Climax and is now president of the Climax Community Development Association.

In fraternal relations Mr. Stearns is connected with the Masonic Order and its auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star, of which his wife is also a member, the Order of Elks and the Order of Woodmen. He was married in Illinois in 1903, to Miss Geneva Mershon, daughter of Dr. J. I. Mershon, a native of Mount Carroll, Illinois. They have four children, Robert Maynard, Dorothy Florence, Frances Jeannette and Raymond Guy. At stated periods, when the father needs relief from the exacting cares of his business and physical recreation he seeks them in fishing and hunting trips, which never fail to give him the benefit he looks for.

WILLIAM FLEMING.

With his early manhood filled with hardships, privations and adventures and his later years devoted to arduous toil in the struggle for advancement and the full development of the land on which he squatted when other human habitations around it were few and far apart, William Fleming, who is now living retired at 501 North Third street in East Grand Forks, has had an interesting career. He battled bravely with adversity and through all circumstances and conditions he maintained his steadiness of purpose, and in the course of time he won a substantial triumph over all obstacles and wrung from unwilling fate a comfortable competence for life.

Mr. Fleming was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, November 24, 1835, and emigrated to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in 1860. He was a farmer in his native land and in Canada, and was constantly on the lookout for better opportunities in his chosen occupation. In 1867 he came to Olmsted county, Minnesota, and during the next four years worked at railroad building and in other lines, and in 1871 he became a resident of this county. Before leaving Canada he was married to Miss Mary Ann Dodds, a native of Dumfriemline, Scotland, and when he settled in Polk county they had two children. At that time Mr. Fleming had about $500 in money and two yoke of cattle, but after being one day on the road to this county, when near Rochester, his cattle wandered off into the brush and for four days were lost to him. A heifer and calf that went with the cattle were never recovered, but the yoke cattle were, and for some time were of great service to him.

At Rochester Mr. Fleming fell in with Robert Coulter and Thomas McVeety, known as "Long Tom," who had yoke teams and were on their way to Canada. Mr. Coulter was married and had his wife and two children with him, but Mr. McVeety was single. They traveled together and reached the Red river, which they swam and then moved down the west bank to "The Salts," about twenty miles north of where Grand Forks now stands, there being no settlement there at that time. At that place their longing for Canada ceased and they decided to locate in Minnesota. They chose a region on Red Lake river about seven miles east of what is now East Grand Forks and all settled close together. The Hudson Bay company had a store at the Forks, and they made their headquarters in this, until they swam their cattle across the river to get to their land. They were almost alone in the wilderness, N. C. Nash, a Mr. Hunt and a Mrs. Alley being the only persons within miles of them, and they had come that spring.

For awhile our adventurers lived under a tree and began at once to break their land. They got fifteen acres broken the first year, and then had a long fight with the blackbirds in getting their seed covered, and they also planted a few potatoes. Mr. Fleming used his yoke teams for some years, then traded them for horses, which he found more satisfactory. In winter he took a load of lumber to Grand Forks, a distance of seven miles in a straight line, but eighteen traveling on the ice on the Red Lake river. In March the ice broke under his team and he lost both of his horses, during the deepening gloom of a dark night, and