

where they resided for twelve years, removing in 1854 to Chickasaw county, Iowa. The Landsverk family was one of the first three families to establish a home in Utica township and from pioneer times to the present representatives of the name have been active in the further development and improvement of this district, which has converted the township from a wild and undeveloped region into one of rich fertility and productiveness. It was in the year 1856 that the Anderson family arrived, settling in Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county. From 1854 until his death in 1908, Peter J. Landsverk remained continuously a resident of Utica township, there passing away at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow survives and still makes her home in Utica township.

J. P. Landsverk was educated in the district schools and in the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1895, winning the Bachelor of Arts degree. Liberal educational opportunities thus well qualified him for the practical duties and responsibilities of life. For two years he successfully taught school, after which he pursued a special course in the Northern Indiana Normal University at Valparaiso, Indiana, with the intention of devoting his after life to educational work. His health, however, would not permit an indoor life, and in 1903 he took up a farm in Barnes county, North Dakota, purchasing at that time three hundred and twenty acres of land. He remained upon that property for eight years and in 1911 he traded the farm for his present home place of one hundred and eighty acres on section 34, Utica township, upon which he has since resided. His labors have converted this into a rich and valuable tract of land, from which he annually gathers abundant harvests. He is also a stockholder in the Saude Cooperative Creamery Company.

In 1903 Mr. Landsverk was married to Miss Gurena Vaala, a daughter of Ole O. Vaala, one of the earliest of the pioneers of Utica township, now living retired in New Hampton. Mr. and Mrs. Landsverk have become parents of six children: Pauline G.; Orval C.; Valborg, who is deceased; Paul G.; Norman R.; and Valdemar.

In his political views Mr. Landsverk is a republican and in religious faith he and his family are identified with the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is always interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and progress of the community in which he makes his home and during four of the Liberty Loan campaigns he served on the loan committees. From a flagpole in front of his home at times floats one of the largest privately owned flags in the county. This is the visible evidence of his loyalty and patriotic spirit, which is manifest in many ways, for he at all times seeks the welfare and upbuilding of community, commonwealth and country.

MARTIN DERR.

Martin Derr, living on section 14, Afton township, Howard county, is numbered among the residents of northern Iowa who have come from Germany. He was born in that country August 4, 1865, and his parents, Michael and Katrina (Amman) Derr, were also natives of the same country. They left Germany, however, in 1867 and came to the new world. They first settled in Stephenson county, Illinois, where for five years the father was employed as a farm hand, but desirous of engaging in farming on his own account and thinking that he would have still better opportunities in Iowa, he came to Howard county, establishing his home near Cresco, where he lived for a quarter of a century. He first rented land in that district and then bought a farm and for twenty-five years was closely associated with the agricultural development of the community. He died upon his farm there in 1888 and the mother passed away in Paris township, Howard county, in the year 1909.

Martin Derr was but two years of age when brought to the United States and under the parental roof spent his youthful days, remaining at home until he reached the age of twenty-four, when he started out in life independently. He had previously acquired a public school education, and received thorough training in all branches of farm work. He first rented a farm near Schley, Iowa, upon which he lived for seven years, and on