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Rengel, John (1895 -)

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Nelson, Dean, "Rengel, John (1895 -)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1050.
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RENGEL, JOHN

File No. B-1089

John Rengel was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, August 8, 1895 son of Peter J. and Anna Marie (Halfman) Rengel.

John was named after his grandfather, John Rengel, who settled in St. Cloud about 1855 on section fifteen. Since that time the Rengel family has been associated with the growth of this city to the present day. John Rengel Senior was born August 15, 1830 in Prussia, Germany and died in St. Cloud in 1874. His wife Josepha, was born in Austria in 1840, and died in August 6, 1876. Her maiden name was Meyers.

Peter J. Rengel was born in St. Cloud January 11, 1862 and lived his entire life in this city dying by accidental death June twelveth 1917. Anna Marie (Halfman) Rengel was born in Germany and died in St. Cloud April 25, 1931, both are buried in the Calvary Cemetery of this city.

John Rengel received his education at St. Mary's School in St. Cloud. He had one brother Robert born February 27, 1897 in St. Cloud and two sisters, Marie and Helen. They all attended St. Mary's School and afterwards received employment at various jobs. John had ambition to become a newspaper man so he became an employee of the Nordstern Publishing Company. For several years he served as press man for that paper.

In 1918 John enlisted in the services of his country during the World War and saw action on the front lines in France. At present he is associated with the Goedert Rengel Printing Company of St. Cloud.

John Rengel married Gertrude Thelen at Freeport, Minnesota and they have four children:

Donna Mae, Robert, Donald and Joanne.

Gertrude (Thelen) Rengel is the daughter of Hubert and Susan Thelen of Freeport.

Robert Rengel married Idelle Haueter of Osakis, Minnesota, on June 24, 1931 and they have one daughter, Evonne Marie.

Marie Rengel lives in St. Cloud and is employed at the Gamble-Robinson Company at St. Cloud.

Helen Rengel married James Solberg of Minnespolis, on June 17, 1933 and they have one daughter, Elaine Marie.

Robert is foreman of the Lumber Yard at the Great Northern Car Shops in St. Cloud.

The children of Peter J. Rengel tell many stories of the early days as passed on to them from their grandfather, John Rengel. One tale concerning the Indians is interesting. The Chippewas were coming through St. Cloud to battle with the Souix in Southwestern Stearns County and stopped at the Rengel farm. John Rengel gave them food and then, instead of going away, they all lay on the floor to sleep. John didn't spend a very easy night but they left early the next morning. When John could breath a little easier, he thought he had narrowly escaped death, but the following evening they all came back to spend another night. The next morning they again pursued their opponents and didn't come back again. When questioned of this John always said "I never bothered them. They just took over the premises and in that way we were friends."

Another incident recalls that St. Cloud was without a business firm when John first arrived here. He tells of purchasing his first sack of flour in Sauk Rapids and after securing a canoe to cross the

RENGEL, JOHN

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river, carried the flour home on his back.

Interviewed: John Rengel
Date: October 23, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

Publication Granted

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated July 21, 1860 By -- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- St. Cloud

Page No. 112

John Rengel

Age 30

Sex

Male

Occupation

Farmer

Born

Prussia

Josepha Rengel

Age 20

Sex

Female

Occupation

Born

Austria

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN RENGEL BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Robert J. Rengel	Mar. 6, 1928	St. Cloud	John Rengel	32
2. Baby Rengel	Mar. 13, 1925	" "	" "	29
3. Donald "	May 21, 1932	" "	" "	37
4. Baby Rengel	Aug. 20, 1935	" "	" "	40

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Gertrude Thelen	24	V	4	86	2nd child
2. " "	20	S	5	109	1st child-Female
3. " "	28	Z	8	207	3rd child
4. " "	31	3	10	383	Female

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN RENGEL BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 4 PAGE 17295

John M. Rengel and Gertrude Thelen

Married at Freeport, June 17, 1924

By: Rev. P. Maurus Ferdinand O. S. B.

Witnesses: John B. Thelen and Marie A. Rengel

DEATH RECORD BOOK J. PAGE 3 LINE 79

Peter Joseph Rengel Died June 12, 1917

Age 55 years 5 months and 1 day

DEATH RECORD BOOK X. PAGE 3 LINE 81

Anna Mary Rengel Died April 25, 1931

Age 68 years 11 months and 28 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK A. PAGE 45 LINE 29

Josepha Rengel Died August 7, 1876

Age 38 years

RENGEL, JOHN

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:

The death of Josepha (Meyers) Rengel on August 7, 1876, is correct as stated in the legal records.

Reinterviewed: John Rengel
Date: November 4, 1937
By: Dean Nelson