

Mr. Larson married Miss Matilda Freeburg, a native of Sweden and a daughter of John and Lena (Malburg) Freeburg, also born in that country. Mr. and Mrs. Larson became the parents of seven children: Laura, who lives at home; John F., who is operating the homestead for his mother; L. Kent, assisting with the work of the home farm; Anton L., who also lives at home; Gustave, who is associated with the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad; Martin and Henry, who live at home. Since Mr. Larson's death, the widow has added eighty acres to the home farm and has supervised its management, ably carrying forward with the help of her sons the work which her husband began.

Mr. Larson was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was a republican in his political beliefs. His influence was always on the side of progress and improvement and it was found that at all times his business activities balanced up with truth and justice.

O. L. WENNES.

A mile south of the state line, on section 17, Highland township, is the home of O. L. Wennes. It was here that he was born July 17, 1856, in a little log cabin fourteen by sixteen feet, which was built by his father. His parents, Peter L. and Tarine (Gjerstad) Wennes, were both natives of Norway, the former born June 11, 1819, and the latter on the 27th of May, 1822. The father arrived in this country in 1850 and the mother in 1852. Both made their way to Wisconsin and in that state they were married in the latter year. They began their domestic life there, but in 1854 came to Winneshiek county, settling on the farm which is now the old Wennes homestead. They were in limited financial circumstances and for two years lived in a dugout but afterward built a cabin, which was later replaced by a modern frame residence. In connection with a relative Mr. Wennes purchased eighty acres of land and later became sole owner of that tract. He also secured government land later and at the time of his death was the owner of one hundred and thirty acres, constituting a rich and well developed property. His wife died May 27, 1901, and he survived her for little more than a year and a half, passing away December 15, 1902. He was a quiet, industrious man, living at peace with his neighbors, possessed a genial disposition and won friends wherever he went. The Lutheran church numbered him among its active, consistent and faithful members. The family numbered but two children, the younger being Ellen Johanna, now the wife of John Halseth, of Mabel, Minnesota.

O. L. Wennes has resided at the place of his birth throughout his entire life and early became familiar with the best methods of developing the home place and carrying on the work of the farm. In 1886 he purchased the old homestead from his father and has added to it until he is now the owner of an extensive tract of three hundred and ninety-five acres, covering parts of sections 8, 14, 15 and 17, Highland township, his residence being on section 17. All of the present substantial buildings upon the place were erected by Mr. Wennes and his farm is exceptionally well improved, showing all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm property of the twentieth century. In the midst of the place stands a large, fine residence, erected in 1909, and this is surrounded