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Brennan, Mary Ann (Siscely) (1856 -)

Virgil Chirhart

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BRENNAN, MARY ANN (Siscely)

File No. B-156

Mrs. Mary Ann Brennan was born January 25, 1856 in Canada near Toronto, her parents name was Siscely.

In 1857 they came to the United States settling at Saint Paul. They lived there for two years, then moved to Saint Cloud.

The first school Mary attended was a small school located in lower town, a Miss Spaulding was her first teacher. Mary Ann Siscely attended the primary grade there, then she attended Saint Mary's School for a few years. Her parents moved to Foley where she finished school at the age of fifteen years.

In October 1883 she was married to George Brennan a native of Foley. Father Wilkins performed the ceremony in Saint John's Church at Foley.

George Brennan was a carpenter.

The Brennans have three children Francis, Charles, and Bert.

During the Indian uprising in Crow Wing County the Indians burned houses and barns. Mrs. Brennan's father was sent there to rebuild the buildings and during this trip north, Mrs. Brennan remembers seeing Father Francis Pierz.

She tells of a fight between two Indians over a squaw although only five years old at the time, she clearly remembers her father, a typical Irishman, rushed in and disarmed both Indians.

Around 1862 the Indians of southern Minnesota rose up against the whites. People from Saint Cloud and surrounding territory took shelter in buildings in the city. However the Indians were stopped around Paynesville.

She witnessed the tornado of 1886 from a distance of eight miles. She states that you could see boards and debris spinning high in the air. The low roar of the twister was clearly heard and you could feel the

BRENNAN, MARY ANN (SISCELY)

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vibration of the air.

In her childhood days the leading merchants were Hepner and Peterson, located near the present site of Fandel's Store. George Heinen had a store near the old jail.

Around 1900 a second cyclone hit Saint Cloud doing only slight damage, at the time she was in the ball park and when some one yelled "cyclone" she never saw a crowd move so swiftly. She stated that one man fired a gun at the twister.

Mrs. Brennan has thirteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She is at present living alone in the village of Waite Park. George Brennan died April 1, 1935.

Interviewed: Mrs. Mary Ann Brennan
Date: May 7, 1936
By: Virgil Chirhart

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE MARY ANN (SISCELY) BRENNAN BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK 2PAGE 4 LINE 76

George W. Brennan Born October 4, 1852 in Canada

Son of William Brennan and Mary(Burns) Brennan

Died April 1, 1935

Age 82 years 5 months and 27 days