

William and Catherine Ryan.

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William and Catherine Ryan, born in the towns of Thurles and Nenagh, County of Tipperary, Ireland, came to Auburn, N. Y. some time in the late 1840's. There they were married, and there three (3) of their four (4) children were born. The oldest were twins, Timothy and Edmund born August 24 1851. Edmund died in infancy. Michael born May 11 1853. William, the baby was born after the parents moved to St. Anthony. He died at about the age of three or four, is buried in St. Anthony Cemetery.

William Ryan worked in the saw mills and lathe mills for a few years, then decided to buy a farm. The piece he bought is described as; County of Hennepin, Territory of Minn. S. W. quarter of Section 34 in Township 118, Range 22 containing 160 acres, for which he paid \$50.00. Recorded Dec. 1st. 1857 in Bk. H Page 120. Register of Deeds Office. Mrs. Timothy Ryan has the original deed, also a document which she prizes very much from the General Land Office of Washington D. C. signed by the President of the U. S. James Buchanan.

In the year 1875⁰ Jan. 16 William Ryan sold the East 1/2 to his son Timothy. Recorded Sept. 1st. 1879 in Bk 80 page 21. He had previously given the West 1/2 to James Ryan to induce them to come and be neighbors.

Though they came at a time when log houses were the usual thing, William built himself a frame house. The family must have reached Minn. in territorial days for Timothy and Michael used to say that their earliest recollections were the trip west and of running up and down the railroad tracts while waiting for the trains. They came as far as Rock Island by train and then by steamboat to St. Paul, arriving sometime in the summer of 1855.

Timothy and Michael remembered the Sioux uprising, though the Indians never came near the cities, still wild rumors of having seen them lurking around that region spread panic among the settlers. Michael used to say that his family took to woods and camped out most of one summer, feeling they were safer than in the house. They often told how frightened their Mother was when some stray groups of Indians came into the house when she was alone.

Rations must have been very slim for Michaels family remembers their Dad protesting on a couple of occasions against having corn meal for breakfast, giving as the reason for his prejudice the fact that his family had lived on, not much else but corn meal one whole winter.

William died April 13 1889 after having been burned severely. A fire had been burning for days in what is now Mtra. Township. He went down in his field to investigate, the fire jumped the tracts and due to his advanced age he was unable to escape. He died a week later. Catherine, his wife, died two years later. They are both buried in St. Josephs Cemetery, St. Josephs Church, Rockford Road.

Michael married Kath McJowan
daughter of Gregory brother of
Phillips?
Michael

Buried St. J.

Timothy