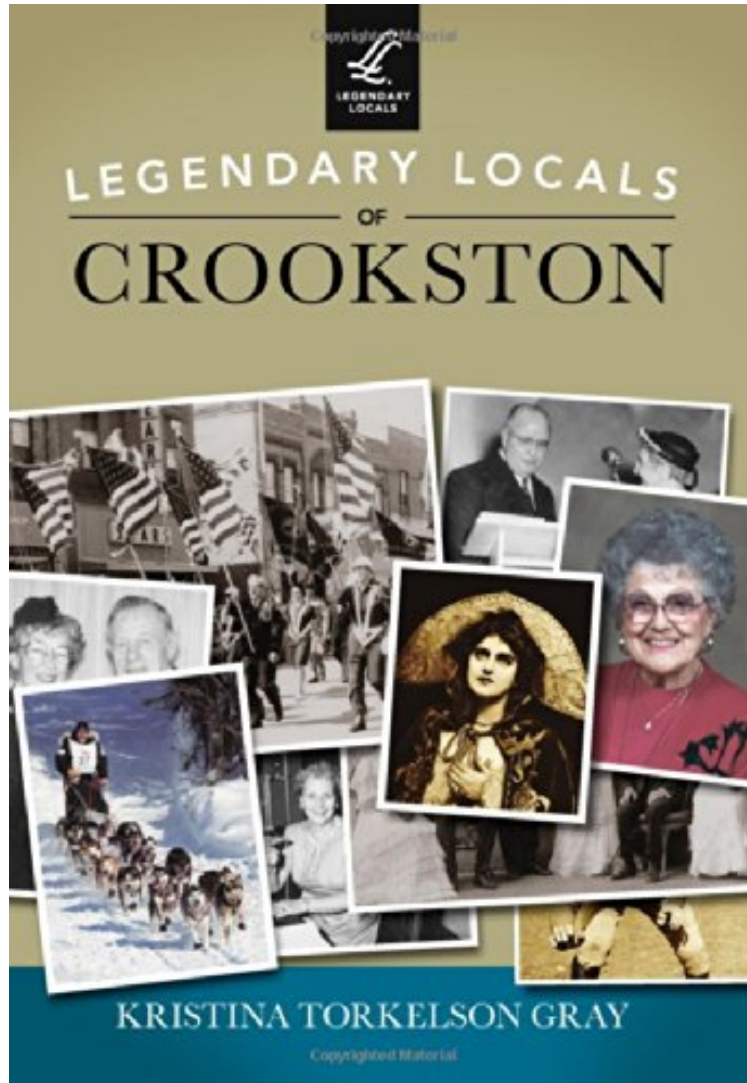


Legendary Locals of Crookston

Kristina Torkelson Gray

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Crookston is in the heart of the fertile Red River Valley. Railroad baron James J. Hill positioned the city to be a hub of

transportation, so Civil War veterans and railroad workers settled Crookston first. At Hills behest, a long tradition of learning how to farm smart started with the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1906. Facing a short growing season, farmers stayed close to the soil and invented better implements to harvest the areas bounty. The tradition of improving technology continues from the century-old practices begun at the Experiment Station. Currently, precision agriculture is taught at the University of Minnesota, Crookstons laptop university. Familiar family names from Crookstons retail sector have prevailed throughout the farmers cycle of boom and bust. Many other talented personalities shine through, especially those skilled in sports and music. Also included in this volume are unsung heroes for their acts of kindness and volunteerism.

About the Author Kristina Torkelson Gray and her husband, Dr. Ken Gray, live in a house built by Kristinas paternal grandfather on a century farm. Most of the source material is from archived Crookston Daily Times articles that faithfully preserve Crookstons news and history.