

Cromwell township, and fifteen hundred and twenty acres in all. He farms on an extensive scale, keeping a large number of employes. He raises great quantities of grain and potatoes and large herds of live stock. At times he plants two hundred acres in potatoes, being in the famous potato belt, his land being well adapted to their cultivation. He keeps thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, bringing them in in carload lots for his farm. For many years his fine cattle have been readily bought at fancy prices whenever they were offered for sale. He owns the large modern potato warehouse and the elevator at Muskoda, in Clay county.

On October 25, 1874, Mr. Gruhl was married to Augusta Schmidt, who was born in Germany, where she grew to womanhood, attended school and was married. She is a daughter of Robert Schmidt, who lived and died in Germany. To this union four children have been born, namely: Fred, who married Edith Burrson and died on October 25, 1915, without issue; Richard, who married Emma Horner and is living on the home farm, which he manages; Lena, wife of James Lewis, of Dilworth, and Anna.

Politically, Mr. Gruhl is a Democrat. He was at one time township supervisor and treasurer of the school district in which he lives. He is a member of the Lutheran church and helped organize the first church in his locality, and has always been a liberal supporter of the same. He has forged his way to the front over obstacles and he is known as a useful, helpful and honorable citizen.

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### MARTIN STROMSTAD.

Martin Stromstad, one of the early settlers of Norman county and a retired farmer, now living with his son Theovald on the old home place in Shelly township, was born in Norway in December, 1836, a son of Tonger and Inger (Stromstad) Stromstad, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they married and reared their family of eleven children. The mother was one of a family of sixteen children, and both she and the father lived in Norway all their lives.

Martin Stromstad received his education in the land of his nativity and there lived until he reached the age of forty-three years. As his father was a farmer, Mr. Stromstad during his boyhood and early maturity found ample room to expend his energy and to contribute his efforts to the cultivation of his father's holding. When he had reached the age of twenty-eight he

decided to establish a home of his own and in 1864 he was married. About fifteen years after his marriage, he concluded that the New World held for him greater opportunities than did the land of his birth, and in 1879 he and his family immigrated to America and settled in Vernon county, Wisconsin, where they remained during the winter of 1879-80. In the spring of 1880 he came to Minnesota and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in section 4, Shelly township, Norman county, where he has since lived. Immediately he began the hard task of bringing his holding up to a state of cultivation and eventually his industry was rewarded by the bountiful crops which he wrested from the stubborn prairie land. He improved his holding by planting a grove and raising excellent and substantial buildings and now the homestead is one of the best improved of the community.

While Mr. Stromstad was still living in Norway, in 1864, he married Ingeborg Tollefson, a daughter of Tollef Tollefson; who, as well as his wife, lived his whole life in Norway, both dying when their daughter Ingeborg was quite young. Mr. and Mrs. Stromstad are the parents of seven children, namely: Thorvald, Christina, Marie, Inger, Theodore, Anna and Amanda. It was in 1905 that the mother died on the old home place in Shelly township. She was a devout member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, as is Mr. Stromstad, and the latter helped to organize the Zion church of that denomination.

Thorvald Stromstad, the oldest child of Martin Stromstad, was born in Norway, April 21, 1865. He received the greater part of his early education in the land of his nativity, for he was about fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to America and with them settled on the farm in Norman county. There he had the common experiences of a pioneer boy, receiving a valuable preparatory training which has proved invaluable to him since he has farmed on his own account. He had just reached the age of twenty-one when he started out for himself in 1886, and in that year took a tree claim in section 4, Shelly township; later, however, he proved up his holding as a homestead. There he remained for fourteen years, at the end of which time he sold his farm and moved to Hubbard township, Polk county, this state, where he rented land for five years. At the end of that period he returned to Norman county, buying the old homestead from his father and has since lived there.

In 1889 Thorvald Stromstad was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Oskelson, who also was born in Norway, a daughter of Oskel Oskelson, who came to this country with his family. To Mr. and Mrs. Stromstad have been

born fourteen children, two of whom died unnamed, the others being Ingeborg, Marie, Selma, Martina, Abigail, Alfred (who died at the age of eleven years), Martin, Tillie, Edwin, Severt, Christian and Anton. Mr. and Mrs. Stromstad have always been members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they have a deep and abiding interest. In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Stromstad helped to organize the Farmers Elevator Company at Shelly, since he felt that adequate marketing facilities for agricultural products are absolutely necessary to the well-being of this community. Mr. Stromstad takes a proper interest in local civic affairs, but has never sought after public office.

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### HALVOR ANDERSON.

Among the sturdy pioneers who brought about the development of Norman county few are better known or have been more active in that development work than Halvor Anderson, one of the most substantial land-owners of the Perley neighborhood and one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of that part of the county. In addition to his large land holdings Mr. Anderson is a member of the board of directors of the First State Bank of Perley, a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Elevator Company at that place, for many years has been connected with the public service in his home township and has been one of the leaders in all worthy enterprises affecting the development and prosperity of that section of the county, as well as of the county at large.

Halvor Anderson is a native son of Minnesota, born in Houston county on June 5, 1853, son of John and Carrie (Snugro) Anderson, early residents of Winneshiek county, Iowa. John Anderson was one of the real pioneers of Minnesota and later of Iowa, having moved to that state when our subject was one year of age, and was thus among the early arrivals of that plucky band of Scandinavian settlers which made possible the speedy development of the great Northwest country. He grew to manhood in his native Norway and was there married. In 1850 he came to the United States and located in Rock county, Wisconsin. There his first wife died. In 1852 he married Carrie Snugro and in the next year proceeded on out to the then Territory of Minnesota and settled near the southern border, in Houston county. By the first marriage was born one child, a daughter, Olenna, now deceased, who was the wife of B. O. Lee, of the state of Washington. John Anderson, as stated, later married Carrie Snugro, who died ten years ago at