

this country in Colonial days. Peter and Mary Ann Sheets were the parents of four children, Frank, Carrie, James and Peter.

Peter Sheets, Jr., received part of his education in Illinois and completed the same in Iowa, to which state he went with his mother when he was ten years old, settling in Franklin county, that state. Mr. Sheets lived in Iowa until 1898, the last seven and one-half years being spent in Hancock county, the entire earlier part in Franklin county, and he was actively engaged in farming in both places. In 1899 he moved to Ada, Norman county, and for the greater part of the time since he has lived on a farm in Spring Creek township, where he is now extensively engaged in general farming and raising full-blood Galloway cattle, for the latter finding a ready market at all times. He is now the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of as fine land as may be found in the county, eight hundred and eighty of which is located in Spring Creek township. When Mr. Sheets took the land it was in a raw state and he immediately set out to improve and develop it, in a short time having a large portion planted to crops, his agricultural operations proving a profitable investment. For the past four years his family has been living in Ada for the convenience of having the children educated, but Mr. Sheets spends most of his time on the farm, especially in the summer months.

On October 14, 1891, Peter Sheets was united in marriage to Hattie Starks, born in New York state, a daughter of Palemon Starks and wife, and to this union the following children have been born: Russell, Nellie, Fred, Harold and Vera, all of whom are still living. Mr. Sheets has always given close attention to civic affairs and has served as supervisor of Spring Creek township, and in other ways he has been interested in promoting all movements designed to promote the general welfare of the community.

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#### BENNIE BAKKE.

Bennie Bakke, cashier and managing officer of the Security State Bank of Twin Valley, is a native son of Norman county and has lived there all his life with the exception of a year or two spent as clerk in a bank at Mahanomen, over in the neighboring county of that name. He was born on a pioneer farm in Wild Rice township, Norman county, October 26, 1887, son of Ole E. and Cecelie (Braaten) Bakke, the former of whom was born in Fillmore county, this state, and the latter, over the line in the neighboring

county of Winneshiek, in the state of Iowa, and both of whom are still living, honored residents of the Twin Valley neighborhood, where they have made their home since pioneer days.

Ole E. Bakke was reared on a pioneer farm in Fillmore county, this state, and there received his schooling, remaining there until he was about sixteen years of age, when he started out on his own account and began working on the construction of the line of the Northern Pacific railroad through Montana. After some preliminary pioneering with a view to settling on a farm in a newly-developed section, he decided to settle in the Red River valley and about 1880 located in Norman county, where he ever since has made his home, still residing on the quarter-section tract he bought in section 34 of Wild Rice township upon locating here. Long ago he added an adjoining eighty to that tract and now has a very well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred and forty acres, where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Bakke has given considerable attention to the extension of the dairy interests of this part of the state and has done very well in his operations. He has ever taken an active interest in the general civic affairs of his home township and has given considerable of his time and energies to the public service, having served as treasurer of the township and for about ten years as president of the local school board, of which for the past three years or more he has been the treasurer. He and his wife are earnest members of the Synod Lutheran church, the local congregation of which he has served as a member of the board of trustees, and their children have been reared in that faith. There are eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth, the others being Edwin, Lottie, Ida, Norman, Clifford, Orvald and Edva.

Bennie Bakke was reared on the home farm in Wild Rice township and received his schooling in the Twin Valley schools. When seventeen years of age, in 1905, he became engaged as a clerk in the Security State Bank at Mahnomon, over in the neighboring county of that name, and was thus engaged at that place until January 1, 1907, when he became engaged as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Twin Valley. Four years later he was made assistant cashier of that bank and remained thus engaged until January 1, 1914. In March of that year he became one of the organizers of the Security State Bank of Twin Valley and was installed as cashier and managing officer of the same, which responsible position he still occupies, long having been recognized as one of the most energetic and enterprising young bankers in this part of the state.

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.

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### 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,