

Contact: George Warburton

Address: Cable, Wisconsin

Ethnic Group:

Fieldworkers: Terry Heinrick  
Matt Gallmann

Date: March 23, 1979

Terry and I left Ashland at about 9:30 and drove south on Sanborn Avenue to County E to South 63 and finally to Cable, Wisconsin. Terry is working on a project for a class titled "North Country Values". She is studying Swedish immigrants in northern Wisconsin. Terry asked Marina Herman and I if we had any information pertaining to Swedes in Wisconsin. We couldn't give her very much background material on the subject but I offered to take her to talk with George Warburton about Swedes.

I called George on Tuesday and he said he would be glad to have us if "we thought it was worth it".

Terry and I worked up some basic questions on the ride down to ask George. When we got to the Warburton's house we were happily greeted. May indicated that she wasn't feeling very well physically. Wet snow had been falling early this morning. I think that perhaps the weather was affecting her health and perhaps the moods of all of us. Terry and I were excited yet slightly run down from the changing weather.

I again explained that "Terry is working on the history of Swedes in Wisconsin" and we wanted to know about George's background and history. George explained that he was only half Swede. His mother was Swedish and his father was German. Then he explained that he was from Hinkley, Minnesota and not from Wisconsin at all. I made it clear that we were interested in the whole north country. I added that I remembered he had told me about spending time in Ashland as a young man.

The subject came around to the Hinckley fire. George told us that his family lived in Hinckley during 1894 when the famous Hinckley fire devastated Hinckley, Sandstone, Sandstone Junction, Finlayson, Miller, Pokegama, Partridge and Mission Creek. George's family ran down the street and took shelter in a gravel pit that contained some water. George was one and a half at this time.

George was born in 1893 in Hinckley, Minnesota. The community he grew up in was Swedish, primarily. He speaks a little Swedish these days. He told us that he went to a Lutheran church when he was a young boy. He talked about Saturdays and how the young folks would hang around after the folks went home and dance. He must have been talking about parties at a community hall or something. The older people didn't allow dancing because they thought it was evil. But the young people played fiddles and danced.

George said that they played Swedish schottishes, waltzes, polkas, hamboes, and mazurkas. I guess they also played some Norwegian and German music.

I should clear this all up with George.

George said that he was married in 1923.

I have to record an interview with him or set up an outline for basic question.