

with a fine grove of sugar maples. The place is known as the Highland Stock Farm, for hereon he raises a high grade of stock for feeding purposes and annually sells a large number. He has some full blooded cattle and hogs. He also raises many horses, keeping seven brood mares.

While known as one of the leading, enterprising and successful farmers and stock-raisers of the county, Mr. Wennes also has other important business connections. He has been a director of the National Bank of Decorah since its organization and he has been one of the directors of the Norwegian Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Winneshiek county for fourteen years. He is likewise a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery of Highland township and he is identified with various interests of a public or semi-public character. He has served as a director of the Winneshiek County Agricultural Society and for twenty years has been school treasurer of his township. He was county supervisor at the time the new courthouse was built and acted as chairman of the building committee. His name is on the cornerstone, together with the names of four other supervisors. In politics he has been a lifelong republican, yet was in sympathy with the progressive movement at the last election. He has held nearly all of the township offices and his service as county supervisor covers six years, with two years spent as chairman of the board. He has also been a member of the republican county central committee and has labored earnestly and effectively to promote the interests of his party.

On the 15th of May, 1889, Mr. Wennes was married to Miss Caroline Larson, who was born in Highland township, February 11, 1865, a daughter of Hon. Nels and Julia Larson, residents of Highland township. Mr. and Mrs. Wennes have seven living children, Peter, Jennie, Edgar, Nels, Carl, Theodore and Tilda, and they lost two sons in infancy. Mr. Wennes and his family are members of the Lutheran church and are earnest supporters of all that tends to promote the moral progress of the community. He is very energetic, persevering and reliable and his substantial qualities have won him the high and enviable position which he occupies in the regard of friends, neighbors and business associates.

JOHN N. ISTAD.

John N. Istad, one of the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Pleasant township, owns and operates on section 26 two hundred and ninety acres of fine land whereon he has resided since he was two years of age. He was born in Boone county, Illinois, on the 22d of March, 1858, and is a son of Nels and Betsy Istad, natives of Norway, where their marriage occurred. In 1850 they located in Illinois and in that state made their home for ten years, eventually removing to Winneshiek county, Iowa, locating on the farm which the subject of this review now owns. The father continued to develop and improve this property, making it extremely valuable and well cultivated and taking his place among the prosperous and progressive farmers of his vicinity. He died upon his farm at the age of seventy-four years, having survived his wife some time, her death occurring when she was seventy years of age. In their family were four children. Annie was twice married. She first wedded L. M. Longland and