

Episcopal church and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community in which they live, and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They have always taken the greatest interest in the educational and moral development of the district, and their influence has had a marked effect on the high standing of the community.

Mr. Wolfe is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and has attained the Shriner degree, and is also a member of the Elks Lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of the Maccabees. Of the latter organization he is a member of the state executive board, a position he has held for twelve years. He has also taken a prominent part in the local affairs and for the past eight years he has been a member of the state Democratic central committee, to which he has devoted much time, thus winning much praise for the efficient work that he has rendered.

JOHN C. SULERUD.

John C. Sulerud, president of the State Bank of Halstad, former president of the village of Halstad, for years actively engaged in the hardware business at Halstad and the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres north of that village, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age, having made his home in Norman county ever since he came over. He was born on January 5, 1862, seventh in order of birth of the eight children born to his parents, Christen A. and Karen (Johnson) Sulerud, also natives of Norway, the former of whom was a blacksmith and farmer and both of whom spent all their lives in their native land. The others of these children are Carl, Maren, Johan, Martin, Caroline, Sophia and the Hon. Christen L. Sulerud, former representative in the Legislature from the sixty-first Minnesota district, who is engaged with his brother, the subject of this sketch, in the hardware business at Halstad and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on a farm in his native land, John C. Sulerud received his schooling in the common schools there and at the age of fifteen went into the city of Christiania, where he became engaged as a clerk in a store and where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1883, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, his destination

JOHN C. STIERUD AND FAMILY.



being Norman county. For the first year after his arrival here he was engaged in farm labor and then, in the fall of 1884, he secured employment as a clerk in a store at Ada and was thus engaged at that place for about nine years, or until 1894, when he and his brother, C. L. Sulerud, opened a hardware store at Halstad and have ever since been thus engaged at that place, long having been regarded as among the leading merchants and citizens of that thriving little city. Since 1914 John C. Sulerud has been the president of the State Bank of Halstad and in addition to his banking and mercantile interests at Halstad is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, two miles north of the village, to the operation of which he gives his interested attention. Mr. Sulerud has given his earnest attention to local civic affairs and has served as a member of the village council and as president of the same.

Mr. Sulerud has been twice married. His first wife, who was Anna Aaker, daughter of Hans Aaker, died in 1895 without issue and on August 3, 1902, he married Christine Holmberg, to which union three children have been born: Allen C., Ruth and John Clinton. Mr. and Mrs. Sulerud are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in church work, for the past twenty years Mr. Sulerud having been treasurer of the local congregation.

Mrs. Sulerud is the daughter and only child of Arnt and Bereth (Brotten) Reiten, natives of Norway, who upon coming to this country settled in Houston county, this state, later coming up into the Red River country and settling in Norman county, where Arnt Reiten died in 1876. His widow married Charles Holmberg two years later and by his death in 1879 was again left a widow. She is still living and is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Sulerud. By her second marriage she is the mother of one child, a daughter, Margaret, wife of James Larson, cashier of the State Bank of Halstad and a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Charles Holmberg was one of the pioneers of Norman county, having settled in the neighborhood of what is now the Brant farm, near Halstad, in 1870, he and his party camping there in a tent until they could make arrangements for permanent places of habitation. At that time Indians still were numerous throughout this region and game was plentiful. In 1914 Mrs. Sulerud visited the scene of that pioneer camp and there unearthed some of the camp utensils that had been left by the party of settlers.