years and as a member of the school board almost from the organization of the school district. He also served as treasurer, holding the office one year after his removal to Grand Forks, and was succeeded in it by his son August. He has been a member and one of the trustees of Kongsvinger Lutheran church, and president of its congregation, which he helped to organize. For many years he was a Republican in politics, but lately he has been independent, voting for men rather than in accord with partisan considerations.

Both Mr. Hendrickson and his wife have had their share of hardships. During his first years of farming he was obliged to use oxen as his motive power in all his work. He had no capital and his father did not have over $500. In Renville county grasshoppers destroyed all their crops for two years. But his perseverance and pluck took him over all obstacles and through all difficulties until he compelled fate to yield him success. Mrs. Hendrickson, before her marriage did housework, toiling early and late and often doing men’s as well as women’s work, at a compensation of $1 a week. Her industry and good management in her own home were large factors in winning her husband’s prosperity.

CHARLES ROSS.

Charles Ross, of Fertile, a leading building contractor of the county and prominent citizen, was born in Norway, October 7, 1865, and has conducted extensive business operations in the county for many years, handling individually the largest amount of work of any contractor. He located in Fertile in 1893, having previously resided at Reynolds, and has continued to make his home there and at Crookston with the exception of some nine months spent in his native land in 1904 and 1905. Mr. Ross has attained a notable efficiency in his profession and through the years of his able business activity has won the confidence and regard of all his associates by his integrity and skill. He is that type of man who, through their honest and genial personality, add to their attainments as business men and citizens, a wide circle of warm friends. He has erected many of the most substantial and pretentious buildings in the county, structures which are importantly noted among the architectural possessions of which this section boasts. Among his past contracts have been the Carnegie library, the Elks’ home and numerous business blocks in Crookston, many of the homes in the attractive residence district of Fertile and the bank buildings in that place, which rank among the splendidly equipped and modern banking houses of northern Minnesota. He is now engaged upon the construction of the high school building at Fertile, which involves a $27,000 contract and will be finished for occupancy in January of 1916. Mr. Ross employs as many as twenty-five men in his operations, working to architects’ plans, and personally supervises the work on every contract. Aside from his many private interests, Mr. Ross is actively associated with all matters of public moment and served for two years as a city commissioner of Fertile. He enjoys out-of-door sports and makes hunting his favorite recreation. Mr. Ross is a member of the Elks lodge at Crookston.

JOHN DRISCOLL.

The late John Driscoll, who was an extensive landholder in Polk county, one of the leading men and most active and influential citizens of his locality and a great force for progress and development, died tragically on September 26, 1907, when his dwelling house was destroyed by fire, and the mystery of his