

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.

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

built in this township. He worked on the home farm when a young man, assisting to develop the virgin soil of the prairies into productive fields. On February 23, 1897, he married Mary Fahlender, a daughter of Leonard and Augusta (Gulde) Fahlender, who were early pioneers of Cass county, North Dakota, where they established their future home on a farm, and the following children were born to them: Joseph P., John A., Philip L., Frank X., Catherine, Elizabeth and Mary, wife of the subject of this sketch.

In March, 1897, shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Marquart moved to their present farm of forty-seven and forty-two one-hundredths acres, in section 23, Georgetown township, on which their dwelling and farm buildings stand. They also own one hundred and twenty acres in section 29, just across the road. Their home is near the townsite. Mr. Marquart has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and is paying more attention each year to stock raising and the dairy business. He has served thirteen years as township clerk and about seven years on the local school board. He has seven children, Leonard, Joseph, Eugene, Walter, Albina, Magdalen and Frances.

NELS THOMPSON.

Nels Thomson, of Spring Prairie township, one of the scientific farmers of Clay county, was born in Sweden, September 27, 1857. He is a son of Thomas and Asrena (Swanson) Parson, natives of Sweden, where they grew up, were married and established their home; in fact, spent all of their lives there. The mother died in early womanhood, but the father survived to an advanced age, dying about the year 1915. To these parents seven children were born, all of whom are living at this writing, namely: Pehr, Elizabeth, Nels, Lena, Tilda, Nellie and Axel.

Nels Thompson spent his boyhood in Sweden, where he attended the public schools and where he made his home until 1882, when he crossed the Atlantic to the great western republic, locating first in North Dakota, where he worked at different places, in railroad service. During this period, while not actively at work, he made his headquarters in Moorhead, Minnesota. He followed railroading for about ten years for the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern and was section foreman at different places, mostly between Moorhead and various points in different directions. He saved his wages and in 1894 began farming, but still continued to maintain his home