fornia, returning to Polk county to spend the last years of his life with his son, in Fertile, where his death occurred in 1901, in his eighty-second year. Two sons, William O. Gaylord and Henry L. Gaylord, are both residents of Minnesota, the former being a farmer in Beltrami county, having formerly been an employee in the courthouse at Minneapolis.

H. L. Gaylord came to Crookston as a young man of twenty years and as his first business venture, secured a contract with the Great Northern railroad for cutting cord wood, supplying them with some five hundred cords for engine use. The proceeds from his work enabled him to purchase a yoke of oxen and establish his farming activities and in 1882 he located on a homestead in Liberty township, where he was one of the first settlers, Pat Connery and Christian Sankey being the only previous residents, the latter having been the first to file on a claim in that township. Mr. Gaylord built a log house for his family and spent six prosperous years on the place, during which he erected good buildings and put one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation and stocked his farm with a large herd of cattle. But ambition directed his attention to other fields. The goal which his childhood’s wishes had fixed for his manhood’s career was the practice of law and native determination and industry brought him victory over the restricted advantages and seemingly discouraging circumstances which attended his desire. During the years spent on the farm he secured law books from John Bottineau of Minneapolis and through his own efforts fitted himself for admittance to the bar and for practice in all the courts. During the earlier years of his life this latent ambition and ability had led his instigation of the organization of a number of debating societies in private homes and school houses and such a club was started by him in Fertile. Mr. Gaylord is notably associated with the history of Fertile, as the man who had charge of the sale of the lots when the townsite was put on the market in 1888. The town was laid out by J. B. Holmes, of Minneapolis, who then sold the site to James M. Payne, a townsite owner of Carlton, Minnesota, and Mr. Gaylord was made the local agent. In the first week fifty lots were sold. The first building was erected by John LaDue, who removed his store from the old town of Fertile which he had started some years previous, about a mile south, and Fritz Barholz also moved his hotel to the present site of the Fertile House. Other pioneer merchants were A. L. Middleton, Orpheim & Nelson and Mr. Gilmore. The law and real estate office of Mr. Gaylord was the fourth building to be erected on Main street. Mr. Gaylord began the practice of law before the justice of peace, while still living on his farm and served as a justice of peace for fourteen years. From the experiences of the early days he recounts many amusing instances of legal procedure, among which was the granting of a decree of divorce by a justice of peace in Norman county, and recalls a case which he settled out of court by refusing a search warrant to a man who claimed that a sum of money had been taken from him in a saloon and instead searched the man, discovered the missing funds in the plaintiff’s shoes. His principal opponent in these days was Mr. J. Walsuff. Other members of the profession, who have since moved away, were Edward Titus, now an attorney at Minneapolis, and Thomas Keith. For twelve years, Mr. Gaylord was associated in his professional interests with Judge Watts, during which time Mr. Watts gave his attention to the business in Crookston and Mr. Gaylord remained in Fertile. They were easily recognized as among the most able in this section and stood at the head of the profession in their activities in the courts, having as many as eighty-five cases on the calendar for one term. They engaged in numerous criminal cases and always successfully established their retainers’ cause. The association was dissolved upon the election of Mr. Watts as judge and Mr. Gaylord has since continued the practice of law in the office which he opened in Fertile in 1893. A number of the important cases in which he has been interested have involved disputed titles to land and his practice has included cases in