

who is mentioned in a separate sketch in this work; Addie, the wife of Henry C. Longley, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts; Mary Augusta, who first married Charles Putney, and later Lewis Smith, and she is living in Idaho; H. F., who is mentioned in a separate sketch on another page of this volume; Nellie, deceased, was the wife of Frank Spooner, also now deceased, and they made their home in Fitchburg, Massachusetts; H. R., a merchant at Hawley, Clay county, who is mentioned in a separate sketch in this work; Susie, the wife of Ben Jacobson; Cora, who married Charles Brooks and they live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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### PURKEY HENRY.

Among the earliest settlers of Elkton township, in Clay county, were the Henry family, who settled there in the latter seventies, helped organize the township and became active and influential in the work of bringing about proper social conditions in the pioneer community. The head of this family, Abraham Henry, was a native of Pennsylvania and a man of the true pioneer breed, moving successively from Pennsylvania to Illinois and thence to Iowa and thence up here into the Red River valley, ever following the frontier, and here he spent his last days, one of the most influential pioneers of Elkton township, which he had helped to organize in the days of the beginning of the settlement of that region. His father, John Henry, was a man of much the same type and when seventy-two years of age, in 1854, headed an expedition, of which his son Abraham was a member, to the Pacific coast, acting as scout for the party and walking almost the entire distance. John Henry had served during the War of 1812 as a member of Commodore Perry's command on the Great Lakes.

In Pennsylvania, where he had grown to manhood, Abraham Henry married Rachel Jones, a daughter of Isaac and Esther (Neff) Jones, the former of whom was a native of Holland, who moved from Pennsylvania into Illinois, driving through with a family of eleven, the essential domestic belongings being transported in a one-horse wagon, all but the frailest of the party walking. Later, about 1855, Isaac Jones and his wife moved to Jackson county, Iowa, and there spent their last days. It was in 1854 that Abraham Henry had moved from Kane county, Illinois, to Jackson county, Iowa, and there he remained until 1878, when, finding the settlement there becoming too crowded for one of his pioneering instincts, he came up here

into the Red River valley and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 26 in Elkton township, Clay county and "tree-claimed" the northwest quarter of the same section and settled down to prepare a place for his family, who joined him here the next year, he meantime having erected a shack of a house for their reception, and on that place he and his wife spent their last days, among the leaders of that community. Abraham Henry helped to organize the township. He and his wife were earnest Presbyterians and the latter offered the opening prayer at the first public religious service held in that community, that service having been held in the railway section-house, which for a time was used as a place of worship until presently a school house was built, the latter serving as a place for worship until later the Presbyterians erected a church at Baker. Abraham Henry and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Clinton, Alfonzo, James E., Anna, Isaac, Betsy and Isabel.

Purkey Henry was born in Jackson county, Iowa, in June, 1861, and was eighteen years of age when he came up into Minnesota with the family and settled in Clay county. Upon reaching his majority he homesteaded a quarter of a section in Skree township and after his marriage in 1884 established his home there, continuing to make that his place of residence until 1899, when he moved back to the old home place and has since occupied that portion of it comprised in the northwest quarter of section 26 of Elkton township, the original tree-claim entered by his father back in the seventies. Mr. Henry has an excellent farm and he and his family are very comfortably situated there. He has taken an interested part in general civic affairs and has served as a member of the local school board. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper part in the general good works of the community.

In 1884 Purkey Henry was united in marriage to Ruth Jane Daniels, who also was born in Jackson county, Iowa, daughter of Kensey C. and Emalie (Rose) Daniels, who moved from that county into western Iowa and after five years of residence there came up into this part of Minnesota, in 1880, and homesteaded a quarter of a section in section 6 of Humboldt township, Clay county, where Kensey C. Daniels died about 1893. His widow survived him for more than twenty years, her death occurring at her home in the village of Baker in 1914. They were the parents of six children, who grew to maturity. Ruth Jane Daniels had received excellent schooling in Iowa and upon her arrival in Clay county was engaged at once as a school teacher, beginning in 1881 as the teacher of the first school opened between

Glyndon and Barnesville, for the first month of that term conducting her school in an old dirt-floor homestead shack that stood on land now a part of the farm of Charles Lamb, Sr., a little east of the present village of Downer. To Mr. and Mrs. Henry four children have been born; Joseph, Bemis, Lamont and Pearl. They have besides an adopted daughter, Matilda.

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### JUDGE CARROL A. NYE.

Specific mention is made in this history of Clay county of many of the worthy citizens who have figured in the growth and development of the county and whose interests are identified with its various phases of progress. Each has contributed his share to the well-being of the community, and to the advancement of its interests. Though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some degree each can win a measure of success and bring advantages to his fellowmen. It is not necessary to follow any particular line of endeavor or engage in any particular vocation, to be of service to one's home community. In all walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talent and influence that in some way touch the lives of those with whom one may come in contact, making them the better and the greater. Of the men of the county, who have had an elevating effect on the resident population, as well as on the entire district, it is well to mention one of the most prominent members of the Clay county bar, and one who has risen to a high position in the legal fraternity in the county, Judge Carrol A. Nye.

Judge Carrol A. Nye was born in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, in 1861, and received his education in the common and normal schools of that state. After having completed his education in the schools of the state, he entered the law office of his brother, Frank M. Nye, who was at that time located at Clear Lake, Wisconsin, and is now a successful attorney of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He later studied in the office of Robert M. LaFollette, the present senator from that state, and who was at that time located at Madison. He then entered the University of Wisconsin in 1886, where he was given the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He received the greater part of his education through his own efforts and, while in college, paid the larger part of his expenses with money earned by working on the farm and in teaching school. After completing his education and after having been admitted to the bar, he located in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he has since resided.