

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

8-4-1936

Braegelman, Gerhard (1853 -)

Alexander Pallansch

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

Recommended Citation

Pallansch, Alexander, "Braegelman, Gerhard (1853 -)" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 146.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/146>

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.

BRAEGELMANN, GERHARD

File No. B-150

Gerhard Braegelmann was born in Alenberg, Germany, April 7, 1853, the son of Clemens and Elizabeth (Sieverding) Braegelmann.

Clemens and Elizabeth (Sieverding) were born in Loben Oldenberg, Germany and were engaged in farming. They owned several cattle and in this town or dorf they had one big farmer called the Bauer. He owned the horses, oxen and machinery to operate a big farm and all the people around there would go to him and ask him to do their farm work with his machinery. In return they would work for him on his big farm.

To Clemens and Elizabeth Braegelmann six children were born, two girls who died in infancy, Clemens born, May 10th, 1848, Anton June 12, 1846. Henry April 29, 1851 and Gerhard April 7, 1853.

Gerhard received his schooling in Germany and aided his parents with the farm work.

Clemens was the first one of the family to come to America. He settled in Richmond Stearns County in 1866. A few years later in 1870 he was joined by Henry who also came to Richmond.

When Clemens and Henry were twenty-one years old they were supposed to join the Military service and serve for three years in the German Army. They did not want to do this so they left their native country and came to America.

In the year 1873 their parents came to America with Anton and Gerhard, and settled at Richmond.

The parents settled three miles from Richmond in Munson township, where the mother died in 1893 at the age of eighty-seven years. The father died in the year 1895 at the age of eighty-one. They are both buried in the St.

Peter and Paul Catholic cemetery at Richmond.

Gerhard worked on the farm with his parents three or four⁴ years and then purchased a farm of 165 acres in Munson township. Gerhard built a samll frame house and started farming with oxen.

On the 11th of May 1880 he married Thelka Gertken.

Thelka Gertken was born August 8, 1860, the daughter of Henry and Anna (Niehaus) Gertken natives of Germany. The Gertkens first settled in Illinois, and later came to Stearns county, about the time of the Indian trouble in 1862. Anna at this time was two years old.

After his marriage Gerhard increased his acreage and until he owned 500 acres in Munson and Eden Valley township. He improved his farm in various ways and built a modern home and large barns.

He also owns a farm of 183 acres in section 17. In the year 1897 he retired and moved to a farm of 80 acres near the outskirts of the Richmond Village.

There were ten daughters born to Gerhard and Thelka Braegelmann; Elizabeth (first); Anna and Elizabeth (second) Josephine and Mary now Mrs. John Willenbring are deceased, Catherine, Margaret, Elizabeth (third) Helen and Frances. Frances the youngest of the girls married Henry Torborg and lives on the home place. Several of the girls joined the convent at St. Joseph, Minnesota. Gerhard served as supervisor and treasurer of the Richmond township for a number of years.

In 1912 he was elected President of the State Bank of Richmond, Minnesota and held this office for several years.

BRAEGELMANN, GERHARD

Page 3

Theika (Gertken) Braegelmann died several years ago and is buried in the St. Peter and Paul cemetery.

Gerhard at this writing is still active and a respected citizen.

Biography of Gerhard Braegelmann Copied August 4, 1938
BY: Alexander G. Pallansch