

Carl, the subject of this sketch; Edward, 1857, who was postmaster at Moorhead for a period of twelve years, and Augusta, 1859. These children were all educated in the public schools in Sweden.

Carl Bjorkquist grew to manhood in his native land and there attended school. As a young man he learned the trade of mason under his father and others. Two of his brothers also took up this line of work. He came to America in 1881, coming on directly to Minnesota and locating at Moorhead, where he has since made his home. His brother John, for whom he began working upon his arrival here, was the first contractor in Moorhead, where he had settled in 1878. Carl became his foreman, remaining with him until 1898, when he began contracting for himself and has continued thus successfully engaged until the present time, enjoying a large and growing business. He is an expert workman and a close observer as well as a student of all that pertains to his line and has therefore kept well abreast of the times in the same. He has erected many public buildings, business houses and residences in Moorhead and elsewhere.

Mr. Bjorkquist was married in 1884 to Hulda Anderson, who was born in Sweden, where she grew to womanhood, attended school and married, Mr. Bjorkquist returning to his native land for her. After their marriage they remained there about two years, coming back to Minnesota in 1886. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bjorkquist, namely: Lars Gunnar, Hildur Elizabeth, Oscar William and Herbert Hjalmar.

Politically, Mr. Bjorkquist is a Republican. He has always taken an active interest in the affairs of Moorhead and is a member of the Commercial Club, also of the Builders Exchange at Fargo. He belongs to the Swedish Lutheran church.

JOHN E. LEDING.

The late John E. Leding, who was a prosperous farmer of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he was the owner and operator of a fine farm of two hundred acres and where he was the first settler, was born at Sundahl, Norway, a son of Erick and Marit (Mahle) Leding, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they grew up, married, reared their family and died, the father a farmer there.

John E. Leding was reared on the old farm in Norway and there he

received the common school advantages which the time and place afforded. Some years after he reached manhood, he married Inger Mahle, who was born in Norway, where her death occurred, and she bore him three children, all of whom came to America with their father; they were: Syneva, deceased; Erick and Marit, deceased. Before he left Norway, he was married to Helge Mahle, and they were the parents of four children, namely: Lars, born in Norway; Edward, who now lives on the old home farm in Norman county; Ole and Inger.

Some years after his second marriage, Mr. Leding decided upon leaving the land of his birth and he brought his entire family to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1872 or 1873, and they remained in their first place of settlement until 1879, when they came to Norman county, Minnesota. In the spring of that year, he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 32, Bear Park township. He remained there until his death occurred, August 2, 1909, and his widow still makes her home on the old place. Being a thrifty and industrious farmer, his operations were successful, and he was enabled to add to his holdings by the acquisition of forty acres in section 31, Bear Park township, where he was the first settler. As the years passed, he improved his farm, which he brought up to a high state of cultivation, by erecting excellent farm buildings, until he was the owner of one of the best farm plants in the neighborhood.

The late John E. Leding was an ideal pioneer, since he was a participant in the establishment of all the institutions of civilization in the township, including the religious, social and co-operative business interests. When the time came to organize Bear Park township into a bona-fide civil division of the county, he was a member of the meeting convened for that purpose. He helped to organize the St. Peter Lutheran church of Strand township. Mr. Leding was also a leading spirit in the establishment of the Bear Park Mercantile Company and the Farmers Elevator at Gary.

Edward Leding, the second son born to John Leding by the latter's second wife, has always lived on the old home farm, in Bear Park township, since he came here with his parents from Iowa, where he was born. Here he and his mother make their home and are comfortably situated. He began operating the farm in 1903 and continued to do so during his father's declining years, and under his careful management, the farm has continued to produce most bountifully. Like his father, he has continued the former's activity in the civil and business affairs of the community. For six years he

served the township as supervisor, and during his incumbency, he discharged his duties with strict fidelity to his official trust. The co-operative business interests of the county have demanded more of his time than have the civil interests, for he is connected with the creamery and mercantile companies at Sundahl and with the mercantile companies at Bear Park and Waukon.

S. M. LEE.

S. M. Lee, manager of the extensive establishment of the Peoples Supply Company at Gary, dealers in general merchandise, and one of the best-known young business men in Norman county, is a native son of that county and has lived there practically all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Bear Park township on October 21, 1883, son of the Hon. S. J. and Marie (Heglie) Lee, both natives of the kingdom of Norway and pioneers of Norman county, who are still living on their old homestead farm in Bear Park township.

The Hon. S. J. Lee, former member of the Legislature from his district, as noted above, is a native of Norway, where he was born on June 12, 1859, and he was about eight years of age when his parents came to the United States and settled in Fillmore county, this state, among the pioneers of that county. There he grew to manhood and remained until 1882, when, shortly after his marriage, he came up to this part of the state and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in section 22 of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he established his home and where he ever since has made his residence, having one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. From the very beginning of his residence in Norman county, S. J. Lee took an active part in general local civic affairs, served for seven or eight years as assessor of his home township, for ten or twelve years as clerk of the same and in 1894 was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota Legislature as a representative from the fifty-first legislative district, and served in that important and responsible capacity during the sessions of 1895 and 1897, having been re-elected in 1896 to succeed himself. In 1908 he was elected as a member of the board of commissioners of Norman county from his district and by successive re-elections is still occupying that position, for the past two or three years having been chairman of the board. S. J. Lee and wife are members of the Lutheran church, Mr. Lee for some time having