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Schenk, John (1830 - 1930)

Gilbert Bunt

Malinda Bunt

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Bunt, Gilbert and Bunt, Malinda, "Schenk, John (1830 - 1930)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1128.
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SCHENK, JOHN

File No. B-1169

John Schenk was born in Germany in 1830. In 1851 he was married to Helena Braun who was also born in Germany. When war broke out in their native country, in 1853, they came to the United States with their twin children. They settled in Louisville, Kentucky. At that place John Schenk owned and operated a refreshment house for five years. Hearing of the thriving city of Chicago, John left Kentucky and took his family to Chicago, Illinois, but after a year in that city he found the people did not have enough money to spend, so he decided to come to Minnesota where his brother, Joseph, was located in St. Augusta, township, Stearns County, where the village of Luxemburg is now located. Shortly before John Schenk arrived in Stearns County the Indians had destroyed all the homes and crops in the vicinity of his homestead.

After his arrival, John bought a cow for which he paid \$50.00 and a team of oxen for \$100.00. All of the land had to be cleared by hand and after it was cleared, it was planted and harvested by hand. The nearest neighbor of John Schenk was Henry Voss, who lived in a small log cabin which was built on the present site of the St. Wendelin Church at Luxemburg. John Schenk and Henry Voss took turns at guarding their homes and crops against the Indians.

In 1912 John turned his farm over to his son-in-law, Martin Stang, in return for the care of himself and his wife, Helena (Braun) Schenk. John and Helena (Braun) Schenk were the parents of fourteen children, the living are: Mrs. Helen (Schenk) Bunt, 1320-8th Street South, St. Cloud. Mrs. Sophie (Schenk) Kowalkowski, St. Cloud. Mrs. Joseph Schoen, Waite Park. Mrs. John Staples, Staples, Minnesota.

SCHENK, JOHN

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Mrs. Martin Stang, on the old homestead. John of Seattle, Washington.
Joseph of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Peter of Chicago, Illinois.

There are nearly three hundred descendants of this pioneer couple. John Schenk died January, 1930, at the age of 99½ years. Helena (Braun) Schenk died two months later. Both are buried in the St. Wendelin Church Cemetery.

Interviewed: Mrs. Helen (Schenk) Bunt
Date: April 30, 1936
By: Gilbert Bunt

Publication Granted

FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS

Peter Roeser Jr. sold to John Schenk, 160 acres, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section
5 - township 123 - Range 28, for \$1450 on May 16 - 1867.

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN SCHENK BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK V. PAGE 23 LINE 502

John Schenk Born in Germany, February 14, 1830

Son of John Schenk and Helen Masdorf

Died May 5, 1929

Age 99 years 2 months and 21 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK V. PAGE 23 LINE 503

Helena Schenk, Born in Germany, February 19, 1832

Daughter of John Braun and Katherine Rausch

Died May 21, 1929

Witnesses: Age 97 years 3 months and 2 days

SCHENK, 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:

Date of death of Helena Schenk on May 21, 1929, is correct as stated in the legal records.

CORRECTION:

Date of death of John Schenk, on May 5, 1929, is correct as stated in the legal records.

Re-interviewed: Mrs. Rose Bunt
Date: October 12, 1937
By: Malinda Bunt