

PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 181

Mr. Thompson makes his home with his sister Bertha and both are well known and highly respected in the community. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a devout member of the Lutheran church. His attention is practically centered upon the development of his farm but a great many of his leisure hours are spent in motoring in the fine Overland touring car which he has recently purchased. Although still a young man Mr. Thompson has already attained success and has taken his place among the prominent farmers and enterprising and progressive citizens of his native county.

JOHN O. ANDERSON.

John O. Anderson is a worthy representative of the farming interests of Winneshiek county, owning and operating a well improved property of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on sections 17 and 20, Madison township. Mr. Anderson claims Illinois as the state of his nativity, being born in Boone county, October 15, 1852, a son of Ole and Ellen (Olson) Anderson, both of whom were natives of Norway. The father emigrated with his family to America, locating on a farm in Boone county, Illinois, in 1843. He gave his entire time and attention to the cultivation of the place during the subsequent twelve years, when, disposing of that property, he came to Winneshiek county, the year of his arrival here being 1855. His stay here was brief, however, for he passed away within a few weeks after his arrival. The mother afterward purchased a farm in Glenwood township and with the assistance of her sons operated the place until the time of her death, which occurred in April, 1896.

John O. Anderson was but two and a half years of age when he was brought by his parents from Illinois to Winneshiek county, so that practically his entire life has here been passed. At the usual age he entered the district schools, wherein he acquired the knowledge that fitted him for a practical business career. As soon as he was old enough he began assisting in the lighter tasks of the home farm and as he grew in strength and years he assumed the larger responsibilities in connection with carrying on work on the homestead. He remained with his mother until he had reached the age of thirty-five, when he rented a farm and began operating it on his own account. He was thus engaged for five years, but at the expiration of that period, his wife having died in the meantime, he abandoned farming and removed to Willow City, North Dakota, in 1893, and there engaged in the livery business. He there remained until 1897, when he disposed of his interests and returned to Winneshiek county, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on sections 17 and 20, Madison township. He has since been engaged in the cultivation and improvement of this place and now has one of the model and well improved farms of this part of the county.

Mr. Anderson has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Maria Peterson, whom he wedded on the 15th of October, 1882. Her parents, Peter and Caroline Peterson, both natives of Norway, came to America in an early day and the father engaged in farming throughout his life. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of two daughters: Clara, the wife of Julian Kjos, a farmer of Madison township; and