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### Kowalkowski, Joseph D. (1861 - 1918)

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Dean Nelson

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KOWALKOWSKI, JOSEPH D.

File No. B-727

Joseph D. Kowalkowski was born in Buffalo, New York February 28, 1861, son of John and Anna Kowalkowski, both natives of the old country who came over to America in the early years of the eighteenth century and settled in Buffalo, New York.

Joseph D. Kowalkowski received his childhood education in the public schools of New York state and at the age of sixteen he came to Minnesota and has since that time made his home in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. For several years he was employed with the Great Northern Railway, serving in the capacity of conductor.

When he was twenty-two years of age Mr. Kowalkowski opened a cigar factory in Saint Cloud, Minnesota on Eight Avenue North one of the first conducted in Saint Cloud. This factory was conducted under his supervision and management for a number of years, and then the business was turned over to one of his sons, Edward Kowalkowski.

During his residence in this city Joseph D. Kowalkowski was always interested in civic affairs. For eighteen years he served the people of Saint Cloud as a member of the city council under the old plan of government. In 1902 he was elected County Commissioner, of Stearns County, which office he held for twelve years, during eight years of which he was chairman of the board, and was a most efficient servant. He was a leader in the movement for better highways, and was really the father of the good roads system for Stearns County, which has resulted in so many miles of splendid highways. If a man in a whole lifetime had accomplished no more than this one thing, the whole country would be under great obligation to him.

Joseph D. Kowalkowski represented his party in this district in the national Democratic convention that met at Baltimore, and nominated Woodrow Wilson for president, and he was one of the most faithful of the

KOWALKOWSKI, JOSEPH D.

Page 2  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_

president's supporters.

Joseph D. Kowalkowski was appointed Postmaster of Saint Cloud, Minnesota by President Woodrow Wilson and took office April 16, 1915, and served for three years, then, on account of his health, resigned. Mr. Kowalkowski had been in ill health for a long time and in the summer of 1917 he spent several months seeking to regain his health at a sanatorium at Battle Creek, Michigan. When he returned from there he believed that his health was near perfect but time did not uphold this belief. Since January 1, 1918 his condition had been growing more serious, and he died January 15, 1918. Joseph D. Kowalkowski was a member of the Eks, Saint Joseph's Society, and various other lodges and societies. The funeral was held with services at the Immaculate Conception Church, and burial in the Calvary Cemetery Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Joseph D. Kowalkowski was married August 6, 1884 in the Catholic church of Luxenburg by Father Benidect to Sophie Schenk daughter of John and Helena (Braun) Schenk who were natives of Germany coming to America and settled in Louisville, Kentucky where Sophie Schenk was born January 30, 1865. In 1867 John and Helena (Braun) Schenk and family came to Saint Cloud, Minnesota and settled on a farm near Luxenburg.

To Joseph D. and Sophie (Schenk) Kowalkowski were born six children, Mrs. John Wolfer; John; Edward; Herbert; Mrs. Steve Brennan; and Joseph Kowalkowski all of Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Joseph Kowalkowski is the Stearns County Commissioner from this district at the present time.

Interviewed: Mrs. J. D. Kowalkowski  
212 13 Ave. North  
Date: June 9, 1936  
By: N. P. Kruchten

Publication Granted

FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS

Peter Roeser Jr. sold to John Schenk, 160 acres, S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section  
5 - township 123 - Range 28, for \$1450 on May 16 - 1867.

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOSEPH D. KOWALKOWSKI BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Helena J. Kowalkowski	May 10, 1886	St. Cloud	Joseph Kowalkowski	
2. Anna M. "	May 10, 1886	" "	" "	
3. Harry "	Mar. 9, 1889	" "	" "	28
4. Baby "	July 20, 1896	" "	" "	35

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Sophia Kowalkowski		B	33	83	
2. " "	24	B	33	84	Twins
3. " "	31	B	160	26	
4. " "		(1896B6)	320	9	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK I. PAGE 95

Joseph D. Kowalkowski and Sophia Schenk

Married at St. Wendel, September 16, 1884

By: Rev. B. Heindl, O. S. B.

Witnesses: John Schenk, Mary Schneider, John Kowalkowski, and Mary Neistler

DEATH RECORD BOOK K. PAGE 13 LINE 405

Joseph D. Kowalkowski, Died February 5, 1918

Age 55 years 11 months and 8 days

Born February 29, 1862, in New York

Son of John Kowalkowski and Anna Kowalkowski

KOWALKOWSKI, JOSEPH

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

CORRECTION:

Birth of Joseph D. Kowalkowski Sr., on February 29, 1862 is correct as stated in the legal records.

CORRECTION:

Marriage of Joseph D. Kowalkowski on September 16, 1884 is correct as stated in legal records.

CORRECTION:

Death of Jos. D. Kowalkowski on February 5, 1918 is correct as stated in legal records.

Reinterviewed: Sophia (Schenk) Kowalkowski  
Date: December 7, 1937  
By: Dean Nelson