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Rausch, Peter (1824 - 1903)

Dean Nelson

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RAUSCH, PETER

File No. B-1077

Peter Rausch was born in Prussia in 1824. As a young man he attended German public schools and spent his youth on his father's farm. At the age of eighteen Peter entered the German Army under the military ruling that made such an action compulsory. Peter served in the Army until 1849 and during this period was a member of the infantry serving in a minor war between Germany and Poland.

After his release from the Army Peter married and one child Katherine was born in 1852. In 1856 Peter brought his wife, Anna, and daughter, Katherine, to United States to escape the strict militarism in Germany. The Rausch family first settled at Jacobs Prairie, Stearns county, Minnesota. Peter Rausch rented a small piece of land and engaged in farming but found that it was a very difficult problem to break new land and attempt to farm profitably. There was also the constant fear of Indians and danger of encountering some unfriendly band of roving Sioux. With the characteristic spirit of our pioneers Peter remained here defying all discouragement and as a loyal American enlisted in the Army in 1861. He served with the northern army the entire course of the war and returned in 1865 to his family unscathed by two wars and very much puzzled why civilized people should permit such a slaughter of one another.

Shortly after his return from the war Peter Rausch moved his family to St. Martin Stearns county and obtained a homestead. With the hopes of a better future and the possibilities of this new nation Peter centered all his efforts on his new home and developed one of the best farms in the township of St. Martin. He farmed on this location until his death in 1903. Anna Rausch preceded him in death in 1897.

Katherine Rausch the oldest daughter married Julius Kindler of St. Cloud in 1869. On interviewing a son of this marriage, John Kindler, it is interesting to note the attention given to styles in those days of hardship. John Kindler told of one incident narrated by his mother concerning the time she was possessed with a desire to own a bustle.

Someone had passed a remark that you could get a bustle in St. Joseph, Minnesota for three dozen eggs. On this remark Katherine built a dream of a fine young lady with a beautiful bustle, the model of feminine attractiveness. Saving all the eggs possible from the family rations she finally accumulated the necessary three dozen and one fine morning started walking to St. Joseph. Katherine arrived in the village some seven miles away and **after** several timid inquiries discovered that three dozen eggs weren't nearly enough to procure a bustle. Filled with disappointment Katherine traded the eggs for groceries and started the weary trek back home thoroughly educated with the authenticity of hearsay.

The long walk to villages and back home was duplicated many times by our pioneer women that they might have sufficient food in the home for their families.

Julius Kindler died on October 5, 1899, at the age of 51. He was the son of Julius Senior and Mary Kindler of Germany.

Interviewed: John Kindler
Date: April 7, 1937
By: Dean Nelson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE PETER RAUSCH BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK D. PAGE 294

Julius Kindler and Catherine Rausch

Married at St. Martin, October 7, 1872

By: Rev. Joseph M. Vill

Witnesses: Jacob Roder and Mary Rausch

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1899 A9 PAGE 169 LINE 1

Julius Kindler, Died October 5, 1899

Son of Julius and Mary Kindler

Age 51 years

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1898 A8 Page 156

Anna Rausch, Died January 3, 1898

Age 70 years

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1903 A12 PAGE 295

Peter Rausch, Born in Germany, March 30, 1824

Died April 11, 1903

Age 79 years 1 month and 12 days

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 6, 1860 -- By. C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Torah

Page No. 75

Rauch, Peter (Rausch)	Age 36
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Prussia
Rauch, Anna B. (Rausch)	Age 33
Sex	Female
Occupation	_____
Born	Prussia
Rauch, Cathern (Rausch)	Age 8
Sex	Female
0	
Occupation	_____
Born	Prussia
Rauch, Mary A. (Rausch)	Age 3
Sex	Female
Occupation	_____
Born	Minnesota
Christian Rauch (Rausch)	Age 6 Months
Sex	Male
Occupation	_____
Born	Minnesota