

supervisors, occupying the position from the 1st of January, 1910, until the 1st of January, 1914.

Alf O. Vaala was educated in the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, spending three years in the preparatory department and four years in pursuing the college course, after which he was accorded the Bachelor of Arts degree upon his graduation with the class of 1907. Subsequently he took post graduate work in the Iowa State University. During his stay here he became a charter member of the Pi Kappa Mu, an honorary educational society. In 1907 and 1908 he taught in the Orphans Home at Twin Valley, Minnesota, after which he taught for two years in Grand Forks College at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Later he spent three years as a teacher on the Fort Peck Indian reservation at Wolf Point, Montana, while he filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres near the reservation, on the south side of the Missouri. He still owns that property. In 1913 he returned to Chickasaw county and was chosen superintendent of the Alta Vista city schools, where he remained five years. In April, 1918, he was elected county superintendent of schools for Chickasaw county, in which capacity he has since served, making a most creditable record by his marked devotion to duty. He has instituted various improvements in the schools of the county and has maintained the highest standards. He is an enthusiastic supporter of his profession and inspires teachers and pupils under him with much of his own zeal and interest.

On the 12th of June, 1912, Mr. Vaala was married to Miss Ellen Natvig, of Saude, and to them have been born two children, Ruth D. and Ovey N. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Vaala belongs to Alta Vista Lodge, I. O. O. F. His genuine worth entitles him to the warm regard of all who know him. Much of his life has been passed in this county, so that his record is as an open book, and in the educational field he has made for himself an enviable position.

PETER BROWN.

Peter Brown, who carries on general farming on section 14, Afton township, Howard county, is numbered among those citizens that Wisconsin has furnished to Iowa, for he was born in Springdale township, Dane county, Wisconsin, August 6, 1853. His parents were Michael and Margaret (Lynch) Brown. The father was born in Queens county, Ireland, while the mother was a native of Canada.

At the place of his nativity Peter Brown was reared and the public schools of the county afforded him his educational privileges. He was trained to habits of industry and thrift by his parents, who were sterling people of the community. The father had come to the United States in 1847, landing at New York city, after which he worked at Hoboken, New Jersey, until 1848. In that year he removed westward to Wisconsin and secured employment on a farm in Dane county. Some time later when his means justified he purchased land and began farming independently. In Dane county he wedded Margaret Lynch and both remained residents of Wisconsin until called to their final rest, the death of the father occurring in 1899, while the mother passed away in 1918.

Peter Brown remained a resident of Dane county, Wisconsin, until he reached the age of twenty-two years and then came to Howard county, Iowa, where he has lived since 1875. He was first employed at farm labor here and about 1884 he purchased land and began the development of his present home place, which comprises eighty acres of land situated on section 14, Afton township. He has since carefully cultivated his fields, which yield to him golden harvests annually. His success has had its root in his diligence and perseverance and his life record shows what can be accomplished through industry, intelligently directed.

In 1888 Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hogan, a school teacher of Afton township and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hogan, of Farley, Dubuque county, Iowa, both of whom are now deceased. They came to the new world from Ireland and for many years were worthy residents of this state. To Mr. and Mrs.