

On June 8, 1894, Mr. Levenson was married to Julia Knutson, who was born in Iowa, where she grew to womanhood and was educated in the common schools. She is a daughter of Elling Knutson, a native of Norway, from which country he came to America when young. He has devoted his active life to general farming in Iowa, where he owns a good farm, but is now living in retirement. To Mr. and Mrs. Levenson seven children have been born, namely: Adolph, Ida and Ruth (twins), Earling, Myrtle, Alva and Cora (deceased). Mr. Levenson is a member of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican.

JOHN FORD.

When Clay county was covered with prairie grass and wild animals roamed the virgin plains over which wound Indian trails, John Ford came here from far-away England and assumed the life of a pioneer, voluntarily forsaking the advantages of civilization in its highest forms for the hardships and privations of life on the Western frontier. He assisted in establishing schools and churches and in introducing the general customs of modern life.

Mr. Ford was born in Wiltshire, England, June 26, 1847, a son of William and Jane (Smart) Ford, both natives of England, where they grew up, married and established their home. The father was a baker by trade and was also engaged in the grocery business. He and his wife both spent all their lives in England. They were the parents of eight children, namely: James, deceased; Anna, who was next in order of birth; Thomas, who is a member of the Yeomanry, a military organization in England; John, William, Elizabeth, Sidney and Emily.

John Ford grew to manhood in England and there attended school and was married. He came with the first English colony to settle in this part of the Red River country, arriving at Hawley on April 17, 1873. In the following May, or about a month after his arrival, he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Cromwell township. He had the foresight and judgment to select good land in a community that was bound to prosper in future years, and he has remained on his first purchase to the present time, or during a period of forty-five years. He worked earnestly and managed well and in due course of time he had his land under a fine state of cultivation and a comfortable home established. Today there are

few better or more highly improved farms in his locality. He has a large, substantial dwelling and numerous convenient farm buildings. Mr. Ford planted a grove in the early days here, which is now large and inviting, a most valuable addition to his farm and a distinctive feature of the landscapes thereabout. He later added one hundred and sixty acres to his original farm, making one of the best three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farms in the township. He raises a large quantity of grain and big herds of livestock, especially sheep. He has been a breeder of Shropshire sheep for the past thirty years. He also raises Berkshire hogs and Red Polled cattle. Mr. Ford is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Hawley, which he helped organize.

On August 29, 1867, Mr. Ford married Mary A. Parsons, who also was born in Wiltshire, England, a daughter of Nehemiah Parsons, a carpenter by trade, who spent his entire life in England. There Mrs. Ford grew to womanhood and attended school. Mr. and Mrs. Ford have one child, a son, Sidney, who lives on the home farm, which he helps operate. Politically, Mr. Ford is independent. He helped organize Cromwell township and was the first township assessor. He has also served as supervisor and as treasurer of the township, and has been a member of the local school board ever since the school district was organized, with the exception of one year when he was out of the county. When the district was first organized it embraced the entire eastern half of the township, known as district No. 44, which he helped to organize. When it was subdivided he helped to organize district No. 104.

JOHN P. NYGAARD.

John P. Nygaard, former president of the village of Halstad, manager of the Halstad Auto Company and of the electric-light plant in that village, a former deputy Indian agent and former grand chief templar of the Independent Order of Good Templars for Minnesota, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county since he was about seven years of age. He was born near the city of Trondhjem, a seaport town of Norway, at the mouth of the Nid, May 7, 1874, son of P. J. and Jonette (Moen) Nygaard, both natives of that country, the former of whom is now living at Halstad, an honored pioneer resident of Norman county.

P. J. Nygaard was trained as a carpenter in his native land. He mar-