

acres, a half section in section 2 of Elkton township, and a quarter of a section cornering on the same in section 10, and has improved and developed the same in fine shape, now having one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he is giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle, and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Leach gives his earnest attention to the general civic affairs of the community and is now serving as a member of the board of township supervisors. He is a progressive and public-spirited agriculturist and for the past year has been serving as president of the East Side Farm club.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach have twelve children, Ray, Roy, Arthur, Clyde, Lloyd, Earl, Alva, Lewis, Virgil, Ruth, Lucy and Velva D., all of whom are living, a very interesting family. They never have had a doctor on account of sickness up to the date of this publication. The Leaches have a pleasant home and take a proper interest in the community's general social activities.

JOHN W. ALLEN.

John W. Allen, former well-known extensive landowner and now a dealer in real estate, is a native-born Hoosier, whose birth occurred near Brazil, in the state of Indiana, on October 7, 1870. He is the son of William Allen and wife, the former of whom was a farmer on a large scale for several years in Indiana, later going to the state of Iowa, where he continued his farming operations, meeting with considerable success, and in that state he spent the remainder of his life.

When John W. Allen was ten years old he accompanied his parents from Indiana to Iowa and in the public schools of the latter state he received a sound general education. He was reared on his father's farm and assisted in the work on the land for some years. He then commenced to operate a farm on his own account in Iowa, engaged in general farming for several years, until the fall of 1900, in which year he came over to the state of Minnesota, coming to Barnesville. He has owned several farms in this vicinity, which he sold from time to time, always to advantage, and each of those farms varying from one hundred and sixty acres to two sections of land. Throughout the years he was engaged in the purchase and sale of his different land holdings, he was conducting on a large scale, a grain and stock farming business, a handsome competency accruing to him as

the result of his successful operations in those lines. During the greater part of his residence in Clay county, Mr. Allen has been engaged in handling real estate and now chiefly follows that occupation, at the same time being engaged in the sale of automobiles, and in all his various undertakings he has met with marked success, his knowledge of land values being well established throughout Clay county and outside it.

On October 3, 1893, John W. Allen was united in marriage to Mary V. Miller, a daughter of Johnson Miller and wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Allen six children have been born as follow: Claude, Harley, Gladys, Donald, William and Delores. The Allen family are earnest members of the Methodist church and are warmly interested in its good works and in all community good works, ever helping every worthy cause in the township and county.

Mr. Allen is a Democrat in politics, but has never been a seeker after public office, preferring to devote his time to his real-estate interests. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in the affairs of that fraternal order he takes a lively interest.

EUGENE ASKEGAARD.

One of the enterprising young business men of Clay county is Eugene Askegaard, cashier of the Comstock State Bank, and a man who is doing much toward the development of his home town in a general way. He was born on the home farm in Pleasant township, Cass county, North Dakota, just across the Red river of the North, on February 1, 1884. He is a son of David and Minnie (Dunhom) Askegaard, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume. Suffice it to say here that the father is one of the leading business men of Comstock and an old and influential citizen of Clay county.

Eugene Askegaard grew up on the home farm in Holy Cross township, Clay county, his father moving from Cass county, North Dakota, to a farm, the present site of the village of Comstock, in 1886, when Eugene was two years old. Here the son assisted with the general work on the farm, and in the winter time he attended the public schools at Comstock, later the State Normal school at Moorhead, from which he was graduated in 1904. After leaving school he taught for three winters in the district schools of Clay county and during the summer months he worked in his