

Lewis Hilmo received his education in the schools of his native land, and in 1880 came with his brother Bernt to America. He remained with his father in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, until 1885, assisting his father on the home farm, and also working out by the month on neighboring farms. In 1885 he came to Norman county, locating in Ada, and worked as a farm hand on the neighboring farms for two or three years, after which he decided to farm for himself. He purchased some school land in section 36, Lake Ida township, consisting of one hundred and forty acres. He later bought eighty acres more in section 34, of the same township, all of which was raw prairie land at the time he acquired it. He proceeded to improve and develop his land, erecting fine buildings, cultivating the land, and planting a nice grove of trees, and he now has a highly productive and attractive farm, of which he may well be proud. He has always engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has met with a very commendable degree of success, which is attested by the fine appearance of his farm.

In 1892 Lewis Hilmo was united in marriage to Mary Pundy, who is a native of Norway, the daughter of Peter Pundy, and to this union six children have been born: Minnie, Oscar, Peter, Mabel, Alma and Myrtle, all of whom are living with the exception of Minnie, who died at the age of six months. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at Twin Valley.

Mr. Hilmo has always been active and prominent in the social welfare and civic betterment of his home community, being especially interested in the schools of the township. He helped organize school district No. 85, being a member of the organizing board. He has for some years been a member of the township school board, sometimes serving as treasurer, and sometimes as director of same. He is now serving as school director.

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### THEODORE JOHNSON.

Theodore Johnson, a well-known citizen of Waukon township, Norman county, where he carries on extended farming operations on his fine farm and where he is prominently connected with civic, social and co-operative business affairs, was born in Norway, September 25, 1857, a son of Jens and Bertha Johnson, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they grew up and married. In 1872 the family came to America and located at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where the father was in business as a tailor, having

learned this trade in his native land. After he had been thus engaged for some years, he left Eau Claire for Dunn county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm on which he lived until his death. Some time after the death of the father, the mother removed to Norman county, where she made her home with the subject of this sketch until her death occurred. They were the parents of three children, namely: Theodore, the subject of this review; Gunda, who is still living in Barron county, Wisconsin, and Godfred, deceased.

Theodore Johnson received some formal education, but the greater part was acquired during his residence with his parents in Wisconsin. He remained with them until 1879, in which year he drove overland to Norman county, in company with Iver Martinson, the journey requiring about twenty-one days. Immediately on his arrival here, he pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 28, Waukon township, but two years later he sold his right. During the interval, he went back and forth from his holding to Wisconsin, and spent some time in North Dakota. Later he bought a tree-claim right to his present farm, which he proved up as a homestead, and here he has continued to live. When he first came to his present farm, the land was raw prairie with no improvements of any kind, but now after years of patient industry, he has a set of fine farm buildings around which is growing a beautiful grove. Here on his holding he carries on a general type of farming and breeds Holstein cattle, Poland China hogs and Buff Leghorn chickens.

On July 22d, 1885, Mr. Johnson married Tena Figenskau, who was born in Pierce county, Wisconsin, April 30, 1864, a daughter of Knut and Anna (Thompson) Figenskau, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: Jane, Alice, Freda, Clarence, Alpha, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they take a proper interest. In politics, the former is an ardent advocate of Republican principles, and his voice is well-known in the councils of his party. A very striking thing about the career of Mr. Johnson is his activity in all the common affairs of the community. For years he has been an important township official, for he has at different times been township assessor, which office he holds at present, and was township chairman for twenty-five years, which office he relinquished in 1916. His long service to the civil interests of the public shows that he discharged the duties of his office with strict fidelity and honesty. The co-operative business interests of the community bear a strong impress of his personality. He helped to organize the creamery at Waukon, of which enterprise he was secretary and manager during the first five years of its existence. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Gary Telephone Company and was a mem-

ber of the board of directors, which position he occupied for many years. For the past twenty years he has been an auctioneer, crying sales all over this and adjoining counties, which occupation has widened and enriched his field of acquaintances. Finally, it may be said that if any movement is inaugurated in the community for its betterment, socially, economically and civilly, it is sure of the unstinted and loyal support of Theodore Johnson.

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### JOHN A. RUSTVOLD.

John A. Rustvold, one of the early settlers of Hendrum township, where he now lives, the owner of two hundred forty acres of fine farming land on which he carries on general agriculture, was born in Thronhjelm, Norway, on September 23, 1864, the son of Arnt J. and Mollie A. (Holland) Rustvold, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1869 and first located at Newberg, Fillmore county, Minnesota, where the former worked. There they remained until 1877, when the elder Rustvold decided to establish his home farther north in the new country in Norman county. Accordingly, he bought farming implements which he loaded into his wagon with the necessary household goods, joined his family with six others, and they all started to Norman county, driving their ox-teams. When the family arrived at their destination, Arnt J. Rustvold homesteaded at once a quarter section where his son, John A. now lives. Since his holding was raw prairie, great effort was entailed in bringing it into cultivation; but nothing daunted by the size of the task the family set to work and eventually their efforts were rewarded with success. When the father's death occurred in 1908, he was the owner of four hundred and thirteen acres of well-improved land. Being one of the early pioneers of the township and anxious to see the civil organization of his community, the father with his son John A. helped to organize Hendrum township. Arnt and Mollie Rustvold were the parents of six children, namely: Anna, the wife of A. O. Serum; Andrew, John, Carolina, and two daughters who died in infancy. The elder Rustvold and his family were early members of the Lutheran church in their community, and the father was an active participant in the organization of the Pontopedans congregation, and was later one of the leading workers in the movement which had for its object the building of the present church building.