

farmer until the fall of 1908. His next move was to another quarter section in Wild Rice township, Norman county, and he continued his farming operations in that township until he retired from the active labors of the farm in the fall of 1914. He bought a fine home near the edge of Twin Valley, just outside the village limits, and there he is pleasantly situated. During his active career as a farmer Mr. Bjerke was recognized as a progressive agriculturist, who carried on his operations according to modern methods.

On March 15, 1878, E. N. Bjerke was united in marriage to Sophia Johnson, a native of the state of Wisconsin. To this union the following children have been born: Nora, Albert, Edwin, Helmer, Inga, Oscar, Malvin, Clarence, Selma and Hardean, all of whom are living. The Bjerke family are members of the Lutheran church and are warmly interested in all its good works, as well as in the welfare of the community at large. Mr. Bjerke has always given a good deal of time and attention to public affairs, served as chairman of the township board for some time, was also clerk of the school board in Hagen township, and in other ways had demonstrated his earnestness in the public interest.

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#### OLE S. BENTLEY.

Ole S. Bentley, one of the oldest farmers now active in Wild Rice township, Norman county, owner of two hundred acres of prime land, known as "Riverside Farm", first assessor of Fossum township and for several years having held an appointment as justice of the peace, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, born in that country on February 2, 1850, a son of Ole B. and Mary (Olsen) Olsen, both natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1858. They settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Ole B. Olsen bought a tract of government land, for which he paid one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and on that farm he lived for the remainder of his life. Ole and Mary Olsen were the parents of eight children.

Ole S. Bentley, at the age of eight years, accompanied his parents to America and went with them to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in the schools of which county he was educated and reared on his father's farm. He worked as a clerk in Decorah, that county, and in Worth county was a clerk and deputy postmaster in the town of Northwood. In the spring of 1879 he paid a visit to Norman county and looked it over for the purpose of selecting a place to settle on. In the fall of that same year he came to

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.

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#### 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.