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Kolling, Mathias (1857 -)

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KOLLING, MATHIAS

File No. B-717

Mathias Kolling was born near the village of Richmond, November 10, 1857, the son of Adam and Anna Marie (Lauer) Kolling.

Adam and Anna (Lauer) Kolling were parents of eleven children, Peter, Nicholous, John, Mathias, Henry, Christopher, Anton, Joseph, Margaret, Barbara and Katherine.

Mathias folks lived in Lake county, Indiana, later moving west to this Richmond, which was then still prairie and woods. They built a log cabin house on a piece of land for which they paid sixteen dollars. Four oxen were used to till the soil, and they also had a cow which was something very new to the other settlers.

When the Indians were hostile Mathias remembers when his father put all the children on the wagon and with two oxen drove to St. Cloud to keep them from harm. There were no roads so they drove through a meadow near Koettters farm where the oxen got stuck and they had to run about two miles for help. He also remembers when the Indians came begging for bread.

Mathias went to the village school with his brothers and sisters, they walked two and one-half miles each way, one day Mathias and his brother and sister were on their way when they saw three Indians coming their way. They were to frightened to go on but the Indians now being on more friendly terms walked away, and motioned them to go on as they had seen they were afraid to pass them.

Later Mathias attended the District school close to home. Mathias was baptized in the old Buemel house near the village of Richmond. In his earlier days he helped his folks on the farm. He also helped build the Great Northern Railroad through Richmond.

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In the year of 1881 the 31st of May he married Elizabeth Blasius of this township, they have had no children.

Mathias was on the town board for twenty-five years, and also a school board member for a number of years. His wife died November 12, 1914. She is buried on the St. Peter and Paul Cemetery at Richmond. Mathias moved to town in the year 1915 and retired.

Interviewed: Mathias Kolling
Date: May 12, 1938
By: Alexander Pallansch

Publication Granted

Interviewed in German