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11-27-1936

### Johnson, Bertha L. (1850 - 1936)

Walter Jernberg

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JOHNSON, BERTHA L.

File No. B-626

Bertha L. Johnson was born February 7, 1850 in Bergen, Norway. At the age of seven she came to the United States with her parents. They settled in Madison, Wisconsin, later emigrating with several other pioneer families to Owatonna, Minnesota.

In 1875 Bertha was married to Sever Johnson also a native of Norway. They then moved to Sabin, Minnesota, where Mr. Johnson purchased a sixty-acre tract of land. This farm he successfully operated until his death in 1907. Mrs. Bertha Johnson remained in Sabin for a short while and then came to St. Cloud in 1908, where she lived until her death November 4, 1936.

Sever and Bertha (Johnson) Johnson were the parents of three children, Pauline, Florence, and Alvin L. Pauline is married to A. W. Paulson of Staples, Minnesota. Florence is the wife of Hubert C. Hanson of St. Cloud. Alvin at present lives in St. Cloud.

At the outbreak of the civil war Bertha L. Johnson was living in Madison, Wisconsin. She saw the rush of runaway negroes from the south, many of whom found friendly protection in the home of her parents. Bertha Johnson with her parents and a small group of emigrants made the trip from Madison to Owatonna by way of covered wagons bearing their household goods, the older children taking their turn driving the cattle. Adding to the peril and hardships of the journey, was the constant fear of the Indians. Bertha Johnson lived through the trying days of three wars, the Civil, Spanish, and World Wars. Her son, Alvin, and other close relatives took part in the World War.

Bertha Johnson was a staunch worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union all her life and a ardent church member.

Interviewed: Alvin Johnson

Date: November 27, 1936

By: Walter Jernberg

Publication Granted

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FOR THE BERTHA L. JOHNSON BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE