

dren have been born, Selmar, Clifford, Cora, Alta and Ila. The Aamoths have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community. They are earnest members of the United Lutheran church.

E. N. BJERKE.

E. N. Bjerke, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer, now living in the pleasant village of Twin Valley, Norman county, is a native son of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of the United States since he was seven years old. He was born on October 1, 1856, a son of Nels and Chestin Bjerke, also Norwegians, who came to this country in 1863.

When Nels Bjerke arrived in this country he proceeded out to the state of Minnesota and settled near Spring Grove, Houston county, in which place he resided for three years engaged in farming. At the end of that period he moved to Fillmore county, this state, and located near Spring Valley, where he lived for ten years, following his occupation as a farmer. His next move was to Mower county, also in Minnesota, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. In all his movements from one to the other of these places, he carried out the journey with the assistance of an ox-team—a mode of conveyance practically unknown to the present generation. Nels Bjerke was a skilled farmer and conducted his agricultural operations with advantage and profit. To Mr. Bjerke and wife the following children were born: Helena, Johanah, Christina, Petro, Caroline, Clara, Lars, Nels and E. N., the subject of this sketch. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

E. N. Bjerke was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to this country and he was educated in the schools of Fillmore county, later helping his father in the labors of the farm. He moved with his parents to Mower county and in that county started farming on his own account, remaining thus engaged for three years. In 1882 he moved via ox-team to Hagen township, Clay county, and took one hundred and sixty acres of homestead land and immediately commenced to get it into a state of cultivation, continuing to operate the holding for fourteen years. He carried out many substantial improvements and had one of the best-kept and most profitable farms in the part of the township in which he lived. Mr. Bjerke then bought another place nearby, known as the old Dudray place, which also contained a quarter section of land, on which he lived as a general

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.

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