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Ruenger, William (1848 - 1917)

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Recommended Citation

Chisholm, Clarence, "Ruenger, William (1848 - 1917)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1091.
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William Ruenger, an early settler in Zion Township, Stearns County, Minnesota, was born in Rurenberg, Germany, on June 25, 1848. He received his education and grew to manhood in the town of his birth. As a young man, he took up the baker's trade, and followed this line of business during the time he lived in Germany.

In 1872, William was united in marriage to Muliana Schmidt. She was born in Zachan, Pomerania Province, Germany on July 10, 1846. After their marriage, they made their home in Zachan. Their children were all born there with the exception of the youngest son, Robert, who was born in Zion township, Stearns County, Minnesota. Twelve children were born to them, seven of whom died in infancy. The remaining are: Theresa, Frances, Ida, Hattie and Robert.

In 1882, William received a letter from a cousin, August Weber, who was living in Zion Township, Stearns County, Minnesota, suggesting that he come to America and take advantage of the opportunities which this country offered. In the same year, William set sail for America accompanied by his eldest daughter, Theresa. His wife, Juliana, was unable to come at the time. After arriving in New York, they came west to St. Cloud, Minnesota by train and from there to their destination, which was Zion township, they made the trip by team. The cousin, August Weber, had come to St. Cloud to meet them.

For several years William worked as a farm hand. In this way, he learned the farming business with which he had not been familiar. Two years later Juliana and the other children came to this country. They landed in Castle Garden, New York and proceeded westward by train to St. Cloud where they were met by William. For several more years he continued to work out. He then purchased a farm in Section 31 of Zion

township. It was quite a difficult task to start farming by himself as the only experience he had was that he learned since his arrival to the United States. At first he had only one team, a few cows and a few chickens, but as time passed he increased his acreage and his live stock. Their youngest child, Robert, was born while they lived on this farm.

The children received their education in the Grove School and in the District #45 school which was located in Zion township.

The oldest daughter, Theresa, was born in Zachan, Germany, Dec 10, 1872. She was married to Gustav Kroll, November 7, 1893, in the Grove Church, with Reverend Burnze, officiating. They made their home on a farm in Sections 30 and 31 of Lake Henry township. They are the parents of two daughters, Elsie, who was born August 12, 1893; and Adeline, who was born May 29, 1900. Elsie was married in 1918 to William Liebreiz and they have two sons, Ebner and Arlon. On October 10, 1934, William passed away. Elsie is married again to Clarence Barrett. Adeline Kroll lives in St. Paul, where she is employed.

Frances Ruenger was born in Zachan, Germany, April 6, 1877. She was married to Henry Gumpto in June, 1895. They made their home in Madelia, Minnesota. They are the parents of three children, who are: Leslie, Ethel and Ambrose. Ambrose was accidentally killed from a gun wound when he was twenty-one years of age. Leslie and Ethel (Gumpto) Wicks live at Jeffers, Minnesota, where Leslie is in the store business and Ethel's husband, Harry Wicks, is a barber. Harry Gumpto passed away November 1, 1937 and was laid to rest in the Madelia cemetery. Since the death of her husband, Frances (Ruenger) Gumpto lives with her daughter, Ethel, at Jeffers.

Ida Ruenger was born in Zachan Germany , June 21, 1878. On June 18, 1895 she was married to Richard Nehring. They made their home on a farm in Kandiohyo County, just across the Stearns County line. They are the parents of five children, who are: Milton, who was born Feb. 19, 1898 and is married to Alice Nelson. They have four children, who are: Ruby, Clifford, Llayd and Joyce. Arlie, the second child of Ida and Richard Nehring, was born September 28, 1899 and he is married to Thelma Paetznick. They have two children, Valene and Glenice. Ada was born May 21, 1902 and she lives at home with her mother. Chester was born June 7, 1906. He is married to Marcella Cossairt and they have one daughter, Lois.

Viola, was born March 19, 1909. She is married to Sam Weber. They have one son, Duane.

Richard Nehring passed away June 30, 1927 at his home. He was laid to rest in the Paynesville cemetery. After the death of her husband, Ida (Ruenger) Nehring moved into the village of Paynesville where she now lives.

Hattie Ruenger was born in Zachan, Germany, March 7, 1880. On April 25, 1901, she was united in marriage to Emil Wendtland. They werem married at the Grove Church with Reverend Gogstader in charge. For five years they lived on a farm north of Paynesville. They then moved to Paynesville where Emil was engaged in the oil business. The last years of his life he was employed as an interior decorator and painter. Emil and Hattie (Ruenger) Wendtland were the parents of one son, Elver, who was born January 6, 1913. Elver was married to Lonah Babler of Orangeville, Illinois, on June 17, 1936. He is employed as a teacher and as an Athletic Instructor in the public schools of Paynesville. Emil Wendtland passed away on March 19, 1932. Buriel was made in the Paynesville cemetery.

Robert Ruenger was born in Zion township, April 17, 1886, on the farm where he is living at the present time. Robert was married to Malinda Manz on September 13, 1906. Robert bought his father's farm. They have one daughter, Marjory, who lives at home with her parents.

William Ruenger left his farm when his son, Robert, was married and moved into the village of Paynesville where he purchased a home. He passed away September 23, 1917 at his home; He was laid to rest in the Grove Cemetery.

His wife, Juliana, lived with her daughter, Hattie, (Ruenger) Wendtland and family until she passed away on March 19, 1922. She was laid to rest beside her husband.

The Christian faith of the Ruenger family is that of the Evangelical Church. There were members of the Grove and Zion Churches while living on the farm. After moving to town they became members of the local church.

Interviewed: Ida (Ruenger) Nehring
Date: November 17, 1937
By: Clarence Chisholm

Publication granted

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TAKEN FROM THE COURT RECORDS OF THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FOR THE WILLIAM RUENGER BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK N, PAGE 346

Gustave Droll and Theresia Ruenger
Married at Emanuels Church, Nov. 7, 1893
By Rev. Herman Bunse
Witnesses: Rudolph Weber and J. Ruenger

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK O, PAGE 7033

Richard Nehring and Ida(~~Wagner~~) Ruenger
Married at Paynesville, June 14, 1896
By: Rev. H. H. Siebold
Witnesses: Franklin Nehring and Rudolph Weber

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK 2, Page 8327

Emil A. Wendlandt and Hattie Ruenger
Married at Lake Henry April 25, 1901
By: Rev. M. Gagstetter
Witnesses: Frank Weber and Hulda Helmer

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK S, PAGE 10038

Robert B. Ruenger and Malinda Manz
Married at Paynesville, Dec. 13, 1906
By: Rev. S. B. Goetz
Witnesses: Helena Weber and Edwin Manz

DEATH RECORD, BOOK O, PAGE 16, Line 405

Julinna Ruenger born in Germany, July 10, 1846
Died March 19, 1922
Age 75 years, 7 months, 19 days

DEATH RECORD, BOOK T, PAGE 16, Line 439

Richard Nehring born in Minnesota, Dec. 25, 1870
Son of L. F. Nehring and Regina Helmer
Died June 30, 1927
Age 57 years, 6 months, 5 days

DEATH RECORD, BOOK Y, PAGE 18, Line 458

Ernie August Wendlandt born in Minnesota, Jan. 3, 1881
Son of Christ Wendlandt and Augusta Leibierg
Died March 19, 1932
Age 51 years, 2 months, 16 days

BIRTH RECORD

<u>CHILD'S NAME</u>	<u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>FATHER'S NAME</u>
Robert B. Ruenger	Paynesville	April 17, 1886	William

<u>MOTHER'S NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>FATHER'S AGE</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINE</u>
Johanna Ruenger			B	73	11

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No 1860 Census Records in Stearns County