

Mads Larson went immediately to Hendrum township and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 34 and there he lived until 1907. During the time of his residence on his homestead, he vastly improved it by planting groves and erecting excellent farm buildings; moreover, the original quarter section soon grew until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres, practically all in one piece, one-half of which lay in Lee township. In the year mentioned above he sold the old homestead and removed to where he lives at present. Now he has a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres, which he has improved by erecting a comfortable house, excellent barns and other necessary buildings. At this time he carries on general farming and is also engaged in the raising of graded Shorthorn cattle.

In 1880 Mr. Larson married Jula Johanson, who was born in Norway, the daughter of Johan Tagness, and to this union the following children were born: Anna, Lars, who died at the age of one year, Matilda, Lars and Gilma. For his second wife Mr. Larson married Jula Olson, who also was a native of Norway, and who died without issue. On March 1, 1914, Mr. Larson married Mrs. Hilda (Redal) Unerlee. Mr. Larson and family are strict, conscientious and consistent adherents to the Lutheran faith, and in the affairs of this denomination they take a deep interest, he having helped to organize the Emanuel Lutheran church. In addition to his activity on his farm, Mr. Larson has helped to organize the farmers elevator, the creamery and the State Bank, all of Hendrum. He is independent in his political views and has never aspired to public office; however, he has always given his heartiest support to any movement which has for its object the betterment of the community.

PAUL VAN VLISSINGEN.

Among the active and influential pioneers of Clay county who have passed from earthly scenes of labor after having done well their work in the development of this part of the Red River valley, few have left a better or more enduring memory than did the late Paul Van Vlissingen, who died at his home in Hitterdal in March, 1911. He was one of the pioneers of 1871, having thus been a resident of Clay county before the days of that county's formal organization as a civic entity. One of the earliest landowners in Goose Prairie township, he from the very beginning

of the days of a social order in that part of the county took an active interest in the affairs of the community and at one time and another served as township clerk, as supervisor and as a member of the school board. He was the organizer of the Security State Bank of Hitterdal and was for years cashier of that institution, and was besides the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres, now owned by his widow, the owner of considerable bank stock and shares in other business enterprises.

Paul Van Vlissingen was a native of the kingdom of Holland, born in the city of Amsterdam in June, 1853, a son of Paul Cornelius and Valberge (Agandens) Van Vlissingen, the former of whom was born in East India and the latter in the city of Christiania, in the kingdom of Norway, who came to Minnesota in 1870 and became pioneers of Clay county, but who later returned to Holland, where their last days were spent. Upon coming to this country in 1870 with his family Paul Cornelius Van Vlissingen proceeded on out to Minnesota and after a short stay in Minneapolis came on over into the Red River valley and bought land in what later came to be organized as Goose Prairie township, Clay county, in the vicinity of Hitterdal. He was one of the organizers of the township and became a member of the township board and of his local school board. About twelve years later he and his wife returned to Holland and there their last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1905, he then being sixty-nine years of age; and hers, in 1912, she then being seventy-eight years of age. They were the parents of four children: Magda, who is married and lives in Switzerland; Marie, who is married and lives in Holland; George, who died at Minneapolis, when sixteen years of age, and Paul, the subject of this memorial sketch.

When he came into the Red River valley with his parents in 1871 Paul Van Vlissingen was eighteen years of age and he at once proceeded to take his part in the development of the new country. He bought a half section of land in the vicinity of the place his father had bought in the Hitterdal neighborhood, and entered upon the strenuous task of developing and improving the same. In 1883 he married and settled down on his farm, and as he prospered there added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of seven hundred and sixty acres. As noted above, Mr. Van Vlissingen took an active interest in local public affairs and served his home township in various official capacities, being clerk of the township at the time of his death. In addition to his banking interests at Hitterdal, mentioned above, he was a stockholder in the local creamery company and in the local telephone company and was one of the organizers of the latter.

He died in March, 1911, and his widow has since transferred her banking interests to Moorhead, where she now lives and where she owns a very comfortable home and a business building on Front street. She retains ownership of the extensive home farm in Goose Prairie township, renting the same to two tenants who operate it, her son, Paul Cornelius, acting as general overseer of the operations.

It was in February, 1883, at Moorhead, that Paul Van Vlissingen was united in marriage to Elizabeth Smith, who was born in March, 1857, in England, and who came to this country with kinsfolk in 1873. Mrs. Van Vlissingen's father was for years superintendent of police in his home city in England and lived to be eighty years of age, his death occurring about twenty-five years ago. His widow survived him for ten years and was eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. Both were born in England and spent all their lives there. Mrs. Van Vlissingen has two brothers and a sister still living in England, none of the other members of immediate family having come to this country. To Paul and Elizabeth (Smith) Van Vlissingen three children were born, namely: Paul Cornelius, the owner of a farm of one hundred and seventy acres in Oakport township and the overseer of his mother's large estate; George F., deceased, and Henry, deceased. Paul C. Van Vlissingen was united in marriage at Hitterdal in 1902 to Clara Anderson and has four children, Elizabeth, George, Ernest and Violet. He has a very pleasant home on his farm in Oakport township and he and his wife take an interested part in the general social activities of their home community.

MARGARET E. G. RICHARDS.

Margaret E. G. Richards, of Moorhead, Minnesota, is a member of a well-known and respected family, who have been residents of Clay county since 1882. She was born in Calumet, Michigan, in 1879 and accompanied her parents to this part of the state of Minnesota at the age of three years. She is the daughter of Robert and Ellen (Giffin) Richards, the latter of whom was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1844 and died in 1913.

Robert Richards was born in Cornwall, England, in 1844 and died in 1912. He came to America in 1864 and proceeded to Calumet, Michigan, in which place he worked in the copper mines. In 1882 he moved to Clay county, this state, and in Kragnes township embarked in general farming