

They have a pleasant home and have ever taken an interested and influential part in the general social activities of the community which they have seen develop from pioneer conditions to its present prosperous and well-ordered state.

NELS AMUNDSON.

The late Nels Amundson, one of the large farmers of Fossum township, Norman county, where he owned and operated four hundred acres of excellent farming land and where he was very active in the religious life of the community, was born in Norway, September 14, 1857, and died on his farm, which bore so many examples of his life of tireless industry and unceasing thrift, on November 8, 1910. He was a son of Lewis and Anna Amundson, both of whom were born in Norway, there reared to maturity, married and reared their family. Some three years after the birth of the subject of this review, the father and mother decided to come to America and landed here on the eve of the Civil War in 1860. They first settled in Madison, Wisconsin, where they remained until they moved to Norman county. About 1880 the parents moved on up into Polk county, settled on a farm and there they remained until their deaths.

Nels Amundson spent his boyhood near Madison, Wisconsin, where he received a very limited elementary education in the rude common schools of the day, and when his father and mother moved to Norman county, he came with them. In 1880 when his parents moved to Polk county, he homesteaded a quarter section in Fossum township. Since the land was all timber and brush, without a single building on it, he set to work erecting the necessary structures, around which he set out a grove which has grown into a thing of beauty as the years have passed. Eventually his old original farm home gave place to a more modern structure, which he had built across the road from the first. As the years passed, his industry enabled him to add to his holdings until he had accumulated at the time of his death in 1910 four hundred acres of land, which was practically all in a state of high cultivation.

In 1880, Mr. Amundson was united in marriage with Sonava Halland, who was born in Norway, January 9, 1859, a daughter of Ole and Barbro Halland, both of whom came to America in 1859 and settled in Waseca county, Minnesota. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Amundson has continued to live on the home place here. They were the parents of the following ten children: Lewis, Oliver, Nellie, Sophie and Sophie, both

deceased; Annie, Agnes, Nettie, Norah and Frieda. Nels Amundson, as is his wife, was an active and devoted member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and he was one of the leading workers in the organization of the first church society in the community, the St. Peter Norwegian Lutheran church. Even though Mr. Amundson did not take an active part in the politics of his vicinity, he was always ready with his fullest and heartiest support and co-operation for any movement which had for its aim the civic, social and material betterment of the community.

JOHAN P. SUNDET.

The late Johan P. Sundet, who was a well known and substantial farmer of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he was the owner of a quarter section of fine land, on which his widow now lives, was born in Norway, June 24, 1848, and died, March 10, 1914. He was a son of Severt and Trinc Sundet, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they grew up, married, reared their family and died, the former a farmer in the home land.

Reared on the home farm in Norway, where he acquired such an elementary education as the time and place afforded, he acquired a practical farm training which stood him in good stead when he became a pioneer in the New World. He continued to live in Norway until 1880, in which year he immigrated to America and came directly to Norman county. Here he homesteaded a quarter section in Bear Park township, where his widow still makes her home. Since the land was raw and somewhat covered with underbrush and small timber, he had considerable difficulty in bringing it to a state of cultivation, but since he was made of the same stuff of which real pioneers are made, he cleared his holding, broke the ground and planted his first crop, from which he reaped a harvest which was entirely up to his expectations. The next problem was adequate farm buildings, but he set to work with a will and, finally as a reward for his labors, he finished an admirable farm plant, which includes good, substantial buildings and a comfortable farm home.

Before he came to America, he met Karen Gagnas, whom he married after he came to America. She was born in Norway, January 1, 1854, a daughter of Arnt and Johanna Gagnas, and to this union eight children have been born, as follow: Arnt, a farmer of Matana; Severt, cashier of the