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Sefkow, Carl (1849 -)

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SEFKOW, CARL

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Carl Sefknow was born in Gravenburg, Brandenburg, Germany July 14, 1849, son of Carl and Louisa Sefkow.

Carl Junior attended school fourteen years in Germany and then worked on his father's farm until 1882. In that year Carl left for America. He migrated directly to Saint Cloud and worked at odd jobs around the vicinity of that city.

On June 15, 1883, Carl Sefkow married Frieda Schmaganski at St. Cloud.

Frieda (Schmaganski) Sefkow was born in Liebanan, Germany September 14, 1859 daughter of Adolph and Marie Schmaganski.

Frieda (Schmaganski) Sefkow attended school in Germany and came to the United States with a friend about 1880.

After his marriage Carl Sefkow worked as a laborer until 1888. In that year Carl took a homestead and worked that land profitably until 1918. He retired in 1918 to Saint Cloud where he still resides with his son, William, at 15 13th Avenue North.

Mrs. Carl Sefkow died in 1918, the year that Carl retired.

To Carl and Frieda (Schmaganski) Sefkow were born four children, Louisa, Augusta, William and Ida. There are sixteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

During the interview Carl said, "We surely had a difficult time making a living on the early homesteads. The first year I erected a log cabin of one room it had no floor. This was our only residence for two years, and it was not a very comfortable one. In the winter, snow and wind would blow in the cracks and many times we would awaken in the morning to find frost on our blankets. Our only means of heating was a cook stove."

"For farming implements we used a wooden plow and oxen. This was quite an inadequate device for breaking new ground."

"In regard to my passage over here I paid \$100 for my fare and it took us twenty-one days to cross."

Carl Sefkow is very active for a man his age and still enjoys life with his son, William.

Interviewed: Carl Sefkow
Date: August 11, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

Publication Granted