

Valentine Pietrek, Proprietor of a large and flourishing farm of 560 acres in section 15, Arcadia Township, was born in Posen Germany, February 9, 1863, son of Andrew and Frances (Susa) Pietrek. In 1870, the parents came to the United States with their family, locating in section 15, Arcadia Township, this County (Trempealeau), their farm lying about four miles north of the village of Arcadia. This property, which was known as the O'Rourke farm, consisted of 200 acres and was partially improved. Here Valentine was brought up and trained to farm.

June 6, 1890, Mr. Pietrek was married to Barbara Sluga of Independence Township and he and his bride set up housekeeping and the Pietrek homestead, Andrew Pietrek and his wife moving across the railroad to a location east of the old home. The father died in 1889 and was buried at North Creek: his wife survived him and is still living, being 84 years of age.

In 1902, the subject of this sketch built a modern two-story, brick veneer house of 10 rooms: also a frame barn, 38X78 feet in dimensions. The latter burned down in 1898, but was rebuilt the same summer. Mr. Pietrek has also built a third barn, together with woodsheds, hog houses, granary and a garage, all the buildings being substantial and constructed in good shape. He now has 350 acres of his farm under cultivation the balance consisting of post and timber.

The property is located on Independence road, midway between Independence and Arcadia, just the foot of Lewis Valley. Aside from general farming, he is engaged in dairying, having a fine herd of 18 graded Holsteins, with 45 to 50 head of young cattle. His equipment is all modern and in first class condition, and his horses and wagons the best of their kind. Mr. Pietrek is a stockholder in the Glencoe Co-Operative Creamery Company of Arcadia. Politically he is a Democrat, but has held no public office. He and his wife are the parents of ten children; Sophie now Mrs. John Gandra of North Creek, this County, Roman unmarried, who is employed by the Chicago Northwestern Railway, Theresa unmarried residing at home, and Paul, Andrew Joseph, Martha, Mary, Benjamin, and Anna, all of whom reside with their parents. The family belongs to St. Michael's (Polish) Catholic Church.

Source of Info: History of Trempealeau County compiled by Frankyn Curtiswedge
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