

HANS L. JOHNSON.

There is both pleasure and profit to be derived from farming when one goes about it in an intelligent and ambitious manner like Hans L. Johnson, of Cromwell township, Clay county, who has forged his way up from an early environment none too promising by sheer courage and perseverance.

Mr. Johnson was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, June 4, 1879. He is a son of Lewis C. and Karin Ellina (Hillestad) Johnson, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America, single, the former locating in Freeborn county, Minnesota, in 1871. She came to Fillmore county, this state, in 1873, with her parents, who are mentioned on another page of this work. There she lived with her folks until her marriage.

Lewis C. Johnson was the son of Carl and Johanna (Peterson) Johnson, natives of Norway. Carl Johnson died in his native land and his widow came to Minnesota in 1873 and spent the remainder of her life in Fillmore county. Lewis C. Johnson and family came from Fillmore county to Clay county in 1882, driving an ox-team to a "prairie schooner," and located in Cromwell township, where he entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, which he still owns. He put on all improvements, including an excellent group of buildings. He has a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres. He also owns timber land in Becker county, this state. His family consists of five children, namely: Johanna, Hans L., Emma, Ida and Nora, all of whom are living.

Lewis C. Johnson helped organize the first Lutheran church in his locality. He also helped organize the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company at Hawley, his interest in that concern now being owned by his son, Hans L. The father has held township offices nearly all his active life, but is now retired from public life, as well as from active farming. He organized his home school district and served on the board of the same for many years, from the time of its organization until he was succeeded by his son, the subject of this sketch.

Hans L. Johnson grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the public schools of Clay county. He worked on the farm with his father when a boy and started life for himself as a young man by working in the Evans elevator at Hawley for six years, giving his employer entire satisfaction and becoming known as one of the leading grain buyers in this section of the state. He then took up farming on the old home place

in Cromwell township, which he has since operated with success, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, and keeping the land well improved and well cultivated. He also owns eighty acres of good land of his own, but he lives with his father. Besides general farming he raises a large acreage of potatoes each year, also pays considerable attention to dairying.

On November 22, 1906, Hans L. Johnson was united in marriage to Petra Solum, who was born in Tansem township, Clay county, where she grew up and attended school. She is a daughter of P. P. Solum and wife, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. Four children have been born to Hans L. Johnson and wife, namely: Leon, Harvey, Orpha and Bertram.

ERNEST FREDERICK KRABBENHOFT.

Ernest Frederick Krabbenhoft, chairman of the board of supervisors of Elmwood township, one of the most substantial and progressive young farmers in Clay county and the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and sixty acres in Elmwood township, where he and his family have an admirable, modern establishment, is a native son of Clay county, born in the neighborhood in which he is now living, and has lived there all his life. He was born on June 10, 1880, son of Wolf C. and Mary (Jensen) Krabbenhoft, natives of Germany, who became pioneers of Clay county and the latter of whom is still living on the old home place in Elmwood township.

Wolf Christopher Krabbenhoft was born in the Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein in 1847 and in 1872 came to the United States and proceeded on out to the Red River country and homesteaded a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Elmwood township, Clay county, being the first permanent white settler in that township. He was the eldest son of his parents and had come to "spy out the land" for the family, who were desirous of setting up a new home in the land of the free far away to the west, and in 1874 his parents, W. F. and Katherine (Jess) Krabbenhoft, and the five other members of the family joined him here on his homestead place, the Krabbenhoft family thus becoming recognized as among the very early settlers of that part of the county. W. F. Krabbenhoft bought the homestead place from his son Wolf and in 1882 sold it to his younger son, Henning, who is still living there and a biographical sketch of whom, together with further details of the settlement of the Krabbenhoft family