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Johnson, Fred H. (1867 -)

Dean Nelson

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JOHNSON, FRED H.

File No. B-631

Fred H. Johnson was born in Guteland, Sweden April 14, 1867, son of John and Lena Ahlstrom.

Fred attended the public schools in Sweden and helped his father, John, farm until he was twenty years old. At this time he took the required Army training that was compulsory in Sweden. After his release from this Army training Fred started out for America to find his destiny and fortune.

He came directly to Saint Cloud, and secured a job with Foley Brothers. Mr. Calstrom was president of that organization at that time.

In Saint Cloud Fred Johnson became acquainted with and married Emma Miller on November 5, 1892.

Emma Miller was the daughter of Swan and Mary Christina Sven(Ander-son) Miller, born in Quincy, Massachusetts, October 30, 1874.

Emma was brought to Saint Cloud when she was four years old by her parents. Swan Miller was a blacksmith by trade and secured a job in Saint Cloud as quarry blacksmith. Wages were low and prices high so Emma never received a great deal of education, being forced to go to work when she was ten years old.

Fred's wages with Foley Brothers being only \$26 per month he took the first opportunity to learn the stone cutting trade. He was successful and received the sum of \$1.50 per day to start. Being a very conscientious workman he was gradually promoted until he attained the position as quarry foreman for Melrose Granite Company under William Bohmer. This position he held until his death in 1924.

His wife Emma (Miller) Johnson is still living and resides at 224 Third Avenue North East Saint Cloud, Minnesota .

There were five children born to Fred and Emma (Miller) Johnson, Helen, a graduate of the Teachers College lives with her mother; DeVan,

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of Minneapolis; Nathaniel of Minneapolis; and Judith also of Minneapolis.

Mrs. Emma Johnson recalled the cyclone of 1886. She says, "I used to take care of the Carpenter children in Sauk Rapids. One day it was terrible hot and I decided not to go over and work at Carpenters. It was a lucky thing I didn't go because the cyclone was right after I had made my decision. One of the older Carpenter girls was outside holding the baby. The cyclone passed that way and killed the girl. The baby seemed practically unhurt, but several years later died of the resulting pressure on its ears."

"We always danced in Empire Park whenever a circus came to town on the Fourth of July. This was one dance we always enjoyed, it was bowery style."

"Saint Cloud has certainly changed. We always got as much a thrill out of riding the horse drawn carriages as the street cars."

Interviewed: Mrs. Emma (Miller)Johnson
Date: July 6, 1936
By: Dean Nelson