

ing success during the long period he was in that trade. In addition thereto, about 1885, he opened up an implement and harness business, in which he was equally successful and which he continued to operate until 1909, when he disposed of the harness branch of his store. He still conducts the implement department which he first opened in 1885, being thus one of the oldest merchants in that branch of commercial enterprise in Clay county, and from the operations of which he has reaped a handsome competency.

On September 1, 1885, John McGrath was united in marriage to Alice Brislaim, formerly a resident of Steele county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. McGrath are the parents of seven children, namely: Frances, Alice, Cecilia, Lucy, Ruth, John and Harold Robert. The McGrath family are members of the Catholic church and are warm supporters of all the good works and societies attached to the church. They take an active interest in the affairs of the community and are earnest advocates of all movements designed to further the general welfare of the township and county.

Mr. McGrath is a supporter of the Republican party and was returned by the votes of that party to the Legislature, in which he served for one term, giving general satisfaction in that important office to the interests he represented. He was elected mayor of Barnesville and served the public very acceptably for a period of six years, during which period many improvements of an important character were carried out. Mr. McGrath was elected to the office of treasurer and occupied that responsible office for the long term of thirteen years—a period during which he enjoyed the undiminished confidence of the public. For many years he was a member of the local council and is now serving as justice of the peace in and for the Barnesville township. Mr. McGrath holds membership in the Knights of Columbus and in the affairs of that popular order takes a warm interest.

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#### H. R. BURRILL.

H. R. Burrill, dealer in farming implements at Hawley, Clay county, was born on September 19, 1858, in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, a son of Jacob Burrill, who was born in 1818 and died in 1891. He was educated in the common schools of his native town, and at Keene, New Hampshire, until 1876. After that, he worked in a store at Dana, Massachusetts. In the spring of 1878, he came to Hawley, Minnesota, arriving in Clay county on April 19th. He took up a homestead in Keene township, which

he developed into a good farm. He and Lewis Smith were among the earliest pioneers there, breaking the first sod in Keen township, using oxen for the purpose. Hawley, twelve miles away, was their nearest base of supplies. They continued farming until 1897 when they sold out. While living in that township, Mr. Burrill was the first treasurer of school district No. 30, which office he held many years until a new district was formed out of part of the old. In 1897, he bought a farm in section 10, Hawley township, one and one-half miles west of the village of Hawley, and there he lived until 1907, in which year he moved to Hawley and formed a partnership with Hans Rushfeldt in the machine business. In 1912, he formed a partnership with his son Robert, who bought out the interest of Mr. Rushfeldt, the new firm also taking over the Andrew Johnson machine business. They have a large and well-equipped store and handle an extensive stock of farming implements, making a specialty of the John Deere machinery, and they now carry on a large and constantly growing trade with the surrounding country.

Mr. Burrill was married on April 19, 1885, to Harriet McDonald, a daughter of John McDonald, and to their union the following children have been born: Robert H., who is in business with his father at Hawley; Dan W., who married Fannie Skinner, and who died by being accidentally suffocated by gas on April 28, 1916; James, who married Edna Rapp, and is a dentist at Ulen, Minnesota; Henry, Allen, and Leola, an adopted child.

Politically, H. R. Burrill is a Democrat. He has served three terms as a member of the Hawley school board, and is, at this writing, a member of the village council. He belongs to the Congregational church.

Robert H. Burrill, son of H. R. Burrill and partner in business with his father at Hawley, was born, January 24, 1888, at Hawley, where he was reared and received his education in the public schools, graduating from the high school. In 1907, he went to Minneapolis and found employment with the Deere & Weber Implement Company, where he learned the various phases of the farming machinery business. He was alert, faithful and courteous and gave his employers eminent satisfaction. In the spring of 1910, he returned to Hawley and worked for his father-in-law, in the store of the Andrew Johnson Company until the spring of 1912, when he formed a partnership with his father, as related in a preceding paragraph in this sketch. He has remained here in the farming implement business which has steadily grown until it has now assumed vast proportions.

Robert H. Burrill was married to Laura Johnson, a daughter of Andrew

Johnson and wife, well-known citizens of Hawley, where Mr. Johnson has long been a leading merchant. To Robert H. Burrill and wife three children have been born, namely: Robert H., Jr., Laton Herman, and Henry Willard.

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### JAMES CONNELLY.

James Connelly, one of the best known and most progressive young farmers in the central western part of Clay county and who, in association with his elder brother, William Connelly, is farming the old Patrick Connelly farm in Glyndon township, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born on what is now known as the Wright farm, in the vicinity of Moorhead, in Moorhead township, May 2, 1884, son of Patrick and Bridget (Lundy) Connelly, natives of County Monaghan, Ireland, who became pioneers of Clay county, settling here in 1880, and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Patrick Connelly was a substantial and influential pioneer citizen, and for years served as a member of the board of supervisors of Glyndon township, in which he established his home three or four years after coming here and where he spent his last days. His widow is still living on the home place. They were the parents of three sons, William and James Connelly having a brother, John Connelly, also a Glyndon township farmer, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the home place in Glyndon township, to which his parents moved from Moorhead township when he was but an infant, James Connelly completed his schooling in the public schools at Moorhead and early became a practical farmer. At the age of fourteen he became fireman in a threshing crew and at seventeen years of age qualified as an engineer, in which position he acted for five years or more during the threshing seasons. Since the death of their father, he and his elder brother, William, have been operating the home place and have done well. They also own and operate a threshing outfit and have a wide acquaintance throughout the field of their operations. The Connelly farm consists of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land and the brothers have one of the best-equipped farm plants in that part of the county. William Connelly, who is unmarried, was born in 1877, in Pennsylvania, and was but three years of age when his parents moved from that state to Minnesota, where he has ever since lived, making his home on the home place in Glyndon township, with the exception