

pleasing address have made for him many friends among his business associates. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a keen interest. His life has been a busy one and he is known as one of the hustlers of his home town.

HALVOR BEKKERUS.

Halvor Bekkerus, a substantial and progressive farmer, living in Humboldt township, Clay county, owner of a fine tract of two hundred acres of choice land in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years old. He was born on September 23, 1866, a son of Torjus and Ingeborg (Sorenson) Bekkerus, who came to America some years after their son.

Torjus Bekkerus was educated in the schools of Norway and was married in that country, where he followed the occupation of a farmer. On his arrival in America he came on out to Minnesota and settled in Moland township, Clay county, and about 1905 he took a homestead claim of eighty acres—the last homestead tract that was open for entry. On this holding he commenced the active life of a farmer and made a success of his labors, being recognized as one of the best small landholders in the vicinity. Torjus Bekkerus died about 1907 in Clay county and his widow still lives in Moland township. They were the parents of six children, namely: Soren, living in Norway, originally a mechanic, now a farmer; Drang, of Marshall county, Minnesota; A. T., of Moland township; Sena, living at Devil's Lake, North Dakota; Halvor, the subject of this sketch, and Ole, living in Herdsville, North Dakota. Torjus Bekkerus and wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in the same faith.

Halvor Bekkerus was educated in the schools of his native land and was reared on his father's place. At the age of twenty, in 1886, he decided to try his fortune in America and left Norway in that year. He came to Minnesota and commenced to work on farms in the Glyndon neighborhood; he took up carpentry work, which he had partly learned in the old country, and followed that trade for about ten years in the vicinity of Glyndon. Mr. Bekkerus then bought a quarter section of land in Humboldt township, and has lived there ever since, engaged in general farming, and has added to his holding until he is now the owner of two hundred acres of excellent land. He

has carried out many valuable improvements on his place, including a well-laid-out grove, and also operates a small apple orchard.

In 1896 Halvor Bekkerus was united in marriage to Karen Arntson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Arnt and Karen (Sletten) Hanson, natives of that country, who immigrated to Minnesota in 1883 and located in Tansem township, Clay county. Arnt Hanson bought a tract of land and farmed during the remainder of his active life, his death occurring in 1914, and his widow is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of six children, namely: Theodore, who is living in Tansem township; Rundena, deceased; Hooken, deceased; Karen, wife of Halvor Bekkerus; Anna, deceased, and Knut, deceased. To the union of Halvor and Karen (Arntson) Bekkerus the following children have been born: Albert, Hilbert, Inge, Rudolph, Clara, Hilda and William. Mr. Bekkerus has always given much attention to public affairs and by appointment has filled the position of township chairman to finish an unexpired term. He is interested in the cause of education and was a member of the local school board for nine years, and in many other ways he has given of his time and talents to movements intended to benefit the community at large.

W. E. CASSELMAN.

W. E. Casselman, one of the real pioneers of Norman county and one of the most extensive landowners hereabout, has been a witness to the development of this section since the days of the very beginning of its settlement. He was the first permanent settler in Spring Creek township and upon the organization of that township was elected clerk of the same, his wife being elected treasurer of the school district in which they lived upon its organization and continuing to serve in that capacity as long as they remained there. Mr. Casselman broke the first furrow turned in Spring Creek township and his first-born child was the first white child born in that township. From the time of the organization of the township until he left the farm he was continually in public office, having served his township in various capacities, and did much to develop the interests of that part of the county. Since the day he filed a pre-emption claim to a tract of land in what later was organized as Norman county, back in 1879, Mr. Casselman has been successful in his operations and is now the owner of eleven hundred acres of land, long having been regarded as one of the