

later covered in brick. Her first teacher was Matthew Mayer. In 1864 she attended St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy. Elizabeth also attended a German school conducted by John Kerker, according to the article in the **St. Paul Dispatch**.

In the 1870s, Elizabeth took an active part in the gayeties of the growing village. "A building in which Mrs. Husman danced as a girl was known as Ben Andres' hall and is now the Pelham hotel." Elizabeth "took an active part in the gayeties of the growing village. She attended dances and balls and had many partners for the schottische, fireman's dance, a Virginia reel and other dances of the periods." Mrs. Elizabeth Koeper Husman in **Recollections of Early Pioneers**, 1925, noted among her partners was John Bernard Husman, Jr.

Elizabeth Koeper married John B. Husman, Jr. on July 27, 1875 at St. Mark's Catholic Church. They settled on the Koeper's farm. John died in 1886, but Elizabeth continued to live at the farm. At first the milk was supplied to Shakopee patrons, but later was shipped to the Twin Cities. They had three children.

A week before she died, Elizabeth a comparatively fair state of health, according to the **Argus Tribune** in December 1943. She was overtaken with the flu, and she was immediately taken to St. Francis Hospital where a



double pneumonia developed. Elizabeth became weak, and on Saturday night at midnight of December 11, 1943, she passed away, as she had lived, quietly, peacefully and happily.

Elizabeth Koeper Husman was buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Shakopee.



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Elizabeth Koeper Husman 1854-1943

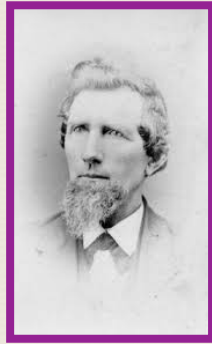
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Elizabeth Koeper was born in a little log cabin in St. Paul, Minnesota Territory on September 14, 1854. Her father, Johan John Theodor Koeper (1818–1901), owned a claim of 160 acres in the present business area of St. Paul. In fact, the cabin is now a department store on Wabasha Street between Sixth and Seventh Street, according to the ***St. Paul Pioneer Press*** on August 9, 1925. Her mother was Maria Elizabeth Hermes (1832–1895.)

According to Elizabeth, “Father didn’t think much of St. Paul then. There were only a few buildings in the settlement and I guess the prospect didn’t look very good to him.” So in the summer of 1855, Johan, Maria, and Elizabeth packed up and took the Antelope, one of the few steamers on the Minnesota River, to Shakopee.

They family lived in a log cabin beside the meadow where the cattle grazed. It was north of the Milwaukee railroad right-of-way, joining the city limits on the west part of Shakopee.



Elizabeth’s parents were Johan John Theodor Koeper and Elizabeth Hermes Koeper. Elizabeth’s parents, and Elizabeth and her husband, John Bernard Husman, Jr. and their children ran the Koeper’s Farm and Dairy in western Shakopee for many years.

Elizabeth’s mother had eight children.

Because they knew that people in the area could be sold to the growing settlement, Elizabeth’s father went to Detroit and brought back a drowse of cattle, mostly rich cows. In Shakopee there were several hotels, crowded with land seekers, immigrants, freighters, and others, and the dairy prospered from the start, according to an article in the ***St. Paul Dispatch***.

Elizabeth knew that many Dakota Indians were living near by. “We were afraid of them, but although they gave us many ‘frights, none of them harmed us. I remember mother sending me to the well one day—I was six years old—to get a dipper of water. I wore two long braids, and an Indian, passing by, seized one of the braids....” Elizabeth ran into the house and

cried. “The Indians also wore braids and I thought they wanted to take me because we had that style of coiffure in common!”

During the U.S.-Dakota War, Elizabeth’s father, Johan, was transporting supplies near New Ulm. He escaped, but his Dakota got his supplies. For awhile that summer, some people in Shakopee felt scared, and many fled to St. Paul. But Elizabeth’s mother remained in the little cabin with her brood. Her mother adopted the ruse of placing a pair of her husband’s boots and his axe before the cabin door to convey the impression that her protector was at home.

At age 17, Elizabeth and her family moved to a farm consisted of 265 acres just west of the city limits of Shakopee and it became the Koeper’s Dairy Farm. Forty acres later were sold to the state for the Minnesota Reformatory for Women.

Elizabeth remembered her first school, which was on block west of St. Mary’s church. The frame building was later the