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Leer, Steven (1841 -)

Gilbert Bunt

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LEER, STEVEN

File No. B-778

Steven Leer was born in Austria in 1841, where he served in the Army for eight years and then became a forester for the government of that country. He held that position until he came to America in the spring of 1876.

Steven Leer bought a farm in St. Martin township, Stearns County. At that time the grasshoppers were so bad in Stearns and surrounding counties, that the farmers had no crops for a period of two years. Later in life Steven Leer went to Lake City, South Dakota, where he prospered on a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Steven Leer had eleven children of which four are still living: Joseph on a farm at La Mar, North Dakota; John Leer on a farm at Canada; Conrad Leer on a family farm in Lake City, South Dakota; Mrs. Mary Josephine (Leer) Chisholm in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The dead are Rose, Mithilda, Francis, Dina, Theresa, Frank, and Michael.

Mary Josephine Leer was six years of age when she came to Stearns County with her parents. She states, "When we landed in United States, we went to Castle Gardens in New York City, where all the foreign people stay. My mother dressed my sister, Rose and me the morning we were to leave for Minnesota, and told us not to leave the place, but like children will, we had to explore around and when the train left for St. Paul, Minnesota, my mother thought we were with our father, and he thought we were with mother. The men folks rode in one part of the train and the women rode in another, so neither mother nor our father suspected we were lost. When they arrived in St. Paul they found that neither had the children. In the meantime a man had taken us from the Castle Gardens and left his name

LEER, STEVEN

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and address, so we could be found when someone came for us. Father had to make a return trip to New York and after looking for two months, he found me and sister, Rose. The reason it took him so long to find us was because he could not speak one word of the English language.

Mary Josephine Leer grew up in St. Martin township, attending school in New Munich. When she was seventeen years old, she married Alexander Chisholm on the 7th day of September, 1886. They made their home in various parts of the county and then came to St. Cloud. They bought an old school and church building from a Mr. Damm, and which is now their home, at 1017 Sixth Avenue South.

Alexander Chisholm was born in Paynesville, Stearns County, Minnesota on March 29, 1861. He is the son of Daniel and Marietta (Reed) Chisholm, who came to Stearns County in 1859.

Interviewed: Mary Josephine (Leer)
Chisholm

Date: September 22, 1936

By: Gilbert Bunt

Publication Granted

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 2, 1860 --by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office- Torah

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Daniel Chisholm	Age 26
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Birth Place	Nova Scotia
Marietta Chisholm	Age 23
Sex	Female
Birth Place	New York
William Chisholm	Age 2
Sex	Male
Birth Place	Wisconsin
Harriet Chisholm	Age 2 Mo.
Sex	Female
Birth Place	Minnesota

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE STEVEN LEER BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE