

home; Agnes, deceased; Borghild, who is married and lives on the home farm; Alf, who was graduated from the Park Region College at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, later taking an advanced course at the State Normal School, and is also a teacher by profession, and Agnes, Ingeborg, Alvilda and Dagmar, who are also engaged in school teaching. They all received excellent educational advantages and are successful teachers.

Politically, Mr. Solwold is independent. While living in Cromwell township he served as township clerk. He has also served as chairman of the township board in Goose Prairie township, also as supervisor of the latter, and was clerk of school district No. 95 for a period of twenty years. He is a member of the Lutheran church, in which he is a deacon. He was also a deacon of the church of this denomination in his early days in Fillmore county. He is a well-informed man, having been a student and a wide reader, as well as a close observer, all his life and is well posted on current events, one of the leaders of public affairs in this locality.

PETER A. PETERSON.

Peter A. Peterson, who for more than twenty years has held the important office of sheriff of Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was ten years of age and in Norman county since he was twenty-five, he having been a homesteader here back in pioneer days. He was born in 1857, son of Andrew and Bertha Maria (Hanson) Peterson, both natives of Norway and the former of whom died there when the subject of this sketch was nine years of age. The widow and her two sons, Peter and Anton, a short time afterward, in 1867, came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Freeborn county, where the Widow Peterson presently married Sterner Hanson and where she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring in 1897. Her husband died a few years prior to that date. Her younger son, Anton Peterson, two years younger than his brother, Peter, is now living in Santa Cruz, California.

As noted above, Peter A. Peterson was about ten years of age when he came with his mother to this state and located in Freeborn county. There he completed his schooling and early began work on a farm, becoming an excellent farmer. During the last two years of his residence in that county Mr. Peterson owned a horse-power threshing-rig, which he operated with



MR. AND MRS. PETER A. PETERSON.



much success throughout the neighborhood in which he lived. In 1879 Mr. Peterson married and in 1882 he and his wife drove over to this part of the state, bringing through some essential household articles, four horses and several cattle, the trip requiring twenty-three days. Upon his arrival here Mr. Peterson homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 10 of Strand township, Norman county, and there established his home, putting up a comfortable house and adequate farm buildings, and made other improvements on the place. After a while he sold that place to advantage and bought two hundred acres of railroad land in Bear Park township, which he proceeded to improve and on which he made his home until his election to the office of sheriff of Norman county in 1896, when he moved to Ada, where he ever since has made his home, occupant of the sheriff's residence; for he ever since has occupied that office, his manner of conducting the affairs of the sheriff's office having so warmly recommended him to the voters of the county that he has been re-elected at each succeeding election. Sheriff Peterson had had previous public experience before taking up the duties of the sheriff's office, for during his residence in Bear Park township he was chairman of the board of township supervisors all but two years of the time he spent there and during the last two years of his residence there was township assessor. He also was active in the general affairs of the community and helped organize the creamery company at Rindahl, the company that established the first real creamery in Norman county, and until he left the farm remained a member of the board of directors of that company. Not long after locating in Norman county Mr. Peterson bought a horse-power threshing-rig and operated the same for two seasons, at the end of which time he bought the first steam-traction outfit in that section and for years operated the same widely over the four nearby townships, Strand, Sundal, Bear Park and Waukon, his experience as a thresherman, including the time spent at that business in Freeborn county before he came up here, covering twenty-two years. For some years after moving to Ada Sheriff Peterson also owned and operated a livery stable in that city.

In November, 1879, Peter A. Peterson was united in marriage to Helena Thronson, who was born on a pioneer farm in the vicinity of Calmer, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, daughter of Thron and Guri (Helgeson) Thronson, natives of Norway, who had located in Iowa in 1854, and to this union seven children have been born, Mary, who died in infancy, Mary (second), Tillie, Bertha, Elby, Carl and Arthur. Sheriff and Mrs. Peter-

son are members of the Synod Lutheran church and were among the most active factors in the movement that resulted in the erection of a church of that denomination east of Gary.

PETER SANDERS.

The country has many advantages over the city. Likewise, it has its disadvantages—one of the greatest being the lack of opportunity to gain a competence within a reasonable period of time. Many farmers have grown rich through increased valuation of their land; others through carefully husbanding their resources, rigid discipline and economic living and good business ability, oftentimes combined with favorable seasons for their principal products. One of the successful farmers of Felton township, Clay county, is Peter Sanders.

Mr. Sanders was born in Sweden, August 29, 1870. He is a son of Peter and Celia Sanders, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and made their home until 1884, when they came to America, locating at Vasa, Goodhue county, Minnesota, where the father followed the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in the old country when a young man. He and his wife are still living at Vasa, many of the buildings of which town he helped erect during his residence there of over thirty years. Six of the children born to these parents grew to maturity, namely: Peter, Jr., Annie, Matilda, Albertina, John and Alma. Two children died in early life. The parents of these children are members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Peter Sanders was fourteen years old when his parents brought him to America. He attended the public schools in Sweden, also went to school three months after coming to Vasa, Minnesota. He began working out in Goodhue county as a farm hand, remaining there until 1887, when he came to Moorhead, where he worked in a brick yard for four years. During that period he learned the brick-making business thoroughly, but upon leaving Moorhead he turned his attention to farming, which he has continued ever since, in Clay county, and in Felton township since 1909. He operates a half section near the village of Felton, carrying on general farming and stock raising and during the summer months he also operates a hay bailer.

Mr. Sanders was married in 1891 to Thresa Brandt, a native of Sweden, from which country she came to America with her parents, Frank G. and