

Charter Member of Concordia OLE MIDGAARDEN

Ole G. Midgaarden, an enterprising and prosperous farmer of Moland township, resides on his farm in Section 34, and is numbered among the first settlers of Clay County, Minnesota.

Mr. Midgaarden was born in Norway, September 2, 1849. He was the fourth child in a family of ten children born to Gunder T. and Thorborg (Spockle) Midgaarden. In his seventeenth year our subject came to America and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota. In 1870 he accompanied a party, of which Ole Gunderson Thortvedt was a member, in an expedition to the Buffalo river valley, and in July of that year filed a claim to land in section 28, which he sold to Terry A. Grover, mention of whom will be found elsewhere in this volume, and in 1874 our subject returned to Norway. He remained in his native land five years. Seven years after his departure from Buffalo valley he returned, in 1880, to find that a most marvelous change had taken place. Where land could be had for the asking a few years before lie now found himself compelled to rent a farm. The country had been developed from a state of nature to that of an agricultural region unequalled by anything he had ever seen. Where he had once been able to take his pick of the valuable farm lands he now found it impossible to secure even a small tract with the means at his command, and it was not until 1891 that he was able to purchase the farm which he now occupies in section 34.

Our subject was married in 1882 to Miss Joraand O. Thortvedt, daughter of Ole G. and Thona (Saangdal) Thortvedt. To this union a family of three children have been born, namely Thorborg Gundelia, Theckla O. and Godfred O. Our subject has been a man of public spirit and is well known throughout the county. He has always taken an interest in educational and church work, and has always been ready to respond to the demands of the community in any way in which he could serve. He was the first treasurer of Moland township.