

daughter of Ebbe Nelson, who lived and died in Denmark. To this second union eight children were born, all living at this writing, and named as follows: Ruth, Mina, Daniel, who is a soldier in the Eighteenth Infantry, regular army of the United States, and at this writing (1917) is with the Pershing expeditionary force in France; Lillian, John, who is at this writing a member of the Third Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, and is stationed at Ft. Adams; Clara, Milton and Catherine.

Mr. Christianson has always been active in the affairs of Oakport township. He helped organize the township and was a member of the first township board; in fact, has been a member of the board most of the time since the township was first organized, being still on the same. He was formerly township assessor. He helped organize the first Sunday school, also the first church in his community, known as the Concordia Lutheran church, and later helped build the present edifice for this congregation.

GUSTAV O. LEE.

Gustav O. Lee, a well-known, prosperous and progressive farmer and stockman, owner of a fine farm in Moland township, Clay county, was born in Houston county, this state, on December 2, 1864, but has been a resident of this county since 1871. He is the son of Ole and Asger Lee, both natives of the kingdom of Norway.

Ole Lee was a farmer in Norway, where he was born in 1835. In 1854 he immigrated to the United States and on arriving in this country came on out to the state of Minnesota and settled in Houston county, where he engaged in the life of a farmer for some years. In 1871 he and his family moved into Clay county and homesteaded a tract of land. He immediately proceeded to put the land into a state fit for cultivation, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1873, two years after he had taken possession of the farm. His wife, Asger Lee, also was born in Norway, in 1841; came to America in 1853 and was married in 1863 in Houston county, this state. She is now living with her son, Gustav O., on his farm in Moland township. Ole Lee and wife were the parents of the following children: Gustav O., the first born, and Julia, Olaus and Andrew, who are deceased.

Gustav O. Lee was but a boy of nine years of age when his father died and as he was the eldest child of the family he had to commence early to assist his mother in the work of caring for and supporting the family,



GUSTAV O. LEE AND FAMILY.

and in consequence his opportunity for an extended education was limited. He was married on July 17, 1892, to Vila Swenkeson, who was born in 1875 in Clay county, and who died, after a few years of married life, in 1895. There were no children to the marriage.

Mr. Lee is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of the choicest quality of land, has between twenty and forty acres each year planted to potatoes, and in his farming operations is doing splendidly. He carries on his farming according to modern methods of agriculture and is accounted one of the substantial farmers of this section of the county. Mr. Lee has effected many valuable improvements on his holding and has remodeled and overhauled the old homestead house, which is still in use. He raises a nice herd of Shorthorn cattle and his stock in this strain finds a ready market, at good prices.

JOHN T. REDLAND.

John T. Redland, one of the real pioneers of Norman county, who was largely instrumental in the organization of the first school in Shelly township, where he now lives the life of a farmer, who was one of the original organizers of Shelly township and one of its earliest officers, and who was one of the first men in this community to materially aid the establishment of a place of worship for the people of the neighborhood, was born in the amt of Stavanger, Norway, on November 28, 1844. He is a son of Thorston and Martha (Iverson) Johnson, who were both born on the Redland farm in the amt of Stavanger, in Norway. In 1854 the father and mother decided to bring their family to America, but that was no easy task in those days before the day of the steamship in its perfected state. For two long months they were at the mercy of the Atlantic in a small sail boat, but finally they landed at Quebec and from there proceeded on up the St. Lawrence by steamboat to Montreal. They then followed the different windings of the Great Lakes by diverse means of transportation until they arrived at Chicago. The family remained in that city for only one month, owing to an outbreak of cholera there, and then they started for La Crosse, Wisconsin, by rail, horses and river boat, for at that time the railroad extended only ten miles west of Chicago. After a short stay in La Crosse, the family went to Coon Prairie, Wisconsin, where the father died and where the family remained until 1871. There were nine children born to Thorston