of those above was a guarantee of deposits by the government to prevent mis-managed banks from closing and absconding with their depositor’s money. The Rural Electric Act made loans available to thousands of farms and small towns to build lines and give electric power to millions and other millions to manufacture appliances they needed and bought. The Commodity Credit Corporation offered low-interest rates to farmers, thereby making it possible for them to borrow money at low interest and hold grain when markets were below cost of production. The Wagoner Labor Act gave the wage earner, the laborer, the right to bargain with the management for wages based on company profits. I have lived through this period and know what it was before this legislation and also what the standard of living is today.”

“In closing, I will say this, I am thankful for the courage my ancestors had to migrate to this great country, and again for the decision made by my parents to turn the horses to their own account. I remember as a young boy going to the Red River Valley, where I have had the privilege of living my life.”

The Croyes are and have been members of Wesley United Methodist Church of Grand Forks, North Dakota and have had various offices in the operation of the church. John A. Croy was a member of the Board of Education of School District # 595 for sixteen years (1944-1960). He also served on the East Grand Forks, Minnesota Planning and Advisory Commission until his resignation to assume chairmanship of the Polk County Board.

Mr. Croy has been a member of the Red River Lodge # 292, Masons, and is also a thirty year member of Kem Temple of the Shrine. He also holds a membership in the Order of the Elks, Lodge # 255.

JOSEPH CROY

Joseph Croy, is one of the progressive and enterprising citizens of East Grand Forks, Minnesota and has been, in his time, an enthusiastic man. He is a successful farmer, and makes a mark in the community with his own labor and direction as the principal factors in his industries. But lately, he has put most of his land in the care of tenants. He was born in Jasper County, Iowa, January 26, 1860, the son of John and Hannah (Hale) Croy, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania, but both reared in Indiana and married in that state. They moved to Iowa soon after their marriage, and the mother died there when Joseph was but six years old. He passed the next four years with his uncle, Jacob Croy, who was now eighty-two years of age.

When the father married again at the end of this four years, Joseph returned to the family and remained with it until he reached the age of twenty-one. He then worked a year on a railroad, grading and haulimg, and the next year rented a farm. After he sold his crop on this farm he went to Buffalo County, South Dakota, and took up a pre-emption claim on the Missouri River, 75 miles west of Mitchell. He lived on this claim three years and then rented it three years, while he visited the Black Hills and other parts of the land.

On June 14, 1893, Mr. Croy came to Crookston, Minnesota and in the fall of 1894 he bought twenty acres of stump land with all the timber cut off except about sixty cord of wood. He paid $75 for this purchase and went in debt $200 to make it. The land had a little log house on it and he moved into this. He had four horses and an old wagon for his farm work, and just enough furniture to start housekeeping in a very primitive way. Then he had a setback through a spell of sickness, the only one he has ever had in Minnesota. But he cut and sold his wood and got a few acres of his land cleared. He planted corn, tomatoes and other vegetables, and from that time on times have been easier and more prosperous for him. He bought additional land at different times at prices ranging from $30 to $101 an acre, and devoted his energies mainly to raising potatoes, onions and cabbage, which he sold to families at their homes, running a peddling rig seven or eight years.

In the course of time Mr. Croy owned eighty-two and a-half acres and devoted nearly the whole tract to garden products, with some grain to vary his crops and keep his land in order, and one year he cleared $3,700 on this land, which he occupied and farmed for five years and a-half. He then bought a part of his present home place and 34 acres of the old Murphy farm, paying $4,500 for the latter, and taking up his residence on it. He also bought the Murphy out-lots, on two of which he now lives, the lots numbering eight, so that he now owns 68 acres and these eight lots outside the city limits of East Grand Forks. This is in addition to his other land. All of this is rented except the few acres which he cultivates himself.

Mr. Croy has raised 1,000 bushels of potatoes per acre and enough spuds for his own table and family, and raises high crops of corn, potatoes, and winter wheat. He is an intensive farmer and will be satisfied with nothing but the best possible results from his work. In 1911 he bought 60 acres of the Rinnfranz farm just outside of the city limits, and this is also rented, but the place is farmed in the same way as his other land. In 1914 he raised 6,000 bushels of potatoes and in 1915 his average yield was 100 bushels to the acre. He had a good local market but had also shipped his products in carloads to Duluth and realized $700 a car for them. His son John is emulating his bright example to advantage. This young man was eight years old in 1916, and he had made a record as a corn grower that was almost phenomenal, producing on a measured acre 117.58 bushels in the production of which he did all the work himself.

While Mr. Croy was living in Rhinehart Township he served as a member of the school board, but he has refused all persuasions to become a member of the city council in East Grand Forks. He was married in Buffalo County, South Dakota, to Miss Anna Belle Stevens, a native of Westford County, Iowa, but living on a claim with her parents in South Dakota at the time of her marriage. They have five children: Maud Esther, John Arthur, Hannah May, Grace and Dorothy. Maud Esther obtained a high school education and followed a course of special instruction in Union Commercial College. John Arthur is in his third year in the Central High School and the others are attending schools of lower grades, the intention of their parents being to give them all good educations. All the members of the family belong to the family band of the Episcopal church in Grand Forks, and Mr. Croy is a member of the Order of Modern Brotherhood. He has assisted an uncle and an aunt to become citizens of this country, and has been a liberal contributor to many worthy undertakings for the improvement of the various communities in which he has lived.

JAMES E. SULLIVAN

Following the mid 19th century potato famine in Ireland, great numbers of Irish immigrated to the Province of Ontario, in Canada. Among these was Andrew Sullivan and his wife Ellen (Enright) Sullivan, who at that time purchased a farm site in Renfrew County. While living on this farm they raised a son, James E. Sullivan, born in 1845, and three younger daughters, Mary (Mrs. Louis Racine), Anna (Mrs. John Harvey), and Katherine (Mrs. Michael McGuire).

The Sullivans found the Ontario soil to be somewhat marginal, and were determined to relocate on more fertile and desirable lands, so in 1875 the family made plans to move to Western Canada, where the future held greater promise. With this in mind, the thirty-year-old Jim, who was now in charge of the family’s affairs, set out to find a new farm. At that time people from Eastern Canada were reportedly able to reach the Western Provinces more directly by traveling to St. Paul, Minnesota, thence to Fargo, North Dakota, or to Fisher’s Landing (Fisher, Minnesota), and continue north by boat. Jim Sullivan chose to go via Fargo, North Dakota, and enroute to Manioba, was able to make a stop near Grand Forks, North Dakota. From there he made a short trip up the Red Lake River. Near the city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota he noted a parcel of land along the river which was very much to his liking. He completed the trip north, however, but found no land which appealed more to him, nor seemed more suitable than the site near East Grand Forks. Thus it was that on his trip back to Fargo, Jim arranged for the purchase from the owner of the land in Section One of Rhinehart Township, Polk County, Minnesota.

Returning to Canada, Jim Sullivan arranged the sale of their land holdings, and the family immigrated to Polk County. Mr. Sullivan’s account of the fertility and availability of the land