

state, February 21, 1854, and to this union fourteen children have been born, namely: John, who is married and is the owner of a farm east of his father's place; Anna, deceased; Caroline, deceased; Gustav and Christina (twins), the former of whom is married and lives on a farm in the vicinity of Ada and the latter of whom is deceased; Henry, who is married and lives on a farm in Lee township; Mary, wife of Lars Olson, now living in Montana; Tilda, deceased; Clara, who is living at St. Paul; Martin, who is married and who lives at Perley, where he is the proprietor of a garage; Oscar, who is married and is farming that part of his father's place north of the home place; Joseph, who is married and lives in North Dakota; William, who remains on the home place, and Emma, also at home. The Andersons are members of the Betania Lutheran church and have ever taken a proper part in the various beneficences of the same, Mr. Anderson being one of the trustees of the church. They have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the community's general social activities and good works, helpful in many ways in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common good thereabout. Mrs. Anderson is a daughter of Gilbert and Anna (Dahl) Melbostad, natives of Norway, who came to America on the same ship with the Anderson family and located in Wisconsin, where they were married, and lived there until 1853, when they moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa. Both are now deceased.

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#### JORIS C. NORBY.

The history of Norman county in the making would be incomplete without fitting mention of the late Joris C. Norby, former clerk of the district court, former county auditor, and one time editor and owner of the *Norman County Herald*, a substantial landowner, mill man and lumberman, who died at his home in the city of Ada, in December, 1902. Enterprise, honesty and the conscientious discharge of public duties placed him at the highest station among the citizens and business men of Ada and at the time of his death he was in the enjoyment of the ample rewards of a well-spent life.

Mr. Norby was a native of the kingdom of Norway, born on a farm in Trondjhem, October 22, 1857. His father, Joris Norby, who was a merchant and farmer in his native land, came to America with his family in 1871 and settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota. Joris C. Norby was the tenth child and the youngest son in a family of twelve children. He was given a liberal

education in his native land, supplemental by attendance at the schools of Fillmore county and Decorah, Iowa. In 1878, when twenty-one years old, he came into the Red River country and located in Norman county, where he taught school and also worked at his trade, that of a carpenter, until 1883. He filed on a tract of government land, as a permanent place of residence. In 1882 Mr. Norby was elected clerk of the district court. He was re-elected in 1886, but owing to impaired health did not serve out his second term, resigning in January, 1889. Acting upon the advice of his physician, Mr. Norby made a trip to Europe and upon his return to Minnesota engaged in farming a few years. In January, 1892, he purchased the *Norman County Herald*, published at Ada, and continued its publication until he disposed of his interests in August, 1900. This paper was established by O. H. Phillips, as a Democratic paper, in 1888, and in the following year was purchased by a local stock company, which converted its columns to the Prohibition cause and were so conducting it when Mr. Norby became the owner. He transformed the paper into an organ of the Populist party and it became the recognized organ of that party in Norman county. In 1892, the year in which he purchased the *Herald*, Mr. Norby was elected county auditor and his popularity throughout the county and the faithful manner in which he discharged his official duties in that capacity are attested by the fact that he was re-elected to that office in 1894, and thus served two terms as auditor. In 1895 he became interested in the lumber business, in partnership with C. C. Allen, and held his interest in that business at the time of his death. He also built a flouring-mill at Halstad, retaining a half interest in the business. In addition to his interest in these industries, Mr. Norby owned and operated five hundred and twenty acres of valuable land and also helped organize and was secretary of the Norman County Telephone Company and was otherwise interested in the industrial and commercial life of the community of which he had been an active factor since pioneer days. Upon the decline of the Populist party Mr. Norby put in his lot with that of the Republicans and for some time served as a member of the Republican county central committee. For thirty years or more he had been an active member of the Odd Fellows fraternity. When called upon to serve his fellow man in various offices of trust he proved his ability and faithfulness and to the end enjoyed the confidence and the esteem of those among whom he had chosen to make his home.

In 1889 Joris C. Norby was united in marriage to Valborg Schriver, a native of the kingdom of Norway, who was born in the city of Christiania, coming to this country in 1888. To that union, four sons were born, all born

in the city of Ada. In 1906 Mrs. Norby married Dr. Walter B. Holmes, of Ada, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Joris C. Norby, Jr., late of St. Johns Military School, is now an acting corporal in the United States Marine Corps stationed at Mare Island, California, having enlisted at the first call for recruits after the declaration of war. Of his brothers—the firm of Norby Brothers, of Great Falls, Montana—Erling Norby stands subject to the second call to arms. Frithjof Norby stands subject to the third call. Offsprings of a worthy sire, they go without fear or trembling, to the end that liberty and the rights of man may not perish from the earth.

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#### W. C. LEE.

W. C. Lee, register of deeds for Norman county and the proprietor of the *Twin Valley Times* at Twin Valley, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has lived in Minnesota, a resident of Norman county, since the days of his infancy, his parents having settled here in pioneer days. He was born at Decorah, Iowa, November 22, 1881, son of K. G. and Susan (Bursham) Lee, both of whom also were born at Decorah and the former of whom was a son of G. K. Lee and wife, natives of Norway, who came to this country and were among the early residents of Decorah.

K. G. Lee grew to manhood at Decorah, married there and engaged there in the general mercantile business, remaining thus engaged until in March, 1882, when he disposed of his interests at that place and came up into Minnesota, putting in his lot with the early settlers of the new county-seat town, Ada, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential citizens of that city, his death occurring in 1905. K. G. Lee was an ardent Republican and early became one of the leaders of that party in Norman county. For six years he served as sheriff of the county and there were few men in this part of the state who had a wider acquaintance than he during the days of his activity. He and his wife were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: May, who married A. J. Johnson; George, of Idaho; Alice, wife of Rev. H. Schliesser; Emma, wife of P. Simonson; Raymond, of Twin Valley, and Kenneth, of Twin Valley. A daughter, Kyle, died when only six months old.