

In 1869, accompanied by his brother Andrew, he immigrated to this country, first settling in Goodhue county, this state, and remained in that part for about twelve years, engaged at farm work. In 1881 he moved to Norman county and homesteaded a quarter section of land, which he immediately proceeded to get into a state of cultivation, his labors in that direction being very successful from the beginning of his farming operations. He put up all the buildings on the place and carried out many valuable improvements and as he prospered in his undertaking he added to his land holdings, until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of prime land; at the time of his death in 1915 being regarded as one of the most successful general farmers in that part of the county.

On June 7, 1882, in Norman county, John Hovland was united in marriage to Lena Johnson Hovland, a native of Norway and a daughter of John and Sönöv (Ronning) Hovland, also natives of Norway, in which country John Hovland died. His widow came to this country some time later and has since been living with her daughter, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of three children, Lena, who lives on her late husband's farm; Randine, living at Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Olea, deceased. To John and Lena Hovland the following children were born: Amund, a farmer of Bear Park township; Sven, farming the old home place, and Ida, who married John Hogensen, of Garfield township, Polk county.

The late John Hovland was an active member of the church at Rindahl, which he helped to organize, and of which he had ever been a liberal supporter. He also helped in the organization of the Rindahl Mercantile Company and of the Rindahl Creamery, always filling the part of a good citizen and neighbor. His death on August 7, 1915, was the occasion of very general regret throughout the community in which he had spent so many years of his life.

JOHN O. FLAKNE.

John O. Flakne, the owner and operator of two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land in Bear Park township, Norman county, and the owner of five additional acres of valuable timberland in Fossum township, same county, active in the educational and religious interests of the community in which he has always lived since he came to these parts, and otherwise known as a public-spirited citizen and good neighbor, was born in Nor-

way, July 2, 1855, a son of Ole T. and Guri (Knutson) Flakne, both of whom were natives of Norway and continued to live there until they immigrated to America. It was some eight years after their son, the subject of this sketch, came to America that the father and mother landed on American soil about 1890. They came on out to Polk county, Minnesota, where the father took a homestead almost in the outskirts of the city of Beltrami. After the death of the father at the home of the son, Knut, in the city of Beltrami, his widow removed to Minneapolis, where her death occurred. They had five children, as follow: Torkel, who died at the age of eighteen years in Norway; Marit, whose death occurred in Polk county, Minnesota, in 1917; John O., the subject of this review; Knut, now residing at Holt, Minnesota, and one other who died in infancy.

John O. Flakne was reared to manhood in Norway, where he married in 1881. In the following year he immigrated to America and landed at Philadelphia on June 1 of that year. From there he came on out to Salem, Minnesota, where he remained for about two weeks, and from thence he went to Minneapolis. Feeling that his future in this new country lay in the soil, he spent a part of his first summer in working on a farm in Hennepin county, this state, and on the coming of the following spring, he went to Fisher, Minnesota, where he began working for J. B. Meril on the farm. He remained in the latter's employ for the five following summers, but as he passed through Norman county on his way to take up his work on the farm of Mr. Meril, in 1883, he took a pre-emption claim of eighty acres where he now lives. He erected the necessary buildings on his holding and left his wife on the place while he went on to the Meril farm. Since 1888, Mr. Flakne has given his whole attention to his own farm where he has continued to live. He has now two hundred and forty acres in the home place and five acres of timber in Fossum township, this county. Here he has erected all the buildings, which comprise his excellent farm plant. He now carries on general farming, and is very successful in his operations.

A short time before he left Norway, Mr. Flakne was united in marriage to Jensena Petrena Johanson, who was born at Tjøttö, Norway, September 15, 1858, a daughter of Johan and Karen (Larson) Raffelson, and to this union ten children have been born, as follow: Ole J., living in Montana; Conrad, who died in Montana; Harkimer, whose death occurred in 1910; Theodore, residing in Montana; Ida, the wife of Emil Lukau; George, living in Montana; Martin, deceased; Martin, at home; Alfred and Clara, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Flakne are active in the church work of the community, the former having helped to organize two Norwegian Lutheran churches

of the county: the first church in Bear Park township at Rindahl and the Synod church. They are also otherwise active in the good works of the community.

Mr. Flakne displays a keen interest in the educational and business progress of the community in which he has resided since he came to Norman county. For nine years he was school treasurer. His school district has two school houses: one on the south side of the river and the other on the north, and it was largely due to his efforts that the one on the south side was established. He helped to organize the Farmers Elevator at Gary and has shares in the co-operative stores at Bear Park and Rindahl.

JOHN HEDIN.

One of the well-known and prosperous Swedish farmers of Wild Rice township, Norman county, is John Hedin, the owner and proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and ten acres near Twin Valley. He was born in Sweden on May 25, 1864, the son of John and Gustava (Hendrickson) Orenson, both of whom were natives also of the kingdom of Sweden.

John Hedin was one of ten children born to his parents, the others being as follow: Clara, who is still living in Sweden; Mary Eliza, a resident of Rosa county, Minnesota; Andrew, who died in Sweden when young; Lotta, living at Upham, North Dakota; Andrew, of Bantry, North Dakota; Wilhelm, also a resident of Bantry; Alma, living in Alberta, Canada; Gust, who died young in Sweden, and Emil, a farmer, of Alberta, Canada. The parents of these children came to America in 1893 to make their home with their children, most of whom had preceded them to this country. The father died in North Dakota, while the mother is still living in that state with one of her children, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Lutheran church, and active and interested in the affairs of that denomination.

John Hedin received his education in the schools of his native land, and in 1883 came to America, locating first at Lake Park, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm hand for a period of two years, then for the next four years he worked at various occupations in different parts of the Northwest. In 1889 he started to farm for himself by renting land in Case county, North Dakota, where he lived for four years, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wild Rice township, this county, and has since made this place his home,