

## LARS HITTERDAL.

One of the well-remembered citizens of Clay county during the generation that is past, whose name is deserving of perpetuation on the pages of local history was the late Lars Hitterdal, for many years a successful farmer of Goose Prairie township. He was born in Norway in 1859, a son of Ole and Berat Hitterdal, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity and married. They finally came to America and located in Houston county, Minnesota, when their son, Lars, was nine years old, and when he was about sixteen years old his parents moved to Clay county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 34, Goose Prairie township. The father had improved the place only slightly when he died, leaving it to his son, Lars. The mother, who spent her last years with her daughter, Mrs. Faregan, in Hitterdal, died in 1914 at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

To Ole Hitterdal and wife six children were born: Bens, who lives on a farm in Highland Grove township; Lars, of this sketch; Marie, deceased; Mrs. Marie Faregan, of the village of Hitterdal; Ole, living in Hitterdal, and Hanna, who lives in the state of Washington.

Lars Hitterdal grew to manhood on the home farm and he was educated in the district schools. After inheriting the homestead he continued to develop it into a fine farm and as he prospered he bought adjoining land until he owned one of the choice farms of the township, consisting of five hundred acres, which his widow now owns. He erected an attractive home and a good group of outbuildings. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, raising vast quantities of grain and large numbers of live stock. He was regarded as one of the most progressive farmers of this locality.

Mr. Hitterdal married Isabel Clementson, who was born in Norway on March 25, 1864. She came to America when ten years old with her mother and six other children, about the year 1875. Her father was a farmer and died in Norway. His widow came to America, as stated, in 1875 and located with her children in Houston county, Minnesota, and there the children worked out. The mother took up a claim near Ulen, Clay county. She was a woman of courage and business ability and she provided well for her family, keeping her children together and giving them educational advantages. She lived to the advanced age of eighty-seven years, dying in 1914.

To Lars Hitterdal and wife seven children were born, namely: Clara,

married and living in North Dakota; Mrs. Olga Viner, married and living in Highland Grove township; Minnie, Oden, Clifford, Leona and Harry, are all five at home.

Mr. Hitterdal was a Republican. He served as a member of the school board in his district; also as a member of the township board. He was a member of the United Lutheran church, of which he was a trustee. He was a man who believed in keeping abreast of the times. He raised full-blooded live stock and did much to encourage raising better stock in his township, especially cattle. He and his brother, Bens, owned the first steam tractor engine in their locality.

The death of Lars Hitterdal occurred on November 21, 1900, at the age of forty-one years. Mrs. Hitterdal later married for her second husband Carl Broton, who owns a harness shop in Hawley, Clay county, also a store there. This last union has been without issue.

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### CHRISTIAN REHDER.

Christian Rehder, owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Alliance township, Clay county, for many years chairman of the board of supervisors of that township, president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Comstock, vice-president of the State Bank of Comstock, a member of the board of directors of the Northwestern Hospital at Moorhead, formerly treasurer of his home township, formerly overseer of roads in his district and in other ways for years actively identified with the civic and business interests of the community in which he has lived since pioneer days, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age and of Clay county since the year 1884, one of the most substantial citizens and homestead farmers in the southern part of the county. He was born on August 15, 1860, son of John and Magdalena Rehder, both also natives of Germany, the former of whom died many years ago in his native land. The widow Rehder later married Fred Kuehl, father of Bendix Kuehl, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. About 1889, some time after he had become well settled in Clay county, Christian Rehder sent for his mother and his step-father and they came from Germany and located at Sabin, where Mr. Kuehl spent his last days, his widow thereafter making her home with her son Christian, her last days being spent there.