

ing the Normal School grounds, on which was produced over fifteen thousand bushels of potatoes.

For the last twenty-five years Mr. Davy has spent most of his winters in Florida or California and has thus been able to escape the rigor of Minnesota winters. He is among the wealthiest farmers in the state, yet he is very unpretentious and lives in Moorhead in a modest way. He is a member of the Episcopal church of Moorhead and has served for many years as warden in that church. He served several years as county commissioner of Clay county, and was chairman of that board for several years. He served two terms as mayor of Moorhead.

Mr. Davy is one of the living pioneers of Moorhead and is still one of the citizens of the town who is actively interested in public affairs.

ERNEST POEHLS.

Ernest Poehls, proprietor of a well-kept farm of two hundred and sixty acres just north of the village of Sabin, in Elmwood township, Clay county, former constable for that township and former supervisor of highways in his district, was born in Scott county, Iowa, November 23, 1876, son of Chris and Elizabeth (Krabbenhof) Poehls, who became residents of Clay county in 1883 and are still living, prominent and influential residents of Elmwood township.

Both Chris Poehls and his wife are of European birth, natives of Schleswig-Holstein, who came to this country in 1866, settling with their respective families in Scott county, Iowa, where they were married in 1868 and where they remained, engaged in farming, until the latter part of 1883, when they came to Minnesota and established their home in Clay county, arriving at their new home there on December 10 of that year. Chris Poehls had bought a farm in Elmwood township, during the previous summer, and came well-equipped for successful farming. As he prospered in his operations, he gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of eleven hundred and fifty-three acres of excellent land. Despite the fact that he is now past seventy-five years of age, he is still hale and hearty and continues to give his active attention to the general direction of his extensive farming interests. During eight years of his residence in Iowa, Mr. Poehls was supervisor of roads in his home district, and, since taking up his resi-

dence in Minnesota, also has given considerable attention to general local affairs, one of his active business connections being with the local telephone company. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth; the others being: Eureka, Minnie, Henry, Emma, John, Laura (deceased), Hulda, Fred (deceased), Emil, Lena and Anna.

Ernest Poehls was but seven years of age when he came to Minnesota from Iowa with his parents in 1883, and he completed his schooling in the Sabin schools. From the days of his boyhood, he was an active assistant to his father and brothers in the labors of developing and improving the home place in Elmwood township, and he remained at home, thus engaged, until his marriage, in the fall of 1904. He then engaged in farming on his own account, establishing his home on the farm on which he is still living, in that same township, just north of Sabin, and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Poehls is the owner of a well-developed farm of two hundred and sixty acres, and has an excellent farm plant. He has erected good buildings on his place and carries on his operations in up-to-date fashion. Upon taking possession of that farm, he planted a good-sized grove which is now well developed, a very attractive feature of his farm. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Poehls has given considerable attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle and is successful in this enterprise. He gives close attention to local civic affairs and has served his community in the capacity of constable and as "road boss."

In the fall of 1904 Ernest Poehls was united in marriage to Mary Mickelsen, who was born in the vicinity of her present home, in Elmwood township, daughter of Jens and Sophia (Wright) Mickelsen, early settlers in that neighborhood, the former of whom spent his last days there. Jens Mickelsen was born in Denmark and came to this country in the days of his young manhood. He came on out into the Northwest and for some time was engaged as a freighter out of Fargo, hauling to points along the then frontier as far north as one hundred and twenty miles and more. He married, after coming to this country, and in 1879 homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Elmwood township, Clay county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the substantial and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. His widow is now living at Sabin. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. Poehls was the first-born; the others being: William, Andrew, Martin, Matilda and George.

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.

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