

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

7-15-1937

Braaten, Rier (1861 -)

Dorothy Hansmann

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio>

Recommended Citation

Hansmann, Dorothy, "Braaten, Rier (1861 -)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 142.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/142>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at The Repository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in WPA Biographic Summaries by an authorized administrator of The Repository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu.

BRAATEN, RIER (Sometimes Liabraaten)

FILE No. B-146

Rier Braaten was born in Konigsburg, Norway in 1861.

In 1881 he married Isobel Thorson and the same year secured a contract with the Northern Pacific railroad to board the grading crew which was building their new road. These graders were a rough lot. One night after filling up on liquor they raided the boarding house. Seven times they drove Braaten out but he came back and fought for possession of his property until the drunken mob grew tired and went away.

In 1882 Rier Braaten decided to move but his wife preferred to remain. Attempting to induce her to change her mind, Braaten mapped out a peculiar plan of action which eventually cost him quite a sum of money. He thought, that, if he could prejudice his wife against the neighbors she would consent to move. To bringt this about he resorted to various depredations upon his own property and blamed his neighbors. At times his friends came to remain overnight with him in order to catch the culprits but always without results. Finally one man became suspicious and hired a private detective who discovered Rier Braaten's subterfuges. The family eventually moved to Thief River Falls where Rier Braaten died.

Brooten village was named for Reir Braaten by virtue of the fact that he owned the land upon which the town is located.

Copied from Brooten Review of Oct. 7, 1926
By: Dorothy Hansmann
Date: July 15, 1937

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COUTY HOUSE

FROM THE RIER BRAATEN BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE