

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

5-6-1936

Block, Henry A. (1855 -)

Marjory D. Carter

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

Recommended Citation

Carter, Marjory D., "Block, Henry A. (1855 -)" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 112.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/112>

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.

Henry A. Block, a pioneer farmer residing on his farm in St. Augusta Township, was born in Guschlar, Kingdon of Hanover, Germany on the fourth of March 1855. He is the son of Henry Sr. and Maria (Zeinbeing) Block. Henry and Maria Block came to America in 1857 with their two sons, Christ and Henry A. The voyage took eight weeks and the family landed in New Orleans. They came by river to St. Paul, arriving in Minnesota on September fifth, 1857. The trip from St. Paul was made by ox team. After fording the Mississippi at what is known as "upper ford"; the family located in what is now known as St. Augusta Township near the present site of the village of Luxenburg.

Henry A. Block attended the schools in that district until he was eighteen years old. He relates that the school term lasted about three months each year, the exact length of time depending on the weather conditions. Many times it was too cold for the pupils to go to school or the school house was not equipped for teaching during the winter winds and snow. His first teacher was Mr. Mores.

After completing his schooling Mr. Block worked on the home farm until he was twenty-five years old, at this time he started farming for himself on a 160 acre farm in St. Augusta Township.

Mr. Block relates an interesting incident of his boyhood. Henry and his brother Christ wanted very much to come to St. Cloud for the fourth of July celebration. Their father promised that they might go if they worked hard and did the chores before they started. The brothers arose at three a. m. the morning of the fourth and after completing the farm chores they started on the twelve mile hike to St. Cloud. The boys had ten cents for spending money which

their father had given them. They spent the dime for a cigar which they split in two and each took half, and one glass of beer which they sipped with the sandwiches their mother had put up for them. They returned to the farm, walking the twelve miles and reported that they had spent a wonderful fourth.

Mr. Block was married to Agnes Kronenberg, daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Zuth) Kronenberg early pioneers in St. Augusta Township, on February eleventh, 1880. Joseph and Margaret Kronenberg were natives of Germany and came to America to settle in section twenty-five and later took up a homestead of 160 acres in section twenty-two of St. Augusta Township. Agnes has three brothers and three sisters. Agnes received her schooling, as did the other children of the family, in the school in that district.

Henry A. and Agnes (Kronenberg) Block have seven children, all living. Henry is married and lives in Alberta, Canada; Joseph T. is married and lives in St. Cloud, Joseph is a veterinarian, Phillip, married and operates a farm near his father's in St. Augusta Township, Will is married and lives in Detroit, Michigan; Ida (Block) Wendlen lives in Roscoe, and Agnes married Joe. Karl and lives in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Henry A. Block died October seventeenth, 1935.

Mr. Block recalls the days when there were many Souix Indians near his home. Although they were noted as a quarrelsome tribe, he states they were friendly at first, often camping near the Block home for the summer to fish and to hunt. Mr. Block says they would ask or beg for food which they did not have, such as bread or flour.

He can remember the times when as many as twelve Indians would come to the house, sit cross legged on the floor and converse by sign language; after each visit a peace pipe would be passed around, after which the Indians would leave.

The first trouble with the Indians that Mr. Block can remember occurred during the time of the Civil War. Several of the tribe went into the Block barn and attempted to steal the horses but were routed by Henry Block's father. During the years of the war, they were troublesome and needed watching, but shortly after the war the Indians were put on reservations.

Another interesting reminiscence brought to light during the interview with this old pioneer, recalls the time his father was out of ready money and walked twelve miles into St. Cloud, pawned his silver watch, and bought 100 pounds of corn meal. He returned to his farm hauling the bag of meal on a hand sled over the entire twelve miles.

Interviewed Mr. Henry Block

May 6, 1936
by Marjory D. Carter.

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 16, 1860 -- by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- St. Cloud

Page No. 95

Line 29

Henry Block	Age 48
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Birth Place	Hanover

Line 30

Anna M. Block	Age 34
Sex	Female
Birth Place	Hanover

Line 31

Christian Block	Age 11
Sex	Male
Birth Place	Hanover

Line 32

Henry Block	Age 5
Sex	Male
Birth Place	Hanover

Line 33

August Block	Age 1
Sex	Male
Birth Place	Minnesota

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE HENRY A. BLOCK BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Brith</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Phillip Block	Jan. 24, 1887	St. Augusta	Henry A. Block	
2. Agnes Block	July 4, 1891	" "	Henry A. Block	34

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remark</u>
1. Agnes Block		B	91	21	
2. Agnes Block	30	B1	190	29	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK F. PAGE 405

Henry Block and Agnes Kroneberger

Married February 10, 1880

By: Rev. J. Gougal

Witnesses: Christ Block and Frank Block

DEATH RECORD BOOK 2 PAGE 23 LINE 552

Agnes (Kronenberg) Block Died October 17, 1935

Born April 4, 1861 in Switzerland

Daughter of Joseph Kronenberg and Mary Zusch

Age 74 years 6 months and 13 days