

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

5-22-1963

Blattner, Christopher (1862 -)

Virgil Chirhart

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio>

Recommended Citation

Chirhart, Virgil, "Blattner, Christopher (1862 -)" (1963). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 110.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/110>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at The Repository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in WPA Biographic Summaries by an authorized administrator of The Repository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu.

BLATTNER, CHRISTOPHER J.

File No. 1/3

Christopher J. Blattner was born May 21, 1862 at Ontario, Canada, son of Christopher Sr. and Catherine Blattner. His father was born in Germany.

Mr. Blattner's first schooling was mostly picked up from other people and at the age of ten years he came to this state with his parents. He attended Saint Mary's school in Saint Cloud for one winter term. He then went to work on his father's farm situated north of Sauk Rapids in Benton County.

Mr. Blattner stayed on this farm until 1888 and it was while there that he witnessed the cyclone of 1886.

He says, "I was sitting on our back porch, cleaning my shot gun, as I had just bagged some duck. Glancing casually toward Saint Cloud, I was surprised to see a mass of strange looking clouds. They seemed odd so it was natural for me to take a look at them now and then. Suddenly a black funnel seemed to drop out of them and I could see debris flying in the air. I thought that it was a small whirl wind and that the boards were merely straw being blown about. That is how the cyclone of 1886 appeared to me. The next day we drove to Sauk Rapids and the first thing I saw was a two story house with the top story blown off even with the floor and there were three beds left standing and believe it or not the covers were not even ruffled the least bit, just another cyclone break."

In 1888 Mr. Blattner came to Saint Cloud and worked for McCormick Dearing Implement Company for fourteen years and International Harvester Company for three years.

December 31, 1885 he was married to Miss Margaret Scherbing of Saint Cloud by Father Wilkins at the home of the bride's father. Margaret (Scherbing) Blattner was born November 7, 1862 in the state of Illinois. Her parents were natives of Germany. Christopher and Margaret (Scherbing)

1982
BLATTNER, CHRISTOPHER J.

Page 2
File No. _____

Blattner had two children, George, born in 1887, who lived only two and one-half days, and Chester, born in 1894, he died at the age of eleven years.

Mr. Blattner drove logs from the Platt River to Saint Cloud down the Mississippi River.

He recalls a log jam on the river, near the railroad bridge in Saint Cloud and extending to the Sauk Rapids bridge. The logs were jammed way to the bottom of the river and it took one week to clear it out.

The logs were sawyed by the H. A. Anderson Saw Mill, which was located across the river from the Teachers College. As logs grew scarce the log drivers had to wade along shore and fish out beached or grounded logs. When the ice was forming this was a very cold and disagreeable job.

Interviewed: Christopher J. Blattner
Date: May 22, 1936
By: Virgil Chirhart

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE CHRISTOPHER J. BLATTNER BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Baby Blattner	Aug. 27, 1894	St. Cloud	Christian	32

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remark</u>
1. Margaret	30	(1894)B4	2666	27	

DEATH RECORD BOOK (1905)A 14 PAGE 122

Chester Blattner Died May 18, 1905
Age 11 years