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### Brown, Eliza Rooney (1854 - 1936)

Dorothy Hansmann

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BROWN, ELIZA (ROONEY)

File No. B-171

Eliza (Rooney) was born in the Gatineau River district in Ontario, Canada in the year 1854, a daughter of Patrick and Eleanor (Tracy) Rooney. As a little girl she saw her father, a lumber contractor, clear the timber for their home on what is today a part of the city of Ottawa.

In 1862 Patrick and Eleanor (Tracy) Rooney migrated to Minnesota by ox team, taking up a homestead in Raymond township, Stearns county. The Padua church of today is located on part of this original homestead and she herself planted some of the trees that adorn the church yard.. The old Red River Trail passed their home and here the young lady for years, saw the ox-teams, freight laden, plod their weary way toward the Red River Valley and the Dakotas.

On September 10, 1872 Eliza Rooney was married to John A. Brown, a young man who had seen service on Mississippi River packets, transporting supplies for the union soldiers during the Civil War. The young couple settled on what is now known as the "Old Brown Farm" fourteen miles south of Sauk Centre. On this farm ten children were born. They are John A. Jr. who died in 1925; William A.; Henry H.; George F.; Thomas A.; Emily; Mrs. R. B. Kinsella; Mrs. Walter E. Benson; Mrs. R. J. Malloy; and Mrs. T. W. Hughes.

Eliza (Rooney) Brown's life might stand out as a beacon light to people of successive generations, to those who know only the trials of their own times. It was her pioneer spirit, the spirit of the ox-team and covered wagon days, that prompted her to carry on, when in 1893 her husband died, leaving her with ten small children, the oldest eighteen and the youngest two years old, with their living to made from the farm.

BROWN, ELIZA (ROONEY)

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Eliza Brown went into the fields with her boys and carved out for her family their living and education. Eliza Brown carried on doing a man's work on the farm, driving a team of horses fourteen miles to Sauk Centre each week to do her shopping, doing a mother's work in her home, raising a family. She was of the Catholic faith.

The last few years Eliza Brown made her home with her children in Sauk Centre. She died August 15, 1936 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Robert Malloy.

Interviewed: Mary Rooney  
Date: September 3, 1936  
By: Dorothy Hansmann

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
FOR THE ELIZA (ROONEY) BROWN BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. George F. Brown	Aug. 24, 1878	Raymond township	John Brown	
2. Thomas A. Brown	July 8, 1884	" "	" "	
3. William Brown	Oct. 1, 1876	" "	" "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Elizabeth Brown		A	325	17	
2. Elizabeth Brown		A	625	20	
3. Elizabeth Brown		A	239	7	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK D. PAGE 281

John Brown and Elizabeth Rooney

Married September 10, 1872

By: Rev. P. M. Stukuekuapu

Witnesses: John Grady and Margurette Kalkman

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE ELIZA (ROONEY) BROWN BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Eline Brown	June 21, 1873	North Fork Twp.	John A. Brown	
2. Thomas P. Brown	Nov. 26, 1874	" " "	" " "	
3. George F. Brown	Aug. 4, 1878	Raymond	" " "	
4. Mary Ann Brown	May 7, 1882	"	" " "	
5. Thomas Brown	Jan. 8, 1884	"	" " "	
6. Joseph Brown	Nov. 7, 1885	"	" " "	
7. Baby Brown	Feb. 5, 1888	"	" " "	49

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Elizabeth Rooney		A	115	20	
2. " "		A	153	19	
3. " "		A	325	17	
4. " "		A	511	26	
5. " "		A	625	20	
6. " "		B	28	4	
7. " "	33	B	121	22	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK D. PAGE 281

John Brown and Elizabeth Rooney

Married at New Munich, September 10, 1872

By: Rev. P. M. Stu Ken Kemper

Witnesses: James Graidy and Margaret Kalkman

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DEATH RECORD BOOK 1893 A 3 PAGE 128 LINE 1

John A. Brown Died August 20, 1893

Age 54 years 8 months and 13 days

Son of Thomas and Sarah Brown