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DeBlois, James Henry (1862 - 1936)

Walter Jernberg

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DE BLOIS, JAMES HENRY

File No. B-282

James H. De Blois, pioneer trainman of St. Cloud, was born near Quebec, Canada in 1862.

James H. was reared on his father's farm, the only education he received was what his father taught him each evening when the days work was done.

About 1879 James H. came to Minneapolis, Minnesota. There he secured a position with the Great Northern Railway Company as a trainman. At that time all the locomotives were wood burners. About 1884 James H. moved to Melrose, Minnesota, where he had been transferred. There, while engaged in switching a train, James fell beneath the train and lost his right leg. He was then given a position as construction foreman in which capacity he continued until about 1894.

James H. made his home in Melrose until 1912, when he moved to St. Cloud.

James H. De Blois was married about 1883, to Mathilda Peterson at Ladysmith, Wisconsin. There were six children: William, Lester, Oscar, Josephine, Ella, and Walter. William is married and lives in Canby, Minnesota; Lester and Oscar are married and live in Paynesville, Minnesota; Josephine, is the wife of Carl Oster of Cold Spring, Minnesota; Ella married Henry Murphy of Saint Cloud. Walter is in Los Angeles, California.

James H. De Blois died February 1, 1936. Mathilda (Peterson) De Blois died about 1921.

Interviewed: Ella (De Blois) Murphy
Date: May 28, 1936
By: Walter Jernberg

Publication Granted

TAKEN FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JAMES HENRY DE BLOIS BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 9 PAGE 20808

Carl J. Oster and Magdeline De Blois

Married at St. Cloud, October 16, 1931

By: Wm. H. Alden

Witnesses: Joseph C. Oos and C. F. Weidling

DEATH RECORD BOOK K. PAGE 11 LINE 347

Marian DeBlois, Born in Melrose, September 28, 1904

Daughter of James DeBlois and Mathilda Peterson

Died November 19, 1918

Age 14 years 1 months and 21 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK F. PAGE 2 LINE 24

Albert Edward De Blois, Born October 13, 1907

Son of James DeBlois and Mathilda Peterson

Died March 18, 1913

Age 6 years 4 months and 1 day

DE BLOIS, JAMES HENRY

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 Albert E. De Blois, October 13, 1907, and Marian De Blois September 28, 1904, is correct as stated in the legal records.

Re-Interviewed: Ella (De Blois) Murphy
Date: December 20, 1937
By: Walter Jernberg