

on the 26th of June, 1895, to Miss Dena Peterson, who was born in Canoe township, February 14, 1871, a daughter of Lars Peterson Eide and Carrie Christina Hanson. Her parents were natives of Norway and the mother died during the early girlhood of Mrs. Akre. Some years afterward the father retired to Decorah, where his death occurred. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Akre have been born five children: James Lawrence, who died at the age of three years; Leonard Melvin, born September 1, 1901; Perry, who died when but five weeks old; Walter Eugene, who was born August 30, 1905; and Norman Clifford born December 6, 1907.

In politics Mr. Akre is a republican and gives stalwart support to his party. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and he has been secretary of the independent school district since its organization in May, 1904. He was also a director of the Norwegian school for three years. He belongs to the Big Canoe Lutheran church of Pleasant township and has been one of the revisers for the congregation for the past three years. He does everything in his power to promote the work of the church and extend its influence and is equally active in furthering the cause of education and in promoting the material progress and development of town and county.

B. O. DAHLY.

In recounting the history of progress of Winneshiek county a prominent place in its development must be given to B. O. Dahly, one of the early merchants of Decorah and a pioneer of this state. Although there have passed eighteen years since his death occurred, his memory is still fresh in the minds of the people who knew him and esteemed him. Born on Christmas day in 1826, in Christiansand, Norway, and of Norwegian parentage, he spent his early life in his native city and in Christiania, the beautiful capital of the northern kingdom. The intervening period to the time of his demise comprised over sixty-eight years, his death taking place in Decorah on March 18, 1895. An active boy with ambition to gain a place for himself, he early began to look for opportunities and soon decided that there was no country that offered greater advantages than the new world and at the age of eighteen, in 1844, with a party of other young people, braved the deep and came to the United States in a sailing vessel, the crossing being made under difficulties and dangers and consuming about three months. He first located in Chicago, where for several years he worked in the McCormick Machinery Company and by thrift and industry succeeded in saving enough money to invest in city lots in that city, which he subsequently disposed of at a handsome profit. While in Chicago he first met his future wife, Miss Margaret Knutsen, who was learning the millinery trade in that city. Her home was Whitewater, Wisconsin, and there subsequently Mr. Dahly was married to her. While in Chicago he organized the first Norwegian Sunday school class which was ever held there. He lived for a time in Whitewater, Wisconsin, coming subsequently with teams and horses to Freeport, Iowa, with the intention of founding a city there. Securing help, he built the first wagon road between Freeport and Lansing and then hauled the lumber to Freeport in order to begin