

where he homesteaded a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Wild Rice township, which he has brought up to a fine state of cultivation and has improved with fine farm buildings around which he has planted a beautiful grove of trees. His perseverance, industry and good management gave him the right to extend his holdings until now he is the proprietor of six hundred acres of land, on which he carries on general farming and raises stock. His holdings are divided into two parts, "Oak Grove Farm," the name of the home place, well improved with excellent farm buildings, and "Elm Grove Farm," the name of a tract which lies one-half mile east and is operated by his oldest son, Henry Pinske. When Mr. Pinske first came to this country, his land was in great part heavily timbered, and in all he has cleared two hundred and fifty acres, much of it averaging eighty cords of wood to the acre.

On February 14, 1881, Ernest Pinske married Johanna Sanken, who was born in McLeod county, the daughter of Henry Sanken. To this union have been born the following children: Bertha, Charley, Lizzie, Clara, Seva and Herman, all of whom are dead, and Anna, Wilhelmina, Henry and Otto. Mr. Pinske and his family are members of the Lutheran church, being always active in the affairs of that denomination, Mr. Pinske having helped organize the Green Meadow Lutheran church.

Mr. Pinske is a very valuable citizen to his community, for he has given much of his time and money to one of the greatest agents for opening up a new country—roads. For many years he was road overseer, establishing and supervising the thoroughfares for a district which is now divided into three. While serving the public in this capacity, he did much to improve the roads in this part of Wild Rice township, giving money from his own pocket oftentimes for the work. For many years the only roads by which his neighbors could gain access to the public roads were through Mr. Pinske's farm.

OLE K. OLSON.

Ole K. Olson, the son of one of the early pioneers of Halstad township, Norman county, and one of the well-known farmers and stock raisers in Anthony township, where he owns two sections of excellent arable and pasture land, is a native-born Minnesotan, born in Fillmore county, this state, on Christmas Eve, 1868, a son of Knut and Olena (Hellerud) Olson. His parents were natives of Norway, and were numbered among the large

numbers of their countrymen who severed the ties which bound them to the land of their birth to go forth in quest of new and better homes in the New World. It was in 1867 that they bade goodby to their relatives and friends back home and set sail for America, presently locating in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they remained seven years, during which time their son, Ole K., was born. Hearing that a party of settlers in their community were making preparations to "set sail" in their prairie schooners for the newly-opened land in the Red river valley in 1874, Knut Olson loaded his family and their household and agricultural appurtenances into a covered wagon and drove through by ox-team to the region that was later organized as Norman county, the journey requiring about three weeks. As soon as he arrived in these parts, he took a homestead in what later came to be organized as Halstad township, thus becoming one of the pioneers of that civil division of the county, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on December 22, 1916. His wife still survives him. Among his other pioneer activities, Knut Olson helped to establish the first Norwegian Lutheran church in the community. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Ole K., John K., Mary, Albert, Karen, William, Bertha, Emma and George (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Olson reared their family according to the precepts of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Ole K. Olson was only six years old when he was ushered into the pioneer conditions of Norman county. Here he received his common-school education in the primitive district schools of those days, and his training for his future agricultural pursuits in which he has proved himself so successful. There he remained on the old homestead helping his father, bringing the farm up to an admirable state of cultivation, until he reached the age of twenty-five years. At that time, in 1895, he married and left the parental roof-tree and located on his farm in Anthony township, which he had bought two or three years previously. There he has ever since remained, improving and cultivating his land. As the years have passed, prosperity has smiled upon his efforts to such an extent that he has been enabled to extend his holdings until his farm now comprises three hundred and twenty acres, which he has improved by raising fine farm buildings and adding modern agricultural improvements. In addition to his general farming activities, he makes a specialty of breeding Percheron horses and Shropshire sheep.

On June 22, 1895, Ole K. Olson was united in marriage to Laura Westby, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Hans and Grurne (Scheie) Westby, who came to Minnesota in 1892 and located in Norman county. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of eleven children, Bennie, Harriette,

Orlando, William, Harvey, Pearl, Ordin and Gladys (twins), Kenneth, Martin and Inez, all of whom are living. The Olson family are consistent and conscientious members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which denomination they take a deep interest. Mr. Olson is independent in his political views and has never been a seeker after public office, but whenever any movement is set on foot in the community for the social and business betterment of the people, it always finds in Ole K. Olson unstinted support.

PETER LARSON.

Peter Larson, a substantial and progressive farmer, part owner of the "Larson & Johnson Farm," in McDonaldsville township, Norman county, is a native son of Minnesota, born in Norman county, where he has lived all his life with the exception of one year spent in North Dakota. He was born at Ada on August 24, 1881, a son of Hans and Helena (Peterson) Larson, both of whom were born in Norway.

Hans Larson received his education in the schools of Norway and in 1863 immigrated with his parents, Lars and Maria Knutson, to the United States, working for some years later on his father's farm in Iowa. At the age of twenty-eight years, in June, 1880, he came to Ada, Norman county, a horse-team being employed to cover the journey, which occupied about two weeks. He made Ada his home for two years, engaged in running a feed barn, and at the end of that period he bought land in Hegne township, his holding consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he carried on general farming for ten years. He then moved to McDonaldsville township, this county, and purchased a parcel of land, which he has operated with considerable success and on which he has continued to reside ever since, the holding consisting of two hundred and seventy-four acres. He is also interested in the raising of Shorthorn cattle, some excellent specimens of which are to be found on his farm. A more extended account of Hans Larson appears in another part of this work, to which the reader is referred for additional information respecting the Larson family generally.

Peter Larson was educated in the schools of McDonaldsville township and later helped his father in the work of improving and developing the home farm. Some time later he homesteaded a farm in Benson county, North Dakota, and remained there during the year 1903, proving his claim