March 30, 1857, and where he lived until 1880, when he determined to seek his fortune in the New World. He landed at Quebec, Canada, but soon afterward came over into “the States” and took up his residence in Wisconsin. About a year later he changed his base of operations to Northfield, Minnesota, and in 1883 he moved to Polk county, Minnesota, and took up a homestead in sections 10 and 15, Knute township, on which he has since made his home and expended his energies to good purpose.

Mr. Nelson now owns 310 acres of choice land improved with good buildings and furnished with all the most approved appliances for systematic and advanced farming. His land lies partly in Knute and partly in Badger township, and he has brought it all to a high state of productiveness and made his home attractive in appearance as well as comfortable in equipment and a model in scientific and up-to-date tillage.

On December 12, 1883, Mr. Nelson was married in Crookston to Miss Mary Benson, who was born in Norway February 25, 1865, the daughter of B. L. and Bertha Mary Benson, also natives of Norway. The father came to this country in 1867 and located in Dakota county, Minnesota, and in 1869 the mother came over with her children and joined him. They lived in Dakota county until 1883. In 1882 the father came to Polk county and took up a homestead in Woodside township to which the family moved the next spring. The parents occupied and improved this homestead until they retired from active work, when they made their home with their daughter, Mrs. Nelson. The mother died on Mr. Nelson’s farm October 11, 1909, when she was eighty-five years old, and the father September 9, 1912, in his ninety-third year.

These venerable pioneers were the parents of eight children. Anna M. became the wife of Nels Lillemoe and died in 1907. Louis lived in the village of Erskine. Christian died a number of years ago. Martha is the wife of Julius Bradley. Martin and Bernt are residents of Knute township. Mary is the wife of Mr. Nelson and Gida died when twelve years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have ten children, Bernhard, Melvin, Bertha (the wife of Melvin Peterson), Gilbert, Nicalie B., Alfred, Moses, Oscar Robert, Martin L. and Eunice M. The parents are members of the United Lutheran church. They take an active part in all its undertakings and also manifest an earnest and serviceable interest in all good agencies working for the general welfare and happiness of their home community.

OLOF STARDIG.

Having come to Polk county in the early days of its history, while a large part of it was still a wilderness, sparsely settled and almost without the ordinary conveniences of life and destitute of all the advantages brought about by civilization, Olof Stardig, now one of the prosperous and substantial farmers of Knute township, saw all the hardships and privations of frontier life and met them with the heroic courage of a hardy and resolute pioneer, daunted by no danger and deterred by no difficulty in his determination to win a home and a position of comfort and standing in the New World.

Mr. Stardig was born in Sweden May 4, 1848, and remained in his native land until 1882. In December of that year he emigrated to America and located in Douglas county, Minnesota. In August, 1883, he came to Polk county and filed on 160 acres of land in Knute township, but returned to Douglas county and remained there until January, 1884. At that time he took up his residence on his Polk county claim, after building a log cabin, the logs for which he carried on his shoulder through about three feet of snow. He had left his family in Sweden and, as he had but $3 in money, he was unable to send for his wife and children until spring. In the meantime he worked out at whatever he could get to do, and was thankful