

Farmers elevator at Twin Valley and began buying grain on his own account. A year later the Farmers Elevator Company resumed direction of that elevator and Mr. Durling continued as manager, in behalf of the company, for another year, at the end of which time he became engaged in the agricultural-implement business at Twin Valley and remained thus engaged for two years, or until the Twin Valley Roller Mills were built in 1903, he being part owner of the same, after which he gave his attention to the management of the mill. The next year, 1904, Mr. Durling became the sole owner of the mill and has continued to own and operate the same, having made it one of the most widely patronized mills in this part of the state. Mr. Durling has other business interests in Twin Valley and is one of the most enthusiastic "boosters" of that village. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens State Bank of Twin Valley and for about two years was a member of the board of directors of the same. He also has extensive farm-land interests in Norman county and is looked upon as one of the substantial citizens of that community. For several years he has served as president of the village council and in 1917 was again elected to that office, and has in other ways given of his time and energies to the public service.

In the year 1894 August Durling was united in marriage to Bertha Bergeson, daughter of Halvor Bergeson and wife, and to this marriage two children have been born, Arthur and Malvin. The Durlings are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in the community's general social activities.

HERBRAN ERICKSON.

Herbran Erickson, a farmer of Tansem township, Clay county, was born in Norway, October 11, 1859. He is a son of Erick and Sigrí (Herbrandson) Hanson, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in 1870, locating first in Winneshiek county, Iowa, remaining there one year. In June, 1871, they came up into Minnesota, driving an ox-team overland, bringing their household effects in a prairie schooner. The family of P. P. Solum came along with them, and these two families were the first to settle in the northern part of Tansem township, Clay county. Erick Hanson, the father, took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, the place on which his son Ole now resides, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. The father later bought

another quarter section here. He developed his land into a fine farm and erected a good group of buildings on his homestead. He helped organize Tansem township and the first church of the township was organized in his home; meetings being held there and in other homes in the vicinity for some time; then in the school house and finally a church edifice was erected at Rollag--the Grong church.

To Erick Hanson and wife seven children were born, namely: Hans, who resides in Parke township; Regnil, the wife of S. Thompson, of Parke township; Herbran, the subject of this sketch; Segri, the wife of O. H. Rierson, of Tansem township; Tosten, who lives in Becker county; Mary, the wife of S. P. Anderson, and Ole, who lives on the old homestead. These children were all born in Norway but the last two, whose births occurred on the home farm in Clay county.

Herbran Erickson was eleven years old when his parents brought him to America. He had attended school in Norway and his schooling was completed in Iowa and Minnesota. He has remained in Tansem township since the family first came here and he therefore grew up amid pioneer conditions, the locality having been a wild prairie and sparsely settled when the family settled there. He worked hard when a boy, assisting his father develop the homestead, and as a young man began farming for himself on the farm on which he still resides, which adjoins his father's farm. He owns three hundred acres of productive and well improved land on which he has erected excellent buildings and has a pleasant and attractive home. Mr. Erickson has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He makes a specialty of raising Hereford cattle, and prepares large numbers of cattle and hogs annually for the market. In 1904 he helped organize the Rollag Telephone Company, the early success of which was due to his able management as president, which position he occupied for six years in a manner that was eminently satisfactory to all concerned. He was again elected president of this company in the spring of 1917. He has been a heavy stockholder in the same since it was first organized. He is also president of the Parke Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

In 1885 Mr. Erickson was married to Celia Anderson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Andres and Hannah Solberg, natives of Norway, from which country they came to America about 1868, locating in Rock county, Wisconsin, where the father died shortly after locating there. The widow came to Minnesota in 1880, locating on a farm in Tansem township, Clay county, with her children. Andres Solberg and wife were the parents of six children, Lena, Christina (deceased), Oli, Hans, Celia and Alma.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, namely: Elsie, Albert, Henry, Elmer and Roy, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Erickson is non-partisan in his political views, but has always been active in local public affairs. He has served as township assessor and was treasurer of the township for years. He also served as chairman of the township board for fifteen years, and was for some time justice of the peace, ever discharging his duties as a public official in an able and satisfactory manner.

JOHN P. LORENTZ.

John P. Lorentz, a prosperous farmer living in Mary township, Norman county, where he is the proprietor of the old home place, was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, November 4, 1871, a son of John K. and Maria Rachel (Berringer) Lorentz, both natives of Ontario, the latter born, October 20, 1831, and the former, July 29, 1833. Reared in their native province, where they married, the elder Lorentz and wife brought their family to Minnesota in 1876, and remained four years at Georgetown, Clay county. Feeling that better opportunities were to be had for establishing their home northward in Norman county, they came to this county in 1880 and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 29, Mary township. There the father and mother spent the rest of their lives, the former dying on May 5, 1889, and the latter on March 29, 1901, respected and well-known residents of the neighborhood, the father being a member of the school board for five or six years. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. John K. and Maria Lorentz were the parents of eight children, namely: Maggie, the wife of W. C. Dalrimple, and now living in Castleton, North Dakota; Rachel and Catherine both deceased; Mary, deceased; Susanna, who married W. H. White and now resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Lizzie, who lives here on the home place with her brother, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, married and residing in Moorhead, Clay county, and John, the subject of this review.

John P. Lorentz was only five years of age when he came from Ontario, Canada, the land of his nativity, with his parents, the family settling in Georgetown, Clay county, Minnesota, where he received his elementary education in the public schools. Later, when he was only nine years old, he accompanied his parents to Mary township, Norman county, where they