

familiar with the best agricultural methods and all the details of farm operation. He has never left the property upon which he was born and in 1903 purchased it from his father, buying one hundred and twenty acres lying on section 14, Pleasant township. Upon this he carries on general farming and stock-raising and under his able management both branches of his enterprise have proven extremely profitable, his homestead being one of the finest farms in his locality. He follows at all times practical and progressive methods in its development and has steadily carried forward the work of improvement, being known as an able agriculturist whose success is the natural result of his earnest, well directed and persistent labor. In addition to the general work of his farm Mr. Akre is well known as an extensive breeder of white Plymouth Rock chickens, which he has raised for the past fifteen years.

On the 6th of April, 1904, Mr. Akre was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Peterson, who was born in Springwater, Iowa, on the 12th of September, 1877. She is a daughter of Lars Peterson Eide and Helga (Nodshilder) Peterson, natives of Norway, the former of whom died in Decorah on the 28th of February, 1905, at the age of seventy-seven. He is survived by his widow, who makes her home in Decorah. Mr. and Mrs. Akre are the parents of four sons, Lloyd Julian, Maurice Herbert, Earl Raymond and Oliver Malbourne.

Mr. Akre is a devout member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and guides his honorable and upright life by its principles. For a number of years he was president of the Sattre Telephone Company but has largely confined his attentions to his farming and chicken raising. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is prominent in its councils, being at all times loyal in his support of republican principles and policies. He is now serving as justice of the peace, his public spirit being of that vital and effective kind which finds its best exemplification in public service. In the community where he has spent his entire life he has become widely and favorably known, for he is reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and faithful to all the ties and obligations of life.

CHARLES H. VALDER.

Charles H. Valder, president of Valder College, Inc., of Decorah, established that institution in 1888 and throughout the intervening twenty-five years has conducted it with gratifying success. His record is that of a self-made man who owes his prosperity entirely to his own well and wisely directed efforts. His birth occurred in Leland, Illinois, on the 3d of April, 1853, his parents being Hans and Betsy (Aga) Valder, both of whom were natives of Norway. The father emigrated to the United States in 1837 and located in Adrian, Michigan, where he resided for two years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Leland, Illinois. Hans Valder was a minister of the gospel and is said to have been the first Baptist Norwegian preacher in this country. He followed his holy calling in Leland for eight years and in 1853 removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, preempting a tract of land and bending his energies toward clearing and improving the property. In the year 1856 he assessed the entire