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### Miller, John G. (1870 - )

Alexander Pallansch

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MILLER, JOHN G.

File No. B-899

John G. Miller was born July 3, 1870 in Richmond township, six miles West of Richmond, the son of John and Elizabeth (Osendorf) Miller who were both natives of Kollen Rhine, Germany.

John Miller in his early childhood received his schooling in Germany. He worked at various trades and in an early age was supposed to join the military army, but with friends that helped him he made his escape and sailed for America.

His trip was made by sailboat and with the weather being rough and windy they were on the ocean sixty-five days.

John landed in New York and came to St. Paul by train and from St. Paul to Stearns county with a team of oxen.

John took a homestead on which his only son and child named John G. Miller still lives.

John married Elizabeth Ossendorf and to this union one child named John G. Miller was born.

When John's father made the claim for the homestead he built a house of logs in the year 1847, the farming was done by oxen. John also made some of his own machinery for there was no money to buy them with.

John Sr. was a shoe maker by trade, and people would come with sacks full of shoes to be fixed. John also served with and trained the soldiers. Their training camp was on the prairie which in later years was known as the old Buimel farm, near Richmond.

The son John Jr. remembers many stories his father told about the Indians. They camped around their place and hunted wild game and animals skinning and roasting them all at one time. John's father was standing

close by one day and was watching them when they motioned him to come over and help eat. John had an awful time to chew the meat it was quite tough and not being able to chew it he gave it to his dog. The Indians laughed and thought him a tenderfoot as the Indians have strong teeth and chewed the food in just a few minutes. They also brought meat to the house and exchanged it for bread and salt.

If one out of the tribe of Indians would die they would bury them right on their camping grounds and all their jewels, bow and arrows possessions, even his dog if he had one, would be buried with him. Their belief was the warrier would find another happy hunting ground, so he should have all his possessions with him.

There were no villages when John came to Richmond, just a small store and a building or so. The store was on the south side of the Sauk river bridge in later years known as the Henry Hoefer farm. John bought a clock at this store and it is in his son John G. possession and is in still good running order.

John G. Miller Jr. had received schooling in an old log school near Farming, his teachers were Henry Meyer, Lucas Lembeck, and Henry Weber.

He helped his folks on the farm and worked at various jobs, such as hauling brick and lumber from Richmond to Farming to build the new Farming church.

John G. Miller married Margaret Becker in the old Farming church on July 2, 1895. The attendance at the ceremony were Joe and Henry Osendorf uncles of the groom, and Caroline Becker and Elizabeth Ossendorf. Rev. Father Vincent was pastor officiating at the services.



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To this union four children were born John Jr. Katherine, Christina, and Caroline deceased/

John G. and Margaret after their marriage lived on the old homestead, his folks making their home with them till their death.

The old log house in later years was torn down and rebuilt. John G. used most of the good logs for this home and they are still living in this home today.

Those days doctors were quite scarce, and one would have to drive miles to see one. The priests which were in different sections would have medicine and would help all they could until the doctors or other help could be had/

John G. himself was sick with no doctor to be had when a priest happened to come along and helped him to recover by using old herbs and roots that grew in their yard. John G. remembers when the railroad was built. He and his father traveled to St. Cloud to get flour, the horses getting scared of the big scrapers that were used to build this railroad

John G. worked for Swift and Company at south St. Paul for 16 years he was pensioned and now receives old age pension also.

He still lives in the old home and at this writing his wife and John G. are in good health.

Interviewed: John G. Miller  
Date: June 20, 1938  
By: Alexander Pallansch

Publication Granted

Interviewed in German

MILLER, JOHN G.

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

John G. Miller was born July 3, 1870 in Richmond township, about six miles west of the 1938 village of Richmond.

John was the son of John Senior and Elizabeth (Osendorf) Miller, both whom were natives of Kollen Rhine, Germany.

John Miller Senior received his education in Germany and in his youth worked at various trades. Due to the compulsory military training John with the aid of his friends left Germany and sailed for America. The trip was made in a sailing vessel and took 65 days.

John Senior landed at New York City and came directly to St. Paul, Minnesota. From St. Paul he came to Stearns County, Minnesota by ox team, where he homesteaded the farm upon which John Jr. now resides.

The first home of John Miller Senior was built of logs and his agricultural work was done with home made implements and oxen. In addition to farming John senior repaired shoes and help train the recruits from the surrounding territory. John Miller Senior also lived in close contact with the Indians and often remarked of the great number of wild game in these virgin forests.

One incident recalled by John Jr. was of a time when his father was invited to eat with the Indians. The meat was so tough he was unable to chew it so he tossed it to his dog. The Indians merely laughed and regarded the white man as a tenderfoot. Upon numerous occasions the Indians brought meat to the Miller home and exchanged it for bread and salt.

At the time when John Miller Senior settled in Richmond township the only store one could trade at was south of the Sauk River on the 1938



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Henry Hoefer farm. John bought a clock at this store and it is still in use in his son's home.

John Miller Jr. attended school in a log building near Farming and his teachers where: Henry Meyer, Lucas Lembeck and Henry Weber. As a young man he followed various trades.

John G. Miller married Margaret Becker July 2, 1895 at Farming township. Rev. Father Vincent officiated and the witnesses were Joseph and Henry Osendorf, Caroline Becker, and Elizabeth Osendorf.

To John G. and Margaret (Becker) Miller were born four children John, Katherine, Christina and Caroline, deceased.

John G. and Margaret Miller reside on the original homestead of John's father and recall the lack of doctors and priests in the early days, also the building of the railroad and how frightened the horses were of the machinery and engines.

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