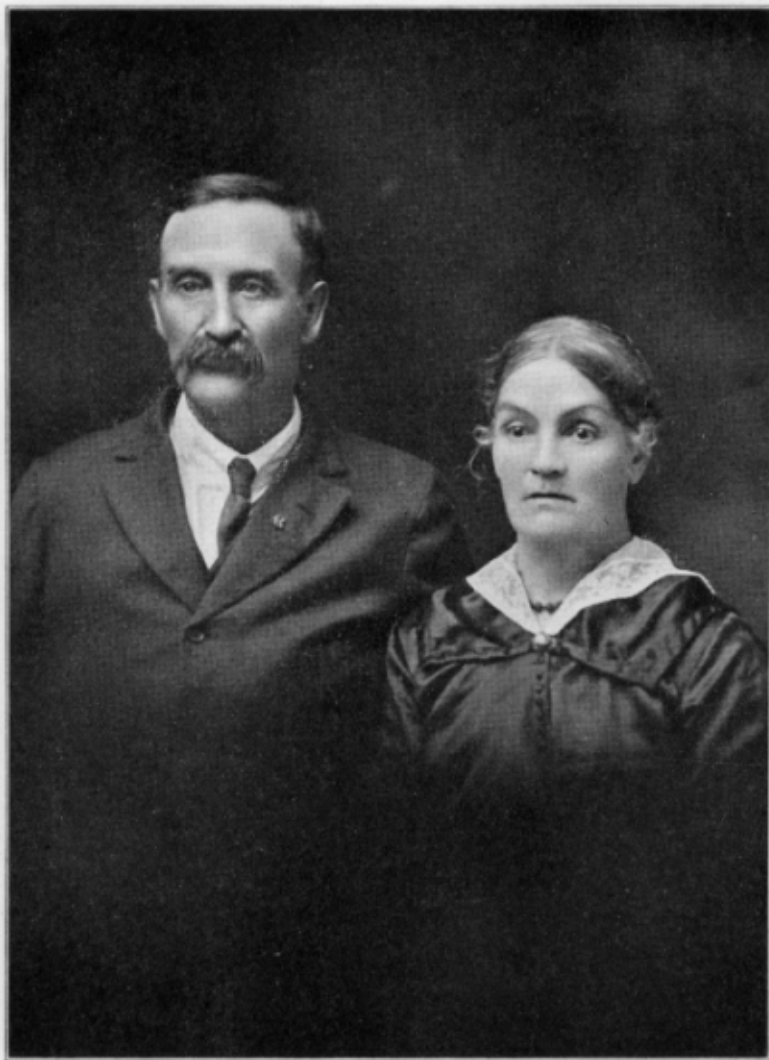


has carried out many valuable improvements on his place, including a well-laid-out grove, and also operates a small apple orchard.

In 1896 Halvor Bekkerus was united in marriage to Karen Arntson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Arnt and Karen (Sletten) Hanson, natives of that country, who immigrated to Minnesota in 1883 and located in Tansem township, Clay county. Arnt Hanson bought a tract of land and farmed during the remainder of his active life, his death occurring in 1914, and his widow is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of six children, namely: Theodore, who is living in Tansem township; Rundena, deceased; Hooken, deceased; Karen, wife of Halvor Bekkerus; Anna, deceased, and Knut, deceased. To the union of Halvor and Karen (Arntson) Bekkerus the following children have been born: Albert, Hilbert, Inge, Rudolph, Clara, Hilda and William. Mr. Bekkerus has always given much attention to public affairs and by appointment has filled the position of township chairman to finish an unexpired term. He is interested in the cause of education and was a member of the local school board for nine years, and in many other ways he has given of his time and talents to movements intended to benefit the community at large.

W. E. CASSELMAN.

W. E. Casselman, one of the real pioneers of Norman county and one of the most extensive landowners hereabout, has been a witness to the development of this section since the days of the very beginning of its settlement. He was the first permanent settler in Spring Creek township and upon the organization of that township was elected clerk of the same, his wife being elected treasurer of the school district in which they lived upon its organization and continuing to serve in that capacity as long as they remained there. Mr. Casselman broke the first furrow turned in Spring Creek township and his first-born child was the first white child born in that township. From the time of the organization of the township until he left the farm he was continually in public office, having served his township in various capacities, and did much to develop the interests of that part of the county. Since the day he filed a pre-emption claim to a tract of land in what later was organized as Norman county, back in 1879, Mr. Casselman has been successful in his operations and is now the owner of eleven hundred acres of land, long having been regarded as one of the



MR. AND MRS. W. E. CASSELMAN.

most substantial citizens of this part of the state. He is now living retired from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife are very comfortably situated in their pleasant home at Ada.

Though born and reared in the old Keystone state, W. E. Casselman has been a resident of the Northwest since the days of his young manhood. He was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, November 15, 1856, son of Daniel T. and Harriet (Durfee) Casselman, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. Daniel T. Casselman was a son of Jonas Casselman, who was a soldier during the War of 1812 and who many years later left his family in the East and started for Wisconsin on a prospecting trip. He started his journey by way of the Great Lakes and never again was heard from by his family, the presumption being that he was lost on the lakes. His wife, who was born Sarah Horn, spent her last days on the old home farm in New York. Daniel T. Casselman was a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, serving in a Pennsylvania regiment, and for some time during that service was confined in a Rebel prison pen. Some time after the war he came up into the Northwest and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, but presently returned to Pennsylvania and spent his last days at his home in Crawford county, that state. His widow is now making her home, at a ripe old age, at Farmington, in Whitman county, Washington. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Frank, Percy E., Alice, Otis Leonard (deceased), Herman (deceased), Bessie, Jessie, Edna (deceased), and Mary (deceased).

Reared on the paternal farm in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, W. E. Casselman received his schooling in the local schools there and remained at home until he was twenty years of age when he went to Wisconsin and remained there, farming in Dane and Portage counties, until the spring of 1879, when he came over into Minnesota and proceeded on out to this part of the state with a view to pre-empting a farm site. That was before Norman county had been organized as a civic entity, but the prospects for settlement out in this section of the state were then very encouraging and Mr. Casselman came on out to this section and filed a pre-emption claim to a quarter of a section in what later was organized as Spring Creek township, in Norman county. In the spring of 1881 he married and in that same spring filed on the northwest quarter of section 30 as a tree claim, walking the fifteen miles to John Wright's place, Wright then being the only notary in these parts, to file his claim. He did not "prove up" on

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