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Ganzer, Steven (1857 - 1928)

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GANZER, STEVEN

File No. B-409

Steven Ganzer was born June 27, 1857 in Baumhacken Bai Mien, Austria, the son of Nick Ganzer and Rose (Danith) Ganzer.

Steven received his schooling in Austria helping his folks with the farm work until the age of fourteen years.

Steven's Brother stayed home with the folks to help with the work. In those days that was their rule; one son would have to stay home while the other son went out to learn a trade.

Steven went to a neighboring town to learn the harness trade. Stevens master was a very wealthy man with a beautiful home and family. Steven had to help with all the work, he never ate at the table with the family always by himself alone, and one day the land-lord had company at the house and so Steven was even forgotten at meal time. He went with out food that day.

When ever the land-lord and wife went away, Steven would have to take care of the children but always was left with lots of work to do besides. Many times he stripped geese feathers to be used in pillows. Steven at times would be so disgusted he would grab a handful and go outside and let the wind blow away the feathers.

Steven would be home-sick and want to go home but his folks were very strict also, so he would make up his mind to stay a little longer. He remained at this place three years, as it required that length of time to study the trade thoroughly.

After the expiration of his apprenticeship Steven came back home and was drafted to join the Army in Austria. Steven drilled for 3 months, and later hauled amunition to the front furnishing his own

horses. He asked his father for the use of his horses, and secured them on the condition, that the horses be well fed. On some of Stevens routes in delivering amunition to the front there was very little feed and one time he seen a hay stack in the field. Steven was busy pulling hay out of the stack when two (Gendarmes) in American called officers were standing in back of him. Steven reached in his pocket and gave them money which was about 75¢ in American money. The Gendarmes took the money and left him go free. Water was also hard to get, as some of the wells were poisoned. Steven lost many an hour of sleep at night worrying about his horses. At the end of the year when his time was up and Steven was to come home his horses were nice and fat.

Steven was supposed to reenlist but not wishing to do so, sailed for America.

He came across on a sail-boat and was on the water fourteen days. The voyage was rough and Steven became quite sick but landed here without any mishap/

Steven came direct to Minnesota, and settled at Sauk Centre where he engaged in the harness trade. From Sauk Centre he moved to St. Martin and started a harness shop there. During this time his father who was still living in Austria wrote Steven asking him to come back home to run the farm. Steven's brother and sister had both died and Steven had to dissappoint his father. Steven Ganzer married Elizabeth Schlener on the 8th day of September 1885.

Elizabeth (Schlener) Ganzer was the daughter of George Schlener and Mary (Holces) Schlener. The attendances at the marriage ceremony were Math Kahl and Mary Buscher, Rev. Father Placatius officated.

To this union four children were born, Mary, Jacob, Rose and Gertrude. All were born at St. Martin.

Steven and family lived at St. Martin eleven years. Then moved their harness shop to Richmond in the year 1896. Steven worked very hard day and night as all the harness was made by hand those days and business was very good.

Steven was councilman for several years at St. Martin, but on coming to Richmond wouldn't except an office as he was always kept too busy with his work.

Steven worked in this shop until the time of death, on the 25th of June, 1928. He, is buried in the St. Peter and Paul cemetery at Richmond, Minnesota.

His wife Elizabeth is still living in the home place at Richmond.

There are eight grandchildren which are lots of comfort and pleasure to Mrs. Steven Ganzer in her olden days.

Interviewed: Mrs. Steven Ganzer
Date: August 17, 1938
By: Alexander Pallansch

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