

mother of three children, namely: George S., Jr., Hector G. and Marie, wife of Otto J. Morrow.

Mr. Barnes was a thirty-third degree Mason and was prominent in the affairs of that order; in fact, few men in this state ever attained to such a high position in this ancient order. He was an active member of the Congregational church. Politically, he was a Republican.

Such, in brief, is the life history of George S. Barnes. While America is the home of the self-made man, it is not so usual for an individual to advance from a humble position to one of marked prominence—and such a course always awakens admiration and interest. Such was the life record of Mr. Barnes, and there was not a single esoteric phase in his career, his life ever being an open book. Diligent in business, he was also loyal in citizenship and faithful in friendship—while in his home he was a devoted husband and father.

JOHN ELOF CARLSON.

That period following the close of the Civil War, covering two or three decades, was characterized by the immigration of the pioneer element which made the great state of Minnesota what it is today. These home-seekers were sturdy, heroic, sincere, and for the most part, upright and law-abiding people, such as constitute the strength of the commonwealth. One of this sterling type of citizens is John Elof Carlson, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county.

Mr. Carlson was born in Sweden, October 24, 1857. He is a son of Magnus and Lena Carlson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home, but immigrated to America in 1869, when their son, John E., was twelve years old. The family located at Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, but a year and a half later removed to Minnesota, locating near Brainard, where the father worked at construction work on the Northern Pacific. On April 2, 1871, he arrived at Lake Park, Becker county, and soon thereafter took up a homestead five miles northwest of the village of Lake Park, in Cuba township. There he developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, putting the wild prairie land under cultivation, erecting a group of suitable farm buildings and planting a grove. There he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, influential factors among the other pioneer settlers in this locality. The

father helped organize Cuba township about five years after he located there. He also helped organize the Eskjou Swedish Lutheran church of that township, and later was one of the organizers of the Swedish Grove Lutheran church. He was a successful farmer and a good citizen in every respect, having the respect and good will of all who knew him. Six children were born to Carl M. and Lena Carlson, named as follow: Frank, who makes his home at Lake Park, Becker county; Emma, deceased; Hanna, deceased; John Elof, the subject of this sketch; Carl W., who lives at Lake Park, and Axel, who is deceased.

John E. Carlson spent his childhood in Sweden, where he attended school a while. He had little opportunity to obtain an education after coming to Minnesota, for there were no schools in Becker county to which the children of the first settlers could go. However, by close observation and home reading and study he became, in due course of time, a very well-informed man. He assisted his father with the general work on the homestead, for there was plenty of hard work for the entire family. He continued to work with his father until 1880, when he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Highland Grove township, Clay county, where he has since resided—a period of thirty-seven years, during which he has seen the country developed from a vast, wild prairie to a fine farming locality, dotted with attractive homes, numerous churches and school houses, and has played well his part in this transformation. He brought his land up to a high state of cultivation and improvement, setting out a large grove and erecting an excellent group of buildings, suitable to the needs of a thrifty farmer in this latitude. His farm is well located at Manitoba Junction and he has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

On July 5, 1886, Mr. Carlson was married to Caroline Johnson, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Anton Johnson Hauger, one of the early homesteaders of Highland Grove township, Clay county, Minnesota, where he still resides. A sketch of Mr. Hauger and family will be found on another page of this volume. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, named as follow: Lena, Josie, Manda, Jennie, who married Edward Eastman, who died in 1913, leaving two children, Edward, Jr., and Margaret, Mrs. Eastman and children now making their home with the subject of this sketch; Anna, the fifth in order of birth; Emma, Carl, Arthur, a daughter who died in infancy, unnamed, and Lillian and Roy.

Mr. Carlson helped organize Highland Grove township, also the school district in which he lives. He is now (1917) serving his second year as a

member of the school board. He belongs to the Swedish Grove Lutheran church. Politically, he is independent. He has always been a helpful man in his township, doing much for its general development.

ALONZO WILSON, M. D.

Among the real old settlers of Clay county there are few who have a wider acquaintance throughout this section of the Red River valley than has Dr. Alonzo Wilson, a well-to-do retired physician, of Moorhead, and an honored veteran of the Civil War, who has been a resident of Moorhead since the year 1876 and who has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. Doctor Wilson is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years of age. He was born in the year 1834, a son of O. L. Wilson and wife, the latter of whom died on board vessel on the way to this country in 1854 and the former of whom later became a resident of Clay county and here spent his last days, his death occurring in 1901.

O. L. Wilson was a small landowner in his native Sweden and he and his wife were the parents of five children. In 1854 he sold his farm and with his family sailed for the United States. During the voyage an epidemic of disease broke out among the passengers and Mrs. Wilson and one of the sons and two of the daughters died and were buried at sea. Mr. Wilson and his two remaining sons, the subject of this sketch and the latter's younger brother, Peter Wilson, proceeded to Chicago upon their arrival at port and during the first winter of their residence in this country were engaged working in a wood yard in that city. The father and his younger son remained in that city for a year or two, but the elder son left in the spring following his arrival for the Northwest and has ever since been a resident of Minnesota. After his son, Doctor Wilson, had become established at Moorhead, O. L. Wilson joined him here and his last days were spent on one of the Doctor's farms, his death occurring sixteen years ago.

Peter Wilson, who died some years ago, was one of the pioneers of Clay county and was for years one of the best-known and most influential residents of this county. Upon leaving Chicago he came up into the Northwest and was a resident of the Red River valley when Clay county was organized