

county, where the father purchased two hundred acres of land from a speculator at five dollars per acre. He at once began the development and improvement of the farm, which he brought under a high state of cultivation and upon which he made his home until the death of his wife, which occurred on the 19th of August, 1884. He then made his home with his son, Nelson I., until he was called from this life on the 3d of July, 1905.

Nelson I. Mead was educated in the district schools, attending when there was no work to be done on the farm. His youth was a period of earnest toil and after reaching manhood he and a brother operated the home farm for two years. In 1878 he was united in marriage to Miss Clara J. Hooker, of Ionia, a daughter of James M. Hooker, who came to Chickasaw county from Rockford, Illinois, in 1859, settling on a farm in Chickasaw township, a half mile east of Ionia. There he lived up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1903. He served for several years as justice of the peace and was a prominent figure in the councils of the republican party. In fact he was regarded as one of the leading and influential residents of his section of the state and contributed much to the development of his district from pioneer times down to the present century.

Nelson I. Mead after his marriage rented a farm in Chickasaw township and for four or five years cultivated leased land. He made his first purchase in the early '80s, becoming owner of one hundred forty acres near Ionia, on which he lived for five years. He then bought eighty acres two miles southeast of the town, on which he resided for fifteen or sixteen years. He next bought another farm property of one hundred and forty acres north of Ionia, on the Dayton township line, and occupied that place for eight years. In 1903 he bought his present home place, to which he removed and upon which he has since resided. His time and energies are devoted to the further development of this property, which is now well improved, its fields making ready response to his care and cultivation in golden harvests. He is also a stockholder in the Ionia Farmers' Creamery Association.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mead have been born four children, two of whom survive: Mabel, who is the wife of Winton B. Waite, of Chickasaw township; and Bert N., who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits, is a dealer in farm lands and also devotes considerable attention to the breeding of thoroughbred Aberdeen Angus cattle.

The family are members of the Congregational church and in his political views Mr. Mead is a republican. At different times he has served as a member of the board of township trustees and is always interested in everything that has to do with the welfare and upbuilding of the county in which his entire life has been passed. There are few phases of its development and progress with which he is not familiar and throughout the years of his residence here he has been regarded as a most enterprising, reliable and substantial citizen.

JENS PLAMBECK.

Almost every country on the face of the globe has contributed to the citizenship of Howard county, but a very substantial portion has come from Denmark and of this class Jens Plambeck is a representative. He makes his home on section 20, Howard township, and is accounted one of the alert and energetic farmers of his part of the state. He was born in Denmark, October 16, 1870, a son of John and Marguerite (Knudsen) Plambeck, who are also natives of Denmark, where they still reside. The father devoted his attention to farming as a life work but is now living retired.

Jens Plambeck, having acquired his education in the public schools of Denmark, came to the new world in 1892, when a young man of twenty-two years. He afterward attended the high school at Tyler, Minnesota, for one term and thus greatly improved his knowledge of the English language. He hoped to enjoy better business opportunities in the United States than he could secure in Denmark and he has never had occasion to regret his determination to try his fortune on this side of