he reached the age of twenty-two. At fourteen he attended a school half-way to Crookston, walking to it and back home once a week. The next winter they had a school at home, which was taught by a Miss Sprague from Fisher. Helge carried the mail two years between Fisher and Neby, three miles south of his home, and the next year also on to Climax, going to Neby three times a week and to Climax once, and was the first carrier paid by the government on that route, receiving $340 the first year, and $375 the second year; by the time he was of age he had saved $300.

In the fall of 1885, when he was almost twenty-two, he bought eighty acres of land, the tract being a part of his present farm, for which he paid $9 an acre. In 1886 he began to farm his land, borrowing oxen from his father and starting plowing May 17. The ground was so wet that the oxen mired in it, but by the last of May he had twenty-three acres plowed and seeded, and from this he got a fair crop. He was then living with his parents, but on January 6, 1887, he was married to Miss Anna Bangen, a daughter of Ole and Caroline T. (Bangen) Bangen, of Tynsid township.

The young couple began housekeeping under great difficulties. They had a little shanty, which is still standing, that gave them some shelter, but they were obliged to sleep on the floor and eat off a dry goods box. On the night of February 25, their first in the shanty, Mrs. Thoreson took a lamb into the shanty to protect it from the cold, but it froze to death that night. But they were not dismayed and put all their energies at work to get ahead. Mr. Thoreson paid for his first land and as he prospered kept adding to it until he now owns 600 acres, 520 acres of which are in Section 19, Roome township. He has about 320 acres under cultivation, mostly in grain, and in 1915 raised 8,000 bushels, an average of about 25 bushels to the acre. He keeps graded Holstein cows and supplies cream to the co-operative creamery at Climax. The barn now on the place was built in 1892, the granary in 1896 and the house in 1898.

Mr. Thoreson was township treasurer six years, assessor two years, and has served on the school board since 1889, except during one term of three years. He was elected county commissioner in 1906 for a term of four years, and was re-elected in 1910 and again in 1914. He is a Republican in politics, but is devoted to the welfare of the county without regard to partisan considerations. As he is on the road and bridge committee of the board he is obliged to devote a great deal of his time to his official duties. His religious connection is with the Sand Hill Free Lutheran church.

Mr. and Mrs. Thoreson have a family of eight children living. Josephine is the wife of Martin Larsen, a farmer living near her father’s home. Christine is the wife of John Holm, also a neighboring farmer. Amanda, who was for a time a Polk county school teacher, is now the wife of Carl Olson, of Beltrami county, Minnesota. Thilda is the wife of Hans Hanstad, a near-by farmer. And Olga, Ole, Eddie and Ingman are still at home with their parents. A son named Helge died at the age of fourteen.

HENRY C. HENDRICKS.

The late Henry C. Hendricks of Garden township, this county, who died February 13, 1912, at the age of sixty years, when it appeared there were still many years of usefulness before him, was born in Norway May 4, 1852, and came to the United States with his parents when he was sixteen years of age. His parents were Christian and Sophia Hendricks, also natives of Norway. The mother died in Nicollet county and the father at the home of his son Henry in Polk county, passing away there in 1909 in the ninety-third year of his age.

Their son Henry C. came to Polk county in 1880, and was one of the first settlers in what is now Garden township. He took a homestead which is still a part of the farm on which the family lives, and put up a little log house in which he lived for a number of