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Becker, John (1827 -)

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BECKER, JOHN

File No. B-82

John Becker was born in Germany in the year 1827. At the age of twenty-eight, in the year 1855 John, with his two brothers, migrated to America. They lived during the first year in the U. S. in the State of Indiana not far from the city of Chicago.

In 1856 John and his brothers came to Stearns county, Minnesota; they traveled by stagecoach and had a very tiring journey. After a few weeks in this new country each brother purchased about 160 acres of land west of the present village of Richmond. The area purchased is still known today as Becker Prairie.

In 1860 John married Susan Garding. Susan Garding, the daughter of Mathias and Margaret Garding, came to America in 1858 and lived in Wisconsin and later at Cold Spring, Minnesota.

John was a successful farmer and quite prosperous. He served as chairman of the Munson township Board for quite a number of years.

John died February 26, 1910 at the age of 83. His wife followed him in death a few years later.

To the union of John and Susan (Garding) Becker were born seven children; Gertrude, Valentine, Louise, Barbara and Mary (twins), Margaret and Nicholas. Valentine is the only surviving member. He is a capable auctioneer and nursery man; he was at one time an office holder of Munson township. At the age of nineteen he suffered the loss of his two hands in a sawmill, which his father operated on their farm. For a period of three years after the accident he was unable to perform work of any kind. After a period of courage, patience, and practice he was able, with the use of artificial hands, to care for himself and perform nearly every chore as well as a normal person. At the age of 73 he is

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still very active.

Interviewed: Valentine Becker
Date: April 27, 1938
By: Alexander Pallansch

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Interviewed in German