

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

3-18-1937

Fuchs, Peter (1850 -)

Walter B. Haupt

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

Recommended Citation

Haupt, Walter B., "Fuchs, Peter (1850 -)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 382.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/382>

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.

FUCHS, PETER

File No. B-401

Peter Fuchs, was born in Bickenburg Kreis, Bittberg, Rhine, Provence, Germany, on May 17, 1850.

Peter Fuchs is the son of Henry and Katherine (Grossman) Fuchs, now deceased in Germany.

When Peter was twenty-two years of age, he was, under the German law, required to serve three years in the German Army. This he dreaded and decided to evade the service, coming to America the same year accompanied by two of his sisters, Elizabeth, Mrs. John B. Sperl and Mary, Mrs. Dan Kanipes of Duluth, Minnesota.

After a trip which took nine days they landed at New York. From there they at once come to Avon, Minnesota, where an uncle, Bernard Berg, resided on a farm. Having only seventy cents left he immediately went to work for his uncle, chopping wood. Here he worked for about three months. When his sister, Elizabeth, married John B. Sperl he went to work for them, helping Mr. Sperl put up his log cabin and also helped in hewing ties for the railroad. For these ties they received twenty cents for number one oak ties, fifteen cents for number two's, and ten cents for number three's. Later on as good oak logs became scarce they received twenty-five cents for the best.

After working for Mr. Sperl for about a year, he hired out to N. S. Keppers. Mr. Keppers was having trouble in keeping a hired man, but Peter soon found out what the trouble was, Mrs. Keppers would not allow her husband to keep a man about the place who used profanity. During the interview Mr. Fuchs said " I never used profane language before I worked for N. S. Keppers nor since and my children will vouch for that, and I would still be working for Mr. Keppers if it wouldn't have been that I got married".

After working for N. S. Keppers for three and a half years, and having saved as much of his earnings as possible, Peter sent for his boyhood sweetheart, Susanna Fuchs, daughter of John Fuchs of Sefernweig Bittburg, Germany.

They were married at Avon, October 28, 1877, Father Benedict O. S. B. performing the ceremony. The attendants were, Christ Scheibel and Tillie Keppers.

Having received forty acres as part payment for his wages from Mr. Keppers he erected a log cabin on it and a little later bought an adjoining forty acres.

The first crop was a complete failure, due to grasshoppers. They arrived shortly before harvest and devoured the complete crop.

After a few years Mr. Fuchs decided to sell this place because the land was poor and had no hay fields. He then bought a farm two and a half miles southeast of Albany from Joseph Kraker of Melrose.

His first farm implements consisted of a plow, cradle and scythe a grub axe and a home made harrow. The first five years he used oxen and then traded them for a team of horses. Horses sold for about \$300.00 at that time.

Since there were no creameries in those days the farmers made their own butter and put the surplus in rolls which they sold, getting five and six cents a pound. When a customer bought butter he would sample different rolls to see which one suited him best, but at that one was never sure whether or not it was good all the way through. It wasn't unusual to find a potato or rutabaga in the roll, and quite often the butter could only be used as axle grease.

Becoming disgusted with some of the butter Mr. Fuchs decided to get some cows and make his own butter. As he was able to produce good butter he found a market for it in St. Cloud where he sold it to Joseph Eldebrock. Not being able to supply the demand he also bought butter from his neighbors for five cents a pound rewashed it and sold it for ten cents a pound at St. Cloud.

There were very few parties and celebrations those days. Usually the only time the women got together was on Sundays.

After some years Peter Fuchs became one of the leading farmers of the community and was elected town supervisor an office he held for twenty-four years. He also was on the school board for a number of years.

He was active on his farm until the death of his wife which occurred January 8, 1920. Since that time he has made his home with his children. A son, Nicholas, bought the old home farm. At present Peter is at the home of his daughter Susie, Mrs. John H. Fisher. He holds the distinction of being the oldest living settler of the township.

Peter and Susanna (Fuchs) Fuchs are the parents of nine children.

Nicholas, born October 29, 1878 on the home place. He has five children, Arnold, Robert, Raymond, Harold and Eugene all at home.

Sophia, was Mrs. Geo. Schneider, she died May, 1932.

John, born May 6, 1881 is a blacksmith at St. Rose, Minnesota. He married Christina Finken of Freeport. They have eight children.

Kate, was born December 18, 1883. She is the wife of Math Sonnen of New Munich. They have six children.

Mary, was born January 4, 1885. She is Mrs. Markus Bookmeier of Tocomo, Washington. They have three children.

FUCHS, PETER

Page 4

Susie, born March 29, 1887, married John H. Fisher. They reside on a farm two miles east of Albany. Susie (Fuchs) Fisher has eight children, Peter married Elenore Schmitt they have one child. Norbert, Stella, Florence, Lucille, Ben, Edmund, Jeanette at home.

Anna, born December 30, 1888 married Ray Clellen of Chicago. They have two children.

Christ, born February 7, 1891 is the leading blacksmith of Albany. He married Christine Schleppenbach of Albany. They have six children, Peter, Lucille, Genavieve, Lorraine, Ellen and Marion all at home.

Alice, born July 30, 1893, is Mrs. Loyd Clellen of Chicago. They have three children.

Interviewed: Peter Fuchs
Date: March 18, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE PETER FUCHS BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Nicholas Fuchs	Oct, 29, 1878	Avon	Peter Fuchs	
2. Jane Fuchs	Jan. 13, 1880	Avon	Peter Fuchs	
3. John Fuchs	Sept. 27, 1882	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
4. Anna M. K. "	Dec. 18, 1883	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
5. Mary Fuchs	Jan. 4, 1885	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
6. Susanna Fuchs	Mar. 28, 1887	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
7. Christoph Fuchs	Feb. 7, 1891	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
8. Elizabeth Fuchs	July 31, 1893	Albany	Peter Fuchs	
9. Anna Cath. Fuchs	Jan. 30, 1896	Grove Twp.	Xavier Fuchs	42
10. Carl J. Fuchs	Nov. 2, 1885	St. Joseph	Xavier Fuchs	
11. Margareth Fuchs	Sept. 11, 1899	Grove Twp.	Xavier Fuchs	45

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Susanna Fuchs		A	303	16	
2. Susanna Fuchs		A	387	1	
3. Susanna Fuchs		A	481	29	
4. Susanna Fuchs		A	535	15	
5. Susanna Fuchs		B	10	21	
6. Susanna Fuchs		B	74	12	
7. Susanna Fuchs		B1 1891	1	1	
8. Susanna Fuchs		B3 1893	4	23	
9. Elizabeth	39	B6 1896	116	2	
10. Elizabeth		B	37	39	
11. Elizabeth	42	B9 1899	160	4	

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE PETER FUCHS BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK I. PAGE 117

Xavier Fuchs and Elizabeth Gembs

Married at St. Jacobs, October 19, 1884

By: Rev. P. John B. Katzner

Witnesses: Frank Bruener and Lena Knaus

DEATH RECORD BOOK L. PAGE 11 LINE 276

Elizabeth Fuchs, Born in Germany, February 22, 1857

Daughter of Philip Gemps mother unknown

Died August 2, 1919

Age 62 years 6 months and 10 days