

of age and so continued until the age of thirty, when he came to America, making his way inland and locating in Winneshiek county, where for three years he worked as a farm hand. At the end of that time he had by industry and thrift acquired the means to purchase forty acres of land in Decorah township and set about to improve the same, but later sold out and went westward, where for two years he also followed agricultural pursuits. He then returned to Winneshiek county, acquiring title to eighty acres, and upon this farm he now resides. He has made valuable improvements since entering upon the ownership, has erected a comfortable residence and substantial outbuildings and operates his land according to the latest improved ideas. As the years have passed his place has increased in value to a considerable extent and he is today recognized as one of the substantial agriculturists of his section. Outside of his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Ice Cave Creamery Company of Decorah.

On May 4, 1882, while still in his native land, Mr. Gronaas was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Swenson, a daughter of Gesle and Anna Swenson, natives of Norway, where both have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Gronaas are the parents of ten children, as follows: Bertha, the wife of John Olson, a farmer of Winneshiek county; John, who resides in Decorah; Ole, who also makes his home in this city; Anna, of Madison, Wisconsin; Adolph, who holds a position in Ossian, this state; Clara, of Stoughton, Wisconsin; Benjamin, at home; Edward, at home; and Marie and Norman.

Mr. Gronaas gives his allegiance to the Lutheran church, of which he is a member, and politically adheres to the republican party. Interested in the cause of education, he has served as school director of his district for some time and always supports any worthy public enterprise. His career is proof of the fact that success is but ambition's answer, and the record which he has made in this township entitles him to the good-will and confidence of the general public. He has made many friends since settling here and is considered a valuable element in the agricultural growth of Decorah township. While his success is commendable, the qualities of mind and character which have made possible his prosperity deserve yet higher appreciation, and it is these qualities which rank Mr. Gronaas as a valuable member of society and citizen of Winneshiek county.

EUGENE P. WILLIAMS.

Mapleside Farm is one of the attractive properties of Frankville township. It is situated on section 2 and comprises three hundred and twenty acres of arable land. It is now the property of Eugene P. Williams, who was born upon this place June 14, 1864, a son of C. R. and Melvina (Hubble) Williams. The father's birth occurred in Connecticut, March 17, 1839, while the mother was born in Wisconsin in 1840. She came with her parents to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1854, and in the following year C. R. Williams arrived with his parents, Cyrus and Mary (Stanton) Williams, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Massachusetts. Both remained residents of this county throughout their remaining days and Cyrus Williams followed the occupation of farming as a life work. Having reached adult age in this county, C. R. Williams and