

children have been born, Ruth, Margaret, Madaline and Florence. Mr. and Mrs. Gangler are members of the Catholic church at Barnesville and take a proper interest in the general affairs of the parish, as well as in other local good works.

HANS J. NELSON.

The late Hans J. Nelson, who was the owner and operator of two hundred forty acres of excellent land in Strand and Sundahl townships, Norman county, was born in Norway, September 15, 1847, a son of Johanes and Bertha (Andresven) Nelson, both of whom were born in Norway, where they grew up, married, reared their family and spent their whole lives, the former being the owner of a small farm. They were the parents of four children, all of whom are supposed to be living except the subject of this review; they are Anna, Martin and Nickoli.

Hans J. Nelson was reared on the old home place in Norway, where in his late maturity and early manhood he helped his father in the operation of the family holding. When he had reached the age of thirty years, he decided to join some of his countrymen who were coming to America to establish for themselves new homes in this new country and he landed here in 1877. At first he located in Wisconsin, but he later removed to Moore county, Minnesota, where he was married to Martha Marie Johnson. They took up their residence in that county, remaining there until 1889, in which year they removed to Norman county and located on the farm which his family is still on. He first bought two hundred acres which lie on Strand and Sundahl townships and he immediately began the improvement of the same by breaking the stubborn prairie sod in preparation for his first year's crop, by planting a grove and erecting substantial buildings which stand in Strand township. After a few years of successful farming, he was enabled to add to his holdings by the purchase of a forty-acre tract which adjoined his original farm. It was here on the home farm that his death occurred on October 22, 1908, after he had so successfully brought his holding from its wild state to the point of remarkably high cultivation and improvement. The home place has been operated by his son John for the past eight or nine years.

On May 22, 1882, that Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Martha Marie Johnson, who was born in Norway, April 5, 1854, a daughter of Johanes and Pernile Compdocken, both of whom were natives of Norway,

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 Berthine. 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