

Mathilde and Alletta Josephine, twins, June 20, 1882; Tina Helena, March 15, 1884; John Alfred, June 24, 1886, and Ellen Naomie, February 15, 1888. The Benson family are consistent and conscientious members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they have always taken a keen and active interest, Mr. Benson helping to organize the first church in Fossum township, the Wild Rice Lutheran church of which he was the first secretary.

Not only has Henry Benson been a thrifty, industrious and successful farmer, but he has been an invaluable agent in the organization and in the civil administration of the community in which he has lived. Fossum township, as it is today, is not the Fossum township of the early days, for it then included what are now the four townships in the southeast corner of Norman county. When the time came to organize the township with its present boundaries, Mr. Benson was one of the guiding spirits in the undertaking, and later his neighbors conferred upon him several local offices of trust, for he was made a member of the first township board as assessor, justice of the peace and township clerk, holding all three offices at once, and the last named office for thirty years. He was one of the organizers of Flom Fire Insurance Company and was treasurer of the same for twenty-two years. He has always held the educational progress of the community one of its precious assets, having helped to organize the eleventh school district of which he was made first school clerk, serving the community in that capacity for at least twenty years.

CLAUS ENGUM.

Claus Engum, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Skree township, Clay county, and a well-known and substantial farmer of that neighborhood, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country and of Minnesota since 1891. He was born on October 27, 1867, son of Ole and Gori (Groneng) Engum, also natives of Norway, farming people, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Peter, who is still living in Norway; Guttofrm, a resident of Faribault county, this state; John, also of Fairbault county; Ole, deceased; and Andres, Carrie, Sinva and Gori, who are still residing in their native land.

Reared on the home farm in Norway, Claus Engum received his schooling there and remained at home until 1891, when he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, locating in Faribault county, where he became engaged at farm labor, working in town during the winters, and where he remained until 1898, in which year he came up into this part of the state and in that same year bought a quarter of a section of land in Skree township, Clay county, and proceeded to improve and develop the same. When Mr. Engum came here he was unmarried and for three years after taking his place he made his home with a family living just south of his farm. He then married and established his home on his farm and has there resided ever since, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Engum has a good set of buildings on his place and has a fine grove, an attractive feature of the landscape. Since taking his original quarter section he has bought a "forty" cornering the same and now has an excellent farm of two hundred acres, on which he is engaged in general farming, doing very well.

Mr. Engum's wife also was born in Norway, Gertrude Dybevik, daughter of Marcus Hoveland and wife, and she came to this country alone not long before her marriage to Mr. Engum. To that union one child has been born, a daughter, Julia. Mr. and Mrs. Engum are members of the church at Grant and take a proper interest in church work and in the other good works of the neighborhood in which they live.

NORMAN H. STADUM.

Norman H. Stadum, cashier of the First State Bank of Glyndon, secretary and treasurer of the Glyndon Grain and Elevator Company, treasurer of the Buffalo River Stock Farm, auditor of the Glyndon Light and Power Company, treasurer of the Glyndon Co-operative Creamery Association, treasurer of the Glyndon Telephone Company, justice of the peace in and for Glyndon township, former secretary of the Clay county Republican Central committee and in other ways actively identified with the civic and commercial interests of this section of the Red River valley, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Clay county since he was five years of age. He was born at Farmington, in Dakota county, not far south of St. Paul, February 22, 1878, son of Hans A. and Isabelle (Gjefsen) Stadum, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to the