

natives of that country. To this union the following children have been born: Christina, who grew to maturity and is now deceased; Peter, Bent, Martinus, Ole and Mary, and two others who died young. Mr. Pederson always has taken a good citizen's interest in the welfare of the community and was one of the organizers of the first church at Rindahl. He also assisted in promoting the organization of Bear Park township, and the first township meeting was held in his homestead shanty, the township being organized at that meeting. Mr. Pederson has in many other ways during his residence of thirty-six years in Norman county, giving evidence of his practical interest in community affairs.

SEVER CHRISTIANSON.

Sever Christianson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer, living in Bear Park township, Norman county, is a native son of Minnesota, born on his father's farm in Nicollet county, July 4, 1873, a son of Gunder and Elena (Evensrud) Gunderson, both natives of Norway.

Gunder Gunderson was educated in the schools of his native land and in 1866 he and the members of his family immigrated to the United States. Following his arrival in this country he proceeded immediately to Nicollet county, this state, and there he acquired a tract of forty acres of land, which he continued to operate for about seventeen years. In 1883 he moved to Norman county and about two years later he homesteaded the quarter section of land on which Sever Christianson now lives in Bear Park township, and here he engaged in general farming for the remainder of his life. He died on the homestead farm and his widow is still living with her son, the subject of this sketch, on the home place. Gunder Gunderson and wife were the parents of the following children: Tilla, Mollie, Gust, Jennie, Thea, Polly, Sever, Minnie (deceased), Josie, and William (deceased). Gunder Gunderson helped to organize the Norman Lutheran church, shortly after settling in the county, and also assisted in promoting the Bear Park Mercantile Company, and in other ways gave of his time to the advancement of the community welfare.

Sever Christianson was educated in the schools of Nicollet county and was reared on his father's farm, where he assisted in the work of improving and developing the home place. In 1883 he came with his parents to this county in an ox-drawn covered wagon, the trip to Norman county occupy-

ing three weeks. For the first hundred miles of the journey the family was alone, but later fell in with others on the same mission bent. Mr. Christianson has continued to reside on the homestead farm acquired by his father and is engaged in general farming and has been doing very well, being accounted one of the substantial farmers in his part of the township.

On June 18, 1907, Sever Christianson was united in marriage to Hansena Amundson, born in Norway, a daughter of Amund Amundson and wife, also natives of that country. To this union the following children have been born: Theresa, Selmer, Henry, Alvin and Alphina, all of whom are living. The family are members of the Norman Hauges Lutheran church, which Mr. Christianson's father helped to organize. Mr. Christianson is interested in the Bear Park Mercantile Company and takes a good citizen's interest in the civic welfare of his home community.

SVERRE J. LEE.

One of the well-known men of Norman county is Sverre J. Lee, a farmer of Bear Park township, former member of the state Legislature, a pioneer in the co-operative business enterprises of the township, member of the board of county commissioners and otherwise prominently connected with the educational and religious interests of the community. He was born in Norway, June 12, 1859, a son of Sivert and Thomine (Lee) Lee, both of whom were natives of Norway, came to America in 1867 and located first at Rushford, Fillmore county, this state, where they remained until 1882. In that year they came northward to Norman county and here made their home with their son, the subject of this sketch. The mother died in 1915 and the father is still living here at the advanced age of ninety-one years. They had five children, namely: Caroline, still a resident of Rushford, Fillmore county, who married Olaf Lee and is a widow; Baardine, whose death occurred in Norway when a child; Ingeborg Anna, who died in Norway in her childhood; Sverre J., the subject of this review, and Marie, living in Bear Park township, the widow of Albert Gartland.

Sverre J. Lee was only a child when he first set foot on American soil and he grew to manhood at Rushford, Minnesota, where he received a common-school education. In the spring of 1882, when he was twenty-three years of age, he drove through to Norman county with a party of settlers which included Peter Martinson, a blacksmith, who started a shop at Strand,