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### Raden, John (1857 - )

Gilbert Bunt

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RADEN, JOHN

File No. B-1067

John Raden was born in Germany on the 11th day of May, 1857, son of John Peter and Catherine (Kreamer) Raden. John Peter Raden came to America in 1884. He homesteaded in Avon, Minnesota, where he lived until his death.

John Raden came to America five years before his father, in 1879, to escape the three years of forced army service in Germany. When John reached St. Cloud, he recalls that he was entirely without funds. He went to Mr. Theilman, who had a general store in St. Cloud and secured a loan, which was gladly given him, because Mr. Theilman had been a neighbor of his in Germany. John Raden then secured a position on the railroad, where he worked for twelve years. A depression caused a slack and he was discharged, so he started farming in Stearns County. He remained on this farm that was given to him by the state after the railroad failed to pay taxes on it. Later the railroad wanted this land back, and the matter went to court, and when the railroad won the decision John Raden had to vacate the land.

He then returned to St. Cloud, where he became manager of the Grand Union hotel, located on the corner of sixth Avenue and first street North. He operated this hotel for three years. After leaving the hotel, he became janitor of the Cathedral Church. He remained at this work for eighteen years.

John Raden was married October 12, 1883 to Mary Neirath, of Avon, Minnesota in the Catholic Church. Their attendants were Theodore Raden and Gertrude Bach. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Father Martin Schmitt.

John and Mary (Neirath) Raden had eight children: Peter in

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St. Paul, Minnesota; Catherine (Raden) Bruener in St. Paul, Minnesota; John died in 1918; Tillie (Raden) Sildner of Waite Park, died in 1918; Gertrude (Raden) Otto of Waite Park; Mary (Raden) Collins of St. Cloud, Minnesota; William of St. Cloud, Minnesota; Mathew died when three years old. John and Mary (Neirath) Raden have twenty-one grand children and one great grand child.

Interviewed: John Raden  
Date: September 15, 1936

By: Gilbert Bunt  
Publication Granted