

## Charter Member of Concordia

# TORGE GUNDERSON MUHLE

The late Torge Gunderson Muhle, whose memory will ever be cherished in this section of the Red River country as one of the very first settlers in Clay county and perhaps the first settler in that part of the county now comprised within the bounds of Moland Township, he having pre-empted a claim there in 1870, was a native of the kingdom of Norway, but had been a resident of Minnesota since he was nineteen years of age, he having accompanied his parents to this state in 1866. He became a substantial pioneer farmer in Moland township, owner of a fine farm, where his last days were spent, his death occurring on September 21, 1897, and where his widow is still living.

Torge Gunderson was born in Norway in 1849, son of Gunder and Ingeborg (Chestersdatter). Torge, also natives of Norway, who came to the United States with their family in 1866 and proceeded directly on out to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Houston county. There Torge G. Muhle remained until 1869, in which year he made a prospecting trip up here into the then wild prairies of the Red River country and in 1870 pre-empted a quarter of a section of land in what later came to be organized as Moland township in Clay County, though that was in the days before Clay county had ben organized as a civic unit. The next year his parents joined him on that pre-emption claim and the family home was established there, one of the very first permanent settlements made in this section of the Red River valley. Upon the enactment of the homestead law in 1872, T. G. Muhle converted his pre-emption into a homestead "proved up" on the same and gradually improved and developed the place until he had a well-established farm. In 1879 there joined the Torge family a young woman just out from Norway, Guro Olasdatter Rue, and on December 21, 1879 in the little neighborhood school house, there being no church thereabout in which to celebrate a marriage, Torge G. Muhle and Miss Rue were united in marriage, amid the felicitations and well wishes of many friends. After his marriage Mr. Muhle continued to make his home on his homestead place and became a well-to-do farmer and a man of substantial weight and influence in his community, his death occurring there, as noted above, in the fall of 1897. He was the second in order of birth of the six children born to his parents, the others having been Ole, Carrie, Chester, Ole (second), and one who died in infancy, all of whom are now deceased save Chester.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Muhle has continued to make her home on the old home place in Moland township and has done much to further improve the place, having erected substantial new buildings, and has increased her land holdings, being the owner of now three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land. She is the daughter of Ole and Joraand (Johansdatter) Chesterson, also natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1883, several years after the coming here of Mrs. Muhle, and for about twelve years thereafter made their home with the Muhles, but later settled on a tract of their own; later, however, returning to the Muhle home, where their last days were spent. They were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Muhle was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Carrie (1), Carrie (2), Chester and Liv, all of whom are still living, Chester Chesterson being a resident of the territory of Alaska. Mrs. Muhle has a very pleasant home in Moland township and has ever taken an earnest interest in the general affairs of the community of which she has been a resident ever since her coming to this country back in the early days of the settlement of this part of Minnesota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Muhle ten children, eight of whom are living, were born, named as follows: Gust Olaf, Olaus, Oscar (deceased), Oscar, Josephine Emelia, Edward Julius, Eva Olive, Gina Theresa, John and Martin Tidman, the latter being deceased.