

He still owns two hundred and eighty acres and has the same well improved. In 1910 he rented his farm and retired from active farming, moving to Hendrum, where he and his wife are now living and where they are very comfortably situated. While living on the farm Mr. Hanson took an active part in local civic affairs and for some time served as a member of the township board.

On November 28, 1888, H. H. Hanson was united in marriage to Julia H. Harvey, who was born in Fillmore county, this state, daughter of H. and Martha (Solberg) Harvey, natives of Norway, the former born in November, 1837, and the latter, in 1838. H. Harvey was but a boy when he came to America with his parents, the family locating in Houston county, this state, later moving to Fillmore county, where he married and where he remained until 1882, when he moved to Norman county and engaged in the mercantile business at Ada, remaining thus engaged until his retirement in 1914. Both he and his wife are now living at Ada. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are attendants of the services of the Lutheran church and contributors to the support of the same.

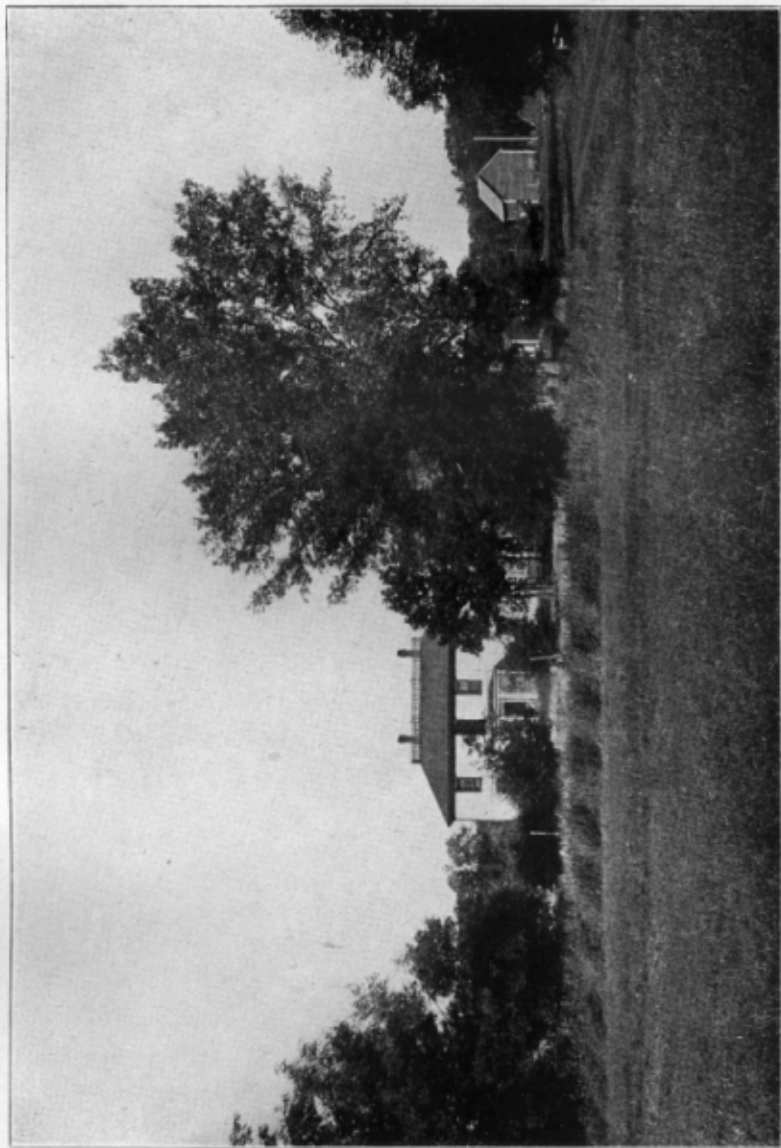
A. O. SERUM.

A. O. Serum, one of the real pioneers of Norman county, a well-to-do farmer of Halstad township, clerk of that township practically all the time since its organization, secretary of the Halstad Telephone Company ever since the organization of that company, for more than a quarter of a century secretary of the Halstad Fire Insurance Company, a member of the school board ever since his local district was organized, and in other ways prominently identified with the development of the community in which he has lived since pioneer times, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since the days of his boyhood and of Norman county since 1872, nine years before the county was organized as a separate civic entity. He was born in the parish of Selboe, in the stift of Trondhjem, February 28, 1849, a son of Ole and Annie J. (Norby) Serum, both natives of Norway, the latter of whom spent her last days in Minnesota, one of the pioneers of Norman county.

Ole Serum was a farmer in his native Norway. There he married Annie J. Norby and to that union eleven children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others living being Ingeborg, Maret, Karen, Mollie, Annie and Ole. In 1862 the elder Ole Serum was



A. O. SERUM AND FAMILY.



RESIDENCE OF A. O. SERUM.

drowned while taking part in a log drive on the river not far from his home, his body being carried over a waterfall when the log boom broke away from the drivers. Five years later, in 1867, the Widow Serum and four of her children came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Fillmore county, where she had kinsfolk living. There she remained until 1872, when she accompanied her son, A. O. Serum, up into this part of the state and settled on the homestead he took in what later came to be organized as Halstad township, Norman county, and there she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring in 1907. She was an earnest member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and her children were reared in that faith.

A. O. Serum was eighteen years of age when he came to Minnesota with his mother from his native Norway and settled in Fillmore county. For a time after his arrival there he attended school, furbishing up his limited knowledge of the English language, and even after he moved to Norman county and became a homesteader he attended school a while, perfecting himself in the tongue of his adopted country. In 1872 he left Fillmore county and came up into this part of the state, having become convinced in his own mind that here there were great opportunities awaiting the earnest young homesteader. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in sections 1 and 6 of what later came to be known as Halstad township and there he and his mother established their home. He drove through with a team of oxen, leading two cows and besides what essential household articles and a few farming implements could be loaded in the wagon, had practically nothing. Upon his arrival here he built on his homestead tract a house sixteen by eighteen feet and that sufficed as a home until 1896, when he built his present commodious residence. The year of his arrival here was the year of the great grasshopper scourge in this part of the state and everything that he attempted to grow during the first season of his residence here was destroyed by the pests. At that time the nearest market was at Fergus Falls, to which he made a trip that fall, the journey requiring about two weeks. After the first discouraging year, when the grasshoppers almost ate him out of house and home, Mr. Serum's affairs began to prosper and it was not long until he had his quarter section well improved and profitably cultivated. After his marriage in 1877 he further improved his home and early became regarded as one of the most forehanded and substantial pioneers of that section. As he prospered in his farming operations he gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of a little more

than a half section of land, which he has improved in excellent shape and has brought the same up to a high state of cultivation.

It was in the fall of 1879 that Halstad township was organized. The following pioneers comprised the poll list of those present at the first meeting called to consider the question: A. A. Scheie, L. B. Larson, A. B. Larson, Ole Halstad, W. Christopherson, T. Stennes, Ole E. Olson and Anthony Scheie. At a later meeting held on November 6, 1879, A. O. Serum was present and helped to organize the township, being elected first clerk of the same, the other officers elected being as follow: Supervisors, J. L. Scheie, L. B. Larson and Ole E. Olson, the first-named being chairman of the board; treasurer, Anthony Scheie; justices of the peace, E. L. Iverson and Ole Halstad and constables, John G. Paulson and J. L. Houske. With the exception of a period of about five years Mr. Serum has continued to serve as clerk of the township ever since that date, a record of such service probably not exceeded in this part of the state. When his local school district was organized he was elected a member of the school board and has ever since served in that capacity, having done much to advance the interests of the schools thereabout. In addition to his earnest public service Mr. Serum has been an equally earnest promoter of the general interests of the community and has done much to advance the common welfare in that part of the county. In 1904, when the Halstad Telephone Company was organized, he was elected secretary of the same and has ever since occupied that office, doing much to promote the extension of telephone service throughout this section, and for more than twenty-six years he has been secretary of the Halstad Fire Insurance Company, a mutual organization that has been of large benefit in the territory its policies cover.

In 1877 A. O. Serum was united in marriage to Anna Rustvold, who was born in Norway in 1860 and who had come to this country with her parents in the days of her girlhood, the family settling in this state, and to that union nine children were born, Mary Ann, Oliver, Anton, Joseph (deceased), Clara, Minnie, Anna Isabel, Clarence A. and Edwin (deceased). The mother of these children died in 1896. Mr. Serum is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was one of the organizers of the local congregation, which was organized in 1875, about three years after he located here. Since the day of the organization of that congregation he has opened and closed the church services and has led the singing and has also been clerk of the congregation practically all the time since it became an organized body.