

1883 and located in Elk Point, Union county, South Dakota. Mr. Olson lived there for six years, at the end of which time he moved to Norman county and lived with Mr. Ness for a further period of six years, when he died. His wife was Sophia Hosta, who came to this country with her husband and died while living with Mr. Ness, at the great age of ninety-three years and four months. To Mr. and Mrs. Ness the following children have been born: Sophia, who became Mrs. John Paulson, living at Crookston, this state, and Albert Ness, who died in 1911, leaving three children, Lloyd, Alma and Dora, all of whom are living. John Paulson and wife are the parents of five children as follow: Paul, Louis, Alice, Earl and Sylvia, all of whom are living. The Ness family are members of the Lutheran church and are active in all its good works, as well as in all community affairs designed to promote the common good. Mr. Ness gives close attention to public affairs and was a helpful factor in bringing about the organization of Hegne township. John Olson and wife, parents of Mrs. Ness, were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Ness being Ole and John, who live in Norway; Ellies and Jonas, who both died in Norway, and Marit, who died at Elk Point, South Dakota.

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#### WILLIAM H. RABE.

William H. Rabe, assessor of Green Meadow township and one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Norman county, was born in the village of Nicollet, in Nicollet county, this state, May 11, 1877, son and only child of Charles and Henrietta (Carsten) Rabe, natives of the state of Illinois, who located at Nicollet in 1875. Charles Rabe was a merchant and was engaged in the mercantile and milling business with his brother August at Nicollet for eight or ten years, at the end of which time he disposed of his interests there and moved to the city of Chicago, where he spent the remainder of his life, being engaged there as a collector. His wife died when the subject of this sketch was but three weeks old.

Having been but about eight years of age when his father moved to Chicago, William H. Rabe received his schooling in the schools of that city and was graduated from a business college there in 1894. For two or three years thereafter he was engaged as a bookkeeper at branch I of the United States Brewing Company at Chicago, but wearied of the life of the city and began to long for the free life of the farm. "Back to the land" was

Amon Olson attended the common schools of his native land, where he acquired an elementary education such as the time and place afforded. As he was just entering manhood, his parents decided to immigrate to America, where they thought they could better the material well-being of the whole family. Accordingly in 1866, the father and Knut, the eldest son, came to this country to select a location, and in the following year, 1867, the mother, the youngest child and Amon, who was then eighteen years of age, joined the father and elder brother. It was thirteen years after he had set foot on American soil that Amon Olson came to these parts. He had heard that land could be acquired cheaply in Norman county, and he removed here in 1880, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of school land in section 36, Home Lake township. Later he rounded out his holding by the purchase of an additional tract of forty acres in the same section. Here he began the improvement of his farm under pioneer conditions, for the land was in a wild state. Fortunately, however, there was a natural grove on the place, hence he did not find it necessary to set out an artificial one. Soon he erected a substantial log house and barn, which sufficed until recent years, when he replaced the original structures with larger, more substantial, commodious and convenient ones. It was in 1903 that he constructed his comfortable farm home, and his farm plant is now all in an excellent state of repair. He now carries on a scientific form of diversified agriculture, which includes an excellent system of crop rotation, and also raises some cattle, generally feeding about twenty-five head. His farm plant is well stocked with modern farming machinery, a marked contrast with the conditions under which he worked when he used oxen for draught animals.

In February, 1883, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Hannah Waller, who was born in Norway, June 4, 1847, a daughter of Ole Olson and Olea (Peterson) Waller, with whom she came to this country when she was twenty years of age. The father and mother died here on her husband's farm. By her first marriage, Mrs. Olson has two children, Fred and Clara. Her marriage to Mr. Olson resulted in the birth of seven children, as follow: Sam, living in Montana; Oscar, living here in Norman county; Sena, a resident of Montana; Alice, living in North Dakota; Helmer, living here in Norman county, and Tina and Hannah, both residents of North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Flom, and they take a keen interest in the church work of this denomination. Mr. Olson takes a deep interest in the local, state and national phases of his party's activity. Mr. Olson is active in furthering the educational