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Blenker, John (1873 -)

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Haupt, Walter B., "Blenker, John (1873 -)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 111.
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BLENKER, JOHN

File No. B-114

John Blenker was born on April 17, 1873 in Oak township, Stearns County, on a farm four and one half miles west of Albany.

John Blenker is the son of Herman and Katherine (Balloch) Blenker, pioneers of Oak township.

Herman Blenker was born in Westphalia, Germany on October 25, 1833. In the year 1861, at the age of 28, Herman came to America and immediately came west to McGregor, Iowa, where he spent five years working for farmers there. Having learned the American way of farming there and now interested in farming for himself, he came to Minnesota and filed on a homestead in Oak township. This was in the year 1866.

On October 13, 1869, Herman Blenker was united in marriage to Katherine Balloch. Katherine was born in Mosta, Austria on March 27, 1849 and came to America with her parents in 1860.

Herman and Katherine (Balloch) Blenker are the parents of eight children: Gertrude, Anna, John, Herman, Frank, Mary, Henry and Elizabeth.

Gertrude died in infancy.

Anna, married A. J. Schwinghammer, both now deceased. They had three children.

Herman died November 21, 1907. He married Mathilda Shulte, both now deceased. They also have three children.

Mary is Mrs. Robert J. Sperl of Albany. They have five daughters. Elizabeth lives with her sister Mrs. Robert Sperl.

Frank died March 11, 1935. He was married to Mary Hiltner.

Henry married Mathilda Thielman and they have four children; one died in infancy.

John Blenker spent his boyhood days at home, helping his father clear the land. "It was a grub axe from morning until night" John remarked during the interview. About the only good times we had were on the 4th of July, when the neighbors would get together at a lake and drink beer."

"My schooling was also sadly neglected. I attended one term of six months, but during that term I was required to stay home over half of the time to help my father on the farm. The school was conducted in a small room in a private farm house. Since the room was so small we had to behave because the teacher was hardly ever out of reaching distance from any of us. "The teacher was Dina Bergman (now Mrs. John Hoeschen) and the district school was number 33."

John Blenker was at home until the age of 26 when he was united in marriage to Annie Notch, daughter of Lawrence Notch of Albany, on October 12, 1897. Father Conrad performed the ceremony.

Immediately after their marriage John Blenker bought a farm, four and one half miles southwest of Albany, where he has resided ever since.

About 1928 he went into the implement business at Albany, which he manages and the farm is operated by his sons.

Machinery is cheap today compared to years ago,"Mr. Blenker remarked, "I remember the time I paid \$360.00 for a harvester which at that time wasn't built nearly as good as the present harvester. The reason that the first power sickles were so high priced was because there were no foundrys in the States and so the gears had to be imported from England."

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John Blenker was assessor of the town of Albany for thirteen years. He also was on the school board of district 179 for fifteen years.

John and Annie (Notch) Blenker are the parents of six children: Mary and Rose, teaching school. John, Mike, George, and Veronica all at home.

Interviewed: John Blenker
Date: April 1, 1937
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

BLINKER, JOHN (ADDITION TO BIOGRAPHY)

After John Blenker's marriage to Anna Notch, he purchased the farm which was the homestead of his father-in-law, Lawrence Notch. The buildings on this farm were all made of logs. The old home of logs is still kept in good repair.

Anna Notch was born in Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota on February 7, 1880. Her parents were Lawrence and Kundegenda (Pfannenstein) Notch, the father was from Krain, Austria, and the mother from Beier, Austria. Anna had two sisters, Margaretta who is Mrs. Joseph Juenemann Senior of Clear Lake, Minnesota and Mary who was Mrs. Mike Pitzel of Humboldt, Sask, Canada. Mary died on April 4, 1928.

Kundegenda (Pfannenstein) Notch died in 1909 after an illness of 18 months. Anna (Notch) Blenker thinks that those 18 months during her mother's illness were the hardest months spent of all her life, for at times the care of her mother meant days and nights with only a few minutes rest. Anna claims it is harder to care for the sick than it is to till the soil, she and her two sisters had to till the soil so she knows. Even today Mrs. Anna Blenker enjoys working with the soil and working in her big garden is her favorite past time. She also spends a lot of her time doing fancy work and crocheting which she sends to the various Missions.

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on June 16, 1860 -- By- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office--Clinton

Page No. 38

Notch, Lawrence	Age 65
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Austria
Notch, Apolonia	Age 56
Sex	Female
Born	Austria
Notch, Joseph	Age 23
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farm-Laborer
Born	Austria
Page 39--June 17, 1860	
Notch, Anna	Age 18
Sex	Female
Occupation	Laborer
Born	Austria
Notch, Terasa	Age 16
Sex	Female
Occupation	Laborer
Born	Austria

TAKEN FROM THE LEGAL RECORDS OF THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FOR THE JOHN BLENKER BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK C, PAGE 363

Herman Blenker and Catherine Walle
Married at New Munich, Oct. 13, 1869
By Reverend Anschar Frauendorfer
Witnesses: Henry Kupper and Elizabeth Unlengott

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK N, PAGE 527

Alois J. Schwinghammer and Anna Blenker
Married at New Munich, Aug. 28, 1894
By: Reverend Timothy Vaith, O. S. B.
Witnesses: John Blenker and Magdalen Marshall
Peter Schnringhammer and Anne Nieringarten

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK P, PAGE 7366

John Blenker and Anna Notsch
Married at Albany, Oct. 12, 1897
By: Reverend Conrad Blatzmaier, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Mary Notsch and Mary Blenker

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK Q, PAGE, 8487

Frank Blenker and Mary Hiltner
Married at New Munich, Oct. 29, 1901
By: Reverend P Leo M. Winter, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Boniface Hiltner and Mary Blenker

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK T, PAGE 10388

John Robert Sperl and Mary Blenker
Married at Albany, Nov. 26, 1907
By: Rev. P. Eugene Woerdehoff, O. S. B.
Witnesses: Henry J. Blenker and Alice Sperl

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK V, PAGE 11929

Henry Blenker and Mathokda Thielman
Married at St. Cloud, May 1, 1912
By Rev. Leo Gans
Witnesses: Henry J. Thielman and Elizabeth Blenker

DEATH RECORD, BOOK 2, Page 20, Line 477

Frank Blenker born in Minnesota, Oct. 24, 1878
Son of Herman Blenker and Kath Ballah
Died March 11, 1935
Age 56 years, 4 months, 17 days

BIRTH RECORDS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>FATHER'S NAME & AGE</u>
Gertrude	August 12,, 1870	Town of Oak	Herman
John	April 19, 1874	Town of Oak	Herman
Frank	October 24, 1878	Town of Oak	Herman
Marie K.	October 27, 1880	Town of Oak	Herman
Henry J.	May 15, 1883	Town of Oak	Herman
Katherine	July 29, 1887	Town of Oak	Herman

<u>MOTHER'S NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINE</u>
Catherine		A	23	39
Catherine		A	159	9
Catherine		A	323	30
Catherine		A	411	9
Catherine		A	559	3
Catherine		B	88	18

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