

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

12-9-1936

Leonardy, Ernest (1823 -)

Tresa Gruber

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

Recommended Citation

Gruber, Tresa, "Leonardy, Ernest (1823 -)" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 761.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/761>

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.

LEONARDY, ERNEST

File No. B-790

Ernest Leonardy was born in Luxemburg in 1823 and in 1849 with his wife Catherine (Hosted) Leonardy and child Mary, sailed for America. They landed in New York, where their second child, Julia, was born. They lived in Cincinnati and St. Louis for a short time and then came to St. Paul, Minnesota, where they lived for several years.

In 1858 Pierce Thomey, a friend and country man of Ernest Leonardy, came to St. Paul. He visited with the Leonardy's and asked them to come to Stearns county which they decided to do. On Mr. Thomey's next trip to St. Paul he brought the Ernest Leonardy family to St. Cloud. The trip was made by ox team, but mostly on foot. Ernest built a home on 401-14th Avenue North, which was destroyed the same year by the cyclone which passed through here in 1859. He rebuilt his home but couldn't finish it till the following spring, because the nearest town to get plaster was Shakopee and all traveling was done by ox train or stage coach at that time. The transportation by stage coach to St. Paul was \$18.00

Ernest Leonardy kept a boarding house it was called, "Luxemburger Hof." They had a flourishing business especially when the Red River carts came through town for provisions, they also traded their furs and hides for clothes and groceries.

Breckenridge Avenue at this time was known as the Government Road and John Dorr, a stage coach driver, built the first house on Government Road. It was a two room structure. The closest neighbor of the Ernest Leonardys was the Berg family, who lived across the street from where the Franklin school now stands.

The St. Mary's Church at this time was located on our present Post Office site, it was a one story frame structure and it was also used as a school room after services.

The Indians were their nearest neighbors and were constant visitors. They held their dances in back of the present freight depot on Breckenridge Avenue. The last dance was held on the first St. Germain Street Bridge in 1868.

The Fourth of July celebrations for the Germans were held in an empty pasture across from twenty-fourth Avenue. The Americans, or other wise known as "the Yankees" held their picnics on the present Central Park site.

To Ernest and Catherine (Holsted) Leonardry two daughters were born Mrs. Mary Ernestine (Leonardy) Schindler, deceased, and Mrs. Julia (Leonardy) Nolen, who, at the present time is ninety years old. She still makes her own candles and has in her possession an old tin "candle maker", it holds six candle moulds.

Interviewed: Mrs. Julia (Leonardy) Nolen
Date: December 9, 1936
By: Tresa Gruber

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE ERNEST LEONARDY BIOGRAPHY

NO RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE