

and forty-five acres in section 13. Mr. Aasen not only has been a successful farmer, but he has found time to give his intelligent attention to various business enterprises in the neighborhood of his home. He was one of the organizers and a director of the company which established the "Famous" elevator at Perley and has shares also in the Farmers and Merchants Bank at that place. Mr. Aasen also has ever taken an interested part in the general civic affairs of the community and was for years a member of the local school board and treasurer of the same.

It was in May, 1881, at Fargo, that Ole T. Aasen was united in marriage to Mary Christinia Lein, who was born in Norway in 1853 and who was but four years of age when her parents came to this country, the family settling in Iowa, where she was reared and where she received her schooling. Her parents spent their last days in Iowa. They were the parents of seven children, of whom but three now survive. Mrs. Aasen has a sister living in the neighboring county of Becker. Mr. and Mrs. Aasen have six children, namely: Mrs. Clara Johnson, who lives in North Dakota; Theodore, who is married and also lives in North Dakota; Paulina, who is at home with her parents; Mrs. Christina Grady, who lives in North Dakota; Mrs. Matilda McMasters, who also lives in North Dakota, and Charles, who remains at home, taking practical charge of the home farm. The Aasens have a very pleasant home in Lee township and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities, helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

ASKILD T. BEKKERUS.

Among the native-born Norwegians who have come to America and who have become successful farmers, is Askild T. Bekkerus, who was born in the kingdom of Norway, but who has been living in this country since 1882. He is a son of Torjus and Ingeborg (Skriosen) Bekkerus, also natives of Norway, who were married in that country many years before immigrating to this country.

Torjus Bekkerus was born in Norway in 1821 and had been a farmer in that country before coming to the United States. His wife, Ingeborg Skriosen, was also born in Norway in 1837 and came to this country with her husband and other members of the family. She has been living

with her son, the subject of this sketch, since the death of her husband. Torjus Bekkerus left his native Norway in 1890 and on arriving in this country came on out to Minnesota and settled in Clay county. In 1896 he homesteaded a tract of land in section 18, Moland township, and here he and the other members of the family made their home. Mr. Bekkerus immediately proceeded to develop his land and presently had it under cultivation, and he came to be regarded as one of the go-a-head farmers of the district and he and his wife were among the active and influential residents of the township. Torjus Bekkerus died at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, his death occurring in 1908. To Torjus Bekkerus and wife the following children were born: Soren, who lives in Norway and is married; Drong, living at Grygla, Minnesota, also married; Signe, married and living at Webster, North Dakota; Halvor, married and living near Barnesville; Ole, married and living at Hurdsfield, North Dakota, and Askild T., the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Bekkerus were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and took a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they lived.

Askild T. Bekkerus, who was the first of his family to come to America, was educated in the schools of his native land and helped his father on the farm up to the time he immigrated to this country. He left Norway in 1882 and on arriving in this country he started for Minnesota and settled in Moland township, Clay county. He immediately began to work at farm labor and after the lapse of some time he had paved the way to acquire land and commence farming on his own account. His efforts have met with notable success and he is now the owner of three hundred and forty acres of prime land in section 18, Moland township, fifty acres of which are allotted to the cultivation of potatoes. His place is well improved and he is accounted one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that section of the county. The machinery on the place for use in agricultural work is valued at two thousand five hundred dollars.

In March, 1883, Askild T. Bekkerus was united in marriage to Tone Kleven, who was born in Norway on February 12, 1858, and to this union the following children have been born: Sophia Geline, who died at the age of two years; Sophia, who married A. J. Mittgarden; Theodore, married and farming in Oakport township; Gilbert, who lives in the state of Montana; Edward, also in Montana; Tilda, Mabel, Alfred and William, the four latter being at home with their parents. The Bekkerus family are members of the Concordia Lutheran church and take a proper interest in

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