

HISTORY OF DUNN COUNTY



MR. AND MRS. OSCAR B. HOYT AND  
WEBSTER W. HOYT



**Herbert G. Flick**, proprietor of the Elk Mound Auto Co., in the village of Elk Mound, was born in the town of Dunn, Dunn County, Wis., Sept. 9, 1896, son of Peter and Anna (Weber) Flick. The parents, though married in Dunn County, were natives of Switzerland, who came to this country when young. After their marriage they settled in the town of Dunn on a farm, where the father, Peter Flick, is still living, Mrs. Anna Flick having died on June 3, 1916. They had four children, Levi, Herbert G., Emma and Walter. Herbert G. Flick was educated in the public schools of Downsville. At the age of 14 he went out to work as a farm laborer, and when 18 he began to learn the automobile business, in particular the repairing of cars of all the various makes, in time becoming a first class mechanic. After satisfactorily filling a number of responsible positions, in 1922 he came to Elk Mound and bought out the stock of the W. H. Hackman garage, establishing the Elk Mound Auto Co., and he has since conducted this business with good financial results. His garage measures 40 x 60 feet, the plant including an office, salesroom, storage room and repair department. Besides doing general repairing, he carries a full line of accessories—in particular, the Kelly, Springfield, Miller, and Oldfield tires—and handles the Paige, Jewett, Dodge and Chevrolet cars. He holds the office of justice of the peace, is a member of the local camp of Modern Woodmen of America and also of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Flick was married June 27, 1922, to Beatrice Hotter, of Pepin County, and he and his wife are the parents of a daughter, Geraldine, who was born May 19, 1923.

**George Hilson**, agent and operator for the "Soo" line at Wheeler, also secretary of the Wheeler Commercial Club, and an active stirring citizen in the affairs of the village, was born at Stillwater, Minn., Dec. 20, 1889, son of Christian and Christine (Nielson) Hilson, further mention of whom may be found elsewhere in this volume. He was educated in the Colfax schools and subsequently went to Chicago, where he studied railroad accounting. He then learned telegraphy at Colfax under J. L. Smith after which for two years he was "relief man" on the "Soo" line, working wherever he was sent with no permanent headquarters. On May 12, 1916, he was assigned to the Wheeler station as agent and operator, also having charge of the freight and express business. He has thoroughly mastered all the details of the departments of which he has charge and is recognized as a good practical railroad man whose services are valuable to the company he works for. He is a member of the order of Railway Telegraphers; also of the fraternal orders of Modern Woodmen and Odd Fellows, and as secretary of the Wheeler Commercial Club he exercises another useful function, placing him among those who are caring for the interests of the village and working together to promote its advancements. Mr. Hilson was married July 7, 1912, to Gyda Reiten of Stanley, Wis., who was born at Menomonie, Wis., May 21, 1887. Two children have been born of this union: Noel, Jan. 12, 1913, and Ruth, March 14, 1914, both of whom are attending the Wheeler school. Mr. Hilson and family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Wheeler and occupy a good social position in the village. In regard to the Reiten parental history, Nels Reiten and Randi Ryan, both born in Norway, were married in Menomonie, Wis., one year after they left their native land. They resided in Menomonie for 18 years and then moved to Stanley, Wis. Mr. Reiten was employed by The Knapp, Stout & Co. Company for several years and later worked in the brickyards, continuing to be thus employed after his removal to Stanley, acting as assistant foreman. Later he and his wife removed to Oregon, where they are now living.

**Webster W. Hoyt**, proprietor of Locust Grove Farm in Section 20, town of Eau Galle, and the present chairman of the town board, was born at Prairie Farm, Barron County, Wis., Aug. 21, 1884, son of Oscar B. and Alice D. (Sunderland) Hoyt. Both parents were born in the East, the father in New York State and the mother in Vermont. They were married in New York State and came west in 1880, settling in the town of Eau Galle, Dunn County, where they remained for two years, moving at the end of that time to Hersey, St. Croix County. Thence they moved later to Downing in Dunn County, and from there to Prairie Farm in Barron County, thence back to Hersey, and in 1889 to Dunn County again, for

the next five years operating rented farms in the town of Eau Galle. Oscar B. Hoyt then bought 80 acres in Section 18, kept it for a year and a half, then sold it and bought 40 acres in Section 20, town of Eau Galle. On this tract stood an old log house, into which he moved with his family, and he then began to improve the land. Later he replaced the log house above mentioned with a "blocked" or hewed-log house, the latter giving way in time to a good frame dwelling, which stands on the farm today. He also built a large basement barn and all needed out-buildings, besides adding to his land until he had 173 acres. He continued farming until 1919, when, having in the previous year lost his wife, who died April 23, 1918, he retired. He now makes his home with his children. Of these there are seven, namely: Mina, now Mrs. Charles F. Smith of the town of Eau Galle; George, of Fort Shaw, Mont.; Carrie M., now Mrs. Ephraim Smith of Sun River, Mont.; Hector, of Fort Shaw, Mont.; Clarence of the town of Eau Galle; Webster W., also of this town, and Nora, who is Mrs. Jacob Gimsbach of Rock Elm, Pierce County, Wis. Webster W. Hoyt acquired his education in the district school of his neighborhood, and from his boyhood to the present time has never lived anywhere but on the old home farm. He was the only boy in the family who did so, the other all leaving home when about 17 years old. Consequently his parents learned to depend on him and he proved a great assistance to them, the greater share in the management of the place falling in time upon his shoulders. It was in 1918 that he took over the entire management, at the same time buying 36 acres of his father's 173. Having previously bought a 40-acre tract, he now had 76 acres of his own, and his present farm of 213 acres is composed of this land and the 137 acres that he rents from his father. The farm is nicely situated in a pretty valley, well protected from extreme cold and high winds, and through it flows a creek giving good watering facilities, while the house stands in the midst of a grove of locust trees which were set out by Mr. Hoyt's father, and which have given to the farm its name. In the spring of 1920 Mr. Hoyt was elected chairman of the Eau Galle town board and has continued to hold that position through re-election. It makes him a member of the county board and therefore one of the legislators in local affairs. For three years he served as school director and for eight years as clerk of the school board of his district and his public service has been marked by competence and fidelity to his appointed tasks. Webster W. Hoyt was married Sept. 29, 1910, to Alice E. Hoyt, who was born in the town of Eau Galle, June 21, 1893. They are members of the West Chapel congregation of the Eau Galle M. E. Church, of which also Mr. Hoyt is a trustee. He belongs to the Eau Galle lodges of Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbors, Mrs. Hoyt being a member of the latter.

**Anton Anderson**, who has a high standing for industry and success among the farmers of the town of Colfax, was born on a farm in this town on Nov. 5, 1868, son of Andrew and Anna (Halverson) Anderson. The parents were among the pioneers of this region, coming here from Norway in the 60's, the last stage of their journey being made on foot from Eau Claire. They took a homestead of 160 acres in Section 2, town of Colfax. The land was wild and neighbors were few, as the county was then but sparsely settled except in the vicinity of the sawmills or lumber camps. But Mr. and Mrs. Anderson had come here to build a home and were prepared to endure some privations, knowing that conditions would improve in time. They, themselves, were among the factors in that improvement. To begin with, Mr. Anderson built a log house and a straw barn and began clearing his land, breaking it with an ox team. After he began raising grain he used to haul it to Eau Claire with the oxen and brought back the supplies for the family from that place. He and his wife spent their lives on that place, where both of them finally passed away. Their family was a large one, numbering in all 11 children, of whom those now living are Anton, Albert, Edwin, Caroline, Halvor and Clara. Caroline is the wife of Ole O. Peterson of Minneapolis and Clara the wife of Fred Smith of Colfax. Those deceased are Peter, Mary, Anton (first), Eddie and Clara (first). Anton Anderson, the survivor of the name, was reared on his parents' farm in Section 2, town of Colfax, and as a boy attended the district school. Later he began helping on the farm and also spent ten winters logging in the woods, becoming