

business affairs of the community and has done much to help promote the same. He not only is editor and publisher of the *Index*, which has ever been a faithful and consistent "booster" of the interests of this section of the state, but he is a stockholder in the First State Bank of Ada and in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Ada, and likewise has stock in and is a member of the board of directors of several other local concerns. During the time that Company I, Third Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, was stationed at Ada, Mr. Lightbourn served for five years as an officer of the same and was a lieutenant at the close of that service.

Mr. Lightbourn has been thrice married. In 1887, at Ada, he was united in marriage to Emily Ginsberg, who died in 1902, leaving three children, namely: Mrs. Arthur M. Mueller, of Ada; Alice Fay Lightbourn, who is the teacher of domestic science in the schools of Ada, and Blanche Lily Lightbourn, who is now (1917) a student in Carleton College. In 1908, at Denver, Colorado, Mr. Lightbourn married Carrie Louise Welley, who died three years later, without issue. On April 3, 1915, Mr. Lightbourn was united in marriage to Ragna Welley, sister of his second wife. Mrs. Lightbourn was born in Strand township, Norman county, on March 27, 1887, a daughter of A. J. Welley and wife, pioneers of this county, who were the parents of quite a family of children, ten of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Lightbourn being John Welley, Lewis Welley, Elert Welley, Carl Welley, Ida Welley, Mrs. Leslie Barnes, Anna Welley, Hjalmer Welley and Malvin Welley. Mr. Lightbourn was reared as an Episcopalian, but he and his wife are now affiliated with the Congregational church at Ada. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Samaritans and takes a proper interest not only in church and lodge work, but in the general social activities of the community of which he has been a part since pioneer days.

PETER H. AAMOTH.

Peter H. Aamoth, a retired farmer who owns one thousand acres of Minnesota land, living in Twin Valley, Wild Rice township, was born in Norway on September 18, 1847, the son of H. P. and Karen (Clair) Aamoth, both born in Norway, who came to America in 1871 and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, where they remained one year. In 1872 the elder Aamoth and his family decided to move into Minnesota and located in Fos-

sum township, Norman county, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 22 and improved the same. Here the parents remained until their deaths. Seven children were born to H. P. Aamoth and wife, namely: Annette, Peter H., Lars, Hans, Nels, Olena and Engwold. All of the children are living in Fossum township except Nels, who died in 1910. The elder Aamoth was one of the first settlers in Fossum township, which he helped organize within its present boundaries; and he was also a leading spirit in the establishment of the East Wild Rice Lutheran church, of which he and his family remained active and consistent members.

Peter H. Aamoth spent his childhood and early manhood in Norway, where he attended the common schools; and when he was twenty-two years old came alone to America and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin. His parents came one year later and when the family determined upon establishing their home in Minnesota he, with his cousin, Andrew Olsen, came on ahead of his parents by train to Benson, then by stage until they reached Alexandria and walked the rest of the way to Norman county. There Mr. Aamoth settled in what is now Fossum township and sent for his parents and the rest of the family, after he had taken a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, which he improved by erecting substantial farm buildings and by planting a grove, the land being raw prairie when he got it. In 1903 he retired and moved to Twin Valley, where he lived only two years, his industrious disposition and thrift causing him to withdraw from his retirement and move back to his homestead, where he remained active in agricultural pursuits until 1913, when he moved back to Twin Valley, where he remained one year. Mr. Aamoth's success in general farming and business has enabled him to extend his holdings repeatedly, for in 1913 he bought two hundred and forty acres in section 23, Fossum township, where he has since lived, and later he added to his homestead until it now comprises four hundred and eighty acres, all of which he still owns. His acquisition of farm land has not been confined to Norman county alone, for, in all, he is the owner of one thousand acres of Minnesota land.

Mr. Aamoth, in addition to his farming interests, has been active in business affairs and in acquiring and improving urban real estate. He has a house and five lots in Twin Valley, which bid fair to be a good investment; and in 1892, with Christ Woler, he established a general store in this village, but he sold out after being in business a few months. He has also been interested in the extension of credit facilities in the new country, for he helped organize the First National Bank and the Citizens State Bank of Twin Valley, and was a stockholder in the First National Bank at Mahnomen,

Minnesota, but he is at present not connected with any of these financial institutions. Even though Mr. Aamoth has been a conspicuous man in the affairs of his community and has ever been active in all movements for the betterment of social and business conditions, he has never aspired to political office.

On January 3, 1878, Peter H. Aamoth was united in marriage, on his own homestead, to Eliza Ovidea Olson, who was born in Winnebago county, Iowa, the daughter of P. S. Olson, a pioneer of Wild Rice township, Norman county. To that union were born the following children, all of whom are still living: Julia, Helmer, Theodore, Alfred, Emma, Cora, Francis and Sidney. Mrs. Aamoth died on November 28, 1902. Mr. Aamoth and family are devout, conscientious and active members of the Lutheran church, belonging to the Mamesta congregation at Faith; however, they were members formerly of the Wild Rice Lutheran church, which he helped to organize, when they lived on the other farm.

MARTIN A. HEIBERG.

Martin A. Heiberg, former proprietor of the Heiberg elevator at Twin Valley and a well-known general dealer in flour, feed, grain and seeds at that place, was born in Norman county and has lived there all his life, with the exception of some years spent in North Dakota and several years spent homesteading in Montana. He was born in the village of Heiberg (old Twin Valley) on March 16, 1887, son of J. F. and Augusta (Slettsback) Heiberg, early and influential residents of that place, who are still living there and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume in a biographical sketch relating to J. F. Heiberg, the well-known veteran miller and electric-light producer at Heiberg.

Reared at Heiberg, M. A. Heiberg received his schooling in the schools of that village and from the days of his youth was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the latter's mill. When sixteen years of age, in 1903, he went to Valley City, North Dakota, and was there engaged until 1908 working in the mills of the Russell Miller Milling Company. He then went over into Montana, meantime having married, and entered a homestead claim to a quarter of a section of land and there made his home, proving up his claim, until 1912, in which year he sold his claim and returned to Norman county, locating at Twin Valley, where he bought the elevator of the Heiberg