

believed that he is dead, and Robin, who lives with Mrs. Olena Kragnes, his sister.

Edwin O. Studlien grew up on the home farm in Houston county and there attended the district schools. He has devoted his life to general farming and has lived on his present farm in section 25, Kragnes township, since 1876, buying the place from his father in the year 1899. He has kept it well improved, replacing all the old buildings with new ones. He first bought a half section, later one hundred and fifty acres in section 26, and later a quarter section in section 13, which he later sold. He now owns five hundred and forty acres, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, ranking among the leading farmers of his township.

Mr. Studlien was married in 1889 to Engeborg Roholt, who was born in 1865 in Norway, where she grew up and attended school. She came to America in the fall of 1885, making the trip to Minnesota alone, to join her two brothers who had come here from Norway several years previously and had settled in Clay county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Studlien, namely: Olaf, Eugene, Elida, Anna and Edwin, all of whom are living.

Mr. Studlien is now a member of the board of township supervisors and is also clerk of school district No. 101, having held this latter position since the district was organized in 1901. He has been a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge for twenty years, or since 1897. His family are Lutherans. He is one of the well-known and influential men in public affairs in Kragnes township.

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#### BENDT O. HITTERDAL.

There is no better farmer in Goose Prairie township, Clay county, than Bendt O. Hitterdal, who was born in Norway, November 30, 1855. He is a son of Ole and Bertha (Hertse) Hitterdal, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and made their home until 1869. In that year they immigrated to America and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they spent two years, then came to Clay county, Minnesota, driving an ox-team to a prairie-schooner overland, in 1871, and thus were among the early pioneers of this county. The trip from Iowa took about one month. The father at once took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, lying

less than a mile east of the present village of Hitterdal, in Goose Prairie township. He worked hard at developing the land into a farm, erected suitable buildings and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring about 1874. The village of Hitterdal was named in honor of this old family, which was one of the first to settle in that locality. Six children were born to Ole Hitterdal and wife, namely: Mary, the oldest; Bendt O., of this sketch; Lars, Maria, Ole, Jr., and Hannah.

The father of the above named children was influential in the affairs of his township, and he helped organize the first church in the community, known as the Conference Lutheran church.

Bendt O. Hitterdal spent his boyhood in Norway, where he attended school. He went to school only about one month in America. He was fourteen years old when his parents brought him to Iowa, and he came with the family to Clay county, Minnesota, and helped develop the home farm at Hitterdal. When he became of legal age, in 1878, he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres where he has since made his home. He worked hard at adding all the improvements on his land, including a comfortable home and a convenient set of outbuildings. He has seen the county develop from a wild prairie to a fine farming region during his continuous residence here of forty-six years and has played well his part in this development, being regarded as a public-spirited and useful citizen all the while. When he first located on the land he planted a large grove which is now tall and flourishing. He has prospered through good management and close application until he is one of the substantial men of his vicinity. He later took up three-fourths of a section, one-fourth of which was a tree claim, and this he has also well improved. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Hittedral was married about 1879 to Anna Setter, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Paul Larson Setter, who removed to Goose Prairie township, Clay county, Minnesota, about 1877. To Mr. and Mrs. Hitterdal, six children have been born, namely: Oliver, Albert, Joseph, deceased; Andree, Edjul and Bernhard.

Politically, Mr. Hitterdal is an independent. He helped organize Goose Prairie township and was the first chairman of the township board. He has since held various township offices. He helped organize the school district in which he resides, when the district included the entire township within its borders. He was a member of the first school board and he has been treasurer of his school district most of the time since. He also helped organize the Union Lutheran church at Hitterdal.