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Gnifkowski, Thomas

Tresa Gruber

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Thomas Gnifkowski was born in Posem, Prussia, Germany, and was there reared. He also received military training and in 1870 fought in the France -Prussian War. He came to America and settled in Buffalo, New York, where he was employed as brake-man by the Great Northern Railway.

Thomas married Anna Kowalkowski the daughter of John and Anna Kowalkowski, both natives of Germany who came over to America in the early years of the 1800's and settled in Buffalo, New York.

Thomas Gnifkowski brought his family to Saint Cloud in 1880. He bought a home from Christ Pitts on Tenth Avenue and Seventh Street North, which at that time was all wilderness.

After the cyclone in 1886 they built a home on 401 Thirteenth Avenue North, which is still known as the Gnifkowski homestead.

To Thomas and Anna (Kowalkowski) Gnifkowski six children were born, Mary who married Matthew Bauler, they have three children. Anna married John Chaika, who is a carpenter by trade, they have four children. Anna died in 1918. Joseph married Mary Kloskowski, they have one daughter. Joseph is a meat cutter and part owner of the Fourth Ward Meat Market. Thomas married Helen Lehr, they also have one daughter. Thomas has been with the Ladner Hardware Company for many years. Cecilia married Charles Petters who was for many years employed by the North Star Paper Company and later by the Saint Cloud Daily Times. Charles Petters died in 1933. Albert married Alvina Schroeder. Albert is a meat cutter by trade.

Interviewed: Mrs. Mary (Gnifkowski)Bauler
Date: October 27, 1936
By: Tresa Gruber

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE THOMAS GNIFKOWSKI BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. John Gnifkowski	Jan. 26, 1885	St. Cloud	Thomas Gnifkowski	
2. Thomas L. "	Dec. 4, 1886	" "	" "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Anna Gnifkowski		B	31	34	
2. " "		B	63	59	

DEATH RECORD BOOK K. PAGE L& LINE 532

Anna Chaika born July 20, 1879 in New York

Daughter of Thomas Gnifkowski and Anna Kowalkowski

Died October 20, 1918

Age 39 years 3 months