

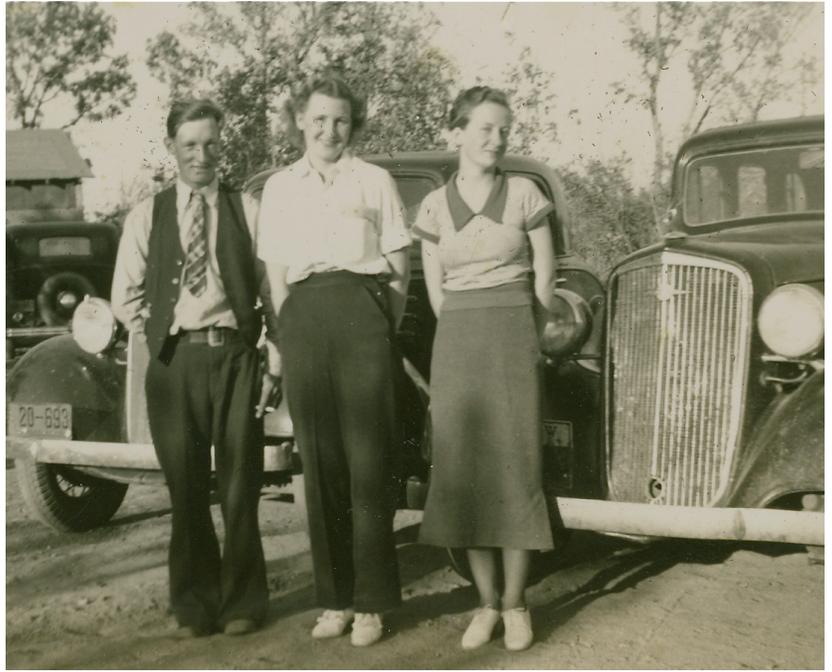
## MAX WALTER NELSON

(Written text and photographs provided by William John Krause II). **Max Walter Nelson** was born on April 29, 1916, in Tampico, Montana, and was the son of Nels Christ and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson. Max was baptized into the Lutheran faith. His godparents were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Larson. Max Walter Nelson attended Buggy Creek School for eight years and then attended Glasgow High School. During World War II Max Nelson served in the Army Infantry. He received his basic training at Fort Ord, California. Max fought in the Pacific Theater at New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and in the Guadalcanal Campaign. After he returned to the United States he spent time in the hospital at Fort Harrison and in the Lettermen Hospital in San Francisco being treated for malaria. Max Nelson returned to the Tampico, Montana area and was then employed as an electrician with the Glasgow Electric Company and at the Glasgow Air Force Base. Max Walter Nelson was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Max returned to live and help run the original homestead operated and maintained by his mother Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson and brother, Pete (Morris Joseph Nelson). Following the deaths of his mother and brother, Max Nelson ran the original homestead until his death. Max Nelson never married. Max Walter Nelson's brand was **bar** over **JN**. Max Walter Nelson passed away on December 12, 1977, at the Tampico homestead, as the result of a heart attack. Burial was in the Highland Cemetery, Glasgow, Montana.

*Remembrances of his nephew, William John Krause II (Bill), after spending summers and many holidays at the homestead (1946-1953):* Some of the stories I remember about uncle Max were either relayed to me by my mother or from personal experience. One story about Max when he was very young was his discovery of a chicken nest that contained a dozen eggs. One day he was playing in and around the abandoned Dumphy's house, a neighbor homestead just across the lane. The Dumphy's had moved to California years before and the Nelson's were leasing this property for farming wheat. The house was a two-story wood frame structure that was used as a grainery to temporarily store wheat. Max was crawling around under the house and made this discovery. It was a major find to supplement the family's diet as their own chickens had yet to begin laying. The other story with regard to Max's youth was published initially in Footsteps in the Valley. This happened when Max was about ten years old. Max and a friend, Clayton Woods, went to watch sheep shearing at a neighboring homestead, the Cornwells. When they returned home for Supper, Max and Clayton sat down at the dinner table wearing their caps. Max's mother, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson, scolded them saying "For goodness sakes boys take off those caps at the dinner table!" The boys exchanged sheepish glances and just sat there before finally removing their caps. Their heads had been sheared! The other story I remember being told about Max was that he purchased a model A Ford in Glasgow and then drove it to the homestead across the prairie, as this was at a time prior to the establishment of definite roads. Max loved automobiles and later in his life purchased a jeep and a huge, pink Cadillac that was too large to fit in the small garage at the homestead. It was Max that wired the homestead for electricity and modernized the residence. Max loved to fish and accompanied my father (William J. Krause, Johnny) on several fishing trips to Vandalia and Fort Peck, Montana, and to lakes near Fergus Falls, Minnesota. One other vivid memory I have of Max was when we (myself, dad and Pete) were driving a pickup truck on the open range to check on cattle. I was about five or six years old at the time and a twenty-two rifle and or a shotgun as well as binoculars was usually taken on these excursions. We spotted a large flock of mallards (ducks) sitting on a small stock dam. Even though it was out-of-season a plan was soon hatched to provide a duck dinner for the family. Max and I stayed in the vehicle and watched the hunt from the top of a hill at some distance from the scene. The plan was for Pete and dad to sneak up the backside of the dam to get close enough to shoot some ducks. We were instructed that if we saw anyone on the prairie to beep the horn of the pickup so we could escape without being arrested. I overheard this plan and to this day cannot explain my impulsive behavior. As soon as they finished shooting I laid on the horn before Max could stop me. Max had to explain this as the hunters had to run as fast as they could back to the vehicle so we could make a getaway. Another interesting experience with regard to Max that I remember was the time he brewed beer. The beer was stored in a cool root cellar located beneath the living room floor of the house at the Buggy Creek homestead. Unfortunately, at this particular time, Max had bottled and capped the beer to soon and later in the week the bottles of beer began to explode in the root cellar. His mother, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson, was not happy with this circumstance as her entire house on the homestead smelled of beer.



A photograph of Max Walter Nelson at the construction site of Fort Peck Dam in 1937.



A photograph of Max Walter Nelson and his sisters, Hazel Ruby Nelson and Lorraine Marion Nelson (right), during a visit in Park Grove, California, on August 28, 1937.



A photograph taken in front of the Krause home near Fergus Falls, Minnesota, during the summer of 1938. From left to right are: Julius Krause, Bertha (Peters) Krause, Max Walter Nelson, and William John Krause. Hazel Ruby Nelson is pictured in front.



A photograph of Max Walter Nelson holding a northern pike he caught during the summer of 1938. Photo taken in front of the Krause home near Fergus Falls, Minnesota.



A stinger of fish being held by (left to right) by Eddie Bradow, Max Walter Nelson, and William John Krause. Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Summer of 1938.



A photograph of Max Walter Nelson (left) and Hank Wise taken in 1941 at a fish hatchery located near Anaconda, Montana.



Max Walter Nelson photographed on the horse to the right with his brother, Morris Joseph Nelson (Pete) who is standing. Buggy Creek Homestead, 1937. The name of the other rider is unknown.



A photograph taken in 1942 of Max Walter Nelson (left) holding his nephew, William John Krause II, and Harold Couigan holding Max's niece, Karen Rae Nelson. Camp Cook, California.



A photograph of Max Walter Nelson holding his infant nephew, William John Krause II, in the house on the original homestead in the Buggy Creek Community. Note the wood stove in the background and well as the tall caldron used for making coffee. Date: spring of 1942.



Max Walter Nelson in full combat dress. Photograph taken at Camp Roberts, California, in 1942.



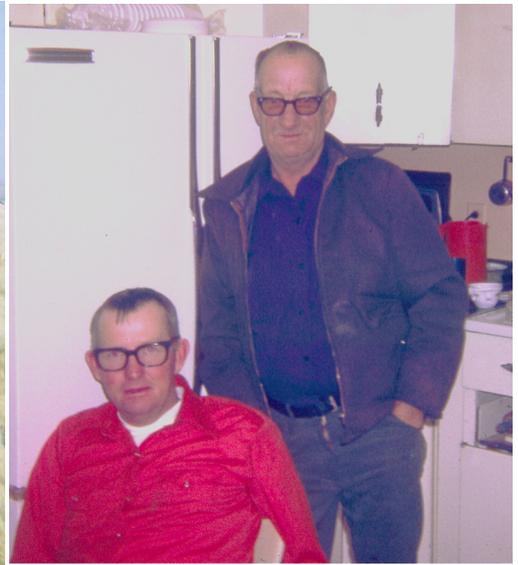
Max Walter Nelson in tropical military dress. Photograph taken at Camp Roberts, California. Date: 1942.



A colored photograph of Max Walter Nelson taken in military dress. Date and place unknown.



Max Walter Nelson during harvest time baling straw on the Highland Community property near Tampico, Montana. Date: 1960s.



Max Walter Nelson (standing) photographed with his nephew, Floyd C. Nelson Jr. (Sonny), in the residence in the Highland Community property near Tampico, Montana. Date: mid-1960s.



Max Walter Nelson photographed with three of his sisters. From right to left are: Anne Mathilda (Nelson) Stull, Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause, and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain. Date: early-1970s.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

### MAX WALTER NELSON

Max was born in Tampico to Nels Christ and Mary Nelson on April 29, 1916. He attended the Buggy Creek School and Glasgow High School. He was baptized Lutheran. His godparents were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Larson. Max never married.

This happened when Max was about 10 years old. One spring day Max and his friend, Clayton Wood, went down to Cornwells to watch them shear sheep. At supper time, Max and Clayton came in the house and sat down at the table ready to eat with their caps on. Their caps were pulled way down over their ears. Mrs. Nelson told them "For goodness sakes boys take off those caps at the dinner table"---Max and Clayton exchanged sheepish glances and just sat there. After further persuasion they finally removed their caps. They had their heads sheared!

During World War II Max served in the Infantry. His basic training was at Fort Ord, Calif. He served in the Pacific Theater around New Guinea. After his return to the States he spent time in the hospital at Fort Harrison and in the Lettermen Hospital in San Francisco being treated for malaria fever.

After his return to the Tampico area he was employed as an electrician with the Glasgow Electric Company and at Glasgow Air Force Base. Max was a life-time member of the VFW.

Max lived on the farm with his mother and brother Pete. After their deaths he ran the homestead until he passed away on Dec. 12, 1977.

Taken from and courtesy of - Footprints in the Valley. A History of Valley County, Montana. Volume 1. Typing and Layout by Glasgow Courier & Printing, Glasgow, Montana. Printed by Promoter Publishing, Shelby, Montana. Page 594 (1991).

A mounted photograph of Max Walter Nelson now housed the Valley County Museum of Glasgow, Montana. This mounted photograph of Max was kept at the residence on the original homestead at the Buggy Creek Community by his mother, Mrs. N.C. Nelson (Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson).



U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Name:	<b>Max W Nelson</b>
Birth Year:	1916
Race:	White, citizen ( <i>White</i> )
Nativity State or Country:	Montana
State:	Montana
County or City:	Valey
Enlistment Date:	26 Apr 1942
Enlistment State:	Montana
Enlistment City:	Missoula
Branch Code:	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Grade:	Private
Grade Code:	Private
Term of Enlistment:	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
Component:	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Source:	Civil Life
Education:	1 year of high school
Marital Status:	Single, without dependents
Height:	66
Weight:	145

United States Army Enlistment Records for Max Walter Nelson.



A photograph of a nephew of Max Walter Nelson, Dennis Lyle Krause, holding Max's Army World War II uniform now housed in the Valley County Museum of Glasgow, Montana. Date: July, 2005.

## Nelson

Max Walter Nelson, 61, a lifelong resident of the county, died at his home of an apparent heart attack Dec. 12. Services were held at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 16, in First Lutheran Church with Pastor Ed Novak officiating.

Music was provided by Mrs. Robert Martens and Intern Pastor Paul Ostrem.

Serving as pallbearers were Walter Cornwell, Erwin Miller and Norris Braaten of Tampico, Charles Jacobson and Jerold Askvig of Glasgow, and Howard Cornwell of Hinsdale.

Burial was in Highland Cemetery. The local mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

A son of Nels C. and Mary E. Nelson, Mr. Nelson was born April 29, 1916, at Tampico. He attended Buggy Creek School for eight years and Glasgow High School. He served in the Infantry in the Pacific Theater during World War II, then returned to this area where he was employed as an electrician with Glasgow Electric Company and at Glasgow Air Force Base. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He never married.

Survivors include three brothers, Martin Nelson of Glasgow, Victor Nelson of Napa, Calif., and Floyd Nelson of Tampico; three sisters, Mrs. Anne Stull of Willows, Calif., Mrs. Hazel Krause of Belle Fouche, S.D., and Mrs. Lorraine Bain of Dallas, Texas.

Among relatives attending the funeral here were Mrs. Krause and her husband, John; Mrs. Bain; and a niece, Mrs. Beverly Pederson, Billings.

Members of the VFW Auxiliary and friends from the Tampico community served a luncheon after the funeral.

The obituary of Max Walter Nelson published in the Glasgow Courier, Glasgow, Montana. December, 1977.