

ter) Lia, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married and there the father died a few months before his daughter Karen was born. The widow subsequently brought five children to America, three weeks after her daughter's birth, coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, and locating in Spring Grove township, where her son Helge had preceded her by one year. About 1879, Helge Klemmetson came to Clay county and a year later his mother joined him here, bringing the rest of her children. She homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land in section 14, Ulen township, and on this she erected buildings and resided for seven years. At the end of this time she sold out and built a small house on the farm of her son, Helge, and there lived for some time, but her death occurred in the home where the subject of this sketch now resides. Her death occurred in 1915 at the unusual age of eighty-nine years. She was the mother of the following children: Helge, Ingeborg, Bertha, deceased; Andrie, Elling, Andrew and Karen. The Klemmetson family helped organize the first church at Ulen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson four children, all living at this time, were born, namely: Clara Olena, Edva Castelia, Clifford Oliver, and Alice Helvena. Mr. Erickson is a member of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is an independent.

JOHN MCGOUGH.

The late John McGough, first postmaster of the village of Downer, a pioneer homesteader of that neighborhood, formerly chairman of the board of supervisors of Elkton township, for years a representative of the railroad company's interests at Downer and a substantial landowner in the vicinity of that village and one of the best-known men in Clay county, was a native of the Dominion of Canada, but had been a resident of Clay county since about the year 1880, and had therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of that region since the days of the pioneers. He was born on June 11, 1840, and was reared and educated in his native Canada, where he became a teaming contractor and where he married.

Not long after his marriage John McGough came to the States and became engaged in railroad work, being thus employed at various places until about 1880, when he became engaged on the construction work of the railroad at Downer, where he ever afterward made his home, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring on May 30, 1917. Though actively

engaged in the work of the railroad after his arrival at Downer, serving the company variously as foreman of the section, superintendent of the gravel pit and foreman of the extra gang. Mr. McGough found opportunity meanwhile to develop an excellent piece of farming property adjoining the village, he having homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 22, Elkton township, shortly after entering upon his duties at the railroad station, establishing his home there. When the postoffice was established at Downer Mr. McGough was appointed postmaster and for several years occupied that position, being succeeded by his daughter, Miss Alice McGough, who made her home with him and who held the office until the postoffice finally was located in the store building at Downer, the office previously having been located in the McGough residence. The McGoughs are Catholics and John McGough helped to organize the Catholic parish at Barnesville, his family still being attached to that parish. He took an active part in the various civic affairs of the community in pioneer days and at one time and another held about all the township offices, including that of chairman of the board of supervisors. After he became pretty well established at Downer, Mr. McGough gave up his railroad work there and thereafter devoted himself to the development and improvement of his homestead farm, adding to the same until he became the owner of a fine place of two hundred and eighty acres. His wife died on February 23, 1889, and he survived her eighteen years, his death occurring, as noted above, on May 30, 1917. She was born, Bridget Mahoney, in Ireland, but was reared in Canada, having been but a child when she crossed the water with her widowed mother. Mr. and Mrs. McGough had five children: Thomas, who is living at Downer; Anna, deceased, who was the wife of William Hogan; Alice, who is still on the old home farm; James, deceased, and Edward J.

Edward J. McGough was born on September 17, 1874, and was about six years of age when his parents settled at Downer. He received his schooling in the local schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of improving and developing the home place, he and his father working together to that end. About fifteen years ago Edward J. McGough established his home on his present fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the Downer neighborhood and has since lived there, developing that place from the raw prairie. He has excellent buildings on his place and has a well-ordered farm plant.

On August 5, 1894, Edward J. McGough was united in marriage to Dela Burley, who was born near Tama, Iowa, but who was reared in Elkton

township, daughter of Frank and Matilda (Croskey) Burley, and to this union seven children have been born: Mary, Agnes, Emma (deceased), James, Edward, Etta, Effie and Thomas.

GUSTAV A. ERSTAD.

Gustav A. Erstad, proprietor of "Elmwood Farm," a fine place of four hundred and eighty acres lying on the line between Elmwood and Glyndon townships in Clay county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Mineola township, Goodhue county, July 3, 1869, son of Andrew and Olene (Lebeck) Erstad, both natives of the kingdom of Norway, who were married in Goodhue county, this state, and there spent their last days, honored pioneers of that community.

Andrew Erstad came to the United States in 1853 and about two years later, in June, 1855, pre-empted a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Mineola township, in Goodhue county, this state, the second settler in that township; Christian Peterson, the first entrant there, having made his location in the previous month of May. Not long after filing on his claim Andrew Erstad married Olene Lebeck, who had not long before come to this country with her parents, the family settling in Goodhue county, and after his marriage established his home on his pre-emption tract and proceeded to develop and improve the same, in time coming to be one of the most substantial farmers in that community and a considerable landowner. He was one of the organizers of his home township and for some time served as a member of the board of township supervisors and also for some time was assessor of his township. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Cornelius, John, Albert, Mary, Selma (deceased), Augustus (deceased) and one other, who died in youth. Andrew Erstad and wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Reared on the home farm in Goodhue county, Gustav A. Erstad received his schooling in the schools of that county and early became a practical farmer, remaining there until 1897, when he came up into the Red River country and located on the place where he is now living, in Elmwood township, and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleas-