

## KNUDT A. LEVERSON.

Farming is both pleasant and profitable when entered into with the spirit that has always dominated Knudt A. Leverson, one of the best tillers of the soil of Clay county, for he has never regarded it as drudgery and an undesirable occupation. He was born in Worth county, Iowa, May 25, 1870, a son of Amos and Julia Isabell (Quarve) Leverson, both natives of Norway, the former of whom came to America about 1849 and the latter, a year or two later, with her parents. Her father died in New York City shortly after reaching the New World, and the rest of the family came on to Wisconsin. Her parents were Teman and Kjersti (Sjong) Quarve. The mother later moved to Worth county, Iowa, and finally to Spring Grove, Minnesota, where her death occurred at the unusual age of ninety-six years. The father of the subject of this sketch located in Wisconsin upon his arrival in this country, but subsequently moved to Worth county, Iowa. He devoted his active life to general farming. In 1898 he came up into Minnesota and located on a farm in Cromwell township, Clay county, where he lived until his death, and there his widow is still making her home. The place consists of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, well improved in every way. To these parents the following children were born: Betsie, wife of E. Bronsvold, of Clay county; Clara, wife of A. Holm, of Clay county; Temen, of Fargo; Levi, of Clay county; Knudt, the subject of this sketch; George, who resides at Hawley; Oliver, who resides near Salem, North Dakota; Samuel, who resides on the old home farm, and Cora, deceased.

Knudt A. Leverson grew to manhood in Worth county, Iowa, and when a boy assisted his father with the general work on the farm, attending the public schools in the winter time. Upon leaving there he came to Minnesota and bought the farm on which he still resides, in Cromwell township, Clay county. He owns two hundred and forty acres of productive and well-cultivated land, all under excellent improvements, including a commodious residence and numerous outbuildings, all of which he has put up himself. He carries on general farming and stock raising, keeping a good grade of Shorthorn cattle. He had been a cattle raiser a number of years before leaving Iowa. Besides his farming, he is interested financially in the Farmers Elevator Company at Hawley, which he helped organize. He is also a stockholder in the company which operates the co-operative creamery at Hawley.

On June 8, 1894, Mr. Levenson was married to Julia Knutson, who was born in Iowa, where she grew to womanhood and was educated in the common schools. She is a daughter of Elling Knutson, a native of Norway, from which country he came to America when young. He has devoted his active life to general farming in Iowa, where he owns a good farm, but is now living in retirement. To Mr. and Mrs. Levenson seven children have been born, namely: Adolph, Ida and Ruth (twins), Earling, Myrtle, Alva and Cora (deceased). Mr. Levenson is a member of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican.

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### JOHN FORD.

When Clay county was covered with prairie grass and wild animals roamed the virgin plains over which wound Indian trails, John Ford came here from far-away England and assumed the life of a pioneer, voluntarily forsaking the advantages of civilization in its highest forms for the hardships and privations of life on the Western frontier. He assisted in establishing schools and churches and in introducing the general customs of modern life.

Mr. Ford was born in Wiltshire, England, June 26, 1847, a son of William and Jane (Smart) Ford, both natives of England, where they grew up, married and established their home. The father was a baker by trade and was also engaged in the grocery business. He and his wife both spent all their lives in England. They were the parents of eight children, namely: James, deceased; Anna, who was next in order of birth; Thomas, who is a member of the Yeomanry, a military organization in England; John, William, Elizabeth, Sidney and Emily.

John Ford grew to manhood in England and there attended school and was married. He came with the first English colony to settle in this part of the Red River country, arriving at Hawley on April 17, 1873. In the following May, or about a month after his arrival, he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Cromwell township. He had the foresight and judgment to select good land in a community that was bound to prosper in future years, and he has remained on his first purchase to the present time, or during a period of forty-five years. He worked earnestly and managed well and in due course of time he had his land under a fine state of cultivation and a comfortable home established. Today there are