

## JACOB MENGELKOCH

Jacob Mengelkoch, according to his citizenship papers, arrived in the United States on or about November 20, 1854, from his native home in Daun, Germany. He was born in the village of Daun on April 20, 1830. He went to school there and judging from a report on his schoolwork which he got when he was thirteen years old he was considered a "good" and "very good" scholar. At twenty-one he was enrolled in the German army and served from October 1, 1851 to September 29, 1853 when his release was signed in the City of Coblenz.

Then it was, evidently, that the golden opportunities of America beckoned to him as it did to so many central European people of that period, and he heeded the call and came to the United States the next year.

After coming to Minnesota by way of St. Paul and St. Anthony Village, in 1860, he homesteaded one hundred sixty acres, the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S.E. Quarter of Section 27, Township 118, North of Range 22. This farm lay in Plymouth township along the old Watertown Road where that road joins the Perkinsville Road. There he lived until a few months before his death in 1893.

In approximately 1859 or 1860 he married Catherine Brooks who was then residing in St. Anthony Village but who was also a native of Germany. To this union were born nine children. The children in the order of their birth were: Margaret, August 9, 1861; Mary, December 6, 1862; Caroline, September 8, 1864; Henry, March 19,

1866; Anthony, May 1, 1868; John, March 17, 1870; Joseph, April 7, 1872; Mathias, April 14, 1874; and Frank, September 26, 1876.

The family was a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Medicine Lake, for which there was no resident pastor then, but in which services were conducted on Sundays and Holy Days by priests from neighboring parishes. This situation created hardships for the pioneers when wishing their children to receive religious instructions as it meant walking many miles to neighboring parishes to do so. However, walking to church on Sunday and visiting with their neighbors while walking along or sometimes stopping off at one of the homes was a pleasure that all looked forward to.

The school, then known as District 95 of Hennepin County, lay adjoining the farm on the northeast corner so that the children were luckier than many of that day because they did not have so far to walk to school. All nine children received their elementary education there in the log schoolhouse and in the first frame one-room building which was built after the community started growing.

The monotony of every day farm work and other duties was periodically broken up for the family when farmers from towns lying to the westward such as Watertown, would drive herds of cattle and haul other farm produce down to the young but even then thriving markets in the newly organized City of Minneapolis. The journey being a long one by foot and ox cart, the farmers would occasionally stop at homes enroute such as Jacob Mengelkoch's for a meal, fresh drinking water and sometimes even to stay overnight.

Other diversions were, of course, fishing and hunting. Most of the fishing was done in Medicine Lake, Faue's Lake, a little lake lying south of Medicine Lake, or in Parker's Lake. Fish were plentiful in those lakes then, either in summer or winter and there different members of the family would go for a few hours or an evening of fun. Catherine especially like the sport and even in later years after Jacob's death, she would pack a lunch and walk down to Faue's Lake to spend the day fishing. After she was unable to walk she would hitch up her old horse and driven down in her buggy to son Mathias's place at Medicine Lake to spend the day so she could do some fishing. Small game was abundant in those days and Jacob and the boys didn't lack opportunity to enjoy hunting in the woodlots surrounding their home. There was one tract especially that Jacob tried to keep as much as possible in its natural state for the good hunting that it afforded.

House parties and barn dances were about the only forms of recreation that the community offered. If the young people wished to attend these affairs they had to walk which meant several miles sometimes but no one seemed to mind. The Jacob Mengelkoch farm was the scene of quite a few barn dances and house parties as might be expected in a family of that size.

Farm implements and tools were rather scarce in those days and some had to often be made by hand. Jacob must have instilled in the boys the love for that type of work as several of his sons in manhood carried on in occupations involving the use of tools and machinery. Henry and Math. became carpenters and carried on that trade for many years. Henry and Anthony went into partnership and ran a threshing machine for many years. These same two also built a

sawmill on Henry's farm and ran that for as many years. Joseph later started a thresh machine route himself and carried on until his health began to fail.

Jacob also participated in community affairs. In 1861 he was appointed constable of Plymouth. In 1863 to 1867 he served as overseer for roads and in 1868 he was again appointed Town constable.

Jacob later purchased some property lying in Section 26, Township 118 and Range 22 which included the west shore of Medicine Lake, the "island" and the surrounding and the greater part of Faue's Lake. After Mathias married he lived on the north strip of the shore land for several years, then it was subdivided into small parcels and sold to summer lake dwellers. Math's son still retains a few acres and a home on the original piece. Henry received the south portion of lakeshore property and the Faue's Lake property from the estate of his father, about ten acres of which is still owned by his daughters. The "island" became John's and which he later sold when he decided to take up residence in Montana.

In 1890, Jacob received his final citizenship papers. He and his wife were still living on the original farm but his health was gradually failing due to an asthmatic condition. In 1893 when Henry married and took over the farm, Jacob and Catherine had purchased a home in Minneapolis on what is now known as Glenwood Avenue. Jacob lived only a few months after moving away from the farm and died June 6, 1893. He is buried in the Cemetery at St. Joseph's Church, Medicine Lake. Catherine, then moved back again to the farm and lived there for several years until 1913 when Frank

who was then living on the farm decided to sell the property after the Luce Line had bought a right of way through the farm cutting up much of the good farm land. It was then that the farm passed into the hands of a real estate dealer and has since been subdivided into smaller lots. Catherine again moved back to the city to live in the house which she and Jacob had bought. It was there she died on February 1, 1915 and she was buried beside her husband in St. Joseph's cemetery.

The children have since passed away. Margaret married Joseph Becker of Golden Valley, lived on a farm there for a few years and then moved to Minneapolis where she lived until her death November 19, 1943. She is buried at Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Mary married Mathias Spurzem and moved to Crystal Village where they ran a dairy farm for many years. Later they moved to Robbinsdale. Mary died October 3, 1933 and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery on the Rockford Road.

Caroline married Paul McCann of Montana. Her husband owned a ranch near Chinook where they lived until their son's marriage when they moved into the town of Chinook. Caroline died there on February 16, 1942 and is buried at Chinook.

Henry married Anna Ernst of Plymouth Township. He lived on his father's farm for a few years, then he bought a part of the Ernst farm to which he moved and where he lived until his death on July 22, 1952. He was the sole survivor of the Jacob Mengelkoch family for

three years. He also is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Anthony married Nellie McGowan also of Plymouth Township. They lived on a farm in Minnetonka Mills Township. He was still living there at the time of his death on July 20, 1918. St. Joseph's Cemetery is also his burial place.

John went to Montana as a young man. He married there and lived on a ranch for a while. He then went into business in the city of Gilt Edge where he died July 16, 1919. There also is he buried.

Joseph shared the farm in Minnetonka Mills with Anthony. Joseph married Theresa Hipp of Golden Valley. They lived on this farm until about 1920 when he sold that place and bought the Nicholas Bofferding farm in Golden Valley where he resided until his death on October 29, 1947. St. Mary's Cemetery of Minneapolis is his burial place.

Mathias married Elizabeth Morris of Crystal Village and lived at Medicine Lake for several years when he bought a farm in Plymouth Township and bordering on Medina Township. He lived there until his death on June 3, 1947. He is buried in Holy Name Cemetery in Medina.

Frank married Clara Eckes who lived on a neighboring farm. After his marriage he stayed on the home farm until 1913, when he sold the land to a real estate company as before mentioned. He bought the Frank Hamel farm on the Rockford Road near Hamel. He continued residence there until his death on October 20, 1935. Holy Name Cemetery is also his burial place