

of whom appears elsewhere in this work. After looking over this section of the state Mr. Wangen took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 32, Spring Prairie township, which was the first homestead in that township. He was therefore the first pioneer in this locality, and he endured the usual hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier in those days, but he persevered, worked hard and has succeeded, remaining here ever since. He has brought his place up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and has built a cozy home and such outbuildings as his needs require. He set out a large grove which is now very attractive. He began with nothing, but he has forged ahead unaided and is now very comfortably situated. He passed through the lean years with hope for better times ahead, which finally came.

On March 17, 1876, in Goodhue county, Mr. Wangen was married to Anna Olson, a native of Trogenlien, Norway, and a daughter of Ole Irneson and Anna Peterson, also natives of Norway, who died there. Mrs. Wangen came to America in 1874. To Mr. and Mrs. Wangen seven children have been born, namely: Caroline, John (deceased); Anna, wife of William Moore, of Glyndon; a son who died in infancy; Oscar and two daughters who died in infancy.

Mr. Wangen is a Republican and has taken an active interest in local public affairs from the first. He helped organize Spring Prairie township and was one of the first members of the township board. He belongs to the Lutheran church and built the church, donating his labor to the congregation.

H. C. POSSEHL.

H. C. Possehl, farmer and potato dealer of near Baker, in the southern part of Clay county, and former postmaster at Baker, was born in Cook county, Illinois, May 24, 1871. He is a son of Fred and Minnie (Schlede) Possehl, both natives of Germany, where they spent their earlier years. The father immigrated to America about 1861, locating in Dupage county, Illinois, where he worked out the first few years, then rented a farm. He continued farming in that state, mostly in Cook county, until 1892, when he moved to Franklin county, Iowa, where he farmed seven or eight years, then retired from active life, locating in the town of Latimer, Iowa. In 1911 he moved to Minnesota, locating at Baker, where he has since lived retired. His wife died some years ago. Fred Possehl started out with lit-

the capital, but by perseverance he became very comfortably established through his own efforts. His family consisted of the following children: Sophia, Emma (deceased), Herman, H. C., Fred, Martha, Louis and Minnie.

H. C. Posschl grew to manhood in Illinois and there he attended the public schools, in Dupage county. He worked with his father on the farm when a boy and when a young man he began farming for himself in Franklin county, Iowa, and became the owner of eighty acres there, where he remained until 1902, when he moved to Minnesota and bought the L. H. Baker farm of two hundred and fifty acres adjoining the townsite of Baker, and in the following year he bought the general store from Mr. Baker and conducted the same with ever-growing success from 1903 until 1915, enjoying a large trade with the people of the surrounding country, and carrying an extensive and well-selected stock. He also served as postmaster at the town of Baker during that period, giving entire satisfaction to the people and the department. While postmaster he was one of the principal promoters of the rural mail route out of Baker. He subsequently bought the Evans farm of four hundred and eighty acres in section 10 of Alliance township, and now operates both farms, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale; also deals extensively in potatoes, maintaining a large modern warehouse on the Great Northern tracks at Baker. Mr. Posschl is also interested in the automobile business at Barnesville. His land is well improved and he has an attractive, modern and well-appointed home and large, convenient outbuildings, everything about his place denoting good management, thrift and prosperity. He has been very successful as a business man and is one of the substantial citizens of Clay county, also one of her most public-spirited citizens, always doing his part in furthering movements having for their object the general welfare of his town and county. Mr. Posschl raises a good grade of live stock, preparing large numbers for the markets annually, and is regarded as an excellent judge of stock. He keeps well abreast of the times in all that pertains to modern agriculture.

On January 15, 1911, Mr. Posschl was married to Rosa Butenhoff, who was born at Franklin, Iowa, September 18, 1880, a daughter of August Butenhoff and wife, natives of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Posschl the following children have been born: Edward, Arthur, Rudolph, Florence, Clara and Adaline.

Mr. Posschl is a Republican and has served as township supervisor. For a period of fourteen years he also was a member of the local school board. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, to which his parents

also belonged. He is a man of unquestioned honesty and his helpful, genial and neighborly characteristics have made him popular with all whom he has come in contact.

AUGUST FISCHER.

August Fischer, a retired lumberman of Georgetown, Clay county, was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, December 14, 1854, a son of Fidilias and Celia (Gould) Fischer, both natives of Germany, where they spent their earlier years. Fidilias Fischer was a civil engineer and was very proficient in his line. He immigrated to Canada when a young man, establishing his future home in Ontario, where he spent the rest of his life. His family consisted of eight children, namely: August, Mary, Pauline, Lucas, John, Lena, George and Eliza.

August Fischer grew to manhood in his native community and there attended the common schools. As a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, becoming an expert in the same, and he followed that vocation until he was twenty-eight years old. He left Canada in 1881 and came to Minnesota, locating at Georgetown, Clay county, and has been there ever since. He has seen the country develop from a sparsely settled and little developed stretch of wild plains to its present high state of cultivation and improvement during his residence here of thirty-six years. He was local manager of the W. H. White Lumber Company for twenty-seven years, his long retention in this responsible position indicating that he gave eminent satisfaction to his employers, being able, faithful and reliable. He carried on an extensive trade with the people of this section of the state and kept an up-to-date and well-equipped lumber yard. He resigned his position in 1915 and retired from the lumber business, and soon thereafter opened a billiard hall in connection with a soda fountain and owns the fixtures and building. He has met with success in this new venture and his place is very popular. He is living practically retired and merely oversees his business.

In 1883 Mr. Fischer was married to Mary Hoffman, a native of Michigan, who was reared in North Dakota, where she attended the common schools. She is a daughter of John and Grace (Schuler) Hoffman, natives of Germany. John Hoffman was a brewer in Germany for about fifteen years. He moved to North Dakota in 1877 and took up a homestead. Both he and his wife are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Fischer the following