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Borgerding, Joseph (1856 -)

Walter B. Haupt

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Joseph Borgerding was born November 3, 1856, near Pipe Creek, Indiana, the son of John Bernard Henry and Elizabeth (Wieckman) Borgerding. John, Bernard, Henry and Elizabeth (Wieckman) Borgerding were born in Germany, the former on _____ at Boringhausen, and the later at Osterfeine.

As a means of providing a livelihood for his family, John Bernard Henry Borgerding rented a small farm and from its returns was able to supply the family with a meager living. Due to the economic conditions existing in Germany at that time it was impossible for a renter to improve his station in life and for that reason hundreds of German families immigrated to America. Among some of the first families from Germany to migrate to America was Henry Ronebaun and his family, a brother-in-law of John B. H. Borgerding.

After his arrival in America, he settled on a farm near Pipe Creek, Indiana. Assured that the country held plenty of opportunity in store for a man willing to work he urged John Bernard Henry Borgerding to make his home there. In the year 1854, John B. Henry Borgerding, his wife and daughter, Agnes left their native land and set sail for the promised land. The trip across the Atlantic was made on a sailing vessel, and after landing at New Orleans, they continued their trip inland on a riverboat in order to reach their destination in Indiana.

Soon after his arrival there, he purchased a 67 acre farm near Pipe Creek.

Seven children were born to John and Elizabeth (Wieckman) Borgerding while they resided in Indiana, Joseph, who heads this biography; John, now Reverend Thomas, O. S. B. an Indian missionary at Cloquet, Minnesota; Mary, Mrs. William Wenker now deceased; Frank who still resides on the old

home farm near Freeport. Catherine, Sister Henrika O. S. B., now deceased; Caroline, Mrs. Fritz Moehring of West Union. While engaged in farming there for several another brother-in-law came to America from Germany and for a year made his home with the Borgerding family, and then migrated west to Minnesota.

Minnesota was only sparsely settled at the time. Homesteads were still available and other land could be purchased at a low price. Realizing that this state had more to offer than the eastern states, he urged John Bernard Henry Borgerding to take up land there. After some consideration, in the year 1870, he sold his farm in Indiana for \$2200. and came west to New Munich. The trip west was made by rail as far as Sauk Rapids where the railroad terminated at the time and from there the family was hauled to New Munich in a wagon drawn by mules.

While at New Munich he purchased a 320 acre tract of wild land located one mile west of the present Village of Freeport from Henry Borgerding (No relative) for \$1100.00. The first building erected on the farm were a house and stable of log construction. During the interview, Joseph Borgerding remarked, " It did not take a great deal of money to start farming those days. The only implements used in raising wheat were a harrow and a cradle, as the work of sowing and tying the bundles was done by hand. A scythe and fork was all that was needed in putting up the hay crop."

Deer was still plentiful in the county when the Borgerding family arrived. "We found very little time to hunt", Joseph remarked, " as there was always plenty of work to be done on the farm. On fall we killed thirteen deer and sold the saddles for which we received eight cents a pound. When the railroad was built through here the commercial hunters came and slaughtered off the deer and those that escaped being killed

moved west, so in later years no a deer remained.

Wheat was the chief crop of the early settlers, because the land and climate was well adopted to its production and it was the only grain for which there was a steady market.

"The only crop failure that occurred in the early days was due to the grasshopper scourge of 1875-76" Joseph Borgerding remarked, "They came in great swarms in the fall of 1875, and as most of the crop had been harvested, they did little damage, but the next spring the eggs they laid, hatched and the ground was soon covered with them. They devoured the grain as quickly as it came out of the ground. The following year we had the best crop we ever had before or after the scourage, but we gained little as the price of wheat dropped to \$.56 a bushel." Money was scarce and farm produce brought only a small price in the '80s. Eggs sold for as low as six cents, butter from six to ten cents a pound. At one time back in 1882 I was in need of some cash and in order to get it I butchered a hog and hauled it to St. John's at Collegeville, a distance of about 18 miles, where I received $3\frac{1}{2}\phi$ a pound dressed."

After the death of John Bernard Henry Borgerding, which occurred on January 23, 1876, and his wife who died January 23 1895, the farm was purchased by the sons Frank and Joseph, each taking 160 acres.

On November 21, 1882, Joseph married Anna Bergmann, the ceremony was performed in the first church at Freeport, a small frame structure. Rev. Simplicius Wemmer, O. S. B. officiated at the services. Attendants were Frank Borgerding and Mary Bergmann.

Anna Bergman was born January 13, 1867, in Demma, in the province of Oldenburg, Germany, the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Van Handorf) Bergmann. She came to America with her parents who settled on a farm

three miles west of Freeport in the year 1870. She remained at home until the time of her marriage.

After the marriage the couple made their home on the old home farm. Wheat was still the chief crop at the time of her marriage. Although they have several cows, they did not go into dairying extensively until a creamery was built at Freeport in 1897.

Joseph Borgerding was one of the seven directors elected at the first meeting when steps were taken to organize a creamery at Freeport. At the first meetings of the directors, he was elected secretary of the newly organized board.

The first price paid for butter fat was $13\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ a pound. "This price was considered high", Joseph Borgerding remarked, "and most farmers were afraid that there soon would be overproduction, and the price would be lowered, but this was not the case, as the price steadily advanced from year to year."

Through hard work and good management Joseph Borgerding soon turned his farm into one of the finest dairy farms of the community. The log house and barn were replaced by new and modern buildings. The old sythe and cradle have been replaced by modern farm machinery.

In 1926, Joseph Borgerding and his wife retired from farming and moved to the Village of Freeport. Despite their advanced ages the couple are still active and both enjoy the best of health.

Joseph Borgerding attributes his longevity to exercise. This he gets by occasionally helping with the work on the farm.

Joseph and Anna (Bermann) Borgerding are the parents of nine children:

John, born March 18, 1885, married Elizabeth Kerfeld and they reside on a farm two miles west of Freeport.

Agnes, born January 26, 1887, is at present employed at Lesmare,

Minnesota.

Clara, born September 29, 1887, is at present Mrs. Joseph Steinke of Eden Valley, Minnesota. Mr. Steinke is a creamery operator at that place.

Mary, born January 31, 1884, died in infancy.

Elizabeth, born January 31, 1891, is Sister Adeltrudis, O. S. B., At present she is a teacher in the Cathedral High School at St. Cloud. Joseph Junior, born February 20, 1898, married Catherine Monn and they reside at St. Cloud, where he is engaged in the Farm implement business.

Herman, born April 10, 1897, married Bernadine Hoeschen and they operate a farm near Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

Helda, born March 1, 1899, is Mrs. Joseph Overman. They reside on a farm six miles south of Freeport.

Bernard, born April 9, 1901, married Thresa Hoeschen and they reside on the home farm.

Interviewed: Joseph Borgerding
Interviewed by: Walter B. Haupt
Date: March 2, 1938
Publication granted.

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BORGERDING, JOSEPH

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biographies as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

AFFIRMED: Birth of Mary Borgerding, January 31, 1884, is correct as stated in the biography.

AFFIRMED: Birth of John Borgerding, March 18, 1885, is correct as stated in the biography.

Reinterviewed: Joseph Borgerding
Date: August 1, 1938
By: Walter B. Haupt

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TAKEN FROM THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LEGAL RECORDS
FOR THE JOSEPH BORGERDING BIOGRAPHY

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MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK H, Page 57

Joseph Borgerding and Anna Bergmann
Married at Freeport, Nov. 21, 1882
By Rev. Simplicius Wimmer
Witnesses: Francis Borgerding & Mary Bergmann

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK T, Page 10163

John Borgerding and Lizzie Kerfeld
Married at Freeport, June 5, 1907
By Rev. Herman Bergmann
Witnesses: Henry Kerfeld & Agnes Borgerding

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK U, Page 10927

Joseph H. Steinke and Clara Borgerding
Married at Freeport, June 23, 1909
By Rev. Henry Borgerding
Witnesses: Agnes Borgerding & August Steinke

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK Z, Page 14737

Joseph C. Borgerding and Catherine Monn
Married at Freeport, June 10, 1919
By Rev. Herman Bergmann, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Herman Borgerding & Anna Monn

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK 3, Page 16764

Joseph Overmann and Hilda Borgerding
Married at Freeport, May 29, 1923
By Rev. Henry Borgerding, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Bernard Borgerding and Rose Overmann

TAKEN FROM THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LEGAL RECORDS
FOR THE JOSEPH BORGERDING BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK 5, Page 17726

Bernard J. Borgerding and Theresia Hoeschen
Married at Freeport, May 19, 1925
By Reverend Thos. Borgerding
Witnesses: Herman Borgerding & Bernadina Hoeschen

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK 10 Page 21400

Herman J. Borgerding and Bernadine R. Hoeschen
Married at Freeport, June 20, 1933
By Rev. Maurus Ferdinand, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Ernest Heinke and Bertha Hoeschen

DEATH RECORD, BOOK 1895 - A-5, Page 117, Line 1

Elizabeth Borgerding died January 23, 1895
Age 65 years, 4 months, 7 days

DEATH RECORD, BOOK A, PAGE 44, Line 18

Bernard Borgerding died January 23, 1876
Age 59 years.

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TAKEN FROM THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE LEGAL RECORDS
FOR THE JOSEPH BORGERDING BIOGRAPHY

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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	FATHER'S NAME	AGE
John Borgerding	Mar. 2, 1885	Township of Oak	Joseph B.	
Maria "	Jan. 3, 1884	" of "	" B.	
Maria Agnes "	Jan. 5, 1887	" of "	" B.	
Maria C. "	Sept. 30, 1888	" of "	" B.	
Maria Elizabeth	Jan. 31, 1891	" of "	" B.	34
Joseph	Feb. 2, 1893	" of "	" B.	34
Herman	Apr. 10, 1897	Freeport	" B.	40
Hilda	Mar. 1, 1899	"	" B.	42
John Bernard	Apr. 9, 1901	"	" B.	34

MOTHER'S NAME	AGE	BOOK	PAGE	LINE	REMARKS
Marie		B	26	30	
Anna		A	623	4	
Anna		B	88	1	
Anna		B	120	18	
Maria	26	B-1	141	5	
Anna	27	B-3	216	3	
Anna	30	B-7	103	1	
Anna	32	B-9	138	1	
Anna	34	B-11	100	1	

Checked by N. P. Kruchten
Date: May 12, 1938