

going to Minnesota in search of those opportunities of which they had heard so much in their native country. They spent the first winter there and in the spring of 1855 located in Winneshiek county, where Nels Larson has resided ever since. In 1874 the father moved to Ottertail county, Minnesota, and there he passed away in 1881. He married again while he made his home in Winneshiek county and of this union were born four children, of whom two have passed away. The father here bought eighty acres of land at one dollar and a half per acre from the government and later acquired by purchase more school land.

Nels Larson grew up under the care of his father and received such schooling as was afforded under the primitive conditions prevailing during pioneer times. He made his home with his father and he was twenty-one years of age when the latter married again. The father then let our subject have eighty acres of land on condition that he pay for it what it had cost. Nels Larson resided on this farm in Highland township until 1868, devoting himself to the cultivation of his acres and to improving the primitive state of the property. Upon selling it he purchased his present farm, upon which he has ever since resided. It comprised two hundred and forty acres but later Mr. Larson let his son have an eighty-acre tract, so that he now holds title to one hundred and sixty acres. A large house stood on the farm when Mr. Larson purchased it but he has since rebuilt, putting up a fine home, and has made many other improvements. He has set out a number of ornamental and fruit trees and as he has passed his years in arduous labor, has made his place one of the most valuable of the neighborhood. For many years his unflagging attention was given to general farming and stock-raising and that his well tried methods have proven of value, thereof his present prosperity stands as proof. Mr. Larson is now enabled to live in retirement from active labor, the home place being cultivated by a son who for a number of years has rented the same.

On July 29, 1862, Mr. Larson was married to Miss Julia Kjornme, a native of Minnedahl, Norway, where she was born on February 22, 1845. She came with her parents to the United States in 1853, and has ever since resided in Highland township. She is a daughter of Nels and Margaret Kjornme, both of whom passed away in Highland township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Larson became the parents of a family of twelve children: Caroline, who passed away at the age of eight months; Caroline, second of the name, who married O. L. Wenner, of Highland township; Nels, deceased, who left a widow and three children; Louis, a resident of Highland township; Maria, the wife of Ole Peterson, of Hesper township; Henry C, who operates his father's farm; Albert, also a resident of this township; Johanna, who married P. M. Peterson, who operates a creamery in Highland township; Emma, who died at the age of eight; and Julia, Gustav and Emma, at home.

Public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Larson has always taken an active part in the political life of the county. He is a lifelong republican, having voted for Lincoln in 1864 and for every republican presidential candidate since that time. Ever since 1867 Mr. Larson has held one or more offices. For eleven years he was township assessor and township clerk for about the same length of time, and for fourteen years he was township clerk under the old law. He was appointed and elected justice of the peace but did not qualify for the