

farming and stock raising successfully. He has taken an interested part in local civic affairs and for five years served as township supervisor. The family helped organize the United Lutheran church at Hitterdal, but is now affiliated with the Synod church.

WILLIAM SPRUNG.

Among the native-born citizens of Germany who have come to the United States and engaged in general farming and the raising of stock, is William Sprung, who was born in the Fatherland in 1871. He is the son of August and Rika (Lau) Sprung, who were also born in Germany and who remained there until thirty-three years ago.

August Sprung was born in Germany in 1835, and in that country he followed the life of a farmer. In 1884 he decided to try his fortune in America and arrived in this country after a voyage of about two weeks. He started out for Illinois and remained in that state for three months and then moved to Iowa, where he operated a farm for about nineteen years. At the end of that period he came up into the state of Minnesota and settled on a farm in section 19, Moland township, Clay county. There he established his home and continued to give his undivided attention to the labors of his farm and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in the fall of 1908. Prior to leaving Germany, August Sprung had for some years been married to Rika Lau, who came to America with her husband and the other members of the family, in 1884, and is now living with her son, William, the subject of this sketch. To August Sprung and wife the following children were born; Otto, who is married; Anna, living in Clay county; William, August, Rudolph, Manda, and Edith, the latter four children being deceased. Mr. Sprung was an active and influential man of the district in which he had lived.

William Sprung was educated in the schools of Germany and in 1884 came with his parents to America and accompanied them to Illinois and later to Iowa, where under the careful training of his father he learned the rudiments of farming. He moved to Clay county in the spring of 1902 and shortly afterward commenced farming on his own account. He is now the owner of three hundred and ten acres of prime land, and plants an average crop of seventy-five acres to potatoes, all his farming operations being carried on in accordance with modern methods. In addition



WILLIAM SPRUNG AND FAMILY.

to his general farming he has for some years paid considerable attention to the raising of a good grade of live stock and now has some excellent Shorthorn cattle on his place. Mr. Sprung's farm is well improved and his outbuildings are substantial and modern in equipment. He has recently remodeled the dwelling house and has converted it into a modern residence, provided with all conveniences, including electric lights. He is accounted one of the substantial and progressive farmers of this section of the county.

Mr. Sprung's maternal grandfather, Christian Lau, was a farmer in Germany, where he died at the age of sixty-two years. Mr. Sprung's maternal grandmother, Rika Lau, also died in Germany, at the fine old age of eighty-seven, her death occurring about 1898.

WILLIAM H. RASEY.

William H. Rasey, a well-known and successful lawyer, living at Ulen, Clay county, was born near St. James, Watonwan county, Minnesota, September 14, 1885, a son of Elwin Z. and Helen Adele (Sargent) Rasey, the former of whom is a native of Hartford, Washington county, New York, being born November 23, 1844, and the latter, a native of Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. They are the parents of seven children, namely: Roy S., Ruth A., Inez E., William H., Jessie A., Flora E., and Nina O. Both father and mother are living in St. James, Watonwan county, in substantial and well-earned retirement.

William H. Rasey received his elementary education in the schools of St. James, Minnesota, graduating from the high school of that place in 1905. In the same year, he entered Hamlin University to pursue a supplementary course of study. In the fall of 1906, he took up a homestead of government land in Williams county, North Dakota, and proved up his claim in the fall of the following year. Since the laws of Ontario, Canada, at that time allowed a homestead to be taken and proved up by an alien without his becoming a British subject, Mr. Rasey went up into that province in the spring of 1908 and there filed a claim. In the fall of that year, he returned to his studies in Hamlin University and completed his sophomore year, but the following winter of 1909 and the spring and summer of 1910 he spent on his homestead, during which time he cleared fifteen acres and marketed the timber. Returning to Minnesota in the fall of 1910, he began a law course in the St. Paul College of Law, but