half miles north of Fisher, Minnesota. Martin was married to Miss Ida Heydt, daughter of Peter and Karoline (Seibel) Heydt, who had come from Germany and had become citizens of the United States of America in 1879, and were parents of seven children: Evelyn (Wentzel), Lloyd, Irene (Ross), Delbert, Florence (Wentzel), Earl and Eugene and also adopted two nieces, Betty (Rudi) and Rosemary (Morken).

MICHAEL WENTZEL

Michael Wentzel was born in West Prussia, Germany, November 11, 1836, one of seven children born to John and Rosalia (Trojan) Wentzel. Three brothers were Charles, August and Julius, who came with their parents to America in 1863.

Michael Wentzel had learned the brickmaker’s trade and at age of 25 came to Canada and followed his trade there until November, 1864. Arriving in Canada, he was near death having had smallpox infection all through the long ocean trip. The first food he had any appetite for was raspberries, which he was told had great sustaining power. He then came to the States, remaining in Detroit, Michigan, one year, after which he moved to Reedsville, Wisconsin. He bought a 41-acre tract of woodland and the work toward a home was begun with an ax. He cleared 35 acres of this land and built a house and barn of hewn logs. His first crop was 20 bushels of wheat. These were small beginnings, indeed, but it was his determination and energetic work, supplemented by his honest dealings, that brought him unbounded success. He had no horses or oxen, and his first young calves he broke to farm work, and with these, and ax, and handspike he made his first home in the West. He farmed eight years and added 35 acres to his possessions. It was hard to make a living and he spent a portion of his time in lumbering. He did not succeed in Wisconsin to the degree which he desired and came to Crookston, Minnesota. Here he lived the first winter in a tarpaper hut.

In April, 1879, Michael and his wife walked seven miles along the Red Lake River and found a place where they wished to make their home. October 12, 1875 he moved his family to section 30 in Lowell Township, having purchased 250 acres of land of Fletcher and Loring of Minnesota for which he paid $800. He built his first shanty of split logs, making it warm by elm bark and sod. His stock on the farm consisted of four oxen and two cows, which he bought in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mr. Wentzel met with a share of good fortune and became owner of about 1300 acres of land aside from tracts he purchased and gave to his sons. In 1885 work was begun on a large square brick structure and furnished with the comforts and many luxuries of life. He built barns and engaged more extensively in stock raising.

Indians would camp near the river on their way to Winnepeg, traveling by canoe. They would come to the house and Mrs. Wentzel would give them a loaf of bread and they would leave. They would yell but always seemed harmless. Indian yells and tomahawks were all a part of growing up for the children.

In 1867, Mr. Wentzel was married to Henrietta Klinger, a native of Germany, who had come to America at the age of seven with her parents, Welhelm and Anne (Dallei) Klinger. She was fourth in line of twelve children. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel: Adolph, Emily (Ks. Auger), Minnie (Hjert), Louis, August, Anna (Kloma), William, Bertha (Dans), Augusta (Reitmeier), Clara (Aune), Emil, and Michael.

The locality in which Mr. Wentzel made his home was composed of German Lutherans and for the purpose of a church building he donated a tract of land. The Church was erected and dedicated in 1887. Before the church was built, worship services were held in homes.

Mrs. Marvin Hanson, a granddaughter and the daughter of the youngest son, Michael Jr., inherited the farm from her father. Michael, the youngest son, William Wentzel, the seventh child in line of Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel was married in 1917 to Selma Widenhofer, whose parents were Christian and Wilhelmine (Rudi) Widenhofer. They were the parents of three sons: Noel, Warner and Walton. Noel, a grandson of Michael Wentzel, lives on the farm and home built in 1885 and has been farming the land since 1960. He is married to Evelyn Wagner, the daughter of Martin and Ida (Heydt) Wagner.

CHARLES WOODSTROM

Many families once numerous in our communities sometimes almost disappear from these communities. So it was with the Woodstrom families. Carl and Nels Woodstrom came to Crookston from Sweden in the late 1800’s. Nels must have come first because his oldest son, Charles, was born in Crookston in an apartment over what is now Erickson’s Meat Market in 1879. Charles was the second white child to be born in Crookston. At that time his father operated a saloon in Crookston.

Later he farmed in Lowell Township, northwest of Crookston. He had four other children: Andrew, Clara, Hilma and William. Only Andrew and Charles remained in the Crookston area.

Charles married Clara Lanterman, daughter of Siam Lanterman, in Crookston, November 8, 1911. They lived on the Lanterman Farm about four miles northwest of Crookston. The Lantermans were charter members of the Methodist Church. Charles lived here until his death in 1969. His wife preceded him in death. Charles and Clara had two sons, Alton and Donald. Alton married Ruth Jennings of Crookston. They now live in Minneapolis. Alton and Ruth had three children, Harry, Gerald, and Clara. Donald married Jacqueline Ronz of Crookston. He now lives in Huntsville Township, north of East Grand Forks. He installs and services furnaces and related equipment. He has four children living with him; James, Lloyd, Paul and Patricia. Another daughter, Barbara Valinski, lives on the same homesteelie. Barbara and Dan Valinski have two children: Jason and Angela.

Andrew Woodstrom operated the Sunset Garage on the corner where Highway 75 makes a right-hand turn going north out of Crookston. A beautiful flower garden is now there. His son, Kenneth, lives in Ada. He works for Schraeder’s Auto