

On February 12, 1886, Mr. Moen married Annie Osleson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Osle Bjella, and to their union the following children were born: Matilda, deceased; Ida, Alfred, Oscar, Ingvald, Ole, Clara, Celius, Mabel, deceased, and Clarence and Lillian. Mr. and Mrs. Moen are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, both being very active in the church work of that denomination in the neighborhood. The former helped to organize the first church of the community, the St. Peter Lutheran church, in Strand township.

By virtue of his being one of the earliest settlers in these parts. Mr. Moen has been enabled to see the startling development of the country from a prairie wilderness to a garden spot with all the appurtenances of civilization, and he has played no small part in bringing the community up to its present status. He was one of the organizers of Waukon township, and in the old days before roads were laid out, he served the community in the capacity of path master. Every time that Mr. Moen reflects that he has three hundred and ninety-nine acres instead of four hundred, his heart undoubtedly swells with gratification, because of the whereabouts of that missing acre. He dedicated that acre to the educational interests of the vicinity, for when he helped to organize the school district, he donated the acre as a site for a school building. Being always interested in the educational progress of the community, he rendered valuable service during his long tenure of office as treasurer of the school district. He was first treasurer and was a member of the first board. The co-operative business interests of the township came in for a part of his attention. He helped to organize the creamery at Waukon, has been director of the same at different times and is now on the board. He also helped to organize the Waukon Mercantile Company.

PETER I. STIEN.

The late Peter I. Stien, a pioneer blacksmith, wagon maker and boat builder of Flom township, Norman county, where his handiwork was a valuable aid to the early settlers of that section, was born in Norway, January 9, 1838, and died here on the home place, May 26, 1906, at the age of sixty-eight years. Until he was thirty years old, he lived in his native land, where he learned his trade and acquired the formal education which the time and place of his residence afforded. It was in 1868 that he bade his native land farewell and he landed on the hospitable shores of America in the same year.

For some years after he arrived in this country, Mr. Stien wandered here and there, working at his trade, but in 1882 he located in Flom township, Norman county, where the neighboring farmers, who were in great need of a repair man, bought him tools and built him a shop. He built a log house with a clay roof and became a permanent settler of this section. As his business thrived with the passing years, he branched more and more out into farming. When he first came to Flom township, he pre-empted forty acres in section 4, but after he had lived on it two years, he sold it and bought eighty acres here in section 5. Subsequently, and at different times, he added eighty acres more in forty-acre tracts, all in section 5. Since his holding was mostly in timber, the land had to be cleared and the expense of this was about eight or nine dollars per acre. At the present time one hundred and fifteen of the original one hundred and sixty acres are under cultivation and under the careful management of his sons, it is producing well. Formerly considerable grain was raised on the farm, but the sons have turned to stock breeding and diversified farming. They raise thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and blooded swine. The farm plant is well-appointed, being comprised of excellent machinery and substantial farm buildings. There has just been completed a large barn with a cement foundation and floor, and in 1910 the farm home, which approaches urban convenience, was erected.

Mr. Stien was united in marriage to Gertrude Olson, who was born in Norway, October 7, 1847, and to this union eight children were born, four of whom are dead. Albert O., the second in order of birth, was born in Wisconsin, in 1869. He received his formal education in the common schools of Iowa and Flom township, this county, and when he reached manhood, he entered the shop of his father where he worked for several years. He then took up carpentering and was engaged in building houses and farm buildings in this vicinity, where he now makes his home on the family holding. He was justice of the peace for one term. The sixth child is Rhoda D., who was born in Iowa and makes her home here with the family. Julian G., who is seventh in order of birth, was born in 1883, on the original forty-acre tract which his father pre-empted, and he now carries on the farming. Edward D., the youngest child, was born on this farm in 1886, in the old log house with shingle roof. Making his home here on the farm, he aids his brother, Julian, in the cultivation of the old home place. The widowed mother still lives on the old farm with her children. She and her husband were members of the United Lutheran church, in the

affairs of which they took a deep interest. The father had shares in the Farmers Elevator and creamery at Twin Valley, but at this time both of these enterprises have passed out of existence. In politics, Mr. Stien was a Republican, but he never sought after office, although he took a deep interest in the social, civil and moral betterment of the community in which he lived for so many years, a valued citizen, excellent workman and sturdy pioneer.

ERICK STEPHENSON.

Erick Stephenson, a farmer of Strand township, Norman county, where he operates a fine well-improved farm of one hundred sixty acres and who is interested in the business, civil and educational affairs of the community in which he lives was born in Sweden, December 19, 1869, a son of Ole and Marie (Person) Stephenson, both natives of Sweden, who immigrated to America in 1884. As soon as they arrived here they set out for Norman county, Minnesota, and when they reached their journey's end, they located in Sundahl township, where they took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 12. There he and his wife spent the rest of their days, the former dying on November 13, 1915, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. The parents of Ole Stephenson lived and died in Sweden, but those of his wife, Marie Person, came to America in 1869 and settled in Nicollet county, Minnesota, where the mother died the same year. The father remained there until 1881, in which year he came northward into Norman county and pre-empted the quarter section which his son-in-law, Ole Stephenson, proved up. Ole Stephenson and wife were the parents of ten children; the five who did not die in infancy are: Ellen, Erick, Lewis, August and Johanna. Ole Stephenson and his father-in-law, Erick Person, were quite active in the early religious affairs of the community, both helping to organize the Swedish Lutheran church at Sundahl.

Reared in Sweden where he received his elementary education, Erick Stephenson was only sixteen years of age when his parents left him behind while they came to America to look for a location. In the following year, 1885, they sent for him and he came directly to his parents. in Sundahl township, Norman county. He lived with them on the home place, contributing his share of energy and industry to the development of the same until his marriage in 1890. In 1891 he bought the farm where he now lives, and even though he carried on farming operations there, he did not leave his father's