On January 1, 1905, Mr. Thompson was appointed deputy register of deeds by J. H. Stair, the register, and he served the county in this capacity until January 1, 1909, when he took over the office of register, to which he was elected in the fall of 1908, being the nominee of the Republican party. He was re-elected in 1910 without opposition, and again in 1912 and 1914, the last time for a term of four years, according to the provisions of a law passed by the legislature of 1913. He employs three assistants in the office, and it turns over to the county annually, after all its expenses are paid, an average revenue of about $2,500.

Mr. Thompson was married in 1901 to Miss Caroline M. Jensen, of Brandsvold township, this county, where her father, Peter C. Jensen, now deceased, settled in 1888, coming to Polk county from Wisconsin. Mrs. Thompson was a teacher in Polk county three years prior to her marriage. She and her husband have had five children, one of whom died in infancy. Those who are living are Harlow B., Florence Lucille, Kenneth F. and Marjorie A. The parents are members of the English Lutheran church, of which Mr. Thompson is secretary. He is well known throughout the county and very popular.

ERICK ELLINGSON.

During the last four years Erick Ellingson, head of the firm of Ellingson & Groven, hardware and farm implement merchants, has been a stimulus and an inspiration to business activities in and around the village of Mentor, Grove Park township, this county, and has fully justified the rank he holds as one of the township’s leading business men. He was born in Green county, Wisconsin, September 27, 1864, and was reared and educated there. In the spring of 1909 he moved to Alexandria, Minnesota, and during the next three years he was occupied in farming near that town.

Farming failed to meet all the requirements of Mr. Ellingson’s desires, and in the spring of 1912 he changed his residence to Mentor and his pursuit to mercantile activity. He formed a partnership with Olof M. Groven at that time, and since then they have carried on a flourishing and growing business under the firm name of Ellingson & Groven as dealers in shelf and heavy hardware, furniture, stoves and ranges, farm implements, threshing machines, harness, horse furnishings and other articles of general merchandise, conducting their operations with studious attention to the needs of the community and the comfort and satisfaction of their patrons.

Mr. Ellingson was married in Green county, Wisconsin, April 11, 1906, to Miss Emma Anderson, who was born in Minnesota and reared in Wisconsin. They have four children, Marion G., Goldie T., Charlotte N. O. and Russell K. The father of the family is a member of the village council of Mentor and clerk of the local school board, and is highly esteemed as one of the most useful residents of the township. He and his wife are active and valued members of the United Lutheran church.

GEORGE J. FLATEN.

Deprived in part of his left hand in a hunting accident at the age of eighteen years, the subsequent career of George J. Flaten, the able, industrious and conscientious treasurer of Polk county, has been largely shaped by that occurrence. It seemed like a cruel affliction when it occurred, but it has led him to lines of work for which he is especially fitted and to a position at length for which he seems to have been destined. He was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, November 4, 1876, the son of J. J. and Anna (Brandsvold) Flaten, who now live in Garden township, this county, five miles east of Fertile, on a home-