

Askegaard six children have been born, namely: Aileen (deceased), an infant (deceased), Tekla (deceased), Henry, Tekla (second) and Rolfe.

Politically, Mr. Askegaard is a Republican, and from 1892 to 1896 he served as county commissioner. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has always borne an unblemished reputation as a man and citizen and is one of the highly esteemed men of Clay county, a plain, practical, unassuming gentleman who takes an active interest in whatever pertains to the development of his town and county.

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### GILL HOWARD BARKER RICHARDS.

One of the enterprising young farmers of the western part of Clay county is Gill Howard Barker Richards, a member of a well-known and highly-respected family in the vicinity of Kragnes, where he was born on the old home farm, August 11, 1886. He is a son of Robert and Ellen (Giffin) Richards. The mother, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, in August, 1844, came to America in early life, and her death occurred here in 1913. Robert Richards was born in Cornwall, England, in December, 1844, and there he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. He immigrated to America in 1864, first locating at Calumet, Michigan, where he worked in the copper mines for some time as foreman. He came to Clay county, Minnesota, in 1882, locating on a farm in Kragnes township, and there engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising until his death in February, 1912, which, however, occurred in a hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. His family consisted of seven children, as follow: John, who died in 1903; Tom, unmarried, who was born in September, 1871, and has remained on the home place, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he owns, also operating another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which belongs to his sister, Margaret, farming in all three hundred and twenty acres; Max, who was born in April, 1873, and is married, living in Fargo, North Dakota; Alexandria, born in May, 1874, and living on a farm in section 17, Kragnes township; Margaret, who is operating a rooming house in Moorhead, and also owns a good farm in Kragnes township; Will, who is married, having three children, and is farming on the homestead in section 17, Kragnes township; Gill H. B., of this sketch, the youngest of the family.

Gill H. B. Richards grew to manhood on the home farm in Clay county,

where he worked hard when a boy. He received his education in the district schools of his native community. When a young man he began for himself on a farm, belonging to his brother John, but now owns an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 17, Moland township, on which he has made all improvements. He moved to this place in 1914, where he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was married in 1906 to Carrie Rasmussen, who was born in 1888, at Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. To their union six children have been born, namely: Clara Belle, Harold, Arnold, Robert, Alfred and Violet.

Robert Richards, father of the subject of this sketch, was a prominent man in his township for many years. He held a number of county offices, having served seven years as county commissioner, of which board he was chairman for some time.

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### HALVOR RASMUSSON.

Halvor Rasmusson, former clerk of the district court of this district, former recorder of the city of Moorhead, one of the incorporators and first treasurer of Concordia College and for many years a well-known real-estate dealer and banker, now living retired in the city of Moorhead, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years of age and of Moorhead since 1878, having come up here into the Red River valley from Houston, this state, of which city he was the first mayor. Mr. Rasmusson is one of the numerous band of Telemarkens who found Minnesota so hospitable a place of abode in the sixties and seventies of the past century and has never regretted the decision which prompted him to locate in this state. He was born in the parish of Kritseid, in the district of Telemarken, Norway, September 26, 1841, a son of Rasmus and Anna (Halvorson) Gunderson, who, with the other members of their family, followed their son, the subject of this sketch, to America in 1866 and settled in Houston county, this state. There Mrs. Gunderson, who was born on November 10, 1817, died on March 2, 1875. Rasmus Gunderson remained in Houston county, engaged in farming, for fifteen years, at the end of which time he sold his farm there and moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of his life, retired, his death occurring there on August 8, 1903. He was born on June 6, 1819. Rasmus Gunderson and wife were the parents of six children, of whom