

farm, which he is now managing very successfully. He carries on general farming and raises mule-foot hogs, and is doing very well. He was married to Ida Nelson on December 28, 1898, and they are parents of one child, a daughter, Winifred, now three years old.

An interesting item in connection with the Marth family on the female side is worth recording. Rosalia Zieberth, grandmother of Wilhelmina Klement, who became the wife of John Marth, Sr., was the third white woman to cross Crow river from Wright county, Minnesota.

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### JOHN OSS.

John Oss, an inventor now living in Hitterdal, Clay county, was born in Norderhow, Ringerike, Norway, September 25, 1845, a son of Nels Paulson and Kari Ellinger, both natives of Norway. The father was a farmer in Norway and spent his entire life in that country. He was the father of five children, namely: Paul, Martin, Thomas, John, the subject of this review, and Nels.

John Oss, who was a sergeant in the Norwegian army, received there his education, passing his examination in the higher studies with honors. In 1882, he came to America and located in Atlanta township, Becker county, Minnesota, and engaged in farming. In 1886, he came to Keene township, Clay county, and took up a homestead consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, where he built a house and other buildings, making this home until about 1896. In that year he returned to Atlanta township, Becker county, Minnesota, and bought a farm of eighty acres, which he later sold, and then bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. He lived on this farm and engaged in general farming until 1914, when he sold out and removed to Hitterdal, Clay county, where he has since resided.

For fourteen years, while living in Becker county, Mr. Oss was county surveyor, and, being of an inventive turn of mind, worked out several improvements on surveyors' leveling rods and computing machines, at his spare time. He was for twenty years a member of the school board, and for two years assessor of Atlanta township. While living in Keene township, Clay county, he served as chairman of the school board of that township, also as constable for a time, and as justice of the peace. Mr. Oss was one of the organizers of the Clay County Bank, of Hitterdal, of which he has

been a trustee since its organization. He is a member of the Synod Lutheran church, of which he was for three years trustee before becoming treasurer, which office he now holds.

Before coming to America, Mr. Oss was sergeant in the Norwegian army which he entered in 1867, serving until 1872. After leaving the army, he went to Christiania, Norway, where he was employed for eight years as superintendent of a manufacturing plant, where many kinds of machinery, tools, stoves, and the like were manufactured. Because his health was failing he was advised by his physician to give up inside work and he quit the factory. He then decided to come to America, where there was larger opportunity for outdoor work.

John Oss was united in marriage to Johanna Wenner, and to this union six children were born, namely: Oscar, Ray, Jennie, who married Anton Melbye; Theodore, Helga, the wife of Julius Schloesser; Alfred, the post-master at Hitterdal, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Oss, being members of the Synod Lutheran church, have reared their children according to the precepts of this creed.

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### JOHN BURRILL.

One of the well-remembered and highly esteemed citizens of Hawley, Clay county, during a past generation was the late John Burrill. He was born at Abbott, Maine, on August 2, 1842, a son of Jacob and Rachael (Bennett) Burrill, who are mentioned on other pages of this volume.

John Burrill spent a part of his boyhood in his native town, where he attended the public schools, but before he had reached man's estate, he removed with his parents to Framingham, Massachusetts, and later to Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, where he was employed in a woodenware factory. In the spring of 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Second New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, being the first man from his county to enlist in the three-year service. At the expiration of his first term of enlistment, he re-enlisted for the duration of the war, a period of one year. He took part in many of the leading battles of the Civil War, including Bull Run (first and second), Fredericksburg, Antietam, Gettysburg, siege of Richmond, and many others, being present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia. Soon, thereafter, he was detailed as a guard. He had previously been an orderly for Gen. Joe Hooker, and he had the honor of escorting Pres-