

township, daughter of Frank and Matilda (Croskey) Burley, and to this union seven children have been born: Mary, Agnes, Emma (deceased), James, Edward, Etta, Effie and Thomas.

GUSTAV A. ERSTAD.

Gustav A. Erstad, proprietor of "Elmwood Farm," a fine place of four hundred and eighty acres lying on the line between Elmwood and Glyndon townships in Clay county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Mineola township, Goodhue county, July 3, 1869, son of Andrew and Olene (Lebeck) Erstad, both natives of the kingdom of Norway, who were married in Goodhue county, this state, and there spent their last days, honored pioneers of that community.

Andrew Erstad came to the United States in 1853 and about two years later, in June, 1855, pre-empted a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Mineola township, in Goodhue county, this state, the second settler in that township; Christian Peterson, the first entrant there, having made his location in the previous month of May. Not long after filing on his claim Andrew Erstad married Olene Lebeck, who had not long before come to this country with her parents, the family settling in Goodhue county, and after his marriage established his home on his pre-emption tract and proceeded to develop and improve the same, in time coming to be one of the most substantial farmers in that community and a considerable landowner. He was one of the organizers of his home township and for some time served as a member of the board of township supervisors and also for some time was assessor of his township. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Cornelius, John, Albert, Mary, Selma (deceased), Augustus (deceased) and one other, who died in youth. Andrew Erstad and wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Reared on the home farm in Goodhue county, Gustav A. Erstad received his schooling in the schools of that county and early became a practical farmer, remaining there until 1897, when he came up into the Red River country and located on the place where he is now living, in Elmwood township, and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleas-