

duce abundantly, and he has improved the land by the erection of substantial and adequate farm buildings and by planting trees; thus he has one of the best appointed farm plants in this section of the county.

On July 16, 1897, Mr. Braunschweig was united in marriage to Maria Merkins, at Ada, this county. She was born in Goodhue county in 1877, a daughter of Henry and Maria (Merkins) Merkins, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of twelve children, namely: Bertha, Anna, Henry, deceased; Lena, Willie, Ida, deceased; Louis, Eitel, Albert, August, Martha and Otto. Mr. and Mrs. Braunschweig are members of the Lutheran denomination and are active in the church work of the community, belonging to the Pleasant View church of that faith. They are rearing their children according to the precepts of this creed. Mr. Braunschweig is a trustee of the Pleasant View congregation, and the way he has discharged his duties has been in strict accord with the character of the man and the responsibilities of the office. He has held some important township offices, but he resigned the official trusts so that he could give his undivided attention to his extensive farming interests. This does not mean that he has ceased to be solicitous for the common welfare, for whenever any movement is inaugurated in the community for its social or moral betterment, it is sure of the hearty co-operation and support of Mr. Braunschweig.

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#### NERE J. NERESON.

Nere J. Nereson, one of Norman county's well-known and substantial farmers, the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Strand township, former assessor of that township and in other ways interested in the public affairs of that community, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in Nicollet county, this state, March 9, 1857, a son of one of the pioneers of that part of the state, and grew up familiar with pioneer conditions in Minnesota. In 1879, shortly after his marriage, he settled on the farm on which he is now living and there has made his home ever since, he and his wife thus being pioneers of that part of the county, having been residents there since the days prior to the formal organization of Norman county as a separate civic entity, and have ever done well their part in promoting the interests of that part of the county in all proper ways. They have a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres, twenty acres of which is timber land, and have one of the best-kept

farm plants in that neighborhood. In addition to his extensive farming interests, Mr. Nereson has taken an active interest in the general business affairs of the community, helped organize the Farmers Elevator Company at Gary and also has shares in the creamery company and in the telephone company at Gary.

On May 14, 1878, at Lake Park, in the neighboring county of Becker, Nere J. Nereson was united in marriage to Thilda H. Gunderson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway on January 1, 1861, daughter of Herman and Anna (Olson) Gunderson, who came to Minnesota and became pioneers in Norman county, substantial farming people in the neighborhood of Gary. Herman Gunderson and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom Mrs. Nereson was the third in order of birth, and Gunder, Ole (deceased), Lars, Herman, Erick, Edward, Annie and Sophia, residents of this section of the Red River valley. To Mr. and Mrs. Nereson ten children have been born, namely: Annie, George, Albert, Nora (deceased), Henry, Thea, Arthur, Obed, Gladys and Lloyd. The Neresons are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church at Gary and take a proper interest in church work and in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live.

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#### EVANS N. GARDEN.

The late Evans N. Garden, who died on November 1, 1917, was one of the real pioneers of Norman county and the proprietor of a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm in Sundahl township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, May 27, 1859, son of Halvor and Ingbor (Opdahl) Garden, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and had married in Iowa. Halvor Garden became a substantial farmer in Winneshiek county, where he established his home. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom the late Evans N. Garden was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Laura (deceased), William, Jennetta, Emma, Silicia (deceased), Mary, Anna, Lillie (deceased), Edward Lorenzo, Halvor and Ida Rosella (deceased). Of these children, Edward L. is now engaged in the hardware business in North Dakota. The old home farm in Winneshiek county is now occupied by the daughter, Miss Mary Garden.

In 1880 Evans N. Garden came up here into the Red River country and homesteaded a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Bear