active part in them, serving as treasurer of Rice township and filling other local offices with ability and to the satisfaction of the people. He is also deeply interested in the farming interests of the county as the owner of 500 acres of land, the cultivation of which he superintends personally. His brother, Herman Johnson, is associated with him in the mercantile line of his activity, the firm name being E. W. Johnson & Company. E. W. was married in 1891 to Miss Caroline Halvorson, a native of Norway. They have had six children, five of whom are living, Edwin, Myron, Otto, Elmira and Thelma. Mr. Johnson is a leading man in Beltrami and representative of the best attributes of its citizenship, and he is universally respected for his sterling qualities of manhood.

ALBERT SPOKELY.

Whatever there is of credit in the career of Albert Spokely, one of the extensive and successful farmers of Hubbard township, this county, and there is a great deal that is entitled to warm commendation, reflects in large measure back upon the township and county of his present home, for he is a native of that township and has passed almost the whole of his life to this time (1915) within its borders. He was also educated in that township and married there, and, therefore, all his interests center in it.

Mr. Spokely’s life began in Hubbard township, Polk county, Minnesota, April 21, 1874. He is a son of Gunleik and Gunvor (Hagen) Spokely, natives of Norway, and a brother of Alexander G. Spokely, sketches of whom will be found in this work. The parents became residents of Polk county in 1871, but emigrated to the United States several years earlier. They were pioneers in this county, and when they arrived here the father took up a homestead in Hubbard township, which was then largely a wilderness, and on that farm, as by his industry and skill he has made it, the parents still have it as their home.

Of the twelve children born in the family Albert was the third in the order of birth, and he is now the oldest of those who are living. He was reared on his father’s farm and educated at the school in the neighborhood. For a short time after reaching his manhood he conducted a saloon at Climax, but, with the exception of this venture in mercantile life, he has devoted his time and energies wholly to farming. He owns 440 acres in Hubbard township, on which he has put up good buildings and developed a large industry in raising potatoes and wheat, of which he makes specialties. On October 9, 1897, he was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Myrland, a native of North Dakota. They have four children, Guy, Earl, Delight and Syla.

R. T. WEBSTER.

Conducting with enterprise, skill and success the farming operations on about 800 acres of land, which he has greatly improved and made increasingly fruitful since taking charge of it, and taking an active and serviceable part in all the public affairs of his section of Polk county, R. T. Webster, whose home is on Section 15, is necessarily one of the leading and most useful citizens of Reis township, and is respected by the people according to his rank.

Mr. Webster was born near the city of Rock Island, Illinois, October 18, 1859, and is the son of C. U. and Mary (Caruthers) Webster, who are also residents of Polk county and now far advanced in age. The family moved to Buffalo county, Wisconsin, while R. T. was in his childhood, and lived there until he was about seventeen years of age. The parents then changed the family residence to St. Croix county, Wisconsin, and the son remained in that county until 1878, when