They constituted two distinct groups: those south of the Sand Hill River were acquaintances from Houston County, most of them having come from Telemarken, Norway; those north were from Freeborn County, and originally from Osterdal. Mr. Estensen tells that his family located where it did on the advice of James Hill himself, to locate opposite Frog Point.

A little later the same year came several Irish families, who located north of the Sand Hill River settlement, mostly in what is now Tysid township. The following year, 1872, came the Ose brothers, from Saterdal—brothers of the Tollef Ose who came to the Climax area in 1871. They located in what is now Bygland, named after the settlement in Norway from which the Ose brothers came; they were quickly followed by numbers of their countrymen.

In 1871, also, a number of Scotchmen, who had come from lower Canada to Manitoba to look for homes, decided that this side of the line offered the better opportunities, and located near the Red Lake River in what is now Huntsville and Nesbit townships. Among the first were Robert and James Coulter, James Thomas, Robert Nesbit and William Fleming. They were quickly followed by their friends and acquaintances, and soon there was a fairly large and prosperous Scotch settlement in the Mallory neighborhood.

The year 1872 marked the beginning of Crookston. Most of the people who settled there first were among those who had worked on the railroad construction. Among the number were E. C. Davis, John Darkow, Bernhard Sampson, Jake Meyers, D. Jacobus, Dick Hussey, the Greenhalgh family, Joseph Barret and family, F. J. LaChappelle and his wife, William Stuart, William Ross, Robert Houston, E. M. Walsh, Henry Shepherd and Frank Jerome.

It was quite evident that a city would arise where the railroad crossed the Red Lake River, and when the line was finally located at the present crossing, the engineers who had first knowledge where the crossing would be, made pre-emption filings upon most of the lands around it. As they made but slight improvements and had no bona-fide residence on it, their claims were for the most part contested and cancelled. William H. Stuart succeeded in getting title to what became the original townsite of Crookston and Robert Houston got what is Fletcher's and Houston's additions and the A. C. Loring addition. Other parts of the present city were obtained by E. C. Davis, Bernard Sampson, Mary Carlton, John Darkow, Joseph Barrett, and Rueben Reynolds, while a part of Frank Jerome's homestead became Jerome's addition.

"It is impossible in the scope of this report to list all of the early pioneers who were first settlers in the founding of the many towns and villages of Polk County. However, a brief summary of Judge Montague's research on other towns as follows."—McCall

"During these early years, settlers located mostly along the