

after his death was united in marriage to Sorn Mostad. She died leaving two sons by her first marriage and five daughters by her second. John N. is the subject of this review. Edward makes his home in Decorah. Louise, the youngest member of the family, is a resident of Seattle, Washington.

John N. Istad grew to manhood on the homestead and before he was out of his teens had mastered all the details of its operation and was a practical and able agriculturist. This property he now owns and it embraces two hundred and ninety acres of fine farming land on section 26, Pleasant township, all the improvements of which were made either by his father or himself. Here he carries on general farming and stock-raising and under his able management both departments of activity have been profitable and important.

On the 15th of December, 1883, Mr. Istad was united in marriage to Miss Mary Halverson, who was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, September 4, 1860. She is a daughter of John and Inga Halverson, natives of Norway, who with their two eldest sons came to the United States about 1850, settling in this part of the state, where they continued to reside for many years, both dying in Allamakee county. In their family were nine children, six of whom still survive. Mr. and Mrs. Istad became the parents of eight children: Nora, the wife of Theodore Juve; John, who passed away at the age of twenty-three years; Emelia, the wife of Alfred Blugen, of Pleasant township; and Ida, Arthur, Delia, Etta and Mabel, all of whom live at home.

Mr. Istad is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and guides his honorable and upright life by the principles in which he believes. The farm which he now owns is a visible evidence of his life of thrift and business enterprise and his success places him in the front ranks of the able and progressive agriculturists in his township.

#### WILLIAM WALTER GOSSMAN.

William Walter Gossman is the owner of one hundred and forty acres of finely improved land on sections 7 and 8, Burr Oak township. He was born on the farm which is still his home, July 30, 1876. He is the youngest in a family of eight children, whose parents are Anthony and Elizabeth (Snyder) Gossman, and who are mentioned more at length in connection with the sketch of Jacob E. Gossman on another page of this work.

William Walter Gossman was early trained to habits of industry and economy on the home farm, and his educational training was received in the district schools near his home. He chose as his life work the occupation to which he was reared and is today the owner of the homestead place, consisting of one hundred and forty acres, located on sections 7 and 8, Burr Oak township. This place has been improved by Mr. Gossman and his father and on it are found substantial buildings for the shelter of grain and stock, while the fields are fertile and yield abundant harvests each year owing to the care and labor he has bestowed upon them. He is here engaged in general farming and stock-raising and both branches of his business are bringing him a good annual income.