

In 1909, Mr. Garden was married to Emma Berg, who was born in Waukon township, Norman county, a daughter of A. K. Berg and wife, and to this union two children have been born, daughters, Violet and Ethel, both of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Garden are prominent members of the St. Peter Lutheran church and in this faith they are rearing their children. Not only do they take a very active part in local social affairs, they are also prominent participants in any movement which has for its object the moral, material and social betterment of the community in which they live. Mr. Garden was township chairman of Bear Park township for three years in addition to holding other local offices of trust.

GILBERT PEDERSON.

Another of the native-born Norwegians who has settled in Clay county and has proved himself to be an expert farmer, now the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Bear Park township, is Gilbert Pederson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway on May 20, 1850, a son of Peter and Martha (Johnsdatter) Larson. His parents also were born in Norway and in that country spent all their lives, and there Peter Larson followed the trade of a carpenter. They were the parents of three children, namely, Jennie, Eliza and Gilbert.

Gilbert Pederson was reared in his father's home in Norway and had but a few days schooling in that country, but since coming to America he became self-taught in the English language. At the age of eighteen, in 1878, he came to the United States, proceeding on arrival to Goodhue county, this state, and there worked at any kind of labor offering. In 1881 he moved to Norman county and in that year he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he has since lived. The holding was largely in timber, and he proceeded to the task of clearing and breaking the ground and presently had it under crops, doing very well from the very beginning. As Mr. Pederson prospered in his farming operations he added to his land holding and is now the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, and in addition he keeps a high grade of Holstein cattle, and is accounted one of the foremost farmers in that part of the township. In 1917 he erected a fine dairy barn, thirty-six by ninety feet.

On January 28, 1882, Gilbert Pederson was united in marriage to Oline Boreren, a native of Norway, a daughter of Ole Boreren and wife, also

natives of that country. To this union the following children have been born: Christina, who grew to maturity and is now deceased; Peter, Bent, Martinus, Ole and Mary, and two others who died young. Mr. Pederson always has taken a good citizen's interest in the welfare of the community and was one of the organizers of the first church at Rindahl. He also assisted in promoting the organization of Bear Park township, and the first township meeting was held in his homestead shanty, the township being organized at that meeting. Mr. Pederson has in many other ways during his residence of thirty-six years in Norman county, giving evidence of his practical interest in community affairs.

SEVER CHRISTIANSON.

Sever Christianson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer, living in Bear Park township, Norman county, is a native son of Minnesota, born on his father's farm in Nicollet county, July 4, 1873, a son of Gunder and Elena (Evensrud) Gunderson, both natives of Norway.

Gunder Gunderson was educated in the schools of his native land and in 1866 he and the members of his family immigrated to the United States. Following his arrival in this country he proceeded immediately to Nicollet county, this state, and there he acquired a tract of forty acres of land, which he continued to operate for about seventeen years. In 1883 he moved to Norman county and about two years later he homesteaded the quarter section of land on which Sever Christianson now lives in Bear Park township, and here he engaged in general farming for the remainder of his life. He died on the homestead farm and his widow is still living with her son, the subject of this sketch, on the home place. Gunder Gunderson and wife were the parents of the following children: Tilla, Mollie, Gust, Jennie, Thea, Polly, Sever, Minnie (deceased), Josie, and William (deceased). Gunder Gunderson helped to organize the Norman Lutheran church, shortly after settling in the county, and also assisted in promoting the Bear Park Mercantile Company, and in other ways gave of his time to the advancement of the community welfare.

Sever Christianson was educated in the schools of Nicollet county and was reared on his father's farm, where he assisted in the work of improving and developing the home place. In 1883 he came with his parents to this county in an ox-drawn covered wagon, the trip to Norman county occupy-