

venber 20, 1897, his last wife being Minnie Torkildson, a daughter of Tonnes Torkildson, a native of Norway and an early settler of Riverton township, Clay county. Tonnes Torkildson married Trene Larson, also a native of Norway, and there they made their home until immigrating to America in the spring of 1883. In the fall of that year he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Riverton township, Clay county, improving the place and building a good home, and there he spent the rest of his life, dying in April, 1894. His widow still lives on the homestead, which now contains two hundred and forty acres, Mr. Torkildson having added eighty acres more to his original farm. His family consisted of six children, Ole, Gust, Abin, Louise, Albert (deceased) and Lena. To Mr. Sauer and his second wife eight children have been born, Theodore, Gilbert, James, Rudolph, Mabel, Esther, Arthur and Alfred.

Politically, Mr. Sauer is independent. He circulated personally the petition to organize Spring Prairie township, and also the petition for the organization of the first school district, which then included the entire township and was appointed one of the first supervisors by the county board. He was later a member of the township board and is now chairman of the school board.

OLE G. MIDGARDEN.

Ole G. Midgarden, of Moland township, is one of Clay county's farmers who seems to have the right idea about agricultural matters, and although he does not farm on so large a scale as some, he does his work in a scientific way and is making a comfortable living. Mr. Midgarden was born in Norway, September 2, 1849, a son of Gunder and Thorberg G. (Spokali) Midgarden, natives of Norway, where they spent their lives on a farm. They were parents of seventeen children, ten of whom grew to maturity, namely: Tolef, deceased; John; Tore, deceased; Ole G., of this sketch; Howard and Gunder, both living; Signe, who lives in Norway; Ingeborg. Halvor and Johanna. These children all came to America but Signe.

Ole G. Midgarden spent his boyhood in Norway where he attended the common schools for a while, and also went to school a short time in America, whither he came in 1866, reaching Houston county, Minnesota, in June of that year, being a pioneer in that section of the state. He remained there until 1870 and then, with other settlers, came to Clay county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Moland town-

ship and lived there until 1874, when he sold out and went back to Norway, remaining in his native land five years. At the end of that period he returned to America and spent a few months in Wisconsin, then came on to Clay county, Minnesota, and rented land for about six years, after which time he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Moland township, where he has since made his home, making all the present improvements, including the erection of the buildings. He carries on general and mixed farming.

Mr. Midgarden was married in 1882 to Jorand Thortvedt, who was born in Norway, from which country she came to Houston county, Minnesota. When young, and when her people moved from that county to Clay county, she walked most of the way, helping drive the sheep and cattle. Three children, all living, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Midgarden, namely: Thorberg Gundella, Theckla Linda Josephine and Gottfred Otto Leander.

Politically, Mr. Midgarden is a Republican. He has been treasurer of school district No. 6 nearly all the time since he has lived in the district, with the exception of the period of his absence in Norway. He is the treasurer at this writing. He was the third man to hold this office. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

William Thompson, one of the real pioneers of Clay county, first clerk of Elkton township, a position he held for many years, or until his removal across the line into Elmwood township, and the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred acres lying in Elmwood and Elkton townships, his home now being in the former township, is a native of Scotland, but has been a resident of this country since 1870 and of this part of Minnesota since 1878, and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born in the city of Montrose, an important seaport town in Forfarshire, thirty-four miles southwest of Aberdeen, March 14, 1842, son of Dougal and Mary (Shand) Thompson, also natives of Scotland, the latter of whom spent her last days in her native land; the former later coming to this country, his last days being spent in Minnesota. Of the three children born to his parents, the subject of this sketch is the only survivor, his brother John having died at the age of fourteen years, and his sister Mary, at the age of ten months.

Dougal Thompson was a laborer in Montrose and was not in extra good