The Polk County Historical Society, as official custodian of County History, has for more than 60 years been collecting and preserving the inspiring story of the people of Polk County. Books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, pictures, and museum objects have been collected. The museum's authentic exhibits show how Valley pioneers lived, the tools and implements they worked with, the clothes they wore, the utensils and furnishings they used in their homes and countless other articles related to nearly every phase of their lives.

During the past fifteen years, the Society has housed its museum in the old McKinley school. In 1976, the museum was moved to the Glendenning building on Highway 2 at the east entrance to Crookston. Much renovation is underway and it is hoped that the pioneer displays and additional historical artifacts will bring to the future generation an insight of what our forefathers have left us.

Acknowledgements

The Polk County Historical Society wishes to express thanks to those who submitted their stories and pictures for the pages of this book; to those township chairmen who gathered and edited the stories; to those who gave support and encouragement as the work progressed; to the group who met for many evenings and gave hours of typing, reading, correcting, editing, and assembling the publication. You have all played a significant part in this history of "The Pioneers of the Valley." The Polk County Historical Society salutes you!