

COMPENDIUM
.. OF ..
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY
OF
NORTHERN MINNESOTA

CONTAINING A

HISTORY OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Embracing an account of Early Explorations, Early Settlement, Indian
Occupancy, Indian History and Traditions, Territorial and State
Organization; a review of the Political History; and
a concise History of the Growth and
Development of the State.

ALSO A

COMPENDIUM OF BIOGRAPHY OF NORTHERN MINNESOTA,

Containing Biographical Sketches of Hundreds of Prominent Old Settlers and Representative Citizens of
NORTHERN MINNESOTA,

with a review of their life work; their identity with the growth and development of the Region;
Reminiscences of Personal History and Pioneer Life and other Interesting and
Valuable Matter which should be preserved in History.

ILLUSTRATED.

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dred and sixty acres in section 18, in Berlin township, Todd county, and eighty acres on section 24, in Spruce Hill township, Douglas county. His farm is stocked with Durham cattle, of which he has forty head, and he also keeps about fourteen head of horses. He is thoroughly versed in farm work and uses only the most approved methods.

Mr. Brown was married, October 5, 1897, to Josephia Hintzen, daughter of Leonard and Elizabeth (Fox) Hintzen, prominent farmers of Belle River township. Mrs. Brown has five brothers and six sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are the parents of two children, namely, Josephine J. and Marian S. Mr. Brown is a member of St. Mary's Court, No. 1067, of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and he and wife are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Brown is prominently identified with local matters and was elected to the board of supervisors and has served four years, being chairman of the board. He has also served as school clerk nine years.

SILAS M. POSTON

Silas M. Poston, well known throughout Barnesville township and that section of Clay county, was born on a farm in Adams county, Illinois, in 1854. His father, Jeremiah Poston, came into Minnesota the following year, and was among the very early pioneers of the state. He was born in Virginia, and his forefathers had resided in this country for many generations. His wife, Mary Cartright, was born in Illinois, and of her children eleven lived to reach maturity.

Silas M. Poston was the third member of his parents' family and was educated in Washington county, Minnesota, at a time when but most limited schooling was to be had on the frontier. The school house was a log structure, a mile and a half from home. There was hard farm work to be done, and young Silas early learned the meaning of hard work in helping to clear and grub the land. It was the day of the Indian, and roving bands of the aborigines were to be seen daily. In 1874 Mr. Poston left home and began life for himself. He bought a team and started in farming in Blue Earth county, where he continued until 1877. His first crop was entirely destroyed by grasshoppers, and the second season the crop was greatly damaged, 1875-6. In 1877 he went back to Washington county to spend some four or five years in both Washington and Chisago counties. Mr. Poston was married, in 1880, to Miss Rachel McCurdy. She was born in St. Paul and her parents were natives of Ireland. Her father, Archibald McCurdy, was both a farmer and a carpenter. He was married in Philadelphia. Mr. and Mrs. Poston are the par-

ents of the following family: Francis E., Bertha M., Cedonia, George, Silas, Claude R., Martha I., Richard G. and Mary,—all of whom were born in Minnesota. After their marriage Mr. Poston moved to Anoka, where he spent a year, and then made his home in Stillwater for some four years. In 1884 he moved to Minneapolis, where he did teaming until 1891. That year he came to Wilkin county and located on a farm four miles southeast of Barnesville. There he farmed up to 1898. In 1894 he bought his present farm in section 34, Barnesville township, Clay county, which consisted of all raw prairie at the time of his purchase. In 1898 he moved on this tract of land and began making it fit for farming. He already had fifty acres broken, and at once put up a shanty twelve feet square, and a barn, 14x28 feet. Now he has a house, 16x24 feet, with an addition, 12x16 feet, and a barn, 14x52 feet. All the machinery the place requires for its successful operation is on hand, and, though Mr. Poston had been mostly engaged in grain farming, he contemplates working rapidly into stock. He is a Republican, and was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In Barnesville township he has been supervisor two terms, and school director two years, and since his coming here has taken a very active part in local affairs.

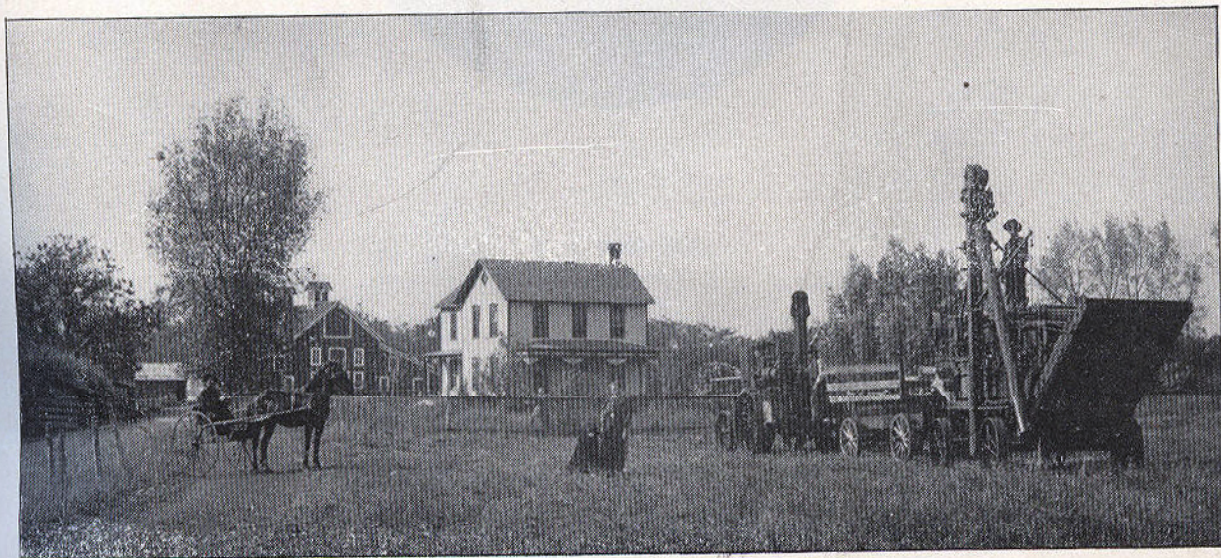
EDWARD G. GROVER.

Edward G. Grover, of Moland township, Clay county, is a farmer of advanced ideas and modern methods. He conducts a farming business on a very extensive scale, and all his affairs are accurately and carefully managed. He is the owner of a tract of eleven hundred and twenty acres under active cultivation, and has other lands which he cultivates in his vicinity.

Mr. Grover was born in Houston county, Minnesota, September 11, 1861, and is a son of T. A. and Gelena (Kassenborg) Grover. His father was a well-known citizen of Clay county, and intimately connected with its politics and social affairs. He numbered among his friends the oldest pioneer settlers of the region, and was born in Moland, Tilemarken, Norway; his mother was a native of Land in the same country. The father came to America in 1846, and engaged in commercial pursuits in Houston county, Minnesota, retiring to farm life about the date of the birth of Edward G. Grover in 1861. In 1874 he brought his family into Clay county, and made his home on Buffalo river. His services as township officer and county commissioner brought him into close relationship with public affairs, and gave him an extensive acquaintance throughout the county. He died March 14, 1895.



EDWARD G. GROVER.



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD G. GROVER, CLAY COUNTY, MINN.



T. A. GROVER.
(DECEASED.)

Edward G. Grover was reared to farm life in Houston county, and came to Clay county with his father. His early manhood was devoted to the development of the family homestead, which has since passed into his possession. He drove an ox-team and breaking plow and grew up with a practical knowledge of Minnesota farming. In 1882 he began in the mercantile business. In 1883 he became agent for the McCormick Company, and so continued till 1890. In 1890 and 1891 he was located at Fargo as a representative of the Deering Company. In connection with his brother, C. A. Grover, in 1891, he purchased his father's farm of four hundred and eighty acres, and in the fall of the same year he bought out his brother, and thus became the sole owner of the grand old Grover homestead. It is due to his energetic labor that this fine farm has reached its present excellent state of cultivation. He is a man of remarkable business capacity as well as executive ability, and has won for himself a distinguished place in the ranks of the twentieth century agriculturists. Mr. Grover is unmarried, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, also the R. N. A., and the M. B. A. He has held various local offices since 1893, and in the fall of 1900 was elected county commissioner from the Third district.

Mr. Grover was engaged in a mercantile and machinery business for some ten years prior to his engaging in farming, in 1892. His first years of farming were not successful on account of poor crops and low prices.

In 1894 Mr. Grover began raising potatoes, devoting twelve acres to that vegetable, gradually increasing the acreage until 1900, having two hundred acres in potatoes that year. In 1901 he had one hundred and seventy-five acres of potatoes, from which he harvested thirty thousand bushels, only "Early Ohios" and "Triumphs" being allowed a place in his fields. He supplies seed potatoes very largely to the southern and south central states. He also raises in large quantities, wheat, oats, barley, flax and corn, and in 1901 had a corn field of one hundred acres, besides thirty-five acres devoted to fodder corn.

In politics Mr. Grover is an uncompromising Republican, and for many years has taken an active part in the public affairs of Clay county. At the present time he is a member of the executive committee of the Republican central committee of Clay county, and is a member of the committee of his township. His father was a leader in his party, and was a life-long Republican. He was born June 16, 1830. His widow, who now resides on the old Grover homestead, was born November 1, 1834.

Portraits of Edward G. Grover and his father, T. A. Grover, will be found on different pages in these annals.

THE MARSHALL COUNTY BANNER.

The Marshall County Banner, of Argyle, Marshall county, Minnesota, now conducted by Martin H. Novotny, editor and manager, is the only paper published in that village.

The Banner was established in 1882 by A. J. Clark, and was shortly afterward purchased by H. W. Brown. The files of the paper during its early history having been lost, it is not now possible to trace with accuracy the line of ownership. In 1892 the paper and plant was purchased by Martin H. Novotny, the present owner. The Banner is an independent paper. It began as a five-column quarto and was conducted in the interests of the Republican party. Upon organization of the Farmers Alliance the Banner championed the principles of the new organization. At the present time it is conducted as an independent newspaper. Its present size is a seven-column folio. The circulation of the Banner is about eight hundred. In addition to the publication of a newspaper, Mr. Novotny also conducts a job printing office. The office is well fitted for artistic job work, and inspection of many samples prove our subject to be one of the most thorough and painstaking printers in the northwest.

Mr. Novotny was the seventh child in a family of thirteen children born to James and Elizabeth Novotny, both natives of Bohemia. Our subject left home at an early age and entered a printing office at the age of twelve years. Having learned the printer's trade, he came to Argyle about the year 1888. He remained but a short time, however. He then traveled through the west, spending about one year in Utah. In 1892 he assumed management of the paper which he now conducts. He has inaugurated many and valuable improvements, adding from time to time desirable and popular features.

Mr. Novotny was married, in 1898, to Miss Anna Kirsch, who now presides with much grace in their cozy and comfortable home. They are the parents of one daughter, Eunice Mae.

CARL J. ROOS.

Carl J. Roos, who for many years has been identified with the agricultural interests of Clay county, has a home of great comfort in section 6, of Highland Grove township. He is a man of sound judgment and careful management, and has gained a valuable property. He is widely and favorably known as a worthy citizen and well merits his high position and success as an agriculturist.

Mr. Roos was born in Sweden December 24, 1840, and was a son of John and Christina (Peterson) Oleson, both of whom were natives