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Linn, George W. (1852 - 1935)

Dean Nelson

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LINN, GEORGE W.

File No. B-809

George W. Linn was born in Buckhorn County, Illinois September 11, 1852, son of Robert and Mary (Plues) Linn.

Robert was a pioneer farmer of Buckhorn County and a native of Maine, learning the art of farming from his father in Maine. Mary (Plues) Linn was also a native of Maine.

George attended country school in Buckhorn County for several years and aided his father by learning to farm and helping him with the hardships of early farming days.

In 1866 Robert purchased an ox cart and with his wife and son and nephew, Franz B. Linn, started for Minnesota. The trip was very dangerous because the government was trying to suppress the Indians, and they could only get hastily gathered information concerning the direction and trails to follow. They arrived in Minnesota the same year, 1866, and settled a claim homestead in Maine Prairie near Pearl Lake, which is now the Watkins farm. In 1867 Robert left his son, George, on this farm and moved to one of his own about one mile and a half South East of the original Homestead, and it is now known as the Flint place.

The early farms were quite the opposite of our present ones. They had no machinery to do the work nor any homes to live in. Robert and his son, George, built log houses & log barns on their respective farms and helped break the new ground with oxen and a hand forged plow. This was very hard work and required much perseverance which was characteristic of our pioneer farmers. Robert and George prospered by their hard work and steadily improved their farms until they were amongst the finest in Maine Prairie.

George married Ida Wood in 1878. They were married by a circuit Minister that was staying at various homes around Maine Prairie. Ida

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(Wood) Linn was born December 3, 1852 in Pennsylvania, daughter of John and Caroline Wood.

George and Ida (Wood) Linn had two children Ralph A. and Pearl E. Ralph A. was born February 12, 1879 and Pearl E. was born January 5, 1882.

Pearl and Ralph both attended country school at Maine Prairie and were taught the respective arts of their father and mother, cooking and farming. Their teachers at the Maine Prairie school were Stella Meyers, Aida Snow, Miss McClure, Carry Rogers, William Whitney, Cary and Mary Hayward.

After graduation from school both aided their parents on the farm until their marriages.

Ralph married Carry Waltzing on September 2, 1899.

Carry Waltzing was born in Maine Prairie June 12, 1881 daughter of Dominik and Mary Waltzing.

Dominik and Mary Waltzing were natives of Pennsylvania and their parents natives of Germany.

Pearl married Lafayette Stanley in 1915. Lafayette Stanley was born in Maine Prairie son of Roger and Anna Stanley.

Ralph after his marriage moved on to the original Freed Hamilton place and started a prosperous farm. In 1912 he purchased a farm four and a half miles North of Kimball and has farmed there successfully to this date.

Ralph has three children Forest L.; Ralph Jr.; and Henrietta E.

Forest married Mable Braden daughter of John and Mary Braden. Mable Braden was born in Fair Haven township May 25, 1908 and attended school at Kimball, Minnesota. She took a normal school course and then

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taught school at Maine Prairie until her marriage. They have one child Carol Lois Linn.

Ralph's father, George Linn, retired from the farm in 1915 and moved to Kimball, where they lived in retirement until their death. George died on March 25, 1935 and Ida (Wood) Linn died in December 26, 1932.

Forest, son of Ralph and Carry (Waltzing) Linn, is farming at Maine Prairie and is carrying out the traditional occupation of the family for five generations. His father, Ralph, has a farm near by and both are successful tillers of the soil. The Linn family opened up the soil for agriculture in Maine Prairie and are still farming there. Thorough in their knowledge of agriculture and well known and respected by all their neighbors. Ralph stated, "I hope my sons and grandson will continue for five more generations to be of value to their communities in the agricultural trade."

Interviewed: Ralph Linn
Date: June 23, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

LINN, GEORGE

FILE NO.

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in legal records of the Stearns County Court House.

CORRECTION: Birth of George Linn on September 1,, 1852 is correct as stated in the legal records.

AFFIRMED: Birth of Ralph Linn on February 12, 1879 is correct as stated in biograhay.

AFFIRMED: Name Ida Wood is correct as stated in biography.

Reinterviewed: B. H. Linn
February 7, 1938
Dean Nelson

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TAKEN FROM THE LEGAL RECORDS OF THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

BIRTH RECORD, BOOK A, PAGE 359, Line 29

Ralph W. E. Linn, born February 11, 1879
Son of George and Hattie Linn

MARRIAGE RECORD, BOOK F, PAGE 95

George W. Linn and Hattie Wood
Married at Main Prairie, May 11, 1878
By: A. F. Perkins, Justice of the Peace
Witnesses: Mary E. Perkins and Inez J. Perkins

DEATH RECORD, BOOK 2, Page 17, Line 391

George W. Linn born in Illinois, Sept 1, 1852
Son of Robert Linn and Mary Plue
Died March 25, 1935
Age 82 years, 6 months, 24 days.