rivers. The land was not surveyed until 1874, so boundary lines and exact locations were not possible, but after the survey mutual adjustments were made without much difficulty. In 1876, J. B. Bottineau, son of the famous guide, brought in 119 families, all of French descent, and the settlement of the Gentilly and the Red Lake Falls territory began. With the completion of the railroad line to St. Vincent and the location of the Land Office in Crookston in the years 1878 and 1879, new impetus was given to land settlement. It was in 1879 that settlers first located in the territory around the present Fertile. It was in 1883 that the 'Thirteen Towns' was opened for settlement and the mad rush for lands in the eastern part of the county commenced. In 1886-87 a number of 'squatters' had located there. Most of them were removed by the government, but a few families managed to remain in the vicinity of the present Fosston. In 1885, the railroad was built from Crookston to Fosston, but it was not until 1887 that the Northern Pacific built north from Detroit through Fertile on to Red Lake Falls and then west to East Grand Forks. The line from Fertile to Crookston was not built until 1890 to 1894."

The early settlers settled quite largely in nationality groups with peoples from Norway and Sweden in the early years dominating the area beginning in the southwest corner of the county to the central, south and east, and northeast parts of the county. The French descent settlers were in the north central part of the county, the Scotch in the northwest central, the Irish in western section and a mixed Bavarian and other nationalities in the north-west central. Through the teachings of English in the public schools language barriers have now disappeared.

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1945 May 5th. War in Europe ended.
1945 Sept. 2. War with Japan ended.
1953 July 27th. War in Korea ended.
1946 Tuesday, Feb. 5th. Blizzard struck Red River Valley during Winter Shows.
1957 June 20th. Tornado struck Fargo, N. Dak. Ten lives lost.
1959 December, Polk County Historical Society re-activated. Second floor McKinley School building in Crookston for county museum.
1960 July. Polk County Museum open to public.
1961 Entire McKinley School building acquired for the Polk County Holte Pioneer Museum. Grand opening of complete museum held on April 15 and 16. Museum reported to be one of the finest in Minnesota.