

born at Vestre Slidre Valdres, Norway, who came to America and located in Minnesota, where the father engaged in farming for a number of years. He later disposed of his holdings there and came to Winneshiek county, buying a small place near Decorah, whereon he resided until his death. His wife has also passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Ulen became the parents of nine children, four of whom are living, namely: George and Peter, at home; Edward, who is operating one of his father's farms; and Isabella, also at home.

Mr. Ulen is a member of the Lutheran church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party although he has never been active as an office seeker. He has always preferred to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, for he commenced life empty-handed, knowing that he must depend solely upon his own labors for advancement. He started out a poor boy and whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own perseverance and capable control of his business affairs. In all of his dealings he has been strictly honorable and he is today one of the large landowners of the county, having accumulated a substantial fortune.

ENGEL MIKELSON.

Engel Mikelson is numbered among the early settlers in Winneshiek county and is today one of the prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Decorah township, where he owns three hundred and sixty acres of fine land. He is a native of Norway, born in April, 1834, a son of Mikel and Anna (Johnson) Samuel-son, the former a prosperous farmer in his native country. The parents never came to America.

Engel Mikelson was reared and educated in Norway and until he was twenty-two years of age lived with his parents, aiding his father in the operation of the homestead and becoming thoroughly familiar with agricultural methods. In 1856 he crossed the Atlantic to America and in 1857 came to Iowa, settling in Winneshiek county, where he bought eighty acres of land lying on section 18, Decorah township. To this he later added another tract on section 17, accumulating three hundred and sixty acres which he has since improved and developed. By following progressive and practical methods he has made this an excellent and productive property and it reflects everywhere his many years of careful supervision and well directed labor. In addition to general farming Mr. Mikelson operates a dairy upon his farm, keeping a number of milch cows, and he is a breeder of thoroughbred stock, these branches of his business forming an important source of income to him.

In June, 1865, Mr. Mikelson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Dahle, a daughter of Iver and Anna Dahle, natives of Norway. The father died in that country and the mother afterward came to America, locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, about the year 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Mikelson became the parents of ten children, seven of whom survive: Mikel, aged forty-four, a farmer in Madison township; Anna, aged forty-one, who is the wife of Gust Frick, of Chicago; Lena, aged thirty-nine, who married Sam Odson, of the state of Wash