and south sides exceeded were residences helped span of cols for $600. Before there were milk pasteurization plants, the Sampson Dairy Farm produced much of the milk supply for a large number of Crookston’s citizens. The milk route was first covered by horse and wagon and in later years the route was serviced by car. My father, Harold Bismarck Sampson, assisted his father with both the dairy and the farm and continued to do so until about 1960 when he retired.

In 1882, three years after the town received its charter of incorporation, Mr. Sampson platted 84 acres of his land along the Red Lake River under the name of Sampson’s Addition. This beautifully located Addition was surrounded on three sides by that river. During the growing years, Sampson’s Addition was the center of many diverse activities. Located here were the Crookston Roller-Mill, the Tannery, the Bethesda Hospital, the Sampson Store and Hotel, the Mission Covenant and Swedidh Lutheran Churches, the Eugene Field School, and an up-to-date biscuit factory.

Because of the choice location in the rapidly growing town, residential lots were now selling fast. Those days had many needy families and Bernhard Sampson was known to have helped them, either by giving a family a lot outright or by selling a family a lot for only a token fee. He would even help some needy families build their new homes.

Also in 1882 South Crookston, the area that directly extends south from Sampson’s Addition, was laid out of its original claim. The area includes where the Riverview Hospital is now located and extends south to Carmen Addition where the Great Northern Railroad had its water and coal shed. Sampson Street named in his honor, is also located in South Crookston. Although not all of the original farm buildings remain, Sampson Street continues to remind us where these buildings once had embraced the landscape for so many historical years.

An area west of South Crookston known today as Norcross Addition was also originally owned by Bernhard Sampson. That area consisted of approximately 40 acres and was sold by him in 1913. Only a few years ago this area was annexed to the city. In this general area was located the old towmill. The mill produced straw for the railroad that was grown in the area into tow; then the tow was shipped out to be finished into cigarette papers and other products.

Bernhard Sampson was by now highly recognized for his many successful endeavors and his seemingly endless generosity toward helping people, but it was from his public life that he was yet to become so well known.

In 1878 Mr. Sampson was first elected to public office. In that election he was elected the first clerk of district court for Polk County. The county was considerably larger then than it is today, for Red Lake and Pennington counties (and other land farther to the north) had yet to be carved from Polk. Mr. Sampson later turned his office over to Judge Spenly who had served him as his deputy.

In 1880 my grandfather was elected a member of the Minnesota State Legislature and represented his district in the twenty-second session of the House of Representatives. Mr. Sampson from Crookston and Solomon G. Comstock from Moorhead were the only two representatives from this district which comprised the whole northern part of Minnesota. The counties included Clay, Becker, Wadena, Todd, Otter Tail, Wilken, Beltrami, Norman, Marshall, Kittson, Hubbard, and Polk. Bernhard Sampson had received large majorities from all the counties except Todd.

Before 1880 the Crookston Improvement Company was organized, and at that time Mr. Sampson was chosen its first president in recognition of his many services on behalf of the community.

The following year Mr. Sampson, in association with F. J. Wilken, and Julius Bjornstad of St. Paul, built the first flour mill in Crookston at an expense of $50,000. Bernhard’s share exceeded $13,000. The mill now named the Crookston Roller Flouring Mill, was one of the best in the valley and had a daily capacity of 250 barrels of flour. The mill operated on both steam and water power. Tragically it came to an end when fire destroyed the mill June 4, 1887.

For thirty years Mr. Sampson remained a member of the Crookston Improvement Company, seeing many of his early projects accomplished. A person could confidently say Crookston was now booming.

His presence also was felt in the area of education. For many years he was a member of the school board. While he was serving on this board, the present Central High School building was constructed. This magnificent project was a major achievement for the city and brought a great personal satisfaction for Mr. Sampson, who had worked so hard to help bring it about.

My grandfather, from the very beginning, had taken a deep interest in all educational matters. He had personally donated land for the old Eugene Field School. He also donated land to the Sunnyrest Sanatorium, Tannery, Swedish Lutheran Church and the Old Bethesda Hospital in 1910. He also paid for the pews for four Scandinavian churches in Crookston. The pews had been made in the shop owned by Julius Bjornstad of St. Paul, a brother to Mrs. Sampson.

In 1885 Mr. Sampson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate by a very substantial margin. In this chamber he built a fine record toward conserving the interests of his constituents. He protected them from many wildcat schemes that were so prevalent at that time. On one particular occasion he saved the people of Minnesota a very sizeable land grant. His keen foresight at this time saved the people of this general area thousands of acres.

After serving as a state representative and for many years as a state senator, Honorable Bernhard Sampson continued to work effectively for the people of Crookston and the Red River Valley. He always took a great interest in the total growth and improvement, not only of this area, but also of the whole country in general. His stature and influence in the Republican Party was great, and he used this influence to secure legislation that benefited this area’s early settlers. His efforts toward those goals took Mr. Sampson on many journeys to St. Paul and Washington D.C. Two of his daughters, Selma and Olga, served as his secretaries for many years.

Mr. Sampson also served on many committees for the church and other civic organizations. These organizations were greatly blessed by his presence for he was known to be a great conversationalist and a man who had many opinions.

I believe today’s politicians could also learn from the stirring episodes of this tireless man. He unselfishly gave everything to the better the world in this part of the valley and with his guidance the valley did move ahead in the right direction and it prospered. He always helped people without wanting personal gain, but the more he helped others the greater was his own reward.

In his 50 years in this area, my grandfather was noted for his concern for others. His generosity was apparent everywhere: in the community, in the state, and in the nation. He became totally involved! Mr. Sampson dedicated his life to helping others. He built his reputation to one of great stature, and he was known as a friend to everyone he met. Thank you, Bernhard Sampson, and may God bless you forever!

Bernard Sampson Home. A large beautiful home with at least fifteen rooms, one room which was fashioned from the original log cabin.