

Perry Heath, proprietor of a good farm of 320 acres in section 16, Arcadia Township, was born at Marengo, McHenry County, Ill., Oct. 26, 1843, son of Joel and Margaret (Miller) Heath. His parents, who were natives of New York state, migrated to Illinois about 1842, buying 80 acres of land at Marengo. After residing there until 1853 they moved to La Crosse County, Wisconsin, locating not far from where the village of Holmen now stands. Here the Heaths began farming on 160 acres of land, for which Mr. Heath had traded his Illinois property. In 1856 they returned to Illinois and remained three years, coming back to Wisconsin in 1859. The father came first, however, in order to get a settlement for the La Crosse county farm, for which it seems he had not been fully paid, and while here was taken sick and died, his body being returned to Illinois for burial. The widowed mother and her family then took up their residence on the La Crosse County farm, the subject of this sketch being then 16 years old, and here she lived until her death in 1868. There were eight children in the family: Lucetta, Oscar, Lydia Ann and Permelia, all of whom are now deceased; Perry, Barnabas, who is now residing at Strum, Trempealeau County; Emmett, deceased; Matilda, now Mrs. Charles Hilliard of Fargo, N. D. Perry Heath acquired his education in the district schools. After his father's death he remained at home with his widowed mother until he was 22 years old, at which time he purchased 40 acres adjoining the home farm in La Crosse County. Aug. 13, 1865, he married Jennie Briggs, daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Briggs of La Crosse County, and, building a house on his 40-acre farm, took his bride there and began housekeeping. After operating his farm for about four years, in 1869 he bought 160 acres of wild land in Lewis Valley, section 16, Arcadia Township, and built a small house on it, to which he moved his family, then consisting of his wife and two children, in addition to himself. The journey was made overland by horse team. Here Mr. Heath has since remained. He has greatly improved his property, the size of which he increased by purchasing 160 acres more, making a farm of 320 acres, 200 of which are under the plow, the balance consisting of timber land and pasture. In 1879 he built a comfortable frame house and in 1902 a good frame barn. In September, 1888, his first wife died. She had borne him eight children: Lucetta, born in 1866, who is now Mrs. John Busby of Fridley, Mont.; Elsie, born in 1869, now Mrs. Henry Smith of Whitehall, Wis.; Alonzo, born in 1871, who is now living in Osseo, Trempealeau County; Lela, born in 1874, wife of Frank Harcey of Utica, Minn.; Alvah, born in 1876, who is deceased; Lester, born in 1878, now living on the old farm.; Chauncey, born in 1881, now residing in Arcadia Village, and Pearl, born in 1885, who is the wife of Grant Smith of Roundup, Mont. March 27, 1891, Mr. Heath married for his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Malcolm and Margaret Malles of Fountain City, Wis., and of this marriage there has been one child, Irvin, born in 1892, who is living at home. Mr. Perry is a Republican in politics and for many years has served as school director in his district. Aside from his own farming interests he holds stock in the Glencoe Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia Village. Though reared a Methodist, he is not at present a member of any church.

Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Trempealeau County, Wisconsin* (Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1917), pp. 787-788.