of Crookston and organized as a separate town to be known as Richland was granted. The first town meeting under this reorganization was ordered to be held at the B. Sampson home April 21, 1877. Less than one year later, on March 19, 1878 the township name was officially changed from Richland to Lowell.

WALTER BEISWENGER

Walter and Harriet Beiswenger were married on June 4, 1938 and have lived on the Beiswenger Farm in Section 17, Lowell Township, Polk County, until August 1973, when Walter retired from farming and moved to Crookston. Their son, Roger, third generation, is now living on and farming the home farm.

Walter’s father, William Beiswenger, was native of Esslingen, Germany. He came over from Germany with a loan of $50 from a brother-in-law. He was very lonesome in America and wished to return to Germany. He had vowed that as soon as he earned enough to pay back his loan and saved enough for return passage, he was going back to his homeland. As time went on, he began to enjoy life in America and never did return to Germany. He had a brother and sister who remained in Germany. They never married so there are no family relatives in Germany.

William Beiswenger had a brother, Carl, who lived and farmed at Thief River Falls. A sister, Mrs. H. P. Wieland lived at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pauline Radi of Racine, Wisconsin was the wife of William Beiswenger. He was an excellent farmer and was especially proud of his fine horses. He was one of the first farmers to grow sugar beets in the Red River Valley. Other crops grown on the farm were corn, potatoes, wheat, barley and oats. All early farmers raised hogs, chickens and had a dairy herd.

Walter’s family consisted of Lydia (Mrs. August Ross), Henry, William, Meta, Albert and Emma, all of whom are deceased. Living are his brother Emil, who lives and has farmed in Fisher Township; Walter’s sister, Anna; Mrs. Palmer Jansen lives at Hillsboro, North Dakota. Walter had attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. This was a very popular school for the farm boys. Harriet’s father, Alfred Christianson, was born in Lowell Township. His father, Ole Christianson, homesteaded this farm. Harriet’s mother was a native of Thisted, Denmark and came to Minnesota as a young girl working as a seamstress. They were married in Denmark and lived on the farm. Alfred passed away in 1930 and Harriet’s mother later married Wilhelm Johnson and moved to Crookston. Harriet’s family consisted of Randolph Christianson, a farmer in Lowell Township; Wallace Christianson, an engineer with General Motors at La Grange, Illinois and Rev. Lyle Christianson, a Methodist minister at Roseville, Minnesota. Harriet was a rural school teacher and taught for four years in District 82 in Lowell Township and on District 246 in Andover Township. Since that time these districts have closed and joined Fisher and Crookston districts.

Walter and Harriet were active in community affairs while on the farm. Walter was a member of the Fisher school board, clerk of Lowell Township for over 20 years and a member of the North Lowell Farm Bureau Unit. Harriet was active in Fisher Parent-Teacher Association, Music Boosters, and in Homemaker’s Club and women’s group of West Polk Farm Bureau.

Their family consists of five children: a daughter, Arleen Boyd, who is a physical education director and teacher at Inver Grove Heights Junior College. She has a son and daughter, Elaine Witt, who lives at Eden Prairie, Minnesota. She has a son and daughter. Both are graduates of Bemidji State College with degrees in education. Roger attended Bemidji State College and spent four years in the United States Air Force, having been stationed in Hawaii. He is married to the former Carol Hegge of the Climax area. They are the parents of two daughters. Allan graduated from the University of Minnesota as an aeronautical engineer, served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, Africa. At the present time he is completing his third year as a law student at the University of Minnesota. James has attended the University of North Dakota and at the present time is a member of the musical group “Mainstream” which is playing in Canada. All the five children have a great admiration and respect for the pioneering influence their grandfather and father had in establishing a productive farm. In the past forty years many changes have taken place in methods of farming. The biggest advances have been made in machinery, fertilizers, and chemicals. We will expect many more changes in the next forty years.

WILFRED A. BOUCHER

Wilfred’s father, Jules Boucher, was born in 1849, and Denise Farley Boucher was born in 1846 and moved northeast of Huot State Park about 1885 from three Rivers, Province of Quebec, Canada. They lived there about one year, then moved west of Crookston on section 31 in Lowell Township. Eighteen children were born; fifteen survived (now all deceased). Jules died in 1926 at the age of 77 and Denise died in 1935 at the age of 89. Wilfred was born on this farm on May 2, 1886 and lived there until 1946. Mrs. Wilfred Boucher’s parents Delphis Riopelle, born 1860, and Eugenie Beaudoin, born 1851, came from L’Assomption, Quebec, Canada.

Seven children were born to Delphis and Eugenie: Parmellia at Riopelle was born September 24, 1894 in Crookston Township, where she lived until her marriage to Wilfred Boucher. Delphis Riopelle died October 17, 1902, at the age of 42 and Eugenie died July 9, 1935, at the age of 84. Parmellia attended grade school at the Northwest Experiment Station, now the University of Minnesota Technical College. She was a member of the first eighth grade class to graduate at this School. Her son, Robert, graduated from this school in 1941, then the Northwest School of Agriculture and her grandson Tim Boucher, is now attending college there.

Rosaire and Alyce Boucher purchased the farm homestead in 1938 and raised their five children on this farm and are still residing there.

Wilfred and Parmellia were united in marriage July 23, 1912, at St. Anne’s Church in Crookston. They made their home in Lowell township where Wilfred was born and raised and continued to live until 1946 when they moved to 503 North Main in Crookston.

Donald and Irene moved to the farm in 1946. Donald and Valarian purchased the homestead. Donald passed away in July, 1975 and Irene still lives on the farm and will continue to farm this land with the help of her son-in-law, Jack Soltis. Valarian and family also have their home on the homestead and farm in partnership with Irene.

The Bouchers have been farming this homestead for 89 years. Wilfred and Parmellia, better known as Molly, had eight children. Roland died at the age of 1½ years; Rosaire and Wilfred died at birth; Donald died in July of 1975; Robert, Lorraine, Yvonne and Valarian. They have all been life-long residents of Crookston except Yvonne, who lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Bouchers also took care of two nieces and one nephew after their parents died. There was never a dull moment on the Boucher farm.

Wilfred was a diversified farmer and a dairy farmer. He had