

Charter Member of Concordia TARJE SKREI Biography of THEODORE H. SKREI



Theodore H. Skrei, a substantial and progressive farmer, engaged in raising blooded Holstein cattle, former township treasurer and former clerk of the school board, is a native son of Minnesota, born on Buffalo River on Decembet 15, 1870, the first white child born here, a son of Norwegian parents, who were married in their native land before coming to America. He is the son of Targe T. and Gunhild (Berve) Skrei, the former of whom was born in 1836 and the latter ten years later.

Targe T. Skrei was educated in the schools of Norway and grew up to the work of the farm. He married in that country to Gunhild Berve, who was born in 1846 in Norway, and in 1866 they decided to try their fortunes in the new world, where so many of their countrymen had found a home and an ample means of living. On arriving in this country they came on to Houston county, Minnesota, where they remained for four years. Targe T. Skrei then moved west, joining a party, the journey being made by ox-team, and came to Clay county, where he homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 28, Moland township, and on that place he immediately began farming operations and was thus engaged for the remainder of his life, being regarded as a hard-working and skillful agriculturist, popular with his friends and neighbors. He died in 1895 at the age of fifty-nine years and his wife survived until 1908, when her death occurred at the age of sixty-two. Targe T. Skrei and wife were the parents of the following children: Signa, who is living with Hilbert; Theodore H.,

the subject of this sketch, and Hilbert, who is married. Targe T. Skrei took a good citizen's part in public affairs, but never sought office.

Theodore H. Skrei attended the public schools of Clay county and was reared on this father's farm, where he became a valuable assistant in the work of improving and developing the holding. At the age of twenty-one he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 30, Moland township, which he improved and now has in an excellent state of cultivation. In 1909 he bought out the old homestead and four years later, in 1913, he bought an additional eighty acres in section 29, and is now the owner of four hundred acres of prime land, from which he is obtaining most satisfactory results, the land being set out to wheat, barley, oats, corn, alfalfa, and potatoes. He raises a fine strain of blooded Holstein cattle and has some splendid specimens of that breed on the place. In 1912, Mr. Skrei built a nine-room house, fitted with all modern requirements, including electric light, waterworks, hot water, etc., and here he and his family are comfortably situated.

On September 27, 1897, at Moorhead, Theodore H. Skrei was united in marriage to Tilda Juve, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in 1867, a daughter of Ole and Gunhild Juve, who came to Clay county in the early seventies. Mr. and Mrs. Skrei are the parents of four children, namely: Anna, Obert, Milo and Targe. They are also providing a home for Robert and Nellie Olson, children of Mrs. Skrei's sister, the latter and her husband being deceased, the children having been living with Mr. and Mrs. Skrei for the past five years.

Mr. Skrei and family are members of Concordia church, of which he has been trustee and in connection with which he has held other offices. He has been identified in public affairs for several years and served the people as township treasurer, in which responsible position he gave general satisfaction. He was clerk to the school board for six years, proving a satisfactory official. He is interested in Farmer's Grain and Lumber Company of Glyndon, to the affairs of which he gives close attention. Mr. Skrei's life has been one of usefulness and hard work and proves again that being born in a log house with a sod roof is no barrier to progress.