

The Nelson Home

Peter Nelson immigrated to the United States from Sweden. He came to Gordon from Stillwater in the late 1800's under the employ of the Musser Sauntry Logging Co. as a "Barn Boss." He also owned a farm in Wascott at the lower end of Bergin Creek at the junction of the Totogatic River where he raised potatoes for adjacent camps.

Nelson soon became prosperous and built a Saloon in a building many remember as later being Nellie Cosgrove's house. Peter Nelson married Annie Novak of Chetek in 1900 and had five boys and one girl. They built their own fine residence, this house, in the early 1900's on property that was at once the site of Musser Sauntry's large lathe mill.

They raised their large family here, and two of their sons would go on to operate other well-known Gordon businesses: Stan Nelson operating Nelson Lanes (today's St. Croix River Lanes) and Art Nelson operating Nelson's Service Station (today's "Gordon Station" Ice Cream, Antiques, & Emporium).

The Nelsons were the only family to live in this house. Their daughter Lillian was the last occupant. She passed away in 1966 and the house has been vacant since that time. Subsequent owners have done work to preserve and stabilize the structure, hopeful for a future restoration. This is finally happening now under the ownership of Matt & Amber Osterlund. This year's tour will be a sneak peek at the house's "before restoration" state.

The Nelson House is the finest example of a management level lumberman's residence on the Upper St. Croix.



Pete Nelson



Art Nelson

