

## **Charter Member of Concordia**

### **OLE THORTVEDT**

### **Biography of LEVI THORTVEDT**

Levi Thortvedt, residing on the old homestead farm in Moland township, is one of the early settlers of Clay county and was born in Norway, January 31, 1860, and was the third child and only son in a family of four children born to Ole G. and Thona (Saangdal) Thortveclt. The father is perhaps better known as Ole Gunderson, he having changed his name in recent years. The family came to America in 1861 and located in Houston county, Minnesota. in the spring of 1870 they started overland for Ottertail county, Minnesota. At Alexandria Minnesota, they met Ole Strandvold and went with him to his home in North Dakota across the river from Georgetown. The location in North Dakota was not all that they desired, and the father started back for Ottertail county, their original destination. En route they met R. M. Probstfield, who offered to pilot them to Buffalo river. They located there, and the family is known as one of the three pioneer families of Moland township. On the west bank of the Buffalo river a small log house, with elm bark roof, was erected, and this served as their home for many years. The father of our subject put forth earnest efforts to develop his farm and induce others to settle in the country, and to his influence may be attributed much of the prosperity enjoyed in that locality toclay. Three families came together and passed through many struggles before gaining a permanent foothold. The crops of 1871 and 1872 were destroyed by grasshoppers and the family depended upon the money obtained by breaking land and what they could make from their stock to support themselves during the first few years.

Levi Thortvedt has remained on the old homestead and is engaged in diversified farming and does threshing.

Mr. Thortvedt was married in 1884 to Miss Ingeborg Midgaarden. To Mr. and Mrs. Thortvedt nine children have been born. Mr. Thortvedt is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the M.B.A. Politically he is a **Populist**.