

this business ever since, his being the oldest undertaking establishment in Moorhead.

Mr. Wright has been twice married. His first wife was Julia A. Colberg, to whom he was married in 1878. To that union four children were born: Albert Lawrence, Walter Collins, Russell Sherman and Lillian C. The mother of these children died in 1893. Mr. Wright's second wife was Christine Soreng, and by this marriage five children have been born: Edgar Eugene, Alice Marie, Henry Morris, Clarence Bernard and Norman Ferdinand. The family are members of the United Lutheran church. Mr. Wright served for twenty-eight years as superintendent of the Sunday school in this church, and has held other official positions in the same.

Mr. Wright has held several official civic positions. For three or four years he served as city recorder; was chief of the fire department for eight years; in 1912 he was elected county commissioner of Clay county and was re-elected to that office in 1916 and holds that office at present. Fraternaly, he is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, with the Knights of the Maccabees and with the Sons of Norway.

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#### TORGRIM OLSON MORKEN.

Among the successful self-made men of a past generation in Clay county, whose efforts and influence contributed to the general welfare of his locality, the late Torgrim Olson Morken, one of the sterling pioneers of Morken township, occupied a conspicuous place, and his record is well worth setting forth in a volume of the province of the one in hand.

Mr. Morken was born in Norway on October 14, 1846, and there he grew to manhood and attended school. He was a son of Ole Torgrim Morken and wife, natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and continued to reside until 1867, when they immigrated to America, locating in Houston county, Minnesota, where they established their home on a farm, and there the death of the father occurred in September, 1888. The subject of this memorial sketch came to America with his parents at the age of nineteen years. He was the youngest of a family of five children, the others being as follow: Tona, who is married and lives in Houston county; Nels, who is also married and lives in that same county; Salva, deceased, and Ole, deceased.

Torgrim O. Morken devoted his active life to general farming and

stock raising and met with gratifying success. He worked out as a farm hand while living in Houston county, later worked in the Lake Superior copper mines for some time, and also worked several months for the South Minnesota railroad. He came to Clay county in 1875, being one of the pioneers in this section of the state. He took up the first homestead in Morken township, acquiring one hundred and sixty acres in section 30. He broke the wild prairie sod with oxen and continued farming with ox-teams for two years. He finally had his land under an excellent state of cultivation and erected a substantial set of buildings on the same, and there he carried on general farming until his death, ranking among the best farmers of his township. After his death his widow bought one hundred and sixty acres in the same section as the original homestead, and there she still resides. She is a woman of much business ability and has managed the farm well, raising a great deal of grain and large numbers of live stock annually.

Mr. Morken was married in 1878 to Augusta Kassenborg, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in 1860, and there she spent her girlhood and received her education in the early-day rural schools. She is a daughter of Andrew and Tilda (Olson) Kassenborg, natives of Norway, the father born there on December 1, 1836. They had come to this country with their respective parents in 1850, the families settling in Rock county, Wisconsin. There they were married in 1858 and continued to reside there until 1876, when they came to Minnesota, beginning life in Clay county in typical pioneer fashion. They endured ten years of hardships and privations, but persevered and eventually developed a good farm from the raw prairie and established a comfortable home. The death of Mr. Kassenborg occurred in September, 1913. He held numerous township offices and was an influential man in his community. His widow is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. They had eight children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Morken ten children were born, as follow: Andrew, who owns a farm in Marshall county, Minnesota, which he is operating; Gilbert, who works in a lumber camp at Rose Lake, Idaho; Salve, who owns a farm at Park Rapids, Minnesota, and is actively engaged in farming there; Martin, who is farming near the place of his brother Andrew; John, unmarried, who is a commercial traveler; Obert, who is helping operate the home farm in Morken township; Henry, who also lives at home and works on the farm; Tilda, who works out, and Trina and Sophia, who live at home and assist their mother keeping house.

Mr. Morken was independent in politics. He was a member of the

Norwegian Lutheran church, to which his family also belong. He had been in failing health for a number of years and, in 1883, made a visit to Norway, believing that the change would benefit him. He took an active interest in public affairs, and was the first township clerk of Morken township; was also treasurer of his township for a number of years and served as supervisor and clerk of the school board in his district. He was one of the public-spirited and useful men of his township and the entire locality expressed sincere regret at his death, which occurred on October 7, 1908, he then being sixty-two years of age. He was a man of good character and was highly respected.

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### OTTO DAHL.

Otto Dahl, of Moorhead, was born in Monroe county, Wisconsin, February 22, 1871, a son of Anton Olean (Opsahl) Dahl, both natives of Norway. Anton Dahl came to America about 1868 and first located in Monroe county, Wisconsin. In 1871 he removed to Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, where he entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. He improved this land and made his home there until his death, which occurred about 1883. He was the father of six children: Otto, Matilda, Ingo, Malvin, Adolph and Marie.

Otto Dahl was educated in the public schools of Trempealeau county, Wisconsin. His father died while he was still young and the charge of the farm came to him at the age of fifteen years. He continued to work on the farm until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time his brother was old enough to take charge, and he then went to Luther College, at Decorah, Iowa, to take a course of study in that institution. In 1897 he came with his uncle, Jens J. Opsahl, to Minnesota and they opened a store in the line of general merchandise at Felton, in Clay county. They continued the business as partners for two years, at the end of which time Otto Dahl disposed of his interest to his uncle and, in connection with his brother-in-law, T. O. Melby, opened up another general store in Felton. They continued in this business, under the firm name of Dahl & Melby, until 1907. In the meantime the business had grown to such an extent that a branch store had been established at Wilton, in Beltrami county, and in 1907 Mr. Dahl bought his partner's interest in the Felton and Wilton stores, and took in his two brothers as partners in the branch store at Wilton. Mr. Dahl continued business at Felton until December, 1914,