

R. H. DENENNY.

In writing the history of Norman county, Minnesota, and especially of Borup it is well to mention the life's work of R. H. Denenny, a prominent and successful hardware dealer of that place. He was born in the state of New York in the year 1877, the son of C. C. and Catherine (Barry) Denenny, who were also born in the state of New York, where they received their education in the public schools and grew to maturity. They were later united in marriage and established their home in the state of their nativity and early life. There Mr. Denenny engaged in general farming after his marriage and there he and his wife and family lived until the year 1880, when they decided to leave their home in that state and establish a home in the state of Minnesota. On their arrival here they settled in Clay county, where they homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land. The tract was undeveloped and unimproved at that time and the prospects for a future home were not bright to the people who had come from a thickly settled and well-developed section of the state of New York. A house was erected, in which the family lived for some years, and the task of developing and improving the farm was begun. By much hard work and close application to business, Mr. and Mrs. Denenny in time transformed the wild prairie and wood tract into a splendid farm, and where once grew the forest tree and the wild prairie grass, there grew the golden grain, and the pasture lands were dotted here and there with herds of fine cattle and splendid hogs. The task was not an easy one, and it required the energy and determination of a vigorous people. It was here that Mrs. Denenny spent the remaining days of her life, devoted to the interests of her family and the community in which she lived. Her death occurred in the year 1914, after a life of usefulness and well doing. She was a woman in whom the people of her home community had the greatest confidence, and at her death she left to mourn her passing a large circle of friends, who felt the loss of her taking away. Since the death of his wife, Mr. Denenny has lived at his home in Felton, where he and his wife first came on their arrival in the state many years ago.

C. C. Denenny has always taken the keenest interest in the affairs of the district in which he has lived, and where he has exerted such an admirable influence. He has held many of the local offices and during his official life always gave the same careful care and attention to public matters that he has given to his own business; and has always been interested in those projects that had to do with the growth and development of the township

and the county in which he lived. Before the telephone became a part of the life of the people of this section, Mr. Denenny and his son, R. H. Denenny, installed a line between the farm and the village home for their own convenience. This enterprise led to the extension of the system and soon Mr. Speck connected with the line and it was not long till others had joined the colony of pioneers in the telephone business. This line was in time extended to the town of Borup, after which the Borup Telephone Company was organized and the line was extended to all parts of the territory and other towns. This was in the year 1905, and on the organization of the company C. C. Denenny was made the first president of the company and has since held the position. To him much of the success of the company depends, and it is to his credit that he and his son were the very first in their locality to enjoy the pleasure and convenience of this invention. Mr. Denenny is a man of unusual ability and business tact and his leadership has resulted in much that has been of advantage to the community in which he has lived so long. His advent into this territory was at a time when the settlements were few and far apart. In the great development of the district he has done well his part and has ever devoted his best efforts to that development. He and his wife were of Irish descent, though they were born in this country. His parents, as well as those of his wife, were born in Ireland and there they received their education and grew to maturity and later came to the United States, where they established homes.

C. C. and Catherine (Barry) Denenny were the parents of the following children: F. C., R. H., William, Grace, Jack, Stella, C. C. and Bernice, all of whom are living save the last named. Mr. and Mrs. Denenny were long active members of the Catholic church and were devoted to the cause of religious teaching in their home community, Mr. Denenny ever being a liberal subscriber to the support of the local church.

R. H. Denenny received his education in the schools of Felton and Moorhead and was reared on the home farm, during his boyhood days assisting his father with the work on the farm. After he had reached manhood he and his brother, F. C. Denenny, for six years farmed the home place, which had been extended to comprise four hundred and eighty acres. In addition to this, Mr. Denenny had one hundred and sixty acres of his own and his brother had one hundred and sixty, which, together with the father's land, made a tract of seven hundred and sixty acres. This tract of splendid land was all in one body and was later developed and improved

and put under a high state of cultivation. In connection with their general farming they were extensive breeders and raisers of stock and were known over the county as successful and substantial farmers and stockmen. After having spent six years in the work on the farm, R. H. Denenny located in the town of Felton, where he was for two years successfully engaged in the well-drilling business and operating a threshing-machine. He then moved to Borup, where in 1911 he purchased the hardware and implement business of Oscar Mattison, which business he has since conducted with success. He has a well-stocked store and his constantly increasing trade is evidence of his popularity and business tact. He is possessed of much business acumen and is held in the highest esteem by all.

In 1904 R. H. Denenny was united in marriage to Lillian Paranto, of Viding township, Clay county, the daughter of Midie Paranto and wife, who were among the early pioneers of that section. To this union the following children have been born: Gladys, Eunice, Raymond, Curtis and Francis. Mr. and Mrs. Denenny are devout members of the Catholic church, and are prominent in the social life of the town. Mr. Denenny has always taken an active interest in local affairs and is one of the influential men of the town as well as the county. Being possessed of excellent judgment, his advice and counsel are often sought in matters that pertain to the general welfare of the community.

ANDREW E. HOLM.

Among the native-born Norwegians who have come to America and engaged in general farming with success, is Andrew E. Holm, who was born in the kingdom of Norway, on May 7, 1854, a son of Even and Emilia (Christianson) Ingebrightson, both of whom were also born in that same country, where they were of the farming class.

Even Ingebrightson was educated in the schools of Norway and worked at farming up to 1871, in which year he immigrated to the United States, first locating in Fillmore county, this state. He continued to reside there for ten years and in 1881 moved to Norman county and lived with his son, Andrew E. Holm, until his death. He operated a small farm, which he continued to work during his active years. His wife died in Norway. They were the parents of five children, namely: Sirene, who died in