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### Kramer, Frank (1862 - )

Ann Kramer

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KRAMER, FRANK

File No. B-735

Frank Kramer was born January 17, 1862 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When a lad of two years he came to Minnesota with his parents John and Mary (Premious) Kramer.

John Kramer and John Premious bought a horse and buggy in Milwaukee and with this they made the trip to Meire Grove, Stearns County, Minnesota where they both settled on homesteads.

The first winter they lived in an old Indian shack which had no floor or windows. During this time the men cut trees and built log houses. There were a few Indians around at this time, and they would appear quite frequently, usually to beg food or tobacco. Since the settlers supplied these wants they never had any serious trouble with the red skins.

The chief crop was wheat as they had no use for any other grain. The grain was cut with cradles, and had to be bound by hand. Casper Zierden had a threshing machine operated by horsepower and he did all the threshing for the settlers. Late in December the wheat was hauled with oxen to St. Paul, where they had it ground. This trip usually required from nine to ten days.

Crops were good the first few years until 1873 when the grasshoppers came. They came in such large swarms that at times the sun was hidden by the grasshoppers.

On January 24, 1882 Frank Kramer married Mary Nett at Meire Grove, Father Meinulph Stukenkemper, who was their pastor, performed the ceremony. The attendants were Ferdinand Schweters and Mary Kramer.

Frank and Mary (Nett) Kramer had twelve children, three of which

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died in infancy. Mary, is married to George Bach and they live at Battle Creek, Washington. They had two children, both died in infancy. John, is married to Bernadine Arntz and resides on a farm west of Melrose. They have four children. Elizabeth, lives at New Rockford, North Dakota, is married to Charles Riggli and has twelve children. Alfred, married Ella Newmann and lives at St. Cloud, they have two children. Anne, married Axel Carlson, they have two children, they live in New Rockford, North Dakota. Christine, married Henry Otte and they had one child. Christine (Kramer) Otte died August 6, 1934 and is buried in Melrose. Louise, married Julius Otte and they live in Melrose, they have one child. Agnes, married Christopher Mader and they have four children; Gertrude, married Pat Graham. They have no children.

Frank Kramer, the person who heads this biography lives in Melrose. His wife Mary (Nett) Kramer died October 12, 1933.

Interviewed: Frank Kramer  
Date: May 10, 1937  
By: Ann Kramer

No Publication Granted