

three years township clerk; from 1880 to 1882 township assessor, and for some time a school officer. In addition to his activity in the local official life of the community, Mr. Oien has been interested in one of the co-operative marketing concerns of Shelly, the Farmers Elevator Company, which he helped to organize, and in other ways has done well his part in the general affairs of the community whose development he has aided in all good ways ever since his arrival here back in the days of the pioneers.

MARTIN O. SOLUM.

Martin O. Solum, farmer, of Tansem township, Clay county, was born on the home place, the farm he now lives on, July 8, 1874. He has been contented to spend his life in his native community, never desiring to seek uncertain fortune in other and distant fields of endeavor. He is a son of Ole H. and Kari (Stadum) Solum, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married, later immigrating to the United States and locating among the pioneers of Tansem township, Clay county, Minnesota, where they developed a good farm through hard work and perseverance. A complete sketch of these parents will be found on another page of this volume, to which the reader is respectfully referred.

Martin O. Solum grew to manhood on the home farm and assisted his father with the general work on the same; attending the district schools in the winter time, and later studied at Park Region College at Fergus Falls. With the exception of working in a store in Barnesville a few years he has always lived on the home farm in Tansem township. He has operated it entirely on his own account for the past sixteen years and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He owns two hundred acres of well-improved, productive and well-cultivated land. He raises much grain, the major portion of which he feeds to live stock. He makes a specialty of raising full-blooded Shorthorn cattle, which, owing to their superior quality, always find a very ready market. He has a good home and numerous substantial outbuildings. He helped organize the Farmers Elevator Company at Barnesville, of which he is a stockholder, and he has been treasurer of the company since its organization.

Mr. Solum was married in 1901 to Sanna Solum, who was born in Tansem township, this county, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of P. P. and Bergetta Solum, who came to Clay

county in pioneer days and took up a homestead, which they developed into a good farm. Mr. and Mrs. Solum have no children of their own, but have adopted two children, Jorgen and Gena. Politically, Mr. Solum is a Republican. He has been active in public affairs for many years and is now serving his fifth year as county commissioner. He is also treasurer of his township, which position he has held for twelve years. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in an able, faithful and highly acceptable manner. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

MARTIN L. MIKKELSON.

Martin L. Mikkelson, a farmer of Eglon township, Clay county, was born in 1864 in Norway. He is a son of Lars and Beret Sophia Mikkelson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home, immigrating to America in 1870. The mother died on September 18, 1899, at the age of sixty-seven years. The father brought his family to Minnesota in 1871, taking up a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in section 22, Eglon township, Clay county, the place now occupied by his son, Martin L. Here the father worked hard and persevered and established a comfortable home and he is still living on the place, being now (1917) in his eighty-eighth year. He has lived to see many changes in Clay county during his residence here of forty-seven years and is one of our honored and venerable pioneers. He has not been actively engaged in farming for the past fifteen or twenty years. Some time after buying his original tract he bought other land—forty acres in section 23 of Eglon township, and eighty acres in sections 15 and 29 of the same township, but sold the "forty" five years later. He has held many local offices and has been a good and helpful citizen. To Lars Mikkelson and wife ten children were born, namely: Engebore, who is a widow and lives in the state of Washington; Mekel, who is married and lives on a farm near Hitterdal; Lars, who died in the fall of 1916, after a life on the home farm; Berret, who is married and lives in Canada; Martin L., the subject of this sketch; Sophia, who lives at home; Nels, who is married and is farming in Eglon township; Louisa, deceased; Josephine, also deceased, and Mathilda, who is married and lives in Staples, Minnesota.

Martin L. Mikkelson was six years of age when his parents brought him to America and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Eglon town-