also in the Farmers State Bank in that village. His cattle are Shorthorns of good grades. He has served as road overseer and on the school board for fifteen years continuously, and his son Lawrence is now treasurer of this board. At the age of twenty-eight Mr. Floan was married in his native land to Miss Christina Anderson. They have had ten children, nine of whom are living, Gunder, Anna, Louisa, Albert, Henry, Lawrence, Clara, Gina, and John. A daughter named Sarah died at the age of sixteen years, nine months and twenty-two days. All the members of the family belong to the Varness United Lutheran church.

ANDREW K. HOLEN.

Andrew K. Holen, who lives on a fine farm in Section 22, Liberty township, four and a half miles west of the village of Fertile, came to this county in 1887, when he was twenty-six years of age, with just $100 in money and no other property, and he now owns 400 acres of highly improved and well cultivated land, has stock in the Fertile Co-operative Creamery and the Farmers State Bank of Fertile, and is one of the substantial, enterprising and public-spirited citizens of the county, influential among his fellow men and highly respected by all who know him.

Mr. Holen was born in Norway April 21, 1861, and came to this country with his parents, Knute and Carrie Holen, when he was six years old. The family located in Allamakee county, Iowa, and there the parents remained. The son attended the district schools and as soon as he was big and strong enough worked out as well as on his father's farm, continuing this course until he reached the age of twenty-six. Then, in 1887, he came to Polk county, where his two brothers, Ole Holen and Hans Knudson, were living and had been for eight years, Ole in Liberty township and Hans near Lee station. Ole is still residing on his farm, but Hans has been a resident of Marshall county, this state, for twenty-five years.

Andrew K. Holen bought the farm on which he is now living as a tree claim and converted it into a homestead claim, paying $550 for it. There were no buildings on it and only fifteen acres had been plowed when he bought it. On March 15, 1888, he was married to Miss Hannah Peterson of Allamakee county, Iowa, where she was born, her parents having come to this country before the Civil war. Her assistance enabled him to pay off his indebtedness on his farm and make some improvements. His first house was a log cabin, and its furniture consisted of a homemade table and cupboard, some stools of his own manufacture, six plates, cups and saucers, and a second hand stove. He rented his land to get crops and worked out to support his family. During the first three years he was able to sell only 100 bushels of wheat, but he had a cow and some chickens, and these helped to keep the wolf from his door. Coffee was a thing to be thought of and longed for, but not to be enjoyed.

At the end of three years Mr. Holen began to devote his whole attention to his farm, but successive droughts injured his crops leaving him little more than chicken feed for a year or two. He now has his whole farm of 400 acres under cultivation and raises good crops. For some of his land he paid $10 an acre and for some $25 an acre. He built his present dwelling house in 1896 and his fine barn, 40 by 100 feet in size, in 1914, and has other first-rate improvements. Grain was his main dependence for many years but he now has a good deal of dairy stock including ten to twelve milch cows.

Mr. Holen has served three years as chairman of the township board and has filled several other local offices, having been a member of the school board for thirteen years. He sides with the Republican party in political affairs, and he and his wife are members