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Bosworth, William E. (1857 -)

Gilbert Bunt

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William E. Bosworth was born on November 22, 1857 in the state of Michigan. William is the son of William and Eliza J. (Colvin) Bosworth.

William Bosworth Senior was born February 8, 1807 in New York state where he grew to manhood. On July 20, 1836 William Bosworth Sr. married Eliza J. Colvin, of New York. In 1843 he moved to the state of Michigan where he remained until 1857. In February 1858 he brought his family to Saint Martin township Stearns County, Minnesota. He was the first permanent white settler in that township. On his first trip to that location he staked out a claim which he afterwards bought from the government.

Saint Paul, Minnesota was the chief market in those days when the Bosworths settled north of Sauk River in what is now Saint Martin township. The trip to Saint Paul and return, took about ten days, and the travelers had to camp out whenever night overtook them.

William Bosworth Sr. was one of the organizers of the township and the first organization meeting was held in his home. At this meeting he was elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and held this position for a number of years.

In 1861 Miss Brooks taught school in the home of William Sr. This school was supported chiefly by Mr. Bosworth. William Bosworth Sr. also held several other township offices.

To William Sr. and Eliza J. (Colvin) Bosworth were born seven children, Hannah M., she later became Mrs. Champlin; Mary E. married Mr. Staples; John N.; Charles C.; Lora A., married Mr. Macomber; Phoebe M., married Julius Payne; and William E.

On September 27, 1879 Eliza J. (Colven) Bosworth died in Maple Plain, Minnesota at the home of her daughter.

William E., son of the above mentioned pioneers, grew up on his

father's farm. His first schooling was received in his own home under the tutoress, Miss Brooks. At that time they had no school desks or other equipment which the child of today enjoys. A bench of rough logs was the school rooms' only furniture. The teacher did not have to have the education or training to teach in those days as they are now required to have. Mr. Bosworth says it was not unusual for an exceedingly bright student to know more than the teacher. He recalls that one time, after they started to attend a regular school house, someone wanted a free day so the mischievous pupil through some snuff on the stove which made everyone cough and sneeze, and the teacher was forced to dismiss the class.

Mr. William E. Bosworth explained that in the early pioneer days he and his bride-to-be worked on a farm for five years. He doing the plowing, field work, and the thrashing. His bride-to-be did the cooking and housework. In this way they secured a farm in St. Joseph township in sections 22 and 23.

When they first broke the land for farming the only tools they had to work with was an axe and a grub hoe. Their food consisted of dried field corn and corn flour. Wild game was plentiful but had to be gotten after a hard days work in the fields. Their only means of travel was by ox team and during the winter, when the snow was too deep for the oxen, it was necessary to walk fourteen miles into twon and bring back the needed supplies on a hand sled.

After William E. Bosworth and Mary E. Payne, his bride-to-be had worked for five years to earn their farm they were married in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. The ceremony was performed on May 22, 1882 by the Reverend E. V. Campbell, minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Mary E. Payne was the daughter of John and Mary E. (Staples) Payne.

BOSWORTH, WILLIAM E.

John Payne a pioneer of Stearns County was born in Hartford county Maryland, on December 22, 1826. He came to this county in 1855 and took a claim in St. Joseph township in section 22. Shortly after the close of the Civil War he moved to Saint Cloud where he engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors, and blinds. Later he moved his family to a farm located near the boundaries of St. Joseph and Rockville townships. As times prospered he enlarged this farm to four hundred acres. John Payne was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Rockville township and the first president of the Old Settler's Association of Stearns County. John Payne married Mary E. Staples in 1856. Mary E. was the daughter of Jacob C. and Elizabeth (Small) Staples.

Mary E. (Staples) Payne was a teacher before her marriage and for two years taught school in the old bakery at Watab, Benton County. At the time Mrs. Payne taught in this village it was on its way to being one of the most flourishing pioneer towns of the time.

John and Mary E. (Staples) Payne had seven children, Julius, married Phoebe Bosworth; Mary E., married William E. Bosworth; Frank S., married Nora B. Hadden; Martha E., married Freeman Davis; Henry H., married Hannah Docken; Edwin L., married Mary Alice O'Ryan; John e., married Amelia Minde, who died in 1899. John E. later married Ovedia Minde, a sister of his first wife.

Years later they sold the farm and came to Saint Cloud, where William E. Bosworth was employed for twenty-five years by the Great Northern Carshops. They purchased a home at 510 Eighth Avenue South where they still live.

William E. and Mary E. (Payne) Bosworth have three children, Edna M., born in 1884; Ella L., born in 1887; and Otis W., born in 1893.

INTERVIEWED: William E. Bosworth
Date: June 11, 1936
By: Gilbert Bunt

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on June 26, 1860 -- by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Marion

Page No. 59

Line 22

William Bosworth,

Age 55;

Occupation,

Farmer ;

Value of Real Estate,

\$800;

Value of Personal Estate,

\$400;

Birth Place,

New York.

Line 23

Elizabeth Bosworth,

Age 42;

Birth Place,

New York.

Line 24

Mary Bosworth,

Age 18;

Birth Place,

New York.

Line 25

Nelson Bosworth,

Age 13;

Birth Place,

Michigan.

Line 26

Charles Bosworth,

Age 11;

Birth Place,

Michigan.

Line 27

Lora Bosworth,

Age 6;

Birth Place,

Michigan.

Line 28

Feebee Bosworth,

Age 4;

Birth Place,

Michigan.

Line 29

William Bosworth,

Age 3;

Birth Place

Michigan.

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on June 16, 1860, by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Clinton

Page 36

John Payne	Age 27
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Birth Place	Maryland
Mary Payne	Age 22
Sex	Female
Birth Place	Maine
Julius Payne	Age 3
Sex	Male
Birth Place	Minnesota
Mary E. Payne	Age 1
Sex	Female
Birth Place	Minnesota

LEGAL RECORDS TAKEN FROM THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

FOR WILLIAM BOSWORTH BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK I PAGE 488

Frank S. Payne and Nora B. Hadden, married at Rockville,
March 16, 1886

by: Rev. J. W. Hargrave

Witnesses: John Payne
Mary E. Payne

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK N PAGE 142

Henry H. Payne and Hannah Docken, married at St. Cloud,
February 8, 1893

By: Rev. E. V. Campbell

Witnesses: J. C. Payne
F. E. Davis

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK P PAGE 7521

John E. Payne and Amelia Minde, married at Rockville
May 17, 1898

by: Rev. E. V. Campbell

Witnesses: Ovedia Minde

Albert O. Minde

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1899 A 9 Page 143-Line 2

Amelia Payne, died Mar. 13, 1899 age 24, yrs. 11 mo. 26 days

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK G PAGE 341

William E. Bosworth and Mary Eliz. Payne, married at Rockville
March 14, 1882,

by Rev. E. V. Campbell

Witnesses: Edwin H. Staples

B. F. Staples

BOSWORTH, WILLIAM E.

FILE NO. _____

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information(~~in-biography~~)as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Courthouse.

CORRECTION

Marriage of William Bosworth and Mary E. Payne, March 14,1882 at Rockville is correct as stated in the legal records.

Julius Payne

by: Walter Jernberg

Dec. 22,1937