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Thyen, Bernard J. (1866 - 1929)

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Pallansch, Alexander, "Thyen, Bernard J. (1866 - 1929)" (1938). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1310.
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THYEN, BERNARD J.

File No. B-1353

Bernard J. Thyen was born November 7, 1866 in Hanover, Germany, the son of Anton and Tecla (Lembeck) Thyen. Anton and Tecla (Lembeck) Thyen were born in Germany, making their living on a small farm.

Anton and Tecla Thyen three children were born while the family resided in Germany. Bernard J. was born November 7, 1866, Lucas, was born September 28, 1871, Henry was born August 15th, 1874.

Bernard J. received his schooling in Germany, and at the age of seventeen came to America with his parents and brothers. They came across in a small steamship. The voyage being very rough and took fourteen days to complete. They came west and settled on the farm which is now known as the old Lucas Thyen home located one mile east of the Richmond village. Bernard J. in his early teens worked in the Richmond elevator which was operated by Math Philip. While employed there Bernard J. hauled grain to St. Cloud, and the neighboring towns with a team of horses. When the St. Benedict Academy of St. Joe was built he helped haul stones to build this building. Horses used and traveled from Richmond to St. Joe with a well loaded wagon.

Bernard J. married Gertrude Peck November 12, 1894. Father Ignantz was Pastor in the Richmond parish at this time. After marriage Bernard and Gertrude Thyen lived on a farm northwest of Richmond.

To Bernard and Gertrude Thyen nine children were born: Gertrude, Anton, Leonard, Mary, Agnes, Peter, Alfred, Gregor and Edmond.

Gertrude (Peck) Thyen was born September 19, 1874 at St. James, Minnesota, the daughter of Casper Peck and (Goeser) Peck.

Bernard J. soon realized that he needed a larger farm with his children growing so he sold his farm, and purchased a larger farm, six miles south

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east of Richmond known as the old Eartz farm. They lived there for twelve years. At the age of sixty two Bernard J. sold his farm, bought a home and retired in the village of Richmond.

He died the following year on the 17th of May, 1929 and is buried on the St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Richmond, Minnesota.

Bernard's wife is still living in their home and is in fair health.

Interviewed: Mrs. Bernard J. Theyen
Date: May 16, 1938
By: Alexander Pallansch

Publication Granted

Interviewed in German