

In 1910 Bennie Bakke was united in marriage to Hilda Hagen, daughter of G. J. Hagen, of Detroit, this state, and to this union has been born one child, a daughter, Donna. Mr. and Mrs. Bakke are members of the Synod Lutheran church and take a proper interest in local church work, as well as in the general good works of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

JOHN J. ARENDS.

John J. Arends, one of the well-to-do and progressive farmers of Mary township, this county, owner of a quarter section of prime land, present town clerk and member of the school board, is a native of the state of Illinois, born in Chicago on November 15, 1873, a son of Nicolas and Alice (Klason) Arends, natives of Holland. These parents came to the United States in 1866 and lived in the city of Chicago for ten years, at the end of which period they moved to Will county, Illinois, where Nicolas Arends farmed and where his son, the subject of this sketch, was reared. To Nicolas and Alice (Klason) Arends the following children were born: Bernard, John J., William, Nicolas and Henry, all of whom are living and with the exception of John J., who lives in Norman county, are engaged in farming in Ottawa county, Michigan.

John J. Arends was educated in the schools of Will county, Illinois, and was reared on his father's farm, where he became a valuable aid in the labors of developing and improving the home place. In 1902, three years after his marriage, he moved to Norman county and has lived here ever since, having been in occupation of three different farms in the vicinity of his present place. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of prime land in section 10, Mary township, but rents the place on which he has been living for the past eleven years. He has put up some excellent buildings on his place, including a granary and machine shed, and is generally recognized as one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers of the district in which he resides. He has purchased a tractor for the better accomplishment of his agricultural work, which includes crops of a general character, potatoes and corn being among the products.

On May 15, 1899, at Kankakee county, Illinois, John J. Arends was united in marriage to Mary Schmitt, a native of Germany. To this union the following children have been born: George, Alice, Nicolas, Christina,

Eva, Agnes, John, Mary and Rose, all of whom are living with their parents on the farm. Mr. Arends takes a warm interest in township and general community affairs and is now serving as township clerk and is also a member of the township school board, his interest in educational matters being recognized throughout the township, and in other ways he has contributed of his time and energy in various directions tending to the public good.

JACOB LERUD.

Jacob Lerud, another of the substantial farmers of Home Lake township, is a native of the Kingdom of Norway, who came to America in search of fortune and found it. He was born in 1864 in that country and at the age of nineteen years immigrated to the United States, going on arrival to Lansing, Iowa, near which place he worked on farms for about six or seven months. He then came to Ada and worked for his brother Anton during the winter and in the spring on farms in North Dakota. The next winter he attended school in Ada, the following summer again finding employment at farm work in North Dakota, returning the next winter to Ada and resuming school work. In another part of this volume is published an extended account of Anton Lerud, brother of the subject of this sketch, the notice appearing under the caption of Emil Lerud.

• Jacob Lerud commenced farming operations on his own account by the purchase from Austin Hanson in 1887, of eighty acres in section 8, Home Lake township, later adding forty acres in section 7, same township, and still later another forty in the same section—the total being one hundred and sixty acres in the foregoing sections and a further forty acres in section 20. Mr. Lerud has carried out some valuable improvements on his different holdings, including the setting out of groves and fences. For the first years of the farm life he used oxen in the work. He is now engaged in general farming and stock raising, the oxen have long since been discarded and all his operations are conducted according to modern methods.

In 1885 Jacob Lerud was united in marriage to Johanna Monson, a native of Norway, born in 1867, who at the age of nineteen years came to America with two sisters. Her parents are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Lerud the following children have been born: Carl, Helmer and Alfred, owning two hundred and eleven acres of land in sections 5 and 6, north of their father's place; Alma, who keeps house for these brothers; Albert,