

OLSEN, Chris H.

October 18, 1879
southern Turner County
died: 1967
Sioux Falls

from VIBORG CENTENNIAL BOOK
(1992)

C. H. Olsen

C. H. Olsen residing at Viborg, Turner County, is well known as a representative of financial interests there, being president of the Bank of Viborg. He was born October 18, 1878 in the county in which he still lives, his parents being Lars P. and Maren Olsen. The father came to Dakota Territory in 1872, at a period when the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. He homesteaded three miles west of Centerville, South Dakota securing the northwest quarter of section 19 township 96 range 52. For several years he carried on general agricultural pursuits there but passed away in November 1881.

C. H. Olsen has always been a resident of Turner County and in the district schools he pursued his early education, while later he attended the Sioux Falls College, pursuing an academic course. When his textbooks were put aside he turned his attention to merchandising and the grain business, in which he continued for ten years. He had previously been upon the home farm and he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. After being connected with agricultural and mercantile interests he turned his attention to financial affairs and in the spring of 1910 entered the Bank of Viborg as its vice president. In January 1911, he was elected president and the business has been constantly increasing under his careful direction. He has closely studied every phase of the business, has watched the trend of the times and has so controlled the banks interests that it has greatly profited thereby. He is also interested in real estate in South Dakota and, as he knows property values, he has been able to make judicious investments.

On the 29th of November 1905, Mr. Olsen was united in marriage to Miss Agneta Tychsen, her father being Rev. N. Tychsen, who was a member of the territorial convention at Yankton and homesteaded the land which

comprises the present site of Viborg. Our subject and his wife have two children, Evangeline and Grace, who are six and two years of age respectively.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Baptist Church and in politics Mr. Olsen is a progressive republican. He is interested in South Dakota and its development and cooperated heartily in the plans and movements for the general upbuilding and improvement of the section of the state in which he makes his home. He served for several years as a member of the city council of Viborg and in the spring of 1914 was elected mayor in which position he is giving to the city efficient and valuable service, looking to the benefit of the community at large.

In 1919 Chris and family moved to Beresford where he was president of the Security State Bank and subsequently secretary-treasurer of the Beresford Federal Land Bank Association. Both Chris and Agneta were active in the First Methodist Church of Beresford as Sunday School teachers and as superintendent of the Sunday School. From 1924 to 1944 Agneta gave piano lessons in their home. They had two more children Elwood and Ruth. All four of their children became educators: Evangeline, professor at San Diego State University; Grace, professor at Iowa State University; Elwood, lawyer for the vice president of Morningside College; and Ruth, special education consultant in the New Jersey State Department of Education. Chris and Agneta had six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Chris died in 1967 and Agneta in 1978.