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Scharver, Henry W. (1870 - 1930)

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SCHARVER, HENRY W.

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Henry W. Scharver was born March 24, 1870 in Rogers, Minnesota, the son of David Scharver, who resided on a farm near Rogers, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. David Scharver had eight children: David Jr., Peter, Frank, Prosper, Cletus, Henry W. and two daughters deceased.

Henry W. in his youth attended the grade school at Rogers, Minnesota, and helped his parents with the work on the farm. After finishing grade school, Henry W. was one of the first young men to enter the Sauk Centre Academy and attended this school from the 9th of December 1890 to June 15th, 1891.

After graduating from the academy Henry returned to Rogers, Minnesota and studied Telegraphy. On the 2nd of June 1893 Henry received the position with Western Union Telegraph Company as clerk. His wages were \$45.00 per month and he was first employed at Spicer, Minnesota. Then he was transferred to New London, St. Anthony and Hawick.

On April 27, 1895 Henry W. became a passenger agent and returned to Rogers, Minnesota.

In 1894 on May the 7th Henry Scharver married Helen Rich. Helen Rich was born in Wadsworth, Ohio coming to Minnesota as a young girl eleven years of age. Helen resided with an uncle and aunt until the time of her marriage.

The wedding ceremony was performed in the small land town of Fletcher, at the St. Walburge church. This was the only Catholic Church near Rogers at that time.

Henry and Helen (Rich) Scharver returned to Hawick to make their home and on April the 27th, 1895, Henry W. received the position as passenger agent being transferred back to Rogers, Minnesota.

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The Scharver's resided above the depot and on October 1st, 1895, their only child a daughter named Coletta was born.

Henry resided at this place until November 1, 1899 when a fire destroyed the depot and all their household goods.

Henry remained at Rogers until November 6, 1900, then was assigned as clerk at Park Rapids and Sabeka. On March 28, 1901 he was transferred as agent to Roscoe, Minnesota remaining here until May 9th 1904. While living at Roscoe Henry W. built a small home.

On May 10, 1904 Henry was assigned to the depot at Torah, Minnesota which now is called Richmond. Henry built a fine home in this village being employed at the Telegraphic trade until 1915. In this year on March 6th he contracted paralysis and was confined to his home for fifteen years as an invalid.

Helen (Rich) Scharver died on June 22, 1918 and was buried in the Catholic cemetery in Richmond.

Henry lived to be sixty years of age and died July 3, 1930, being buried also in the St. Peter and Paul cemetery in Richmond.

During his later years, his daughter Coletta married Adolph G. Resseman and they made their home with him until the time of his death.

Adolph and Coletta (Scharver) Resseman still reside in the home place. Coletta can recall in the year 1908 when the Great Northern Railroad opened a large gravel pit at Roscoe, Minnesota. The trains passed through Richmond night and day, and Henry W. worked alone in the depot. In order to keep awake nights to check the trains that passed through, Coletta and her mother would go over to the depot to help pass the long night hours.

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This was a big responsibility as there were many trains passing through and Henry W. had to be awake and alert.

While depot agent at Richmond Henry also taught John Meshnick the telegraphic trade. John Meshnick is still located in the East carrying on this work. Math Butala of Richmond also learned this trade from Henry and was employed as agent in Richmond for several years.

Henry was a well liked and much respected citizen. His death was deeply mourned by all who knew him.

Interviewed: Mrs. Adolph G. Resseman
Date: January 27, 1939
By: Alexander Pallansch

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