Mr. Steenerson settled on a section of school land on which another man had built a shack. Finding that he was on a school section, the first com'er had abandoned it and the shack served Mr. Steenerson as a home and a schoolhouse. It was 24 by 14 feet in size and very crude in construction. The pioneer school teacher had driven sixty head of cattle to this section from Houston county. His brother Levi was his partner in the enterprise, and the cattle were driven to Pembina, where part of them were sold and the rest were disposed of in Winnipeg after reaching that city.

After this trip Mr. Steenerson went to Moorhead and built a flat boat for shipping grain. He loaded his own and his brother Levi's grain on this boat and the grain of some other persons, and with about 2,000 bushels on board started down the river. The time was November and ice was forming in the river. Progress became slow, and about ten miles south of Winnipeg the boat was frozen in. This event happened at a mill on the river, however, and although the grain was sold in Winnipeg it was left at the mill. This was in 1876 and the last of the shipment of grain in that way at a profit.

In 1877 Estenson school district No. 6 was organized and the school house was located about three miles from Mr. Steenerson's farm. He taught this school the first winter it was in operation, and it was the first public school taught in that region. Before the end of 1877 he was elected county school superintendent, the first occupant of that office, and he filled it until he was elected clerk of the district court in 1879. At the end of one term as clerk of the district court he took a pre-emption claim in Clearwater county, on which he lived three years and was engaged in lumbering on the Clearwater river. He then returned to his Polk county farm, on which he has made his home ever since. It is one mile and a half from Climax.

The first postoffice in this neighborhood was that of Meos, which was established about 1878, the name being that of Mr. Steenerson's father's farm in Norway, and his father was appointed postmaster. When Christopher returned from Clearwater county the office was moved to his home and he was made postmaster. At that time the name of the office was changed to Climax, and when the railroad was built in 1896 he moved the office to the station and induced the railroad company to adopt the same name for it. But this did not happen until some months after the trains had begun running. He also built the house in which the postoffice is now located.

Mr. Steenerson owns 300 acres of land and has it nearly all under cultivation. He manages his farming operations with vigor and raises good crops as the result of his industry, judgment and skill as a farmer. In addition to all his other public activities he has served as a justice of the peace from the time of his arrival in the township. Late in life he was united in marriage with Miss Dorothy Lee. They have no children.

ANSON CHARLES MERRILL.

The late Anson C. Merrill, who lived on Section 10, Fisher township, two miles north of the village of Fisher, was one of the greatest farmers Polk county has ever had, and when death cut short his usefulness on January 21, 1897, at the early age of thirty-four years, everybody who knew him or of him felt that a career of imperial magnitude and consequence had come to an unfortunate and very untimely end. Mr.