

Hegne township, this county, where he had a quarter section of excellent land, which he set out to general farming and continued at the same for ten years. At the end of the latter period he moved to his present place in McDonaldsville township, buying a tract of land, and he has continued to reside here ever since, being generally regarded as one of the substantial farmers of the community. His holding contains two hundred and seventy-four acres of prime land, on which he is actively engaged in the production of general crops, conducting his agricultural operations according to modern methods. Mr. Larson has effected many valuable improvements on his property and has erected some fine farm buildings. In addition to his farming operations he also has had for many years an excellent strain of Shorthorn cattle.

In July, 1876, Hans Larson was united in marriage to Helena Peterson, who was born near Christiania, Norway, and came to this country at the age of two years with her parents. The marriage took place in Iowa. They are the parents of the following children: Leonard, Peter, Henry, Maria, Christian, Emma, Selmar and Ella, all of whom are living. The Larson family are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Larson and his brother, Knut, were active in organizing the first Lutheran church at Ada. Hans Larson has ever given a good citizen's attention to public affairs and served in many township offices. He served on the township board in both Hegne and McDonaldsville townships and on the school board when living in Hegne township, and he is recognized as one of the progressive men of the community in which he lives.

PETER SHEETS, JR.

Peter Sheets, a well-known extensive landowner in Norman county, owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of land, is a native of the state of Ohio, born in Delaware county, that state, August 17, 1862, a son of Peter and Mary Ann (Russell) Sheets, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. They moved to the state of Illinois and there Peter Sheets died and his wife died in Iowa. He operated a flour-mill in Ohio for some years. Ancestors of Peter Sheets fought in the War of the Revolution and were of German descent, while Peter Sheets' wife, Mary Ann Russell, was of English descent, and the ancestors on both sides were early settlers in

this country in Colonial days. Peter and Mary Ann Sheets were the parents of four children, Frank, Carrie, James and Peter.

Peter Sheets, Jr., received part of his education in Illinois and completed the same in Iowa, to which state he went with his mother when he was ten years old, settling in Franklin county, that state. Mr. Sheets lived in Iowa until 1898, the last seven and one-half years being spent in Hancock county, the entire earlier part in Franklin county, and he was actively engaged in farming in both places. In 1899 he moved to Ada, Norman county, and for the greater part of the time since he has lived on a farm in Spring Creek township, where he is now extensively engaged in general farming and raising full-blood Galloway cattle, for the latter finding a ready market at all times. He is now the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of as fine land as may be found in the county, eight hundred and eighty of which is located in Spring Creek township. When Mr. Sheets took the land it was in a raw state and he immediately set out to improve and develop it, in a short time having a large portion planted to crops, his agricultural operations proving a profitable investment. For the past four years his family has been living in Ada for the convenience of having the children educated, but Mr. Sheets spends most of his time on the farm, especially in the summer months.

On October 14, 1891, Peter Sheets was united in marriage to Hattie Starks, born in New York state, a daughter of Palemon Starks and wife, and to this union the following children have been born: Russell, Nellie, Fred, Harold and Vera, all of whom are still living. Mr. Sheets has always given close attention to civic affairs and has served as supervisor of Spring Creek township, and in other ways he has been interested in promoting all movements designed to promote the general welfare of the community.

BENNIE BAKKE.

Bennie Bakke, cashier and managing officer of the Security State Bank of Twin Valley, is a native son of Norman county and has lived there all his life with the exception of a year or two spent as clerk in a bank at Mahanomen, over in the neighboring county of that name. He was born on a pioneer farm in Wild Rice township, Norman county, October 26, 1887, son of Ole E. and Cecelie (Braaten) Bakke, the former of whom was born in Fillmore county, this state, and the latter, over the line in the neighboring