(Written text and photographs provided by William John Krause II and Dennis Lyle Krause). Maria Elizabeth Nilssdotter/Johannesson/Nelson (Americanization = Mary Elizabeth Johnson/Nelson) was born on May 28, 1878, in Värmland, Sweden, and was the daughter of Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Nelson. She was the second youngest of seven children born Nils and Maria (Setterberg) Johannesson/Nelson with four brothers (Johan Adel, Anders Gustaf, Axel, and Jonathan) and two sisters (Amanda Christina and Anna Katarina). The family lived periodically on two different small farms in western Sweden, a few miles east of Säffle in the Province of Värmland approximately 225 miles from Stockholm. Her parents were farmers growing wheat in cleared forested areas and raising various farm animals that included hogs and dairy cattle. Mary Elizabeth Johnson was baptized near the By Church at the minister's farm and then attended and was confirmed into the Lutheran faith in the Södra Ny Lutheran Church located near the family's farm. Mary's early education was attained in the small chapel of Huggenäs also located near her family's home. On September 11, 1890, at the age of fourteen, Mary Elizabeth Johnson with her parents and sister, Anna Katarina, emigrated from Sweden to the United States to join her brothers and older sister who had immigrated earlier (1880's) to live with her mother's sister, Carolina Wilhelmina (Setterberg) Johnson Anderson, on her farm in Richwood Township, Minnesota. Mary Elizabeth Johannesson/Nelson married Nels Christian Nelson (Chris) on October 12, 1895, in Audubon, Minnesota. Nels Christian Nelson was born on July 11, 1873, in New York City and was the son of Martin and Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson, both natives of Denmark. Nels was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. When he was 4 years of age the family moved to Youngstown, Ohio. Nels Christ had a younger brother, Nels Maurice Nelson, born July 11, 1878 in Youngstown, Ohio. The family moved on to Detroit Lakes, (Becker County) Minnesota, where his father purchased a farm. The 1880 United States Census lists Martin Nelson as being 34 years old, the head of a household and a farmer from Denmark. Living with him are his wife Anna Christina (37 years of age), a son, Nels Christian (7 years old, born in New York), a son, Nels Maurice (2 years old, born in Ohio), and a bother Canute Nelson (32 years old) and sister-in-law, Johanna Nelson (22 years old). The 1880 census is the last record found that records the whereabouts of Martin Nelson. The 1885 census for Detroit, Becker County, Minnesota, lists Stina Nelson (43 years old, from Denmark), son Christian 12 years of age, born New York, and son Maurice (7 years of age, born Ohio). The next official document found with regard to Nels Christian parents is on an marriage application dated September 28, 1886, of his mother, Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson, who is referred to as Stina Nilson. Stina (Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson) married Anton Elleson on October 1, 1886, at First Lutheran Church of Audubon, Audubon, Minnesota. Nels Christian Nelson grew up and attended school in the Detroit Lakes area until he was 14 years of age. He then traveled to Hillsboro, North Dakota, which lies within the Red River Valley of Eastern North Dakota and worked at this location for three years. Chris then returned to the Detroit Lakes area and bought a farm near Floyd Lake, Minnesota, from his parents, Anton and Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson, in December of 1896. He had fifty acres under cultivation, and the rest of the property was timber and pasture. In addition to the small farm, Nels Christian operated a butcher shop in Detroit Lakes. The farm was described as having a good residence and a barn as well as other necessary buildings to a complete a home of many comforts. Water was plentiful, and he had a good supply of farm machinery, and he was reported to operate a model place. He kept three horses for work and had six head of cattle for dairy purposes. Chris and Mary operated a very successful farm and started raising their family of four sons (Martin Leonard Nelson, born on May 18, 1898, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Victor Chris Nelson, born on August 12, 1905, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Floyd Ernest Nelson, born on April 20, 1907, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Arthur Cleveland Nelson, born on August 12, 1909 in in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota) and two daughters (Nora Velmina Nelson, born on April 13, 1900, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Anne Mathilda Nelson, born on March 25, 1902, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota). Chris and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson were members of the Lutheran Church at Detroit City, were actively interested in the affairs of that denomination, and were held in high esteem by their neighbors and friends. The Nelson family sold this farm on January 3, 1911, and left the Detroit Lakes area to settle on a prairie homestead consisting of 320 acres located in Buggy Creek Community near Tampico, Montana, on the advise of Chris's younger brother Maurice Nelson. Maurice was working at this time in Glasgow, Montana, as a superintendent for the Montana-North Dakota Grain Elevators. He discovered a pure, soft water spring at a homestead site near Buggy Creek and persuaded Chris and Mary to move their family to this site.
Chris Nelson preceded his family to Montana to prepare the homestead near Buggy Creek for their arrival. Mary and children arrived by train bringing along a boxcar load of household furnishings, farm equipment, cows and horses. After the rocks were picked and the sod was broken, the main crop to be grown was wheat. Butter, milk and eggs were taken to Glasgow to be traded for groceries. The Nelson family continued to grow in size with the addition of the following children born at the Tampico homestead: **Morris Joseph Nelson (Pete),** born on March 7, 1912, in Tampico, Montana; **Mabel Elizabeth Nelson,** born on April 12, 1914, in Tampico, Montana; **Max Walter Nelson,** born on April 29, 1916, in Tampico, Montana; **Hazel Ruby Nelson,** born on August 28, 1918, in Tampico, Montana; and **Lorraine Marion Nelson,** born on April 16, 1920 in Tampico, Montana. In all, twelve children were born to Nels Christian and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson. Their first child, a boy, was stillborn in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Following their move to Montana, Chris Nelson was an active member of the school board and other activities in the Tampico community. Mary Elizabeth also was very active in community affairs and was a member of the Highland Ladies Aid.

Nels Christian Nelson passed away as a result of congestive heart failure at the homestead on October 29, 1927. Burial was in the Highland cemetery, Glasgow, Montana. Following the death of her husband, Nels Christ Nelson, Mary remained on the homestead until her death. Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson was known as Grandma Nelson to residents of the community and her home was always open to visitors for a cup of coffee and a special treat she always had on hand. Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson passed away on the original homestead on September 4, 1974, at the age of 97 years old. Funeral services were held on September 8, 1973, at the First Lutheran Church in Glasgow, Montana. Burial was in the Highland Cemetery, Glasgow, Montana.

**Additional information on Nels Christ Nelson's brother, Nels Maurice Nelson.**

**Nels Maurice Nelson** was born July 11, 1878, in Youngstown, Ohio, and was the son of Martin and Christina Nelson and the brother of Nels Christ Nelson. In the early 1900s he was a land owner purchasing a farm from his mother and step-father in Section 16 of Detroit Township immediately adjacent to that of his brother, Nels Christian Nelson. Nels Maurice Nelson left this farm and traveled to and worked in Glasgow, Montana, as the Elevator Superintendent for the Montana – North Dakota Grain Elevators. Grain elevators were located strategically along the railway system to temporally store and load grain, which was then shipped to larger commercial centers by rail. Maurice Nelson also had a farm he operated located on the south Bench near Glasgow, Montana. Nels Maurice Nelson married **Mabel Edna Wright** in Detroit City, Minnesota, on November 5, 1902. Mabel Edna Wright was born on a farm in the Pelican Rapids area of Minnesota. She later worked as a servant girl in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. Maurice and Mabel (Wright) Nelson had a son, **Maurice Thomas Nelson Jr.,** born in Glasgow, Montana. Maurice Thomas Nelson Jr. graduated from Glasgow High School in 1934. Later he was a purser in the Merchant Marines. A ship’s purser was the person on a ship responsible for the handling of money on board. The purser was an officer responsible for all administration and supply; frequently the cooks and stewards answered to him as well. Maurice Thomas Nelson Jr. died at sea and was buried at sea. When Maurice and Mabel (Wright) Nelson lived in Glasgow, their nieces, Nora and Anne Nelson, lived with them when the girls attended high school. Maurice and Mabel Nelson played a very important role in the lives and raising these two girls.

Maurice Nelson died on October 18, 1918, and was the first victim of Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 in Glasgow, Montana. He was buried in Glasgow, Montana. Following the death of Maurice, Mabel (Wright) Nelson married **Richard H. Kane** of Glasgow, Montana, in August of 1926. Several years after the death of Richard Kane, Mabel (Wright) Nelson Kane moved to Bellingham, Washington. Mabel (Wright) Nelson Kane died in 1979 in Bellingham, Washington, at the age of 102.

**Remembrances of her grandson, William John Krause II (Bill), after spending summers and many holidays at the homestead (1946-1953):** Although I never knew my grandfather, my mother related to me that he smoked a pipe and that he enjoyed sitting in a rocking chair with his two youngest daughters, Hazel and Lorraine, on his lap and read to them. My first memories of the homestead stem from the late 1940’s and early 1950’s. At that time the homestead was without electricity or running water and lighting was by means of kerosene lanterns. Water was transported from the nearby well of fresh water to the house and temporarily stored in barrels. Heating was with fuel oil and cooking was done on a wood stove.
The homestead consisted of the residence with two bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a root cellar access of which was gained by opening a drop-down door in the living room. This door was covered by a very large rug. A shed was attached to the West side of the kitchen that housed a large black milk separator and other household equipment. A door at the north side had a small enclosed porch attached to it for taking off dirty boots, coats and hats. This addition was put on in the early 1950's. Just inside the door leading into the kitchen from this entrance was a small table that supported a washbasin and on the wall behind it was a large oval mirror with hooks for hats. The washbasin was used for washing up following a day's work outside. A large container of water with a water dipper for drinking was nearby. The homestead consisted of a large barn, two corrals, water tanks for livestock, a chicken coop, a bunkhouse near the residence and another two-story building (separated by floor) and a garage. Two strands of barbed wire fenced the perimeter of the property and the interior of the homestead subdivided by similar barbed wire fencing separating tilled fields from pastureland. The larger of the carrels was divided with one part being open with a surrounding log fence and the other end was roofed with solid walls made of willows to support a straw barrier. This was used to help the livestock to survive the cold winters. The livestock were usually brought in to pasture land near the house and fed hay during extreme cold and heavy snow. The door of the barn opened into the other carrel. During this time the two-story structure shaped like a house was used as a grainery. It may have been a residence at an earlier time and was similar in construction to Dumphy’s house, an abandoned neighbors house to the northeast.

My grandmother was a fantastic cook and was known throughout the community for her breads, cookies, cakes and especially her cinnamon rolls. She always had these items on hand and it seemed to me that she was baking on a daily basis. She always had a large pot of coffee brewing on the stove. This was boiled coffee in which water was added directly to ground coffee and boiled. To this brew she always added three or four empty eggshells to make a milder and less bitter coffee. It was my grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Nelson, that first introduced me into drinking coffee. Coffee was always served with a cup and saucer. Serving coffee in mugs was unheard of and would have been considered a crude jester in those days. Serving coffee was a break from daily chores and was a time to be enjoyed with family and friends. There were two ways to drink coffee according to my grandmother. Directly from the cup or, as this was boiling coffee coming directly off the top of the wood stove, it was acceptable to pour it in the saucer and sip the coffee from the saucer as it cooled. Grandma Nelson never added milk or sugar to her coffee. However, she always placed a hard cube of sugar under her tongue when she had her coffee. Grandma’s pies, did I mention her fruit pies? The crusts of all her pies were made with lard and a flaky, more delicate crust has yet to be made. Grandma always kept a large lard can covered with a metal lid on a shelf near and to the right of the stove. The other special treat she would make for me was fried toast for breakfast with a fried egg. What she did was cut a piece of home made bread extra thick, butter it on both sides with freshly turned butter and then fry it on both sides on the griddle of the old wood stove. This was “Texas Toast” before restaurateurs even thought of it! I looked forward to staying at the homestead and enjoyed helping my grandmother with her chores as I was too small to help the others (her sons, Pete and Max) with their duties. I enjoyed helping her pick eggs in the chicken coup and bringing them back to the house. The chicken coup was built into the ground, made of stone and the roof was just a few feet above ground. This design of this structure enabled the chickens to survive the cold winter months. One descended down several steps after opening a door that closed parallel with and was part of the roof. The coup contained several roosts and numerous nest boxes that I searched each day whilst gathering eggs. The other chore that I enjoyed was turning the hand crank of the old, black separator in the back shed for my grandmother. After milking, which was done by hand, the milk was strained through cheesecloth before being run through the separator. I was strong for my age and had great endurance and I believe she appreciated me doing this for her as we separated milk from cream. The cream was stored in jars and kept cool the majority of which was then turned into butter. Milk was also sold and picked up by truck from a creamery in Glasgow, Montana.
As I grew a bit older I was required to engage in chores that I was not particularly fond of. Every fall the chickens were reduced in number so the remaining flock could survive the winter. It would cost less to feed them at this time plus it eliminated overcrowding and disease as they were housed in the chicken coup over the cold winter months. The chickens were butchered by cutting off their heads with an axe and the carcasses dunked scalding hot water and the feathers picked off. I didn’t mind the picking but the smell was terrible. To this day I cannot stand the smell of boiled chicken and dumplings. My parents would take about two-dozen of these chickens and store them in a locker for eating over the winter months. Hogs were often butchered about the same time and they too were dunked in a large barrel of scalding water. I was given a dull knife to scrape the hair off. The rind on a slab of bacon, for example, is pigskin with the hair removed for those that don’t appreciate this fact. The other thing I remember about butchering a hog at the homestead was the production of lard for cooking. Fat was cut from the carcass of the hog and then cut into small cubes. The cubes of fat were then placed in a large cast iron pot or caldron and cooked over a wood fire beneath. After cooking, this material was then strained and the lard put into lard cans used for cooking. The materials that were strained out were like crispy bacon bits and those with meat were delicious and eaten. As I became older I was allowed to go with my uncles and helped by operating a binder that gathered bundles of wheat and oats and tied them into a bundle called a shock. These bundles would then be shocked by standing the bundles upright in a pyramid to protect the kennels of grain. After harvest the shocks were picked up with pitchforks and pitched into horse drawn wagons. The shocks were then transported to a belt driven threshing machine to separate grain from straw and thatch the latter of which was blown into a large straw pile some times the height of a two-story building. The grain was then temporarily stored in a wood framed grainery prior to being sold. As many of my cousins and I were still quite young at the time we were forbidden from playing around the old tractor with its spiked steel wheels that drove the belts that operated the threshing machine. We were also forbidden from hanging around the straw pile for fear we would attempt to climb it, and then disappear into it center and suffocate. A very fond memory I have with regard to harvest time was the meals that were served. Neighbors and relatives would all gather to help with threshing. After threshing at one farm, the threshing machine and everyone would then move on to the next farm as the threshing machinery moved from farm to farm during harvest time. At this time all the wives of the farmers and helping hands involved with threshing would bring food of every description and four large meals would be served each day until harvest was over. The other fond memory I have of spending summers on the original homestead was playing amongst the old abandoned equipment that was organized in a long row down a fence line behind the house. I spent hours at this location examining and pretending to operate equipment of every description from tractors, cars, to older vintage horse drawn wagons. Paper trash was burned in a steel barrel and solid waste materials were dumped into two large pits located at some distance from all the building in pasture land. My brother (Dennis Lyle) and I would later discover these treasure pits which was filled with antique bottles and glass ware of every description. Unfortunately, we were both equipped with our Red Ryder BB-guns and destroyed everything in sight. When we finally realized bottles were worth money we stopped our assault but it was too late. We then turned our attention to gathering long-necked beer bottles (worth 2 cents), coke or soda bottles (worth 4 cents) or milk bottles (worth 10 cents) along Highway 2 to earn money for candy in Glasgow. In the 1950’s and earlier, grandma Nelson maintained a large vegetable garden across from but near the house. She also loved flowers of various types and grew a patch of Hollyhocks just out side the front door of the house. I remember her watering these with dishwater after washing and water from the wash basin just inside the front door.
At this time, due to a lack of water, an outhouse was used. It was a two holed. In the cold winter and in the dead of night thunder mugs were used which were kept under the bed, had a lid, and were empties in the morning if used. With the expansion of Rural Electric Administration (REA) electricity finally reached the homestead and as a result eliminated many daily chores and made life so much easier. The house now had running water pumped up from the well, an electric stove and other electric appliances and an indoor toilet. I should mention, grandma could listen to the radio prior to the arrival of electricity as her son, Max Nelson, had erected a wind charger next to the house. It was on a positioned on the top of a tall steel derrick and had a propeller about the size of an airplane propeller. It was wind driven and produced enough electricity to run the radio.

The other very vivid and fond memories I have of my grandmother, Mary E. Nelson, was the family gatherings at the homestead to celebrate Christmas, New Years Day, or Thanksgiving. All family members were invited and how all of us fit into that small house that I revisited in recent years escapes all understanding. Brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins all crowded in sitting around several tables that were set up for both eating an extensive holiday meal to which everyone contributed, followed by an evening of card playing and story telling. On one occasion, in 1951, much of the living room was cleared and my father, William John Krause (Johnny), projected some home movies. He had recently purchased an 8 mm motion camera and everyone was amazed to see themselves projected onto a screen and had a good laugh at seeing themselves captured by the camera doing whatever they were doing. The one other memory that I have of my grandmother, when I was very young and before I started school in Fort Peck, was a collection of Indian head pennies she let me play with to keep me entertained when she was looking after me.

My paternal grandmother, Bertha Krause, traveled on several occasions (by train) to both Glasgow and Fort Peck to visit her son (Johnny) as well as other family members. Both my grandmothers knew each other quite well. As a matter of fact, now that I look back, it is amazing how much travel took place prior to 1950. Uncle Max went to Minnesota to visit the Krause family and enjoyed fishing in Minnesota. Julius Krause (one of my father's older brothers) and his family also visited the homestead. My uncle, Herbert Krause, a noted birder and author of the northern plains, visited the homestead on several occasions. At the time Herb was gathering information for a novel about the settling of the northern plains but was also interested in a bird that nested in the Buggy Creek area called the long-billed curlew (Numenius americanus). Because I spent so much time just roaming around the homestead, I knew exactly where these birds were and was able to guide Herb to their exact location. Two other events occurred that I remember about my grandmother. Firstly, she contracted mumps at 92 years of age. She was thought to be one of the oldest recorded individuals in Valley County, Montana, to be infected by this virus. Secondly, my grandmother refused to sign up for Social Security Act when it came into being in 1935. She told her children, who were trying to convince her to sign up and would do the paper work for her, that she didn't need the governments help before and did not need it now or in the future. She could take care of herself as she had always done, and besides their were others who had a much greater need for this type of assistance than her.
The wedding photograph of Nels Christ Nelson and Mary Elizabeth Johannesson/Nelson taken on October 12, 1895, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.
A photograph of Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson taken in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Date: early 1900s. (Courtesy of Donald Bruce Nelson).


A photograph taken of Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson with three of her daughters on the day of Nels Christ Nelson's funeral, October 30, 1928, in Glasgow, Montana. Hazel Ruby Nelson is standing at the left, Anne Mathilda Nelson is standing at the right in back, and Lorraine Marion Nelson is standing at the right front.
An undated photograph of Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson (back row third from left). Also shown are Bertha (Stensland) Nelson (back row fifth from left), Floyd Ernest Nelson (back row sixth from left), and Max Walter Nelson (back row seventh from left) and Morris Joseph Nelson (Pete) (back row eight from left). The other individuals have yet to identified. Hazel Ruby Nelson is sitting, first on the left. Date: Thought to be the early 1930s in Glasgow, Montana.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson photographed in Glasgow, Montana. Date: 1938.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson photographed with Bertha (Peters) Krause in Glasgow, Montana, in the early 1940s.

The surviving daughters of Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson. From left to right are: Hazel Ruby Nelson, Lorraine Marion Nelson, Anne Mathilda Nelson, and Nora Velmina Nelson. Date: unknown.
Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson photographed with her daughter, Hazel Ruby Nelson, (sitting) in Glasgow, Montana, during the summer of 1935.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in an undated photograph.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in an undated photograph.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson sitting in front of the residence on the homestead at Buggy Creek to enjoy the sun. Note the barn and corral in the background and that the front porch has yet to be built. Date thought to be 1938.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson (right) in her kitchen at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead with her daughter, Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause. Date: Early 1960's.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson (right) in dinning room of her residence on the Buggy Creek homestead with her daughter, Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause. Date: Early 1960's.
Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in her kitchen at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead cutting bread dough into loaves for baking. Date: Early 1960s.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in her kitchen at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead removing freshly baked bread from the oven. Date: Early 1960s.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in her kitchen at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead cleaning freshly gathered eggs prior to selling them in Glasgow, Montana. Date: Early 1960s.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in her kitchen at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead cooking pancakes for her boys (Pete and Max) and guests at breakfast. Date: Early 1960s.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson in the living room at the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead is seated at the left. Standing from left to right are Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, James Allen Bain, Floyd Ernest Nelson, and Morris Joseph Nelson (Pete). The children around the table from left to right are: Jackee Nelson, Mary Elizabeth Bain on Mary Elizabeth’s lap, Roger Lee Bain, James Allen Bain Jr., Donald Bruce Nelson, William Joseph Bain, and Nelson Charles Bain. Date: July 1960.
A photograph taken in the living room of the residence at the buggy Creek homestead showing Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson (Ma), Donnie (Donald Bruce Nelson), Max Walter Nelson, Elias Stensland, and Sonny (Floyd C. Nelson Jr.). Date: 1956.

A photograph taken in the living room of the Floyd Ernest Nelson residence in the Highland Community near Tampico, Montana. Sitting from left to right are: Floyd Ernest Nelson, Bertha (Stensland) Nelson, Doris (Nelson) Christiansen, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson, Mabel Hilda (Nelson) Nelson, Martin Leonard Nelson, and Linda Christiansen. Standing are: left to right Victor Chris Nelson and Roy K. Christiansen. Date: Late 1950s.
A photograph taken in the living room of the Floyd Ernest Nelson residence in the Highland Community near Tampico, Montana. Seated from left to right are: Doris (Nelson) Christiansen, Roy K. Christiansen, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson, Martin Leonard Nelson, Chris Molvig, William John Krause, and unidentified children. Note that William John Krause (Johnny), near the lamp, is readying his 8mm projector to show family films. Date: 1956.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson and Bertha (Peters) Krause with their grandsons, William John Krause II (left) and Dennis Lyle Krause at the residence in Fort Peck, Montana. Date: 1948.

Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson at age 82 with her grandson, Donald Bruce Nelson, age 4 years old and great granddaughter, Jackee Nelson, age 3 years old. Date: May 28, 1960.
Birthday celebration for Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson (front right) held at the Buggy Creek homestead on May 28, 1953. In attendance, back row left to right: Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause holding Kelvin Keith Krause, Mrs. Disrude, Anna Boreson, Jennie Person, Ann Cornwell, Bernice Boreson, Gladys Fleijer, Mrs. Vegge, Bertha (Stensland) Nelson, Mabel Hilda Nelson, Mrs. Malreid. Front row left to right: Mrs Lee Cornwell with grandsons, Mrs. O.C. Anderson, and Mrs. Malreid. Date: About 1970.

RELATIVES OF MARY ELIZABETH (JOHANNESSON/NELSON) NELSON. BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: MARTIN LEONARD NELSON, VICTOR CHRIS NELSON, HAZEL RUBY (NELSON) KRAUSE, BERTHA (STENSLAND) NELSON, BEVERLY ANN (NELSON) PEDERSON. CENTER ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: MABEL HILDA (NELSON) NELSON, LORRAINE MARION (NELSON) BAIN, ANNE MATHILDA (NELSON) STULL, AND FLOYD ERNEST NELSON. CHILDREN IN FRONT ARE: BARBARA RAE PEDERSON AND THERESA NELSON. LIVING ROOM AT THE BUGGY CREEK COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD. DATE: EARLY 1970S.

RELATIVES OF MARY ELIZABETH (JOHANNESSON/NELSON) NELSON. BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: HAZEL RUBY (NELSON) KRAUSE, MORRIS JOSEPH NELSON (PETE), VICTORIA D. FRANSEN, ANNE MARIE FRANSEN, VICTOR CHRIS NELSON, AND ARVID FRANSEN. FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: LORRAINE MARION (NELSON) BAIN, ANNE MATHILDA (NELSON) STULL, AND MAX WALTER NELSON. AT THE BUGGY CREEK COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD. DATE: EARLY 1970S.
A photograph of the residence on the Buggy Creek homestead near Tampico, Montana. Date: Late 1980s.

United States Census, 1880 for Martin Neilson

« Back to search results

Image is not available online.

Search collection

name: Martin Neilson
residence: Detroit, Becker, Minnesota
birthdate: 1846
birthplace: Denmark
relationship to head: Self
spouse's name: Christina Neilson
spouse's birthplace: Denmark
father's name: 
father's birthplace: Denmark
mother's name: 
mother's birthplace: Denmark
race or color (expanded): White
ethnicity (standardized): American
gender: Male
martial status: Married
age (expanded): 34 years
occupation: Farmer
nara film number: T9–0615
page: 109
page character: A
entry number: 1583
film number: 1254615

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A transcribed version of United States census of June 8, 1880, taken in Detroit Township, Becker County, Minnesota, lists Martin Nelson (Neilson) as being 34 years old, head of household, a farmer, and from Denmark. Note the spelling of the surname on this 1880 document. This is the last known record of Martin Nelson.
The United States census of June 8, 1880, taken in Detroit Township, Becker County, Minnesota, lists Martin Nelson (Nielson) as being 34 years old, head of household, a farmer, and from Denmark. Living with him are his wife Anna Christina (37 years old), a son Nels Christian (7 years old, born in New York), Nels Maurice (2 years old, born in Ohio), brother Canute (32 years old) and sister-in-law, Johanna (22 years old). All the adults of the household were born in Denmark. This is the last known record that lists Martin Nelson.
A copy of the Application for Marriage and Marriage Licenses between Anton Elleson and Stina Nilson (Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson). The Application for Marriage is dated September 28, 1886. The State Marriage License is dated September 28, 1886. The Becker County Marriage License is dated October 1, 1886. The marriage ceremony was conducted at First Lutheran Church of Audubon, Audubon, Minnesota.
A land deed showing the purchase of 145 acres of farm land in Section 16 of Township 139 (later to become known as Detroit Township) in Becker County, Minnesota, on March 2, 1888, by Stina Elleson, formerly Stina Nilson (Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson), and Anton Elleson her husband, of Becker County, Minnesota.
The United States census during 1900, taken in Detroit Township, Becker County, Minnesota, (lines 77 & 78) list Anna Christina (Sorensen) Nelson Elleson as being 57 years old, living with her son Maurice Nelson. She is listed as being widowed, from Denmark, mother of Maurice, immigration year as being 1873, and date of birth being September of 1842. Nels Maurice Nelson is listed as head of the household, born in Ohio in 1878, age 21, and a single farmer.
Top: The application for a Marriage License in Becker County, Minnesota, between Nels Christiansen Nelson and Mary Elizabeth Johannesson/ Nelson is dated October 10, 1896. Middle: the State Marriage License between Nels Christian Nelson and Mary Elizabeth Johannesson/Nelson dated October 10, 1896. Interestingly, Mary Elizabeth lists her maiden name in these records as Nelson. Bottom: Note also that witnesses are: Nels Christian's brother, Nels Marius Nelson and Mary Elizabeth's mother, Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/ Nelson. Note that her mother also uses the surname Nelson rather than Johannesson or Johnson. The actual marriage took place in Audubon, Minnesota.
The Twelfth Census of the United States (1900) for Becker County, Minnesota, shows Nels Christian Nelson as the head of the household with his family (Lines 82-85). His brother Maurice Nelson was living with him at this time and owns the adjacent farmland. (Line 86). The Thirteenth Census of the United States (1910) for Becker County, Minnesota, shows Nels Nelson as the head of the household and his wife and children at this time (Lines 14-21).
A plot map dated 1890-1892 of Detroit Township (also known Township 139) subdivided into the sections it contains and well as the ownership within the sections listed. Note that a large portion of Section 16 located just beneath the tip of Floyd Lake is owned by Anton Elleson. Anton Elleson married Nels Christian Nelson’s mother, now referred to as Stina (Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson). Anton and Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson subdivide this property and sell it to Anna’s two sons, Nels Christian Nelson (December 19, 1896) and Nels Maurice Nelson (March 22, 1900). (Courtesy of the Becker County Historical Society).
A 1904 plot map shows the location of the Nels Christian and Mary Elizabeth (Johannessson/Nelson) Nelson farm in Detroit Township, Minnesota, near Floyd Lake (Section 16). Note that this portion of Section 16 contains acreage owned by Christian's brother, Nels Maurice Nelson and is why the plot map shows N and M Nelson. Note also that Nels Christian Nelson also owns a small narrow property on the extreme right hand corner of Section 16 that borders Floyd Lake. A fond childhood memory recalled by Anne Mathilda (Nelson) Stull described the country side around Floyd Lake as like heaven - natural and beautiful with lots of wild raspberries and strawberries with plenty of fish in the lake. Anne remembered living near Floyd Lake and rowing a boat to reach Grandma Elleson's place. It is believed Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson lived on this property by Floyd Lake and is the property that Anne Nelson remembered visiting. (Courtesy of the Becker County Historical Society).
The sale of the farm property in Section 16 of Becker County, Minnesota, to Nels Christian Nelson by his parents, Anton Elleson (step-father) and mother, Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson, on December 19, 1896.
The sale of the farm property in Section 16 of Becker County, Minnesota, to Nels Maurice Nelson by his parents, Anton Elleson (step-father) and mother, Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson, on March 22, 1896.
The deed of sale of the Becker County farm (Section 16) owned by Nels Christian and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson to John Rahm on January 3, 1911. Note the spelling of their names used in this and several others: Niels Christian Nielsen and Mary E. Nielson.
The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at

Glasgow, Montana,

has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, “To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain,” and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Nels C. Nelson

has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the south half of Section fourteen in Township thirty north of Range thirty-eight east of the Montana Meridian, Montana, containing three hundred twenty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Woodrow Wilson

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the

day of

OCTOBER

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and

FOURTEEN

and of the Independence of the

United States the one hundred and THIRTY-NINTH.

By the President:

Woodrow Wilson

M.D. LeRoy

Secretary.

By

[SEAL]

Record of Patents: Patent Number 437098

The Land Patent awarded to Nels Christ Nelson on October 21, 1914, signed by United States President, Woodrow Wilson. (Courtesy of Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy).
A plot map showing the names and locations of the original homesteaders to this township (Township N1 30 N Range N1 16 East P.M. Montana) of Montana. Note the locations for the homesteads of Nels C. Nelson (Section 14), Andrew Dumphy, Thomas Cornwell, and Ben Boreson. (Courtesy of the Valley County Historical Society, Glasgow, Montana.)
A segment taken from the Fourteenth Census of the United States (1920) for Valley County, Montana, shows Nels Chris Nelson as the head of the household and his wife and children at this time (Lines 75-84). Note the listing of the Cornwall's and the Dumphys family that lived across the lane. The Dumphys would leave and move to the Napa Valley of California. Years later (early 1940s) Victor Chris Nelson and his nephew, William John Krause II, would meet them once again in Napa, California.

A map showing the location of schools in central, eastern Montana that several of Nels Christian and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson's descendants attended (Buggy Creek and Highland). (Courtesy of the Valley County Historical Society, Glasgow, Montana.)
NELS CHRIS NELSON FAMILY

In 1911 Nels Christ Nelson came from Detroit Lakes, Minn. to settle on a Montana homestead. He was persuaded to homestead near Tampico by his brother, Maurice Nelson. Maurice was stationed at Glasgow as Elevator Superintendent for the Montana-North Dakota Grain Elevators.

Nels Christ Nelson, known as Chris, was born in the state of New York on July 11, 1873 to Martin and Christina Nelson, both of whom were natives of Denmark. He had an older brother, Maurice. When Chris was two years old, the family moved to Ohio. After seven years in Ohio they moved to Detroit Lakes, Becker County, Minn. where his father purchased a farm. Chris grew up and attended school there. He spent three years in Hillsboro, N.D. He then returned to Detroit Lakes and bought a 100 acre farm on Floyd Lake. He also ran a butcher shop in Detroit Lakes. Chris married Mary Elizabeth Nelson on Oct. 12, 1895.

Mary Elizabeth Nelson was born May 28, 1878 to Johann and Mathilda Nelson at Varmland, Sweden. Mary was the youngest of five children; two brothers, Axel and Gust and two sisters, Amanda and Annie. The Nelson family left Sweden in 1889 and settled in Detroit Lakes, Minn. Mathilda Nelson’s sister, Caroline Anderson, had previously come to America and lived just northeast of Detroit Lakes.

Maurice Nelson had picked out the homestead site for Chris, a place on the prairie, near Buggy Creek. The main asset of this place was the spring that supplied plenty of pure, soft water.

Chris Nelson preceded his family to Tampico to prepare the homestead for their arrival. The family arrived by train bringing along a boxcar load of household furnishings, farm equipment, cows and horses. The nearest neighbors were the families of R.L. Cornwell, Andy Dunphy, Mike Disrud, and Alice Baum. The Ben Boren family arrived later that year.

At the time of their move to Montana, the Nelsons had five children: Martin Leonard, Nora Velma, Anne Mathilda, Victor Chris and Floyd Ernest. Children born to them in Montana were: Arthur Cleveland, Mabel Elizabeth, Morris Joseph (Pete), Max Walter, Hazel Ruby, and Lorraine Marian.

The family was Lutheran. Mr. Nelson was an active member of the school board. Nora and Anne were among the first graduating class of nurses at the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow in 1924.

After the rocks were picked and the sod broken, the main crop to be grown was wheat. Butter and eggs were taken to Glasgow to be traded for groceries.

As usual there were good times and bad times—droughts, grasshoppers, severe winters, World War I, the flu, the Depression, World War II and deaths.

Mabel died in 1916 of a brain tumor. Chris Nelson passed away on the homestead on Oct. 28, 1927. Anne took a break from her nursing job in California to be with her father and family during the time of his death. Dr. Cockrell, the attending physician, would drive from Hinsdale to make house calls. Then Arthur, who was working in Anaconda, died there.

from measles complications in May, 1929. Nora Nelson Whi-
son passed away on Sept. 15, 1965 in Bakersfield, Calif. Mrs.
Nelson passed away on the original homestead on Sept. 5,
1973. She was 96 years old. Anne returned from California
to nurse her mother during those final months. Pete and Max
remained on the home place. Pete died Jan. 2, 1975 and Max
passed away Dec. 12, 1976. Floyd has his own ranch about
three miles away and tends to the homestead. Martin expired

Since 1911 there have been many changes around Tampico.
But, some things never change—the original homestead is still
there, the spring with its pure, soft water is still there, and
the Boresons and the Cornwells are still there, too.

Maurice was a brother to Nels Crist Nelson. Maurice was
stationed in Glasgow as Elevator Superintendent for the
Montana-North Dakota Grain Elevators. He had a farm on the
south Bench. Maurice married Mabel Wright of Glasgow.
They had one son, Maurice Thomas Nelson. Maurice Nelson,
Sr. died during the flu epidemic of 1918. Maurice, Jr.
graduated from the Glasgow High School in 1934. He was
a purser in the Merchant Marines. He died at sea and was
buried at sea. Mabel Wright Nelson Kane moved to Bell-
ingham, Wash. She died there in 1979 at the age of 102.

A photograph of Mabel Edna (Wright) Nelson Kane. Date unknown. Following the
death of her husband Mabel Edna (Wright) Nelson married Richard H. Kane in August
of 1926. Source: Glasgow Times 8-27-26

The application and marriage license of Nels Maurice Nelson (Nels Christian Nelson's brother) and Mabel Edna Wright. The marriage took place in Detroit City, Minnesota, on November 5, 1902.
The obituary of Maurice Nelson published on the front page of the Glasgow Courier, Glasgow, Montana, on October 18, 1918. Maurice was reported to be the first victim of the Spanish influenza in the Glasgow, Montana area and passed away after only a week’s illness.

The obituary of Nels Christian Nelson published on the front page of the Glasgow Courier, Glasgow, Montana, on November 4, 1927. The obituary traces the movement of the Nelson family to Tampico, Montana, and also lists among the survivors that Nel’s mother, Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson, is still alive and living in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.
The Burial Register from the First Lutheran Church of Glasgow, Montana, lists the birth city of Nels Christian Nelson as being New York City on July 11, 1873. His death was on October 29, 1927, in Glasgow, Montana.

A photograph of Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson (Nels Christian Nelson’s mother) thought to be have been taken in the early 1900s on the Anton and Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson farm located near Floyd Lake, in Becker County, Minnesota.

A page taken from a school year book lists members of the seventh grade, Glasgow, Montana, showing Maurice Nelson Jr. Maurice Thomas Nelson Jr. was the son of Maurice Nelson senior who was Nels Christ Nelson’s younger brother. Maurice Nelson Jr. graduated from Glasgow High School in 1934. (Courtesy of the Valley County Historical Society, Glasgow, Montana.)
The certificate of death for Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson Elleson. The document states that she was born in 1846 somewhere in Denmark and that her father was Nels C. Sorenson. Her mother's maiden name is not given but the document records that her mother was also born in Denmark. Anna Christina died May 24, 1928, of arteriosclerosis and chronic myocarditis at the State Hospital located in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, at 81 years of age. Following the death of her son, Maurice, and second husband, Anton Elleson, her daughter-in-law, Mabel (Wright) Nelson Kane, had her placed in this State Hospital because of old age and the fact that Mabel was a young widow raising her son Maurice Nelson Jr. in Glasgow, Montana. Her eldest son, Nels Christian Nelson, was ill and raising a large growing family and simply didn't have room for her at the Buggy Creek homestead. Anna Christina lived in this facility from November 20, 1919, until her death on May 24, 1928.
The Thirteenth Census of the United States (1910) for Valley County, Montana, shows Maurice Nelson as the head of the household living his wife, Mabel, at this time in Glasgow, Montana (Lines 94-95). Note that the name listed for Maurice Nelson is Nelse M. Nelson and in 1910 he was 38 years of age.

From the Glasgow Courier, November of 1942. Note that the death of Nels Nelson of Tampico was reported on November of 1927.
1930 United States Federal Census record for Maurice T Nelson

Record Index

Name: Maurice T Nelson
Home in 1930: Glasgow, Valley, Montana
Age: 13
Estimated birth year: abt 1917
Birthplace: Montana
Relation to Head of House: Stepson
Mother’s Name: Mabel E
Race: White

Source Information

Record URL: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?h=106469991&db=1930usfedcen&indiv=1
Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Glasgow, Valley, Montana; Roll 1263; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 38; Image: 253.0.

The Fifteenth Census of the United States (1930) for Valley County, Montana, shows that Mabel (Nelson) Kane as the wife of Richard H. Kane, living with his son Richard W. and her son, Maurice T. Nelson, at this time in Glasgow, Montana (Lines 10-13).
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Memorial Bulletin for Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson.

An article about Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson published in the Glasgow Courier, Glasgow, Montana, on September 5, 1983.

Above: The World War I Draft Registration Card for Nels Christian Nelson. Note that he was farmer from Tampico, Valley County, Montana, and that his birthday was July 11, 1873.

Right: The World War I Draft Registration Card for Nels Morris Nelson (Nels Christian Nelson younger brother). Note that he was a farmer and grain buyer who worked for the Montana and Dakota Grain Company. Morris's birthday was July 11, 1878.