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### Fischer, John W. (1853 - 1929)

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FISCHER, JOHN W.

File No. B-367

Johan W. Fischer, a son of Ludwig and Sophie Fischer was born in Berfelda, Bernatine, Germany on March 20, 1853. It was there that he spent the early part of his life and received his education. After completing his education, he hired out as a laborer to some of the neighbors.

On the 26th day of December, 1877, Johan Fischer was united in marriage to Antonia Binder, a daughter of William and Caroline Binder. The wedding took place in Berfelda, Bernatine, Germany, the home town of both the bride and groom. They continued to make their home in Germany and their first two children, Elizabeth and Herman were born there.

In the early summer of 1882, Johan Fischer and his family set sail from Hamburg, Germany to America where they planned to make their future home. They landed in Baltimore, Maryland, seventeen days after leaving their homeland. At Baltimore they boarded a train for Chicago, Illinois where they stayed over to make train connections to St. Paul, Minnesota. During their stop in Chicago, they went to one of the largest hotels for a meal, for during the trip from Baltimore they had eaten only lunches on the train. At the hotel, they were shown into a large dining room in which there were two large tables set for dinner. One of these tables was set for the regular hotel guests while the other was set for the immigrants who stopped there for their meals. The guest's table was abundantly filled with the best of everything to eat, including pies and cakes, while the immigrants table contained only the plainest of food and very little of that.

For this scant meal, Johan Fischer was required to pay five dollars for his family and it did not include the milk which he had to buy for the baby to drink/

After arriving in St. Paul, they again changed trains. This time their destination was Grove City, Minnesota. Arriving at Grove City, they were well received by the business men of that town. They brought the family food to eat and beer to drink while they were waiting on the depot platform. Johan went up town and hired a team and buggy for four dollars with which to make the trip north to Paynesville, Minnesota where they were to make their future home.

The first night they spent under a roof was in a house owned by August Zabel. On the morning, they went to the home of Mrs. William Lueck, a sister of Antonia ( Binder) Fischer who had come to this country years before.

During the next four years, Johan Fischer worked out as a farm hand throughout the neighboring community. Then he bought his first forty acres of land in Eden Lake township where he built his home. The land was thickly covered with fine timber which he had to clear away before he could start building the house and barn. After the buildings were completed, he moved his family into their new home where they continued to live for a great many years. The next task at hand was that of clearing the land of its timber so that he could use the land for farming. This proved to be a slow tedious job as all the work had to be done by hand with the help of a team. As the years passed, the land was cleared and more land was added to the original forty acres until in



later years there was a total of three hundred acres of land in the Fischer farm.

Johan Fischer and his family lived on their farm for twenty-four years. During the year 1910, they moved into the village of Eden Valley, Minnesota, where they lived for the following four years.

In 1914 Johan Fischer moved to the village of Paynesville where he purchased a home located directly north of the Soo Line tracks. It was here that he spent the remainder of his life and where his wife Antonia ( Binder) Fischer is living at the present time.

There were seven children born to Johan and Antonia ( Binder) Fischer, the two oldest of whom were born in Germany. The five younger children were born in Stearns County, Minnesota and they are: Frank, Paul W., Martha, John A., and Carl Arthur.

Elizabeth Fischer, the oldest child, was born in Berfelda, Bernatine Germany, on November 25, 1878. When she was a small child she came to America with her parents and settled in Stearns County. She received her education in the rural schools near her home. On February 16, 1898, she was united in marriage to Ralph W. Hyneman of Eden Valley, Minnesota. They live in Eden Valley where Ralph Hyneman owns and operates the Hyneman Photo Gallery. They are the parents of one child, Arthur, who was born October 8, 1900. He is married and lives at Litchfield where he is employed.

Herman Fischer was born in Germany, also. His birthday is December 30, 1880. He was the baby when his parents came to America. Herman attended the rural schools near his home. On January 17, 1910, he was

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married to Helen (Bork) Schultz, widow of Frank Schultz. By her first marriage she had three sons, Harold, Alvin and Ervin. Herman and Helen (Bork) (Schultz) Fischer are the parents of two daughters, they are: Margaret and Eleanor. They live at home with their parents. For a number of years Herman Fischer owned and operated a farm. Eleven years ago he took over the duties of caretaker of the Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds which position he is still holding.

Frank Fischer was born on December 4, 1882, on the farm located in Salem Township. It was in Eden Lake township that he received his education and grew to manhood. On November 19, 1908, he was united in marriage to Julia Schmidt. They made their home on a farm located in Meeker county adjoining Eden Lake townships in Stearns County. The Frank Fischer family made their home on this farm until September 3, 1934 when Frank Fischer passed away. The family then moved into the village of Paynesville. Frank and Julia (Schmidt) Fischer were the parents of six children, who are, Gertrude (Fischer) Schmidt; Esther (Fischer) Blumker; John, Katherine, Frank Jr. and Lorna.

Paul Fischer was born in Salem township on July 28, 1885. He received his education in the rural school near his home. In September 1922, he was united in marriage to Emma Larson. They live in Dekora, Iowa, where Paul is in the hardware business. Paul and Emma (Larson) Fischer are the parents of four children, and they are: Sylvia, Carlton, Nadine, and Romona.

Martha Fischer was born in Eden Lake township on September 30, 1887. She also received her education in the rural schools near her home. In December, 1909 Martha Fischer was married to Edward Nelson, the wedding



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taking place in Litchfield, Minnesota. They made their home in Aldrich, Minnesota, until the time of his, Edward Nelson's death, August 20, 1914. He was laid to rest in the city cemetery at Aldrich. Edward and Martha (Fischer) Nelson were the parents of two sons, Ralph and Arthur. After her husband's death, Martha (Fischer) Nelson moved back to Paynesville with her sons. On May 1, 1915, she was married to Ed Wendlandt. They moved to a farm located in Lake Henry township which is still their home. Ed and Martha (Fischer) (Nelson) Wendlandt are the parents of five children, they are: Norbert W.; Jeraldine N.; Earl D., Alice A., and Eugene E.

John A. Fischer was born October 1, 1890 in Eden Lake township where he also received his education and grew to manhood. He was married to Mrs. Kathryn Lucks of Monticello, Iowa and they have two children, Lorraine and John Junior. Their home is at Sioux Falls, South Dakota where John is employed.

Carl Arthur Fischer, the youngest child, was born in Eden Lake township on March 2, 1893. During the World War, he enlisted in the United States Army. He was a member of Co. B. 34 Engineer of the American Expeditionary Force. After the War was over, he was married to Maud (Myhre) Price of St. Paul, Minnesota. Maud Price had one child, Edith, by her first marriage.

Johan W. Fischer applied for his citizenship papers in 1883. Years later he applied for his second which he received in 1897, thus becoming a citizen of the United States.

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The Christian faith of the Fischer family, while they lived in Germany, was that of the Lutheran Church. After coming to America, they joined the German Evangelical church in which church they have always been faithful workers.

Johan Fischer passed away at his home in Paynesville on June 29, 1929. He was laid to rest in the Ebenezer cemetery.

Interviewed: Antonia ( Binder ) Fischer  
Date: October 27, 1938  
By: Clarence Chisholm

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