

labors of the farm, a valuable assistant to his father. In 1885 he moved to Ada, but in the preceding years held a rented farm near Lake City, Minnesota, and on coming to Norman county he settled in Pleasant View township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 17, and as he prospered in his agricultural operations he added to his holdings, and is now the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, located in different sections, and is accounted one of the substantial farmers in this part of Norman county, his farming operations being conducted according to modern methods. He now lives retired.

In January, 1875, at Red Wing, Minnesota, Martin Johnson was united in marriage to Martha Hoef, a native of Germany, born in 1850, and who came to America in 1868 with her mother, her father having preceded them a few years earlier. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of the following children: John, Gustav, Clara, Kattie (deceased), Martha, Charlie, Ella and William. The mother of these children died in 1905. Mr. Johnson's son-in-law, Fred Riehl, who married Clara Johnson, works the farm and carries on mixed farming and raises blooded stock cattle. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Lutheran church and in former years served as trustee. He gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and was elected to the township board and also served as township supervisor. He helped to organize the Farmers Elevator Company at Ada and in various other ways he has given of his time and energies to the promotion of all movements designed to promote the general welfare of the township and county.

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### JOHN JENSEN.

John Jensen, a well-known and prosperous farmer, owner of two hundred and eighty acres of prime land in Fossum township, Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of the United States for nearly fifty years and of Norman county since 1872. He was born in Norway on September 28, 1849, a son of Jens Jorgen and Elsie Katherine (Olson) Knutson.

Jens Jorgen Knutson and his wife were born in Norway, and they spent all their lives in that country, each dying in the same year, their deaths occurring in the summer of 1859. Jens J. Knutson was educated in the schools of his native land and in his early years taught school, after which

he engaged in farming and continued at that occupation to the end of his life. They were the parents of nine children, as follow: Knut (deceased), Ole (deceased), Annie (deceased), Jorgen, John, the subject of this sketch; Jens, Margareta (deceased), Elsie Marie and Ole Bjorn (deceased). Jens Knutson and wife were members of the Lutheran church and were earnest supporters of all its good works, and were regarded as among the most esteemed citizens of the locality where they resided.

John Jensen was educated in the schools of Norway and at the death of his parents, when he was a boy of ten years, he went to live with and work for his uncle, John Morland, who was his uncle on his father's side. John Jensen early displayed an inclination for the life of a sailor and when he was sixteen years old he signed onto a ship for a period of two years, at four dollars per month. His ship went to Havana and almost all the crew took yellow fever, with the result that the ship was ordered back to Norway and in consequence, Mr. Jensen's term of service did not extend beyond sixteen months. He left the life of the sea for a life on land and in the spring following his change of occupation, he and his brother, Jens, immigrated to America. On arriving in this country they proceeded to the state of Illinois and remained in Leland, that state, for about two months, moving thence to Rice county, Minnesota, and remained there until 1872. In the latter year they moved to Norman county, the journey being accomplished by ox-team, their goods being conveyed in covered wagons, the journey occupying three weeks. The party consisted of Henry Benson, George Johnson, Jens Morland and John Jensen, the three latter being brothers. The four members of the party either took homestead claims or pre-empted land in Fossum township. John Jensen took the southeast quarter of section 20, in that township, where he carried on general farming until 1912, in which year he sold out and came to the farm in section 8, which he has since occupied. Here he is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, on which he has erected a number of fine buildings, and is regarded throughout the township as one of the progressive and substantial farmers. While living on the homestead tract he improved the place; his first residence was a log house and in time this was replaced by a good frame building.

In 1873 John Jensen was united in marriage to Emilia Larson, a native of the state of Iowa, and a daughter of W. Larson and wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Jensen the following children were born: William, Carl O., Edward, Lizzie, Clara, who died at the age of two years; Clara (2), Alma, Birdie, who, died at the age of fourteen years, and Nile. Mr. Jensen has ever

given a good citizen's attention to the general affairs of his neighborhood and township, and helped to select the location of the East Wild Rice church and has been a member of that congregation ever since. At the date of the organization of Fossum township he took a practical part in the work of farming the township and has served as township supervisor. He also has been a member of the local school board and for many years was a road boss, and in these several public positions acquitted himself with advantage to the interests he represented. Mr. Jensen was one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator at Twin Valley, and also lent his aid in the formation of the Twin Valley Creamery Company, and in many other ways he has given evidence of his capacity to help in all useful projects and is regarded as one of the progressive citizens of the township and county, of which he has been a resident for the past forty-five years.

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### HANS HALVORSON.

Hans Halvorson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Home Lake township, owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was seventeen years old, coming with his parents, three brothers having preceded him some time before. Hans Halvorson was born in 1862, a son of Halvor and Christina (Johnson) Peterson, also natives of Norway.

Halvor Peterson was educated in the schools of Norway, later working at farm labor for some years, when in 1879 he decided to immigrate to America, where three of his sons preceded him, the reports sent home by these boys on farming conditions in this state being of a favorable character. After arriving in this country Halvor Peterson spent two years in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and in 1881 he moved to Norman county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 24, Rockwell township, later acquiring one hundred and sixty acres of a tree claim in the same section, the latter not being now in possession of his survivors. Halvor Peterson was engaged throughout the active years of his life in carrying on general farming and met with success in his agricultural operations. He died in 1896 at the age of seventy-three years and his widow survived until 1915, when she died at the fine old age of ninety years, while living in Twin Valley. They were the parents of the following children: Peter, married,