

## Clemens Mengelkoch

Clemens Mengelkoch was born near Coblenz in Prussia, Germany in the year of 1820. Opportunities were few in the old country and like other ambitious men, he decided to come to America. He landed in New York in 1856 and came directly to St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a carpenter by trade and worked as such in St. Paul.

On June 26, 1856 he paid cash for the East 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 27 and the SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 27, the acreage totaling 120 acres. This land was in Plymouth Township, Hennepin County. Due to error in spelling it was posted in the "Abstract of Lands " Hennepin County as Chas. Meryelhook. The spelling was probably due to misunderstanding perhaps of broken German and English dialect.

Clemens had one brother Jacob who preempted land in the same section. His story is on accompanying sheets.

In the fall of 1856, Clemens married Katherine Spurzem. She was also from Germany, being born near Maien in 1836. She came to America with her parents and two brothers, Peter and Jacob in the early 1850's. They lived in Detroit, Michigan from three to four years before coming to Minnesota. The family settled near Loretta, Minnesota. Katherine took a job in a hotel in St. Paul. While working there she met Clemens Mengelkoch. They were married in St. Paul and moved to Clemens's land in Plymouth Township. He built himself a log house like the other pioneers and cleared his land. Later as he prospered he built a new home which has been remodeled at various times and his son William lived in the original home until his death in 1954.

Some time around 1885 he decided to build a business block on 4th St. and Plymouth Ave. in north Minneapolis. This building had stores downstairs and apartments upstairs. He worked at this along with his regular farming.



Their life as pioneers was rugged but with plenty of hard work they always managed to step forward and improve their living conditions.

They did not have much diversion from work. Their past time was principally visiting with the neighbors, attending church and the men would go hunting and fishing. There were occasional dances.

Clemens's wife assisted in many childbirth cases. She was a good singer and when a few neighbors came together, they would sing their old songs.

Transportation was by walking, using a team of oxen and later they used horses. At first there was no church but later church was attended at St. Joseph's Catholic Church near Medicine Lake.

The Indians were not really troublesome but were always wanting to trade wild game for bread. There was also the fear that one of the Indians might try to steal one of their babies. They seemed to like white children, thirteen being born to Clemens and Katherine Mengelkoch. They were as follows; Jacob married Katherine Schmitz of Plymouth Township. They first farmed in Plymouth and later moved to Minneapolis where he operated a grocery store in the building his father had built on 4th St. and Plymouth Ave.. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis. They had seven children; Annie, Margaret, Clemens, Alex, Clara, Alfred and Katie.

Margaret married Nicholas Bofferding of Golden Valley, Minn.. They lived in Golden Valley on a farm. She was laid to rest in St. Anthony Cemetery in Minneapolis. They had thirteen children, Peter, Clemens, Jacob, Louis, Elizabeth, Andrew who died in infancy, Henry, John, Susan, Christopher, Nicholas, Charles and Raymond.

Caroline married John Freund from Wisconsin. They lived in Wisconsin but later moved to Minneapolis. He had a shoe store on Plymouth Avenue. She was laid to rest in Holy Name Cemetery in Medina Township. They had eight children, Jacob, Catherine, Mary, Clemens, Tena, Gayhart, and twins, Ivo and Irene.



Hubert married Cecelia Weidenback from near Loretta, Minnesota. They lived in Minneapolis and he run a grocery store with his brother Jacob. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis. They had two children, Alex and Erma.

Mary married Andrew Scherer of Medina Township. They lived on a farm in Medina Township but later moved into Plymouth Township on a farm next to her fathers's. She was laid to rest in Holy Name Cemetery in Medina. They had eight children, Clemens, Katherine, Christine, Sam, Nicholas, Joe and twins Andrew and Hubert.

Henry married Susan Rath of Plymouth Township. They lived in northeast Minneapolis and he had a hide and tallow business. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis. They had five children, Arthur, Arlene, Vera, Bernice and Madaline.

Elizabeth married Michael Steffes of Minneapolis. They lived in north Minneapolis. He was a carpenter by trade by ran a tavern for many years on Plymouth Ave. N.. She was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis. They had five children, Henry, Arthur, Edwin, George and Lorena.

Clemens married Katherine Schutz of Minneapolis. They lived principally in north Minneapolis. He was in the grocery business but later was an automobile salesman. He is still living ( 1954 ) in Minneapolis at the age of 84. They had ten children, Irene, Fre, Alic, Agnes, Marie, Norbert, Ralph, Ruth, Grace and Paul.

Peter died as a young boy. He was laid to rest in Holy Name Cemetery, Medina.

William married Margaret Ditter of Plymouth Township. They lived on the home place and farmed. He died in 1954 at the age of 80 years. They had five children, Helen, Aldena, Raymond, Margaret and a child who died in infancy.

Katherine married Charles Klausman of Plymouth Township. They lived on Mathew Klausman's home place and farmed. In their later years they moved to Minneapolis. Katherine is still living there ( 1954 ) at the age of 78. They had four children Corrine, Margaret, Roy and Edna.



Antoinette ( Nettie) married Henry A Radintz of Plymouth Township. They lived on the Frederic Radintz home place and farmed, later moving into north Minneapolis. Antoinette is still living ( 1954 ) at the age of 75. They had seven children, Helen, Earl, George, twins, Ethel and Blanche, Mary and Katherine.

Annie married William Ditter. They lived on a farm near Osseo, Minnesota. She was laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery near Medicine Lake. They had five children, George, Delrose, Margaret, Daniel and Aldene.

Clemens Mengelkoch passed away in 1895 at the age of 75 years and his wife Katherine, passed away in 1908 at the age of 71. Both were laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Medicine Lake.