

Charles M. Aagaard was four years of age when he settled with his parents in Iowa, and later came with them to Polk county, Minnesota, living on the old home place until March 15, 1907. At that time he moved down into Norman county and purchased two hundred and forty-six acres in Hendrum township, which he has since improved by the erection of a fine barn and granary. Mr. Aagaard is a very successful grain farmer, and in addition to this line of agriculture is a breeder of a good grade of Short-horn cattle and thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs.

On June 8, 1887, Charles M. Aagaard was united in marriage to Elizabeth Christianson, who was born in Norway on March 30, 1863, the daughter of Christianson and Ellen. (Jacobson) Christianson, both natives of Norway, where they married, lived and died. Mr. and Mrs. Aagaard are the parents of five children, all of whom are living: Johannah, Alfred, Ella, Josephine and Alvin. The family are devout Christians, being active and consistent members of the Lutheran church.

While Mr. Aagaard lived in Polk county he served as member of the board in the township in which he lived. Later, when he came to Norman county, he as a progressive farmer, became interested in better facilities for the marketing of agricultural and dairy products and helped to reorganize the Farmers Elevator Company at Hendrum, of which at this time he is a director; and he also has an interest in the creamery at Hendrum. No community is complete without adequate credit facilities and especially is this true in an agricultural section, and Mr. Aagaard, who is a wide-awake farmer, helped to organize the Farmers State Bank and is a director of the same.

CARL J. STORDAHL.

Carl J. Stordahl, a well-to-do farmer of Hendrum township, Norman county, where he owns three hundred and thirty-nine acres of improved land, and pioneer of Hendrum township, was born in Norway, April 29, 1853, the son of John O. and Janetta (Beckadahl) Strodahl, both natives of Norway, where they were reared and married. In 1875 the family decided to leave the land of their birth and cross the Atlantic to the land of opportunity; accordingly, in the year mentioned above, they immigrated to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they remained two years. Hearing that the land in the Red river valley was being opened to settlement, the family left their temporary home in Fillmore county and traveled north-



MR. AND MRS. CARL J. STORDAHL.



ward in a covered wagon, drawn by a yoke of oxen. They arrived in Norman county, after a journey of three weeks and one day, with the other settlers of the party, and the elder Stordahl took a homestead in the same year where the Pontopidan church now stands, a quarter section of Hendrum township land, where he and his wife remained until his death about 1907. The wife had passed away in 1895.

John O. Stordahl was deeply imbued with the spirit of industry and he immediately began to improve his holding by planting a grove and erecting substantial farm buildings. He also had time to enter into the activities of the neighborhood, for he helped to organize Hendrum township, along with his son, Carl J., the subject of this review. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Lewis; Conrad, deceased; Ole, who did not come to America with the rest of the family and died in Norway; Anna, Carl J., Jens (deceased), Peter, who died after coming to this country, and Christina. The elder Stordahl, as was his family, was a devoted member of the Lutheran church, and performed a valuable service in the establishment of that denomination in Hendrum township, for he helped to organize the Pontopidan Lutheran church, the site of which he donated to the society.

Carl J. Stordahl, who was educated in the common schools of Norway, came to America with his parents when he was twenty-four years of age and settled with the family in Norman county. Losing no time after he arrived in these parts, he took a homestead, in 1877, the northwest quarter of section 28 in what later came to be organized as Hendrum township, and lived there until 1897. During his residence on the homestead he improved the same by erecting buildings and planting a grove. After twenty years of industry in bringing his farm up to an excellent state of improvement, he built his comfortable home across the road in section 29, where he has since lived. As the years went on he had the opportunity to extend his holdings until now he is the owner of three hundred and thirty-nine acres of well-improved land, which includes all his homestead except what he gave as a cemetery for the Pontopidan church.

Mr. Stordahl has, during his residence in the township, ever been actively engaged in furthering the civil and business interests of the community. As was stated before, he was one of the organizers of Hendrum township, on the board of which he served for a number of years, and is now serving his neighbors in the capacity of township treasurer. He has also been actively engaged in furthering the educational progress of the

township, having served as school clerk for twelve years and having helped to organize school district No. 40. Mr. Stordahl was one of the organizers of the creamery, the Farmers Elevator and the Farmers State Bank at Hendrum.

On April 9, 1883, in Hendrum township, Norman county, Carl J. Stordahl was united in marriage to Hansene Nygaard, who also was born in the kingdom of Norway and who had come to this country with her parents, Peter and Eunetta (Moen) Nygaard, both natives of Norway, the family arriving in 1882. Three years before the father had come to Minnesota and had bought a tract of land in Norman county, where he made preliminary preparation for the coming of his family and had then gone back to Norway and had brought his family here, establishing his home on his new possessions. Peter Nygaard was trained as a carpenter in his native land and even after coming to this state did much carpenter work, in addition to carrying on his farming operations. He is still living, now making his home with his son in Halstad township. His wife died in February, 1915. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Stordahl nine children have been born, namely: John O., who is cashier of the State Bank of Shelly; Joseph, who, since he was ten years of age had been working for G. T. Ingberg and others at Hendrum and who recently moved with his family to Montana; Gilma, wife of Halvor Skagy, cashier of the State Bank at Tyler, North Dakota; Olga, wife of Anton Opgardt, a merchant at Halstad; Cora, who is engaged as a professional nurse at Bismarck; Hilda Josephine, who is at home, and Arthur, Victor and Eddie, also at home.

PETER AMBUEL.

The little mountain republic of Switzerland was the native land of many of the sturdiest settlers who have come to this country to establish their homes in a larger democracy, and among these is Peter Ambuel, a prosperous farmer living in Mary township, Norman county, and the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land, two hundred acres of which lies in Mary township, forty in Wild Rice and one hundred and eighty in Hegne township. He was born on October 3, 1854, a son of David and Vema (Held) Ambuel, both of whom came to America, bringing their family with them, and settled in Wisconsin. For a number of