

until moving to Goodhue county, this state, where the mother is still living, being now past eighty-two years of age. The father bought a small farm upon locating in Goodhue county and added to the same until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, which is still in the possession of the family. He died at the age of sixty-four. Mrs. Aabye has six brothers and one sister, the latter of whom, Mrs. Judge Andrew Hanson, lives in this part of the country, a resident of Fargo, North Dakota. Mrs. Aabye has three children, Olena, who married Gust Erickson, of Perley, and has two children, Arthur and Mildred; Clara, who married Justus Berg, of Hendrum, and has one child, John Vincent, and Carl, managing the home farm, who married Stella Ness, and has one child, Susan Katrina. The Aabyes have ever taken an interested part in the general good works and social activities of their home community and have done much to help promote the substantial upbuilding of that part of the county.

EDWARD T. STENNES.

Edward T. Stennes, the proprietor of three hundred and thirty acres of fine farming land in Halstad township, Norman county, where he carries on general farming, was born on November 7, 1876, on the old home place where he still lives, the son of Theodore and Annie (Serum) Stennes, both of whom were natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota and were married in Norman county in the fall of 1873. The mother was the daughter of Ole and Annic J. (Norby) Serum, both natives of Norway, the latter of whom spent her last days in Minnesota, one of the pioneers of Norman county. Ole Serum was a farmer in his native country, and there he married Annie J. Norby, to which union seven children were born, namely: A. O., one of the real pioneers of Norman county and a well-known resident of Halstad township; Ingeborg, Maret, Karen, Mollie, Annie, the wife of Theodore Stennes and the mother of the subject of this review; and Ole. In 1862 the father, Ole Serum, was drowned while taking part in a log drive on the river not far from his home, and five years later his widow with four of her children, including Annie, came to the United States and settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota. There she remained until 1872, when she, accompanied by her son, A. O. Serum, and her daughter, Annie, came up into this part of the state and settled in Halstad township, Norman county.

Theodore O. Stennes left his native land, Norway, and came to America in 1868, locating in Fillmore county, Minnesota. When the party, which included Annie Serum and her mother and brother, moved toward Norman county, Theodore Stennes, feeling that greater opportunities awaited him in this then new country, joined them. As soon as he arrived in Norman county he located on a quarter section in Halstad township. Three years later, he let his brother Hans have seventy acres of the first tract and they both proved up their holdings as homesteads. Theodore Stennes, being of the stuff of which real pioneers are made, immediately set to work to improve his holding, which was of bare prairie, by setting out groves and raising the necessary buildings. Soon his industry was rewarded and he was enabled to add another quarter section across the road from his first tract and later a tract of timber land. Theodore O. and Annie Stennes were the parents of four children, of whom Edward T. is the second in order of birth, the others being a daughter, who died in infancy; Clara, who owns a millinery store in Halstad, and Olin, who has a hardware business at Wolf Point, Montana, and who married Alice Berger. Sometime after the death of his first wife, Theodore Stennes married Elizabeth Flogstad, who was born in Norway, the daughter of Ole and Gura Flogstad, and to this union one child has been born, Theodore, who works for his brother, Odin. Theodore O. Stennes and family were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, to which denomination they always consistently and conscientiously adhered, the father having helped to organize the Augustana Lutheran church, of which he was an officer during the greater part of his residence in Norman county.

Edward T. Stennes, who has always lived on the old home place in Halstad township, received his common-school education in the district schools of his home township. Later, he decided to supplement his early training by attending Concordia College, at Moorhead, where he had one term. Much of his vocational training, however, has been derived from the school of experience here on his father's farm; that this has borne fruit is evidenced by the splendid crops which Mr. Stennes reaps from his well-improved farm of three hundred and thirty acres.

On February 4, 1915, Theodore Stennes, Jr., married Lillie Peterson, who was born in Halstad, Minnesota, January 21, 1895, the daughter of Sam and Christinia (Liaunet) Peterson. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Stennes are the parents of two children, Lloyd and Philip. Edward T. Stennes is an adherent of the Norwegian Lutheran denomination, being a member of the Augustana Lutheran church of which his father was such an active member.

Politically, Mr. Stennes is a staunch advocate of independent principles. He has never been a seeker after office. Of all movements in the community which are initiated for its moral and material betterment, Mr. Stennes is a hearty exponent and loyal supporter.

WILHELM NICKEL.

Wilhelm Nickel, deceased, formerly a well-known farmer of Hagen township, Clay county, where he lived for several years, was a native of Russia, but had been a resident of this country since 1878, first settling in Cottonwood county, this state, and later becoming a prominent and influential citizen of Clay county, where he spent the remainder of his life since coming here in 1898, his death, which was generally regretted, occurring in 1901. He was born in Russia on July 29, 1843, a son of Henry and Katherine (Martins) Nickel, who were farmers in that country.

Henry and Katherine Nickel were natives of Prussia and when children, went with their respective parents to Russia, settling in the southern part of that country, where they spent the remainder of their lives, respected citizens of their home community. They were the parents of eight children, Henry, Katherine, Jacob, Maria, John, Elizabeth, Wilhelm and Helena, all of whom are deceased with the exception of Helena, who is living in Russia. Wilhelm was the only one of the family to come to this country.

Wilhelm Nickel was married on January 14, 1875, to Maria Neufeld, also a native of Russia, in which country the marriage took place. In 1878 they came to this country and located near Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, this state, coming to that part of Minnesota with the second Russian settlement. Wilhelm Nickel bought a tract of land in that place and continued to farm the same until 1898, in which year he moved to Hagen township, Clay county, where he operated three hundred and twenty acres of prime land up to the time of his death in 1901, the same being now in the possession of his widow. He carried out some substantial improvements, including a fine barn, the other buildings now on the place being erected by his family. Wilhelm and Maria (Neufeld) Nickel were the parents of the following children: Gerhart, who was born in Russia and who died in that country at the age of two years; Maria, born in Russia, who died in Cottonwood county, this state; Wilhelm, born in Cottonwood county, who died in Clay county; Gerhart, born in Cottonwood county, who