earliest settlers in that part of it where they live. The father took up homestead, pre-emption and tree claim, and on the land which he thus acquired he is still residing at the age of seventy-three, the mother being sixty-eight. They made the trip to their new home through the wilds in a "prairie schooner," patiently enduring the privations, hardships and dangers of the journey buoyed up with the hope of obtaining a good reward for their enterprise and daring.

These hardy and resolute pioneers have four sons and two daughters living: Albert, a farmer; Julius and Adolph, twins; Alexander, a farmer, and Annie and Sophia, who are living at home with their parents. Julius grew to manhood on his father's farm and obtained his education at the school in the neighborhood. After farming a short time he began his mercantile career as a clerk in a store at Nielsville. In 1899 he moved to Crookston, and during the next five years he clerked in stores in this city. At the end of this period he opened a store of his own, and this he has since conducted with a steadily increasing trade and strengthening hold on the confidence and regard of the people of the city and county. He was also associated with his brothers in keeping a store in Fargo, North Dakota.

Mr. Spokely is a citizen of public spirit and progressiveness, and takes an active and helpful part in the public affairs of his community. He was a member of the local school board, and was its treasurer at the time when the new school house was erected. Fraternally he is a Freemason and a member of the Order of Elks, the Sons of Norway and the Scandinavian Workmen. In 1907 he was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Tisdel, who was born in Austin, Minnesota. They have one child, their son Roland.

MARK RAUENBUEHLER.

Having become a resident of Crookston in 1879, Mark Rauenbuehler is one of the pioneer residents of Polk county; and having been the first harness maker in Crookston, he is also one of the pioneer manufacturers and merchants of that city. Moreover, having borne his share of the privations and hardships of the early days, and helped to build the town to its present state of advancement and importance, and having, at the same time, made his own advancement in business and material gains keep pace with the progress of the community, he is entitled and prepared to enjoy his share of the pleasures and prosperity of the present period and look with pride upon the structure his hands have helped to build and improve.

Mr. Rauenbuehler was born in Baden, Germany, July 5, 1852, a son of Alois and Mary A. (Stahlberger) Rauenbuehler, who were natives of the same province as himself, and passed their lives in it, profitably engaged in farming. They were the parents of three sons and five daughters, of whom all of the sons and one of the daughters are now living in the United States. The father took an active part in the public affairs of his native land and served as a soldier in the Revolution of 1848 in that country.

His son Mark remained at home until he reached the age of seventeen, then, in 1869, came to this country and located at Fort Madison, Iowa, where he learned his trade as a harness maker. He next passed four years in Wisconsin, and then moved to Anoka, Minnesota. In 1879 he located at Crookston and opened a small harness shop on Second street, in front of which he planted the first hitching post in Crookston. During the first three days of his venture his cash receipts amounted to ten cents, but as the town grew his trade increased until it reached a considerable magnitude, and for many years it has kept him busy all the working hours of the day.

Mr. Rauenbuehler was married in 1881 to Miss Emily J. Martin, a daughter of Swiss and German