

with his parents to Minnesota and his schooling was completed in the schools of Worthington. As a young man he followed various branches of industry, none of these various jobs being "snaps," however, he declares; and later became a railroad contractor and then a butcher, and for eight years was deputy sheriff of Nobles county. In the meantime he had bought a tract of land up here in the Red River country, in Elkton township, Clay county, and in March, 1906, moved here with his family and established his home on that farm and proceeded to improve and develop the same. Since entering upon the occupancy of his land Mr. La Grange has erected a substantial set of buildings and has otherwise improved the place until he now has a fine farm plant, one of the best-ordered places in the community. He has four hundred acres of excellent land and of late years has gone in quite extensively for potato raising, in addition to his extensive live-stock business, his specialty in the latter line being Durham cattle.

On November 5, 1894, Byron G. La Grange was united in marriage to Augusta Berreau, who was born in Nobles county, this state, daughter of Otto Berreau and wife and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Arthur Graham and Eudora Louise. Mr. and Mrs. La Grange are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. La Grange is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### HERMAN G. WENDLANDT.

Herman G. Wendlandt, well-known merchant of Sabin, in Clay county, and for years postmaster of that village, also formerly and for years justice of the peace in and for Elmwood township, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm not far from St. Cloud, in Stearns county, May 16, 1869, son of Fred and Ernestine (Schultz) Wendlandt, natives of Germany, who were married in Stearns county and there spent their last days.

Fred Wendlandt was born in 1844 and was eleven years of age when his parents, Christian and Rebecca Wendlandt, left Germany in 1855 and came to the United States with their family, settling in Wisconsin, where they remained until 1863, in which year they came over into Minnesota and settled in Stearns county, where they spent the remainder of their

lives. Christian Wendlandt had served as a soldier in the army of his native country and was in the army at the time Poland took up arms against Germany, but did not participate in any active engagements. Fred Wendlandt was under twenty years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents from Wisconsin and in time he homesteaded a tract of land in Stearns county and after his marriage in that county established his home there. His wife, Ernestine Schultz, was born in 1845 and was eighteen years of age when she came to this country. She was a daughter of Gottfried Schultz and wife, the latter of whom was a Moede. Her mother died in her native land her father later married Wilhelmina Ernst and in 1863 left Germany with his family, and after spending a year in Canada came to Minnesota and became a homesteader in Stearns county, where he spent the rest of his life, living there to the age of ninety-one years. His father was a soldier in the Napoleonic Wars and carried a bullet in his knee to his grave. Fred Wendlandt became a substantial farmer of Stearns county and a man of influence in his community. He died there on September 12, 1916, and his widow survived him a little less than a year, her death occurring on February 5, 1917. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Rebecca, Emelia, Augusta, John, Louisa, Mathilda, Lena and William.

Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of St. Cloud, H. G. Wendlandt received his early schooling in the schools of St. Cloud and was later graduated from the State Normal school there, after which he was engaged in teaching school for three years, in the meantime becoming acquainted with commercial forms and the mercantile business, and remained there until 1899, when he came up into the Red River country and opened a general store at Sabin, in Clay county, where he ever since has been engaged in business, one of the best-known business men in that part of the county. In December of that same year Mr. Wendlandt was commissioned postmaster of Sabin and has ever since occupied that position. From the beginning of his residence in Clay county Mr. Wendlandt has taken an earnest interest in local political affairs, served for some time as a member of county Republican central committee and for years served as justice of the peace in and for his home township.

In 1900, the year after he became established in business at Sabin, H. G. Wendlandt was united in marriage there to Minnie Schroeder, daughter of Frank Schroeder and wife, pioneers of the Sabin neighborhood, and to this union three children have been born, Fred, Erna and

Hubert. The Wendlandts are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home community.

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### THEODORE EVANSON.

In the case of Theodore Evanson, a farmer of Ulen township, Clay county, the opportunity to succeed may not have sought the man, but most certainly the man sought and took advantage of the opportunity and he has made good application of the gifts which nature has bestowed upon him.

Mr. Evanson was born in Decorah, Iowa, May 4, 1866. He is a son of John and Catherine (Anderson) Evanson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, but were not married until after they came to the United States. He came in 1850 and she preceded him by about one year, coming with her mother and stepfather, Iver Ringstad. Mr. Ringstad bought government land in Winneshiek county, Iowa, on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. The parents of the subject of this sketch located near Decorah, Iowa, where they were married, in 1851, being the first couple to marry in Winneshiek county, and were among the early pioneers there. They worked hard to get a start in the new country and eventually became very comfortably established. They owned one hundred and twenty acres for which they paid only one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. They subsequently bought and sold other farms in that county. Mr. Evanson made all the improvements on the homestead, erecting good buildings, his first house being of logs. Later a large frame dwelling was erected. When he married, Winneshiek county had not been organized and he was compelled to go a long distance to the county seat of Allamakee county, in order to procure the necessary license. Not knowing the customs in America very well he took his bride to the parson's residence and when asked for the license handed the preacher his first naturalization papers. So he had to leave his bride there and make a long journey to secure the proper license.

John Evanson took an active interest in the early affairs of Winneshiek county, which he helped organize, also assisted in organizing the township in which his land was located. He was thereafter incumbent of some township office, most of the time, until his death, the township being Madison. He was assessor of the same for a period of twenty-five years, also served as