

as a hired hand for some time, also worked a year in Canada on construction work for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. He saved his earnings and in 1886 bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Highland Grove township, Clay county, and here he has since resided. It was all raw land at the start, but he broke the sod and developed a very productive and valuable farm from virgin prairie, putting on all improvements, built a comfortable residence, numerous outbuildings and fences, planted a grove and otherwise made his place one of the most desirable in his community. Under his careful and systematic tillage the soil has not lost any of its original fertility during his thirty years of diversified crop raising. He purchased the land from a railroad company. He was one of the pioneers in this part of the county and has lived to see many great changes inaugurated here.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1888 to Mary Backman, a native of Sweden, from which country she came to America with her parents when young. She attended the common schools. She was a daughter of Andrew Berg, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. Mrs. Johnson's death occurred in 1889, in early life, about a year after her marriage. She left one child, Carl Johnson, who grew up on the homestead, received his education in the local rural schools, and is now assisting his father operate the home farm.

Mr. Johnson has been a member of the school board in his district continuously during the past fifteen years, or since 1902, and has done much toward improving the schools of his vicinity. He assisted in building the present Augustana Lutheran church in 1901.

FRANK KIMM.

All credit is due a man who wins success in his chosen field of endeavor in spite of obstacles, who, by persistency and energy, gains a competency and a position of honor as a man and citizen. The record of Frank Kimm, a farmer of Oak Port township, Clay county, is that of such a man, for he came to this locality in the days of its rapid growth from primordial conditions and here he has worked his way up from the bottom to definite success.

Mr. Kimm was born in Bremer county, Iowa, February 16, 1866, a son of John Francis and Julia (Downing) Kimm. The family moved from Iowa to southern Minnesota in 1868, locating on a farm and there the father

tilled the soil until his death in 1886. The mother subsequently came to Clay county, where she spent her last years, dying in 1906 at an advanced age. To these parents the following children were born: Frank, whose name introduces this biographical review; Nellie and Lillie, twins, and Fred, deceased.

John F. Kimm, father of the above named children, was a full-blooded Frenchman, and was born in the year 1809. He grew to manhood in Europe, being born in Germany, and he served for some time in the German army, taking part in one of the wars of that country prior to coming to the United States. During the Mexican War he served as chief cook for Gen. Winfield Scott. He was an expert chef. When he crossed the Mexican border on his way home he carried with him the sum of four thousand dollars in gold, which he secreted in old-fashioned saddlebags, which were thrown across his horse's back. Once he lost it, but retracing his steps was fortunate enough to find it.

Frank Kimm grew to manhood on the home farm in southern Minnesota, being two years old when his parents removed from Bremer county, Iowa. He received his education in the early-day district schools of Blue Earth county, this state, where he continued to reside until 1893, when he came to Clay county and bought four hundred and eighty acres in Oak Port township. The farm is well located not far from the city of Moorhead. However, he did not move to this place until 1910, having operated the Benedict farm in the meantime, operating it together with his own. The Benedict farm is a large place lying just north of his own. He has carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He now operates fourteen hundred acres in all, raising large quantities of grain and great numbers of live stock. He is one of the leading farmers of the county. He also runs a dairy, keeping an average of thirty good cows, some full-blooded and high-grade Guernseys. He uses a milking machine and his dairy is up-to-date in every respect, special attention being paid to sanitary conditions. His land is highly improved in every respect, including a commodious home and numerous, well-equipped outbuildings. Everything about his place denotes thrift, good taste and excellent management.

Mr. Kimm was married in 1898 to Gertrude Pearson, a native of Sweden, from which country she came to America when young. To Mr. and Mrs. Kimm twelve children have been born, all living at this writing but two, and all being still at home with their parents, namely: Frances,

Annabel, Fred and Alice, both deceased; Benjamin, Louis, Arthur, Mabel, Robert, Alexander, Ruth Elenda, and Grace Vivian.

Mr. Kimm is a member of the Dilworth Dairy Association. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has served as township assessor and in the spring of 1911 he became county commissioner, which position he still holds, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

PETER BRUNSBURG.

One of the substantial and prosperous farmers of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he enters unostentatiously into the good work of the community, was born in Thoten, Norway, February 24, 1850, a son of Ole and Mary Brunsberg, both of whom were natives of Norway; however, they spent their last days in America. In 1867 the father came to America, accompanied by his son, the subject of this sketch, to find a location, and some years later he was joined by Mary Brunsberg, his wife. They were the parents of eight children who grew to maturity: Peder, deceased; Lizzie, Martha, Ole, deceased; John, Martin, deceased; Peter, the subject of this review, and Ed.

Peter Brunsberg was just entering the age of early manhood when he left the land of his birth, where he had acquired an elementary education which the time and the place afforded, and came in 1867 in company with his father to cast his lot with the agricultural interests of the New World. They came on out to Minnesota, and after a short stay in St. Peter, Nicollet county, the father went into Sibley county, which joins Nicollet on the north, where he took a homestead of eighty acres. His wife joined him there. His death occurred on the homestead, but Mrs. Brunsberg died later at the home of her son, Peter, near Fertile, Minnesota. After gaining some valuable experience in the extensive agricultural operations of the Northwest, Peter Brunsberg left his father's home, joined a party of settlers who were coming north up into this state. He drove a yoke of oxen, and, after a tiresome journey of three weeks, he arrived in Polk county, where he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, two and one-half miles southeast of Fertile. Since he had brought with him the necessary farming implements and had driven some stock before him as he came up into this country, it was not long until he was well started on the road to success in his farming.