

PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 483

country, Norway, at an early day and engaged in agricultural pursuits in Winneshiek county. The father is now deceased but the mother still survives. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Knutson has been blessed with five children; Bertha, born May 26, 1895; Phillip, born June 9, 1897; Alida, born April 28, 1899; Orvild, born September 26, 1904; and Kia, born July 13, 1908.

Mr. Knutson's study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give stalwart support to the republican party, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. He is a wide-awake, energetic young farmer who through his well directed labors and sound business judgment has met with substantial success.

KITLE SEVERSON.

Kitle Severson is well entitled to be numbered among the pioneers of Winneshiek county, for he has resided on the farm which he now owns for forty years, having during that time not only witnessed the onward march of civilization but having done much toward bringing about the prevailing prosperous conditions. He owns two hundred and five acres principally located on section 36, Hesper township, sixty-five, however, lying on section 30, Highland township. There he has resided for about four decades, ever improving his farm and bringing his land to a higher stage of productivity. He was born in Norway, December 23, 1842, a son of Sever and Esther Orekaase, both of whom died in their native land, the father at the early age of thirty-five and the mother when seventy-five years of age. They were farming people of Norway.

Kitle Severson was the oldest of six children, and he and a sister, who subsequently died, were the only ones to come to the United States. He arrived in this country in 1869, locating in Wisconsin, where he made his home for about five years. He then came to Winneshiek county, where he has ever since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He built two substantial barns upon his land, one of which was destroyed by the cyclone of 1906. He has installed the latest machinery and equipment and in every way has made his farm highly productive. The sturdy qualities of his ancestors have helped him to win a substantial place among new surroundings in a foreign land, and if his road has been harder than that of the average man, he enjoys the esteem and regard of his neighbors in a correspondingly higher measure.

In 1875 Mr. Severson married Mrs. Anna (Euros) Maland, a native of Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where she was born August 15, 1840, a daughter of Torger and Caroline (Tullefshore) Luros, natives of Norway, where they were married and whence they came to Wisconsin in 1839. In 1852 they removed to Winneshiek county, where the father secured government land, which he sold in 1853, moving onto the farm now owned by our subject. Both parents died on this place, the father in 1891, at the age of ninety-six, and the mother in 1861, at the age of fifty years. He owned about three hundred acres in the home place. Both the parents of Mrs. Severson were members of the Lutheran church. In their family were three children: Austin, who died leaving a widow and five children: Belle, the wife of Charles Nelson, of Grand Forks, North