

having preceded him by over five years, her death occurring on February 27, 1895. To their union were born ten children: Rachel, deceased; Alice, who married G. G. Gilbertson, of Ada, Minnesota; Ole, of Twin Valley, Minnesota; Helge H., of this review; Hans, of North Dakota; Maria, who married Gilbert Botkins, of Lincoln township, this county; Annie and Isabelle, deceased; and a son and daughter who died in infancy.

Helge H. Aaker has spent practically his whole life upon the old homestead, where he was reared and educated, early becoming acquainted with thorough agricultural methods. After the death of the mother, in 1895, he bought out the other heirs and now owns all of the three hundred and fifty acres. His fields are in a high state of productivity and his buildings substantially constructed and modernly equipped. The latest machinery can be found upon his place and he ever follows the most approved methods in order to increase his yield and enhance the value of his land. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and along both lines has been more than ordinarily successful. His political affiliation is with the republican party and he has given evidence of his interest in the cause of education by serving as a school director. He continues in the faith of his fathers, being an attendant and member of the Lutheran church. Highly esteemed by his friends and neighbors, Mr. Aaker occupies an enjoyable position among his fellow citizens, and such prosperity as has come to him is well merited, as it is the outcome of his own continuous efforts.

#### JOHN A. GOSSMAN.

A tract of one hundred and forty acres, located on sections 7 and 17, Burr Oak township, pays tribute to the labor of John A. Gossman, in the splendid harvests which he annually gathers therefrom. He is a native son of the township, his birth having occurred April 12, 1874. He is the second youngest in a family of eight children born unto Anthony and Elizabeth (Snyder) Gossman, a complete record of whom is given in connection with the sketch of Jacob E. Gossman on another page of this work.

John A. Gossman was reared on his father's farm and by him was trained in the work of the fields, while he acquired a practical education in the district schools of Burr Oak township. He chose as his life work agricultural pursuits and now has in his possession a fertile tract of one hundred and forty acres, situated on sections 7 and 17, Burr Oak township. On his place are found a comfortable country home and substantial barns and outbuildings and Mr. Gossman takes a just pride in keeping his place in a neat and attractive appearance. He is engaged in raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and in addition engages to some extent in dairy farming. He has always led a busy life and his labors are bringing to him rich returns.

Mr. Gossman chose as a companion and helpmate for the journey of life Miss Minnie McCabe, who was born in Bluffton township, Winneshiek county, December 13, 1877, a daughter of Terrance and Mary (Ryan) McCabe, who still make their home in Bluffton township. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Gossman has been blessed with seven children, as follows: Clement; Murland, who died at