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Oral History Transcription with Carlton Anderson & Christina Anderson

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VISIT WITH MR. & MRS. CARLTON ANDERSON, MON., FEB. 13, 1967
Richard and Daniel Hede

It was a cold and windy day, and when we came in early in the afternoon on Monday we pushed back a rug rolled up against the bottom of the door on the inside, placed to keep the cold out. Carlton was sitting beside the old wood kitchen stove, with one leg bottom and foot bared, to which he was applying liniment to treat a sprain or sore ankle. He said that he usually did his own doctoring. Mrs. A. was resting in an alcove off the dining room, as neither of them had received much sleep the night before -- Carlton catching naps on the old antique sofa between his chores of keeping the fires going to keep out the cold, and she not perhaps feeling too awfully well (she said her eyes had been bothering her, things getting all black in front of her eyes). But she got up anyway despite our protests to take it easy, and picked up a few things which she didn't think should have been left lying around, and cooked coffee, with home made bread and cheese and cookies, etc.

Carlton was saying (as I turned on the tape recorder) that "it was a big house to keep warm, and maybe some of the building paper etc. was not too tight, and so forth, but they had three bedrooms upstairs plus the bathroom so there was no need for anyone to come and get caught out in the cold with no place to stay. But its that way you know when you buy a house you got to take them the way it is -- they build them too high up in the ceilings. They build the newer ones now lower so it is easier to keep warm. My wife is laying down now -- you know she is under the Drs. care -- but when you get older you have to have cramps, ha, ha, ha. We just had our birthday now, and I was 81, and she is three years younger so she is 78, (tho we shouldn't tell our age).

Carlton to Mrs.: We were just going to talk about you but now that you are up I guess we can't.

"I was up most of the night firing, because when you leave it too long it (the water pipes?) stiffen up & it takes longer to get it going.

"Its funny how you could get along years ago without any bedroom or anything but when you didn't have it you never thought of it. But now we got hot and cold water there and hot and cold there and hot and cold water in the basement so it is good, and it is right on the power line, so you don't have to stand there and wait to get hot water to wash or something it is right there. And when you want to take a bath you can take a bath a one o'clock at night if you want to. But it used to be that to get water you had to stand there and pump and freeze, and when we first come here there was a pump outside there and we had to dress the pump up just like it was a person, and wrap it with blankets and everything so t^hat wouldn't freeze (Mrs.: and still it froze) and we had to heat hot water and thaw it out. Carlton: no, we went to Worcester during the war and made some money and fixed it up for about 3,000 dollars. I guess we have lived here about 30 years, we moved here in 1935. Carl Larson (Dorothy Dahlen's father and brother to Eric Larson on the next farm here) built the house he was a carpenter and worked up to Grand Isle, and he come home and he wasn't/^{home}too mush, he only wanted to lay down when he gets home-- you know I lived up to the old farm that my boy Harold has now, that was my old home place, and ?? was thinking on getting married, and ?? said "can't you get the old man, and my mother said, no, he only wants to lay down--" Soot? the chimney and everything".

Was that your father's old home farm (Harold's)?

Oh yes, (Mrs.), that is where he was born you know.

What was your father's name? Well, there was so many Anderson's you know, and all that, that they called him "Little Frederick", you know because he was like Wilfred, Harold's brother, kind of short.

You know, I'm collecting some information about the early settlement up here, etc. and that's what I wanted to ask you about.

Oh well, Fritz would be the best one to see about that because he has a lot of it written down, but sure, I can remember a lot of it. I'm just

like a feller that was up to her brother there (Swan Swenson's) what do you call him, Lil John's??, he always used to say "I wasn't born yesterday". Swen you know was married to Hilidur, but he married a widow the first time, & she had a boy that was adopted and his name was "Lillejoa?" Carlton: you know they used to say "he's no good, he's no good, " but if you treated him like anyone else, I had him on the farm and he helped me with the manure etc.,

Meanwhile, Mrs. A. came nearer the recorder and apologized for the mess, and picked up a bunch of clippings & a scrapbook etc. and said she was just starting a scrapbook last night, and well, no she hadn't done much before, but she had started with all these cards,

Carlton: to go back to the beginning, I was born in 1886, and father settled before I was born as I grew up on the farm. Ask Fritz when his father first came to this country, as he has many papers etc. left from when father was selectman, and Fritz was first selectman here for many years. And now he wants to quit as moderator at town meeting, and says they got to get someone else, but every year they say he has to take it. Baxter was moderator but now he is old (or away?) and no one else wants to take it so he is stuck every year. When you do a job for many years you know and you are used to it then there are no others that can do it any better than you can.

Carlton is 11 years older than Fritz, "we call it 11 years but My birthday is the month of Jan. and Fritz is the 25th of Nov., but we call it 11, and then my brother Albert was 5 years younger you know, (He has been dead for many years now (19 years?) , and he lived all over fix up you know for others and then he sold and moved somewhere else, to Houlton and to Gardner, Maine, that's where he died. And now he had tough luck with his wife there, she had her leg cut off (Mrs: yes, but that was after he was dead) yes, but it happened just the same.

How many were there in your family? Was there just the three boys?
No, there was eight in all (Mrs.), but I guess we were six the most at one time, because they died. Carlton was the oldest, and "I'm the toughest Next to him, there was a sister, no there was Perley, a brother, who died when he was eleven. And then a sister, Lilly, who married Albert Carlson and then Herman Johnson the second time (father of Richie & Pete & 2 more boys with him), ;and then Albert, and then 2 little girls that died and never grew up (Mrs.: your mother told me you had the two little sisters) and then Fritz was the baby. I think we were six once, but it didn't last long because they died you know". What did the sisters die from? Well, she had an operation, I don't know if it was gall stones, see there was no hospital in Caribou then, they went to Presque Isle, and she died there one fall when I was digging potatoes up here.

Carlton: you know if you are going to have someone do something & they are not born with it, then they never want to do it. My father bought an organ and he thought she was going to be interested to play it, but she would rather go and sit down with the sewing machine and sew, so I took lessons and learned to play. Now I got the piano here (Mrs.: we sold the organ to Andrew Magnuson) .Andrew & I picked the organ all apart and she said you'll never put it together again, but we put it together and it was just like new. because we tightened up the bellows etc., you know the bellows leaked and the air went out and then you can't play....

And then I was in the band three years and played the slide trombone And one time up in Stockholm, do you remember that George Wik, he is in Worcester now, and I come up to the band stand one time when they had started to play, and George said to me "they have been waiting on you, and I said "oh, they can get along without me", but he said "that's what you think, when you come in and start to slide (the trombone) it is just like another band", and you said they can get along without you, ha, ha..

Who was leading the band in Stockholm then?

Fritz. Who started the first band up in Stockholm?

Ya, that was the first band we ever had with Fritz, we were quite a band and played down a t ball games in Edmonston and down Caribou at Memorial Day etc. and we were about 20 in the band then. Eric Hedeem helped us out then, and there was some french boys, he striked the drums, and he worked out there in the garage sometimes, and there was them Lovejoy boys, who was it that married their sister (that was Gunnar Sandstrom?), ya, he married their sister, and the Lovejoy boys was going ot blow on the cornet, and one time we was in on the Station Road, and Fritz wanted to quit and go to see his girl down in Madawaska, and he said "if you want to go ahead and play a little more now boys, you go ahead" so we played good , but the boys stopped off (on the cornet) and he said "why don't you play" and I said "what use is it for me to play on the slide trombone if you boys stop off on the cornet, ha, ha

Mrs.: But they want to know now who was in the band....

Ya, it was Hartley Jepson was with & Eric Hedeem & Abner Jepson & Melvin Gunnerson (but not Oliver, tho he played with New Sweden last summer); and you know Melvin & I wanted to strike the drums but they said no we are going to put you on the toughest instruments because you know the notes and can ^{read} ~~play~~ them like A,B,C, so they put me on the slide trombone and Melvin on the ~~slide trombone~~/.....

Mrs. was going to put on a clean linen tablecloth but was talked out of it...

We had a good band, and we were up to Edmonston and played for the ball game and they treated us, you know, to drinks etc. and they said to Fritz "you are the leader so you should have twice as much as the rest". And I ride with them up and when we came back thru the woods Fritz stoped and run in the woods and Lillian said "I knew it was going to go that way!"

Mrs.: Now hwo else was in the band? --I can't remember, it was some French boys" --Ya, french! it was some swedes too!

The Sandstrom boys were going to start you ~~but~~ know but if they are going to learn the instrument lots of times they quit. If they are not acquainted with music it makes it hard.

Where any of the Hede boys in the band then when you were there? No, I don't remember, but we were up to 22 once, I remember that..

Mrs.: Ya, I think there were some of the Hede boys in there too.

What year did the band start up here?

Mrs.: Well, that was before your mother died. --- Yes, I was on the home farm here. What year did she die? Well, my father died first. Probably 1918 when he died (Flu epidemic?), but Fritz would know more. You know father bought the farm/ ^{there for Fritz, and Fritz had it for awhile} across the road from Palm's, next to Sandstrom's, and he was up there thrashing one fall (Mrs.: I'm sure it was 1918 he died) and they told him he should go in and shouldn't be out there thrashing but he did and he died just a few days after thrashing. He had a bag of oats with to Mrs. Alfred Swenson, (you know they lived up here where Hartley Jepson is now), neighbors to ^{Lawrence Gunnersons} ~~Zunds?? Gunnersons??...~~

Alfred Swenson was one of the first settlers, wasn't he? Ya , and then they moved across town to the place that Plourde's had, and now it is that boy, Roland Albair, When did they move across & did Alfred Swenson move too? Ya, he went over and worked on the RR and lived in the

Carlton: My father lived right down town, where Freda Lind has now right on the other side from the Baptist church. Did he build that house? No, it was a feller, what was his name, Sturbreck????, that bought it, and then they bought it back for the church, where the minister lived, they had that on the other side, I was with and cleared the land up where Bossie had his trailer now, there was a house there, we got married in that house, John Lind's bought it, but it isn't there now where the trailer is (& John Lind didn't build it but bought it) they built it for the parsonage for the church & they sold it to John Lind and then bought the place where it is now, and that was the place that Strobeck built that. You remember , no you would be too young, when they had that accident and

He got killed in the woods when a limb fell on his head, you don't stand very much you know when a limb hits you in the head. John Lind was living in that house then in Stockholm when that happened, (RH: I thought they were living in Gunnerson's house then) No, they were living in town, and Olof & martha Gunnerson were living up there on the farm. Olof built that little house up above where Lawrence is, but old man Gunnerson built the big house where Lawrence is. Olof was quite handy you know, and his father built all of the barns around here (old man Gunnerson's name was Anders)/.....you know, the funniest thing, he was awful careless making staging etc./and he fell down one time after the other (Andrr s) but he never killed himself. You know Anders was going to do things, but if you are going to make a staging and it takes 25 minutes more you are better off to do it right, and then he put on these hemlocks? boards, and that is the worst thing you can put on the staging because they break, and then they put most anything on the staging, but nobody was hurt too bad, maybe they were laid up a little or get some scratches etc. He was up there and built the barn up to what they call Lemuel's/that goes up from what they call four corners by Lundeens, by the old house that I had there, you see we lived there for six years after I was married and then we moved up on the farm here and took over (father's farm and farmed for 16 years here. Yes it was New Sweden we lived when I had the farm out there but Lemuel's that was in the Connor o Stockholm, the line goes right up here you know by Harold and by Quists....you know I have been here all my life. RH: How did you happen to get married in that house, was that the parsonage then? Ya, we got married in the Baptist parsonage.

And you remember that Olof Ek, he was married to Mary Ek, they were there and celebrated when we got married (Mrs.: it wasn't Olof Ek, it was Joseph, Abrahamson)they had some rice and threw/etc. Yes, she married my uncle first. brother to David (Abrahamson?) ---rice down my back etc.

CRASH***dishes fell on floor---- Talking about serenading, thats what it sounds like with the dishes falling (but they didn't break).

Who did the serenading now? Ya, they serenaded us down there first ,& then we moved to schooland and they serenaded us again there. You should have been with then in those days. Did they have dynamite then? Yes, they had dynamite up there in schoolland (Mrs.),

Large speed control off -