

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-

grants, owing to the abnormal conditions brought about through the famine of the preceding year. James Roach settled in St. Lawrence county, New York, and in 1870 moved to Duluth, Minnesota, and in the following year came to Clay county. Mr. Roach, accompanied by his son, Thomas M., left Brainard, Minnesota, and walked directly to the farm now in the possession of the latter, located in section 24, Highland Grove township. Here James Roach homestead one hundred and sixty acres of land and in the following year, 1872, the other members of the family took up their residence on the same place, having made the trip by team from Brainard. James Roach put up the first buildings on his homestead farm and set out a grove, which improved the appearance of the place very much. As he prospered in his farming operations he continued to add to his holding, finally becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres of prime land and here he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, honored and respected throughout the community. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom are deceased, the others being as follow: Thomas M., John, Ellen, Mary Ann, Julia and Catherine. James Roach and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in the same faith. Mr. Roach helped to organize the Catholic church at Lake Park.

Thomas M. Roach accompanied his parents from his birthplace to Hancock, Michigan, where he attended school and where he was reared; it was a lumber and mining town. In that place his father was connected with the lumber industry and in that place, also, Thomas M. Roach worked as a miner, and between the years 1871 and 1879 he divided his time between his father's place and the mines. In the latter year he started alone for the Black Hills and walked from the point now known as Bismark, North Dakota, to Lead City, in the Black Hills, a distance of two hundred and ninety-six miles. The journey occupied nine days, the walking being done by night and the sleeping by day, to avoid coming in contact or conflict with any nomadic Indians, then numerous in that country. There he worked for a period of two years with the Home State Mining Company and at the end of that time returned to his father's place, where he has since lived. Since acquiring the old homestead Mr. Roach has added many improvements and is now the owner of four hundred acres of prime land, all in one tract. In addition to his farming operations he raises choice strains of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle and Percheron horses, finding a ready market in and about the county and outside, and he is generally known as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of Highland Grove township.

In 1880 Thomas M. Roach was united in marriage to Mary Claffey, of Hawley, Minnesota, a daughter of Michael Claffey and wife. To this union twelve children have been born, four of whom died young, the others being as follow: John, James, Thomas, Morris, Lawrence, Julia, Ellen and Catherine, these eight children being still alive. The Roach family are members of the Catholic church and are earnestly interested in all its good works, as well as in the welfare of the community in which they reside, always ready to assist any worthy project calculated to advance the common good.

ROBERT B. WEBB.

Robert B. Webb, a member of the board of county commissioners of Clay county, formerly and for years engaged in the grain business at Glyndon, later engaged in the sale of farm machinery at that place and now actively engaged in the dairy business there, owner of one of the best dairy herds in the county, is a native of the state of New York, but has been a resident of the Northwest since he was but a child and of Minnesota and Clay county since 1878, being very properly therefore regarded as one of the old settlers of this part of the state. He was born on a farm in Columbia county, New York, January 21, 1846, son of Sylvester T. and Eliza (Harrington) Webb, both also natives of the Empire state, who moved from there in 1850 to Wisconsin and became pioneers in Walworth county, one of the southernmost counties of that state. There Mrs. Webb spent her last days and there Mr. Webb is still living, being now past ninety-three years of age. He is a member of the Methodist church, as was his wife. They became the parents of five children, four sons and one daughter, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being William, Silas, Mark T. and Ava.

As noted above, Robert B. Webb was but four years of age when his parents moved from New York state to Wisconsin in 1850 and in the latter state he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Walworth county, receiving his schooling at Geneva Lake and at Milton Academy. For five winters he taught school in his home county, meanwhile continuing farming during the summers, and then, in 1878, came up into the Red River country and bought a tract of land southwest of the village of Glyndon, on which he established his home. Two years later he moved to the village of Glyndon and was for thirteen years thereafter engaged there as the local agent for