

interesting recollections of the early days of the settlement of the country in which she and her husband became homesteaders and there are few persons thereabout who have a more accurate fund of information regarding those days than she.

TORGER HAVELSON.

Torger Havelson, a native son of old Norway, who established himself of the fertile soil of Waukon township, Norman county, and is now the owner of one hundred and seventy acres of land, all of which is in a high state of cultivation except a ten-acre tract of timber, was born in Søndre-land, Norway, 1840, a son of Havel and Martha Havelson, who were both natives of Norway, where they spent their entire lives, the father a farmer and blacksmith there. The father and mother were the parents of six children, namely: Hans and Marin, both deceased; Christina and Helena, living; Marthia, deceased, and Torger, the youngest and the subject of this this review.

Torger Havelson received his only formal education in the public schools of Norway, but he acquired habits of industry and perseverance while helping the family in their common effort to cultivate the old farm. He was approaching the prime of his life when he decided to immigrate to America, the land of opportunity, and establish here his home among several of his friends and acquaintances who were here comfortably situated on the cheap and fertile land of the Northwest. He arrived on American soil in 1867 and he first located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where, in order to acquire the necessary capital for setting up a farm plant, he worked as a farm hand and as a mason and plasterer, which trades he learned while he was a resident there. For nine years he remained in Winneshiek county and at the end of that period he came to Norman county, Minnesota, in 1878, where in the same year he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, the southeast quarter of section 22, Waukon township, and here he has since made his home, improving his holding. When he took his homestead, the land was raw prairie and he had no little difficulty in bringing it under cultivation, however, he finally succeeded and is now reaping the fruits of his labors by wresting the pent-up treasures from the docile soil which was formerly stubborn prairie sod. Here he has made all improvements, which include a comfortable farm home, substantial farm buildings and a beautiful grove. Some years ago, he purchased an additional tract, ten acres of valu-

able timber land. Here on his farm he carries on a general type of diversified farming and is quite successful in his operations.

Two years after Mr. Havelson homesteaded his farm, he was married to Marie Garden in March, 1880. She was born in Norway, a daughter of Lars and Regina Garden, and to this union two children have been born, sons, Lewis and Martin, both of whom are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Havelson are both active and influential members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, the former having helped to organize the first church society in this part of the county, the St. Peter Lutheran church of Strand township, to which they both yet belong. The co-operative business interests of the community have been the objects of a considerable part of Mr. Havelson's time and effort, for he helped to organize the creamery at Waukon and also the Waukon Mercantile Company. In politics, he is a Republican, but he has never gone in very seriously for public office. He has been deeply interested in local educational progress for many years, and has been for quite a while treasurer of the school district.

OLE L. NORBY.

Ole L. Norby, proprietor of a well-improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Strand township, Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since the year 1882, having come here from his native land the year following his marriage there. He was born on March 4, 1855, son of Lars and Maria (Olson) Knutson, also natives of Norway, who spent all their lives there and who were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Knut, Martin, Lizzie, Gunil and Andrew, all of whom are still living in their native land, engaged there in farming, which was the vocation of their father.

In 1881 Ole L. Norby was married in Norway and in the next year he and his wife came to this country and proceeded on out to Minnesota and settled in Norman county, where they ever since have made their home and where they have prospered, being now in possession of a fine farm covering one-half section in Strand township, which has been improved until it is regarded as one of the best-kept farms in that neighborhood. Upon coming into possession of that place Mr. Norby planted trees and erected a substantial set of farm buildings and has otherwise brought the place up to the top notch of agricultural effectiveness. In addition to his general farming