

Peter and Mary Dahlstrom Family History



Peter and Mary (Palm) Dahlstrom with son Arthur

Peter and Mary Dahlstrom (nee Palm) came from Wannaska (formerly Palmville) in the township of Roseau, Minnesota and crossed the U.S./Canada border into Manitoba around 1904. They had emigrated from Sweden with their parents and siblings. Mary (Palm) Dahlstrom was born July 26, 1879 at Dalby, Varmland, Sweden. Mary emigrated from Vastby, Amnerud, Sweden to America in 1882. Peter was born October 25, 1864 in Dalby Varmland, Sweden.

Peter and Mary Dahlstrom Family History
Page 2

Peter and Mary had five children; Arthur born March 12, 1898, Carl J. born October 21, 1899, Clarence Peter born August 3, 1901, Selma Maria born August 19, 1903 and Adolph Sigfried born September 6, 1905. Carl died as an infant September 1, 1900.

Peter had built a log shanty on the NE corner of the quarter section upon which they lived as "squatters upon the land" at the time the area was surveyed on June 22, 1905. A Statutory Declaration was filed indicating that they were "squatters" on the S.E. quarter of section 5, township 2, range 14E, just north of the village of Sprague, MB. The quarter had been classed as swamp land May 12, 1903 but it was not transferred to the province. Under rulings of the time, "bona fide squatters" could be granted entry but Peter Dahlstrom died before "entry" for the homestead was made.

*Roseau.ARTICLE: Roseau County Times:
August 11, 1905 " Peter Dahlstrom, a settler south of Wannaska, who was here as a witness in the final proof for a neighbor was taken sick with heart trouble at the supper table at Haglund's Hotel on Monday evening. He left the table and walked down to Dr. Norin's office a distance of two blocks. Dr. Norin did all in his power to tide the man over but his efforts failed and Dahlstrom expired in a short time. The remains were taken to Wannaska Tuesday afternoon for interment. Deceased leaves a wife and three children."*

Comment by Elaine - Oh my goodness, Adolph Sigfried Dahlstrom was born September 6, 1905. Peter Dahlstrom passed away August 7, 1905 leaving Mary with 3 children and a fourth born one month after his death.

After the death of Peter Dahlstrom in 1905, Mary Dahlstrom worked at Sprague as a housekeeper for Peter Lind who was a widower. Peter Lind's wife, Anna (Stromquist) Lind had died in childbirth January 1903 when their daughter, Anna Alexandria, was born.

Mary suffered more hardship when her daughter, Selma, was burned to death in a house fire in Sprague in 1906.

Peter and Mary Dahlstrom Family History
Page 3

"Article from Roseau County Press dated Saturday, September 29, 1906 page 1:

Word was received yesterday that the house of S. P. Lind near Sprague was destroyed by fire Wednesday and the infant child of Mrs. Dahlstrom, a widow and daughter of Louis Palm of Palmville, was burned to death. Mrs. Dahlstrom who is keeping house for Lind was away on her homestead and a neighbour woman was taking care of the child and premises. The fire started in the house while the woman was taking care of the stock."

The quarter section where Mary lived was a part of Daniel E. Sprague's timber berth #1153 but was later withdrawn for agricultural use. In homestead records, there is a letter indicating "residence and improvements done on the land but that Peter had not made entry for the land and nothing had been heard from him since". A letter dated February 15, 1915 indicated that Peter Dahlstrom had died shortly after declaration re survey was filed in June 1905 and that the improvements on the quarter section had been destroyed by fire. It also indicated that Peter Lind had married the widow but that she was deceased also. Peter Lind and Mary (Palm) Dahlstrom were married in 1906 or 1907. The letter also stated that Mary (Dahlstrom) Lind had made "entry" for the homestead, but she passed away September 15, 1914 before patent was received. Mary Lind died at the St. Boniface hospital in Winnipeg - cause of death basilar meningitis. Peter Lind was anxious to obtain the quarter section for the son, Arthur Dahlstrom, who was a minor at the time and requested that a reservation of land be made until Arthur was 18 years.

July 1915 report in homestead records indicated " no occupant- no improvements and that there had been a log shanty built by Peter Dahlstrom some years ago but was rotten and no value". Previously indicated "destroyed by fire???"

Report August 1915, indicated the quarter section was part of timber berth 1153 and that the timber was small poplar and scrub and 5 miles from railroad and of no commercial value. The land was withdrawn from timber berth in October 1915 and made available for homestead entry. (Peter and Mary could apply for entry for homestead prior to this because they were a "bona fide squatter".) November 15, 1915 Arthur Dahlstrom applied for entry for homestead SE sec 5, twp 2.

Peter and Mary Dahlstrom Family History
Page 4

January 6, 1916, a letter from Captain and Paymaster stated that Pte. A. Dahlstrom had joined the 78th Overseas Battalion on December 1, 1915 and was accepted for overseas duty. It also stated that Arthur Dahlstrom's entry for homestead would be protected while he was engaged in active service.

Arthur Dahlstrom died April 5, 1916 at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, MB while on the roll of "A" Co 78th Battalion. He had been hospitalized with pneumonia for 51 days prior to his death. He is buried at the Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg. I obtained Arthur Dahlstrom's death certificate.

April 19, 1916 Peter Lind made application for the administration of the estate of Arthur Dahlstrom asking that the patent be issued to him as legal representative of the deceased, as the deceased had left two younger brothers entirely depending on Mr. Lind for support. Because Arthur had made entry for the homestead and died while under enlistment, as administrator of the estate and step father, Peter Lind was granted patent.

The two younger brothers, Clarence and Adolph, were left in the care of Peter Lind, their step-father. When Mary passed away in September 1914 Clarence was 13 years and Adolph was 9 years. We believe that the two boys spent time with their maternal grandmother at Wannaska, MN. The boys did attend some school in Sprague but I do not know if they also attended school in Wannaska. In any case, the two boys lived their lives in the US until the time of their death.

Clarence married Jenny Lundquist from Wannaska and they remained in the United States. They lived and raised their family in Spokane, Washington. They had three children, Mary, Conrad and Edward. Clarence passed away April 8, 1983 and Jennie passed away April 30, 2001.

Adolph, never married and he also lived near Spokane, Washington. He passed away February 25, 1983.

Written by Elaine (Nordstrom) Tosberg - updated 2021
Information from family history and homestead records from Manitoba Archives