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8-11-1936

### Meyer, Herman A. (1850 - )

N. P. Kruchten

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#### Recommended Citation

Kruchten, N. P., "Meyer, Herman A. (1850 - )" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 855.  
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/855>

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Among the pioneer and early settlers of Saint Cloud, Minnesota we find Herman A. Meyer, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, July 20, 1850.

Herman Meyer was a son of Baltasar and Elizabeth (Hagerdorn) Meyer who came from Germany and settled on a farm in Mercer County, Ohio in 1840, where the Meyer family farmed for over twenty-five years.

Baltasar Meyer and his family decided to move to Minnesota, and on October 8, 1865 the Meyers settled on a farm in sections thirteen and twenty-four in Saint Augusta township, Stearns County, Minnesota. This farm Baltasar Meyer operated until in the fall of 1875, when he stopped farming and moved to Saint Augusta, Minnesota, and operated a general merchandise and grocery store until his death. Baltasar Meyer died at the age of seventy-four and Elizabeth Meyer died at the age of ninety-eight, both were buried in the Meyer family lot in the Saint Augusta Cemetery.

Herman A. Meyer received his early education in the Mercer County, Ohio, country school and also attended school in Saint Augusta for a few years, then he worked on the farm for his father. Herman A. Meyer states that when his father first settled in Saint Augusta there were no railroads, and the only transportation was by stage coach, and team and wagon. He relates that Lt. Governor Gilman hired his father, Baltasar Meyer, to haul provisions from Saint Paul, Minnesota to points north and west as far as Brainerd, Minnesota, and Fort Ambercrombie, North Dakota. While Herman Meyer helped his father on those long and tiresome journeys he became acquainted with the Indians along the route. When Lt. Governor Gilman found out that Herman was well acquainted with the Indians he hired Herman Meyer to go and bring in the Indians with their furs and venison, which they had sale for, and take them to Lt.

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Governor Gilman who paid them an honest price. The Indians, Herman Meyer states, were honest people as long as the white man did not try to beat them too much. Herman Meyer also recalls the hardships they had to suffer when they first settled here in Stearns County. He states that his father had two flat stones about four feet square and with these stones his father and mother ground corn into flour so they had flour with which to bake bread.

Herman Meyer was well acquainted with Sitting Bull, the Indian Chief, and because of this acquaintance with him, it made it easy for Herman to do business with the Indians. He bought as high as eighty-eight two wheel carts full of hides and furs from the Indians, and brought them in to Saint Paul, Minnesota for the Lt. Governor Gilman.

Herman A. Meyer was married in the Catholic Church of Saint Augusta, on May 4, 1875 to Anna Mary Laudendach, daughter of Joseph and Susan Laudendach who were pioneers in Stearns County coming from Cincinnati, Ohio, and settled on a farm near Saint Augusta, Minnesota. Anna M. Laudendach was born in 1852 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Herman A. Meyer operated a farm in Saint Augusta for a number of years then when Mrs. Meyer died in 1898 he decided to retire from farming and come to Saint Cloud, Minn.

In 1899 Herman Meyer was employed by the Great Northern Railway Company at Waite Park and in a few years Fred Lindt, Superintendent at the Waite Park Shops, secured Mr. Meyer a better position in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he worked for Fred Wilkins traveling through the country building depots for the Great Northern Railway Company. After three years of traveling for the Great Northern Railway, Herman Meyer came back to Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and took building contracts for himself and continued contracting until 1921 when he retired.

To Herman A. and Anna Mary (Laudendach) Meyer were born seven children,



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Mary, (Mrs. William Kramer) of Brainerd, Minnesota; Minnie, (Mrs. Luther Oaks) of Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Emma, (Mrs. John Dietrich), John Dietrich is a carpenter of Saint Patrick, Minnesota; Joseph Meyer, employed by the Billings Brewery Company, Billings, Montana; Mathilda, (Mrs. Andrew Boehm) of Billings, Montana; Eddia, (Mrs. John Richter) of Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Gertrude, (Mrs. Joseph Fredrickton) of Seattle, Washington.

Herman A. Meyer lives at 215 Fifth Avenue South East, Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Interviewed: Herman A. Meyer  
Date: August 11, 1936  
By: N. P. Kruchten

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