ned, and smoked all their bacon, hams and sausages. Their farm was the scene of many happy times. Neighbors would gather on Sunday afternoon to throw horse shoes or play volleyball. Ernest loved baseball, with Loren playing on the team. Many a game was won by his side line coaching and cheering. The children attended school at Eldred, the first consolidated school in the northwest. The Wollins drove one of the big buses for four years with a team of two horses.

The first English Lutheran Church of Eldred was built in 1930, where the families worshipped. Now at the age of 84 years they are attending church as regularly as possible and are proud of the fact that four generations are there. They have survived tornadoes, crop failures, and floods. What a thrill when a second-hand Model T. Ford came to serve the family.

Russia Township History

March 15, 1884 appears to have been the date of the first town meeting. The first officers were: Ole Olson Jr., supervisor, John N. Ureness, H. F. Hoff. Oren Simmons was the town clerk. These men were sworn into office March 9, 1886, by Fred Baatz, who was then justice of the peace. B. O. Lindberg was another justice of the peace and was also assessor for many years until his death. The town meetings were held at the O. Simons' farm.

On July 26, 1886, there was a town meeting to divide the town lines between Fairfax and Russia townships. Owners of land in Russia Township on July 26, 1886 were: O. Simmons, E-s of N.E.-4, E-2 of S.E.-4; Peter Noriesen, N.E.-4; Fred Baatz, S1/2 of N.-4; O. S. Johnson, S-2; Thom Wallace, N.1/2; Hans Clausen, S.W.-4; John Amundsen, N.W.-4. On May 12, 1889, a meeting was held to consider an act for the protection of public health by providing for inspection before slaughter of cattle, sheep and swine, desired for human food. O. Simmons, C. O. Espe and F. Cheapeus were appointed meat inspectors. On March 7, 1892, expenses for the year were $70.00. More Russia township owners of land on July 23, 1894 were: John Aagard, Johannes Aagard, A. M. Gamee, John Thompson, Ole Oleton, B. O. Sindberg, and Cornelius Hansen. Russia township supervisors on July 23, 1894 were: Peter Noriesen, Ole Olesen Jr., and Ben Geroux.

HAFSLO LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

The first Lutheran settlers came to Russia Township as early as 1875. They built a church for there was an urgent need for a place to worship and a bell to call them to worship.

The Hafslo Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1887. The first meeting was held July 14, 1887. Hafslo is named after Hafslo, Norway. With forty-five members the first meeting was held. The first officers were: H. J. Hoff, John Urness and Christ Baarnes. The Church was built on the S. Sylvester farm, one and one half miles east of Marin Station (later changed to Harold Station).

After Ernest discontinued farming for himself he worked for his son-in-law, Andy Dragseth, husband of Victoria, and several other farmers. In 1949 they moved into their own home on Gorgas Avenue in Crookston, where they reside at the present time. They have six married children, 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Ernest enjoys coming out to the Dragseth farm in the summer and watching his grandson, Allen, farm with his big tractors and machinery, quite a big difference from when he farmed.

Ernest and Emma celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary July 16, 1976.

VINCENT BAATZ

Starting with “Shorty”, his parents came from Luxembourg and Germany. Mrs. Baatz came at the age of sixteen and lived with her brother, Mark Rauenburkrler until she married John Baatz. They homesteaded land just southeast of the Station of Russia which is now Greenview. To them were born seven boys and one girl. They then bought a house and moved just southeast of the Homestead. The boys were all raised on that place. The oldest boy was killed by a horse at the age of eighteen. The girl died at the age of two. She was the youngest. Mr. Baatz died in 1926 and Mrs. Baatz in 1956.

Now, for my family, my dad, the former Joe Ingvolson, was born and raised in Durand, Illinois to Julius and Ragna Ingvolson, who came from Norway. My mother, Ellen Bloom, was born in Chicago, Illinois. The family then came to Shirdland, Illinois. Her family came from Seden. She live at Shirdland, Illinois until she and my dad were married in 1907, when they moved to Rockford, Illinois. In 1914 they moved to Minnesota, half a mile east of Greenview Station. They had four children: Evelyn, Julius, Betty and Lyle. In 1940 they moved to Badger, Minnesota and in 1962 moved back here and lived in a trailer house on our son’s place east of Nielsville. Dad died in 1967 and Mother in 1972.

I was born at Rockford, Illinois and at the age of six years, I came to Minnesota. “Shorty” was the youngest of his family. He and I went to school together south of Greenview in District 160. Then I went east to District 289. We were married in January 1936 and for ten years we owned land with no buildings. Often we moved every year and sometimes twice a year. In 1946 we bought the place where we live now. To us was born a son, Raymond, who is now farming three miles east of Nielsville, Minnesota, since 1962 when he got out of the Army. He has three children: two boys and one girl. They are doing fine.

Six and a half years after Raymond, our JoAnn was born. She is married and now lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have been blessed by the Good Lord, even with our sorrows but mostly with happiness. In 1948, a tractor tipped over on Raymond. He was pronounced dead but again the Lord was with us and he recovered. In 1944, JoAnn had meningitis and was pronounced dead. Again we were blessed by her recovery.

BERNT LINDBERG

Bernt Lindberg was born in Hedemarken, Norway August 21, 1862 and was the eldest of five children born to Ole B. and Astrid Lindberg. His father died from a tree hitting him that he
was felling on their farm. Bernt was but ten years of age at that time. A couple of years later the mother brought the family to America. In a third class freighter ship they lived among the animals. Bernt assisted during the voyage until he climbed to the top mast expecting to take a look at the land beyond, where he and his family were to live.

They located in Steele county, Minnesota, and there the Mother Astrid remarried to Mr. Rukke. Bernt continued his residence at home until he was twenty-five years of age, when he purchased land and engaged in farming in Steele county. He continued his operations there for two years and then moved to Polk county, Minnesota, taking a homestead on section thirty-four of Russia township. In the meantime, on June 10, 1878, Bernt was married to Miss Marie Sampson, a native of Wisconsin.

In his own words is Mr. Lindberg's report of his family's journey to their homestead:

When I removed from Steele county, Minnesota on the 28th of September 1880, I drove all the way up here, a distance of about four hundred miles, with ox team and covered wagon. All that I owned I had in that wagon, which consisted of my wife and two children, Oscar and three room, a few household goods. We enjoyed nice weather and good roads the first two weeks of our journey, up to the 14th of October, but that caused some trouble because it was dry and the oxen got terribly thirsty. When they reached the river they just went pell mell down the steep bank, and the wagon and some contents (including Mrs. Lindberg, the two babies and a Grandfather clock) toppled into the river. I managed to hold onto the rest of the property and fished Oscar out of the muck; also the clock, which ran good for at least forty years after. We traveled in the rain all day. At night we camped near a farmer whose name was Knut Gilbertson, where I purchased hay for my stock. We had then reached a point seven miles north of Elizabeth City in Ottertail county.

During the night it commenced to snow and the wind which then was from the northwest increased rapidly. In the morning when I got out of the wagon I found the snow to be at least six inches deep on the level, and the air so thick that it was impossible to see two rods ahead. Mr. Gilbertson came out and asked us to come in the house and get warmed up. I accepted the invitation with thanks and asked if he had any shelter where I could put my stock, as they were suffering more on account of the storm than we were. He said he hadn't any room for stock as his stable was full, but suggested that he would go with us to one of his nearest neighbors, a half mile distant, where we could get shelter for the stock as well as ourselves. We then walked there and started back. Mr. Gilbertson walking ahead of the oxen to show the way. After driving about one-fourth mile we got in a big snow drift and the oxen couldn't pull the load any further. Then I had to unhitch the oxen from the wagon and Mr. Gilbertson drove the oxen and two cows I had with me, while I wrapped a quilt around my oldest boy and carried him, leaving my wife and baby in the wagon until we returned for them. After making a short road long, we at last found the residence of Thomas Lagradd, a very accomodating gentleman. Mr. Lagradd sent one of his boys with Mr. Gilbertson back to the wagon after my wife and baby. They found them without trouble, but on going back to Mr. Lagradd's they got lost and couldn't find the place. After considerable walking back and forth and almost exhausted, they came to a neighbor of Mr. Lagradd, where my wife had to stay three days while the storm raged. On the fifth day we started on the long journey to our future home, very discouraged, as I knew the roads would be in bad condition after such a storm. We landed on our homestead Octo-

31st."

When they finally came to the spot they called home, Mr. Lindberg said "Well, now we are home on the bare prairie." There were no bushes, trees or prairie dog tracks. But a mile and a half away there was a neighbor named John Thompson who was kind enough to offer shelter for him and his family until he could build a shack. This took most of the winter, as the oxen traveled one mile an hour with lumber from a long distance. In the loft where he and his wife and babies slept there was snow on the quilt as the roof was not well insulated. But his wife survived the fierce experience formerly mentioned where she had to stay for 5 days to recuperate the cold she caught. Everybody had a bottle of brandy in the house, and she was given a good hot toddy to get her blood circulating again. From that time on she had a respiratory problem. But in spite of all this she raised ten children and had to face prairie fire and Indians who travelled through the prairie. In the spring, after living with the Thompsons all winter eating mush called "rumagraft", Mr. Lindberg was hired by Thompson to plow a piece of sod so as to raise a garden and wheat. He received one dollar per day for his labors.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindberg are now the parents of the following children: Carl Oscar, Adolph, Norwegian, Bernhard Martinus, Clare Cecelia, Ida Elizabeth, Christian Nels, John Melvin, Alma Louise and Tina Susanne. Their farm is devoted to grain raising and they have four hundred acres cultivated to wheat and small grain. They endured many hardships incident to pioneer life while farming, and encountered many other severe storms. On one occasion, Bernt was returning from Crookston with a yoke of oxen when the storm came upon him and he became lost. After a time he drove to an unoccupied shanty and this he broke into and thus provided shelter for himself and oxen, but he had to walk the balance of the night in an effort to keep from freezing to death. Daylight revealed some buildings a short distance away and making his way to them, he found himself at his neighbor's, Mr. Simons.

Bernt Lindberg Threshing Crew About 1900.

For several years they had to haul water with oxen from the Sand Hill River near Beltrami, a distance of four miles. One of the women in the area, Mrs. Lindberg and neighbor, Mrs. Ole Olson, was to drive the oxen with their wagon loaded with barrels to the river to fill up with water. On their return home the oxen would go faster, even to a run, so Mrs. Lindberg and Mrs. Olson held one line each and had to let the beasts go their own way. They made it home successfully only if the barrels didn't tip over and spill the water.

In 1885 Bernt Lindberg sunk the first flowing well in the locality, and he now has an unlimited supply of soft artesian water.

Mr. Lindberg assisted in the organization of his township and has served as assessor for the past thirteen years. He is identified with the reform principles of the Populist party and is a man of broad ideas, who keeps pace with the time and lends his influence for good government, national and local. He has helped in the building of churches, and is a member of the Lutheran church in Beltrami. He demonstrated his public spirited nature and interest in the community by contributing a share of his land for a church, the first in the area.

The Lindbergs have raised all their own food, Marie in 1930 and Bernt in 1932. The farm was sold to a granddaughter, Myrtle Lindberg Mulchay (Mrs. Bill Mulchay). The only member of that family that remains is Alma L. Ogaard of Crookston, Minnesota.

GOTFRIED WELTER

Gotfried Welter was born in Luxembourg, Germany July 11, 1862. In 1881, he and three brothers, Nicholas, Peter and Casper, immigrated to the United States. They came to Wabasha, Minnesota and worked for Math Marx on his farm, which was adjoining the Joseph Goss farm. A. "Hartz", a relative of Marx, also came with them. Some time later, Casper went to Iowa. Fred, Peter and Nick went to Argyle, Minnesota where
Fred Welter Family: **Sitting, L. to R.:** Elizabeth, Fred, Victor, Jose- phine and Helen. **Standing, L. to R.:** Nick, Joe, Mary and Andrew.

Fred rented the Hartz farm. On April 13, 1888, he married Josephina Gosse, a sister of Joseph Gosse of Wabasha, Minnesota.

Peter bought a farm near Puposky, Minnesota and Nick bought a farm in Russia township south of Crookston, Minnesota. He married Susie Clemens from Mazeppa, Minnesota on April 16, 1894.

August 7, 1896, Friedrich Welter purchased the southeast quarter of section 10, from Lars and Mathilda Locken for $2400. He and his wife Josephine had five children when they moved to the Locken farm. They were: Joe, Mary, Nick, Andrew and Elizabeth. On April 5, 1899, Helen (Len) was born and on August 16, 1902, Victor. This farm is on Burnham Creek just north of the Girard elevator on Highway 75, five miles south of Crookston, Minnesota. Friedrich farmed here until his death, November 8, 1931.

Josephina Gosse was born in Lingen, Hanover, Germany on August 30, 1865. She migrated to the United States in 1874 with her brother Joseph and several friends: the Schuths, Gosse, Fries, Kreys and others, who located around Wabasha, Minnesota. She lived with her brother Joseph until her marriage. They farmed near Argyle, Minnesota until they purchased a farm south of Crookston, August 7, 1896, to which they and their five children moved. April 5, 1899, Helen (Len) was born and August 15, 1902 Victor was born. She lived here until her death July 14, 1942.

Joseph Welter was born March 31, 1886 at Read Landing, Minnesota. He lived with his folks on farms near Argyle, Minnesota and Crookston, until February 11, 1912, when he married Orpha Warner of Puposky, Minnesota. She was born June 3, 1893. They farmed section 21 in Andover township. His wife Orpha passed away on February 18, 1941. He continued on this farm through the fall of 1947 when he bought a quarter of land seven miles southwest of Cass Lake, Minnesota and moved there until 1973 when he came back to Crookston. He passed away at the Fertile, Minnesota Rest Home on January 12, 1974. They were parents of four children: Eunice, December 16, 1912; Minnie, March 30, 1918; Vernon, May 12, 1928 and Violet, December 1, 1930.

Mary Welter was born February 15, 1891 on a farm near Argyle. She lived there and on the Crookston farm until her marriage to Rex Warner on December 5, 1911 at Puposky, Minnesota. He was born June 21, 1888, and lived until April 29, 1958. They farmed about twenty-five years south of Crookston until 1940 when they moved to Gully, Minnesota. Mary died September 19, 1947. They had six children, namely: Austin, July 14, 1912 to January 3, 1976; Hue, December 12, 1913; Delia, November 11, 1914; Harold, September 15, 1916; Bernice, August 8, 1920; and Jim, August 10, 1924.

Nicholas Welter was born June 13, 1889 on the farm near Argyle. He lived there and on the Crookston farm until his marriage July 2, 1919, to Catherine Averbeck, Alma, Wisconsin. She was born February 19, 1890 and died March 25, 1961. He purchased the residence at 507 North Main Street, Crookston and established a machine shop in the rear. He was self-employed until his death January 14, 1968. They had three children, namely: Hilarian T. ("Doc") born July 27, 1920, Raymond, December 14, 1925 and Donald, March 23, 1927.

Andrew Welter was born October 5, 1893 on the farm near Argyle. He lived there and on the Crookston farm until his mother's death in 1942. He then moved to Gully and Clearbrook, Minnesota where he did mechanical work until his death, December 21, 1959. He never married.

Elizabeth Welter was born March 28, 1896 on a farm near Argyle, Minnesota. She lived there and on the Crookston farm until her marriage to Frank Schuth, Wabasha, Minnesota on February 24, 1922. He was postmaster there and they have lived there ever since. They had five children, namely: Francis, Mary Jo, Richard, Donald, who was married and had two children, and George.

Helen (Len) Welter was born April 5, 1899 on their Crookston farm. She lived at home until her marriage to Frank W. Zita, Breckenridge, Minnesota, on September 8, 1920. He was born September 12, 1897 and was employed at the United States Land Office at Crookston. She lived in Crookston until her death on November 11, 1939. They had two children, namely: Lorraine Yvonne, born April 4, 1922 and William Russell, born April 29, 1925 and deceased March 30, 1943, United States Navy Air Corps.

Victor Welter was born August 16, 1902 on their Crookston farm. He lived at home until about 1925 when he went to Wabasha where he did carpenter and cabinet work. He married Philippine Loechler in Wabasha on January 2, 1935. A few years later he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he remained until his death on July 2, 1960. His wife returned to Wabasha. They had one child, Janice.
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 Haertz 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 DeChantall 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 Clemens 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 Eickhoff 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 dairy farming 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 once 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 Kandyoki 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 Kandyoki 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 homes 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

The Tilman Wermager Family.

Threshing on Tilman Wermager farm 1918.