meager facilities and he was obliged to provide for its growth by erecting the commodious and substantial building in which his store is now located. He has also kept up his interest in agricultural pursuits and now owns about 1,200 acres of land in the vicinity of Fertile, and he is also vice president of the First State Bank of Fertile and of the Fertile Brick and Tile company.

Although he has never for a day neglected his own business or the claims of duty to himself and his family, Mr. Duckstad has also at times taken an active and helpful part in the public affairs of his community and county, and the people have had the benefit of his integrity, ability and good judgment in the administration of several local offices. He was postmaster at Fertile from 1898 to 1907, and at different times has also filled other positions with credit to himself and advantage to the people. His political affiliation has always been with the Republican party and his church connection with the congregation of Synod Lutheran church.

Mr. Duckstad was first married at Fertile in 1889 to Miss Bertha Skime, who was, like himself, a native of Norway. She died in 1901. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are living, Benjamin, Lisa and John. Benjamin is a graduate of the West Point United States Military Academy and a lieutenant in the United States army. In 1903 Mr. Duckstad contracted a second marriage, uniting himself with Miss Sophia Skime, who was born in Iowa. They have six children, Norman, Volberg, Volter, Sylvia, Paul and Eleanor. The family stands well in the community and richly deserves the general esteem bestowed upon its members.

THEODORE A. THOMPSON.

During all of the last eleven years Theodore A. Thompson, who is now a resident of Crookston, has rendered the people of Polk county excellent service in their register of deeds' office, and for seven years of the period has been the register, filling the position of deputy register for the first four years of his connection with the office. Before he went into that office, however, he had a useful and prosperous career, in which he showed his mettle. He was born at Waseca, Minnesota, September 20, 1871, and is the son of Ole and Betsey (Amundson) Thompson, natives of Norway.

The mother came to this country about 1860, when she was eleven years old, and the father in 1866. They were married at Black Earth, Wisconsin, and moved to this county in 1888, locating on a homestead in Hill River township, which the father selected at the time. He was a shoemaker and worked at his trade in Crookston ten years, during a part of which time he was the manager of a shoe store. He died in North Yakima, Washington, and the mother passed away on the farm. The family lived on that farm a long time and still owns it.

Seven children were born and reared to maturity in the household. Anna B., who is now living at home, has been a teacher in the Polk county schools and a stenographer. Lewis passed his life on the farm and died there at the age of thirty-nine. Tilda was also a Polk county teacher. She died unmarried in 1908. Louise, a school teacher and stenographer in this county, is also now living at home. Emma, who died at the age of twenty-one, also taught in Polk county schools, and Oscar B. is operating the old family homestead.

Theodore A. Thompson spent ten years on the homestead. He was seventeen when the family took possession of it and had just been graduated from the high school at Waseca, and he began his career in this county by teaching Public School No. 120 in King township, near McIntosh. He continued teaching ten years, still living on the home farm, and during two years of the time was also interested in a merchandising enterprise in McIntosh. In 1898 he became assistant cashier of the Citizens Bank at McIntosh, and this position he held continuously for six years.