WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

3-8-1938

Knops, John (1886 -)

Walter B. Haupt

KNOPS, JOHN   File No. _B-708_

John Knops prominent retired Stearns county farmer, was born
January 18, 1886, at Montford, Holland, the son of Peter and Helena
(Bongaarst) Knops.

Peter and Helena (Bongaast) Knops were born in Holland, the former
of whom was born May 10, 1829, at Montford and the latter was born
May 1, 1833 at Lumburg.

On September 15, 1881, Peter Knops his wife and six children,
Catherine, John, Anton, Mary, Martin and Elizabeth migrated to America.

During their last years in Holland floods destroyed their crops
and for that reason the family decided to make their home in America.

The trip across the Atlantic was made on the English Red Star
Line. After landing at New York, the family at once came west to St.
Anthony, Stearns County, Minnesota, where they made their home with
Joseph Craemer family for a short time.

The Craemer's had migrated to America from Holland several years
before and were old acquaintances of the Knops family.

During the first winter the family shared a home with Mrs. Mary
Winter, who resided near St. Anthony. In the spring Peter Knops purchased
an eighty acre tract of wild land near the village of St. Anthony. A
log house and barn were the first buildings. In later years, after having
put the land into a tillable state, new and modern buildings were erected.

At the time of his death, which occurred December 15, 1899. Peter
Knops had transformed the wilderness into a modern dairy farm.

His wife died June 19, 1904. Both are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at St. Anthony.

The daughter Catherine is Mrs. Hubert Boeckers of St. Frances, Minnesota. Anton married Anna Weber and they reside at Melrose, Minnesota. Mary is Mrs. Adam Loehlein of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Martin married Elizabeth Boeckers and they reside on a farm near Northolm, Minnesota. Elizabeth is Mrs. Mike Gresser of Freeport, Minnesota.

After the death of his father, John Knops took over the home farm, and also added another 80 acres.

In 1938, when he retired to the village of Albany, he had built his farm into one of the outstanding dairy farms of this community.

On June 14, 1896, he married Anna Gresser.

Anna Gresser was born August 22, 1871 at New Munich, Minnesota, the daughter of Christian and Margaret (Lendner) Gresser. She attended the district school at New Munich and was at home until the time of her marriage.

John and Anna (Gresser) Knops are the parents of twelve children —

Peter born - - - - - - - - - - - married Elizabeth Prsybilla of Pierz, Minnesota. They reside at Pierz, where he is employed as a carpenter.

Marie, is Mrs. Ewald Hubrig of Redding, California.

Rudolph married Esther Hormann of Albany and they reside at Waite Park, Minnesota.

Beata is Mrs. George Salchert of Minneapolis.

Alphonse is employed at Lincoln, California.

Frances is Mrs. Mike M--- of St. Cloud.

Reinhardt and Walter operate the home farm.

John is employed at Minneapolis.

Interviewed: John Knops
Date: March 8, 1938
By: Walter B. Haupt

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN KNOPS BIOGRAPHY

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Father's Name	Age
1. Peter Knops	Nov. 16, 1896	Krain	John Knops	25
2. Mary Knops	Mar. 23, 1898	"	" "	30
3. Rudolph Knops	Nov. 20, 1899	"	" "	30
4. Bertha B. "	Dec. 5, 1901	"	" "	33
5. Alphonse "	Aug. 30, 1904	"	" "	36
6. Frances Knops	July 9, 1908	"	" "	38
7. Reinhard Knops	June 3,1910	"	" "	40
8. John Knops	June 3, 1910	"	" "	43
9. Wolwert H, "	Dec. 23, 1915	"	" "	46

Mother's Name	Age	Book	Page	Line	Remarks
1. Anna Knops	25	B6 1896	149	2	
2. Anna Knops	27	B8 1898	160	2	
3. Anna Knops	27	B9 1899	196	4	
4. Anna Knops	30	B11 1901	159	1	
5. Anna Knops	33	B14 1904	132	2	
6. Anna Knops	35	C	78	2	
7. Anna Knops	36	C	490	7	
8. Anna Knops	38	D	29	6	
9. Anna Knops	43	I	22	484	

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE JOHN KNOPS BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 11 PAGE 21976

Mike P. Maile and Frances J. Knops

Married at Krain, October 9, 1934

By: Rev. James Kunz

Witnesses: Reinhard Knops and Josephine Maile

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 6 PAGE 18675

Rudolph Knops and Esther Harmon

Married at St. Cloud, May 31st, 1927

By: Rev. M. N. Kremer

Witnesses: Peter Knops and Agnes Ruegemer

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK O. PAGE 6913

John Knops and Anna Gresser

Married at Kraintown -Gates P. O., January 14, 1896

By: Rev. J. P. Altendorf

Witnesses: Micheal Gresser and Lizzie Knops

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1903 A 12 PAGE 89

Lene Knops, Born in Holland, May 10, 1827

Died June 15, 1903

Age 75 years 1 month and 5 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1899 A9 PAGE 84

Peter Knops

Died December 15, 1899

Son of Jacob and Katherine Knops

Age 70 years 6 months and 21 days