

at that place in 1859, and to this union two children have been born, a son, John Eliot Richards, and a daughter, Ruth Eliot Richards, the latter of whom was graduated from a New Jersey college in the spring of 1917, and the former, of Dartmouth College. John E. Richards remains on the home place, aiding in the general management of the same. Harry Richards is a Mason of high degree, having attained the Scottish Rite (thirty-second degree) in that order, a charter member of the consistory of North Dakota and is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with El Zagal Temple at Fargo. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in the affairs of that order likewise takes a warm interest.

SAMSON N. PETERSON.

Samson N. Peterson, an enterprising merchant at Perley, Norman county, was born at Calamus, Iowa, January 21, 1864. He is a son of Nils and Kari (Hanson) Peterson, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity and attended school, and they were married in their native land in 1855. They came to America on their honeymoon and located on a farm near Calamus, Iowa, buying raw land, which they improved by hard work and perseverance, enduring the usual hardships and privations of pioneer life. The father still lives on the home place there, which he has now occupied for a period of sixty-two years, a record that few men in his state can equal. He owns one hundred and eighty acres. His wife died on December 21, 1891. She was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, to which Nils Peterson also belongs. To these parents three children were born, Hans, Samson N. and Cornelius.

Samson N. Peterson grew to manhood on the home farm at Calamus, Iowa, working hard during the crop seasons, and in the winter attended the district schools, later attending the high school at Dewitt, that state, and was graduated therefrom. He began life for himself as a teacher, in the fall of 1881, and continued teaching for eight years with success, giving satisfaction both to pupils and patrons, and his services were in demand. During this period he taught four years in Norman county, Minnesota, having come here in 1886. In the fall of 1890 he began clerking in a store at Ada, and the following year took a position as clerk in the store of A. J. Kroshus at Perley, which position he held two years, then clerked two years

in the Aabye store there. He then went to Fargo, North Dakota, and clerked one year; then had charge of a store at Horace, that state, seven years. In all these positions he gave his employers most satisfactory service, being faithful, alert and courteous to customers. During his period of clerking Mr. Peterson was a close observer and mastered the various ins and outs of the mercantile business, at the same time saving his earnings. Upon leaving Horace in 1904 he located in Perley, Minnesota, and bought out a general merchandise business, which he has since conducted with very gratifying results, carrying an extensive stock of well-selected goods and enjoying a large and growing trade with the town and surrounding country. He has also been interested in the Lee Elevator Company there and has discharged the duties of secretary of the company during the past nine years.

On March 21, 1888, Mr. Peterson was married to Bertha Margaret Johnson, who was born at Calamus, Iowa, and who received a good education in the public schools of Dewitt, Iowa. She is a daughter of George and Bertha (Christianson) Johnson, natives of Norway, who were farming people of Clinton county, Iowa. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, namely: Nils, Beatrice and Laura. Mr. Peterson is a Republican and is a member of the village council of Perley and also clerk of the local school board. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church in which he is a deacon, having held this office for many years, and is active in church work.

ANDREW J. HAGEN.

Albert J. Hagen, the well-known owner of one hundred and eighty acres of Hendrum township land, and director in the Farmers State Bank of the village of Hendrum, was born in Norway, September 21, 1859, the son of Johanas O. and Olava Andreasdatter (Hagen) Hagen, both born in Norway, where they were reared and were married, coming to America in 1867. For the first ten years after the family came to America, they lived in Houston county, Minnesota, and Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father worked as a farm hand, a carpenter and a tinner. In 1877 Johanas Hagen, following the example of many of his countrymen who had emigrated from the land of their nativity to this country, decided to push northward into Minnesota, where he could become the owner of some