

was born in Jefferson county, New York, a son of Josiah and Rhoda (Riggins) Albertson, natives of the state of New Jersey. When nineteen years of age, in 1869, Orris Albertson came to Minnesota to join his sister, Mrs. Benjamin Sherman, in Otter Tail county, and for some time thereafter was employed as a clerk in the city of Otter Tail. In the fall of 1873 he married Mrs. Roseltha (Gould), Corliss, a widow and the owner of a homestead farm in Everts township, Otter Tail county, and took a homestead in his own name adjoining that of his wife. In 1876 he established a store on that farm and later moved the same to the new townsite of Battle Lake and for many years thereafter was engaged in the mercantile business there, six years of which time he served as postmaster. For eight years he served as clerk of the township and in 1904 was elected sheriff of Otter Tail county, an office he held for four years.

OTTO F. KELTING.

Otto F. Kelting, a well-known merchant at Downer and justice of the peace in and for Elkton township, Clay county, is a native of Germany, but has lived in this country since he was seven years of age and in Minnesota since he was twelve and is therefore thoroughly familiar with conditions up here in the Red river country. He was born on February 13, 1886, son of John and Anna (Grevey) Kelting, also natives of Germany, who came to this country in 1893 and after a residence of five years in Chicago came to Minnesota and located in Clay county, where they are still living, substantial residents of Elkton township.

John Kelting was born on April 9, 1861, son of Otto and Anna (Brown) Kelting, both also natives of Germany, farming people, the latter of whom is still living there at a ripe old age, and who were the parents of eight children, those besides John, the first-born, being Henry, Katherine, William, Otto (deceased), Augusta, August (deceased), and Ferdinand. During 1912-13 the Widow Kelting made a visit to her children in this country. John Kelting was trained as a stonemason in his native land and there became a proficient workman. From 1882 to 1885 he served in the army and in the latter year, shortly after his return to civil life, married Anna Grevey, who also was born in Germany, daughter of Hans and Katherine (Lench) Grevey, the former of whom is still living there. After his marriage John Kelting continued to make his home in his native land until

1893, in which year he came to the United States with his little family and located in Chicago, where he became engaged working at his trade as a stonemason and where he made his home for five years, or until 1898, when he came to Minnesota with his family and settled at Sabin, in Clay county, where he continued working at his trade and was thus engaged there until his appointment some years later, upon the establishment of rural mail routes out of Sabin, as a rural mail carrier out of that postoffice, the first carrier thus appointed there. A year later, in 1906, he bought a quarter of a section of land in Elkton township and has since made his home on that place, having improved the farm in admirable shape. John Kelting has given considerable attention to local civic affairs since becoming a resident of Clay county and while at Sabin and since moving to the farm has been a member of the school board, a period of about fifteen years. He also served for some time as justice of the peace. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. Of the ten children born to them, seven are still living, those besides Otto F., the subject of this sketch and the first-born, being as follow: Emma, wife of Marcus Ullrich; Freda, wife of David Lamb, Gusta, who is engaged with her brother, Otto, in business at Downer, and Bertha,* Minnie and August, at home.

As noted above, Otto F. Kelting was but seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and his schooling was continued in the schools of Chicago until he came to Minnesota, where he completed his schooling in the Sabin schools. As a young man he became interested in railroading and for three years was employed as a brakeman on the Great Northern. He then became engaged in farming and was for seven years thus engaged, the owner of a quarter-section farm adjoining the village of Downer. He then sold his farm and on January 25, 1917, bought the store building and stock of goods of Kost Brothers at Downer and has since then been engaged in the general mercantile business in that village. Mr. Kelting has been attentive to local political affairs and is now serving as justice of the peace in and for his home township. He formerly served as constable.

On April 28, 1908, Otto F. Kelting was united in marriage to Elizabeth Kluck, who was born in Skree township, Clay county, daughter of Fred Kluck, one of the homesteaders and pioneers of that township, and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union six children have been born, Lawrence, Pearl, Alfred, Florence, Evalyn and William.