

parents and as a young man took up railroad work as a fireman on the Northern Pacific railroad, running between Fargo and Jamestown, North Dakota. He remained in railroad service until 1907 when he came back to his father's farm, in January of that year, and has since operated it with success, owning one hundred and sixty acres, which he operates in connection with his father's quarter section. He keeps it all under a fine state of cultivation and is making a pronounced success as a general farmer and stock raiser. He raises a large acreage of potatoes each year.

Mr. Joop was married on December 16, 1903, to Clara Parnow, who was born in Germany. She is a daughter of William and Othelia (Bernsdorf) Parnow, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and established their home on a farm. Mr. Parnow came to America about 1893, his wife coming later. They located first in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and in 1896, came from there to Clay county and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Felton township, where they lived until 1904, when they moved to a farm east of Thief River Falls, and there they both still reside, owning a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres there, on which they have made extensive improvements, including the erection of good buildings. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Parnow: Selma, Clara, Otto, Paul, William, Oscar, who is in the United States navy; Erna, Alex, who died when seven days old, and Ernest, who died when three years old.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Joop, namely: Walter, who died when three months old, and Myrtle and Elvora. Mr. Joop is independent in his political views. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

ANDREW O. SOLWOLD.

A man's life work is the measure of his success, and he is truly the most successful man who, turning his powers into the channel of an honorable purpose, accomplishes the object of his endeavor. In the study of every man's life we find some mainspring of action, something that he lives for. In Andrew O. Solwold, farmer of Goose Prairie township, Clay county, it seems to have been an ambition to make the best use of his native and acquired powers.

Mr. Solwold was born in Norway on June 26, 1841. He is a son of Olaf P. and Andrea (Eidshaug) Solwold, both natives of Norway, where

they grew to maturity, married and established their home. The father was a farmer, also superintendent of forests for many years. His death occurred in his native land at the age of fifty-eight years. His widow later immigrated to America, in 1881, and spent her last years in Tacoma, Washington, where her death occurred in 1897. She was born in 1816. To these parents the following children were born: Peter, who is engaged in farming in Keene township, Clay county; Andrew O., the subject of this sketch; Olaf, who owns a farm near Tacoma, Washington, it having been at his home that the mother of these children died; Gunder, who also lives near that city; George, who lives in Utah, and Bertena, who died at Tacoma, Washington.

Andrew O. Solwold grew to manhood in Norway and there attended the common schools, completing his schooling at Asker Seminary there. He immigrated to America in 1872 when thirty-one years old. He spent his first year in the New World at Oconomowoc, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, then came to Minnesota, and spent five years teaching school in Fillmore county. He then came to Clay county and took up a homestead near Hawley, in section 12, Cromwell township, and there he developed an excellent farm, making all improvements. He engaged in general farming and stock raising there with success until 1895, when he sold out and moved to his present farm, of one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, Goose Prairie township, which his wife owned. He purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the same section, and later bought forty acres more in that section. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres, comprising one of the best-improved and choicest farms in his township. His wife inherited her farm from her mother. He is making a pronounced success as a farmer and raises large quantities of grain and large numbers of live stock annually. He has made all modern improvements, including the erection of good buildings.

Mr. Solwold was married on the farm where he now resides on December 6, 1884, to Maria Larson, who was born in Lafayette, Wisconsin, November 11, 1858, a daughter of Andrew and Nicoline (Grindvold) Larson, natives of Norway, from which country they came to America, locating in Wisconsin, later coming to Clay county, Minnesota, the father renting land in Goose Prairie township, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1880. The mother was born in 1822 and died in 1903. To Mr. and Mrs. Solwold eight children have been born, namely: Olaf, who was graduated from the State Normal and the Valley City Normal, is a school teacher by profession and lives at

home; Agnes, deceased; Borghild, who is married and lives on the home farm; Alf, who was graduated from the Park Region College at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, later taking an advanced course at the State Normal School, and is also a teacher by profession, and Agnes, Ingeborg, Alvilda and Dagmar, who are also engaged in school teaching. They all received excellent educational advantages and are successful teachers.

Politically, Mr. Solwold is independent. While living in Cromwell township he served as township clerk. He has also served as chairman of the township board in Goose Prairie township, also as supervisor of the latter, and was clerk of school district No. 95 for a period of twenty years. He is a member of the Lutheran church, in which he is a deacon. He was also a deacon of the church of this denomination in his early days in Fillmore county. He is a well-informed man, having been a student and a wide reader, as well as a close observer, all his life and is well posted on current events, one of the leaders of public affairs in this locality.

PETER A. PETERSON.

Peter A. Peterson, who for more than twenty years has held the important office of sheriff of Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was ten years of age and in Norman county since he was twenty-five, he having been a homesteader here back in pioneer days. He was born in 1857, son of Andrew and Bertha Maria (Hanson) Peterson, both natives of Norway and the former of whom died there when the subject of this sketch was nine years of age. The widow and her two sons, Peter and Anton, a short time afterward, in 1867, came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Freeborn county, where the Widow Peterson presently married Sterner Hanson and where she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring in 1897. Her husband died a few years prior to that date. Her younger son, Anton Peterson, two years younger than his brother, Peter, is now living in Santa Cruz, California.

As noted above, Peter A. Peterson was about ten years of age when he came with his mother to this state and located in Freeborn county. There he completed his schooling and early began work on a farm, becoming an excellent farmer. During the last two years of his residence in that county Mr. Peterson owned a horse-power threshing-rig, which he operated with