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### Mock, Gregor (1856 - )

Walter B. Haupt

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MOCK, GREGOR

File No. B-911

Gregor Mock was born December 31, 1856, in Bavaria, Germany.

Gregor Mock is the son of Engelbert and Katherina (Ress) Mock, early settlers of Holding township, now deceased.

Engelbert and Katherina (Ress) Mock were born in Germany and were married there, the former of whom was born September 16, 1824 and the latter in 1827. As a means of making their livelihood, Engelbert Mock operated a small farm in Germany. While thus engaged, and unable to make any headway financially, he heard of the opportunities existing in America, the home of peace and plenty, as the country was then known.

In the year 1866, he left his native Germany and brought his family to America. After landing at New York, they immediately came west to St. Joseph, where several families who had migrated to America before them and which they had known in Germany resided on farms.

At St. Joseph the family made their home in an old log cabin, on which they were forced to make extensive repairs, as there was no floor nor door or windows on the place at the time.

When the family was housed, Engelbert Mock and four other German immigrants, John Ress, Casper Fuchs, Martin Streit and Sebastian Widman set out to locate suitable claims. After traveling for miles through the thick woods on foot they decided to locate in what is now known as Holding township. The homestead of Engelbert Mock, being located in section thirty-four.

After locating their claims and filing on them, the five settlers returned to their claims and with only axes as their tools erected five log shanties, one on each claim. The roof of the shanties were made of

bass wood logs which had been hollowed out. These hollow logs were cut in half. One row of logs were laid with hollow curve upward and then a log was laid over the two sides of the hollow log, this making a water proof roof. When the shanties were completed the settlers returned to St. Joseph for their families.

After living in the cabin at St. Joseph for eight months, Engelbert Mock, removed the floor, windows and doors from the cabin there and loaded them on a wagon with his other belongings and with the family riding on top started out for their new home in the Indian Bush, as the country was called by the settlers.

As it was in the fall of the year when the family arrived on the homestead, Engelbert Mock, made use of the winter months, clearing several acres of trees and brush. During the interview Gregor Mock remarked, " The trees on the homestead were mostly hard wood and the oaks were the best in the county. Since there was no market for wood, it was all thrown on large piles and burned."

The first crops consisted of potatoes, corn and rutabaggas. Although the crops yielded abundantly, the corn did not ripen and was of no use since they had no cattle.

The next year, when several acres more had been cleared and ready for planting, wheat was sown. In the fall it was cut with the aid of a cradle and threshed by laying a thick layer in a shed and letting oxen trample on the straw. After it had been well trampled down the straw was removed and the grain swept up. A few years later a threshing machine operated by ox power made its appearance.

The nearest market place for wheat was St. Joseph, a distant of about fifteen miles and the wheat was hauled there by ox team where it was exchanged for flour. On these trips they had to cross a river and the bridges which were built of logs were never safe. One day while returning with some flour the bridge gave way and the team of oxen, drivers, flour and all were thrown into the river.

Deer, bear, and other game animals were plentiful in the township when the settlers first arrived and they were always able to have a supply on hand, later however, when commercial hunters slaughtered off the deer they were soon killed off, and today one seldom sights a deer in that country.

During the first years, Engelbert Mock and his family attended church service at St. Joseph. In the year 1873 the first church was organized at Arban. The first school was organized in 1870, and the first teacher was William Murphy.

Through years of hard work and good management, during which time he had to endure all the hardships of an early settler, Engelbert Mock transferred his wilderness homestead into one of the finest farms of the community.

Engelbert and Katherina (Ress) Mock are the parents of seven children four of whom are still living, August, a Brother of the Order of St. Vincent in Pennsylvania. Martina, Mrs. John Grætsch of Albany. Gregor, Katherine, Mrs. Anton Streit of Holding township.

Engelbert Mock died January 15, 1905 and his wife Katherina (Ress) Mock died October 19, 1901 both are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at

Arban.

Gregor, who heads this sketch, was ten years of age when he was brought to America. As a young man he assisted his father with the work on the homestead. After the retirement of his father, he took over the homestead and further improved on it and added more land. After his retirement the farm was taken over by his son.

In 1936, he erected a new home, a short distance from the home place and this serves as his home today. At the age of eighty-one he still enjoys the best of health and is as active as ever.

On November 15, 1882, he married Agnes Lichy, and after nine years she died on September 16, 1892 and he was married for a second time on September 25, 1893 to Barbara Skudlareck.

There were four children born to the first union, Mary, Mrs. Joseph Skudlarek of Avon; Charles, who operates a farm in Holding township; Alois, employed in the Great Northern Car Shops at Waite Park. Rosa, Mrs. Frank Moleska of St. Joseph.

To the second marriage nine children were born, Martin, married Mildren Himsel and they reside on the home place. Ambrose married Ella Kuchner, and they reside at Waite Park, where he is employed in the Great Northern Car Shops. John, at home. Joseph died at the age of six, Sophia died in infancy. Max, married Veronica Maehren and they reside on a farm north of Avon. Julia, married Albert Riesner and they reside at Melrose. Frank employed at Receda, California. Helen, Regina and Josephine at home.

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 12 PAGE 22318

Albert Riesner and Julia K. Mock

Married at Arban, June 25, 1935

By: Rev. T. J. ReKosiak

Witnesses: Frank Mock and Frieda Riesner

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 4 PAGE 17247

Ambrose Mock and Eleanor Maria Kirchner

Married at Waite Park, June 24, 1924

By: Rev. Math Hoffman

Witnesses: Fred Kirchner and Helen Mock

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK X PAGE 13125

Frank Maleska and Rose Mock

Married at Arban, May 31st, 1915

By: Rev. E. Schener

Witnesses: Charlie Mock and Elizabeth Groetsch

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK J. PAGE 93

John Gretsches and Martina Mock

Married at Albany, October 25, 1886

By: Rev. Othmar Erreuees

Witnesses: Joseph Gretsches

(Editor's Note: Martina Mock is a sister of Gregor Mock the subject of the attached biography.)

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1905 A 14 PAGE 260

Engelbert Mock, Born in Germany, September 16, 1824

Died January 15, 1905

Age \_\_\_\_\_.

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1892 A 2 PAGE 43 LINE 2

Agnes Mock, Died September 16, 1892

Daughter of Math Leihey and Anna Leihey

Age 30 years.

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1901 A 11 Page 96

Katherina Mock, Born in Germany 1827

Died October 19, 1901

Age 74 years.

MOCK, GREGOR

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

Affirmed: Marriage of Gregor Mock and Agnes Lichy November 15, 1882, is correct as stated in biography.

Correction: Spelling of name Skudlarek is neither correct in the biography nor in the Court House records and should be spelled as above.

Affirmed: Spelling of name Lichy, is correct as stated in biography.

Affirmed: Children of first marriage of Gregor Mock were Charles and Alois as stated in the biography.

Reinterviewed: Gregor Mock  
Date: June 22, 1938  
By: Walter B. Haupt