

MEMORIAL RECORD

11

OF THE

COUNTIES OF

Faribault, Martin, Watonwan and Jackson,

MINNESOTA.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO.

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ity of 346. He has served as Town Clerk, has been a member and president of the Village Council and of the School Board. He holds membership in Lodge No. 87, F. & A. M., in which he is now serving as Secretary; and also belongs to Lodge No. 39, A. O. U. W., of which order he is Past Grand Master of the State, while in the Knights of Pythias he is Past Chancellor.

JOHN STEPHEN SCHULEIN, a well-known and much respected farmer residing near Welcome, Minnesota, dates his birth in Bavaria, Germany, September 11, 1842. He is a son of George and Barbara (Nasser) Schulein.

George Schulein, also a native of Germany, was born in October, 1812. He came to America in 1881 and settled in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he still lives. The mother of John S. died in April, 1853, aged forty-one years. They had four children, namely: John S., whose name heads this article; Barbara, who married G. Reim, a farmer of Freeborn county, Minnesota; Margaret, wife of Christian Virgens, a farmer of Martin county; and Eva, wife of Michael Nasser. After the mother of these children died, Mr. Schulein was married again. He had no children by his second wife, and it was shortly after her death that he came to America.

The subject of our sketch was the first of the Schulein family to come to the New World. He landed in New York in October, 1869, and immediately came west to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he worked for wages at railroading, farming, and whatever he could find to do. May 1, 1871, he came to Martin county and located his present farm, the north half of the northeast

quarter, section 26, Fox Lake township. Later he took the south half of the same quarter, under the homestead law, and finally secured title to the entire quarter. In May, 1888, he bought an additional 120 acres from the railroad company, thus making 280 acres all told. Of this tract 150 acres are under cultivation. The fine grove which surrounds the house and which is an attractive feature of the place, was set out in 1872. Mr. Schulein's farm is stocked as follows: Eighty head of hogs, thirty of cattle, and nine of horses.

November 14, 1869, Mr. Schulein was married, in Germany, to Mary Barkhard, and they have children as follows: Eva, born November 13, 1870, was married to Herrman Gottschling, November 13, 1894; George, born December 17, 1872; John, born April 18, 1875, is now attending college at Albert Lea; William, born April 3, 1878; Amelia, January 12, 1881; Rosina, January 18, 1885; Edwin, February 23, 1889; and Harry, January 8, 1892.

After years of honest and arduous toil, Mr. Schulein has succeeded in acquiring a competency and in surrounding himself and family with all the comforts of life. He is a member of the Lutheran Church at Welcome, and he and his family are among the most highly esteemed people of their community.

PHILIP WOHLHUTER devotes his time and energies to farming on section 24, Fox Lake township, Martin county, where he owns 240 acres of valuable land. His fine farm, neat and thrifty in appearance, denotes his careful supervision and tells to the passer-by of the busy life of the owner.

Mr. Wohlhuter was born on the 5th of February, 1856, in Alsace, Germany, and is a son of Valentine and Eva (Wohlhuter) Wohlhuter. The paternal grandfather, Michael Wohlhuter, had a family of six children, namely: Mae, Lawrence, Valentine, Kate, George and Michael. The father, Valentine Wohlhuter, was born in Germany, November 10, 1823, and after arriving at years of maturity was married, on the 10th of October, 1848, to Miss Eva, daughter of Philip Wohlhuter, who, though of the same name, was not a relative. The latter had a family of six children,—Philip, Lena, Paul, Sarah, Eva and Valentine. The mother was born December 23, 1819, and died on the 2d of January, 1885. Ere the parents left their native land four children were born to them, as follows: Valentine, who was born August 18, 1849, and is now living in Fairmont, Minnesota; Eva, wife of F. Barge, also of Fairmont; Philip; and Frederick, who was born January 18, 1862, and is now living in Kingsboro county, South Dakota, where he is acting as agent for C. L. Coleman, the extensive lumberman. He married Lily Carrot, and they have two children, Eva and Albert.

The first of the family to seek a home beyond the Atlantic was the eldest son, who in 1868 sailed for the United States. Reporting favorably concerning this country, the following year the parents, accompanied by Philip, sailed from Havre, France, reaching New York on the 2d of April. They continued their journey across the country to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where the father engaged in farming until 1871. On the 29th of September of that year he arrived in Martin county and secured a homestead, comprising the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, Fox Lake

township, where he has since lived, being now an inmate of the home of his son Philip, who in his father's declining years now repays him in part for the care which he received in his youth.

Philip Wohlhuter was a lad of only ten summers when he sought a home in America, and with his parents he lived until after he had reached man's estate. He made his first purchase of land in 1885, becoming owner of eighty acres,—the west half of the northeast quarter of section 24, Fox Lake township. This he at once began to cultivate and improve, and as his financial resources increased he added to the first another eighty acres, buying the other in 1890. He is now the owner of 240 acres, of which 150 acres is broken, and, highly cultivated, yields to the owner a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon it. There are a beautiful grove of two acres and neat and well-kept buildings, all of which go to make this one of the valuable farms of the neighborhood. In addition to the cultivation of grain he also engages in stock-raising to some extent, and now has eight horses, twenty-seven head of cattle and thirty-six hogs.

The lady who bears the name and graces the home of Mr. Wohlhuter was in her maidenhood Miss Agnes Gottschling, daughter of August and Christina (Schultz) Gottschling. She was born October 26, 1873, and the marriage was celebrated November 27, 1891. Their children are Arthur Hermann Philip, born November 1, 1892, and Alvina Mary, born February 12, 1894.

The parents hold membership in the Lutheran church. Mr. Wohlhuter was confirmed in the church then located at Fox Lake, December 10, 1876, by Rev. Ernst Giesel, and his wife was confirmed in Wel-

come, in the spring of 1889, by Rev. C. G. Eisenberg. In politics he is a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, and uses his influence and support to insure the success and promote the growth of the party. At this writing, in the spring of 1895, he is serving as a member of the Town Board of Supervisors, and was recently Constable. Although his life has been quietly passed he has lived to merit the esteem of those with whom he is brought in contact, and his friends in the community are many.

CHRISTOPHER LUEDAMAN, a prosperous and respected farmer residing near Welcome, Minnesota, was born in Hanover, Germany, December 31, 1841, son of John and Lena (Jergens) Luedaman. The father was a carpenter by trade and died in Germany in 1845. He was twice married. His first wife was Lena Jergens, who died leaving three children, Henry, Christopher and Peter. The children by his second wife, whose maiden name was Lucretia Beakman, were as follows: Mary, wife of Henry Bruins; Lena, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Drewes; Katy, wife of Christopher Huelot; and Caroline, who married Henry Berkman, is also deceased.

Christopher Luedaman left his native land April 4, 1869, and landed in New York on the 17th of that month, from there coming directly west to Preston, Fillmore county, Minnesota, where the Drewes family, his cousins, lived. In July of the same year, in company with Messrs. Hermann Black and Heinrich Drewes, he came to Martin county and located his homestead,—the east half of the southeast quarter, section 10, Fox Lake township. He secured title to

this tract of land April 21, 1877. In the summer of 1869 he put up a small house on his claim, and after doing so returned to Fillmore county and worked for wages six months. Then he came back to his land in Martin county and has resided on it ever since, devoting his earnest efforts to its cultivation and improvement. In 1884 he bought forty acres adjoining it on the north, and now has 120 acres, sixty of which are under cultivation. That same year, 1884, he built his present residence. His grove was set out in 1870.

Mr. Luedaman was married June 15, 1879, to Katy Muehler, daughter of Henry and Mary (Drewes) Muehler. She came to this country when a child, with the Drewes family. Her married life covered only a few years, her untimely death occurring April 22, 1884, and she left two children: Mary Lena, born June 25, 1880; and Anna Mary, March 8, 1882. June 27, 1884, Mr. Luedaman married Mrs. Dora Koukal, widow of John Koukal. Her maiden name was Peterson, she being a daughter of John and Mary (Womdraw) Peterson. Her marriage to Mr. Koukal occurred in November, 1872, and by him she had two children: William, born August 7, 1875; and Anna, born March 31, 1877. She and Mr. Luedaman have one child, Sophia Wilhelmina, born April 17, 1885.

Mr. Luedaman united with the Lutheran Church when quite young, and still worships with this denomination.

HEINRICH DREWES, who is engaged in farming near Welcome, Minnesota, is another one of the thrifty German settlers of Martin county. He was born in Hanover, Ger-

ness ability, and is well known as one of the most successful and progressive business men of this locality. His sagacity and far-sightedness enable him to fully understand a situation and enable him to take advantage of a favorable opportunity for promoting his own interests and those of the county, which are very dear to him. The present advanced condition of this section of Minnesota is due to such men as Mr. Barnes, who exercises his influence for the best welfare of the community. The men who occupy seats in the legislative halls of the State are prominent factors in the commonwealth, yet their services would avail little were it not for the sustaining and upholding influence of the men who remain at home devoted to the business and material interests of their respective communities. They form the bone and sinew of the nation and to them all credit is due.

NELS PETER CLEMMENSEN, one of the enterprising men and leading farmers of Martin county, Minnesota, is located on the northwest quarter of section 18, township 103, range 32. A sketch of his life is appropriate here, and is as follows:

Nels Peter Clemmensen was born in Fuen county, Denmark, May 11, 1840, son of Lois and Martelna (Clemmensen) Clemmensen. He was reared in his native land and was there married, December 9, 1862, to Christina Jorkensen. April 21, 1873, accompanied by his family, then consisting of wife and five children, Mr. Clemmensen left Denmark, and on the 17th of the following month landed at Boston. From there he at once proceeded to West Point, Cummings county, Nebraska, where he

rented 160 acres of land from Hans Peterson, which he farmed two years. He then leased a quarter section of school land and cultivated it till his removal to Martin county, Minnesota, in July, 1883. Immediately upon his arrival here he purchased the farm on which he now lives of R. M. Ward. This tract was then in its virgin state, not a furrow turned on it. He at once built his house and barn and established his residence upon the premises. In 1885 he began planting trees, and now has a fine grove. He has over a hundred trees of the Russian mulberry variety, the only trees of the kind in the county, and they seem well adapted to the climate. In May, 1893, Mr. Clemmensen purchased of Valentine Wohlhuter 106 acres of land located in Elm Creek township, section 13, range 33, and adjoining his present farm. Of his original quarter section, he now has 130 acres in cultivation. His farm is stocked with twenty-seven head of cattle, sixteen hogs and fourteen horses. The past year, 1894, he had the following grain acreage: wheat, 10 acres; oats, 30 acres; barley, 10 acres; corn, 32 acres. In addition to this he rented a tract of sixty acres, which was planted in flax.

Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Clemmensen, we make record as follows: Johannah Margaret, born February 14, 1863, is now living in Fairmont; John Peter, a boot and shoe dealer of Sherburne; Hans Christian, born March 19, 1867, and died September 25, 1887; Mary, born November 12, 1870, died January 24, 1875; Andrew Robert, born March 2, 1871, has recently spent some years in California and is now assisting his father on the home farm; Edwin, born in Nebraska, October 5, 1874, died at Sherburne May 29, 1891; Morris,

in a family of eight children, whose parents were Ira L. and Virginia Bailey. Mrs. Rucker was born March 28, 1864, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children, three yet living.—Muriel Virginia, born January 26, 1888; Mildred Antoinette, born June 20, 1889; and Mahlon Bailey, born December 20, 1891. Eugenia, born May 21, 1893, died on the twenty-first of September following.

On the 4th of May, 1893, occurred a most serious and deplorable accident in the home of this interesting family. A servant girl was frying out lard which caught on fire. Mrs. Rucker ran into the kitchen, hurriedly secured a pail of water which she poured upon the flames, but in so doing was badly burned about the face and neck. Medical aid was at once summoned and every effort put forth to relieve her distress. For a time it was thought that her eyes were uninjured, but later they began to trouble her greatly. Her husband then took her to St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, that she might have the care of the best specialists, and for thirteen weeks she was under the care of the best medical skill that could be secured, but all to no avail, and the once bright eyes which beamed with love and kindness upon her little family lost the power of again looking upon their faces! It was a sad blow to them all. Mrs. Rucker had been of great assistance to her husband in his school duties, but could now no longer aid him. This led him in part to abandon the school work and enter upon official life. He was also prompted by another motive. He is a very ambitious man, and, constantly wishing to improve, he thought this might be a step toward preparing him for the legal profession which he some day hopes to enter.

He will never be content with mediocrity, and, should he take up the practice of law, we predict for him a successful and brilliant career, knowing his persevering and energetic nature.

Mr. Rucker is a member of Windom Lodge, No. 108, I. O. O. F., and of the Camp of Modern Woodmen of America, in Jackson. He is also an active and consistent member of the Episcopal Church, and superintendent of a large Sunday-school in Jackson. His life has been well spent, and the highest regard of many friends is given him.

VALENTINE WOHLHUTER, of Fairmont, Minnesota, is the land agent and local representative of W. T. Hansen, the extensive real-estate dealer of Chicago. His marked business ability has given him high standing with this firm, and his dealings have brought him a wide acquaintance throughout this part of Minnesota, while his sterling worth has won him the confidence and regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

Mr. Wohlhuter is a representative of a large and prominent family of Minnesota, several members of whom are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He was born in Alsace, France, on the 18th of August, 1849, and is a son of Valentine and Eva (Wohlhuter) Wohlhuter. The paternal grandfather, Michael Wohlhuter, had a family of six children, namely: Mae, Lawrence, Valentine, Kate, George and Michael. The father, Valentine Wohlhuter, was born in Germany, on the 10th of November, 1823, and was married October 10, 1848, to Miss Eva, daughter of Philip Wohlhuter, who though of the same name was not a relative. She was one of a family of six children, as

follows: Philip, Lena, Paul, Sarah, Eva and Valentine. The mother of our subject was born on the 23d of December, 1819, and died on the 2d of January, 1885. The parents were married in the land of their birth, and before emigrating to America they had four children, the eldest being Valentine, whose name heads this article; the rest were Eva, wife of A. F. Barg; Philip; and Frederick, who was born January 18, 1862, and is now living in Kingsbury county, South Dakota, where he is acting as agent for C. L. Coleman, the extensive lumberman. He married Lily Carrot and they have two children, Eva and Albert.

The highly esteemed citizen to whose personal history we now direct the attention of our readers was the first of the family to come to America. He spent the first nineteen years of his life in Alsace, then, bidding adieu to home and friends, he made his way to Havre, France, where he embarked on a westward bound steamer, which weighed anchor on the 14th of July, 1868, and reached New York harbor fifteen days later. He did not tarry long in the eastern metropolis, but crossed the continent to Fayette county, Iowa, where he worked for wages on a farm until the spring of 1870. It was then that he took up his residence in Minnesota, settling first in Freeborn county. Resolving that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented and operated a farm for a year.

Mr. Wohlhuter has been a resident of Martin county since the 20th of May, 1871. Soon after his arrival he located a homestead on section 24, Fox Lake township, and in a short time returned to Freeborn county to harvest the crop which he had previously planted. In the autumn he was again in Martin county and made a perma-

nent location. He still owns the homestead which he at first secured, and to its cultivation devoted his entire time and energies until March 21, 1884, when he was intrusted with the care of the extensive interests of W. T. Hansen & Company, of Chicago, having charge of the Martin county territory. He then removed to Fairmont, where he resided until the 1st of November, 1885, when he established headquarters in Sherburne. In December, 1893, however, he returned to the county seat, opened an office in the bank building and remained there until the 1st of April, 1894, when he removed to his present location. He has handled, in the interest of the firm which he now represents, 177,000 acres of land. He has made a close study of land values, is quick to see and take advantage of favorable opportunities for buying and selling, and his services have therefore been mutually profitable to the company with which he is connected and himself. His business and executive ability is of a high order, and his sagacity and farsightedness have brought success, while his honorable dealings has gained him universal confidence.

On the 23d of March, 1882, Mr. Wohlhuter was united in marriage to Miss Mary Helen Follett, daughter of Edwin R. and Olive R. Follett. They are now the parents of three living children, and they lost their first born, Edwin Valentine, who was born May 11, 1883, and died November 14, 1884. Those who are still with their parents are Olive Eva, born July 29, 1884; Jessie Helen, born November 29, 1885; and Edna Grace, born August 31, 1890.

With the Masonic fraternity Mr. Wohlhuter holds membership relations. He is a progressive citizen, public-spirited in an eminent degree and has always done much in behalf

of the national interests and general welfare of his community. Whatever tends to benefit town and county receives his hearty support and co-operation, and the community recognizes him as a citizen that it could ill afford to lose. In manner he is pleasant and genial, always courteous and affable, and withal a true gentleman in the best sense of that term.

RUDOLPH JAGODZINSKE, Welcome, Minnesota, is one of the thrifty Germans who has acquired a nice property and comfortable home in Martin county.

He was born in Margouin, Posen, Germany, April 8, 1850, son of Martin and Henrietta (Dumke) Jagodzinske. In 1868 Martin Jagodzinske emigrated with his family to America, settled in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, where he worked at his trade, that of shoemaker, for several years, and from there removed to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. At Fond du Lac he served as watchman, employed by a Mr. Meyers, occupying this position until his death. He was born November 2, 1819, and died November 16, 1874, and was about fifty-five years of age at the time he died. His first wife, *nee* Henrietta Dumke, was born February 1, 1820, and died during the last part of September, 1853, when her son and only child, Rudolph, was three years old. January 18, 1854, he married, for his second wife, Amalia Frederick, who was born October 2, 1832, and is still living. By this marriage there were the following children: Ferdinand, Matilda, Flora, William, Hattie, Louis and Minnie.

Rudolph Jagodzinske came with the family to this country, and almost immediately

after his arrival here he started out in life on his own responsibility. For three years he worked for James Densmore, of Green Lake county, Wisconsin. It was the father's wish that his son should learn the trade of shoemaker, but knowing in what poverty his people had always been kept by following this calling, our subject brought all his influence to bear on his father, and finally induced him to give up the trade and go to Fond du Lac, as stated above. Young Rudolph was robust and exceptionally strong, and hence took to farm work. In June, 1871, he came to Minnesota and in Faribault county worked at whatever he could get to do. He also visited Martin county, in September of that year, in company with his future father-in-law, Friedrich Wilhelm Bursack. Mr. Bursack located a quarter section in Fraser township, and Mr. Jagodzinske located an eighty-acre tract, the south half of the southwest quarter of section 24, Fox Lake township. After this they returned to Wisconsin, and during the same fall of 1871 the entire family drove through to their new homes, our subject having in the meantime married Miss Paulina Bursack. The little house to which he took his bride is now used as a poultry house, his present fine residence having been built in 1887. He built his barn in 1891. In 1879 he bought an additional eighty acres of the railroad company,—the north half of the northwest quarter of section 25, Fox Lake township; and in 1885 he bought still another eighty,—the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24, Fox Lake township. He again added to his possessions in the fall of 1894, by purchasing the southeast quarter of section 15, Fox Lake township. With the exception of one acre, which he gave to the Evangelical Church in