

community affairs, his death in 1916 being regarded as a distinct loss throughout the township. Albert J. Hamre and wife were the parents of six children as follow: Carrie, deceased; Ed; John; Mary, deceased; Andrew, deceased, and Andrew, the subject of this sketch.

Andrew Hamre was educated in the public schools of Fertile, Norman county, and was reared on his father's place where he assisted in the labors of the farm. When he started for himself he began farming in Liberty township, Polk county, later moving to Spring Creek township in 1911 and has since lived in that place, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of choice land, on which he carries on general farming, from the commencement of his operations having done very well.

On August 1, 1909, Andrew Hamre was united in marriage to Martha Knutson, born in Norway, a daughter of Knut Knutson and wife, and to this union six children have been born as follow: Signe, Arthur, Clifford, Bertha, Bennie and Mabel, all of whom are living. Mr. Hamre and the members of his family are affiliated with the Lutheran church at Fertile and earnestly interested in all its good works.

PETER HASSEL.

Peter Hassel, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Bear Lake township, Norman county, is one of the real pioneers and old settlers of that county, having been a resident of this part of the Red River valley since the spring of 1872. He was a homesteader in Lake Ida township, which township he helped to organize, and was a resident there for seven or eight years before he bought his present place in Bear Lake township. Consequently he has been a witness to and a participant in the development of Norman county since the very beginning of organized settlement there, having been a continuous resident of this region from the time of his settlement nine years before Norman county was formally organized as a civic unit among the counties of the state. He helped to organize the first school district within the confines of what is now Lake Ida township and donated for school purposes a corner of his homestead tract there, the lot on which the school house in that district still stands. When later he moved to Bear Park township he also helped to organize his school district there and has ever been a warm friend of schools and all movements designed to advance the common good hereabout.

Mr. Hassel may literally be regarded as a child of the waves, for he was born on board the ship which was bearing his parents from their home in Sweden to the shores of America, in October of the year 1853. His parents were Peter and Margaret Hassel, both of whom were born in Sweden and who left their native land in 1853 and sailed for the United States with the determination to make their home in this country. Upon their arrival here they located in the city of Chicago and there they remained for three years, at the end of which time they came to Minnesota and settled in Chisago county, later moving to Isanti county, where the elder Peter Hassel entered a homestead claim to a quarter of a section of land in the vicinity of Cambridge and established his home. He was living there when the Civil War broke out and in the closing year of that struggle enlisted in behalf of the cause of the Union and in June of that year went to the front to help fight the battles of his adopted country. Not long afterward he was taken ill and his death occurred before Christmas of that year, he then being still in the service of the Union. His widow some time later married John Mattson and with him, in the spring of 1872, came over into the valley of the Red river to help establish a home in what then was regarded as new country, there having then been very little white settlement effected here. The Mattsons pre-empted a claim to a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Lake Ida township, Norman county, and there established their home. On that original tract their son, John Ludbeck, is now making his home. By her marriage to Peter Hassel Mrs. Mattson was the mother of seven children, only two of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch and his sister Lizzie, who married Martin Everson and died about twenty years ago.

When his mother and his stepfather came over into the Red River country in 1872 the younger Peter Hassel was but eighteen years of age. He at once entered into the spirit of pioneering and was a valuable aid in the labors of developing and improving the tract on which the family had settled in the wilds of what later came to be organized as Lake Ida township. In 1875 he entered a homestead claim to a quarter of a section of land in section 24 of Lake Ida township and lived on the same for seven or eight years. Ninety acres of that tract were under cultivation when he sold it. He then bought a quarter of a section of railroad land in Bear Park township, moved his family onto the same, he having meantime married, and has ever since made this latter place his home, one of the real pioneers of that section of the county. Mr. Hassel cleared and broke

his land and gradually created there a fine farm plant, his place being now well improved and profitably cultivated and his family very comfortably situated.

In 1881 Peter Hassel was united in marriage to Carrie Ellingson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Knut Ellingson, and to this union have been born five children, Albert, Edwin, Carl, Edion and Mabel, all of whom are living save Carl, who died in his youth. The Hassels have a pleasant home and have ever taken an active interest in local community affairs. Mr. Hassel's early activities in civic affairs are noted above. He took a useful part in the organization of two of the townships of Norman county, helped to organize two school districts and donated land for school purposes in one of these districts. In other ways also he has played the part of a good citizen and as one of the real pioneers of the county he is fully entitled to the respect and consideration paid him by the community of which he has been a part ever since the beginning of a social order here.

AUGUST G. NELSON.

It is a pleasure to anyone, whether farmer or not, to look over a well-improved and finely kept farm like that of August G. Nelson of Oak Port township, Clay county. He is a man who believes in keeping abreast of the times, in adopting, so far as practicable, the most approved twentieth-century methods in general farming.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sweden, March 20, 1869, a son of Olaf and Elsie Nelson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and established their home, but immigrated to America about 1880, coming directly to Moorhead, Minnesota, where they spent the rest of their lives, dying there a number of years ago. Olaf Nelson followed civil engineering in Sweden, and was highly accomplished in his line. He lived practically retired after coming to America. His family consisted of five children, namely: August G. of this sketch; Christina lives in Australia; Axel, Gertrude and Henrietta.

August G. Nelson spent his boyhood in Sweden, where he was educated. He was about twenty-one years old when he came to the United States with the rest of the family. He attended school a while in Moorhead. As a young man he worked at various things in different places. He saved his