

James Materson in the hardware business at Hendrum, a partnership which continued until the spring of 1906, when Mr. Marsden bought his partner's interest in the business and has since been conducting the same alone, one of the leading merchants in the village. In addition to his general hardware business, Mr. Marsden carries a full line of agricultural implements and farm machinery and has done very well in his mercantile operations. Ever since locating at Hendrum Mr. Marsden has taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs and served for one year as recorder of the village and for three years as president of the village, giving to his official duties his most intelligent attention. In December, 1914, his wife, Mrs. Edith A. Marsden, who had been assistant principal of the Hendrum public schools, was commissioned postmistress of Hendrum, and the postoffice is now conducted in Mr. Marsden's store, a central point for the people of the village and surrounding country.

It was on June 20, 1912, that Henry Marsden was united in marriage to Edith A. McNee, of Spring Valley, Minnesota, and to this union two children have been born, Frederick John and Winston Craig. Mr. and Mrs. Marsden are members of the Presbyterian church and take a warm interest in church work, Mr. Marsden having served as a member of the board of trustees of the local congregation. They have a pleasant home at Hendrum and are helpful in promoting all movements designed to advance the common welfare of the community in which they live.

OTTO AUGUSTUS CHRISTIANSON.

One of the well-known farmers of Oakport township, Clay county, who is deserving of the success he has achieved is Otto Augustus Christianson. He was born in Clinton county, Iowa, on the site of the present city of Clinton, July 29, 1851, a son of Abraham and Catherine (Anderson) Christianson, both natives of Norway. In 1840 the mother went to France as a nurse, later returning to Norway, but in a short time started to America, single. On the same ship was Abraham Christianson. They made the long voyage to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were married by a German Lutheran minister, through an interpreter; and then came on north to Clinton, Iowa, having made the entire trip from Norway by water. This was in the year 1844. They took up a homestead of eighty acres in Iowa, which farm is now the site of the Sunny-

side Nurseries at Lyons, a suburb of Clinton. The place was cleared and improved by the father of the subject of this sketch and there he carried on farming until about 1855, when he removed to Houston county, Minnesota, where he pre-empted a large farm, on which he spent the rest of his life. The place is now known as the Bjornstad farm. After his death his widow remarried and located at Fulton, Illinois, across the Mississippi river from Clinton, Iowa, and there her death occurred. The father of the subject of this sketch was twice married before his marriage to Catherine Anderson. By his first marriage a daughter, Anna, was born. The following children were by his second marriage: Caroline, Katherine, Charles, who was a miner in Colorado and who served in the Civil War in a regiment from that state, and Matilda. By his third marriage two children were born, namely: Amy Josephine, who died in infancy, and Otto A., the subject of this sketch.

Otto A. Christianson grew up on the farm and received his early education in the early-day schools of Houston county, studying for a time in the Houston high school, and later was a student in the Caledonia Academy. As a boy and young man he worked out as a farm hand, also on steamboats on the Mississippi river and on railroads. In 1874 he came to Moorhead and presently took a position in a warehouse of the firm of Barnes & Tenny at Glyndon, and later worked in the store operated by this firm, remaining with the firm about nine months. During the following winter Mr. Christianson taught school in Moland township; in fact, taught two schools, alternately, at the same time. He then followed various occupations until the next winter, when he again taught school. He had clerked for a short time in the store of James Sharpe, who was one of the first merchants in Moorhead. In the spring of 1876 Mr. Christianson took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Oakport township and there he has since made his home, developing a fine farm from the wild prairie, being one of the early pioneers of that locality. Mr. Christianson has added to his original farm until he now has a farm of five hundred and forty acres, all well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He has erected a splendid group of buildings on his land and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Moorhead, which he helped organize.

In 1878 Otto A. Christianson was married to Mina K. Juve, a daughter of Ole Juve, a pioneer settler of Kragnes township, Clay county, who located there about 1877. To that union three children were born, Anna Josephine (deceased), Oscar A. and Milton (deceased). Mr. Christianson married for his second wife Andria Nelson, who was born in Denmark, a

daughter of Ebbe Nelson, who lived and died in Denmark. To this second union eight children were born, all living at this writing, and named as follows: Ruth, Mina, Daniel, who is a soldier in the Eighteenth Infantry, regular army of the United States, and at this writing (1917) is with the Pershing expeditionary force in France; Lillian, John, who is at this writing a member of the Third Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, and is stationed at Ft. Adams; Clara, Milton and Catherine.

Mr. Christianson has always been active in the affairs of Oakport township. He helped organize the township and was a member of the first township board; in fact, has been a member of the board most of the time since the township was first organized, being still on the same. He was formerly township assessor. He helped organize the first Sunday school, also the first church in his community, known as the Concordia Lutheran church, and later helped build the present edifice for this congregation.

GUSTAV O. LEE.

Gustav O. Lee, a well-known, prosperous and progressive farmer and stockman, owner of a fine farm in Moland township, Clay county, was born in Houston county, this state, on December 2, 1864, but has been a resident of this county since 1871. He is the son of Ole and Asger Lee, both natives of the kingdom of Norway.

Ole Lee was a farmer in Norway, where he was born in 1835. In 1854 he immigrated to the United States and on arriving in this country came on out to the state of Minnesota and settled in Houston county, where he engaged in the life of a farmer for some years. In 1871 he and his family moved into Clay county and homesteaded a tract of land. He immediately proceeded to put the land into a state fit for cultivation, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1873, two years after he had taken possession of the farm. His wife, Asger Lee, also was born in Norway, in 1841; came to America in 1853 and was married in 1863 in Houston county, this state. She is now living with her son, Gustav O., on his farm in Moland township. Ole Lee and wife were the parents of the following children: Gustav O., the first born, and Julia, Olaus and Andrew, who are deceased.

Gustav O. Lee was but a boy of nine years of age when his father died and as he was the eldest child of the family he had to commence early to assist his mother in the work of caring for and supporting the family,