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Larson, Peter (1859 -)

Dean Nelson

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LARSON, PETER

FILE NO. 8-170

Peter Larson was born in Gotland, Sweden, October 2, 1859 son of Lars and Hilda Larson.

After receiving a grade school education Peter worked as a fisherman in Sweden. Gotland is a small island off the coast of Sweden and most of the inhabitants earn their living by commercial fishing. Years ago fishing was quite a perilous trade due to the crude construction of vessels and the dependency of wind power for locomotion.

Peter came to St. Cloud in 1881 and worked at the Breen quarry as a paving cutter. Peter was also a pioneer of East St. Cloud. During his residence here he erected two residences one of them being the second substantial home to be constructed there.

In the first winter of 1890's stone cutting was practically at a stand still so Peter looked for other employment. One winter he went to Brainerd and while in this village heard of a job in the woods 65 miles North East of Brainerd. He immediately started out on foot and in two days time amid cold and fatigue arrived at the lumber camp. He secured the job but says he had prematurely earned his money.

The next winter was also a veritable hardships. He was employed by Foley Brothers and they had to first scout a new patch of timber. The day they went scouting it was twenty below zero and when evening came the only shelter they could find was a log cabin without any roof. Peter says, "I didn't expect to wake up in the morning without finding one or more members of my body frozen. Luckily we all must have been pretty hardy because no one complained of even a frost bite. As wages, we received only \$28.00 per month in the woods but coupled with the hard work and cold it was better than staying home having no income."

Peter was employed as a stone cutter by all the major granite companys of St. Cloud and followed this trade until he was forced to retire in 1916 due to the loss of one eye.

Peter Larson was married to Carrie Wallin in St. Cloud December 10, 1888. Carrie (Wallin) Larson was born in Helsingland, Sweden December 10, 1869 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Wallin. She came to America in 1886 and has resided in St. Cloud since that date.

To Peter and Carrie (Wallin) Larson were born five children: Alice, Harry, Clarence, Doris and Frances. There are seven grandchildren.

Interviewed: Peter Larson
Date: November 18, 1936
Interviewed by: Dean Nelson

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE PETER LARSON BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Geo. Larson	Dec. 28, 1889	St. Cloud	Peter Larson	30

The other Children born in Benton County

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Carrie Larson	29	B	163	41	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK K. PAGE 233

Peter Larson and Carrie Nilson

Married at St. Paul December 9, 1888

By: W. M. H. Peterson

Witnesses: G. Larson and P. Nilson