WPA Biographic Summaries                                            University Archives

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# Kraemer, Mathias E. (1859 - )

Dean Nelson

Mathias E. Kraemer was born Ochen, Germany, May 18, 1859, son of William and Mary Kraemer.

William Kraemer was engaged in farming in Germany. In 1863 William sold his farm and brought his family to America. William settled in Scott County, Minnesota near the town of Jordan. Mathias attended school at Jordan. At the termination of his second year his father, William, moved to Fair Haven township, Stearns County, Minnesota.

William Kraemer purchased eighty acres of Railway land and it was solid standing timber. There immediately arose the necessity of some sort of dwelling place so William cut down the surrounding trees and erected a cabin. It was a very simple affair consisting of only logs and had slab wood for a roof. There was no floor and the logs were not plastered. William Kraemer and family lived in this abode for three years and Mathias stated,"Many times we have been awakened at night by the rain or snow coming through the cracks in the roof. It was so cold in winter that we always woke up with frost on our blankets."

Mathias Kraemer attended school in Saint Augusta township. He relates further,"Our schoolhouse consisted of the kitchen of one of the farm homes. We always walked three miles to school and our only shoes in winter were wooden ones my father made from logs."

"Two of our teachers were farmers near by and we had school when they weren't too busy with their farm work. My first teacher was Andrew Meyers and I can remember him because of his dog that he invariably brought to school each day. The other two teachers were Anton Casting and Mr. Engelberg. For a book case in our school we used a dish cupboard that was in the kitchen or correctly stating,'our schoolroom!"

After several years of school Mathias Kraemer helped his father farm and erect more adaptable and sturdy buildings on the farm.

October 3, 1881 Mathias Kraemer married Mary Wink at Saint Augusta.

Mary (Wink) Kraemer was born in Saint Louis, Missouri, September 14, 1859, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christ Wink. She received her education in Saint Louis and spent her early life there.

As a young lady she came to Saint Augusta with her parents, where she met and married Mathias Kraemer.

After his marriage Mathias Kraemer purchased a small farm in Saint Augusta which he managed successfully and enlarged upon until he had the substantial sum of two hundred and seventy acres. On this large portion of land he toiled profitably until the World War.

Mathias decided to retire and as soon as the war was over he came to Saint Cloud and purchased a home at 609 9th Avenue South, where he and his wife are now residing.

His two sons, Christ and Frank took the management of the home farm.

To Mathias and Mary (Wink) Kraemer were born five children, William deceased, Anna Kraemer, Christ, Fred, Frank, and one adopted daughter Florence (Kraemer) Neutzling. There are twenty grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mathias Kraemer says that he prefers to have times the way they were years ago. He said he hauled over a thousand cords of wood to Saint Cloud by ox team and always made money, but today he wouldn't be able to do that.