

JAMES A SAUER.

One of the genuine pioneers of Clay county, who was willing to take the hardships of the early days that he might acquire the soil and the home that was sure to rise in due course of time, was James A. Sauer, who is one of the leading general farmers of Spring Prairie township.

Mr. Sauer was born in Norway, October 11, 1864. He is a son of Andrew and Rachael (Sauer) Sauer, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and made their home until 1870, when they brought their family to America, locating in Humboldt county, Iowa, where the father engaged in general farming until the spring of 1881, when he moved to Minnesota, taking up a homestead in section 26, Spring Prairie township, Clay county. His wife had died in Iowa. He and his children developed a good farm here on which he continued to reside until 1892, when he moved to Cromwell township, and there spent the rest of his life, dying in December, 1916, having been retired for many years from active labors, leaving the real work of the farm to his son, Ole Sauer. He was a true pioneer and had been very successful as a farmer and stock raiser. His family consisted of ten children, Ambrose, A. K., Tina, Rachael, Belle, James A., Andrew, John, Samuel and Ole, all of whom are living.

James A. Sauer was six years old when his parents brought him from Norway to this country and he grew to manhood and attended the public schools in Humboldt county, Iowa. He came to Minnesota with his father in 1881 and started out for himself; taking up a homestead, the northwest quarter of section 21 of Spring Prairie township in Clay county. About three years later he secured the southwest quarter of the same section, as a tree claim, and has made his home on the latter quarter ever since. He now owns a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, including the northwest quarter of section 20, Spring Prairie township, although he has sold his original homestead. He made extensive improvements on his land, erecting a large, comfortable residence and substantial outbuildings, and put out a fine grove, raising many of the trees from the seed. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, making all by his own efforts.

In 1887 Mr. Sauer was married to Jennie Torgeson, a native of Norway, where her parents lived and died, and from which country she came to America when young. To her union with Mr. Sauer two children were born, namely: Andrew and Gena. Mr. Sauer married a second time, No-

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-