Allen and their year-old niece, Edna, daughter of Herman and Tjaltje. Tjaltje died during the 1918 flu epidemic and Herman remained on the homestead. Shortly after their arrival Charlene was born.

After working for others in the Crookston area, they started farming for themselves on a farm near Eldred. They lived there for nine years. This is where Herman, Agnes and Sadie were born. In the fall of 1929 they moved near Beltrami and rented the farm of Dr. Thomas Spence. This was where their youngest son, John, was born in 1932. They had a sale in the fall of 1942. George Jr. was married and farming for himself. Allen was drafted for the army. Herman was scheduled to go shortly, and George Sr. was unable to farm alone. After the sale, they moved to a little farm north of Crookston, now known as North Front Street with many new homes in the area. Shortly after moving, George entered the hospital for surgery, developed a blood clot and died very suddenly on February 12, 1943, at the age of 51.

After George Sr.'s death Clara purchased a small home at 304 Elm Street and continued to live there with her son John. During this period she worked at the Crookston Hotel for 11 years and at Central High School for five and one-half years, returning in 1959. She was a very active member of the Christian Reformed Church. Clara continued to live at 304 Elm Street until she suffered a stroke and died very suddenly on December 7, 1970.

This article is written by the Brolsma family in tribute to their parents. As of 1976 George Jr. (wife — Jessie Epema), Allen (wife — Leah Seaton), Herman (wife — Lillian Brandwick) all live in the city of Crookston. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Terpestra (Charlene) live on Rt. 2, Crookston. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newell (Sadie) live in Fertile, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Johnstone (Agnes Brolsma Cowell) live at Browerville, Minnesota, and John (wife — Margaret Duval) live in Bloomington, Minnesota.

CLARENCE AND LELIA CHARAIS

We came to Polk County when we were very young — Clarence with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Charais, from Fowler, Indiana in 1916, and Lelia with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Steiner, from Nauvoo, Illinois in 1915. Clarence lived with his family three miles east of Climax and attended grade school at Climax. In 1926 the family moved three miles southeast of Eldred to section 10, Vineland township, where they farmed. Lelia's family lived in Hammond township for a short time and they then moved to section 12, Roome Township in 1917. Lelia attended school in Eldred for two months and then the family moved a half-mile northwest to section 11. She attended school at district 110, graduating from eighth grade in 1927.

We were married September 9, 1934 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Steiner with Reverend E. A. Schuett officiating. Our first home was a small house two miles south of Eldred, owned by Amos Kasberg. Clarence drove the school bus for district 254, bringing the children in to the Eldred school. In the spring of 1935 we moved to a set of vacant buildings owned by Louis Letses, four miles southeast of Eldred. We couldn't use the well on this place, so we hauled water from Clarence's folks' place. In the winter this meant pulling the 10-gallon cream cans over the snow on a sled. So we learned to be very economical with water! We had no electricity, telephone, nor radio and oftentimes the roads were blocked for long periods of time, since there were no snow plows to open them. Travel was by horse and sleigh, so a trip to Eldred for groceries became a big event. During the summer Clarence helped his dad on the farm and also worked at the sugar beet dump at Eldred during the harvest season. He enjoyed carpentry and during the long winter months he made several small pieces of furniture, some of which we still use, and also doll furniture for Delsie, our first child, born in May, 1936.

On July 3, 1935 we were in the path of a tornado and our house was the only building left standing. Most of our 200 chickens and turkeys were killed. In 1941 heavy rains caused water to stand all around our buildings from June until October, so we learned why the area was called "The Swamp." It was at this time that we had an opportunity to rent the west half of section 12, Roome Township, where we presently reside, and where Lelia had formerly lived. We started farming in 1942 with a $250 International tractor, two cows, and borrowed machinery. We bought a nice team of horses, which we had for about 20 years until they died.

Truly one of the greatest events occurred in January, 1943 when we acquired electricity through the R.E.A. It would be impossible to describe the night when the lights were turned on and we could stop stumbling around in the barn with a kerosene lantern! Shortly after this our County Agent, Mr. Carl Ash, began a campaign to get running water and bathroom facilities into every rural home in West Polk County. Ours was installed in 1951, another wonderful convenience.

We purchased this half-section from Mrs. Thora Ringdahl Hovet in 1952 and we added another 160 acres in 1965 when we bought the northeast quarter of section 32, Andover township, from the Letses estate.

Carole Faye was born in September, 1942 but she was with us only six months. She passed away March 8, 1943 from a rare throat infection. Dale was born in May of 1944 and Corrine in February of 1949.

We are members of the First English Lutheran Church of Eldred, the Farm Bureau, and the children belonged to Eldred 4-H. Clarence served on the board of the Farmers' Elevator and Lelia has been a member of the Eldred Homemakers Club.

Delsie and Dale attended school at district 110 until it closed in 1953. They then attended school in Crookston. Delsie is teaching kindergarten at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. Dale is married and farming in Polk County and Corrine just finished obtaining her M.A. in English at Greeley, Colorado.