

ship, receiving his education in the district schools. In 1904 he and his brother Lars bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, Eglon township, and in 1906 they purchased the homestead of two hundred acres. Upon the death of Lars, Martin L. became sole owner of the entire three hundred and sixty acres and is operating the same in a highly successful manner, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He sows a large acreage to wheat each year. His land is in the rich potato belt and he has planted as high as fifteen acres in the tubers. He raises large numbers of cattle and hogs for the market each year, specializing in Shorthorn cattle of an excellent grade, the head of his herd being a fine registered animal. The father made the first improvement on the place, but these have given away to more modern improvements made by Martin L. and Lars Mikkelson, including new buildings, fences, etc. The first home on the land was of logs and was built by the father in the early frontier days. A part of this primitive residence is still standing, a priceless relic of pioneer days.

In 1906, in Eglon township, Martin L. Mikkelson was married to Bertha Erickson, who was born in 1881 in that same township, where she grew to womanhood and attended the public schools. Three children have been born to this marriage, namely: Myrtle, Ludvig and Milton.

Mr. Mikkelson is a Republican and was a member of the town board for six years. He was once president of the Young People's Association, is treasurer of the school board in district No. 15 and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is treasurer.

MICHAEL HIGGINS.

Michael Higgins, a substantial farmer of Clay county and the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 31 of Kragnes township, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this section of the Red River valley since he was eighteen years of age, having come over here from Wisconsin in 1878. He was born at Johnstown, Ohio, in 1860, a son of Michael and Anna (Hannay) Higgins, who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary, wife of Con Keece, a member of the Fargo police force; Maggie, who is married and lives in Wisconsin; Martin; Patrick, deceased, and Thomas, who is married and lives in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Keefe have a daughter, Mrs. Anna McQuat, who lives in Winnipeg. Mr. Keefe, who has been a member of the Fargo police force for the past twelve years, has resided in that city since 1881. His parents died at Detroit, Minnesota. He was reared at Hastings, this state, and there received his schooling, later becoming engaged in railroad service, and was married to Mary Higgins at Fargo in 1884. Mrs. Keefe received her schooling near Ontario, Wisconsin. Mr. Keefe has four brothers and five sisters. He is the owner of a fine bit of residence property in Fargo and is one of the best-known men in that city. He is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and of the local branch of the Switchmens Union of North America.

The elder Michael Higgins was born in Ireland and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Con Keefe, at Fargo, in August, 1909, he then being eighty-four years of age. His wife had preceded him to the grave about four years, her death having occurred in Wisconsin when she was sixty-five years of age. The elder Michael Higgins was twenty years of age when he came to this country from Ireland and for a time after his arrival here he worked on railroads in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He then moved to Johnstown, Ohio, and then to Steubenville, Ohio, and after some years of residence there moved to Wisconsin, where he homesteaded a farm in the vicinity of Ontario and there spent the rest of the active days of his life. After the death of his wife he sold his farm and thereafter, until his death, made his home with his daughter, Maggie, and his daughter, Mrs. Keefe, at Fargo.

The younger Michael Higgins was but a child when his parents moved from Ohio to Wisconsin and he grew up on the homestead farm in the latter state, receiving his schooling in the school in the neighborhood of his home, in the vicinity of Ontario, in Vernon county. When eighteen years of age, in 1878, he came over into the Red River valley and located at Moorhead, where for eighteen years thereafter he was engaged in the employ of Lamb Brothers. He then bought a quarter of a section in section 31 of Kragnes township and on that farm established his home. He later bought an adjoining "forty" and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred acres and a comfortable home, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. During the summer of 1917, Mr. Higgins had out twenty-five acres of potatoes on his place, in addition to the customary crops. He has a good stand of live stock and is doing well in his farming operations.

During the time of his residence in Moorhead Michael Higgins was united in marriage to Agnes Peterson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway in 1862 and who came to America when twenty-five years of age and who was married the year after her arrival here. To that union seven children have been born, Alice, Myrtle, Francis, Mabel, Edna, Howard and Alta, all of whom are at home. The Higginases are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs. Mr. Higgins gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and is a director on the school board in district No. 78.

AUGUST JULIUS LUEDKE.

August Julius Luedke, one of Norman county's pioneer farmers and landowners, now living retired at Ada, the county seat, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1882, in which year he came with his bride and established his home on a homestead farm in Wild Rice township, Norman county, later settling on a farm which he bought in section 36 of Lockhart township, where he lived until his retirement and removal to Ada. He was born on July 16, 1856, a son of Gottlieb and Christina Luedke, who were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Wilhelmina, Martin, Paulina and Othelia, the first two of whom are still living in Germany and the two latter of whom are married and living in Minnesota. The mother of these children died in her native land and the father afterward came to this country and here spent his last days.

Reared in Germany, August J. Luedke received his schooling there and remained there until after his marriage. He was married on June 7, 1879 to Pauline Andree and straightway he and his bride took their departure for America. They proceeded on out into Minnesota and in 1882, settled on a homestead farm in Wild Rice township, Norman county. Later Mr. Luedke bought a farm in section 36 of Lockhart township and moved onto the same, creating there a fine piece of farming property, on which he made his home until his retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal to Ada, where he and his wife now reside, their second son now managing the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Luedke have six children, Wanda, Jennie, Albert, August, Lizzie and Willie, the last-named of whom is working in a garage at Ada.