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### Stein, Casper (1828 - )

Nick P. Kruchten

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STEIN, CASPER

File No. B-1280

There is a fascination in the story of those who crossed the plains long before the building of railroads, when Omaha and Kansas City represented the outposts of civilization beyond which there were vast stretches of plains, deserts, and the high mountain ranges of the Rockies. The journey is one of hardship, endurance and courage. One of those who experienced the actual trip from New York to Los Angeles was Casper Stein, a native of Germany, born in Dickerich, Luxemburg, Germany, about 1828, and in his early twenty's came to America crossing the Atlantic on a sail boat which took over two months because of bad sailing weather.

Casper Stein landed on the American shore in New York in 1849 . In New York he stayed for a few weeks looking for work, and during this time he met a party of men who wanted to go to California to look for gold. In a few days the bargain was made to take a herd of cattle and a team of oxen and make the long journey into the wild western plains. On their tiresome trip west Casper Stein stated that sometimes they traveled without water for their cattle for days. When they came to an open stream the biggest job was to keep the cattle from running into the middle of the stream and drowning in their hurry to get a drink of the long needed water. Casper Stein also recalled, while traveling west they came across three natural flowing springs, these springs were about three feet apart. The water in one was ice cold, another one was luke warm and the other was boiling hot. This place is now called Hot Springs, Arkansas.

When the party arrived in Los Angeles, California, they expected to see a small town or village, instead they found only one building. The entire trip from New York to California was made with oxen and on foot and took six months to complete. In California Casper Stein prospected

for gold three years, and then he decided to go farther north. About 1854 he crossed the Mississippi River at what is now Saint Cloud, Minnesota, about where the Tenth Street bridge stands today, and pushed onward farther west, blazing his trail until he got as far as Grand Lake in Rockville Township. Here he settled on a government homestead of one hundred and sixty acres which is now listed as South East one-fourth of Section thirty-three, township one hundred and twenty-three, Range twenty-nine West.

On this tract of land Casper Stein started to clear the timber and began farming which he continued until 1885. In that year he moved to Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and retired. Casper Stein was married in the old Catholic Church of Jacobs Prairie, by Reverend Father Benedict, to Mary Rausch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rausch who were natives of Germany. They had also come west and settled on a government homestead not far from Casper Stein in Rockville township about 1857. To Casper and Mary (Rausch) Stein were born ten children: Catherine, now Mrs. Peter Steil, of Saint Nicholas, Minnesota; Nicholas Stein, of Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Dominick Kruchten, of Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Anna, now Mrs. John Kruchten, of Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Peter Stein, Saint Nicholas, Minnesota; Margurete, now Mrs. John Heinz, of Flandreau, South Dakota; Nick K. Stein, Cold Spring, Minnesota; Mary, now Sister Vanentia, O. S. B., at Bismark, North Dakota; John Stein, Kimball, Minnesota; and Casper Stein, of Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Interviewed: Nicholas Stein  
Date: July 23, 1936  
By: N. P. Kruchten

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 10, 1860 by C. Grandelmeyer

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Kasper Stien	Age 31
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Luxemburg
Mary Stien	Age 25
Sex	Female
Born	Luxemburg
Cathern Stien	Age 1
Sex	Female
Born	Minnesota