

G. E. Soland was reared and educated in Springfield township, attending district school and afterward the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah. He learned farming by practical work upon his father's homestead and after the latter's death the estate was divided, each son receiving two hundred and eighty acres of fine land. Mr. Soland has since added to his holdings, owning now five hundred and eighty-eight acres, half of which lies in Frankville township and the remainder in Springfield township. Mr. Soland has not feared earnest and persistent labor, continuing the work of developing his property along modern lines and making upon it substantial improvements, the farm being today one of the finest in this section. The buildings are all upon the land lying on section 12, Springfield township, and the latest improved farm machinery has been installed to facilitate the work of the fields. In addition to his farming operations Mr. Soland is also vice president and a director of the Decorah State Bank and a stockholder in the Nordness Creamery Company and the Nordness Telephone Company, and his business interests are managed in a farsighted, able and progressive way.

On the 25th of April, 1878, Mr. Soland was united in marriage to Miss Magdalena Egge, a daughter of Erick and Helena Egge, natives of Norway. Mr. Soland's first wife passed away in 1885, leaving one daughter, Ella, who married Olaus Viste, a farmer in Decorah township. On the 3d of April, 1888, Mr. Soland was again married, his second wife being Miss Bertha Brodland, a daughter of Hans Brodland, a native of Norway, who never came to America. To this union have been born eight children: Lena, the wife of George Wefflin, who is developing one of his father-in-law's farms; Amelia; Marie; Engebret; Clara; Hans; Etta; and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Soland is a member of the Lutheran church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, having rendered the township excellent service as trustee for six years. While his life has been quietly passed, it contains nevertheless lessons of value, for it shows what can be accomplished by a determined and persistent spirit and honorable dealings. He now occupies a position among the prosperous citizens of Winneshiek county and the most envious cannot grudge him his success—so worthily has it been won.

CARL L. LARSON.

One of the foremost industries of Decorah, Iowa, is the Lutheran Publishing Company, and one of the oldest, most faithful and most capable employees of that large institution is Carl L. Larson, foreman of the extensive bookbinding department of this publishing house. Born in Christiania, the beautiful capital of the kingdom of Norway, November 25, 1847, he is a son of Christian and Mary (Hanson) Larson, natives of the northland. The father was a musician, an art which he always followed in the old country, where he passed away in 1872, his wife surviving until 1878.

Carl L. Larson was reared in his native land and received his education in the excellent schools of his native country. He there subsequently learned the bookbinder's trade, and when in 1868 he came to America he located at Madison,