

In 1882 Levi Thortvedt was united in marriage to Ingeborg Midgaarden Weum, who also was born in the kingdom of Norway and who came alone to this country in 1880. To this union ten children have been born, Ole, Goodwin, Elpha, Dora, Stella, Adela, Orrabel, Eva, Florence and Norman, all of whom are living. The Thortvedts have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. They are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work as well as in other neighborhood good works.

JOSEPH GAARE.

Joseph Gaare, cashier of the First State Bank of Perley, is one of the wideawake young business men of Norman county. He was born in Lee township, this county, May 4, 1884, on the old home farm, a son of John O. and Anna (Kroskus) Gaare. The father was born in Norway, October 13, 1858, and the mother was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Ole Gaare, the grandfather, was a native of Norway, as was also his wife, Sigrid. They came to America in 1866, locating in Allamakee county, Iowa, remaining there until about 1880, when they came to Minnesota, accompanied by their son, John O. Gaare, father of the subject of this sketch, and settled in Norman county, where the grandfather spent the rest of his life. He was a farmer. His family consisted of the following children: John O., Peter O., Carrie, the wife of Ferdinand Baker, and Peder, who died when thirty years of age.

John O. Gaare was eight years of age when his parents brought him to the New World, and he grew to manhood on the farm in Allamakee county, Iowa, where he attended the public schools. About 1880 he came to Minnesota and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Clay county. Later he bought a farm in Lee township, Norman county, and operated both places for many years, farming on an extensive scale and meeting with much success, now being the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of good farm land. For the past thirty years Mr. Gaare has lived in Lee township, Norman county. His wife died in 1908. He has been in some official position in his school district for the past twenty-five years, and is treasurer at present. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is secretary at this writing. His family consists of the following children: Clara, Joseph, Oscar, Selmer, Peter, Josephine, Hilda, Alice, Alberta and Emil.

Joseph Gaare, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and received his early education in the public schools of Lee township. Later he was a student in the State Normal School at Moorhead and then took a course in the Metropolitan Business College at Minneapolis. After leaving school he taught one term in Norman county, then spent six months in the office of the Huber Threshing Machine Company of Minneapolis. In 1906 he took a position in the First State Bank at Perley, and in 1912 was appointed cashier of that popular and well-managed institution, and has continued to discharge the duties of this responsible position in an able and satisfactory manner to the present time. Mr. Gaare is also president of the Perley Trading Company and is secretary of the Perley Live Stock Shipping Association. He served five years as recorder of the village of Perley.

In 1911 Joseph Gaare was married to Anna Matilda Lee, a daughter of Jens O. Lee, which union has been without issue. Politically, Mr. Gaare is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen, being clerk of the latter lodge at Perley. He and his wife belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

HENRY MARSDEN.

Henry Marsden, a prominent hardware merchant at Hendrum, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county for nearly a quarter of a century. He was born at Cootehill, County Cavan, in the north of Ireland, October 21, 1871, a son of John and Catherine (Banner) Marsden, both of whom were born in Manchester, England, and the former of whom was a stock breeder and miller at Cootehill. John Marsden and his wife were parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being Fred, Arthur, George, Annie and Charles.

Upon completing his schooling Henry Marsden became interested in the work of his father's stock farm and remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1893, he came to the United States, following his elder brother, Arthur Marsden, who had come to this country some years before, and joined the latter up here in the Red River valley, locating in Hendrum township, Norman county, where for the next few years he was engaged on a farm. In the spring of 1898 he formed a partnership with