old. He passed the next four years with his uncle, Jacob Croy, who is now eighty-two years of age.

When the father married again at the end of this four years Joseph returned to the family and remained with it until he reached the age of twenty-one. He then worked a year on a railroad grading and hauling, and the next year rented a farm. After he sold his crop on this farm he went to Buffalo county, South Dakota, and took up a pre-emption claim on the Missouri river, 75 miles west of Mitchell. He lived on this claim three years and then rented it three years while he visited the Black Hills and other parts of the land.

On June 14, 1893, Mr. Croy came to Crookston, and in the fall of 1894 he bought twenty acres of stump land with all the timber cut off except about sixty cords of wood, paying $575 for this purchase and going in debt $200 to make it. The land had a little log house on it and he moved into this. He had four horses and an old wagon for his farm work and just enough furniture to start housekeeping in a very primitive way. Then he had a setback through a spell of sickness, the only one he has ever had in Minnesota. But he cut and sold his wood and got a few acres of his land cleared. He planted corn, tomatoes and other vegetables, and from that time on times have been easier and more prosperous for him. He bought additional land at different times at prices ranging from $30 to $101 an acre, and devoted his energies mainly to raising potatoes, onions and cabbage, which he sold to families at their homes, running a peddling rig seven or eight years.

In the course of time Mr. Croy owned eighty-two and a half acres and devoted nearly the whole tract to garden products, with some grain to vary his crops and keep his land in order, and one year he cleared $3,700 on this land, which he occupied and farmed for five years and a half. He then bought a part of his present home place and 34 acres of the old Murphy farm, paying $4,500 for the latter, and taking up his residence on it. He also bought the Murphy out lots, on two of which he now lives, the lots numbering eight, so that he now owns 68 acres and these eight lots inside the city limits of East Grand Forks, in addition to his other land, all of which is rented except the few acres which he cultivates himself.

Mr. Croy has raised 1,000 bushels of onions per acre and enormous crops of cabbage and potatoes. He is an intensive farmer and will be satisfied with nothing but the best possible results from his work. In 1911 he bought 60 acres of the Rinne farm just outside of the city limits, and this is also rented, but the place is farmed in the same way as his other land. In 1914 he raised 6,000 bushels of potatoes and in 1915 his average yield was 100 bushels to the acre. He has a good local market but had also shipped his products in carload lots to Duluth and realized $700 a car for them. His son John is emulating his bright example to advantage. This young man is eighteen years old now (1916), and he has made a record as a corn grower that is almost phenomenal, producing on a measured acre 117.58 bushels in the production of which he did all the work himself.

While Mr. Croy was living in Rhinehart township he served as a member of the school board, but he has refused all persuasions to become a member of the city council in East Grand Forks. He was married in Buffalo county, South Dakota, to Miss Anna Belle Stearns, a native of Wright county, Iowa, but living on a claim with her parents in South Dakota at the time of her marriage. They have five children, Maud Esther, John Arthur, Hannah May, Grace and Dorothy. Maud Esther obtained a high school education and followed a course of special instruction in Union Commercial College. John Arthur is in his third year in the Central High School, and the others are attending schools of lower grades, the intention of their parents being to give them all good educations. All the members of the family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church in Grand Forks, and Mr. Croy is a member of the Order of Modern Brotherhood. He has assisted an uncle and an aunt to become citizens of this country, and has been a liberal contributor to many worthy undertakings for the improvement of the various communities in which he has lived.