rafts on the Mississippi river to St. Louis. A steamboat was used to push and steer the rafts, and each trip to the Missouri metropolis consumed about three weeks. Mr. Knudson next spent two winters as a driver in the lumber woods near Menomonie, Wisconsin, and at the end of that period made a trip to the Black Hills to prospect for gold. He had no luck, owing to lack of water, and remained in the diggings only about one month, leaving there the day of the Custer massacre and in the midst of excitement over the theft of a pony in the locality by Indians. His experience as a gold seeker cost him about $400.

In 1878 Mr. Knudson decided to turn his attention to farming and came to the Red river region in search of land for his purpose. He selected a homestead in Section 11, Roome township, and Andrew and John Locken, who were then, or afterward became, his brothers-in-law, did the same. They all obtained railroad land and located on it, building a house and living together and doing their own house work. In 1882 Mr. Knudson sold his land to the Lockens and bought a part of the place on which he now lives in Section 10, which was a homestead belonging to Ole Lee.

This homestead was improved with a little log shanty and a sod stable, and about twenty-five acres of it had been plowed. Mr. Knudson agreed to pay Ole Lee $1,800 for it and was soon able to make the whole payment. He had broken some 200 acres of his first farm and seeded it in wheat. He harvested a good crop from this and got $1.25 a bushel for what he sold, and so he had money to clear his new home of debt. But he had no team with which to cultivate the land, and had to work for other farmers to get one. He succeeded in buying a team that same year, and at once proceeded to devote his attention to his own land.

From this time on Mr. Knudson was in debt for thirty years. But he bought eighty acres more for $600, an additional tract of 160 for $2,000 and still another of eighty for $1,100. His farm is now half a mile wide and a mile and a half long, with the buildings at the north end, the house in which he now lives having been built in 1891. His crop in 1915 aggregated 9,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley. He also keeps nine milch cows and furnishes cream for ice cream factories in Crookston. His cattle are Shorthorns and Holsteins of good quality, and he keeps fifteen horses for his work. He has recently installed a complete acetylene lighting plant for his buildings.

Mr. Knudson served as chairman of the township board for twelve or fourteen years and then refused to accept the office longer. He has also been a member of the school board for eighteen years, and has taken an active part in all drainage and good roads movements in his township. He has been married three times. His first wife was Miss Guro Locken, sister of John and Andrew Locken, who died three years after her marriage, leaving no children. His second wife was Miss Mary Locken, a sister of the first wife. She died a year and a half after her marriage, leaving one son, George, who is now 26 and still with his father. On December 19, 1897, Mr. Knudson solemnized his third marriage, which united him with Mrs. Josephine Carlson, a widow with one son, Wilfred, who is now 27. By her marriage with Mr. Knudson she has become the mother of another son, Richard, who is 16. Mr. Knudson is a Republican in politics and he and his wife and sons belong to the Lutheran church.

OLE CHRISTIANSEN.

The late Ole Christiansen, who developed and improved a fine farm of 224 acres in Section 29, Lowell township, and who died February 14, 1908, aged fifty-five years, was one of the sturdy and sterling citizens of Polk county for many years. He was born at Shalland, Denmark, and came with his parents, Christian and Caroline Hansen, to the United States and settled in Ottertail county, Minnesota. There the mother