

the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in the promotion of all causes having for their object the common good of the community. Mr. Bekkerus gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and is at present the chairman of the township board and also supervisor, and in these representative positions has given an excellent account of himself.

LARS A. BAKKEN.

Lars A. Bakken, a well-known and substantial farmer, owner of a compact and well-kept farm of two hundred and twenty acres of choice land in McDonaldsville township, Norman county, is a native of this same county, born on the farm on which he is now residing on January 3, 1883, a son of Ole A. and Ella (Ramstad) Bakken, both of whom are natives of the kingdom of Norway, but who have been residents of this country since the early seventies.

Ole A. Bakken immigrated from Norway in 1870 and on arriving in this country went direct to Buffalo county, Wisconsin, and remained in that place for nine years and was married in that neighborhood in 1879. In the latter year he moved to Norman county and took a quarter section of land as a tree-claim and on this holding he still lives. He proved up on his claim as a homestead, and although he went to Becker county, this state, to work in the early years, his permanent home has been in Norman county. Mr. Bakken is engaged in general farming and since the very commencement of his agricultural operations he has met with more than average success, the work on the farm being carried on according to modern methods. He has put some excellent buildings and set out a fine grove on what was originally bare prairie, and purchased an additional eighty acres adjoining the first farm. His wife, who came to this country in 1873, is still living and both rendered valuable assistance in the work of organizing the Lutheran church at West Wild Rice, which was the first church of the community. The early structure was built of logs and this was replaced later by a more substantial building. Mr. Bakken also helped to organize the school district and in other ways has given of his time for the public good. He and his wife are the parents of three children, Emma, deceased; Lars A., the subject of this sketch, and Emma, deceased. The paternal grandparents were Andrew and Emma (Nyegaard) Bakken, who

were born in Norway and there spent all their lives, farming people. The maternal grandparents were Lars and Ella (Lynggy) Ramstad, who also were born in Norway and died in that country, and were of the farming community.

Lars A. Bakken was educated in the public schools of Norman county and later spent one year at Concordia college, Moorhead. He has been a valuable assistant to his father on the farm of the latter, up to the time he commenced farming on his own account. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres of prime land on the home place and also manages his father's place, the two living together. Lars A. Bakken is engaged in general farming and is accounted one of the substantial farmers of this part of the township, ever alive to the most skillful methods of agricultural activity that prevail to help the farmer.

In January, 1904, Lars A. Bakken was united in marriage to Nellie Gilbertson, born in McDonaldsville township, a daughter of Thor Gilbertson and wife, further mention of whom is made in another part of this volume; Thor Gilbertson is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bakken are the parents of the following children: Emma, Agnes, Wilfred, Alice, Thelma, Grace and Ruth. The Bakkens are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Bakken is now and has been for the past five years a member of the township board and is and has been a member of the school board, giving earnest attention to the duties of these important positions.

OLAF C. OLSON.

Olaf C. Olson, a well-known farmer of Lee township, Norman county, where he operates a farm of five hundred and thirteen acres, which he owns with his sister, and a man closely affiliated with the business interests of the community in which he lives, was born in Becker county, Minnesota, August 28, 1871, a son of Christian and Marie (Rask) Olson, both natives of Norway, who grew up in that country and there married in 1866. The former was born in 1844 and the latter on January 6, 1843. Soon after their marriage, Christian Olson and wife decided that they would permanently establish their home in America, and accordingly they set sail in the year of their marriage and landed in this country, June 23, 1866. Immediately they started westward to the new land and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, remained there until 1870, when they drove up