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Recktenwald, William (1872 -)

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RECKTENWALD, WILLIAM

File No. B-1079

William Recktenwald was born in Long Prairie, Minnesota, March 20, 1872, a son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Recktenwald. Both parents were natives of Winterbach, Germany, near Trier. The Recktenwald family came to America in the 1850's and settled in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. The voyage across the ocean was made in a sail boat and took seventy-two days. The boat they sailed on was to land in New York, but bad weather overtook them and they sailed off their course and landed in Baltimore instead.

On their trip across the Atlantic the passengers suffered many hardships as their food supplies ran low. For over a week the passengers only had one meal a day and that consisted of dried prunes, flour, and coffee. After a few years in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, the family moved to Shakopee, Minnesota, and then to Long Prairie, where they operated a farm practically all their life. From Buffalo Grove, Illinois to Shakopee, Minnesota the family traveled by ox cart, and a few years later the trip to Long Prairie, Minnesota was also made by oxen in 1865.

William Recktenwald attended the rural school at Long Prairie until he was about sixteen years old, then he worked on his father's farm for several years. At the age of twenty-one he was employed by the Garden City Feeder Company of Minneapolis, where he worked about twenty years, and then changed jobs and worked for the Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company as salesman in the Northwest territory until he retired in 1925.

William Recktenwald was united in marriage May 10, 1897 in St. Mary's Catholic Church by Reverend Father Greagor Steil, to Louise Margurette Dressling, who is a daughter of Mathias and Anna Dressling. Both parents were natives of Trier, Germany and came to America, and

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settled in Joliet, Illinois where they resided for twenty-five years. They came to St. Cloud in 1868. Mathias Dressling was a tailor by trade. He worked at his trade for a short time, and then opened a shop for himself, but was forced to retire, because of poor health. Mathias Dressling died May 6, 1870 and the mother, Anna Mary Dressling, died May 19, 1925 at the age of 87.

Louise Margurette Dressling was born in St. Cloud, May 11, 1870 and attended the St. Mary's school (on the present site of the post office building now, located on eighth avenue south and St. Germain Street.)

To William and Louise Margurette (Dressling) Recktenwald were born three children: Joseph of St. Cloud; Alvina, Mrs. Edward Blums, of St. Cloud; and Richard, at home.

They also have four grandchildren: Iuintin, John and Robert Recktenwald and Dreen Blums.

Nicholas Recktenwald, the father, died in 1873 and the mother Elizabeth Recktenwald died in 1902. Both parents were buried in the Long Prairie Cemetery.

Interviewed: William Recktenwald
Date: December 1, 1936
By: Nick P. Kruckten

Publication Granted