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Dickinson, George A. (1862 -)

Dean Nelson

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George A. Dickinson was born in Columbus, Ohio September 9th, 1862. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dickinson. Mr. J. A. Dickinson was a locomotive engineer for the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railways. They came to St. Cloud in their early married ^{life.} /

George A. Dickinson was educated at the Union School. His first teacher was Miss Crumit.

After graduation he was employed as clerk in the Benson Brothers Grocery store. In 1889 George entered the Post Office Department as a mail carrier and continued in this service until his retirement in 1927.

Mr. Dickinson married Mary McComb of Barnsville Minnesota in 1887. Mr. Dickinson recalls that he had to walk to Moorhead, Minnesota to get the marriage license. Mary McComb was born in Petersborough Ontario, Canada, in 1864. They have one son Lester E., who is at present an instructor at the Detroit College at Detroit, Michigan.

Reminiscing Mr. Dickinson stated, "I've seen St. Cloud grow up. I can remember, as a small boy I used to hunt and shoot rabbits and other small game in our back yard. At that time there were only woods from 5th Street and 5th Avenue to lower town. Our house was the only one standing near 5th Street and I could see East from there the building of the Normal School. The foundation stood for several years before they could secure sufficient funds to continue and complete the structure.

Logging was quite a business here at St. Cloud. They would float the logs down to the saw mill and in the spring when they

jamed up, I could walk across the river and back on the logs.

Down where the bridge crosses the river at Tenth Street the citizens had a gun cache and all weapons for defense and protection were kept there. If some of the farmers from Main Prairie a spot from which most of the alarms arose would come riding in with their families and predict a massacre, the fighting citizens of St. Cloud would rush for the gun cache and select their weapons.

The Indians used to come to town and steal everything they could. Once several came together, one Indian was wearing a swallow tail coat. They entered a store and all the Indians crowded around the wearer of the swallow tail coat and they each assisted him in filling the large pocket in the tail of the coat from the merchants stock. However the storekeeper discovered them in time and recovered his merchandise and sent the offenders on their way."

Mr. Dickinson goes on to relate, "When we were young boys we used to congregate uptown in the evening and then all walk down fifth Avenue to our homes together for protection. I think I am the only one left of that crowd that is still walking down in this direction. Most of the others are dead or have moved away.

Mr. Dickinson has retired and is living at 506 5th Avenue South.

Interviewed: George E. Dickenson
Date: May 12, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE GEORGE A. DICKINSON BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE