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7-8-1936

### Swanson, John A. (1860 - 1931)

Dean Nelson

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John A. Swanson was a native of Sweden born in Mahlcolm, Vermland, August 8, 1860. He was a son of Sven and Mary Swanson. Sven was a prosperous farmer of Sweden and John was able to secure a grade and high school education.

After graduation he was an apprentice to the blacksmith trade. He worked at this trade until he became an expert blacksmith and then came to America in 1886.

With him he brought his fiance, Lottie Nelson. John and Lottie had attended school together and known each other since childhood. Their reason for coming to America to get married was to escape the length and tedious routine of a Swedish marriage. Their fare to America was \$30 each. They crossed the North Sea and spent one week in England waiting for the boat to America. Mr. Swanson's brother sent them the tickets from America. If they had purchased the same tickets in Sweden their passage would have cost \$200.00 a piece.

Lottie Nelson was a daughter of Nels and Anna Nelson. She was born in Mahlcolm, Vermland Sweden, February 1, 1866. Lottie attended grade and high school in Sweden.

John and Lottie Nelson were married in Saint Cloud August 8, 1886.

John secured a job as blacksmith and worked successfully until times became rather difficult in 1888. Then John left for Wisconsin and worked as stone cutter until the difficult times were somewhat over. He returned to Saint Cloud and again started stone cutting.

John worked continually until 1910 when he became ill. He remained ill and an invalid until 1931 when he died.

During his working years John erected a sizable and beautiful residence at 227 Third Avenue North East. When he became ill his wife bravely kept working and turned the residence into a boarding house. She ran this successfully until John's death.

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To John and Lottie (Nelson) Swanson were born six children, Fred; Mrs. Frank Axel; Gust; Harry; Florence; and Myrtle. There are also eleven grandchildren.

Lottie Swanson still resides at 227 Third Avenue North East.

Interviewed: Mrs. Lottie Swanson  
Date: July 8, 1936  
By: Dean Nelson



FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN A. SWANSON BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORD IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE