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Kimball, James M. (1825 - 1902)

Tresa Gruber

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James M. Kimball, for whom the village of Kimball was named, was one of the very earliest settlers in Maine Prairie township, his homestead being the quarter section of land lying one-half mile north of the village, bordering on the St. Cloud highway. Here Mr. and Mrs. Kimball resided until their passing on, admired and respected by their neighbors for their many sterling qualities as citizens and friends.

They were blessed with a family of six children, all of whom were school-mates of the writer in the old school house on the corner of their farm. The two eldest daughters, Laura and Nellie, later became teachers and both taught in that school. The other two daughters, Celia and Blanche, and the boys, James and John, also grew to maturity on that farm.

About the year 1859, just after Minnesota became a state, Mr. Kimball and his brother-in-law, John Dolan, were looking for hay to cut down on Willow Creek. At that time the old Forest City trail passed thru the present town-site about one block east of Main Street, as I remember it, and this was the road they followed. At that time the Chippewa and Sioux were fighting most of the time to keep control of the territory for many miles north and south along that trail, and had been in a battle a short time before Mr. Kimball and son started looking for hay.

In the woods and brush at the foot of the hill and north of the present railroad tracks they ran into an encampment of Sioux who were resting after the battle. They had a stockade of poles set up and some pits dug for hiding places in case of an attack.

Mr. Kimball told about it afterward and said he lost all interest in hay and said he went away from there when he discovered a lot of scalps hanging on a pole to dry. Three years later the Sioux went on the war-path against the white in earnest, but no settlers were bothered at the time mentioned by Mr. Kimball.

R. F. K.

Copied from Tri-County Messenger
Of Kimball, Minnesota
Date: Sept. 23, 1938

Date issued: Oct. 1, 1936

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated July 12, 1860 By-- C. Grandelemeyer

Post Office --- Fair Haven

Page No ---- 84

JamesKimble (James Kimball)

Age 35

Sex

Male

Occupation

Farmer

Born

Maine

KIMBALL, JAMES M.

File No. B-676

James M. Kimball, born about 1822; died in Kimball, Stearns county, Minnesota August 5, 1902. He was the original settler at Kimball Prairie, and the village is named for him.

Copied from: Minnesota Biographies Page 402

m Date Copied: March 9, 1938

Copied by: Tresa Gruber

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated July 12, 1860 By-- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Fair Haven

Page No. 82

James Kimble	(James Kimball)	Age 35
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Sex	Male
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Occupation	Farmer
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Born	Maine
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KIMBALL, JAMES M.

File No. B-677

James M. Kimball was born in Summersett county, Maine, in 1825. In 1846 he moved to Wisconsin and engaged in the lumber business. He came to and settled in that part of Maine Prairie called Kimball Prairie, in July, 1856, and took up the claim that he has resided on ever since. He married Miss Margeret Dolan. Mr. Kimball has been a successful farmer, attending strictly to his business, and operating his farm in an intelligent manner.

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated July 12, 1860 By -- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Fair Haven

Page No. 84

James Kimble (James, Kimball

Age 35

Sex

Male

Occupation

Farmer

Born

Maine

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE JAMES M. KIMBALL BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE