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### Koop, J.W. (1855 - 1936) and Peter Loso (1823 - 1877)

R. Parker

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KOOP - J. W. and Peter Loso of Brainerd and St. Joseph.

File no. B-721  
Given by Mrs. J. W. Koop  
Recorded by R. Parker  
October 1936

The parents, of the Koop brothers, were William and Susan Koop, native Germans who lived at Nyderstrum, Germany, near Berlin. After the father died, the mother (Susan Koop) came to America and lived with her sons until her death in 1911. She was in poor health for several years, got about in an invalid chair.

J. W. Koop, the second oldest son, was born in Hanover Germany, February 8, 1855; came to America at the age of sixteen, located at St. Joseph, Minnesota, where he was employed by Joseph H. Linneman, who later moved his store to Brainerd. They had a flour mill, as they also had branch stores at New Munich, and Sauk Rapids. He worked for them until he came to Brainerd in 1881. He married Mary A. Loso of St. Joe, Minnesota, October 4, 1881.

She was the daughter of Peter Loso, who was one of the first settlers in St. Joe and arrived there six months before the Linnemans came. At first they lived on a little homestead near St. Joe and bought a flour mill; ran it for two years, then moved into St. Joe proper and started the hotel Washington and operated by the father, Peter Loso. He lived there until he died, at the age of fifty years.

The Losos had four sons and three daughters:

- Martin -----born April 23, 1860. Died May 29, 1932.  
He continued to run the hotel, also had a saloon in connection. Later he sold his interests in the hotel to his brother Mike. Then he went into the general store business with Joe Linneman as partner (the son of old Pa Linneman). Later Martin bought the Linneman share and the store is still going good. Art Loso, son of Martin is the owner. His wife, Mary Horsch Loso died September 24, 1929.
- Frank-----was in the Post Office at St. Joe for about thirty years, delivery service. Had a wife and four children. They still live at St. Joe. Frank died several years ago.
- Kate-----married Ben Aschenbremer and they have seven children. They live at St. Joe.
- Maggy-----another daughter, married J. W. Lewis, and resides at Staples, Minnesota.
- Mike-----born April 28, 1864; died June 20, 1933.  
Leaves a wife and six children.
- Peter Jr.-----also a son, died at the age of fifty; worked in a general store owned by J. W. Lewis at Staples.
- Mary-----came to Brainerd a bride of a year and a half.

Mr. Koop, her husband, worked for his brother, Henry J. Koop, before she arrived. This was in 1881. A few years later, he and his brother, Severn, purchased the stock and fixtures and operated the store under the name of S. and J. W. Koop until May 1901. Then he operated the store under his own name, until 1908, when he organized the Koop Mercantile Company. Having stores in Brainerd, Crosby and Riverton. He took a prominent part in the development of Brainerd and Cuyuna range,--from its pioneer days and was known throughout the state.

He retired from active business in 1923, but continued to hold his large real-estate holdings. Went to his office every day, until his death April 8, 1936 at his home 323, North 8th Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Koop have five sons and two daughters; four sons are dead.

Mr. Koop's two brothers, Henry and Severn, died several years ago, here in Brainerd. J. Herman Koop survives and lives at Topeka, Kansas with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Koop celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, Sunday, October 4, 1931, at their home in Brainerd.



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