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Kells, Lucas (1841 - 1933)

Melba Peterson

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Lucas Kells was the fourth child of a family of twelve children.

He was born on September 8, 1841 in Cairo, Green County, New York.

In 1848, he moved with his parents to Waukesha County, Wisconsin. They took a boat at Catskill, New York, and traveled via the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes. In Wisconsin he learned the trade of harness maker at which he was employed until August 20, 1862 when he enlisted in Company F. of the Twenty-Eight Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served during the Civil War and was mustered out at Brownsville, Texas, on August 23, 1865. Most of his services were along the Mississippi River from Vicksburg to the south. He then returned to Wisconsin, the trip taking twenty-three days.

In the fall of 1865, he moved to Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Here he opened a general store and engaged in the harness business. Later he opened an express office and handled goods for non-residents.

In September of 1880, he formed a partnership with Solomon Pendergast. Together they founded a bank which was known as the "Bank of Sauk Centre." It was then the only bank between Saint Cloud, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. It finally became "The First State Bank."

On January 1, 1872 Lucas Kells married Martha Braymann of New York State. They had three children. They are Mabel (Mrs. Horace Alden), Blanche, and Laurel L. Kells, an attorney, of Sauk Centre. Mrs. Martha (Braymann) Kells died April 4, 1926 at Montrose, California.

In 1890, with William E. Lee, Lucas started the Bank of Sauk Centre which is still functioning.

During his life in Sauk Centre he held most of the municipal offices at one time or another. He was a member of the Board of Education for several years. He was a charter member of Star in West Lodge No. 60 A. F. and A. M.; Sauk Centre Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Sauk Centre.

He served as Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge. He held his membership in Star in the West Lodge at the time of his death.

He went to Hollywood, California in 1912 where he and his family lived at the time of his death. He died April 11, 1933.

During his services as a soldier he was placed on special detail at Little Rock, Arkansas, in charge of the divisional harness shop, as he was an expert harness maker. He received \$16 per month and the twenty civilians working under him received \$150 per month.

Interviewed: Robert Kells
Date: October 9, 1936
By: Melba Peterson

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE LUCAS KELLS BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Edith Kells	Oct. 8, 1874	Sauk Centre	Lucas Kells	
2. Blanche Kells	May 24, 1878	" "	" "	
3. Laurel Kells	Mar. 23, 1883	" "	" "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Martha Brayman		A	163	35	
2. " "		A	327	18	
3. " "		A	579	38	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK D. PAGE 174

Lucas Kells and Martha Brayman

Married at Sauk Centre on January 1st, 1872

By: Rev. A. J. Pike

Witnesses: Eva Wright and E. C. Wright