

Mr. Hilde was married in 1886, in Stearns county, this state, to Guri Anderson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Andres and Anna (Tolefsdatter) Christianson, who lived and died in Norway. The father was employed on a large farm there. His family consisted of the following children: Mrs. Maria Elling, who lives in Norway; Christian, who also lives in Norway; Guri, wife of the subject of this sketch; Anna, the wife of L. Dahl, of Norman county, Minnesota, and Tolef A. Green, who lives in Hagen township, Clay county.

Eight children, all living but one, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hilde, namely: Matilda, who is the wife of I. B. Klévgard; Anna, who married Theodore Tweeton; Oscar, next in order of birth; Theodore, the fourth child; Alfred, deceased, and John, Carl, Inga and Melvin. Politically, Mr. Hilde is a Republican. He is a member of the school board in his district and has been treasurer of the same for many years. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, which they attend regularly.

REV. O. A. TH. SOLEM.

The Rev. O. A. Th. Solem, a retired minister of the Norwegian Lutheran church and the present owner and operator of a well-appointed fruit farm and nursery, in Halstad township, Norman county, was born in Norway, on March 6, 1855, the son of Thomas and Andrea (Stuphoug) Solem, both of whom left the land of their birth in 1870 and came to America. Here they settled in Union county, South Dakota, near the postoffice of Spink, Elk Point then being their nearest railroad station. Soon the elder Solem bought a farm near where the family first settled, and there he lived until his death in 1911. His wife died on the same place in 1915, surviving her husband only four years. To Thomas and Andrea Solem were born five children, the subject of this review being the first in order of birth, and the others, as follow: Andrew, who lives on the old farm in South Dakota; Maria; Henry, a Lutheran minister at Garretson, South Dakota, and Hannah, who still lives on the old home place with her brother, Andrew.

O. A. Th. Solem spent his boyhood in Norway, the land of his nativity, where he attended the public schools and at the same time studied English in a private educational institution. After he had reached the estate of manhood, he came to America with his parents, he then being about twenty-five years of age. He remained with his parents on their farm in Union county, South Dakota, for three years, in which time he had seen them become com-

fortably situated upon their holdings. About 1873, feeling that he had been called to preach the gospel for the Lutheran denomination, he left his pioneer home, the more completely to prepare himself for his lofty calling at the Augustana Seminary, near Decorah, Iowa, where he studied for one year, at the end of which time the institution was moved to Marshall, Wisconsin, and there Mr. Solem pursued his studies until he was graduated in the spring of 1877. Being thus thoroughly fitted for his work, he was ordained a minister in the summer of that year and was called to minister to the spiritual needs of the Norwegian Lutheran congregation in Chippewa county, Minnesota, where he remained for four years. In the summer of 1881 he became the pastor of the Augustana Norwegian Lutheran church in Halstad township, Norman county, and there he assiduously applied himself to his duties as minister of this pioneer congregation until 1904 or 1905, when he resigned, thus completing here an extraordinarily long pastorate of twenty-two or twenty-three years. Since then Mr. Solem has been engrossed altogether in his agricultural pursuits, finding that the soil embraced a field for his ministerial endeavors as did the church, for in the growing things he could see the clear manifestation of the power of the Almighty.

After his resignation, Mr. Solem, who had farmed along with his pastoral duties, the congregation having furnished its pastor with forty acres of land, remained in Halstad township, where he purchased a well-watered and fertile tract for his own purposes, on which he has continued a fruit farm and nursery. Since he relinquished his ministerial duties, Mr. Solem has given his undivided attention to fruit farming, and the generations to come will bless him as one of the men who made possible the growing of the luscious apple, the pink-cheeked peach and the juicy plum, where formerly stretched away the trackless prairie.

On January 7, 1877, the year after he was graduated from Augustana Seminary, at Marshall, Wisconsin, the Rev. O. A. Th. Solem was united in marriage to Johannah Sylte, who was born in Norway, on September 17, 1859, the daughter of Knut Sylte and Marit (Sylte) Sylte. To this union no children were born, but one child was adopted, Minnie Roksvaag. After the death of his first wife, in January, 1882, Mr. Solem married Ella Sylte, born on February 1, 1857, a sister of his first wife. By his second wife, Mr. Solem is the father of five children, namely: Johannah, Thomas, Minnie, Bergliot (deceased), and Knut.

Mr. Solem finds time during his engrossing work on the fruit farm to give a good citizen's attention to the affairs of his community, and any movement, agitated for the material or social betterment of his neighborhood,

finds in him and his family hearty supporters. He and his wife remain members of the Augustana Lutheran church, in the creed of which denomination they have reared their children. Politically, Mr. Solem is a staunch Prohibitionist, but he has never sought after public office.

CONRAD H. EVJE.

After thirty-eight years of hard work on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Shelly township, Norman county, which bears eloquent testimony to his tireless industry during the years of his prime, Conrad H. Evje lives now in retirement on the original tract which he homesteaded years ago when he first came to Norman county. He is a son of Hans G. and Gertina (Christophersdatter) Evje and was born in Norway on October 28, 1856. Both his father and mother were natives of Norway, but the inducement of coming to America did not lure them from their fatherland, where they remained until their deaths, the father being a farmer. Hans G. Evje was married twice and by his first wife he had seven children, all of whom died in infancy except Tolak who lived and died in Norway. His second wife, the mother of Conrad H. Evje, born him ten children; three of whom died young, the others being: Christopher, John Christian (deceased), Tobias (deceased), Martina, Conrad H., Gabriel and Christina (deceased).

Conrad H. Evje received his early education in Norway and when he had reached the buoyant age of eighteen decided to come to America. It was in 1874 when he first set foot on these shores and in that same year he located near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he remained for five years, working at different occupations, including lumbering in the woods in winter and rafting in the summer. The spring of 1879 saw him leave the lumber camps and strike out into Minnesota toward the then newly opened Red River country, settling in Norman county, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 2 of Shelly township. There he has since lived, continuous owner of the original homestead until the spring of 1917, when he sold out to his son-in-law, John Busse. Though no longer owning the farm, Mr. Evje and wife continue to live on the old home place in well-earned retirement, enjoying the later years of their lives on the farm which they developed from the raw prairie into a tract of well-cultivated land.