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Pogatschnick, Joseph (1861 -)

Walter B. Haupt

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POGATSCHNICK, JOSEPH

File No. B-1050

Joseph Pogatschnick was born March 12, 1861, in St. Joseph township.

Joseph Pogatschnick is the son of John and Mary (Notsch) Pogatschnick, pioneer settlers of St. Joseph township, now deceased.

John Pogatschnick was born in Breckendorf Oberkrein, Austria, in the year 1833. He attended the school there, and then was employed, as a teamster, in the livery business, which his father conducted there. It was while he was employed there that he met Mary Notsch, daughter of Lawrence and Applonia (Pierz) Notsch.

The Notsch family lived on a small farm which did not produce enough to supply the family needs and so Mr. Notsch also worked as a shoemaker, during spare time, to make ends meet.

Father Pierz, who was a brother of Applonia (Pierz) Notsch, was at this time serving as an Indian Missionary in Minnesota, wrote his sister, telling her of the wonderful opportunities existing in Minnesota at that time, and soon had the family persuaded to make the trip to America.

In the year 1855, Lawrence Notsch brought his family to St. Joseph, and John Pogatschnick accompanied them.

The trip across the Atlantic was made on a sailing vessel, and after a voyage of 44 days during which time they encountered many storms, they landed at New York. From there they continued their trip west by rail to St. Anthony Falls, now the city of Minneapolis, where the railroad terminated at that time. From there they continued the trip on a ferry boat to St. Cloud, where they were met by Mr. Lenneman and

Father Pierz, who took them to St. Joseph.

Mr. Lenneman at that time operated a small store there. The building was of log construction and also had a room partitioned off, which served as a church .

At St. Joseph, the Notsch family made their home in a log cabin, which was the former home of the Lenneman family. Here they lived until Lawrence Notsch, who filed on a homestead about a mile north from the present townsite of St. Joseph, had erected a cabin of his own. This same house later served as the first home of many other immigrants, who came from Austria in search of homesteads.

After the Notsch family was settled on their homestead, John Pogatschnick found employment on a farm near Montecello. Here he remained for a year, during which time he learned to speak English and also earned enough money to purchase a team of young oxen. After the oxen were full grown, he constructed a wagon, the wheels of which were made by cutting discs from a large tree, and then hauled provisions for the government to Fort Wadsworth and Fort Ripley. These trips usually consumed from six to eight weeks to complete.

After three years in America, on January 6, 1858, John Pogatschnick married Mary Notsch, and they homesteaded a claim near the Lawrence Notsch homestead. Aside of working the claim, he also continued hauling provisions for the government, often driving two teams of oxen.

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The first mill that was used by the settlers was brought to this country by Father Pierz. It was turned by hand and was used to grind wheat and corn to be used for flour. Since it was the only mill there, it was used by settlers for miles around.

The first crop which consisted of a few acres of wheat, was cut with a scythe, which they brought along from Austria, the next year however, they purchased a cradle, which was followed by newer improvements as they made their appearance on the market.

In the year 1873, a brother of John Pogatschnick also came to America, and was employed at the Maurin store in Cold Spring, Minnesota and later was married to Ursula Mesgheshnick, and they resided on a farm north of Albany.

Another brother, Anton, also came to America a few years later, but he returned to his native land after being employed for some time in the lumber camps and saw mill near Minneapolis.

As early pioneers, John Pogatschnick and his wife endured many hardships in converting their wilderness homestead into one of the finest farms of the community. His farm however, was not his only interest as he was also interested in the community as a whole. For many years he was Town Clerk and treasurer, and for several terms was assessor of the township.

John Pogatschnick died in St. Joseph, burial was made in the St. Joseph Catholic cemetery. His wife, Mary (Notsch) Pogatschnick, died February 4, 1894 and she is also buried in the Catholic cemetery there.

John and Mary (Notsch) Pogatschnick are the parents of twelve children, nine dieing at a young age.

Mary, Anna and Joseph.

Mary is Mrs. Staub and she resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Anna married Joseph Torker, now deceased, and she resides in St. Stephens, Minnesota, where she operates a store. She is the mother of five children.

Joseph, whose name heads this sketch attended school in St. Joseph, his first teacher was Joseph Duerr, who taught for two years and then the school was taken over by the sisters of St. Benedict. During his last year Henry Duerr a brother of John taught the school.

As a young man he assisted his father with the work on the farm.

On May 27, 1884, Joseph Pogatschnick was married to Mary Pollanz of St. Joseph.

Mary Pollanz was born August 15, 1865, in St. Joseph township and was at home until the time of her marriage.

After their marriage, the couple made their home with John Pogatschnick, and assisted him with the work, for five years and then took over the place. After three years of managing the place, they farmed in Le Sauk township and on several farms in St. Wendel township, and then purchased a 200 acre farm in St. Wendel township, which they operated until 1929, when they sold it and retired to the village of Avon, where they live at present.

On May 27, 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pogatschnick celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, both enjoying the best of health.

Joseph and Mary (Pollanz) Pogatschnick are the parents of thirteen children:

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on June 16, 1860 By-- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Clinton

Page No. 38

Notch, Lawrence	Age 65
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Austria

Apolonia Notch	Age 56
Sex	Female
Born	Austria

Notch, Joseph	Age 23
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farm-Laborer
Born	Austria

Page 39 June 17, 1860

Notch, Anna	Age 18
Sex	Female
Occupation	Laborer
Born	Austria

Notch, Terasa	Age 16
Sex	Female
Occupation	Laborer
Born	Austria

Anna married Vincent Murphy and they reside on a farm in St. Wendel township. There have three children.

Leona married John Welleki and they reside on a farm in St. Joseph township. They are the parents of three children.

Bertha is Mrs. Albert Jacobson of Minneapolis. Mr. Jacobson is a painter by trade.

Mary married John Hartman and they reside in Staples, Minnesota. Mr. Hartman is employed on the Northern Pacific R. R.

Monica is employed in Minneapolis.

Angeline is employed in Duluth.

Rosella at home.

Joseph married Bertha Pierskalla and is employed at St. Stephens, Minnesota. They have six children.

John married Bertha Schlomer of St. Joseph, Minnesota. They reside in St. Joseph, Minnesota. where he is a road patrolman. They have six children.

George married Agnes Murphy and they reside in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where he is employed. They have one child.

Peter married Elizabeth Scher and they reside on a farm near Lakota, North Dakota. They have five children.

Two children died in infancy.

Interviewed: Joseph Pogatschnick
Date: June 15, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOSEPH POGATSCHNICK BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK I. PAGE 16

Joseph Pogatschnick and Mary Polanz

Married at St. Joseph, May 27, 1884

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

Witnesses: Jos. Lauerman, Jacob, Nicholas, Cath, Joe, and Eliz.
Rossier, Mr. Pogatchnick

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1894 A -4 PAGE 130

Mary Pogatschnick Died February 4, 1894

Daughter of Lorenz Notch and Apelonie Pierz

Age 56 years

POGATSCHNICK, JOSEPH

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:

Name should be spelled Notch as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

Reinterviewed: Joseph Pogatschnick
Date: Nov. 18, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt