Columbia township, Polk county, until 1889, and from then until 1908 he gave his whole attention to his farming operations, which he had continued at intervals all the time. In 1910 and 1911 he kept a store at Rindal, Polk county, and during the next three years he clerked in a store in Clearwater county. Throughout a large part of this time his family was living at Fertile, and when he was appointed postmaster there he was reunited with it, and he also returned to an old job, for he had been assistant postmaster under his brother, Dr. A. Nelson, who died in 1909, and also under Brown Duckstad from May 1, 1898, to January 15, 1899.

Mr. Nelson was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1882. He has also been a justice of the peace and filled other local offices. Always enterprising and progressive, he has been an important factor in building up and improving his township and county, helping to organize the Farmers' Elevator company in June, 1893, and serving as its secretary for eleven years. In political affiliation he has been a Democrat since 1890, taking an active part in all campaigns and frequently serving as a delegate to county conventions of his party. His religious connection is with the Lutheran Synod church, and he has been zealous and energetic in its service also.

Mr. Nelson was married in Garfield township June 24, 1882, to Miss Martha Brunberg, who was born in Wisconsin March 2, 1863. They have nine children: Norman O., Richard A., Edd R., Luella, Leonora, Knute M., Olga L., Arthur and Thea L. The parents own a good farm of 160 acres in Garfield township, on which the father has expended a great deal of labor to good advantage, making it productive and improving it according to present day ideas. The farm is located in Section 16, and was all wild land when he took possession of it. It is wholly the product of his skill and industry, and is highly creditable to him.

SVEN PHILIP SWENSON.

The late Sven Philip Swenson, a leading farmer of Vineland township for many years, was a pioneer of Polk county, having become a resident of it about 1874. He located on a homestead in section 20 which he took up soon after his arrival in the county, and on which he passed the remainder of his days. When he located in that township it was yet almost wholly a wilderness, and his own land was virgin to the plow and yielding nothing for his sustenance. But he made a good farm of it and added to it until, at the time of his death he owned 340 acres, all of which he had under cultivation.

Mr. Swenson was born in what is now the city of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on November 21, 1845, and came to Houston county, Minnesota, about 1860. A short time after reaching this state he moved on up into the northwestern part of it and for two years was employed on the Red river. In 1874 he became a resident of Polk county, taking up the homestead already mentioned. He worked on his place when he had opportunity and followed other pursuits for a living for several years, but always looked forward to having his home on the farm which he was gradually bringing to productiveness.

On July 3, 1882, Mr. Swenson was married to Miss Elizabeth Aasmork, a native of Norway, and they at once took up their residence on the Vineland township farm. From then until his death, which occurred on April 20, 1903, he continued to improve and cultivate his land, and when he was able put up good buildings on it. He and his wife were the parents of six children all of whom are living. They are Knute, Olianna, Lena, Annie, Ole and Carl. Olianna is the wife of Edward Opsahl and Lena is the wife of Henry B. Hanson. The father was well esteemed as a sturdy and upright citizen and an industrious and progressive farmer. He took a good citizen's helpful part in local public affairs, although he never sought or desired prominence or influence as an office holder or active partisan politician.