

Mr. Heldstab took an earnest interest and an active part in the affairs of the community of his home and contributed essentially to its progress and development. He was not, however, an active political partisan and never sought or desired a public office of any kind. His work for the advancement of his city and county was that of a good citizen outside of political contentions and hopes of direct personal reward except what came from the improvement of his locality. He belonged to the German Lutheran church and was one of the earliest and most active members of St. Paul's congregation of that sect in Crookston.

On December 20, 1891, Mr. Heldstab was married in Crookston to Miss Lena Weber, who was born in Oberstein, Germany, November 12, 1871, and came to this country in 1888, when she was seventeen years old. Seven sons were born of their union, one of whom, Paul Walter, died when he was about one year old. The mother and six of the sons are living and have their homes in Polk county. The living sons are: John W., Gustav M., Christian R., Theodore E., Harold D. and Willard A. At the time of his death the father owned a fine farm of 320 acres, which was well improved and under good cultivation.

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#### HON. GUNDER KROSTUE.

As a large landholder, an enterprising and successful merchant, a member of the state legislature, the postmaster for many years of the town of Fisher and a prominent, influential and highly esteemed citizen, the late Hon. Gunder Krostue dignified, adorned and admirably represented the best manhood and citizenship of Polk county in many lines of usefulness and beneficial labor and example to the locality of his home.

Mr. Krostue was born June 10, 1851, on a farm named Krostue in Saetersdahl, Norway, and was brought to the United States by his parents when he was but ten years old. The family located in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, where the son grew to manhood and obtained a limited education in the country schools. At an early age he began to work at farm labor and later was employed as a lumberman, driving logs down the Mississippi river to St. Louis. These occupations, however, were too precarious and unpromising to satisfy his ambition, and he determined to do something more in line with his tastes and embodying better prospects for him.

In 1880 Mr. Krostue took up his residence in Polk county, and here for a time he served as engineer with a threshing crew and then worked on the survey of the Great Northern railroad between Grand Forks and Crookston. Later he proved up on a homestead claim

in Grand Forks county, North Dakota, which he then sold. He at once located in the town of Fisher, this county, and for four years thereafter was employed as a clerk in the store kept by Messrs. Thompson & Johnson. At the end of that period he entered upon an independent mercantile career, opening a store in Fisher for general merchandise and farming implements. This proved to be one of the most successful of his many activities, and carried him to a prominent place in connection with the business interests of the county. He became an extensive landholder, owning some 2,100 acres of farm land near Fisher, and was also president of the Fisher Bank from the time of its organization until his death. In addition he served as postmaster of Fisher for many years until the pressure of other engagements compelled him to retire from the office.

Mr. Krostue continued to live in Fisher until his death on July 7, 1912, when he was in his sixty-first year. He belonged to the class of men who rise to success and influence through their native ability and industry and win the regard of all who know them by their sterling worth and admirable manhood. He freely bestowed the gifts of his strong personality in the service of his fellow men and left the memory of many commendable accomplishments as a citizen,

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many noble traits as a friend and many wise and fruitful achievements through his enterprise and public spirit, as well as that of his eminent success as a business man.

In the public life of his community this far-seeing gentleman always was a trusted leader, and in the fall of 1902 his fellow citizens selected him as their representative in the lower house of the state legislature. In the session of 1903 he was chairman of the House committee on drainage and a member of the committees on grain and warehouse and roads, bridges and navigable streams. He was re-elected in the fall of 1904, and in the session of 1905 he was again chairman of the committee on drainage and was also assigned to duty on the committees on binding twine, public health, dairy and food products and temperance legislation.

In his religious affiliation Mr. Krostue was connected with the United Lutheran church, of which his widow is also an active member and earnest supporter. Her maiden name was Christine Benson and she is the daughter of Lars Benson. She was born in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, and at an early age removed with her parents to Goodhue county, Minnesota, where the family resided until the accidental death of the father by drowning at Red Wing. After that sad event the mother and her eight children changed their residence to Pope county, Minnesota, and there Miss Christine lived until her marriage to Mr. Krostue, which took place on December 2, 1882. Of the children born of their marriage seven are living: Lawrence, who is a farmer, and Clara, Lottie, Myron, Theresa, Clayton and Glendora. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Krostue has continued to make her home at Fisher.

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#### JULIUS WENTZEL.

Having borne faithfully and with good results for himself and the localities in which he lived the heat and burden of a long day of toil, in which he experienced many privations and hardships, Julius Wentzel of Crookston, one of the former prosperous and progressive farmers of Polk county, has retired from active pursuits and is passing the evening of his life in comfortable leisure and enjoying in a sensible and useful way the fruits of his former well-applied industry and good management.

Mr. Wentzel was born in Prussia August 28, 1847, and remained there until he reached the age of sixteen. He then came to the New World and took up his residence for a year in the province of Quebec, Canada, where he was variously employed. From Canada he moved to Detroit, Michigan, and there he also passed a year in work of different kinds. After that he lived in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, until January, 1878, when he came to Polk county, Minnesota, and pre-empted a tract of 160 acres of land in Lowell township.

The land taken up by Mr. Wentzel was wholly uncultivated and unimproved, and he began to devote himself at once to transforming it into a farm and a good home for himself and his family. He continued to live on it and develop and improve it until the fall of 1909, making it over into a highly productive and valuable rural estate and an attractive country home. In the fall of 1909 he decided to quit farming and all active work of a laborious character, and moved to Crookston, where he has since resided. After taking up his residence in Crookston he sold his farm.

On December 11, 1873, Mr. Wentzel was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Radi, who was born in Prussia March 19, 1858, and came to the United States with her parents in 1863, when she was about five years old. The family located in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where Mrs. Wentzel was reared and where she was living at the time of her marriage. She and her husband became the parents of twelve children, eleven of whom are living. They are