

township and has since lived there, one of the oldest residents in the locality. He commenced immediately to prepare the land for crops, meeting with success from the very beginning of his farming operations and has erected some fine buildings on the farm, his place being regarded as one of the best kept in the township. He is now the owner of two hundred and seventy-five acres of prime land and is engaged in general farming, his operations being carried on according to modern methods of agriculture.

In 1880 Rhinchart P. Idtse was united in marriage to Rachael Quam, who was born in Fillmore county, this state, a daughter of Thor Quam and wife. To this union have been born nine children, Anna, Marth, Dora, Ellen, Richard, Ruby, Fred and Constance, who are still living, and Peder T., who died at the age of one year. Mr. Idtse has been active in the affairs of his home community since the commencement of his residence in Norman county. He helped to organize Hegne township and has served as township supervisor and was a member of the first township board, to the duties of which he brought a ripe intelligence. He also helped to organize the first church in the neighborhood and in other ways he has given of his time and energies to the advancement of all good causes calculated to benefit the township and county.

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### ALEXANDER HOLDEN.

Alexander Holden, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the real pioneers of Norman county, now living retired at his pleasant home in Ada, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age. He was born in the north of Ireland, June 24, 1844, son of Dr. Alexander and Margaret (Woodside) Holden, both natives of Ireland, who spent all their lives there. Dr. Alexander Holden was a college graduate and in addition to following the practice of medicine was a landowner and farmer.

At the age of ten years the junior Alexander Holden began clerking in a general store in the city of Belfast and was engaged there and in a bakery in that same city until he was eighteen years of age, when, in 1862, he came to the United States. The vessel on which he took passage struck a sandbar on the south side of Long Island, some miles from Sagg Harbor, and went to pieces, but the passengers and crew were saved and young Holden finally landed safely at port. That was in May, 1862, and in July of the same year, in St. Lawrence county, New York, Alexander Holden, the Irish lad, less

than three months in this country, enlisted for service in the Union army as a private in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-second Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served valiantly with that command until the end of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Holden took up the carpenter trade at Rochester, Pennsylvania, and was thus engaged at that place and in the neighboring town of New Brighton for three or four years, at the end of which time he became employed as a pattern-maker in the fire-brick factory of Barnes & Company, in the latter place, remaining there until 1870, when he returned to New York state, locating in Franklin county, where he remained until the spring of 1872, when he decided to try his fortunes in the great Northwest. By way of the Great Lakes to Duluth, Mr. Holden made his way to Minnesota and thence on out to Detroit, then the frontier of this section of the state. From there he pushed on west and located on a homestead tract on the west line of what later came to be organized as Lake Ida township, in Norman county, his nearest neighbor there being ten miles distant. Upon proving up his claim to that tract of one hundred and eighty-seven acres, Mr. Holden pre-empted an "eighty" in McDonaldsville township and after living there four or five years bought a half section in section 12 of that same township, adjoining his homestead tract and there, in 1878, established his home, farming there quite successfully for twenty-five years, at the end of which time he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Ada, where he built a comfortable home, where he now lives. In 1904, becoming dissatisfied with a life of inaction, Mr. Holden left Ada and went over to Mahanomen, where he engaged in the retail meat business and was thus engaged there until 1913, when he again retired and returned to Ada, where he since has made his home. Mr. Holden still retains the greater part of his old homestead place and the half section cornering the same and is quite well circumstanced. For years Mr. Holden took an active part in farmers' movements in this part of the state and during the days of the People's party movement was one of the local leaders in that party. During his residence in Mahanomen he was three times elected president of the council of that city, though never an aspirant for the office. During the early years of his residence here he was for three years carpenter for the Great Northern Railroad Company between Fisher's Landing and Barnesville, and while thus engaged did much to promote settlement out here, inducing many settlers to put in their fortunes with the pioneers of Norman county.

On January 10, 1867, Alexander Holden was united in marriage to Ada Jackson, who was born in Franklin county, New York, and to this union six

children have been born, Eva S., Agnes J., George, Lucretia, Ada and Glisa. Mr. and Mrs. Holden have a very pleasant home at Ada and take a proper interest in the general affairs of the city, interested in all local good works. Mr. Holden is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and has for years taken a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He also is a veteran member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and takes much interest in the affairs of that order.

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### MARTIN O. DAHLEN.

Martin O. Dahlen, a farmer of Tansem township, Clay county, was born in Norway, January 22, 1872, a son of Ole and Carrie (Englen) Dahlen, both also natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and spent their lives on a farm, both dying there many years ago. Four children were born to them, namely: Peter, who died in Norway; Gilbert, who also died in the old country; Martin O., the subject of this sketch, and Anna, whose death occurred in Norway.

Martin O. Dahlen spent his boyhood in his native land and there attended the common schools. When twenty years old, in 1892, he immigrated to the United States, coming directly to Minnesota, where he worked out as a farm hand in the neighborhood of Barnesville, Clay county, for about ten years. He saved his wages and in 1900 bought one hundred and sixty acres in Tansem township. The land had been only slightly improved and had no buildings on it except a granary. The following year he began active work on the place and has since resided on the same. He has brought it up to a fine state of cultivation and has built a comfortable residence and good out-buildings, fences, etc. He carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Barnesville, which he helped organize. He also helped organize the Rollag Telephone Company and has been a stockholder in the same ever since.

Mr. Dahlen was married in Clay county, in 1901, to Carrie Johnson, who was born August 11, 1874, in Norwegian Grove township, Otter Tail county, this state, where she grew to womanhood and attended the public schools. She is a daughter of Nels and Anna (Erickson) Johnson, natives of Norway, where they grew up and married and made their home until 1869, when they came to Minnesota. In 1870 they took up a homestead in Norwegian township, Otter Tail county, improving the land and establishing their future