

Nels Gunval was reared on the parental farm, attending the schools of the neighborhood in acquiring his education. He began early to assist his father with the work of the farm and remained on the homestead until twenty-five years of age, when he went to Washington, there engaging in farming for a period of two and a half years. He then returned home and purchased his father's farm. He has since added thereto and now owns two hundred and ten acres, which are devoted to general farming and stock-raising. His buildings are substantial and his fields under high cultivation, giving evidence of his reliable methods.

On November. 14, 1889, Mr. Gunval married Miss Laura Samuelson and to them were born four children: Gustav, whose day of birth was July 11, 1891, and who died March 16, 1901; Emma Salvina, born November 2, 1893, who married Ingvold Myrland, of Lincoln township; Ida Oletta, who was born July 3, 1895, and was married July 1, 1913, to Clarence Hamre of Decorah, a son of Thomas and Sarah (Nelson) Hamre; and Gina Amelia, born July 2, 1897. They have also adopted a son, Archie Sheppard, born May 28, 1901.

Public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Gunval is interested in all that occurs in the county and such measures as affect his state and nation. He has always been a republican and gives to the candidates of that party his support. His religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church. Years of labor have brought him success, and such prosperity as has been his is highly merited, for it has come to him entirely through his own efforts. He is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him for what he has achieved and also because his activities have been a constructive factor in the development of agriculture in Winneshiek county.

ALONZO W. OXLEY.

Among the prominent and successful farmers and business men of Winneshiek county and among the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of this part of Iowa is numbered Alonzo W. Oxley, the owner of the Woodside Farm, on sections 4 and 5, Bloomfield township, and well known in business circles as the founder and upbuilder of the Pleasant Ridge Telephone Company.

He was born on the property he now occupies on the 13th of October, 1858, and is a son of W. H. and Christina (Townsend) Oxley, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. The parents came to Winneshiek county in 1850 and located in Bloomfield township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. To their union were born six children: Alonzo W., of this review; John; David, deceased; Guy, of North Dakota; Aleda, the wife of F. Alexander, of Altoona, Iowa; and Ida, who married E. H. Oxley, of Kanawha, Iowa. John Oxley has had an eventful and successful career. As a young man he journeyed on foot to Castalia, Iowa, and there learned telegraphy, working at it for many years thereafter and advancing through the sheer force of his ability through all the different offices connected with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad system. He is now superintendent of their main division, with headquarters at Chicago, and is numbered among the most reliable and trustworthy representatives of the road.