

Hubert. The Wendlandts are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home community.

THEODORE EVANSON.

In the case of Theodore Evanson, a farmer of Ulen township, Clay county, the opportunity to succeed may not have sought the man, but most certainly the man sought and took advantage of the opportunity and he has made good application of the gifts which nature has bestowed upon him.

Mr. Evanson was born in Decorah, Iowa, May 4, 1866. He is a son of John and Catherine (Anderson) Evanson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, but were not married until after they came to the United States. He came in 1850 and she preceded him by about one year, coming with her mother and stepfather, Iver Ringstad. Mr. Ringstad bought government land in Winneshiek county, Iowa, on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. The parents of the subject of this sketch located near Decorah, Iowa, where they were married, in 1851, being the first couple to marry in Winneshiek county, and were among the early pioneers there. They worked hard to get a start in the new country and eventually became very comfortably established. They owned one hundred and twenty acres for which they paid only one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. They subsequently bought and sold other farms in that county. Mr. Evanson made all the improvements on the homestead, erecting good buildings, his first house being of logs. Later a large frame dwelling was erected. When he married, Winneshiek county had not been organized and he was compelled to go a long distance to the county seat of Allamakee county, in order to procure the necessary license. Not knowing the customs in America very well he took his bride to the parson's residence and when asked for the license handed the preacher his first naturalization papers. So he had to leave his bride there and make a long journey to secure the proper license.

John Evanson took an active interest in the early affairs of Winneshiek county, which he helped organize, also assisted in organizing the township in which his land was located. He was thereafter incumbent of some township office, most of the time, until his death, the township being Madison. He was assessor of the same for a period of twenty-five years, also served as

treasurer for more than a quarter of a century; a part of the time he held both offices simultaneously. He gave a lot for the first cemetery and also for the first Evangelical Lutheran church in his community, and it was built on one corner of his farm. He and his wife spent the rest of their lives in that county, each reaching an advanced age.

To John Evanson and wife ten children were born, named as follows: Emelia, deceased; Nora; Eliza, deceased; Evan, deceased; Maria, Theodore, Lena, Edva, Anna, deceased, and Emma. They grew up on the home farm in Iowa and attended the district schools there.

Theodore Evanson grew to manhood on the home farm in Winneshick county, Iowa, and he received his education in the district schools there. He continued to work on his father's farm until he went to Ada, Minnesota, in 1885, east of which town he rented a farm one summer; then returned home for a year. He later went to Norman county, Minnesota, and located in Green Meadow township, where he bought a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he rented out most of the time and worked in the vicinity of Ulen, Clay county. He has made his home in Ulen township for a period of thirty years, or since 1887. During that time he has seen the township developed from a sparsely settled prairie to its present advanced position as a modern farming community. Upon coming here he bought a homestead right of one hundred and sixty acres, which he proved up on, but later sold out and in 1900 bought one hundred and twenty acres on which he has since resided. He made all the present excellent improvements on this land and has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Ulen, whose pronounced success has been due very largely to his efforts. He was formerly a director of this concern and in 1916 he became manager and vice-president, but later gave up the office of manager; he is still discharging the duties of vice-president.

Mr. Evanson was married in September, 1891, to Gena Mobeck, who was born in Norway, from which country she came to America when young. She is a daughter of Lars Mobeck and wife. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Evanson, all of whom live at home at this writing; they were named as follows: Leonard, Eliza and Mildred.

Mr. Evanson has long been active in public affairs. Politically, he is a Republican. He was first road boss; later served about seven years as township assessor and is now clerk of the township, which position he has held for eighteen years, or ever since the village of Ulen was separated from the township. He served as school clerk while living on his homestead farm

from 1892 to 1900, when he moved to his present farm. At that time he was made clerk in this school district, which office he has since held. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

OMER J. PLUMMER.

Omer J. Plummer, a substantial farmer and stockman of Humboldt township, owner of a half section of land in that township, is a native of the state of Illinois and has been a resident of Clay county for the past ten years. He was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, on January 20th, 1852, a son of Kaleb and Rebecca (Pittenger) Plummer, the former a native of the state of Maryland and the latter, of the state of Ohio, and whose last days were spent in Iowa.

Kaleb Plummer was born in Maryland in 1803 and was educated in the schools of that state. He followed the occupation of a farmer and thus continued in his native state for some years, later moving to Iowa, where he resumed his farming operations and spent the remainder of his life, his death taking place in 1894, at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. He was a good, practical farmer of the old school and trained his sons to lives of usefulness. In 1830 Kaleb Plummer was married to Rebecca Pittenger, who was born in Ohio in 1814. The marriage was performed in Ohio and Mrs. Plummer died in Iowa in 1888, having reached the age of seventy-four years. To Kaleb Plummer and wife the following children were born: John, Susan and Hiram (twins), Anna, Thomas, Joseph, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mary, Julia, Wayne, Omer J., Lydia, Belle and Catherine. Of the sons of this family, all are dead but Omer J., the subject of this sketch. Four of them volunteered for service on behalf of the Union during the Civil War, a family record to be justly proud of, and three of the four boys died while in the service.

Omer J. Plummer was educated in the public schools of Illinois and was reared on his father's farm. He accompanied his parents to Iowa and settled on the farm, where he continued to work, a valuable assistant in the development of the home place. He came to Clay county in 1907 and rented a farm in Eglon township, which place he worked for two years. The next year he rented a farm near Hawley and in 1910 he bought the farm which he now occupies, consisting of a half section of prime land, located in section 10, Humboldt township, and on this tract he is engaged in general farming and in the raising of a choice strain of Hereford cattle and is doing very well.