

in Platt county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming two years, then moved to Boone county, Iowa, where he worked out as a farm hand; he also followed his trade of blacksmith, which he had learned in the old country under his father, who devoted most of his life to blacksmithing. Jacob Hurner also took up a homestead in Platt county, which he improved and lived on until 1896, when he moved to Spring Prairie township, Clay county, buying the farm on which he still makes his home. He has prospered through close application and good management and, adding to his original holdings from time to time, he now owns three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land on which he has made important improvements, in fact, developed the land from the raw prairie to a high state of cultivation. His first one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has made his home, was railroad land. He has a good dwelling and outbuildings sufficient for all his needs. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has been one of the stockholders in the Glyndon Creamery since its organization.

Mr. Hurner was married in 1882 to Minnie Fritzmyer, a native of Iowa, where she grew to womanhood and attended the public schools. She is a daughter of Simon Fritzmyer and wife. Ten children, all surviving at this writing, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hurner, namely: Emma, Caroline, Anna, Martha, Sarah, Lydia, Fred, Paul, Ruth and Benjamin. Mr. Hurner has taken an active interest in local public affairs. He has been a member of the township board for many years, about thirteen in all, including the last seven years, and is still in office.

NELS N. MELVEY.

Nels N. Melvey, a well-known contractor, living at Moorhead, Clay county, was born in Norway, April 30, 1867. He is a son of Nels and Marie (Hagness) Melvey, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and resided until 1881, when they immigrated to America. After stopping a while in St. Paul, Minnesota, they went on to North Dakota, but not long thereafter located at Moorhead, Minnesota, where they established their home, the father following the carpenter's trade in that town the rest of his life. He and his wife belonged to the Lutheran church. They were parents of six children, namely: Nels N., Mollie, Marin, Sarah and Ingeborg, who died in early life, and Andrew, who is also deceased.

Nels N. Melvey spent his boyhood in Norway, where he attended school. He was about fourteen years old when his parents brought him to America, and he finished his education in Moorhead, Minnesota. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade under his father and he has continued in this line ever since, together with contracting in later life, starting contracting for himself about 1910. He became an expert workman in early life and his work has always been eminently satisfactory and his services have been in constant demand. He is a close observer and a student of modern building methods and he has kept fully abreast of the times in his chosen field of endeavor. He is a stockholder and director in the First State Bank of Moorhead. He is also a director of the Key City Building Association.

Mr. Melvey was married in the spring of 1887 to Ingeborg Vinger, a native of Norway, from which country she came to America with her brother. Her father, Johan Share, died in Norway, and her mother, Johana, remarried and in 1883 came to America, her second husband, Erick Arneson, establishing a home in Moorhead. To Mr. and Mrs. Melvey nine children have been born, namely: Tilla Olphena, Jelmer Norine, Elert, Arthur, Ernest, Nora, Fletchert Norwin, Harold Francis and Dorothy Hetel. They are all living at this writing.

Mr. Melvey is active in local public affairs and has been an alderman for ten years, during which time he has done much for the general good of Moorhead. He belongs to the Lutheran church, and fraternally is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

BERNHARD JULIUS SOLUM.

One of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Tansem township, Clay county, is Bernhard Julius Solum, who was born in Norway, in October, 1866. He is a son of Petrus P. and Bergetta (Klingen) Solum, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in the summer of 1868, locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they remained until 1871, the father following the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in Norway. From Iowa he made the overland journey with an ox-team hitched to a prairie schooner, to Clay county, locating on raw land in section 4, Tansem township. It was about half covered with timber, the other half being open prairie. He began life there in true pioneer fashion, breaking