Peter Welter, brother of Fred, immigrated to the United States about 1881 from Luxembourg, Germany with his brothers, Fred, Nick, Casper, and Elizabeth Weyer, who, some time later, became his wife. They came to Wabasha and were employed on the Math Marx farm. Some time later, Casper left for Raymond, Iowa, and Peter, Fred and Nick went to Argyle where Fred rented the Hartz farm. When Peter got married, they lived in Argyle until he took a homestead near Puposky, where they added six children to their family: Josephine (Mrs. William Armbrust); Fred, Pinewood, Minnesota; Peter and Mathew, deceased; Mary, Sister DeChantal of Mount St. Benedict, Crookston and Catherine deceased at the age of twelve years.

Nicholas Welter came to Crookston in the early 1890's from Argyle and occupied a farm in Fairfax township south of Crookston. He married Susie Clements of Mazeppa, Minnesota on April 16, 1894. They had four children: Fred, Waseka, Minnesota; Theodore, deceased; Andrew, (Welter Plumbing and Heating), Crookston, deceased; and George, deceased.

TILMAN WERMAGER

Tilman Wermager came to Russia Township in 1915 from Wilmington in Houston County in southern Minnesota. He came in an immigrant car on the Great Northern Railroad to Kittson Station and settled in Section Six and has lived here since that time. The first four years we lived in the place north of here in section six which is now owned by Albert Kiel. We have been on this place since 1927. Lewis Larson, a step-brother, built the buildings here in 1919. There have been dry spells and also wet ones. We always managed to make out. All in all, it was and has been a good place to live.

Tilman Wermager and Edith Iverson were married in 1923 by the Rev. P. E. Moen in Crookston. We have four sons. Truman, the only one living in Crookston, married Neva Davis. They have four children. Truman worked for Eichhoff Construction and for Minn-Dak Trucks as a mechanic.

Duane lives in Juneau, Alaska. He has four children. He is a heavy equipment operator.

Larry lives in St. Charles, Illinois. He is with the F.A.A. (Federal Aviation Association) in West Chicago. His wife is the former Mary Ann Eisert of Crookston. They have a daughter and a son.

Robert lives at Mound, Minnesota with his wife, Delores and daughters, Kimberly and Jennifer. He owns truck and dump hauling for Bjorkland Trucking Company of Buffalo, Minnesota.

We have been members of Our Saviours Lutheran Church for forty-one years. At the present time we have twelve grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. The school house was two miles away in Hammond township. District 224, known as Prairie Rose and was often called the Skrivseth School. In the winter of 1936, the snow was deep and the temperature was 30 below zero, sometimes for many days. The children were bundled up and walked to school. Later the school closed and they were transported to Beltrami and from there to high school in Fertile.

There Larry graduated in 1953 and Robert in 1956 from Fertile, Minnesota High School. Both Duane and Larry served in the army. Duane was in Germany in the Second World War and Larry was stationed in Louisiana in 1955. Robert was in the Navy for four years following his high school graduation.

Sandsville Township

Sandsville Township is located in the northwestern part of Polk County. The first settler to come to Sandsville was Martin Sands. Martin Sands came from Kandiyoki County and selected his homestead in 1877. It is also known that Martin Sands selected homestead sites for his two brothers, Ole and Casper, and for his cousin, Martin Johnson. These people all homesteaded in the mile and one-half area south of what became known as Alvarado. Shortly after the Sands had settled, Henry Oberg, John Hendrickson, Henry Nelson, Ole Engen and Henry Hendrickson, came from the Kandiyoki and possibly the Kenville county areas. It was after these early settlers had lived here approximately five years that they organized Sandsville township in 1883 and the township was named in honor of its first settler, Martin Sands.

The settling and homesteading continued in the years following as Ole Lundin, Paul Hendrickson, Christ and Ole Stavig, Louis Larsson, Henry Nyquist, Axel Mathisens and others came to seek a way of life. When Sandsville township was first organized it extended one and one-half mile farther north than it does now. This one and one-half mile strip became part of Marshall county at a later date. These early settlers worked very hard trying to clear land and cultivate land for raising grain and tending their livestock. One of the biggest problems they encountered was the wet lands, causing losses and inconveniences by both spring and summer floods. It is interesting to note that in the early 1900's these early settlers were instrumental in organizing a drainage district and were successful in having a ditch 12 miles long constructed from the east directly west to the Red River. This ditch is known as the Judicial Ditch No. 1, running through Farley, Sandsville and Higdem townships. This is possibly one of the first ditches constructed in Polk county.

Sandsville township continued to be populated and we find that many houses had been established from 1890 to the early 1900's. As they prospered they built better homes. We also find that they had quite large families. Schools, churches were organized and it seemed that Alvarado and Warren became their principal place of business, although many a story is known of these farmers hauling and selling hay to various stables in East Grand Forks and Grand Forks.

In 1976 Sandsville has become less populated due to larger farm operations. New names now occur. Farming has become diversified in the areas of grain, sugar beets, and potatoes and other speciality crops. As we look back at the families who