

died in Clay county; Mrs. A. F. Toavs, living at Wolf Point, Montana, and Henry W., born September 7, 1886, in Cottonwood county, who came with his parents to Clay county. He has always lived on the home place and operates three hundred and twenty acres of land, one hundred and sixty of which he owns, and on which he carries on general farming, being regarded as one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Hagen township.

On January 1, 1912, Henry W. Nickel was united in marriage to Susie Evert, who was born in Cottonwood county, a daughter of Jacob Evert and wife, natives of Russia. To Mr. and Mrs. Nickel three children have been born, Wilhelm, Orlando and Ruth. The Nickel family, both sides, are members of the Mennonite church. Mr. Nickel formerly was a member of the school board and he and his wife take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community in which they reside. factors for good in all that appertains to the welfare of the township.

Mrs. Maria (Neufeld) Nickel was the daughter of Rev. Gerhard Neufeld and wife, natives of Russia. The former was born in that country in 1827. In 1878 he came to Cottonwood county with the Russian settlement and there died on December 15, 1916. He served as pastor for thirty-eight years at Mountain Lake. His wife, Anna Tiecroew, who also was born in Russia, died in that country. They were the parents of the following children: Katherina, Anna, living in North Dakota; Maria, who became the wife of Wilhelm Nickel; Gerhart, Peter and Henry. All the foregoing children, with the exception of Anna and Maria, are living in Cottonwood county. Three other children, Susie, Henry and John, died young.

---

### HARRY RICHARDS.

Harry Richards, one of the most extensive landowners and progressive farmers of Norman county and chairman of the board of directors of the First State Bank of Perley, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this section of the Red River valley since 1879 and is, therefore, very properly regarded as one of the real old settlers of this region. He was born at Erie, Pennsylvania, in August, 1858, son of John S. and Adelaide P. (McAllister) Richards, the former of whom also was born at Erie and the latter, near Watertown, New York.

John S. Richards, who died in 1898, at the age of seventy-four years, was a successful coal operator at Erie, engaged both in mining and jobbing, was a member of the board of directors of the Second National Bank of Erie and was for some years holder of the controlling interest in the Northwestern Fuel Company, of St. Paul, having bought James J. Hill's interest in that concern. His widow died in 1912, she then being seventy-four years of age. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Mary Metcalf, of Erie, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Adelaide Michener, a widow.

Reared at Erie, Pennsylvania, Harry Richards completed his schooling in the Erie Academy and when twenty-one years of age, in 1879, came up into the Northwest country and located at Fargo, where he became engaged in the coal business, details of which he had learned under the careful direction of his father, at that time one of the leading coal men in the country. For about five years he continued in that business at Fargo and then, in 1884, he bought a tract of something more than a section of land in sections 18 and 19 of Lee township, Clay county, and proceeded to improve and develop the same. When Mr. Richards took possession of that six-hundred-and-fifty-acre tract it was wholly unimproved, but it was not long before he had it under cultivation and had there erected a farm plant that was widely regarded as one of the best in the Northwest. He has continued adding both to his land holdings and to the improvements on the place until now he is the owner of a great farm of thirteen hundred and five acres and a farm plant that is a model of modern convenience and effectiveness, the buildings on the place carrying insurance to the amount of twenty thousand dollars. In addition to his general farming Mr. Richards has long given close attention to the raising of live stock and in the summer of 1917 had eleven thousand dollars worth of stock on the place. The farm house, the center of this admirable farm plant, is a large, modern house, equipped throughout in strictly up-to-date fashion, and Mr. Richards and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Not only has Mr. Richards been successful in his farming operations, but he has given close attention to the general business activities of the community, helpful in many ways in promoting the various enterprises that have added so much to the development of this region. He was the organizer of the First State Bank of Perley and is chairman of the board of directors of the same.

In 1880, the year following his location at Fargo, Mr. Richards was united in marriage, at Erie, Pennsylvania, to Sarah M. Eliot, who was born

at that place in 1859, and to this union two children have been born, a son, John Eliot Richards, and a daughter, Ruth Eliot Richards, the latter of whom was graduated from a New Jersey college in the spring of 1917, and the former, of Dartmouth College. John E. Richards remains on the home place, aiding in the general management of the same. Harry Richards is a Mason of high degree, having attained the Scottish Rite (thirty-second degree) in that order, a charter member of the consistory of North Dakota and is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with El Zagal Temple at Fargo. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in the affairs of that order likewise takes a warm interest.

---

#### SAMSON N. PETERSON.

Samson N. Peterson, an enterprising merchant at Perley, Norman county, was born at Calamus, Iowa, January 21, 1864. He is a son of Nils and Kari (Hanson) Peterson, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity and attended school, and they were married in their native land in 1855. They came to America on their honeymoon and located on a farm near Calamus, Iowa, buying raw land, which they improved by hard work and perseverance, enduring the usual hardships and privations of pioneer life. The father still lives on the home place there, which he has now occupied for a period of sixty-two years, a record that few men in his state can equal. He owns one hundred and eighty acres. His wife died on December 21, 1891. She was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, to which Nils Peterson also belongs. To these parents three children were born, Hans, Samson N. and Cornelius.

Samson N. Peterson grew to manhood on the home farm at Calamus, Iowa, working hard during the crop seasons, and in the winter attended the district schools, later attending the high school at Dewitt, that state, and was graduated therefrom. He began life for himself as a teacher, in the fall of 1881, and continued teaching for eight years with success, giving satisfaction both to pupils and patrons, and his services were in demand. During this period he taught four years in Norman county, Minnesota, having come here in 1886. In the fall of 1890 he began clerking in a store at Ada, and the following year took a position as clerk in the store of A. J. Kroshus at Perley, which position he held two years, then clerked two years