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Hagberg, Andrew (1851 -)

Dean Nelson

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Andrew Hagberg was born in Gottenberg, Sweden, October 30, 1851. As a young boy he attended school in Sweden but at the age of twelve was made an orphan by the death of his parents. Not knowing what to do or where to go and not wishing to go back to school he started roving through Sweden looking for adventure. He ended this nonchalant wandering in Stockholm when he signed up as a member of a ship's crew that was leaving port very soon. For fifteen years he sailed the seas and by many harrowing experiences and knowledge of many strange ports satiated his thirst for adventure.

Andrew always talked of many of his adventures and laughing heartily or engaging a look of puzzlement as the case might be but very seldom spoke of his narrow escape from death near the shores of California years before he thought of becoming a citizen of this United States. The schooner upon which they were sailing became floundered in a storm about ten miles off the coast of Northern California and all hands went overboard when the boat capsized. Various members of the crew had previously hacked down the masts and lashed themselves onto them. Andrew and five others were lashed on one specific mast and as the ship went down they paddled away and were alone on the vast expanse of ocean with the wind and waves doing their utmost to exterminate this bobbing piece of cordwood and its human cargo. For four days these hardy seamen rode the surface of the mighty deep with hope of being rescued gradually deminishing until it reached the exhaustion point of this last day. That morning all the men shook hands and said farewell to one another and made the solem promise that if no vessel appeared by sundown that evening they were going to cut themselves loose and die the humane death of drowning. In those pioneer days this was practically signing away their lives because the ship lanes were not so well established and vessels were not

plentiful. About one hour before sunset these exhausted and hunger stricken men were filled with a happiness and life that many of us will probably never experience. Far on the horizon appeared a tiny dot but nevertheless it meant more to them than the finest liners that now ply between our continents. It was a reality and proved to be a sailing vessel heading directly for them. By a mere hour their lives were saved for a more useful purpose in this world.

After this unforgettable experience Andrew Hagberg decided to settle on land somewhere and learn some form of business or trade. He came to America and immediately applied for and secured his citizenship papers. Andrew then settled in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In that city he worked as an apprentice to the stone cutting trade and the next year (1882) came to Saint Cloud. In Saint Cloud Andrew Hagberg met and married Anna Carlson on September 22, 1882.

Anna (Carlson) Hagberg was born in Sweden in 1860 and came to America with her parents in 1875.

In Saint Cloud Andrew worked as a stone cutter and paving block cutter. He followed this trade continuously until his retirement in 1920.

To Andrew and Anna (Carlson) Hagberg were born seven children, one, Arthur, deceased, the living are Hilda (Hagberg) Kratt of California; Naomi (Hagberg) Grinols; Ernest G.; Florence; Harrie; and Emory. There are four grandchildren.

Andrew Hagberg is retired and lives in East Saint Cloud with his son, Emory.

Interviewed: Andrew Hagberg
Date: October 16, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE ANDREW HAGBERG BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE