

year, and in 1902 he was transferred to Borup, where he was employed as station agent until 1916, in which year he resigned and engaged in the mercantile business in that village. He formed a partnership with John Jacobson and with him has since conducted the business, under the firm name of Bowen & Jacobson. The members of this firm have a complete and up-to-date establishment and by their pleasing personalities and honest business methods have built up a large trade and today have the confidence and the respect of the entire community. Since they first engaged in the business their trade has continued to increase and they are recognized as one of the substantial and progressive business firms of the county.

J. J. Bowen has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the town and the county, and has been interested in the general development of the district ever since locating here. Being a man of ability and education, he has been much interested in the schools and has likewise been devoted to the general interests of his home community, those enterprises that have had to do with the general development of the district having received his hearty co-operation and support. Mr. Bowen was for a time assistant postmaster of the town of Borup and recently was appointed to the position of postmaster, which position he is filling to the entire satisfaction of all. He feels his responsibility to the postoffice department and his duty to the patrons of the office and is at all times accommodating and courteous to the general public, in consequence of which he receives the hearty support of the community.

OTTO J. GROVER.

Otto J. Grover, an energetic and substantial young farmer of Moland township, Clay county, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, breeder of pure-bred Holstein-Fresian cattle, clerk of district school board No. 6 and in other ways interested in public affairs, was born on a farm in Moland township in 1878. He is the son of Targe A. and Galena (Kassenburg) Grover, natives of Norway, the former born in 1830 and the latter in 1834.

Targe Grover, at the age of fifteen years, left his native Norway and came to the United States in 1846. On arriving in this country he started straight out to Minnesota and settled in the southern part of the state, where he was engaged at farming work for several years. He moved to Clay county



OTTO J. GROVER AND FAMILY.

in 1874 and settled on a farm in Moland township, where he continued to reside up to the time of his death in 1895. He was an active and industrious farmer and improved his holding in a manner that made it profitable to work. Targe Grover devoted a portion of his time to public affairs and was one of the first board of county commissioners in Clay county. His wife, Galena Kassenburg, was also a native of Norway, who came to America at the age of fifteen, in 1849, and went to the southeastern part of Minnesota. She worked in St. Paul about the year 1853, and spent a few years in that city. Her death occurred in May, 1909, at the advanced age of seventy-five years. To Targe Grover and wife the following children were born: Gustav A., Alexandria T., who is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Moland township, is married and has two children, Clarence and Elmer; Tilda N., who is married; Otto J., the subject of this sketch; Edward G., Christian A., Mary A., and Lizzie A., who are deceased. Targe Grover and his wife were earnest members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and were active and influential residents of the district in which they made their home.

Otto J. Grover was educated in the public schools of Moland township and was reared on his father's farm. From boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the work of developing and improving the home place, and remained thus engaged for some years. He then started farming on his own account and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of prime land, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising and on which he has set out seventy-five acres to the cultivation of potatoes. Mr. Grover has an excellent herd of registered Holstein cattle and at the head of the herd has a registered Holstein bull, out of the first thousand-dollar butter cow in the state; the products of his herd finding a ready market, the quality of the strain being known throughout the county and outside it. He has carried out many costly improvements on his place and conducts his farming operations according to modern methods of agriculture, using the best machinery, the present value of which is about six thousand dollars. Mr. Grover has also erected a modern dwelling house on his farm, which is one of the most up-to-date in the township. The house is furnished with electric light, hot and cold water and hot-water plant, and an excellent system of sewerage. Here he and the members of his family are very nicely and pleasantly situated. All the farm buildings are also electrically lighted.

In 1901 Otto J. Grover was united in marriage to Hulda Nicholson, who was born in Sweden in 1877 and who at the age of seven years, in

1884, came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Peterson, who settled in Clay county, where they resided until 1902, when they moved to Chisago county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Grover are the parents of six children, Iva L., Marion G., Elvina A., Eugene F., Wilford V. and Francis E. The Grover family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and are active in all its good works. Mr. Grover is a trustee of the church, and in addition to his active life on the farm he gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs. He served as township assessor for four years and is now the efficient clerk of district school board No. 6, and in the fulfillment of the duties of these positions has always given a good account of himself.

FRANK GRAY.

Frank Gray, a well-known and extensive landowner, holding eight hundred acres of land, located in Wild Rice and Home Lake townships, Norman county, also breeder of full-blood Shorthorn cattle, is a native son of the state of Michigan, born in St. Joseph county, that state, in 1858. He is the son of Barbar H. and Sarah (Alger) Gray, natives of the state of New York, the former born in 1813 and the latter in 1818. Barbar H. Gray died in 1898 at the age of eighty-five years and his widow survived until 1905, her death occurring in that year at the age of eighty-seven years.

Barbar H. Gray and his wife left the Empire state and went to Michigan, where they settled in St. Joseph county, where the father became a farmer and continued at that occupation to the end of his life. Frank Gray, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools of St. Joseph county, Michigan, and worked out at farm labor for about five years in that place. In 1880 he went to Spink county, South Dakota, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he immediately proceeded to put into a state of cultivation and later made a purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of prime land, which he set out to the growing of grain. In that neighborhood, in common with many others, he suffered from the disadvantage of having no local market, the nearest place being Watertown, which was eighty miles distant. Nevertheless, Mr. Gray succeeded in his agricultural operations and in that state laid the foundations of his present prosperity.

In 1910 Mr. Gray decided to tempt fortune in Norman county, this state, and commenced his investments in land by the purchase of a full sec-