

LEWIS N. QUAM.

Lewis N. Quam, one of the wideawake twentieth-century farmers of Spring Prairie township, Clay county, was born in Steele county, Minnesota, October 25, 1856. He is a son of John N. and Anna (Lysne) Quam, both born in Sogan, Norway, where they grew up and married. In the spring of 1854 they came to America, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they spent two years, moving from there to Steele county, in the southern part of Minnesota, in the spring of 1856, making the journey from the Badger state in a covered wagon, drawn by an ox-team. Three other families came along at the same time, crossing the Mississippi river at McGregor on the ferry. Mr. Quam took up a pre-emption claim in Steele county, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He made a splendid farm of it and operated the same until 1879, when he moved to Kandiyohi county, this state, where he bought a farm on which he spent the rest of his life, dying some years ago, and there his widow still makes her home. To these parents ten children were born, five of whom died before reaching maturity. Those who grew up were as follow: Lewis N., the subject of this sketch; Nels, who lives in Willmar, Minnesota; Wilda, who lives in Kandiyohi county, this state; Metha, who lives in the state of Washington, and John, who took up a homestead in Bowman county, North Dakota, where he is engaged in farming.

Lewis N. Quam spent his boyhood on the farm in Steele county, Minnesota. There he attended the district schools and later was a student in the Augustberg Seminary at Minneapolis two winters. In the spring of 1882 he went to Montana, where he worked two summers and one winter in the Placer gold mines. He then returned to Minneapolis and was a student in the above-named seminary for another four months. He then made a prospecting trip through Clay county, bringing horses, a wagon, plow, etc. He traded his three horses for a homestead right of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 26 of Spring Prairie township. The following year, 1885, he began developing the place and has resided there ever since. He prospered with advancing years through perseverance and good management and added to his original holdings until he now owns a total of four hundred acres, all in one body. He has erected a handsome residence and substantial outbuildings, also planted large groves. He has been quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, operating on a large scale, and ranking among the leading agriculturists of his township and county.



MR. AND MRS. LEWIS N. QUAM.



In the fall of 1885 Lewis N. Quam was married to Carrie Arneson, who was born in Norway. She is a daughter of Arne Arneson, who died in Norway, but whose widow came to America about the year 1897 and is still living, making her home with her daughter in Spring Prairie township. Fourteen children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Quam, namely: John A., Agnes M., Lalia Clarisa, Harry Edwin, Ralph W., an infant (deceased), Nina, Mathia, Andrew L., Goodhue N., Sophia May, Roy F., Anna Gladys, Lewis Norris, and Morrel O'Neil.

Politically, Mr. Quam is an "Independent." He helped organize the school district, which then comprised the entire township. He was the first school clerk and has held that office ever since in his district. As the county was settled there were a number of small districts formed from the old one. He is now chairman of the township board, which office he has held for fifteen years. The Quams have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested and influential part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

PETER WESTBERG.

Peter Westberg, one of the older farmers of Highland Grove township, Clay county, was born in Sweden, September 21, 1847. He is a son of Nels Peterson, a native of Sweden, where he grew up, married and lived until immigrating to the United States in 1879, following his son Peter, with whom he spent the rest of his life. His wife died in Sweden.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Sweden and there attended the public schools. He landed in America on October 20, 1878, and came to Minnesota, locating at Lake Park, in Becker county. In 1880 he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Highland Grove township, Clay county, and here he has lived continuously to the present time. He later purchased forty acres more, making him at present a fine farm of two hundred acres, all of which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. He has a cozy residence and such out-buildings as his needs require. Mr. Westberg was a pioneer here, most of the land in his locality being raw prairie when he came here, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Westberg was married in Clay county on June 23, 1881, to Annie