

lower and believer in the tenets of the Republican party. March 7, 1903, he was married to Lena Ahlers, daughter of John Ahlers, a prominent farmer of Steele county. Two children have blessed this marriage, Edna and Irma. The family are loyal attendants of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Wilker is a son of John and Emelia (Welk) Wilker, the father a retired farmer of Owatonna.

William Woker, an up-to-date farmer of Steele county, was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, October 29, 1858. At the age of eight years he removed with his parents to Steele county, his father soon afterwards settling on a 160-acre farm in Meriden township. After receiving his education in the district schools he assisted his father in carrying on the home place until 1880, when he bought his present farm, consisting of 160 acres of well improved land, which he has brought to a high state of productiveness through hard work and modern methods of agriculture. Fine Durham cattle and Poland-China swine are his specialties. The Democratic party claims his allegiance in matters of politics and he has ably served on the town board and thirteen years as school treasurer. October 3, 1880, he was united in marriage with Othilia Stelter, daughter of William Stelter, a tailor by trade. Seven children have come of this marriage: George, an engraver and watchmaker of Oskaloosa, Ia.; and Ernest, Ida, Alfred, Eddie, Luella and Charles, all reside at home. The Lutheran Church counts the family as valued members. Herman and Wilhelmina (Hager) Woker, parents of our subject, were natives of Lippedenold, Germany, where the father followed farming. Emigrating to America about 1848, he located near Freeport, Ill., and engaged in farming three years, subsequently removing to Washington county, Wisconsin. In 1866 he came to Steele county and after residing a year in Owatonna purchased a quarter section in Meriden township and continued farming until his death in 1887. The mother died five years later. He was prominent in the Lutheran Church and in the Democratic party, serving four years as justice of the peace while in Wisconsin. Eight children were born to him and his wife: Louisa, Riche, Christian, Henrietta, Minnie, Caroline, William and Fred.

Samuel Wanous, a farmer of Havana township, Steele county, was born in this county, March 7, 1872. Completing his education in the district schools, he immediately engaged in farming and now owns a fine farm of 160 acres in Havana township, which he purchased in 1902. Two-thirds of this land is under the plow, the remainder being utilized to the best advantage as woodland and pasturage. Strictly modern and up-to-date buildings and machinery, which have all been added by the present occupant, have been material in raising this farm to its high state