

where he worked hard when a boy. He received his education in the district schools of his native community. When a young man he began for himself on a farm, belonging to his brother John, but now owns an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 17, Moland township, on which he has made all improvements. He moved to this place in 1914, where he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was married in 1906 to Carrie Rasmussen, who was born in 1888, at Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. To their union six children have been born, namely: Clara Belle, Harold, Arnold, Robert, Alfred and Violet.

Robert Richards, father of the subject of this sketch, was a prominent man in his township for many years. He held a number of county offices, having served seven years as county commissioner, of which board he was chairman for some time.

HALVOR RASMUSSON.

Halvor Rasmusson, former clerk of the district court of this district, former recorder of the city of Moorhead, one of the incorporators and first treasurer of Concordia College and for many years a well-known real-estate dealer and banker, now living retired in the city of Moorhead, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years of age and of Moorhead since 1878, having come up here into the Red River valley from Houston, this state, of which city he was the first mayor. Mr. Rasmusson is one of the numerous band of Telemarkens who found Minnesota so hospitable a place of abode in the sixties and seventies of the past century and has never regretted the decision which prompted him to locate in this state. He was born in the parish of Kritseid, in the district of Telemarken, Norway, September 26, 1841, a son of Rasmus and Anna (Halvorson) Gunderson, who, with the other members of their family, followed their son, the subject of this sketch, to America in 1866 and settled in Houston county, this state. There Mrs. Gunderson, who was born on November 10, 1817, died on March 2, 1875. Rasmus Gunderson remained in Houston county, engaged in farming, for fifteen years, at the end of which time he sold his farm there and moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of his life, retired, his death occurring there on August 8, 1903. He was born on June 6, 1819. Rasmus Gunderson and wife were the parents of six children, of whom

the subject of this sketch was the first born, the others being as follow: Mrs. Signe Rice, who died at her home in Clay county in 1912; Anna, wife of Doctor Hoegh, of Minneapolis; Gunder, who is married and is engaged in farming in Roseau county, this state; Mrs. Christie Hals, a widow, of Minneapolis, and Hans, who is engaged in farming in Montana.

Halvor Rasmusson grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Tel-emarken and in the spring of 1861 was married, he and his bride straight-way thereafter setting sail for the country of promise across the sea. They landed at the port of Quebec on June 8, 1861, after a voyage of eight weeks, during which twenty-four persons died on board the vessel on which they had taken passage. From Quebec Mr. Rasmusson and his bride proceeded to Chicago and after a stay of some time in that city went to Madison, Wisconsin, where they remained until their not overly large stock of funds was exhausted, after which they walked seventy miles to the farm home of Mr. Rasmusson's uncle, in the vicinity of Kilborn City, Wisconsin, where they found a cordial welcome. Mr. Rasmusson found employment in a store at Kilborn City and there remained thus engaged until 1864, when he came to Minnesota and was for a year thereafter engaged in farm labor in Fillmore county. He then secured a position in a store at Winona and remained there until 1866, in which year he moved to Houston, where he became engaged as grain buyer for the Bergendahl elevator, a position which he held for twelve years, or until his removal to Moorhead in 1878. During the time of his residence in Houston Mr. Rasmusson took an active part in the commercial and civic affairs of that place and was elected first mayor of the town upon its incorporation as a city. He also served as a member of the school board of that city and in other ways did his part toward promoting the best interests of the place.

Upon locating at Moorhead in the spring of 1878 Mr. Rasmusson became engaged in the hotel business, but after a year's experience in that line abandoned that form of endeavor and became engaged in the real-estate business, in the office of Comstock & White. In 1883 he was elected recorder of the city of Moorhead and was re-elected to that office in the spring of 1884, also clerk of the municipal court. In the fall of 1884 Mr. Rasmusson was elected clerk of the district court and by successive re-elections was retained in that important office for a period of sixteen years, during much of which time he also served as a member of the board of education and was clerk and treasurer of the board. Mr. Rasmusson has ever given his earnest attention to the promotion of the educational interests of his adopted state and when the movement which culminated in the establish-

ment of Concordia College at Moorhead in 1891 was under way he became one of the incorporators of that institution and was elected first treasurer of the same. In the meantime Mr. Rasmusson had continued his activities in the real-estate line and for years was regarded as one of the best judges of realty in the Red River valley, carrying on quite extensive operations in that line both at Moorhead and at Winnipeg. In 1903 he became one of the incorporators of the First State Bank of Moorhead. Of late years, however, he has been living practically retired from business cares, "taking things easy" in his declining years.

Mr. Rasmusson has been twice married. On March 24, 1861, in his native Norway, just a few days before he and his bride took their departure for this country, he was united in marriage to Liv Johnson, who also was born in Norway, June 24, 1842, and whose parents died when she was an infant. To that union were born six children, namely: John, who is engaged in the hardware business at Crookston, this state; Anna, wife of O. D. Dahl, of Fargo; Julia, who died at Moorhead in August, 1915; Rudolph, who is living at Minneapolis; Dr. Frederick Rasmusson, of Oliver county, North Dakota, and Nora, wife of Marvin Fullerton, of Fargo. The mother of these children died in 1909 and in 1911, during a visit back to his old home in Norway, Mr. Rasmusson was married in that country to Marie Christianson, who was born in Norway on December 18, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmusson have a very pleasant home at Moorhead and Mr. Rasmusson is also the owner of some valuable business houses on Front street.

S. O. SOLUM.

S. O. Solum, cashier of the First National Bank of Barnesville, president of the mercantile firm of Norby, Solum & Company (incorporated), city treasurer of Barnesville and for years actively identified with the commercial and other interests of that city, one of the best-known bankers and merchants in this section, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Clay county since he was three years of age, and may thus very properly be accounted as one of the real "old settlers" of this part of the Red River country. He was born on a pioneer farm in Fillmore county on June 18, 1869, son of Ole H. and Karie (Stadum) Solum, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who became pioneers of Clay county in 1872 and here spent their last days.