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### Geisel, Joseph Jr. (1859 - )

Walter B. Haupt

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GEISEL, JOSEPH JUNIOR

File No. B-418

Joseph Geisel Junior was born in Naperville, Illinois, on November 8, 1859.

Joseph Geisel is the son of Joseph Senior and Elizabeth Geisel who lived in Bankston, Iowa.

Joseph Senior and Elizabeth Geisel were born in Baden, Germany, and were married there. Joseph studied music in Germany, and was a graduate of one of the best music schools there. Out of a class of 200 students, Mr. Geisel was one of the four who graduated.

As it was hard for a musician to make a living in Germany, Mr. Geisel, after several years of playing there, and not making much headway financially, decided to come to America with his family.

The trip across the Atlantic was made on a sailing vessel. When they landed at New York they had only thirty-five cents left. Unable to find immediate employment as a musician, he was forced to go to work doing construction work. An injury received the first day at this work made it impossible for him to continue.

His next attempt was to find work at his profession. After several attempts he was given a chance to try out as an organist in a church. Here his work proved satisfactory and he continued to play there for several years. Later on as his ability as an organist became better known, he received offers of more money, and he resigned to play in Hamilton, Ohio.

He also played in Freeport, Illinois, Burlington, Iowa; Bankston, Iowa; and in several towns in Dubuque county, Iowa. Besides playing as an organist, Mr. Geisel also taught school.

GEISEL, JOSEPH JUNIOR

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When the children became older, Joseph Geisel Senior, purchased a farm in Dubuque County, Iowa. This farm was operated by the children, while he continued his teaching and playing as an organist.

On May 2, 1882, Elizabeth Geisel died and on May 27, 1910, Joseph Geisel Senior passed away. Both are buried at Bankston, Iowa.

Joseph Geisel Junior was at home, where he worked for his father, until his marriage.

On February 7, 1888, he was married to Magdalena Wiederin, daughter of Martin and Elizabeth Wiederin of Lattnerville, Dubuque County, Iowa. Father John Twohill performed the ceremony. The attendants were Mary and Annie Utz, James Curley and John Breitbach.

Magdalena (Wiederin) Geisel was born in Dubuque, Iowa on December 10, 1863, and was at home until the time of her marriage.

In 1866, when she was not quite three years of age, her mother died. Her father died May 28, 1912, at Willowdale, Kansas. Both are buried at Dubuque, Iowa.

After their marriage they received part of the Geisel farm and lived there for three years. They then sold the place and bought an eighty acre farm in Carol County where they lived for seven years. From Iowa they moved to Kingman, Kansas, where they bought a farm. The first five years on this place, they had good crops, but prices were low. Wheat sold for as little as 45 cents a bushel. The next five years crops were not so good due to the dry hot weather.



In 1914 they came to Stearns County, Minnesota, settling in St. Martin, where they lived for fifteen months. From there they moved to Waite Park, and then to Albany.

Joseph and Magdalena (Wiederin) Geisel are the parents of three children:

Leonard, married Clara Neis and they reside on a farm three and one half miles southeast of St. Stephens. They have three children: Herman, Leander, and Wilfred.

Clara Josephine, died at the age of eighteen months. She is buried in Coon Rapids, Iowa.

A daughter, Mrs. Frank Pohle of Waite Park, was killed while crossing the highway near her home. She is survived by her husband, a carpenter at Waite Park, and four children, Madaline, Joseph, Clara and Alvina.

Interviewed: Joseph Geisel  
By: Walter B. Haupt  
Date: April 8, 1937

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOSEPH JUNIOR GEISEL BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 2 PAGE 15749

Leonard Geisel and Clara Neis

Married at Waite Park, February 8th, 1921

By: Rev. Math Hoffmann

Witnesses: Edward R. Hynnek and Josephine Thelen

DEATH RECORD BOOK U. PAGE 27 LINE 599

Mrs. Frank Pohl Born in Iowa January 10, 1888

Daughter of Jos. Geisel and Mag. Wiedian

Died August 11, 1929

Age 40 years 7 months and 1 day