

HISTORY OF
Goodhue County
MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

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Holmes; Dwight C. Pierce; Henry Hal-
vorson; Rev. James H. Gaughan;
Henry R. Cobb; Edgar F.
Davis and many others

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Her parents were natives of Ohio, where she was born, and where her father was engaged at his trade of tailor. Mr. and Mrs. Voorhis were blessed with seven children: Elizabeth, married to Manley Davis, of Stanton township; Eugene, now of Wisconsin; Georgette, living at Cascade; Walter, who manages the farm; Abbie (deceased); Oliver, now of Canada; and Lewis, a farmer of Warsaw township. Mr. Voorhis was a Republican in his politics, and held several offices in the township. He was a veteran of the Civil War, enlisted in 1864, was assigned to the army of the Cumberland and Tennessee, and took part in all the battles of the campaign. He was a member of the G. A. R. and Masons of Cannon Falls. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Van Voorhis was a man of staunch character and kindly disposition, a worthy example of those pioneers whose belief in the right and abhorrence of the wrong served to make the county a place of peace and order since the earliest settlement. He was a faithful husband, solicitous of the welfare and pleasure of his family, never so happy as when doing something for the comfort of his wife and the prosperity of his children. His death was sincerely mourned by the community in which he lived, by the societies to which he belonged, by the church in which he was a worshiper and by the family in which he was loved the best.

Hon. Ole K. Naeseth, of Wanamingo township, who represents Goodhue county in the Minnesota senate, is a man of rugged character, unswerving principles and rigid adherence to duty, and his long years of public service have proven his ability. From early manhood he has been active in public life. His first office was that of clerk of school district number 60. From 1879 to '84 he was county commissioner, and from 1885 to '87 served in the state legislature. His occupancy of his present position dates from 1903. In him the interests of the county have an earnest advocate and supporter, and his work has more than justified the confidence that has been reposed in him. Mr. Naeseth was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, November 30, 1844, and was brought to Wanamingo township by his parents at the age of twelve years, spending his boyhood here during the days of the early pioneers. Here he received such education as the schools of the neighborhood afforded, and looked after his father's business until 1885, when he came into possession of the old homestead, where he still carries on general farming, managing in addition to this a farm of 140 acres in Section 25, owned by his wife. Being willing to contribute of his money as well as of his influence to aid in the general progress of the county, he has taken stock in a number of farmers' elevators and in the First State Bank of Zumbrota. Senator Naeseth was married,



HON O. K. NÆSETH

June 12, 1874, at Wanamingo, to Mrs. Rachael Seium Olson, by whom he has had five children: Herman is manager of the elevator at Wanamingo and also manages a farm; Carl is a drayman in Minneapolis; John is a student in the law department of the State University; Ida, who has graduated from the Lutheran Ladies' Seminary at Red Wing, is a school teacher; Adolf is a graduate of the Lutheran College, at Decorah, Iowa. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Kjestel and Maria H. (Faehn) Naeseth, parents of the subject of this sketch, were born in Norway and upon coming to America lived in Walworth and Dane counties, Wisconsin, until moving to Wanamingo township in 1856. Here they purchased 160 acres of wild land, which they broke and improved, adding and disposing of other tracts from time to time, but always retaining the original homestead in Section 10. The father died in July, 1897, and the mother in January, 1895.

Martin Halvorson, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Wanamingo, is a native product of the village, born May 24, 1881, son of Martin and Gretha (Fraas) Halvorson, both natives of Norway. After coming to this country the father clerked for a while in a store at Wanamingo, and then opened a general store of his own, which business he followed until his death in 1899. His widow is still living. Martin was brought up in this village, and aside from attending the public schools here, also took courses in the Augsburg Seminary at Minneapolis and the Normal school at Mankato. After leaving school he worked for a time on his father's farm, and clerked in his father's store. A short period before the father's death, the two brothers, Martin and Henry, purchased the store and in December, 1904, they organized the Farmers' State Bank of Wanamingo. Martin at first was assistant cashier, but in January, 1909, was promoted to his present position. He is a Prohibitionist in politics and is interested financially in the Wanamingo Lumber Company. In church circles he is well liked, being president of the Young People's Association of the Wanamingo church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He was married, December 19, 1906, at Mankato, Minn., to Anna Gunderson, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg (Kelly) Gunderson, natives of Norway. The father is a tailor in Mankato, where he conducts a successful business. To Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson, one son, George M., was born October 23, 1907.

Henry M. Halvorson, one of those hustling young men who have given the village of Wanamingo the reputation for progressiveness which it so richly deserves, is a native product, born in this village June 3, 1875, son of Martin Halvorson. His education was received in the public schools of Wanamingo and