

politan Business College at Minneapolis. In 1902 he began his mercantile career as a clerk in the hardware store of the Solerud Brothers at Halstad, and four years later, in 1906, bought a hardware store at Ada, remaining in business there for four years. At the end of that period, in 1910, he returned to Halstad, bought an interest in the store of his former employers, Solerud Brothers, and has ever since been thus connected with that long-established and progressive firm. Mr. Lovsnes gives proper attention to local civic affairs and has served for one term as a member of the Halstad village council. He is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

In 1905 Oscar Lovsnes was united in marriage to Minnie Beise, daughter of August Beise and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Russell, Wallace and Eleanor. Mr. and Mrs. Lovsnes have a very pleasant home at Halstad and take a proper part in the general social activities of the village.

DAVID ASKEGAARD.

A well-known citizen of the southwestern part of Clay county is David Askegaard, merchant, banker, lumber and elevator man of Comstock, where he owned a farm before the village was started. He was born in Norway, June 19, 1853, and is a son of David and Johanna Askegaard, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married and continued to reside until 1872, when they immigrated with their family to the United States, locating in Cass county, North Dakota, where the father entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Pleasant township, which he developed into a farm and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Their family consisted of the following children: Corrinne, Ingeborg, Clara, Ole, David, John, Otto, Peter, Johannes and Mary.

The junior David Askegaard grew to manhood in Norway and there he attended the public schools. He was nineteen years old when he came with the rest of the family to America. As a young man he took up a homestead of eighty acres in Pleasant township, Cass county, North Dakota, which he developed into a farm through hard work and perseverance, remaining there until 1886, when he removed to Holy Cross township, Clay county, Minnesota, and bought the land on which the village of Comstock now stands. Here he improved another farm and established the



MR. AND MRS. DAVID ASKEGAARD.

Askegaard six children have been born, namely: Aileen (deceased), an infant (deceased), Tekla (deceased), Henry, Tekla (second) and Rolfe.

Politically, Mr. Askegaard is a Republican, and from 1892 to 1896 he served as county commissioner. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has always borne an unblemished reputation as a man and citizen and is one of the highly esteemed men of Clay county, a plain, practical, unassuming gentleman who takes an active interest in whatever pertains to the development of his town and county.

GILL HOWARD BARKER RICHARDS.

One of the enterprising young farmers of the western part of Clay county is Gill Howard Barker Richards, a member of a well-known and highly-respected family in the vicinity of Kragnes, where he was born on the old home farm, August 11, 1886. He is a son of Robert and Ellen (Giffin) Richards. The mother, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, in August, 1844, came to America in early life, and her death occurred here in 1913. Robert Richards was born in Cornwall, England, in December, 1844, and there he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. He immigrated to America in 1864, first locating at Calumet, Michigan, where he worked in the copper mines for some time as foreman. He came to Clay county, Minnesota, in 1882, locating on a farm in Kragnes township, and there engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising until his death in February, 1912, which, however, occurred in a hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. His family consisted of seven children, as follow: John, who died in 1903; Tom, unmarried, who was born in September, 1871, and has remained on the home place, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he owns, also operating another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which belongs to his sister, Margaret, farming in all three hundred and twenty acres; Max, who was born in April, 1873, and is married, living in Fargo, North Dakota; Alexandria, born in May, 1874, and living on a farm in section 17, Kragnes township; Margaret, who is operating a rooming house in Moorhead, and also owns a good farm in Kragnes township; Will, who is married, having three children, and is farming on the homestead in section 17, Kragnes township; Gill H. B., of this sketch, the youngest of the family.

Gill H. B. Richards grew to manhood on the home farm in Clay county,