

remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age and then turned his attention to farming independently, renting one hundred and sixty acres of fine land on section 12, Lincoln township. In 1904 he purchased this property and he here carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business proving important and profitable, owing to his practical methods and able management.

On the 26th of January, 1902, Mr. Magnus was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Gustena Bakken and they became the parents of five children: Mabel Blanche; Samuel Andrew; Marguerite; Elmer Clifford, who has passed away; and Helen, who was born May 4, 1913.

Mr. Magnus is a member of the Lutheran church and is a republican in his political beliefs, serving at present as school director. His business success is well merited, for he is capable in management and displays untiring energy in carrying forward his interests.

MICHAEL E. MIKKELSON.

Since 1901 Michael E. Mikkelson has owned and operated an eighty acre farm on section 24, Madison township, developing it from an unimproved tract into a model and profitable agricultural enterprise. He is a native of Iowa, born in Decorah township, July 26, 1869, a son of Engel and Sarah (Dahle) Mikkelson, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of Engel Mikkelson.

Michael E. Mikkelson was reared and educated in Decorah, attending the public schools, and he remained at home until 1900, when he moved on to eighty acres of land in Madison township, section 24, a property which his father had given to him. He found this entirely unimproved and was obliged to clear a portion of it before beginning the work of cultivation. He erected the necessary buildings, installed modern machinery and with characteristic determination and energy carried forward the work of development, the results of his labors being evident today in its well improved and productive condition. Mr. Mikkelson is a stockholder in the Farmers Creamery Company of Decorah and was one of the organizers of that concern. He is also interested in the Farmers Hog Buying Company of that city and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

In May, 1900, Mr. Mikkelson was united in marriage to Miss Louise Gilbertson, a daughter of Nels and Rachael (Kittelson) Gilbertson, natives of Norway, who came to America with their parents at an early date. They located in Wisconsin and when Nels Gilbertson was eighteen years of age he came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, buying land in Madison township, which he operated for the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1904 and his wife survived him until May 10, 1911, dying at the home of the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Mikkelson have become the parents of five children: Selma; Lottie; Esther, who died in 1903; Arthur; and Ernest.

Mr. Mikkelson gives his political allegiance to the progressive party and is interested in public affairs, being now in the third year of his able service as