

Peter Rascop

In 1850, two people, Peter and Anna Marie Rascop, decided to migrate to America. They lived in Wolsfeldt Trier Rhiner Preusen, Germany. So together with their ~~their~~ three girls and one boy, Peter Jr. then eleven years old, set forth. One of the girls became ill on board ship, passed away and was buried at sea.

Chicago seemed to be the object of their destination for that is where they settled and stayed for some time. But an epidemic of cholera became so severe that the people "died like snowflakes falling." The Rascops became alarmed and took their children and set forth for Minnesota Territory to escape the ravages of the epidemic. They finally settled in Plymouth Township sometime in the early 1850's. It is a known fact from the "Abstract of Lands" in the Register of Deeds office, that Peter purchased the S E 1/4 of Section 18, which is located on the present County Road 18, north of the Rockford Road.

The farm consists of 160 acres, some rolling land, some swamp and there must have been considerable woods at that time. Peter journeyed to Forest City on Oct. 8, 1860 to obtain his land and no doubt went by foot or ox team as did the other settlers.

One of Peter Rascop's girls married a Mr. Maxen and one ^{Bliss} a Mr. Lenzen, related to the Lenzen's of Hamel or Medina Township. This ^{Bliss} Mr. Lenzen, later went to live in the Dakota's. Peter Junior stayed on the farm and married Susan Foegen Feb. 3, 1866, after he returned from the war. This couple had a large family, ten girls and two boys. He enlisted in the United States Army as a Private in the 1st rd. Minnesota Volunteers, Sept. 30, 1861. He served three years and was discharged from the service Nov. 14, 1864, at Vans Beouff, Arkansas by reason of expiration of term of service. It is said that out of a company of 200 men, he was one of the twenty who returned.

Peter Rascop Sr. was born April 23, 1800 and lived until Sept. 23, 1864. He died a comparatively young man, and was the first person to be buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Crystal Township then, now New Hope Township. His wife Anna Marie, was born about 1810 and died on Feb. 4, 1892 at the age of eighty two. She too, is buried at the old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peter Junior served at times on the Town Board of Plymouth as Road Overseer in district # 9 during 1866 and 67 and as assessor in 1868. He might have served in some capacity after 1870, but records of the Town Clerk's Register after 1870 would indicate that. His family was large and it took plenty of hard labor to keep a family of twelve children clothed and fed. Clothes were made by hand, stockings knit, and plenty of shoes to be made by hand as almost all the settlers did that. Peter's children went to German school as the old Catholic Church near the St. Mary's Cemetery had a sexton, John Gelnor, who taught German and catechism. He taught them in his home near the church, using the wooden kitchen table as desk. I imagine they went to Public School but am not sure. Peter Jr. was born Sept. 27, 1838 1839 and passed away Feb. 24, 1890 at a very early age, considering his robust health. His wife Susan Foegen Rascop was born June 14, 1847 and passed away Sept. 20, 1921. Their children were as follows, Anna, born Jan. 2, 1867 deceased on Aug. 20, 1867. Nicholas, born Apr. 19, 1868, dying March 21, 1944. Karoline, born Feb. 1, 1870 passed away March 4, 1879 and Lena born Jan. 7, 1874, married Edward Wintheiner and lives in Minneapolis (1953) though a widow. Mary, born Feb. 14, 1876, married Mathew Hommes, and passed away Feb. 12, 1941. Joe was born June 18, 1878 and died Apr. 18, 1915. Sysan, born Nov. 4, 1880, married Theodore Aubart of Osseo, died Sept. 9, 1910. Margaretha, born July 10, 1882, died Sept. 29, 1882 and Anna, born July 25, 1883, died June 17, 1892. Margaret, born Nov. 16, 1886, married Fréderick Thorne, is still living (1953) a widow, with her sister Lena Wintheiner. Lucy and Helena were two infants of whom there was no record.