

up into the Red River country and settled on a quarter-section homestead tract in Wild Rice township, Norman county, where they established their permanent home. There Herman Natwick died in 1908. His widow is still living there, the farm being managed by her eldest son, James H. Natwick, present assessor of Wild Rice township. Mrs. Rude has another brother, Henry, and a sister, Jessie. Herman Natwick was one of the most useful and influential pioneers of Wild Rice township. He helped materially in the organization of the local Lutheran church, helped organize the school district in his neighborhood and gave to the district the land on which the school house still stands.

WILLIAM BECK.

William Beck, one of Norman county's well-known and prosperous farmers, owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres of prime land, breeder of high-grade stock, interested in the cause of education and in other ways concerned for the public welfare, is a native of the little republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of this country for thirty-seven years. He is a son of Andrew and Susan (Berger) Beck, both natives of Switzerland.

Andrew Beck was born in 1841 and was educated in Switzerland, later becoming a farmer and at a subsequent time owned land in his native country. In 1881 he immigrated to the United States and came on to Minnesota, settling in Ada, Norman county, where in 1883, he homesteaded a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 14, Winchester township, and engaged in general farming. He carried out many valuable improvements on his holding and came to be recognized as one of the progressive farmers of this part of the county. The wife of Andrew Beck was born in Switzerland in 1842 and died in 1891. Mr. Beck is now living in Illinois, to which state he went in 1914, but still retains his interest in his original quarter section in this county. They were the parents of the following children: William, the subject of this sketch; Barbara, deceased; Andrew, deceased; Louisa, living with her father in Illinois; Anna, married and living on a farm in Illinois, and Julius, formerly in the reclamation service, later going to Oregon, where he homesteaded a tract of land, and recently enlisted in the United States Medical Corps.

William Beck left his native Switzerland at the age of eight years and on coming to this county with his parents, attended the public schools of this county. He assisted his father in the work of developing and

improving the homestead tract which the latter had entered. In 1895 Mr. Beck purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 23, Winchester township, later buying an additional quarter section in section 14, and still later adding fifty acres, now being the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres, five of which is timber land. He has the place in excellent condition and has remodeled all the buildings, and is regarded as one of the progressive farmers of the township.

In 1914 William Beck was united in marriage to Myrtle Swanson, born in Minnesota in 1886, daughter of August and Carrie Swanson, the former of whom is a farmer now living retired at Osseo, Minnesota, and still is the owner of a parcel of land. Mr. Beck gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and served as a director on the local school board for eleven years, and as township supervisor for eight years. He is a director of the Lake Ida Telephone Company and vice-president and director of the Borup Produce Company, which he helped to organize. He is a member of the Woodmen, in which organization he takes a warm interest. In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Beck raises a fine strain of graded stock and also farms his father's place in this county. He cultivates oats, potatoes and wheat, and is generally regarded as conducting his farm operations along modern lines of agriculture, keeping well informed on all the latest phases intended to improve farming conditions.

VALENTINE ONDRUSH.

Valentine Ondrush, a prosperous farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, where he is the owner and proprietor of one hundred sixty acres of well-tilled land and where he is connected with several of the important co-operative business enterprises of the community, was born in Austria, November 25, 1872, a son of Joseph and Theresa (Pakofsky) Ondrush, both of whom were native Austrians. As many of their countrymen had become comfortably situated in this country, the father came to America in 1891 and came on out to Norman county. Here his wife and a part of the family joined him in 1892. After their son, Valentine, the subject of this review, had established himself on his present farm, his parents lived with him until they bought eighty acres of land in Wild Rice township and there they resided until the death of the mother. Later, the father returned to Austria, where his death occurred. They were the parents of six children, as follow: Mary,