

is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Modern Brotherhood of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Elks, the Moorhead Commercial Club and the Fargo Country Club.

Mr. Welter has always taken an active interest in local affairs. In 1901 he was appointed by Governor Lind as a member of the board of managers of the St. Cloud Reformatory, in which capacity he served for several years. In 1914 he was appointed by Governor Hammond as a member of the State Normal School board, which position he now holds. He has also served as a member of the Moorhead board of education, a member of the city council, and has been president of the Moorhead Commercial Club. He has been a member of the Moorhead charter commission since its inception and has served as a member of the water and light commission.

In 1909, Mr. Welter was one of the active organizers of the Clay County Potato Growers Association, which has had great success in making Clay county potatoes well known throughout the country and which has made Moorhead the central point for the marketing of Red River Valley potatoes. Mr. Welter has been president of the organization for several years. Mr. Welter is very much interested in the general upbuilding of the Red River Valley and for several years president of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association, a public organization which has this idea in view and which has done much to give favorable publicity to this section of Minnesota.

JOHN J. LINDBACK.

Among the real old settlers of Norman county there are few who have a wider acquaintance throughout the county or a more intimate recollection of pioneer days hereabout than John J. Lindback, one of the substantial farmers of Lake Ida township, former member of the board of supervisors of that township, for the past fifteen years or more the assessor of the same, a director in various semi-public enterprises in that part of the county and in other ways actively identified with the interests of that region in which he has lived since the days of the pioneers, his parents having been, with their family, the first permanent settlers in Lake Ida township.

John J. Lindback, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Cambridge, the county seat of Isanta county, January 12, 1869, a son of John M. and Margaret (Marcus) Lindback, both natives of the kingdom of Sweden, the former of whom came to this country in April, 1867, and the latter of

whom had come to this side in 1852, the wife of Peter Hassel, settling in Minnesota. During the Civil War Peter Hassel enlisted in behalf of the Union cause as a member of the Third Minnesota Cavalry and died during that service, leaving his widow with seven children. John M. Lindback also had been previously married, his first wife and a daughter, Breta, by that marriage dying in Sweden. John M. Lindback and the Widow Hassel were married at Cambridge, in Isanta county, and some time later moved to Duluth, where they continued to make their home until 1872, when they came up into the Red River country with their family and settled in what later came to be organized as Norman county. It was in the spring of the year that they came here, coming by rail as far as Lake Park, which then was the terminus of the road. During that summer John M. Lindback worked on the construction of the railroad, helping to build the road through to the site of Ada, and in the meantime entered a homestead claim to the southwest quarter of section 24 in what later came to be organized as Lake Ida township, and there established his home, the first permanent settler in that township. It is on that place that the subject of this sketch has ever since made his home, having thus lived there ever since he was three or four years of age. In 1876 the elder Lindback entered a tree claim to a quarter section in section 26 and planted thirteen acres of the same to trees, thus "proving up" his claim. He also later bought an additional tract of eighty acres in section 24, the south half of the southeast quarter, and in due time had all his land in the way to profitable cultivation. In 1879 he sold half of the homestead tract and later an additional tract of ten acres, but still had enough land to make him a fine farm. John M. Lindback not only was the first permanent settler in Lake Ida township, but was one of the forceful pioneers of the county. He helped organize his home township when there was found there a sufficient population to warrant the county commissioners to grant the petition for organization and for some time served as a member of the board of township supervisors. When it became possible to organize a school district in the neighborhood of his home he became a prominent factor in that movement and donated to the district the land on which to erect the school house, and that tract is still used for school purposes in district No. 4. John M. Lindback and wife spent their last days on that pioneer farm, useful and influential pioneers. To them three sons were born, these besides the subject of this sketch, the first-born, being Matt and Oscar.

As noted above, John J. Lindback was but three years of age when his parents settled in Norman county and he has lived here ever since. His

schooling was gained largely at home, for it was fifteen years after the family settled before a school district was organized there, his first attendance at public school being in the building, sixteen by eighteen feet in ground dimension, erected on his brother's farm in what is now district 4. His father taught him also to read and write the Swedish language. Mr. Lindback has always remained on the home farm, having established his home there after his marriage in 1893, and is now the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and seventy-seven acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion. All of this land is in Lake Ida township save twenty acres in the adjoining township of Wild Rice. His house and farm buildings are lighted by electricity and his farm plant is one of the best equipped in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Lindback has given considerable attention to general civic and business affairs of his community. For six years he served as a member of the board of township supervisors and is now serving in his sixteenth year as assessor of the township. From the time of the organization of the school district to the time of his death, his father served as a member of the school board and since the death of his father he has served in that same capacity, doing much for the elevation of educational standards thereabout. Since the organization of the Twin Valley Co-operative Creamery sixteen years or more ago, Mr. Lindback having been one of the incorporators of the same, he has served most of the time as a member of the board of directors of that successful enterprise. He also helped to organize the Lake Ida Telephone Company, has served as a member of the board of directors of the same, with the exception of three years, since its organization and is now president of the company. In other ways also Mr. Lindback has done his part in promoting movements having to do with the advancement of the common good in the vicinity of his home and has long been accounted one of the most influential personal factors thereabout.

On October 16, 1893, John J. Lindback was united in marriage to Ida Josephine Erickson, who was born in Rice county, this state, a daughter of Anton Erickson, who became one of the pioneers of Norman county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born six children, Milo Gerhart, Isla Jervina, Alfred Johan, Lillie Grace, Clifford Alvin and Alvina Antenette, all of whom are living. The Lindbacks are members of the West Wild Rice Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the same, Mr. Lindback being one of the directors of the congregation.

They have a pleasant home and have ever taken an interested and influential part in the general social activities of the community which they have seen develop from pioneer conditions to its present prosperous and well-ordered state.

NELS AMUNDSON.

The late Nels Amundson, one of the large farmers of Fossum township, Norman county, where he owned and operated four hundred acres of excellent farming land and where he was very active in the religious life of the community, was born in Norway, September 14, 1857, and died on his farm, which bore so many examples of his life of tireless industry and unceasing thrift, on November 8, 1910. He was a son of Lewis and Anna Amundson, both of whom were born in Norway, there reared to maturity, married and reared their family. Some three years after the birth of the subject of this review, the father and mother decided to come to America and landed here on the eve of the Civil War in 1860. They first settled in Madison, Wisconsin, where they remained until they moved to Norman county. About 1880 the parents moved on up into Polk county, settled on a farm and there they remained until their deaths.

Nels Amundson spent his boyhood near Madison, Wisconsin, where he received a very limited elementary education in the rude common schools of the day, and when his father and mother moved to Norman county, he came with them. In 1880 when his parents moved to Polk county, he homesteaded a quarter section in Fossum township. Since the land was all timber and brush, without a single building on it, he set to work erecting the necessary structures, around which he set out a grove which has grown into a thing of beauty as the years have passed. Eventually his old original farm home gave place to a more modern structure, which he had built across the road from the first. As the years passed, his industry enabled him to add to his holdings until he had accumulated at the time of his death in 1910 four hundred acres of land, which was practically all in a state of high cultivation.

In 1880, Mr. Amundson was united in marriage with Sonava Halland, who was born in Norway, January 9, 1859, a daughter of Ole and Barbro Halland, both of whom came to America in 1859 and settled in Waseca county, Minnesota. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Amundson has continued to live on the home place here. They were the parents of the following ten children: Lewis, Oliver, Nellie, Sophie and Sophie, both