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Rander, Peter (1859 - 1926)

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RANDER, PETER

File No. B-1072

Peter Rander was born near Stockholm, Sweden on November 26, 1859. He was the son of Jens Jepson. While in Sweden he worked in a flour mill. When he went to America he changed his name from Jepson to Rander, the name of the miller whom he had worked for. His brothers also changed their names, and not one of them kept the family name.

In 1879, Peter Rander came to America with his parents. They went to Little Sauk, Minnesota.

The next April he was married to Mary Olson, who had come to America in 1879, also. She was born in Aasvold, Norway, on October 10, 1850. She had been married to Nels Dutruemoen who had died in Norway. She had a seven year old son. His name was Anton and when she married Peter Rander she decided to give her son the name of Anton D. (for Dutruemoen) Olson (her father's name). She came to America a widow, bringing her son and fifteen year old sister with her. They came directly to Sauk Centre. Before her marriage to Mr. Rander she worked in the old Sauk Centre House. After leaving this work she stayed with her uncle, Peter Ericson, for a short time in Kandota township. While there she operated a boarding house for some of the men who were working on the **K Line**.

After his marriage, Mr. Rander worked in the Pangburn brickyards. He had to walk from Little Sauk to the brickyard each day. Many times he would carry a sack of flour or something back with him. After this he worked on the railroad which was being built from Sauk Centre to Morris, Minnesota. He had to walk to work Monday mornings and walk home again on Saturday nights.

Mr. Rander bought an eighty acre farm near Little Sauk. He farmed for a while and then received a job in Washington McNeice's mill, called the Little Sauk Flouring Mill. He worked several years there and then

the mill burned down. While the mill was being rebuilt he worked on the section. When the mill was completed, he returned to work. In 1901, a new proprietor took over the business.

Mr. Rander then worked in the Keller factory. He left there in 1913 and went to a farm in Little Sauk where he lived until he died in 1926 on October 1st.

Mrs. Rander died the following spring, on April 19, 1927. They had four children besides Mrs. Rander's first son, Anton D. Olson. They are Alma, Mrs. Clarence Mack of Long Prairie, Minnesota; Nellie, Mrs. I. D. Codner; Henry; and Mamie, Mrs. Victor Thornquist of Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

During Cleveland's presidency, Mr. Rander worked for less than \$1.00 a day. \$1.25 a day was considered very good wages. Butter could be bought for nine and ten cents a pound. Lawn of good quality was only five cents a yard. Eggs were as low as six cents a dozen.

On the Fourth of July, picnics were always held and were usually the main celebration.

Army worms were so bad, and they ate up the rails so much, that the trains couldn't run. The rails became so rotten that they broke into pieces. Great swarms of them were seen. They ate up the roofs on the houses, and were particularly destructive to the oak and basswood trees. They were sometimes so thick that the people could not walk on the lawns and the small children were deathly afraid of them.

Mr. Rander was the school clerk in Little Sauk for several years.

Interviewed: Mrs. Victor Thornquist
Date: September 22, 1936
By: Melba Peterson

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE PETER RANDER BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORD IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE