

To Ernest and Mary (Mickelsen) Poehls five children have been born: Argan, Calvin, Harold, Ethel and Vivian. Mr. and Mrs. Poehls are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in other local good works and the general social activities of the community, of which they have been residents since the days of their childhood, and which they have seen develop from its pioneer state to its present high stage of development and cultivation.

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### WILLIAM H. FERRIS.

William H. Ferris, the proprietor of a fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres in Elmwood township, Clay county, and the owner also of a tract of three quarters of a section of land down the river in Wilkin county in the neighborhood of Kent, and long recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in the Sabin neighborhood, is a native of Ireland. He has made his home on this side of the water since he was twelve or thirteen years of age, and in Minnesota since 1880, having come down here from Canada in that year, and has therefore been a witness to, and a participant in, the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born in County Down, Ireland, September 22, 1862, son of William and Eliza Jane (Beggs) Ferris, both born in that same county, and the former of whom died when his son was a mere child. His widow later, about 1865, emigrated to Canada, where she married again, later coming to Minnesota and is now making her home at Minneapolis.

Having been left fatherless when little more than an infant, and his mother later leaving Ireland, William H. Ferris was reared by his grandmother Beggs in County Down, and, in 1875, came with her to this side of the water, locating in Canada. In July, 1880, William H. Ferris came down from Canada with his uncle, Henry Beggs, who homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Elmwood township, Clay county, and there established his home. William H. Ferris gave his active assistance to the labors of improving and developing that farm and, upon the death of his uncle in 1887, bought the place, and continued the work of improvement. In the meantime, his grandmother Beggs had come down here from Canada and he cared for her in her declining years, her death occurring at his home some years later. Mr. Ferris prospered in his farming operations and gradually increased his land holdings until his home farm now comprises five

hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to this farm, Mr. Ferris is the owner of three-quarters of a section in the neighborhood of Kent, down in Wilkin county, and is regarded as being quite well circumstanced. He is a member of the local school board and is interested in the Northwestern Hospital at Moorhead.

In November, 1890, William H. Ferris was united in marriage to Nellie Nolan, daughter of William Nolan and wife, of Wilkin county, and to this union five children have been born, Thomas, May, William, Alfred and Cecelia. The Ferrises have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social affairs of the community. They are members of the Catholic church at Sabin, Minnesota, and take a proper interest in the parish affairs.

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#### DR. JAMES S. BURRILL.

Dr. James S. Burrill a progressive young dentist of Ulen, Clay county, was born in Keene township, Clay county, July 27, 1892, a son of H. R. and Harriet (McDonald) Burrill, the former of whom is now a well-known dealer in farming implements in Hawley, this county. H. R. Burrill was born on September 19, 1858, in Fitzwilliam, of the Granite state, a son of Jacob Burrill, who was born in 1818 and died in 1891. The father of James Burrill was educated in the common schools of Keene, his native state of New Hampshire, and in 1876 he began working in a store at Dana, Massachusetts. In the spring of 1878, he came to Hawley, Minnesota, and, soon after arriving in Clay county, took up a homestead in Keene township which he developed into a good farm. He and Lewis Smith were among the earliest pioneers in Keene township, breaking the first sod in this vicinity with ox-teams. He remained on the old homestead until 1897, when he sold the same and bought another farm in section 10, one and one-half miles west of the village of Hawley, where he lived until 1907. In that year, he moved to Hawley and formed a partnership with Hans Rushfeldt in the machine business. In 1912, his son, Robert, bought out the interest of Mr. Rushfeldt, and formed a partnership with his father. The new firm is located in a large and modernly-equipped implement store, where they handle an extensive stock of all kinds of farming machinery. On April 19, 1885, H. R. Burrill was married to Harriet McDonald, a daughter of John McDonald,