

members of the Catholic church and took an active part in local parish affairs. They were the parents of three sons, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, William and James Connelly, who are still living on the old home place with their widowed mother.

John Connelly was reared on the home farm in Glyndon township and attended the common schools of that neighborhood. As a youth, he learned the carpenter trade and worked at the same until 1909, two years after his marriage, when he bought a quarter of a section of land in Glyndon township, not far from his old home, and has ever since made that place his home. In 1914, he bought an adjoining tract of two hundred acres and is very successful in his farming operations, being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood.

On February 27, 1907, John Connelly was united in marriage to Mamie Krabbenhoft, who was born in Elmwood township, Clay county, daughter of W. C. Krabbenhoft and wife, pioneers of that township and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To this union three children have been born, Lawrence, Edna and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Connelly have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they have lived all their lives. Mr. Connelly is a member of the Masonic lodge at Moorhead and of the Modern Woodmen of America at that place. In the affairs of both of these organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### EDWIN C. BENEDICT.

Edwin C. Benedict, clerk of Glyndon township, Clay county, and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of that part of the county, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Clay county since he was seventeen years of age, his parents having settled here in 1887. He was born at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, January 19, 1870, son of Stephen D. and Sarah F. (Pride) Benedict, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Maine, who were married in Wisconsin and later came to Minnesota, becoming pioneers of Clay county, where the former died, the latter going to California, where her last days were spent.

Stephen D. Benedict, who was an honored veteran of the Civil War, was but a child when his parents moved from Ohio to Wisconsin, becoming pioneers of the Oshkosh neighborhood, where he was reared on a pioneer

farm. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted for service as a member of Company C, Fourteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served for four years and three months, during which long period of service he never was wounded nor taken prisoner. After the war Mr. Benedict continued for some time in service, on guard duty, and upon the completion of his military service returned to his home in Wisconsin, where he presently married Sarah F. Pride, who was born in the state of Maine and who was but a girl when her parents came over into the northwest and settled in the vicinity of Oshkosh. After his marriage Mr. Benedict continued to make his home in Wisconsin until 1887, in which year he moved with his family over into Minnesota and bought a homestead right to a quarter of a section of land in Alliance township, Clay county, which he "proved up" and improved and to which he added by later purchase until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres there, one of the best farms in that part of the county, and on that place he spent his last days. His widow later moved to California, where her last days were spent. Stephen D. Benedict took an active part in local civic affairs and for some years served as assessor of Alliance township. He and his wife had three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mabel, wife of Henry Legler, of Blackduck, up in Beltrami county, and a brother, Henry Benedict, of Oakland, California.

As noted above, Edwin C. Benedict was seventeen years of age when he came into the Red River country with his parents in 1887, the family settling in Clay county, and he at once became an active factor in the labors of developing and improving the home place in Alliance township. After his marriage ten years later he rented the home place and operated the same for four years, at the end of which time he bought the place on which he is now living, in Glyndon township, and has since made his home there. He has done well in his operations there and has increased his holdings until now he is the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Benedict gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and makes a specialty of his fine Percheron horses. His place is improved in admirable shape and he has one of the best farm plants in Clay county. The year in which he moved to Glyndon township Mr. Benedict was elected township clerk and by successive re-elections has ever since been retained in that office, giving his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to local civic affairs. He likewise gives his interested attention to the general business affairs of the community and is a stockholder in

the Equity packing plant at Fargo and in the creamery plant at Moorhead.

On November 10, 1897, Edwin C. Benedict was united in marriage to Katherine Wiedeman, daughter of Ewald Wiedeman and wife, of Clay county, and to this union ten children have been born, Mabel, Ewald, Lila, Esther, Alice, Ethel, Frances, Edwin, George and Edith, all of whom are living. The Benedicts have a very pleasant home on their fine farm and have ever given their proper attention to the general social activities and good works of the community in which they live, helpful in many ways in promoting movements designed to advance the common good thereabout.

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### HENRY GRETTUM.

One of the most promising of the younger farmers of Clay county is Henry Grettum, who lives on the farm on which he was born in Ulen township. He has been wise in remaining on the homestead where he has found all the opportunities necessary for a successful career as a tiller of the soil. Too many of our farmer boys hasten away to some distant city to start their careers. The life of the average farmer is more satisfactory in many respects than that of his city brother.

Mr. Grettum was born on May 11, 1891, in Ulen township, Clay county, a son of John and Bertha (Klemmetson) Grettum, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, but were still single when they immigrated to America. They were married in Houston county, Minnesota, where he had settled in the seventies. John Grettum worked as a farm hand until 1882, when he came to Clay county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Ulen township, where he has since made his home. He developed the raw land into a good farm, placing it under excellent improvements, including the erection of a substantial group of buildings. He has engaged in general farming and stock raising. His wife died in 1915. She was a member of the Lutheran church to which he also belongs. He was treasurer of the school board in his district for a number of years. To John Grettum and wife six children were born, namely: Clara, Julius, Selma, Clarence, Henry and Helen, all of whom are living at this writing.

Henry Grettum received his education in the district schools. He has always lived on the home farm, which he has been managing successfully since 1916. He received excellent training under his father and is a student