

From "A History of Clay and Norman Counties"

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ASKILD T. BEKKERUS.

Among the native-born Norwegians who have come to America and who have become successful farmers, is Askild T Bekkerus who was born in the kingdom of Norway, but who has been living in this country since 1882. He is a son of Torjus and Ingeborg (Skriosen) Bekkerus, also natives of Norway, who were married in that country many years before immigrating to this country.

Torjus Bekkerus was born in Norway in 1821 and had been a farmer in that country before coming to the United States. His wife, Ingeborg Skriosen, was also born in Norway in 1837 and came to this country with her husband and other members of the family. She has been living with her son, the subject of this sketch, since the death of her husband.

Torjus Bekkerus left his native Norway in 1890 and on arriving in this country came on out to Minnesota and settled in Clay County. In 1896 he homesteaded a tract of land in section 18, Moland township, and here he and the others members of the family made their home. Mr. Bekkerus immediately proceeded to develop his land and presently had it under cultivation, and he came to be regarded as one of the go-a-head farmers of the district and he and his wife are among the active and influential residents of the township. Torjus Bekkerus died at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, his death occurring in 1908. To Torjus Bekkerus and wife the following children were born:

Soren, who lives in Norway and is married;
Drong, living at Grygla, Minnesota and also married;
Signe, married and living at Webster, North Dakota;
Halvor, married and living near Barnesville, Minnesota;
Ole, married and living at Hurdsfield, North Dakota; and
Askild T., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. Bekkerus were members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and took a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they lived.

Askild T. Bekkerus, who was the first of his family to come to America, was educated in the schools of his native land and helped his farmer on the farm before he

immigrated to this country. He left Norway in 1882, and on arriving in this country he started for Minnesota and settled in Moland township, Clay County. He immediately began to work at farm labor and after a lapse of some time he paved the way to acquire land and commence farming on his own account. His efforts have met with notable success and he is now the owner of three hundred and forty acres of prime land in Section 18, Moland Township, fifty acres of which are allotted to the cultivation of potatoes. His place is well improved and he is accounted one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that section of the county. The machinery on the place for use in agricultural work is valued at two thousand five hundred dollars.

In March, 1883, Askild T. Bekkerus was united in marriage to Tone Kleven, who was born in Norway on February 12, 1858, and to this union the following children were born:

Sophia Geline, who died at two years of age;
Sophia, who married A T Midgarden;
Theodore, married and farming in Oakport Township;
Gilbert, who lives in the state of Montana;
Edward, also in Montana;
Tilda, Mabel, Alfred and William, the four latter being at home with their parents.

The Bekkerus family are members of Concordia Lutheran Church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in the promotion of all causes having for their object the common good of the community. Mr. Bekkerus gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and is at present the chairman of the township board and also supervisor, and in these representative positions has given a good account of himself.