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Groetsch, Simon (Gretsch) (ca. 1860/1870 - 1931)

Walter B. Haupt

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GROETSCH, SIMON (ALSO SPELLED GRETSCH)

File No. B-456

Simon Groetsch was born on October 31, 1870, at the home of Andrew Achman in Avon township.

Simon Groetsch is the son of John and Margaret (Weis) Groetsch, who lived on the farm which is now operated by Aloys Groetsch a grandson .

John and Margaret (Weis) Groetsch were born in Germany and were married there.

In the year 1860, John and Margaret (Weis) Groetsch, accompanied by Simon and Lena Groetsch, a brother and sister-in-law, came to America, and at once came west to Stearns County, where they made their home with the Andrew Achman family, who had migrated to America a few years earlier. It was while the family was staying at the Achman home that the son Simon was born.

After a short time here, the two brothers, John and Simon, purchased a homestead site of 160 acres, which they divided each taking 80 acres.

Simon moved on the eighty on which log buildings had already been erected, while John erected a new set of log buildings on his eighty.

Deer, bear and other game animals were plentiful in the township during the first years and so the brothers did considerable hunting.

After deer became scarce, Simon decided to go farther west, and so he sold his place and for a short time lived in the village of Albany and then moved to the State of Oregon, where he continued to farm and hunt until his death.

John and Margaret (Weis) Groetsch, as early pioneers endured many hardships in establishing a home that would provide for them and their family a comfortable livelihood.

The nearest trading post was St. Cloud. During the interview Theresia Groetsch remarked, "I remember the time when Lena, the wife of Simon Groetsch Senior, picked blackberries which she would carry to St. Cloud, a distance of about fifteen miles, a pail in each hand and one she carried on her head."

John Groetsch died on September 4, 1882 and his wife, Margaret (Weis) Groetsch died December 13, 1894, both are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Collegeville.

John and Margaret (Weis) Groetsch are the parents of four children. Math; Lena, Mrs. Sebastian Meyer; Annie, Mrs. Mike Herschfeld; and Simon, all now deceased.

Simon attended school in St. Wendel township, and then remained at home where he assisted his father with the work, until the time of his marriage.

On June 15, 1886, Simon Groetsch was united in marriage to Theresia Eich, daughter of Peter and Philomina (Schnieder) Eich, of St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Theresia Eich was born on August 10, 1862, on a farm near St. Joseph, and remained at home until the time of her marriage. She received her schooling in the Sisters school in St. Joseph.

After their marriage the couple took over the home farm which they operated until the death of Simon, which occurred August 16, 1931, after an illness of two years. Theresia (Eich) Groetsch makes her home with the son Aloys, who operates the home farm at present.

Simon and Theresia (Eich) Groetsch are the parents of nine children:

Peter, born March 6, 1889, died after a lingering illness, May 20, 1922, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Collegeville.

Mary, born September 10, 1890, married Herman Brinkman, and they reside on a farm two miles south of Collegeville. They are the parents of six children.

Frances, born October 21, 1892, married Andrew Bechtel and they reside in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Mr. Bechtel is a stone cutter by trade. They are the parents of five children.

Laurentia, born September 15, 1894, married Joseph Pueringer and they reside on a farm near Hillman, Minnesota. They are the parents of five children.

Amelia, born May 13, 1897, married Frank Salzer and reside on a farm near Avon. They are the parents of two children.

Ida, born June 24, 1899, married Ignatius Warnert and reside in Cold Spring, Minnesota, where Mr. Warnert is a foreman in the Cold Spring Granite Company. They are the parents of two children.

Robert, born December 6, 1901, married Viola Warnert and reside in Cold Spring, Minnesota, where he is employed as a Draftsman for the Cold Spring Granite Co. They have one child.

Julia, born November 18, 1904, and Aloys, born April 27, 1907, are at home.

Interviewed: Mrs. Theresia (Eich) Groetsch
Date: May 27, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 25, 1860 By-- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office-- Clinton

Page Number 116

Simon Groetsch	Age 37
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Bavaria
Cathern Groetsch	Age 31
Sex	Female
Born	Bavaria
Mary Groetsch	Age 5
Sex	Female
Born	Pennsylvania
Cathern Groetsch	Age 3
Sex	Female
Born	Pennsylvania
Anna Groetsch	Age 1
Sex	Female
Born	Minnesota

TAKEN FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE SIMON GROETSCH BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Carolina Groetsch	Oct. 21, 1887	Albany	John Groetsch	
2. Anton "	Aug. 4, 1889	"	" "	23
3. Elizabeth "	May 8, 1891	"	" "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Martina Groetsch		B	75	40	
2. " "	23	B	138	35	
3. " "		(1891)B1	4	11	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK J. PAGE 3

Simon Gratsch and Thresia Eich

Married at St. John's, June 15, 1886

By: Rev. Ulrich Northmann O. S. B.

Witnesses: H. M. Eich, Elizabeth Theisen and John Gretsck

DEATH RECORD BOOK X. PAGE 20 LINE 586

Simon Gretsck Born October 30, 1860

Son of John Gretsck and Margaret Weis

Died August 16, 1931

Age 70 years 9 months and 10 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK O. PAGE 18 LINE 478

Peter J. Gretsck Born March 6, 1889

Died May 20, 1922

Age 33 years 2 months and 14 days

Page 2

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1894 A 4 PAGE 148

Margaretha Gratsch Died December 13, 1894

Age 70 years 4 months

DEATH RECORD BOOK A. PAGE 104 LINE 22

John Grutsch Died September 4, 1882

Age 63 years 9 days

GROETSCH, SIMON

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

CORRECTION:

Birth of Simon Gretsches, October 30, 1860, is correct as stated in the legal records.

AFFIRMED:

Spelling of name, Ida, is correct as stated in the biography.

AFFIRMED:

Spelling of name Laurentia, is correct as stated in the biography.

AFFIRMED:

Birth of Frances, October 21, 1892, is correct as stated in the biography.

AFFIRMED:

Spelling of name Frances, is correct, but Mrs. Gretsches thinks the priest who baptized Frances might have put down the spelling as stated in the legal records.

Reinterviewed: Mrs. Theresia (Eich) Gretsches
Date: November 18, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt