

JENS FOSS.

Jens Foss, a well-known and enterprising merchant of Shelly, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was nineteen years of age. He was born in the city of Drammen, a seaport town of Norway, July 2, 1874, son of Erick J. and Berthine (Anderson) Fossen, natives of that same country, the former of whom was a carpenter, who spent all his life in his native land. Erick J. Fossen and wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Caroline, Andrew, Bernhardt and Anna.

Reared at Drammen, Jens Foss received his schooling in the schools of that city and remained there until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1893, he came to the United States and located at Portland, over in Traill county, North Dakota, where he secured employment and where he presently entered Bruflat Academy, perfecting there his somewhat limited knowledge of English. After a while he engaged in the mercantile business at Portland, as a partner in a general store, and after two years, in 1902, came over into Minnesota and started a general store at Shelly, in partnership with Carl Horte, also of Portland. In 1912 Mr. Horte sold his interest in the store to Foss Anderson and the latter and Mr. Foss have since been engaged in partnership and have built up an excellent commercial establishment, having a flourishing trade. Mr. Foss also owns a quarter of a section of land in Polk county and gives to his farming operations there considerable attention. He is an energetic, capable business man and is widely known in business circles hereabout.

In 1907 Jens Foss was united in marriage to Josephine Flesjer, who was born on a pioneer farm in the vicinity of Shelly, daughter of B. A. Flesjer and wife, pioneers of Norman county, the former of whom is still living, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Foss at Shelly. B. A. Flesjer was born at Stavanger, Norway, May 15, 1850, and when twenty years of age, in 1870, came to the United States and located in Fillmore county, this state. There, in 1872, he married Olava Olson Holte and in that same year he and his wife came up into the Red River valley and settled in Shelly township, Norman county, where they established their home and where Mrs. Flesjer died in 1910. Mr. Flesjer was one of the organizers of the Augustana (Lutheran) church in that neighborhood and he and his wife took much interest in church work. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Foss was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Emelia,

Bernhardt, Albert, Orlando, Palmer, Melissa and Manley. In 1915 Mr. Flesjer retired from the farm and moved to Shelly, where he since has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Foss.

To Jens and Josephine (Flesjer) Foss two children have been born, Frances and Orpha. Mr. and Mrs. Foss are members of the United Lutheran church at Shelly and Mr. Foss has been a member of the board of trustees of that congregation ever since it was organized. He is a member of the local society of the Sons of Norway and of the local lodge of the Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these organizations takes an active interest.

IVER KLOKSETH.

Among the native-born Norwegians who have come to America and engaged in general farming, is Iver Klokseth, a well-known and progressive farmer, former clerk of the district school board, and owner of a fine farm in Moland township, Clay county. He was born on October 30, 1868, in the kingdom of Norway, a son of Knut and Malena (Wold) Klokseth, also born in that same country, but who came to this country about thirty-nine years ago.

Knut Klokseth, who followed the occupation of a farmer in his native land, was born on October 17, 1825. He married in Norway to Malena Wold and about the year 1878 decided to try his fortune in the land of opportunities at this side of the Atlantic. On his arrival in this country he came on out to Minnesota, where so many of his countrymen had already settled on farms, and located in Clay county. He became the owner of one hundred and fifty acres of prime land, on which he farmed for the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 29, 1892. His farm, which was located in section 4, Moland township, was sold about fifteen years ago and the widow is now making her home with her son, Iver. Knut Klokseth was an industrious and capable farmer, a good citizen in every respect, a kind and indulgent husband and father, and his death was generally regretted throughout the community.

Iver Klokseth, at the age of about ten years, accompanied his parents to America and lived on his father's farm in Moland township. Before coming to this country he had been attending school in Norway and continued his schooling in the township schools of Clay county. In his boyhood and