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Burke, Micheal (1867 -)

Ann Kramer

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BURKE, MICHEAL

File No. B-192

Micheal Burke, son of Micheal and Mary (Brown) Burke was born May 27, 1867, in Melrose township.

As there was no church in Melrose at that time, the people had to go to New Munich to church.

Indians were few at that time, but some would appear, usually to beg food. Since the settlers supplied their wants the pioneers never had any serious trouble with them.

The chief crop was wheat. Just enough oats and corn was grown to supply their own needs. The grain was cut with a cradle and threshed with flails the first few years. Later on it was cut with a reaper and was threshed with a horsepower threshing machine. The first complete crop failure occurred in the year 1876, due to the grasshopper scourge of that year. The first year they took half of the crop. The following year they destroyed everything in the fields, and after completing their destruction they all left. The following year proved to be one of the best years they had ever witnessed before or after the grasshopper scourge. All crops of grain and potatoes yielded abundantly. The grain was so heavy it could not be cut with the reaper, and it had to be cut with a scythe.

Micheal Burke was married November 22, 1899 to Mary Ann Graham, in the St. Patrick's Catholic Church at Melrose. The ceremony was performed by Father Walcher.

Micheal and Mary Ann (Graham) Burke have five children: Micheal was born September 24, 1900, and is still at home.

Mary Burke was born September 7, 1902, is married to Frank Millot, and lives at Swanville. They have one son, Robert.

Helen Burke was born January 27, 1904, is married to William Mortz, and they have one daughter Mary Jane. They live at Minneapolis.

Alice Burke was born March 15, 1909 and she teaches school.

Evelyn Burke was born May 20, 1911, and she works in Minneapolis.

Micheal and Mary Ann (Graham) Burke are still living on the farm that Micheal Burke's father had taken as a homestead.

Interviewed: Micheal Burke
date: August 16, 1937
By: Ann Kramer

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE MICHEAL BURKE BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK P. PAGE 7954

Micheal Burke and Mary Ann Graham

Married at Melrose, November 22, 1899

By: Rev. James Walcher

Witnesses: M. Allen and Bridget Graham

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 6 PAGE 18916

Frank J. Mellett and Margaret Mary Burke

Married at Melrose, October 17, 1927

By: Rev. J. A. Kilian

Witnesses: Mike Burke and Helen E. Burke