RENWICK

Block 22, Lot 9 De Smet Cemetery

Although the Masters family is included in *Pioneer Girl*, they are not mentioned in the published LITTLE HOUSE books. Instead, Genevieve Masters became one of the three girls – along with Nellie Owen and Stella Gilbert – who inspired the composite Nellie Oleson book character.

GENEVIEVE MAUD (MASTERS) RENWICK

Block 22, Lot 9 De Smet Cemetery
November 12, 1867 – November 7, 1909; died at age 41

Husband of William Graham Renwick (1862 - 1924); married September 11, 1888.
Sister of George Emmett Masters (1853-1913), Augusta Elgetha (Masters) Sherwood (1859-1928), and Jesse Farrington Masters (1864-1963).
Mother of Margaret E. (Renwick) Thune.

Genevieve Masters Renwick

Genevieve Maud Masters was born in Hornby, New York, to Samuel and Margaret Masters. She moved with the family to Walnut Grove in 1878 and in 1881 to De Smet.

Gennie attended teacher's institute August 1884. She Taught in Hamlin County in the spring of 1885, while Laura was teaching the Wilkin School. She taught that summer in Hamlin County, then took over the Wilkin School, teaching three terms there.

> *September 4, 1885. The De Smet LEADER.*
> *School appointments – The following teachers were hired at the salary of $25 / month:*
> *…Genevieve Masters for School No. 6.*

> *September 19, 1885. The De Smet LEADER.*
> *Miss Genevieve Masters will commence her school in the Wilkin District, five miles northwest of De Smet, next Monday. Taught second term in Wilkin School beginning January 1886 and in April 1886.*

In the fall of 1886, Gennie went to Pierre to attend Pierre College, which had changed its name in 1884 from The Presbyterian University of Southern Dakota, founded in 1883. Gennie Masters was among the first class to be awarded degrees in 1887. The college moved to Huron in 1897 (Huron College) and

closed in 2005, no longer affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and known as Huron University or Si Tanka University at Huron.

> *September 4, 1886. The De Smet LEADER.*
>
> *Miss Genevieve Masters will leave next week for Pierre to take a year's course in the Pierre College.*

> *Saturday, March 26, 1887. The De Smet LEADER.*
>
> *Miss Genevieve Masters has returned from Pierre, where she has been attending college. Miss Masters taught classes in grammar and U.S. history in connection with her studies in the higher branches. She has engaged to teach a four months term of school in the southern part of the county.*

> *June 18, 1887. The De Smet LEADER.*
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> *The Teachers Association of Kingsbury County will meet at Iroquois Saturday, June 25, and 2 o'clock. The following is the program: Methods of teaching language, Mary A. Sias. Selection, M. Louise Cooley, Mental Arithmetic, Adelia Lathrop, Geography, Augie M. Gilfillan, Reading, Genevieve Masters."*

September 11, 1888, Gennie Masters married William Graham Van Renwick:

> *September 14, 1888. Kingsbury County INDEPENDENT.*
>
> *Tuesday morning W.G.V. Renwick and Miss Genevieve Masters were married, at the home of the bride's parents, by Rev. C.C. Marston. The happy couple departed the same day for Tacoma, W.T., their future home, going via the Twin Cities. May good fortune attend them.*

> *September 11, 1888. Huron Daily HURONITE.*
>
> *On Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, 1888, Mr. W.G. V. Renwick of Tacoma, Washington, and Miss Genevieve Masters of De Smet were united in marriage in the latter city by Rev. C.C. Marston. The bride and groom arrived here on the noon train from the east on their way to Tacoma, to reside permanently. They were accompanied as far as this city by Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Sherwood of De Smet, Mrs. S. being a sister of the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Renwick have acquaintances in this city who will be pleased to learn of their marriage and with the HURONITE extend congratulations.*

Gennie and William lived in Washington until moving to the Chicago area around 1896. They had one daughter, Margaret, born in 1900. At the end of a trip west (where she visited with Mary Power Sanford in Bellingham, Washington), Gennie stopped on the way home stopped to visit family in De Smet. Gennie became ill before leaving De Smet; she died shortly after returning home to Chicago, and her body was brought back to De Smet for burial. Following her mother's death, Margaret Renwick lived much of the time in De Smet with her aunt and uncle, Elgetha and Carter Sherwood.

> *November 12, 1909. The De Smet NEWS.*
> *Again We Mourn.*
>
> *Great was the shock that came to the editor's family and relatives last Monday in the news that Mrs. W.G. Renwick had succumbed to pneumonia at her home in Chicago after but a few days illness. Mrs. Renwick and daughter Margaret stopped here on their way home from*

the Pacific Coast where they had spent the summer with friends in Seattle, Bellingham, and Spokane. After a couple of weeks visit they left for home on the 30th accompanied by the mother, Mrs. Margaret Masters. Mrs. Renwick had contracted a severe cold and was quite ill on the way and on arrival in Chicago was put in the hands of the family physician. Nothing serious was feared for several days, but the case became serious and a specialist was called in but physicians and nurses could do nothing and death came Sunday evening, November 7th at eight o'clock. - The remains were brought to De Smet for burial, arriving here Tuesday evening accompanied by the husband, mother and daughter, and Mrs. Mary M. Blodgett and Mr. A.B. Leith, long time friends of the family. Funeral services were held Wednesday morning in St. Stephens Episcopal church, the beautiful burial service being read by the rector, Mr. Randall. The choir was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Eggleston and Dr. Hall with J.H. Carroll as conductor.

Genevieve M. Renwick / 1867 - 1909

Genevieve Masters was born in Hornby, New York, November 12, 1867. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel O. Masters, the youngest of four children. Two years later the family moved to Corning, N.Y. where they lived eight years. In 1878 they came west, locating in Walnut Grove, Minn. and in 1881 settled on a farm near De Smet. On September 11, 1888 Miss Masters was married to Mr. W.G. Renwick. One daughter was born to them, Margaret now aged nine. For thirteen years the home has been in Chicago. Geo. E. Masters of Spencer and Mrs. C.P. Sherwood and J.F.B. Masters of De Smet with the aged mother are the surviving members of the Masters family who with the husband and daughter and other relatives are called upon to mourn the departure of their loved one. The mysterious ways of Providence are past finding out.

Little Margaret Renwick is for the present at least to make her home with her aunt, Mrs. Sherwood.

W.G.V. Renwick

WILLIAM GRAHAM VAN RENWICK

Block 22, Lot 9. William (1862-1924) and Genevieve (1867-1909)

December 25, 1862 – March 5, 1924; died at age 61

William Graham Van Renwick was born Christmas Day, 1862, to Walter Renwick (1819-872) and Anne (Gray) Renwick (1825-1895) in Edinburgh, Scotland. He had an older brother, Andrew Gray Renwick (1850-1935), and other siblings.

Renwick came to De Smet from northern Wisconsin in 1886 as agent for Youmans Bros. & Hodgins. He organized a band in De Smet in 1887, and was secretary of the hook-and-latter company in September 1887. He was in De Smet a short

while before moving to Duluth, Minnesota, and Tacoma, Washington. William married Gennie Masters September 11, 1888.

> *W.G.V. RENWICK, of Youmans Bros. & Hodgins, leading representatives of the lumber interests of Kingsbury County, is worthy of a prominent place in this resume of business interests. In a new country, the lumber traffic becomes a very important factor of development, and as the success of those engaged in the business depends largely upon the success of the agricultural classes, and is often attended with more or less risk of loss to dealers, then certainly to those who boldly encounter the hazard of possible calamity, by providing stock and facilities scarcely inferior to the large trade centers of the country, a measure of praise is justly due. Such may truthfully be said to have been the case with the establishment in question. The business which has been under the management of Mr. Renwick, for the past year, was established in 1880, and is one of the pioneer features of De Smet's business interests. They not only carry a large stock, but one complete with all that belongs to building material. The company are well known throughout the northwest as extensive manufacturers, and where they are best known, are most popular. Mr. Renwick, the manager at this place, came here from northern Wisconsin, the heart of the lumber districts of the State, and has long been identified with the lumber business. He has placed the De Smet yard on a plane of excellence that is unexcelled by any in South Dakota.*

In 1893, the Renwicks were living in Spokane. In 1895, Renwick was arrested on charges of embezzlement and forgery while working as an auditor in Tacoma. Upon examination of the auditor's books, over thirty shortages were noticed, with accounts for road supervisor's district accounts falsified. Around $5000 was missing. Renwick was convicted and sentenced to two years in the State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, committed in March 1895. He testified that "strong drink" had led him to steal the money. He was pardoned in March 1896 after serving a year, and then settled in Chicago. Gennie and William's daughter, Margaret, was born in 1900.

Following Gennie's death, he visited De Smet a number of times to be with Margaret, and she made trips east to visit her father. William died in March 1934 and was buried in the De Smet cemetery.

> *March 14, 1924, De Smet News.*
> *Father of Margaret Renwick Brot Here for Burial*
>
> *William Graham Renwick was born Christmas Day, 1862, in Edinburgh, Scotland. His father was an Episcopalian minister, rector of the parish in which lived the father of Conon Doyle, and the two boys were playmates. The second of three sons, he came to this country as a minor, living in Canada and Wisconsin. He came to De Smet as an employee of a lumber company in 1886, spending a year or two here and meeting his future wife, Genevieve Masters. He went to Tacoma, Wash., and returned later to marry, the young couple going back to Spokane, Wash. It was there that he joined the Masonic lodge, taking the degrees of the chapter also.*
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> *Mr. and Mrs. Renwick lived in Chicago until her death, in 1909 when the home was broken up and his only daughter, Margaret, came to live at De Smet. Since that time he lived in Chicago, Aurora, Ill., Madison, Wis., Grand Rapids, Mich., and other places, the past two years being spent in the Hyde Park district of Chicago.*
>
> *Mr. Renwick was a public accountant and was recognized in his profession, having been at one time auditor for Fairbanks Morse & Company, later with other companies and banks, and for some time in business as a counselor on financial matters. He lectured at the*

William G. Renwick / 1862 - 1924

University of Wisconsin, and was counselor for the La Salle Extension university and for the state plumbers organization of Illinois.

Mr. Renwick was well educated, widely read, and versatile in his interests. He had an irrepressible humor and a choice of words that made him an entertaining talker. He made friends readily wherever he went. By nature he was a carefree fellow, full of human sympathy and understanding, going thru life enjoying his friendships and experiences. To him life was an interesting game, and he lived it that way to the last, never complaining but always cheerful and hopeful of regaining the health that left him in the past few years. He retained his interest in church work, singing in their choirs for many years, and at the time of his death attending St. Mark's Episcopal in Chicago.

In his death there is left the daughter and his bachelor brother, Andrew Renwick, of Lieth, Scotland. The younger brother went to Australia as a young man and daughters survive him there.

Mr. Renwick became affected with a tumor on his neck about two years ago and underwent various treatments for the trouble, doing all is his power to keep his health. A few weeks ago he was taken to the Illinois Masonic hospital in Chicago for care. Friends in Chicago looked after him and cared for him.

The body was brot to De Smet to lie beside that of his wife, and burial was Monday afternoon from the local Masonic Temple, with Masonic rites. The Rev. John Oakley of Lake Preston, chaplain of the lodge, officiated.

MARGARET EVA (RENWICK) THUNE

Buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Crystal Falls, Illinois
April 24, 1900 – December 23, 1982; died at age 82

Margaret Eva Renwick, 1909

April 27, 1900 [DSN]: From Chicago comes the news of the birth of Margaret Eva, daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Renwick. Our congratulations.

Wife of Leonard A. Thune (1901-1963). Mother of Joan (Thune) Waanenen (1929-1996) and John Renwick Thune (1932-2006).

May 27, 1910. The De Smet NEWS. Little Miss Margaret Renwick, who makes her home with her aunt, Mrs. C.P. Sherwood, recently passed her tenth birthday, and a present that she is very proud of is a Shetland pony with buggy and

harness, saddle and bridle. "Goldie" came from the Perry farm and is a handsome colt. The buggy was built by I.J. Endersby, and is a beauty—rubber tired, with auto seat. The finish is especially fine and a credit to the builder. The little girl will certainly enjoy herself the coming summer.

Margaret and Goldie were in the June 10 parade in 1910, and twenty-five years later, in 1935, Goldie was 28 years old and was driven by Phyllis and Mary Sherwood in the June 10 parade, with the same buggy and bridle in use, giving birth that same year. Goldie died in 1938, with her death mentioned in the newspaper.

June 28, 1935: Goldie, 28 Year Old Shetland, Is Mother

Circumstances often make newsworthy events that would not be otherwise. Take Goldie, for instance: The fact that she just celebrated a 25th anniversary in the June 10th parade, and the further fact that she is 28 years old, should make a blessed event that occurred Saturday morning worthy of news mention.

With true Shetland ruggedness, Goldie disdains her age, and the colt arrived out in the pasture during the night. It is a tiny thing, the smallest of the family she has raised, and she seems all the more proud, if that be possible.

Those who saw Goldie pulling her 25-year-old buggy in the parade June Tenth could hardly believe she could be 28 years old, and they would be surprised to see her, out at the J.F.B. Masters farm, carrying the men as the horses and cattle are rounded up in the pasture.

Margaret graduated from the 8th grade in June 1914. Of the 143 graduates, she ranked #20. Graduated from high school in May 1918, then attended States College in Brookings, majoring in general science.

June 2, 1922: Miss Margaret Renwick has been engaged by the Arlington school board as English teacher in their high school the coming year. Miss Renwick was graduated from the De Smet high school four years ago and is a '22 graduate from the arts and science course at State college. She has made her home with her aunt, Mrs. C.P. Sherwood, since the death of her mother twelve years ago. After college, she taught in Arlington.

August 14, 1925: Margaret Renwick Marries

Miss Margaret E. Renwick was married on Saturday, August 8, to Mr. Leonard A. Thune, the ceremony taking place at Mankato. Mr. and Mrs. Thune drove to De Smet and have spent several days before leaving for their new home at Thief River Falls, Minn., where the groom is athletic coach in the high school.

The marriage came as a surprise to relatives of the young couple, who had announced the event for this month but had not given the date. Miss Renwick left late in July for Mankato to visit at the home of Mr. Thune's sister, Mrs. L.P. Liljergren, and they decided to have a simple marriage ceremony at her home. It was performed at one o'clock Saturday in the presence of a few relatives.

The bride is a local girl, coming here at the age of nine years to make her home with her aunt, Mrs. C.P. Sherwood, after the death of her mother. She was graduated from the local high school and from State college, receiving her degree in 1922. Since that time she has taught English in the high school at Arlington.

The groom is known to many local people from his visits here. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. L.K. Thune of Albert Lea, Minn., and a graduate of State college in 1923, after eight years of athletic training in high school and college. His degree is in agriculture, specializing

in animal husbandry, but he has followed athletic directing, and returns now for his third year at Thief River Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Thune left by car Thursday for Ortonville and Thief River Falls, where they will take possession of a residence Mr. Thune has secured and then spend a week at Lake Bemidji.

Leonard and Margaret Thune had two children: Joan (Thune) Waananen (1929-1996) and John Renwick Thune (1932-2006).

Leonard Thune taught school for more than twenty-five years, also serving as football coach and athletic director at West High School in Green Bay. He died at age 62 on September 12, 1963, in Green Bay (Brown County) Wisconsin. He was buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Crystal Falls (Iron County) Michigan.

Margaret Thune died at age 82 on December 23, 1982. She was buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery beside her husband.

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