

#### PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 223

Clara, at home; Thea, the wife of J. P. Quandahl, of Allamakee county; and Edgar, at home. Mrs. Thorson and all of her children enjoy the highest esteem and respect in this neighborhood, worthily carrying the name which has long stood for good qualities of mind and character in this section.

Mr. Thorson was a lifelong republican and although he never became actively interested in politics to the extent of accepting public office, always took a laudable interest in matters affecting the public welfare. He was a member of the Lutheran church and active in its work. He met his comrades from the battlefields of yore through the medium of the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of the post at Decorah. A thoroughly reliable man, a kind and considerate neighbor, a good husband and a loving father, his memory is perpetuated in what he achieved along agricultural lines through long years of wearisome toil. As the years passed he became one of the substantial men of the county and became one of those who stood highest in the affection of all who knew him. His tenacity in pursuing a goal should be an inspiration to the younger generation and his memory is a heritage to his widow and children which is to be higher prized than the worldly possessions he left them. His name deserves a high place on the roll of honor of those who did much in building up the agricultural interests of Winneshiek county and his name will therefore ever be connected with its history.

#### NELS O. HAUGEN.

Since 1884 Nels O. Haugen has lived upon the farm which he now occupies, on section 35, Madison township, and his practical and progressive methods have brought it to a high state of cultivation, making it one of the finest agricultural properties in this vicinity. He was born in Norway on the 20th of May, 1855, and is a son of Ole and Mary (Peterson) Haugen, also natives of that country. The father came to America, settling in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1865, and three years later he purchased forty acres of land in Madison township, improving this for a number of years. Eventually he added to it a quarter section of land adjoining and later an additional eighty acres, all lying in Madison township. They are now owned by a brother of the subject of this review. The father operated his extensive holdings during the remainder of his life, becoming known as a prosperous, progressive and substantial agriculturist. He died in 1899 and is survived by his wife, who makes her home with her daughter, who resides near Freeport, Iowa.

Nels O. Haugen was ten years of age when he came with his parents to America and the greater part of his education was acquired in the district schools of Winneshiek county. In 1884 he married and bought eighty acres of land on section 35, Madison township, to which he later added thirty-six acres adjoining, this constituting his present farm. The years have brought him prosperity and success, for his methods have always been practical and his energy untiring, and the farm today reflects his careful supervision in its neat and attractive appearance.