money was Dickson, he even tried to recruit Chippewas, among them his old enemy, Flat Mouth. Flat Mouth laughed at Dickson, but took no sides in that war stating he would not enter in the white man's quarrels. If he was to go into battle, it would be against the enemies of the Chippewas. Years before, Flat Mouth had signed a peace pact with the white man, Flat Mouth kept his part of the bargain. Wah-nah-tah, the Charger, oldest son of Chahpah was elected to be Chief following the death of his father at the hands of Flat Mouth. In the years that followed, Wahnahtah was named as one of the greatest of the Sioux war chiefs. Wahnahtah called a council of war and together they made plans against the Chippewas. The war between the two old enemies was to start anew.

In less than thirty days, Wahnahtah led his warriors toward the northeast. A Chippewa spy, living among the Sioux, hastened to tell his Chief of the Sioux's intentions.

Chief Wash-ta-do-ga-wub, of the Red Lake Chippewas, was to lead the Chippewas into battle against their enemies. Chief Flat Mouth was with them, when they marched to meet their old enemies.

The two armies met near the mouth of the Moose River, close to the present city of Nilesville, Minnesota. The Chippewas were outnumbered and out gunned. They were met with such a force that they were driven northward toward the Sand River, which was an early name for the Red Lake River. The Chippewas launched several counter attacks but could not hold the Sioux.

The battle lasted for several days and the Chippewas dug themselves into the banks of the river along the south shore. The site of the battle was near the heart of the present site of the City of Crookston. Perhaps this was along the river near the location of the old dam at the end of Robert Street, or further to the south, near South Main Street.

Near the end of the second day, the Chippewas decided that they had enough. When darkness fell they crossed the river to the northeast, making their way towards their forest homes. The Chippewa threw the bodies of their dead in the Red Lake River in an attempt to prevent them from being scalped and mutilated as was the fate of Chahpah. A Chippewa war chief, by the name of Black Duck was given credit for the successful escape. He and his warriors made their home on a lake just south of Red Lake. In later years, the white man named the lake Black Duck in his honor.

In 1891, or thereabout, a Professor by the name of Moore*, found an Indian burial ground about three-fourths of a mile from the center of Crookston. He found that the dead were not buried with their worldly possessions, as were found in a normal mound builder's grave, but had been placed in rows and covered with soil. Professor Moore believed that this was the true site of the battle. In the Professor's written transcript no mention is made as to whether the grave was that of the Sioux or the Chippewas. Some French trappers said that the Sioux had returned, and had taken the bodies of their dead to that spot.

The late Honorable Judge Watts wrote a letter in January of 1916, in which he stated his view on several of the Indian battles that were fought in Minnesota. It was his contention that from a conversation with a Paul Beaulieu of Mahnomen, Minnesota, the bones were those of the Sioux. Pierre Botineau was a French trapper who was here at the time of the battle and told the stories of the affair to Paul Beaulieu, who was considered to be an authority on early Indian life.

Unknown to the Chippewas, the Sioux had also made a withdrawal during the night. Perhaps both sides thought they had lost the battle, and each withdrew, not knowing of the others' actions. On the return home, Chief Black Duck and his warriors met a small band of Sioux, who had tried to encircle them during the battle the day before. The Sioux were slain and none escaped. It is said in Warren's "History of the Chippewa" that Black Duck himself slew seven of the Sioux party. Black Duck said in later years that the site of the encounter with the band was near the village of Huot, Minnesota. Later the old crossing treaty would be signed here.

Although the Chippewas and the Sioux fought many times after this battle, none ever reached the heat of this war started by Chahpah and Flat Mouth.

In the years that followed, there were hundreds of raids by the Sioux upon the Chippewas and for each, there was a return raid upon the camps of the Sioux. None ever amounted to more than a tribal raid. The Chippewas held the ground and it was never returned to the Sioux.

* Professor Moore was the Principal of the Crookston High School System in 1890. The title "Professor" is believed to be just a nick-name given to him by his students.

Honorable Bernhard Sampson

by John Vernon Bernhard Sampson

The headlines of the Crookston Polk County Leader March 23, 1923, read: "Honorable Bernhard Sampson, Crookston pioneer laid to rest on Monday; could well be termed Father of Community and was Crookston's most progressive citizen in early days; was among first few in valley."

A grateful Crookston was paying a final tribute to one of its most enterprising and influential citizens and to the man who had probably done more for the early development of that city, its citizens, and that part of northwestern Minnesota than any other individual.

Bernhard Sampson was born in Ulsaker, Norway, October 26th, 1839, of Norwegian and Swedish parents. At this time Norway was ruled by the King of Sweden and with land at a minimum and the class system such that if you were not a land-holder, but a lower class (of which most of the people were) an individual had virtually no chance of ever owning land or advancing his station in life. His future held no greater prospects of advancement than the generation before him.

Norway was a small country occupying the western half of the Scandinavian peninsula with an area of 125,193 square miles and is about the size of the state of New Mexico. Its surface is rough and rugged with much of its land mountainous and very little of it tillable. In fact only about one-third of the area of Norway, about 4,000 square miles, has soil suitable for either grazing or growing crops; and the type of crops grown are very limited because of the short growing season.

One of the fertile regions in Norway is near Trondheim where Mr. Sampson grew to manhood. This was one of four areas in Norway that produced the mass immigration from that country to America.

Because of the limitations imposed by this small amount of land it is easier to understand the Norwegian farmer and why he was so eager to want farm land in America, land that he had heard was plentiful, was much more fertile, and where more food crops could be grown. This rugged environment produced a very strong, determined, thrifty, and proud people.

Mr. Sampson was the son of Bernhard and Olena Sampson. Young Bernhard was only nine years old when his father died and because of the lowly status of his family it was almost impossible, if not improbable, for his ever being able to remain in school, as now he became the sole support of the family.

Soon after leaving school he found work with agricultural men and surveyors. Although he had only some formal education, his mind was keen and his incentive was great to continue his education on his own.

Ulsaker, Norway was his birthplace and his new-found work took Mr. Sampson throughout Norway and Sweden, but mainly his early years were spent in the Trondelag area.