

Frederick Raatz
48th WI Infantry, Company D

Born: March 8, 1830

1860 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, Mishicot Twp:

Frederick Ratz, 30, Farmer, b Prussia

Anna Ratz, 27, b Prussia

Chd: Amelia-7 b Prussia, Mary-2 b Wisconsin

Enlisted: February 13, as a Private, from Two Rivers, WI, 34 year-old Farmer, 5'6", blue eyes, light hair.

Mustered Out: February 19, 1866

1880 WI, Manitowoc County, Two Rivers Twp:

Fred Raatz, 50, Married, Farmer, b Prussia

Johanna Raatz, 46, Wife, Keeping house, b Prussia

Chd: Amilia-26, b Prussia, Mary-20, Herman-17, William-10, Fred-6, Ida-3,

John Raatz, 71, Father, Farmer, b Prussia

Fridericke Raatz, 69, Mother, Keep house, b Prussia

1890 Veterans Schedule, Manitowoc County: Frederick Raatz, Pvt 48 D, post office Two Rivers

1895 June 20 Veterans Census of Manitowoc County:

Fred Raatz, Pvt D 48 Infantry, post office Two Rivers, WI



FRED RAATZ

Two Rivers Reporter, Saturday, Aug. 2, 1913: OLD TIMERS - FREDERICK RAATZ Sleeping on the floor was better than sleeping out of doors. That was the

way Fred Raatz and nine other people figured it out when they came to town one night in the summer of 1855. They arrived about 11 o'clock at night and after unsuccessful efforts to get beds to sleep at that late hour, they accepted the hospitality of August Abel under the conditions mentioned. . Mr. Abel had a house full of boarders. There was not a spare bed in the house. There were over a dozen standby boarders at this place - nearly all sawmill employees. .Mr. Raatz arrived here with four of the Zander brothers. He discovered by accident, early in his journey, on the sailing ship, that the Zander's were like himself, bound for Two Rivers. They came from a different part of Germany. . Mr. Raatz was able to find a permanent boarding place. He found employment at one of the sawmills. He worked there for a short time only and then engaged



in fishing. After a few weeks he gave this up also and rented a farm near Shoto. After about a year he changed his location to a farm at Saxonburg . . Here he remained until the death of an older brother made it necessary to go to help on his father's farm. This farm became his and is now conducted by his son, Herman. When Mr. Raatz first came to farm at Shoto in 1856 he found the country an almost unbroken wilderness, there were no roads at all, only Indian trails There was no clearing, all was a dense forest. Venison was plenty but other provisions had to be obtained by paddling down the river in a boat to Two Rivers or by following the trail with the bag on one's back. To prevent taking the wrong trail, marks were chopped on trees along the way. Most of the time for the first few years was spent in chopping down trees and clearing the farm. Nearly all the logs were burned including the white oak which now brings \$70 per thousand feet. The road was laid out in 1855. Then it was chopped out beginning in 1856, and from time to time improved. The first house which the Raatz's occupied on the farm was a one room log house. To attend school or church, it was necessary to go to Two Rivers. Mr. Raatz worked hard and lived economically and his farm today comprises 200 acres of which 180 is under cultivation. He has retired from active work. His wife died ten years ago. At the age of eight-two he is in fairly good health. He smokes his pipe habitually and reads considerably. He says he often looks backward over the time since he came to America and wonders at the marvelous improvements and changes that have taken place since then and transformed this vast wilderness into a beautiful garden in a time that seems so short to him when he thinks of such a formidable wilderness it was a comparatively few years ago."

Died: November 5, 1919

Buried: Pioneer Rest Cemetery, Two Rivers, WI

Gravesite: P-6-45: "Fredk. Raatz/Co. D/48 Wis. Inf."