The four Sampson sons, from left to right: Clifford Lloyd Ferdinand, Carl Hagabert, Harold Bismark and James Hill, doing the chores. Picture was taken about 1902.

railroad to Fisher enabling that community to flourish and thus become the most important town. Crookston's remaining population diminished to a mere 150 people.

In 1878 James J. Hill bought the interest in the bankrupt St. Paul and Pacific Railway and completed the construction of the railroad from Crookston to St. Vincent and later onward to Winnipeg. Also, the line was completed from Fisher to Grand Forks enabling Crookston to become the hub of railroad transportation. That same year railroad lands were opened for sale and the United States Land Office moved from Detroit (Detroit Lakes) to Crookston. This was the turning point for Crookston, now an established rail center, with a population of 300, and with 4,100 more homestead entries now posted in the books.

Before 1879, Crookston had no municipal government. In that year Crookston was incorporated and this was the beginning of many boom years for the city, of which from the first, Honorable Bernhard Sampson became extremely active taking part in the early development of that settlement.

Because Mr. Sampson owned railroad contracts at Ada, Crookston, and Fisher, he and James Hill worked closely together and from the first they formed a lasting friendship that benefitted Crookston for many years.

How much does Crookston owe to the railroads and to the men responsible for building them? They had a vision and turned a vast wilderness without people into a rail center that they hoped would some day develop into a distribution center. Without the railroads Crookston would not have had any clear-cut advantage over any other small community and therefore no real opportunity to flourish. Instead, Crookston was fortunate in eventually having two trans-continental railroads; the Great Northern and Northern Pacific; which would link that city to all major trading points.

Mr. Hill, the Empire Builder, was determined to build a railroad establishing towns all along this line to the west coast. He did this without the aid of large land grants or any other government aid. He could not have accomplished this however without the help of men like Mr. Sampson who were unselfish with their time and energies, who donated money and land, and who worked diligently for Mr. Hill toward securing a main line through each of these towns. Mr. Hill appreciated all that Mr. Sampson had done to help complete his line in this area and he made a request to Mr. Sampson, asking him to name a future son after him, a request which eventually Bernhard Sampson fulfilled.

Honorable Bernhard Sampson worked hard in the state legislature to secure drainage for the area and on October 31, 1902, at the farmers' Institute meeting held in Crookston, attended by thousands of interested people, James J. Hill eulogized Senator Sampson for his efforts toward securing state aid for instituting the work which was so much needed to further the development of all the farm land east of the Red River.

Up to now the people on the Minnesota side of the river were not cooperating with the railroad. The total area was lagging behind the North Dakota side in development and Mr. Hill used freight receipts at comparative points on the west side of the river to drive home his points during the speech. At the meeting he and Mr. Sampson were soliciting more support for drainage and increased cooperation toward the railroad from the citizens in northwestern Minnesota.

Mr. Sampson's foresight during his early years in this area did not go unnoticed and in rapid succession many things developed for both Crookston and Bernhard Sampson, things which charted a course for the city that remains today. Crookston was fortunate at this time to have a man gifted with the high degree of leadership qualities that were required to guide the town successfully through its infancy.

Bernhard owned approximately 900 acres of land, all of which surrounded Crookston except 252 acres that he owned around Lake Sarah and Union Lake near Erskine. Years ago his property on Union Lake became popularly known as Sampson's Point. That name tag still remains for that area to this day.

Some reminders and landmarks around the "Queen City" still call attention to the casual observer of property he owned, but mostly those boundaries to his property have eventually blended into the local scene as the town developed. His property was bounded on the north, east, and west by the Red Lake River and from there his vast homestead stretched southward.

This area today would include Sampson's Addition, the "Tree Claim" (property located directly south of the American Crystal Sugar Co. and which included the area that includes Minnesota Street, College Avenue, Sampson Street, and South Front Street near Carmen Addition), Norcross Addition, South Main Street, and land that extended west where the Mental Health Clinic and Alcoholic Center are located. He also owned farm land in Russia Township. When the new route for Highway 75 through South Crookston was constructed it dissected the Sampson farm; on the south bank had stood for so many years the family home and on the north bank had stood the barn.

Landmarks still on his original property include the Sunnyrest Sanitarium, old Bethesda Hospital, Riverview Hospital, and the Eugene Field Elementary School to name a few.

Many old landmarks do not remain but I'm sure some of them are still remembered by the senior citizens. A few would include the old tannery, Crookston Roller-Mill, and the Sampson Grocery Store. Just to the east of Mr. Sampson's property were the old sawmill and brickyards. He also owned a slaughterhouse along the river north of the sanitarium. The founder of Erickson's Meat Market, Mr. Ed Erickson, first worked for Mr. Sampson. He was one of many of Crookston's earliest businessmen who got their start working for Senator Sampson.

As a child, I can remember observing many decayed bones from long-departed cattle while I fished in the river, or herded cattle, or picked berries in the wooded pasture. The woods had a walk, a shrubbery of berries and fruit which included wild plums, raspberries, strawberries, chokecherries, and gooseberries. Those gooseberry bushes had grown so plentiful in a 25 acre area that most of the bushes' branches touched one another. The same area also seemed to have more than its fair share of mosquitoes. My face, neck, and arms can still attest to the continued suffering that those exposed areas had been subjected to each summer. If bugs were a problem for me, what a problem they must have presented for my grandparents!

My grandfather, a farmer at heart and a humble man, took a great interest in his farm. The farm was an ideal place for him to relax in the peaceful atmosphere of the great outdoors. After the sawmill was built in 1880, Bernhard Sampson built his family home to replace the log cabin. To secure the sawmill for Crookston he personally donated $1,000. His new home was very large with many rooms which eventually were necessary to take care of the growing family and to accommodate the large numbers of friends and acquaintances of the Sampsons. The home was built around the original log cabin; therefore many of those logs remained intact. The new parlor room was fashioned from that cabin.

Here on the farm Mr. Sampson could do his chores, study, meet constituents, keep in touch with his many friends, or ponder the events of the day. This farm was stocked with all types of livestock and had all the normal crops grown that you would expect to find on a diversified farm. From the beginning he took the greatest pride in his stock-raising and the rearing of horses. In 1888 he sold to a party from St. Paul a matched