

their love in large measure, while he enjoys the respect of people of all denominations. He is a man of scholarly attainments, most earnest and consecrated in all his activities, and he is ever watchful of the interests of his people among whom he has accomplished a great and lasting work in the cause of Christianity.

PETER H. RUEN.

Winneshiek county is greatly indebted to Norway for the class of enterprising citizens which that country has furnished to the Hawkeye state. A great majority of the residents of this county are natives of or trace their lineage to the land of the midnight sun. Among the latter class is Peter H. Ruen, now actively and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 25, Glenwood township, where he has made his home since the spring of 1898. His parents are Hans P. and Ingebaar Ruen, who are still residents of Glenwood township. They are now well advanced in years. The father was born in Norway, October 13, 1828, and is a son of Peter and Annie (Olson) Ruen, who in 1850 sailed for the United States, but the mother died while they were upon the ocean. Peter Ruen, with his two sons and three daughters, continued on their way to the new world and later they were joined by two other sons, one of whom had been born by a former marriage. On the 1st of August, 1850, Peter Ruen and his children arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thus concluding a journey which was begun at Christiania on the 1st of May. In July, 1851, he and his son Hans and three of his daughters took up their abode in Winneshiek county, where Peter Ruen continued to make his home until he was called to his final rest at the very venerable age of ninety-two years. By the father's first marriage there was a son, Jens, who was born in 1821. The children of the second marriage were: Ivar; Ole, who died in October, 1893; Hans P.; Eileen; Kjerstie; and Martha. All are now deceased with the exception of Hans P., who in connection with his brother Ole secured what is known as the old Ruen Farm in 1858. This they operated together for three or four years, at the end of which time Hans P. Ruen purchased his brother's interest, remaining upon the old homestead which has been his place of residence since 1851. He is today the oldest settler living in this Norwegian district. Several Norwegian families came at the same time and planted a colony which has been an important feature in the upbuilding and improvement of Glenwood township. Hans P. Ruen has one hundred and sixty acres, constituting the southwest quarter of section 35. He was formerly the owner of a larger tract but has sold some of it to his sons.

In politics he is a democrat, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. He has held various offices in the church and has been an active factor in promoting the moral progress of the community. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as he was in very limited financial circumstances when he arrived in the new world, and all that he now possesses has come to him as the direct reward of earnest, persistent labor.

It was in 1855 that Hans P. Ruen married Miss Ingebaar Stranbakken, who was born in Norway, September 27, 1830, and came to the United States in 1850 on the same ship with her future husband. Her father died in the old country,