

From "Compendium of History & Biography of Northern Minnesota"  
George A. Ogle and Company, Chicago 1902  
Pages 638

## **Charter Member of Concordia**

### **A. O. KRAGNES**

### **Biography of GILBERT KRAGNES**

Gilbert Kragnes, who holds a creditable position as a man and a farmer in Morken township, Clay county, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in 1870, and is a son of A. O. and Engaberg (Lee) Kragnes, being the oldest member of a family of ten children born to his parents.

Gilbert Kragnes was reared and educated in Clay county, whither his parents came in 1875. His education was secured in the public schools, and as the domestic requirements for such a family were insistent, he was early set to work, and while still a small boy drove ox-team. He remained with his parents until twenty-five years of age, when he struck out in the world for himself, and in company with his brother, Emanuel A., bought his present farm. For several years they lived together, kept house and brought the place into some kind of order. Many difficulties attended them. The ground was flat and lacked drainage, and more than once they lost their crops through excessive moisture. Since then ditches have been dug on a liberal scale, and this has become the best grain land in the world, of inexhaustible depth and fertility.

Gilbert Kragnes was married, in 1897, to Miss Elsa Skala, who was born in Telamarken, Norway, and came to the United States in 1894, leaving her parents still in the old country. To this happy union have come two children, Albert and Goodwin.

Mr. Kragnes has half a section of land included in his farm, which is devoted to the raising of wheat, for which he is well provided with all the machinery that makes that work easy and rapid as well as profitable. In 1897 he set up a threshing outfit, of twenty-seven horse-power capacity, and has since devoted considerable attention to the threshing business every season.

Mr. Kragnes is a Republican, and has been elected justice of the peace and road overseer. He takes an active part in town affairs. He is well-to-do, and may justly be included in any history of the men who have helped to make the Red River valley the granary of the world.

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### **Biography of EMANUEL A. KRAGNES**

Emanuel A. Kragnes, one of the thrifty and progressive young farmers of Clay county, and the proprietor of a good farm in Morken township, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in 1873 and is a son of A. O. and Engaberg (Lee) Kragnes. His parents were among the earliest settlers of Clay county, having made a home here as early as 1875.

Emanuel A. Kragnes is the third member of a family of ten children, and was reared and educated in Clay county. His earlier years were passed in a log house, and he was set to work while still a young lad, as there was much work to be done for so large a family. Remaining with his father until 1895, he rendered much service in the making of the farm, and the putting of it in order. In 1895, in

company with his brother Gilbert. he bought his present farm in section 19, of Morken township. and for four years they lived alone and kept house, man-fashion. They farmed three quarters in section 19, and one quarter in section 30. In an early day this tract of land was almost entirely covered with water, but drainage ditches have worked wonders, and it is pronounced one of the best farms of the county at the present time, being especially valuable for grain.

Mr. Kragnes was married, in 1899, to Miss Louisa Erickson, who was born in Clay county, but whose parents came from Norway, and are now farming folk of Red Lake county. Mrs. Kragnes is a well informed lady, and before her marriage held a teacher's certificate in Clay county. She is the mother of one child, Allard

. After their marriage they moved to the farm, and. putting up the present home and barn. started farming on an extensive scale. Mr. Kragnes now owns half the section, and gives his principal attention to the raising of grain, for which he is well provided with all needed stock and machinery, granary and other requirements. He harvested as high as thirty bushels to the acre, and is considered one of the best farmers of the county. In politics he is a Republican.. He and wife are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.