

of buildings. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle.

On September 6, 1886, at Fargo, Mr. Fossay was married to Anna Danielson, who was born in Sweden in 1859. She spent her girlhood in her native land and there attended school, coming to America alone when eighteen years old, locating at Fargo, North Dakota, where she remained until her marriage. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fossay, namely: Charles, who is married and lives in the province of Manitoba, Canada; Edward, who makes his home with Charles in Canada, and Obert, Alice and Mabel, at home.

Politically, Mr. Fossay is an "Independent". He served as treasurer of the school board in his district for many years and was also a member of the township board for many years. He is a member of the Congregational church, in which he is a deacon, and is active in church affairs.

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#### HENNING O. KRABBENHOFT.

Henning O. Krabbenhoft, one of Clay county's most successful farmers and substantial landowners, proprietor of a section and a half of fine land in the Sabin neighborhood of Elmwood township, former assessor of that township, former chairman of the board of supervisors of the same and in other ways actively identified with the affairs of that community since pioneer days, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Clay county since he was eighteen years of age, having come here with his parents, who became the first permanent white settlers of what later became organized as Elmwood township. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein on May 27, 1856, son of W. F. and Katherine (Jess) Krabbenhoft, natives of that same province of Prussia, who came to the United States with their family in 1874 and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling on a homestead tract in what later came to be organized as Elmwood township, in Clay county, and there spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of that community, their original homestead tract there now being the place of residence of the subject of this sketch.

It was in 1872 that the Krabbenhoft tract in Elmwood was entered, W. C. Krabbenhoft, eldest son of W. F. Krabbenhoft having come here in that year and made his claim to the same, putting up a homestead shanty and preparing the way for the coming of his parents and the other members



of the family, who arrived in 1874, and established their home there, the first permanent settlers in that section of the county. W. F. Krabbenhoft bought the claim from his son and completed the development of the same, later increasing his land holdings to two hundred and thirty acres, which in 1882 he sold to his son Henning, who has continued to reside there since his coming in 1874, one of the real "old-timers" now living in Clay county. On that pioneer farm W. F. Krabbenhoft and his wife spent their last days. They were members of the Lutheran church and took an active part in the organization of a congregation of their faith in the neighborhood of their home in the early days. They were the parents of twelve children, six of whom died in the old country, the other six coming with them to this country, these latter being as follow: Wolf C., now deceased, who was the first of the family to come to this country, as noted above; Christ, also now deceased; Henning O., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Katherine, wife of Chris Peohls; Anna, wife of Chris Wright, and Wilhelmina, now deceased, who was the wife of Henry Schroeder.

As noted above Henning O. Krabbenhoft was eighteen years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents and the other members of the family and settled in Clay county. He had received his schooling in his native land and upon coming here he at once took an active hand in the difficult labors of improving and developing the homestead place in Elmwood township. He married in the fall of 1881 and the next year bought the home place from his father, who was prepared to retire at that time, and there established his permanent home. Since taking possession of that place he has erected excellent buildings and for years has had one of the best-equipped farm plants in Clay county. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Krabbenhoft gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of two and three-quarter sections of land, but has since sold a section and a quarter, retaining a section and a half, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation. About 1892 Mr. Krabbenhoft began to recognize the peculiar adaptability of the soil of the Red river valley to the raising of potatoes and in that year made his first really extensive plant of potatoes. Since then he has made much of potato crops and has on his place one of the largest private potato warehouses in this part of the state. He has also given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred live stock and has done very well in his operations. From the beginning of his residence here Mr. Krabbenhoft has taken a good citizen's interest in local political affairs and at one time and another has held most of the offices within the gift of the people of his home township,

including that of chairman of the board of township supervisors and assessor. Of late years, however, he has practically retired from politics. Among the other interests to which he gives his earnest attention is the Northwestern Hospital at Moorhead, in the affairs of which he has been deeply interested since the day of its establishment.

On November 29, 1881, Henning O. Krabbenhoft was united in marriage to Margaret Kuel, also a native of Holstein, who came to this country in that same year. Some years later, in 1890, her parents, Fred and Magdalena (Naeve) Kuehl, also came to this country and their last days were spent in Elmwood township. Mr. and Mrs. Krabbenhoft have thirteen children, Katherine, August, Herbert, Anna, Alfred, Theodore, Walter, John, Adolph, Christian, Siefried, Lizzie and Elsie, all of whom are living in this community, save John, who is now a resident of Ambrose, North Dakota. There are also four children deceased, Herman, Rudolph, Heinrich and Dora. The Krabbenhofts have a very pleasant home and have ever taken a proper part in the general social activities of the community, helpful in many ways in advancing movements having to do with the betterment of conditions hereabout. As one of the real pioneers of Clay county, Mr. Krabbenhoft has a wonderful fund of information regarding the conditions in the early days of the settlement of this part of the state and some of his tales of pioneer days are interesting indeed.

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### WILLIAM GILBERY.

William Gilbery, a well-known farmer of Kragnes township, Clay county, was born in Devonshire, England, on May 1, 1855. He is a son of U. Hugh and Dina (Newcombs) Gilbery, both natives of England, where they grew up, married and established their home. In 1874 they immigrated to Canada, where they resided until 1879, when they moved to Wisconsin and spent the rest of their lives in Grant county, that state, each reaching an advanced age, the father dying in 1910 at the age of eighty-two, and the mother, in 1914, at the age of eighty-three. Three children were born to these parents, namely: William, the subject of this sketch; Richard, deceased; and Charles, who lives on a farm in Wisconsin, is married and owns his own place.

William Gilbery grew to manhood in England and there attended the public schools. He immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1873 and lived