ried in 1879 to Elizabeth Bradt, of Mankato, who was born in Wisconsin. Four children were born to this union, William R., Thomas L., Celia A., the wife of Herman Newman of Everett, Washington, and Robert O. William R. Bailey and Thomas L. Bailey are residents of Crookston, William R. Bailey being an engineer on the Great Northern railroad and the latter being employed in the postoffice.

HANS P. SOLSTAD.

Hans P. Solstad, one of the pioneer Norwegian Lutheran pastors of the Red River valley, was the first preacher of the Norwegian Synod church to minister to congregations of that denomination in Polk county. After about seven years work in the ministry he was compelled by failing health to retire from active pastoral labor and has since resided on his homestead in Bygland township.

Reverend Solstad was born in Hapedalen, near Christiania, Norway, August 15, 1843, he was educated in the public schools and grew to manhood in his native land. At eighteen years of age he entered the military service of Norway and served for five years in the artillery corps stationed at Christiania. At the end of his military service he decided to emigrate to the United States. In July, 1866, he arrived at Albert Lea, Minnesota. He at once secured work. From 1866 to 1869, he worked as a farm laborer, on railroad work, and in a machine shop, all the time in the southern part of the state.

In 1869 he entered Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, as a student in the normal course, graduating from that course three years later. He then taught parochial school for one year in congregations near Albert Lea. Several of his friends working as ministers had for several years been encouraging him to take up the study of theology preparatory to entering the field as a minister of the gospel to his Norwegian American countrymen. This also became his choice for a calling and accordingly in 1873 he enrolled as a student in the Concordia Theological Seminary of St. Louis, Missouri. This institution had at that time the great German Lutheran theologian Dr. C. F. Walther as its president. After two years of study at St. Louis Mr. Solstad was transferred to the Seminary at Springfield, Illinois. Here he was graduated in the spring of 1876.

After his graduation he received through the Church Council of the Norwegian Synod a call from three recently organized frontier congregations in Polk county, Minnesota, and one in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

In July, 1876, he was ordained with five other young men for the ministry by President, Rt. Rev. H. A. Preus in the Washington Prairie church, near Decorah, Iowa. In the fall of 1876 he came west to take charge of his call: The Bygland, congregation in Bygland township; Our Saviours, at Crookston; St. Peters, on the Sand Hill river and Walle, in Grand Forks county, North Dakota. These congregations were organized about two years previous by Rev. B. Harstad, of Mayville, North Dakota, who had temporarily under great difficulties and hardships ministered to their spiritual needs. The Bygland congregation had begun the erection of a log church in 1876. The other congregations had no special building for worship. Services were held in the sod houses and log cabins of the early settlers. In some of the congregations served by Rev. Solstad the beautiful custom prevailed that the family at whose house services were held very hospitably entertained the whole gathering for dinner.

Rev. Solstad made his home in Bygland township. He received no definite salary from his congregations. In those early days of struggle and hardships no one had much to give. What the members of his congregations had to give, they gave gladly and generously towards the support of the pastor and his family.

In 1877 in order to get a home he filed on the piece of land that since has been his homestead. The same