

BEGINS CAREER

Samuel Augustus Carlson was born in the City of Jamestown, October 26, 1868, on what is known as English Hill. His parents, John Frederick and Matilda Charlotta Carlson, immigrated from Askryd, Jönköpings Län, Sweden, to America in 1867. His mother died during his infancy, and three years later his father married Louise Hedstrom. Mr. Carlson was educated in the public schools of this city. At the age of 14 he became a member of the Y. M. C. A. and its Debating Society and has continued his membership in Y. M. C. A. to this day. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of a number of other leading fraternities. He has two brothers, John E., and D. Lawrence, of Jamestown and one syster, Mrs. Ruby Erickson of LosAngeles, Calif.

In 1891 together with his father and brother, Charles, he purchased a furniture factory from his uncle, Samuel S. Carlson, which was then located at the foot of Willard Street.

In 1893 he sold his interest in this business and assumed the management of a Swedish Weekly, Vårt Land, (Our Country), which was originally organized in 1872 and then called "Folkets Röst" (People's Voice). This publication was in latter years published partly in Swedish and partly in the English language. Its publication was suspended about ten years ago. The files of this publication which virtually contains the history of the Scandinavian settlements in Western New York and Pennsylvania, have been donated by Mr. Carlson to the Swedish Museum at Philadelphia.

On June 21, 1893, shortly after his election as Councilman, Mr. Carlson was married to Freda S. Hendrickson. They have a son Wendell LaVern, who is a Radio Engineer in the Field of Research and Defense.

Press Comments

The Post-Journal of May 1, 1943 said:

As Mayor Emeritus Samuel A. Carlson sits back in his easy chair in his second floor den at his home, 37 Maple Street, this evening, he can scan the vista of 50 years since he first became a figure in the public life of Jamestown back in 1893 and see bound up in his career, much of the life of his native community. And Sam was born here, and strange to relate his