

and in consequence his opportunity for an extended education was limited. He was married on July 17, 1892, to Vila Swenkeson, who was born in 1875 in Clay county, and who died, after a few years of married life, in 1895. There were no children to the marriage.

Mr. Lee is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of the choicest quality of land, has between twenty and forty acres each year planted to potatoes, and in his farming operations is doing splendidly. He carries on his farming according to modern methods of agriculture and is accounted one of the substantial farmers of this section of the county. Mr. Lee has effected many valuable improvements on his holding and has remodeled and overhauled the old homestead house, which is still in use. He raises a nice herd of Shorthorn cattle and his stock in this strain finds a ready market, at good prices.

JOHN T. REDLAND.

John T. Redland, one of the real pioneers of Norman county, who was largely instrumental in the organization of the first school in Shelly township, where he now lives the life of a farmer, who was one of the original organizers of Shelly township and one of its earliest officers, and who was one of the first men in this community to materially aid the establishment of a place of worship for the people of the neighborhood, was born in the amt of Stavanger, Norway, on November 28, 1844. He is a son of Thorston and Martha (Iverson) Johnson, who were both born on the Redland farm in the amt of Stavanger, in Norway. In 1854 the father and mother decided to bring their family to America, but that was no easy task in those days before the day of the steamship in its perfected state. For two long months they were at the mercy of the Atlantic in a small sail boat, but finally they landed at Quebec and from there proceeded on up the St. Lawrence by steamboat to Montreal. They then followed the different windings of the Great Lakes by diverse means of transportation until they arrived at Chicago. The family remained in that city for only one month, owing to an outbreak of cholera there, and then they started for La Crosse, Wisconsin, by rail, horses and river boat, for at that time the railroad extended only ten miles west of Chicago. After a short stay in La Crosse, the family went to Coon Prairie, Wisconsin, where the father died and where the family remained until 1871. There were nine children born to Thorston

and Martha Johnson, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Ann Catherine (deceased), Annie (deceased), Martha (deceased), Toletta (deceased), Carrie (deceased) and Iver (deceased). Two died in Vernon county, Wisconsin, in the days of the early settlement of that county, when there was no cemetery, and it was necessary to cut the coffin with a broadax.

In 1871 John T. Redland and his mother started Westward in a covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen, driving their cattle before them, crossed the Father of Waters by ferry at La Crosse and drove on northwestward through Minnesota, carefully scrutinizing the land as they passed over it. Finally, their wanderings had led them so far as what is now Norman county and there they settled in Shelly township, where Mr. Redland has since lived. One could not recognize in this populous and well-developed section the Norman county of fifty years ago, for at that time Moorhead, in Clay county, boasted of only one house. No bridges spanned the streams swollen by the spring thaws, for each spring Mr. Redland, with the other settlers of the neighborhood, found it necessary to build a contrivance across the Wild Rice river by which they could cross, and this bit of pioneer civil engineering had to be repeated each spring, for when the river would start in upon one of its spring rampages, it would crumble the puny bridge like matchwood. Alexandria, which was one hundred and sixty miles away, was the nearest point where the settlers could get provisions, but it was not reached by railroad, for Mr. Redland made the round trip twice with a team of oxen, the trip requiring two weeks.

When Mr. Redland entered this section, it was a vast expanse of unbroken and unsurveyed prairie land, hence he took a "squatter's" claim, where he now lives. Later, he pre-empted some land and purchased more from the railroad. He made several trips to St. Paul to buy railroad land for his neighbors, as their representative, thus exemplifying the spirit of brotherhood which flourished on the American frontier. After he had put in his first crop, Mr. Redland was happy in the anticipation of a bountiful harvest, but the grasshoppers had other designs and absolutely stripped his fields of vegetation. Ere the next year, the railroad, which had been creeping along so slowly, finally reached Breckinridge, and after that the pioneers did not find it necessary to make such long trips to their market. During his then short residence in the county, Mr. Redland had built his house, which undoubtedly was a settler's cabin, as the main tool he had at his disposal was a broadax. With the same clumsy tools he performed the

sorrowful task of making a coffin for his brother, Iver, who died soon after the family had reached their new home in the great Northwest.

Soon other settlers came in and the population of what is now Norman county became sufficient to warrant its civil organization. Anthony Scheie was the first assessor in this part of the county and Mr. Redland was the second. At that time the assessor assessed a wide scope of territory in the northwest part of Norman county, for the present townships were not then organized. In this capacity, Mr. Redland served for eight years until he became assessor of the present township of Shelly, which he helped to organize.

Mr. Redland's education, which was limited, was received in Wisconsin. Even though the schools of those days were rude as compared with the splendid system now extant in Norman county, he readily saw the necessity of giving the children of his neighborhood such educational advantages as the community could afford. Thus it is that the credit for the organization of the first school in Shelly township is due to Mr. Redland. In those days the law prescribed that a community must provide for a school house and conduct a three-months term at its own expense before it could receive public or state aid. Since Mr. Redland was very anxious to bring this about, he hired a teacher at sixteen dollars a month and board and had the school conducted in his own home. He, himself, at times boarded the teacher and personally paid six dollars a month of the salary. In addition to this, he made trips to Crookston on skis in the bitter cold on school business. All of this was done by Mr. Redland that the education of the children of the community might not be neglected. For many years he served on the school board, but after the educational progress of the community seemed safely launched, he resigned. Not only did the school interests of the community demand Mr. Redland's time and resources, but he was also deeply interested in the establishment of a religious society. He helped to organize the first church in the community, the Marsh River Lutheran church, on August 2, 1872, at the house of Engel Lovesness. The society is still extant, but Mr. Redland has changed his membership to a church nearer his home.

There are few pioneer settlements which have not had an Indian scare, and the one of which Mr. Redland was a member was no exception. It was in 1883 that the Indians seemed to be restless and the settlers were all on the *qui vive*, for they organized a local company for their own defense. Happily this organization was never called into active service. Many Indians camped on the river near Mr. Redland's home to fish, but he always treated them kindly and did not incur their enmity. On this

occasion, in 1883, he did not feel so sure of his safety. As he was on his way to board a train near Ada, in order to go to Crookston on business, he met thirty Indians. As they kept to their course and as Mr. Redland had no hostile intentions, no breach of the peace was effected.

On June 29, 1881, John T. Redland was united in marriage to Carrie Sophia Morrison, who also was a native of Norway, born, March 18, 1862, a daughter of Mauritz and Sarah (Sorenson) Larson, natives of Norway, who lived and died there. To this union six children have been born, namely: Mila Sophia (deceased), William Tenny, Stella, Ruben, Ida and Milton (deceased). Mr. Redland has always lived on the same farm since he came to Norman county; however, he lived on different parts of the farm until he had proved up on that which he had pre-empted. After he had done this, he came to the tract which he had purchased from the railroad. In all, he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well-improved and valuable land, having built the valuable and substantial buildings incident to the plant of a successful farmer. In addition to his many activities in behalf of the progress of this section, Mr. Redland has also been interested in making available better facilities in the community for the marketing of the farmers' grain. In doing this, he helped to organize the farmers elevator at Shelly. His son Ruben is interested in the creamery at Shelly and rents the home place.

ANDREW T. AABYE.

The late Andrew T. Aabye, who was a well-to-do landowner in Lee township, Norman county, and for years engaged in the mercantile business at Perley, in which place he also had banking and other interests, had the distinction of having been the first white child born in Goodhue county, this state. He was born on a pioneer farm in that county on October 24, 1854, and died at his home in Norman county in 1911. His widow, who is now living on the fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres in section 29 of Lee township, has done much in the way of improvement on that place since her husband's death, having erected a new set of substantial, modern buildings, and is very comfortably situated there.

Andrew T. Aabye's father and mother were of Norwegian birth but were married in this country, where they spent their last days, prominent pioneers of Goodhue county, this state. They came to this country on the