

Fossum township and homesteaded a quarter section of land located in section 30 and on that farm continued to live until 1896, engaged in general farming. In the latter year he moved across the township line into section 25 of Wild Rice township and settled on his present place, where he has continued to reside ever since. He is now the owner of two hundred acres of prime land known as "Riverside Farm", and here he carries on general farming and also breeds graded Shorthorn cattle, of which he keeps some choice specimens. From the commencement of his agricultural operations Mr. Bentley has had a considerable share of success and is recognized as one of the progressive and substantial farmers of that part of Norman county.

On March 26, 1871, Ole S. Bentley was united in marriage at Decorah, Iowa, to Anna Bergeta Bergeson, who was born in Norway in 1854, a daughter of Soren Bergeson and wife, who settled in Wild Rice township on June 3, 1871, being generally regarded as the first to settle in that part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley are the parents of eleven children as follow: Clarence O., Minnie S., Anna O., Helmer N., Julia R., Sidney O., Henry C., Sophia B., Olga, T. Melvin and Laura Selina. The Bentley family are members of East Wild Rice Lutheran church and are warm supporters of the same. Mr. Bentley has the distinction of having been the first assessor of the present Fossum township, having been appointed by the auditor of Polk county when this place was a part of Polk county. He held the office for twelve years, the consecutive order of tenure being broken only for one year, and he served as justice of the peace for eight years. Mr. Bentley was one of the most active of those engaged in the organization of school district No. 41, which takes in part of four townships, the building being located in the southeast corner of Wild Rice township. He was the first clerk of the local school board, serving in that capacity for the long period of twenty-four consecutive years. He takes an active and practical interest in all local affairs.

OLE E. BAKKE.

Ole E. Bakke, an enterprising and energetic farmer, living in Wild Rice township, Norman county, a member of district school board No. 77, in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been living in the United States since he was six years old. He was born in that country on February 26, 1861, a son of Andrew and Breta Bakke, both of whom were also natives of Norway.

Andrew and Breta Bakke were married in their native land prior to immigrating to this country, to which they came in 1867, and proceeded to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they resided for two years, and where Andrew Bakke worked on a farm. They then moved to Fillmore county, this state, and in that place Mrs. Bakke died. In 1883 Mr. Bakke moved to Twin Valley, Norman county, and here he spent the rest of his life living retired, spending the remainder of his life with his children. During his residence in Fillmore county he worked out and throughout his entire life in this county was regarded as a citizen of industrious habits and progressive ideas. Andrew and Breta Bakke were the parents of seven children as follow: Olena, who died in Norway; Andrew; Breta, who died in Fillmore county; Carrie; Peter; Gertie, and Ole E., the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Bakke were earnest members of the Lutheran church and reared their children in the tenets of that faith.

Ole E. Bakke, at the age of six years, accompanied his parents to this country and on coming to the state of Minnesota, was educated in the schools of Fillmore county. In 1881 he went to Montana and worked in that state for eighteen months engaged in the construction of the Northern Pacific railroad when it was being put through that place. In the fall of 1882 he moved to Ada, Minnesota, and immediately purchased a homestead right to the southwest quarter of section 34, Wild Rice township, and in the following spring he moved to this holding and has since been living on that place, engaged in general farming and from the commencement of his agricultural operations he has been very successful. He erected several substantial buildings on the homestead, which had no building of any kind on it except a house constructed of logs, at the time Mr. Bakke acquired it. In addition to the erection of the buildings, he also has set out a fine grove of trees, which add considerably to the value and appearance of the place. Since taking possession of the original homestead tract, he has bought a further eighty acres in the same section, the whole being given over to general farming, and Mr. Bakke is regarded as one of the progressive farmers of that part of the township.

On December 12, 1884, Ole E. Bakke was united in marriage to Cecila Syverson, a native of Norway and daughter of Syvert Syverson and wife. To this union the following children have been born: Edwin, Bennie, Lottie, Ida, Norma, Clifford, Orval and Edva, all of whom are living. The Bakke family are members of the Lutheran church and are earnestly interested in all its good works, as well as in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Bakke helped to organize the first church in Twin Valley, now known as

the Twin Valley Synod. During his active lifetime he has given a good citizen's attention to public affairs and was a member of the township board for several years in Wild Rice township. He helped to organize school district No. 77 in 1903, when the community became an independent district, and he has been a member of the school board ever since. Mr. Bakke helped to organize the Farmers Co-operative Creamery of Twin Valley and is still interested in that undertaking, and in many other ways he has given evidence of his ability to assist all projects designed to forward the material interests of the community.

CHRISTIAN BREDEMEIER.

Christian Bredemeier, a substantial farmer of Humboldt township, this county, was born in the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty-three years of age. He was born in 1857, a son of William B. and Sophia Bredemeier, both of whom were natives of Germany, but who came to this country in an early day.

William B. Bredemeier was born in Germany in 1825 and was educated in the schools of that country, subsequently following the life of a farmer. He immigrated to America in 1845, at the age of twenty, and commenced to work on farms in Illinois and later became the owner of a tract of land, which he too continued to operate for the remainder of his active life, his death occurring in 1893 at the age of sixty-eight. His wife, Sophia Bredemeier was also a native of Germany, born in that country in 1826, and when twenty years of age, in 1846, came to America and in the following year, 1847, met and married Christian Bredemeier at Chicago. They were the parents of the following children: William, John, Fred, Herman, Christian, Mary, Sophia, Louisa, Emma and Amelia. The mother of these children is still living in Cleveland, Ohio. William Bredemeier and his wife were active and influential residents of the district in which they made their home and were warm supporters of all good causes tending to the welfare of the community.

Christian Bredemeier was educated in the schools of Illinois and was reared on his father's farm where he was a valuable assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place. In 1880 he moved from Illinois to Clay county and in May of the same year he bought a holding containing two hundred and forty acres of choice land, located in section 16, Humboldt township, fifty acres of which he gives over to the cultivation