

the former dying there and the latter coming in 1882 to America, where her death occurred in Moore county, Minnesota. In 1875, when Mrs. Nelson was twenty-one years of age, she preceded her mother to this country and settled in Moore county, Minnesota, where she met and married Mr. Nelson. She had five brothers and sisters, as follow: Andrew, Peter, Johana, Helena, all of whom died, and Hans, who lives in Minnesota. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been born four children all of whom are living on the old home farm; they are: Julia, Helen, John and Berthline. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were very active members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Strand, and in accordance with the precepts of this faith they reared their children. Although Mr. Nelson took a good citizen's interest in the civil and social affairs of the community in which he lived, he never sought public office, having given his undivided attention to his agricultural pursuits and the improvement and development of his farm.

WILLIAM JOSEPH BODKIN.

One of the well-remembered citizens of Moorhead, Clay county, is the late William Joseph Bodkin, who died on May 1, 1916, a former sheriff of the county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, and known for years throughout the county as an extensive farmer and dealer in real estate.

William Joseph Bodkin was born in New York City on September 27, 1845, and was educated in the schools of that city, where he continued to reside for some years. In 1870 he came West, being engaged in the government service as an internal revenue officer, and located at Breckenridge, coming in the following year to Clay county, where he bought land. He enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, held the rank of sergeant in Company E, One Hundred and Fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and saw much active service. He was wounded in the neck during the course of one engagement at Chickamauga and was with Sherman on the march to the sea, being mustered out at the end of the war. For years Mr. Bodkin was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, being warmly interested in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

Mr. Bodkin was for years an active participant in the public and political affairs of Clay county and served as sheriff of the county for twelve years, serving with fidelity in that important office. He was extensively engaged

in farming and real estate, being one of the best-known agriculturists for miles around, owning a full section of land in Kragness township, Clay county, and property at Moorhead. For many years he was engaged as a contractor in the bridge-building line, and carried out many important contracts in that line, meeting with considerable success. He died on May 1, 1916, having reached the age of seventy one years, and his passing was the occasion for general mourning, it being recognized throughout the community that a distinct loss had been sustained in his death, he having well done his part during his many years of intimate association with the affairs of Clay county.

William J. Bodkin was united in marriage to Inger Gorder, born on August 10, 1854, in Christiania, Norway, and at the age of ten years came to America with her father, who died many years later in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the mother having died in her native country. Mrs. Bodkin had one sister, Mrs. Fred Ambs, of Moorhead. To Mr. and Mrs. Bodkin the following children were born: Mrs. Ada Tobey, of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Delia Morris, widow of Edwin L. Morris; and William J., Jr., Henry Lincoln, George and Henry, all deceased.

Mrs. Delia (Bodkin) Morris, widow of Edwin Lee Morris, is now residing with her mother at Moorhead. Edwin L. Morris was a native of New York state, born there on October 2, 1865, a son of John Blodgett and Laura (Lee) Morris, both also natives of the Empire state. Mr. Morris had been for some years in charge of the Indian schools in the state of Washington. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morris occurred on February 20, 1900. Mr. Morris died at Fargo on February 10, 1915. He had many interests of a commercial character and was a man of sound business principles.

THOMAS M. ROACH.

Thomas M. Roach, a well-to-do and progressive farmer, breeder of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle and Percheron horses, owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres in Highland Grove township, Clay county, is a native of the old Empire state, but with the exception of a couple of years spent outside Minnesota, has been a resident of Clay county since the days of his young manhood. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, July 9, 1854, a son of James and Julia (Sullivan) Roach, natives of Ireland.

James and Julia Roach left the Emerald Isle in 1848, a year memorable in the annals of that country as witnessing the departure of thousands of emi-