in the historic “March to the Sea”; and when the momentous conflict was ended he participated in the grand review of the Federal armies in Washington, D. C., being discharged from military service in July, 1865.

Immediately after his discharge from the army Mr. Fontaine returned to Minnesota. He arrived at St. Paul at 9 o’clock one morning, purchased a restaurant, saloon and fixtures before noon, and began business in his new place before nightfall. At the end of three years, during which his business was very profitable, he sold out and engaged in general merchandising, in which he was occupied for ten years in St. Paul. In the meantime he took up a soldier’s homestead near Mapleton, North Dakota, which he sold a year later. His visits to his homestead brought him to Crookston, whose location and seeming possibilities impressed him so favorably that he determined to locate here.

In the summer of 1878, in association with William Anglim, he purchased the stock and business of W. D. Bailey, a general merchant at Crookston, hurried back to St. Paul to close his business there, and in September returned to Crookston to remain. Timber then covered the site of the town, there was not a street opened, and there were very few improvements of any kind. The settlement, however, contained two stores in addition to that of Messrs. Fontaine & Anglim, but all three were in primitive log buildings. At the end of two years these gentlemen erected a brick building, in which they conducted their grocery department when later they put up two additional rooms, which gave them three fronts. They carried a stock of $75,000 and employed ten clerks after their business reached its development, and had the most extensive as well as the most profitable trade in this whole section of the Northwest. In 1882 they put up a large stock of farm machinery, but they were so busily occupied with their numerous other lines of trade that they soon abandoned this one. Mr. Fontaine, however, had an interest in a general store at Argyle, in Marshall county, which also did a very extensive business.

Mr. Fontaine held a high place in the regard of the people of this part of the state and wherever else he was known. He was a man of fine business capacity, great force of character and sterling integrity. He was also public-spirited and progressive to the last degree, and was universally esteemed as one of the truly representative men of Polk county. He was a Catholic in religious faith and a devout and serviceable member of his church. On September, 19, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Rosie Trombley, a native of Kankakee, Illinois, and the daughter of Mitchelle Trombley. They became the parents of nine children: Lizzie, Cora, Albert, George, Ermine, Victor, Albert, Blanche and Alma, six of whom are living.

The useful and stimulating life herein briefly chronicled ended in St. Paul, November 7, 1914. The mother of the household is still living and now has her home in St. Paul, where, although she lives retired and in an unostentatious way, she is well known in many parts of the city and most highly respected by all classes of the people.

H. C. H. Wik.

H. C. H. Wik, a farmer of Woodside township, has been a resident of the county since 1881 and has been actively associated with the agricultural interests of the community. He is a native of Norway, born August 8, 1845, and came to this country immediately after his marriage to Caroline Olson in 1871 and after spending a year with a brother who was living in St. Paul, then located in Dakota county, Minnesota, where he engaged in the development of a small farm. In 1881 he came to Polk county and took a homestead claim in section seven of Woodside township on the shore of Maple lake, about six miles southwest of Mentor. This land he has developed into his present productive farm and has cleared and cultivated fifty