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Dirkes, John (1840 - 1936)

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DIRKES, JOHN

File No. B-293

John Dirkes was born July 23, 1840, in Prussia, Germany, and attended school there.

At the age of 23, he came to America, making the trip on a sailing vessel. After a trip of 48 days, the vessel landed at New York. From there he at once went to Aurora, Illinois, where he found employment in a saw mill. After several years there, he came to Stearns County, where he worked at Sauk Centre and in various other communities for some time, and then filed on a homestead, two miles southwest, from where the present village of Albany now stands.

On May 12, 1870, he married Elizabeth Dobmeier. The couple walking from St. Joseph to St. Cloud where they were married by Rev. Father Meinulph O. S. B. at the St. Mary's Church.

After their marriage, they made their honeymoon trip to St. Nicholas, on foot and then walked to Albany to establish their home on the homestead of Mr. Dirkes.

The land at this time was covered with timber and it took many years of hard work to render it tillable.

Deer, bear and other game, were plentiful in the township during the first few years, and Mr. Dirkes did considerable hunting as there was a demand for the meat on the market. At one time he hauled a load of deer saddles to St. Cloud, for which he received \$90.00, the trip was made with a team of oxen.

Indians were also numerous in the county at the time and very friendly with the settlers occasionally calling on them to beg or trade. "It was a custom in those days to give the Indians tobacco whenever you

met them, "Mike Dirkes remarked, "but you had to fill your pipe first otherwise the Indian would keep the tobacco."

As early pioneers Mr. and Mrs. John Dirkes endured many hardships in converting their homestead into a modern dairy farm, that would provide for them a comfortable livelihood. Mr. Dirkes also took an interest in the affairs of the community, serving as a town supervisor for many years.

After retiring to the village of Albany the farm was taken over by the son George who still resides on the farm today.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dirkes celebrated both their 50th and 60th wedding anniversary, both in the best of health.

In July, 1936, John Dirkes passed away, at the age of 96, burial was made in the Catholic Cemetery at Albany.

Mrs. Dirkes is at present at the Old Folks Home in Little Falls, Minnesota.

John and Elizabeth (Dobmeier) Dirkes are the parents of ten children:

Peter married Eva Thelen and they reside on a farm near Browerville, Minnesota.

Margaret is Mrs. Joseph Scholz of Park Rapids, Minnesota.

Henry is in business in Ventura, California.

Anna is Mrs. James Ervin of Blaine, Washington.

Mary is Mrs. John Artz of Antler, North Dakota.

Lena is Mrs. Bert Artz of Oswego, Montana.

George, married Mary Bloch of Albany and they reside on the old

DIRKES, JOHN

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homestead.

Alois resides at Cashmere, Washington.

Regena is Mrs. Rolston of Forsythe, Montana.

Mike married Anna Wilhelm and they reside on a farm in
Saranah county.

There are 71 grandchildren and 68 great grandchildren.

Interviewed: Mike Dirkes
Date: June 15, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FORTHE JOHN DIRKES BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Peter Dirkes	Feb. 4, 1871	Town of Albany	John B. Dirkes	
2. Margaret "	July 8, 1874	" " "	" " "	
3. Henry "	Feb. 13, 1876	" " "	" " "	
4. Anna Marie "	June 19, 1878	" " "	" " "	
5. Maria Dirkes	Apr. 14, 1880	" " "	" " "	
6. George "	May 6, 1884	" " "	" " "	
7. Alois Dirkes	June 2, 1886	" " "	" " "	
8. Regina "	July 4, 1888	" " "	" " "	
9. Micheal "	Feb. 9, 1872	" " "	" " "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	25	17	
2. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	141	7	
3. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	221	34	
4. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	303	26	
5. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	385	8	
6. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	589	14	
7. Elizabeth Dirkes		B	43	28	
8. Elizabeth Dirkes		B	104	18	
9. Elizabeth Dirkes		A	61	1	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK C. PAGE 444

John Dirkes and Elizabeth Dobmeier

Married at St. Cloud, May 12th, 1870

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE JOHN DIRKES BIOGRAPHY

By: Rev. P. M. Stukenkemper

Witnesses: Henry Marto and Mary Heneman

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK T. PAGE 10657

George Dirkes and Mary Bloch

Married at Albany, September 15, 1908

By: Rev. A. Straub

Witnesses: John Woebbenberg and Regina Dirkes

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK S. PAGE 9770

Lambert Artz and Lena Dirkes

Married at Albany, December 19, 1905

By: Rev. A. Straub

Witnesses: George Dirkes and Regina Dirkes

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK P. PAGE 7338

Micheal Dirkes and Anna Williams

Married at Albany, September 7, 1897

By: Rev. P. Dominic Hofmann O. S. B.

Witnesses: Fred Dirkes, Kath Williams, John Williams and Mary Dirkes

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK N. PAGE 614

Peter Dirkes and Eva Thelen

Married at Albany, November 26, 1894

By: Rev. Conrad Glatzmeier

Witnesses: Fred Dirkes and Anna Dirkes

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE JOHN DIRKES BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK N. PAGE 82

Joseph Scholz and Margaretha Dirkes

Married at Albany, January 10, 1893

By: Rev. Conrad Glatzmeier O. S. B.

Witnesses: Peter Dirkes Jr. and John Hettwer

DEATH RECORD BOOK 3 PAGE 13 LINE 346

John Dirkes, Born in Germany, July 23, 1840

Died July 13, 1936

Age 95 years 11 months and 10 days