in the affairs of his township. He has served as supervisor and for a number of years as a member of the township board. His political allegiance and service have always been given to the Republican party, and he has at times been very active in behalf of its candidates. In religious affiliation he is a Lutheran and a member of Kongsvinger church of that denomination, which is about four miles distant from his home. For ten years or longer he served as a member of the school board and its treasurer, finally growing tired of the office and giving it up.

In 1881, one year after his arrival in Polk county, Mr. Nelson was married in Grand Forks to Miss Oleanna Farder, a sister of Ole S. Farder. She was born in Norway and died at her Polk county home on January 11, 1912, leaving six children living. Anna Dorothy is now the wife of A. N. Anderson, a merchant at Birkholz, a sketch of whom will be found in this volume. Sigward N. conducts his father's home farm. He married Miss Ada Finseth. They have no children. Mary Sophia is living at home with her father. Emma Olena, who was the wife of Albert Anvinson, died in February, 1913, at the age of twenty-three. Agnes is married to Carl L. Larson. Oscar Edwin is still living at home. Another son, also named Oscar Edwin, died in infancy. Mr. Nelson was something of a hunter in his youth and young manhood, and while living in Wisconsin killed many a deer.

EDMUND L. STOWE.

Edmund L. Stowe, of McIntosh, a successful business man and well-known citizen, has been prominently identified with the interests of the county since the early settlement of the eastern townships. He was born in Saline county, Missouri, May 5, 1859, and is the son of Dr. L. S. Stowe, an eminent pioneer of Polk county, where the memory of his hospitable and generous character and able services still linger in the reminiscences of the earlier days. Dr. Stowe had removed from Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1857 to Missouri, but in the storm center of those troublous times his native frankness and fearless championing of his convictions soon incurred the disapproval of the prevailing local sentiment and he was given notice to leave and he returned to Wisconsin to enlist in the Sixteenth Wisconsin regiment and to serve throughout the four years of war in defense of those convictions. After the close of the war he resumed the practice of medicine near Bloomington, Illinois, and later went to Sangamon county in that state, where he remained until 1881, when he came to Polk county and took a claim some thirteen miles southeast of Crookston. This pioneer home was open to everyone and the cordial welcome and good cheer made it a popular stopping place for travelers en route to Fertile or the Sand Hill river country. Dr. Stowe made his home in the county for about ten years, devoting his time to his professional duties and farming, and subsequently removed to Havley, Clay county, Minnesota, where he engaged in a successful practice until his death in 1899, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife died in the early childhood of his son, Edmund Stowe, and the latter, at an early age, assumed all responsibility for the securing of an education and the direction of his career. With ambitious determination, he managed to attain sufficient training to fit him for the teaching profession and taught in 1879 and 1880 in Sangamon county, Illinois, and in 1881, after coming to Polk county, taught his third school, which was near Crookston, and for the next few years continued in this occupation, devoting the vacation periods to his land. On coming to the county he had filed on a homestead, near his father's tract, and the law of that time permitting him to prove up on the claim in a few months, he secured a tree claim near the present station of Melvin, on the Northern Pacific railroad, and there set out ten acres of ash, box elder and cot-