

and comfortable surroundings, the Danielson place in time becoming recognized as one of the best-kept farm plants in all that neighborhood. As Mr. Danielson prospered in his undertakings he added to his holdings until he became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres and was accounted one of the most substantial residents of that part of the county. He was a Republican, ever standing stanchly for the principles of that party, and took an active part in the general public affairs of his home township and of the county at large. On the pioneer farm on which they settled early in the seventies John Danielson and his wife spent their last days, honored and influential pioneers. John Danielson died on August 8, 1905, and Johannah Danielson died on December 23, 1907. They were the parents of five children, Annie, Amelia, Oscar, Gotfrey and Emma.

The two sons of the late John Danielson and wife, William Oscar and Henry Gotfrey Danielson, are twins and now own and operate the old home place, to which they have added until they are now owners of one thousand acres of excellent land, on which they have erected excellent buildings and made extensive improvements, carrying on their operations on a large scale and in accordance with the most up-to-date methods of scientific agriculture, going in chiefly for grain farming and potato raising. Their sister Anna is mistress of the household and they are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated.

OLE NYSTEVOLD.

Ole Nystevold, a well-known contractor and builder of Twin Valley, Norman county, was born on the old Nystevold homestead in Flom township, section 32, November 22, 1885, a son of John O. and Guri (Stuedahler) Nystevold, both of whom were natives of Norway.

John O. Nystevold, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born, April 15, 1850, and is now living an active life on the farm which he homesteaded many years ago in section 32, Flom township, a successful farmer and good citizen. He is a son of Ole S. and Carrie Nystevold, both of whom were born in Norway, but spent their whole lives in their native land, never coming to America. The father, who was a farmer and business man in the old country, died there in 1912 and the death of the mother occurred in 1907. They were the parents of five children, namely: John, the father of the subject of this review; Mary, who is married and now

residing in Canada; Rengnild, still living in Norway; Beret and Ingeborg, both still in their native land.

John O. Nystevold was reared on the home farm in Norway, and there he received an elementary education such as the time and place afforded. During the summer months, he helped his father to operate the farm and thus acquired a practical training that has been of great benefit to him since he came to this country and began a career on the soil; however, farming methods here in the Northwest are quite different from those practiced in Norway. Learning from many of his countrymen, who had come to America, that excellent opportunities for acquiring good land in large quantities for a small price were many in this country, he immigrated here in 1872 and came on out to Iowa, where he settled with two of his uncles in Allamakee county. Here he worked on his uncles' farm until the October of that year, when he removed to Wisconsin, where he worked for six years at lumbering. By this time he had acquired enough capital to set himself up in farming, and in 1878 he came over into Minnesota and on up into Norman county. Here he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 32, Flom township, where he has since continued to live, a pioneer in this part of the county. When he first came to his holding, he found it entirely new land, very raw but having a large, natural grove. He struck his plowshare into the soil in the year that he came, and for draught animals used oxen, which served his purpose for fourteen years. After he reaped and threshed his grain, he used the same animals to haul the treasure which he had wrested from the prairie thirty miles to the nearest market. Soon after he arrived upon his farm, he began building his house, which at first was a small frame structure, fourteen by sixteen feet, roofed with pieces of sod. His other farm buildings were logs, and, even though they were quite rough, they served his purpose until he could make the needed improvements. He has added to the farm home and barn, the former now consisting of eight rooms and a hall. All of his buildings are in an excellent state of repair, thus reflecting the industry and thrift of the owner. Mr. Nystevold is a grain farmer, raising wheat mostly, however, he has some graded stock.

In 1883, John Nystevold was united in marriage to Guri Stuedahl, who was born in Norway, in April, 1857, and she came to this country with her parents, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Nystevold are the parents of four children, all of whom are living: Belle, at home; Ole, a contractor of Twin Valley, the subject of this review, and Henry and John, both at home working on their father's farm. The

father and mother are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Aspelund, and in the affairs of this church society they take a deep and active interest, the former being trustee of the congregation at this time. The father found time in the development of his farm to devote some of his efforts to the educational and civic interests of the community. For twenty-nine or thirty years he has been a clerk of the school district and for many years he was a member of the township board.

Ole Nystevold spent his boyhood on the old home place where he was born, and there in his youth and early manhood, contributed his industry to the development of his father's holding. He attended the local public schools, and there acquired his formal education. When he arrived at manhood, he decided to leave his father's roof and seek his place in the world of work in other places than on the soil. Accordingly he went to Twin Valley, where he learned the carpenter trade, and he prospered in his undertaking. He extended his operations until he took up contracting. He owns his comfortable home here in the village of Twin Valley, and on the same tract on which his home stands, he has his well-appointed workshop.

Mr. Nystevold married Mina Aasgaard, who was born in Minnesota, a daughter of Martinus and Maria Aasgaard. To this union have been born the following children: Gladys, Miles and Orwin. Mr. and Mrs. Nystevold are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Twin Valley, and they are very active in the church work of the local congregation and in all movements for the common welfare of the community in which they live.

HENRY BENSON.

Henry Benson, a retired farmer living in Twin Valley, who formerly owned one of the finest farms in Fossum township, this county, and one of the first settlers of the same township, was born at Christiania, Norway, on August 15, 1844, a son of Bernt and Martina Bjerke, both natives of the vicinity of Christiania, where they remained until their deaths, the father being a laborer. Bernt Bjerke was married twice; by his first wife, the mother of Henry Benson, he had six children, namely: Henry, Nils Christian, Mary, Stina Matilda, John Albert and Martine. He married Karen Stabek, and to the second union were born five children, as follow: Anna, Carl, Nettie, Hannah and Julia.