

his tree claim, but instead filed on the same as a homestead and on that half section established his home, he and his wife remaining there until their retirement from the farm and removal to Ada on January 7, 1914. As noted above, Mr. Casselman was the first settler in Spring Creek township and his was the first farm put under the plow. He took an active part in the organization of the township when settlers had arrived in sufficient numbers to effect an organization and was elected first clerk of the township, a position he held for twenty years. He was later elected to other offices of trust and responsibility in the township and was a continuous office-holder there from the time of the township's organization until his removal from the farm. When the school district was organized Mrs. Casselman was elected treasurer of the same and held that position until she left the farm, her daughter-in-law now holding the position. In addition to his general farming Mr. Casselman early began to give his attention to the raising of cattle and horses and as he prospered in his undertakings added to his land holdings until now, as noted above, he is the owner of eleven hundred acres of excellent land.

It was on March 30, 1881, a couple of years after coming to this section, that W. E. Casselman was united in marriage to Laura Bullock, who was born and reared on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, daughter of William and Nancy (Bacon) Bullock, pioneers of that county, whose last days were spent at Ada, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Edna, the first white child born in Spring Creek township, who married Roy Nichols and is now deceased; Carrie, who died unmarried at the age of thirty-two years; Harold and Roy, who are carrying on the operations of the home farm; Lulu, who is a trained nurse, and Ruth, who is at home with her parents. Mr. Casselman is a Mason, a member of the lodge of that ancient order at Ada, and is a member of the local lodge of Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

ANDREW AANENSON.

Andrew Aanenson, a well-to-do farmer of Shelly township, Norman county, where he owns three hundred sixteen acres of well-tilled and well-improved land, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, February 6, 1881, a son of Soren and Martha (Peterson) Aanenson. The parents were both natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota one year before the birth of

their son, Andrew, and located at once in Fillmore county, where they remained until their deaths, substantial farmers and excellent citizens of their neighborhood. They were the parents of five children, those besides the subject of this review, who was the first-born, being Bertha, Cecelia (who died young), Peter and Elias.

Andrew Aanenson spent his boyhood days on the old home farm in Fillmore county, and, as he approached manhood, gave valuable aid in the development and improvement of his father's holdings in this new land. His parents, who readily understood the value of education, saw to it that their children enjoyed the advantage of the schools of their neighborhood, and after young Andrew had finished the elementary schools of the community, he was sent to the high school at Preston, Minnesota. Later he wished to supplement his primary and secondary training by a course in a higher institution of learning, and accordingly entered the Decorah (Iowa) Institute. Feeling that he could find his career successful in the tilling of the soil, he came to Norman county and here bought a part of the farm on which he makes his home at present. As the years passed and prosperity smiled upon his efforts, he was enabled to extend his holdings from time to time and now is the proprietor of three hundred and sixteen acres of well-tilled farming land, on which he has placed all the modern improvements that are the characteristics of a well-appointed farm plant.

On December 21, 1891, Andrew Aanenson married Lettie Sharpe, who is a native of Norway, born on September 10, 1870, a daughter of Peter P. and Bertha (Grosfield) Sharpe. Her parents, too, were natives of Norway and there the father died. The widowed mother, with the rest of her family, accompanied her son, Tollef, to America in 1871. The family first located in Vernon county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1876, and in the autumn of the following year, came to Minnesota. In the spring of 1877, Tollef Sharpe homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 30, range 48, Shelly township, Norman county, where the mother lived until her death in 1891. To Peter and Bertha Sharpe were born seven children, namely: Jacob, Carrie (deceased), Sarah, Tollef, who is a farmer in Shelly township; Peter, Lettie, the wife of Andrew Aanenson, the subject of this review, and Bertha, who died at the early age of fourteen years. To Mr. and Mrs. Aanenson eleven children have been born, of whom Mabel, Mabel, May and Sophia are deceased; those living being Bella, Tilda, Arnold, Richard, Esther, Henry and Alice. Mr. and Mrs. Aanenson are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in the creed of this denomination they have reared their children.

In the business and civil affairs of the community, Mr. Aanenson has been and is quite active. He helped to organize the Farmers Elevator Company and the local creamery company at Shelly, and since their organization he has been secretary of the former and a director of the latter. He has also served his township as justice of the peace, as clerk and as supervisor. In politics, Mr. Aanenson is a staunch advocate of Republican principles, and in the affairs of his political party he takes a deep interest.

AUGUST GERMOLUS.

A progressive farmer of Mary township, Norman county, where he owns a quarter section of well-improved and scientifically cultivated land, is August Germolus, who was born in Germany, January 15, 1878, a son of John and Emelia (Oshwald) Germolus, natives of Germany, who came to this country in 1883, bringing their family with them, and located at Ada, Norman county, Minnesota, on March 18 of that year. Soon after the family arrived at Ada the father bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 24, Mary township, Norman county, for seventeen hundred dollars. The tract was all wild land, but with his characteristic thrift he set about improving the holding, which is now worth about ten thousand dollars. In the early years of his residence on the home place the father used from four to eight oxen as draft animals. He gave his whole attention to the improvement of his farm, where he carried on general farming, and stock raising, and gave little time to politics. The mother, who was born on June 10, 1850, now lives on the old home place. Both the father and mother remained on their original farm until November 13, 1913, when they moved to Patterson, California, where they were the owners of an improved farm of twenty acres. There the former died on April 10, 1915, and in the August of the following year, the latter returned to the old home place where she still resides. Mr. and Mrs. John Germolus were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first born, the others being: Samuel, who is married and is living in California; Herman, married and living at Twin Valley, Minnesota; Fred, who lives in North Dakota with his sister, Augusta; Augusta, the wife of Herman Milbrath, living in North Dakota; Frank, married and living in California, and Lydia, the wife of Rudolph Kurpjuweit.