

he then went to Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa, for a short time, after which he went to Colorado, where he spent a year and a half, then came back to Minnesota. Six months later he went to North Dakota again, but after selling his homestead there he returned to Clay county, Minnesota, and bought two hundred and forty acres in Skree township. A year later, in 1908, he married Betsy Julia Hanson, who was born in Skree township, a daughter of Kittle Hanson and wife.

The subject of this sketch has continued to reside on his farm in Skree township, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. He has eighty acres of the one hundred and twenty of railroad land which he first bought in Eglon township, having sold forty acres to his father. He has kept the land well improved and well cultivated and has one of the choice farms of the township. He believes in modern improvements and modern methods of agriculture. He has a fine, large grove, which was planted in the early days by Peter Wilson, the first owner of the land. He has experienced many "ups and downs," especially as a homesteader in North Dakota, but by persevering and bearing his vicissitudes courageously, he has become well established and is in comfortable circumstances.

To Ole N. Bjordahl and wife two children have been born, namely: Tilda Bertina and Clifford Norman. Mr. Bjordahl is a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### PETER O. FISKUM.

Peter O. Fiskum, a farmer of Tansem township, Clay county, was born in Norway, October 9, 1836. He is a son of Ole Olson and Bertha Maria (Svensdatter) Fiskum, both natives of Norway, where they spent their lives on a farm. They were parents of five children, three of whom, Hannah, Iver and Ole Olson, remained in Norway, and Marin and Peter O., twins. Marin came to America in 1866 and located in Iowa, where she married Ole H. Larson, and there she spent the rest of her life, dying some time ago.

Peter O. Fiskum spent his boyhood in Norway, where he attended school. He came to America in 1858, locating first in Houston county, Minnesota, where he went to school one month. He worked on a farm there. After spending one winter in that county he went to Mononie, Dunn county, Wisconsin, where he worked in a saw-mill and there he worked until in April, 1861, when he enlisted in Company K, Fifth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was sent South and saw considerable service, but

was taken sick before Richmond, Virginia. He spent some time in the government hospital at Philadelphia and when released was discharged from the service on account of disability. After his experience as a soldier he went back to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota, later to Fillmore county, this state, where he resided until 1871, when he removed to Clay county, bringing his wife and child in a prairie schooner, drawn by an ox-team, the trip requiring a month. He located on his present farm in Tansem township, taking up a homestead, one-fourth of section 12. He began life here in typical pioneer fashion, broke the wild prairie sod with his oxen, put up a group of buildings and planted crops. After living on the place eight years he bought one hundred acres of railroad land, on which he has erected his present home, barn and other excellent buildings, which land adjoins his original homestead. He has brought it all up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He is one of the best-known residents of his township, having lived here since the early pioneer days, or during a period of forty-five years, during which time he has lived to see the country develop from the wild plains to one of the foremost farming sections in the state. He helped organize Tansem township and was the first clerk of the township. Later he served as justice of the peace and as assessor several years, and also served as county commissioner for eight years. As a public servant he gave entire satisfaction to all concerned, being prompt, able, painstaking and courteous. He has always taken an abiding interest in the affairs of his township and has helped promote its welfare along general lines from the first. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Pelican Rapids. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the substantial men of his community.

In 1869, in Fillmore county, this state, Mr. Fiskum was married to Sophia Bertilson, who was born in Norway, from which country she came to America with her parents when young, the family locating in Fillmore county, Minnesota. Her parents were Berthel and Ragnal Thorson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married, immigrating to the United States in 1860 and establishing their home in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they resided until 1876, when they removed to Otter Tail county, spending the rest of their lives there. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fiskum: Betsie M., Ole B., Sven R., Peter A., Olive, Magnus, Petra, Otto, Georgia and Adolph, all of whom are living.

Politically, Mr. Fiskum is a Republican. He has never been a seeker for political offices. He helped organize the Grong Lutheran church. Mr.

Fiskum recalls many interesting reminiscences of the early days in this locality. The first time he took wheat to mill to have ground into flour, he was compelled to go to Alexandria, making the long journey in a wagon drawn by oxen, the time required being eight days.

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### HANS RASMUSSEN.

A pioneer of Norman county, where he owns a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres on which he carries on an advanced type of diversified farming, is Hans Rasmussen, born in the kingdom of Norway on December 5, 1852, the son of Martin and Helena (Halvorson) Rasmussen. His parents were both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity and married. Since several of their children had cast their lot with the agricultural interests of the New World, they, too, in 1877, came to America and located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, where they lived with their son, Matt. In the spring of 1882 this son brought his father and mother to Norman county, Minnesota, where they lived for a time with their son, Simon. Later, however, they made their home with the son who was mentioned above, and with him they remained the rest of their lives. Martin and Helena Rasmussen were the parents of five children, Hans, the subject of this review being the second in order of birth; the others are: Matt, now living in Anthony township, Norman county; Amund, living near Bemidji, Minnesota; Simon, of Norman county, and John, who is also a resident of Norman county.

When he was only seventeen years of age, after having received his common-school education in the land of his nativity, Hans Rasmussen, with no capital save rugged health and an indomitable spirit for making good in a new country, came to America and first located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, to which his brother, Matt, had preceded him. There he remained for twelve years, accustoming himself to the institutions and the ways of doing things in the New World, by working out for seven or eight years and farming the rest of the period. Finally, after he had accumulated sufficient resources to permit his acquiring a holding of his own, he came to Minnesota, in 1881, and bought two hundred and forty acres of land not far from Halstad in Anthony township, Norman county. Dominated by the desire to make the best of his farm, he immediately set about improving it, and now it is one of the best improved farming plants in all