

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

7-8-1938

Noll, John C. (1825 - 1904)

Alexander Pallansch

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio>

Recommended Citation

Pallansch, Alexander, "Noll, John C. (1825 - 1904)" (1938). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 933.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/933>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at The Repository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in WPA Biographic Summaries by an authorized administrator of The Repository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu.

NOLL, JOHN C.

File No. B-968

John C. Noll was born in Germany in the year 1825, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Noll.

John C. Noll spent his early years at school and helping his parents with the farm work.

The family being poor John C., and one of his sisters would go out into the woods and pick huckleberries which would help to fill their empty stomachs.

John C. Noll came to America in early manhood. He came across the ocean in a sailboat and it took him sixty days to cross, as the voyage was rough and windy.

John C. emigrated to Schalborough, Wisconsin, ^{where} he was employed for several years.

In the year 1856 John C. had his fiancée Anna Faust, come from Germany to this land and married her at Wisconsin that same year. She was born in the year 1830 in Germany.

After their marriage they came west and homesteaded. In later years this place where they were located, was given the town name of St. Martin.

To this union five children were born, Appolonia, Martin, Anna Marie, Mary and Joseph.

The children were all born at St. Martin.

Appolonia who is now widow of Theodore Ahman, remembers many stories her mother and father told them when they were small.

In July 1856 Appolonia's folks came to St. Martin to make their home. They cut trees and set them in earth at an angle, tied them together on top and piled hay and brush around them. They resembled the Indian huts,

and the Nolls lived in this hut till fall then they built a one room log hut with out any floor in it.

All farming was done by hand as they had no machinery.

In the year 1858 the Indians were very hostile. John C. and two other families were the only ones living in this settlement. When they heard the Indians were coming Anna (Faust) Noll was baking bread but all this made no difference, the bread was left to bake at random. John and his wife and child left for the fort which was in Richmond. John Told two neighbors and they traveled with them. After the women and children were taken care of the three men returned to their homes to watch at night for the Indians. The bread at John C. Cabin was still in the oven when she came home three days later.

John C. and the other men would laugh in later years about the three of them watching alone for the Indians, they could not have done much, but they had a lot of courage.

John C. and another man went to St. Paul with a team of oxen to get flour and provisions, they were on this trip four weeks. When John C. returned home the first thing he was told that his baby daughter who was one-half year old had taken ill and died.

One summer the sky was dark as a thunder storm, when this cloud came closer it was grasshoppers. They ate all the crops and laid their eggs, the following year the young ones ate every thing. There wasn't a green stalk to be seen. The third year the land was so rich the grain all laid on the ground, from full heads. This crop was much too hard to harvest and was the third lean year.

John C. Noll was drafted to help fight in the Civil war, but before it was time for him to leave the war had ended. He had his uniform and rifle all-ready waiting to be called any minute.

The Catholic priests were scattered so far apart in this country those days that it was very seldom the settlers could attend mass. The old Ley House at St. Martin which was then made of logs was used as a chapel when a priest happened to go by which was once every two months.

John C. helped build the old frame church at St. Martin and a number of years later also helped build the new St. Martin church.

The fourth of July was a grand celebration in those days, all friends met, had a friendly picnic and the proceeds went for the parish.

John C. Noll was county commissioner for a number of years.

John C. died at St. Martin and was buried there. His wife followed him in death in 1904. She also is buried at St. Martin.

Mrs. Theodore Ahman daughter of John C. Noll has many more interesting stories to tell she remembers also how the work was done as she helped tie the grain by hand. Her father stood in the water over his knees at haying time, cause they had to cut in swamps and along rivers so they had enough hay for winter.

Mrs. Theodore Ahman at this writing is seventy-five years old.

Interviewed: Mrs. Theodroe Ahman
Date: July 6, 1938
By: Alexander Pallansch

Publication Granted

Interviewed in German