

to increase the prestige and popularity of this sound and safe banking house, which has had a very satisfactory growth. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Farmers Elevator Company at Georgetown, which operates one of the thriving elevators in Clay county.

In 1904 Mr. Nelson was married to Burgetta Gunderson, a daughter of Peter Gunderson and wife, of Hendrum, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. Mrs. Nelson was called to her eternal rest on April 16, 1916, leaving three children, Sylvester, Eunice and Hubert.

Mr. Nelson is a Republican and is one of the leaders of his party in Clay county. He was treasurer of the Republican county committee in 1916; is treasurer of the village of Georgetown, and is also treasurer of the local school district. As a public servant he has always discharged his duties in an able, faithful and creditable manner. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

OLE S. NARVERUD.

Ole S. Narverud was born in Norway, February 26, 1855, a son of Stengrim Ostenson and Birgit (Bakhus) Narverud, both natives of Norway, where they spent their entire life. They were the parents of eight children: Osten, Sunnev, Halvor, Ole S., Gurine, Barbro, Stengrim and Sivert.

Ole S. Narverud received his early education in the public schools of Norway, supplemented by attendance of public schools in Clay county for a few months after coming to this country. As a young man, he learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for some time in his native country. In 1879 he came to America and located first in Goose Prairie township, Clay county, Minnesota, and three years later he bought one hundred and twenty acres of unimproved land in Highland Grove township, Clay county, and located on this land. He put up buildings and improved the land, breaking the sod and clearing the land of the wild growth of underbrush, and in time had the land in a fair condition for the production of crops. He lived on this farm for seven years and during that time expended a vast amount of hard labor incident in putting the land in condition for cultivation. In 1889 he sold the farm and worked out for about one year, and in July, 1890, he embarked in the hardware and implement business, at Hitterdal, in which he has continued ever since.

Mr. Narverud was married in 1882, to Gor Ostenson, and to this union eight children have been born, namely: Bertha Gustina, Tillie, Gustav O., Henry, Stina, Olga, Mabel and Lillian. Mr. Narverud and family are members of the Synod Lutheran church. While living on the farm Mr. Narverud served as supervisor of the township for six years.

MARTIN A. GIERE.

Martin A. Giere, a farmer of Cromwell township, Clay county, was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, April 19, 1861. He is a son of Amund and Kari (Jesme) Giere, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America, single, and were married in Dane county, Wisconsin. Nels and Mari Giere, the paternal grandparents, natives of Norway, came to America in 1846, locating first in Dane county, Wisconsin, among the early settlers, driving out from Milwaukee to Dane county with an ox-team. There the grandmother died ten years later. In 1856 the grandfather, with the parents of the subject of this sketch, made the trip in a prairie schooner, drawn by an ox-team from there to Olmsted county, Minnesota. Amund Giere bought one hundred and sixty acres in Wisconsin, which he later sold, and then bought land in Olmsted county, this state, of the government, and there he developed a good farm, on which he spent the rest of his life. His widow is still living there. Fifteen children were born to them, namely: Nels, Torbjern, Ole, Martin, Ingeval (deceased), Lew Columbus, Alfred (deceased), Otto Enoch (deceased) Alexandria, Tedman (who died in infancy), Tedman Oscar and Josephine Emilia (twins), Amanda Matilda and Clara Louisa, both of whom died in infancy, and Alfred.

Amund Giere, father of the above named children, was an influential man in his locality. He served as treasurer of the school board from the time it was organized until within a few years of his death. He helped organize the district he lived in, in Olmsted county, and also helped organize the first church in his community. This church was built of stone and he helped build it and remained an active church worker. This church has the reputation of being one of the finest rural churches in the state. Torbjern and Inga (Lee) Jesme, the maternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch, were natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in 1846 and located in Dane county, Wisconsin; later moved to Iowa and