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Collignon, Herman (1859 -)

Dean Nelson

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Collignon, Herman

File B-243

Herman Collignon was born in Rheinberg Nieder-rhein, Germany March 24, 1859 son of John and Maria Collignon. His education was received in the German Public Schools and as a young lad he worked at the trade of locksmith. He also served his required military training and upon his release from the army he followed the blacksmith trade.

In 1884 Herman Collignon was married in Germany and for a wedding trip the young couple came to America to establish a business coming directly to Stearns County. They were disappointed to find that locksmiths were not needed here. Herman immediately started to find other employment and was finally rewarded by getting a job in the brickyard, south of St. Cloud.

In 1894 he obtained a position as blacksmith and tool-dresser at the Great Northern Car Shops. The same year he purchased a home at 25-14 Ave So. and has resided there since that time.

In 1929 Herman Collignon retired from active business and now lives in retirement with his two nieces Margaret and Melania Collignon.

To Mr. and Mrs. Herman Collignon were born two children, Phillip and Mary. There are five grandchildren.

Herman Collignon stated, "In America we had to work hard and at first wages were small, but it wasn't nearly so hard to earn a livelihood here as it was in Germany. I'm always thankful that I came here and have no regrets."

"When I first came everyone urged me to get my citizenship papers, because of the coming election. I applied for them and in two months I was an accredited citizen of the United States."

Interviewed: Herman Collignon
Date: May 1st, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

Publication Granted

DEATH RECORD BOOK 4 PAGE 4 LINE 105

Herman Collignon born in Germany March 24-1859, son of Philip Collignon and Margaret Champs.

Died April 25-1937 Age 78 years 1 month 1 day.

DEATH RECORD BOOK 0 PAGE 7 LINE 155

Margereth Collignon born in Germany July 14-1852

Died October 10-1922. Age 70 years 2 months 26 days.