

As noted above, W. C. Lee was but an infant when his parents moved up here from Iowa in 1882 and he grew to manhood at Ada, receiving his schooling in the schools of that city. When fifteen years of age he began learning the printing trade in the office of the *Ada Index* and remained with that paper for twelve years, becoming thoroughly familiar with all details of the newspaper business. He then, in June, 1909, bought the *Twin Valley Times* at Twin Valley, a flourishing village over in the eastern part of the county, and was conducting that sprightly newspaper in 1912, when he was elected register of deeds for Norman county and returned to Ada, the county seat, where he since has made his home, continuing, however, to retain his ownership of the *Twin Valley Times*. So satisfactory did Mr. Lee's services as register of deeds prove that he was re-elected to that office and is now serving his second term. Mr. Lee is an earnest Republican and has ever taken an active interest in local political affairs. During the years 1907-08 he served as assessor of the city of Ada.

In May, 1905, W. C. Lee was united in marriage to Florence Andrist, daughter of Fred Andrist, of Gildford, Montana, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Anna.

MADS LARSON.

Mads Larson, a well-known landowner and early settler of Hendrum township, was born in Norway, June 4, 1854, the son of Lars and Anna (Noe) Nilson, both natives of Norway, where they remained their whole lives, the former being a school teacher and landowner. They were the parents of seven children, Nels, Jacob, Johan (deceased), Anna (deceased), Peter, Hansena and Mads.

Mads Larson, who spent his boyhood and early manhood in the land of his nativity, decided, in 1876, that his opportunity lay in the New World across the Atlantic, and in that year came to America, locating for two years in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Seeking to better himself, he decided to come northward into Minnesota. Driving a team of horses hitched to a covered wagon, he attached himself to a party of two hundred settlers, and they all started from Ossian, Winneshiek county, Iowa, for Norman county, Minnesota. As Mr. Larson and Hans Larson, now a resident of Ada, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, drove horses and their companions oxen, they soon outstripped the slower moving settlers and arrived at their destination first, the journey taking them about two weeks.



MR. AND MRS. MADS LARSON.

Mads Larson went immediately to Hendrum township and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 34 and there he lived until 1907. During the time of his residence on his homestead, he vastly improved it by planting groves and erecting excellent farm buildings; moreover, the original quarter section soon grew until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres, practically all in one piece, one-half of which lay in Lee township. In the year mentioned above he sold the old homestead and removed to where he lives at present. Now he has a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres, which he has improved by erecting a comfortable house, excellent barns and other necessary buildings. At this time he carries on general farming and is also engaged in the raising of graded Shorthorn cattle.

In 1880 Mr. Larson married Jula Johanson, who was born in Norway, the daughter of Johan Tagness, and to this union the following children were born: Anna, Lars, who died at the age of one year, Matilda, Lars and Gilma. For his second wife Mr. Larson married Jula Olson, who also was a native of Norway, and who died without issue. On March 1, 1914, Mr. Larson married Mrs. Hilda (Redal) Unerlee. Mr. Larson and family are strict, conscientious and consistent adherents to the Lutheran faith, and in the affairs of this denomination they take a deep interest, he having helped to organize the Emanuel Lutheran church. In addition to his activity on his farm, Mr. Larson has helped to organize the farmers elevator, the creamery and the State Bank, all of Hendrum. He is independent in his political views and has never aspired to public office; however, he has always given his heartiest support to any movement which has for its object the betterment of the community.

PAUL VAN VLISSINGEN.

Among the active and influential pioneers of Clay county who have passed from earthly scenes of labor after having done well their work in the development of this part of the Red River valley, few have left a better or more enduring memory than did the late Paul Van Vlissingen, who died at his home in Hitterdal in March, 1911. He was one of the pioneers of 1871, having thus been a resident of Clay county before the days of that county's formal organization as a civic entity. One of the earliest landowners in Goose Prairie township, he from the very beginning