

daughter of Ole Hougrud. To this union two children have been born, Jarvis and Bernard Steen. Politically, John G. Steen is a member of the Nonpartisan League. He has served as township assessor.

Gulbrand Larson and wife, parents of the subject of this sketch, spent their entire lives in Norway. Four children were born to them, namely: Mary, who lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Mollie, who died in Moorhead, Minnesota; Carrie, who lives in Norway, and John G., the subject of this sketch. Erick and Martha Thuney, parents of Mr. Steen's wife, were born in Norway, from which country they came to America, locating in Goodhue county, Minnesota, later moving to Clay county, where the mother is still living, the father having died some years ago. They were the parents of the following children: Anna, Jacob, Ole, John, Susan, Minnie, Bertha, Ida, Erick and Julia.

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#### NILS A. KJELSTAD.

Nils A. Kjelstad, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county, was born in Warmland, Sweden, November 4, 1870. He is a son of Andrew and Stena (Nelson) Gunderson, both natives also of the above-named locality in Sweden, where they grew to maturity, were married and established their home. There the mother's death occurred, after which the father immigrated to America in 1880 and located at once in Highland Grove township, Clay county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 29. He was one of the pioneers of that locality and by hard work and perseverance he improved a good farm, which he continued to operate until about 1907, when he moved to Pelican Lake, in Becker county, this state. Two of the children by his first marriage are living at this writing, namely: Nils A. and Gust. After locating in Clay county, Andrew Gunderson married Ida Hammer, a native of Warmland, Sweden, from which country she came to Minnesota when young. Three children, all living, have been born to the second marriage, namely: Emilia, the wife of L. R. Willis, and Fred and Oscar.

Nils A. Kjelstad spent his childhood in Sweden, where he attended school for awhile, but received most of his education in Clay county, being ten years old when his father brought him to America. He assisted with the general work on the homestead and as a young man began farming for himself, buying one hundred and seventy acres in 1894, in Highland Grove township. He at once began actively farming the same and soon had the

land under a fine state of cultivation and improvement, erecting an excellent group of buildings, setting out a grove, etc. He transformed the bare prairie into one of the most desirable farms in the township, and has continued to reside on the place to the present time, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mr. Kjelstad helped organize the Farmers' Elevator Company at Hawley, the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Hawley, and the Rollag Telephone Company, and has been a stockholder in all three since their organization.

In 1892 Nils A. Kjelstad was married to Anna M. Dahl, a native of Norway, where her parents lived and died. She came to Minnesota in early life. To this union has been born one child, Inga.

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### FIDELIS MARQUART.

One of the thrifty farmers of Georgetown township, Clay county, is Fidelis Marquart, who was born in Wittenburg, Germany, September 23, 1869. He is a son of Albin and Ludvicka (Stoehr) Marquart, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and established their home. The father was a soldier in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and died a few months after his discharge from the army, his death being due to exposure during the war. In the spring of 1873, the mother of the subject of this sketch, accompanied by her father, Mr. Stoehr, brought her children to Canada, locating in the province of Ontario, but came on to Moorhead, Clay county, Minnesota, in 1874, and the following year moved to Georgetown township. In May, 1874, the mother remarried, her second husband being Jacob Wambach, of Ontario. Upon coming to Georgetown township he bought a farm in section 32, where he engaged in general farming until in March, 1915, when he retired from active life and moved to Moorhead where he and his family now reside.

To Albin Marquart and wife two children were born, Fidelis and Lena. The mother bore her second husband nine children, Joseph, Frank, Matthew, Carl Nicholas, Alphonse, Edmond, Catherine, Josephine and Marie. They have one adopted son, named John.

Fidelis Marquart was about four years of age when his mother brought him to Ontario, Canada. He grew to manhood in Clay county, Minnesota, and the first school he attended was in the old Hudson Bay building in Georgetown township, and later he was a student in the first school house