to his farm in the spring of 1908. He raises stock extensively and makes a specialty of pedigreed Poland China hogs.

Mr. Moberg was married in Bigelow township June 24, 1897, to Hildegard Peterson, a native of Sweden and a daughter of Alfred and Anna Peterson, of Hemming, Minn. To them have been born the following children: Linden Alfred, born Sept. 28, 1898; Edwin Russell, born Nov. 18, 1900; Raymond Emanuel, born July 13, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Moberg are members of the Swedish Baptist church. Mr. Moberg was elected clerk of school district No. 26 in 1881 and held the office continuously until his removal to Duluth in 1906. He was also a supervisor of Bigelow township for two or three years.

**JOHN MCKENZIE** owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 10, Dewald township, which has been his home for a quarter of a century. Mr. McKenzie was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, June 16, 1861, the son of Ivan and Douglas (Graham) McKenzie, both deceased.

Our subject was raised on a farm, and lived in his native land twenty-two years. He then came to America and first located at Livingston, Mont., where for a short time he worked in a stone quarry. It was in 1883 that he came to Nobles county and located on the place where he has ever since lived, buying the farm some time after his arrival.

Mr. McKenzie was married in Nobles county Jan. 24, 1888, to Mary E. Daugherty, daughter of the late Robert Daugherty. To them have been born the following children: Ivie, Stewart and Lizzie.

**W. F. SCOTT** (1861-1908). One of the best known and highly honored residents of Ransom township was W. F. Scott, who engaged in farming there from 1893 until his death, which occurred on Sunday, May 10, 1908.

Mr. Scott was born in Tama county, Iowa, May 4, 1861, the son of J. H. and Elizabeth (Hawkins) Scott. The father was a native of Ohio, lived respectively in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, being one of the early settlers of the latter state. He died in Iowa in 1890, aged 69 years. The mother was a native of Kentucky and descended from one of the old colonial families.

In his native county Mr. Scott secured an education and spent the greater part of his life. Until he was of age he worked on his father's farm and thereafter, until his arrival in Nobles county, he engaged in farming for himself in Tama county. In the spring of 1893 he moved to Nobles county and bought the northwest quarter of section 14, Ransom township, upon which he engaged in farming until his death. He was a member of the Ransom Methodist church.

Mr. Scott was married Jan. 8, 1891, in Tama county, to Miss Ida E. Estle, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Daniel Estle, a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Scott were born the following children: Dora, born Dec. 30,

1892; Bernice, born Sept. 22, 1896; Kenneth, born July 27, 1902.

WILLIAM F. MARTEN, of Ellsworth, was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Sept. 10, 1875, the son of John and Eureka (Miller) Marten. The father was born in Hamberg, Germany, in 1836, came to the United States in 1863 and located in Freeport, Ill. Later he moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he died Sept. 18, 1894. Mrs. Marten was also born in Hamberg, Germany. She is now living at Los Angeles, California.

William was raised on his father's farm and resided in Grundy county until 1896. He then moved to Lyon county, Iowa, four and one-half miles south of Ellsworth, Minn., where he engaged in farming five years. He then moved to Grand Prairie township and for four years farmed the place he bought west of Ellsworth. He moved to Ellsworth in 1905 and has since resided there in one of the finest residences of the town. He farms eighty acres in Grand Prairie, south of the village. In addition to the place he farms, he owns 207 acres in Lyon county and another eighty acre tract in Grand Prairie, all of which he rents.

Mr. Marten was married in Grundy county, Iowa, March 21, 1898, to Ida Whaylen, a native of Grundy county. To them have been born three children: Erlene, deceased; Ercella and Norma.

When the German State Bank was organized Mr. Marten was chosen one of the directors and served as such one year. He then took the position of assistant cashier and worked in the bank one year. He still holds the office. He is treasurer of the Ellsworth fire department and a member of the K. P. Lodge.

JAMES M. PAINE, of Worthington, is a retired farmer who has made his home in Nobles county twenty-five years, the greater part of that time as a farmer in Hersey township.

He was born in Providence county, Rhode Island, July 18, 1834, and descends from one of the early American families. The American branch of the Paine family was

founded by Benjamin Paine, who came from England and settled in Massachusetts. He was born in 1696. One of his sons, from whom our subject descends in a direct line, was Nathan Paine, born May 18, 1726, died in 1804. One of the latter's sons—grandfather of our subject—was also named Nathan. He was born in Rhode Island in 1755 and died Aug. 1, 1794. One of Nathan's sons was James Paine, the father of our subject. He was born in Providence county, Rhode Island, June 14, 1789, and died in the same place in 1862. Our subject's mother was Mary (Sayles) Paine, who was born in Rhode Island in 1793 and died in 1842. Of their family three children are still living—Mrs. Sarah Albee, of Houston county, Minn.; Dutse S. Paine, of Forsythe, Mont.; and the subject of this biography.

Mary (Sayles) Paine's father was Christopher Paine, a descendant of Roger Williams. She was one of a family of eleven children, six brothers and five sisters. Roger Williams, who came to this country with the Pilgrims, was the founder of the original Rhode Island colony.

Mr. Paine resided in Rhode Island until he was twenty years of age. In the spring of 1854 he moved to Houston county, Minn., bought a farm there and made that his home for eleven years. He then sold out and moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming eighteen years. In 1883 he came to Nobles county and settled in Hersey township. There he bought the east half of the southeast quarter of section 32 and took as a timber claim the west half of the southeast quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of the same section as a tree claim. He lived on his farm until November, 1906, when he turned the management of his property over to his sons, and moved to Worthington, where he has since lived a retired life. During his long residence in Hersey township Mr. Paine took an active part in the local government. In the spring of 1884 he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors and held the office eighteen consecutive years.

In Webster, Mass., on Sept. 15, 1853, occurred the marriage of Mr. Paine to Ruth Elizabeth Shumway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Shumway, of Vermont. To this union were born the following children: Martha A., James Sayles, Rufus Monroe and



Amy, all living except the first named. Mrs. Paine died in September, 1863. Mr. Paine's second marriage occurred in Houston county, Minn., April 15, 1864, when he led to the altar Nancy Jane Thorp, a descendant of another old American family. The Thorps were originally from Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Paine have been born eight children, of whom the following five are living: Minerva Jane (Mrs. James Selby), Hersey township; Edgar R., of Worthington; Charles Jackson, of Hersey township; Cora (Mrs. William Hansberger), of Worthington; Walter Harold, of Hersey township. Mr. and Mrs. Paine are members of the First Methodist church of Worthington.

LAMBERT BROMMER owns and farms a half section of land in Grand Prairie township, where he has lived for the last eleven years. He was born in Emden, Germany, Oct. 18, 1860, the son of Lambert and Mattie (Foss) Brommer. The father, who was a farmer, was born in 1813 and died in his native land in 1897. The mother is still living in Emden. She was born in 1826.

Lambert was raised on his father's farm, secured an education in his native land and resided there until 1882. He landed in New York on May 23 of the last named year and located permanently in Logan county, Ill., where he resided seven years, working out at farm work. After spending one year working in Barton county, Kansas, he returned to Logan county and for two years more worked on the farm. He then returned to his old home in Germany, and after spending the winter there, came back and made his home in Lyon county, Iowa. He farmed on rented land there five years. Coming to Nobles county in 1897, he bought the half section of land on sections 15 and 14 and has ever since been engaged in farming it.

Mr. Brommer was married at Rock Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 13, 1891, to Lena Freeks, who was born in Illinois. She died Oct. 30, 1903. To Mr. and Mrs. Brommer were born eleven children, all of whom live at home with their father.

FREDERICK A. TURNER. One of the early settlers of Westside township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch.

He has resided on the farm where he now lives—the southwest quarter of section 20—ever since the fall of 1877. In addition to his home farm he owns eighty acres in Rock county.

Mr. Turner was born in Dyersville, Iowa, Sept. 1, 1852, the son of Alfred and Annie (Tillot) Turner. Alfred Turner was born in England Aug. 22, 1830, and came to the United States in 1852. He lived in Dyersville, Iowa, until 1866, in St. Charles, Minn., until May, 1904, and in Magnolia, Minn., until his death, which occurred Jan. 2, 1905. He was a tailor by trade and followed that occupation all his life. He conducted a tailoring establishment in England and was in the same business in Dyersville and St. Charles until 1901. Our subject's mother was born in Westpenard, Somersetshire, England, July 4, 1833. She now makes her home with her son in Westside township.

The first thirteen years of the life of our subject were spent in his native village. He moved with the family to St. Charles in 1865 and there made his home until his arrival to Nobles county. In 1873 he began working at the blacksmith trade, and followed that occupation until he came to the county. In November, 1877, Mr. Turner came and purchased his present farm in Westside township, then unimproved, and has been engaged in farming there ever since.

Mr. Turner was married in St. Charles Feb. 19, 1881, to Pauline Zimmerman, who was born in Ashford, Fond du Lac county, Wis. She is the daughter of Michael F. and Dorothy (Ziekerick) Zimmerman, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Turner have been born the following children: Alfred F., born Sept. 30, 1882; Henry J., born Nov. 8, 1884; John A., born April 6, 1887; Earl A., born Jan. 14, 1889.

During two terms Mr. Turner served as a director of school district No. 50. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Magnolia.

JOHN B. KLENKEN is a retired farmer of St. Kilian. He was born in Germany May 15, 1845, the youngest of a family of six children. His parents were John B. and Helen (Weyer) Klenken, both of whom died in their native country, the former in 1847, the latter in 1858.

Mr. Klenken came to the United States in

1875, lived one year in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then engaged in farming in Carroll county, Iowa, until 1894. He then moved to Lyon county, Iowa, farmed until 1899, when he moved to Nobles county. He bought the southwest quarter of section 23, Willmont township, where he engaged in farming until the fall of 1907. He then rented his farm and moved to St. Kilian, where he lives a retired life.

In Carroll county, Iowa, Mr. Klenken was married, in 1877, to Miss Christiana Lonne-man, a native of Germany. She died in 1896 at the age of 39 years. By this marriage three children were born Mary, Frank and Benjamin. The second marriage of Mr. Klenken occurred at Cincinnati July 8, 1903, when he wedded Mrs. Agnes (Thiememan) Speiker, who was born in Germany July 4, 1861. By her former marriage Mrs. Klenken is the mother of one child Mary Speiker born March 27, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Klenken are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Klenken is treasurer of school district No. 16, an office he has held during the last eight years.

ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY, retired farmer of Brewster, was born in Fayette county, Pa., Dec. 23, 1828. His father was Samuel Montgomery, who was born in Pennsylvania and died at the age of 70 years. His mother was Elizabeth (Campbell) Montgomery, who was born in Ireland, came to America at the age of 16 years, and died at the age of 90 years.

Mr. Montgomery of this sketch was educated in the common schools of his native county, where he resided until 1863. He then moved to Illinois and engaged in farming eighteen years. From Illinois he moved to Jackson county, Minn., and a little later to Hersey township, in Nobles county. He owns 250 acres of land in Hersey township.

Mr. Montgomery was married in 1858 to Sarah Stofor, and to them have been born ten children, of whom the following seven are living: James, John and Alex, of Worthington; Mrs. Charles Buckeye, of Heron Lake; Seymour, of Brewster; Mrs. Eva Berrean, of Currie; Mrs. Betsy Patton, of Danville, Ill. The three deceased children were named Frank, Dora and Mary Jane.

JOHN HERBERT, of Olney township, was born in Lasalle county, Ill., Aug. 23, 1867, the son of Patrick and Margaret (Faland) Herbert, natives of Ireland. The father was born in 1822, came to the United States when a young man and settled in Canada. Later he lived in Illinois and Iowa, and came to Nobles county with his son, where he now makes his home. Margaret Herbert died in Cherokee county, Iowa, in 1897, aged 68 years.

In Lasalle county, Illinois, John Herbert made his home during the first eighteen years of his life, going to school and working on his father's farm. The family then moved to Cherokee county, Iowa, where our subject resided until the spring of 1897. He then moved to Olney township, bought the northwest quarter of section 24, and has since made his home there, his father, two brothers and one sister making their homes with him. He had a finely improved place, having erected all the buildings since he purchased the farm.

In addition to his home farm Mr. Herbert owns, in partnership with his brothers, 100 acres in section 3, Olney, 160 acres in Traverse county, and a half interest in the northeast quarter of section 1, Olney. Mr. Herbert is unmarried.

JONATHAN J. BINGHAM has been a resident of Worthington twenty-six years. He was born in Montgomery county, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1837. His father was Ralph H. Bingham, who was born in Montgomery county, N. Y., and who died in Oswego county of the same state in the fall of 1867 at the age of 56 years. His mother was Sarah (Baird) Bingham, who was also a native of New York state; she died in Oswego county March 15, 1903, aged ninety years.

When J. J. Bingham was sixteen years old he moved with his parents to Onondago county, N. Y., where he completed his education and where he engaged in farming until 1862. That year he enlisted in company B, of the 122nd New York volunteer infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was mustered out of the United States service at Washington and out of the state service at Syracuse, N. Y., July 3, 1865. His regiment was a part of the Sixth army corps, commanded by General Segwick,

and his service was with the army of the Potomac. He took part in some of the severest fighting of the civil war, participating in the battles of Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Petersburg and other noted engagements. On May 6, 1864, Mr. Bingham was wounded at the battle of the Wilderness and was off duty until in the fall, when he rejoined his regiment at Fisher Hill.

After the war Mr. Bingham located in Oswego county, N. Y., where he engaged in farming until the fall of 1882. He then moved to Worthington, and that village has been his home ever since. For three years he was associated with Mitchell Bros. in the butter and egg business, and since that time has been engaged in various occupations. Mr. Bingham is a member of Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R., and was one of the charter members of the post. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the A. O. U. W. lodge. For several years he held the office of oil inspector for the counties of Nobles and Cottonwood.

Mr. Bingham was married in Oswego county, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1866, to Miss Adaline Snyder, a native of Otsego county. To them were born three children, of whom one—Miss Laura Bingham, a school teacher—is living. One child died in infancy. Thomas H. died Dec. 22, 1883, aged twelve years.

JOHN WHELAN owns and farms 200 acres of land in Summit Lake township, his home place being on the southeast quarter of section 12. He is a native of Kings county, Ireland, and was born Aug. 3, 1870. His father was a gardener, William Whelan by name. He died in his native land in January, 1876, at the age of 55 years. The mother of our subject is Bessie (Coolahan) Whelan, who is now eighty years of age and who makes her home with her son.

In the fall of 1883, accompanied by his mother and two sisters, John Whelan came to America. For eight years the family lived in Benton county, Iowa, and then moved to Nobles county. It was in the spring of 1892 that Mr. Whelan came to the county and bought of Peter Thompson, of Worthington, the farm upon which he has ever since resided.

Mr. Whelan was married in Summit Lake township May 22, 1901, to Minnie Mohr,

daughter of Fred Mohr, of Elk township. Mr. Whelan is a member of the Catholic church and of the Odd Fellows lodge of Worthington.

HENRY P. W. PFINGSTEN, of Seward township, is the son of the late August Pfingsten, who was one of the best known men of Seward township, and in whose honor the Pfingsten postoffice was named. August Pfingsten was a native of Germany; he died at his home in Seward in 1900. The mother of our subject is Mary (Dizeness) Pfingsten, who now resides in Fulda.

Henry Pfingsten was born in Crete, Will county, Ill., Feb. 19, 1870, but when less than one year old his parents moved to Iroquois county, in the same state. There the family lived until 1887, Henry attending the public schools and helping with the farm work. After the removal to Nobles county he lived with his parents until his marriage in 1895. That event occurred on Nov. 12, the lady of his choice being Cathrina Tammen. Eight children have been born to this union: Clara, August, Martin, Katie, Mary, Emma, Lizzie and Henry, all living.

After his marriage Mr. Pfingsten moved onto his present farm, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, which he had taken as a homestead, and that has been his home since. He has served two years as justice of the peace, three years as constable, and is now a director of school district No. 98, having been elected in 1907. Mr. Pfingsten is a member of the Lutheran church of Pfingsten.

FRANK R. COUGHRAN, Worthington's postmaster, was born at Reedsburg, Wis., Feb. 12, 1858. His father was Samuel Coughran, born in Vermont May 8, 1828, died at Sioux Falls Dec. 1, 1891. His mother is Martha A. (Reed) Coughran, a native of New York state.

When Frank was seven years old the family moved to Sparta, Wis., and there he was raised and received his education. At the age of 20 years, in June, 1878, he went to Sioux Falls, S. D., and entered the employ of the American Express Co., opening the first express office in the city. With that firm Mr. Coughran was connected practically

olly all the time up to 1882, when he moved to Huron and took a homestead—land of which he is still the owner. For a period of six years while in Huron he was in the railroad mail service, opening the Columbia-Huron mail route on the Northwestern line.

From Huron Mr. Coughran returned to Sioux Falls and entered the employ of his brother, E. W. Coughran. There he resided until November, 1891, when he came to Worthington and took the management of the Worthington hotel. He conducted the hotel until May 1, 1897. In November of the same year Mr. Coughran was appointed postmaster of Worthington by President William McKinley and has held the office since that date. He is a member of the Masonic and Workmen orders.

Mr. Coughran was married at Sparta, Wis., Oct. 24, 1886, to Stella Dickinson, daughter of S. N. Dickinson, who was a famous criminal lawyer. Mr. Dickinson died at Superior, Wis., where he made his home during the later years of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. Coughran has been born one daughter, Josephine M., born at Sioux Falls March 21, 1888.

THEODORE HINRICKS, after having worked nearly all his life at the blacksmith trade, in 1900 moved onto his Worthington township farm, where he has since been engaged in the less strenuous work of tilling the soil. He has been a resident of Nobles county for the last twenty-six years. He was born in Dane county, Wis., Jan. 21, 1857, the son of Theodore Hinricks and Christiana (Hinricks) Hinricks. His father was born in Germany in 1817 and died Nov. 12, 1885. His mother was born in Germany May 17, 1824, and is still living, residing in Middleton, Wis.

Mr. Hinricks' boyhood days were spent in his native county. There he secured a common school education and spent two years as an apprentice at the blacksmith trade. In March, 1878, he departed for Butler, Kansas, in which place he resided one year, working at his trade and at farm work. He next went to Pueblo, Col., but after working in a shop two months, returned east. He was in Emmetsburg, Iowa, a few months, a few more at Canton, S. D., and in the summer of 1880, we find him at Laverne,

Minn. In the harvest fields of Rock county he worked for a while and made his headquarters in Laverne until about the holidays. He then went back to his old home in Dane county, Wis., where he passed the winter. The following spring he set out and worked short periods in Wittmore, Iowa, Sibley, Worthington and Adrian. For a time during the summer he worked in Dan Fish's blacksmith shop in Bigelow township, and in the fall worked for a time in that gentleman's shop in Worthington. From that time up to March, 1882, we find him working at his trade in Mankato, Janesville, Waseca, and in Lane county, Wis.

In March, 1882, he returned to Worthington, and in partnership with Dan Fish opened a blacksmith shop. They operated the shop four years, and then Mr. Hinricks sold his interest to his partner. On November 25, 1886, he and James Mackay purchased the Fish shop, and for seven years operated it in partnership. He then purchased Mr. Mackay's interest and leased the shop to Dan Fish and Fred Olson. For the next few years Mr. Hinricks was engaged in setting up machinery as an expert for several different implement houses. On November 9, 1900, he moved onto his farm, the northeast quarter of section 5, Worthington township, which he had purchased several years before, and there he has lived since.

On November 17, 1885, at Worthington, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hinricks to Miss Minnie Estes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Estes, pioneer settlers of Elk township. Mrs. Hinricks was born at Spencer, N. Y. Two children, Fannie and Theodora, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hinricks.

SIMON ANDERSON has been engaged in farming in Summit Lake township for the last twenty years. He is a native of Norway, having been born in Christiansan May 10, 1868. His parents, Anders Johnson and Annie (Sanders) Johnson, still reside in their native land, he aged 70 years and she 68 years.

In 1880 Simon Anderson came to America and located at Rock Valley, Sioux county, Iowa, where he lived for several years. In the public school of Rock Valley and a school near Hull, Iowa, he completed his education, which had been begun in Nor-

way. During the years he spent in Sioux county he worked out at farm work. He first came to Nobles county in 1884, worked here one season, and then returned to his former home. In 1888 he again came to the county and it has been his home ever since. He bought a relinquishment and took as a tree claim the northeast quarter of section 8, Summit Lake township. Later he changed the filing to a homestead and proved up on the land. Immediately upon taking his claim he began making improvements—cultivating the land and setting out trees. When he changed the filing he erected a shanty, and it was not until 1899 that he erected his present house thereon. During the first few years he was a resident of the county he worked out in Rock county, but later devoted his whole time to the management of the farm. In 1907 he added to his holdings by the purchase of the southeast quarter of section 5, of the same township.

Mr. Anderson was married at Adrian Jan. 28, 1899, to Josephine Olson, daughter of Ole Olson, of Summit Lake. Mrs. Anderson was born in Decorah, Iowa, but came to Nobles county with her parents at an early age. She was educated in the public schools of Iowa, at Worthington and Stoughton, Wis., completing it with a course in the Northwestern Business college, from which she was graduated. She then began teaching school, which occupation she followed near Canton, S. D., three years. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of the following children: Annie Marie, Clarence Aaron, John Kenneth and Joseph Simon. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Wilmont. He served six years as school director, two years as constable and seven years as road overseer.

W. C. RENSHAW, Dewald township farmer, resides only a short distance from the village of Rushmore. He owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 17.

Mr. Renshaw is of Scotch and Dutch descent and was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1849. His father was Thomas F. Renshaw, who was born in Fayette county, Pa., in 1813 and died Oct. 31, 1865. Our subject's mother was Mary Ann (McKean) Renshaw, who was also a native

of Fayette county. She was born in 1822 and died Nov. 3, 1851.

Our subject was raised on a farm and was educated in the public schools of his native county. In the spring of 1865 the family moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and there Mr. Renshaw lived eleven years, during the greater part of which time he engaged in farming. In 1876 he moved to Sac county, Iowa, where he farmed until the spring of 1903. He then came to Nobles county, bought his farm and has resided there since. Mr. Renshaw was one of the organizers of the Rushmore Cooperative Creamery company and is its president. During the last four years he has held the office of chairman of the Dewald township board.

In Prairie du Chien, Wis., on June 18, 1872, Mr. Renshaw was united in marriage to Dora J. Ames, daughter of Barnabas and Mary Ames, of New York state. To Mr. and Mrs. Renshaw have been born the following children: Carl, born Aug. 27, 1873, died Sept. 4, 1875; Maud, born Sept. 4, 1875, died Jan. 8, 1884; Thomas McKean, born Nov. 25, 1877; Alfred W., born June 3, 1880; Edgar A., born Nov. 15, 1882; Wilbur F., born Nov. 13, 1885; Ethel M., born Aug. 28, 1888; Lois N., born April 25, 1890; Solon B., born Nov. 17, 1892.

ERNEST H. BURFEIND, senior member of the Burfeind-Wagner Drug company, of Ellsworth, was born in the city of Minneapolis Nov. 5, 1879, the son of Henry H. and Rachael (Gundlach) Burfeind. The father was born in Germany and came to America when 19 years of age. He located first in New York and later moved to Minneapolis, where he is now living at the age of 60 years. Our subject's mother, who was born in New York, is living and is 53 years of age.

In Minneapolis Ernest Burfeind lived until 1901. There he secured his education and grew to manhood. He became a pharmacist and for eight years before he came to Nobles county was employed in a Minneapolis drug store. Coming to Ellsworth in 1901, he purchased the drug store and conducted it alone until April 6, 1908, when he admitted Joseph Wagner as a partner.

Mr. Burfeind is unmarried. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge.

MELVIN WHITNEY HOVEY, proprietor of the Rushmore dray line, has been a resident of the county since he was seven years old. He was born in Belvidere, Ill., June 19, 1869, the son of Austin Hovey and Aurelia (Whitney) Hovey. The father, a native of Illinois, was born May 16, 1833; died Sept. 2, 1902. His mother is a native of Maine, having been born March 17, 1811, and now resides near Upton, N. M.

With the exception of one year, which was spent with his mother in Maine, Melvin resided in Belvidere until 1877. Then he came with his parents to Nobles county in the fall of that year and located in Worthington. The next spring the family moved out to Summit Lake township, where the head of the family had taken a homestead at a distance of twelve miles northwest of Worthington. From that date the family resided on the farm and in Worthington, dividing the time between the two places. Melvin was educated in the Worthington schools, and after his school days spent the greater part of his time working on the farm.

In 1901 he moved to Reading, ran a livery barn there one year, and then sold out. The next year and one half was spent in farming on a rented farm two miles north of Rushmore. He then moved to the village, purchased the Reese livery barn on Nov. 7, 1904, and conducted that business until 1908, when he sold out, and he is now proprietor of the Rushmore dray line.

Mr. Hovey was married August 20, 1902, to Miss Hanna Grace McChord, daughter of A. B. McChord, one of the pioneer settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Hovey are the parents of two children, Ernest Austin, born July 12, 1904, and Vera Mae, born May 6, 1907.

Mr. Hovey is third oldest of a family of six children. They, with their names and births, follow: Francis Amelia, born Oct. 20, 1860; Ida Estella, born April 19, 1867; Melvin Whitney, born June 19, 1869; Carrie Helen (Mrs. A. W. Ferrin), born Aug. 17, 1871; Addie Loretta, born Oct. 7, 1873; Florence Ethel, born Aug. 7, 1880. Two sisters died at an early age and one died at the age of 21 years.

JOHN A. ANDERSON has recently retired from active farming pursuits and now resides in Worthington. For seventeen years

he was engaged in farming in Graham Lakes township, where he still owns property.

Mr. Anderson was born on the island of Oeland, Sweden, Aug. 3, 1865, and is the son of A. P. Olson and Elizabeth (Peterson) Olson. His parents still reside in their native land, his father at the age of 75 years and his mother aged 68 years. For sixteen years our subject lived with his parents on the island off the southeastern coast of Sweden. He was raised on a farm and secured a common school education in his native land, completing it with a one year's course in the United States.

When sixteen years of age Mr. Anderson came to the new world and located at Galva, Ill., where for ten years he worked at farm work for wages. He came to Nobles county in 1890 and bought the northeast quarter of section 32, Graham Lakes township, his wife later becoming the owner of the north half of the northwest quarter of the same section. He farmed there five years; then sold out and returned to Illinois. After a six weeks' residence in his old home, he returned and repurchased his Graham Lakes farm, which he operated until the spring of 1908. He then rented his farm, purchased residence property in Worthington, and has since made his home in the county seat town. During his residence in Graham Lakes he served four years as clerk of school district No. 31.

Mr. Anderson was married at Kewanee, Ill., Dec. 31, 1889, to Emma Schoonover, a native of Kewanee and a daughter of Rositer and Margery Schoonover. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of one child, Hazel, born June 18, 1893.

In the fall of the present year, Mr. Anderson visited his parents in Oeland, Sweden.

JOHN PARADIES, farmer of Bloom township, was born in Sheboygan county, Wis., March 19, 1870, the son of Lawrence and Annie (Meyer) Paradies. The father was born in Mondorf, Germany, came to the United States when eleven years of age, and died Aug. 12, 1893, aged 62 years. The mother was also born in Germany. She died in 1896 at the age of 58 years.

John was raised on a farm in Sheboygan county and resided there until eighteen years old. He then went to Cherokee county,

Iowa, where he lived until 1896. During the first six years there he worked out at farm work by the month and thereafter farmed for himself on rented land. Coming to Nobles county in 1896, he rented the Chas. Fritz farm near St. Kilian one year. He then farmed the Rice farm in Larkin township five years, after which he bought his present eighty acre farm on section 18, Bloom, and has since made his home there.

Mr. Paradies was married at Mareus, Iowa, Nov. 6, 1896, to Lena Russell, a native of Aurora, Ill. To them have been born two children—Lawrence, born Nov. 7, 1900; George, born Aug. 17, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Paradies are members of the Catholic church at Wilmont. He was assessor of Bloom township one year and is now a member of the board of supervisors, having been elected in the spring of 1908.

B. G. BLOMGREN, a Bigelow township farmer and stock raiser, is a native of the village of Falkoping, Sweden, where he was born May 1, 1851, the son of the late Andrew Anderson and Christina (Larson) Anderson. The father died in Sac county, Iowa, June 21, 1906, aged 77 years. The mother is now living, at the age of 93 years, in Ida county, Iowa.

In Sweden Mr. Blomgren lived until 1886. During the entire period of his residence in the old country he resided on the farm, being engaged in farming for himself during the last few years of his residence there. He came to America in the spring of 1886, arriving at Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, on March 26. There he rented land and engaged in farming five years. He then moved to Crawford county, in the same state, and farmed four years. Returning to Sac county, he rented land from C. W. Cock, a big land owner, and farmed until 1898.

In the last named year he moved to Nobles county. The year previous to his arrival Mr. Blomgren had purchased the southeast quarter of section 22, Bigelow township, but as his place was then unimproved he rented an improved farm on section 27, upon which he resided two and one-half years. He then moved onto his own property, which he had in the meantime improved, and that has been his home ever since. Besides his general farming he raises

thoroughbred stock, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. In addition to his own farm he rents 120 acres. On his place is a fine orchard, including apple, pear and plum trees.

Mr. Blomgren was married in Sweden Nov. 23, 1880, to Mary Christina Gustafson, daughter of Andrew and Erika (Swanson) Gustafson. They are the parents of the following children, all of whom reside at home: Alfreda, Esther, Gust, Lillian, Ellis and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Blomgren and two of the children are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake. Mr. Blomgren served two years as clerk of school district No. 26 and was road overseer one year.

SVANTE KINDLUND, of Worthington, has resided in the county of Nobles thirty-one years, having come here direct from Sweden in 1877. He was born in the province of Jemiland, Sweden, Dec. 1, 1849, the son of M. B. Kindlund and Helen (Malberg) Kindlund. His father, who was an inspector for a wholesale lumber company and who also engaged in farming, died in his native county April 14, 1905. His mother still resides in Sweden.

In his native land Svante Kindlund worked at farming and painting, having followed his trade for a number of years. He came to the United States in 1877, spent a few months in Allamakee county, Iowa, and in November of the same year came to Nobles county. From Nels N. Langseth he bought the northeast quarter of section 22, Bigelow township, and for four years engaged in farming. He then moved to Worthington, and for twelve or thirteen years worked at his trade. He then went into the insurance business, which he has conducted ever since and of which he has made a decided success. He served one term (1888) as member of the city council.

Mr. Kindlund was married in Sweden to Lisa Pearson. To them have been born three children—Helen, who died March 5, 1908; Emma and Martha.

B. F. KNTIESE, farmer of Summit hills township, has been a resident of the county eighteen years. Besides the three children

in the home place he rents other land adjoining, making 440 acres of land that he farms. He raises stock extensively and has a fine farm.

Mr. Kniese was born in Saxony, Germany, March 26, 1864. His father was Bernard F. Kniese, who died in Iowa March 6, 1908. His mother was Mary Sophia (Boog) Kniese, who died in Iowa April 16, 1907. In his native country Mr. Kniese lived sixteen years, securing an education and working at farm work. He then came to America with his parents and located in Calhoun county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming on his father's place two years. He and his father then farmed in O'Brien county eight years, and in 1890 he came to Nobles county. After farming on rented land in Summit Lake township some years he purchased the 240 acre farm on section 16, where he has since resided.

In O'Brien county, Iowa, on June 5, 1888, Mr. Kniese was united in marriage to Miss Louise Fischer, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States in 1882. They are the parents of the following children: Edgar, Albert, Paulina, Fred, Elsie and Emily. Two children died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Kniese are members of the Lutheran church of Wilmont, and Mr. Kniese has served as director of school district No. 94 for the last eight or ten years.

FRANK RECKER, a farmer of Grand Prairie township, owns and farms a half section of land only a short distance south of the village of Ellsworth. He was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, Oct. 1, 1866, the son of the late Henry Recker and Susana (Honkamp) Recker. The father was a native of Ohio. He came to Nobles county in 1902, and died near Adrian Aug. 9, 1904, aged 68 years. The mother is a native of Iowa and is now living near Adrian, aged 63 years.

Mr. Recker lived in his native county until 24 years of age, during which time he received his education and worked on his father's farm. He then left home and went to Marshall county, Iowa, where he bought a farm and lived eleven years. Selling out there in 1902 he moved to Grand Prairie township, in Nobles county, and purchased his present farm of 320 acres in sections 32

and 31. He has erected new buildings and made other improvements on the place since taking possession.

In Dubuque county, Iowa, on Feb. 3, 1891, Mr. Recker was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Wilmhoff, a native of Iowa and a daughter of the late Herman Wilmhoff. To Mr. and Mrs. Recker have been born the following children: Susana, born Feb. 3, 1894; Willie, born July 24, 1896; Ignatius, born Aug. 4, 1898; Carolina, born Sept. 3, 1900; Cicillie, born Oct. 9, 1902; Frank F., born May 20, 1904; Veronica, born Aug. 6, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Recker are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth.

GUST SELBERG, of Ransom township, was born in Sweden Aug. 22, 1871, the son of Peter M. and Mary (Selberg) Peterson, both of whom are still living in their native land. Gust is the youngest of a family of eight children.

Gust came to the United States in the spring of 1889 and settled at Worthington, in the vicinity of which village he worked as a farm laborer nine years. He then rented a farm in Bigelow township, which he conducted three years. In 1893 he had bought 104 acres of land on section 17, Bigelow township. Seven years later he sold that and bought his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 12, Ransom township, where he has since resided. The place was unimproved when he purchased it.

Mr. Selberg was married in Bigelow township Nov. 16, 1897, to Miss Emma H. Harbo, a native of Bigelow township and a daughter of L. P. Harbo, of Cass county, Minn. To them have been born the following children: Clifford L., born Sept. 10, 1898; Esther, born March 25, 1901; Helen, born Jan. 1, 1903; Gilbert, born March 27, 1905; Clayton, born June 18, 1907.

Mr. Selberg engages in general farming and stock feeding. He is treasurer of school district No. 18 and road overseer of road district No. 1, Ransom township.

AUSTIN NASH is one of the early settlers of western Nobles county and one of the prominent farmers of Westside township, in which township he owns 440 acres



of land. He raises thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and lots of other stock.

Mr. Nash is a Norwegian, having been born at Stavanger on Dec. 17, 1844. His parents, Ole and Christina Nash, died in their native land. In the country of his birth Mr. Nash lived until he was twenty-five years of age. At the age of fifteen years he began working at the shoemaker's trade in a town about forty miles south of Stavanger, and followed that occupation until he came to America. He arrived in the new world in May, 1869, and located in Lee county, Ill., where he made his home eleven years. The first seven years he worked out by the month; then he began farming for himself on rented land. A brother had come to Nobles county during the time Austin was in Illinois, and in March, 1880, he came out to the new country. He bought a homestead right to 160 acres on section 10, Lismore township, and made his home there until the fall of 1892. Then he sold out and bought 280 acres of his present farm in Westside township, where he has ever since resided.

On July 27, 1878, in Lee county, Ill., Mr. Nash was married to Enga Grove. She is a daughter of Ole and Martha Grove, both deceased, and was born in Norway Dec. 16, 1847. To them have been born the following named children: Ole, born June 16, 1879, died Feb. 14, 1907; Mary, born Aug. 4, 1880, died Nov. 7, 1880; Martin, born June 30, 1881, died Nov. 19, 1887; Lena, born Oct. 9, 1882, died July 11, 1896; Joseph, born Dec. 27, 1883; Oscar, born Oct. 4, 1885; Minnie, born Nov. 29, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Nash are members of the Methodist church of Adrian.

W. M. EVANS, president of the Worthington National Bank, has been in the banking business in Worthington fourteen years, as cashier and manager of the Nobles County Bank and in his present position.

Mr. Evans descends from one of the old American families. Four brothers came from Wales in colonial days and founded the American branch of the family, some members of which became quite prominent in the affairs of the country. Our subject's great great grandfather was a veteran of

the Revolutionary war. In a very early day members of the Evans family moved to Iowa territory and became prominent in the early history of that commonwealth. Lyman Evans, the great grandfather of our subject came to Iowa in 1838 and settled in what later became Clinton county. That county was organized March 1, 1840, and its first election was held at the home of Lyman Evans on April 6, 1840. That gentleman was also a member of the Iowa constitutional convention which convened at Iowa City Oct. 7, 1844, and was in session until Nov. 1, of same year. He and Ralph R. Benedict represented Clinton county. Our subject's grandfather was Charles Evans and his father was John M. Evans, who was born in Dewitt, Iowa territory, in 1844. The latter started a drug store in 1874, which he conducted twenty years, and then retired from active pursuits. He served six years as postmaster of Gowrie, Iowa, having been appointed by President Grover Cleveland during his first administration. John M. Evans died in June, 1898. Our subject's mother is Elizabeth (Evans) Evans, born at Akron, N. Y., in 1847, and now residing in Gowrie, Iowa.

W. M. Evans was born at Dewitt, Clinton county, Iowa, Oct. 28, 1866, and in that place lived with his parents until 1874, when they moved to Gowrie, Webster county. In the latter place Mr. Evans resided twenty years. He attended the public schools of Gowrie and completed his education in the high school at Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa. At the age of eighteen years, he quit school and engaged in farming on his father's farm near Gowrie, and was thus engaged nine years.

Mr. Evans was married at Gowrie April 26, 1893, to Jennie Lynd, daughter of E. A. and Mary E. Lynd, who settled at Gowrie in 1872. Mr. Lynd was the owner of the townsite of that village. He now resides in Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Lynd died in September, 1906. After his marriage Mr. Evans sold the farm, bought stock in the Bank of Gowrie and became its assistant cashier.

In the fall of 1894 he purchased a half interest in the Nobles County Bank, at Worthington, and until the next year operated it in partnership with P. C. Johnson, son. On May 15, 1895, E. A. Lynd and

chased Mr. Thompson's interest in the bank, and thereafter the institution was owned and managed by Lynd & Evans. The latter became cashier of the bank and was its manager until the reorganization in the present year. At first quarters were in the Torrance block, but in 1899, Mr. Evans erected the building in which the institution has ever since been. On Jan. 15, 1908, the Nobles County Bank was reorganized into the Worthington National Bank, and Mr. Evans became its president. Mr. Evans is a member of Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., and for five years was secretary of the lodge.

CHARLES L. ROWLEY, Summit Lake township farmer, owns and farms the north-west quarter of section 22 and the south-west quarter of section 15. He was born in Hillsdale county, Mich., Dec. 23, 1872, the son of John and Malissa (Scott) Rowley, natives of Illinois and Ohio, respectively. Both parents are living and reside in Ohio.

When the subject of this biography was two or three months old the family moved to Fulton county, Ohio, and there Charles Rowley grew to manhood. He secured an education in the schools of Aid and engaged in farm work until he reached his majority. In 1893 he came to Nobles county and for several years was employed at farm work on the farms of J. W. Read, G. T. Bulick and J. E. Cass, all in Summit Lake township. In 1897 Mr. Rowley purchased the east half of the southeast quarter of section 21, Summit Lake, farmed one year and then sold his farm. He at once purchased the quarter section he now owns on section 15 from Daniel Shell and the same year rented from the Azom Forbes estate the quarter upon which he now resides and which he purchased in the fall of 1898.

Mr. Rowley was married in Dewald township Feb. 21, 1898, to Annie Wagner, a native of Michigan City, Ind., and a daughter of Fred and Sophia Wagner. They are the parents of the following children: Zelma, Annie May, Gladys, Floyd Leroy and Fern.

ALFRED MAHLBERG, Bigelow township farmer, was born on his father's farm in

Bigelow township July 17, 1873, the son of Erick and Christine (Landberg) Mahlberg.

Alfred received his education in the school of district No. 56, Bigelow township, and was brought up on his father's farm, where he lived until 1902. That year he was married and began farming for himself on the southwest quarter of section 11, which land he had bought three and one-half years before.

His marriage occurred at Worthington on June 25, 1902, when he led to the altar Miss Olive Larson, daughter of L. J. and Bengta Larson, residents of Worthington. Mrs. Mahlberg was born in Sweden Aug. 22, 1877. They are the parents of two children: Arthur Franklin, born April 17, 1903; Ruth Malinda, born Aug. 21, 1905. Both parents are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington. Mr. Mahlberg has served as clerk of school district No. 56 for the last ten years.

GUST A. HAGBERG, Dewald township farmer, was born in Sweden Jan. 17, 1864, and is the son of Louis and Annie (Brask) Hagberg, now residents of Elk township.

In 1870 the family came to the United States and located in Clinton, Iowa. There Gust lived until he was seventeen years of age. He then left home and went to British Columbia, where for one year he was with a surveying party working for the Canadian Pacific railroad. He then went to Montana and for three years rode the plains as a cowboy, his headquarters being at Billings and Livingston. Returning to his old home in Clinton, he took employment with the firm of C. Lumb & Son, and for several years was employed in that firm's sawmills. In 1895 he established a grocery store in Clinton, which he conducted two years. He came to Nobles county in 1897 and for six years farmed rented land in Elk township. He then moved to Amery, Polk county, Wis., bought land there and farmed two years. Returning to Nobles county, he bought the west half of the southeast quarter of section 24, Dewald township, and has since been engaged in farming there.

Mr. Hagberg has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Clinton, Iowa, in 1886, when he wedded Hilda Hendrickson.

who died sixteen months later. To them one son was born, Arvid, who now resides with his father. Mr. Hagberg's second marriage occurred in Clinton Dec. 22, 1892, when he was united in marriage to Miss Otelea Carlson, a native of Sweden. To them have been born the following children: Olga, Victor, Archie, Leroy, Eveline and Nathaniel, all of whom reside at home. Mr. Hagberg is a member of the Swedish Mission church of Worthington.

JAMES M. HAGERMAN is a farmer residing a short distance south of Brewster, on section 2, Lorain township, and has lived in the county eighteen years. He was born in Lycoming county, Pa., March 28, 1867, the son of Joseph L. Hagerman and Mary (Hafer) Hagerman. His mother died in the year of his birth; his father died in Iowa in 1897.

When James M. was six years of age he came with his father to Laporte, Iowa. There he lived two years and then his father moved to a farm near Waterloo, Iowa, where our subject worked on the farm and secured his education. He started his schooling in the country schools near Waterloo, and completed his education in Waterloo college, which he attended four years, lacking only one year of graduating from that institution. In 1890 he moved to Nobles county and his first winter here was spent in teaching school. Then in partnership with his brother, G. E. Hagerman, he engaged in farming. Later he purchased the northeast quarter of section 2, Lorain township, and that has been his home since.

Mr. Hagerman was married in Nobles county to Miss Clara Scharping, daughter of Carl Scharping, one of the early settlers of Nobles county, on Nov. 4, 1894. To them have been born three children, Clarence, Percy and Asher.

JOHN G. MITCHELL, real estate dealer of Worthington, has resided in the county twenty-eight years. He was born in Houston county, Minn., May 10, 1861, the son of James and Jane Mitchell. His father was born in Aberdeen shire, Scotland, came to the United States in 1850, and later located

in Houston county, Minn., where he bought two farms and where he resided until his death in 1864. Jane Mitchell was also born in Scotland; she died in 1890 in Olney township, Nobles county, Minn., at the age of 65 years.

When John Mitchell was seventeen years of age he first came to Nobles county, spent one summer here, but his home was in Houston county until 1880, at which time he came to reside permanently. One year he lived on a farm in Olney township, and then he purchased a tree claim of 160 acres in the same township, upon which he lived four years. Disposing of his interests there, he moved to Rushmore and went into the implement business, which he conducted two years. He then opened a real estate office in Rushmore, which he conducted until his removal to Worthington in 1905. In the county seat village he still carries on a real estate business, since 1907 in partnership with I. F. Kelley.

Mr. Mitchell was married at Rushmore, Minn., Dec. 12, 1883, to Lucy Randall, who died Jan. 22, 1893, at the age of 28 years. To this union four children were born—Grace (Mrs. Wm. Schrader), Fred, Will and Ester.

On Dec. 27, 1895, at Rushmore, Mr. Mitchell took for his second wife Miss Mary Atkins, a native of New York city. To them three children have been born, as follows: Gertrude, Gladys and Marion.

CHARLES WEITGENANT, of Bloom township, was born in the village of Ossian, Winneshiek county, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1870. He is of German descent, his grandparents having come from Germany when children and settled at Columbus, Ohio. The father of our subject is Joseph W. Weitgenant, mayor of Ossian. He was born in Indiana and is 59 years of age. The mother of the subject of this biography was Elizabeth (Banning) Weitgenant. She was born in Wisconsin and died in February, 1871, aged 22 years.

Charles Weitgenant was raised on the parental farm in Winneshiek county and made his home there until reaching his majority. He then went to Mason City, in Grant county, Iowa, where he engaged in

farming three years. He and a brother then went to Algona and conducted a hardware store one year. Returning to Mason City after selling the hardware store, he again engaged in farming and was there four or five years.

When Mr. Weitgenant disposed of his hardware stock he traded it for the northwest quarter of section 29, Bloom township, in Nobles county, and in 1903 he moved up to take charge of his land, and has made his home in the county since that time. He erected buildings on the land in 1906.

In Bloom township on Sept. 20, 1901, Mr. Weitgenant was united in marriage to Ive Anderson, daughter of Henry M. and Lucy Anderson. Mrs. Weitgenant was born in Indian Lake township, Nobles county, May 1, 1884. They are the parents of two children—Virgil, born Aug. 10, 1906; Raymond, born March 19, 1908.

Mr. Weitgenant served two years as clerk of Bloom township. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Wilmont.

WILLIAM H. CHRISTENSEN, proprietor of one of Rushmore's elevators, was born at Manley Junction, Iowa, in December, 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Christensen. The father, a native of Denmark, is now living in Rushmore and is 85 years of age. The mother died in Rushmore.

Up to the time he was seventeen or eighteen years of age Mr. Christensen lived with his parents in Manley Junction and Northwood, Iowa, and in Hartland and Mankato, Minnesota, receiving his schooling in Iowa and in Hartland. When about seventeen years old he went to Minneapolis, where he worked in an elevator about two years. He then moved to Wilder, where he resided about five years, buying grain for an elevator company. The next two years were spent in Gardner, N. D., where he again bought grain.

In 1894 Mr. Christensen moved to Rushmore, where he has ever since resided. Until 1899 he was the manager of an elevator there, and in the year last named he, with a partner, bought the elevator he has ever since conducted. During his residence there Mr. Christensen has taken an active part in the affairs of the community. He estab-

lished the Rushmore Gazette and was its editor for some time. He was elected a member of the Rushmore village council in the spring of 1907 and is now serving in that capacity.

Mr. Christensen was married in Rushmore in July, 1899, to Linda Irene Thompson, and to them have been born two children: Forest S. and Elvena P. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen are members of the Methodist church of Rushmore and of the Yeomen lodge of the same place.

CHARLES A. GORDON, of Worthington, was born in Olmsted county, Minn., May 15, 1855, and is the son of Jonathan and Lourette (Walker) Gordon, of Hersey township.

Jonathan Gordon is one of the best known of the pioneer settlers of the county. He was born in Lyman, Grafton county, New Hampshire, March 4, 1823, and was a son of natives of the same state. In Lyman he lived until 25 years of age, and then, in 1848, he moved to Rockton, Winnebago county, Illinois. Three years later he located in Allamakee county, Iowa and in 1854 moved to Olmsted county, Minn., his family becoming the third in that county. He arrived in Nobles county May 28, 1871, and homesteaded in Hersey township. In that precinct and in Worthington village Mr. Gordon has lived ever since. The mother of our subject was born in Vermont. She is now living at the age of 83 years. Charles A. Gordon is one of a family of seven children, composed of Emily Frances' (Mrs. J. H. Cunningham), Fair Oakes, California; Nelson E., Charles A., William Fred, George M., Mary E. (Mrs. Selby) and Willis S.

Charles Gordon lived on the farm in Olmsted county until he came with the family to Nobles county. For a few years after the removal of the family here he divided his time, working out, between Nobles and Olmsted counties. He located in the county permanently in 1877, when he took as a timber claim the south half of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 6, Hersey. On that place he lived until 1896, engaged in farming. Then he moved to Worthington, where he has since lived a retired life. He owns property in the village.

In Worthington on February 15, 1884, Mr. Gordon was married to Maude Coder, who was born in Kansas May 9, 1865, and whose parents are Henry and Frances Coder. Her father died at the age of 76 years in 1902. Her mother, who was married the second time to Pollard Austin, of Michigan, also deceased, is 68 years of age and makes her home with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon are the parents of one child, Frances, born Aug. 7, 1889.

GEORGE HOFFMAN is a Willmont township farmer who has resided on his present place sixteen years. He owns 355 acres of land on sections 14 and 23. He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., July 16, 1857, the son of Lawrence and Mary (Lapprell) Hoffman. The father came from Germany in 1839 and located in New York state, where he held a position as engineer in a tannery for many years. Later he settled in Iowa and engaged in farming. He died in Carroll county in 1884, aged 62 years. Our subject's mother came from Germany when a child. She died in Carroll county in 1898, aged 64 years.

When George was eight years of age the family moved from Buffalo to Winneshiek county, Iowa. Here they lived on a farm nine years. In 1874 George moved with his parents to Carroll county, and that was his home until 1892. He lived on the farm with his parents until 21 years of age, and then began farming for himself and became a land owner. He came to Nobles county in 1892, bought part of his present farm in Willmont township, and has made his home there ever since. The land was raw prairie land at the time of purchase and had no improvements thereon.

Mr. Hoffman was married Feb. 21, 1884, at Hillsdale, Carroll county, Iowa, to Frances Kenebeck, daughter of George and Katherine Kenebeck. She was born in Waukegan, McHenry county, Ill., Dec. 21, 1866. To them have been born the following children: Katherine (Mrs. John Duolos), of Larkin, born Jan. 4, 1885; George William, born Jan. 21, 1887, died Dec. 29, 1888; Martin, born Jan. 29, 1889; Joseph, born April 19, 1891; John, born Oct. 11, 1893; Eda, born Jan. 9, 1896; Caroline, born April 28, 1897; Jennie, born

June 18, 1899; Rosie, born Sept. 10, 1902; Lawrence, born Jan. 24, 1904; Louis, born March 25, 1906. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian and he belongs to the German Roman Catholic society of St. Paul. For three years Mr. Hoffman served as township supervisor and for five years was a director of school district No. 65.

MARTIN FINNERTY owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 32, Grand Prairie township, which lies just outside of the platted portion of Ellsworth. He has lived in the county fourteen years.

Mr. Finnerty was born at Berlin, Wis., Dec. 14, 1870. His father, Thomas Finnerty, was born in Ireland, came to the United States when a young man and settled in Massachusetts. Later he moved to Berlin, Wis., and from there to Carroll county, Iowa, where he died in June, 1893, aged 75 years. Our subject's mother died in Wisconsin when Martin was nine months old.

The first thirteen years of Martin Finnerty's life were spent in Berlin, Wis. The family then moved to Carroll county, Iowa, and there he lived on a farm until July, 1894. On that date he became a resident of Ellsworth. During the first four years he resided in Ellsworth he worked for a cousin, Ed. Egan, whose farm was just over the line in Iowa. He served as village marshal of Ellsworth from 1903 to 1908. He bought the farm where he now lives in October, 1907.

Mr. Finnerty was married in Ellsworth Feb. 26, 1899, to Miss Lilly O'Hearn, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard O'Hearn, of Grand Prairie. To them have been born two children, Lyle, born Dec. 17, 1901; Bernice, born July 2, 1903. Mr. Finnerty is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

THOMAS McLEAN. Among the old time residents of Lismore township is Thomas McLean, who has resided on the farm where he now lives for more than thirty years. He owns the northeast quarter of section 20 and property in the village of Lismore.

Mr. McLean is a Scotchman by birth and

was born Oct. 19, 1850. He came to the United States at the age of twenty-one years and located in Columbia county, Wis., where he engaged in farming five years. Coming to Nobles county in the spring of 1878, Mr. McLean bought the homestead right to his farm, proved up on it and has ever since made his home there. Two years after coming to the county he bought a quarter section on 28, which he farmed until a few years ago, when he sold to his son.

Mr. McLean was married in Columbia county, Wis., March 9, 1872, to Ella McLeish, who was born Aug. 29, 1854, in the county in which she was married. Her parents are William and Jane (Thompson) McLeish. To Mr. and Mrs. McLean have been born two children: Jane (Mrs. Nicholas Hendel), of Lismore, born in January, 1873; Matthew, Lismore township farmer, born in May, 1875. During his long residence in Lismore township Mr. McLean has held a number of offices. He served on the township board a number of terms and has been chairman of the board. Of school district No. 79 he was a director for a number of years. He now holds the office of town treasurer. Mr. McLean is a stockholder in the Lismore Telephone company. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a Woodman.

ARTHUR M. SADLER, proprietor of the machine and blacksmith shop of Ellsworth, is a native of Tama City, Iowa, where he was born on the ninth day of April, 1880. His parents were Marion and Hulda (Aldrich) Sadler. The former was a native of Indiana, but became a resident of Iowa in an early day, and died at Cedar Rapids in 1898, aged 54 years. The latter was born in Pennsylvania and is now living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, aged 56 years.

When Arthur was five years of age the family moved to Cedar Rapids, and that city was the home of our subject until 1903. There he attended the public schools and learned the gas fitting and plumbing business. From the Iowa city he came to Ellsworth in 1903 and for two years he was employed in the tuning and plumbing department of Burke Bros., hardware store. During the next three years he was employed in his brother's machine and blacksmith

shop, and in April, 1908, he bought the shop and now conducts the business.

Mr. Sadler is unmarried. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

L. W. JOHNSON owns and farms the east half of section 34, Leota township, which has been his home for the last twenty-three years. He was born in Story county, Iowa, July 2, 1857, the son of Wier and Carrie (Olson) Johnson. Wier Johnson was born in Norway and came to the United States in 1850. He died in Story county, Iowa, in 1888, aged 76 years. His wife died in the same county in 1900, aged 84 years.

Mr. Johnson of this biography lived in his native county until 1884. He was raised on a farm and after growing to manhood engaged in farming for himself on rented land. He arrived in Adrian in April, 1884, and at once rented a farm in Westside township. After farming that one year he bought 160 acres of his present farm and became a resident of Leota township, where he has ever since resided. When he bought the farm the only improvements were a shanty and a few trees, and only seven acres were under cultivation.

Today Mr. Johnson has a fine farm. One half of his land is in pasture and he engages in stock raising quite extensively. He has 105 head of sheep and 70 head of cattle. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and has twelve head of registered stock. In addition to his farming and stock raising he has other business interests. He has stock in the Lismore Co-operative Elevator company and is president of the Farmers' Cooperative Telephone company. He is a member of the board of supervisors of Leota township and has held the position for the last eight years. He also served as clerk of school district No. 75 for about six years. He is a member of the Lutheran church of Lismore township.

In the city of Des Moines, Iowa, in June, 1882, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Martha Amundson, daughter of Amos and Esther (Olson) Larson. She was born in Norway in August, 1859, and came to the United States in 1879. To them have been born the following children: Amanda (Mrs.

Oscar Olson), of Alberta, Canada, born Oct. 28, 1882; William, born Oct. 30, 1885; Alfred, born March 26, 1888; Henry, born Oct. 26, 1893; Violet, born Oct. 29, 1901. All except the married daughter reside at home.

JOHN A. ALBINSON, Worthington, is the senior member of the Albinson-Boberg Lumber company and has been a resident of the county seat village for many years.

Mr. Albinson was born in Sweden Dec. 17, 1868, the son of Albin and Sophia Johnson. The father is a timber dealer and landowner of his native country, where he resides at the age of 64 years. The mother died in 1902 at the age of 59 years. John Albinson was raised on a farm and made his home in Sweden until nineteen years of age, during which time he attended the schools and secured a good education.

Arriving in the United States, Mr. Albinson went direct to Worthington. For a while he worked at farm and railroad work and then took a business course in the Breck school at Wilder. After quitting school he again worked for a short time on the railroad and then took a position in the lumber yard of Azom Forbes. After working in the yard a while he took a position in the office, which he held until December, 1899. During this period of employment the business was owned alternately by Mr. Forbes, by Smallwood & Ramage, and by James S. Ramage. On the date above named he and John Boberg formed a partnership and established a lumber yard near the Burlington depot. The business was incorporated in 1905 under the name of Albinson-Boberg Lumber company. Mr. Albinson has been connected with the business since its founding. In 1904 he moved to Minneapolis, in which city he lived until the fall of 1907, part of the time being engaged in the lumber business.

Beside his interest in the Albinson-Boberg Lumber company, Mr. Albinson owns a fine residence in the city, erected in the summer of 1908, and residence property in Minneapolis. He owns a farm in Elk township, one in Lorain township, and one in South Dakota. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. W. A. and I. O. O. F. lodges.

Mr. Albinson has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Minneapolis Sept. 13, 1896, when he wedded Selma Swanson, a native of Sweden. She died March 25, 1902, at the age of 33 years. This union resulted in the birth of three children: Sophia, May and Clarence. The second marriage was solemnized at Worthington May 6, 1903, when he wedded Alma Olson, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Nels and Mary Olson, of Worthington. Mrs. Albinson was born in 1875. To them have been born two children: Nels, who died at the age of eleven months, and Alfred H.

GEORGE W. SMITH, of Summit Lake township, has devoted his lifetime to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Bedford county, Pa., July 11, 1853. His father, Mahlon Smith, was born in Bedford county, Pa., July 9, 1824, and died Jan. 11, 1898. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed that occupation many years, becoming a farmer late in life. He was of Welsh descent. Our subject's mother was Christina (Luken) Smith, of German descent. She was born in Bedford county, Pa., Jan. 4, 1826, and died Dec. 24, 1905.

In the spring of 1865 the family moved from Pennsylvania to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where the father bought a farm and where both parents resided until their deaths. Our subject engaged in farming in Blackhawk county until the spring of 1888. After seven months spent in Cedar county, Mo., he moved to Lyon county, Iowa, where he farmed five years. He next spent three years in O'Brien county, and then, in 1897, came to Nobles county, bought his farm—the southwest quarter of section 10, Summit Lake township and has made his home there since. He is a member of the Dunkard church of Elk township. He has served two years as justice of the peace and for seven years has been clerk of school district No. 82.

Mr. Smith was married in Blackhawk county, Iowa, July 12, 1874, to Marietta Wood, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Wood. To these parents have been born the following children: Myrie (Mrs. Andrew Finckle), Worthington township; Vernon A., a 1900 census

Alberta, Canada; Mahlon, of Lake Wilson, Minn.; Irvin L., residing at home.

M. SWEDBERG, farmer of Bigelow township, was born in Jemtland, Sweden, March 5, 1869. His father was Carl Hedbom, who died in Sweden in 1889, aged 64 years. His mother was Christine (Peterson) Hedbom, who died in Sweden in 1888, aged 62 years.

Mr. Swedberg received an education in his native country and resided there until 1891. After he became old enough to work he took employment in the woods, at which employment he worked until he set sail for America. He came to the United States and direct to Worthington, arriving in that village May 28, 1891. For nine years after his arrival he worked out at farm work, all of the time in Nobles county except two years when he was in Lyon county, Iowa. In 1899 he bought his present farm, was married, and the next year began farming for himself. He owns 80 acres in section 27.

Mr. Swedberg was married in Bigelow township Nov. 2, 1899, to Miss Lena Moberg, daughter of the late Jonas Moberg and Elizabeth Moberg. Mrs. Swedberg was born on the farm where she now lives Dec. 28, 1874. They are the parents of the following named children: Elsie, born, Sept. 20, 1900; Rudolph, born Sept. 18, 1902; Wesley; born April 1, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Swedberg are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake.

THOMAS H. CREVER, of Worthington, is one of the pioneer residents of that village. he was born at Lewistown, Millin county, Pa., Sept. 10, 1818, which place was his home until he was four years of age. During the next fourteen years his home was at Baltimore, Md.

When less than 15 years of age, in May, 1833, he enlisted at Baltimore in company B, 11th Maryland infantry, and served until late in 1861, taking part in the Virginia campaigns. During the few years following the close of the war Mr. Crever resided in turn in Winchester, Va.; York, Pa.; and Bloomsburg, Pa., at which places Rev. B. H. Crever, his father, was stationed as pastor of Methodist churches.

From the last named place Mr. Crever left in 1872 for Port Huron, Mich., of which place he was a resident one year. In May, 1873, he came to Worthington, and that place has been his home ever since. For six or seven years he was employed in the Worthington mill, followed carpentering many years, was in the cement business for some time, and has been engaged in several other occupations.

Mr. Crever was married at Worthington in 1877 to Effie Darling, a native of Blue Earth county, Minn., and a daughter of the late John A. Darling. To this union have been born three children—Willard, of St. Paul; Goldie and Nellie, of Worthington.

THEODORE DUWENHOEGGER, Willmont township farmer, was born in Westphalia, Germany, Sept. 12, 1868, and is the son of the late William D. and Regina (Tiggess) Duwenhoegger. The former was born in August, 1837, came to the United States and to Nobles county in 1881, lived on the Willmont township farm until 1894, and thereafter until his death on June 18, 1908, resided in Adrian. The latter was born in 1841, married Mr. Duwenhoegger in 1867, and now lives in Adrian.

It was in the spring of 1881 that the family came across the water and settled in Nobles county. The father homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter of section 20, Willmont township, and on that place our subject resided until he was of age. For a few years after reaching his majority Theodore worked out as a farm hand. He farmed the home place from 1894 to 1897 and then moved to St. Kilian. With that interior village for his headquarters he spent four years on the road as the traveling representative of *The Wanderer*, a Catholic weekly, published in St. Paul, his territory being southwestern Minnesota, northwestern Iowa and a part of South Dakota. During the next year he engaged in the saloon business at St. Kilian and in 1902 he again took up farming as his occupation. He owns eighty acres on section 20 and eighty on section 17. He has side lines he works in addition to his farming, being agent for the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance company and for the Willmont Mutual Fire Insurance company.



In St. Kilian on Nov. 13, 1894, Mr. Duwenhoegger was united in marriage to Matilda Pacholl, who was born in East Prussia Sept. 30, 1875. She is the daughter of John and Barbara Pacholl. To this union have been born the following children: Matilda Annie, Theodore William, Anton John, Emma Alphonsia, Alouise Conrad, Rudolph, Alfred, Elizabeth, all of whom reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Duwenhoegger are member of the Catholic church of St. Kilian, and he is a member of the German Roman Catholic Protective Society of Minnesota. He served as township assessor four years, is a director of school district No. 66, which he has held six years, and is the township clerk, having been appointed in the spring of 1908.

CHARLES J. PAINE owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 33, Hersey township. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Paine, of Worthington, and was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Nov. 7, 1870, in which county he lived until 1883, when he came with his parents to Nobles county. He secured a common school education in the public schools of Grundy county, Iowa, and of Nobles county.

Until 1900 he lived with his parents on the family farm in Hersey township. On September 5, of that year he was married to Margaret Dewitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Dewitt, and to them have been born two children—Floyd and Arthur. At the time of his marriage he moved onto his own farm, the southwest quarter of section 33, Hersey, which he had purchased in 1893, and that has since been his home.

Mr. Paine is treasurer of school district No. 53, to which office he was elected in 1907. He is a member of the Worthington Methodist church and of the Yeoman lodge.

H. A. SCHERLIE. One of the early settlers of the Dundee country is H. A. Scherlie, whose farm joins the village of Dundee on the north. Although his residence is practically in the village of Dundee and he has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the village, he is a resident of Murray county, the village being located on the extreme north line of Nobles county.

Mr. Scherlie was born in Norway July 22,

1858, and came to the United States with his parents three years later. The family resided in Waupaca county, Wis., for several years and later resided at Albert Lea, Minn. In the spring of 1880, just as the town of Dundee was starting, Mr. Scherlie came to the new village. His father had taken a homestead in Murray county, and in 1885 he secured possession of the farm where he has ever since resided. Although he has devoted his time principally to farming, Mr. Scherlie has taken part in the business life of the village. He erected the first grain house in the village and has been engaged in other business enterprises. He is a member of the K. P. and Yeoman lodges.

At Windom, Minn., in 1891 Mr. Scherlie was married to Miss Bertha C. Schofield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Schofield. She was born in Iowa, came to Bingham Lake, Minn., in 1873, and a few years later to Windom. Mr. and Mrs. Scherlie are the parents of three children—one son and two daughters.

FRANK MURPHY is manager of the Superior Lumber and Coal company's office at Ellsworth, having had charge of the office for the past ten years. The present firm purchased the yard one year ago from W. J. Bruce & Co., one of the early day firms of Ellsworth.

Mr. Murphy was born in Caledonia, Houston county, Minn., March 26, 1877, but at the age of five years moved with his parents to Brookings, S. D., where he grew to manhood. He was educated in the public and high schools of Brookings and finished his education in a business college there. After quitting school, he engaged in teaching several terms near his home. On the first day of August, 1898, he came to Ellsworth to take charge of the lumber yard and has held the position ever since.

Our subject is the third of a family of six living children. His father is William H. Murphy, who was born at Salem, Mass., but who emigrated to Minnesota in the early days, and who is now living at Brookings, S. D., aged 64 years. For a number of years he served as clerk of court and is now deputy in the same office. Our subject's mother is Dora (Quinlan) Murphy, daughter of Syracuse, N. Y. She is now 58 years of age.

MATTHEW MULROY, who owns and lives upon the southwest quarter of section 24, Lismore township, is one of the early day settlers of that precinct. He is a native of county Mayo, Ireland, where he was born Dec. 12, 1831, the son of Henry and Katherine (Moran) Mulroy. The father came from Ireland in 1865 and located in Dekalb county, Ill., where he resided until his death in 1884 at the age of 65 years. The mother died in Illinois at the age of 65 years.

Matthew came to America in the fall of 1853 and located at Gasport, N. Y., where he lived four years, being employed on public works and on farms. After six months spent in Pennsylvania, he returned to New York state, but the next year moved to Dekalb county, Ill. There he worked out by the month several years and then bought a farm and engaged in farming twenty years. He came to Nobles county in 1882, rented the Ames farm near Worthington one year, and then bought his present farm in Lismore township, upon which he has ever since lived. During late years he has given up active business and rents his farm to his son, Joseph.

Mr. Mulroy was married in Dekalb county, Ill., Nov. 24, 1860, to Katherine Malone, a daughter of Dave Malone. She was born in Kings county, Ireland, and came to America when eighteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Mulroy are the parents of the following named children: Henry, Matthew, Edward, Joseph, Kate (Mrs. P. H. Glasgow), of Adrian; Bridge (Mrs. M. O'Brien), of St. Paul; Mary (Mrs. James Lynch), of Fulda; Fizzie (Mrs. John Ladehoff), of Browns Valley, Minn.; Rosa (Mrs. Henry Terhaar), of Jackson. The family are members of the Catholic church.

ANDREW T. GALBRAITH, Ransom township farmer, was born near Portage, Wis., Aug. 27, 1861, the son of William and Agnes (Thompson) Galbraith, natives of Scotland. The father died May 12, 1898, aged 90 years; the mother lives in Floyd county, Iowa, and is 75 years of age.

When Andrew was five years of age the family moved from Wisconsin to Floyd county, Iowa, and in that county he was raised and resided with his parents until his marriage in 1881. He was married there on

March 16 of that year to Jennie Dawson, a native of Belvidere, Ill. After his marriage Mr. Galbraith began farming for himself in Floyd county. In 1898 he moved to Kossuth county, Iowa, farmed there two years, and then moved to Nobles county, purchasing the southeast quarter of section 24, Ransom. On that place he has resided since. He is a member of the Methodist church of Bigelow.

STELLE S. SMITH, attorney at law, Worthington, was born in Faribault, Rice county, Minnesota, December 30, 1875, the son of Milton S. Smith and Flora (Ingram) Smith. His father is a native of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and now resides at Worthington. His mother was born near Madison, Wis., and died August 14, 1886.

Stelle Smith came with his parents to Nobles county in March, 1879, and his early days here were spent on a farm in Worthington township. He started to school in 1881, for two years attending the school taught by Mrs. J. O. Edwards in her house in Worthington township. For the next two years he attended the school taught by his mother in the same district. Next he attended the Lincoln school, taught by Miss Josie Allen (now Mrs. Stanley Moore). In 1886 he took up his residence with his grandfather, R. B. Smith, who lived just north of Worthington, and thereafter attended the Worthington school. He removed to that city in 1891. He finished the course provided by the high school, graduating with the class of 1894, and being valedictorian of his class.

Immediately after his graduation from the Worthington high school he went to Minneapolis and took a one year's course in Curless' Business college. In 1895 he took a position as private secretary and business manager for J. H. Thompson, of Minneapolis. The latter was a wealthy man who had a clothing store in the Mill city and had interests in many other lines. Mr. Thompson spent the greater part of his time in the east and upon Mr. Smith's shoulders fell the burden of many and varied business cares. He continued in this capacity until July 1, 1901.

From 1897 till 1900 Mr. Smith attended the night law school of the University of Minnesota, taking the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1899 and Master of Laws the fol-

lowing year. He was admitted to practice before the supreme court of the state of Minnesota Nov. 1, 1899. In July, 1901, he opened a law office in Minneapolis, which he maintained until October, 1903. He then moved to Worthington, since which time he has been engaged in the practice of his profession in that city. Besides his law business he is also interested in the Smith Implement company.

Mr. Smith was married May 10, 1902, to Miss Blanche Curtis Petrie, daughter of Albert H. Petrie and Mary J. Petrie, of Muskegon, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children—Phylis Virginia, Samuel Stelle and Paul Richard.

Fraternally, Mr. Smith is associated with many worthy orders. He holds a membership in the commercial club of Minneapolis, is a member of Fraternity Lodge, No. 101, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Worthington; Zuhrah Temple, Nobles of Mystic Shrine, Minneapolis; Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Minneapolis; Royal Arch Masons, Worthington; and Knights of Pythias, Worthington.

For many years Mr. Smith has been identified with the Minnesota militia. On February 14, 1899, he enlisted in company D, of the Fourth regiment, and served an enlistment of five years. The company of which he was a member was transferred and became company F, of the First regiment. Mr. Smith continued to be a member of the company until 1905. February 14, 1904, he was appointed to the non-commissioned staff of the First regiment. He was instrumental in the organization of company F, of the Third regiment, at Worthington, which company was mustered into the service Nov. 28, 1905. He was elected and mustered in as first lieutenant of the new company, which office he held until Feb. 25, 1908. Owing to the absence of the commanding officer, Mr. Smith has had practical control of the company since its formation, and was elected captain on Feb. 25, 1908. During his service with the Minneapolis company Mr. Smith was with the state rifle teams of 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1908. He participated in the interstate shoot at Camp Lakeview, Minn., September, 1903, at which teams from Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa took part. He was a member of the Minnesota state team which participated in the national contests at Camp Perry, Ohio, in August, 1908.

ARTHUR W. LYON, of Worthington township, has lived in the county ever since he was a boy twelve years of age. He is the son of B. W. and Emily (Haines) Lyon, who reside in Worthington and who were early settlers of the county. The father was born in New York state and came to Worthington in 1873. For fifteen years he engaged in the mercantile business in Worthington, ten years he was a traveling salesman for a Sioux City cigar house, and since then has lived a retired life. He is 74 years of age. Our subject's mother is also a native of New York state.

Arthur was born in King county, Ill., Dec. 22, 1861. From there he came to Nobles county with his parents in 1873. He received his education in the Worthington public schools and when a young man entered the employ of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad in the capacity of brakeman. For twenty years he followed railroading on the one road and during nearly all of that time he was a conductor. After retiring from the railroad business Mr. Lyon went to Minneapolis, where for two years he was engaged in selling northern Minnesota timber lands. He then returned to Worthington and moved onto his farm, the southwest quarter of section 9, Worthington township, which he had bought several years before, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Lyon was married at St. James, Minn., Nov. 27, 1889, to Miss Anna E. VanVelzer, a native of Allamakee county, Iowa, and a daughter of Bevel and Catherine VanVelzer. They are the parents of one child—Iva, born in St. James Nov. 6, 1891. Mr. Lyon is a member of Fraternity Lodge No. 101, A. F. & A. M., of Worthington.

EDWARD SANGER, of Dewald township, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county, having resided here ever since he was ten years old. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born at Mankato Nov. 10, 1871. His father, Jacob Sanger, who was a native of Germany, died in Nobles county in April, 1899. His mother, Sophia (Walters) Sanger, was a native of Berlin, Germany; she died in April, 1893.

Edward lived on his parents' farm near Mankato until 1881. He then came with his parents to Bloom township, Nobles county, and during the next eighteen years of his

lite worked on his father's farm there. After his father's death in 1899 he bought 80 acres of land in section 24, Dewald township, where he lived a little over one year. He then sold that and purchased the northwest quarter of section 4, in the same township, and has since made his home there. During his residence in Bloom he served two years as clerk of the school district in which he lived, and since taking up his residence in Dewald he has been road overseer three years.

Mr. Sanger was married May 1, 1902, at Worthington to Lizzie Hornstine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hornstine, of Dewald township. Mrs. Sanger was born in Iowa. Two children, Henry and Johnnie, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sanger.

..

H. A. VOSS is one of the large land owners and farmers of Bigelow township. He owns 640 acres of land in sections 29 and 34 and farms it all. He engages extensively in stock raising, feeding cattle and hogs, and is a big buyer and shipper of cattle.

Mr. Voss was born in Stephenson county, Ill., Oct. 26, 1866. His parents are Albert and Catherine (Tiddens) Voss, natives of Germany, who were married in their native land, but who came to the United States soon after their marriage. They located first in Illinois, later moved to Grundy county, Iowa, and are now living at Little Rock, Iowa, aged 69 and 62 years, respectively. The family moved from Illinois to Grundy county, Iowa, when the subject of this biography was five years of age, and in the latter place he grew to manhood. In 1892 he came to Nobles county and bought the quarter section of land upon which he has since resided. Later he purchased his other property, the half section on 34 having been bought in 1907. Mr. Voss is a member of the school board of district No. 108, having held the office for the last eight years. For eleven continuous years prior to the current year he held the office of township treasurer.

In Butler county, Iowa, on Jan. 3, 1890, Mr. Voss was married to Rebecca Peters, who was born in Grundy county, Iowa, Oct. 13, 1869. Mrs. Voss is the daughter of the late Henry Peters and Jennie (Shoemaker) Peters, who were born and married in Ger-

many and came to the United States on May 8, 1869. They settled in Grundy county, Iowa, resided there five years, then moved to Butler county, where they lived until 1900, when they moved to Little Rock, Iowa. Mr. Peters died there Sept. 24, 1901, at the age of 64 years. Mrs. Peters died at Wellsburg, Iowa, June 5, 1908, at the age of 62 years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Voss have been born the following children: Catherine, born Dec. 9, 1890, died Feb. 1, 1891; Henry, born Aug. 1, 1891, died Feb. 1, 1892; Henry II, born May 23, 1895; Margaret, born Feb. 5, 1898; Anna Marie, born May 8, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Voss are members of the German Lutheran church.

FRANK TURNER, of Worthington, has resided in Nobles county since he was a boy 14 years of age. He was born in Oswego county, N. Y., Oct. 16, 1858. During his boyhood days he attended the public schools of his native county, and 1872 moved with his parents to Nobles county.

He assisted with the farm work until after his father's death in 1890, and then he farmed the home place until 1892. During his residence in Elk township, Mr. Turner served two terms as member of the board of supervisors and two terms as township assessor. In 1893 Mr. Turner moved to Worthington and went into the hay and coal business, in which he was engaged until the spring of 1903. That year he went to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, bought land and engaged in farming. He sold out his Canadian holdings in August, 1906, and returned to Worthington, where he has since resided.

Mr. Turner was married July 3, 1887, at Harper, Iowa, to Emma Seydel, daughter of William Seydel. To them have been born two children: Mrytle, born May, 1888; Arthur, born March, 1894.

DR. C. A. GILL, physician and surgeon of Ellsworth, has been practicing his profession in that village for the last eight years. He is a native of Madison, Wis., where he was born Oct. 12, 1858, the second of a family of fourteen children. His father, Eli May Gill, was born in Three Rivers, Canada, in 1825 and died at Madison, Wis., in April,

1905. Our subject's mother was Margaret J. (Byrne) Gill, who was born in Vermont and died at Madison in September, 1896, aged 63 years.

On his father's side Dr. Gill descends from one of the old American families—a family with an exceptionally romantic history. The American branch was founded by an English officer who came to the colonies about the year 1700, and located in New Hampshire. One of his sons was Samuel Gill, who at the age of eleven years was captured by the Abenankis tribe of Indians and taken to Three Rivers, Canada, where he was held in captivity several years. At the same time there was captured a girl by the name of James who was of about the same age. It was the intention of the savages to marry the boy to a squaw and the girl to an Indian of the tribe, but a Jesuit priest interfered on behalf of the children and by strategy and cunning secretly married the captives to each other. The marriage occurred in 1715, and from it descended the Gill family of America and Canada.<sup>1</sup>

In the city of Madison Dr. Gill was raised and received his general education, attending the public schools and the University of Wisconsin, from which institution he was graduated in 1877. During the few years following his graduation he taught school in the vicinity of the capital city and in 1881 he entered Rush Medical college, at which he was a student until 1884. Dr. Gill then went to Northville, South Dakota, where he opened an office and practiced his profession for one year. Returning to Rush college, he took another course of study for six months, and then practiced his profession in Madison until 1890. He then took a position as assistant at the Northern Hospital for the insane at Oshkosh, which he held six months. He next established his residence at Mount Horeb, Wis., where for five years he was engaged in the practice of medicine and in the drug business in partnership with Dr. N. C. Evans. He next went to La-Crosse, Wis., where he engaged in his chosen profession some years. In the fall of 1900 he came to Ellsworth, since which time he has had an office in that village.

Dr. Gill was married at Mount Horeb, Wis., Sept. 26, 1896, to Miss Mary Alice Rice, a daughter of Bernard Rice and a former resident of Wilton, Wis. To Dr. and Mrs. Gill have been born the following children: Charles A., Lumena, Bernard L., Rose M. Both Dr. and Mrs. Gill are members of the Catholic church. The doctor is the health officer of Ellsworth village and is a member of the board of education. He holds a membership in the Modern Woodmen of America.

SHERMAN T. WOOD, proprietor of the Rushmore lumber and coal yards and dealer in machinery and live stock, is one of the oldest business men in Rushmore, having been in the same business continuously since early in February, 1891.

Mr. Wood was born at Traer, Tama county, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1864. His father, Alfred Wood, was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1814 and died at Traer, Iowa, in 1892. His mother is Sevena (Seven) Wood. She was born near the city of London, England, in 1840, and still lives at Traer, Iowa. Until he was twenty years of age Sherman T. Wood lived on the farm near Traer. He was educated in the country schools and in the graded and high schools of Traer. After his student days he engaged in teaching school and had charge of country schools in the vicinity of Traer from 1884 to 1888. During the summer months of these years he was employed in his brother's mercantile business at Traer, and after giving up the teacher's profession in 1888 he continued in the mercantile business until he came to Nobles county.

On the 16th day of February, 1891, Mr. Wood arrived in Rushmore, and on the 20th of the same month the firm of Wood & Bryden, dealers in lumber, coal, machinery and live stock, opened a place of business. The firm and Wood & Bryden was maintained twelve years. At the end of that time Mr. Wood bought his partner's interest and has since conducted the business alone. He erected the present commodious place of business in 1904. At the start the lumber business in Rushmore was small, but by continuing

<sup>1</sup>In an historical and biographical work entitled "Histoire des Abenankis," written by Father J. A. Maurault, a Jesuit priest, and published at Montreal in 1866, is given a complete history of the Gill family. Judge Chas.

Gill of the supreme court of Missouri and cousin of Dr. Gill, has written the work "A History of the Abenankis," in which the history is traced through many generations. It is published at

ergy Mr. Wood has built up an excellent business and has met with prosperity. Mr. Wood is an extensive land owner, being the possessor of 560 acres of Nobles county soil and 390 in Polk and Wadena counties, Minn.

Mr. Wood was married at Traer, Iowa, June 28, 1893, to Lillian V. Gravatt, daughter of O. Gravatt, of Traer. To this union have been born the following children: Lester G., born in 1894; Helen B., born in 1896; Russell P., born in 1901. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wood are members of the Methodist church of Rushmore. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for two or three years and is now assistant superintendent.

In local matters Mr. Wood has always taken an active part. He was president of the Rushmore school board during the years 1894 to 1896, was a Dewald township supervisor one year, was a member of the village council from 1901 to 1903, inclusive, and in 1906, and was mayor of the city in 1904 and 1905. Fraternally, Mr. Wood is a member of the M. W. A. lodge, and was a charter member of the Rushmore organization.

B. C. DENKMANN, cashier of the State Bank of Round Lake, was born at Walcott, Iowa, Feb. 22, 1880, the son of Ford and Mary (Tolson) Denkmann, now of Walcott, Iowa. The father was born in Germany, March 3, 1848, and came to the United States when a young man. The mother was born in 1853.

At the age of fourteen years B. C. Denkmann completed his high school studies and went to Lake Park, Iowa, where he held a position as clerk in a store for a short time. From there he went to Davenport and took a course in the Davenport Business college. After receiving his diploma from that institution he took a position as draft clerk in a Davenport bank. He moved to Lake Park again in 1899 and for six years held the position of assistant cashier in the Lake Park State Bank.

Mr. Denkmann moved to Round Lake in 1905 and took a position in the Bank of Round Lake. When the State Bank of Round Lake was organized in 1906 he was selected cashier of the new institution, and has since held the office. The other officers are Charles Niemeyer, president; Louis Stoltenberg, vice president.

On October 18, 1906, Mr. Denkmann was married at Davenport, Iowa, to Martha Schworting, a native of Iowa. To them has been born one child—Dorothy, born Oct. 31, 1907. Mr. Denkmann is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

JOHN WAGNER has been engaged in farming in Bigelow township twenty-one years. He owns 240 acres of land on section 28, one part of which he purchased a few years after his arrival in the county, the rest at a later time. Mr. Wagner was born in Luxenburg, Germany, Sept. 26, 1862, the son of Philip and Barbara (Thume) Wagner. His parents never came to the United States, but died in their native country a few years ago, aged 78 and 75 years, respectively.

The subject of this biography emigrated to the United States in 1882 and located in Grant county, Wis., where for five years he engaged in farming. He then came to Nobles county and located on the farm in Bigelow township where he has ever since resided. When he purchased the land it was all raw prairie and unimproved in any way. During his residence in Bigelow township he has served as member of the school board of district No. 108 for three years.

Mr. Wagner was married at Bigelow on Nov. 6, 1888, to Miss Dora Lins, a native of Germany and a daughter of Francis Lins. Both her parents died when she was a child. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wagner: Minnie, born Sept. 6, 1890; Philip, born May 10, 1893; France, born Oct. 29, 1895; Walter, born Aug. 8, 1898; John, born April 26, 1902. Both parents are members of the Catholic church of Worthington.

AUGUST H. NIENKERK owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 9 and the west half of the southeast quarter of section 4, Little Rock township, and he has been a resident of the county twenty-two years. He is the son of August and Frederika (Boettcher) Nienkerk, of the same township, and was born in Brandenburg, Prussia, Feb. 26, 1874.

The family emigrated to the United States in 1884, landing in New York city Oct. 12. After a residence of two years in Mellerry

county, Ill., the family moved to Nobles county. For six years they lived on the southeast quarter of section 20, and then for three years lived on the southeast quarter of section 27.

The subject of this sketch secured his education in Prussia, in Illinois and in the district schools of Little Rock township. Until 1896 he lived with his parents; then he bought his present place and that has been his home ever since. During the last two years he has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 13.

Mr. Nienkerk was married at Sibley, Iowa, Feb. 26, 1896, to Vinnie L. Jenkins, who was born in Little Rock township Aug. 21, 1879. To them has been born one child—Henry F., born Sept. 28, 1903.

JOHN S. RANDOLPH, editor and proprietor of the Brewster Tribune, has been at the head of that paper since the closing days of the year 1902. Since buying the plant he has made the mechanical department practically new, installing new presses, type and other material, has enlarged the paper and built up a circulation that has greatly enhanced its worth as an advertising medium.

Our subject was born at Belmont, Allegany county, N. Y., Jan. 30, 1879, the son of John S. and Helen M. (Cady) Randolph, both families being descendants of colonial settlers. His ancestors have fought in all the great American wars—the war of the revolution, the war of 1812, the Mexican war and the civil war. John S. Randolph, Sr., was born in Benton Center, Yates county, N. Y., June 22, 1842, and was a Wesleyan Methodist minister. He died early in January, 1883. Our subject's mother was born in Schuyler county, N. Y., Aug. 7, 1846, and is now living at Hartsdale, N. Y.

The first few years of John Randolph's life were spent in several different towns in New York state—wherever his father's duties as a minister called him. When his father died early in 1883 the family was living at Owego. He and his mother and other members of the family then moved to Cohocton, N. Y., and in that town he received his education and made his home until eighteen years of age. Leaving that place at that time, he spent one year in Yates county and one year near New York city, his summers

during these two years being spent on the road as a musician with a show company.

Mr. Randolph came west in 1899, and after a short time spent in St. Paul moved to Cass county, Minn., and for some time was employed as clerk in hotels and in village stores in Cass county. In the fall of 1900 he went to Magnolia, in Rock county, near which place he taught school two years, and in which village he learned the printer's trade, working in the office of his uncle, L. M. Cady. On June 1, 1902, he went to Hardwick and ran the Hardwick News on lease until Dec. 1, 1902. He then moved to Brewster and purchased the Tribune, getting out his first number on Dec. 5. He has since conducted the paper and has built up a lucrative business.

At Adrian on April 17, 1902, Mr. Randolph was united in marriage to Jessie D. Rolph, who was born in Magnolia March 13, 1883. She is the daughter of C. E. and Ella A. Rolph. To Mr. and Mrs. Randolph have been born three children, of whom two are living. Mr. Randolph and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Brewster and he is justice of the peace of the village.

JOHN A. BOBERG, Worthington, is one of the owners and is manager of the Albinson & Boberg Lumber and Fuel Company (Inc.), and has been a resident of Nobles county since 1887. He was born in Hjerpen, Sweden, July 20, 1868, the son of Erik and Carrie Boberg, both natives of Sweden, but of German descent.

John attended the public schools of Hjerpen until about 14 years of age. He then went to a school of higher learning at Osterlund, which he attended two or three years. From that time until his removal to America he was employed as bookkeeper and clerk at different places in his native country.

In 1887 he came to America and direct to Worthington, where he had friends and acquaintances, but no relatives. He worked at different occupations for a few years in Nobles county, and in the fall of 1890 went west and located at New Whitcomb, Wash. There he secured employment in a saw mill. He returned to Worthington in 1891, and in the spring of 1892 began working for the Tutill Lumber company as assistant foreman, which position he held for six years.

In the meantime, in 1895, he visited his home in Sweden, being absent three or four months. After severing his connection with the Tuthill Lumber company in 1898, he made a pleasure trip to Colorado and Texas and other parts of the west. Returning to Worthington, he secured employment for a short time in the fall of 1899 as manager of the Jas. S. Ramage lumber yard, and later, also for a short time, as bookkeeper for H. N. Douglas.

Late in the fall of 1899, when the Burlington railroad (now the Rock Island) extended northwest from Worthington, Mr. Boberg and J. A. Albinson engaged in the lumber business under the firm name of Albinson & Boberg, establishing their yard near the new Burlington depot. Mr. Boberg has been interested in this business ever since. In 1905 the firm was incorporated under the name of Albinson & Boberg Lumber and Fuel company. From April, 1906, to the spring of 1907 Mr. Boberg was again in the west, seeking health and pleasure, most of the time being spent in Seattle, Wash., where he took the civil service examination and for a few months was employed in the Seattle postoffice.

Mr. Boberg was married in 1903 to Miss Amanda Sundberg, daughter of Charles Sundberg, a pioneer settler of Dewald township. They have two children, one boy and one girl.

Several times has Mr. Boberg been elected to serve in an official capacity in the village of Worthington. He was elected recorder in 1900, trustee in 1901, and on June 16, 1901, was appointed village treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Fred Wall. Fraternally he is a Mason and an Odd Fellow, belonging to the lodges at Worthington.

GEORGE HACKER, Elk township farmer, was born in the province of Bavaria, Germany, Feb. 28, 1862, the son of Peter Hacker, who died in Germany in 1886, and Margaret (Wilds) Hacker, who now resides in South Dakota.

In his native land George lived until he was eighteen years of age. He secured a common school education and learned the butcher trade, at which he worked a little less than three years. He came to America in 1881 and located in Will county, Ill.,

only a short distance from Joliet. There he lived a little over six years, engaged in farm work. In 1888 he came to Nobles county and located on section 33, Elk township, where he farmed on rented land four years. While yet a resident of Illinois he had bought eighty acres in section 22, Elk, and after coming here had purchased an additional eighty in the same section, and in 1892 he moved on to his own land. Since making that change he has purchased additional property and now owns 280 acres.

Mr. Hacker was married in Kendall county, Ill., Jan. 5, 1888, to Theda Tiarks, who was born in Oldenberg, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Hacker are the parents of four children, all of whom are living at home: Emma, Louisa, George Henry, Walter Julius and Margaret Gladys.

OLLIE J. ROSKAM is a Dewald township farmer who resides upon and owns the southwest quarter of section three. He has been a resident of the county for eleven years. He was born in Freeport, Ill., April 15, 1871, the son of John and Hannah (Neihous) Roskam. His parents are both living, and reside at Freeport. His father is a native of Germany, having come to the United States in 1865.

For twenty-three years Mr. Roskam lived near Freeport, Ill. He secured an education in the country and village schools, and worked at different occupations during his residence there. For two years he clerked in a store, and for several years was an employe in a butcher shop. Later he engaged in the butcher business for himself. He had a shop of his own in Forreston, Ill., about six months, and another one in Baileyville for about one and one-half years. He moved to the vicinity of Sheldon, Iowa, in 1894, rented land and farmed for three years.

He came to Nobles county in 1897 and located on the land where he has since resided land which he had purchased the fall before his arrival. The land was then raw prairie, and very unlike the farm which he cultivates today. He and his wife are members of the First Baptist church of Worthington. During the last four years he has served as clerk of school district No. 107.

Mr. Roskam was married at Freeport, Ill.,



Feb. 20, 1894, to Minnie DeWeerd, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. John DeWeerd, of Steamboat Rock, Iowa. They are the parents of five children, all living at home: John, Hannah, Carl, Albert and Lena.

CHARLES FOELSCHOW is the proprietor of the fruit farm at the west end of Okabena lake, which is known as the "Moulton place." The farm contains 257 acres and is officially described as the southeast quarter of section 21 and the south part of section 22, Worthington township. On the farm are about 100 bearing apple trees and all kinds of small fruit, and Mr. Foelschow devotes much of his time to the care of it.

Mr. Foelschow was born in Milwaukee, Wis., May 12, 1855, the son of German parents. His father, Henry Foelschow, came to the United States in 1850; he died in 1891, aged 77 years and 8 months. Our subject's mother, Dora (Avis) Foelschow, died in 1872. When Charles was about two years old his parents moved to Kewanee, Wis., and in that town he grew to manhood. There he learned the carpenter's trade, worked in the woods and on the farm.

In 1876 Mr. Foelschow moved to Peatonica, Ill., where he lived eight years, two years of which he worked at farm work, and the remainder of the time he farmed for himself. He then moved to Buena Vista county, Iowa, and farmed five years. His next location was Cherokee county, Iowa, and there he engaged in farming until the spring of 1901. He then came to Nobles county and purchased the farm upon which he now resides. During his residence in Iowa Mr. Foelschow frequently held office. He is now a supervisor of Worthington township.

Mr. Foelschow was married at Peatonica, Ill., Dec. 26, 1877, to Mary Miller, who also was born in Milwaukee. To them have been born five children: Robert, of Kandiyohi county, Minn.; Edwin, of Douglas county, Wis.; Ernest, Clara and George, residing at home.

JAMES M. SCRIVEN, farmer, Seward township, is a native of Delaware county, Iowa, where he was born Feb. 18, 1859. He is of English and French descent. His father, Mathias H. Scriven, was born in Pennsyl-

vania Jan. 5, 1831, and died in January, 1895. His mother, Sarah Jane (First) Scriven, was born in Pennsylvania in 1838, and died April 22, 1879.

James Scriven lived in Delaware county until five years of age, when his parents moved to Clay county, then on the frontier. When it is known that Clay county is not a great distance from Nobles county and that in the latter there was not a settler until 1867, one can imagine the conditions in that frontier land when the Scriven family took up their residence there in 1864. During their one year's residence there they passed through all the pioneer experiences of a wild, untamed country. The elder Scriven took a homestead, was unable to hold it, and in 1865 took up his abode at Fort Dodge, in Webster county. There the family lived seven years, when, in 1871, the home was again established in Clay county. There James grew to manhood and spent 29 years of his life. His education was obtained in the schools of Webster and Clay counties. During his long residence in the latter county he was engaged principally in farming, although he worked some at the threshing business and a part of his time was spent in saw mills.

In 1900 Mr. Scriven came to Nobles county. The first year he lived on rented land in section 2, Bloom township, but in February, 1901, he moved to Seward, where he has since resided. He farms 240 acres of land in section 34 and raises stock quite extensively, handling the Duroc-Jersey swine and quite a large herd of cattle.

Mr. Scriven was married June 28, 1886, at Denison, Crawford county, Iowa, to Sarah Lillian Robbennolt, daughter of George Robbennolt. She is a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Scriven are the parents of five children, all of whom reside at home. Their names are Leonard, Maud, Blanche, Ralph and Floyd.

Although he has been a resident of Nobles county only a few years, Mr. Scriven is an office holder, having held the office of constable for seven years. He is also a director of school district No. 37, which office he has held two years. In 1906 he was a candidate for the republican nomination for sheriff of Nobles county, but was defeated at the primary election by Newton Fauske, the present sheriff.

HARRY S. HOBSON, Worthington real estate dealer, is a native of Kirkhall, Leicestershire, England, where he was born Feb. 2, 1872. His parents were Robert Simpkin Hobson, who died in England in 1903, and Mary Laxton Hobson, who still lives in England.

In his native land Harry Hobson received his education and resided until 1889. He then came to the United States, with the expectation of remaining only a short time, and spent about six months in Cass county, Iowa. He then came to Nobles county and located near Round Lake, where he resided about two years. After five months spent in his native country he again returned to Nobles county and located at Worthington. He opened a real estate office in that village in the spring of 1893, and he has followed that business ever since. During the year 1903 he, accompanied by his wife and child, traveled in Europe, visiting nearly every country on the continent.

Mr. Hobson was married at Round Lake March 5, 1892, to Minnie V. Dodge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Dodge. To them has been born one child—Vivian, aged 12 years.

Ever since coming to the county Mr. Hobson has taken an active part in state and county politics. He was chairman of the democratic county central committee during the campaigns of 1896 and 1898, and is now a member of the democratic state central committee. On Jan. 21, 1907, Governor John A. Johnson appointed Mr. Hobson a member of his staff, with the rank of major, which office he still holds. Mr. Hobson served one term as justice of the peace for Worthington village. He has been a member of the Worthington fire department many years, and has several times held office in the organization.

JOHN KLINDWORTH, a retired farmer of Lismore, is one of the pioneer settlers of Wilmont township, in which he lived over thirty years. He was born in Germany Nov. 16, 1850, the son of John and Annie (Brandt) Klindworth. Both parents died in Germany, the father Aug. 10, 1861, at the age of 61 years, the mother in the spring of 1905, at the advanced age of 93 years.

John Klindworth emigrated to America in 1867 and first located in Polk county, Wis. In

that county and in Stillwater, Minn., he resided until 1878. In April of that year he came to Nobles county and took as a homestead claim the southeast quarter of section 18, Willmont township. Upon that farm he lived until the fall of 1908, when, having sold his farm the previous spring, he moved to Lismore village.

In Polk county, Wis., on Oct. 17, 1892, Mr. Klindworth was married to Christina Peters, daughter of Andrew Peters, who died in Germany. Mrs. Klindworth was born in the Fatherland and came to the United States in 1889.

Mr. Klindworth is a member of the German Lutheran church of Wilmont. While a resident of the township, Mr. Klindworth served as a member of the township board, on the school board of district No. 67, and as road overseer.

BURGESS JONES is a retired merchant of Kinbrae. He was born in Belmont county, Ohio, April 7, 1846, and when a small boy removed to Hooking county, of the same state, where he was raised. In April, 1864, he enlisted in the 155th Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until August 27, of the same year.

In 1868 Mr. Jones left Ohio and moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa. Near that village he took a homestead and engaged in farming until the time of the grasshopper raids. He then moved to the village and for several years worked for a commission firm. In 1881 he took a position in the dry goods store of A. M. Johnson, with whom he was associated for several years. The Spirit Lake merchant opened a branch store at Lakefield, Minn., in 1887, and Burgess Jones was its manager from that date until 1891. He then moved to Kinbrae, brought the general merchandise store of Daniel Downey, and was in the mercantile business there until 1903. He then sold out and retired from business.

Mr. Jones was married at Spirit Lake in 1874 to Miss Ruenna Jenkins, an Iowa girl. She died at Lakefield in 1889. They were the parents of four children: two girls who died in infancy; Gertrude, who married Chas. Hamstred and who died in Kinbrae June 24, 1901; Ernest, who is engaged in farming near Slayton; Elmer, who is employed

in a department store at Valley City, N. D. Mr. Jones' second marriage occurred in 1895, when he wedded Miss Jennie Hart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hart, pioneer residents of Graham Lakes township.

C. H. HALVERSON, of Larkin township, has lived in the county of Nobles since he was two years of age. He owns 480 acres of land in Larkin township. He was born at Argyle, Wis., July 4, 1871, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Halverson, natives of Norway. His father was born in 1836, came to the United States in 1865, and died in 1891.

When our subject was two years of age, in 1873, the family moved from Wisconsin to Nobles county and settled in Grand Prairie township, where the head of the family took a homestead. There our subject grew to manhood. He located on his present farm in 1884, and has resided there since. From 1892 to 1900 he taught school.

Mr. Halverson was married in Little Rock township Oct. 7, 1905, to Miss Mary Kienietz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kienietz. Mr. and Mrs. Halverson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and he is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges. He served as clerk of school district No. 60 from 1898 to 1904 and during the year 1898 was justice of the peace.

EUGENE METZ, Lismore township farmer, was born Oct. 19, 1859, in Alsace-Lorraine, now German territory, before 1871 French territory. His parents, Sigmund and Mary Josephine (Metz) Metz, both died in their native land, the former in May, 1890, aged 72 years; the latter in 1871, aged 43 years.

Mr. Metz was raised on his father's farm in Germany. He arrived in the United States April 2, 1881, and went to Buffalo, N. Y., where he worked one year in a brewery. In that city a Catholic priest told him of the Catholic colony that was being organized to settle in Nobles county, Minn., and our subject became interested. He wrote to Father Knauf at Adrian, who replied and urged him to come. Mr. Metz came and arrived in Nobles county April 18, 1882.

During the first three years of his residence here he worked on a farm in West-side

township and the next year on a farm in Lismore township. He then spent four months visiting in his native country. Returning to Nobles county, he worked two years on the farm of M. S. Boyle, Lismore, and then rented a farm from that gentleman and farmed it three years. The next year he worked out, and then, having married, he moved onto his own farm, the northeast quarter of section 23. He had bought the farm in 1889, when it was wild prairie, and at the time of moving on improved the place. In addition to the home place Mr. Metz now owns the north half of section 13, half of which he bought in 1890 and the other half in 1896.

In Adrian on Jan. 31, 1893, Mr. Metz was united in marriage to Susan Merckle, who was born in Germany and who came to America when two years of age. She is the daughter of Andrew Merckle, deceased. As a result of this union there have been born the following children: Katie, Emil, Herman, Alfred, Raymond and Elenor.

Mr. and Mrs. Metz are members of the Catholic church of Lismore, and he belongs to St. Joseph's society of Adrian and St. Antonius society of Lismore. For the last ten years he has served as treasurer of school district No. 68.

NICHOLAS DeBOER is a member of the firm of DeBoer & TenCate, proprietors of the store at Leota. He was born in Cook county, Ill., Oct. 30, 1873, the son of John and Anke (Sieben) DeBoer, deceased.

In his native county Nicholas lived until 1891. He then went to Middleberg, Iowa, where he clerked in a store one year. He came to Nobles county in 1892 and with John DeBoer and James TenCate established the store at Leota, with which he has since been connected. He owns a one third interest in the store and real estate in the village and in 400 acres of land in Nobles and Murray counties. He holds the office of treasurer of school district No. 58.

Mr. DeBoer was married in Chicago July 15, 1897, to Minnie Anker, a native of South Holland, Ill., and a daughter of Peter and Wilhelmina Minnie Riedvold Anker. To Mr. and Mrs. DeBoer have been born six children: Angie, Minnie, Mary, Peter and Lili.

HENRY HENNEKES, real estate dealer of Adrian, was born in Petersberg, Delaware county, Iowa, March 5, 1870, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Klostermann) Hennekes, of Adrian.

Henry was raised on his father's farm and was educated in the district and parochial schools. He moved from Delaware county to Nobles county in October, 1895, and located on the northeast quarter of section 1, Grand Prairie township, three miles south of Adrian, which he purchased from his father at that time. He made his home on the farm until February, 1908, when he moved to Adrian and entered the real estate business. Besides the home farm Mr. Hennekes owns 240 acres of land in Westside township, which he bought in 1901.

Mr. Hennekes has stock in the Adrian Cooperative Elevator company, which was organized in the fall of 1907, and is its present treasurer and he also holds the office of treasurer of the German Telephone company, to which he was elected when the line was built in 1906.

In Petersberg, Iowa, on Sept. 24, 1895, Mr. Hennekes was married to Mary A. Domesyer, who was born in the town in which she was married. Mrs. Hennekes is a daughter of Andrew and Mary Domesyer. Both are members of the Catholic church.

ARTHUR G. THOM, of Olney township, owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 12. On that farm he was born and has resided all his life. The date of his birth was Sept. 3, 1878, and he is the son of the late William and Eliza (Mitchell) Thom, who were among the earliest residents of the township.

Arthur was educated in the district schools of Olney township and grew to manhood on the farm. After his father's death, which occurred Jan. 20, 1907, he became the owner of the home farm, and has since conducted it, making his home with his sisters, Lillian and Pearl. He is unmarried.

WALTER H. PAINE, Hersey township farmer, has lived on the farm he now conducts since he was three years of age. He was born near Cedar Falls, Iowa, July 4, 1880, and is the son of James and Nancy

Jane (Thorpe) Paine, of Worthington. He came to Nobles county with his parents in April, 1883, and lived with them on the farm.

His education was secured in the country schools of Hersey township, in the Worthington high school, which he attended three years, and the Capital City Commercial college, of Des Moines, Iowa, at which he was a student five months in 1902. In 1903 he began farming the home place on his own account, and has since conducted the farm.

Mr. Paine was married in Worthington Jan. 30, 1902, to Dora Dow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. W. Dow. To them have been born four children, Cora Lucile, Doras Genevieve and Wesley Walter, Dora Jurene died Jan. 7, 1904, aged 13 days. Both Mr. and Mrs. Paine are members of the Methodist church of Worthington. Mr. Paine is clerk of school district No. 47.

JOSIAH C. HOSKINS is an Olney township farmer who resides only a short distance northeast of the village of Adrian. He has been a resident of the county twenty-four years. He was born in Dodgeville, Wis., of which place his parents were pioneer settlers.

His father was Thomas Hoskins, who was born in Camborn, Cornwall, England, came to the United States in 1844 and located at that time in Wisconsin. He died there Nov. 27, 1893. Our subject's mother is Sarah (Pennett) Hoskins, who is now living in Dodgeville, aged 83 years. She was also a native of Camborn, came to the United State in 1846, and located in Wisconsin, where she married Mr. Hoskins.

The date of our subject's birth was Aug. 19, 1858. He was raised on his father's farm near Dodgeville, and secured his education in the public schools. He was married April 27, 1882, at Dodgeville, to Rebecca D. James, and to them have been born the following three children: Ralph C., Nettie D. and Wilbur E.

After his marriage Mr. Hoskins began farming for himself. He soon decided to come to Minnesota, and on March 21, 1884, he arrived in Nobles county. For two years he rented land in Olney township, two miles south of Adrian, and farmed. He then moved



FARM RESIDENCE OF J. H. SCOTT

Located in Ransom Township on Land that was Homesteaded by  
Mr. Scott in September, 1871.



FARM HOME OF J. C. HOSKINS

In Olney Township, Near the Village of Adrian.



to Adrian and went into the business business, which he followed one year. During the next four years he engaged in the elevator business there. He then bought a farm in Westside township, where he lived six years. Disposing of that property, he bought a quarter section in Olney and farmed it one year. He then sold and bought his present farm of 120 acres in section 18, where he has since resided. During his residence in the county Mr. Hoskins has served fifteen years as a member of the school board, two years as a member of the Olney township board, four years as a supervisor of Westside and two years as chairman of the board in Westside. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

DR. F. E. WALKER, now of Hot Springs, S. D., was for a number of years engaged in the practice of his profession at Worthington, where he also founded and conducted the city's first hospital. He was born at Grinnell, Iowa, January 5, 1872, the son of C. C. and Mary (Davis) Walker.

Dr. Walker was educated in the common and high schools, graduating in 1887. During the next three years he clerked in the towns of Grinnell and Brooklyn, Iowa, and afterwards engaged in teaching school, which he followed until 1895. During the years that he was engaged in teaching, he studied medicine in the office of Dr. A. C. Landis. In the fall of 1895 he entered the medical department of Iowa State university, Iowa City, and was graduated from there with the degree of M. D. March 30, 1898. During the first year after graduation Dr. Walker held a position in the Iowa State hospital for the insane, at Independence, Iowa.

He then located at Bigelow and began the practice of his profession, removing to Worthington in 1900. For two years he practiced general medicine and then specialized in surgery and gynecology. In 1902 he opened the first hospital established in Worthington. In the fall of 1904 he admitted Dr. P. T. Geyerman as a partner, but soon after the partnership was dissolved, Dr. Geyerman continuing the practice. Dr. Walker was tendered the position of chief surgeon of Our Lady of Lourdes hospital at Hot Springs, S. D., and took up his duties there March 1, 1905.

In the South Dakota institution he is still employed. He is chief surgeon to Our Lady of Lourdes hospital, surgeon to the Black Hills rescue home, surgeon to the Perry Nichols hospital, and consulting surgeon to the state soldiers home and the Braun sanitarium. He is a member of the American Medical association, the Missouri Valley Medical society, the Sioux Valley Medical society, the Black Hills Medical society and the South Dakota State Medical association. He also holds an honorary membership in the Southwestern Minnesota Medical society and the Upper Des Moines Medical society. He is a contributor to the Iowa State Medical Journal, Des Moines, Iowa; The Medical Herald, St. Joseph, Mo.; The Northwestern Lancet, Minneapolis; Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette, New York; Journal American Medical Association, Western Medical Review, The Medical Fortnightly, and Surgery and Gynecology of Chicago. He is a lecturer of surgery and gynecology for the school of nursing in connection with the Lady of Lourdes hospital.

Dr. Walker was married July 5, 1898, to Miss Daisy M. Barclay, of Brooklyn, Iowa. Mrs. Walker died in Minneapolis, Nov. 23, 1902, and is buried in Worthington. Dr. Walker was married the second time to Miss Minnie Eckland, of Worthington, August 30, 1906.

ANDREW PETERS, proprietor of a blacksmith shop in Lismore, is the third oldest business man in the village, having conducted a shop there since September, 1900. He is a native of the province of Hanover, Germany, and was born May 7, 1876. His parents were Andrea Eberhardt and Albin (Wilkins) Peters, both of whom died in their native land, the father on March 5, 1904, at the age of 60 years, and the mother in August, 1894, at the age of 55 years. Andrew is the youngest of a family of four children, the other members being Frederick and Rebecca (Mrs. John Austin), who now lives in Germany, and Christina (Mrs. John Klindworth), of Nobles county.

As a boy in his native land Andrew worked in his father's blacksmith shop, and when he came to America in 1892 and settled in East Farmington, Wis., he entered a blacksmith shop and there completed his education.

trade. He came to Nobles county in 1896 and for nearly five years worked in a shop at Adrian. Moving to the new town of Lismore in September, 1900, he engaged in the business for himself and conducted the shop six years. He then sold out to Barney Thier, and the same winter built and opened another shop, which he still runs. He does general blacksmithing, horseshoeing and repairing. Mr. Peters is a chicken fancier, and, assisted by his wife, he raises thoroughbred Orpingtons, Leghorns and Handens.

Mr. Peters was married at Lismore May 7, 1903, to Martha Mortensen, daughter of Gilbert Mortensen, of Portage, Wis. To them have been born two children: Morria A., born Feb. 18, 1904; Frances Geneva, born Nov. 20, 1905. Mr. Peters is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Adrian.

EDWIN J. WOLVEN has been a resident of Worthington twenty-one years. He was born in Pecatonica, Ill., June 22, 1856, the son of John W. and Juliet (Martin) Wolven. The father was born in Sheboygan, Mich., Sept. 4, 1830, and died at Pecatonica Feb. 15, 1906. The mother was born at Pecatonica in 1836 and died in her native town Nov. 11, 1879. The Martins were early settlers of Winnebago county, and when our subject's mother was born the Indians formed a majority of the population.

Our subject was raised and secured his education in his native town. The family home was on the outskirts of Pecatonica, and after he grew to manhood Edwin worked on his father's farm. In 1887 he came to Worthington, and that village has been his home ever since. He has a number of farms and other property interests, and his time is devoted to their management.

Mr. Wolven was married Dec. 26, 1877, at Harvard, Ill., to Flora B. Freeman, daughter of William R. Freeman and Nancy Freeman. Mrs. Wolven was born in Berkshire, N. Y., in 1861. They are the parents of the following children: Alice (Mrs. Wm. Hawley), of Escanaba, Mich.; Effie (Mrs. W. J. Dodge), of Worthington; J. W., of Worthington; Ray, of Worthington.

EDGAR H. BROWN, grain buyer at Bigelow, has been a resident of that village

twenty-two years and during nearly all of that time has been engaged in the grain business. Mr. Brown was born in England and spent his boyhood days there. His father, Charles Henry Brown, was a lawyer, born in Exeter and died at Edmonton in 1889 at the age of 72 years. His mother was Elizabeth (Wilkinson) Brown, born in London and died in Aldburgh, Suffolk county, in 1879.

It was in Edmonton, Middlesex county, England, on February 1, 1862, that Edgar Brown was born. He was educated in a boarding school in London and in Eagle House college of Edmonton. At the age of seventeen years he took a position as traveling salesman for a London firm of manufacturers, and was so employed for five years.

Giving up his position in England, Mr. Brown came to the United States, arriving in the country July 7, 1884. His first home was near Sibley, Osceola county, Iowa, where he farmed two years. In the fall of 1886 he moved to Bigelow and entered the employ of Harley DeWolf, taking the position of foreman of a hay crew, which he held three years. He then took a position in the store of B. I. Tripp, for whom he also bought grain. After two years he took a position with H. V. Millar in the elevator at Bigelow, and was employed by that gentleman between two and three years. Since that time he has been engaged continuously buying grain for the St. John Bros. and for the last eight years for the Skewis Grain company. Mr. Brown has served two terms as a member of the Bigelow village council. He belongs to the M. W. A. lodge.

At Sibley, Iowa, April 21, 1890, Mr. Brown was married to Miss Eliza M. Baldwin, a native of Vermont and a daughter of J. B. Baldwin, who settled in Bigelow township in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are the parents of the following children: Vincent E., Walter E., Ernest W., Harold E., Reginald R. and Lucile, all of whom were born in Bigelow.

ROBERT ERICKSON is manager of the Patterson-Erickson company, proprietors of the famous stock breeding farm located just north of the limits of the village of Worthington, of which farm and stock he is half owner.



Mr. Erickson was born in Denmark on March 14, 1868, a son of Hans Erickson, who now lives in his native country at the age of 70 years. He came to the United States in 1888 and located at Princeton, Wis., where he resided only two months. Taking up his residence at Sioux City, Mr. Erickson made that city his home three years. Then after a residence of six months at Ashton, Iowa, he came to Nobles county in 1892, and that has been his home ever since. He bought eighty acres of land on section 26, Hersey township, and engaged in farming two years. He then moved to the village of Brewster and at that place engaged in the stock buying business, which he followed until the fall of 1907. Moving to Worthington, he formed a partnership with Geo. W. Patterson, and in November the Patterson-Erickson Co. was incorporated. Besides acquiring a half interest in the stock he also became half owner in the 320 acre farm just north of Worthington.

At Brewster on Nov. 7, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Erickson to Lena Olson, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Hans Olson, of Brewster. To them has been born one child—Lillian, born in Brewster Sept. 22, 1895.

The Patterson-Erickson company's stock breeding farm is one of the largest in the state of Minnesota. Some ten years ago Mr. Patterson commenced the breeding of thoroughbred Percheron horses, pedigreed Hereford cattle, Berkshire hogs and Shropshire sheep on his finely appointed farm just out of Worthington. The business grew so rapidly as a result of the excellence and individual merits of the stock bred from the finest selection of animals that money could buy, that Mr. Patterson was unable to give the farm the attention it required, owing to his other business interests. It was in 1907 that Mr. Erickson, a thorough stockman, farmer and an authority on breeding, purchased a half interest and became manager of the farm. That he is keeping up the high standard maintained by Mr. Patterson is attested by farmers and breeders throughout the state who have patronized their stables and pens and attended the yearly sales. The state agricultural department has recognized the excellent breeding on the farm by using a number of the Patterson-Erickson horses and sheep in its experi-

mental department. In May of the present year the company had on hand ninety three head of registered blood mares and stallions. At the head of the stud is the great breeding stallion, Lyceen, several times a winner at the Minnesota state fair. As a breeder of Shropshire sheep the company leads all others in Minnesota.

RICHARD H. MATHESON, of Elk township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Feb. 23, 1881, the son of John and Elsie (Nicholson) Matheson, who now reside near Cartersville, Iowa. In the spring of 1892 he moved with his parents to Cerro Gordo county, and there he grew to manhood, being raised on his father's farm. He was educated in the district schools of Winneshiek and Cerro Gordo counties and in Nora Springs seminary. In the last named institution he took a one years' normal course and a three years' business course, receiving his diploma in the spring of 1903. He also received a diploma from the common schools of Cerro Gordo county. He engaged in teaching during the term of 1900-01.

Mr. Matheson came to Nobles county in the spring of 1902 and bought eighty acres in section 6, Hersey township, and farmed the place that summer. He returned to Iowa and completed his education the next winter. Remaining to Nobles county after graduation, he engaged in farming and threshing during the summer of 1903, and the next winter taught school in district No. 8, Elk township. During the winter of 1904-05 he took a position in a store in Cartersville, which he held nine months. He then returned to his Nobles county home and has since been engaged in farming and threshing.

PETER A. WALLGREN, a Summit Lake township farmer, was born in Engleholm, in southern Sweden, March 21, 1875, and is the son of Nels and Pauline (Peterson) Wallgren, who now reside at Long Branch, Isanti county, Minn.

The family came to America when the subject of this sketch was five years of age and located at Clinton, Iowa. In that city Peter received a grammar school education, and when thirteen years of age

gan working in a sawmill, at which he was occupied until 1892. He came to Nobles county with his parents that year, and for several years worked on his father's farm on section 28, Elk township. In 1897 he left home and for a year worked on a farm near Sioux City. He enlisted in company H, of the 52nd Iowa volunteer infantry, in May, 1898, and served until early in November, of the same year, having been stationed in camps at Des Moines, Iowa, and Chickamauga, Ga. .

After his discharge from the army Mr. Wallgren returned to Sioux City and worked at farm work until the next fall. He then farmed one year for himself in Elk township, and thereafter until 1901 engaged in carpentering and engineering. He also engaged in the threshing business, which he has followed ever since. He spent the winter of 1902-03 in the pineries of northern Minnesota. In 1904 Mr. Wallgren resumed farming operations, locating on section one, Dewald township. He moved to his present place on the southwest quarter of section 36, Summit Lake township, in the fall of 1907.

Mr. Wallgren was married at Cambridge, Minn., June 5, 1903, to Charlotte Johnson, a native of Sweden and a daughter of John B. Johnson, of Dewald township. To them have been born the following children: Johnnie, Williard and Helen.

JAMES MACKAY, member of the firm of Chaney & Mackay, furniture dealers and undertakers of Worthington, is a Scotchman by birth, having been born in Dumfriesshire June 2, 1865, a son of the late Geo. C. Mackay and Margaret (Boyes) Mackay. Geo. C. Mackay was a depot agent and telegraph operator, and his duties called him to different stations, and because of this our subject spent his boyhood days in several different parts of Scotland. At Cambridge, the last place in which the family resided before coming to America, the elder Mackay was a police sergeant. James Mackay received a common school education in his native country, and during five years of his residence there he worked at the blacksmith trade.

The family came to the new world in October, 1883, and located at Geneva, N.

Y. There our subject spent two years working in his uncle's sawmill. In 1885 he came to Worthington and for three years lived on his father's farm, five miles east of the city. He then formed a partnership with Theo. Hinricks and opened a blacksmith shop in Worthington, which the partners conducted a little over five years. Mr. Mackay then purchased Mr. Hinrick's interest and conducted the shop until 1902. On May 1 of that year he and William Chaney bought the H. M. Palm & Son furniture store, and they have since conducted the business.

Mr. Mackay was married at Worthington to Roberta V. Chaney, daughter of Allen Chaney, one of the pioneer settlers of Nobles county. They are the parents of three children—Margaret, Allen and Robert.

In the spring of 1907 Mr. Mackay was elected village treasurer and served one term. He was a charter member of the Worthington fire department and is one of the most active members, having served as chief six or seven years. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and an active worker in the Presbyterian church, being church treasurer and a member of the board of trustees.

ERICK LEDINE, Bigelow township farmer, was born in the village of Indal, Sweden, May 15, 1841. In his native country he learned the trade of cabinet maker and followed that occupation ten years. He then turned his attention to farming and has been so engaged the balance of his life. He and his family came to America in 1893, landing in New York on June 13, and came direct to Nobles county. Mr. Ledine had \$2,000 in cash when he arrived, but owing to the failure of a bank in which he had deposited his money, the immediate use of it was withdrawn, and his first experience in the new world was anything but pleasant. He bought the northeast quarter of section 22, Bigelow township, where he has ever since resided. Some time after his arrival he also purchased the northwest quarter of section 27, of the same township.

Mr. Ledine was married in Sweden on July 8, 1876, to Segrud Charlotte Person, and to them have been born the following children: Peter William, a Bigelow town-

ship farmer; Erick Arvid, of Dixon, Ill.; Christine Anna, John Albert, Segrid Lottie, Brita Eureka and Esther Eugena. Mr. Ledine is a member of the Swedish Baptist church of Indian Lake.

EDWIN S. WHIPKEY resides at Rushmore, where he conducts a harness shop. He is a native of Allen county, Indiana, the date of his birth having been May 29, 1867. His father, Peter Whipkey, a native of Pennsylvania, died at Monroeville, Ind., in 1881. His mother, Cecilia (Kemp) Whipkey, was born in Allen county, and is now living at Fort Wayne, Ind.

The subject of this biography lived in Allen county, Ind., until April, 1873, when he came with his parents to Worthington, Minn. After a sojourn of three months in that pioneer village the head of the family purchased a homestead relinquishment in Ewington township, Jackson county, and that was the family home for eight years. In March, 1881, the Whipkeys returned to their old home in Allen county, Ind. In the town of Monroeville Edwin completed his education, which had been begun in the district schools of Minnesota. In 1883 he started to learn the harness maker's trade in the shop of H. D. Pool, of Monroeville, and there he was employed two years. Then one year was spent in the shop of A. L. Johns company, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Whipkey returned to Worthington in 1886 and for six months worked on the farm of Samuel Edwards, in Round Lake township, Jackson county. Returning to Fort Wayne, he again took employment with the A. L. Johns company, but the next spring came back to Minnesota. For fifteen months he worked on the farm of William Barton in Ewington township, Jackson county, and then rented the Spafford farm, one mile north of the Ewington church, which he farmed one year. He then rented the Edwards farm in Round Lake township and farmed that two years. Next he purchased an eighty-acre farm in Ewington and engaged in agricultural pursuits there a little over one year.

In 1895 Mr. Whipkey gave up farming, moved to Rushmore, and on the second day of March opened a harness shop, which he has ever since conducted. He has built up

an excellent business and is enjoying prosperous times. For three years Mr. Whipkey served as clerk of school district No. 54 (Rushmore).

In Ewington township on Oct. 13, 1891, occurred the marriage of Mr. Whipkey to Miss Barbara Shaffner, daughter of Henry Shaffner. To them have been born six children: Gracie Cecilia, died in infancy; Harry, born Feb. 12, 1893; Willie, born Feb. 25, 1895; Hazel, born Dec. 18, 1898; Clyde, born May 29, 1905; baby girl, born July 31, 1907.

MATT BRAYTON, son of Henry Brayton and Celestia A. (Clough) Brayton, resides on the west bank of Indian lake, in Indian Lake township, where he is engaged in farming on the land taken as a homestead by his father so many years ago. He was born at Delhi, Iowa, Sept. 11, 1866. Two years later the family moved to Kansas, and in 1869 to Nobles county, where Matt Brayton has lived ever since; he is, therefore, one of the oldest living settlers of the county.

His education was received in the district schools of Indian Lake township, and there on the farm upon which he is now living he grew to manhood. Mr. Brayton was married Nov. 4, 1894, at Round Lake to Miss Annie Nessman, who was born in Sweden. To Mr. and Mrs. Brayton have been born five children, as follows: Norma, Roy, Ruth, Leslie and Olive.

Mr. Brayton has been treasurer of the school district in which he lives for the last fifteen years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Round Lake.

PETER CLAUSSEN has been engaged in the saloon business in Ellsworth for the last four years. He was born in Schledwig, Holstein, Germany, April 24, 1865, the fourth of a family of nine children and the only one who came to the United States. His father is Heinrich Claussen, who still lives in his native country, aged 78 years. His mother was Marie (Clau-son) Claussen, who died in 1875, aged 37 years.

Mr. Claussen came to the new world in the spring of 1888 and located at Ellsworth, Iowa. During his first three years in

America he worked on a farm, and then for seven years drove a beer wagon for M. Hahn & Son and the Davenport Malting Co. He then located at Reinbeck, in Grundy county, Iowa, and went into the saloon business, which he conducted over four years. He moved to Ellsworth in 1904, bought the saloon of Geo. Moore, and has since conducted it. He is a single man.

WILLIAM J. KLEVE, of Willmont township, was born in Festina, Winneshiek county, Iowa, June 25, 1875, the son of Anthony and Margaret (Schramdt) Kleve.

Anthony Kleve was born in the town of Applehulsen, Westphalia, Germany, Feb. 14, 1856, and came to the United States in 1811. He resided at different times, in the order named, in Ohio, Kentucky, Dubuque county, Iowa; and Winneshiek county, Iowa. He was a farmer by occupation, and died in the last named county Feb. 14, 1890. Our subject's mother is also a native German. She came to America at the age of eighteen years and is now living in Festina, Iowa, aged 75 years.

William received a common school education and resided on his father's farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa, until 1895. That year he came to Nobles county and located on section 10, Willmont township. He bought the southeast quarter of the section at that time, and in 1899 he and his brother bought the northeast quarter of the same section. Two years later our subject bought his brother's interest and became the owner of the whole half section. He continued to farm this place until 1908, when he sold, but still continued to reside on the farm.

Mr. Kleve was married at St. Kilian Feb. 11, 1896, to Katie Duolos, daughter of Anthony and Barbara Duolos, of Willmont township. Mrs. Kleve was born at St. Lucas, Fayette county, Iowa, Nov. 13, 1878. To these parents have been born the following children: Tony, born Jan. 23, 1897; Lexa, born Oct. 12, 1898, died July 30, 1899; Lexa, born April 18, 1900; Lizzie, born Oct. 27, 1902; Elsie, born April 10, 1904; William, born Aug. 19, 1905; Raymond, born Aug. 26, 1907.

The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian and Mr. Kleve belongs to the C. O. F. lodge of Adrian. For four

years Mr. Kleve served as clerk of school district No. 65.

ALBERT RUST, Westside township farmer, was born in Stephenson county, Ill., June 22, 1865, the eldest of a family of ten children. Harin Rust, the father, was born in Germany July 13, 1832, and came to the United States in June, 1864. He lived six years near Freeport, Ill., eighteen years in Hardin county, Iowa, and then in 1884 came to Nobles county and bought the west half of section 20, Westside township, where he has since lived. Johanna (Binger) Rust, our subject's mother, was also a native of Germany. She is now living at the age of 68 years.

When Albert was five years old he went with the family to Hardin county, Iowa, where he was raised on a farm and spent his young life getting an education. He came to Nobles county with his parents in the fall of 1884. During the first four years of his residence here he worked out by the month, and then began farming for himself. He engaged in farming in Grand Prairie township until 1901. That year he bought the southeast quarter of section 18, Westside township his present farm—and in the spring of 1902 moved onto the place.

Mr. Rust has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Ellsworth Feb. 16, 1893, when he wedded Miss Louisa Nolte, a daughter of Henry Nolte, of Grand Prairie township. She was born in Ogle county, Ill., Aug. 2, 1873, and came to Nobles county with her parents in 1884. Mrs. Rust died April 3, 1901. To Mr. and Mrs. Rust were born five children: Gazena, Herman, Henry, Jennie and Louis.

Mr. Rust's second marriage was to Henrietta Simmons-meyer, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States in July, 1894, having been left an orphan. To them have been born two children: John, who died in February, 1904; and Arthur, who was born in December, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Rust are members of the German Baptist church.

DANIEL E. HARVEY, a Hersey township farmer, owns and resides on the northeast quarter of section 28. Besides his farming

interests he is interested largely in thoroughbred stock, his specialties being Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Harvey descends from a family of old settlers in the state of New York. His father, Henry Harvey, was born in Crawford county, Pa., and now resides in Milford, Iowa. His mother, Sarah (Kelly) Harvey, is a native of Ohio. To these parents was born Daniel E. Harvey in Allamakee county, Iowa, Sept. 3, 1868. For eighteen years he lived in the county of his birth, working on the farm and securing an education in the schools of Monona, Clayton county, Iowa. In 1886 he moved with his parents to Cerro Gordo county, which was his home until 1898, with the exception of the year 1889, when he was in the lumber business in Seattle, Wash. During the last three years of his residence in Iowa he farmed for himself on a rented farm.

In 1898 Mr. Harvey moved to Worthington and for one year was engaged in the hay business, in the employ of the Devereaux Commission company. He then moved onto his Hersey township farm, which he had purchased in 1897, and that has been his home since.

Mr. Harvey was married Oct. 4, 1893, at Mason City, Iowa, to Abbie Barlow, a native of Iowa. Mrs. Harvey died Oct. 29, 1900, leaving four children—Flava, Chauncey, Opal and Oren, who died May 9, 1902, aged two years.

ROBERT ROSS owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 33, Larkin township, and has been a resident of the county fourteen years. He was born in Lafayette county, Wis., Dec. 3, 1855, the son of Robert and Margaret Ross. The father was born in Ireland. He died in 1881, aged 50 years. Our subject's mother died in Wisconsin in 1870 and was 39 years of age at the time of her death.

In his native county Robert Ross lived until he came to Nobles county in 1894. After growing to manhood he worked out at farm work and for a short time he had employment as a miner. In 1880 he began farming for himself and followed that occupation in Lafayette county fourteen years. Coming to Nobles county in 1894, he located first in Lismore township, where for ten

years he farmed rented land. He then rented the north half of section 17, Larkin, and farmed that four years. He bought his present farm in 1906, and in the spring of 1908 moved onto it.

Mr. Ross was married at Seamore, Wis., on June 10, 1880, to Ellen Turner, who was born in England Dec. 15, 1860. Her parents were Richard and Mary (Finkler) Turner. The father died July 26, 1890; the mother March 30, 1905. To Mr. and Mrs. Ross have been born the following children: Ellie Annie, born Sept. 24, 1881, died May 22, 1894; Carrie Belle (Mrs. C. R. Utley), of Rock county, born Dec. 11, 1883; Frank Robert, born April 1, 1885; George Richard, born May 26, 1890; Leslie Alfred, born Nov. 29, 1894; Orville James, born Oct. 26, 1897; Genevieve, born June 28, 1903.

ADOLPH RAMERT, a farmer of Graham Lakes township, is one of the early day settlers of the county. He is a son of the late Venanz and Anna (Zelner) Ramerth and was born in Austria. He came to the United States with his parents in 1878, lived with them one year at Mankato, three years in Murray county, and thereafter until the late eighties in Seward township. He then bought his present farm, the northwest quarter of section 18, Graham Lakes township, and has since made his home there. He has a finely improved and valuable farm.

Mr. Ramert was married at Heron Lake June 28, 1887, to Miss Francisca Pitsch, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pitsch. She was born in Austria and came to the United States with her parents in the spring of 1878, the family locating near Prairie Junction. Her father died about ten years ago; her mother is living and resides with her children in Murray and Nobles counties. Mr. and Mrs. Ramert are the parents of the following children: Mary, born Oct. 27, 1888; Annie, born March 22, 1890; Adolph, born Aug. 3, 1891; Filemena, born Jan. 30, 1893; Francisca, born March 20, 1895; Albert, born Feb. 14, 1898; Willbrod, born Dec. 25, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Ramert are members of the Catholic church of Fulda. Mr. Ramert served three years as teacher of school district No. 4 prior to 1900. He is the local agent of the Willmet Mutual Fire Insurance company.

CHARLES GLOVKA, of Leota township was born in McLean county, Ill., Oct. 18, 1879, the son of John and Barbara Glovka, natives of Indiana and Germany, respectively, and now residents of Adrian.

Our subject came to Nobles county with his parents in 1887 and for one year lived on a farm in Olney township. The family then moved to Larkin township, where Charles resided until he was twenty-two years of age, working on the farm for his father. He received his education in the public schools of Illinois and Nobles county, attending the Adrian school several terms.

In the summer of 1900 Mr. Glovka moved to the new town of Lismore, and in partnership with John Ducl engaged in the livery and draying business. A year and a half later he sold out and engaged in farming in Larkin township, which he followed four years. Moving to Worthington he took employment with J. D. & W. L. Humiston, and was employed by that firm eight months. In the fall of 1906 he moved onto the farm where he now lives—the west half of section 12, Leota and since that time has been engaged in farming with his brother, William.

Mr. Glovka was married in Larkin township June 25, 1902, to Addie Cooper, who was born in Iowa June 23, 1881. She is the daughter of Albert H. Cooper, who lives in Rushmore. Her mother is dead. To Mr. and Mrs. Glovka have been born two children: Lester, born March 29, 1903; Lee, born Jan. 16, 1906.

IRA MISHLER, deputy sheriff of Nobles county, is a native of Iowa, having been born in Jackson county May 4, 1855. His parents, Christian and Adalina (Brillhart) Mishler, were very early settlers of that part of Iowa, making the trip there by stage when there were only twelve miles of railroad west of Chicago. The father was a native of Ohio and died in Blackhawk county, Iowa, in 1879, at the age of 51 years. The mother was also a native of Ohio, but moved to Illinois when a girl and resided there until her marriage. Ira is the next oldest of a family of seven children, of whom the others are Cyrus, Fannie (Snyder), Hattie, Emma (Smith), Mattie and Annie.

In Jackson county, Iowa, Ira lived until he was ten years of age. Then he moved with the family to Waterloo, Blackhawk county, where he lived with his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1879. Ira and his twin brother, Cyrus, then took the management of the farm, which they conducted until 1889. That year he moved to Worthington and for ten years owned and managed the Western House livery barn. After the election of Sheriff Fauskee in 1902, Mr. Mishler was appointed deputy sheriff and has since held the office.

Mr. Mishler was married in Waterloo, Iowa, February 18, 1888, to Miss Libbie Palmer, a native of Butler county, Iowa, and a daughter of John and Louisa (Jefferies) Palmer. Mr. and Mrs. Mishler are the parents of two children: Gertrude, born May 6, 1891; Marjorie, born June 27, 1896.

For the last five years Mr. Mishler has held the office of village assessor. He is a member of the Baptist church and of the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges of Worthington.

FLOYD A. MATHESON, thresher and farmer, owns and resides on the southeast quarter of section 36, Elk township. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, April 17, 1877, the eldest of a family of four sons and one daughter. His father is John Matheson, who now resides near Cartersville, Iowa. He is a native of Delaware county, Iowa, and is of Scotch descent, his father, John Matheson, having been born in Scotland and having come to Manitoba, Canada, when seven years of age. The mother of our subject is Elsie (Nicholson) Matheson, who was born near Erie, Pa.

Until he was fifteen years of age Floyd Matheson resided with his parents in the county of his birth. The family then moved to Cerro Gordo county, which was the home ten years. There the subject of this biography worked on his father's farm until he was 21 years of age. He received his education in the district schools of Winneshiek and Cerro Gordo counties and in the Nora Springs seminary and business college, from which institution he was graduated in 1897.

Upon reaching his majority Mr. Matheson started out in life for himself. He worked out one year, then purchased a threshing

machine, and during the next three years was engaged in farming and in the threshing business. In the spring of 1902 he came to Nobles county and bought eighty acres in section 6, Hersey township, and 40 acres in section one, Elk. He resided on his Hersey township property until the spring of 1907, when he and his brother, Richard H., bought the southeast quarter of section 36, Elk, since which time he has made his home there. He engaged in the threshing business when he came to the county and has followed that occupation ever since, now owning and operating three machines.

Mr. Matheson was married in Cartersville, Iowa, Jan. 1, 1901, to Minnie E. Trevett, who was born near Portland, Iowa, Oct. 8, 1882. She is the daughter of George C. and Jennie (Latham) Trevett. The mother died in August, 1901; the father now lives near Cartersville, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Matheson have been born the following children: Elnora, born May 17, 1903; Erroll J., born Nov. 21, 1905; Elsie, born Nov. 10, 1907. Both Mr. and Mrs. Matheson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington. He is a director of school district No. 96.

PETER LEDINE is a Bigelow township farmer and a son of Erick and Lottie (Person) Ledine. He was born in the city of Sundsvall, Sweden, Aug. 11, 1878, secured his education in his native country and worked on the farm and in the timber.

He came to the United States with his parents in 1893 and settled with them in Bigelow township, Nobles county. During his first year's residence there he worked out at farm work by the month, and then assisted with the work on his father's farm. He took a preemption claim to land in the northern part of Minnesota, but abandoned the claim before securing title and returned to assume the management of his father's farm. He managed that until the spring of 1907, when he bought his present farm the northwest quarter of section 23, Bigelow township—erected the buildings thereon, and since that time has been farming for himself. For several years he was engaged in the fur business, buying and shipping furs.

Mr. Ledine was married at Grand Rapids, Mich., June 5, 1907, to Hildur Erickson, a

daughter of Carl E. and Sophia Erickson, of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Ledine was born in Sweden March 6, 1884, and came to the United States when two years of age. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ledine are members of the Baptist church of Indian Lake.

During his residence in Bigelow township Mr. Ledine has served as road overseer. He was one of the organizers of Telephone company No. 6, which was organized in the spring of 1906, being the president and manager of the company, and he is also interested in other important local enterprises.

WILLIAM GLOVKA, Leota township farmer, in partnership with his brother, Charles, farms the west half of section 12. He has lived in the county since he was two years old, and is the son of John and Barbara Glovka, late of Lismore, now of Adrian.

William was born in Illinois March 7, 1885, and came to Nobles county with his parents in 1887. For ten or eleven years he lived on his father's farm in Larkin township, and then, with his father, two sisters and one brother, he went to Richland county, N. D., where they resided less than one year. The family then located in Lismore township, and with them our subject resided three years. At the end of that time the parents moved to Lismore village and William worked out one year. He spent the winter of 1904-05 in Lismore, and in March moved onto his father's farm in Leota township, where he has since been engaged in farming. During the first year he and his brother, Fred, farmed the place in partnership; the next year William, Fred and Charles Glovka farmed the place; since that time Charles and he have conducted the farm.

A. SHELQUIST is a farmer whose land is located within the limits of the village of Wilmont. He was born in Osterjendahl, Sweden, Dec. 8, 1858, the son of John and Mary (Carlson) Shelquist. The mother died in Sweden in 1897; the father in Iowa in 1905.

Mr. Shelquist was raised on his father's farm in Sweden and secured his education

there. He came to America in 1881 and located in Lucas county, Iowa, where he was a coal miner until 1889. On the 29th of March of that year he came to Nobles county and located on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 36, Willmont township, which land he had bought in 1887. There he has been engaged in farming ever since, his place now being within the limits of Willmont village. In addition to his home place he owns the northwest quarter of section 31, Bloom township.

In Lucas county, Iowa, in October, 1882, Mr. Shelquist was married to Ida Carlson. To them have been born the following children: Henry, of Minneapolis; Gust, of Minneapolis; Ida (Mrs. G. J. Carey), of Willmont; Walter and Violet, who reside at home.

For six years Mr. Shelquist served as treasurer of school district No. 16. He has been a member of the Willmont village council ever since the village was incorporated in 1900, and he has been a member of the Willmont school board for the last five years.

JOHN F. JAMES farms 480 acres of land in Westside township, the property of Thomas Roach. The land is the west half of section 19, where the home is, and a quarter section on 15.

John is the next youngest of a family of six children, whose parents were Cornelius and Mary Anna (Hamley) James. The father was born in Cornwall, England, in 1819, came to the United States when a young man and settled at Dodgeville, Wis., where he died in 1889. He was a farmer, millwright and carpenter. Our subject's mother still lives in Dodgeville, and is 80 years of age. The children of this family are Rebecca (Mrs. Cy. Hoskins), William, Minnie (Mrs. Ed. Smith), Lizzie (Mrs. Stephen Chapple), John and Cornelius.

Our subject was born in Dodgeville, Wis., on Aug. 25, 1866. His boyhood days were spent near that Wisconsin town, securing an education and working on his father's farm. After his marriage in 1888 he began farming for himself, which he was engaged in until 1896. That year he moved to Nobles county and has been farming since. He moved onto the farm he now occupies in

1905. In 1900 he bought a quarter section of land in Lismore township, but sold it the next year and invested in 200 acres of Canadian land, which he also sold later.

Mr. James was married in Dodgeville in January, 1888, to Miss Mary Haas, a native of that place and a daughter of George Haas. To them have been born six children: Cornelia, born Sept. 25, 1888; Roy, born Dec. 18, 1889; Olive, born Feb. 10, 1891; George, born May 16, 1896; Ethel, born Feb. 7, 1903; Mildred, born July 27, 1905.

Mr. James is one of the supervisors of Westside township and is a member of the school board of district No. 50. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

ANTON R. SCHMIDT, proprietor of the Dundee hotel, has been a resident of the county of Nobles twenty-three years. He was born in the province of Pomerania, Germany, Feb. 6, 1866, the son of Frederick and Carolina (Schrom) Schmidt, both of whom died in the spring of the year 1882.

The subject of this sketch lived in his native land until the spring of 1880. There he received a common school education. When fourteen years of age he came to America and located at Chaska, Carver county, Minn. Five years later he took up his residence in Lorain township, Nobles county, near Brewster, where he lived until 1899. He then went to Dundee, where he has since been engaged in the hotel business. He is also engaged in the nursery business.

Mr. Schmidt was married in 1888 to Minnie Leistico, who was born in Carver county in 1871 and who came to Nobles county with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Leistico, in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have been the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living. One child, a daughter, died in infancy. The living children are Lizzie, Tony, Margaret, Ferny, Martha, Fred and Carmond Lucile.

With the exception of one year, Mr. Schmidt has served as a member of the village council of Dundee from 1898 to 1907. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge.



CHARLES DILLEHAY is the proprietor of an Ellsworth saloon and has been a resident of the county fourteen years. He was born in Perry county, Ohio, on the fifteenth day of January, 1857, and there he lived on a farm until he was thirty-three years of age.

His parents were Stephen and Catherine (Brady) Dillehay, both natives of Ireland. They came to the United States during their younger days and settled in Ohio. The mother died there in 1884; the father in March, 1890, aged 76 years.

In 1890 Mr. Dillehay of this sketch went to Colorado and for four years served as night watchman at the Denver White Lead works. He then came to Nobles county, arriving here July 28, 1894. For six years he engaged in farming in Grand Prairie township and then moved to Ellsworth. After one year spent tending bar for Bird & Klinkhammer, he went to Little Rock, Iowa, and for one year and six months was in the saloon business there. Returning to Ellsworth he purchased the saloon of Bird & Klinkhammer and has since conducted the business.

Mr. Dillehay was married in Ellsworth June 30, 1903, to Mrs. Katherine McCarron, who was born in Ireland and who came to America when eighteen years of age and located in Boston, coming west 25 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Dillehay are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth, and Mr. Dillehay is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

SAM M. STEWART, cashier and director of the Citizens National Bank of Worthington, was born in Kenosha county, Wis., April 1, 1864, the son of David C. and Mary A. (McKoy) Stewart. Both the Stewart and McKoy families are of Scotch descent, but the families have lived in America several generations. David C. Stewart was born in Genesee county, N. Y., and died Dec. 24, 1904, aged 84 years. Our subject's mother was born in Ohio and died Aug. 29, 1907, aged 75 years.

In Kenosha county, Wis., Sam Stewart lived nearly 27 years. He was raised on a farm and secured his education in Salem, Wis. He was married at Fox River, Wis., Jan. 7, 1891, to Ida M. Patterson, a native

of the county in which she was married. Mr. Stewart moved to Ashton, Iowa, after his marriage, in which place he resided seven years. Two years of that time he was employed in the Bank of Ashton; the rest of the time he was in the implement business.

In 1898 Mr. Stewart went to Brewster, and in partnership with Geo. W. Patterson started the Bank of Brewster, of which institution he was cashier. In that village he also engaged in the lumber, fuel and implement business. He disposed of his interests there in 1902, and moved to Worthington, which has since been his home. For a few years he spent the greater part of his time in Europe, having made three trips over the pond. In June, 1905, he purchased the implement business of J. D. Humiston, and was engaged in that business one and a half years. Mr. Stewart purchased C. T. Tupper's interest in the Citizens National Bank in June, 1907, and has since been cashier.

WILLIAM HUBNER, a farmer of Bloom township, has lived in the county twenty years. He owns the southeast quarter of section 14, which he has owned ever since coming to the county. He is a native of Brandenburg, Germany, where he was born on the 19th of September, 1857. His father, William Hubner, resides in Germany and is 72 years of age. His mother, Minnie (Malzelburg) Hubner, died in Germany in 1886, aged 47 years.

William was raised on a farm and after growing to manhood became a farm laborer, as had been his father before him. In November, 1876, he joined the Germany army and served two years at Brenlau, receiving his discharge Nov. 5, 1878.

It was in the month of December, 1882, that Mr. Hubner set sail for America, determined to better his condition in the new world. He went to Mendota, Ill., and for a year worked on an uncle's farm. The relative then moved to Sac county, Iowa, and our subject went with him and for five years worked on his farm. In 1888 he came to Murray county, bought property and farmed six months. Selling out, he bought his present place in Bloom township and has resided there since. The place was originally prairie land when he bought it and the present

chase price was only \$9.50 per acre. Now he has a valuable farm, with handsome improvements. The land is all fenced and nearly all tilled.

Mr. Hubner was married at Slayton July 24, 1888, to Amoria Stitzel, who was born at Byen, Germany, June 14, 1866. To them have been born the following children: Maggie, born April 27, 1889; Amelia, born June 14, 1894; Lizzie, born Feb. 3, 1897. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church of Fulda.

Mr. Hubner served eight or nine years as supervisor of Bloom township and was the township treasurer for six or seven years. He now holds the office of director of school district No. 102, which he has had for six years.

CHARLES T. MILLARD, proprietor of a grocery store at Bigelow, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1875, the son of Jacob and Alice (Fisher) Millard. Both parents are natives of Pennsylvania and now live near Sioux Falls, where Mr. Millard is the manager of a dairy farm.

Until he was ten years of age Charles lived in his native county in Pennsylvania. Thereafter until 1892 he lived on his father's farms in different parts of the country. Two years were spent in Dewitt county, Ill., one year at Fonda, Pocahontas county, Iowa, two years at Sutherland, O'Brien county, Iowa, and two years in Dickinson county, Iowa. In 1892 Mr. Millard left home and went to Lake Park, Iowa, where he spent one year working in a harness shop for D. C. May. The next three years of his life were spent working at the trade for J. H. Carmackel, at Primghar, Iowa. One year was spent working at his trade in Cherokee, Iowa, one year at Larrabee, Iowa, and one year working in the harness and hardware departments of a store at Ocheyedun, Iowa.

Mr. Millard moved to Bigelow in 1898 and entered the employ of R. H. Wicks, working in the hardware and harness department of that gentleman's store for seven years. He then went into business for himself, starting a general merchandise store, in which he has since been engaged.

At Ocheyedun, Iowa, February 13, 1895,

Mr. Millard was married to Jennie Pederson, a native of Chicago and a daughter of Edward and Augusta Pederson. To them have been born two children: Helen, born July 2, 1896; Verna, born Feb. 10, 1901.

LOUIS M. SOREM, Ransom township farmer, was born in Grundy county, Ill., Feb. 29, 1876, and is the son of Mons and Sarah (Ostren) Sorem, of the same township.

In the spring of 1886 the family moved from Grundy county, Ill., to Osceola county, Iowa, two miles south of the Nobles county line, and there our subject grew to manhood. In 1885 Mons Sorem had bought a farm in Ransom township, and in the fall of 1892 the family moved onto the place and became residents of Nobles county. Louis remained on the home place until twenty-four years of age, during the last two years of which time he and his brother worked the home farm for themselves. In 1902 he rented a farm, which he conducted until the spring of 1908, when he moved onto his own farm, the southeast quarter of section 6, Ransom, which he had bought in the fall of 1906.

Mr. Sorem was married in Ransom township Feb. 19, 1902, to Emily Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larson, of Ransom. Mrs. Sorem is a native of that township, having been born there Feb. 19, 1876. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Lutheran church of Ransom. He is township treasurer and a director of school district No. 20, both of which offices he has held two years.

STEPHEN A. COMER is an Indian Lake township farmer living one and one-half miles southwest of Round Lake village. Although not a resident of the county many years he takes a lively interest in the history of the county of his adoption.

New Jersey is Mr. Comer's native state, he having been born in Hunterdon county Jan. 15, 1856. His father was Samuel Comer, also a native of New Jersey, and a veteran of the civil war. He died soon after his muster out of service. His mother is Nancy (McNear) Comer, who is still living. She was a native of the same state as her

husband. The first twenty years of the life of our subject were spent in the county of his birth. There he secured a common school education and for a time was engaged in office work.

In 1877 he started out in life for himself, going from his old home in New Jersey to Joliet, Ill. He located on a farm twelve miles west of Joliet, and ever since that date farming has been his occupation. He remained there two years and then moved to Princeton, in the same state, where he farmed for ten years. His next home was in Wright county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for about twelve years. In the spring of 1902 he came to Nobles county and located four miles south of Rushmore. He was there three years and then moved to his present location on section 26, Indian Lake township, where he is engaged in farming the whole of the section upon which he lives.

Mr. Comer was married in 1880 at Princeton, Ill., to Mary Bodine, daughter of Isaac Bodine. Mr. and Mrs. Comer are the parents of the following children, all of whom are living: Cloyde, Mabel (now Mrs. Severt Sorem), Walter, Irvine, Edna and Elmer.

ROBERT FRANCIS KERR, mail carrier, Rushmore, was the first white child born in Olney township, the date of his birth being August 29, 1873. He is the son of William and Margaret (Thom) Kerr, who reside in Oregon. Removing from Nobles county with his parents when a child on account of the grasshopper scourge, he returned with them in 1882, and Nobles county has been his home ever since.

His early schooling was obtained in the district schools of Olney and Dewald townships and the Rushmore school. During the years 1892 and 1893 he attended the graded schools of Worthington, and completed his education in the Minnesota school of agriculture at St. Anthony Park during the term of 1894-95. After his school days he worked on his father's farm until 1900, when he moved to Rushmore, which has been his home since. He bought a one-half interest in the harness shop of E. S. Whipkey and for two years was in that business. He then engaged in farming one year. In 1903 he was appointed mail carrier of route No.

1. Rushmore, and he is still engaged in that occupation.

Mr. Kerr was married June 21, 1899, to Miss Mary McChord, daughter of W. R. D. McChord, one of the pioneer settlers of the county. Mrs. Kerr is also a native of Nobles county, having been born in Dewald township Sept. 15, 1877.

JAMES V. HYNES resides in Olney township, one and one-half miles north of the village of Adrian, that having been his home for the last twenty-eight years. He owns and resides upon the west half of the southwest quarter of section 6, and he and his sister own an eighty acre tract in section 7, adjoining on the south, formerly the property of their mother.

Mr. Hynes was born in the city of Brooklyn (eastern division), N. Y., Feb. 14, 1858, the son of Patrick Hynes and Mary (Lambert) Hynes. The father was born in the county of Galway, Ireland, and came to the United States in the 40's. For ten years he resided in New York city and then took up his residence in Brooklyn. He was an employe of the J. B. Sheffield Paper company in New York city for eleven years. He was the owner of a valuable business property in Brooklyn, which was sold in 1869 to the Phoenix Insurance Co. for a branch office. He died in New York city of sunstroke in 1863. Mrs. Hynes was also a native of county Galway, Ireland. She came to Nobles county with her son and died here Feb. 9, 1892, aged 62 years.

The subject of this sketch was raised in the city of his birth. He received his education in Brooklyn and in a Catholic school at Flushing, Long Island, and latter, in 1875, became an employe of the Chas. Scribner Publishing company, with which he was connected until 1880. That year, with his mother and two sisters, he moved to Nobles county and bought a homestead relinquishment from Rev. Chase, who was a minister of the United Brethren church. The land he thus secured was the eighty acres where he has since made his home. One sister, Sarah T. Hynes, died June, 1884. Mr. Hynes is unmarried. His sister, Julia K. Hynes, makes her home on the original homestead. She was born in Brooklyn. Both he and his sister are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

Mr. Hynes has always been a strong populist and in the days of the party's strength was an influential man in its ranks. When the Farmers' Alliance was organized in Nobles county in 1888 he took an active part in its deliberations and was the secretary of the organization during its life. He was one of the incorporators of the Adrian Alliance Mercantile and Elevator company, which was organized in 1890—one of the first corporations of its kind in the state. He served as secretary of the company for fifteen years. When the Adrian Cooperative Grain company was organized in 1907 he was one of the incorporators. He is still a share-holder in the company and is its secretary.

**THEODORE L. MITCHELL**, proprietor of a general merchandise store in Worthington, and a dealer in fuel and feed, has resided in the county seat of Nobles county twenty-four years. He was born in Wayne county, N. Y., Dec. 6, 1844, next to the youngest of a family of six children. His parents, Jacob and Catherine (Kniffin) Mitchell, were natives of Wayne county, N. Y., and both died in Oswego county, of the same state, some years ago.

When Theodore Mitchell was one year of age his parents moved to Oswego county, and there he grew to manhood and lived until 1881, when he came to Worthington. After growing to manhood he spent the greater part of his time at railroad steam shoveling work in Oswego county. After coming to Worthington he opened a wholesale butter, egg and fruit house, which he operated about four years. He then went into the mercantile business, later adding fuel and feed to the commodities dealt in, and has since been in that business. His sons, G. E. and T. L., now have an interest in the business.

Mr. Mitchell was married in Richmondville, Schoharie county, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1867, to Mary Rogers, a daughter of Elisha and Mary Rogers, of that county. Mrs. Mitchell died Jan. 19, 1898. To Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were born five children, as follows: Ernest R., born July 29, 1869, died Dec. 15, 1883; Mamie (Mrs. John Mackay), born Feb. 13, 1871, died Jan. 8, 1896; Glenn E., born at Hannibal, N. Y., July 3, 1875; Nellie (Mrs. Guy Tolls), born at Hannibal,

N. Y., Sept. 1, 1879; Theodore L., Jr., born in Worthington Dec. 11, 1885.

**THOMAS J. FAGAN** is one of the older settlers of Grand Prairie township. His home is just east of Ellsworth village. He owns 680 acres of land in southern Grand Prairie township, of which he farms 360 acres, renting the rest.

Washington county, Wis., is the birthplace of Mr. Fagan and 1860 was the date of his birth. His parents were Thomas and Mary (Dunn) Fagan, the former having died in 1901, the latter about thirty-five years ago. In Wisconsin Mr. Fagan lived until 1877. Then he came into contact with advertising matter telling of the Bishop Ireland colony, and he came to Nobles county. He bought the farm property where he has ever since resided. He has one of the many fine farm homes of Grand Prairie. For eight or ten years Mr. Fagan served as a director of school district No. 51.

At Earlville, Ill., Oct. 24, 1905, Mr. Fagan was married to Elenor Hensler, who was born at Ottawa, LaSalle county, Ill.

**WILLIAM WULF** is a farmer who lives in Willmont township, just east of the village of St. Killian. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, April 8, 1830. His father, Claus Wulf, was a stone mason by trade. He died in his native country at the age of 60 years when our subject was fifteen years of age. Our subject's mother, Fredericka Wulf, died at the age of 48 years when William was thirteen years of age.

William was raised on a farm and made his home in Germany until he was twenty-one years of age. He landed in New York March 15, 1881, and from there went direct to Davenport, Iowa, near which city he worked on the farm eight years. He moved to Holstein, Iowa, in 1889 and farmed on rented land one year. It was on March 5, 1890, that Mr. Wulf arrived in Adrian, and since that date he has been a resident of Nobles county. He rented the northwest quarter of section 32, Willmont township, and farmed the place two years. In the fall of 1889 Mr. Wulf had first come to Nobles county with a party of land-seekers, and while here had bought the east

half of the northwest quarter of section 27, Willmont township. In 1892 he erected buildings on the place and moved on. He now owns 240 acres in the same township, all of which he farms. He raises considerable stock and has an orchard on the place.

Mr. Wulf was married in the city of Davenport, Iowa, Feb. 6, 1889, to Annie Alp, daughter of Henry and Margarita Alp, now of Galva, Iowa. She was born in Schleswig-Holstein July 22, 1870, and came to the United States with her parents in 1881, locating at Davenport. To Mr. and Mrs. Wulf have been born the following children, all of whom reside at home: William, born Feb. 1, 1890; Adala, born June 11, 1892; Levina, born Nov. 23, 1894; Alma, born June 1, 1900.

Fraternally Mr. Wulf is an Odd Fellow and a Woodman. He has been a school officer of district No. 16 for the last seven years, and was road overseer one year.

ALBERT C. SEVERSON, manager of the St. John Grain company of Brewster, was born in Alba township, Jackson county, Minn., Nov. 15, 1876, the son of pioneer residents of Jackson county. His father, Sever Severson, was born in Norway and came to America when three years of age. He lived in Madison, Wis., until 1873, when he settled in Jackson county. He died there Jan. 5, 1907, at the age of 58 years. Our subject's mother is Julia Severson. She was born near Madison, Wis., and now lives in Jackson county at the age of 56 years. Albert is the third of the following family of six children: Bessie, Herman, Albert, Oscar, Sarah and George.

Until he was fourteen years of age Albert lived on his father's farm in Alba township. Then he went to work on the railroad at Brewster, and for sixteen years was so employed, being section foreman during the last nine years of that time. He entered the employ of the St. John Grain company Oct. 1, 1907, and since the first of March, 1908, has been the manager of the elevator.

Mr. Severson was married at Brewster Aug. 30, 1898, to Miss Margare, Kaufman, daughter of John and Johanna Kaufman, early settlers of Nobles county. To Mr. and Mrs. Severson have been born two

children: Margaret, born Jan. 22, 1900; Julia, born Jan. 22, 1904. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Brewster.

MICHAEL SCHWARTZKOPF owns and farms an 120 acre farm on section 3, Larkin township. He is a native of Benton county, Iowa, having been born there July 29, 1872. His father is Anton Schwartzkopf, a retired farmer living at Wallake, Sac county, Iowa. He was born in kreis Unterfranken, Bavaria, in 1842, came to the United States in 1866 and settled in Benton county, Iowa. Catherine (Weipert) Schwartzkopf, our subject's mother, was born in Bavaria in 1810, came to America in 1867, and died in Sac county in 1894.

The family moved from Benton to Sac county, Iowa, in 1873, and there Michael lived until 1895, securing a common school education and working on his father's farm. In the year last named he moved to Ashton, Osceola county, Iowa, and there engaged in the threshing business ten years. During the last three years of this time he also farmed. In the spring of 1905 he moved to Nobles county and located on his Larkin township farm, eighty acres of which he had bought in 1904. For the first two or three years he engaged in threshing as well as farming, but now devotes his energies exclusively to agricultural pursuits. He is a chicken fancier and raises thoroughbred White Wyandottes.

Mr. Schwartzkopf was married Jan. 20, 1900, at Ashton, Iowa, to Mary Heisterkamp, daughter of Anton and Elizabeth (Meinega) Heisterkamp. The father is dead. The mother resides with her daughter. Mrs. Schwartzkopf was born near Dyersville, Iowa, March 10, 1878. To these parents have been born five children: Lizzie, Joseph, Mary, Rose and Eddie. Both parents are members of the Catholic church of St. Killian, and Mr. Schwartzkopf belongs to the M. W. A. lodge of Willmont.

ALBERT NELSON, in partnership with his brother, Martin, farms the east half of section 22, Grand Prairie township, which is owned by their father. He was born on the farm where he has ever since resided. The date of his birth was Oct. 13, 1878, and

he is the son of Henry and Carrie (Larson) Nelson, of Ellsworth.

Albert was educated in the district school of Grand Prairie township and in the Ellsworth public schools. Prior to 1904 he worked on the home farm for his father and at other places in the vicinity and in Ellsworth.

Mr. Nelson was married in Adrian Dec. 25, 1906, to Marie Gilbertson. Mr. Nelson is a member of the M. W. A. and Royal Neighbors lodges of Ellsworth.

NELS STANGELAND has resided on his Lismore township farm for the last twenty-two years. He is a Norwegian by birth and was born Feb. 18, 1860. His parents, Nels and Bertha (Larson) Stangeland, live in Norway.

In his native country Nels lived until he reached his majority. He then came to the United States, arriving in June, 1881, and settled in Kendall county, Ill. He farmed there five years and then came to Nobles county, and settled in Lismore township. He bought the northeast quarter of section 17 and on that place he has resided ever since.

Mr. Stangeland was married in February, 1894, to Miss Anna L. Johnson, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson. To them were born four children, of whom the following three still live: Sarah, Leonard and Arthur. Mrs. Stangeland died in March, 1903. Mr. Stangeland's second marriage occurred Feb. 19, 1905, when he wedded Mrs. Belle Jacobs, of Ransom township, to whom one child has been born, Melvin. She was born in Grundy county, Ill., in 1872, and moved to Osceola county, Iowa, in 1886, where she resided with her parents. In 1892 she moved to Nobles county, and in 1895 married Thos. Jacobs, who died Feb. 28, 1896, to whom was born one child Tharva. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

JACOB VERSTEEG, of Leota village, devotes his energies to several lines of work. He is a native of Pella, Marion county, Iowa, and was born July 4, 1870. He is the son of Gysbert and Frances (Van der Meile) Versteeg. The former is a native

of Holland and now resides in Orange City, Iowa. The mother, a native of Iowa, died in 1873.

When Jacob was less than three years of age the family moved to Sioux county, Iowa, and there he made his home until 1891. He was raised on a farm and after growing to manhood assisted his father in the threshing business. He came to Nobles county from Sioux county, Iowa, and located in Leota township, where he farmed until 1894. He also engaged in the threshing business and has followed that during nearly all the time he has resided in the county. In 1894 he moved over the line into Moulton township and for three years was engaged in threshing and farming there. Returning to Leota, he has since made his home there with the exception of parts of two years, which were spent in Bemidji and Norman counties, Minn.

Mr. Versteeg is the manager of the Leota Horse company, having charge of the company's Belgian horses, Davis and Noel. He has served as road overseer of his district for several years and also holds the office of constable of Leota township. He owns five and one-half acres of land in the village of Leota and a residence. He is a member of the First Reformed church.

A. T. LATTA, Worthington dry goods merchant, was born in Grandview, Iowa, the son of Humphrey H. Latta and Mary A. (Hubbard) Latta. He was raised on a farm, and lived in the county of his birth until eighteen years of age, securing an education in the public schools.

Mr. Latta went from his home to Sioux Falls, S. D., where he resided five years. In 1891 he came to Worthington as manager of the E. J. Daniels dry goods store, which was established at that time as a branch of the Sioux Falls house. On Jan. 6, 1896, Mr. Latta purchased the stock, and has since conducted the store. He has built up an excellent business and has one of the finest dry goods stores in southwestern Minnesota.

Mr. Latta is a member of the Methodist church and is an active worker in that organization. He holds the office of trustee and is secretary and treasurer of the board of stewards. He has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the last twelve

years. He has served four years as a member of the Worthington school board, and during that time has held the office of clerk. He has taken an active part in many private and semi-public enterprises, and was one of the organizers of the chautauqua association.

April 21, 1898, Mr. Latta was married to Miss Celia E. Cutler.

ANDREW G. DOEDEN owns and farms 269 acres of land in section one, Bigelow township, where he has lived during the last nineteen years. He was born in Prussia March 12, 1871, and is the son of George and Gretje (Jansen) Doeden, of Worthington.

Until he was ten years of age Andrew Doeden resided in his native country. In the spring of 1881 he came to the United States with his parents and located in McLean county, Ill. A little later the family moved just over the line into Livingston county. The Doedens came to Nobles county in 1891 and located on the farm which Andrew now owns, the father having purchased the place. The subject of this sketch worked on his father's place until the spring of 1896; then he began farming the place for himself. In 1899 he purchased 160 acres of his present farm from his father and in 1905 he bought the other 110 acres from his brother, Herman.

Mr. Doeden was married in Ewington township, Jackson county, Nov. 2, 1895, to Mary Jansen, a daughter of John G. and Johanna (Schmidt) Jansen. Mrs. Doeden was born in Livingston county, Ill., Oct. 25, 1876. They are the parents of the following children: Grace, born Sept. 5, 1896; Hannah, born July 18, 1898; John, born Feb. 20, 1901; George, born June 15, 1903; Flora and Mary (twins) born Dec. 23, 1905. Mr. Doeden is a member of the German Evangelical church of Worthington. During the last twelve years Mr. Doeden has served as clerk of school district No. 83.

JOSEPH NAZARENUS, Elk township farmer, was born in Plymouth county, Iowa, June 13, 1885, the son of Asmus and Emma (Jammur) Nazarenus. He came to Nobles county with his parents in 1889 and was raised on his father's Elk township farm,

securing a common school education in district 53.

He resided on the farm until 1902, and during the next few years worked at different occupations in Iowa, in Worthington and Minneapolis. He was married at Brewster Aug. 27, 1905, to Bertha Herman, who was born in Russia May 18, 1883. She is the daughter of Otto Herman of Worthington township. To this union one child has been born—Francis. After his marriage Mr. Nazarenus began farming his father's place in Elk township.

FRED D. HULSER owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 35, Bloom township. He was born in Oswego county, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1855, the son of Divan and Margaret (Dyger) Hulser. His father, who in early life was a canalman but later a farmer, was born in New York state Dec. 4, 1817, and died at Alta, Buena Vista county, Iowa, March 7, 1880. The mother was born at Frankfort, N. Y., Sept. 5, 1823. She is living and makes her home with her son. Both parents were of German descent.

In his native county Fred lived until the spring of 1869, when the family moved to Will county, Ill. In that and Kankakee counties he made his home on his father's farms until the spring of 1880. His education was secured in Hastings, N. Y., and in Illinois. In the spring of 1880 our subject moved to Buena Vista county, Iowa, farmed there three years, and in O'Brien county, Iowa, until the spring of 1900. That year he moved onto his Bloom township farm, which he had purchased the year before.

Mr. Hulser was married in Chicago Jan. 19, 1897, to Mary E. West, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Lawton) West. She was born in Grundy county, Ill., Feb. 26, 1860. They are the parents of two children—Lyle D., born in O'Brien county, Iowa, Aug. 19, 1898; Yolande M., born at Reading March 24, 1901. Mr. Hulser and his family are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading and of the Yeomen lodge. He has served as clerk of school district No. 86 for four years.

PAUL COOK, Olney township farmer, was born in Racine county, Wis., May 6, 1860, the son of German parents. His father

er, Theodore Cook, came to the United States when a young man and was an early settler of Wisconsin. He died sixteen years ago, aged 75 years. Our subject's mother, Margaret (Jacoby) Cook, died eleven years ago, aged 75 years.

When Paul was seven years of age the Cook family moved to Kenosha county, Wis., and with the exception of one year spent in Illinois that was his home until 1890. That year he moved to Brown county, Minn., and engaged in farming seven years. It was in 1897 that Mr. Cook came to Nobles county and bought his present farm of 320 acres the north half of section 9 and on that place he has since lived. He also owns 160 acres on section 3, Westside township.

At Adrian on Jan. 22, 1891, Mr. Cook was married to Miss Kate Lenz, daughter of the late Peter Lenz. They are the parents of the following living children: Theresa, Martin, Annie, Veronica, Regina, Philomena, Lawrence and Matt. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are members of the Catholic church.

JAMES REDDY, of Ellsworth, in partnership with Neris Fischenich, owns and conducts one of the Ellsworth saloons. He has been a resident of the county since he was eight years of age, having arrived here with his parents July 10, 1881.

John Reddy, the father of our subject, was born in Ireland and emigrated to America when eighteen years of age. He was a tanner by trade and followed that occupation in Boston many years. Later he moved to Milwaukee, Wis., and in 1881 came to Nobles county. Purchasing a farm in Grand Prairie township, one mile north of the present location of Ellsworth, he engaged in farming there until 1904. He then sold his farm, and in the fall of 1907 moved to Midland county, South Dakota, where he took a land claim and where he now resides. The mother of our subject is Mary (Nelson) Reddy, who is now 68 years of age.

To these parents in Boston, Mass., on Feb. 24, 1873, was born James Reddy, of this sketch. When he was two years of age the family moved to Sheboygan, Wis., and in the summer of 1881 to Nobles county. James Reddy resided on his father's farm, one mile north of Ellsworth, until 1904. He then moved to town and in part-

nership with Edward Fogarty embarked in the saloon business, purchasing the building of Chas. Loveland. This partnership continued two years, at the end of which time Neris Fischenich purchased Mr. Fogarty's interest, and during the last two years the business has been conducted by Reddy & Fischenich.

Mr. Reddy is a member of the Catholic church of Ellsworth and of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is unmarried.

DANIEL FITZGIBBONS, a retired farmer of Adrian, is one of Nobles county's early day settlers. He was born in the county of Cork, Ireland, in October, 1840, and came to America in May, 1857. He came direct to St. Peter, Minn., and is one of the pioneers of the state.

Mr. Fitzgibbons came to Nobles county in April, 1879, and bought the southeast quarter of section 21, Olney township. Upon that place he lived until the spring of 1900, when he moved to Adrian, where he has since lived a retired life. He has a fine residence property in the extreme southeastern part of the village, and takes great pride in keeping the premises and house in order.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Danford Fitzgibbons, were born in Ireland, and died in their native country. Mr. Fitzgibbons is a Catholic. He has never been married.

JOHN M. HOFFMAN, of Indian Lake township, owns and farms 320 acres on section 35. He was born in Baldenberg, Prussia, Sept. 20, 1845, the son of Frederick and Fredericka (Kuel) Hoffman. The father was born in 1817 and died at Clinton, Iowa, in 1902. The mother was born in Prussia in 1823, and now makes her home in Clinton, Iowa.

During the first twenty years of his life John Hoffman lived in Baldenberg. There he received his education and there he learned the cooper's trade. At the age of twenty he began the life of a journeyman cooper and worked at his trade in many parts of Germany in Berlin, Leipsic, Seherin and other cities. He came to America in 1870, just before the Prussian-French war, and located first at Utica, N. Y. He remained there only a short time and then



went to Clinton, Iowa. In that city he took employment with the firm of C. Lamb & Sons, a big lumber manufacturing company, and was in their employ until 1880.

In 1881 Mr. Hoffman moved to Ratcliff, Hardin county, Iowa, just as that town was starting, bought land near there and farmed one year. He then went into the lumber business at Ratcliff, being the senior member of the firm of Hoffman & Jancke, and was so engaged three years. At the end of that time the firm was dissolved and Mr. Hoffman purchased Mr. Jancke's lumber business at Ellsworth, Iowa, which he conducted until 1900. During five years of the time he was at Ellsworth he was also in the grain business. Coming to Nobles county in the spring of 1900, Mr. Hoffman located on his Indian Lake township farm, which he had bought in 1897, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Hoffman was married in Clinton, Iowa, in 1872, to Johanna Newman, daughter of William Newman, of Ratcliff. To them have been born the following children: William M., of Denver, Col.; Louisa (Mrs. S. B. Armstrong), of Jackson county, Minn.; Martha (Mrs. George Bauer), of Indian Lake township; Lydia (Mrs. Frank Morgan), of Jackson county, Minn.; August (Mrs. Robert Abbott), of Indian Lake township; John P. and Clara, who reside at home.

MARTIN LEVINE, proprietor of a Worthington saloon, has lived in Nobles county over a quarter of a century and was an early day settler of Summit Lake township.

Mr. Levine was born in Sweden May 20, 1851, and is the son of John and Sarah (Anderson) Levine, who reside in Summit Lake township. His parents are aged 87 and 78 years, respectively. They came to America from Sweden in 1879 and located in Wisconsin, moving to Nobles county in 1882. In his native country Martin learned the tailor's trade, and when he came to America and located in Chicago in 1871, that was the occupation he followed for a number of years. From the time of his arrival from the old country until 1882, when he came to Nobles county, he resided in Chicago, Rockford, Ill., Beloit, Ill., and again in Chicago.

Coming to Nobles county he settled in Summit Lake township, where he took as a

homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 22, and as a tree claim the southwest quarter of section 14, which land he still owns. He engaged in farming there until 1895, when he moved to Worthington. The county seat village has been his home ever since, with the exception of a few years spent in the west, and during most of that time he has been engaged in the saloon business. For a few months he was in Galveston, Texas, looking for a business location. He was in the saloon business in Seattle for about a year and in San Francisco for about seven months.

Mr. Levine was married in Beloit, Wis., to Nettie Button. To them have been born three children: Albert, Willie and Libbie. During his residence in Summit Lake township Mr. Levine served a number of terms as township supervisor and was also a member of the school board of the district in which he lived.

LEONARD E. FISCHER has been a resident of Dewald township twenty-one years. He owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 27. He was born in the city of Erford, Germany, Oct. 21, 1877. His parents were George and Paulina (Keiser) Fischer, both of whom died in Dewald township, the former June 29, 1901, aged 62 years; the latter on Nov. 25, 1901, aged 63 years.

Until he was six and one-half years of age Leonard Fischer lived in his native country. He then came to the United States with his parents, who located in the village of Bultonville, Wis. After a three years' residence there the family, in the spring of 1887, came to Nobles county and settled on the farm now owned by our subject. Leonard secured an education in the schools of Wisconsin and those of Dewald township and grew to manhood on the farm, working for his father. In 1899 he began farming for himself.

Mr. Fischer was married in Dewald township Feb. 19, 1903, to Lucinda Morley, a native of Canada and a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Morley, now of North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Fischer are the parents of the following named children: Florence, born Nov. 22, 1904; Ernest, born Jan. 16, 1906; Grace, born Oct. 8, 1907; Ethel, born July 20, 1908.

For the last four years Mr. Fischer has been a member of the board of supervisors of Dewald township and has been road overseer for the last three years.

ANDREW NILSON, Bigelow township farmer, was born in Malmohus, Katersoken Sweden, April 24, 1850. His parents, Nils Bengson and Inga (Anderson) Bengson, both died in the old country, the former aged 72 years and the latter 75 years.

Mr. Nilson was raised on his father's farm, and after growing to manhood engaged in farming for himself. He came to America when thirty years of age and located at Amelia, Iowa, where for four years he farmed rented land. He moved to O'Brien county, near Sanborn, rented a farm and for ten years conducted it. In 1899 Mr. Nilson came to Nobles county. The first year he farmed the Mrs. Elits Johnson farm in Bigelow township and then bought his present place, the southwest quarter of section 22, Bigelow, and has since farmed there. The farm was only slightly improved when he took the place, and most of the buildings and other improvements are the result of Mr. Nilson's labors.

Our subject was married in Sweden Oct. 24, 1877, to Miss Annie Peterson, daughter of Peter and Bole (Swanson) Peterson. Both parents are dead, the mother having passed away when Mrs. Nilson was fifteen years old and the father in 1907. Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nilson, both of whom reside at home. They are Albert Waldemar and Edward Leonard. Mr. and Mrs. Nilson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

NERRIS FISCHENICH, who, in partnership with James Reddy, conducts one of the saloons of Ellsworth, has been a resident of Nobles county since he was three years of age.

The late Bernard Fischénich was the father of our subject. He was born in Germany in 1813 and came to the United States in 1851, first settling near Middleton, Wis. In 1877 he came to Nobles county and located in Dewald township, north of Rushmore, where he resided for sixteen years. He then took up his residence in the village of Ellsworth, at which place he died

in June, 1895, at the advanced age of 82 years. The mother of our subject is Mary Fischénich, also a native of Germany, who now makes her home in Ellsworth.

To these parents, in Dane county, Wis., three miles from Middleton, was born Nerris Fischénich on Dec. 30, 1874. In 1877 he was brought from his birthplace to Nobles county and for sixteen years he resided on his father's Dewald township property. Taking up his residence in Ellsworth in 1893, he and his brother, Barney, started a livery stable, which they conducted thirteen years. Disposing of their interests at that time to John Essmann, Mr. Fischénich formed a partnership with James Reddy and embarked in the saloon business, in which he is now engaged.

Mr. Fischénich is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is unmarried.

C. A. STEINMAN is an Elk township farmer, his place being the northwest quarter of section 25, upon which he has lived for the last eleven years. He is a native of Gottenberg, Sweden, having been born there April 20, 1858. His father, Jonas Anderson, and his mother, Mary (Johnson) Anderson, are both living in Sweden, each being 79 years of age. Mr. Steinman did not take the family name, but, in accordance with a Swedish custom, took the name of his grandfather. Although Mr. Steinman's ancestors had lived in Sweden for several generations, he is of German descent, which accounts for the name, Steinman—a rare one in Sweden.

Mr. Steinman secured an education in his native country, and when fourteen years of age became an apprentice to a shoemaker and harness maker, which trade he followed there until twenty years old. He came to America in 1878, landing in New York April 1. He went at once to Rockford, Ill., where for one year he was employed in the furniture factory of the Union Furniture company, of which company an uncle was part owner. He then moved to Alta, Buena Vista county, Iowa, where for seven years he worked at the harness maker's trade. At the end of that time he leased a farm near Alta from his brother-in-law and engaged in farming till 1897. That year he came to Nobles county, purchased the north

one-half of the northwest quarter of section 25, Elk, and since has been engaged in farming there. Later he purchased the other eighty acres of the quarter.

Mr. Steinman was united in marriage to Matilda Fihn at Alta, Iowa, July 17, 1884. Mrs. Steinman was born in Gottenberg, Sweden, Dec. 15, 1858, the daughter of Lars Fihn and Martha (Nelson) Fihn, both deceased. She came with her parents to America in 1869. They are the parents of three sons, all of whom reside in Elk township—Eugene Theodore, Herbert Leroy, Victor Alexander. Both Mr. and Mrs. Steinman are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

SAMUEL NOTT ROSE, of Worthington, is one of the county's pioneer settlers, having first taken up his residence here with the colonists of 1872.

Mr. Rose was born at Great Bend, Susquehanna county, Pa., May 22, 1847, and is a descendant of one of the old colonial families. His father, Rev. Rodney S. Rose, was born at Exeter, Otsego county, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1819, and died at Candor, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1900. He was a Methodist minister for over sixty years and served for a time as a member of the Christian commission during the civil war, in which service he was associated with Rev. B. H. Crevier, Worthington's first pastor. Our subject's mother was Esther (Thurston) Rose, who was born in Otsego county N. Y., Jan. 4, 1823, and died at Berkshire, N. Y., Oct. 2, 1859.

In the district schools Mr. Rose received his primary education and began his advanced education in 1864 in Oswego academy, of Tioga county, N. Y., in which institution he was a student two years. He then became a student in Wyoming seminary, of Luzerne county, Pa. He taught district school during the winters and attended the seminary's spring and fall terms until 1869, when he received his diploma. In the fall of 1869, after his graduation, Mr. Rose took the western fever, and moved to Jones county, Iowa. There he remained one year, engaging in teaching a public school and conducting a singing school nights. At the end of the year he returned to Pennsylvania, and for two years was engaged in teaching school and farming in Luzerne county.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Rose again moved to Jones county, Iowa. He remained there only a short time, and then came to Worthington, making the trip overland in a prairie schooner drawn by a team of steers, and arriving during the month of June. He at once filed a homestead claim to the southeast quarter of section 6, Lorain township, and like everybody else began to put the land in preparation for a crop. During the memorable winter of 1872-73 he taught a term of school at Garden City, Minn., but returned in the spring and put in his crop. This, of course, the grasshoppers took. He prepared the land again in the fall of 1873, and then went back to Pennsylvania, intending to remain only a few months, but circumstances prevented his return for several years. Mr. Rose was one of the organizers of Lorain township, and was one of that township's first officers.

Mr. Rose taught school in Luzerne county, Pa., during the winter of 1873-74, and on March 11, 1874, at Milwaukie, Pa., was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Petty, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Naegie) Petty. Mr. and Mrs. Rose are the parents of two sons—Arthur P., born at Milwaukie, Pa., Sept. 19, 1875, now of Worthington; Royal Thurston, born at Falls, Pa., Nov. 13, 1876, now of Graham Lakes township.

Because of a long illness Mr. Rose was obliged to remain in the east, and it was the fall of 1878 before he returned. One year was spent in Jones county, Iowa, teaching school. Then, after having taught fifteen terms in all, he was obliged to give up teaching and all other active business pursuits because of increasing deafness, which had first troubled him in his younger days and which baffled all attempts to remedy. In August, 1879, Mr. Rose and family moved to Worthington, which has been the family home ever since. After engaging in farming four years, he purchased property in Worthington. He now owns a five-acre tract in the city, and engages in market gardening.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rose are members of the Methodist church, he having united with that denomination when eleven years of age. He joined the Worthington church during the first year of its existence, and has participated in the dedication of Miller hall, the old M. E. church and the new one.

J. J. HEIN, a farmer of Grand Prairie township, is an early settler of the county of Nobles, having lived here since eleven years of age. He owns 240 acres in sections 11 and 12.

Mr. Hein was born in Port Washington, Ozaukee county, Wis., on Jan. 4, 1866. Joseph Hein, his father, was born on the Rhine, in Germany in 1823, and came to America when a boy of about twenty years of age. He lived in Illinois a short time and then went to Wisconsin and engaged in the tannery business in partnership with a brother at Port Washington, which he followed till he came to Nobles county in 1877. He died in Nobles county Aug. 1, 1883. Our subject's mother is Mary (Kirch) Hein. She was married to Mr. Hein in Wisconsin in 1853, and now resides at Brewster.

Our subject was educated in a sister's school at Port Washington and in the district schools of Nobles county, to which place he came with his parents May 14, 1877. The elder Hein bought the northwest quarter of section 12, Grand Prairie township, from Clark Noyes, the homesteader. On that place J. J. Hein lived until 1892, when he moved to Adrian and engaged in the butcher business. After going out of business he continued to reside in Adrian one year and then spent one year in Blue Earth City. He moved back to the farm in 1902 and has since made his home there.

Mr. Hein was married at Woonsocket, S. D., May 11, 1897, to Katie Hinker, a native of Iowa and a daughter of George and Kate Hinker, who now reside near Woonsocket. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hein: Allie, born May 8, 1898; George, born Sept. 22, 1901; Joseph, born April 25, 1904; Nick, born May 5, 1907. The family are Catholics. The Hein family were charter members of the Adrian church.

NELS ERLANDSON, of Olney township, was born in Sweden June 3, 1859, the son of Erland Pearson and Anna Pearson. Both his parents died when Nels was six years old.

He came to the United States in the spring of 1883 and located in Ford county, Ill. He remained there five years, working at differ-

ent occupations, and then, in 1888, came to Worthington. In that village he remained eighteen months and then rented a farm on section 6, Dewald township, where he was three years. He then farmed a rented place on section 27, Olney, for several years, and in the spring of 1897 bought his present farm of 210 acres the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10 and the northeast quarter of section 15, Olney—and has since made his home there. He has improved the farm since buying the place, the total expenditures along that line being about \$3,000. Mr. Erlandson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

In Ford county, Ill., on Nov. 10, 1883, Mr. Erlandson was married to Miss Johanna Peterson, also a native of Sweden. She died at the Olney home on Feb. 18, 1908. To them were born the following children: Paulina E., born Nov. 9, 1885, died July 27, 1902; Carl A., Anna M., Godfrey H. and John E.

FLORIAN J. OPPEK farms the southwest quarter of section 24, Hersey township, ten acres of which are in the incorporated limits of the village of Brewster. He is a native of Austria, having been born there April 16, 1884.

His parents are Ignaz and Agnes (Jensich) Oppok, who live in their native land, aged 56 years. Florian is one of a family of seven children named as follows: Louis, Theresia (Mrs. A. W. Ebert), Ignaz, Vincent, Joseph, Florian and Agnes. In his native country Florian Oppok attended the graded schools and a mechanical school, in which he studied electricity, and learned the satin cloth weaver's trade. He came to the United States and to Brewster in the spring of 1900, completing his education by a term in the Brewster school and in the high school at Heron Lake. He spent the years 1902 and 1903 in Heron Lake, and then returned to Brewster, where he has since resided.

Mr. Oppok was married at Heron Lake Nov. 11, 1903, to Mrs. John P. Ebert, whose first husband died Oct. 8, 1895. Mrs. Oppok was born in Austria Aug. 15, 1870, the daughter of V. A. and Anna (Oppok) Fried. Her father lives near Heron Lake; her mother died near Heron Lake in 1901, at the age of 51 years. She is one of a fam-

ily of sixteen children, of whom the following nine are living: Anna, Marie, Adelaid, Emily, Staphina, Emma, Frank, Vincent and John. Mr. and Mrs. Oppek are the parents of three children: Emily Annie, Clarence Florian and Elenora Agnes. By her former marriage Mrs. Oppek is the mother of the following children: Josephine Ida, Antonio William and John Peter. Mrs. Oppek came to the United States in 1886 and located at Heron Lake with her parents, where she resided until her marriage to Mr. Ebert on Nov. 24, 1891. Since that date she has lived in Brewster.

ORMANDO H. SCOTT, Ransom township farmer, is the son of John H. and Sarah A. (Belknap) Scott, the first settlers of Ransom township, who now reside in Worthington. The subject of this sketch was born in Ransom township on July 11, 1876. He secured an education in the district schools of the county and resided with his parents on the farm until 23 years of age.

After leaving his father's farm Mr. Scott farmed for himself two years in Ransom township. He then moved to Worthington, where he resided one year, working at different occupations. He farmed on rented land in Elk township one year, and then returned to Ransom, where he has been farming ever since, residing upon the southwest quarter of section 24, which is owned by his father.

Mr. Scott was married in Ransom township Dec. 6, 1899, to Amy E. Butcher, daughter of George and Mary Butcher. Mrs. Scott was born in Shelby county, Ill., July 25, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Scott are the parents of the following children: Harris, born March 12, 1901; Glenn, born Nov. 22, 1903; Ralph, born November, 1907.

HENRY J. KLEVE owns and farms the north half of section 16, Willmont township, and has been a resident of that township sixteen years. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Feb. 18, 1871, the son of Anthony and Margaret (Schramlt) Kleve.

Anthony Kleve was born in Germany in 1836 and came to the United States when a child. He lived in Pennsylvania, in Kentucky, in Cincinnati, Ohio; in Dubuque

county, Iowa; and Winneshiek county, Iowa, being engaged in farming in most of these places. He died in Winneshiek county Feb. 19, 1890. Margaret Kleve was also born in Germany. She came to America at the age of eighteen years and is now living in Winneshiek county.

Henry lived in his native county until 1892, securing an education in the country and in a parochial school, and working on the farm. Leaving there, he came to Nobles county and bought the northwest quarter of section 14, Willmont township, of Azom Forbes, upon which he lived and farmed until 1902. That year he sold out and bought his present half section farm, upon which he has lived since. He raises lots of stock and farms the whole 320 acres.

Mr. Kleve was married at St. Kilian Oct. 16, 1894, to Julia Duolos, daughter of Anthony and Barbara (Rosenbaum) Duolos, of Willmont township. Mrs. Kleve was born in Fayette county, Iowa, Nov. 15, 1877. This marriage has resulted in the birth of eight children, as follows: Lena, born Aug. 10, 1895, died Oct. 16, 1897; William, born Jan. 31, 1898; Henry, born Feb. 8, 1900; Mary, born June 24, 1902; Julia, born Jan. 31, 1904; Joseph, born Nov. 27, 1905; Helen, born June 27, 1906; Gregor, born June 3, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian.

Mr. Kleve has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He is chairman of the board of supervisors of Willmont township, which office he has held two years, and he is serving his ninth term as a member of the board. He is clerk of school district No. 110, and has served as a school officer in that and districts 65 and 67 since 1895. He was justice of the peace one year. Mr. Kleve is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

DR. F. M. MANSON, practicing physician and surgeon, and proprietor of the Worthington hospital, has been a resident of Worthington since 1899. He was born in Hastings, Minn., April 10, 1871, the son of the late Dr. Melville H. Manson and Elizabeth L. (Moody) Manson. His mother resides in Minneapolis; his father died Feb. 14, 1907.

When Dr. Manson was about six years of

age the family moved from Hastings to St. Paul. After a residence there of four years the family home was made at Shakopee, which it continued to be for ten years. Thereafter until 1899 Dr. Manson lived in Minneapolis. He secured a common school education in the public schools of St. Paul and Shakopee, and in 1886 became a student in the Minneapolis academy. He was a student there four years, and was graduated as the valedictorian of his class in 1889. He then entered the university of Minnesota, taking a scientific course, and was graduated in 1894, receiving the degree of B. S. He took a post graduate course, and in 1895 received his degree of M. S. Receiving a scholarship of physiology and histology, he became an instructor in the state university and taught two years. He then became a student in the medical department of the university, and was granted his diploma in 1899.

Immediately after his graduation Dr. Manson came to Worthington. Forming a partnership with Dr. G. R. Curran, he began the practice of his profession. The firm of Curran & Manson was dissolved at the end of two years, the junior member of the firm continuing the practice. In 1906 he built and opened the Worthington hospital, the history of which institution will be found in chapter fifteen of this volume.

Dr. Manson served as deputy county coroner in 1901 and 1902, was elected coroner in 1902, and served until the first of 1907. He has been a member of the Carnegie library board since the founding of the library, and is chairman of the book committee.

On May 31, 1900, at Shasta, Cal., occurred the marriage of Dr. Manson to Miss Ida L. Husted, daughter of S. D. and Louise (Palmer) Husted. Mrs. Manson is a native of Connecticut. To this union have been born two children: Melville H. and Emmet L.

CARL ARVID DALIN farms 240 acres of land in section 13, Seward township, where he has resided for the last seventeen years. He was born in the town of Wimmerby, Kalmar, Sweden, Aug. 31, 1869, and is the son of Carl Johansson and Margaret (Jones) Johansson, who live in the old country.

Until he was nineteen years old Carl

lived in his native country. He secured an education in the schools of his native town, and during his boyhood days worked on his father's farm, occasionally also securing employment in town. While he lived in Sweden he went by the name of his parents, but when he came to America in the spring of 1889, he took the name of a half-brother, Dalin, because of the commonness of the name Johansson, or its English equivalent, Johnson. He and his half-brother, who came to America at the same time, first located at Burlington, Iowa, where for two years Mr. Dalin was employed at different kinds of work. In the spring of 1891 he came to Nobles county and located on the farm of his brother, which has since been his home.

Mr. Dalin was married in Worthington March 10, 1897, to Caroline Frederickson, who was born in Sweden. They have six children, all of whom live at home. Their names are Henry, Edgar, Harry, Emma, Paul and a baby boy.

FRED DOEDEN is a Worthington township farmer who lives one and one-half miles south of the village of Worthington. He was born in Grimersum, Kreis Emden, Osterfriesland, Germany, Oct. 30, 1865, and is the son of George and Gretje (Johnson Dressen) Doeden, of Worthington.

Until the spring of 1881 Fred Doeden lived in his native land, securing an education and working on his father's farm. On the first of April, 1881, the family arrived in Enreka, Ill., having come direct there from Germany. They lived in the vicinity of that city one year, and then moved to McLean county, Ill. There Fred resided on his father's farm until his arrival in Nobles county, which was in 1890. During the first year of his residence here he lived on his father's farm on section one, Bigelow township. Then in partnership with his father he purchased the southwest quarter of section 36, Worthington township, and began farming for himself. That has been his home ever since, and he now is sole owner of the farm, having purchased his father's interest a few years after taking possession.

Mr. Doeden was married near Fairbury, Ill., Jan. 12, 1889, to Maggie Doeden, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland. To them have been born seven children: George, who

died Jan. 10, 1895; Gracie, who died Dec. 31, 1894; Margaret, Tina, Minnie, Fred and George. All except the first two named are living and reside at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Doeden are members of the German Evangelical church of Worthington.

NED JONES, cashier of the State Bank of Worthington, was born in Terre Haute, Vigo county, Indiana, the son of N. R. and Lucy E. (Boyd) Jones, now residents of Iowa.

When Ned was about eight years of age the family moved to Humbolt county, Iowa, and that was his home until 1898. For some years he worked on a farm. Later he took a position with the Safe Bank of Livermore, which he held nine years. He served as clerk in the office of treasurer of Humbolt county four years. In August, 1898, he came to Worthington and became cashier of the State Bank of Worthington, and has since held that position.

Mr. Jones was married in Wisconsin in 1903 to Elizabeth Ziehm, who was born in Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been born the following children: Faith E., Winifred Z. and Ned R.

OLIVER H. HAWKINS, of Summit Lake township, owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 12. He was born in Frederick county, Virginia, Nov. 24, 1854, the son of John and Emma (Ramey) Hawkins.

In his native county Mr. Hawkins resided on a farm until 1881. He then moved to Iowa, where he engaged in farming until 1894. That year he moved to Nobles county, bought his present farm, and has been engaged in farming since.

Mr. Hawkins is unmarried. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Yeomen lodge.

ANDREW DYRBYE PALLESEN owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 12, Seward township. He was born in the village of Kongerslev, Denmark, July 31, 1865, the son of Christ and Mary (Dyrbye) Pallesen, who died in their native country in 1879 and 1891, respectively.

In the spring of 1884 Mr. Pallesen came

to America and located at Clifton, Iroquois county, Ill., where he resided until 1890. He then went to Chicago and entered the employ of Swift & Co., working in the wool house. In 1893 he returned to his old home in Iroquois county and farmed on rented land till the spring of 1898. Coming to Nobles county at that time, he purchased the 160 acres of land in Seward township upon which he has since resided. He raises considerable stock, making a specialty of Poland-China hogs.

Mr. Pallesen was married at Melt's Grove, Ill., March 22, 1892, to Christina Johnson, a native of Denmark. To them have been born two children, Harvey and Emmerson, both living. Mr. Pallesen is director of school district No. 72 five years.

DR. PETER T. GEYERMAN, practicing physician of Worthington, is a native Minnesotan, having been born at Shakopee, Aug. 21, 1874. His father, Peter Geyerman, lives at Brewster. His mother, Amelia (Berreau) Geyerman, died in that village a few years ago.

When Dr. Geyerman was seven years of age he came with his parents to Hersey (now Brewster), Minn., where his father engaged in the mercantile business. His primary education was obtained in the public schools of Brewster, and he later took a three years' course in the Breck school at Wilder, Minn. He decided to study medicine, and in 1895 became a student in the medical department of the university of Minnesota, from which institution he was graduated in 1899. He then entered the City and County hospital of St. Paul, where he spent one year in practice. In the spring of 1900 he came to Worthington, opened an office and practiced his profession a little over one year.

In the spring of 1901 Dr. Geyerman went to Europe, and in the University of Austria, at Vienna, spent one year studying under European instructors. The University of Austria is one of the most noted schools of medicine in the world, and at the time Dr. Geyerman was there the university had over 7,000 students. Upon his return to the United States the doctor took a six weeks' postgraduate course in the New York Postgraduate school. He then opened an

office at Brewster, where he engaged in practice three years. After a four months' post-graduate course at Chicago, where he made a specialty of studying eye, ear, nose and throat diseases, Dr. Geyerman moved to Worthington, in the fall of 1905, opened an office, and has since been engaged in practicing his profession there. He took another post-graduate course at Chicago in 1906, and in 1907 became interested in the Worthington hospital in company with Dr. Manson.

Dr. Geyerman was married at Worthington May 22, 1907, to Miss Susan A. Stoutemyer, daughter of the late W. E. Stoutemyer.

HENRY APEL is an Elk township farmer who has resided in the county twenty years. He is a native of Livingston county, Ill., where he was born April 26, 1868, the son of the late Henry Apel and Gertrude (Friesleben) Apel, of Worthington.

Henry was raised on his father's farm and secured a country school education in the spring of 1888 he came with his parents to Nobles county, and for a couple of years assisted with the work on his father's farm. He then rented land and began farming for himself in Elk and Worthington townships. In 1896 he bought his present farm of 240 acres on section 14, Elk township, and has since made his home there. He farms an additional 160 acres of land adjoining.

Mr. Apel was married May 31, 1893, in Dewald township to Tressie Kasdorf, daughter of the late Fred Kasdorf. Mrs. Apel was born in Carroll, Iowa. They are the parents of three children: Sterling Wesley, Gertie Louise and Meldon Ella, all living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Apel are member of the Evangelical church of Worthington. He has served as treasurer of school district No. 8 for the last eight years.

CHARLES KING, postmaster and proprietor of a general merchandise store at Org, was born in Shellsburg, Iowa, Nov. 10, 1861, son of the late George and May Ann King. The former died Sept. 14, 1905, the latter February 23, 1896.

The subject of this biography lived in Shellsburg the first twenty three years of

his life and was raised on a farm. In Laurens, in Pocahontas county, Iowa, he lived two years, and then returned to Shellsburg and made his home there six years more. In 1892 he came to Nobles county and has made his home here since, engaged in farming and keeping store.

Mr. King was married Feb. 22, 1883, to Celia H. Craig, who was born in Iowa Jan. 26, 1858. To them have been born the following children: Etta M., G. F., Mabel E., Ann Louise, L. W., John Quiney and Arthur.

Mr. King is a member of the Baptist church of Worthington and of the Woodmen lodge. He has served eight years as postmaster of Org, was on the Dewald township board three years and has been assessor of Bigelow township five years.

BEN L. SOREM, Ransom township farmer, is a son of Mons and Sarah (Ostrom) Sorem, of the same township. He was born in Grundy county, Ill., April 16, 1874, and made his home there twelve years. The family moved to Osceola county, Iowa, in 1886, and in December, 1891, to Ransom township.

Ben lived on his father's farm until 1896, when he began farming for himself on rented land in Ransom. In 1901, he bought his present farm the northwest quarter of section 26 and since 1905 has been engaged in farming it. He has taken an active interest in the affairs of the community in which he lives and has held several offices of trust. He is now one of the supervisors of Ransom township, which office he has held four years.

Mr. Sorem was married in Ransom township Sept. 9, 1896, to Nellie E. Milton, daughter of Isaac Milton, of Ransom. She was born in Wisconsin Dec. 16, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Methodist church at Ransom.

DR. JAY M. CROWLEY, physician and surgeon of Ellsworth, is a native of Peatonica, Ill., where he was born on the eleventh day of April, 1879, the son of William A. and Zelia (Elliott) Crowley. The former, a native of Illinois, died at Galva, Iowa, in June, 1897, aged 44 years. The



mother of our subject is also a native of Illinois. She is now living at Galva, Iowa, and is 50 years of age.

When Jay Crowley was four years of age, the family moved from Illinois to Cherokee county, Iowa, and that was his home until 1892. Then the family home was made at Galva, Ida county, Iowa. After receiving a public school education he entered Cornell academy, of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and was a student there during the years 1895-97. In 1898 he enlisted as a private in company M, of the 52nd Iowa volunteer infantry, and served in the Spanish-American war. After his muster out Mr. Crowley became a student in the medical department of the Northwestern university of Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1903. He then took a position in a hospital at Webster City, Iowa, with which he was connected eighteen months. He came to Ellsworth in January, 1905, and since that date has been practicing his profession there. He is the local surgeon for the C. R. I. & P. railroad and is a member of the American Medical association and its component societies. Fraternally he associates with the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America lodges.

Dr. Crowley was married at Goldfield, Iowa, Dec. 12, 1905, to Miss Lucy Pinder, who was born in Kansas July 16, 1881. She is the daughter of Charles and Mattie Pinder. To Dr. and Mrs. Crowley has been born one child—William J., who was born Feb. 1, 1907.

ARTHUR P. ROSE resides at Worthington, which place has been, practically, his home since 1879. He was born at Milwalkie Pa., September 19, 1875, the son of Samuel N. and Nellie (Petty) Rose, both of whom are residents of Worthington. Our subject moved with his parents to Olin, Jones county, Iowa, in 1878, and the following fall came to Worthington, making the trip in a prairie schooner. The first three years of the residence in Nobles county were spent on farms in the vicinity of Worthington, after which the family moved to the county seat town.

Arthur started to school in 1880, attending first the Worthington township

school taught by Mrs. Edwards. After removing to Worthington he attended the public and high school there, graduating from the latter institution in 1894. During these school years he spent most of his summers working on a farm. Early in July, immediately after graduation, he began working in the office of the Worthington Advance, then owned by Carl S. Eastwood, and learned the printer's trade in that office. After serving a three years' apprenticeship there he went to Mankato, and for a short time was employed on the Mankato Morning News. Later he worked several months in a job office at St. James.

In July, 1898, Mr. Rose enlisted in company H, of the Fifteenth Minnesota volunteer infantry, during the time of the Spanish-American war, and held the office of sergeant during the period of enlistment. The regiment did not see active service, and was mustered out of the service at Camp McKenzie, Georgia, March 27, 1899.

Mr. Rose then returned to Worthington and immediately took a position on the Worthington Herald, then owned and edited by E. K. Smith, which position he held for several years. In January, 1903, he went west, locating first at Coulee City, Washington, where he took a position as editor and manager of the Coulee City Review, a paper owned by Spining & Bassett, of Wilbur, Wash. He was there only a few weeks when he took a like position on the Hartline Standard, of Hartline, Wash., owned by the same firm.

In July, 1903, he resigned the management of the Hartline paper to accept a position as associate editor for the Western Historical Publishing company, of Spokane, Wash., publishers of state and county histories, and later he became editor in chief of that firm's works. During the first two years' work with that company he assisted in writing the histories of twelve counties in eastern Washington and seven in eastern Oregon. Mr. Rose gave up this work in November, 1905, and purchased the Stevens County Reveille, of Colville, Wash., which he published until April, 1906, when he sold the plant and again took a position with the history publishing company. He went to Montana, where he wrote a history of that state and of three counties in the Yellowstone valley.

At Spokane, Wash., on July 31, 1906, occurred the marriage of Mr. Rose to Miss Theo A. Russell, of Coulee City, Wash. Miss Russell is a daughter of the late Jonathan Russell and Eliza (Kieftley) Russell, of Browning, Mo. Jonathan Russell was of English and Irish descent and was born at Harper's Ferry, Va., February 2, 1825. He died at Browning, Mo., Nov. 24, 1898. His father, Joseph Russell, was a veteran of the Revolutionary war. Eliza Kieftley Russell, born Nov. 2, 1839, resides at Browning, Mo. Mrs. Rose was born in Missouri Jan. 23, 1881. Her childhood days were spent on her parents' farm in Missouri, where she attended the public schools until 17 years of age. In July, 1902, she went to Coulee City, Wash., near which place she secured a home-stead, making her home with her sister. Mr. and Mrs. Rose are the parents of one child, Helen Elaine, born Jan. 4, 1908.

In May, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Rose came to Worthington, where they now reside, and where Mr. Rose is now engaged in writing and publishing this history of Nobles county.

ERNEST E. LOVRIEN, is editor and proprietor of the Ellsworth News, which he has published for the last three years. He is an Iowan by birth, having been born in Chickasaw county, July 24, 1882. He is a son of Warren and Eliza (Dorgan) Lovrien, who are now residents of Chickasaw county. The father is a native of New Hampshire; the mother was born in County Cork, Ireland.

Ernest was raised on his father's farm, making his home there until eighteen years of age. He secured a country school education, and early became infatuated with the printer's trade. While on the farm he became the publisher of a paper, without having had any previous experience. His paper was a little "dodger" affair called Public Opinion. He secured its entrance to the mails as second class matter and continued its publication two years.

When eighteen years of age he secured employment on the Gazette of New Hampton, Iowa, worked there only about two months, and then became an employe of the Tribune office, of the same city, remaining with that paper over two years. His next work was on the Daily Times Herald, of

Mason City. After six months' service there he became the manager of the Haulontown News, which he conducted about one year. Then for a time he was employed in a big job printing office at Osage, Iowa, and later took a position in the office of the Osage Press. We next find him at Decorah, Iowa, where for about one and one-half years he was employed in the Journal office.

In 1905 he came to Ellsworth, purchased the News plant from P. F. Levins, and has since presided over the destinies of that Nobles county paper. Since taking control he has made many improvements in the paper and has given Ellsworth the best publication it has ever had in its history.

Mr. Lovrien was married at New Hampton, Iowa, July 7, 1905, to Miss Ada Nowell, daughter of Mrs. Mary Nowell. Mr. and Mrs. Lovrien are the parents of one child—Ruth.

HENRY BOOTS, Larkin township farmer, was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, March 1, 1859. His father, Maant Boots, was a laborer, born in Germany in 1819 and dying there Sept. 21, 1883. Our subject's mother was Etta (Roben) Boots. She was born in 1818 and died in Germany June 11, 1887.

Mr. Boots has spent the greater part of his life in his native country. After growing up he became a farm laborer, which was his occupation until his arrival in America in March, 1892. On that date he landed at Baltimore, and went directly to Holland, Grundy county, Iowa, arriving in that village on April 2. During the first two years of his residence in the new world he worked on the Rock Island railroad at Holland. Then for two years he was employed on a stock farm in Grundy county, and after that spent one year working out at farm work by the day. He next rented a farm in the same county and conducted it two years. Removing to Franklin county, Iowa, he rented land there and farmed four years. It was in 1903 that he came to Nobles county and became a land owner, at that time buying the south half of section 22, Larkin township, and that has been his home ever since.

Mr. Boots was married in Germany in

May, 1880, to Annie Benz. They are the parents of the following children: Edward, Ernest, Peter, Jacob, Dick, Minnie (Mrs. Herman Zimmerman), of Wheaton, Minn.; Annie, Henry and Benjamin. The four oldest sons are married and are engaged in farming in Larkin township. The other children, except the married daughter, live at home. Mr. and Mrs. Boots are members of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore.

JOHN L. MAUCH, proprietor of an Adrian saloon, has lived in Nobles county since he was less than six years of age. He was born at Holland, Mich., Aug. 22, 1872, son of the late Louis Mauch, a farmer and stockraiser, who died at his home near Adrian on May 20, 1907, and Anna (Rusch) Mauch, who resides on her Westside township farm. Besides the subject of this sketch there are living in the county the following members of the Mauch family: Joseph T., Frank, Albert and Fred, all living on the farm in Westside township; Mrs. Mary Hotz, Christiana and Annie.

John L. Mauch came to Nobles county with his parents May 9, 1878. He lived on the farm with his parents, securing a common school education in the schools of Westside township, until December, 1903. He then moved to Adrian and purchased Masgai brothers' saloon, on Main street, which he has since conducted. Besides his business in the village, Mr. Mauch owns 400 acres of land in sections 24 and 36, Westside township. He is a member of St. Adrian's Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

At Adrian, on May 20, 1904, occurred the marriage of Mr. Mauch to Miss Martha Hunt. To them has been born one child—Dora Matilda, born April 17, 1906.

EMIL F. GRAF has been a resident of Willmont township ever since he was seven years of age. He is the son of Emil and Fredericka (Zeh) Graf, of Lismore.

Our subject was born at Marine Mills, Minn., thirty miles north of St. Paul, Jan. 27, 1872, and there he lived until 1879. On the ninth day of May, of that year, he arrived in Adrian. The family at once moved

out to the homestead in Willmont township, upon which the father had filed two years before. Emil F. lived on that place until 1899. He then purchased the northwest quarter of section 31, Willmont township, and has since lived there, engaged in farming.

Mr. Graf was married in Lismore township June 27, 1899, to Miss Ida Thompson, daughter of Albert A. and Bertha (Carlson) Thompson, of Lismore township. Mrs. Graf was born at Adrian March 28, 1879, being the first girl born in that village. To them have been born the following named children: Clifford, born July 24, 1901; Vernen, born June 11, 1905; Gladys, born Jan. 23, 1908. Fraternally Mr. Graf has associated himself with the M. W. A. and Royal Neighbors lodges.

SIDNEY BODEN is one of the big farmers of Westside township, owning and farming all of section 31. By birth he is an Englishman, having been born at Burton-Trent Nov. 7, 1874, the son of William and Jane Ellen (Harland) Boden. The mother died when Sidney was a child; the father now lives a retired life in his native land. During almost the entire period of his life he held a position in an English brewery, during the latter part of his service having charge of the agency in Sheffield.

During the first sixteen years of his life Sidney Boden lived in England, securing an education in Denstone college at Denstone. In 1890 he came to America and to Nobles county. For several years he lived with a cousin, who owned the Westside township farm upon which he now resides. In December, 1895, Mr. Boden purchased the section farm and has ever since been engaged in farming it. In addition to his general farming, he engages extensively in stock-raising and feeding.

Mr. Boden was married at Luverne, Minn., April 21, 1897, to Catherine McParland, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Catherine McParland, both of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Boden are the parents of the following children: Arthur Clarence, born March 2, 1899; Gladys Evelyn, born March 29, 1902; Harland William, born July 14, 1904; Harold Washington, born Feb. 22, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Boden are members of the Episcopal church and he belongs to the M. W. A. lodge of Magnolia. For two years he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Westside township and is now treasurer of school district No. 90, which he has held for the last five years.

ADOLPH E. HART, proprietor of a Worthington department store and manager of the Hart Commission Co., has resided in Worthington seven years. He was born in Troy, Mo., Feb. 18, 1863, the son of Joseph and Temperance (Stuart) Hart. The father was a native of Prussia, having been born there Nov. 18, 1818. He came to the United States in 1848, and died at Troy, Mo., Dec. 21, 1900. His mother was born in Winfield, Mo., Sept. 16, 1837, and died July 10, 1873.

Mr. Hart, before coming to Nobles county, was for many years engaged in the commission business at St. Louis, Mo. In 1901 he came to Worthington and opened a general store. From a small beginning he has added to his floor space and stock carried until today he has one of the big stores of Worthington. Besides the Worthington store he is owner, jointly with his brothers, Samuel, Jake, Herman and Louis J., of six other stores.

While residing in St. Louis he and his brother, Herman, incorporated the Hart Commission company, a wool commission firm, one of the heaviest wool-buying firms in the northwest. When Mr. Hart moved to Worthington the headquarters of the firm were moved to that city. During the year 1905 the company bought nearly a million pounds of wool, and during the season it pays out at Worthington from \$25,000 to \$50,000 monthly.

Mr. Hart was married at St. Louis Sept. 18, 1888, to Miss Ella Friede, daughter of Meyer and Dabell Friede. To them have been born three sons: Friede, born Aug. 9, 1889; Stuart, born Oct. 17, 1892; Armand, born Nov. 13, 1897.

Mr. Hart is a member and director of the Worthington commercial club and is one of the city's "boosters." He took part in the organization of the Worthington Chautauqua association, and is one of the active members of that organization.

FRED MOHR, Elk township farmer, was born in Holstein, Germany, Sept. 12, 1848, the son of Jacob and Telsha (Heinson) Mohr. The father died when Fred was about five years of age. The mother lives in Plymouth county, Iowa, and is 84 years of age.

Until he was 32 years of age Fred Mohr lived in his native land, securing an education and working on farms. He came to the United States in 1882 and located in Benton county, Iowa. That was his home five years, during which time he worked at farm work and on the railroad. He then bought a team of horses and went to Plymouth county, Iowa, at which place he rented land and engaged in farming three years. Mr. Mohr came to Nobles county in 1888 and bought the southwest quarter of section 5, Elk township, which was then raw prairie land. During the first two years he farmed the Peter Thompson land in Summit Lake township; then he moved onto his own land and has lived there since. The first building he put up was a granary, in which he lived three years. At the end of that time he erected a house and other buildings and now has the place well improved. In addition to the quarter section he bought originally he now owns a quarter section in Texas.

Mr. Mohr was married in Germany Nov. 3, 1873, to Caroline Rostermund. To them have been born the following children: Klaus, of San Francisco; Fred, at home; Henry, of Texas; Matilda (Mrs. Allen Lawrence), of Summit Lake township; Teresa (Mrs. Sanford Peters), of Dewald township; Minnie (Mrs. John Whalen), of Summit Lake township. Mr. Mohr has held the office of school director for the last three years.

JOHN A. LOOSBROCK, president of the St. Kilian Store company and manager of the store at St. Kilian, in addition to his mercantile duties, manages his farm of 200 acres on section 20, Willmont township. He is a native of Dubuque county, Iowa, where he was born Oct. 15, 1861. His parents, Frank L. and Johanna (Gausen) Loosbrock, were natives of Holland. The father died when our subject was a child; the mother lives in Cresco, Iowa.

Mr. Loosbrock spent nearly his entire life in Dubuque county. He was raised on a farm and at the age of twenty-four years engaged in farming for himself, which he followed in Dubuque county until he came to Nobles county in the spring of 1904. Arriving here he bought his present farm, where he has since made his home. Mr. Loosbrock was one of the organizers of the St. Kilian Store Co. and is its president. Since December 1, 1907, when the store was opened, he has been its manager. The store is the only one in the little village of St. Kilian, and it is really a creditable institution.

In the town of Dyersville, Iowa, Mr. Loosbrock was married May 25, 1886, to Johanna Johanning. She was born in Germany June 1, 1865, and came to the United States when fourteen years of age. As a result of this union there have been born the following named children: Frank, born April 13, 1887; Josepha, born Sept. 10, 1888; Emil, born April 1, 1890; Leo, born July 27, 1892; Alfred, born April 28, 1894; Rosie, born June 22, 1897; Alvin, born June 11, 1899; Henrietta, born June 18, 1901; Arthur, born April 22, 1903; Olive, born June 27, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Loosbrock are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian, and he has served as treasurer of the church organization for the past two years. He also holds a membership in the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective society.

FRANK ULVELING is one of the pioneer residents of Adrian, where he was in business for many years. He was born in Luxemburg, Germany, but when one year of age he came with his parents to the United States. The family settled in Washington county, Wis., where his father died.

Soon after the founding of Adrian Frank and his brother, Peter, and his sisters and mother moved to that town. Frank and Peter engaged in the mercantile business under the firm name of Ulveling Bros. Upon the death of Peter Ulveling, in August, 1889, Frank engaged in the grain business with Faragher Bros. and continued in it until 1903.

Mr. Ulveling was married in Chicago in 1896 to Sarah M. Dinneen. To them have

been born the following children: Frank Henry, born in Worthington Sept. 19, 1897; Edwin Victor, born in Adrian Jan. 19, 1899; Raphael Vincent, born in Adrian May 9, 1902; Loretta Marie (deceased), born in Adrian Nov. 20, 1903; Raymond Emmett, born in Adrian April 27, 1905.

J. A. FARAGHER is one of the early day settlers of Grand Prairie township, having made his home there for the last thirty years. He is a native of Dodgeville, Wis., where he was born Oct. 9, 1864, the son of James and Isabel (Tyre) Faragher, who now reside at Watertown, S. D. James Faragher was born in the Isle of Man in 1833. He first came to the United States when a young man in his twenties and made several trips back and forth before he located permanently. By occupation he was a miner and finally became permanently located in Dodgeville.

When the subject of this biography was a baby the family moved to Idaho territory, where the father engaged in placer mining for some time. They returned to Dodgeville in 1868 and located on a farm. It was in the fall of 1878 that the family came to Nobles county. The father bought a homestead relinquishment to the northeast quarter of section 26, Grand Prairie township, from William Williams and proved upon it. Our subject resided at home until 1891, when he rented a farm in Grand Prairie and began business for himself. He lived on the rented place until 1898, when he bought his present farm of 120 acres in section 2.

Mr. Faragher was married at Worthington April 2, 1892, to Kittie Smith, a native of Wisconsin. She is the daughter of the late John Smith and Catherine Smith. To Mr. and Mrs. Faragher has been born one child—Ray.

For four years Mr. Faragher served as a supervisor of Grand Prairie, and he now holds the office of clerk of school district No. 49. Mr. Faragher holds membership in many lodges. He belongs to the I. O. O. F. and Rebeccas, of Adrian; the Encampment, I. O. O. F., of Luyverne; and the M. W. A. and Royal Neighbors, of Adrian. He has been the representative of all these orders in the grand lodges.

EMIL W. SCHARPING, farmer, dairyman and stock raiser of Hersey township, has been a resident of Nobles county since he was six years of age. He was born in Monroe county, Wis., June 11, 1878, and is the son of Carl and Marie (Tank) Scharping, of Brewster.

Carl Scharping was born in Germany in 1842 and came to the United States when 24 years of age. For six years he lived in LaCrosse, Wis., where he was employed as fireman in a large saw mill. From there he moved to Monroe county, Wis., where he engaged in farming until 1884. Then he came to Nobles county and engaged in farming in Hersey township, until a short time ago, when he retired from active pursuits and moved to Brewster. Marie (Tank) Scharping was born in Germany and is now living with her husband in Brewster. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Scharping are the parents of the following children: Louisa (Mrs. A. Hauenstein), Summit Lake; Annie (Mrs. Geo. E. Hagerman), Lorain; Clara (Mrs. James M. Hagerman), Lorain; Henry, LaCrosse, Wis.; Emil W., of this sketch.

In 1884 Emil Scharping moved with his parents from Wisconsin to Nobles county and for twelve years lived on his father's farm on section 10, Hersey township. Since that date he has resided on his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 9. Mr. Scharping served as constable of Hersey township from 1900 to 1905; as assessor in 1903; and as member of the board of supervisors from 1905 to 1908. He was also clerk of school district No. 85 from 1903 to 1905.

Mr. Scharping was married in Vernon county, Wis., June 3, 1907, to Ella M. Scharping, who was born in Vernon county Oct. 22, 1887. She is the daughter of Ferdinand W. and Amelia (Dittmer) Scharping, who were natives of Germany and who now reside in Vernon county, Wis. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scharping affiliate with the German Lutheran church of Brewster. To them has been born one son, Ferdinand C. E., born May, 1908.

JOHN GEISEL, of Wilmont, is a retired farmer who has made Nobles county his home for the last twenty years. By birth he is a German, having been born in the

town of Schwartz, Hessendamstadt, Nov. 14, 1847. His father, George Geisel, died in Germany in 1861; his mother, Mary (Dur) Geisel, died in America in 1875.

Mr. Geisel lived in his native land until 1863. Although only sixteen years of age when he left his old country home, he had secured his education and learned the weaver's trade. His first home in the new world was Berlin, Canada, where he lived about six years, engaged in farm work and as an employe in a chair factory. Elmwood, Ontario, was his next home, and there he lived for many years, engaged in farm work and at his trade. In 1888 he moved to Nobles county and located in Wilmont township, near the little hamlet of St. Kilian. He purchased the south one-half of section 21, which he farmed until 1901, when he moved to the village of Wilmont. He still owns that property, as well as an eight-acre tract in the village. He is retired from active pursuits, except taking care of the small place in the village.

Mr. Geisel was married at Elmwood, Ontario, Canada, in 1869, to Caroline Kurr, and to this union have been born ten children, as follows: Henry, living in northwestern Canada; Hannah, living at home; John, died in 1902; Ezra, living in Indiana, near the city of Chicago; Levina, died in 1906; Lizzie (Mrs. Jager), Mankato; George, Sioux City, Iowa; Christina (Mrs. E. Latour-elle), Wilmont; Daniel, died in infancy; Samuel, Sioux City, Iowa.

GUSTAF SCHREIBER, Graham Lakes township farmer, was born in Germany Jan. 24, 1861, the son of John and Minnie (Newhouse) Schreiber. The father lives in Graham Lakes township; the mother died Feb. 6, 1908, aged 71 years.

Gustaf came to America with his parents when three years of age, and the greater part of his life was spent in Milwaukee, Wis. He received a common school education there and when fourteen years of age began working in a tannery. Twenty-two years of his life were spent as an employe of the tannery where he began work, all of the time under the same management. During the last five years of his employment he was foreman of one of the departments. In 1895 Mr. Schreiber came to No-

bles county and bought an eighty acre farm in section 14, Graham Lakes township, and engaged in farming four years. He then returned to Milwaukee and spent four years in the tannery, completing the twenty-two years' service. He came back to Nobles county in 1903 and bought the farm where he has since lived on the north shore of West Graham lake. He holds a membership in Odd Fellows lodge No. 193 at Dundee.

Mr. Schreiber was married at Milwaukee Dec. 6, 1882, to Annie Rasm, a native of Cedarburg, Wis. They are the parents of two children: Paul, aged 24 years, now residing in Montana; Hattie, aged 20, who lives with her parents.

JOHN EDWARD ERICKSON, one of the members of the Worthington Plumbing company, is a native of Nobles county. He was born in Bigelow township, five miles south of Worthington, on Dec. 21, 1874. His father was Lars Erickson, who was born in Sweden, came to the United States in 1869 and settled in Goodhue county, Minn., to Bigelow township in the fall of 1871, and who died at Worthington in 1904. Our subject's mother is Mary C. Erickson, who resides in Worthington.

John secured his education in the country schools, and for a time was a student in the Worthington schools. He worked on his father's farm until 1901, and thereafter until 1906 farmed the place for himself. In the last named year, in partnership with Oscar F. Blood, he formed the Worthington Plumbing company, and has since been engaged in the plumbing business. Mr. Erickson served as a member of company H, of the Fifteenth Minnesota volunteer infantry, during the Spanish-American war, his period of enlistment being from July, 1898, to March 27, 1899.

At Worthington on Oct. 15, 1905, occurred the marriage of Mr. Erickson to Manda Jacobson, a native of Sweden. Both Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington.

C. E. KINSMAN, a Worthington township farmer, is a native of Lodi, Ill., where he was born Dec. 23, 1865. His father, T.

B. Kinsman, was a native of England, and came to America in 1864. He was a blacksmith by trade and worked at his trade in Lodi for 30 years. He died in October, 1902. The mother of our subject was Harriet (Cotton) Kinsman; she died in 1903.

Mr. Kinsman spent nearly his entire life in the town of his birth. There he secured his education and there, when he had grown to manhood, he engaged in business. In partnership with his father he was engaged in the hay business seven years. Then he began farming in the vicinity of Lodi, at which he was engaged until the spring of 1903. He then went to Swan River, Manitoba, did not like the country, and on Oct. 24, 1903, came to Worthington. He remained in town that winter, and the following spring rented 210 acres in sections 34 and 27, Worthington township, and he has since been engaged in farming that property.

Mr. Kinsman was married at Lodi, Ill., March 20, 1891, to Anna Ahrens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Ahrens, of that Illinois town. Mrs. Kinsman was born in the town in which she was married. To them have been born five children, all of whom are living at home. They are Raymond, Fred, Burton, Lillian and Beula.

CHARLIE O. WELLS. Among the comparative new-comers to Nobles county is C. O. Wells, who owns and farms the east half of the southwest quarter of section 24, Dewald township. His farm is small and therefore he rents several hundred acres in addition to his own farm, and engages extensively in stock raising.

Mr. Wells was born in Jefferson township, Green county, Wis., Sept. 24, 1867. His father is John S. Wells and his mother Minerva (Clark) Wells, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively. Both parents still live and reside in Green county, Wis.

The subject of this biography secured a country school education and during his boyhood days worked on his father's farm. After becoming of age he worked out for a few years, but in 1894 bought a small farm and engaged in business for himself, which he followed in Green county until 1901. In the last named year he came to Nobles county and located on the place where he now

lives, and which he had purchased the year previous to his coming to the county.

Mr. Wells was married Feb. 12, 1895, in Monroe, Wis., to Nellie Lois Cherry, daughter of Frederick and Ellen (Porter) Cherry, who now reside near Lamar, Mo. Mrs. Wells was born in Lafayette county, Wis., Jan. 21, 1875. To them have been born two children, as follows: Frederick G., born April 27, 1899; Nat Cherry, born June 12, 1907.

During the last four years Mr. Wells has served as clerk of school district No. 42. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Macabee lodge of Worthington.

JOSHUA SCHECHTER, JR., is an Elk township farmer and minister of the German Baptist (Dunkard) church of Elk. He is of German descent, although the Schechter family have resided in the United States for several generations, the grandfather of our subject having been born in America and having resided in Maryland. The father of our subject was born in Maryland and is now living in Pope county, Minn. The mother, Sarah (Clements) Schechter, died in 1877.

Joshua Schechter, Jr., was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, Jan. 29, 1875. There he lived six years and then moved with his father to Polk county, Iowa. He lived there ten years and then four years in Marshall county. In the fall of 1894 father and son came to Nobles county and located in Elk township. Here the son completed his education with a one year term, his previous schooling having been obtained in the schools of Iowa.

He resided with his father until the spring of 1899, then lived one year on section 31, Elk, and in 1900 moved onto his own land, the north half of the southeast quarter of section 33 which he had purchased some years before.

Mr. Schechter was married July 13, 1898, in Dewald township to Minnie Sundberg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sundberg, pioneers of 1872, Mrs. Schechter having been born in Dewald township. To this union have been born three children, Sarah Elvora, Joshua Roy and Opal Pearl, all living.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schechter are members of the Dunkard church of Elk township, Mr. Schechter being a second degree minister of that church. About two days of each week are taken up with his church duties. For three years Mr. Schechter was clerk of school district No. 6, and now holds the office of school treasurer.

TIM HEFFRAN is one of the earlier settlers of the Ellsworth country, having been engaged in farming just outside of the village of Ellsworth for the last twenty-eight years.

He is a native of county Kerry, Ireland, where he was born in 1858, the son of Morrisy Heffran, who came to the United States in 1863 and died in the city of Boston in 1870. The subject of this biography came to America in 1868 and grew to manhood in the city of Boston. There he learned the mason's trade, which he followed until he joined the Catholic colony and came to Nobles county in 1880. It was on the first day of April, 1880, that he landed in the little village of Adrian. He at once purchased the southwest quarter of section 29, Grand Prairie township, which is now within the limits of the village of Ellsworth, and on that place he has ever since made his home. Later he purchased 130 acres of land in the same vicinity, which he gave to his son, Patrick.

Mr. Heffran was married in Boston in February, 1878, to Hannah Sullivan, who is also a native of Ireland. To them have been born the following children: Patrick, Ted, Kate and Nora. Mr. and Mrs. Heffran are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth.

ALEXANDER WILSON, farmer, thresher, cattle feeder and breeder of Percheron horses and thoroughbred sheep, owns the west half of section 7, Lorain township, only a short distance northeast of the village of Worthington.

He was born in Marshall county, Ill., and the date of his birth was May 5, 1876. The father of our subject is William Wilson, who now resides on a farm near Pontiac, Ill. He was born in Scotland, came to America when twenty-one years of age and has ever since lived in Illinois. The mother



of our subject was Mary (Hastings) Wilson, a native of Marshall county, Ill. She died when Alexander was two years of age.

A few years after the birth of our subject the Wilson family moved to Livingston county, Ill., and there Alexander obtained his education and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-four years of age. He then came to Nobles county and bought his present farm, where he has since lived.

Mr. Wilson was married at Yorkville, Ill., Jan. 17, 1900, to Hannah E. Rowe, a native of Kendall county, Ill., and a daughter of Gabriel Rowe. To this union have been born the following children: Mabel, Mildred, Cecil, Hannah and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the Presbyterian church of Worthington.

HERMAN G. DOEDEN is an Indian Lake township farmer whose farm lies just south of Oehyda lake. He owns 113 acres of the northwest quarter of section 7 and 150 acres in the south half of section 6. Mr. Doeden was born in Hanover, Germany, Sept. 30, 1860, and is the son of George and Gretje (Jansen) Doeden, of Worthington.

Herman came to the United States with his parents in 1881 and located in Woodford county, Ill., where he resided two years. He then took up his residence in McLean county, where he resided until he came to Nobles county in 1891. During the first three years of his residence in Illinois he worked out by the day and month. Then he rented land in McLean county, and during the rest of the time he resided in Illinois he was engaged in farming.

In the year 1891 Mr. Doeden came to Nobles county and bought the 113 acre tract on section 7, Indian Lake township, where he has ever since made his home. He had very little money when he came to the county and bought his land on time. The only improvement on the farm when he bought it was a small shack, there were no fences on the place, and no tiling had been done. He has erected most of the buildings on the farm, has the place well fenced and has done considerable tiling. In 1901 he purchased the land adjoining on section 6, and at present has both places free from debt.

Mr. Doeden was married at Metamora, Woodford county, Ill., June 10, 1881, to Jennie Feken, daughter of Peter and Gretje (Hagen) Feken, both deceased. Mrs. Doeden was born in Hanover, Germany, Nov. 20, 1861. They are the parents of the following children: George, born Aug. 26, 1882; Peter, born May 12, 1884; John, born Jan. 24, 1886; Willie, born Aug. 15, 1888; Fred, born Jan. 16, 1891; Herman, born May 12, 1893; Andrew, born July 25, 1895; Gracie, born July 31, 1897; Edward, born Dec. 16, 1899; Rosetta, born Dec. 12, 1901; Helen, born April 18, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Doeden are members of the Evangelical Association church of Worthington. He served as director of school district No. 83 for 12 years.

WILLIAM SHAW has been a resident of Little Rock township for twenty-eight years, having come to the county in 1880 when a boy ten years old. He was born in Grant county, Wis., Nov. 20, 1870, the son of William and Annie (Campbell) Shaw.

William Shaw, the elder, was born in Ireland and came to the United States in 1851. After living six years in New York city, he moved to Grant county, Wis., where he engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in the spring of 1880 and farmed in Little Rock township until his death, which occurred Jan. 15, 1906. He was 75 years old at the time of his death. Our subject's mother was also a native of Ireland. She was married to Mr. Shaw in New York city and died in 1896.

In the fall of 1880 the subject of this biography came to Nobles county with the family, the father having preceded them a few months. The father bought a homestead relinquishment to the southwest quarter of section 12, where the son now lives, and on that farm William Shaw was raised. He was educated in the district schools of Little Rock. About 1896 he began to farm the home place for himself, and has been so engaged ever since.

GEORGE W. BAKER, real estate dealer of Wilmont, has been a resident of Nobles county only a few years, but he was a pio-

neer settler of Luverne and takes an active interest in the history of this part of the state. He was born in Princeton, Ill., Aug. 12, 1858, the son of James Baker, who met his death in the army in 1862, and Martha (Austin) Baker, who died at her home in Luverne in April, 1906.

The first three years of the life of Geo. W. Baker were passed in his native town; then his mother moved to Florenceville, Iowa. That was the family home only one winter, when Caramona, Fillmore county, Minn., became their home. For one and one-half or two years Mrs. Baker and her son lived there, and then they moved onto a farm in Harmony township, of the same county. There George secured his education and grew to manhood. In 1876, before there was a railroad in that little frontier village, they moved to Luverne, Rock county, and there Mr. Baker lived until the year 1900.

During his residence in Luverne Mr. Baker was engaged in the carpenter and contracting business, having learned the carpenter's trade under the instruction of Harry Gaseo, of Perry, Iowa. While residing in Rock county's capital he served four years as constable of the village. He took an active interest in national guard matters and served many years in the militia companies at that place, having been a member of company H, of the second regiment, and of company F, of the third. During his period of enlistment he was corporal, and during the last six years was first sergeant of his company.

He came to the new village of Wilmont August 20, 1900, and for two years was a contractor and builder, and erected many of Wilmont's business houses and residences. Then for two years he was in the Wilmont drug store. In 1905 he opened a real estate office, which he has since conducted. In addition to his real estate business he does a general collection business and writes fire, tornado, hail and life insurance in some of the leading companies. During the last four years he has served as justice of the peace.

ANTON PINT, of Grand Prairie township, has been a resident of the county since he was eight years of age. He is a

son of the late Matthias and Lucy (Lichter) Pint. Matthias Pint was born in Germany Feb. 21, 1834, came to the new world about 1868 and located in Canada. He lived there a short time, was in Chicago two years, and then resided in Scott county, Minn., until he came to Nobles county in 1884. He died Nov. 4, 1907. Lucy Pint was also a native of Germany. She died near Belleplaine, Minn., in 1883.

To these parents Anton Pint was born in Scott county, Minn., Jan. 6, 1876. He came to Nobles county with his father and other members of the family, arriving March 18, 1884. In the fall of 1883 the father had been out to the county and bought the northeast quarter of section 4, Grand Prairie township, where the son now lives, and erected a house on it, and when the family came out they located on the place. Anton has made his home on this farm ever since, with the exception of the year 1893, when the family lived in Adrian. Anton has been farming the place for himself since 1898. He raises stock quite extensively, and has exceptionally fine herds of horses and hogs.

Mr. Pint was married at Adrian Feb. 20, 1900, to Tracy Lenz, a native of Scott county and a daughter of John Joseph and Anna Maria Lenz. They are the parents of the following children: Alvina, born Jan. 15, 1901; Joseph, born Sept. 10, 1903; Alfred, born June 18, 1905; Herbert, born Oct. 9, 1906. The family are Catholics, and Mr. Pint is a member of the C. O. F., of Adrian.

J. E. MOBERG, son of the late Jonas Moberg and Elizabeth (Greenlund) Moberg, of Bigelow township, was the first white child born in that precinct. The date of his birth was May 6, 1873, and the place of his birth was on section 26.

Jonas Moberg, the father of our subject, was one of the early settlers of the county. He came from Sweden with his family and located at once at Anoka, Minnesota, in which town he arrived July 16, 1870. There he secured work and there he remained until the fall, when he took up his residence in Minneapolis. Mr. Moberg worked there until June, 1874, when he came to Nobles county and took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 26, Bigelow town-

ship. After filing on the claim he went back to Minneapolis, worked there until December, and then returned to his new home in Nobles county, bringing his family with him. The family spent the winter of 1871-72 in an underground cellar, which served as a home until a frame structure was erected in the spring of 1872. Jonas Moberg resided on the farm until his death, which occurred August 9, 1900.

Until he was eighteen years of age J. E. Moberg worked on his father's farm in Bigelow township with the exception of a short time in 1881-82, when he was on a farm in Sioux Valley township in Jackson county. At the age of eighteen he and his brother, Nels, bought out their father's stock and implements and for eight years engaged in farming the home place. During the next year or two Mr. Moberg did not engage actively in business because of sickness. He then engaged in farming for himself on a 120-acre farm on section 27, Bigelow township, which he had bought, and on rented land. He has farmed practically ever since. Besides the 120 acres on 27 he now owns forty acres on the father's original homestead. Mr. Moberg is a member of the A. O. U. W. of Worthington.

WILL I. CARPENTER, of Worthington, is a native of Cook county, Ill., where he was born March 1, 1868. His parents, E. B. and Emma (Lawrence) Carpenter, now reside in Alexander, South Dakota. The father was born in Ashitabula county, Ohio, the mother in Pennsylvania.

When Will was one year old the family moved to Rice county, Minn., where they resided ten years. His next place of residence was Hanson county, South Dakota, where he lived until 1889. That year he moved to Sioux Falls. For seven years he was engaged in carpenter work with a large contracting firm, under which he held a foremanship. This was during the boom days in Sioux Falls. Mr. Carpenter assisted in the designing and constructing of many of the prominent buildings of the city. For several years after giving up his work with the contracting firm he traveled for the Deering Harvester company, and later turned his attention to telephone work, constructing lines and putting in exchanges.

In 1902 Mr. Carpenter came to Worthington and entered the employ of C. J. Smallwood, proprietor of the Worthington telephone exchange, and has been so employed since. He drew the plans for, and superintended the construction of, Worthington's city hall in 1907, and he also designed the park pavilion.

Mr. Carpenter was married at Alexander, S. D., to Miss Gertina Gabrielson, a native of Norway. They are the parents of three children: Lillian, Walter and Thelvia.

Mr. Carpenter holds membership in the I. O. O. F., K. P. and A. O. U. W. lodges, being the presiding officer of the latter lodge in Worthington.

OLE H. NYSTROM, Bigelow township farmer, is a native of Nobles county, having been born in Bigelow township Oct 8, 1874, the son of Hans and Anna (Olson) Nystrom.

Until 1898 he resided on the home farm in Bigelow township, working at farm work for his father and engaging in the threshing business. In the year last named he went to Boone, Iowa, and for five years was a fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, his run during the greater part of the time being between Boone and Council Bluffs and Omaha. In 1903 he returned to Nobles county and located on the farm where he has since made his home—120 acres on section 14, Bigelow township. He bought the farm in 1899.

Mr. Nystrom was married in Bigelow township Sept. 28, 1899, to Emma Wickstrom, daughter of C. J. and Bertha Wickstrom. To Mr. and Mrs. Nystrom have been born the following children: Lawrence Oscar, born April 15, 1901; Frances Evelyn, born Feb. 28, 1904; Roy, born Oct. 16, 1906, died Jan. 15, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Nystrom are members of the Baptist church of Indian Lake. He is the treasurer of Bigelow township, having been elected in the spring of 1908. He is also clerk of school district No. 26, which he has held for two years.

ARTHUR H. ERSKINE, son of R. L. Erskine, resides at Round Lake, and is engaged as a rural free delivery mail car-

rier. Coming to the county with his parents in 1869, he ranks as one of the county's oldest residents.

Mr. Erskine was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, March 27, 1867. When one year of age the family moved to Okoboji, and the next year, 1869, to what is now Indian Lake township, Nobles county. Arthur secured a common school education in the schools of Indian Lake township. After his school days were over he worked on his father's farm and that was his place of residence until 1894, when his parents moved to Missouri. After that event Mr. Erskine went into the hay business, operating in Round Lake and Worthington for three or four years. In 1897 he moved to Milford, Iowa, where for seven years he was engaged in the well-boring business. He returned to Indian Lake in 1901, and for two years was engaged in farming. On July 16, 1906, he was appointed an R. F. D. carrier and given a route out of Round Lake, which is his present occupation. Mr. Erskine was married Dec. 25, 1899, at Montgomery, Iowa, to Edna H. Griswold, daughter of Eugene S. Griswold. Two children, Helen and Kenneth, have been born in this union.

W. E. TAYLOR owns and manages a 240-acre farm on sections 26 and 23 Westside township. He is a native of Bloomington, McLean county, Ill., and was born on Christmas day, 1855. He is one of a family of three children, of whom the others are James Taylor, an engineer on the Texas & Rio Grande railroad, running into Fort Worth, Texas, and Mary, who resides in Chicago.

The father of our subject was William Taylor, a native of Dublin, Ireland. He learned the machinist's trade in the Emerald Isle, and when yet a young man came to America. He settled in New Jersey, where for several years he was foreman on the Hudson River railroad. Moving to Bloomington, Ill., he took a position as foreman on the Chicago & Alton railroad and had charge of a gang of men, supervising the laying of rails on that road. Later he entered the same company's shops at Bloomington as a machinist, and was engaged in that work when he died at the age of 53 years.

Bidget (Dunahoe) Taylor was the name of our subject's mother. She was born in Ireland and came to the United States when thirteen years of age. She died in Bloomington at the age of 46 years.

Both his parents having died when W. E. Taylor was a child, he was raised in the family of an uncle, James Dunahoe, in McLean county. At the age of twenty years he went to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was two years, holding the position of foreman on a ranch. Returning to McLean county, he worked at farm work until 1884. Then he bought an 100-acre farm in the same county, engaged in agricultural pursuits six years, sold out, and moved to Nobles county. Arriving here he bought the quarter section where he has ever since lived, paying \$25 per acre therefor. In 1904 he bought the other 80 acres of his farm.

Mr. Taylor was married at Gibson City, Ford county, Ill., Feb. 24, 1884, to Miss Sarah Jane Brown, who was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1865. She is the daughter of Patrick and Annie (Burns) Brown. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have been born eight children, of whom two have died, William dying in infancy and Isabelle dying at the age of six years. The living children are as follows: Mary Ann, Florence, Emily, Agnes, Philip William, Bryan Cosmos, Sarah and Leo Francis. The family are members of the Catholic church.

In local business and political matters Mr. Taylor has taken an active interest. He is president of the Westside Telephone company, which was organized in 1908, and is a director of the Farmers' Elevator company, of Adrian, which was organized in June 1907. For six years prior to 1905 he was a member of the Westside township board, and for the last eleven years he has been a director of school district No. 62.

LEE W. ROYER, farms the southwest quarter of section 35, Olney township. Lee was born in Geneva township, Franklin county, Iowa, April 12, 1881, and is the son of William and Ella S. (Stuyverson) Royer, natives of Pennsylvania and now residents of Little Rock township.

Lee was raised on a farm in Franklin county and worked at farm work there until 1901. He was educated in the country schools and those of the towns of Geneva and Hampton. He came to Nobles county with his parents in 1901 and the following spring began farming for himself the southwest quarter of section 35, Olney township. In the spring of 1908 he and brother, Claud W. Royer, took the management of the half section. The former makes a specialty of thoroughbred stock and has some fine Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Claud W. Royer was born in Franklin county, Iowa, Dec. 23, 1883, and was raised on his father's farm. He removed with his parents to Nobles county in 1901 and resided on the farm until 1907. He then spent a short time working in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in the spring of 1908 began farming for himself the northwest quarter of section 35, Olney township.

HANS GEORGE HEISE is a Hersey township farmer, his land being the northwest quarter of section 8, that having been his home for the last sixteen years. Mr. Heise is a German by birth, having been born in Holstein Jan. 13, 1856. His father, Henry Heise, died in Germany in 1864; his mother, Annie (Gerkins) Heise, died in her native country in 1886.

The subject of this biography lived in his native country until 25 years of age, going to school and engaging in farm work. In 1881 he came to the United States and located at Denison, Iowa. The first two years of his life in America were spent at labor in that town. The next two years he was employed on farms in the vicinity; then he rented a farm fourteen miles from Denison, and during the next seven years he was engaged in farming for himself. During those years he was frugal and saved enough to become a landowner. In the spring of 1892 he moved to Nobles county and bought the quarter section of land where he has since resided.

Mr. Heise is a man of family, having been married in Germany Dec. 14, 1880, to

Louise Johnson. To this union have been born nine children, eight of whom survive. They are Annie (Mrs. Henry Kunze), Hersey; Lizzie, Maggie, Charlie, Lena, Dora, Henry and Johnnie. Willie died in infancy.

MATSON E. FISH, a Worthington barber, has resided in that village twenty-two years, during nearly all of which time he has been engaged in the barber business. He was born in Galesburg, Ill., Nov. 17, 1860, and is a descendant of one of the old American families. The Fishes first settled in Massachusetts and later became early settlers of western New York state. Members of the family built the first bridge from the American shore to Goat Island. Anson Perry Fish, the father of our subject, was born in New York in 1818, moved to Illinois in the thirties, served in the union army during the civil war, and died at Canton, Ill., Jan. 4, 1883. Dorcas (Meade) Fish, our subject's mother, was born in western New York in 1821 and died at Princeton, Ill., in February, 1902. The Meade family came originally from France but in an early day came to the new world and settled in western New York.

At the outbreak of the civil war, when Matt Fish was only a few months old, his father enlisted in the army, and the family moved from Galesburg to Princeton, Ill. At the age of four or five years Matt was taken by his parents to Decatur, and a couple of years later the family home was made at Moline. There our subject attended the public schools and completed his education. In July, 1878, he moved to Canton, which was his home for several years. On Dec. 6, 1880, he started learning the barber's trade in Canton with Geo. V. Drake, for whom he worked three years. He worked at his trade in Illinois until 1884. That year he moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, opened a shop of his own and conducted it a few months. Thereafter until Dec. 1, 1886, he conducted shops at Estherville, Iowa, Hotel Orleans, Iowa, Pipestone, Minn., and Lake Benton, Minn.

Upon his arrival in Worthington late in the year 1886, Mr. Fish opened a shop, which he conducted until May 13, 1902, when he sold to J. M. Addington. In 1904 he

took a position with the Sherman Nursery Co., of Charles City, Iowa, and for two years was traveling salesman for that company. Since quitting the nursery business he has worked at his trade in Worthington.

Mr. Fish was married Oct. 23, 1884, at Estherville, Iowa, to Jennie E. Stillwell, who is a native of Boscobel, Wis. Mr. Fish is a member of the Union Congregational church of Worthington, and is an active church worker. He served as superintendent of the Sunday school in 1894. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge.

DE H. SISSON, late proprietor of the Reading livery barn, is a native of Manitowac county, Wis., where he was born Nov. 7, 1863. His father, J. F. Sisson, was born in New York state and died at the home of his son in Seward township Aug. 9, 1900, aged 72 years. Our subject's mother is Mary E. (Norton) Sisson, who lives in Reading with her son. She was born in Maine.

When De was two years old the family moved to Sheboygan county, Wis., and seven years later to Delaware county, Iowa. That was our subject's home until 1881. He then worked in various places four years and moved to O'Brien county, Iowa, in 1885. After growing to manhood he worked four years on the railroad and then engaged in farming. Coming to Nobles county in 1900, Mr. Sisson bought 306 acres of land on section 31, Seward township, and farmed there until the fall of 1907. On October 28 of that year he rented his farm and bought of F. E. Eggleston the livery stable at Reading, a residence and a half block of land, and there he made his home until August, 1908, when he sold out and moved to Akron, Colorado.

Mr. Sisson was married in Dixon county, Iowa, Jan. 31, 1885, to Miss Nettie Patton, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, March 31, 1864. Her father, William Patton, was born in Ireland and died at Samburg, Iowa, in January, 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Sisson have been born two children, Frank, born in O'Brien county, Iowa, May 23, 1890, and a daughter that died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Sisson are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading. He be-

ongs to the Masonic, Eastern Star and Woodmen orders. Mrs. Sisson is a member of the Eastern Star and Royal Neighbors.

EDWARD H. WELLSHAUSEN is local manager of the Stockdale & Dietz elevator at Round Lake. For the last twenty-one years he has been a resident of Nobles county and western Jackson county. Hiedelsheim, province of Hanover, Germany, is the birthplace of Mr. Wellhausen, where he came into being Dec. 29, 1872. His father, Ernst Wellhausen, and his mother, Augusta (Wormbold) Wellhausen, came to America in 1883 and are now residents of Jackson county.

Edward attended the public schools of his native country four years, and when he was a little over ten years old the family came to the United States and located in Scott county, Iowa. There Mr. Wellhausen senior worked on the railroad and his son finished his schooling in the public schools. In 1887 the family moved to Sioux Valley township, Jackson county, Minn., where the father purchased a farm and where he still resides.

The subject of this biographical sketch lived on the farm until 1899, when he secured employment with the Deering Harvester Co. as a traveling salesman, and remained with that firm two years. He then took up his residence in the village of Round Lake and took employment in the general store of A. F. Diehn. He remained in the employ of that merchant until August 1, 1906, when he accepted the position of local manager of the Stockdale & Dietz elevator, which position he still holds.

Mr. Wellhausen was married Jan. 1, 1902, at Davenport, Iowa, to Miss Anna Strathmann, daughter of Henry Strathmann, one of the pioneer settlers of the city of Davenport. One child has been born to this union, a daughter named Clara.

In the spring of 1905 Mr. Wellhausen was elected a member of the Round Lake village council, and was reelected in 1906 and 1907. He holds a membership in the I. O. O. F. lodge at Lake Park, Iowa, of which organization he was a charter member. He is also a member of the M. W. A. lodge at Round Lake, and holds the office of banker in that lodge.

HENRY A. KLESSIG is a native of Nobles county, having been born on the Ransom township farm where he now lives Jan. 25, 1881. He is the son of August and Maria (Staver) Klessig, who reside in the village of Bigelow.

August Klessig, the father, was born in Manitowac county, Wis., May 3, 1856, in which place he resided until 23 years of age. He was married there Feb. 28, 1879, to Maria Staver, and to them were born four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second. He came to Nobles county in the spring of 1879, and from that date until 1906 lived on his farm in Ransom township. After leaving the farm he lived one year in Worthington and since then has made his home in Bigelow. The mother of our subject was born in Oldenberg, Germauy, and came to the United States when twelve years of age.

Henry has spent his entire life on the farm where he now resides. He secured his education in the district schools and the public schools of Worthington and Bigelow. He began farming for himself in 1907, renting 200 acres of his father's half section farm.

Mr. Klessig was married in Osceola county, Iowa, Oct. 17, 1906, to Nellie Lusk, daughter of Robert and Anna Lusk, of Osceola county. She was born near Ocheyedan, Iowa, Aug. 28, 1887. To Mr. and Mrs. Klessig has been born one child, Roy, born Jan. 8, 1908. Mr. Klessig is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Bigelow.

THOMAS LENZ, JR., is a Grand Prairie township farmer. He owns 200 acres of land on sections 10 and 11. He was born in Kenosha county, Wis., Jan. 19, 1874, the son of Peter and Tracy (Luke) Lenz. The father died in Adrian Dec. 1, 1904; the mother still lives in Adrian.

Thomas received a common school education in Kenosha county, Wis., and in Nobles county, to which place he moved with his parents in March, 1884. The father bought the northeast quarter of section 10, Grand Prairie township, and on that place Thomas has resided ever since. He worked for his father until 1901, since which time he has been farming the place for himself.

At Adrian Mr. Lenz was married to Rosa

Sparts on Jan. 22, 1901. She is a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Sparts, of Adrian, and was born in Iowa. To them have been born two children: Martin, born Oct. 2, 1905, and Cletes, born Oct. 5, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Lenz are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

WALTER A. SAXON, of Indian Lake township, is a native of the township in which he now lives and has lived all his life. He is a son of the late Charles Saxon and Augusta F. (Anderson) Saxon. He was born Feb. 12, 1879.

Walter secured his education in the district schools of Indian Lake township and worked on his father's farm until the latter's death. In partnership with his brother, Charles R., he then took the management of the home farm and has conducted it since. The brothers farm 400 acres of land, all in one body, and engage in stock raising extensively. They raise thoroughbred Polled Angus cattle and Shropshire sheep and high grade Percheron horses and Poland China hogs.

Walter is a member of the Indian Lake Baptist church and a member of the famous Indian Lake band.

E. L. PETERSON has been engaged in farming in Bigelow township for the last twenty-two years. He owns the northwest quarter of section 22 and eighty acres on section 15.

Mr. Peterson was born in Ostergothland, Sweden, June 7, 1840. His father was Peter Carlson, who died in Sweden about twenty years ago, aged 97 years. His mother was Mary (Nelson) Carlson, who was born in 1801 and who died in 1890. Mr. Peterson received his education in his native country and engaged in farming there until 29 years of age.

He came to America in 1869, landing in New York on the 27th day of May. He located at Aurora, Ill., where for one year he worked at the carpenter trade in the car shops. He then moved to Burlington, Iowa, where for one year he worked in the city by the day. He returned to Aurora and again spent a year in the car shops. Theresafter he permanently established him-

self at Sycamore, Ill., where he resided thirteen years, working at the carpenter trade and farming. In 1885 he moved to Elkton, S. D., farmed there one year, and then came to Nobles county. He purchased his farm at that time and has ever since made his home there. During the entire period of his residence there he has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 26, a continuous period of twenty two years.

Mr. Peterson has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Sweden on Aug. 26, 1865, when he wedded Hadda Louise Jarl. To them were born the following children: Anna Louisa (Mrs. Victor Anderson), of Bigelow township; Carl Oscar, a Bigelow township farmer; Emelia Eureka (Mrs. Albert Selberg), of Bigelow township; Hilda Cecelia, Bertha Natalia and Hjalmar, who reside at home. Mrs. Peterson was killed by lightning at the family home in Bigelow township Aug. 20, 1891. Mr. Peterson's second marriage occurred in Worthington in September, 1893, when he was united in marriage to Hadda Maria Anderson, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States in 1892. By this marriage have been born these children: Milton Leonard, Esther Florence, Alice Cecelia and Roland Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are Lutherans.

STEWART DAUGHERTY, in partnership with his brother, Al Daugherty, is one of the big farmers of Dewald township. The brothers farm 960 acres of land in one body, most of which they own. They raise stock on a big scale, having several hundred head of cattle, hogs and other stock.

Mr. Daugherty was born in Trenton, N. J., Feb. 10, 1868, son of the late Robert Daugherty and Jane (Marshall) Daugherty. In his birthplace Mr. Daugherty lived until May, 1872, when he came to Nobles county with his parents. He lived on the home farm on section 8, Dewald township, and secured his education in the country schools and the village school at Rushmore. About twelve or fifteen years ago he engaged in farming for himself.

HENRY B. FIISTMAN, of Bloom township, has resided in Nobles county nineteen

years. He owns the northwest quarter of section 19, Bloom, and eighty acres on section 13, Willmont township. He was born in Racine county, Wis., Oct. 20, 1865, the son of Henry and Margaret (Hagerman) Fiistman. The father was a native of New York state, but went to Racine county, Wis., with his parents when eleven years of age. There he lived until his death in 1867 at the age of 36 years. Our subject's mother was born in Germany, came to the United States when thirteen years of age, and now resides at Burlington, Wis., aged 65 years.

In Racine county Henry lived until seventeen years of age, working on farms after reaching mature years. He moved to Iowa, where he resided until the fall of 1889. During this period he worked on farms and farmed property which he bought, in Osceola and Lyon counties. Coming north into Nobles county in the fall of 1889, he bought the south half of section 16, Olney township, and farmed his land three years. He then sold and bought his present property, upon which he has ever since resided.

April 11, 1891, Mr. Fiistman was married at Adrian to Mary Wallace, a native of Houston county, Minn., and a daughter of Anton and Frederika Wallace, who have resided at Adrian since 1890. To Mr. and Mrs. Fiistman have been born the following named children: Joseph, aged 13; Annie, aged 12; William, aged 8; Maggie, aged 5. The family are members of the Catholic church of Wilmont.

Mr. Fiistman has held the office of school director of district 103 for the last thirteen years, and prior to that was director of district 86, before the district was divided.

JULIUS PALM, contractor and builder of Worthington, has resided in that town since his arrival from Sweden twenty-one years ago. Many of Worthington's fine residences have been erected by Mr. Palm, among others those of Daniel Shell, Lee Shell, Dr. Ray Humiston, Fred Humiston, W. L. Humiston, H. J. Lindlow and the parsonage of the Swedish Lutheran church. He also erected the Baptist church building of Worthington and many other churches in different parts of the state. Among these are the Swedish Lutheran church of Mau-



kato, the Swedish Lutheran, the Norwegian Lutheran and the German Lutheran churches of Tracy and a church at Særburn, Minn. He drew the plans for the new Baptist church in Indian Lake town-ship.

Mr. Palm was born in Sweden Oct. 28, 1866. At an early age he began working at the carpenter's trade, which he followed several years in his native country. In 1887 he came to the United States and to Worthington. During the first year of his residence here he worked at his trade for Samuel Allen, and thereafter began contracting, which he has followed ever since. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington and of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge. He owns the southwest quarter of section 34, Dewald town-ship, and several residences in Worthington.

Mr. Palm was married at Worthington Dec. 16, 1893, to Annie Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Palm are the parents of five daughters, Edda Evelin, born Aug. 31, 1895; Mae Linnea, born June 12, 1898; Violette, born Aug. 17, 1900; Helen Victoria, born July 1, 1903; Agnes Jo-ephine, born Jan. 10, 1906.

CARL J. JOHNSON, a Seward township farmer, is a new arrival to Nobles county, having lived here only about two years. He is of Swedish birth and of German and Swedish parentage. His father was Andrew Johnson, a Schleswig-Holstein German; his mother was Christina (Anderson) Johnson, a native of Sweden. They met in Germany, where Miss Anderson was working, and decided to marry. Because of parental objection, they went to Sweden, where they were married and where they resided eight years.

It was during this residence in Sweden, in the town of Talmar, on July 3, 1860, that Carl J. Johnson was born. When he was eight years of age he went with his parents to Hadersleben, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and there he lived until 1885. In 1871 his father was killed in battle during the French-Prussian war; his mother died four years later.

Coming to America in 1885, Mr. Johnson located in Ford county, Ill. He worked at farm work for a number of years, then bought land and engaged in farming until

1906. During the fall of 1905 he bought 240 acres of land on section 11, Seward town-ship, and the following spring came to Nobles county, and has since made his home here.

Mr. Johnson was married March 5, 1887, in Ford county, Ill., to Jensine Hanson, who was born on the island of Ongerland, Denmark, in 1860. To them have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home: Ida, Henry, Agnes, Elna, Clara, Charles and Anna.

ED OLSON, a Worthington township farmer, residing a short distance south of Worthington, has been a resident of Nobles county sixteen years. He was born at Hinsdale, Ill., April 7, 1878, the son of Nels Olson and Maria (Renakio) Olson, of Worthington.

The subject of this sketch resided in Hinsdale fourteen years. He attended the public schools there and worked on his father's farm. In 1892 he came to Nobles county with his parents, who located on section 34, Worthington town-ship, and there Ed has lived ever since. He completed his schooling in the Worthington public schools, and for a number of years has been farming for himself.

He was married at Worthington Dec. 7, 1904, to Carrie Larson, daughter of Jens Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of two sons, Edwin and Johnnie.

HENRY PETERBURS is a farmer and stockraiser of Willmont town-ship and an early settler of that precinct. He owns the northeast quarter of section 30 and the southeast quarter of section 23.

Mr. Peterburs was born in Westphalia, Germany, Nov. 13, 1853, the son of Frank and Gertie (Langhorst) Peterburs. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in Germany when our subject was eleven years of age, at the age of 56 years. Mrs. Peterburs died one week later, at the age of 50 years. Until he was twenty-seven years old Henry resided in his native land, and was raised on a farm. During the last six years of his residence there he was employed as a stage and mail driver.

On the 26th of August, 1880, Mr. Peterburs arrived in Adrian direct from Germany,

his earthly possessions consisting of twenty dollars. He rented a farm on section 4, West-side township, and farmed there one year. He then worked out six months for a farmer by the name of Faulklander. Mr. Peterburs then moved to Scott county, Minn., where he worked on the railroad two years. Two years more were spent in the same occupation in Minneapolis, and then, in April, 1886, he returned to Nobles county. He at once bought a relinquishment to a free claim comprising the southwest quarter of section 20, Willmont township, changed the filing to a homestead, moved onto the place and proved up on it. There he lived, engaging in farming, until the spring of 1904. He then sold out and moved onto his present farm, which he had purchased in 1896. He engages in general farming and stockraising.

Mr. Peterburs was married at Shakopee, Minn., May 8, 1883, to Mary Gholz, who was born in Hanover, Germany, July 18, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Peterburs are the parents of five children: Lizzie (Mrs. Henry Stuntebeck), of Willmont, born Oct. 26, 1884; Frank, born Aug. 18, 1891; Gertie, born Sept. 26, 1894; Henry, born Aug. 17, 1897; Mary, born Sept. 15, 1902.

The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian, and Mr. Peterburs is one of the church trustees. He has held the office of school director of district No. 66 for three years. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Elevator company of Lismore and is now a director of the company. He is treasurer of the Farmers' Store company of St. Kilian.

WILLIAM R. FARAGHER, one of the large land owners of western Nobles county, came to the county with the colonists of 1872 and has ever since made his home here. He resides in Adrian, from which place he manages his numerous farms in different parts of the county.

Mr. Faragher was born in Iowa county, Wis., Aug. 18, 1851, the son of William R. and Elizabeth (Kossiek) Faragher, natives of the Isle of Man, in which country they were married. Mr. Faragher, Sr., was born in 1825 and died in Wisconsin in 1887.

It was in the summer of 1872 that the subject of this biography came to Nobles

county. He took as a homestead the north half of the northwest quarter of section 20, Little Rock township, where he lived and engaged in farming until 1890. He then moved to Adrian, where he has since lived, devoting his time and energies to looking after his real estate interests. He and his brother, John E. Faragher, own 1,600 acres of land in the townships of Little Rock, Grand Prairie, Olney, Westside and Larkin. Mr. Faragher served one term as county commissioner, having been elected in the fall of 1883. During the last six years he has been a member of the Adrian city council. He holds a membership in the Masonic lodge.

Mr. Faragher was married in Iowa county, Wis., March 19, 1873, to Sarah Hitchins, daughter of George Hitchins, who located on a farm in Little Rock township in the spring of 1874.

ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS, M. D., coroner of Nobles county and proprietor of the Willmont drug store, has resided in Nobles county since 1902. He is the son of W. O. Williams and Alfaretta (Bent) Williams, now residents of St. Paul.

He was born at Adams, N. Y., March 14, 1877, and that town was his home until his arrival in Nobles county in 1902. He attended the public schools of Adams and later the Adams Collegiate Institute, a preparatory school, from which institution he was graduated in 1893. He then took a position as traveling salesman for a wholesale drug house and followed that business three years. In 1898 he entered Hahnemann Medical college, of Philadelphia, took a four years' course, and was graduated in 1902.

Immediately after graduation he came to Willmont, and within two weeks after receiving his diploma was practicing his profession. In January, 1901, he purchased from R. F. Pepple the Willmont drug store, and since that date he has conducted the business in addition to his medical practice. Dr. Williams has been health officer of Willmont village ever since he has been a resident of the town. He has served one term as village recorder that for the year 1905. In the spring of 1907 he was elected to the village council, and is now serving. In the fall of 1906 he was elected county coroner on the republican ticket.

Dr. Williams was married at Rock Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 14, 1903, to Miss Florence Green, daughter of H. F. Green, of Rock Rapids, an early settler of that place, having located there before the railroad was built and when the nearest trading point was Luverne. Dr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of two children—May and Beverly.

ADOLPH OBERMAN, liveryman and stock dealer of Worthington, was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, Oct. 17, 1865, the son of John and Eliza (Kaler) Oberman. Both parents were born in Germany, and were married there, coming to the United States in 1848 and locating at Pleasant Grove, Iowa. There the father died in 1895, and the mother the following year.

In his native county Mr. Oberman resided until his twenty-sixth year, engaging in farming and the butcher business. In 1891 he came to Worthington, purchased 160 acres of land in Worthington township (the west half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 32), and there for thirteen years made his home, farming and dealing in stock. He then moved to Worthington, and in partnership with his son engaged in the livery business, which he has since followed. He also continues his stock business, buying and shipping many head annually. During his residence in Worthington township Mr. Oberman served several terms as school director and justice of the peace. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Near New London, Iowa, on Aug. 25, 1888, Mr. Oberman was united in marriage to Miss Jestina Salladay, daughter of Isaac and Mary Ann Salladay. Mr. and Mrs. Oberman are the parents of one child, Robert Orie Oberman, born near New London, Iowa, Feb. 15, 1890.

WILLIAM A. WAHL is a Summit Lake township farmer who owns the northwest quarter of section 14. He was born in Wittenburg, Germany, June 21, 1854. His parents, Karl F. Wahl and Fredericka (Buirile) Wahl, died in Germany, aged 67 and 50 years, respectively.

Mr. Wahl came to the United States in 1881 and located in Washington county,

Iowa, where he lived two years. He then went to South Dakota, took a homestead, proved up on it and resided there six years. Removing from there to O'Brien county, Iowa, he engaged in farming until 1895. That year he became a resident of Nobles county, purchasing a farm in Little Rock township. After farming his place there six years he sold out and bought his present property in Summit Lake township, where he has since resided.

In Aurora county, South Dakota, on July 14, 1886, Mr. Wahl was married to Anna Beilke. To them have been born the following children: Kari F., born in South Dakota; Clara F., born at Sheldon, Iowa; Reuben C., born in Little Rock township; William H., born in Summit Lake township. Mr. and Mrs. Wahl and family are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading. Mr. Wahl is a member of the M. W. A. and Odd Fellows lodges.

GEORGE GOODRICH, Worthington township farmer and stockraiser who resides just north of the village of Worthington, was born in Chatsworth, Livingston county, Ill., May 31, 1872, the son of Barton and Elizabeth L. (Armer) Goodrich.

Barton Goodrich was born in New Britain, Hartford county, Conn., April 5, 1836, of English descent, the American branch of the family having been founded in colonial days. He lived in his native town until reaching his majority, and then located in Granville, Putnam county, Ill., later moving to Lasalle county, where he engaged in farming many years. He enlisted at El Paso, Ill., Sept. 5, 1862, in company G, of the Fourth Illinois cavalry, and served three years and two months, taking part in a number of important engagements. After his discharge from the army Mr. Goodrich returned to Lasalle county and engaged in farming there until 1890. Then he moved to Nobles county and began farming in Worthington township. He retired from active pursuits in 1906, and makes his home with his son on the farm.

Barton Goodrich was married at Ottawa, Ill., May 12, 1866, to Elizabeth L. Armer. She was born April 20, 1841, in Saratoga county, N. Y., and died at the family home in Worthington township in 1901. To

them were born the following named children: Olive L., born March 5, 1869; George E., born May 31, 1872; Mary L., born July 16, 1874; Edna A., born Oct. 16, 1881.

Until he was seventeen years of age George resided on the farm near Chatsworth. He came to Nobles county with his parents in 1889 and located on the farm just out of Worthington, where the son now resides. George worked for his father six years and then rented a farm in Lorain township, two miles east of Worthington, which he farmed two years. The next two years were spent farming two miles southwest of Worthington, and the next four on Peter Thompson's farm, four miles south of Worthington. He then located on the farm where he now lives, the one which his father had farmed so many years. He owns the southwest quarter of section 11, Worthington township, and rents 600 acres of land on sections 15 and 14. Mr. Goodrich is one of the big farmers of the township. He raises large numbers of horses for the market, feeds hogs extensively, and breeds thoroughbred Short-horn cattle and Shropshire sheep. He is one of the big hay dealers of the county.

Mr. Goodrich was married at Rushmore May 5, 1897, to Miss Gretta Sharp, who was born in Tama county, Iowa, in 1869. Her parents were John B. and Ann Sharp. The former died in April, 1905; the latter in July, 1908. To Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich have been born three children: Iva, born in 1900; Vivian, born in 1901; Raymond, born in 1903.

WILSON AGER, Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having made his home here since 1873. He was born in Homer, Madina county, Ohio, in 1845. His father, Thomas Ager, was a native of Pennsylvania; he died Aug. 13, 1892. His mother was Clarisa (Baker) Ager, a native of Wayne county, Ohio. Both the Ager and Baker families have resided in the United States many generations.

The subject of this sketch resided in his native town until eighteen years of age and then moved to Penfield, in the same state. There he started to learn the miller's trade, but upon the breaking out of hostilities between the north and south he gave up his work and joined the northern

army. He enlisted in company F, of the 12th Ohio cavalry, October 8, 1863, and served until Nov. 11, 1865. He participated in the battle of Mount Sterling at Lexington, Ky., being orderly to General Burbridge during that battle. During the greater part of the time of his service his regiment was engaged in chasing the Morgan raiders, and the field of the operations was in Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. During the greater part of his enlistment he served as first duty sergeant of his troop.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Ager went to Congress, Ohio, and for two years worked at the miller's trade. He then engaged in farming in the vicinity, and was thus employed until 1871. In the last named year he moved to Altamont, Ill., and farmed for two years. In the spring of 1873 he came to Nobles county, lived in Worthington a few months, and then took a claim in Worthington township, upon which he lived seven years. The next twelve years he engaged in farming in Dewald township, then lived three years on the Ludlow fruit farm on the south side of Okabena lake. In 1895 he moved to his present location within the limits of the village of Worthington, and that place has been his home since. He now devotes his time almost exclusively to stock raising and he has one of the finest herds of O. I. C. hogs in the northwest.

Mr. Ager was married at Congress, Ohio, Nov. 15, 1866, to Eliza A. Weiler, who is a native of the town in which she was married. To Mr. and Mrs. Ager have been born eleven children, as follows: Gertrude (Mrs. Robert Daugherty), Rushmore; Adam (deceased); Clyde, Worthington; Herbert, Hastings, Minn.; Mildred (Mrs. G. R. Robinson), Rosa, Minn.; Raymond, Wilmont; Walter, Wilmont; Maul, Worthington; Jessie, Worthington; Glenn (died in infancy); Harold, Worthington.

LOUIS HAGBERG has retired from active work and resides on his Elk township farm, now managed by his son, Andy Hagberg. He has been a resident of the county eleven years. He was born in Vormland, Sweden, June 30, 1842, the son of Louis and Annie (Anderson) Hagberg. His parents are

both living at Clinton, Iowa, his father aged 90 years and his mother 89.

Mr. Hagberg lived in Sweden until 26 years of age. At the age of 15 he began working at the blacksmith's trade, which he followed during the remainder of his residence in the old country. In 1870 he came to America and located at Clinton, Iowa, a city which was destined to be his home for twenty-seven years. The first year of his residence in the new world was spent working in a lumber yard. At the end of that time he became the foreman of the yard of W. Young, which position he held one year. He then accepted the position as foreman of one of the large saw mills of the lumber firm of C. Lamb & Co., and served in that capacity twenty-five years. He had 110 men under his control, and the fact that he was a competent foreman is shown by his long service.

He gave up his position in 1897 and came to Nobles county, settling on his farm in Elk township, which he had owned since 1889. His farm consists of forty acres in section 8 and the southwest quarter of section 9. For a few years he farmed the land himself, and then turned the management of it over to his son, Charles Hagberg. During the past year another son, Andy Hagberg, has farmed the place.

Mr. Hagberg was married in Sweden to Annie Brask, Oct. 16, 1863, to whom have been born six children, as follows: Gust Albert, Dewald township; John Alexis, Dewitt, Iowa; Louis, Elk township; Andy, Elk township; Charles (deceased), William, Worthington. Mr. Hagberg is a member of the Swedish Mission church of Worthington. Mrs. Hagberg died in the fall of 1908.

F. F. FORREST, Li-more township farmer, was born near Springfield, Ohio. When a child he left there with his parents and located in McLean county, Ill., where he lived until 1903. After reaching manhood he engaged in farming, an occupation he has followed all his life. He came to Nobles county in 1903 and bought his present farm on section 30, where he has since made his home.

E. F. Forrest is the son of the late Hanson T. Forrest and Nancy M. (Snook) Forrest, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respec-

tively. When a young man Hanson Forrest moved to near Springfield, Ohio, where he engaged in farming until 34 years of age. He then moved to McLean county, Ill., where he resided until his death on Jan. 10, 1887, aged 62 years. Our subject's mother now lives in Illinois and is 64 years of age. She is the daughter of the late George Snook, who moved to Rock county, Minn., in the early days and became a large land owner in Rock and Nobles counties. He died in Luverne in 1898 at the age of 77 years.

Mr. Forrest was married at Bellflower, Ill., Feb. 6, 1895, to Miss Louisa Lawrence, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Charles and Sarah Lawrence. Mr. and Mrs. Forrest are the parents of three children—Mabel, Russel W. and Loren L. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Magnolia.

WILLIAM DIERKS has been engaged in farming in Graham Lakes township for the last twenty years. He was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, July 16, 1848, the son of Conrad and Sabe (Lazaman) Dierks. Both his parents died in their native country, the father about 27 years ago; the mother about 40 years ago.

William Dierks lived in his native land until he reached his majority, and then in 1869 came to the United States. Locating first in Lake county, Ill., 30 miles northwest of Chicago, he farmed there two years and then moved to Grundy county, Ill. In Grundy county Mr. Dierks engaged in farming until 1888, when he came to Graham Lakes township, in Nobles county. He purchased the southeast quarter of section 6, and that has been his home ever since. Since his arrival he has added to his holdings by the purchase of the south half of the southwest quarter of section 5, the northeast quarter of 9 and 54 acres in the southeast quarter of 9.

Mr. Dierks is a member of the German Lutheran church of Fulda. During his long residence in Graham Lakes township he has served the township and school district in an official capacity many years. He was a member of the township board twelve years, going out of office in 1908. He was chosen treasurer of school district No. 4 the second year after his arrival in the county, and has held the office ever since.

In Grundy county, Ill., on Feb. 2, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Dierks to Miss Rosa Conrad, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Conrad, when one year of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Dierks have been born the following children: Herman, Lena (Mrs. Leonard Horn), of Graham Lakes; Tilda (Mrs. Leonard Busch), of Seward township; Freda (deceased), Julia, Lillie, Hannah, Rosana. The first five named were born in Grundy county, Ill., the others in Graham Lakes township.

J. H. ROGERS is the manager of the Willmont station for the Fairmont Creamery company and deals in flour and feed. He was born in England March 6, 1856, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Lane) Rogers. The family came to the United States when our subject was one year old and settled in Iowa county, Wis., being early settlers of that part of the state.

In Iowa county, Wis., J. H. Rogers grew to manhood and resided thirty-six years. During the last twenty years of his residence there he engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1893 and for a few months lived in Adrian. He then moved to Jackson county, where he engaged in farming four years. Returning to Nobles county he located in Willmont township and farmed five years. In 1903 he moved to Willmont, where he purchased seven acres of land, built a residence, and where he has since resided. He became manager of the creamery station in 1906.

Mr. Rogers was married in Iowa county, Wis., Aug. 18, 1878, to Margaret Geer, daughter of Edwin and Alzina Geer and a native of Illinois, where she was born July 1, 1842. They are the parents of one child, Alzina E., born Dec. 2, 1880. Mr. Rogers is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge.

W. J. RECKERS, a West-side township farmer, is a native of Nobles county, having been born in Olney township April 11, 1879, the son of William and Christina (Buening) Peckers, who still reside in Olney township. The parents were born in Germany and

came to America in 1872. After living six years in Buffalo, N. Y., the family came to Nobles county and have since made their home here.

The subject of this biography received his education in the district schools of Olney and was raised on his father's farm, which remained his home until 1904. That year he moved onto the farm where he now resides—the northwest quarter of section 35—which is owned by his father.

Mr. Reckers was married in Westside township June 1, 1904, to Miss Annie M. Boecker, who was born in Germany Dec. 8, 1878. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boecker, of Westside. To Mr. and Mrs. Reckers have been born the following children: Wilhemina, born April 16, 1905; Marie and Ida (twins), born Feb. 11, 1908. Both parents are members of the Catholic church of Adrian, and Mr. Reckers is serving as clerk of school district No. 62, to which he was appointed Jan. 2, 1908, and elected for the second term July 18, 1908.

JOHN WAGNER (1841-1906) was for eleven years prior to his death engaged in farming on his place within the limits of the village of Ellsworth, where his family still reside.

Mr. Wagner was born in Germany in 1841, came to the United States at the age of fifteen years and located in Wisconsin. In that state he made his home until 1895, when he came to Nobles county and purchased the farm in Ellsworth. He served a two years' enlistment in the union army. He died at his home in Ellsworth on May 4, 1906.

At Springfield, Wis., Mr. Wagner was married to Mary Fischenich, who was born in Germany, but who came to America when a child. To them were born the following children: Barnard, Mary (deceased), Lizzie, Margaret, John and Joseph.

The home farm is now being managed by John Wagner, who was born in Dane county, Wis., Feb. 4, 1881.

ISAAC A. MILTON, of Ransom township, has lived in that Nobles county political division since he was fifteen years of age. His father is Isaac Milton, who makes his

home with his son on the farm. The elder Milton was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1849 and came to the United States in 1864. He located first near Madison, Wis., where he engaged in farming some years, later making his home at Mineral Point and other places in the vicinity. There he resided until 1881, when he began farming in Osceola county, Iowa. In 1889 he moved to Ransom township, where he has since made his home. Our subject's mother is Ellen (Cole) Milton, who was born in England. She is now living at the age of 72 years.

Isaac A. Milton, of this sketch, was born in Belmont, Lafayette county, Wis., Aug. 2, 1874, and in that place he lived until seven years of age. The next eight years were spent on his father's farm in Osceola county, Iowa. In 1889 he came to Ransom township with his parents, and that has been his home ever since. He is now engaged in farming the northeast quarter of section 28.

Mr. Milton was married in Ransom township Oct. 15, 1903, to Miss Bertha L. Graves, a native of Ransom township and a daughter of the late F. T. Graves. To Mr. and Mrs. Milton have been born two children: Edna C., born July 4, 1904; Beth L., born Nov. 8, 1907. Both parents are members of the Ransom Methodist church.

During the last four years Mr. Milton has served as justice of the peace of Ransom and he has held the office of clerk of school district No. 21 for the last three years. Mr. Milton is something of an inventor, but because of lack of capital to finance his inventions they are but little known.

**DR. C. P. DOLAN.** Among the leading practicing physicians of the village of Worthington is the subject of this sketch, who took up his work in the county seat town in 1904, succeeding his brother, the late Dr. Edward Dolan. He ripened in his profession by many years of successful practice in Waterville, Minn., and since residing in Worthington has taken a prominent place in the medical, social and business life of the town.

Dr. Dolan was born in Waseca county, Minn., Sept. 8, 1858. His parents being Patrick and Ellen (Hubbard) Dolan, natives of

Ireland. They came to Boston when eighteen and fourteen years of age, respectively, where they were later married. Soon after their marriage they moved to Waseca county, Minn., being among the early settlers of that part of the state. They homesteaded in 1858, and resided on the old place continuously until their deaths at advanced ages, and after a union of fifty-five years.

Dr. Dolan grew to early manhood on his parents' farm and attended the grammar schools of his native county, later graduating from the high school at Waterville, Minn. Having decided to take up the practice of medicine for his life's work, he entered the Bellevue Medical college in New York city, receiving his diploma in the spring of 1880. That year he hung out his "shingle" in the town of Waterville, Minn., where he resided until his removal to Worthington.

Dr. Dolan was married in Waseca county, Minn., Jan. 25, 1888, to Miss Tillie McElroy, a native of Illinois, and the daughter of Peter and Maggie (Anderson) McElroy, both of whom are deceased. Dr. and Mrs. Dolan are the parents of two children—Leo, born April 25, 1891; Marie, born July 26, 1894.

**NICHOLAS HENDEL.** proprietor of a saloon in Lismore, has resided in the county seventeen years, the greater part of which time was spent in farming. He is the son of Philip and Katherine (Busch) Hendel, who also reside in Lismore.

Philip Hendel, the father, was born in Germany in 1840 and came to the United States in 1870. He settled in Houston county, Minn., where he owned 240 acres of land and where he engaged in farming until 1888. Then he moved to Alton, Iowa, where he ran a creamery one year, and near which place he farmed two years. Going to Adrian in 1891, he conducted a hotel and engaged in the real estate business two years, and then moved onto his farm the east half of section 35, Lismore township, and farmed until 1899. He left the farm at that time and took up his residence in Lismore, where he has since lived a retired life. His wife is 68 years of age.

Our subject was born in Luxembourg, Germany, Sept. 24, 1867, and at the age of

three years came to America with his parents. His boyhood days were spent in Houston county, Minn. He was educated in the public schools of Caledonia and in Christian Brothers college at St. Louis, where he took a commercial course. After completing his education Mr. Hendel began working at the butter maker's trade, which he followed in Caledonia five years. In 1888 he moved to Alton, Iowa, where for three years he was the manager of a creamery.

Mr. Hendel came to Adrian in 1891, and has since been a resident of the county. He tended bar for John Wolf at Adrian for ten months and then moved onto his farm, the southwest quarter of section 35, Lismore township, which he had purchased the year before he came to the county and which he still owns. He engaged in farming until the fall of 1905, when he moved to Lismore and bought the saloon of Joseph Budde. He conducted that business two years, then sold out, and started the saloon which he has since conducted.

At Adrian on Jan. 22, 1895, Mr. Hendel was married to Miss Jennie McLean, who was born in Columbia county, Wis., in 1876, and who is the daughter of Thomas and Eliza McLean, early settlers of Lismore township. To Mr. and Mrs. Hendel have been born two children: Louis, born Nov. 6, 1896; Loretta, born Feb. 22, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendel are members of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. During his residence in Lismore township Mr. Hendel served a number of terms as a member of the township board and for several years was the chairman.

JOHN MEIER, of Brewster, is one of the progressive farmers of Hersey township. His home is on a ten acre tract within the village limits. Besides this tract he owns the east half of section 23, the southwest quarter of section 21 and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 21.

Mr. Meier was born in the province of Holstein, Germany, Sept. 12 1851, one of a family of ten children. His father died when John was an infant, and he was raised by his stepfather, Henry Stoven, who died in Germany at the age of 71

years. Our subject's mother was Margaret (Miller) Meier. She died in Germany at the age of 71 years.

In his native land John Meier worked on the farm and received his education. Coming to the United States at the age of twenty years, in 1871, he located in Benton county, Iowa, when that was a new country and when land that today is worth \$100 to \$125 per acre was selling for \$15 to \$20. He was identified with the growth of that section of the state, where he engaged in farming until 1893. That year he sold out in Iowa and moved to Brewster, where he has since resided, having bought his farming property since coming here.

In Benton county, Iowa, on March 15, 1881, Mr. Meier was married to Miss Matilda Bockhold, who was born in Davenport, Iowa, Oct. 3, 1860. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Telsia Bockhold. To Mr. and Mrs. Meier have been born thirteen children, of whom the following twelve are living, one daughter, Clara, having died at the age of two years: Emma M., born Dec. 15, 1882; John H., born July 3, 1884; Henry N., born Feb. 19, 1886; William F., born Jan. 15, 1888; Henrietta L., born Sept. 2, 1891; Rudolph J., born July 11, 1893; Laura A., born June 15, 1895; Nicholas F., born Sept. 6, 1897; Matilda D., born Oct. 20, 1898; Annie M., born Nov. 8, 1900; Alfred T., born June 17, 1902; Alvena T., born Oct. 6, 1904. All the children reside at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Meier are members of the German Lutheran church of Brewster. He is a member of the Brewster village council and is serving his third term.

DENNIS McANULIFFE farms the north-east quarter of section 6, Willmont township, and upon that farm he has resided ever since he was four years of age. He is a native of New York city and was born Oct. 9, 1876. He came to Nobles county with his parents in 1880, receiving his education in the Nobles county schools, and was raised on the Willmont township farm.

John McAnuliffe was the name of the father of our subject, who was one of a family of four children. The father was born in Ireland in 1811 and came to the United States when a young man. He located in Brooklyn, where he lived until 1880. That



year the family moved to Nobles county and took as a homestead claim the farm upon which Dennis now lives. The next year Mr. McAuliffe died, but his widow and children remained on the farm and secured title from the government.

Mary Ryan was the maiden name of the mother of our subject. She was born in Ireland and came to America when a child. She was married to Mr. McAuliffe in New York and came to Nobles county with her husband. After his death she married William McCord, who died June 7, 1905. Mrs. McCord now makes her home with her son on the farm and is 70 years of age. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian.

CHRIST ELIAS is a Westside township farmer who owns a three-quarter section farm on section 12, just north of Adrian, and is an old time settler.

Mr. Elias was born in Norway in 1851 and came to the United States in 1869. He located first at Stony Creek, Michigan, where for a few years he worked as a farm hand. He then moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where, for seven years, he worked in a sawmill. He then came to Nobles county and has been engaged in farming since.

At Adrian in 1881 Mr. Elias was married. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Martin, Anna, Edward, William, Minnie and Marie. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

NATHAN H. ELLIOTT resides in Worthington township, about four miles west of the village of Worthington, where he farms the southwest quarter of section twenty. He has been a resident of Nobles county 22 years.

N. H. Elliott was born in Hardin county, Iowa, April 18, 1856. His father was George Elliott, born in North Carolina in 1828, raised in Indiana, and died in the year 1886. The Elliots were of colonial stock and members of the Quaker church. George Elliott's father—the grandfather of our subject—was a noted abolitionist and was instrumental in securing the freedom of many slaves in the days preceding the civil war. This was accomplished by aiding the fugi-

tives in making their escape to Canada. The mother of the subject of this sketch is Abi (Frazier) Elliott, born in Indiana in 1830, and now living at Marshalltown, Iowa. The Fraziers were also of colonial stock and members of the Quaker church.

When Nathan was a baby one year old his parents moved from Hardin county to Marshall county, Iowa, and there he lived until 1886. In the schools of Marshall county he got his education, and there he grew to manhood. For several years prior to his removal to Nobles county he engaged in farming.

On the first day of May, 1886, he arrived in Nobles county, making the trip overland, and settled at Round Lake. During the first few years of his residence in this county he was engaged in the hay business, auctioneering and farming. During a few years while he was engaged in farming he was located just over the line in Jackson county. While he lived there he served as constable and was a member of the republican county central committee. Returning to Round Lake village in the spring of 1893, he built the first livery barn in that town and ran it about five years. Thereafter for several years he was engaged in farming and other occupations. In March, 1904, he moved to his present home in Worthington township.

Mr. Elliott was married at Holland, Grundy county, Iowa, Sept. 16, 1882, to Miss Emma Potter, who was born April 5, 1860. Mrs. Elliott is a direct descendant of Captain John Hart (1708-1780), one of the signers of the declaration of independence. Mrs. Elliott's father was Geo. W. Potter, a native of North Carolina, and her mother was Eliza (Mallory) Potter, a native of Indiana. Both her parents are dead. Geo. W. Potter's farm was located on the site of Fort Knox, about two miles from old Vincennes, Indiana, that historic landmark of the revolutionary war.

To Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have been born five daughters and four sons, all of whom are living. They are Agnes, Viola (Mrs. Riley Davidson), Potlatch, Idaho; George, Potlatch, Idaho; Harrison, May, Edwin, Raymond, Lyda and Nina, all of whom reside at Worthington except the two in Idaho.

Mr. Elliott was the first school treasurer of the Round Lake district and held the

office until his removal to Jackson county. He was also constable of Indian Lake township and Round Lake village for several years.

HENRY IVERS, a Dewald township farmer living three-quarters of a mile from Rushmore, in which village he and his son conduct a meat market, is of German birth, having been born near Hamberg July 26, 1849. His father, Chris Ivers, and his mother, Katie (Stilleng) Ivers, both died in their native country.

Mr. Ivers lived in Germany until 1882, and secured a common school education there. After growing to manhood he engaged in farm work, which he followed all the time he lived in his native country. He arrived in America in April, 1882, and located in Benton county, Iowa. That was his home for ten years. For a while he worked for wages; then he rented a farm and during the last few years of his residence there he engaged in business for himself. He moved to Nobles county early in March, 1892, and bought a farm three and one-half miles north of Rushmore, which was his home until 1901. In the year last named he purchased a half section farm, upon a quarter section of which he now resides, just out of Rushmore.

In partnership with his son, Chris, in October, 1904, he started a meat market in Rushmore. This firm (H. Ivers & Son) is under the management of the son and enjoys a prosperous business.

Mr. Ivers was married in Germany July 11, 1870, to Katie Kroeger. To them have been born nine children, eight of whom are living: Annie (Mrs. John Schroeder), Ericka (Mrs. Wm. Lindemann), Mary (Mrs. Jacob Stoven), William, Christ, Ella, Bertha, Amanda, died March 30, 1907; Lucy. All of the children are residents of Nobles county.

During the years 1901 and 1902 Mr. Ivers was road overseer. In addition to his home farm in Dewald, Mr. Ivers owns a quarter section in Summit Lake township.

WILLIAM E. WARD, a farmer of Summit Lake township, came to the county of Nobles with his parents in 1871 when a child

six years old, and, with the exception of a few months spent in Canada in 1907, and six months in California, has been in the county ever since.

The parents of our subject, E. C. and Mary (McConnell) Ward, were among the very first settlers of Elk township, having taken as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 30 in 1871. The father is a native of Illinois, where he resided until his arrival to Nobles county. He lived on his Elk township farm until 1901, when he sold and moved to Butte county, California, where he now lives at the age of 74 years. The mother was born in Pennsylvania and died May 11, 1896, aged 64 years. They were the parents of the following children: Laura (Mrs. E. S. Nichols), Edgerton, Minn.; William E., of this sketch; Belle (Mrs. R. M. Shortridge), Todd county, Minn.; Edward, of Edgerton, Minn.; Clifton, of Eugene, Oregon.

William E. Ward was born in Chatsworth, Ill., Nov. 26, 1865, and came to Nobles county with his parents at the age of six years. He was raised on his father's farm and educated in the Nobles county schools. When a young man he purchased the northwest quarter of section 11, Summit Lake township, then an unimproved place, and has since made his home there. He has improved the place and made it one of the valuable farms of the community. Beside his home place Mr. Ward owns the northeast quarter of section 5, Summit Lake township, which he purchased in 1907. Mr. Ward is unmarried.

FRANK D. RICHARDS, of Worthington, is one of the pioneers of Nobles county and an early settler of Minnesota. He was born in Franklin county, Maine, Aug. 22, 1819. His father was John A. Richards, who was born in Maine and died in Murray county in 1901, aged 81 years. His mother is Hannah (Folsom) Richards, who is also a native of Maine, and who now resides near Clear Lake, Wis., and is 82 years of age.

Mr. Richards came west with his parents in 1862 and located at Monford, Wis. There he resided until 1866, when he moved to Olmsted county, Minn. In the summer of 1871, when the railroad was building through

Nobles county, he came to the new country, and took as a homestead 160 acres of land on section 20, Hersey township. Owing to an oversight on the part of the land officials he lost his land. Later he preempted the east half of the southeast quarter of section 12, Seward township, which he sold eight years later. In the spring of 1905 Mr. Richards moved to Worthington, where he has since resided.

In the old Lake View house in Worthington on Dec. 24, 1875, Mr. Richards was married to Agnes Muck, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Stephen Muck, who came to the county in 1867 and was its first settler. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Richards, as follows: Clem, born in Graham Lakes township May 12, 1877 (is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, having served three years in the Philippine islands); John, born in Graham Lakes township April 7, 1881; two daughters, Alice and Gertie, who died in infancy.

FRED WEST lives in the extreme northern part of Seward township, only a short distance south of Fulda. He has been a resident of Nobles county for twenty-two years, coming here with his parents from Illinois. He was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1872, the son of Jacob and Louise (Ortle) West. His parents were both natives of Germany. His mother now resides in Seward township; his father, who came to the United States in 1849, died at his home in Seward township July 29, 1894.

When Fred was only six months old his parents moved to Dwight, Ill., and there he lived thirteen years. In 1886 he came with his parents to Nobles county, the family home being the northeast quarter of section 2, Seward, where the subject of this sketch now resides. His early days were spent on the farm and securing a common school education in the country schools of Illinois and Seward township.

Mr. West was married at Slayton June 21, 1900, to Tillie King, daughter of the late Joseph King. To this marriage have been born three children, Theron, Geneva and Ivan.

Since his marriage Mr. West has been engaged in farming for himself. He served a two years term as clerk of school district No. 73.

WILLIAM L. HANSBERGER, hay dealer of Worthington, has resided in Nobles county since he was less than five years of age. He was born in Sandusky, Ohio, Dec. 10, 1868, the son of John and Hannah (Meyers) Hansberger, of Lorain township.

In 1873 the family moved to Nobles county, and during the first year lived in Worthington. The head of the family then secured a farm on section 20, Lorain township, and on that farm our subject was raised and lived until 1895. That year he bought a farm on section 21, Lorain, and for nine years engaged in farming. He moved to Worthington in 1904, where he has since been engaged in buying and shipping hay in partnership with his father and his brothers, Clyde and Arthur. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Maccabee and A. O. U. W. lodges.

Mr. Hansberger was married in Minneapolis in 1894 to Belle Paine, who died Feb. 12, 1900. To them were born two sons—Roy, born Aug. 20, 1895, and Floyd, born Feb. 24, 1897. Mr. Hansberger's second marriage occurred at Worthington June 22, 1905, when he was wedded to Cora Paine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Paine. They are the parents of one child—Vera, born June 22, 1907.

DAVID JONES, SR., is a Lorain township farmer, where he has made his home for the last nineteen years. Mr. Jones was born in South Wales in August, 1838, the son of Daniel Jones and Lizzie (Lewis) Jones. His father died in Wales in 1867; his mother in 1873. Until David was 32 years of age he lived in his native country, where for several years he worked in the coal mines.

Coming to America he located first at Peoria, Ill., where for three years he worked in a brick yard. He then moved to Tazewell county, in the same state, and for six years engaged in farming. He next took up his residence in Marshall county, about 30 miles north of Peoria, and farmed there for ten years. In March, 1889, he moved to Nobles county, bought the southwest quarter of section 9, Lorain township, and has since made his home here. Later he bought the east one-half of the southeast quarter of section 8, Lorain township, making a farm of 240 acres.

Mr. Jones was married at Clondewry, Wales, Nov. 16, 1863, to Anna Williams. They are the parents of five children, all of whom reside in Louisa township: Tom, David, Jr., Daniel, May (now Mrs. Carl Shamo) and Lizzie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington.

HENRY SHORE, of Ransom township, is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shore. He is a native of Grant county, Wis., where he was born July 29, 1868. When less than five years of age in the spring of 1873 he came with the family to Nobles county, and ever since that date he has resided on his father's Ransom township farm. He now conducts his father's farm, and owns the southeast quarter of section 22, which he rents.

Mr. Shore was married in Ransom township on Dec. 6, 1893, to Miss Bertha Lott, a native of Iowa and the daughter of E. N. Lott, who now lives in Fillmore county, Neb. To Mr. and Mrs. Shore have been born the following children: Letha B., born Sept. 8, 1894; Edith L., born Aug. 16, 1896; Delbert C., born March 4, 1899; Lois E., born Jan. 16, 1901; Hazel E., born Jan. 12, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Shore are members of the Ransom M. E. church. He has held the office of clerk of school district No. 92 for the last four years. He is at present township clerk and for four years prior to his election to that office in the spring of 1908, he served as supervisor. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

JENS JORGENSEN, Olney township farmer, is a native of Denmark, where he was born Feb. 4, 1860, the son of Hans Peter and Hannah (Jensen) Jorgensen, who still reside in their native land, aged 76 and 73 years, respectively.

Jens left home and came to the United States in 1882. He lived in the city of Omaha six years, and then came to Nobles county. He bought the southeast quarter of section 14, Olney township, improved the place, and has since made his home there, engaged in farming.

Mr. Jorgensen was married in Omaha Oct. 23, 1886, to Miss Anna Jensen, a na-

tive of Sweden. To them have been born three children: Harold, born July 14, 1887; Clara, born March 30, 1889; Emma, born Jan. 24, 1891. Both parents are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Jorgensen served six years as a director of school district No. 69.

CHARLES MARR, farmer and stock raiser of Grand Prairie township, was born in Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wis., Aug. 26, 1870, the son of James and Alice (Teague) Marr.

James Marr was born in Liverpool, England, Oct. 12, 1828, came to the United States in 1848 and located in the town of Dodgeville, Wis., where for forty years he was in the furniture and undertaking business. He came to Nobles county in the fall of 1882 and thereafter until his death, which occurred Oct. 4, 1906, he resided on his Grand Prairie township farm and in Adrian. Alice Marr was born in Cornwall, England. She died at Adrian March 2, 1901.

Charles Marr came to the county at the age of twelve years and with the exception of one year has lived in the county ever since. The family located on the southwest quarter of section 10, Grand Prairie township the farm now owned by our subject. There Charles lived until 1890. He then moved to Adrian, where for three years he was engaged in teaming and other work. Returning to the farm, he again engaged in farming. In the spring of 1906 he moved to Roberts county, S. D., where he leased a section of land and farmed one year, and then returned to his farm.

At Wiota, Lafayette county, Wis., on Feb. 6, 1901, Mr. Marr was married to Anna Stixwood, who was born at Wiota June 29, 1879. She is a daughter of E. O. and Carrie Stixwood. To Mr. and Mrs. Marr have been born three children: Chester, born Feb. 2, 1902; Evelyn, born Oct. 27, 1904; Willard, born Aug. 30, 1907. Mr. Marr is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

JOSEPH HELING, in partnership with his brother, Herman Heling, farms the east half of section 4, Larkin township. He was born in Heiden, Germany, Oct. 18, 1879, the son of Barney and Lizzie (Kotbus) Heling. The father lives in Willmont township; the

mother died in November, 1892, at the age of 45 years.

Joseph came to the United States with his parents in 1891 and direct to Adrian, where they arrived on the 24th day of August. The family at once moved onto a farm in Wilmont township. For several years after his arrival in the county Joseph divided his time between working on his father's farm and those of neighbors. He went to McLean county, S. D., after becoming of age and took a homestead, where he spent nearly two years farming and working in the coal mines. Returning to Nobles county, he and his brother, Herman, in the spring of 1905, rented a farm three-quarters of a mile west of Wilmont. The next year the brothers rented the present farm in Larkin, and have since farmed it together.

Mr. Heling is a member of the Catholic church of Wilmont and of the M. W. A. lodge.

GRANT MORRISON, of Worthington, agent for the Omaha railroad at that point, and having charge of all passenger, freight and express business, has held the position nineteen years. He was born at East Troy, Wis., March 10, 1863, the son of William and Malinda (Pettit) Morrison. His father was a Scotch highlander, who came to the United States when nineteen years of age, spent the principal part of his life at East Troy, Wis., and died there in 1882, aged 63 years. Our subject's mother was also of Scotch birth. She died at East Troy in 1887, aged 67 years.

Mr. Morrison received a high school education in his native town, and in 1883 went to Appleton, Wis., where he took employment in the freight department for the Northwestern railroad. In 1887 he moved to Mankato, Minn., and for two years was in the employ of the Omaha railroad at that point. He went to Worthington Feb. 11, 1889, to accept the position of depot agent there, which position he has ever since held. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows lodges, and for a number of years has been a member of the Worthington school board.

Mr. Morrison was married at Mankato June 25, 1890, to Miss Grace Silver, a daughter of J. E. Silver, now a resident of Albert

Lea. To Mr. and Mrs. Morrison has been born one child—Harold, born Nov. 15, 1901.

CHARLES WEST, son of the late Jacob West and Louisa (Ortle) West, is a Seward township farmer whose home is on the northwest quarter of section 1, only a short distance south of Fulda. He is one of the first of the large number of Illinois farmers who have settled in Seward township. He was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Sept. 1, 1870.

In the spring of 1873 the West family moved to Dwight, Ill., and there Charles spent his boyhood days, securing an education in the district schools and helping with the farm work. For the first eleven years after his arrival to Nobles county, which was in 1886, he worked on his father's farm, just west of his present farm. After his father's death, in 1898, he purchased the northwest quarter of section 1 and the north half of the southwest quarter of the same section, which he still owns and farms. Mr. West makes a specialty of full blooded stock and raises Percheron Norman horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

In Seward township Sept. 22, 1897, occurred the marriage of Mr. West to Lillie Schweigert, daughter of Louis Schweigert, of Seward. Mrs. West is a native of Illinois. Three children have blessed this union. Mildred, Ruth and Lester.

For several years Mr. West served on the township board of Seward, and from 1897 to 1903 was clerk of the school district in which he lives. From that date to 1907 Mrs. West held the office.

IKE MEESTER farms the southwest quarter of section 31, Grand Prairie township, which is in the southwestern corner of the county. That has been his home for the last thirteen years.

Mr. Meester is a native of Grundy county, Iowa, where he was born Nov. 1, 1872, the son of Harm and Grace (Kruse) Meester. The father of our subject was born in Germany and came to the United States when thirty-three years of age. He located first near Freeport, Ill., where he resided some time, later taking up his residence in Grundy county, Iowa. In 1896 he moved to Lyon

county, Iowa, where he now lives. The mother of our subject died in Grundy county about 1891, aged 42 years.

In Grundy county, Iowa, Ike Meester lived until he was 22 years of age. He then came to Nobles county and began farming the place where he now lives, which was purchased by his father.

Mr. Meester was married at Rock Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 17, 1895, to Miss Susan Meester, who was also a native of Grundy county, Iowa. To them have been born the following children: Grace, Ella, Herman, Annie, Gage and John. Mr. Meester is a member of the Presbyterian church. He has served two years as road overseer.

WILLIAM H. SIEVERT, manager of the Coleman Lumber company at Wilmont, and mayor of the village, is a comparatively new arrival in Nobles county, having been here only since 1902. He was born in Chittenango, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1871, the son of Frederick C. Sievert and Frederica (Rossow) Sievert, who now reside at Watertown, S. D. His parents are of German birth and came to the United States in 1866.

From Chittenango the family moved to Cassville, N. Y., when our subject was three years of age, and in the latter place he lived until his eleventh year. The family then came west and located at Lohrville, Iowa. There William completed his education, which had been begun in New York, and during his minority worked on his father's farm. When 19 years of age he took a position in a general store, which he held three years. In the spring of 1893 he gave up the position and worked on the farm again one year. He then took a position as second man in a lumber yard at Lohrville, but shortly after went to Gowrie, Iowa, where, for the next six years, he was the manager of the lumber yard of J. & W. C. Shaw. Moving to Boxholm, Boone county, Iowa, he purchased a half interest in a lumber yard there and ran it a short time until the fall of 1901. The winter of 1901-02 was spent in Dakota, assisting in constructing sheds for a lumber company. Mr. Sievert came to Wilmont Feb. 19, 1902, and at once took charge of the yard of the St. Croix Lumber Co., which was purchased that fall by the Coleman Lumber Co. Mr.

Sievert has been the manager of the yard since his arrival in the village.

Mr. Sievert was married April 29, 1896, at Lohrville, Iowa, to Maud Ellsworth, daughter of D. P. Ellsworth. They have three children Leo E., Guilo and William.

Besides his lumber interests Mr. Sievert has also been engaged in the newspaper business in Wilmont. From Jan. 1, 1903, to August, 1906, he was the owner of the Wilmont Initiator, and during part of that time he was the publisher. In the fall of 1902 he was appointed member of the village council to fill a vacancy, and he was elected to the same office the following spring. He is now mayor of the village, having been elected in the spring of 1908. In Gowrie he also served two terms as member of the council. Mr. Sievert is now secretary of the Wilmont fire department.

GEORGE INNES, of Minneapolis, was for a few years a resident of Rushmore and still has business interests in that village. He is a native of Tama county, Iowa, where he was born Feb. 8, 1873, the son of James and Elizabeth (Monroe) Innes.

James Innes was a native of Banffshire, Scotland, and came to Oxford county, Ontario, Canada, when a young man. There he married our subject's mother and there he made his home several years. He moved to Tama county, Iowa, in November, 1872, and engaged in farming until his death, which occurred Dec. 30, 1902.

George remained on the farm in Grant township, Tama county, Iowa, until eighteen years of age, working on the farm and receiving a district school education. He attended the Sabbath school of the "Amity" United Presbyterian church, which was located on the same section of land as was his father's farm, and at twelve years of age united with that church.

In September, 1891, Mr. Innes entered Tilton Collegiate academy, at Vinton, Iowa, and was graduated from that institution in 1894. Immediately after his graduation he went to Eagle Grove, Iowa, where, with his brother, James A., he was interested in the ownership and operation of the electric lighting plant, incorporated as the Eagle Grove Electric company. For several years he was engaged in this and kindred work, which included the installation of a lighting, venti-

lating, pumping and hoisting electrical equipment in the mountains, forty miles from Helena, Mont. He spent one year introducing electrical equipment for mining and railroad use in the large cities of Montana and Washington, as well as in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and it was while thus engaged that Mr. Innes was impressed with the opportunities then beginning to be offered connected with the colonization of our northwest states and Canada.

While a resident of Eagle Grove, Iowa, Mr. Innes met and on October 26, 1898, was married to Miss Edith E. Brainard, who was born at Mount Horeb, Dane county, Wis., and who removed with her parents when eleven years of age to Eagle Grove, Iowa. She graduated from the high school of Eagle Grove in 1893 and latter from the Armour institute of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Innes have two sons—Brainard Monroe, born May 24, 1902, and John Sweet, born June 17, 1907.

In January, 1902, Mr. Innes came to Rushmore and in July, of same year, established the business of the Innes Lumber company. He remained there only until September and then removed to Reinbeck, Iowa. Following his father's death in December, 1902, Mr. Innes spent a year in settling the estate and in Canada, laying the foundation for the immigration business, in which he has since been engaged.

In January, 1904, Mr. Innes and his family again took up their residence in Rushmore, where he devoted his time to looking after the lumber and hardware business he had established two years before, as well as carrying on immigration and colonization work in Canada. In January, 1905, he became considerably interested in the First National Bank of Rushmore and was chosen its cashier.

On account of the increase of the Canadian immigration enterprise, which was started in 1903, Mr. Innes and his family removed to Minneapolis in February, 1907, where he has since spent most of his time in the colonization work, with an office in the Security Bank building. His residence address is 2520, Pillsbury avenue. He is now president of the First National Bank of Rushmore. His lumber, hardware and other business interests in Nobles county are in the hands of a well trained manager.

JOHN RAMERTH is a Graham Lakes township farmer and stock raiser, residing on the northeast quarter of section 18. He was born in Mahren, Austria, May 9, 1869, the youngest of a family of six children of Venanz and Anna (Zelner) Ramerth. The family came to the United States in 1878 and located at Mankato, where they remained about six months. In the spring of 1879 they moved onto a farm in Murray county, which was the family home until 1882. Then a residence was established in Seward township, Nobles county, and there the subject of this sketch resided until 1890. The father died April 1, 1897, at the age of 70 years and ten months. The mother died July 22, 1907, at the age of 79 years.

In 1889 John Ramerth purchased his present farm of 160 acres in Graham Lakes township, and in June of the following year he took up his residence there and that has been his home ever since. He was married at Fulda Oct. 7, 1890, to Miss Adeith Nimerfroh, who is also a native of Austria. To them have been born seven children, as follows: John, Minnie, Margaret, Elizabeth, Frederick, Alexander and James. Mr. Ramerth is a member of the Catholic church of Fulda and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

HENRY SCHNIEDER, farmer of Lismore township, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, Dec. 23, 1863, the son of Joseph and Mary Angel (Bittner) Schnieder. The former was a farmer and died in Germany in October, 1900. The latter died in Germany March 1, 1894.

Our subject resided in Germany until the spring of 1888, making his home on his father's farm. He served in the German army from 1884 to 1887. Landing in Baltimore in March, 1888, to seek a home in the new world, Mr. Schnieder went at once to Dyersville, Dubuque county, Iowa. For several years after his arrival in the country he worked out at farm work by the month in the following places and for the following lengths of time: Dubuque county, three years; Marshall county, one and one-half years; Archer county, Texas, five months; Haverhill, Marshall county, Iowa, one year; Dubuque county, one year. He then moved to the vicinity of State Center,

Marsall county, where for six years he engaged in farming on an eighty acre tract which he purchased. Selling out there, he bought a quarter section at West Bend, in Palo Alto county, and farmed it two years. He came to Nobles county on March 1, 1903, and bought the southeast quarter of section 23, Lismore township, upon which he has since resided. Three years later he bought the northeast quarter of section 26, adjoining.

Mr. Schnieder was married at State Center, Iowa, July 2, 1895, to Elizabeth Recker, who was born in New Vienna, Dubuque county, Iowa, March 18, 1873. To Mr. and Mrs. Schnieder have been born the following children: Rhonold, born June 8, 1896; Theodore, born Jan. 29, 1899; Francis, born Jan. 1, 1901; Ludwig, born July 2, 1903; Regina, born Aug. 31, 1905; Monica, born May 4, 1907. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lismore.

E. K. BEHRENS, proprietor of a 240 acre farm in Olney township, was born near the city of Aurich, Osterfriesland, Germany, Aug. 5, 1854, the son of E. G. and Annie (Fecht) Behrens. The father died in Adams county, Ill., June 12, 1869, aged 51 years. The mother died in the same county in September, 1878, at the age of 63 years.

When the subject of this biography was one and a half years of age the family emigrated to America and located in Adams county, Ill., near the city of Quincy. There our subject grew to manhood and resided many years, securing an education and working on his father's farm and for other farmers.

Mr. Behrens was married at Carthage, Hancock county, Ill., March 2, 1879, to Nanke Bruns, who was born in Germany Oct. 18, 1858, and who came to the United States with her parents in 1869. She is the daughter of Ulbe and Trintje (Huls) Bruns. The father lives near Carthage, Ill.; the mother died June 19, 1892. To Mr. and Mrs. Behrens have been born the following children: Annie (Mrs. F. Harms), of Harris, Iowa; Trintje (Mrs. P. Timmermann), of Sibley, Iowa; Anke (Mrs. B. Heidebrink), of Dewald township; Ekke, Mattie, George, Albert and Mienet, who reside at home.

After his marriage Mr. Behrens took up his residence in Hancock county, Ill., where he engaged in farming until September, 1887. He then moved to Cheyenne county, Neb., took a homestead of 160 acres, proved up on it and farmed the place until 1894. He then moved to Osceola county, Iowa, and farmed there until 1902. In 1901 Mr. Behrens had bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 26 and the southeast quarter of section 23, Olney township, and in 1902 he moved onto the farm, and has resided there since.

Mr. Behrens is treasurer of school district No. 41, which office he has held for two years. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church of Rushmore.

REV. ROBERT C. TEN BROECK, pastor of St. John's Episcopal church of Worthington, is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was born April 21, 1881. He is the son of William P. and Mary E. (Yundt) Ten Broeck, of Faribault, Minn.

William P. Ten Broeck has been a minister of the Episcopal church for forty-six years. He was born in New York city June 13, 1841, and was educated in Washington city. He entered the ministry in 1862 and since that date has had charge of churches in the following named places in the order given: Sewickley, Pa.; Pittsburg, Pa.; Green Bay, Wis.; LaCrosse, Wis.; St. Paul, Minn.; Indianapolis, Ind.; LaCrosse, Wis.; and Faribault, Minn. He is now professor of church history in Seabury divinity school at Faribault. Mary E. Ten Broeck was born in Lafayette, Indiana.

When Mr. Ten Broeck was four months of age the family moved from Indianapolis to LaCrosse, Wis., and in January, 1893, to Faribault, where our subject grew to manhood. He received his primary education in the public schools of LaCrosse and Faribault, and was graduated from the high school of the latter town in 1899. He then matriculated in Carleton college, at Northfield, where he was a student one year. The following school year he entered the Minnesota state university, took a classical course in the academic department, and was graduated in 1903. The next three years were spent as a student in Seabury divinity school, of Faribault, from which he was



graduated in 1906, being ordained a deacon at the time of graduation.

On August 1, 1906, Rev. Ten Broeck came to Worthington and has since been pastor of the Episcopal church. He also has pastoral charges in Windom, Slayton and Fulda. He was advanced to the priesthood in 1907. In addition to his ministerial duties he holds the position of instructor in science, language and military tactics in the Breck school at Wilder, Minn., with which institution he has been connected one year. Rev. Ten Broeck is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Windom.

ALLEN H. LAWRENCE, Summit Lake township farmer, has lived in Nobles county ever since he was five years of age. He farms the southwest quarter of section 20, the west half, of which is owned by his mother.

Allen was born in the town of Lawrenceville (named in honor of the family), province of Quebec, Canada, on March 23, 1878, the son of Azariah and Emma (Randall) Lawrence, both of whom are living. The American branch of the Lawrence family was founded by one of two brothers, members of the English nobility, who came to Quebec in colonial days. Our subject's mother was born in the city of London and was left an orphan. She became a trained nurse and for four years served under the famous Florence Nightengale in St. Thomas hospital. She came to Montreal, Canada, in 1873 and for two and one-half years was in a hospital there. She married Mr. Lawrence in 1876.

When Allen was five years old the family came to Nobles county, arriving in Worthington, Aug. 30, 1883. The father purchased a homestead relinquishment from Mr. Chas. Dana to the farm on which the son now lives, and some years later secured title to it. Our subject secured his education in the country schools and the public school of Worthington, and spent his boyhood days on the farm. For several years he managed the farm for his mother and during the last six years has farmed the place for himself.

Mr. Lawrence was married in Elk township April 16, 1902, to Miss Matilda Mohr. To them have been born four children: Wal-

ter Henry, born Feb. 9, 1903; Arthur Wilfred, born Feb. 27, 1904; Emma Caroline, born Oct. 17, 1905; Frederick William, born May 24, 1907. Mr. Lawrence is a member of the Methodist church of Rushmore. He has served as a director of the school board and has been road overseer.

CARL A. LINDSTROM, Bigelow township farmer, has lived in Nobles county ever since he was a child. He was born in Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 10, 1874, the son of August and Sophia (Anderson) Lindstrom. The father was born in Sweden, came to the United States in 1870 and located at Sioux City, later taking up his residence at Topeka, where he died in December, 1875. By trade he was a shoemaker. Our subject's mother lives in Bigelow township.

The first two years of Carl Lindstrom's life were passed in Topeka and the next seven in Minnehaha county, S. D., near Sioux Falls. In 1883 he and his mother and sister came to Nobles county and settled in Bigelow township. In the district schools of that township he was educated and during boyhood days worked on his mother's farm. Later he managed the farm for his mother. In 1904 he rented the property and has since been engaged in farming for himself. He farms 350 acres.

Mr. Lindstrom is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington. He has held the office of school director of district No. 56 for the last nine years.

THOMAS A. PALMER, proprietor of the Worthington music store, was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, Aug. 3, 1871. His father, John Palmer, was born in Devonshire, England, June 14, 1831, and died May 10, 1901. His mother, Louisa Palmer, was also a native of England, and now resides in Worthington.

In Blackhawk county Mr. Palmer lived nineteen years, securing a common school education there. He moved to Osage, Iowa, where for three years he worked in a grocery store. The next three years were passed at Hudson, S. D., where he was in the livery and dray business. He came to Worthington in 1896, and that has been his home ever since. For several years he was in the

Western hotel. On Jan. 13, 1902, he bought the music store of Miss Cheney and has conducted it since. He carries a complete line of musical instruments of all kinds, making a specialty of pianos, and deals in periodicals, stationery, etc.

Mr. Palmer was married at Worthington on May 23, 1900, to Miss Eva Oakes. They are the parents of four children, as follows: Thomas Oakes, born Sept. 23, 1901; Helen, born Sept. 1, 1903; Harriet, born April 13, 1905; Gertrude, born April 27, 1907.

Mr. Palmer has taken an active part in local affairs. In 1905 he was elected village treasurer and served one term. He was secretary of the Worthington District Fair association during 1905, 1906 and 1907. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and represented the local lodge in the Grand Lodge in 1907. He has been assistant chief of the Worthington fire department two years, and represented the department at the state convention at Litchfield in 1906.

CHARLES A. ERICKSON owns the southeast quarter of section 18, Bigelow township, and has lived in Nobles county for the last four years. Mr. Erickson was born in Prophetstown, Whiteside county, Ill., March 19, 1877. He is the son of Nels Erickson and Anna (Munson) Erickson, of Sterling, Ill. His parents are natives of Sweden, having come to the United States in 1871.

Charles lived on the farm near Prophetstown until 1898. He secured his education in the country schools and the Sterling Business college, of Sterling, Ill., which school he attended in 1897. From his native town he moved with his parents to near Sterling, and in 1900 began farming for himself. Four years later he moved to Nobles county, in 1908 bought the quarter section where he now lives, and intends to make his future home here. He raises considerable stock and makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Erickson was married at Sterling, Ill., Nov. 19, 1902, to Catherine Haines, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Haines, who now reside in Nobles county. Mrs. Erickson was born in Ontario, Can., Nov. 1, 1881. To this marriage have been born two children, Alice and Ruth. Both Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are members of the Methodist church of Worthington.

ANDY HAGBERG, son of Louis Hagberg of Elk township, was born in Clinton, Iowa, April 11, 1872, the city which was his home until 1900. In the public schools of Clinton he received his education. When twelve years of age he began working in a sash and door factory, and with the exception of one year spent in farming in the vicinity of Clinton, that was his occupation during all the time he resided in Clinton.

In 1900 he came to Nobles county, since which time he has been engaged in farming, the last year having charge of his father's place in Elk township. He was married at Clinton, Iowa, July 4, 1895, to Nina Brodine.

HANS H. FINSTUEN owns and farms the south half of section 10, Grabam Lakes township, his home being only a short distance from the village of Kinbrae. He has resided on his place twenty-one years.

Mr. Finstuen was born in Norway Nov. 30, 1843, and was the son of Hans Nelson Finstuen, who died in his native land about 1878. The subject of this sketch came to America in 1867 and settled in Dane county, Wis., which was his home about twenty years. He worked for wages during part of this time, and during the last ten years engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1887 and bought 160 acres of his present farm, later buying the other quarter section.

Mr. Finstuen was married in Dane county, Wis., May 18, 1876, to Miss Annie Kliffgard, who is also a native of Norway. They are the parents of two children—Juger Sophia, born Sept. 17, 1879, and Herman, born May 22, 1882.

W. O. TILMAN, junior member of the implement firm of O. H. Tilman & Son, Wilmont, is one of the early settlers of the village of Wilmont. He was born on a farm in Franklin county, Iowa, Aug. 11, 1869, the son of O. H. Tilman and Louise (Klinesmith) Tilman, now residents of Wilmont.

When the subject of this sketch was five years of age he moved with his parents from the farm to the town of Ackley, Iowa, where his father engaged in the

implement business. Here he attended the Ackley high school and a few years later returned to the farm in Franklin county. In 1893 he entered the Cedar Rapids Business college, and later the Cedar Rapids school of penmanship and pen art, graduating from both these departments. In the meantime his father had again taken up the implement business in Geneva, Iowa, and in 1896 he formed a partnership with him and they continued in that business until November, 1900, when they sold out and moved to Worthington. They remained in the capital of Nobles county until the following spring, when they moved to Wilmont, purchased the implement business of the Montgomery-Root Co., and since that time have been in business there.

Mr. Tilman was married at Wilmont March 22, 1904, to Anna U. Young, daughter of Aleck and Hilma Young, of the same place. One child, Olive H., has been born to this union.

ED KNOWLTON, Lismore township farmer, has resided in Nobles county since he was seven years of age. He is a son of Thomas E. and Marjorie (Bethel) Knowlton, who reside in the village of Kenneth.

Thomas E. Knowlton was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y. At the age of four years he went to Dane county, Wis., and after growing to manhood engaged in farming. He moved to Rock county, Minn., in 1887, farmed there two years, and then moved to Lismore township, buying the south half of section 19. He lived on the farm until 1904, when he moved to Kenneth, where he now lives a retired life at the age of 67 years. He was married in Dane county, Wis., to Margery Bethel, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Benjamin Bethel. She is now living at the age of 65 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knowlton were born six children as follows: Jennie (Mrs. Frank Church), of Cass Lake, Minn.; Frank, Rock county farmer; Alfred, contractor of Kenneth; James, a mail carrier out of Kenneth; Grant, in the hardware business at Kenneth; Edward, the subject of this sketch.

Ed Knowlton is the youngest of this family. He was born in Dane county, Wis., Nov. 21, 1879. He came to Minnesota with his parents and received his education in the

district schools of Nobles county. He assisted with the work on his father's farm and after his marriage in 1901 rented the home place. In 1904 he rented a farm north of Kenneth, conducted it a year and a half, then spent six months in Kenneth, after which, in the fall of 1906, he again rented his father's place, and is now located thereon.

Mr. Knowlton was married in Luverne Oct. 30, 1901, to Miss Jennie R. Obele, who was born in Mankato in 1882. She is the daughter of Andrew and Katherine Obele, of Leota township. To Mr. and Mrs. Knowlton have been born two children: Gladys, born Sept. 11, 1902; Gerald, born Aug. 6, 1907. Mr. Knowlton is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

GEORGE H. LeGROS, undertaker and furniture dealer of Adrian, has been a resident of Nobles county twenty-eight years. He is a son of William and Annie (Madden) LeGros, who are now residents of Pine county, Minn. His father was born on the isle of Jersey when it was a French possession. His mother was born in Dublin, Ireland.

Our subject was born in Liverpool, England, July 18, 1860. In 1871 the family went to Port Glasgow, Scotland, and from there embarked in the well known American ship Pocahontas and sailed for the new world, arriving in the United States in July. During the first two years the family resided on a farm near Salem, Mass. The next three years were passed on a farm near Dedham, in the same state, and several years more at Haverhill. There George completed his education and learned the carriage making trade.

In the spring of 1880 he moved with his parents to Nobles county, the head of the family securing from the Catholic Colony company the northwest quarter of section 21, Lismore township. George lived on the farm with his father several years; then he took as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 18, Lismore township, upon which land he lived and farmed six years. In March, 1891, he moved to Adrian and worked at the carpenter's trade three years. In 1897 he bought a stock of furniture and went into the business he has ever since

conducted. He is a licensed embalmer, and was the first to be granted a license in Nobles county. Besides his business property Mr. LeGros owns residence property in Adrian. He was one of the signers to the petition asking for the organization of Lismore township, which came into an official existence in 1883. He served two years as clerk of school district No. 68. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

Mr. LeGros was married in Lismore township Jan. 27, 1890, by Rev. Fr. P. C. N. Dwyer, to Catherine Sweeney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patriek Sweeney, who were born in Ireland and who now reside in Lismore township. Mrs. LeGros was born in Rutland, Vermont, Feb. 11, 1872. To these parents have been born seven children, of whom the following five are living: Leo, born Nov. 13, 1890; Ruth, born Aug. 17, 1893; Horatio, born July 23, 1895; Georgia, born July 15, 1897; Ingelus, born Dec. 23, 1899. The two deceased children were Hazen, born Jan. 10, 1892, died Jan. 17, 1892; Lafayette, born June 6, 1898, died March 21, 1899.

ROBERT ROSS SMITH, of Worthington, manager and one of the principal owners of the Smith Implement Co., is a Nobles county boy. He was born on a farm in Worthington township, two miles north of the village, July 24, 1880, the son of Milton S. Smith, of Worthington, and Flora (Ingram) Smith, who died in 1886.

Bob made his home with his father on farms in the vicinity of Worthington until 1896. His education was secured in the schools of Worthington, and he was graduated from the high school there with the class of 1897. The fall after his graduation he went to Beaver Dam, Wis., where he attended Wayland academy, from which he was graduated the following spring. Mr. Smith then took a course in the Curtiss Business college, of Minneapolis, studying stenography, and received his diploma in the fall of 1898. He was employed as stenographer in Minneapolis one year, and then went to Sauk Centre, Minn., where for a year and a half he was bookkeeper and stenographer for the Keller Manufacturing Co. Returning to Minneapolis, Mr. Smith

was employed a few months by the Minneapolis Journal as proof reader. Thereafter until the spring of 1902 he was employed by the Ossoso Carriage Co. and the Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co., as office man and salesman. In the spring of 1902 Mr. Smith went to Minnewaukon, N. D., near which place he took a homestead claim of 160 acres. He commuted in fourteen months, and in 1903 moved to Worthington. He organized the Smith Implement Co., and since that date has been manager of the company. Under his management the company has built up a strong and prosperous business.

Mr. Smith was married at Worthington Jan. 1, 1906, to Pearl G. Tupper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Tupper, formerly of Worthington. Mrs. Smith was born in Rock Rapids, Iowa. To them has been born one child, Clarence Milton, born July 13, 1907.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Masonic, Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows lodges, holding the office of past grand in the last named. He served as a member of company F. (Minneapolis), of the first regiment M. N. G., for a year and a half. He enlisted as a private when the Worthington company was formed, and is at present its first sergeant. He has been a member of the regimental rifle team and has won honors in several tournaments.

ANDREW P. WICKSTROM, in partnership with his brother, Stephen P. Wickstrom, owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 24, Bigelow township, and eighty acres in section 19, Indian Lake township. Andrew Wickstrom was born in Bigelow township March 15, 1875, the son of Peter and Margaret (Stephenson) Wickstrom. Peter Wickstrom was one of the pioneer residents of Nobles county. He was born in Jemtland, Sweden, April 13, 1841, came to the United States in 1870 and to Nobles county the following year. He died Jan. 20, 1889. The mother of our subject still lives with her son.

Andrew was raised on his father's farm in Bigelow township and secured his education in the Nobles county district schools. He lived with his parents on the farm until after his father's death in 1889, since which time he and his brother have farmed the

home place. It is a finely improved farm and has one of the finest orchards in the county. Some of the apple trees are exceptionally large, having been set out in the early days.

Stephen P. Wickstrom was born on the home farm in Bigelow township April 10, 1878, and has spent his entire life there. Both brothers are members of the Swedish Lutheran church or Worthington.

THOMAS FLETCHER (1846-1907) was a native of New York city, where he was born Oct. 27, 1846, the son of Samuel and Eliza (Lee) Fletcher. When still a child he moved with his parents to Canada. That was the family home a few years, and then they moved to Sycamore, Ill., where the subject of this biography lived until after the close of the civil war.

In 1864 Mr. Fletcher enlisted in an Illinois regiment and served until the close of the war. He then returned to his mother's home at Sycamore, and later engaged in farming in Ogle county, where he resided until the spring of 1900. That year the family moved to Spencer, Iowa, and in the spring of 1903 to Larkin township, Nobles county. Late in 1904 Mr. Fletcher and family moved to the farm on section 10, Dewald township, where his widow and children still reside. Mr. Fletcher died Jan. 20, 1907.

Mr. Fletcher was married March 8, 1877, to Miss Ida Bly, a native of Ogle county, Ill. To them have been born the following children: John, died in infancy; Clara (Mrs. Johnson), of Spencer, Iowa; Henry, Anna (Mrs. Treckey), of Iowa Falls, Iowa; Roy, Lydia (deceased), George, Susie, Samuel and Beulah. All except the two married daughters reside at home.

CHARLES A. CEDERBLADE owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 35 and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 25, Seward township, where he has lived since 1888. He was born in Sweden June 15, 1864, the son of Swan Swanson and Betsy Mary (Lindberg) Swanson, the former still residing in his native country at the age of 76 years. The latter died three years ago at the age of 70 years.

Charles lived with his parents in the old country until seventeen years of age, working on his father's farm and clerking in his father's store. In 1882 he came to the United States and located in Henry county, Ill., where he worked on farms for a period of six years. He then moved to Nobles county and took up his residence on the northwest quarter of section 35, Seward township, which land he had purchased three years before, making a trip to the county for that purpose, paying therefor \$9.00 per acre. A few years later he purchased the south half of the southeast quarter of section 25. He farms all of his land, and, besides being a heavy grain raiser, has a number of graded cattle and a large herd of sheep.

Several years ago the subject of this sketch, who prior to that time went by the name of Swanson, assumed the name of Cederblade, that being the name of his paternal grandfather.

Chas. Cederblade was married in Henry county, Ill., in December, 1890, to Amanda Anderson, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States when fourteen years of age. She died in April, 1893. To this union one daughter was born—Alice Myrtle Victoria.

Mr. Cederblade was married the second time in February, 1905, in Sweden, to Julia Anderson, a sister of his first wife. To them has been born one daughter—Lilly.

In the spring of 1903 Mr. Cederblade and his brother, Ernest, bought a livery barn at Currie, Murray county, Minn., and ran it seven months, trading the property for a farm in Lac qui Parle county. They have since sold this place. Since Charles has been a resident of the United States he has made three trips back to the old country. He is the next to the oldest of a family of six living children—two girls and four boys. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

JAMES CHERMAK is a Worthington township farmer who has resided here seven years. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1871, the son of Dominick Chermak and Antonia (Yupa) Chermak, both of whom reside with their son. Dominick Chermak was born in Bohemia August 4, 1837, learned the machinist's trade, came to America in 1867,

lived in Cleveland, Ohio, eight years, in Tama county, Iowa, twenty-six years, and in Nobles county seven years. He is the father of five children: Igonitz, of St. Paul, Minn.; James, of this sketch; Charles, Worthington township; Frank, Disston, Oregon; Dominiek, Worthington township.

James Chermak lived in Cleveland until four years old and then moved with his parents to Tama county, Iowa, where he lived until 1897. He then resided in Powshiek county, Iowa, until 1901, when he came to Nobles county. During his residence in Iowa, after growing to manhood, he was engaged in farming. When he came to this county he purchased the northwest quarter of section 16, Worthington township, where he has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Chermak was married Nov. 5, 1901, in Powshiek county, Iowa, to Catherine Kluber, a native of Johnson county, Iowa. To these parents have been born two children, Edna Helen and Louis Edward.

Mr. Chermak holds the offices of township treasurer and school director.

CHARLES F. MARTIN, farmer, Elk township, is a native of North Carolina, having been born in Davie county Jan. 30, 1865. He is the son of Neil Martin (deceased), who was also a native of North Carolina, and Elizabeth (Jones) Martin, who resides in Davie county, N. C. and is 78 years old.

Mr. Martin resided in Davie county, North Carolina, until eighteen years of age, obtaining his education and working at farm work. In 1888 he moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, near which city he was engaged in farming twelve years. He came to Nobles county in 1900, bought the southwest quarter of section 31, Elk, and has since resided there. Later he bought the southeast quarter of section 36, Summit Lake township. He served six years as treasurer of the school district in which he lives. Mr. Martin is an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Martin was married at Laurel, Iowa, Nov. 29, 1894, to May Paul, to whom have been born the following children, all of whom reside at home: David Neil, Sara Elizabeth and Glenn Franklin.

Mrs. Martin is the daughter of David and Sarah Paul, the former dying ten years ago; the latter resides in Marshall county, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin are members of the Presbyterian church of Reading. Mr. Martin holds membership in the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges.

FRANK W. CUTLER, cement goods manufacturer, of Worthington, was born in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1864, the oldest of a family of six children. His parents, B. M. and Adaliza Cutler, reside in Nobles county, and are natives of New York and Ohio, respectively.

The subject of this sketch resided in the counties of Floyd, Plymouth and Cherokee, Iowa, until 1895, when he came to Worthington. In that village he engaged with his brother, Earl W. Cutler, in the manufacture of cement sidewalks, crossings, foundations, cellar bottoms, etc. Since the spring of 1907 Frank Cutler has continued the business.

Mr. Cutler was married in Butler county, Iowa, April 15, 1899, to Grace Clark, daughter of J. N. Clark. They are the parents of one child, Mildred, born Aug. 31, 1901. Mrs. Cutler was born in Butler county, Iowa, June 1, 1879. Her father and mother reside at Aplington, Iowa, aged 55 and 53 years, respectively.

WILLIAM E. HOCKING is a Grand Prairie township farmer who resides five miles northwest of Ellsworth. He has been a resident of the county during the last twelve years, several years of that time having been spent in Ellsworth.

Mr. Hocking is of English descent and is the son of George and Anna M. (Jaekam) Hocking, who are residents of Stoughton, Wis. George Hocking was born in Cornwall, England, Oct. 26, 1831, came to the United States in 1847 and located in Wisconsin with the pioneer settlers of that state. With the exception of seven years, which were spent in Illinois, he has resided in Wisconsin ever since. Our subject's mother was born in England in 1839. She came to the United States in 1850 and was married to Mr. Hocking in Wisconsin.

To these parents in Lafayette county, Wis., on June 30, 1863, was born William E. Hocking. The first ten years of his life were spent in the town of Hazel Green. The

family then moved to Jo Daviess county, Ill., and for five years our subject lived on a farm there with his parents. He then left home and went to Lemars, Iowa, near which town he engaged in farm work four years. Going from there to Luverne, Minn., he was employed nine months in a lumber yard. During the next few years he resided in several different parts of the country and was engaged in various occupations. Six months were spent in Shullsburg, Wis., two months working in a coal shed at Waterloo, Iowa, one year at the old home in Jo Daviess county, Ill., one month in Waterloo, Iowa, and one month in Saeffield, Iowa. In June, 1887, Mr. Hoeking went to Lafayette county, Wis., where he engaged in farm work until fall. After one month spent in Franklin county, Iowa, he went to Cherokee county, of the same state, and established a permanent residence there.

Mr. Hoeking was married at Meridan, Iowa, Nov. 22, 1889, to Miss Ida Dull, who was born in Shullsburg, Wis., Dec. 1, 1860. Mrs. Hoeking's parents were Daniel Emery Dull and Mary Jane (Thompson) Dull. The father was born March 5, 1826, and died at Shullsburg, Wis., March 20, 1899. The mother was born Sept. 10, 1829, and died at Shullsburg Feb. 21, 1886. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoeking have been born the following children, all of whom reside at home: Gladys M., born Dec. 7, 1890; Frank, born Feb. 5, 1892; Pearl Maud, born Feb. 19, 1895; Opal Leone, born Aug. 21, 1896; Vivian Beatrice, born June 11, 1898; George Sylvester, born Aug. 1, 1900; Robert Harley, born April 6, 1902; Helen Evelyn, born June 12, 1903.

During the greater part of the time of his residence in Cherokee county, Iowa, which extended from the fall of 1887 to July, 1896, Mr. Hoeking was engaged in farming, but he spent part of the time working in a lumber yard and in a store. He moved from there to Ellsworth, Minn., which was the family home four years. During the first two years he was manager of a lumber yard, then was engaged eight months in the draying business, eight months at carpenter work, four months as village marshal, and the balance of the time as manager of a lumber yard. In the fall of 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Hoeking moved onto their present farm—the southwest quarter of section 6, Grand Prairie—which had been bought the spring

before, and that has been their home since.

Mr. Hoeking has served as clerk of school district No. 39 ever since he has lived on that farm and was township assessor in 1906. He was one of the organizers of the Grand Prairie Telephone company and is its secretary. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America lodges.

HANS H. GEHL, farmer, dairyman and stock raiser of Graham Lakes township, was born in Holstein, Germany, Oct. 16, 1868. His father was William Gehl, who came from Germany in 1893 and settled in Murray county, where he died in 1901. His mother is Heinke (Lebens) Gehl, who now resides on a farm in Murray county.

In 1886 the subject of this biography came to the United States and located at Fulda, Minn. There he remained two years and then went to Cass county, Iowa, where for seven years he engaged in farming. He returned to Murray county in 1895, purchased a farm there, and had a residence there six years. Selling out in Murray county, he moved to Graham Lakes township, in Nobles county, and bought the northwest quarter of section 8, the north half of the northeast quarter of the same section and thirty acres in section 9. While living in Murray county he served as township supervisor three years and he is now a school director of district No. 4.

Mr. Gehl was married at Atlantic, Iowa, Feb. 26, 1892, to Miss Emma Peters, a native of Iowa. To them have been born the following children: Annie, Martha, Elsie, Clara, Adela, Willie, Ether and Herbert. Mr. and Mrs. Gehl are members of the German Lutheran church of Fulda.

PETER SPARTZ is a thresherman whose home is at Wilmont. He is a native of Brighton county, Wis., where he was born March 29, 1874, the son of Mathias and Gertrude (Hess) Spartz. The father died in Pipestone county March 7, 1902, aged 61 years; the mother lives in Wilmont.

When Peter was three years of age, the family moved from Wisconsin to Lyon county, Iowa, and that was his home fourteen years. His education was secured in

the country schools of Lyon county and in the village school of Ashton, and he was raised on a farm. In the fall of 1890 Peter came with his parents to Nobles county and for ten years made his home on the farm on section 29, Willmont township. Until he was of age Peter worked for his father. Then, after spending one summer in Osceola county, Iowa, he came back to Nobles county and with Fred Sanders bought a threshing machine. With his partner he engaged in threshing four years, then bought his partner's interest, and has been engaged in threshing ever since. In 1900 he changed his place of residence from the farm to St. Kilian, resided there two years, and since then has made his home in Willmont.

Mr. Spartz is an inventor, and spends his spare moments perfecting many useful and valuable contrivances. He has built a self feeder for his threshing machine, has constructed a steam engine and an automobile. The automobile, which is up-to-date in all particulars, he has sold and is now constructing another. He is an engineer as well as a thresher and is an expert with gasoline engines, having frequent calls for his services. In addition to his other business enterprises, Mr. Spartz is a half owner of a well digging outfit.

At St. Kilian on Nov. 26, 1901, Mr. Spartz was married to Mary Pollman, daughter of August and Mary Pollman, of Larkin township. Mrs. Spartz was born in the old country Oct. 10, 1876, and came to America when two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Spartz are the parents of the following children: Mattie, born Jan. 13, 1903; Alfred, born May 22, 1905, died Sept. 13, 1906; Paulina, born Jan. 29, 1907; Leo, born March 31, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Spartz are members of the Catholic church. He served on the Willmont village council from 1903 to 1907. He holds a membership in the M. W. A. lodge and is counsel of the order at Willmont.

J. H. JOHNSON, manager of the Dundee Mercantile company's store at Dundee, is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Vasa township, Goodhue county, Oct. 28, 1875. He is the son of Haken and Maggie (Landberg) Johnson.

In 1879 the family moved from Goodhue county to Jackson county and located on a

farm just out of the little village of Dundee, and on that farm the subject of this sketch was raised. He was educated in the country schools, in the Worthington public schools and in the Breck school at Wilder. In 1896 he began clerking in a Dundee store, which position he held until June, 1898. He then enlisted in the Third United States infantry, and served during the Spanish-American war, being stationed with his regiment at Fort Snelling, Minn., and at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He had a severe siege of typhoid fever during the time of his service. Before his illness he was company clerk, and thereafter was bookkeeper in the commissary department of the regiment. After his army service Mr. Johnson returned to Dundee, and that village has ever since been his home. In January, 1906, in partnership with his brother, Ole, he engaged in the farm machinery business, succeeding his father.

Mr. Johnson was married at Dundee Dec. 26, 1901, to Miss Esther Olson, who was born in Goodhue county June 16, 1877, and came to Dundee in 1899. They are the parents of one child, J. Horton Johnson, born Oct. 22, 1904.

Mr. Johnson owns a half section of land in Cottonwood county. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church and of the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America lodges. He has served as school clerk of the district several years, was a member of the Dundee village council for some time, and is now village treasurer.

ALEXANDER DIDIER, of Willmont township, was born in Evanston, Ill., Oct. 30, 1878, the son of Nicholas John and Elizabeth (Reding) Didier.

Nicholas Didier was born in Luxemburg Nov. 18, 1829, and resided in his native land until 1850, spending most of his life there in securing an education, having attended college seven years. Coming to the United States in 1850, he located on the site of the present city of Evanston, Ill., and became a farmer and market gardener. He died there Feb. 5, 1893. Elizabeth Didier was born in Luxemburg March 18, 1844, was married there in 1870 and the same year came to the United States. She now makes her home with her son in Willmont township.



Alex was educated in a parochial school at Evanston and until 1896 made his home on his parents' market garden farm. He then came to Nobles county and located on the farm where he has ever since resided—the southwest quarter of section 12, Willmont—which farm had been purchased by his father in 1888. Alex managed the farm for his mother until 1907, and since then has been farming it for himself.

June 12, 1907, Mr. Didier was married at St. Kilian to Lena Hopler, daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Hopler. Her father resides at Wadena, Minn.; her mother is dead. Mrs. Didier was born at Wadena, Minn., March 11, 1884. They are the parents of one child, Aloysius, born March 24, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Didier are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian and he belongs to the C. O. F. of Willmont. Mr. Didier is clerk of school district No. 65.

WILLIAM HIGGINS is the proprietor of the livery, feed and sale stable at Lismore, in which town he has resided since the summer of 1901. He is a native of Seneca, Ill., where he was born Oct. 12, 1869, the son of Jeremiah and Mariah (Corbett) Higgins. The father was born in Ireland in 1828 and came to the United States with his parents when a child. The family resided at Fort Dearmont (where the city of Chicago now stands) the first six months in the new world, and then removed to Kickapoo (now Seneca), Ill. There Jeremiah Higgins lived until his death, which occurred in 1897. Our subject's mother was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and died in Seneca in 1903, aged 65 years.

William Higgins resided in his native county until he was 32 years of age. He obtained his primary education in Seneca, finishing it in Valparaiso, Indiana. After his school days he engaged in teaching school near Seneca, which he followed five years. He then opened a meat market in his native town and conducted that nine years. He came to Lismore in June, 1901, and opened the first butcher shop in that village. He conducted the shop four and one-half years and then sold to Charles Rusho. In 1905 he bought the livery barn of Michael Plemp, and he has since been in the livery business.

Mr. Higgins was married in Lismore Nov. 15, 1903, to Eda Graf, a native of Stillwater, Minn., and a daughter of Emil Graf, president of the State Bank of Lismore. They are the parents of the following named children: Allen, Francis and May.

ALBERT DAUGHETRY, of Rushmore, has lived in Nobles county since he was four years of age, the family being among the earliest settlers of Dewald township. He was born in Trenton, N. J., April 6, 1868, son of the late Robert Daugherty and Jane (Lawrence) Daugherty, who now lives in Dewald township.

When Albert was two years old the family moved from Trenton to Champaign county, Ill. After a two years' sojourn there it was decided to join the National colony and seek a home in the new country of southwestern Minnesota. The family arrived in Worthington May 16, 1872, and Mr. Daugherty, Sr., at once selected a homestead in Dewald township, settling on the southeast quarter of section eight. On that farm Albert was raised. He obtained a country school education and until his marriage in 1896 worked on his father's farm.

He was married at Rushmore Nov. 7, 1896, to Miss Bertha Lumm, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Lumm, formerly residents of Rushmore. Mrs. Daugherty was born in Albion, Mich. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty—Margaret, Ross and Ivabesse, who died Feb. 20, 1908.

After his marriage Mr. Daugherty took up his place of residence in Rushmore, and there he has since resided. Although living in the village he devotes his entire time to farming. In partnership with his brother, Stewart Daugherty, he farms 960 acres of land in one piece, which lies only a short distance from Rushmore. The brothers raise stock on an extensive scale, having generally a herd of about 200 head of cattle.

During his residence in the country Mr. Daugherty served as director of school district No. 9 for six or eight years. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore.

LUDWIG RECKER, Leota township farmer, owns 240 acres on section 26. He is the son of the late Henry Recker and Susanna (Homkamp) Recker. The father was born in Putnam county, Ohio, Sept. 18, 1837, and died Aug. 11, 1904. His father came from Oldenberg, Germany, about 1827 and settled in Ohio. Susanna Recker was born in New Vienna, Iowa. She now makes her home on the farm in Lisimore township and is 61 years of age.

To these parents Ludwig Recker was born at New Vienna, Dubuque county, Iowa, on August 9, 1869. He received his education in his native county and made his home there on his father's farm until 1892. The family then moved to State Center, Marshall county, Iowa. Until his marriage in 1896 Ludwig resided on his father's farm; after that event he bought land and engaged in farming, which he followed until the spring of 1902. He then came to Nobles county and bought the farm in Leota township, upon which he has since lived. Besides carrying on general farming, he engages quite extensively in stock raising.

Mr. Recker was married at Olwein, Iowa, Nov. 10, 1896, to Gertrude Vohsman, who was born in Westphalia, Germany, March 2, 1869. She is the daughter of Henry and Gertrude (Riepe) Vohsman. Mr. and Mrs. Recker are the parents of the following named children: Clara, born March 12, 1898; Lawrence, born Dec. 11, 1899; Millie and Emil (twins), born Jan. 2, 1903; Henry, born Jan. 30, 1905; Matilda, born June 12, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church.

LOREN CLARK, of Worthington, is a native of Nobles county, having been born in Ransom township April 3, 1877. He is a son of William Clark and Margaret (Lane) Clark, both of whom reside at Worthington, and who were pioneers of the county.

When five years of age Loren Clark moved with his parents to Worthington, and that city has been his home ever since. He attended the Worthington public and high schools, and graduated from the latter institution in 1893, being valedictorian of his class. He is one of the youngest students

that ever graduated from that school. After completing the course at the Worthington school, in the fall of 1893, he became a student at Hamline university, where he took a one year's course.

In the fall of 1894 he went to Sioux Falls, S. D., and accepted a position as bookkeeper for Parker & Atkins, dealers in coal, wood and grain, which position he filled for over one year. Returning to Worthington in the spring of 1896, he engaged in farming, which occupation he followed for two years, his farm being located east of Worthington. On January 1, 1899, he opened a real estate office in Worthington. There was great activity in the real estate market during the next few years and our subject did an excellent business. He was in the land business until October, 1904. Prior to this date, however, he had engaged in another business. In the spring of 1902, in partnership with A. W. Fagerstrom, he bought the shoe store of E. L. Schwartz, which was then operated for several years under the firm name of Fagerstrom & Clark. Mr. Fagerstrom managed the store until October, 1904, when Mr. Clark became the manager. In August, 1906, our subject bought his partner's interest in the store, and since that date has been the sole proprietor.

Mr. Clark served one term as recorder of the village of Worthington, having been elected on the against license ticket in 1903. He is a prominent lodge man, holding membership in the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Ancient Order of United Workmen. Of all three organizations he is a member of the grand lodges. Mr. Clark also holds a membership in the Baptist church of Worthington.

ALBERT JOHNSON is a Bigelow township farmer. He owns eighty acres in section 36, Bigelow, and eighty acres in Indian Lake, adjoining. He was born in Westervik, Sweden, Oct. 15, 1866. His father, John Alfred Nelson, died in his native country in 1886; his mother, Christine Nelson, died there in 1899.

Our subject's father was a fisherman, and his son was brought up to that occupation. In 1891 he emigrated to America and lo-

cated at a point thirty miles southwest of Chicago. For two years he resided there, working in a tiling factory and engaged in farming. He came to Nobles county in 1893 and bought his present farm in Bigelow township, which has ever since been his home. During the last five years he has served as treasurer of school district No. 91.

Mr. Johnson was married in Nobles county Jan. 21, 1895, to Miss Hulda Erickson, who was born in Sweden Nov. 17, 1876. She is the daughter of L. J. and Mary Erickson, who now reside at Cold Camp, Mo., but who were early settlers of Nobles county. When Mrs. Johnson was less than seven years old she came to the United States and to Nobles county with her parents. For two years the family lived in Indian Lake township, and since that time Mrs. Johnson has resided in Bigelow township. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born the following children: Selma, born May 21, 1896; Esther, born May 9, 1898; Oscar, born June 16, 1900; Jennie, born April 29, 1906; Albin, born Aug. 24, 1907.

ADOLPH R. BEILKE is the postmaster of Reading and the proprietor of that village's only general merchandize store. He is a German by birth, having been born in the province of Pommern Nov. 22, 1863. He came to the United States when seventeen and one-half years of age and located in Wisconsin. After two months spent at Watertown, in that state, he moved to Wausau, where for two years he worked in the pineries and in saw mills.

Mr. Beilke moved to Paulina, Iowa, and, after working on a farm near there for one year, he engaged in farming on his own account and became a land owner. He came to Nobles county on Dec. 10, 1894, and bought an 160 acre farm on section 36, Olney township, which he farmed three years. In the spring of 1897 he moved to Rushmore, went into the restaurant and confectionery business, and was so engaged three years. When the new town of Reading on the Burlington road was started in the spring of 1900 Mr. Beilke was among the first to go to the little town and engage in business. He arrived there on March 27

and erected the store building in which he has since had his store, putting up at the same time a residence. He was appointed postmaster in January, 1907, and conducts the office in connection with his store. He is also clerk of the village school board, an office he has held for the past seven years.

At Mareus, Iowa, Mr. Beilke was married Dec. 10, 1889, to Miss Lena Herman, a native of Germany. To them have been born seven children: William (deceased), Lena, Carl, Max, Henry, Albert and Ernest. Mr. Beilke is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

WALTER BARRON lives one-half mile south of the village of Rushmore, where he owns and farms 180 acres of land in section 30. That has been his home twenty-two years.

He was born in Plainfield, Ill., Sept. 2, 1852. His father was a farmer, Thomas Barron, who was born in England, came to the United States in 1850, and died early in 1853 in Plainfield, Illinois. His mother was Hannah (Shaw) Barron, also a native of England, who died in Illinois about 1877. In his native (Will) county Walter Barron was raised and received his education, attending the country schools and for a few years the graded schools of Plainfield.

In the spring of 1870 he left home and went to Wyoming territory, where for a year he was engaged in getting out ties and running logs down to Fort Steele to build the first railroad that crossed the continent. He returned home for a short time, but in 1871 went to Russell county, Kansas, and herded cattle for three years. During the next two years he worked by the month in Newton county, Ind.; then he rented land in the same county, and for four years engaged in farming.

In January, 1880, Mr. Barron was married in Newton county to M. J. McLeod, a native of Diamond, Nova Scotia, who came to Nobles county in 1886. After his marriage Mr. Barron moved to Crawford county, Kansas, where he bought land and farmed one year. He then returned to Newton county, and during the next five years farmed there. In the spring of 1886 the

family moved to Nobles county, and Mr. Barton bought eighty acres of his present farm, buying adjoining property afterward. To Mr. and Mrs. Barton have been born the following children: John M., Helena C. (Mrs. J. E. Rankin), of Evelyth, Minn.; Margaret M., Henry G., who died in infancy; Frances.

JAMES M. ADDINGTON, proprietor of a Worthington barber shop, was born at Garnett, Kansas, on Sept. 11, 1858, the son of B. L. and Margaret (Lewellen) Addington. The elder Addington was one of the pioneers of Kansas and a prominent anti-slavery advocate. Because of his activities in favor of the free-state doctrines he was forced to leave the state in 1860. In a murderous raid on his home one night his life was spared only because of the fact that he was a Mason. The next morning he and his family departed the state by ox team and located at Bloomington, Ill. He died at Sibley, Ill., in the fall of 1885. Our subject's mother is a native of Virginia; she now resides with a daughter, Mrs. William Wood, at Fort Pierre, S. D.

James Addington resided in Illinois until 1887. He learned the barber trade at Decatur and followed that occupation many years. He moved to Minnesota in 1887 and located at Lake Benton, where he conducted a shop fourteen years. In 1901 he moved to Worthington, purchased the barber shop of M. E. Fish, and has been in the business since.

Mr. Addington was married at Decatur, Ill., Aug. 31, 1881, to Miss Eliza Nebingers. To them have been born four children: Zoe, born in Sibley, Ill., April 2, 1884; Murriel, born in Seymour, Ill., May 31, 1885; Nelle, born in Lake Benton, Minn., Nov. 1, 1889; Virgie, born in Lake Benton Jan. 3, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Addington are members of the Episcopal church. Mr. Addington is a member of the Masonic, Eastern Star, A. O. U. W., M. W. A. and Maccabee lodges. He served one term as village recorder, having been elected in the spring of 1906.

LAWRENCE ESSER is proprietor of the Central hotel of Ellsworth, in which village

he has lived many years. He was born at Middleton, near Madison, Wis., March 5, 1866, and at that place he spent his boyhood days.

The father of our subject was Bernard Esser. He was born in Germany in 1840, came to America in 1855, and settled on a farm near Middleton, Wis. He lived in that state until his death, which occurred Aug. 20, 1903. Taking an active part in the affairs of his adopted state, Mr. Esser occupied many offices of trust within the gift of the voters. For some time he was editor of the Wisconsin Staatszeitung, a weekly German paper. He served eight years as clerk of court in the county in which he resided and for four years was a member of the Wisconsin legislature. During Governor Peck's administration he was indexing clerk in the secretary of state's office, holding the position four years. Our subject's mother was Lulu (Grass) Esser, also a native of Germany. She died Dec. 31, 1905, aged 63 years.

Lawrence was one of a family of twelve children four boys and eight girls. He received a good education in the public and high schools of Madison and in the Madison Northwestern Business college. While not attending school he worked on his father's farm near Middleton. When he was twenty-three years of age he left home and went to Chicago, where he worked in a packing house eight months. He then went south and for a year was in Mississippi, Arkansas, the West Indies and other parts of the South. After returning from this trip he moved to Ellsworth and took charge of the Central house, which had been formerly conducted by his uncle, Ferdinand Esser, who died in February, 1888. He managed the hotel four years and then went into the grain business as manager of the Dav-enport Elevator company's elevator, which position he held eight years. He purchased the Central hotel after quitting the grain business and has since conducted it.

Mr. Esser was married in Ellsworth June 1, 1897, to Miss Louisa Fischeneich, a daughter of Bernard Fischeneich. Mrs. Esser was born at Middleton, Wis., Aug. 21, 1877. They are the parents of the following children: Edwin, born April 16, 1898; Anna, born Sept. 26, 1900; William J., born April 22, 1908.

Mr. Esser is a member of the Catholic church of Ellsworth and of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the St. Joseph's society of Adrian. He was assessor of Ellsworth village during the years 1900-1903.

GEORGE PINK is a Leota township farmer, who owns 240 acres on section 29. He is a native of County Down, Ireland, and was born March 17, 1855. His parents were John and Mary Ann (Drake) Pink. Both parents died in Ireland, although they had been residents of the United States.

Our subject came to the United States when a young man and located first in Chicago, where he lived four years. He next engaged in farming in Franklin county, Iowa, four years and then went to Oregon, where he resided three years. Returning to Franklin county, he remained there a short time and then moved to Buena Vista county, S. D., where he farmed eleven years. Coming back to Iowa, he farmed in Kossuth county five years and then, in 1900, came to Nobles county, bought his farm and has resided here since.

Mr. Pink was married in Kimball, S. D., in 1894, to Lizzie Tooney, a native of Wisconsin. To them have been born the following children: Jan, Lizzie, Sam, Edward and Andrew. Mr. Pink is treasurer of school district No. 59 and is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge.

EDWIN BRICKSON, of Adrian, cashier of the Adrian State Bank, and president of the First National Bank of Wilmont, is one of the more recent arrivals to Nobles county. He was born at Mason City, Iowa, in 1872. His parents, Henry and Lizzie Brickson, are natives of Sweden and now reside at Boone, Iowa.

Until he was five or six years old Edwin lived with his parents at Mason City, from which place they moved to Cherokee county, Iowa. There the subject of this sketch lived about ten years. After securing a common school education, he attended the Aurelia high school three years, and during the next three years was a student in as many different colleges. One year he spent in Buena Vista college, at Storm Lake,

Iowa; one at Augsburg college, Minneapolis; and one at Tobin college, of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

In 1891 Mr. Brickson began his banking career, which business he has followed ever since. He first accepted a position with the First National Bank of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and was with that institution until 1900, serving as teller during the last four years. In 1900 he came to the new town of Wilmont, Nobles county, and founded the First National Bank of Wilmont. He served as cashier for a time, was later made president, and still holds that position. He left Wilmont in February, 1906, and accepted the position as cashier of the Adrian State Bank, of which institution he is now the manager. While a resident of Wilmont Mr. Brickson served one term as mayor and two terms as village recorder.

Mr. Brickson was married at Fort Dodge, Iowa, June 4, 1907, to Miss Florence R. Burnam, of that city.

THEODORE BULLERMAN, Olney township farmer, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Dec. 13, 1870, the son of Theodore and Katherine (Feleourt) Bullerman. The father was born in Germany and came to the United States when a young man and settled in Winneshiek county, where he engaged extensively in farming. He became the owner of 800 acres of land in Olney township, Nobles county, land which is now owned by his children—Barney, John (deceased), Theodore and Mrs. Dominick Kellen. Our subject's mother was also born in Germany. She died in Iowa in 1907, aged 69 years.

On his father's farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Theodore Bullerman lived until he was past twenty years of age, securing an education and assisting in the farm work. In March, 1891, he moved to Nobles county and the next year located on his present farm—the southwest quarter of section 15—and has lived there since. In addition to his home farm Mr. Bullerman owns an undivided half interest with his brother-in-law in the northwest quarter of section 8, which was bought in 1907. Besides his general farming Mr. Bullerman makes a specialty of raising fine stock and engages extensively in raising thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey swine. He

is the secretary of the Olney Mutual Telephone company, a farmers' line organized in the fall of 1907. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

At Adrian on Nov. 28, 1892, occurred the marriage of Mr. Bullerman to Miss Louisa Handwerk, who was born in Germany Oct. 28, 1876, and who came to the United States when a child. Her parents were Joseph and Carolina Handwerk. Her father died in Germany when Mrs. Bullerman was a child. Her mother came to Nobles county and located in Willmont township in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Bullerman are the parents of the following named children: Teddy E., Frank J., Flora J., Fronica N., Emma M. and Dominick.

CARL A. ANDERSON, member of the firm of Anderson & Benson, furniture dealers and undertakers, of Worthington, was born in Vestergothland, Sweden, Dec. 15, 1871, the son of Andrew and Annie (Carlson) Anderson. His mother was born in 1841 and died in Sweden in 1897. His father was born in 1835, lived in Sweden until 1902, when he came to America and located at Hartford, Conn.

Carl secured a country school education in his native land and was raised on his father's farm, engaging in farm work and doing some cabinet work. In 1892 he borrowed money to pay his passage to America, and in May of that year landed in New York. He went to Boston, near which city for two months he worked on a farm. Two months more were spent in the same vicinity working for a contractor who was installing a water works system. He had then earned enough money to pay his way to Mankato, Minn., where his uncle, Rev. Franzen, lived. Through his uncle he secured a position with Julius Palm, contractor, at Worthington, to which place he came in September.

Mr. Anderson worked at the carpenter trade two years for Julius Palm and one year for Sam Swanson. Then, in 1895, he took a course of study at Gustavus Adolphus college, St. Peter. In the fall of 1895 he took a position in the furniture store of H. M. Palm & Son, for whom he worked until 1902. That year he formed a partnership with Sam Swanson and purchased the furniture store of Palm Bros., beginning business under the firm name of Swanson

& Anderson. On August 22, 1905, John E. Benson bought Mr. Swanson's interest in the store, since which time it has been operated under the firm name of Anderson & Benson. In connection with the furniture store the firm does an undertaking business, Mr. Anderson being a licensed embalmer, and also has a cabinet shop.

In September, 1896, Mr. Anderson was married at Worthington to Hilma I. Elofson, a native of Sweden. To them have been born the following children, all living at home: Anna Serafia, Anton Ludwig, Clarence Richard, Carl Osear and Erland Waldemar.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Anderson served five years as trustee of the church, and in 1907 was elected deacon, which office he now holds. He has been superintendent of the Sunday school five years and served several years as assistant before that. He is the leader of the Worthington Cornet band (Swedish) of twenty-one pieces, having been chosen at the time of the reorganization in 1906. He has held a membership in the Worthington fire department since a short time after its formation, and for two years was second assistant foreman of the hose company. He was a charter member of the Worthington militia company, but because of business duties had to drop his name from the roll.

FRIDOLIN TRUNK, who owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 2, Worthington township, is a new comer to the county, having lived here only four years. He was born March 10, 1866, in Hettigenberrn, Baden, Germany, the son of Francis A. Trunk and Theresa (Edelmann) Trunk. His father was born May 29, 1825, and died in Germany Aug. 25, 1906. His mother was born in 1826 and died in her native country in January, 1882.

During the first fifteen years of his life Fridolin Trunk lived in Germany, and then came to America, landing in Baltimore June 23, 1881. He went direct to Minonk, Woodford county, Ill., which was his home for ten years. He had received an education in his native country, but completed his schooling with a two years' course in Illinois. During his residence in Woodford county he worked at farm labor

there. Having decided to go into business for himself, he went to Chatsworth, Livingston county, Ill., in 1891, rented a farm and for six years made that county his home. He then moved to Iroquois county and farmed six years on rented land. In September, 1901, during the time he resided in Iroquois county, he first came to Nobles county, Minnesota, and purchased the land upon which he now lives. In February, 1904, he moved to the county to make his permanent residence here.

Mr. Trunk was married at Chatsworth, Ill., May 31, 1893, to Mary Elizabeth Finnegan, who is a native of the town in which she was married. To Mr. and Mrs. Trunk have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home: Francis Fridolin, born April 18, 1891; Roy Edward, born Dec. 19, 1895; Joseph Erwin, born July 25, 1898; Mary Ella, born Aug. 7, 1899.

WALLACE SAXON, an Indian Lake township farmer, is a son of the late Charles Saxon. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, September 23, 1871, came with his parents to Nobles county the next spring, and has ever since resided in Indian Lake township. He was educated in the common schools of district No. 23. He lived on his father's farm until 1902, helping in the work there. He then rented a farm and engaged in farming for himself.

In the spring of 1907 he leased the John Saxon farm on section 30 and now makes his home there. He is a member of the Indian Lake Baptist church and a member of the Indian Lake band. For several years he held the office of overseer of his road district.

ROBERT W. SHORE, Ransom township farmer, was born in Grant county, Wis., June 16, 1858, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shore. He came to Nobles county with his parents in the spring of 1873 and has ever since made his home in Ransom township. He resided with his parents until 1890, when he moved onto the farm where he now resides and where he has since lived. He owns the south half of the northeast quarter of section 16 and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 15.

Mr. Shore was married in Ransom township on Nov. 28, 1890, to Miss Millie Ferrin, daughter of S. G. Ferrin, who now lives in New Mexico. Mrs. Shore was born in Minneapolis and resided there until fourteen years of age, when she came with her father to Nobles county and Ransom township. To Mr. and Mrs. Shore was born one child—a son who died in infancy. Mr. Shore served several years as clerk of school district No. 21.

EDWARD FOGARTY, grain buyer of Ellsworth, has been in that village for the past nineteen years. He was born in Limerick county, Ireland, in April, 1854, the son of Patrick and Mary (Elligott) Fogarty. The father came from Ireland to America in 1856 and settled in Walworth county, Wis. Later he took up his residence in Olmsted county, Minn., where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in November, 1901, at the age of 82 years. The mother died in Olmsted county Dec. 1, 1900, and was 74 years old.

When Edward was two and one-half years old he came with the family to America. The home was in Walworth county, Wis., until 1861, and thereafter until 1884 in Olmsted county, Minn. In the latter place he grew to manhood, being raised on his father's farm, and in later years engaged in farming for himself. In 1884 Mr. Fogarty went to Petaluma, Sonoma county, California, where he engaged in farming two years. Returning to the east he farmed two years near La Moure, N. D., and then resided one year in Ontonagon county, Michigan.

It was in 1889 that Mr. Fogarty moved to Ellsworth, the town which has since been his home. For ten years he was landlord of the Central house, and since that time he has been engaged in buying and shipping grain. Mr. Fogarty is a staunch democrat and has always supported the nominees of that party. He served several years as member of the Ellsworth village council and was justice of the peace for a number of years. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church.

Mr. Fogarty was married at Ellsworth June 15, 1894, to Mrs. Gertrude Esser, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Bernard Fischenich. To Mr. and Mrs. Fogarty

have been born the following children: Louisa, born Aug. 30, 1895; Edward, born Nov. 23, 1897; Marian, born July 15, 1900; William, born Sept. 12, 1902. By her former marriage Mrs. Fogarty is the mother of the following children: Anna, born May 15, 1880; Frank, born May 8, 1882; Lizzie, born July 1, 1884; Bernard, born July 1, 1886; Henry, born July 14, 1888; Lena, born Aug. 22, 1890.

JULIUS PIEPER has been a resident of Little Rock township twenty-four years and is one of the extensive farmers of that precinct. He owns the north half of section 11 and the northwest quarter of section 13.

Mr. Pieper is of German birth, having been born in the province of Pommern Oct. 19, 1862, the son of Carl and Carolina (Schwartz) Pieper, both of whom died in their native land. He came to the United States in 1879 and located at Davenport, Iowa, where for seven months he worked in a livery barn. Late in the same year of his arrival to the country he moved to Osecola county, Iowa, and for five years worked as a farm hand. He came to Nobles county in 1884 and bought 110 acres on section 36, upon which he resided until March, 1901. He then sold out there and bought his present farm of 480 acres.

The marriage of Mr. Pieper occurred in Lyon county, Iowa, on April 8, 1885, when he wedded Lena Thiesse, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and who came to the United States in 1884. To them have been born the following children: Nellie, Freda, Carl, Henry, Melvina, Mildred, Roosevelt and a baby girl.

For six years Mr. Pieper served as chairman of the Little Rock township board of supervisors and has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 11 for the last six years. Mr. and Mrs. Pieper are members of the German Lutheran church of Rushmore.

WILLIAM E. LARIMORE is a Worthington township farmer who owns the west one-half of section 18. He is a native of Illinois, having been born in Tazewell county of that state March 20, 1858. On both his father's and mother's sides he is of Irish-

German descent. His father, Timothy Larimore, was a native of Virginia, and his mother, Mary (Dillon) Larimore, was born in Illinois. Both parents are dead, his father having passed away September 12, 1899, and his mother June 14, 1903.

Mr. Larimore has been engaged in farming all his life. He lived in the county of his birth until the year 1891, after reaching man's estate engaging in farming for himself. In the year last mentioned he moved to Wayne county, Ill., where he resided five years, and then took up his residence in Grundy county, of the same state. There he farmed until March, 1903, when he sold out, came to Nobles county and made his permanent home.

His marriage to Hattie E. Reed occurred in Circleville, Ill., July 5, 1881, his wife having been born and raised in the village in which she was married. Their children, with dates of birth, are as follows: Lora, born Sept. 4, 1883, (now Mrs. J. E. Fitch) of Grundy county, Ill.; Louis, born Oct. 8, 1885; Timothy, born Oct. 23, 1887; Guy E., born Oct. 2, 1892, died Oct. 18, 1894; Roy, born July 25, 1897; Hazel, born March 22, 1906. All the children except Mrs. Fitch reside at home.

During his residence in Illinois Mr. Larimore served 16 or 17 years as school director in the different districts in which he lived and was also highway overseer several years. Before he had become a voter of Minnesota he was made clerk of school district No. 72 and served in that capacity three years. He is now a member of the board of supervisors of Worthington township. He holds a membership in the M. W. A. lodge of Worthington.

CHARLES F. KOLP, Hersey township, is a comparatively new arrival to Nobles county, having resided here only about five years. He owns 240 acres of land in section 22, his home being only a few miles west of Brewster. Mr. Kolp is a native of Linn county, Iowa, having been born there Nov. 6, 1872. His father, Henry A. Kolp, was born in Reading, Pa., in 1842, and is now living in Tama county, Iowa. His mother, Susan (Willhelm) Kolp, was born in Pennsylvania in 1846 and is still living.

When Charles F. Kolp was one year old his parents moved to Tama county from



Linn county, and there our subject was raised on a farm. His boyhood days were spent in securing a common school education and assisting in the farm work. When he became of age he was given the management of the farm, which he conducted for several years. During the last year of his residence in Tama county he engaged in farming for himself. In the spring of 1900 he moved to Terril, Dickinson county, Iowa, near Spirit Lake, and for the next three years he was the manager of a large stock farm there. He then came to Nobles county and began farming his 240 acre farm in section 22, Hersey township, which he had purchased the year before.

Mr. Kolp was united in marriage to Elizabeth Childs Feb. 14, 1900. To them have been born three children, as follows: Earl, March 11, 1901; Irene, Jan. 23, 1904; Carl, Feb. 1, 1907.

Mr. Kolp holds a membership in the Presbyterian church of Tama county, and is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Brewster.

JOHN HONNEF, of Willmont township, was born in Germany Jan. 16, 1843, one of a family of three children. A brother, Jacob, now lives on the old home farm in Germany; a sister, Mary, lives in Kansas. The father of this family was Andrew Joseph Honnef, who was a soldier of the German army for eighteen years. He died in 1881 at the age of 83 years. Our subject's mother was Mary (Schoeben) Honnef. She died in 1876.

After growing to manhood John Honnef became a soldier of the German army and took part in two wars. He served in the Austrian war of 1866 and in the French-Prussian war of 1870-71. In the former he was wounded in the leg. Mr. Honnef came to America in 1885 and direct to Adrian. There he lived one year, and then he bought the southwest quarter of section 33, Willmont township, and engaged in farming. At the time of making the purchase the land was raw prairie land, and he bought it from the railroad company. He has lived on the farm ever since taking possession, and he has improved the place with substantial buildings.

Mr. Honnef was married in Germany Feb. 18, 1870, to Miss Katherine Andres, daughter of John and Katherine (Schoeben) An-

dres. She was born March 10, 1847. These parents have six children: John, born Feb. 17, 1871; Andrew, born April 23, 1873; Jacob, born Feb. 23, 1876; Maggie, born Jan. 16, 1878; Mary, born March 16, 1880; Annie, born March 28, 1887.

The government and social conditions of the United States are much better than those of Germany, according to Mr. Honnef, and he is well satisfied with the change he has made. He is an ardent democrat and has always supported the candidates of that party.

HERMAN HELING, of Larkin township, in partnership with his brother, Joseph, farms the east half of section 4. He is the son of Barney Heling, of Willmont township, and Lizzie (Kotbus) Heling, who died in 1892.

Herman was born in Heiden, Germany, June 3, 1883, and came across the water with his parents when eight years of age. The family located in Willmont township, and on the home farm our subject was raised. After growing up he worked out several years and in 1905 began to farm for himself in partnership with his brother. Herman is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

HENRY KLINE, farmer of Westside township, was born in Effingham county, Ill., Feb. 18, 1868. He is the son of William and Vermeta Kline and is the next to the youngest of a family of six living children, consisting of Sophia, William, Minnie, Charles, Henry and Laura.

William Kline, the father, was born in Germany in 1829 and came to the United States when a young man. He resided in Illinois until 1871, when he moved to Winona county, Minn. He moved to Rock county, Minn., in 1880 and for a number of years engaged in farming in Vienna township. He took as a free claim the southwest quarter of section 6, Westside township, where his son now lives. In 1902 he moved onto the place and now makes his home with his son. Our subject's mother was born in Germany in 1828 and died in Rock county Jan. 4, 1889, at the age of 60 years, five months and two days.

Henry came from Illinois to Rock county

with his parents in 1880 and there grew to manhood. After growing up he engaged in farming in Magnolia township, where he bought, and still owns, the northwest quarter of section 1. In 1901 he bought his father's old tree claim, the southwest quarter of section 6, West-side, and has since made his home on the place. He engages quite extensively in stock-raising and makes a specialty of Poland China swine and Shropshire sheep.

Mr. Kline was married in Rock county March 30, 1891, to Miss Hattie Austin, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of William Austin, now of Rock county. To Mr. and Mrs. Kline have been born three children: Ethel, Ernest and Mildred. Mr. Kline is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

RUDOLPH SCHREIBER owns and farms a tract of land on the north shore of West Graham lake, his farm consisting of 93 acres on section 16. He was born in the city of Milwaukee, Wis., where he resided, attending school and working in a machine shop, until 1886.

The father of our subject is John Schreiber, who came from Germany when thirty years of age and located in Milwaukee. He came to Graham Lakes township in 1886, bought property and farmed until 1904, when he sold out, since which time he has made his home with his son. He is 77 years of age. Our subject's mother was Minnie (Newhouse) Schreiber, who died in Kinbrae Jan. 6, 1898, aged 71 years.

Coming to Nobles county with his parents in 1886, Rudolph lived on the farm with his parents several years. He then went to Seattle, where for four years he was in the dairy business. The next two years he spent in Alaska. Returning to Nobles county after the years spent in the west, he purchased his present farm and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Schreiber was married at Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Oct. 15, 1898, to Oullie Ernst, a native of the city in which she was married.

MATT GERARDY owns and farms 280 acres of land in section 21, Grand Prairie township, where he has resided during the last seventeen years. He was born in the

village of Perl, Kreis Saarburg, Germany, Aug. 23, 1869, the son of the late John Peter Gerardy and Mary (Kerg) Gerardy. The former was born in Tettingen, Kreis Saarburg, Regierungs-bezerk, Trier, Germany, June 24, 1829, and died in Scott county, Minn., March 30, 1904. The latter resides with her son, the subject of this biography.

In 1872, when Matt was only three years old, the Gerardy family came to America and located in Scott county, Minn. That was the home of our subject until 1891. He was raised on his father's farm and was educated in the Catholic Sisters' school of St. Benedict, Scott county, Minn. It was in October, 1891, that Mr. Gerardy left home and came to Nobles county. He bought his farm—then only slightly improved—and has made his home there ever since. He has one of the many fine farm homes of Grand Prairie township, has a fine grove, good buildings and an orchard of about sixty apple trees. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred stock and now has 55 head of registered Hereford cattle, besides some high grade horses and hogs.

Mr. Gerardy was married at St. Johns, Scott county, Minn., Jan. 10, 1893, to Miss Mary Lenz, who is a native of the county in which she was married. She is the daughter of Nicholas Lenz, of Scott county, and the late Gertrude (Rosenplanter) Lenz. Mr. and Mrs. Gerardy are the parents of the following named children: Catherine, born Oct. 28, 1893; Matilda, born Dec. 1, 1896; Frances, born March 16, 1899; Josephine, born Oct. 20, 1900; Elizabeth, born March 4, 1903; Leo, born June 16, 1905; Anna, born March 28, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerardy are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth. Mr. Gerardy is a member of the Knights of Columbus, of Sioux Falls; the Catholic Order of Foresters, of Ellsworth; and St. Joseph's society, of Adrian.

FATHER SEBASTIAN SCHELS is pastor of St. Adrian's church at Adrian, which has one of the finest and best appointed church edifices in Minnesota, erected since Father Schels took charge of the pulpit. The church has a membership of about 155, and is in a prosperous condition.

Sebastian Schels was born in Germany Aug. 7, 1855, the son of Sebastian and

Frances (Kraus) Schels, who were both born in Germany and lived to old age. He began his studies in his native land, came to the United States in 1874, and studied for the priesthood in St. Vincent college, Philadelphia. He came to Minnesota in 1882 and completed his studies at St. Johns, being ordained June 29, 1884. He then engaged in church work in northern Minnesota until 1893, when he went to Germany for the benefit of his health. Returning in 1894 he devoted his time and talents to the cause of his church at Pine City, Minn., and in the year 1895 went to West Albany, Wabasha county, Minn., where he remained three years. In 1898 he moved to Adrian, Minn., took charge of the St. Adrian church and has since been the pastor.

GEORGE BEACOM owns and farms 240 acres on section 23, Olney township. He was born in Jones county, Iowa, Jan. 12, 1874, the son of James and Ann (Laughlin) Beacom. The father, a native of Ireland, died Jan. 11, 1903; the mother, who was born in Delaware county, Iowa, died Jan. 28, 1907.

The first five years of his life George Beacom spent in Jones county. Then the family moved to O'Brien county, Iowa, and that was his home twenty years. During all of this time he resided on his father's farm. In 1899 he came to Nobles county and located on his Olney township farm, which he had bought the previous year, and that has since been his home.

Mr. Beacom was married at Sheldon, Iowa, June 20, 1899, to Miss Margaret Sullivan, a native of Fillmore county, Minn., and a daughter of Patrick and Margaret (Desmond) Sullivan. Her mother lives at Sheldon; her father died in 1902. To Mr. and Mrs. Beacom have been born four children—Joseph, Wilfred, Ida and Dorothy. The parents are members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

ADAM BEIREIS, of Lismore township, is a native of Blue Earth county, Minn., where he was born May 12, 1862, the son of Adam and Margaret (Lill) Beireis. The father was a native of Germany. He died in Adrian in 1902, at the age of 89 years. Upon their arrival from Germany the fam-

ily located in Ohio and later moved to Blue Earth county.

Our subject resided in Blue Earth county until ten years of age and then came to Nobles county with his parents. He has lived in Lismore township ever since his arrival, and he now farms the northeast quarter of section 20. He has held the office of road supervisor for the last nine years. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the Woodmen lodge.

Mr. Beireis was married at Mankato Nov. 30, 1886, to Miss Anna Tillman, who was born in Blue Earth county in 1866. She is the daughter of Charles and Margaret (Donfer) Tillman. To Mr. and Mrs. Beireis have been born twelve children, of whom the following nine are living: George, Mike, Mary, Ella, Eddie, Freide, Henry, Rosa and Robbie.

ANTON GROTE resides in Little Rock township, where he owns 240 acres of land on sections 21 and 28. He was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, Sept. 27, 1871, the son of Henry and Mary (Slickerman) Grote. Henry Grote was born in Germany in 1819, came to the United States when a young man, and died in Carroll county, Iowa, April 10, 1893. Mary Grote was also a native of Germany. She died April 10, 1873.

Anton Grote lived in Dubuque county ten years and in Carroll county, Iowa, till 1886. He then moved to Lyon county, about four miles south of Little Rock, and resided there till 1902. During the first seven years of his residence there he worked out; then in 1893 he rented land and began farming for himself. He moved to his present location in 1902, having bought the property the year before. He has made nearly all the improvements on the place.

August 28, 1894, Mr. Grote was married in Lyon county, Iowa, to Gertrude Beck, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States in 1886, making her home in Grundy and Lyon counties, Iowa. To them have been born the following children: Henry, Bernie and Fannie.

JOHN ROETMAN owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 3, Leota township. He was born in the province of

Overysel, Holland, Jan. 18, 1865. His father, Gerrett Roetman, was born Oct. 25, 1829, and died Nov. 10, 1907. His mother, Grace (Doctor) Roetman, died in Holland when John was seven years old.

In his native land John Roetman lived until he was seventeen years of age. He then came to America with his father and located at Hospers, Sioux county, Iowa. He worked on his father's farm two years, and thereafter until 1891 he worked out in Sioux and O'Brien counties. In 1891 Mr. Roetman bought a farm in Murray county, two miles north of his present farm, and engaged in farming there four years. He then went back to Sioux county and farmed there eight years. In the spring of 1903 he came to Nobles county, bought his present farm and has lived there since.

Mr. Roetman was married at Newkirk, Sioux county, Iowa, Feb. 26, 1891, to Kate de Graff, daughter of Frank and Jennie (Zorgendrager) de Graff, now living at Newkirk. Mrs. Roetman was born at Ackley, Iowa, June 6, 1872. To them have been born the following children: Grace, born Jan. 17, 1892; Jennie, born June 30, 1893; Garret, born Nov. 26, 1895; Frank, born Sept. 21, 1897; Margaret, born Sept. 21, 1899; John Harvey, born Feb. 3, 1903; Benjamin Andrew, born Nov. 28, 1904. The family are members of the Christian Reformed church of Leota. Mr. Roetman has held the office of school treasurer of district No. 99 for the last four years.

EDWARD FRANCIS CLOWER, now of Kansas, was for several years located at Bigelow, where he was editor and publisher of the Bigelow Signal and of which village he served as postmaster.

Mr. Clower was born in Macopin county, Ill., Jan. 25, 1866, the son of L. C. and Ann B. (Tompkins) Clower. The former was born Dec. 6, 1830, and died June 21, 1902. The latter was born July 7, 1835, and is still living. Our subject lived on a farm for the first twenty-six years of his life. He then engaged in the mercantile business, three years at Piasa, Ill., and two years at Dysart, Iowa. He was in the newspaper business at Ireton, Iowa, three years, and during the year 1900 worked in a furniture store. He came to Bigelow in December, 1900, and engaged in the newspaper business, editing and publishing the Signal until

August, 1907, when he discontinued the paper and moved to Nebraska and went into the telephone business. Later he removed to Kansas.

Mr. Clower received a common school education and then entered Blackburn university, of Carlinville, Ill. Later he took a course in the Gem City Business college, of Quincy, Ill. In Bigelow Mr. Clower took an active part in local affairs. He served as postmaster during nearly the entire time he lived in the village. He was village recorder from 1903 to 1907 and clerk of Bigelow township from March, 1903, until his removal from the county. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic and Modern Brotherhood lodges.

At Medora, Ill., on April 23, 1891, Mr. Clower was married to Miss Lillian Wilton. To them have been born two children: Sidney George and Elaine Mattie.

DR. HENRY WIEDOW, physician and surgeon of Worthington, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, Jan. 5, 1873, the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Schraeder) Wiedow. Both parents were born in Germany, came to the United States in their youth, and were married in this country. The first twenty years of the life of our subject were spent on a farm. He then matriculated in the Marengo, Iowa, high school, from which school he was graduated in 1897. After a two years' academic course in the University of Iowa, Henry Wiedow entered the medical department of the same institution, and received his diploma therefrom in 1902.

After his graduation Dr. Wiedow completed his studies with a six months course in Vienna and Berlin, taking a special course in bloodless surgery, as advocated by Dr. Adolph Lorenz, of international fame. Returning from his European studies, Dr. Wiedow began the practice of his profession at Round Lake, where he was located two years. On Jan. 1, 1901, he came to Worthington, opened an office, and has since been engaged in the practice of his chosen profession.

Dr. Wiedow was married at Victor, Iowa, July 4, 1900, to Miss Cora Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Simpson. Both the doctor and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

On July 1, 1908, Dr. B. O. Mork, of Yellow Medicine, Minn., a graduate of the Hamline university and Hamlin medical school, formed a partnership with Dr. Henry Wiedow, the firm being now styled Wiedow & Mork.

JOHN COYOUR is one of the very earliest settlers of Nobles county, having resided in Indian Lake and Summit Lake townships ever since he was ten years of age. He owns the northeast quarter of section 19, Summit Lake.

Mr. Coyour was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Aug. 30, 1861, and is the son of Nelson and Mary (Mitchell) Coyour of Indian Lake township. The father is a native of New York state, the mother of Canada. At the age of five years John moved with his parents from New York to Wisconsin and located in Dodge county. After remaining there five years the family came to Nobles county, in 1871, and settled in Indian Lake township, where the father took a homestead claim on section 32. John lived on the farm with his parents until he was of age. Then he went back to the old home in New York, where he was married and where he lived two years, working on his father-in-law's farm. Returning to Nobles county, he located in Summit Lake township and farmed rented land a number of years. In the fall of 1897 he bought his present farm of Shell & Mann and has made his home there since that time. He raises stock extensively.

In St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Mr. Coyour was married to Melisa Sullivan, a native of the Empire state. To them have been born the following named children: Evelyn, Percy, Harold, Walter and Leslie. Mr. Coyour served as clerk of his school district from 1904 to 1907.

JOHN L. MANGELSON is a member of the firm of Thomsen Bros. & Mangelson, of Round Lake. Although Nobles county has been his legal home only about twelve years, for many years prior he lived just across the line in Iowa—so close, in fact, that Round Lake was his post office address, and he has been getting his mail there ever since the office was established.

Mr. Mangelson was born in Tjarstad, Sweden, Nov. 22, 1861. His father, Magnus

Hokanson, and his mother, Maria (Sundblad) Hokanson, died in their native country. The subject of this biography lived in Sweden 19 years, during which time he went to school and worked on a farm. During the last year of his residence there he worked at the carpenter's trade.

Deciding to cast his lot with the new world young Mangelson set sail and, unaccompanied by relatives or friends, came to America. He went direct to Osco, Henry county, Ill., where he arrived Nov. 5, 1880. There he secured work on a farm, at which he was employed for two and one-half years. In 1883 he moved to Osceola county, Iowa, and secured employment on the big 1,000-acre ranch of Samuel Peterson, located only a short distance from the village of Round Lake, in Nobles county. During a three year term as a farm laborer he won the confidence of his employer and gave such satisfaction that he was made foreman of the ranch, a position he held for ten years. Tiring of farm life, Mr. Mangelson, in the fall of 1896, resigned his position and moved to the village of Round Lake. The next spring he and Chas. J. Riley formed the firm of Riley & Mangelson and engaged in the implement business, which they conducted one year. In the spring of 1898 Mr. Mangelson disposed of his interest in that business and in partnership with J. C. Thomsen went into the hardware and furniture business. Later implements were added to the lines carried, and in the spring of 1904 the firm became Thomsen Bros. & Mangelson.

Mr. Mangelson was married June 27, 1900, at Heron Lake, Minn., to Mary Obert, daughter of Leopold Obert, of Ewington township, Jackson county. Mr. and Mrs. Mangelson are the parents of two children, Agnes and Johnnie D.

At the first Round Lake village election, held Oct. 20, 1898, Mr. Mangelson was elected treasurer. He was reelected in the spring of 1899, again in 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903. He was elected a member of the village council in 1904 and again in 1906. Fraternally he is a member of the M. W. A. of Round Lake.

JOHN S. FRINK is the proprietor of a Worthington plumbing shop, and has been a resident of that city ten years. He was born at St. Charles, Minn., Jan. 4, 1869,

and is the son of Adelbert and Jennie (Wood) Frink, natives of Vermont and Michigan, respectively, and now residents of Flandreau, S. D. Both the Frink and Wood families, from which our subject descends, are old American families, and have resided in the country for many generations.

The first three years of the life of our subject were passed in his native village, and the next five at Kasson, Minn. When John was eight years of age the family moved to a farm eight miles northwest of Dell Rapids, S. D., and that was the family home five years. From there they moved to Flandreau, S. D., where John lived until he was seventeen years of age, and where his parents still reside. The subject of this biography secured a common school education in the different places in which he lived, and when seventeen years old set out in life for himself. He went to Sioux Falls and learned the plumber's trade, at which he worked for Beggs & Ferris nine years. The next two years he lived in Luverne, Minn., working at his trade for the junior member of the Sioux Falls firm, who had a branch shop at that town. One year was spent at West Superior, Wis., where he was employed by the West Superior Plumbing & Heating Co., and then he returned to Luverne, and for two years worked at his trade, being employed by the Gray Implement company.

He was married at Luverne Sept. 7, 1897 to Lottie May Beers, daughter of David and Frances (Sands) Beers. Mrs. Frink and both her parents were born at Geneseo, Ill.

In 1898 Mr. Frink came to Worthington, and for one year was employed as a plumber in A. N. Russell's hardware store. The next six years he held a like position with Dieckhoff Bros., and then one year was in the employ of the W. E. Moses Hardware Co. In 1906 he opened a plumbing shop in Worthington, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Frink served five years in company F, of the Second S. D. N. G., at Flandreau. Later he became a member of company H, of the Second Minnesota national guard, at Luverne, and still holds his membership in that organization. He served a term as second lieutenant of his company, and was later promoted to first lieutenant. He was one of the organizers of, and is now an active member of, the Worthington Gun club, of which he is one of the crack shots.

He is the holder of the Dupont trophy, which he won at Luverne in 1907. Mr. Frink has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge for sixteen years, and holds a membership in the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges.

MATH KLONTZ, Willmont township farmer, is a Luxemburger by birth and was born Feb. 24, 1860. His father, John V. Klontz, died in his native land when Math was fifteen months old. His mother, Barbara (Brand) Klontz, died in Germany in 1888.

Math spent his early days in Luxemburg and Belgium. In the latter country he worked out as a farm hand. In Luxemburg for five years he was employed in the iron mines. He came to the United States in 1885 and located first in Minneapolis, where he resided from October, 1885, till July, 1886. He then went to Lemars, Iowa, where he worked out on a farm a year and a half. After that he worked at the stone mason's trade in Chicago two years, and then returned to Lemars. After farming there one year, he went to Hartley, in O'Brien county, Iowa, rented a farm, and farmed five years. He came to Nobles county in 1895 and bought an 120 acre farm two miles north of St. Kilian, upon which he resided one year. Selling that property, he rented a farm three miles southwest of St. Kilian for four years, and then resided one year three miles south of the same place, and then in 1901, he bought the southwest quarter of section 8, Willmont township, and there he has since made his home.

Mr. Klontz is a man of family, having been married at Hartley, Iowa, July 7, 1891, to Mary E. Lesley, who was born in Ontario, Canada, Dec. 15, 1864. To them have been born the following named children, all of whom reside at home: Celestine, Josephine, Annie, John V., Isidore, Emma, Helena, Joseph and Henry. The family are members of the St. Kilian Catholic church. Mr. Klontz has held the office of director of school district No. 67 for the last five years.

HIRAM BEHRENS, Horsey township farmer, was born in Germany March 22, 1879, and came to the United States when one year old. He is the son of Philip and

Elizabeth (Faulkers) Behrends. The father came to America in 1881 and located in Iowa. In 1896 he moved to Jackson county, Minn., where he lived until the spring of 1908, when he moved to Sibley, Iowa, where he now resides at the age of 61 years. The mother of our subject died in 1884.

In 1900 Hiram went to Oseeola county, Iowa, and worked on a farm there for two years. He then came back to Brewster and rented a farm on section 21, Hersey township. In 1903 he moved to Jackson county, and engaged in farming there two years.

Mr. Behrends was married to Elsbeth Kaufman Dec. 20, 1904, and then rented the farm of her parents, upon which he has since lived. His wife was born on the farm March 5, 1879. Her parents homesteaded the farm in an early day and lived on it till the spring of 1905, when they moved to Brewster. Mrs. Behrends' father died Aug. 11, 1907; her mother now lives in Brewster, and is 60 years of age.

To Mr. and Mrs. Behrends two children have been born: Elizabeth, born Jan. 3, 1906; John Hiram, born Dec. 17, 1907. The family are members of the German Presbyterian church.

GRANT CROSS, farmer and breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle, owns and farms the east half of section 16, Westside township. He is a native of Logan county, Ill., and was born April 2, 1869. His father, Edward Cross, was born in Fairfield, Ohio, April 21, 1832, and now lives in Adrian. His mother, Sarah (Eversole) Cross, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died in Adrian in 1904, at the age of 69 years.

In his native county Grant Cross lived until 1894, attending school and working on his father's farm. He came to Nobles county and located in Grand Prairie township, where he farmed rented land two years. He then moved to Westside township and farmed a rented place on section 15 for seven years. In 1903 he bought his present farm and has resided on it since.

Mr. Cross was married in McLean county, Ill., Aug. 29, 1894, to Miss Mattie Dean, a native of that state and a daughter of John and Mina Dean. To them have been born three children: Eddie, born June 30, 1895; Roy, born June 28, 1898; Grace, born June 8, 1901.

Mr. Cross served on the township board several years and was assessor five years. He was clerk of school district No. 61 from 1901 to 1904. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen lodges.

JOHN HOFKAMP, Leota township farmer, was born in Holland March 1, 1868, the son of Gerret and Beren (Dinne) Hofkamp. The father died Aug. 4, 1904, aged 62 years. The mother is living in Leota village and is 68 years old.

John was raised on a farm and came to America with his parents when seventeen years of age in 1885. The family located in Sioux county, Iowa, and resided on a farm there until 1891. That year they came to Nobles county and were among the first of the Hollanders to make homes in Leota township. John resided with his parents the first two years and then began farming for himself on rented land. Later he bought the southwest quarter of section 21 and has lived on the place since.

In Leota township on Oct. 22, 1893, Mr. Hofkamp was married to Alide Eefting, daughter of William and Johanna Eefting. Her father is dead; her mother lives in Chicago. Mrs. Hofkamp was born in Holland Nov. 25, 1870. She was the first Holland girl to become a resident of Leota township. To Mr. and Mrs. Hofkamp have been born two children: Berndina, born Dec. 6, 1894; William, born March 14, 1898. The family are members of the Reformed church of Leota. For two years Mr. Hofkamp served as director of school district No. 59.

JOHN RISS owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 30, Worthington township. He is Illinois born and raised and has been a resident of Nobles county since 1903. He first saw the light of day at Streator, Ill., July 29, 1855. Henry Riss, his father, was born in Germany and died in Streator in 1902. Caroline (Wheeler) Riss, his mother, was also a native of Germany; she died at Streator in 1891.

John Riss's boyhood days were spent on his father's farm near Streator. There he secured a country school education and assisted with the work on the farm. In 1889 he began farming for himself and that has been his occupation ever since. He came to

Nobles county in 1903 and located on his Worthington township farm, which he had purchased the year before.

Mr. Riss was united in marriage June 2, 1891, at Streator to Mary Simpkin, daughter of Samuel and Alice (Tabner) Simpkin. Mrs. Riss was born in England and came to America with her parents when a child one and one-half years of age. Three children have blessed this union, Henry Samuel, Alice Caroline and Gertrude Maud, all of whom are living at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Riss are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington. In 1901 Mr. Riss was elected a member of the school board of the district in which he lives, served a three year term, and was reelected in 1907.

JAMES SKILLICORN is a farmer of Little Rock township, in which he owns 200 acres on section 21. He is a native of Iowa county, Wis., where he was born Dec. 12, 1862. His parents, James and Ellen (Skillicorn) Skillicorn, were natives of the Isle of Man. His father was born in 1820, came to the United States in 1830, and died in Wisconsin in 1871. Mrs. Skillicorn died in April, 1872.

The subject of this review lived in Iowa county till 1883, when he moved to Aurora county, S. D. There he took a homestead and engaged in farming until 1891. That year he moved to Lyon county, Iowa, just south of the Nobles county line, and engaged in farming until 1901. Then he bought his present place in Little Rock township, and has since been a resident of Nobles county. During his residence in Lyon county Mr. Skillicorn served one year on the township board and two terms as a member of the school board. He was a supervisor of Little Rock township one year.

Mr. Skillicorn was married at Dodgeville, Wis., July 23, 1885, to Delia Rowe, a native of that city. To them has been born one child—Oscar. Mr. and Mrs. Skillicorn are members of the Congregational church of Little Rock, Iowa, and Mr. Skillicorn is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of the same village.

THOMAS T. STRAND is the assistant cashier of the Brewster State Bank, which

position he has held since its organization in 1902. He was born near the village of Norway, in Benton county, Iowa, April 26, 1865, the second oldest of a family of six children. His father, Thomas T. Strand, was born in Stavanger, Norway, came to the United States when eighteen years of age, located in Illinois and later in Benton county, Iowa, where he died in June, 1897, at the age of 62 years. The mother of our subject is Anna (Tysdale) Strand, also a native of Stavanger. She is living in Norway, Iowa, and is 72 years of age.

In Benton county, Iowa, young Straud grew to manhood on his father's farm. He received a common school education in the district schools and a business education in Blairstown academy, of Norway, Iowa. After his school days he entered the mercantile business at Norway and at Paulina, Iowa, and was thus engaged several years. In March, 1902, he moved to Brewster and entered the banking business, in which he has since been engaged. During the year 1904 he served as treasurer of the village.

Mr. Straud was married at Paulina, Iowa, July, 1901, to Miss Jane Henderson, who was born at Fostoria, Clay county, Iowa, in 1880. She is the daughter of William and Martha Henderson. To Mr. and Mrs. Straud have been born two children—Marian, born in 1902; Frances, born in 1904.

HENRY G. WILLIAMS, of Worthington, has resided in Nobles county twenty-three years, the greater part of that time having been spent in Lorain township. He was born in Burlington, Iowa, Feb. 5, 1852. His parents were John and Dora (Diers) Williams, natives of Germany. His father came to the United States at the age of eighteen years and located in Jefferson county, Iowa, where he died in June, 1905, aged 83 years. Our subject's mother died in Jefferson county in 1902.

Henry Williams moved with his parents to Jefferson county when he was three years old. There he was raised and received his education. He engaged in farming, which he followed in that county until 1885. That year he came to Nobles county, bought the northwest quarter of section 8, Lorain township, and made his home on the land until 1904. During his residence in the township Mr. Williams served several terms as



constable and as president of the board of supervisors. Since moving to Worthington he still conducts his farming operations.

Mr. Williams was married in Jefferson county, Iowa, Aug. 5, 1875, to Mary Ann Speilman, a native of that county and a daughter of Louis Speilman. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been born the following six children: Bert, Ora, Pearl (Mrs. Alonzo Correll); Myrtle, Harry and Jesse. The three eldest were born in Jefferson county, Iowa; the younger in Lorain township.

CHARLES R. HILDRED owns the east half of section 19, Bloom township, and he has been a resident of that township for the last thirteen years. Mr. Hildred is a son of English parents. His father, Drury Hildred, was born in England in 1834 and came to the United States in 1862. He returned to England in 1865, where he was married to Alice Hill. Returning at once to the new world he located in Dakota county, Minn., where he engaged in farming till his death, which occurred May 29, 1905. Alice (Hill) Hildred still lives in Farmington, Dakota county, Minn. She was born in England in 1844.

To these parents in Dakota county, Minn., on Aug. 6, 1867, Charles Hildred was born. He resided on the home farm in Dakota county until the fall of 1895, when he moved to Nobles county. For three years he farmed the south half of section 20, Bloom, which he rented. He then bought his present half section and has been engaged in farming it since.

Mr. Hildred made a trip to England in 1898 and on the second day of February, of that year, at Leeds, he was united in marriage to Florence T. Taylor. She was born in Leeds in November, 1867, the daughter of Charles Henry and Sarah (Taylor) Taylor, both deceased.

CHARLES PETERSON owns and farms the west half of the northeast quarter of section 21, Dewald township, and has lived in the county seventeen years. He is a native of the city of Helsingborg, in southern Sweden, where he was born Jan. 1, 1864. His father was Per Peterson, who died in Sweden in 1900. His mother, Engri (Deartia) Peterson, is now living in her native country.

During the first twenty-two years of his life Mr. Peterson lived in his native land. There he secured a country school education and during the greater part of the time worked at farm work. Two years were spent in a flouring mill, and about six months he worked at carpenter work. Coming to the United States, he located first at Wilcox, Pa., where he spent one summer working on the public highway. During the next three years he resided at Costello, in the same state. One year of this time he hauled bark for a tannery, one year he worked at carpenter work, and one year he was in charge of an electric dynamo. The next winter he spent in his native land, but returned the following spring and resided a few months at Warren, Pa.

In the fall of 1891 Mr. Peterson came to Nobles county, and, in partnership with a brother-in-law, rented land on section 27, Olney township, just out of Rushmore, and farmed three years. He then rented an 80-acre tract of land four miles north of Rushmore and farmed that three years. In 1894, at the time he rented the last named land, he had purchased the 80-acre farm where he now lives, and in 1897 he moved onto his own land, where he has ever since resided. He built his house and made other improvements on the land at that time.

Mr. Peterson was married July 4, 1898, to Tillie Johnson. They are the parents of one child, Emma Teresa.

RUDOLPH M. V. LENZ is the owner of and farms the east half of section 9, Grand Prairie township, and has been a resident of the township twenty-five years. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Scott county Feb. 2, 1872, the son of the late John Joseph Lenz and Anna Maria (Klinkhammer) Lenz, who still resides in Grand Prairie.

The father of our subject was born in Prussia in 1835 and came to the United States in 1852. Locating first in Kenosha county, Wis., he later became a resident of Scott county, Minn., and in 1883 moved to Nobles county, where he died Nov. 21, 1892. Our subject's mother was also a native of Germany. She came to America when a child eight years of age.

In Scott county Rudolph Lenz lived until 1883, arriving in Nobles county with his

parents on July 11, of that year. Several years before coming to the county John Joseph Lenz had bought one quarter of the land where the son now lives, and upon that land the family home was made for the first year. Upon his arrival the father had also purchased 160 acres on section 4, adjoining, and after the first year improvements were made on that place, and there the father lived until his death. He was also the owner of one half of section 3, which he had purchased one year after his arrival in the county.

Prior to 1898 Rudolph lived on the home farm, working for his father, and after the latter's death in 1892 he assisted his brothers in the management of the farm. On the 26th of February, 1898, he left home and with a party of Adrian people went to the Klondyke country, where he spent a year and a half in prospecting and mining, leaving the northern country on June 12, 1899, and arriving home in August. Returning to Grand Prairie township, he worked out a few months, and on Feb. 20, 1900, was married to Anna Mary Pint, daughter of Matthias and Lucy (Lister) Pint, both deceased. Mrs. Lenz was born in Scott county, Minn., Sept. 16, 1880. To Mr. and Mrs. Lenz have been born the following children: Ruth, born Jan. 5, 1901; Clemons, born April 29, 1902; Irene, born Oct. 15, 1903; Eva, born Nov. 7, 1904; Walter, born Oct. 7, 1906; John Joseph, born May 2, 1908.

After returning from the Klondyke country Mr. Lenz moved onto his present place, part of which he had purchased some years before and part of which he bought at the time of his marriage. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the C. O. F. and Knights of Columbus lodges. He is one of the supervisors of Grand Prairie township, having been elected in the spring of 1908, and is clerk of school district No. 33, which office he has held five years.

THOMAS P. BAKER, of Leota township, was born in Ogle county, Ill., Jan. 9, 1871. His parents, Pierson and Malinda (Ling) Baker, natives of Pennsylvania, are now living in Sioux county, Iowa, aged 67 and 55 years, respectively.

The family moved from Illinois to Sac county, near Odebolt, Iowa, when our sub-

ject was nine years of age. There he lived five years, in Lemars five years, and then moved to Sioux county. He spent three years working in a harness shop and store in Morris, and thereafter until 1896, he worked on his father's farm. Thomas came to Nobles county in 1896 and located in Westside township, where he farmed one year. During the summer of that year he bought his present farm—the southeast quarter of section 16, Leota—and in the spring of 1897 moved onto the place and has resided there since.

Mr. Baker was married at Morris, Iowa, March 10, 1893, to Kate Peuse, daughter of William and Sarah Peuse, who now reside at Morris. Mrs. Baker was born in Holland Aug. 9, 1871, and came to the United States when a child. To them have been born two children: William M. C., born April 30, 1897; Charles P., born Sept. 2, 1903.

Mr. Baker is a member of the board of supervisors of Leota township and has served two years. He has also been treasurer of school district No. 105 for the last two years. He was justice of the peace for nine years.

DAVID JONES, JR., in partnership with his brother, Daniel Jones, owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 9, Lorain township. He is a son of David Jones, Sr., and Anna (Williams) Jones, residents of Lorain township. He was born in South Wales May 9, 1866, and came with his parents to America when two or three years of age. He lived respectively at Peoria, Ill., Tazewell county, Ill., and Marshall county, Ill., and came with his parents to Nobles county in 1889. In partnership with his father and brother he purchased the quarter section of land the boys now farm in the fall of 1891, and later the sons purchased the father's interest.

Daniel Jones was born in South Wales May 19, 1869, came to America with his parents when a baby, and has lived with them ever since.

HANS R. TWEET owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 22, Lismore township. He was born in Norway Aug. 3, 1867, the son of Rasmus E. and Annie

(Frette) Tweet. The father came from Norway in 1870 and settled in Illinois, in Ford county of which state he still lives, aged 66 years. The mother died at the age of 32 in the fall following her arrival to America.

At the age of three years Hans came to the United States with his parents and lived fourteen years in Kendall county, Ill. The family then moved to Ford county, Ill., and there our subject resided twenty-three years. He worked on his father's farm until he was of age, and then began farming for himself. He came to Nobles county March 5, 1907, bought his present farm, and is now a resident of the county.

Mr. Tweet was married in Ford county, Ill., March 9, 1894, to Melinda Charensen, who was born in Flota, Norway, and came to America and to Ford county, Ill., in 1892. She is the only surviving member of a family of four children. Mrs. Tweet's father died when she was a child three years old. Her mother is now 72 years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Tweet have been born eight children, of whom the following seven are living: Edna, born Jan. 12, 1896; Tena, born April 19, 1898; Rasmus, born Jan. 8, 1901; Holbort, born Nov. 2, 1903; Annie, born Sept. 25, 1904; Henry, born May 12, 1906; Loui, born April 8, 1908. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

FORREST C. BRACE, Worthington jeweler, is a native of Williams county, Ohio, where he was born Dec. 25, 1867. His father was E. C. Brace, who was born in Ohio, and who died in 1886 at the age of 70 years. His mother was Isabelle (Wagstaff) Brace, who was born in Williams county, Ohio, and who died when the subject of this sketch was 12 years old.

In his native county Forrest received a common school education and at the age of fifteen years went to Elkhart, Ind., where for three years he worked at various occupations. He began learning the jeweler's trade when twenty-one years of age, and has followed that occupation ever since. For several years he worked in different parts of the country, and in 1894 came to Worthington, where he has resided ever since. He opened a jewelry store and watch repairing shop, which he has conducted fourteen years.

Mr. Brace was married at Worthington Dec. 26, 1897, to Miss Winnifred Grace Myers, daughter of the late Geo. W. Myers and Elizabeth Myers, early settlers of Nobles county. Mrs. Brace was born Aug. 28, 1877. They are the parents of one child - Forrest Trenham, born Jan. 28, 1905.

FRANK J. JOHNSON. Two miles north of Rushmore, in Dewald township, lives Frank J. Johnson, who has become closely identified with the business affairs of central Nobles county during a short residence of eight years in the county.

He was born near Naperville, Ill., Sept. 10, 1868, the son of John and Mary (Mertz) Johnson, who now reside at Tripoli, Iowa. The father is a native of Germany and came to America in 1864; the mother is a native of Pennsylvania. When Frank was two years of age his parents moved to Tripoli, Iowa, and in that Iowa town the subject of this sketch was raised. During his boyhood days he secured an education in the schools of Tripoli, worked some of his father's farm, and worked out for wages part of the time.

In March, 1886, he left home and took up his residence in Reimbeck, Grundy county, Iowa. There he worked out by the month at farm work and as a member of threshing crews for four years. In 1890 he went to Dinsdale, Iowa, and engaged in the hardware and implement business in partnership with D. J. Wilson and F. Ringe, with which firm he was connected for six years. In 1896 the firm traded its hardware and implement stock for the south half of section 28, Dewald township, Nobles county. Mr. Johnson purchased his partners' interests in this land in 1900, but disposed of it in the spring of 1902. When he became the sole owner of the property in 1900 he moved to the county, and it has been his home since. After disposing of his Dewald property in 1902 he invested in a quarter section in Olney township and another quarter in Traverse county. These he sold soon after and purchased his present place, the southeast quarter of section seven, Dewald.

Since coming to the county he has become interested in many enterprises besides his farming. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Rushmore, which opened for business in July, 1906,

and is a large stockholder in that institution. During the last two years he has been a director and vice-president of the bank. He was also one of the organizers of the Rushmore Mercantile company, which began business in 1903, but later disposed of his interests there. Since coming to the county he has been interested to a considerable extent in the threshing business. In addition to his straight farming interests he is now engaged in raising thoroughbred stock, having Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. Besides his business activity he also takes an interest in school and township matters. He was clerk of school district No. 89 for three years, and has been treasurer of district No. 9 for the last two years. He has been clerk of Dewald township since 1900.

Mr. Johnson was married March 22, 1898, to Elizabeth Black, daughter of the late John Black. Mrs. Johnson was born in Canada.

GERHARD LEWIS, Ohney township farmer and breeder of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, resides a mile and a half south of Adrian, where he owns a half section of land.

Mr. Lewis is of German descent, his father and mother having been born in the Fatherland. His father, Matt Lewis, died in Lemars, Iowa, Feb. 8, 1886, aged 59 years. His mother, Elizabeth (Ross) Lewis, still lives in that Iowa town. To these parents Gerhard Lewis was born in Brown county, Wis., Oct. 16, 1862. He was raised on his father's farm. After obtaining a district school education he became a student at a Catholic school of higher learning in Milwaukee, from which he was graduated when sixteen years of age.

When he was eighteen years of age Mr. Lewis went to Lemars, Iowa, near which town he lived until 1902. For the first five years he worked out as a farm hand, then farmed rented land three years, and thereafter was a landowner as well as a farmer. In the spring of 1902 he sold out his property in Iowa and moved to Nobles county, purchasing the southwest quarter of section 30 and the northeast quarter of section 31, Ohney township, where he has since resided, and where he has one of the finest farm homes in the vicinity.

Mr. Lewis was married Feb. 20, 1889, at Lemars to Annie Ahlers, a native of Dubuque, Iowa, and a daughter of Henry and Matilda (Fuskee) Ahlers, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have been born the following named children: Henry, John, Clara, George, William, Annie, Mary, Threse and Frank, all of whom reside at home. The family are members of the Adrian Catholic church. Mr. Lewis was one of the incorporators of the Adrian Cooperative Grain company and is its president. He is chairman of the board of supervisors of Ohney township and has served on the board three years. He is also clerk of school district No. 43.

REV. FR. WILLIAM E. F. GRIFFIN, pastor of the Ellsworth Catholic church, is a native of Rochester, N. Y., where he was born May 16, 1875, the son of John and Ellen (Courcien) Griffin, who are now residents of Harrington, Washington. The father was born in Ireland May 13, 1838, and came to the United States when fourteen years of age. He lived in Rochester, N. Y., for many years. The mother of our subject was born in Ireland March 20, 1839, and came to America when twelve years of age.

Rev. Fr. Griffin resided with his parents at Rochester until fourteen years of age, at which time he began his studies for the priesthood. At the age of nineteen he was graduated from St. Andrew's preparatory school. He then took a two years' course in philosophy at St. Bernard's seminary in Rochester, after which he took up his theological studies. One year in study was spent in St. Mary's seminary of Cincinnati, Ohio, and three years in the St. Paul seminary, of St. Paul, Minn. He was ordained by Right Rev. Joseph Cotter in the cathedral at Winona, Minn., on June 27, 1900.

Father Griffin's first mission was at Fairmont, Minn., where he started a church, over which he presided thirteen months. In October, 1901, he was given a parish of his own at Conception, Minn. There he reorganized the parish, built a fine church, improved the residence, and ministered to his people three years. It was in October, 1901, that Father Griffin was assigned to the Ellsworth charge, of which he has since had

charge. Under his administration the parochial school was built and opened in September, 1906, and it is one of the finest in southwestern Minnesota. Father Griffin is the superintendent of the school, the teachers being the Francis Sisters from the mother house at Rochester, Minn. In the school is taught the regular grammar course and four years' high school course, the instructions equalling that of any high school in Minnesota, the students being finished for any college or university they may wish to enter. Father Griffin teaches the languages and other high school branches. The school has 150 students enrolled.

BRUCE YALE, a Worthington capitalist, was born in Franklin Grove, Lee county, Ill., May 11, 1862, the son of Milo and Evelyn Matilda (Tolman) Yale.

The Yale family is one of the oldest in the United States and was founded by a family who came from Wales about 1621. Milo Yale was born in Camden, Oneida county, N. Y., December 15, 1822. He moved to Illinois with his parents in the early forties, and Lee county was his home for nearly forty years. Moving to Guthrie county, Iowa, in 1877, he accumulated many acres of land and engaged in farming there until about 1898. He then moved to Los Angeles, California, where he now resides with his son. The mother of our subject was born in Erie county, N. Y., and died March 10, 1895, at the age of 67 years. Bruce is the youngest of a family of nine children, of whom six are living.

In Lee county, Ill., Bruce lived with his parents until 1877, and then he moved with them to Guthrie county, Iowa. He was educated in the public schools of Franklin Grove, Ill., in the Guthrie county high school of Panora, Iowa, in the Iowa Business college of Des Moines, and in Bryant & Stratton's Business college of Chicago. He lived with his parents near Yale, Guthrie county, until reaching his majority in 1883. Then he engaged in farming in the same community, which he followed until the fall of 1890. He and his brother, Charles Yale, then engaged in the banking business at Yale, Iowa, a town named in honor of their father. They conducted the bank until the spring of 1900. Selling out at

that time Bruce went to Worthington, where he invested in 800 acres of land in Elk and Hersey townships, buying also a quarter section in Jackson county. The following fall he moved to Worthington, where he has since made his home, looking after his lauded interests and leading a retired life.

Mr. Yale was married in Jefferson, Iowa, Oct. 18, 1894, to Harriett Beard, a native of Jefferson and a daughter of Samuel and Martha Beard, both deceased. Mrs. Yale died in Butte, Mont., June 14, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Yale was born one child, Bernice, born September 20, 1897.

WILLIAM HARDEKOPF owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 21, Seward township, having made his home there during the last seventeen years. He is a native of Germany, having been born there April 20, 1860. His father, John Hardekopf, died in Iroquois county, Ill., in the early eighties. His mother, Annie (Ostermyer) Hardekopf, died in Germany in 1873.

In 1874 William Hardekopf came to America, and although of tender years began to make his own living, working at farm work. Three years were spent in Will county, Ill., five in Bremer county, Iowa, four in Iroquois county, Ill., three in Bremer county and five in Iroquois county. During the last two years of his residence in the last named place he engaged in farming for himself, having bought an eighty acre farm. He came to Nobles county in 1891 and bought the northwest quarter of section 21, Seward township, when the place was without improvements, and has made his home there ever since. His farm is now finely improved.

Mr. Hardekopf was married in Iroquois county, Ill., July 26, 1888, to Anna Elizabeth Gleim, daughter of Ernest and Catharina Elizabeth Gleim, both deceased. Mrs. Hardekopf was born in Germany and came to America in 1882 when nineteen years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Hardekopf have been born two children: Henry (deceased) and William. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hardekopf are members of the German Lutheran church, of which he has held the office of trustee for twelve years.

ALBERT SELBERG owns and farms 320 acres of land on sections 18 and 7, Bigelow township, having been a resident of that township for twenty-one years.

He was born in Sweden June 21, 1866, the son of P. M. and Johanna (Selberg) Danielson. His parents live in Sweden, his father at the age of 72 years, his mother aged 71. Our subject is one of a family of eight children, of whom one brother and two sisters reside in the old country, the others being residents of the United States. Albert came to America in 1883 and settled at Gibson City, in Ford county, Ill., where he farmed four years. He came to Nobles county in February, 1887, and bought an eighty-acre tract of land on section 8, Bigelow township. After farming that four years he sold and bought the northwest quarter of section 18, in the same township, and has made his home there ever since, adding to the acreage of his farm in 1902 by the purchase of the southwest quarter of section 7, adjoining.

Mr. Selberg was married in Bigelow township to Minnie Peterson, daughter of E. L. Peterson. She was born in Sycamore, Ill., in 1876. To them have been born the following children: Ray, born May 21, 1894; Edna Florence, born April 2, 1897; Mabel Josephine, born Feb. 15, 1901; Harold Albert, born March 30, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Selberg are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

THOMAS HUTTON, a farmer who owns and resides upon the northwest quarter of section 29, Worthington township, is a native of Hancock county, Indiana, where he was born Jan. 22, 1851. His parents, Thomas and Martha Hutton, both died in Illinois in 1885. They were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively.

In Hancock county, Indiana, our subject lived until his thirteenth year. Thereafter until 1890 he resided in Effingham county, Ill., during which time he engaged in farming. On the last named date he came to Nobles county and purchased a farm in Lorain township. After farming there one year he moved to section 28, Ransom township, and engaged in agricultural pursuits three years. He then returned to Lorain and farmed there six years. In 1902 he pur-

chased his present farm, three and one-half miles west of Worthington, and that has been his home since.

Mr. Hutton was married in Effingham county, Ill., June 11, 1874, to Mary M. Thompson, daughter of John Thompson. Mrs. Hutton was born in Indiana. They are the parents of two children: Clinton W., of Kandiyohi county, and David Edwin, of Worthington township.

A. OBELE, who owns and farms 320 acres on sections 12 and 13, of Leota township, has one of the finest improved farms in his neighborhood. He came to Nobles county in 1892, bought the farm when there were no improvements whatever on it, and has made it what it is today.

Mr. Obele was born in Bavaria, Germany, March, 18, 1853, the son of Peter Obele, who now resides with his son, and Elizabeth (Maldaner) Obele, who died in December, 1897. When our subject was three years old the family came to America and located at Mankato, Minnesota territory. In that town he lived until 1881. After growing to manhood he engaged in teaming and later learned the blacksmith trade, which occupation he followed four years in Mankato. He moved to Beaver Creek, Rock county, in 1881 and opened a blacksmith shop, which he conducted eleven years. Coming to Nobles county in 1892, he has since been engaged in farming in Leota township.

At Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Feb. 8, 1876, Mr. Obele was married to Catherine Rolow, a daughter of Louis and Mary Rolow. Mrs. Obele was born in Indiana Feb. 28, 1858. To them have been born the following children: Elizabeth, of Colorado; Louis, Leota township farmer; Annie (Mrs. J. E. Knowlton), of Kenneth; Jennie (Mrs. E. Knowlton), of Kenneth; Dora (Mrs. J. Webber), of Kempton, N. D.; Kate (Mrs. M. Knowlton), of Kenneth; Edna (Mrs. F. E. Walters), Burlington, Col.; Nell, Mabel and Allie, at home.

The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Obele is clerk of school district No. 63, which he has held thirteen years.

AUGUST JOHNSON, proprietor of the Dundee meal market, has been a resident of Nobles county twenty-eight years. He was

born in the southern part of Sweden August 10, 1858, the son of John Johnson and Annie Johnson. The father died when August was twelve years of age and the mother four years later.

Until he was past twenty-one years old the subject of this sketch lived in his native country. In 1880 he came to the new world and at once took up his residence in Worthington. He lived in the county seat town six or seven years, during which time he was employed at different kinds of labor. The next eight years he spent in Round Lake village. During the greater part of this time he was section foreman, but during the last year there he operated a butcher shop. Disposing of his interests there he returned to Worthington, spent one winter there, and the next spring opened a meat market at Kimbrae. For nine years he was engaged in that business there, and then, in 1905, moved his shop to Dundee, where he has since conducted the Dundee market.

Mr. Johnson was married at Worthington Jan. 15, 1884, to Christine Olson. She is also a native of Sweden and came to America in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of two children, Elmer and Delia, both of whom reside at Dundee.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Presbyterian church of Kimbrae. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge of Dundee and the A. O. U. W. of Worthington.

**WILLIAM BERNARD TREGONING**, farmer and stock raiser of Olney township, is a Nobles county settler of twenty-two years standing. His home is on the east half of section 6, which he owns.

Mr. Tregoning was born in Iowa county, Wis., Aug. 16, 1860, the son of S. U. and Mary (Halloun) Tregoning. The father, who now lives in Cobb, Wis., was born in Cornwall, England, came to the United States when sixteen years of age, located in Wisconsin, and became an extensive land owner. The mother of our subject was born in Rutland, England, came to the United States when a young woman, and was married to Mr. Tregoning in 1857. She died in Iowa county, Wis., March 15, 1903, aged 80 years. William is the eldest of a family of three children, of whom the others are

John Cutlbert and Mrs. G. A. Billings, of Cobb.

William Tregoning grew to manhood in his native county. After receiving a common school education he took a business course in the Northwestern Business college at Madison, Wis. He came to Nobles county in 1886, farmed in Grand Prairie township one year, and then moved to Olney township, buying the northwest quarter of section 29. He sold his farm there in 1899 and the next year moved to his present place, where he has since resided. At the time of locating he bought one quarter; the other he bought in 1907.

In Dodgeville, Wis., Mr. Tregoning was united in marriage to Lillie Marr, who was born in Dodgeville Dec. 3, 1864, the daughter of Joseph and Alice (Teague) Marr, early settlers of Wisconsin. Her father was an undertaker and cabinet maker and followed that trade many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Tregoning have been born the following children: Henry C., born Aug. 21, 1887; Greta L., born June 23, 1894; Mary Alice, born May 10, 1897.

Mr. and Mrs. Tregoning are members of the Methodist church, and he is a member of the M. W. A. lodge. For a number of years Mr. Tregoning was clerk of the school district in which he resides, and he is now clerk of Olney township.

**SAMUEL TOW** is one of the large land owners and successful farmers of Hersey township, his residence being just a short distance west from the village of Brewster.

Mr. Tow was born in Norway, Benton county, Iowa, April 11, 1863. His parents, Lars and Julia (Strang) Tow, reside in Benton county. Our subject was raised on his father's farm. He received his primary education in the public schools of the village of Norway. Later he attended Blainston academy three terms and completed his education with a three terms' course in the Cedar Rapids Business college.

In 1887 Mr. Tow came to Nobles county and for two years engaged in breaking land near Brewster. He then bought a farm in section 35, Hersey township, and has since been engaged in farming. He has added to the dimensions of his farm until today he owns 604 acres, all in section 35. During

the year 1907 he erected one of the finest farm residences to be found in the community, and his place is otherwise well improved.

Mr. Tow was married at Worthington Dec. 17, 1889, to Mandy Toren, daughter of Gustaf Toren, of Lorain township. To Mr. and Mrs. Tow have been born the following children: Ethel (deceased), Clinton, Linley, Myrtle and Glenn.

STANLEY MOORE, proprietor of the Worthington hotel, is a native of the city of St. Paul, where he was born Feb. 16, 1857. His father was Asa Moore, a native of New York state, who came to St. Paul in 1855, when that place was a little hamlet. Later he moved to Watertown, in Carver county. Asa Moore was a veteran of the civil war. During his service in the south he died in 1864 at the age of about thirty years. The mother of our subject was Louise (Meyers) Moore, now Mrs. William Sparks, of Sioux City. Stanley is the eldest of a family of six children. In July, 1908, all were present at a family reunion in Sioux City.

It was when Stanley was one and one-half years of age that the family moved from St. Paul to Watertown, Minn., and in that village he lived until the fall of 1862. In the summer of that year occurred the Indian massacre, and Stanley, then a boy of five years, was in the stockade at the time of the outbreak. After the massacre the family resided in Carver county until 1871, when they moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where they now reside. In 1868 Stanley went to Minneapolis, and in that city our subject resided until he became a resident of Worthington in 1903. He engaged in the theatrical business, ran a billiard hall a number of years, and during the last ten years of his life there was with the Minneapolis Tribune in the circulation department.

In Minneapolis on November 25, 1903, Mr. Moore was married to Josephine Allen, a native of Ripon, Wis., and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Allen, of Worthington.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Masonic, Knights of Pythias and Elks lodges.

ALBERT DAHLHEIM, whose farm is in Bigelow township only a short distance

southwest from Worthington, was born in Germany Feb. 8, 1872, the son of John and Lizzie (Pachale) Dahlheim, who are now residents of Elk township.

The family came to America in 1874 and for ten years resided near the city of Chicago. The next two years were spent on a farm in O'Brien county, Iowa, and then the family came to Nobles county and located in Elk township, where the father bought land. Albert lived on the Elk township farm until he was 21 years of age. He then married and started farming for himself. He bought an eighty acre farm in Worthington township and resided thereon five years. Disposing of that property, he bought 160 acres in Lorain township, near Brewster, which he farmed four years. He then sold out and bought a half section in Larkin township, near the village of Wilmont, farmed that four years, and then purchased his present place in the spring of 1907. He still owns 240 acres of his Larkin township farm.

Mr. Dahlheim was married at Paulina, Iowa, March 22, 1893, to Miss Hannah Voss, who was born in New York state Jan. 27, 1870. They are the parents of one child—Frank, born in Worthington township Jan. 12, 1895.

W. C. DAVEY, Little Rock township farmer, was born in Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wis., Nov. 10, 1860, and in that town he was raised. His father, S. M. Davey, was born in Campbell, Cornwall, England, in November, 1830, and came to the United States when eighteen years of age. He located a Mineral Point, Wis., and was one of the pioneer settlers of that community. He engaged in teaming and stage driving, and in the early days drove the stage between Galena and Madison. He died Jan. 3, 1901. Our subject's mother is Isabel (Campbell) Davey, and now lives in Eau Claire, Wis. She was born in Ireland April 6, 1830, of Irish and Scotch parentage. She came to New York from her native country when a little girl.

During the first twenty-three years of his life W. C. Davey lived in Dodgeville. There he received his education and there he did his first work. At the age of ten years he began teaming for his father and was



so employed during all the time of his residence there. He has the honor of having operated the first dray in the town. In the spring of 1884 he moved to Grant county, Wis., and engaged in farming until 1892. In the spring of the last named year he sold out there and moved to Nobles county. The first summer he raised a crop on rented land in Little Rock township, and in the fall he moved onto his present place—the northwest quarter of section 14, which he bought at the time, and that has been his home ever since. Besides his general farming he engages quite extensively in stock farming.

Mr. Davey was married at Mineral Point, Wis., December 2, 1880, to Ella Bilkey, a native of Dodgeville. To them have been born the following children: Jennie (Mrs. H. Hurd), of Olney township, born Jan. 28, 1882; Katie, born April 16, 1883; William, born March 28, 1885; Winnie, born Feb. 11, 1887; Mandie, born Nov. 25, 1888; Henry, born Jan. 16, 1892, drowned in the Little Rock July 30, 1905; Genevieve, born Dec. 1, 1898.

Mr. Davey is town clerk. He has served as assessor three years, supervisor one year, and director of school district No. 11 for four years. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Little Rock, Iowa.

CHARLES KUHLE, of Larkin township, is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where he was born April 18, 1873, the son of Ben and Annie (Sass) Kuhl. His father died in Germany in May, 1875, at the age of 45 years. The mother died in Illinois in July, 1891, aged 55 years.

Our subject came to America with his mother and step-father and located at Davenport, Iowa. He remained there only from the spring of the year till October 1, when he moved to Monmouth, Ill., and there resided till 1890. That year he came to Nobles county and located in Elk township. For several years he made his home in that township, making trips occasionally back to Illinois. He ran a threshing machine two years, and engaged in farming there three years. In 1900 Mr. Kuhl engaged in farming in Lorain township, and was there three years. In 1905 he moved to his present place in Larkin—240 acres on sections 36

and 25—which he had bought in February, 1902.

Mr. Kuhl was married March 9, 1898, at Worthington to Minnie Schaeffer, daughter of Fred Schaeffer. She was born in Crawford county, Iowa, June 18, 1877. To them has been born one child, Annie, born March 17, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhl are members of the German Lutheran church.

JAMES F. BRITT, farmer and auctioneer of Leota township, is a native of Plymouth county, Iowa, and was born June 3, 1871, the son of Thomas and Nora (Ahern) Britt. The former was born in Virginia and died in Plymouth county, Iowa, Dec. 20, 1905, at the age of 66 years. The mother died in Plymouth county Oct. 20, 1897, aged 60 years. There were ten children in the family, as follows: Mary, Johanna (deceased), Katie, Jerry, James, Daniel (deceased), Nellie, Thomas, John (deceased) and Joseph.

Up to the time he became of age James Britt lived with his father. He then engaged in farming for himself in his native county, and remained a resident there until 1895. He then moved to Rock county, Minn., where he lived one year. He came to Nobles county in 1896, located on the northeast quarter of section 18, Leota township, which he had purchased the year before, and upon that place he has since been engaged in farming. The farm was originally obtained from the government by Pat Kearnan, and that gentleman's claim shanty is still standing. It was the only building on the farm when Mr. Britt bought it.

Mr. Britt was married in Plymouth county, Iowa, to Agnes Toomey, who was reared and educated in Platteville, Wis., her parents being among the early settlers of Grant county. She was a teacher in the country schools of this and Plymouth counties several years. Mr. and Mrs. Britt are the parents of the following named children: Clarence, Virgil, Marie and Florence.

The family are members of the Catholic church of Kenneth. Mr. Britt is a member of the school board of district No. 105. In addition to his farming, Mr. Britt is an auctioneer, and follows that profession during the sales season, crying all kinds of farm and stock sales.

GEORGE E. TINNES, proprietor of an Adrian grocery store, has resided in Nobles county since he was seven years of age. He was born in Arena, Wis., Feb. 27, 1865, and is the son of Syvert D. and Mattilda B. (Lindgren) Tinnes, of Adrian.

Mr. Tinnes came with his parents to Nobles county in 1872 and for several years lived on the Olney township farm. He then learned telegraphy, and for several years followed that occupation in Iowa and Nebraska. In 1889 he and his brother, D. J. Tinnes, opened a general merchandise business in Adrian. It was conducted by the brothers until February, 1897, when the present owner purchased his brother's interest, and has since conducted the store. He now operates it as an exclusive grocery store, and enjoys an excellent trade.

On July 19, 1894, Mr. Tinnes was married to Miss Patience Kilpatrick, and to them have been born two children, as follows: Mildred, born July 10, 1895; Clayton E., born Aug. 8, 1902.

Mr. Tinnes is a member of the Masonic and Eastern Star lodges. He served two terms as recorder of Adrian soon after removing to the village.

ALBERT BROOKS, who with his brother, Lyman, farms 240 acres on section 8, Westside township, is a native of that township, having been born July 19, 1880. He is the son of the late Samuel Brooks and Susan E. (Turner) Brooks, early day settlers of the county.

Samuel Brooks was born in Crawford county, Pa., August 30, 1840. Thirteen years later he moved to Crawford county, Indiana, where he resided until 1872. During nearly all of this time he was engaged in the milling business. In November, 1861, he enlisted in company H, of the 19th Indiana infantry, and served a little over three years. He was in the Vicksburg campaign with Grant and was present when the city surrendered. He took part in the battle of Cumberland Gap and saw considerable fighting in Texas. After his discharge from the army he returned to Crawford county, Indiana. He came to Nobles county in 1872 and located in Westside township, filing on the southwest quarter of section 20 as a homestead and the northwest

quarter of the same section as a tree claim. He lived on the homestead until he secured title and then sold it. Thereafter he lived on the tree claim. During the early days Mr. Brooks did not reside continuously in the county. He occasionally made trips back to his old home, where he would live from a few months to a year at a time. Selling his farm in 1890, he returned to Indiana, but came back again in the spring of 1891, and resided on the farm until his death, which occurred April 27, 1901. Mr. Brooks served as supervisor of Westside for several years. Our subject's mother was born in Crawford county, Indiana, was married to Mr. Brooks in Fillmore county, Minn., June 14, 1877, and now resides with her son.

Albert Brooks was raised on the Westside township farm, secured his education in the district school, and has resided there all his life. Lyman Brooks, who is in partnership with our subject, was born Oct. 30, 1888. Albert Brooks has held the office of town clerk for the last four years and that of director of school district No. 50 for the last three years.

OSCAR F. BLOOD, one of the members of the Worthington Plumbing company, is a native of Brandon, Vermont, where he was born June 3, 1878. His father was George I. Blood, who was born in Vermont April 22, 1851, and who died in November, 1898. His mother, Alice A. (Cross) Blood, was born in Vermont Feb. 19, 1855, and now makes her home in Sioux City, Iowa. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of our subject were veterans of the civil war, the latter having been killed at the battle of Cold Harbor.

When Oscar was one year old the family moved from Vermont to Sioux county, Iowa, and that county was his home until the spring of 1901. He was educated in the country schools of Sioux county and in Hull academy, where he took a two years' preparatory course. During his school days he made his home on the farm, and spent his summers working, and after quitting school in 1896 he engaged in farm work. From 1895 to 1898 he served as a member of company E, of the Fourth regiment, Iowa national guards, and upon the outbreak of the

Spanish war the company was mustered out of the guards and mustered in as company E, of the 52nd Iowa volunteer infantry. He reenlisted at Des Moines, and during the war was stationed there and at Chickamauga Park, Ga.

Mr. Blood left with the family in April, 1901, and moved to Sioux City. He came to Worthington in July, of the same year, and during that fall engaged in threshing with John James. In January, 1902, he took a position in the Worthington mill and was employed there one year. He moved onto the Otis Bigelow farm in the spring of 1903, where he engaged in farming until the fall of 1905. He then moved to Worthington, and in partnership with J. E. Erickson engaged in the plumbing business, forming the Worthington Plumbing company, and has since been a member of that firm.

On May 20, 1903, Mr. Blood was married at Worthington to Hattie Mae Stocking, a native of Connecticut. To them have been born three children: Hattie Emma, Myrtice Ula and Irmel Amelia. Mr. and Mrs. Blood are members of the Methodist church of Worthington.

When the Worthington militia company was organized on Nov. 28, 1905, Mr. Blood became a charter member. He held the office of first sergeant from the date of enlistment until Feb. 28, 1908, when he was promoted to second lieutenant, which office he now holds.

S. J. ANDERSON owns and farms 213 acres in section 11, Elk township, which has been his home for the last twenty years. He was born in Skara, Sweden, Dec. 14, 1863, the son of Andrew Johnson and Mary (Enquist) Johnson. In his native country Mr. Anderson attended the common schools, and in 1881, when eighteen years of age, came to America and located in Goodhue county, Minnesota. At the time of his arrival in Minnesota he had no money—in fact, was in debt \$50 for the price of his ticket to America. His parents came to this country the following year and made their home in Goodhue county, where they died.

Mr. Anderson attended the schools of Goodhue county for a short time, and for seven years worked at farm work there. He came to Nobles county in 1888 and

bought the farm he has lived on since, then raw prairie land. The first two years he spent in breaking out his land and two years later erected buildings thereon, and today he has a finely improved farm.

On December 21, 1897, Mr. Anderson was married in Elk township to Frieda Wallgren, and to this union have been born six children, all of whom are living at home. They are Minnie, Helen, Alice, Hildegard, Olive and Walter.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington, and Mr. Anderson is a deacon of the church. During the last eight years he has been a member of the board of supervisors of Elk township and for the last twelve or fifteen years has been a school director.

PERLE C. ROSS, of Bigelow, is engaged in buying cream at that point, in which business he has been engaged for the last seven years. He was born at Red Cloud, Neb., Dec. 14, 1875. His father was C. A. Ross, a native of New York state, and his mother, Josephine (Kline) Ross, was of French descent, her mother having been born in that country. C. A. Ross died in 1897.

At an early date in the life of the subject of this sketch the family moved to Hull, Iowa, and there he was brought up and received his education. He completed his schooling in the Hull Educational institute. After growing to manhood Perle engaged in farming and produce buying. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he enlisted in the 52nd regiment of Iowa volunteers, in which regiment he served from May 28, 1898, till Nov. 30 of the same year.

Mr. Ross was married to Miss Blanche A. Okey, and to them have been born three children, as follows: Laura, Lois and Eilene. Mr. Ross moved to Nobles county Oct. 17, 1901, and settled at Bigelow. He at once engaged in the cream buying business, which has been his business since.

ARTHUR J. WOODFORD farms a quarter section of land in Worthington township, a short distance west of the village of Worthington. He was born in Elkhart, Ind., Nov. 29, 1869, and is the son of Henry D. and Elizabeth (Sherman) Woodford, now of

Worthington. Our subject's great great grandfather came from England and was an early settler of New York state. The mother of our subject descends from another old American family and is related to the famous general of the civil war.

When Arthur J. Woodford was nine years old the family moved from Elkhart, Indiana, to Marshalltown, Iowa. After a residence there of two years they moved to Carroll, where our subject lived many years. He completed his education in the grammar school of that town, and when fifteen years of age began working at the jeweler's trade, which he followed four years. After farming several years in Carroll county he moved to Pocahontas county and continued that occupation for a time. He was a fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern road for one year and ran a traction engine several seasons. Mr. Woodford came to Nobles county in the spring of 1905 and since that time has been engaged in farming his father's farm in Worthington township.

Mr. Woodford was married at Carroll, Iowa, Sept. 4, 1893, to Essie Kallenberg. They are the parents of four children, all residing at home: Gladys, Frank, Bessie and Pearl. Mr. Woodford held the office of clerk of school district No. 72 two years.

WILLIAM C. THOM, A son of William Thom, deceased, is William C. Thom, cashier of the First National Bank of Rushmore. He was born in Houston county, Minn., March 11, 1871, and came with his parents to Nobles county in 1874. His home was on the Olney township farm until 1902, when he came to Rushmore, and in that village he has since resided.

His education was secured in the district schools of Olney township and in the Breck school at Wilder, Minn., where he was a student during the years 1893, 1894 and 1895. After finishing his studies, Mr. Thom engaged in teaching school. For one year he taught in district No. 41, and for the next four and one-half years he was the teacher of the school in district No. 69, where he had received his early training. Giving up his school work, Mr. Thom took employment with the Peavy Elevator company, and for seven years was manager of the company's business at Rushmore. After the

Peavy company sold to the Plymouth Elevator company, he became the agent of that company, and is still buying grain in Rushmore, in connection with his many other duties. For three years he was a member of the firm of Peterson & Thom, stock dealers, and is now a member of the firm of Innes-Thom Co., which owns lumber yards in Rushmore and Magnolia. He became a director of the First National Bank when that institution was founded in 1903, became assistant cashier in March, 1905, and on Feb. 1, 1907, became the cashier and manager of the bank.

Mr. Thom was married at Mankato, Minn., Oct. 29, 1902, to Josephine Christianson, daughter of P. Christianson, of Mankato. Mrs. Thom was born in Iowa, moved with her parents to Mankato when a child, and there resided until her marriage. She secured an education in the Mankato schools, and for several years engaged in teaching school, the four years previous to her marriage being employed as teacher of the Rushmore school. To Mr. and Mrs. Thom has been born one child, William Craigen, born Oct. 17, 1906.

JOSEPH FOEHR, a farmer of Graham Lakes township, was born near the village of Henry in Putnam county, Ill., Sept. 5, 1867. His father, John Foehr, was born in Wiedenberg, Germany, in 1819, came to the United States when yet a young man, and died in 1883. His mother was Barbara (Mangold) Foehr, who was born in Germany and who died in May, 1901, aged 75 years.

When Joseph Foehr was one year old the family moved from Putnam county to near Lodi, in Iroquois county, and that county was his home until 1899. He secured a country school education and was raised on the farm. After his father's death he assumed the management of the home farm, and during the last few years of his residence in Illinois he engaged in farming for himself.

In 1899 Mr. Foehr came to Nobles county and bought the southeast quarter of section 33, Graham Lakes township, which land was then unimproved, and two years later he purchased an additional eighty acres on section 28, both of which pieces of property he still owns. With very little means when

he arrived in the county, he purchased his land and farming machinery mostly on credit. He was unable to make the necessary improvements on his land, and for several years he rented and farmed the Island property. In 1904 he erected the buildings on his own farm, and since that date has resided there. He now owns his property free of debt and has it finely improved with buildings, fences and tiling.

Mr. Foehr was married at Heron Lake Jan. 10, 1900, to Rosa Weinandt, daughter of Nicholas Weinandt, of Brewster. Mrs. Foehr is a native of Champaign county, Ill. Both Mr. and Mrs. Foehr are members of the Catholic church.

LOUIS W. SOWLES, proprietor of the Lismore hotel, has been a resident of Nobles county ever since he was six months old. He was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, Jan. 10, 1872, the next to the youngest of a family of seven children, all living.

William Sowles, our subject's father, was born in Vermont in 1830. At the age of twenty-one he moved to Illinois and later to Blackhawk county, Iowa, engaging in farming in both states. He came to Nobles county in 1872 and took as a homestead the northwest quarter of section 18, Seward township, where he resided until 1894. He then moved to Worthington and has since lived a retired life. Caroline (Gage) Sowles, our subject's mother, is a native of Pennsylvania. She now lives in Worthington at the age of 72 years.

Louis came with his parents to Nobles county in 1872 and resided on the Seward township farm until 1894. He then spent four years in Worthington, after which he went to Iona, Minn., where he ran a hotel two years and a restaurant three years. On April 1, 1904, he moved to Lismore, took charge of the hotel at that place, and has since been the landlord.

Mr. Sowles was married in Summit Lake township March 1, 1893, to Miss Nettie Eby, a native of Fillmore county, Minn., and a daughter of Ephriam and Josephine Eby, who now reside in North Dakota. To Mr. and Mrs. Sowles have been born the following named children: Minnie, Roy, Olive, Cecil, Louis, Mildred and Harry.

P. C. SYNKERSEN is the proprietor of a Worthington paint shop and paper hanging establishment, and has resided in the county nineteen years. He was born in Denmark March 16, 1866, one of a family of seven children. His father was H. C. Synkersen, who was born in Denmark and died there in 1879 at the age of 56 years. His mother is Maren (Madsen) Synkersen, who now lives in her native land and is 67 years old.

Mr. Synkersen learned his trade in the old country and followed it there several years. He came to the United States May 2, 1889, and located in Worthington, where he has ever since resided. In partnership with Hans Schaw he opened a paint shop. The partnership had an existence of only six months, and then Mr. Synkersen associated himself with C. J. Samuelson. These gentlemen conducted a shop three years, since which time Mr. Synkersen has been in the business alone.

WILLIAM LINDEMANN resides about two miles north of Rushmore, in Dewald township, where he owns and farms 400 acres in section eighteen. He was born in Holstein, Germany, July 23, 1858, the son of William and Cathrina (Lueneburg) Lindemann. His mother died in 1886; his father Feb. 2, 1907.

The subject of this sketch lived in his native country until 26 years of age. He received a town school education, and early in life learned the mason's trade. During his residence in the old country he worked at his trade summers and at farm work during the winter months. He came to the United States in 1884 and located in Plymouth county, Iowa. During the four years of his residence there he worked at farm work for wages. In the spring of 1888 he came to Nobles county and purchased 160 acres of raw prairie land where he now lives in Dewald. He prospered, and eight or nine years later purchased the balance of the land he now owns. He has improved the place, and today has one of the finest farms in the vicinity—a community noted for its fine country homes. He devotes his energies largely to stock raising and has large herds. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lindemann are members of the German Lutheran church of Rushmore. He is now serving as a mem-

ber of the school board of district No. 9, and during his residence there has served two years as road overseer.

Mr. Lindemann was married in Dewald township March 12, 1893, to Ricka Ivers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ivers, of Dewald. Mrs. Lindemann is also a native of Germany. They are the parents of eight children, all of whom are living at home: Henry, Otto, Emma, August, Christ, Herman, Paulina and Arthur.

CHARLES W. JOHNSON is a Bigelow township farmer, who owns and farms 276 acres in section 2. He was born in Sweden May 17, 1859, the son of John Magnuelsen and Mary (Johnson) Magnuelsen. The former died in his native country in 1908, aged 72 years; the latter died in 1907, aged 79 years.

Charlie Johnson arrived in the United States on April 13, 1880, and lived in LaPorte, Ind., for one year. He then went to Gibson City, Ill., where he remained until Feb. 26, 1886, at which time he moved to Worthington. For several years he worked out at farm work, and then engaged in farming and breeding draft horses in Elk and Worthington townships. He returned to Sweden in 1899, resided there sixteen months, and then returned to Nobles county in 1902. He was united in marriage at that time to Mrs. Elias Johnson, and has since been engaged in farming and stock raising on the Bigelow township farm.

Mrs. Amelia Johnson was born in Sweden Dec. 30, 1848. She was married there to August Johnson and came to the United States in 1877. They located in Manistee, Mich., and in that city her first husband died. From 1877 to 1885 Mrs. Johnson resided in Manistee, Mich., in Chicago and other places in Illinois. Mrs. Johnson was married the second time at Manistee to Elias Johnson, and in 1885 they came to Nobles county and located on section 2, Bigelow township. Elias Johnson was killed by being thrown from a buggy about fourteen years ago. In 1902 Mrs. Johnson was married to Chas. W. Johnson, of this sketch.

HOWARD S. MYERS is the late proprietor of a Worthington drug store. He is a na-

tive of Oswego, N. Y., where he was born Sept. 2, 1871. His father, George W. Myers, was born in Oneida county, N. Y., April 18, 1831, and died in Washington county, Iowa, in 1885. His mother, Elizabeth Myers, is still living.

In the spring of 1874 the family came to Nobles county, and the father took a homestead claim in Olney township, where they resided four years. From here they moved to Washington county, Iowa, and for thirteen years that county was the home of our subject. Returning to Nobles county he took up his residence in Seward township, where he lived on a farm until 1903. In the last named year he came to Worthington, purchased Dr. Hard's drug store, and engaged in the drug business until August, 1908, when he sold out.

Mr. Myers was united in marriage at Worthington on April 22, 1906, to Martha Bliefernicht.

CHARLIE PETERSON, Hersey township farmer, has resided on the farm he now occupies for the last twenty years. He is a native of Kane county, Ill., where he was born Nov. 10, 1855, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nels Peterson. His parents were natives of Sweden and came to the United States and located in Illinois soon after their marriage. His father died in 1865; his mother died in Illinois in 1904, aged 81 years.

In his native county Charlie Peterson was raised on a farm, and there he lived, attending school and engaging in farm work, until March, 1888. Then he came to Nobles county and moved onto his Hersey township farm the northeast quarter of section 16—which he had purchased the year before he became a permanent resident of the county. At the time he took possession the land was unimproved.

In Kane county, Ill., on March 14, 1888, Mr. Peterson was married to Josie Carlson, who was born in Sweden and came to the United States and to Kane county in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of the following children: Albert, born April 1, 1889; Ben, born May 22, 1890; Rene, born Sept. 9, 1891; Lillie, born Jan. 22, 1893; Lavina, born Nov. 1, 1895; Charlie, born Dec. 20, 1899; Oscar, born Nov. 10, 1901,

Mr. Peterson has served as director of school district No. 85 during the past ten years.

ROY THOM, of Olney township, lives upon the northeast quarter of section 14, which he owns and which he has handsomely improved recently with new buildings throughout.

Roy is the son of William and Eliza (Mitchell) Thom, both of whom died in 1907. He was born on the old Thom homestead on section 12, Olney township, on Sept. 19, 1879, and his entire life has been spent in the township in which he was born. He attended school and worked on his father's farm until his marriage, which occurred in 1906. He then moved onto his present farm, known as the Simpson homestead, but which was purchased by William Thom in the early days.

The date of Mr. Thom's marriage was June 20, 1906, when he was wedded to Miss Bertha McChord, daughter of W. R. D. and Margaret (Churchill) McChord, who were among the pioneer settlers of central Nobles county. To Mr. and Mrs. Thom has been born one child, Helen Lucile, born June 25, 1907.

JOHN N. DIDIER, Larkin township farmer, owns 240 acres on sections 5 and 8. He was born at Evanston, Cook county, Ill., Dec. 18, 1873. His parents were born in Luxemburg, the father in 1823, the mother in 1833. They came to the United States in their youth and located in Evanston, afterwards moving to Iowa. The father died at New Hampton, Iowa, in 1899; the mother died in Larkin township in 1901.

J. N. Didier lived in Evanston until he was twenty-two years of age, and during several years of that time was employed by a brother on a truck farm. The next two years were spent at Caledonia, Iowa, and thereafter, until he came to Nobles county in 1901, he resided in Chickasaw county, Iowa. Coming to Nobles county, Mr. Didier located on the place where he has since resided, having bought the land in February, 1900. His farm is well improved and he is an extensive stock raiser.

Mr. Didier was married at North Washington, Iowa, June 5, 1900, to Miss Anna Rasan-

er, who was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, in 1881. To them have been born four children—Luella, Oscar, Viola and Lucile.

For six years Mr. Didier has served as a member of the board of supervisors of Larkin township. He is a director of the Lismore Farmers' Elevator company and of the Lismore Telephone company. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church of Lismore.

MICHAEL PLEMP, proprietor of the Lismore creamery, was born in Leiden, Holland, March 13, 1871, the son of John and Johanna (Lamme) Plemp. The father, a civil engineer, died in his native country. The mother still lives in Holland and is 67 years of age.

Michael came to America in 1891 and settled in Sioux county, Iowa, where he lived on a farm two years. He then moved to South Dakota and engaged in farming until 1902. That year he came to Lismore and bought the Glovka & Deul livery barn. After conducting that three years, he sold out to William Higgins and gave his entire time to the management of his creamery, which he built the year before and which was opened Feb. 1, 1905. He has a first class plant and is conducting one of Lismore's important business enterprises. He pays out many thousands of dollars each year and the business is increasing.

Mr. Plemp was married in South Dakota Nov. 21, 1894, to Miss Christina LeCoeg, a native of Pella, Iowa. She is the daughter of Frank LeCoeg, who was born in Holland and who came to the United States when eighteen years of age and became one of the early settlers of Pella. Mr. and Mrs. Plemp are the parents of three children: John, born April 21, 1896; Frank M., born June 29, 1902; Johanna C., born Feb. 2, 1908. Mr. Plemp is Lismore's city treasurer. Prior to his election to that office in the spring of 1907, he served as a member of the city council.

WILLIAM B. STOUTEMYER, proprietor of the Worthington Transfer company and of the city's ice business, has grown to manhood in the city in which he now lives. He came to Worthington when a boy thir-

teen years of age, and has spent the greater part of his life here. He is the son of the late William E. and Emmogene Stoutemyer, who for many years were residents of Nobles county.

William Stoutemyer was born in Chatsworth, Ill., Dec. 14, 1874, and made his home there until thirteen years of age. He then came to Nobles county with his parents and for many years resided with them on the farm just outside of the village of Worthington. He was educated in the Worthington public schools and was graduated from the high school with the class of 1896. He then entered the pharmacy department of the Minnesota state university, from which he was graduated, becoming a registered pharmacist.

In September, 1899, Mr. Stoutemyer bought a drug store at Luverne, which he conducted two years. He then sold out and took a position as traveling salesman for a drug house, which was his occupation for the next seven years. Four years of this time Minneapolis was his place of residence; during the last three he made his home in Worthington. Giving up his position on May 1, 1908, Mr. Stoutemyer bought the transfer and ice business from W. G. Ramage in Worthington.

Mr. Stoutemyer was married in Worthington March 22, 1903, to Maude B. Forbes, a native of Worthington and a daughter of the late Azon and Caroline Forbes. To Mr. and Mrs. Stoutemyer has been born one child, a girl, Gene, born May 12, 1904.

Mr. Stoutemyer is a member of the Masonic lodge of Luverne and of the Shiners of St. Paul.

ALBERT F. EISELE, farmer and stock raiser, owns the south half of section 17, Summit Lake township, which has been his home for the last seven years. He is a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, having been born there Sept. 23, 1849.

The father of our subject was Henry Eisele, who was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, came to the United States when 21 years of age, and died in 1884, at the age of 72 years. Our subject's mother was Fredericka (Flaterer) Eisele, who was born and married in Germany and came to the United States with her husband immediately afterward. She died in 1882, aged 70 years.

The family moved to West Newton, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburg, when the subject of this biography was five years old, and in that place he made his home for over thirty years. There he secured his education, and there at the age of twelve years he began to earn his own living. At that age he took employment in the paper mill owned by C. P. and S. B. Markle, by whom he was employed until nineteen years of age. The next two years of his life were spent in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. He then returned to West Newton and took a position as stationary engineer in a coal shaft, being thus employed two years. For the next twelve years he worked in the coal mines of his home town.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Eisele gave up mining and turned farmer. He located near Rock Rapids, in Lyon county, Iowa, bought land there and farmed until 1901. He then sold out and moved to Nobles county, buying the half section of land where he has since resided.

Mr. Eisele was married at West Newton, Pa., May 14, 1875, to Mary A. Griffith, daughter of the late Richard and Margaret (Evans) Griffith. Mrs. Eisele was born in Ebsenburg, Cambria county, Pa. They are the parents of the following children: Ada E. (Mrs. A. J. Apple), of Brookings county, S. D.; A. H., of Williams county, N. D.; Richard, of Rock Rapids, Iowa; Carl S., of Nobles county; Edward, of Williams county, N. D.; Wilbur, of Washington county, Col.; Thomas, of Kansas; Gertrude, Raymond, Joseph, Dewey, all at home. A baby girl died in infancy.

HERMAN H. KROGMAN, Lismore township farmer, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, Aug. 14, 1862, and came to the United States in 1879, landing at Baltimore on July 8. He first located at Petersburg, Iowa, near which town he worked three years as a farm laborer. In Carroll county, Iowa, he farmed four years and then went to Sioux county, of the same state, where he farmed six years. In the spring of 1892 Mr. Krogman came to Nobles county and bought his present farm the northwest quarter of section 23, Lismore township where he has since resided.

Mr. Krogman was first married in the



spring of 1887 in Carroll county, Iowa, to Miss Josephine Rosener, who was born in Germany in 1867. She died at the age of twenty-one years, one year after marriage. To them was born one child, Anton. His second marriage occurred in Sioux county, Iowa, in 1889, when he was wedded to Miss Anna Wess, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wess. She was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1872 and came to the United States with her parents in 1882. They are the parents of the following children: Elizabeth, Mary, Frank, Rosina, Alphonso, George and Linus. Mr. and Mrs. Krogman are members of the Catholic church.

JOHN VOSS, Larkin township farmer, has been a resident of that township since 1886. He was born in Prussia March 25, 1870, and came to America and to Nobles county with his parents in 1886.

The family located on the northeast quarter of section 16, Larkin township, the farm now owned by our subject, and on that place he has lived ever since. John bought the farm from his father.

Mr. Voss was married May 9, 1900, at St. Kilian to Miss Josephine Heling, who was born in Prussia in 1884, and who came to the United States in 1891 and located at Adrian, afterward moving with her parents to St. Kilian. Her father now resides in that village. Her mother died in 1903. To Mr. and Mrs. Voss have been born the following named children: Joseph, Mary, Herman and Elizabeth. The family are members of the Catholic church of Wilmont.

FERD J. KIESSLING, of Westside township, was born in New York city Feb. 21, 1874, the son of Julius and Annie (Lindner) Kiessler. The former died in Nobles county in 1896; the latter lives with her son.

When Ferd was four years old the family came to Nobles county. The father bought the eighty acre farm where the son now lives, paying \$7.50 per acre, and erected a building, and then the family returned to the home in the east. In 1882 the family again came out, but remained only about one month. They came out again in 1885 and made their permanent home here. Our subject has lived on the farm ever since, and

since his father's death he and his brother, Julius, have farmed the home farm. The property belongs to the mother and the two sons. The boys also own eighty acres on section 3, Westside. The family are members of the Catholic church.

THOMAS MARR owns a half section of land in Lismore township and resides a short distance from the village of Lismore. He is a native of Dodgeville, Wis., where he was born May 29, 1868, the son of Joseph and Alice (Teague) Marr.

Joseph Marr was born in Lancastershire, England, Oct. 12, 1828, came to the United States when eighteen years of age, and settled at Dodgeville, Wis., where he lived and engaged in the cabinet making business until he moved to Nobles county in September, 1882. He settled in Grand Prairie township, where he resided until his death, Oct. 5, 1906. The Teague family, of which our subject's mother was a member, is one of the aristocratic families of England. Alice Teague was born in Cornwall, England, May 10, 1835, and died March 5, 1902. She was the daughter of Captain John Teague, who came to the United States in an early day and was employed by the government in making surveys around the great lakes. He died on the spot where the city of Chicago has since been built.

At the age of fourteen years Thomas Marr came to Nobles county with his parents. For seventeen years he lived on the Grand Prairie township farm. Then he bought his farm in Lismore township and has since made his home there.

Mr. Marr was married at Laverne, Minn., Sept. 30, 1902, to Mary Erickson, a native of Grand Prairie township, and a daughter of Erick and Martha Erickson, now of Brown's Valley, Minn. To Mr. and Mrs. Marr have been born the following children: Mildred, born Jan. 5, 1904; Ellen, born Aug. 10, 1905; Raymond, born Oct. 15, 1907.

Mr. Marr is a stockholder in the Lismore Cooperative Grain company. He holds a membership in the Odd Fellows lodge at Adrian. He has been clerk of school district No. 78 for the last six years and was township assessor in 1906.

HENRY J. BLUME is the proprietor of a photograph gallery at Worthington. He was born at Pontiac, Livingston county, Ill., April 30, 1870, the son of William H. Blume and Maggie (Immke) Blume, both of whom are natives of Germany and now residents of Nobles county.

Henry was educated in the country schools of Livingston county. After quitting school he engaged in farming there, and followed that occupation until his arrival in Nobles county, which was on March 4, 1893. He located in Worthington and that city has been his home ever since. For many years he operated a threshing machine in eastern Nobles county, and gained a wide reputation as a successful thresher. For many years he was secretary of the Nobles County Threshers' Protective association, an organization for the protection of the interests of men engaged in the threshing business.

In 1899 Mr. Blume attended the Illinois College of Photography, at Ellingham, Ill., taking a one year's course. The next year he worked in a photograph gallery at Princeton, Ill.; then he returned to Worthington and resumed his threshing operations. For the next few years he was engaged in various occupations.

He was nominated by primary ballot in 1902 on the democratic ticket for clerk of court of Nobles county, but was defeated by F. L. Humiston. April 17, 1906, occurred the marriage of Mr. Blume to Miss Avis Stanbus, of Worthington. On September 1, 1906, Mr. Blume opened a photograph gallery in Worthington, which he has conducted since that time. His work is high class and he has built up a good business. Many of the illustrations in this work are half tone engravings made from "photos by Blume."

Mr. Blume is a member of the Baptist church of Worthington. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, Yeomen and the Mystic Workers. He has been commander of the Maccabee lodge of Worthington almost continuously since the lodge started, and twice has been a delegate to the state convention of that order.

JAMES BALDWIN is a Bloom township farmer who owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 8. He descends from a

long line of American ancestry, his parents and grandparents having been born in the United States. His paternal great grandfather came from Canada.

Our subject was born in Bradford county, Pa., in October, 1849, the son of Thomas W. and Emeline (Benjamin) Baldwin, also natives of the same county. The father was a farmer and was born in 1835. He resided in his native county all his life and died there in March, 1898. The mother of our subject died in 1900.

James Baldwin was raised on a farm and was educated and lived in Bradford county until 23 years of age. At the age of sixteen years he began working at the plasterer's and brick mason's trade, and that was his occupation for twenty-six consecutive years. In 1872 Mr. Baldwin moved to Chemung county, N. Y., where he lived seven years. He then came west and located in Lemars, Iowa. After a nine years' residence there he went to Sioux City, lived there two years, and then, in 1891, came to Nobles county. He bought his present farm in Bloom township, gave up his trade, and has ever since been engaged in farming.

In Bradford county, Pa., Mr. Baldwin was married Aug. 1, 1872, to Lucy A. Benjamin, daughter of James and Lucy Ann Benjamin, both deceased. Mrs. Baldwin was born in Bradford county, Pa., Feb. 4, 1852. To them have been born three children, all of whom died. They were James; died in infancy; Horace, died at the age of four years; Horace, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin are members of the Methodist church.

HERMAN VOSS has been a resident of Nobles county and of Larkin township for twenty-two years. He owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 9. Mr. Voss was born in Prussia Feb. 15, 1866. His parents are both dead, his father having died in 1901, his mother in 1893.

On June 15, 1886, the Voss family landed in America and came direct to Nobles county. The father bought the northeast quarter of section 16, Larkin township, and resided there until his death. After growing to manhood Herman began farming for himself. He has a finely improved farm and makes a specialty of raising fine stock.

He has served as treasurer of school district No. 87 since 1905.

Mr. Voss was married Oct. 3, 1900, to Theresa Brecher, who was born in Austria in 1880. She came to the United States with an uncle in 1895 and lived at Sibley, Iowa, until her marriage. Both her parents are dead. Mr. and Mrs. Voss are the parents of the following children: Josephine, John, Mildred, Frank and Anna. They are members of the Catholic church.

WILLIAM H. BLUME is a Worthington township farmer who owns and resides upon the southwest quarter of section 19. He is the son of William H. Blume and Maggie (Immke) Blume, who are also residents of the same township.

The subject of this biography was born in Livingston county, Ill., March 18, 1878, and on his father's farm, three miles west of Odell, Ill., resided until his arrival in Nobles county. In 1886 William Blume, Sr., had purchased the land in Worthington township now farmed by the son, and on March 4, 1893, the family came to Nobles county, which has ever since been the home. Our subject assisted with the work on the farm until 1900, when he began farming it for himself. Two years later he purchased the property.

ROBERT GUY THOM farms the northeast quarter of section 1, Olney township. He is a native of the county, having been born at Rushmore Jan. 5, 1879, and is a son of pioneer settlers.

James C. Thom, the father of our subject, was born in Scotland in 1842, and came to the United States when about fifteen years old. He lived in Wisconsin several years, but soon after the close of the civil war he removed to Houston county, Minn., where he resided until he came to Nobles county. Arriving here with the settlers of 1872, he took a homestead in Olney township and has ever since been a resident of the county. Until recently he owned and farmed a half section of choice land in Olney. He served four years as sheriff of Nobles county, having been elected first in 1894. He was chairman of the Olney township board for many years, resigning the office March 12, 1908.

Albina (Thornton) Thom is the mother of our subject. She was born in Illinois in 1849. To Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Thom have been born three children: Harry, who lives at St. Anthony Park, Minn.; Guy, the subject of this sketch; Claud, who resides with his parents.

Guy has lived in Nobles county all his life. For several years past he has been engaged in farming for himself. He was married at Rushmore on Dec. 26, 1901, to Miss Etta Schaeffer, daughter of Chas. Schaeffer, now of St. Paul. To Mr. and Mrs. Thom have been born the following children: Mildred, born Oct. 8, 1902; Mabel, born Feb. 6, 1904; Dalbert, born May 13, 1906.

AUGUST SIEVE, of Larkin township, owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 12, and that has been his home for the last twelve years. He is the son of Joseph and Mary (Themann) Sieve, who reside near Binklage, Oldenberg, Germany, and who are aged 70 and 69 years, respectively. August was born in Oldenberg, Germany, March 3, 1865.

Mr. Sieve was raised on a farm in his native country. At the age of twenty years he began working at the miller's trade, followed that occupation a year and a half, and then joined the German army. He served in the infantry at Oldenberg two years. Leaving the army, he again took up his trade and worked another year and a half. He then came to America, arriving in Baltimore on March 17, 1891. He located first at Arcadia, Iowa, where for three years he worked out on a farm. He then rented a farm near Halbur, Iowa, and conducted it two years. In 1896 he moved to Nobles county, bought eighty acres of his present farm in Larkin township, and has since made his home there.

At Arcadia, Iowa, on Jan. 30, 1891, Mr. Sieve was married to Caroline Kohorst, who was born in Oldenberg, Germany, Sept. 23, 1872, and who came to the United States with her parents in 1885 and located in Iowa. She is the daughter of Gerd Henry and Maria Elizabeth (Wilnhoff) Kohorst. Her father died March 17, 1906; her mother lives at Arcadia, Carroll county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Sieve are the parents of the fol-

lowing named children, all of whom reside at home: Joseph Henry, born Dec. 18, 1894; Ella Catherine, born March 30, 1897; Frank Joseph, born Aug. 7, 1898; Joseph Clemens, born May 1, 1901; Mary Catherine, born Oct. 2, 1903; Anton Alois, born Aug. 15, 1906; Emma Christina, born June 30, 1908.

The family are members of the Catholic church of Wilmont, Mo. Sieve is treasurer of school district No. 84, to which office he was elected in the Spring of 1908. He served some time as road overseer.

EDWARD HENSLEY is a Lismore township farmer who owns a farm on section 11 in the outskirts of the village of Lismore. He is one of the older settlers of northwestern Nobles county, and has resided on his present place many years.

Mr. Hensley was born in England Oct. 11, 1859, both his parents dying when he was about twenty years of age. He came to the United States in October, 1882, and located at Lemus, Iowa, where he resided three and one-half years. He then came to Nobles county and bought his present farm in Lismore township, paying therefor \$6.50 per acre, and upon that place he has resided ever since.

In December, 1890, Mr. Hensley was married in New York city to Miss Emma Harding, he having gone to the city to meet his bride upon her arrival from her home in England. Mrs. Hensley was born in England July 18, 1854. Both her parents are dead.

GEORGE W. WHEELER, formerly manager of the Rushmore creamery, is an expert butter maker of twenty-four years experience, sixteen of which have been in Nobles county. Mr. Wheeler was born in Knox county, Ohio, June 5, 1851, his parents being Richard C. Wheeler and Deborah (Watkins) Wheeler, both deceased. When George was four years old the family moved to Iowa, and there he spent the greater part of his life. He was raised in Grundy county, where he lived for twenty years. During these years he was securing an education and working on his father's farm.

When twenty-four years of age he went to Parkersburg, Butler county, and for four

years was employed in a livery barn. We next find him at Aplington, where for one year he was conducting a confectionery store. He then rented a farm in Butler county, near Sherlock, and for two years was a farmer. The next year was spent in the management of a livery barn at New Hartford, and the year following he was engaged in threshing and shelling corn near Holland, in Grundy county. He then went to Reinbeck and operated a creamery one year for Sperry & Carrington Co., of Grundy Center. He next went to Wellsburg, Grundy county, and engaged in the creamery business for himself, where he was located nearly four years. The next two and one-half years were passed at Clarion, Wright county, in the same business.

In 1892 Mr. Wheeler came to Nobles county and for two years ran the Worthington creamery. He then engaged in the business at Round Lake, but remained there only about six months. During the next two years he worked out at Worthington, and then operated the Worthington creamery one year. In January, 1904, he moved to Rushmore, took part in the organization of a cooperative creamery, and became the manager. This was the first successful creamery operated in that village, and Mr. Wheeler met with success in the business. Early in 1908 he moved to Melvin, Iowa, where he is now operating a creamery.

Mr. Wheeler was married at Sibley, Iowa, in October, 1895, to Julia M. Munson.

THOMAS O. SAVIG, a Leota township farmer, was born in Risor, Norway, Dec. 22, 1849. He is the third oldest of a family of eight children, of whom the following named six are living: Coren, Hager, Thomas, Eyan, Osa and Evana. The parents of this family are Ole and Signa (Torgerson) Evenson. The father lives on a farm in Norway and is 88 years of age. The mother died in 1901 at the age of 74 years.

Thomas Savig came to the United States in 1881 and located in Marinette county, Wis., where he resided a year and a half. He then went to Story county, Iowa, where for seven years he worked at tiling and mason work. His next place of residence was Wright county, Iowa, where he engaged in

farming nine years. In 1899 Mr. Savig came to Nobles county and bought his present farm, the northwest quarter of section 33, Leota township, and on that place he has ever since resided. He has put about \$3,000 worth of improvements on the farm and has a fine place.

Mr. Savig was married in Risor, Norway, Feb. 28, 1878, to Thorine Amundsen. To them have been born five children, of whom the following four are living: Martha, born Sept. 15, 1882; Olga, born April 9, 1885; Hannah, born July 25, 1887; Edwin, born Dec. 18, 1889. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lismore.

ARTHUR W. LITTLE has been agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company at Worthington for the last eight years and has been an employe of that company for eighteen years.

Mr. Little was born near Toulon, Ill., April 4, 1871, the son of Frank and Matilda (Worley) Little, natives of Ohio. The father died at Goldfield, Iowa, in 1898; the mother in the same town in 1896. Our subject was one of a family of eight children, of whom seven are now living—all except one being residents of Minnesota.

When A. W. was a child the family moved from Illinois to Goldfield, Iowa, and there he was raised and educated. When nineteen years of age he entered the employ of the Rock Island road, and prior to his arrival at Worthington worked for that company at several different stations. He was at Sioux Falls, S. D., for several years, and there he was cashier. He came to Worthington in the fall of 1900, took the position of freight and passenger agent and has ever since had charge of the office. He is a member of the Worthington Commercial club and of the K. P. and Yeomen lodges.

Mr. Little was married at Sioux Falls, S. D., June 9, 1900, to Miss Ella Wendt. They are the parents of three children—Lee, Howard and Vera.

OLE B. THUESEN, of Bigelow township, is a native of Denmark, having been born in that country Aug. 4, 1863, the son of a Danish farmer who still lives in his native country and who is 79 years of age. The

father's name is Nes Hansen Thuesen. Crestine (Peterson) Hansen, the mother of our subject, died in Denmark in 1902, at the age of 71 years. Ole is one of a family of six children, of whom all except one are living, two in the United States, the others in Denmark.

Ole attended the district schools of his native land until eighteen years of age. He then took employment in a lumber yard at Hadersleben, but after one year's service there, in 1882, he came to America. Locating first in Palo Alto county, Iowa, he spent three years working out at farm work. He then took a position as manager of a lumber yard in Emmetsburg, owned by the John Paul Lumber company, and held the position seven years.

In 1893 Mr. Thuesen came to Nobles county, bought his present farm of 160 acres on section 8, Bigelow township, and remained in the county six months. He then returned to Emmetsburg and for three years longer had charge of the lumber yard. Returning to Nobles county, he located on his farm, where he has ever since resided. He has made all the improvements on the place. Besides his general farming he makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey swine, of which he has a large herd.

Mr. Thuesen was married at Emmetsburg, Iowa, to Miss Elfreda Wass, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States with her parents in 1882. She is the daughter of Alfred and Christina Wass, also residents of Bigelow township. To Mr. and Mrs. Thuesen have been born eight children, as follows: Minnie (Mrs. Jack Blume), of Bigelow township, born 1886; Emma (Mrs. Ernest Folschow), of Bigelow township, born 1888; Freide, born 1891; Henry N., born 1894; Florence C., born 1900; Ida, born 1902; William, born 1904; Mary, born 1906.

The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington. Mr. Thuesen has served as clerk of school district No. 80 for several years past.

WILLIAM SOEHNER resides in Willmont township, just north of St. Kilian, where he owns and farms 240 acres of land. He is a native of Baden, Germany, where he was born Feb. 23, 1866, the son of Casper and

Elizabeth (Altmeier) Soehner. The father, who was a farmer, died in his native land March 25, 1884, at the age of 58 years. The mother is still living and makes her home in Germany.

William lived in Germany until he was seventeen years old. At the age of fourteen he began working in a butcher shop and followed that occupation until he came to America. He arrived in the new world March 10, 1883, and located at Jordan, Scott county, Minn. After working out on a farm there two years he came to Nobles county, arriving March 10, 1885. Until 1891 he was a farm hand, working out in Willmont township. He then bought eighty acres of his present farm on section 22 and started in business for himself. His home has been on the place ever since.

Mr. Soehner was married in the village of St. Kilian to Josephine Schmitz, who was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1890. To them have been born the following named children: Agnes, born Sept. 4, 1891; Mary, born July 13, 1895; William, born Sept. 28, 1897; Annie, born June 13, 1899; John, born Aug. 10, 1900; Lena, born May 18, 1902; Tillie, born July 1, 1903; Charles, born July 24, 1905.

The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian. Mr. Soehner served for four or five years as a member of the township board and is now clerk of school district No. 16, which he has held four years.

DR. WILBERT J. DODGE, dentist, of Worthington, was born in Round Lake township, Jackson county, Minn., Feb. 12, 1880, and is the son of Jacob N. and Mary (Bishop) Dodge, of Jackson county. The home of our subject was on his father's farm on the bank of Round lake until 1903. He secured a common school education in the county schools of Jackson county, and in 1898 became a student at the Platteville, Wis., normal school, from which he was graduated in 1900. From 1901 to 1903, inclusive, he was a student in Northwestern University, Chicago, and was graduated from the dental department of the college in 1903.

After graduation he came to Worthington opened a dental parlor, and has since been practicing his profession. He is a member of the K. P. and A. O. U. W. lodges of

Worthington, and is a sergeant in company F, of the Second regiment of the Minnesota National Guards.

Dr. Dodge was married at Worthington Jan. 21, 1905, to Miss Effie Wolven, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wolven.

OLTMAN SCHMIDT owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 16, Bloom township, which has been his home since he was thirteen years of age. Oltman was born in Livingston county, Ill., June 15, 1877, son of the late Oltman and Alma (Polman) Schmidt, natives of Germany. The father was born in 1829 and died in October, 1907. The mother died in Murray county in 1904, aged 73 years.

When Oltman was a child the family moved to Iroquois county, Ill., and in 1890 to Nobles county. Arriving here, the father bought the farm in Bloom township where the son now lives and made his home there until his death. Our subject worked for his father on the farm until 1899, and since that date has farmed the place for himself.

Mr. Schmidt was married in Seward township Oct. 23, 1898, to Reka Ommen, daughter of Poppe Ommen. Mrs. Schmidt was born in Germany on Nov. 7, 1877. To them have been born the following named children: Elma, Annie, Tillie, Henry and Maggie. The family are members of the Lutheran church of Pfingsten.

7

THEODORE BAHLS, grain and lumber dealer of Round Lake, was born in Davenport, Iowa, March 29, 1862. He is the son of John Bahls, who died in 1893, and Dora (Moeller) Bahls, who resides at Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Bahls was raised at Davenport and made his home there until 1876. He then spent one year in Colorado. Returning to his native city, he took a position as bookkeeper with the firm of Stockdale & Dietz, which position he held for six years.

In 1886 Mr. Bahls became a member of the firm for which he had worked, and the firm name became Stockdale & Bahls. The junior member of the firm then moved to Lake Park, Iowa, and took charge of the firm's grain business at that point. The company was incorporated as the Lake Park Grain & Lumber company in 1895. Mr.

Bahls continued a member of the company until 1905, when he sold out his interests and moved to Round Lake. On June 1, 1900 Mr. Bahls and Mr. H. C. Moeller had incorporated the Round Lake Grain & Lumber Co. and established themselves in business in Nobles county. Mr. Moeller had charge of the office until Mr. Bahls sold out at Lake Park, when the latter gentleman assumed the management.

ERDMANN L. SCHWARTZ, of Worthington, has resided in that city nineteen years. He was born near the city of Bromberg, Germany, Sept. 23, 1856, the son of Carl Schwartz, now of Amboy, Blue Earth county, Minn., and Henrietta (Bartes) Schwartz, who died in Blue Earth county in the fall of 1892. The first ten years of his life were spent in his native country. In June 1866, the family emigrated to America and took up a residence at Rochester, Minn. In September of that year they moved to Blue Earth county, where they lived until 1877. The elder Schwartz was a farmer, and the subject of this sketch was raised on a farm. He secured a few years schooling in Germany, and completed his book learning in a little log school house in Minnesota.

Mr. Schwartz left Blue Earth county in 1877 and went to Madelia, Minn. There he entered the employ of J. N. Chaney, and during the next four years he divided his time looking after the mercantile business and stock interests of his employer. In 1881 he went to St. Paul, and for two years served as night clerk in the Clarendon hotel. He then moved to Amboy and started a grocery store, which he conducted until 1889. That year he came to Worthington which has ever since been his home. The first three years of his residence in Nobles county were spent as a clerk in the Union Mercantile company's store; the next year he was a clerk in the store of H. E. Torrance.

Always having taken a prominent part in democratic politics, Mr. Schwartz received the reward of his efforts in the fall of 1893, when he was appointed postmaster of Worthington by President Grover Cleveland. He filled the office four years in a highly acceptable manner. After retiring from the government position he purchased the sacce store of August Falk, which he conducted

about four years. He then opened a land office, in which business he was engaged several years. In the fall of 1902 he received the democratic nomination for the office of county auditor, but was defeated by E. C. Pannell, the republican nominee. In August, 1906, he took employment with the Benson Grain company, and one year later became the manager of the Schaeffer Bros. & Co. grain elevator at Worthington, which position he still holds.

Mr. Schwartz was married June 25, 1884 at Amboy, Minn., to Pauline Tabbot, daughter of John Tabbot, of Amboy. Mrs. Schwartz was born in Germany, near the city of Bromberg. Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz are members of the German Lutheran church of Worthington.

MARTIN KAIN (1832-1905). Among the early day settlers of Little Rock township was Martin Kain, who made his home there from 1880 until his death, which occurred June 24, 1905.

Mr. Kain was born in Roscommon county, Ireland, in 1832 and came to the United States in April, 1854. He located in the city of Boston, and that was his home for twenty-six years. During the greater part of that time he was employed by the city on street work, but during six years of the time he engaged in farming ten miles from the city. On the first day of April, 1880, Mr. Kain arrived in Nobles county, having come as a member of Bishop Ireland's colony. He bought the northeast quarter of section 28, Little Rock township, paying \$5.00 per acre therefor, and there he farmed until his death.

Mr. Kain was married twice. By his first marriage two children were born: Mary (Mrs. P. J. O'Connor), of Elton, S. D.; Abbie, a sister of Rochester's Sisters of St. Francis. Mr. Kain's second marriage occurred in Boston, where he wedded Mary Redden, a native of the Emerald Isle. She now resides on the home farm. To them have been born the following children: Johnnie, born Aug. 25, 1877, drowned in the Little Rock Dec. 27, 1896; James, born July 9, 1879; Catherine, born Oct. 25, 1882; Edward, born Sept. 3, 1895. The three children last named reside with their mother on the home place, and James and Edward manage the farm.

FRANK BROWN farms the northeast quarter of section 21, Lismore township, and upon that farm he has resided since he was three years of age. He was born in Boston, Mass., May 12, 1877, and came to Nobles county with his parents in 1880. After growing up he took the management of the farm, and since his father's death has been engaged in farming it for himself.

Michael Brown, the father of our subject, was born in Ireland in 1812, came to the United States when a small boy and located in Boston. There he lived until 1880, working at the tanner's trade. He died on the farm in Lismore township May 12, 1907. While living in Boston he married Bridget Finn, who was born in Ireland in 1840 and came to the United States when fifteen years of age and located in Boston.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brown were born four children: Frank, the subject of this biography; Anna, who was married in 1896 and lives in Minneapolis; Agnes, who was married in 1905 to James Finnegan and who lives in Lismore township; Mary, who resides on the home place. The family are members of the Catholic church.

WILLIAM ALTHOFF, one of the big land owners and prosperous farmers of Grand Prairie township, has resided at his present home nearly a quarter of a century. He owns 820 acres of Nobles county's soil, of which 480 acres are in Grand Prairie, the rest being in Olney township. His home farm is the southwest quarter of section 15.

Mr. Althoff is a native of Germany, where he was born May 10, 1858, the son of Henry and Catherina (Tumbrink) Althoff. The former died in Wisconsin in 1892; the latter in the same state in 1886. The family emigrated to the United States when William was five years old and located in Kenosha county, Wis. There our subject resided until 1884. He was raised on his father's farm and after growing to manhood engaged in farming for himself. He came to Nobles county in March, 1884, bought his home farm, which was then only slightly improved, and has resided on the place ever since.

Mr. Althoff was married in Wisconsin Feb. 19, 1870, to Kate Vogelsburg, a native of Wisconsin. They are the parents of the

following children: John, Frank, Mattie, Otto, Tom, Tony, Joseph, Mary, of Chicago; Bertie, of Milwaukee; Emma, of Milwaukee; and Louise. With the exception of the three whose residence is noted, all live in Nobles county. Mr. and Mrs. Althoff are members of the Catholic church of Ellsworth.

HANS H. MYRUM, proprietor of a tailoring establishment at Worthington, was born in the county of Vaage, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, Jan. 27, 1864, and is the son of Hans Jobanson Myrum and Thora (Bjornstadt) Myrum, who are still living in the old country.

Mr. Myrum lived in his native land until he was a little over 24 years of age. He began working at the tailor's trade when sixteen years old, and followed that occupation during the rest of the time he was in his native land. He came to the United States in June, 1888, and located in the country near Lake Crystal, Minn., where he worked on a farm one year. From that time he worked at his trade, up to 1895, as a journeyman tailor. The places at which he worked and the time he spent in each place up to the time he came to Worthington to reside permanently are as follows: Altona, Eau Claire county, Wis., four months; Mankato, Minn., ten months; Worthington, four months; Estherville, Iowa, three weeks; Worthington, for John Ledene, ten months; Sioux City, Iowa, one month; Sioux Falls, S. D., and Estherville, Iowa, nine months; Mankato, two years.

In 1894 Mr. Myrum moved to Worthington, and has resided in that city ever since. For a time he worked for Ledene & Anderson, but in January, 1895, he opened a tailoring establishment, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Myrum was married at St. Peter, Minn., Sept. 17, 1893, to Bertha Hanson, and to them have been born seven children, as follows: Berghild, Helen, George, Oscar, Ruth, Pearl and Mabel.

NELS H. HOKENESS is a Dewald township farmer residing a short distance south of Rushmore. He was born near the city of Kongsberg, in the province of Telemarken, Norway, March 29, 1868. His father, Hans



Hokeness, born in September, 1837, and his mother, Margaret (Hokeness) Hokeness, born in July, 1837, now reside in Dane county, Wis.

The subject of this biography lived in his native country until 13 years of age, and then came to the United States with his parents and located in Dane county, Wis. There Nels completed his education, which had been begun in Norway, and worked on his father's farm. In 1891 he came to Nobles county and for many years was engaged in farm work in all parts of the county, working for wages. The year after his arrival here he purchased the northwest quarter of section 32, Dewald, his present home. For several years he leased the land, but in 1899 he commenced farming it for himself. After his marriage, which occurred March 14, 1904, he took up his residence on the farm, and that has been his home since.

Mrs. Hokeness was formerly Miss Bessie Sorem, daughter of Mons Sorem of Ransom township. She was born in Illinois July 31, 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Hokeness have been born two children: Harold Merle, born Sept. 4, 1905; Sylve Margaret, born Dec. 26, 1906. They also have an adopted son, Clarence, taken from the state school.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hokeness are members of the Lutheran church of Ransom township.

Mrs. Hokeness graduated from the Jewel Lutheran college in 1900 and afterwards taught in Ransom Central school nearly four years.

CHARLES J. ANDERSON enjoys the pleasures of both city and country life, his farm being located within the corporate limits of the village of Round Lake. Round Lake and Nobles county has been his home for the last twenty years, his life previous to 1888 having been spent in his native country, Sweden. He was born in Lindshippen, Sweden, Dec. 14, 1859, the son of A. P. Anderson and Maria (Pearson) Anderson. His father died in Sweden in 1899; his mother is now living in South Dakota.

After growing to manhood Mr. Anderson worked for wages during his residence in the old country, for many years being employed in the care of horses in a large es-

tablishment. In this work he became very proficient and gained a merited reputation as a handler of horses.

Mr. Anderson emigrated to America, arriving in this country in March, 1888. He came direct to Round Lake and accepted employment on the farm of E. A. Tripp, where he was employed for eight years and nine months. Then like so many others of his thrifty countrymen, he became ambitious to engage in business for himself, rented land, and thereafter farmed for himself. In 1898 he bought an 80-acre tract of land within the village of Round Lake, and since that date has been engaged in farming the land. He has made many improvements in the place, and ranks among the progressive farmers of that community. Mr. Anderson has never married.

WILLIAM DeVANEY, proprietor of a billiard and pool hall of Worthington, was born in Ripon, Wis., April 25, 1878, the son of James and Julia (Casey) DeVaney. James DeVaney was born in Ripon, Wis., in 1857. There he lived until 1885, when he moved to Dell Rapids, S. D. For a few years he was a resident of Worthington and now lives in Dell Rapids, where he is a cabinet maker and carpenter. Julia DeVaney was born in Ripon, Wis., in 1860.

The first seven years of the life of Will DeVaney were spent in his native town. He then moved with his parents to Dell Rapids, S. D., where he lived one year. The next two years were spent in Wentworth, S. D., and then, in 1888, he moved to Jackson county, Minn. He came to Worthington in 1890 and has ever since been a resident of the city. He was educated in the common schools of South Dakota and in the Worthington high school.

In 1897 Mr. DeVaney began work in the restaurant of Mrs. Eurine Biltgen, where he was employed six years. At the end of that time he bought the business and conducted it four years. In January, 1907, he sold out and bought the billiard and pool hall of Chris Hogan, which he has since conducted. He has made many improvements in the hall and has established an excellent trade.

Mr. DeVaney was married in Worthington Dec. 14, 1905, to Miss Margaret Biltgen.

daughter of John and Eurine Biltgen. She was born in Stillwater, Minn., May 14, 1883.

Mr. DeVaney is a member of the Masonic, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen and Maccabee lodges of Worthington.

JOSEPH MULROY farms his father's place, the southwest quarter of section 21, Lismore township. He is the son of Matthew and Katherine (Malone) Mulroy and was born in Dekalb county, Ill., June 7, 1878.

At the age of four years Joseph moved with his parents to Worthington, lived on the farm there one year, two years in Ransom township, and then moved onto his father's place in Lismore, where he has ever since resided. He now rents and farms his father's land. He received his education in the public schools of Ransom and Lismore townships. For the last four years he has served as treasurer of school district No. 79. He is a member of the Catholic church of Kenneth.

FRANK DIEKMANN is a Leota township farmer who owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 25. He was born in Etteln, Westphalia, Germany, on Aug. 1, 1866. His parents, Conrad and Katie (Syren) Diekmann, died in Leota township, the former in 1888, aged 60 years, the latter in 1898, aged 72 years.

Frank was raised on his father's farm in Germany and made his home in his native country till 1885. He left Germany August 20, of that year, and came direct to Adrian, Nobles county, arriving there September 3. He has made his home in the county since that date. For the first two years he worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Adrian, and the next year near Sanborn, Iowa. Thereafter until 1894 he worked on farms in Leota and Willmont townships. That year he bought his farm and has since been engaged in farming for himself.

Mr. Diekmann was married at St. Kilian June 2, 1896, to Mary Bruns, daughter of John B. and Mary C. (Schmitz) Bruns, of Willmont township. She was born in Marys-town, Scott county, Minn., Dec. 19, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Diekmann are the parents of

the following children, all living at home: John, born July 12, 1897; Katie, born March 16, 1899; Henry, born May 9, 1901; Joseph, born March 6, 1903; Aloys, born Aug. 7, 1904; Annie, born March 13, 1906; Frank, born March 29, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lismore.

CLYDE STANLEY JONES, principal of the Dundee public schools, has been engaged in teaching in Nobles county seven years, and, although a young man, he has taken a prominent part in educational circles. He descends from one of the old American families of German, Irish and Welsh descent. Several of the family have served in the country's wars. His paternal grandfather was a veteran of the Mexican war, and several other members of the family served in the civil war.

The parents of Prof. Jones are Henry S. and Hattie (Stit) Jones, who were married in Brooklyn, Iowa, in 1872. Henry S. Jones was born in Indiana in 1843 and moved to Iowa in 1880. For several years he was editor of the Brooklyn Journal, was traveling salesman for ten years, and then engaged in farming. He was a resident of Audubon and Clay counties, Iowa until the spring of 1901, when he moved to Nobles county and engaged in farming. He is now a resident of Spencer, Iowa, and is a traveling salesman. The mother of our subject was born in Indiana in 1843.

To these parents in Powshick county, Iowa, Nov. 6, 1876, was born Clyde S. Jones. When he was four years of age he moved with his parents to Audubon county, and there he was reared and educated. He assisted in the farm work during the summer months and attended school winters, being thus employed until nineteen years old. After completing a common school education in Audubon county he attended a teachers' training school and then became a student at the Iowa state normal school, of Cedar Falls. Afterwards he was graduated from a teachers' training school at Spencer, Iowa. In 1896 he began teaching school, at which he was engaged several years in Audubon and Clay counties.

In 1901 Prof. Jones moved to Round Lake, Nobles county, where he was principal of the schools three years. He next served as

principal of the Rushmore schools two years, and in the fall of 1907 moved to Dundee and accepted the principalship of the schools there.

Prof. Jones was married at Round Lake Nov. 29, 1906, to Miss Bessie Leona Tripp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Tripp, of Round Lake. She was born in the village in which she was married in 1887, and that was her home until her marriage. She is a graduate of the Round Lake school, and for four years was engaged in teaching school.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Jones holds the office of justice of the peace of Dundee village.

JAMES A. GREIG, of Lismore, is the senior member of the firm of Greig & Glovka, hardware, implement and furniture dealers. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Houston county Jan. 26, 1874, the son of James and Mary Greig, early settlers and now residents of Olney township.

When a child James A. Greig came to Nobles county with his parents, with whom he resided on the Olney township farm until the spring of 1903, when he and his brother, George, went to the village of Lismore and established a hardware and implement business under the firm name of Greig Brothers. In 1906 George sold his interest to Henry Glovka.

James A. was married in Oregon, Dane county, Wis., on Christmas day, 1902, to Miss Helen M. Sands, a native of Wisconsin and daughter of George and Ruth Sands. She was a graduate of the Oregon high school, and a teacher in the public schools for five years. To them have been born two children, as follows: James Mason, born March 13, 1904, and George Maurice, born June 2, 1905. Mr. Greig is a highly respected citizen, and a member of the M. W. A. of Lismore.

ALFRED J. GOFF, of Worthington, senior member of the grocery firm of Goff & Dean, is a native of Nobles county and has lived his entire life here. He was born in Ransom township Aug. 30, 1873, the son of Eugene and Emma (Daniels) Goff, now residents of Worthington.

Mr. Goff lived with his parents in Ransom township until he was five years of age. The family then moved to Worthington, in which city the subject of this biography has since made his home. He was educated in the Worthington public schools. In 1891 he accepted a position as clerk in H. E. Torrance's department store, which position he held ten years. One year was spent clerking in the store of H. Peter Lewis, and then he went into business for himself. In partnership with James Gibson he started a grocery store in 1901, which was operated for five years under the firm name of Goff & Gibson. In April, 1906, Frank Dean purchased Mr. Gibson's interest, since which time the firm has been Goff & Dean.

In Worthington, on July 10, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Goff to Miss Esther Torrance, daughter of the late H. E. Torrance. They are the parents of one child, Miss Clarice Goff.

Mr. Goff is an ardent church worker, being a member of the First Methodist church of Worthington, and holding the offices of treasurer and trustee of the church society. He was elected a member of the village council in the spring of 1907.

OSCAR STERLING, Worthington, is a member of the clothing firm of Sterling Bros., and has lived in Nobles county twenty-two years. He was born in Kronoberg lan, in the province of Smoland, Dec. 10, 1865, and is the son of Gustaf and Augusta Caroline (Schelee) Sterling, of Worthington.

Oscar received a common school education in his native land, and during the years he was going to school worked in his father's tailor shop and learned the trade. When sixteen years of age he left home and went to Copenhagen, Denmark, where for one year he was employed in a chalk factory. Returning to his old home in Sweden, he took employment with a railroad company and for two and one-half years did mason work along the line of the road.

In the spring of 1886 he came to America and direct to Worthington, arriving in that village on the 22nd day of April. The first year of his residence there he worked for the Omaha railroad company; then he went to Los Angeles, Cal., where he remained only about half a year. Returning to Worth-

ington, he again took a position with the Omaha company, which he held eight years. During this time he attended the Breck school at Wilder, Minn., one winter, taking a business course. In 1894 Mr. Sterling accepted a position as clerk in the clothing store of Bob & Nels, at which he worked two winters, his summers being spent with railroad work. He took a position as clerk in the clothing store of A. R. Albertus in 1896, and remained an employe of that store until February, 1906. Then, in partnership with his brothers, Ernest and Axel, he founded the clothing firm of Sterling Bros., and since that date has managed the store.

Mr. Sterling was married June 2, 1898, at Gowrie, Iowa, to Amelia Lundell, daughter of P. M. Lundell, of Gowrie. Mrs. Sterling was born in Sweden and came to the United States with her parents when a child. To Mr. and Mrs. Sterling have been born three children—Carl Russell, Linnea Regina and Ernest Wilhelm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sterling are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

AREND O. SCHMIDT is a Seward township farmer who resides on and owns the northeast quarter of section 11. He has been a resident of the county for the last eighteen years. He was born in Livingston county, Ill., May 8, 1870, the son of Oltman Schmidt and Almut (Polman) Schmidt, both natives of Germany. The father died in Bloom township Oct. 31, 1907; the mother died March 24, 1904.

The subject of this biography lived in Livingston county, Ill., till eleven years of age, when the family moved to Iroquois county, in the same state. Young Schmidt worked on his father's farm and secured his education in the country schools of Illinois during his boyhood days. In 1890 he came with his parents to Nobles county and located with them on the northwest quarter of section 15, Bloom township. When he became of age the following year he began farming for himself. In 1894 he moved to section 11, Bloom, farmed there six years, and then in 1900 moved to Seward, purchased his present farm, and has since resided there. Besides his farm he owns residence property in Fulda.

Mr. Schmidt was married Oct. 7, 1891, at Fulda to Sophia Breit, daughter of Mitchell Breit, of Seward township. Mrs. Schmidt is a native of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have been born five children, all living at home, Roseana, Oltman, Henry, Eddie and Carl.

During his residence in Bloom township Mr. Schmidt served as clerk of the school district in which he lived, and he is now treasurer of district No. 73, which office he has held for the last two years.

JOHN P. SELBURG owns and farms 240 acres of land on section 16, Worthington township, and has been a resident of the county twenty-one years. He was born March 25, 1854, in Kalmer lan, Sweden, the son of P. M. Danielson and Johanna Marie (Selburg) Danielson, who are still living in their native land. In accordance with the Swedish custom Mr. Selburg took as his surname his father's given name, and during the time he resided in his native land went by the name of Peterson. When he came to the United States in 1882 he took the name of Selburg.

Mr. Selburg received an education in the schools of his native land and during his residence there worked on his father's farm. Coming to the United States, he located first in Ford county, Ill., where he worked five years at farm work. He came to Nobles county in 1887 and located one mile south of Org., where he farmed six years. He first bought an eighty acre tract of land there and later purchased an eighty adjoining. In 1893 Mr. Selburg sold out his property there and purchased his present farm in Worthington township, where he has since resided. He has been a director of school district No. 72 for the last ten years.

On Jan. 8, 1892, Mr. Selburg was married in Worthington to Mary Omalia. To them have been born the following children: Carl Richard, Ellen Maria, Emil Clarence, Hilda Josephine, Mabel Clarice and John Arthur.

TRUMAN (FRANK) WALTERS, contractor and builder of Lismore, was among the first to locate in that town and many of the finest buildings of the village were erected by him. He built the residences of

Mart Graves, John Van Rossen and Gust Johnson, the Rieckoff elevator and the city fire house. He has been working continuously at the carpenter's trade ever since he was fourteen years of age.

Mr. Walters is a New Yorker by birth, having been born at Fonda, in Montgomery county, on May 21, 1854. His father, Henry Walters, was a farmer, born in Dutchess county, N. Y., and died at Fonda about twenty-four years ago at the age of 59 years. Our subject's mother was Lucinda (Weaver) Walters. She was born in New York and died at North Adams, Mass., in 1895 at the age of 72 years.

Truman lived on his father's farm in Montgomery county until he was fourteen years of age. He then went to Fulton county, of the same state, where he started learning the carpenter's trade, and where he remained two years. He then went to Amsterdam, N. Y., where he lived until 1885. During six years of his residence there he was a stage carpenter, during the rest of the time he worked at general carpentering.

Mr. Walters came west in 1885 and located at Omaha, Neb., where he worked at his trade three years. The next two years were spent in Sioux City, and then he moved to Alton, Iowa, where he helped finish a state bank building and where he spent two years. He moved to Adrian in 1892 and has since been a resident of the county. For many years he was employed by W. F. Rieckoff & Co., of Orange City, Iowa, in building houses on farms the company owned in southwestern Minnesota and Dakota. When Lismore village was founded in 1900, Mr. Walters moved there and has since been a contractor.

In Amsterdam, N. Y., Aug. 22, 1876, Mr. Walters was married to Miss Annie Briggs, a native of New York state. To them has been born one child, Henry, born in Amsterdam, N. Y., May 28, 1879, now a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana.

ZENO M. SMITH, street commissioner of Worthington, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, August 4, 1852, one of a family of seven children. His parents were John C. and Susie Ann (Rider) Smith. The father was a blacksmith by trade and a native

of Pennsylvania. He moved to Osage county, Ohio, in an early day. During the civil war he bought a farm in Jefferson county, Ohio, and engaged in farming there until his death about 1894, aged 86 years. Our subject's mother died when Zeno was six years old.

On his father's farm in Jefferson county, Ohio, Zeno lived until he was twenty-six years of age. Then he married and moved to Linn county, Missouri, where he bought a farm and lived three years. Selling out there he moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming two years. His next place of residence was Clarion, Iowa, where for ten years he worked as a butter maker. In January, 1892, Mr. Smith moved to Worthington and for one year worked in the Wheeler & Smith creamery. One summer was spent in a creamery at Round Lake, and thereafter his home has been in Worthington. He has engaged in various occupations, the greater part of the time having been spent in laying sewer tile. In the spring of 1903 he was elected street commissioner, and has since held that office.

Mr. Smith was married in Jefferson county, Ohio, September 29, 1878, to Flora V. Householder, a native of the Buckeye state. To these parents have been born six children, as follows: Fred H., of Lorain township; Grace (Mrs. Ed. Gray), of Minot, N. D.; Lulu, of Eau Claire, Wis.; Earl, Ruth and Ethel, of Worthington. Mr. Smith is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

CHARLES D. ANTRITTER. Among the successful young business men of Round Lake village is he whose name heads this sketch, the manager of the John W. Tuthill Lumber company. Coming to Nobles county when a boy, he was brought up and received his training here, his residence in the county covering a period of nearly twenty years.

Charles Antritter was born in Baden, Germany, Sept. 18, 1877. His father was Charles Philip Antritter, also a native of Baden, Germany, born March 19, 1849, died June 30, 1906. His mother, Caroline (Winterbauer) Antritter, was born in Baden July 14, 1851; she is still living and resides at Round Lake. The father was a wagon and furniture-maker and followed that trade

in his native country. In April, 1878, when the subject of this sketch was only a few months old, the family moved to Lyons, France, and there the elder Anritter worked at his trade for six years.

In May, 1884, the family came to America and settled at Hull, Iowa. Mr. Anritter, the senior, worked at his trade in Chicago the first season, but soon joined his family in Iowa, and thereafter worked at his trade and engaged in farming near Hull for several years. In the country schools near that Iowa town Charles D. received his first schooling. In 1889 Mr. Anritter, senior, and the son whose name heads this sketch came to Nobles county, purchased land on section 1, Indian Lake township, built that season, and the next year the family moved up from the old Iowa home. That Indian Lake farm was the family home for many years.

During the next few years Charles D. worked on the farm summers and attended the public schools during the winter months. His attendance at the country schools continued until he was 18 years of age. In 1896 he accepted a position in A. F. Diehn's general store at Round Lake, where he was employed as a clerk about one year. He then went back to his father's farm, where he made his home until 1900. During the years 1900 and 1901 he was at Des Moines, Iowa, a student at Highland Park college.

Mr. Anritter was united in marriage to Miss Louise Pfefferle, daughter of Jacob Pfefferle, of Rock Valley, Iowa, on the 19th of June, 1901, the ceremony being performed in Indian Lake township. To this marriage have been born three children, all of whom are living: Loren, Ruby and Dorothy. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Anritter lived on the farm one year. Then Mr. Anritter entered the employ of W. C. Grant, then a general merchant of Round Lake, and was thus engaged for a little over one year. On February 1, 1904, he became the local manager for the John W. Tuthill Lumber Co., and since that time has been manager of the Round Lake office.

During his residence in Round Lake Mr. Anritter has served in an official capacity for a number of years. He was elected a trustee of the village in 1904, and was re-elected the following year. On Sept. 1, 1906, he was appointed president of the coun-

cil to fill an unexpired term, and served until March, 1907. In the spring of the last named year he was elected village recorder, and is now serving in that capacity. Mr. Anritter is a member of the M. W. A. of Round Lake. He was brought up in the faith of the German Lutheran church.

AL P. DARLING, of Worthington, has been a resident of Nobles county thirty-three years, and has resided in southwestern Minnesota during the whole fifty-two years of his life. He was born in Vernon Center township, Blue Earth county, Minn., Aug. 14, 1856, and was the first white child born in that township. His parents, John A. Darling and Serepta (Pratt) Darling, came to Blue Earth county, Minn., when there were very few white settlers in this part of Minnesota territory and were among the very first settlers in their immediate vicinity. John A. Darling was born in New York state in 1832, and died in Nobles county in 1904. His wife was born in New York state Jan. 3, 1830, and died in Nobles county May 17, 1888.

The subject of this sketch lived in Blue Earth county with his parents until 19 years of age. He attended the public schools of Vernon Center, and for a short time was a student at a high school. In August, 1875, the family decided to make the home in Nobles county, and arrived at Worthington on the 23rd of that month, having made the trip by team. The father purchased a farm on section 12, Elk township, and there for two years A. P. Darling made his home. He then took a homestead claim of eighty acres on section 6, Hersey township, on which he resided sixteen years. He then moved to Worthington and during the next four years was engaged in the real estate business. In 1897 he purchased the Oakes farm, one-half mile north of the city limits, and for three years engaged in farming on that property. He again took up his residence in Worthington in 1900, opened a real estate office, and has since been engaged in that business.

Mr. Darling was married on June 29, 1881, to Ida M. Fellows, daughter of Milton Fellows, one of the pioneer settlers of Elk township. To Mr. and Mrs. Darling have been born four children, Harris, Amy, Lillian and Ray, all living at home.

Mr. Darling is a member of the Masonic and Eastern Star lodges, and is a charter member of the latter.

TIMOTHY G. CONLEY, retired farmer of Adrian, is a pioneer settler of western Nobles county. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., July 8, 1850. His father was John Conley, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, came to the United States at an early age, and settled at Rochester, N. Y., where he was married to Mary O'Bryan, who was also a native of Dublin. The family moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where the father died of cholera on July 28, 1854. The mother died in the same city about 1888.

When the subject of this biography was one year old the family moved from Rochester to Milwaukee, and in the vicinity of that city Timothy Conley resided until the spring of 1878. He received an education in the Milwaukee schools, and after becoming a man engaged in farming. He arrived in Nobles county on May 8, 1878, and bought a relinquishment to Peter Thompson's tree claim—the northwest quarter of section 24, Larkin township—and in 1880 took as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 22, Larkin township. When he became a resident of that part of the county Larkin township had not then been organized. He took a part in its organization and for many years served as road overseer. He engaged in farming on his homestead and resided there until 1900, when he moved to Adrian, where he has since made his home. Mr Conley is a member of the Catholic church.

At Milwaukee on Feb. 6, 1881, Mr. Conley was united in marriage to Lizzie Cashin, daughter of Patrick Cashin, and a native of Milwaukee. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted son, Willie, aged 14, son of Peter Herbert, of North Dakota.

EMIL R. L. RUDMAN, Graham Lakes township farmer, is a native of the north central part of Sweden, where he was born Oct. 3, 1864, the son of J. O. and Ellen (Olson) Rudman, both of whom are living in their native land, the former aged 76 years, the latter 80.

In his native land Emil received a good education, attending school from the time

he was five years of age until he was twenty-one, with the exception of two years. After attending the public schools for a number of years he entered a high school, where he was a student two and one-half years. He then matriculated in a military college, which he attended four years and from which he was graduated in 1884.

At the age of twenty-three years, in 1887 he emigrated to America and first located in Republic county, Kansas, where he resided nine months. From the Sunflower state he moved to Galva, Henry county, Ill., where he worked in an implement store one year. Returning to Republic county, he entered the employ of a stock buyer, worked for him two years, and then engaged in farming for one year. Mr. Rudman again went back to Henry county in 1891 and farmed a rented farm in 1892. The next year he started in to learn the carpenter trade, which he followed in the town of Galva for two years. In 1895 he bought eighty acres of land in Henry county and farmed it until 1901. Then, disposing of his farm, he moved to Little Falls, Morrison county, Minn., where he remained three months, and then went to Heron Lake. Purchasing a farm near that town he farmed one year, and then rented the farm where he has ever since resided—200 acres on section 23, Graham Lakes township. He holds the office of treasurer of school district No. 2.

Mr. Rudman was married in Kansas Jan. 15, 1889, to Lottie C. Wickstrom, who was born at Bishop Hill, Ill., Oct. 28, 1862. She is a daughter of the late Peter M. and Ingren (Belquist) Wickstrom. Her father died Oct. 30, 1890; the mother in 1898.

HARRY B. LEWIS, proprietor of a Worthington grocery store, has lived in that village since he was thirteen years of age. He was born in Farmer City, Ill., Aug. 7, 1870, the son of W. S. Lewis, of Worthington, and Martha C. (Berry) Lewis, who died in Worthington in 1897.

In September, 1883, the family moved to Worthington. In the public and high schools of that village Harry completed his education, which had been begun in his native town. The elder Lewis purchased a grocery store of A. S. Hussion upon his arrival and in that store Harry worked until the

store was sold to C. J. Smallwood in 1896. On March 10, 1897, the subject of this sketch opened a grocery store, which he has conducted ever since, having built up an excellent business.

Mr. Lewis was married in Worthington May 1, 1895, to Miss Grace Newkirk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Newkirk, early settlers of Nobles county, now residing at Corona, Cal. Mrs. Lewis was born in Worthington township. They are the parents of two children—Lawrence R. and Vera E.

Mr. Lewis has taken an active part in the affairs of the village in which he has lived so long. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, and he holds the office of church treasurer. Mr. Lewis is a member of the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges, and has been a member of the Worthington fire department since the second year after its organization. He was one of the organizers of the Chautauqua association.

**DOMINICK KELLEN, SR.**, Olney township farmer, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, March 25, 1846, the son of Dominick and Catherine Kellen. Both his parents died in their native country, the father aged 50 years and the mother aged 35 years.

Mr. Kellen came to America in 1867 and located in Caledonia, Minn., where he farmed four years. He then went to Minneapolis, in which city he was married Oct. 23, 1872, to Annie Frisch, also a native of Germany. They are the parents of the following living children: John, Dominick, Mary, Peter, Katie, Maggie, France, Nick, Lizzie, Martha, Joseph. After his marriage Mr. Kellen went to Houston county, Minn., where he farmed a rented place five years. Returning to Minneapolis, he worked for three years in a paper mill. Giving up his position there, he again turned to farming, and during the next seven years farmed near Alton, Iowa. In 1891 Mr. Kellen moved to Nobles county and bought the northwest quarter of section 10, Olney township, where he has since resided. He now also owns an eighty acre tract on the southeast quarter of the same section. He raises stock extensively, making a specialty of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey swine.

Mr. and Mrs. Kellen are members of the Adrian Catholic church and he belongs to

St. Joseph's society. Mr. Kellen served on the Olney township board four years—from 1902 to 1906.

**JACOB METZ**, is a Westside township farmer. He was born in Marion county, Iowa, May 1, 1862, and is the son of George and Josephine (Miller) Metz, who still live in Marion county, he at the age of 86 years and she aged 79. The father was born in Germany and came to America when twelve years of age. Until his 21st birthday he lived in Indiana; then he moved to Marion county, Iowa, homesteaded, and there he has ever since resided. Our subject's mother was also a native of Germany, but came to America when a child. Mr. and Mrs. Metz, senior, are the parents of the following children: Valentine, Kate, John, Jacob, George, Fannie, Maggie and Frank.

Until he was twenty-three years of age Jacob Metz resided on his father's farm in Marion county. He then left home and went to Carroll county, in the same state, where he resided two years. He then went west, but after spending eight months in California, he returned to Iowa and located in Cherokee county, where he farmed until 1899. That year he came to Nobles county and bought the southeast quarter of section 22, Westside township, where he has since been engaged in farming. One year after his arrival he added to his land holdings by the purchase of sixty acres in the northeast quarter of section 22, both of which tracts he still owns.

Mr. Metz was married in Cherokee county, Iowa, Feb. 28, 1892, to Miss Mary M. Bauer, daughter of Fred and Mary Bauer, residents of Cherokee county, Iowa. Mrs. Metz was born in Wisconsin in 1871. To these parents have been born the following children: Frank, Rose, Peter, Josephine and Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Metz and family are members of St. Adrian's Catholic church.

**JOHN RAMAGE**, of Worthington, was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, Oct. 28, 1856. His father, James D. Ramage, also a native of Canada, died in 1901, aged 71 years. His mother, Helen (Savage) Ramage, was a native of Canada; she died in 1884.



In Kingston, Ontario, John Ramage lived with his parents until ten years of age. Then the family moved to Compton county, Quebec, which was the home of our subject for nineteen years. He had begun his education in the public schools of Kingston, and completed them in his new home largely by home study. Near the town of Megantic, Quebec, he engaged in farming several years. Later he engaged in contract work, clearing land and doing railroad work. During the last three years of his residence in Quebec he was the manager for an English colonization company, of which the earl of Denmore was the president, which was engaged in clearing lands and locating settlers thereon.

In September, 1885, Mr. Ramage came to Worthington, and Nobles county has been his home ever since. He resided in the village the first winter, but in the spring of 1886 he moved onto his Lorain township farm, just east of the city, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits thirteen years. He then moved to Worthington and opened a machinery and implement house, which he conducted five years. At the end of that time he sold to the Smith Implement company. Since 1903 he has retired from active business life, devoting his time to the management of his properties.

Mr. Ramage was married at Magnolia, Ill., Jan. 15, 1885, to Ella L. Morrill, daughter of Luther C. Morrill. To Mr. and Mrs. Ramage have been born six children, all of whom are living. They are Luther Morrill, John, Helen, Mary Francis, William Douglas and Josephine Catherine.

During his residence in Lorain township Mr. Ramage served as chairman of the board of supervisors seven years. Since moving to Worthington he has taken an active interest in village affairs. He has served as a member of the Carnegie library board since the date of its founding. He is an active church worker, being an elder of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Worthington.

OSCAR A. ANDERSON, in partnership with his brother, Charles L. Anderson, farms a section of land in the northeast corner of Leota township. The boys are sons of Knute and Carrie (Holtum) Anderson. The

father resides with his sons in Leota township and owns the southeast quarter of section 2. The mother died in Lyon county, Iowa, in 1879.

Knute Anderson was born in Norway, was married there in 1867, and immediately thereafter came to America. The family located in Iowa, just south of the Nobles county line, and in 1882 moved into Indian Lake township. Three years later they moved to Leota township, when the head of the family bought his present farm.

Oscar Anderson was born in Osceola county, Iowa, Jan. 22, 1876. He worked on the farm for his father until 1900, when he and his brother rented the home farm and other land and began farming for themselves. He was married Nov. 16, 1904, in Leota township to Miss Florence Vail, a native of Adrian, and a daughter of the late Jacob Vail and Ella Vail, who now lives in North Dakota. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born two children: Alfaretta Carrie, born Aug. 25, 1906; Laureta Florence, born June 14, 1907.

Charles L. Anderson was born in Osceola county, Iowa, May 28, 1877, and has always made his home with his father.

Oscar and Charles are both members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lismore township and of the M. W. A. lodge of Lismore. They engage in stockraising extensively and have large herds.

Mrs. Oscar Anderson was born in Adrian, Minn., in 1882. Her father, the late Jacob Vail, was engaged in the wagon making business at Adrian 16 years, after which they moved on a farm in Leota township, where they lived until July 9, 1906, when they moved to Oliver county, N. D. At that place the husband and father died May 10, 1907, and where a son also died on April 29, 1907. A daughter, Alta Vail, was born in Adrian in 1893. She moved with her parents to North Dakota, and in the fall of 1907 returned to Nobles and now makes her home with her sister, Mrs. Oscar Anderson.

HENRY GLOVKA is the junior member of the Lismore firm of Greig & Glovka, dealers in hardware, farm implements and furniture. He was born in McLean county, Ill., Jan. 20, 1877, the son of John M. and Barbara (Kress) Glovka.

John M. Glovka was born in Germany in 1846 and came to the United States with his parents when three weeks old. His boyhood days were spent in Indiana, and at Jamestown in that state he was married and engaged in the lumber business. Later he settled in McLean county, Ill. He moved to Nobles county in 1887 and engaged in farming, living one year in Olney township and thereafter until 1901 in Larkin township. Making several changes in location after leaving the Larkin township farm, he finally located in the village of Lismore, where he lived until Aug. 1, 1908, when he moved to Adrian. He is 62 years old. He owns a half section of land in Leota township and business property in town. Barbara Glovka is living at the age of 62 years.

Henry came to Nobles county with his parents in 1887 and lived on the farm with his father until 1900. That year he moved to Richland county, N. D., where he bought property and engaged in farming five years. On November 1, 1905, he bought an interest in the hardware store at Lismore, and has since made his home in that Nobles county town.

Mr. Glovka has been married twice. He was wedded at Adrian Feb. 19, 1900, to Mary Bittner, a native of Iowa and a daughter of Mike Bittner, of Adrian. Mrs. Glovka died in North Dakota July 8, 1904, aged 27 years. To these parents were born two children: Emil J., born July 4, 1901; Bernard C., born Dec. 7, 1902. Mr. Glovka's second marriage occurred at Lismore Feb. 18, 1908, when he wedded Miss Mary Webber, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Anton Webber, of Lismore township. Mr. Glovka is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the R. C. M. P. S. society.

FERDINAND HARTMANN, of Willmont township, is one of the very earliest settlers of that precinct, having lived there continuously since 1877. He is the son of the late Romanns and Monica (Schwab) Hartmann. The father was born in Bavaria, Germany, lived for some time in Boston after his arrival to the country, and then located in Nobles county, where he died September 15, 1902. Monica Hartmann, also a native of Germany, died Sept. 10, 1877.

Ferdinand was born in Carver county,

Minn., Dec. 12, 1867. On March 10, 1877, he came with his father to Nobles county, and until he was twenty-three years of age lived on his father's Willmont township farm. The father took as a homestead the northwest quarter of section 34, and resided there until his death. The family was in very poor circumstances upon its arrival to this country and smilered many hardships during the grasshopper days. At the age of twenty-three years Ferdinand bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 33, and began farming on his own account. There he has resided ever since, later enlarging the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of the southeast quarter of section 33.

Mr. Hartmann was married at St. Kilian April 10, 1891, to Mary Lies, daughter of John and Margaret Lies. Mrs. Hartmann was born at Elizabeth, Ottertail county, Minn. To them has been born one child, Ferdinand, born Feb. 24, 1895. The family are members of the Catholic church of St. Kilian, of which Mr. Hartmann holds the office of treasurer. He is a member of the Willmont town board, which he has held since his election in the spring of 1907.

HOWARD L. DURFEE, of Worthington, clerk in the office of the American Express company, and an employe of the Omaha railroad company in the freight depot at Worthington, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having resided there since he was eleven years old. He was born near Newport, Rhode Island, Sept. 26, 1861, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Durfee, now of Santiago, Cal.

In the early days of Nobles county's history I. P. Durfee took a very prominent part. He was born in Rhode Island, and that was his home until his arrival with the colonists in 1872 to Nobles county. He homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10, Worthington township, and bought the northeast quarter of section 15, Worthington township (now owned by Geo. W. Patterson), and thereon erected the first two-story residence in the county. He was elected county commissioner in 1872 and was reelected in 1871, resigning the office Oct. 12, 1875. He served as chairman of the board during both terms. In the fall of

1875 he was elected state senator from this district, and served during the sessions of 1876 and 1877. He and his wife moved to the far west many years ago, and are now passing the evening of their lives in California. Mr. Durfee is 73 years of age, and his wife is 70.

Howard Durfee resided on the farm with his parents most of the time previous to his entering the employ of the Omaha railroad company, which was in 1889. Since that date he has served continuously with the company. He is a member of Living Arch Chapter No. 28, Royal Arch Masons, in which he holds the office of High Priest. He also holds a membership in the Modern Woodmen of America lodge.

Mr. Durfee was married in Worthington Nov. 12, 1907, to Mrs. K. Horgan.

HERMAN H. GOTMER, Bloom township farmer, was born in Fayette county, Iowa, Dec. 19, 1876, the son of Henry and Gertrude (Temforda) Gotmer. Henry Gotmer was born in Munsterland, Westphalia, Germany, in 1832, came to the United States about 1868, and engaged in farming in Iowa. He died in Bloom township May 15, 1897. Gertrude Gotmer was born in Holland in 1843, came to America in 1868, and is now living in Colorado.

Herman was raised on the farm and lived in Fayette county until 1891. That year the family came to Nobles county and located in Bloom township. After renting one season, the head of the family bought a homestead relinquishment to the northeast quarter of section 22 and secured title to it from the government. On that farm our subject has lived ever since. After his father's death he managed the farm three years for his mother. Then he and a brother farmed it three years in partnership. Since 1905 Herman has farmed it alone.

On Jan. 22, 1906, at St. Kilian, Mr. Gotmer was married to Tina Onken, daughter of Henry and Lena Onken, of Bloom township. She was born in Waseca county, Minn., Jan. 31, 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Gotmer have been born two children, Martha and Henry.

The family are members of the Catholic church of Wilmont. Mr. Gotmer is director of school district No. 109, which office he has held two years.

THEODORE CRAMER owns and farms 160 acres of land on sections 34 and 33, Ransom township. He is a native of Grant county, Wis., where he was born May 24, 1864, the youngest of a family of three children. His father was Edward Cramer, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States when 20 years of age. He settled in Grant county, Wis., and was one of the pioneer settlers of that part of the state. During the California gold excitement he went to California, and engaged in mining there six years. Returning to Wisconsin, he lived in Grant county until his death, which occurred Dec. 9, 1906. He was 97 years of age at the time of his death. The mother of our subject was Julia Cramer, who died in Grant county in 1884, aged 61 years.

Until he was of age Theodore Cramer lived in Grant county, securing an education and working in the lead and zinc mines. He first came to Nobles county in 1885 and for five summers worked at farm work near Bigelow. During the winter months of these years he worked in the coal fields of Iowa and the zinc mines of his native state. He then rented land in Ransom township and farmed three years. He then purchased eighty acres of land where he now resides and has ever since been engaged in farming. He purchased the other eighty acres of his farm some three or four years after buying the first piece. Mr. Cramer is one of the supervisors of Ransom township, having held the office for the last two years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge and he and his wife belong to the Catholic church of Sibley. Besides his farm property he owns business and residence property in Bigelow village.

Mr. Cramer was married in Iowa county, Wis., Jan. 2, 1896, to Miss Lizzie Martin, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Fred and Minnie Martin. They are the parents of four children: Alice, born Dec. 21, 1897; Edward, born April 18, 1899; Minnie, born Oct. 18, 1903; Clara, born Sept. 27, 1905.

PETER G. JOHNSON, manager of the C. L. Coleman Lumber company, of Worthington, has been a resident of Worthington eighteen years. He was born in Sweden in

1866, and came to America when three years of age, arriving in October, 1869. The family first located at Atton, Minn., (near St. Paul), and there Peter spent the next two years of his life. In October, 1871, the family moved to Montevideo, Chippewa county, and there the subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days. He worked on his father's farm and attended the public schools. He completed his education with a three years' course at Gustavus Adolphus college at St. Peter.

After completing a commercial course in the St. Peter college, he accepted a position with the Deering Harvester Co. in 1890, as traveling salesman and expert. His duties with the harvester company brought him to Worthington, and in the fall of 1890 he resigned his position and became a resident of the town. He accepted a position as bookkeeper and assistant cashier in the Nobles County Bank, then owned by Peter Thompson, and was thus employed about two years. He then formed a partnership with C. G. Carlstedt and engaged in the general merchandise business, the firm name being Carlstedt & Johnson. About a year and a half later he bought his partner's interest and effected a consolidation with the firm of Ledene & Anderson, the new company being designated J. A. Anderson & Co. With this firm he was identified several years.

On December 6, 1898, Mr. Johnson entered the employ of the John W. Tuthill Lumber company, with which he was connected until July, 1903. During the last three years of his service he was manager of the Worthington office. He then bought a hardware stock and engaged in business for himself until July, 1904. He became the manager of the C. L. Coleman Lumber company at Worthington July 15, 1904, and still retains that position.

JACOB REMACKEL, retired farmer of Wilmont, is a native of Luxemburg, where he was born Oct. 28, 1837. His parents were Nick and Anna (Shu) Remackel, both of whom died in Luxemburg, the former in 1888, aged 65 years, the latter in 1890, aged 65 years.

In his native country Jacob grew to manhood, and after growing up worked at common labor, most of the time on the rail

road. He arrived in the new world March 7, 1880, and located in Dubuque county, Iowa. He worked at farm labor there one year and in Clinton county three years at the same work.

He was married at Lyons, Clinton county, Jan. 8, 1884, to Annie Halfmann, who was born in Prussia Sept. 5, 1861, and who came to America and to Illinois on August 1, 1881. They are the parents of one child, Walter Francis, born in Wall Lake, Iowa, July 5, 1892.

After his marriage Mr. Remackel worked two years in a saw mill at Lyons. He then moved to Wall Lake, Sac county, Iowa, where he farmed rented land seven years. In 1893 he moved to Nobles county and located on section 25, Larkin township. He bought a quarter section of land at that time and later bought another quarter, both of which he still owns. He engaged in farming there eleven years and then moved to Wilmont, where he has since lived a retired life. He owns an eighty acre tract of land within the incorporated limits of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Remackel are members of the Catholic church.

D. V. LEES, proprietor of the Park hotel, Brewster, is a native of Scotland, having been born in Campbleton, Argyle shire, Feb. 20, 1870. His father was John C. Lees, who died in India about twenty-five years ago while in the English service. His mother is Isabella (Waddel) Lees, now a resident of Omaha, Neb.

Mr. Lees was educated in the public schools of Scotland and England. He came to the United States in March, 1889, went to Canada, where he resided a few months, and then moved to Hersey village (now Brewster), where he has since lived. He engaged in farming two years, and then went into the grain and hotel business. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. W. A. and Royal Neighbors lodges.

For many years Mr. Lees has held public office. He has been clerk of the school board for the last twelve years; was on the township board four years; was village recorder two years; and for the last three years has been mayor of Brewster.

Mr. Lees was united in marriage to Miss Magdeline Meier on Nov. 15, 1882. To them have been born the following children: Fredericka, aged 14 years; Jack, aged 13; David, aged 10; Florence, aged 5; Hazel, aged 3.

CHARLES B. WARD, proprietor of the Western Hotel, of Worthington, was born in Grant county, Wis., Aug. 2, 1872. In 1880 he moved with his parents onto a farm near Redfield, S. D. He secured an education in the schools of Sioux Falls, and after his school days took employment in the Central hotel, where he remained until the outbreak of the Spanish-American war in 1898.

Mr. Ward enlisted in company B, of the first regiment of South Dakota volunteer infantry, and served until the muster out of his regiment. After his discharge from the army he returned to Sioux Falls, where he remained until 1902. That year he moved to Worthington, purchased the Western hotel, and has ever since been its proprietor.

On April 27, 1902, Mr. Ward was married at Worthington to Bessie Anderson, daughter of Alexander Anderson, of Crawford county, Wis.

When the Worthington militia company was mustered into service Mr. Ward was elected second lieutenant. He served with the company in that capacity until Feb. 25, 1908, when he was chosen first lieutenant. Mr. Ward is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges. In March, 1908, he was elected member of the village council, and is now serving.

PETER B. SCHOLTES, who is mayor of Ellsworth village and interested in many business enterprises in that village and other parts of the country, is a native of Lansing, Iowa, where he was born August 24, 1868. He is the oldest of a family of six children, all living. His father, Peter Scholtes, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, came to the United States in the early fifties, and became one of the pioneer settlers of Allamakee county, Iowa, where he now resides at the age of eighty years. Mary (Reingenbach) Scholtes, our subject's mother, is living at the age of sixty years.

On his father's farm in Allamakee county, Iowa, Peter B. Scholtes lived until he reached his majority, receiving an education in the district schools and in Valder Commercial college at Decorah, Iowa. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Dubuque and took a position with the Rider-Wallace Dry Goods company, a wholesale firm with which he was connected seven years, four years in the house and three years as a traveling salesman. Mr. Scholtes moved to Ellsworth in 1897 and engaged in the retail mercantile business as the senior member of the firm of Scholtes, Crowley & Bratsberg, with which he was connected until 1906.

Since disposing of his interest in the store Mr. Scholtes has continued to make his home in Ellsworth and is identified with many business enterprises. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Ellsworth and still owns stock in that institution. He is president of the Ellsworth Automatic Telephone company, president of the Ellsworth Land and Town Lot company, and is a partner in the mercantile establishment of Scholtes Brothers at Wilmont, Minn.

At Cascade, Iowa, on July 20, 1897, Mr. Scholtes was married to Miss Bridget Daley, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Catherine Daley. Her father died in 1907; her mother still lives at Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. Scholtes are the parents of two children: Geraldine, M., born August 22, 1899; Bernard P., born October 13, 1903. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Scholtes holds membership in the lodges of Knights of Columbus and Catholic Order of Foresters and has been secretary of the latter organization since its establishment.

HENRY SEWARD, of Hersey township, has resided in Nobles county for the last twenty-one years. He was born at Plato, Ill., Nov. 15, 1847, the son of Levi Seward and Harriet (Spencer) Seward. The family is one of the old ones of America and is the one to which belonged William Henry Seward, the famous secretary of state in President Lincoln's cabinet during the civil war. The father of our subject was a native of New York state, but took up his residence in Illinois, where he died. Our

subject's mother was a native of Connecticut; she died in Illinois five years after her husband's death. Henry Seward's grandfather was a veteran of the war of 1812.

In Illinois Henry Seward was raised, grew to manhood, and lived until 43 years of age. He secured a common school education and when a man grown engaged in dairying and farming, as had his father before him. He was one of the large number of Illinois farmers who came to Nobles county in the late eighties and early nineties in the search for cheap lands. He was one of the first of these in Hersey township, coming in the year 1887. He liked the country and purchased 240 acres in section one, and that has been his home ever since. He carries on a dairying business on a large scale and has a fine farm.

Mr. Seward was married at Plato, Ill., Dec. 24, 1873, to Jeanette Babcock, daughter of Chas. Babcock, who also descends from one of the old American families. Mrs. Seward is a direct descendant of General Lee of Revolutionary fame. Her great grandfather and one of his sons served in the war of the Revolution, and her grandfather in the war of 1812. Two of her mother's uncles were also soldiers of that war, and one of them was killed in battle.

To Mr. and Mrs. Seward have been born four children: Nellie (Mrs. M. Oaks), who resides in the northern part of Minnesota, Edith (Mrs. R. J. Andress), Kimbrae; Walter and Warren Guy, the two sons living at home.

CHARLES C. ERWIN, of Worthington, is the mail carrier for route one out of that village, which position he has held during the last three years. He was born in Ellingham county, Ill., Feb. 2, 1859, the son of Robert and Anna (Harrison) Erwin, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. Both parents died in Illinois, the father in 1875, and the mother in 1872.

In his native county C. C. Erwin secured an education and grew to manhood. At the age of seventeen years an accident left him a cripple for life. At the time he was practically penniless and an orphan and had obstacles to overcome that would have overwhelmed many a man. He did not give up as many would have done,

but set determinately to work to better his condition. During the summer months he worked in the woods making railroad ties, and during the winter months worked in a cooper shop. By hard work, economy and frugality he prospered, and is today the owner of considerable property.

Mr. Erwin came to Nobles county in 1890 and for one year farmed the Bond place in Lorain township. He then rented a farm in Ransom township and lived there nine years. During the time of his residence there he purchased a quarter section of Ransom township land. Later he sold that and bought 245 acres on section 31, Worthington township, which he still owns. In December, 1905, Mr. Erwin moved to Worthington and entered the mail service. For six months he was a substitute mail carrier, and then became the regular carrier for route No. 1, which position he has since held.

On Dec. 28, 1881, Mr. Erwin was married in Ellingham county to Miss Elizabeth Thompson. They are the parents of the following children: William C., born in Illinois Jan. 5, 1884; Charles R., born in Illinois Jan. 3, 1888; Elfa, born in Nobles county Dec. 6, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Erwin are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Erwin affiliates with the M. W. A. and Odd Fellows lodges. He served several terms as school clerk in Ransom township and was treasurer of Worthington township in 1905, which office he resigned upon moving to Worthington later in that year.

WILLIAM WHELAN, of Summit Lake township, is a native of Ferbane, Kings county, Ireland, having been born on April 7, 1866. His father, William Whelan, died in the Emerald Isle in January, 1876; his mother, Bessie (Coolohan) Whelan, lives in Summit Lake township and is eighty years old.

Coming to the United States in 1882, Mr. Whelan located in Benton county, Iowa, where he lived until 1892. He then came to Nobles county and with his brother bought the southeast quarter of section 12, Summit Lake. He lived on that farm until 1903, when he bought the northwest quarter of section 18, Elk township, adjoining. He resided on the Elk township farm until the

spring of 1908, when he built improvements on his present place—the south half of the southwest quarter of section 12—and has made his home there since. He owns 200 acres of land.

Mr. Whelan was married in Elk township Dec. 17, 1902, to Coris Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Young, of Elk. To them have been born three children: Bessie, William D. and Kieran J. Mr. Whelan is a member of the Catholic church and of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges.

MERRITT EDWARD LAWTON, real estate dealer of Worthington, has been a resident of the county seat town since 1889. He was born Oct. 22, 1860, at Manville, Livingston county, Ill., the son of William Edward Lawton and Sarah Ann (Snyder) Lawton. His father died Nov. 26, 1894, and his mother Sept. 14, 1894.

The first thirteen years of the life of our subject were spent in Manville. There he obtained a common school education and worked on the farm. The family moved to Carroll, Iowa, in April, 1873, and there Mr. Lawton lived for thirteen years. He completed his education there and in 1876 was made assistant postmaster of Carroll, which position he held for ten years. He moved to Lakefield, Minn., July 4, 1886, where for two years he was employed in a bank. Giving up that position, he spent the next two years as a traveling salesman. He moved to Worthington May 23, 1889, opened a real estate office there, which he has maintained to the present time—a period of nearly twenty years.

Mr. Lawton was united in marriage April 28, 1886, to Miss Luella Little. To this union have been born three children, all of whom are living: John Edward, born March 30, 1888; Sterling L., born June 25, 1889; Merritt Lynn, born Dec. 3, 1895.

During his residence in Lakefield Mr. Lawton served one term as mayor of the city. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and a member of the Knights of Pythias, of which organization he has been a member for the past twenty-five years. He owns a fine home in the city of Worthington, and also has some farm land in Ottertail county.

CHARLES RUSHO, proprietor of the Lismore city meat market and buyer and shipper of live stock, is a native of Port Washington, Wis., where he was born April 23, 1854. He was the son of Anthony and Almira (Morris) Rusho, natives of France. They first came to Canada and then to Port Washington after their marriage, and resided there many years. Later in life the father moved to Washington. He died at Rathdrum, Idaho, at the age of eighty years. Mrs. Rusho died in Faribault county, Minn., at the age of 60 years.

When Charles was ten years of age the family moved from Wisconsin to Faribault county, Minn., and there he was educated and grew to manhood. Upon reaching his majority Mr. Rusho went to Loup county, Neb., and took a quarter section homestead on North Loup river on the site of the present town of Taylor, county seat of Loup county. He farmed in Nebraska sixteen years, and then returned to Faribault county, Minn. He came to Nobles county in 1896 and engaged in farming in Willmont township until 1905. He then moved to Lismore and purchased the meat market of William Higgins. He owns a residence in Lismore and residence property in Willmont. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, holding membership in the Willmont lodge.

Mr. Rusho was married at Ventura, California, Oct. 24, 1876, to Miss Frances Masey, who was born in Falmouth, England, of which country her parents were natives and where she received her education. She came to California in 1875. To Mr. and Mrs. Rusho have been born the following children: Charles, Edward, Evelyn, Leonel, Inez, Otto, Fern and Georgina.

THOMAS H. PRIDEAUX, proprietor of a general merchandise store at Rushmore, has been a resident of Nobles county for the last thirty-six years. He was born at Dodgeville, Wis., April 3, 1865, the son of R. Prideaux and Mary (Sims) Prideaux, now residents of Worthington. Until he was seven years of age the subject of this sketch lived in the town of his birth. Then, in October, 1872, he came with his parents to Nobles county and during the next twenty-

three years of his life his home was with his parents in Ransom township. There he received a common school education and engaged in farm work. Most of this time was spent in working on his father's farm, but during the last four years of his residence there he farmed for himself.

In 1895 he moved to Rushmore and engaged in the implement business, which business he conducted about two years. Disposing of his business interests in Rushmore, he moved to Worthington, where he resided one year. During the next three years he was at Brewster, engaged in buying grain for the Hubbard & Palmer company. He then returned to Rushmore, and during the next two years was the grain buyer for W. P. Devereux & Co. He then bought an interest in the Rushmore Mercantile Co. and became the manager of that company's store. He continued in that capacity until March 1, 1907, when he purchased his partners' interests, and since that time he has conducted the store alone.

Mr. Prideaux was married April 15, 1903, to Bessie Stewart, daughter of Mrs. C. Stewart. Three children have blessed this union—Richard S., Edith and a baby boy.

Mr. Prideaux served one year as village recorder in Rushmore—the year 1905.

**WILLIAM N. SHANKS**, farmer and breeder of fancy stock, resides on the north-west quarter of section 2, Elk township. He was born July 8, 1878, of Scotch parents, who were living at the time in County Down, in the north of Ireland. His father, William Shanks, now resides in North Dakota. His mother, Jane (McDonald) Shanks, died in November, 1904.

When the subject of this sketch was two years of age his parents moved to the United States and located at Clifton, Ill., where they resided eight years. They then lived four years in Gilman, Ill., and in 1891 moved to Nobles county and located in Seward township. Until his marriage in 1902 William lived with his parents on the Seward township farm. His education was received in the public schools of Gilman and Worthington, having completed the first grade in the high school in the latter place.

Mr. Shanks was married March 5, 1902, in

Seward township, to Miss Flossie Booth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Booth, among the first settlers of Seward township, in which township Mrs. Shanks was born. To them has been born one child, Doris. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Shanks moved onto their Elk township farm, which had been purchased in 1899.

During the last few years Mr. Shanks has devoted his energies largely to the breeding and raising of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and he has one of the finest herds in the county, which now consists of about 130 head. Among the number are some noted animals which have been prize winners in some of the big fairs of the country.

In the early part of 1908 Mr. Shanks sold his Elk township farm and bought 200 acres of the University tract in the corporate limits of Worthington and expects to take up his residence on his new place in 1909.

**R. S. HURD**, of Worthington, was born at Sandgate, Vermont, April 19, 1845, and that was his home until his removal to Worthington in the spring of 1885.

In 1863 he enlisted in company A. of the Tenth Vermont infantry, and remained in the service until the close of the war, being mustered out at Burlington, Vt. He participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Petersburg and other engagements. After the war he went into the manufacturing business in his home town, in which he was engaged many years.

Mr. Hurd came to Worthington in 1885 and engaged in the meat market and stock buying business, being the first to ship hogs and horses from Worthington in car load lots. Of late years he has been retired from active business pursuits, and devotes his time to the management of his farm, which consists of 200 acres on section 29, Lorain township. Besides his farm property, Mr. Hurd owns a fine residence in the village at the corner of Eleventh street and Fifth avenue.

At Sandgate, Vt., in 1872, Mr. Hurd was united in marriage to Cornelia Turner. To them has been born one son—Minor G., a Worthington liveryman. Mr. Hurd is a member of the G. A. R.



JAMES H. HARRINGTON has been a resident of Nobles county twenty-two years, the last thirteen of which he has been a rural mail carrier out of Bigelow. Mr. Harrington was born in Fulton, Oswego county, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1846, the son of Henry L. Harrington, who died Jan. 29, 1882, and Esther Jane (Bradt) Harrington, who died March 2, 1882.

When a child the subject of this sketch moved with his parents to Ohio, and in 1856 to Illinois, in which state he grew to manhood. He enlisted in company H, of the 45th Illinois volunteer infantry, on May 18, 1862, and served until Aug. 18, 1865, taking part in many of the important battles of the civil war. He was wounded in the Seven Days' Battle of the Wilderness and in the campaign about Vicksburg in 1864. He is now a member of the G. A. R.

Mr. Harrington was married Aug. 1, 1868, to Sarah M. Clark. To them have been born eight children, seven of whom are living. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, and their present places of residence are as follows: Leroy, died Jan. 28, 1886; Esther Jane (Mrs. John Gifford), Sibley, Iowa; Henry L., Lake City, Iowa; Norman, Ray, N. D.; Sarah May, Fargo, N. D.; Inez, Ray, N. D.; Roscoe C., Bigelow; Lena Ray, Bigelow.

From Illinois Mr. Harrington moved to Iowa in 1884, and two years later he came to Bigelow, where he has since resided. During the first seven years of his residence there he was engaged in farming and stock buying, since which time he has been a mail carrier.

GEORGE V. WEIDMAN, manager of the Greig & Zeeman elevator at Worthington, has lived in Nobles county nineteen years. He is a native of Stark county, Ill., where he was born April 19, 1857. He lived in his native state over thirty years, following the occupation of farming.

In the spring of 1889 Mr. Weidman came to Nobles county, bought the northeast quarter of section 12 Worthington township, of S. S. Morton, and farmed the place five years. During his residence in the township he served as a member of the town board. After leaving the farm, he moved to Worthington and entered the em-

ploy of W. P. Devereaux & Co., hay dealers, with which firm he was associated five years. He next took employment with the Douglas Grain company, as manager of the Worthington elevator, and when that firm sold out to Greig & Zeeman in 1904, he retained his position with the new firm. He sold his farm in 1905 and purchased residence property in Worthington on Second avenue.

Mr. Weidman was married in Stark county, Ill., Feb. 22, 1887, to Clara L. Joh. To them was born one child—Bernice J., born in Nobles county Aug. 9, 1890. Mrs. Weidman died March 20, 1891. Mr. Weidman was married the second time at Worthington Dec. 10, 1898, to Anna D. Klasy, daughter of the late Thomas Klasy and Ersula (Marty) Klasy, now of Kermit, N. D. Her parents were pioneer settlers of Nobles county, having settled in the St. Kilian country in the early days, where her father was a homesteader. Mrs. Weidman was born in Stillwater, Minn. To them have been born three children: Ersula M., born at Worthington Jan. 18, 1900; Florence A., born at Rushmore Jan. 20, 1901; Walter, born at Worthington Jan. 18, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Weidman are members of the Presbyterian church of Worthington, of which Mr. Weidman is one of the trustees. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodges.

FRANK H. HORTON, son of the late Isaac Horton and Charlotte (Hare) Horton, and proprietor of the Round Lake blacksmith shop, is one of Nobles county's pioneers.

He was born at High Forest, Olmsted county, Minn., Jan. 25, 1862, and in 1867 went with his parents to Spirit Lake, Iowa. Two years later the family moved to Indian Lake township, in Nobles county, and there Frank has resided ever since. Until the spring of 1882 he resided on the farm with his parents. He then took a position firing for the Omaha road, at which he was employed four months. During the winter of 1882-83 he worked in the Northern Pacific car shops at Brainard. For several years thereafter Mr. Horton worked summers in the implement warehouse of J. D.

Humiston at Worthington and put in the fall months threshing.

In 1894 Mr. Horton bought a half interest in a blacksmith shop at Round Lake, and for seven years operated it in partnership with Fred Toel. At the end of that time he bought his partner's interest in the shop, and has since conducted the business alone. His shop was destroyed by a new shop, 20x40 feet, in which he is still doing business.

Mr. Horton was married in Bigelow township on July 3, 1897, to Jennie M. Fulweiler, daughter of Alman Fulweiler, one of the pioneer settlers of Bigelow township. To them have been born the following children: Bernice, Leona, Earl and Loren.

MICHAEL J. MARTIN, Worthington merchant, has resided in Nobles county twenty-one years. He was born in Monaghan county, Ireland, March 23, 1870, the son of John and Rose (McCarville) Martin. John Martin was born in the county of Fermanagh, Ireland, and his wife in the county of Monaghan, where they were married. They came to the United States in 1888, and for many years resided on a farm in Jackson county, three miles southeast of Brewster. Mr. Martin now lives in Worthington with a daughter; his wife died Jan. 2, 1903, aged 68 years.

Mr. Martin of this sketch came to the United States from Ireland in the spring of 1887, and located first at Brewster. There for six years he was engaged in railroad work. He then purchased a farm in Hersey township, which he farmed for several years. Disposing of that he bought land in Lorain township, farmed there two years, and then traded his land for a stock of general merchandise in Worthington. Since December, 1906, he has conducted the store, which is next door to the city hall.

Mr. Martin was married in Charleston, Mass., Feb. 11, 1901, to Catherine Deighen. To them have been born two sons—Francis Joseph, born in Lorain township Jan. 26, 1903; Leo Patrick, born in Worthington April 27, 1906.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin are members of the Catholic church of Worthington, and he is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and American Yeomen lodges.

CHARLES BRINKHOUS owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 34, Dewald township, which has been his home for the last seven years. He was born in Clayton county, Iowa, Oct. 31, 1869. His parents were both natives of Germany, his father coming to America when eighteen years of age. Anton Brinkhous, the father of our subject, died Jan. 7, 1887. Augusta (Tucker) Brinkhous, our subject's mother, died Jan. 6, 1874.

Charles Brinkhous lived in his native county until 19 years of age. He secured a fairly good education, attending the country schools of Clayton county, and for ten months being a student at the high school of Dixon, Ill. He left his old home in December, 1888, and took up his residence in Dawson county, Neb. For one or two years he worked for wages; then purchased land and engaged in farming until 1899. He sold out in Nebraska and moved to Doon, Iowa. There he purchased a furniture store, which he ran about one year. He moved to Rock Rapids in 1900, farmed near that city one year and then came to Nobles county, purchasing the land upon which he has since resided. He engages extensively in stock raising.

Mr. Brinkhous was married in Dawson county, Neb., Jan. 31, 1891, to Annie Kostman, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, Oct. 3, 1871. To this union have been born five children, all of whom are living at home: Lilly, Freda, Katie, Hulda and Amanda.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brinkhous are members of the German Lutheran church of Rushmore. Mr. Brinkhous has served as clerk of school district No. 89 ever since coming to the county. He served as assessor during the years 1906, 1907 and 1908.

HENRY H. MARTENS is one of the extensive stockraisers and farmers of Lismore township. He owns the east half of section 28 and farms in addition to that the southwest quarter of section 27. He is an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs, shipping eight car loads during 1907. He breeds Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs.

Mr. Martens was born in Grundy county, Iowa, April 17, 1874, where he lived, attend-

ing school and working on his father's farm, until he was twenty years of age. In March, 1894, he moved to Nobles county and bought his present farm, where he has since lived.

Our subject is one of a family of seven living children: Lou, Louise, Charles, Dora, Henry, William and Ella. The father of this family was John Martens, a native of Germany. He came to the United States soon after his marriage and settled at Freeport, Ill., where he lived nine years. He then moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he resided until his death in September, 1893, being 58 years of age at the time of his death. Our subject's mother is Fredericka (Miller) Martens. She lives in Los Angeles, California, and is 67 years of age. She owns 480 acres of land in Lismore township.

Mr. Martens was married at Adrian Oct. 30, 1901, to Miss Fannie Oien, a native of Norway and the daughter of the late Peter Oien, who conducted a tailor shop in Adrian for so many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Martens has been born one child—Esther, born Feb. 18, 1903. Mr. Martens is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

MINOR G. HURD, proprietor of a Worthington livery barn and a buyer and shipper of horses, is a son of R. S. and Cornelia (Turner) Hurd, of Worthington. He was born at Saudgate, Vt., May 9, 1879, and came with his parents to Worthington in the spring of 1885, where he has since resided. In August, 1900, he started in the livery business, and a few months later bought out the livery barn of Gray & Craig, just south of the Allen house, and has since conducted the barn.

Mr. Hurd was married in Canyon City, Colo., to Miss Emmogene Stoutemyer, daughter of the late W. E. Stoutemyer.

FRED MEIER owns and farms 160 acres of land on section 30, Lorain township, a short distance southeast of Worthington. He was born in Hardin county, Iowa, June 13, 1874, the son of Fred and Mary (Raske) Meier, natives of Germany. The father died in Iowa March 30, 1888; the mother is living with her son.

When four years of age Fred was taken by his parents to Franklin county, Iowa, which was his home until 1900. There he was raised on his father's farm and secured a common school education. After his father's death Fred worked out at farm work, and in 1895 began farming for himself. Coming to Nobles county in 1900, he bought his present farm and has since made his home on it.

Mr. Meier was married at Sheffield, Iowa, June 4, 1903, to Amanda Krusemark, a native of Wisconsin. They are the parents of two children, Edna and Raymond.

JOHN R. SMITH owns and, in partnership with his sons, farms the northwest quarter of section 13, Worthington township, just north of the village of Worthington. He is a native of Watertown, Jefferson county, Wis., where he was born in January, 1845. He is of Dutch and Scotch descent. His father was Stephen VanRanseller Smith, who was born in Albany county, N. Y., in June, 1821, and died in June, 1898. His mother was Harriet (Rockwell) Smith, who was born in Albany county, N. Y., in September, 1817, and died in 1882.

When the subject of this review was nine years old his parents moved to Albany county, N. Y. After a residence there of one year the family again came west, and in the year 1856 located in Mitchell county, Iowa, at a point which was then 110 miles from the nearest railroad. There he lived until 1879. He started to learn the miller's trade when he first arrived there and followed that occupation during the entire time he was there. For a part of the time he was an employe, and for several years was the owner of the mill at St. Ansgar. In 1879 Mr. Smith moved just over the line into Worth county and from that time to the spring of 1896 he engaged in farming. The next four or five years were spent in farming operations near Nora Springs, Floyd county, and then in December, 1900, he came to Nobles county, bought a quarter section in Worthington township, and has since been engaged in farming there.

Mr. Smith was married at St. Ansgar, Iowa, in January, 1868, to Augusta A. Rogers, who died Dec. 23, 1902. To them

were born the following children; Chauncey, born Jan. 24, 1870, died in 1894; Charles M., born May 1, 1873; Percy, born February, 1875; Robert, born 1882.

SEVERT M. SOREM, of Ransom township, is a son of Mons N. and Sarah (Ostram) Sorem, also residents of Ransom township. Both parents were born in Norway, the father in May, 1840, and the mother in 1836. They were married in their native land and came to the United States in 1867.

Severt was one of a family of six sons and three daughters born to these parents. His birth occurred in Norway on Sept. 30, 1866, only a few months before the family emigrated to America. The first home in the new world was made in Grundy county, Ill., where for nineteen years the subject of this sketch resided on his father's farm and attended school. In 1885 the Sorems purchased the south half of section 21, Ransom township, then unimproved land. The next year they came west and located in Osceola county, Iowa—just across the state line from Ransom township, having also purchased a farm there. On the Iowa farm Severt Sorem lived six years, and then, in 1894, he bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 16, Ransom, erected buildings thereon, and farmed the place three years. Disposing of that property, he bought the east half of section 9, built upon and otherwise improved the place, and made his home there two years. He then traded his property for western land, moved to the village of Bigelow, and for two years was engaged in buying stock and running a feed mill. During the next three years he farmed on rented land on section 19. In 1906 he bought the farm upon which he has since resided—the northwest quarter of section 12, Ransom township.

Mr. Sorem was married in Hamilton county, Iowa, Dec. 22, 1896, to Miss Anna Hovland, a native of Norway and the daughter of Edling and Gurd (Osteba) Hovland. Mrs. Sorem came to the United States in 1894, and prior to her marriage resided in Story county, Iowa. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Ransom.

FRANK E. EGGLESTON, proprietor of the Worthington Hotel livery, is one of the early day settlers of Nobles county and a native of Minnesota. He was born in Goodhue county Oct. 4, 1863, and with the exception of thirteen months spent in the state of Washington has been a resident of the state ever since. His father was Mason O. Eggleston, who was born in Ohio Nov. 28, 1832, moved to Goodhue county in an early day, and to Nobles county in 1878. He was a large land owner in Worthington township, and lived in Nobles county until 1891, when he returned to his old home in Goodhue county, where he died the following year. The mother of our subject is Mary W. (Bullard) Eggleston, who was born in Iowa April 21, 1840, and is now a resident of Worthington.

Frank lived in Goodhue county with his parents until 1878, and then came with them to Nobles county. In 1888 he took as a homestead the west half of the southwest quarter of section 26, Summit Lake township, upon which he lived and farmed until 1902. He then spent one year in the state of Washington. Returning, he located in Reading, bought a livery barn there and conducted it five years. He sold out in October, 1907, and moved to Worthington. In February, 1908, he purchased from J. W. McBride the Worthington Hotel livery barn, and has since conducted it.

Mr. Eggleston was married in Summit Lake township Nov. 24, 1885, to Miss Sarah Pettis, who was born in Winona county, Minn., Oct. 7, 1865, and is the daughter of J. R. Pettis, of Summit Lake township, one of the early settlers of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Eggleston have been the parents of eight children, as follows: John M., born Dec. 15, 1886; Edward L., born Aug. 2, 1888; Nellie A., born March 27, 1890; Glenn R., born April 18, 1893; Alice M., born Sept. 20, 1894; Lee W., born June 5, 1902; Fred N., born Aug. 8, 1904, (died when four months old); Carroll E., born Aug. 8, 1906. All the living children were born in Summit Lake township except Lee W., who was born in Toledo, Wash. Edward L., the second son, was married March 5, 1907, to Emma A. Dilly of Summit Lake township, and Nellie A., the oldest daughter, was married

May 10, 1908, to Ralph B. Long, of Worthington township. They now reside in Worthington village.

HENRY A. BECKER, a farmer of Larkin township, was born in Norway, Benton county, Iowa, Feb. 7, 1881, the son of Anton F. Becker and Mary (Brandenberg) Becker. The father was born in Germany in 1841, came to the United States in 1863, and located at Norway, Iowa, where he died June 13, 1902. He was a carpenter and architect, and followed those occupations during all of the time of his long residence there. He was the owner of 400 acres of land in Larkin township, Nobles county, the same now being held by the estate. The mother of our subject was also born in Germany. She married Mr. Becker at Norway in 1880, and to them were born nine children, of whom the following eight are living: Henry A., Elizabeth, Frank, Mary, Rosa, George, Lawrence and Clements.

Henry A. Becker resided on his father's farm near Norway until his arrival in Nobles county on Feb. 28, 1903. He then purchased 240 acres in Larkin township, and has since been engaged in farming the place. He has erected new building and made many improvements on the place.

Mr. Becker was married in Benton county, Iowa, Sept. 27, 1904, to Mary Stroemer. She was born in Germany Nov. 3, 1887, came to the United States with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Stroemer, when seven years of age, lived a few years in Pennsylvania, and then in 1896 moved with her parents to Iowa. Her father died in that state in 1904; her mother still lives, making her home with her children in Larkin township. Mr. and Mrs. Becker are the parents of two children, a boy, born April 3, 1906; and a girl, born July 2, 1908. They are both members of the Catholic church of Adrian.

CHARLES J. STRAMER is the proprietor of the Adrian photograph gallery, of which he became the owner in the spring of 1908. He was born in the city of Essen, Rhine province, Germany, April 3, 1883.

His father, August Stramer, was born Sept. 7, 1855. When nine years of age he

began work in Krupp's blacksmith shop, which was operated in connection with the famous Krupp gun works. For twenty-four years he was an employe of that establishment, being foreman of one of the departments at the time of leaving their employ. Mr. Stramer assisted in the construction of the famous gun exhibited at the world's fair at Chicago—the largest gun ever built. He came to the United States in 1893, and for six months worked in a factory at Pittsburg. Then he moved to Benton county, Iowa, and engaged in farming. He died there June 6, 1903. The mother of our subject is Bertha (Oberthin) Stramer, who now resides on a farm in Larkin township. She was born Aug. 15, 1858, and was married to Mr. Stramer Nov. 29, 1879.

Charles Stramer came to the United States with his parents in August, 1893, and prior to 1907 made his home in Benton county, Iowa, where he lived on his father's farm. In 1900 he began working at the photograph business, and two years later he opened a gallery in the village of Norway, in Benton county. He conducted that two years and then returned to the farm, continuing his photograph business there. He came to Nobles county in March, 1907, and for one year lived with his mother on the Larkin township farm. On March 20, 1908, he purchased Kinsey's gallery at Adrian and now conducts the business. He is a member of the Catholic church at Adrian.

IRWIN F. KELLEY, is a Worthington real estate dealer and produce commission broker, and has been a resident of Worthington seven years. He was born in Bureau county, Ill., Sept. 6, 1872, the son of E. J. and Margaret (Nelson) Kelley, now of Mitchell, S. D.

Until he was twenty-three years of age Mr. Kelley resided in the county of his birth. During the last five years of his residence in Bureau county he was the manager of a cold storage house. In 1894 he moved to Hartley, Iowa, where for two years he was engaged in the produce business, handling butter, eggs, poultry, etc. He then went to Minneapolis, where he was engaged in the same business until the fall of 1901.

On November 1, of that year, he came to Worthington and opened a produce establishment, which he conducted until March, 1906. In the spring of 1903 he erected a creamery in Worthington, which he conducted in connection with his produce business.

Mr. Kelley was married at Spirit Lake, Iowa, in October, 1898, in May Kass. To them have been born three children Marjorie and Dorothy (twins) and Waiva.

JOHN SCHULTZ is one of the early day settlers of Little Rock township and one of its substantial farmers. He owns the northeast quarter of section 7 and the south half of section 5, in Little Rock, as well as a half section in Traverse county.

Mr. Schultz was born in Germany Oct. 19, 1854. He was one of a family of eight children of Jacob and Gertrude (Kaltenberg) Schultz. The father died in Germany in 1862, aged 40 years. The mother died at the home of her son in Little Rock township in December, 1891, aged 74 years. Mr. Schultz came to the United States in 1872 and located in Dane county, Wis., where he farmed six years. He came to Nobles county in the spring of 1878 and located in Little Rock township. For the first year and a half he lived on section 17. Then he bought the northeast quarter of section 7, and has ever since made his home there.

In the village of Adrian on July 17, 1879, Mr. Schultz was married to Miss Lizzie Reifenberger, daughter of Nicholas Reifenberger. To them have been born the following eleven children: Nicholas, Mary, Henry, Caroline, Lena, John, Susie, Leo, Isadora, Martha and Leonard.

The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Schultz belongs to the St. Joseph's society. For a number of years he was one of Little Rock township's supervisors and he was a director of school district No. 13 for several years.

ALFRED L. SWENSON owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 4, Bigelow township, his farm adjoining the village of Org. He was born in Carver county, Minn., on May 9, 1862. His father was Swan Swanson, who was born in Sweden in

May, 1822, came to the United States in 1856 and became one of the pioneer settlers of Carver county, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in September, 1888. The mother of our subject, Johanna (Nelson) Swanson, died in Carver county in April, 1905.

In Carver county Mr. Swenson secured his education and grew to manhood. He learned the carpenter's trade and followed that occupation several years. He also became an engineer, and during part of the time during his residence there ran an engine. A few years before leaving Carver county Mr. Swenson bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He sold out his interests there in February, 1901, moved to Nobles county, bought his present farm of Fred Johnson, and has since made Bigelow township his home.

Mr. Swenson was married in Carver county on March 17, 1894, to Hannah Abrahamson, a daughter of Piere Abrahamson. She was born in Sweden on June 14, 1867, and came to the United States in 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have been born the following children: Herbert Benat, born Jan. 3, 1895; Gilbert Edward, born Aug. 8, 1896; Agnes Blanch, born March 20, 1899; Ruth Addil, born Sept. 5, 1900; Edith Dorothy, born Jan. 21, 1904. All the children were born in Carver county except the youngest, which was born in Bigelow township. The members of the family belong to the Swedish Lutheran church of Worthington.

WILLIAM BURCHARD is the senior member of the firm of Burchard & Peterman, proprietors of the Worthington creamery, and is the manager of the plant. The company is engaged in the manufacture of butter and ice cream, and the plant has a capacity of 10,000 pounds of butter per week. The firm also buys and ships poultry and eggs, and does a large business in those products. The junior member of the firm is W. H. Peterman, who is also the owner of a creamery at Waconia, Minn.

William Burchard was born in Pries, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Nov. 20, 1868. His father was Herman Burchard, who was a German soldier and a government officer in the fort at Friedricasort. He died in

Germany in 1886. The mother of our subject was Margaret (Will) Burchard, who died in 1907. The subject of this review came to the United States in 1885, and in this country grew to manhood, attending the public schools and working at the creamery business. He worked in a creamery at Elgin, Ill., two years; at St. James, Minn., he was similarly employed one year, and then he went to Waconia, Minn., where for two years he was employed in a creamery owned by Henry Peterman, the father of his present partner. Going to New Germany, in Carver county, he erected a creamery and went into business for himself, conducting the business seven years. Mr. Burchard came to Worthington on March 22, 1905, and in partnership with Mr. Peterman purchased the Worthington creamery, which he has since conducted. While a resident of New Germany he served four years as a member of the city council.

Mr. Burchard was married at St. James, Minn., in 1894, to Miss Annie Witte, a native of Elgin, Ill. To them have been born five children: Henry, Herman, Dora, Willie and Minnie.

CHARLES ROBERT SAXON, in company with his brother, Walter A. Saxon, farms the old Saxon homestead in Indian Lake township. He is a native of Nobles county, having been born on the Indian Lake homestead of his father, Charles Saxon, on May 25, 1876. With the exception of six months' time that farm has been his home ever since his birth. He was united in marriage Nov. 8, 1905, to Miss Lizzie Larson, daughter of Lars Larson, of Indian Lake. One child, Charles Orval, has blessed this union. Mr. Saxon is a member of the Indian Lake Baptist church.

Walter A. Saxon was also born on the Saxon homestead, the date of his birth having been Feb. 12, 1879. Like his brother, Charles R., he has made that farm his home ever since his birth.

C. H. KLINKHAMMER, Grand Prairie township farmer, was born in Lesueur county, Minn., Dec. 23, 1875, the son of Peter Klinkhammer and Johanna (Witt) Klinkhammer. Both parents were born in

Germany. The father came to the United States in 1853 and located in Wisconsin. Later he moved to Lesueur county, Minn., where he still resides. The mother died in Lesueur county Jan. 14, 1894.

The subject of this biography was raised on his father's farm in his native county and there he received his education in the district schools. Peter Klinkhammer invested in farming land in Grand Prairie township, and in 1890 he and his son came to the county and spent that summer working the farm. Returning to the old home C. H. Klinkhammer engaged in farming there five years, and then came to Nobles county to make his home. He farmed here two years, then spent two years in Lesueur county. Returning again to Nobles county he has since made his permanent home here. His father owns the southeast quarter of section 3, the southwest quarter of section 2, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 3, and the subject of this sketch farms 280 acres of the land.

Mr. Klinkhammer was married at Ellsworth Oct. 9, 1900, to Miss Barbara Martini, daughter of Peter Martini. To them have been born the following children: Herman, Martha, Wilhelm and Ludvina. Mr. and Mrs. Klinkhammer are members of the Catholic church of Adrian. He holds the office of township clerk, to which he was elected in the spring of 1908.

DOMINICK KELLEN, JR., of Olney township, is a son of Dominick and Annie (Frisch) Kellen, of the same township, and was born in Houston county, Minn., Nov. 17, 1876. With his parents he moved to Minneapolis when a child, and after living there a few years the family moved to near Alton, Iowa.

He was raised on a farm and secured his education in the district schools of Sioux county, Iowa, and that of the Thom district in Olney township, to which place he came with his parents in 1891. Until 1899 Mr. Kellen resided on his father's farm, assisting in the farm work and for a few years running a threshing machine. In 1899 he moved onto the place where he has ever since resided and in 1902 bought the property. In the spring of 1908, in partnership with Theodore Bullerman, he purchased the

northeast quarter of section 8, his home place being the southeast quarter of the same section.

Mr. Kellen was married in Adrian Feb. 7, 1899, to Clara Bullerman, a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bullerman. To them have been born the following children: Florian B., born June 15, 1900, died Aug. 5, 1900; Joseph, born Nov. 24, 1901, died April 21, 1904; Dominick F., born Nov. 26, 1903; baby girl, born March 19, 1906, died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kellen are members of the Adrian Catholic church and he is a member of St. Joseph's society.

AXEL WASS owns and farms the east half of section 9, Indian Lake township, and has been a resident of the county since 1885. He was born in Norkopping, Sweden, Jan. 23, 1866, the son of Alfred Wass and Christina (Peterson) Wass, now residents of Org.

Axel lived in Sweden until sixteen years of age. He received his schooling there and when old enough to work engaged in fishing and farming. In 1882 he moved with his parents to America and located at Emmetsburg, Iowa, where for three years he worked on the railroad. He then came to Nobles county and for the next few years worked for wages on farms in different parts of the county. His employers in the order of his service were Oliver Thompson, C. P. Shepard, Henry Haggard, N. N. Langseth, Henry Haggard, Peter Thompson, Oliver Thompson, Langseth Bros. Then, in partnership with his father, he spent one year farming his father's land, section 8, Bigelow township.

In 1892 he bought the east one-half of section 9, Indian Lake, and has since been engaged in farming that land. He was married Jan. 10, 1894, to Hannah Ellingson. They have two children, Cora and Engvel.

FRANK DEAN, member of the Worthington grocery firm of Goff & Dean, has resided in Nobles county since he was nine years of age. He was born in Boone county, Ill. Aug. 27, 1875, the son of Geo. S. and Julia (Cornell) Dean. His mother died in December, 1875, and his father passed

away at Worthington September 14, 1900, aged 65 years.

When Frank was between nine and ten years old he came with his parents to Nobles county, and for about six years lived with them on a farm in Seward township. He then came to Worthington, and has lived in that city ever since. He secured his education in the Worthington public schools, devoting his winters to study and his summers to farm work. In 1894 he began clerking in the grocery store of W. W. Loveless, which position he held eight years. After giving up his position there he spent one summer on the farm, and then took a position with the C. L. Coleman Lumber company, with which he was connected one and one-half years. In the spring of 1906 he purchased James Gibson's half interest in the grocery firm of Goff & Gibson and has since been in the grocery business.

Mr. Dean was married in Worthington Jan. 10, 1906, to Miss Clara Gutzler. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dean are active members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington.

S. H. McMASTER, of Kinbrae, was born in Vermont April 3, 1840, and there he passed his boyhood days, engaged in teaching school and farming. In the fall of 1861 he moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and engaged in farming. In 1862 he enlisted in company B, First Iowa cavalry, and served for eight months in the union army. He then received an honorable discharge because of disability, and returned to his farming occupation in Clayton county.

He returned to his old Vermont home in the fall of 1866, where for several years he was a sub-contractor, engaged in grading railroads. In March, 1873, he went to Massachusetts, but the following year moved to Polk county, Iowa, where he resided until 1897. He then moved to Fulda, and the next year took up his residence in Kinbrae, where he has since resided, and where he is now engaged in the grain business.

Mr. McMaster was married in Vermont Feb. 28, 1860, to Miss Edna M. Hunt.

DERK WESTENBERG, Leota township farmer, was born in Germany April 18,



1859, the son of Garret and Jennie (Schieuing) Westenberg. The father was a sailor and ship owner. He died in his native country in 1867, aged 52 years. The mother came to the United States with her son and died in Michigan in 1898 at the age of 67 years.

Mr. Westenberg came to America in 1883 and located first in Michigan, where for five years he worked at the carpenter trade. He then moved to O'Brien county, Iowa, where he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits twelve years. During this time he spent nine months in Arkansas working at his trade. He came to Nobles county in April, 1900, bought his 320-acre farm on sections 6 and 7, Leota township, and has made his home there since.

In Michigan on May 13, 1883, Mr. Westenberg was married to Truida Kleinheksel, a native of Michigan and a daughter of Henry and Jennie (Kromeyer) Kleinheksel. Mr. and Mrs. Westenberg are the parents of the following named children: John, born Jan. 10, 1884; Henry, born May 10, 1886; Jennie, born June 7, 1887; Annie, born Sept. 29, 1889; Dena, born Dec. 12, 1891; Tillie, born Oct. 10, 1896; George, born May 27, 1900; Josie, born June 11, 1902; James, born Jan. 22, 1905. The family are members of the Dutch Reformed church of Leota. He served a term as director of school district No. 59.

GEORGE C. BIXLER, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Lismore, is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Williamson county Sept. 25, 1872. His father, Joseph Bixler, was born in Pennsylvania, and died at Lemars, Iowa, in 1888, aged 54 years. Our subject's mother is Ellen (Candel) Bixler. She was born in Ohio and is now living at Highmore, S. D., at the age of seventy years.

When George Bixler was seven years of age the family moved to Forrester, Ill., and after a residence of seven years there moved to Lemars, Iowa. There he resided on a farm. He completed his education with a course in a Des Moines business college. In 1896 he went to Struble, in Plymouth county, Iowa, and for seven years had employment in a lumber yard. In the spring of 1904 he moved to Lismore and entered the employ of J. and W. C. Shull, lumber

dealers. One year later he accepted the position he now holds in the Lismore bank.

Mr. Bixler was married in Madison county, Iowa, Oct. 24, 1900, to Miss Louise Van Rossum, a native of that county and a daughter of Garrett and Cynthia Van Rossum. To Mr. and Mrs. Bixler have been born two children—Gordon, born Sept. 28, 1903; Philip, born Sept. 12, 1906.

A. C. GRAF, owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 6, Larkin township. He has lived in the county ever since he was eleven years of age. He is the son of Emil and Frederica (Zeh) Graf, pioneers of Minnesota, as well as of Nobles county.

The subject of this biography was born at Marine Mills, Washington county, Minn., May 6, 1868. He came to Nobles county with his parents in 1879 and for many years lived with them in Willmont township. He moved to his farm in Larkin township in 1899 and has lived there ever since. The farm which he now owns was first filed on as a tree claim and was later turned into a homestead. Mr. Graf has held the office of township clerk since 1901. He is a member of the Old Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Graf was married at Osceola, Wis., in 1899 to Miss Emma Roettger, who was born at Stillwater, Minn., in 1876. To them have been born three children.

G. C. WINCHELL, manager of the Larnport Lumber company's yard at Kimbrae, was born at Broadhead, Green county, Wis., March 4, 1874. His father, G. A. Winchell, born in Vermont Dec. 15, 1842, and died in Salt Lake City in 1889, was a butcher and general merchant. His mother is Mary (Chase) Winchell, born in Kalamazoo, Mich., in 1852.

In August, 1874, the family moved from Wisconsin to Hannibal, N. Y., to Sutton, Neb., in 1876, and to Idaho Springs, Col., in 1882, and in that city our subject was educated, supplementing a common school education with an architectural course in the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pa., in 1902. From Colorado the family moved to Salt Lake City Dec. 16, 1889, and there the elder Winchell died Dec. 22, 1889. On May 16, 1891, the

subject of this sketch moved to Henderson, Neb., where he resided until in September, 1894. He then took up his residence at Mapleton, Minn., where he lived until August, 1904, when he came to Kinbrae, where he has since had charge of the Lampert Lumber company's office.

Mr. Winchell was married at Mapleton, Minn., June 5, 1901, to Miss Minnie F. Malenke, who was born at Norwood, Minn., in 1880. They are the parents of one child, a son born in February, 1903. Mr. Winchell is a member of the Methodist church and of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

G. A. KELLER, farmer, stock raiser and fruit grower, of Willmont township, has lived in the county eighteen years. He owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 24, Willmont, and the southwest quarter of section 19, Bloom, and business property in Lismore village.

In the kingdom of Saxon, Germany, Mr. Keller was born on Aug. 20, 1858, the son of Johann Christlieb and Christiana Wilhelmina (Richter) Keller. The father was a knitter by trade, which trade he followed during his entire life. He died in Germany in 1903, aged 73 years. His wife preceded him to the grave two years. She was 67 years old at the time of death.

The early boyhood of G. A. Keller was spent on a farm. When he was thirteen years of age he learned the knitter's trade, but did not follow it many years, and returned to farm work. At the age of twenty-four years he came to the United States, landing in New York April 3, 1882. During the first four years of his life in the new world he worked on a farm near Le Mars, Iowa, and for a few months thereafter at different places in that vicinity. He went to Osceola county, Iowa, in the spring of 1887 and farmed a rented farm three years.

In the spring of 1890 Mr. Keller came to Nobles county and became a landowner. He bought eighty acres of land in Ransom township and farmed it seven years; then he moved to Willmont township and bought land there. He has improved the place wonderfully and has one of the finest farms in the vicinity. He engages extensively in

stock raising and has large numbers of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Keller was married in January, 1892, at Ellsworth to Enga Marie (Olson) Nelson, daughter of Ole and Martha Olson. She was born in Norway July 12, 1854, and came to the United States in October, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Keller are the parents of the following children, all living at home: Mabel, born Nov. 15, 1892; Milo, born March 11, 1894; Clara, born May 14, 1895; Guy, born Sept. 20, 1896; Alma, born March 5, 1898; Oscar, born June 20, 1899. Mrs. Keller has a son by her first husband, who died in Norway.

HENRY BOECKER is a Westside township farmer who lives four miles southwest Adrian. He owns the south half of section 35, which place has been his home for many years. He is a native of Borken, Westfallen, Germany, where he was born on the 17th of March, 1846. His father, Henry Boecker, died in Germany in 1883, and his mother, Johanna Catherine (Husted) Boecker, died in her native country in 1865.

In the land of his birth our subject resided until the year 1881, working on the farm and in the timber. On August 29, 1881, he landed in New York, determined to make his future home in the new world. He went at once to Winona, Minn., where a relative lived, and after stopping there a couple of weeks, came to Nobles county, his attention having been called to this country through the advertising of the Catholic Colony company. He at once bought a quarter section of his present farm, later buying the other quarter. The land was all prairie at that time and was without improvements, and for it he paid only \$8.50 per acre. During the first winter Mr. Boecker lived in the village of Adrian, but in the spring of 1882 erected buildings and moved onto the farm, where he has resided ever since.

Mr. Boecker was married in Germany Feb. 20, 1878, to Christina Butenweg, and to this union have been born the following children: Annie (Mrs. William Reekers), of Westside township; Henry, who owns and operates the Adrian creamery; Lewis, of Wadena, Minn.; Joseph, Herman, William and Hubert, who reside at home. Mr. and

Mrs. Boecker are member of the Catholic church of Adrian.

EDWARD H. SCHRAAN, proprietor of the Brewster creamery, was born at Wacona, Carver county, Minn., Nov. 18, 1882, the son of Andrew and Bertha (Switchberg) Schraan. The father was also a native of Carver county, and now, at the age of 52 years, still makes his home there, engaged in farming. Our subject's mother was born in Germany, and is now living at the age of 50 years.

Edward received his education in the schools of his native county, which was his home until March, 1904, when he came to Brewster. He built the Brewster creamery at a cost of about \$5,000, and since his arrival in Nobles county has been engaged in operating it. He was instrumental in making the Brewster country a great dairy country, and annually pays out thousands of dollars to the farmers. During 1907 he paid out \$37,951.95. He has built up an excellent business.

Mr. Schraan was married at St. Paul Oct. 2, 1906, to Miss Lillian Niehaus.

ERNEST BOOTS, Larkin township farmer, was born in Kreis Aurich, in the province of Hanover, Germany, Feb. 7, 1881, the son of Henry and Annie (Benz) Boots, also residents of Larkin township.

Ernest Boots came to the United States with his parents in 1894 and located in Grundy county, Iowa. There he resided on his father's farm until 1902, when the family came to Nobles county. He continued to make his home with his father until his marriage in 1903. Then he rented land, and since has been farming in Larkin township.

At Worthington on Aug. 2, 1903, Mr. Boots was married to Mary Smith, daughter of George N. and Annie Smith, of Summit Lake township. Mrs. Boots was born in Illinois Sept. 8, 1883. To them have been born two children: Violet, born March 7, 1905; Henry, born March 12, 1907. Mr. Boots is a member of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore. His wife is a Baptist.

HENRY F. HASEMAN owns and farms a half section of well improved land on section 17, Seward township, where he has resided since 1896. He was born in Will county, Ill., Sept. 18, 1872, and is the son of John Haseman and Louisa (Winzenburg) Haseman.

The former was born in Germany on Jan. 1, 1839, and emigrated to the United States when 16 years of age. When he landed in Will county, Ill., he had only twenty-five cents in money, but was well supplied with pluck and perseverance and a determination to succeed in the country of his adoption. That he has been successful is shown from the fact that he owns considerable real estate in Nobles county, land in North Dakota and Will county, Ill., and is a stockholder in a Chicago bank. He purchased the land upon which his son—the subject of this sketch—resides 17 years ago, and has since deeded the land to him. The father now resides in Will county and is 69 years of age. His wife was born in Cook county, Ill., and is living in Will county at the age of 61 years. Henry is the third oldest of a family of eleven children, of whom the oldest and the youngest are dead. The living brothers and sisters are: William, Henry, Fred, John, Gustav, Lena, Mary, Susie and Emma.

Henry Haseman lived with his parents on the farm in Will county, Ill., until sixteen years old and attended the country schools. He then took a two-term course in the Powers Business college, Chicago. After finishing his studies he took a position with Montgomery Ward & Co., Chicago, as bill clerk, holding the place two years.

In 1896 Mr. Haseman came to Nobles county and for one year worked on a farm for his brother-in-law. He then moved onto the southeast quarter of section 17, Seward township, where he has since resided, and has made a success of his farming pursuits. The place was unimproved at the time he took possession—differing greatly from its present appearance and productive qualities. In 1898 he built his present commodious residence and a \$2,000 barn and other buildings on the place. Besides being a large grain raiser, Mr. Haseman breeds Shorthorn cattle and is quite an extensive feeder.

Mr. Haseman was married in Chicago Feb. 1, 1898, to Miss Rose Thurman, who is a native of Will county, Ill., where she lived until twenty-one years of age, or just prior to her marriage. She is the daughter of William and Wnoehmina (Meyer) Thurman, natives of Germany. The former is dead; the latter lives in South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Haseman are the parents of the following named children: Mildred, Matilda, Pearl, Viola (deceased), Irene and Alice.

Mr. Haseman's popularity and his business ability have been recognized by his neighbors. He held the offices of justice of the peace and clerk of his school district for several years, and is now clerk of the township board.

GEORGE S. MITCHELL is a Larkin township farmer who has resided in the county since 1886, and makes his home on the southeast quarter of section 36. He is a native of the state, having been born in Houston county on July 12, 1856, the son of George Mitchell and Ann (Smith) Mitchell. The former is a native of Aberdeen shire, Scotland, in which country he lived until soon after his marriage, when he emigrated to the United States in 1852. He first located in Kenosha county, Wis., where he resided four or five years, and then moved to Houston county, Minn., being one of the early settlers in that section of the state. Here he bought land and made his home until ten or twelve years ago, when he took up his residence at Sheldon, in the same county, where he now lives at the age of 82 years. His wife was also a native of Aberdeen shire, Scotland. She died in Houston county, Minn., about twenty-four years ago.

George Mitchell, the subject of this review, resided with his parents until 1886, assisting with the farm work and attending the district schools in his boyhood days. On the date last mentioned he moved to his present farm in Nobles county, which he had purchased the year previous, and where he has since resided. With his own labor he has brought his farm up to its present state of perfection. He is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and is a chicken fancier of more than local re-

pute, as his pens of B. P. Rocks will testify.

George is one of a family of five children, of whom one is dead, and two brothers and two sisters are living. He was married in Houston county, Minn., Dec. 29, 1881, to Miss Maggie Kerr, a native of that county and a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Walker) Kerr. To them has been born one daughter Blanche Annabelle, born Sept. 1, 1892.

Mr. Mitchell was school director of district No. 81 for a number of years and has held the office of treasurer of that district for the past fifteen years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge and of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore.

L. H. LUEPKER, a Seward township farmer, resides on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 16, where he has made his home since 1900. He was born in Garnavillo, Iowa, Nov. 27, 1874, where he lived only a few years and then moved onto his father's farm in Clayton county, Iowa. Here he resided until 1900, securing a limited education in the country schools and working part of the time on his father's place and a few years on farms in that county.

Mr. Luepker is the son of Fred Luepker and Clara (Fulling) Luepker, both natives of Germany. The former came to the United States in the early seventies and first settled in Iowa, where he lived but a year and then returned to the old country. Becoming dissatisfied there, he again set sail for the new world, and located in Clay county, Iowa, where he bought land and where he has since made his home. The mother died two years ago in Iowa at the age of 45 years.

The subject of this sketch is the next to the oldest of a family of nine children, all of whom are living in the United States. They are: Louise (Mrs. Fred Kahle); Louis, Ernest, Mary (Mrs. Ed. Gilster), Willie, Johnnie, Freddie, Annie and Minnie.

In the spring of 1900 Mr. Luepker moved to Nobles county and bought the 80 acres of land, above described, and has since added to his real estate by the purchase of an adjoining 40 acre tract. On this land he has built a cosy home and is leading the life of a successful Nobles county farmer.

Mr. Luepker was married at Fulda, Minn., July 20, 1900, to Mary Peterson, a native of Germany. She came to the United States when a young girl, and is the daughter of John and Mary Peterson, who settled in Murray county, Minn., about 18 years ago, and where the former died. The latter is living. To Mr. and Mrs. Luepker have been born two girls—Freda and Sophia.

Mr. Luepker was a member of the Seward township board of supervisors two years, and was road overseer three years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Fulda.

WENTWORTH W. DUNNING, Larkin township farmer, is a native of Kenosha county, Wis., where he was born Dec. 11, 1875, and where he resided until eight years of age, when he moved with his parents to Union Grove, Racine county, Wis., making that his home six years. Then he moved to St. Charles, Ill., and after a residence there of one year, moved onto his father's farm in Clay county, Iowa, where he lived eight years, the last year of which he and his brother, Charles, rented the place. He received his education in the district schools of the counties in which he resided in his boyhood days.

In the spring of 1901 Mr. Dunning moved to Nobles county and settled on the farm on which he has since lived—the northwest quarter of section 34. This land, and also the southwest quarter of the same section, was purchased by his father the year before. The father has since died and the land is now owned by the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mrs. Maud Rider. In the spring of 1908 Mr. Dunning purchased the southwest quarter on section 6, Dewald township, and will move to that place next spring and make it his permanent home.

Mr. Dunning's father was B. D. Dunning, a native of Ticonderoga, N. Y. He came west in the early days and settled in Kenosha county, Wis., where he farmed several years, and then went into the implement business in Union Grove, Wis., and later engaged in the general merchandise business in Silver Lake, Wis. He moved from there to St. Charles in order to educate his children and that he might the bet-

ter visit the Hot Springs, his health having failed. His next move was to Clay county, Iowa, where he bought a farm, and where he died Jan. 16, 1907, at the age of 36 years. His wife was Rhoda (Wheeler) Dunning, who died nine years ago.

Wentworth Dunning was married at the home of the bride's parents in Olney township, Nobles county, Minn., Feb. 12, 1905, to Mabel Greig, daughter of James Greig, one of the pioneers of Nobles county. To this union two children have been born—Clayton LeRoy, born Jan. 1, 1906; Mary, born Oct. 12, 1907.

Mr. Dunning was clerk of the school district in which he lives three years, resigning the office because of his intention to move to Dewald township. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Rushmore.

GEORGE V. PETTIT (1850-1908), late proprietor of a Worthington meat market, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., March 31, 1850. In childhood he moved to St. Paul, where he lived many years, and where he engaged in carpenter work and in the life insurance business.

In 1892, Mr. Pettit moved to Rushmore and engaged in the hay and grain business, later going into the meat market business. He moved to Worthington in 1901 and started a meat market. Two years later he bought out the market of Hibbard & Mitchell and conducted the business at the old location on Main street until the spring of 1908, when he sold out. Mr. Pettit was a member of the Presbyterian church and of the A. O. U. W. and Odd Fellows lodges. He died Sept. 4, 1908.

Mr. Pettit was married in Minneapolis in 1883 to Delia Vial. To them have been born two sons, R. Kenneth and Ivan V. Kenneth was born at Hastings Feb. 19, 1886. Ivan was born at St. Paul April 14, 1888.

CARL KOPPELOW is one of Little Rock township's successful farmers and feeders. He came to Nobles county twenty-one years ago, comparatively a poor man. By industry and frugality and a thorough knowledge of farm work, he has become the possessor of an entire section of fertile soil in

Nobles county. He owns the northeast quarter of section 17 the home place—the west half of the northwest quarter of section 18, the southwest quarter of section 9, the northwest quarter of section 15, and the west half of the northeast quarter of section 15, all in Little Rock township. There were practically no improvements on the place when he bought it in 1887. The change wrought by Mr. Kopplov's industry has been marked and pleasing. He has a well improved place and is just finishing the erection of a \$3,000 residence. He feeds several car loads of cattle and hogs each year.

Mr. Kopplov is the son of Frederick Kopplov and Mary (Sellhusen) Kopplov, both of whom were natives of Germany, and both are dead, the former passing away when the subject of this sketch was one year of age. Carl was born in Germany Jan. 26, 1853, and, with his mother, emigrated to the United States in May, 1869. They first settled in Racine county, Wis., where Carl worked on farms five years, and then he and his brother-in-law, Fred Winke, rented a farm in Kenosha county, Wis., which they ran in partnership until 1880, when he married and bought out Winke's interest, conducting the place alone until 1887.

In the last named year Mr. Kopplov moved to Nobles county and bought the farm on which he now resides, and has since added to his real estate possessions by the purchase of the additional tracts of land as described in the first paragraph of this sketch.

Mr. Kopplov was married in Wilmot, Kenosha county, Wis., on Jan. 27, 1880, to Minnie Stenzel, a native of Germany, who came to the United States a few years prior to her marriage. She died May 21, 1899, at the age of 43 years. To this union five children were born, of whom the eldest son, August, died Jan. 8, 1905, at the age of twenty-two years. The others are Henry, Otto, Ida and Tillie.

Mr. Kopplov has held several offices in his township. He was a member of the board for several years and was its chairman in 1905, resigning the office on account of the death of his son, August. He was also a member of the board of education in district thirteen for a period of ten years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church at Little Rock.

PETER J. WALLRICH, a Westside township farmer, has resided in the county since 1885, and in the township where he now makes his home, on the southeast quarter of section 36, for the past nineteen years. He was born in Kenosha county, Wis., May 5, 1858, where he resided with his parents on a farm until he reached his majority, and where he received a common school education. He is the son of Mathias Wallrich and Angeline (Casper) Wallrich, both natives of Germany. The former came to the United States when yet a young man and located in Kenosha county, Wis., where he bought land and where he resided thirty years, moving to Lyon county, Iowa, where he died about fifteen years ago.

Peter Wallrich is the next youngest of a family of nine children four boys and five girls, all of whom are living except one. When he was twenty-one years of age he moved from the county of his birth to Pierce county, Wis., where he farmed two years. Moving to Colorado, he resided in that state one year, and then took up his residence in Lyon county, Iowa, where he farmed four years.

In 1885 Mr. Wallrich came to Nobles county, Minn., and bought a farm in Little Rock township, where he resided four years. He then sold out and purchased the farm in Westside township, upon which he has since had a continuous residence.

Mr. Wallrich has been twice married, his first wife being Mary Neyeus, a native of Wisconsin, to whom he was married July 28, 1889, and who died Jan. 18, 1900. To this union three children were born, namely: Annie, Leo and Regine.

Mr. Wallrich was married the second time, in this county, on Jan. 10, 1904, to Annie Casper, who was also a native of the state of Wisconsin, and whose father was John Casper; her parents are both deceased.

Mr. Wallrich has served twice in an official capacity in his township, having been a member of the board for three years and assessor one year. He is a member of St. Joseph's society and the Catholic church at Adrian.

LARS T. EIDE is a Ransom township farmer, having resided continuously in the county since 1888. He was born in Norway

Aug. 13, 1866, where he lived on his father's farm and attended school until fourteen years of age. He is the son of the late Tores E. Eide and Valvorg (Larson) Eide, both of whom are native Norwegians. They both came to the United States in 1882 and located in Illinois, where he farmed until four or five years ago, when he died. Mrs. Eide is residing with a son at Goldfield, Iowa. Lars is the fifth in age of a family of eight boys, three of whom are dead. Those living are: Elling, of Chicago; Osmond, of Goldfield, Iowa; Thomas, of South Dakota; Lars T., of Nobles county, Minn., and Sam, also of Nobles county.

In the fall of 1881 the subject of this sketch emigrated to the United States and located in Morris, Grundy county, Ill., where he worked on farms for two or three years, and then he rented a place and farmed it until 1888. In that year he came to Nobles county and bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 21, Ransom township, and returned to Illinois and worked two years in a lumber yard in Joliet, and on a farm about three years. In 1894 he moved to his farm in Nobles county and began the work of improving the place and making it habitable and productive. Ten years ago he bought the southwest quarter on section 9, Ransom township, and this place he also farms with other lands he rents.

Mr. Eide was married in Coal City, Ill., in October, 1886, to Bertha Olson, a native of Illinois, and the daughter of Thos. Olson. They are the parents of nine children—Thomas, Lettie, Cora, Lester, Earl, Ella, Edna, Maud and Ruth.

Mr. Eide has been a member of the school board since district No. 92 was organized, he and Mons Soren and Robert Shore being the organizers of the district. Mr. Eide circulating the petition. He was also road overseer for a number of years in his district. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Ransom.

HENRY BAAL, a Grand Prairie farmer, owns and resides upon a half section of land in that splendid township. He is a very successful grain raiser, having produced about 45,000 bushels of oats the season just passed. He was born in German Valley, Stevens county, Ill., Dec. 16, 1867, where he grew to manhood on his father's estate. At the age of twenty-six he rented his father's farm and ran it with the assistance of his brother, John Baal, six years. Then he married and ran the place in his own name for another year. He is the son of Manka Baal, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in 1847 and settled in Stevens county, Ill., he being one of the pioneers in that section of the state. He paid 75 cents per acre for land there that today is worth \$150. He died in Stevens county in 1880 at the age of 59 years. His wife was Bregtje (Barger) Baal, who was also a native of Germany. She died in April, 1908, at the age of 74 years. Henry is the next to the youngest of a family of five children—four boys and one girl, all of whom are living and reside in Stevens county, Ill., with the exception of the subject of this sketch.

In 1901 Mr. Baal moved to his present farm in Grand Prairie township, Nobles county, Minn., which he and his brother, John Baal, had purchased the previous year. Soon after taking possession of the place he bought out his brother's interest and has since farmed the entire half section. Besides being a large raiser of grain he feeds a car load of cattle and hogs each year. His present commodious farm buildings are quite a contrast to the old "shack" that stands on the place, which was built by a Mr. James when he homesteaded the farm in the early seventies.

Mr. Baal was united in marriage at George, Iowa, on March 26, 1900, to Lucinda Greenfield, a native of German Valley, Ill., and the daughter of Toes and Marie Greenfield, the latter being dead. To them have been born two boys—Walter Raymond, born April 6, 1903, and Bert Harvey, born April 26, 1907.

