

and remained there until 1876, in which year he rejoined his brother Peter at Moorhead and opened an office for the practice of his profession in that city, continuing actively engaged in practice until his retirement. Upon coming up here in 1876 Doctor Wilson homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Oakport township, Clay county, at the same time taking a tree claim to an adjoining quarter section. He later added to his land holdings and at one time was the owner of no less than a thousand acres of land, all of which, however, he has closed out and is not now a landowner. Doctor Wilson is quite comfortably situated at Moorhead. Though now past eighty-three years of age, he retains much of his former physical vigor and continues to take a hearty interest in current affairs. As one of the pioneers of Clay county, the Doctor has seen the development of this region from its primitive state to its present state of substantial development. His memory of the early days hereabout is clear and distinct and he has long been regarded as one of the ablest and most accurate authorities on the history of this section of the famed Red River valley.

Some time after locating at Moorhead Doctor Wilson married Ida Broberg, who died at the age of forty years. The Doctor has no children.

STEN HANSON.

It is scarcely probable that in the future of the American republic another such period can occur when such a solid phalanx of strong-armed men and self-sacrificing women will take possession of a new country, displaying the courage and perseverance of the pioneer element that invaded the plains of Minnesota some four or five decades ago. One of this number is Sten Hanson, a venerable farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county.

Mr. Hanson was born in Sweden, February 7, 1838, and is, therefore, now in his seventy-eighth year. He is a son of Hans and Sigrid (Pehrsdatter) Stenson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up and married and where the father's death occurred, after which the widow brought her children to America in 1868. After spending two years in Winneshiek county, Iowa, they all came to Clay county, Minnesota, driving an ox-team to a covered wagon, in 1870, the trip requiring over a month in the early summer of that year. The family located in Highland Grove township. The country was but a wild prairie and had not yet been surveyed. The

family located in what is now section 11, where the subject of this sketch now lives, having resided here ever since, a period of forty-seven years, and he is, therefore, one of the oldest pioneers in the county. Here his mother died in 1884. She had five children, namely: Gertrude and Anna, twins, the former of whom is deceased; Sten, the subject of this sketch, and Peder and Hans. This family helped start the first church in Clay county, which was a Norwegian church, and later helped organize the Swedish Grove Lutheran church, which is near the old homestead and to which the family still belong.

Sten Hanson was thirty years old when he came to America. He has devoted his active life successfully to farming and has accumulated two hundred and sixty acres, only eighty acres of which is a part of the original homestead, buying the rest as railroad land. He has erected an excellent group of farm buildings and early set out a magnificent grove. Being advanced in years he has not engaged actively in farming for many years.

On June 24, 1866, in Sweden, Mr. Hanson was married to Ringnel Swenson, who was born and reared in Sweden. To this marriage ten children were born, all in America but one—the eldest. They were named as follows: Hans S., Sven S., Severt (deceased), Caroline, Anna (deceased), Christine (deceased), Lewis, who is living, and Olaf, Severt and Sven, deceased.

Sten Hanson helped organize Highland Grove township and later held township offices. He also assisted in organizing his school district and was treasurer of the same for many years. Politically, he is independent. He has always been regarded as an industrious and useful citizen.

Anton Johnson, son-in-law of the subject of this sketch, was born in Sweden, December 6, 1872. He is a son of Johan and Johannah (Samuelson) Johanson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and established their permanent home and where the mother is still living, the father dying there some time ago. They were parents of six children, all living at this writing. Anton Johnson grew to manhood in Sweden and there attended the common schools. When twenty years old, in 1892, he came to the United States, stopping in Chicago, Illinois, a month; then spent a year and a half at Escanaba, Delta county, Michigan. He then came to Clay county, Minnesota, where he has since made his home. Here he was married on June 29, 1901, to Caroline Hanson, a daughter of Sten Hanson, the immediate subject of this sketch. She was born in Clay county, Minnesota, where she grew to womanhood, and was educated in the public

schools. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, namely: Salley, Adolph, Carl, Grace, Henry and Morris.

Mr. Johnson has followed general farming ever since coming to Clay county and is now successfully operating the farm of his father-in-law. Politically, he is independent. He was township supervisor and clerk of the local school board for a period of ten years and discharged his duties in both positions in a highly acceptable manner.

SAAVI T. SNARTLAND.

Saavi T. Snartland is one of the many native-born Norwegians who have come to the United States and to this part of Minnesota and become successful farmers. He was born in Norway on January 22, 1871, a son of Torkel and Gro (Salveson) Snartland, both also natives of Norway and who came to America in 1880 and settled on a farm in Clay county.

Torkel Snartland was born in Norway in 1837, and was educated in the schools of that country. He engaged in the life of a farmer in his native land and at the age of forty-three years he and his family immigrated to this country and came on out to Minnesota and settled in Clay county. Here he resumed his farming operations and about the year 1897, was in a position to purchase land for himself. He is still living on the farm which he then bought and which is located in section 5, Moland township, Clay county. Some years before leaving Norway, Torkel Snartland was united in marriage to Gro Salveson, who was also born in Norway in 1847, and who met a tragic death in 1900, being killed by lightning on her husband's farm. Torkel Snartland and wife were the parents of the following children: Saavi T., owner of a half section of land; Olaf, a general farmer; Mary, now a widow; Gonel, married, and Willa, married. Mrs. Snartland's brother, Halver Salveson, was one of the first settlers in this part of Minnesota.

Saavi Snartland received part of his education in Norway. He came with his parents to this country in 1880 and lived on his father's farm. From boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place. He is now engaged in farming for himself and is the owner of a half section of prime land, on which he is engaged in general farming and has done very well, being regarded as one of the substantial agriculturists of Moland township.