LORRAINE MARION (NELSON) BAIN

(Written text and photographs provided by Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy). Lorraine Marion Nelson was born on April 16, 1920, on the family homestead near Tampico, Montana. She was the youngest child of Nels Christ and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson, original homesteaders to Buggy Creek region of Montana. Lorraine Nelson was baptized in the First Lutheran Church, Glasgow, Montana, and her god-parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ben Boreson (Tampico neighbors). Lorraine attended both Buggy Creek and Highland grade schools – both one room schools near Tampico. Two of her teachers would become her sister-in-laws. Elaine Bronstad would later marry her older brother Victor Chris Nelson; and Bertha Stensland later wed Floyd Ernest Nelson. Lorraine graduated from Glasgow High School in Glasgow, Montana, in 1937. She had moved into town with her sister, Hazel, to attend school. The girls shared an apartment on Front Street above the Wedumns store. Following graduation from high school Lorraine worked in the office of Dr. F. M. Knierim. It was during this time, she and her brother Morris (“Pete”) took a ride an on airplane with coyote hunters and her love of flying was born. In Glasgow, November, 1941, Lorraine enrolled in the Civilian Pilot Training ground school course and completed the course with distinction. She then went on to take flying lessons, with Orval E. Markle as her flight instructor. Lorraine Marion Nelson received her private pilot certificate in Billings, Montana, on August 6,1941. Dr. Knierim was then called back to active duty, so Lorraine decided to go to California to find a better paying job. In 1942 there was a shortage of mail combat pilots in the United States Army Air Corps and female pilots were being recruited to receive Army flight training in order to fill non-combat pilot needs. This reorganization released male pilots for combat flight duty. This program was designated as the WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots). Twenty-five thousand female pilots applied for training; 1,830 were accepted; and 1,074 earned their wings. Lorraine was accepted for training at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas and earned her wings on June 27, 1944. The 30-week training included 393 hours of ground school and 210 hours of flying. Primary flight training was done in the PT-17 Stearman. Advanced training was in the AT-6 and instrument flying in the BT-13. Her assignment was to do maintenance test flying at Pecos Army Air Corps Base, Peso, Texas. Later, Lorraine was selected for advanced instrument flight training. As World War II was drawing to a close many of the combat pilots were returning to the United States. As a result the WASP program was disbanded on December 20, 1944. On November 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill giving Veteran status to the WASPs. On July 1, 2009, President Obama signed a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Women Air Force Service Pilots. The medal was awarded in a ceremony at the Capitol, on March 10, 2010. Lorraine was able to attend the award ceremony. After the WASPs were disbanded, Lorraine joined the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA). After 6 months of training in Seattle, Washington, she was assigned to Gustavis, Alaska. She was then assigned to Anchorage to be a link trainer instructor for the eighth region. Lorraine then joined with Alaska Airlines on a promise to “fly around the world.” Unfortunately, it was about this time Alaska Airlines had an air accident that grounded it to the Alaska mainland. It was in Anchorage, however, that Lorraine met her husband, USAF Master Sargent, James Allen Bain (Jim). Jim was being transferred to Brookley Air Force Base outside of Mobile, Alabama. They were married on February 3, 1950, in Pascagoula, Mississippi. James Allen Bain (Jim) was born on December 9, 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the youngest child of William Meikle and Bonnie Belle (Hartley) Bain. Jim graduated from Lakewood High School in 1941. Jim was active in band and orchestra, playing the bass. Following graduation, he attended the University of Miami on a musical scholarship. In 1942, Jim entered the Air Force and went through radio operator school, then gunnery school. He was assigned to a B-17 crew – Terry and the Pirates, as a ball gunner. The crew was assigned to England to fly in the Eighth Air Force. To finish a tour required 25 missions. On their nineteenth mission, their plane was shot down on the way to Berlin, Germany.
Only three survived, and they were picked up and imprisoned by the German ground army almost immediately. In January, 1943 as the Americans and British were advancing in what was known as “the Battle of the Bulge”, Jim and his friend decided to risk escaping through the Germans lines. They successfully avoided detection, hiding in barns at night. They made it back to Belgium, which had been liberated by then. In Belgium they were assisted by the Red Cross and Jim was sought transportation back to England from the local British Air Base. He arrived back to the states weighing only 87 pounds. Jim remained in the Air Force for 25 years. After the war he was stationed in Alaska, where met his future wife, Lorraine Marion Nelson. In Alaska, he was also a bush pilot – providing supplies to remote areas of the state. At the time Lorraine and Jim met, they each had an airplane, but neither had a car. When Jim was transferred back to the mainland (Brookley Air Force Base in Alabama), Lorraine traded her plane in for a 1949 Studebaker convertible, and the couple was married on February 3, 1950 in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain had five children. James Allen Bain, Jr., born on December 20, 1951; in Mobile, Alabama; Nelson Charles Bain born on April 10, 1954, at Johnson Air Force Base in Japan; William Joseph Bain born on October 12, 1955, in Springfield, Illinois; Roger Lee Bain born on September 26, 1957, in Orlando, Florida; and Mary Elizabeth Bain born on July 11, 1959, at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. As the children were growing up, Lorraine was active as a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts, in the church, school and base functions.

After Alabama, the Bain family was transferred to Yokohama, Japan; to Springfield, Illinois; Orlando, Florida; Sumter, South Carolina; Goose Bay, Labrador and lastly, Ogden (Layton), Utah. In August, 1968, Jim retired from the United States Air Force as Chief Warrant Officer W-4 (Avioics Officer). The family then moved to Dallas, Texas, and Jim went to work as an instructor for Braniff Airlines. Braniff ceased operations in May, 1982; prior to which time Jim went to work for the City of Dallas, Texas.

When the family was stationed near Ogden, Utah, in the mid-late 1960s, Lorraine received her Real Estate license and worked for a local real estate firm. In the 1970s, in Dallas, Texas, Lorraine went to work for the federal government at the Community Services Administration (CSA) until the funding was cut in 1981 under the President Ronald Reagan administration.

Following their retirement in 1983 from work, James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain purchased a farm in the Piney Woods Area of East Texas, near Chireno, Texas. Here they raised a few cattle and enjoyed fishing in their catfish ponds. They resided there until November, 2008 when they relocated to Kennesaw, Georgia, to be closer to their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and her family.

A School Day Memory. This incident happened at the Buggy Creek School around 1914. The teacher was Miss Nellie Johonott, who boarded and roomed at the Cornwall Ranch. 

Since Alyce (Dumph) was considered a “goodie two shoes” her schoolmates knew that she would not go along with their scheme to pull a prank on their teacher. Consequently, Alyce was the only one in the school room, besides the teacher, who did not know about the plan.

While some of the students distracted the teacher’s attention away from her desk, a few of the kids were busy strategically placing a sharp tack on the teacher’s chair. They did a magnificent job! Miss Johonott returned to her desk and plopped down in her chair…everything broke loose. She raised up, about hit the ceiling and was squealing. Everyone but Alyce was busy studying. Alyce was the only one caught by surprise and she began to laugh. That did it.

Alyce was summoned up to the teacher’s desk and received a tongue lashing. The more Alyce denied that she did it, or knew who put the tack in the chair, the more angry the teacher became. Finally Miss Johonott told Alyce, “If you won’t admit that you did it or tell me who did, you will get switched.” Alyce maintained her innocence. The teacher turned to Victor Nelson and said, “Victor, go outside and get me a good switch.”

Vic went out, was gone awhile, and came in dragging the biggest piece of wood he could find. The teacher couldn’t lift the “switch”.

Alyce never did figure out whether Vic saved her from a switching or if Vic wanted to have Alyce killed!

As told by Alyce Dumph in September, 1965 to Lorraine (Nelson) Bain

A photograph taken in Glasgow, Montana, of Lorraine Marion Nelson (left) and Frances Mylia Krause. Date: 1939. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).


Lorraine Marion Nelson in a 1937 photograph. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Lorraine Marion Nelson (left) standing with her sister, Hazel Ruby Nelson, outside the residence at the homestead in Tampico, Montana. Date: 1939. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
Lorraine Marion Nelson (right) writing a letter in the barracks. Date: 1943. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

The new recruits wearing their just issued coats. Note the sleeve length. Shown from left to right are: Lorraine Marion Nelson, Gerry Arnold, and Evelyn Parsons. Date: 1943. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Note of back of photograph: Gerry Mote and yours truly (Lorraine Marion Nelson (left)) in our barracks. These are the cloths we wear when we exercise, or when we're on KP. I just got done taking a shower. Date: 1943. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Lorraine Marion Nelson in military uniform. Date: 1943. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
Lorraine Marion Nelson. Date: 1943. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Lorraine Marion Nelson; a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). Date: 1944. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Lorraine Marion Nelson in the cockpit at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. Date: January 10, 1944. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
Lorraine Marion Nelson in an undated photograph. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).


Lorraine Marion (Nelson Bain) milking a cow at her farm located in the Piney Woods Area of East Texas, near Chireno, Texas. Date: September, 1983.

Lorraine Marion (Nelson Bain) separating milk at her farm near Chireno, Texas. The separator was from the Nelson homestead in Tampico, Montana. Her granddaughter, Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny), is in the foreground. Date: September, 1983.

James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain standing with their granddaughter, Penelope Ellen Fain (center), at the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame in Galveston, Texas. Occasion: For the WASP induction ceremonies into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. Date: November 13, 2004.
James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain (front) photographed with their four children. From left to right are: Roger Lee Bain, James Allen Bain Jr., William Joseph Bain, and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy. Date: April, 2000. James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain's 50th wedding anniversary celebrated in Branson, Missouri.

A photograph of the extended Bain family on their way to witness the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain (fifth from left) for her service in the WASP. From left to right are: James Allen Bain JR., Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell, James Peter McCoy, Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, Lorraine, Roger Lee Bain, Michael Anthony McCoy, and United States Air Force escort, Rafael Serrana. Washington, DC. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).

Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain being escorted to the United States Capital Visitor Center in Washington, DC. by United States Air Force Escort, Rafael Serrana, for the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).


Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain being interviewed by the Dallas News at the United States Capital Visitor Center in Washington, DC, following being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).
Three generations pose with the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain (center). Shown are daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy (left), and granddaughter, Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell. United States Capital Visitor Center in Washington, DC. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).

Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain posing with her son, Roger Lee Bain, in Washington, DC, after she received the Congressional Gold Medal at the United States Capital Visitor Center in Washington, DC. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).

A photograph of several family members that witnessed the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain (fifth from left) for her service in the WASP. From left to right are: Sandra Lee (Lynch) Krause, Dennis Lyle Krause, Roger Lee Bain, Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell, Lorraine, James Peter McCoy, Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, and Michael Anthony McCoy. United States Capital Visitor Center in Washington, DC. Date: March 10, 2010. (Courtesy of Dennis Lyle Krause).
James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain photographed in Kennesaw, Georgia, during December of 2008.

A photograph taken on April 16, 2010, of Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain celebrating her ninetieth birthday. Kennesaw, Georgia.

A photograph of four generations taken on Mother's Day 2009 in Kennesaw, Georgia, at the McCullough Airport. Shown from left to right are: Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell holding McKenna Elizabeth Abell, Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy.
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Lorraine worked at the office of Dr. F. M. Knierim until October 1941.

In November 1940, Lorraine enrolled in the Civilian Pilot Training ground school at Glasgow. After completing the ground school course with distinction, she went on to taking flying lessons. Orval E. Markle was her flight instructor. She received her private pilot certificate at Billings on Aug. 6, 1941.

In 1942 there was a shortage of male combat pilots in the US Army Air Corps. Women pilots were being recruited to receive Army flight training in order to fill the non-combat pilot slots, thereby releasing male pilots for combat flight duty. The program, under the direction of Jacqueline Cochran, was designated as WASP (Women’s Airforce Service Pilots). Twenty-five thousand women pilots applied for WASP training. There were 1,830 accepted and 1,074 won their wings.

Lorraine was accepted for training. Training was done at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Tex. The 30-week training included 393 hours of ground school and 210 hours flying. Primary flight training was in the PT-17, Stearman. Advanced training was in the AT-6 and instrument flying in the BT-13.

Lorraine won her wings on June 27, 1944, Class 44-W-5. Her assignment was to do maintenance test flying at Pecos Army Air Corps Base, Pecos, Texas. Later she was selected for advanced instrument flight training. World War II was winding down and many of the combat pilots were returning to the States. Since the WASP program was designed for women pilots to release male pilots for combat flying, and not to replace them in the Army Air Corps; the WASP program was disbanded Dec. 20, 1944. On Nov. 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill giving Veteran status to the WASPs.

On Feb. 3, 1950, Lorraine married M/Sgt. James A. Bain, USAF, in Pascagoula, Miss. They have five children: James Allen, Jr.; Nelson Charles; William Joseph; Roger Lee, and Mary Elizabeth McCoy. There are two grandchildren: Penelope Ellen and Charles Scott McCoy.

Jim retired from USAF as Chief Warrant Office W-4 (Avionics Officer) in August 1968. Then he was hired by Braniff Airlines in Dallas, Texas as Technical Instructor on the DC-8. When Braniff Airlines went ‘belly-up’ in May 1982, Jim and Lorraine retired to their farm in the Piney woods area, East Texas, near Chireno.

An article announcing that Lorraine Marian Nelson had become a WASP pilot. Published in the Glasgow Courier.
WOMEN AIR FORCE SERVICE PILOTS, WWII

By Lorraine (Nelson) Bain

Approximately 25,000 women applied to enter the WASP; 1830 were accepted and 1074 graduated. I was one of the 1074 who earned their wings. I graduated in Class 44VV5 on June 27, 1944, 356th AAF Base Unit, Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. (44W5 translated meant we were the fifth class of Women Pilots to graduate in 1944). A valid pilot certificate and 200 hours of flight time (later the flight time was reduced to 35 hours) plus a personal interview and a rigid physical exam were required. The 30-week training at Avenger Field included 393 hours ground school and 210 hours flying. Ground school included courses in Navigation, Theory of Flight, Air Rules, Meteorology, Instrument Flight Training in the Link Trainer, Physical Education, Military Training, etc. etc. Primary flight training was in the PT-17 Bi-wing open cockpit Stearman. Advanced training was in the At-6 equipped with retractable gear, flaps, radio, 57 instruments (Heinz variety), etc., etc. It was a real jump from the Stearman. After the AT-6 we went to the Bt-13, Vultee Vibrator, for instrument flight training. Then it was cross-county flying, formation flying and night flying. After each phase of flight training we had to pass a flight test given by an Army Check Pilot; our instructors were civilians. And, of course there were those written and oral tests during ground school. After graduation my assignment was to do maintenance test flying at Pecos Army Air Corps Base, Pecos, Texas. Pecos was a twin-engine training school for male cadets. We did the routine maintenance test hopping, ferried a few planes, went on search missions and flew administrative hops. The WASP was not involved in flying planes overseas or to Canada. There were 25 American women pilots who passed flight tests in Canada, then went on to England where they joined more than one hundred British women pilots serving the British Air Transport Auxiliary, Royal Air Force. Most of the Americans were recruited by Jacqueline Cochran. The WASPs were the first women pilots to pilot military aircraft. The WASPs were Civil Service employees, as such, were ineligible for government life insurance, military funerals and burial expenses, the American flag, G.I. benefits; nor could a gold star be placed in the window of the family home. Thirty-eight WASPs made the supreme sacrifice with their lives----usually a hat was passed to WASP personnel to help defray expenses such as shipping the body home and for the funeral. Often Jacqueline Cochran personally paid these expenses. The survivors have never been compensated by the United States government.

I did know Jacqueline Cochran personally. Jacqueline Cochran was an orphan and had limited education---she was a beautician. She would often meet with us at Avenger field and at our bases to keep us informed about the WASP program and stress the importance of our role in aviation. After we were disbanded, she would attend our biannual reunions. Cochran died in 1980 at her home in Indio, California.

You probably already know that in 1942 there was a shortage of male combat pilots in the United States Army Air Corps. Women pilots were being recruited to receive Army flight training in order to fill the non-combat pilot slots (ferrying thousands of new aircraft from the factories to points of embarkation for the battlefront; flying combat-weary planes to repair depots; towing target sleeves behind aircraft so that ground troops could practice firing live ammunition at a moving target; flying similar missions for aerial gunnery practice, tracking and searchlight missions, chemical and smoke laying; radio controlled flying; basic and instrument instruction; engineering testing; administrative and utility flying) thereby releasing male pilots for combat flight duty. World War II was winding down and many.
combat pilots were returning to the United States. Since the WASP program was designed for women pilots to release male pilots for combat flying, and not to replace them in the Army Air Corps, the WASP program was disbanded, December 20, 1944. Thirty-three years after the WASPs were disbanded, November 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill giving Veteran Status to the WASP.

I graduated from high school in Glasgow, Montana, in 1937. My ambition then was to become an air stewardess. At that time one of the requirements for an air stewardess was that you had to be a registered nurse. I had a job in a doctor's office ($60 per month) and was saving for nurses' training. My mother didn't think I would make a good nurse and told me “You are so good on the typewriter stay with that”. My dad died when I was six years old—I was the youngest of nine.

One Sunday afternoon the coyote hunters were giving airplane rides. My brother, Pete, and I went for a ride. Since we were the first rider to go up we were promised a good ride to attract a crowd----we got our money's worth! I got hooked on flying and decided to spend the money I had saved for nurse’s training on flying lessons.

In November 1940 I enrolled in the CPT program. Since Glasgow did not have a college to sponsor a Civilian Pilot Training Program a different system was used. In connection with the town's high school, a ground school was given. Final examinations were given to the ground school students and the top ones were given free flight training. In Glasgow's case, it was the top five students from a class of about 20. One of the five students receiving free flight training could be a woman if she finished among the top five. There were several women in the Glasgow ground school. My friend, Jessie Hagen, and I were sure we would be among the top five, so we worked out a deal----which ever one of us received flight training would give the other one $250 to help pay for private lessons which cost $500. As it turned out both of us were in top five, Jesse got the top score of 99 and I got 98. The top male student's score was 86. So Jessie gave me the $250 and I was able to take the flight training. On August 6, 1941, at Billings, Montana, I was issued *Private Pilot Certificate No. 86522-41. At that time you needed 200 hours flight time to be eligible to join the WASPT (Women's Air force Service Pilot Training Program). Since I earned $60 per month and solo-flying time was $5 an hour, accumulating 165 more flying hours was a very slow process.

The doctor where I worked was in the Navy Reserve and was being called to active duty. In order to build up my flying hours, I went to California to work at the Mare Island Navy Yard where I got a better paying job. I found a small airport, Stewart's Dairy, where I could rent a plane for $4 an hour! On Sunday, December 7, 1941, I got checked out and went solo around the area. After landing I was informed that we were all grounded----no more private flying within 100 miles of the ocean. Pearl Harbor had been bombed!

Another fine mess----was stuck with a government job---- (since there was a war on, if I resigned it would mean a discharge with prejudice); the only way out was to enlist in the WAAC (Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps). The recruiter told me, “Since you have a Private Pilot Certificate, you'd be in on the ground floor and would be flying in no time.” **Sure.** I got sworn into the WAAC at San Francisco, California. When I arrived home from San Francisco, the **very day** I was sworn into the WAAC, there was a telegram for me from the WOMEN'S FLYING TRAINING PROGRAM: **"Requirements now 35 logged hours and valid student pilots permit. Interested applicants will be interviewed at St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco on March 19 and 20, 1943"**. Since I was sworn into the WAAC, I was stuck again. My six weeks basic training was a Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and then was assigned to
Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas. However, on August 8, 1943, I managed to get an Honorable Discharge. I opted for discharge when the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) became WAC (Women's Army Corps). I went home to Glasgow, Montana.

In the meantime, classes for the WASP Training Program were filling up. To be accepted for the program, in addition to your pilots permit, you were required to have a personal interview plus the physical. I wrote to Jacqueline Cochran, WASP director, asking where I could go for an interview. She wrote that interviewers were not scheduled for Montana as “Montana is so sparsely populated” and the interviewer wasn’t scheduled for Minneapolis for another six months. In the meantime, more classes were being filled. Jacqueline Cochran suggested, “If you care to travel to Washington, DC, you could be interviewed at the Pentagon”. An appointment at the Pentagon was arranged. My mother loaned me $200 from her “rat Hole” for the trip saying, “Since you have your heart set on it—go. Her other advice was “Hang on to your pocketbook and don’t talk to strangers.” The trip to Washington, DC, and return to Glasgow was via the Empire Builder (Great Northern Railroad). I arrived in DC okay and stayed at the YWCA. The next morning I tried to get taxis to go to the Pentagon. No cabs would stop in front of the YWCA. Across the street was the Mayflower Hotel and there were business men in their suits with brief cases had no trouble hailing a cab. So I went over there, stood in line with my manila envelope. When the cabbie asked where too? I said “THE PENTAGON, please”.

The interview went great, but classes were still being filled up. I asked if I could be put on an alternate list in case someone couldn’t make their class, I would be available on a moment’s notice. I got out home (Glasgow, Montana) on a Thursday about 3 PM and there was a telegram telling me to report to Great Falls the next day for the physical. The bus from Glasgow to Great Falls, Montana, goes by our place (Nelson homestead) at 4 PM. I picked up the same suitcase that I took to DC; Pete took me down to the highway (Highway 2) to catch the bus for Great Falls. Passed the physical with flying colors. In November 1943, after over 2two years and traveling 12, 655 miles, I received my orders to report to Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, for training!! Training started December 7, 1943.

"I gave some fuel to a WASP or two and never got stung. They were excellent pilots," said Robert Coe, Flight Instructor at Pecos Army Air Field during World War II. Three of the 200 women who trained to fly twin-engine aircraft at Pecos returned for the third reunion of base personnel. They were dressed in their full-dress WW II uniforms. The reunion was held in Pecos on October 1, 2, and 3. The WASPS who served during World War II did not receive the military recognition (militarization) promised to them until 1979. Throughout the United States, though, they flew cargo, top secret weapons and personnel. They tested planes to be certain they were safe for use by instructors and students. They flew for the weather wing. Whatever their assignment, WASPS performed with a willingness, zest, and expertise that won them acceptance and praise. As the urgent needs of the Air Force increased, so did the duties to which women graduates were assigned. By September 1943 they were reporting, not only to ferry aircraft, but to tow-target training, to four-engine bomber school, and to B-25 and B-26 (twin engine bombers) school, from which they were assigned to other bases. Graduating with the Class of 44-W-5 was WASP Lorraine Nelson Bain. Her tenure at Pecos Army Air Field was in 1943 and 1944. At various times her duties included many aspects of the base operation. Bain is retired, and she and her husband, Jim Bain, reside in Chireno, Texas. As the final strains of "Good Night, Sweetheart" were played at the end of World War II, and the WASPS were sent home, they were, without a doubt, on hand and ready for the next dance. They were not only women, but aviators of the highest tradition.

Article written by Rosie Flores (Staff Writer) and Claude W. Porter (Contributing Writer) for Pecos Enterprise, Pecos, Texas, that appeared Thursday, October 8, 1998.
Dear Barbara and Max (Whitson):

Thank you so very much for your nice letter and news clippings on Dorothy Rexroad Scatena, 1727 Glenwood Drive, Bakersfield, California 93306, Phone: 805/871-0495. I got all the info from our WASP roster. The article was very interesting. She was in Class 44W6 ... the class after mine. I was building up my hours at Napa to qualify for the WASP. Found a small place (Stewart's Dairy) at Napa where I could buy flying time for $4/hr. Got checked out and on Dec. 7, 1941, went flying. When I landed was told I was grounded.....Pearl Harbor. Since I worked at Mare Island I was stuck....if I resigned I would get a discharge with prejudice. The only way out was to join the WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army).... the recruiter told me I would be in on the ground floor as the WASP were to be militarized and I'd be all set. So I went into San Francisco and got sworn in....went back to Napa and there was a telegram.... they had lowered the qualifications for the WASP and I was now eligible ; but couldn't get a release from the WAAC. Had my basic training at Des Moines, Iowa and then went to Randolph Field, TX and assigned to the Station Hospital there. Now the WAAC was being changed to the WAC (Women's Army Corp). We had the option whether to stay in or get discharged ....so I got out. The only catch was that the WASP training classes were filled up for the next 9 months. The WASP recruiter had just been to Minneapolis, Montana was so sparsely populated a recruiter would not be there; but, Jacqueline Cochran wrote that if I wanted to make the trip to the Pentagon I could get my interview there ....so Ma loaned me $200 and I rode the Great Northern Coach to DC, had my interview but more classes were filled. I requested to be put on an alternate list in case someone dropped out because I was free to go at a moment's notice. When I got home, in the mail that very day, there was a telegram telling me to be at Malstrom Air Base, Great Falls, MT, the next day for a physical. The bus to Great Falls would go by our place in a couple of hours ; so I picked up the same suitcase, Pete drove me down to the highway and I caught the bus to Great Falls....had my physical and ... in about 3 weeks got my orders for Avenger Field, Sweetwater, TX. Getting Veteran's status was another battle. President Jimmy Carter signed our bill the day before Thanksgiving 1979. Our WASP Reunion will be at Anaheim around October 2-3...the dates are pretty firm; but, so far have not received our package of information....will let you know as soon as we find out more about it. We are anxious to see you.

Joe, our son who works for American Airlines, arranged a direct flight to Palm Springs, CA and back to Dallas for us. We rented a car there and drove to Indio for the dedication ceremony of Jacqueline Cochran's postage stamp....enclosed is one of the souvenir envelopes.....it may be a colletto's item some day. I believe we will drive to CA for the WASP reunion though as those airline passes are hard to come by!

Hope all is okay there. How are your folks, Barbara? All is okay at this end. Our kids are all well and working, so that is a blessing. Guess I've rambled on long enough.

Thanks again for writing.

Love,

Lorraine.

A letter written by Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain to her nephew (Max Whitson and his wife, Barbara) on March 27, 1996, providing an account of what Lorraine went through to just join the WASP. (Letter courtesy of Max and Barbara Ann (Fife) Whitson).
By Janet Felderhoff
Every time the wheels of her plane left the ground Lorraine Nelson Bain would exclaim, “Free at last!” She had and fulfilled a dream in the early ’40s that was unusual and daring for a young woman of her time. Lorraine Nelson wanted to pilot planes!

As a high school graduate in 1937 in Montana, Lorraine’s ambition was to become an air stewardess. At that time you had to be a registered nurse (R.N.) before you could become a stewardess, she explained. Her mother discouraged Lorraine, telling her she wouldn’t make a very good nurse. She said Lorraine was so good on the typewriter she should stay with that. She encouraged her to get a job in an office, which Lorraine did—a doctor’s office! It paid $60 a month.

One Sunday coyote hunters in the area were giving airplane rides. Lorraine and her brother decided to go up with them. “We were the first ones up there. They promised us a good ride and we got our money’s worth,” recalled Lorraine. “I thought, why pay for coffee and doughnuts when I can learn to fly one of these things?”

Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPT) was giving flight lessons, but most were associated with college. There was no college in Glasgow, which was near Lorraine’s home. There was a program that offered a flying scholarship to the top five students if enough people signed up for the ground course to make it worthwhile.

There were several women in the program according to Lorraine. She and her friend Jessie Hagen figured that one of the two would be in the top five. The flying lessons would cost $500, and so the friends made a deal that whichever got the flight scholarship would give the other one $250 so they could also take lessons. Jessie scored 99 and Lorraine scored 98 and the highest boy’s score was 86.

Jessie gave Lorraine $250 and she took flying lessons and earned her private pilot’s certificate in Billings, Montana in August of 1941. As it happened, the doctor Lorraine worked for was a Navy reservist who was being called back to active duty. Lorraine decided to go to California to find a better paying job.

In California she found a place called Stewart’s Dairy with an airstrip where she could fly for $4 an hour. Lorraine said, “On Dec. 7, 1941 I got checked out, went around solo, landed and the guy said, ‘You’re grounded.’ All private flying was prohibited within 100 miles of the ocean.”

This left her stuck with a government job and unable to build up her flying time. Lorraine had heard of the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) and felt that would be an excellent way to get off the ground. To get into the WASP a person had to build up 200 hours flying time.

Lorraine learned from a Women’s Army Auxiliary Corp recruiter that since she had her private flying certificate, she could be flying in no time if she would enlist in the Army. Lorraine said she enlisted in the WAC, and that very day she came home from work to find a telegram from Maxine Howard, Jacqueline Cochran’s outfit, informing her that the flying requirements had been lowered to 35 hours and a valid student permit. She had her private, but was now committed to serve in the WAC and unable to join the WASP.

While in the WAC Lorraine did six weeks basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Then she was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base in the eye, nose and throat clinic. In August 1943, women serving in WAC had the option of staying in or getting out. She opted out and returned home to Montana intent on joining WASP. To get into WASP required a personal interview and a physical. She wrote to Jacqueline Cochran to find out where she could go for the interview. Montana was sparsely populated and a recruiter was never sent to that state. Also she’d just missed the recruiter visiting Minneapolis and there wouldn’t be another for six months. She was given the option of going to the Pentagon for an interview.

Not to be deterred, Lorraine took the train to Washington, D.C. and spent the night at the Y. The next morning she stood outside the Y trying to get a cab to go to the Pentagon. None would stop at the Y. The cabs stopped across the street at the Mayflower Hotel to pick up the

businessmen waiting there. So Lorraine crossed the street and stood waiting in line for a cab with her manila envelope in hand.

Lorraine made it to the interview and asked to be put on the alternate list in the event that somebody couldn’t make her class, because she was available. Upon arrival back home, Lorraine found a telegram waiting. It said to be in Great Falls, Montana the next day for a physical. She passed and was told to report to Sweetwater, Texas for training. She was assigned to 44W5.

“We had the same training as the cadets,” she noted. “I was assigned to Pecos Army Air Base maintenance test topping the twin engine Cessna. That was an advanced training base for the male cadets. We’d go on search missions and fly maintenance; we’d take them up and check them out so they’d be safe for the boys. If one of the cadets landed in a place where they had engine problems, we’d fly over there and pick up the airplane and fly it home. After a major overhaul we’d have to do slow timing – just go up there and fly around until it had a few hours on it.”

The search missions they went on were called for when a plane went down in the mountains or hills around Pecos, she said. According to Lorraine, the WASPs were kept in the continental limits of the United States. Their primary mission was to free the male pilots for combat duty. They were organized to help out during the war, not to replace the male pilots.

Lorraine noted that it took her more than two years and over 12,000 miles of travel to fulfill her desire to join the WASPs.
In a speech on Dec. 7, 1944 made to the last graduating class of WASPs by Gen. H.H. Arnold acknowledged the accomplishments of these unique individuals. Arnold was the commanding officer of the Army Air Forces and founder of the WASP program. He said, “You and all WASPs have been pioneers in a new field of wartime service, and I sincerely appreciate the splendid job you have done for the AAF.

“You, and more than 900 of your sisters, have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If ever there was a doubt in anyone’s mind that women can become skillful pilots, the WASPs have dispelled that doubt.”

After leaving the WASPs, Lorraine traveled to Alaska. She signed up with a civil aeronautics administration. After six months of training in Seattle, she was assigned to Gustavus, Alaska, an isolated spot near Juneau. Mail came once every three weeks to this isolated, but beautiful spot. She was then sent to Anchorage to be a link trainer instructor for the eighth region.

Anchorage was where she met her husband Jim Bain. They met in a coffee shop known for its apple pie. They each owned an airplane, but neither had a car. She traded her airplane on a 1949 Studebaker convertible. He was stationed at Brookley Air Force Base when Lorraine finished in Alaska. They some transportation back to an American unit. That evening Jim saw a British Air Base and sought transportation to England. There was a British Landcaster bomber leaving right away. Jim took the ride, but his friend Burt decided to stay in Belgium for a few days since he was enjoying himself.

Jim said that about seven years ago he found Burt’s name on a roster. Jim called him and asked what happened after he left Belgium. Burt was picked up by the military police and put in jail for three months until his identity could be confirmed.

Jim spent 25 years in the military and retired in 1968. They have five children including Muenster resident Roger Bain. He and his wife, Sherry, and son, Matthew, moved to Muenster in December 2001. Roger works for ExxonMobile as an offshore drilling superintendent. Sherry teaches CPR classes and presently works part-time at Ace Hardware in Muenster. Matthew is a student at Muenster ISD.

When Sherry read that the Morton Museum was having a special presentation on the WASPs, she called her mother-in-law Jim and Lorraine live on a farm in Chireno, Texas near Nacogdoches and quickly decided to come up for the weekend. The program was held Monday, Oct. 14. Lorraine was the only former WASP in attendance.
Jim Bain  WWII USAF

Air Force. His first mission was a Renault oil plant in Paris. One mission was to Münster (Germany). To finish a tour required 25 missions. On his 19th mission to Berlin their plane was shot down. Three of them got out of the airplane and were picked up and imprisoned by the German ground army.

“The following January the Americans and British were advancing in what was called the Battle of the Bulge,” recalled Jim. “My buddy and I managed to get through the Germans’ lines and lined up with a British tank unit. We got back to Belgium and Belgium had been liberated by then. That was the end of our prisoner of war.”

In their escape effort the two hid in barns overnight. They’d hide under hay hoping the retreating Germans wouldn’t discover them. “They’d take pitchforks and jab into the hay trying to make sure nobody was getting out,” said Jim. “We didn’t get stabbed, thank goodness.”

In Belgium the Red Cross gave the two a little money and some clothes and told them to return the next day and they’d try to get them

“In Gainesville covered the history of the WASP and was interesting... it lasted about an hour,” commented Lorraine. “Tracey McGowan from Texas Woman’s University, Denton spoke. The audience of 20 plus was mostly elderly women. There were handouts - only one pertained to the WASP; the others concerned the local area.”

Before the program Jim and Lorraine accepted an invitation to speak to Matthew’s classmates at Muenster ISD.

Facts about the WASP
• WASP served Air Corps from September 1942 to December 1944.
• 25,000 women applied for the WPTD training
• 1,830 women were accepted and 1,074 graduated from the training program
• 900 WASP and 16 WAFS remained at deactivation on Dec. 20, 1944
• 38 died while flying for the Army Air Corps
• 60,000,000 miles of operational flights
• The WASP flew every plane the Army Air Corps flew, including the B-29
• WASP earned $150 per month while in training, and $250 per month after graduation. They paid for their own food, uniforms, and lodging
• WASPs weren’t granted military status until Nov. 23, 1977

For more information on the WASPs check out their web site www.wasp-wwII.org.
### Lorraine M. Nelson Bain

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1920-  

**Biofile:** Many of the WASP have biofiles which consist of newsclippings.

**Texas Woman’s University has served as the official archive**

Taken from and courtesy of Texas Women's University Libraries.  
Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. 76204.
LORRAIN NELSON BAIN  44-W-5  Chireno, Texas  Lorraine was born under the 'big sky' of Montana. Her interest in flying began after finishing high school, while working to save money for nurses' training. She and her brother went for a ride one Sunday afternoon with coyote hunters who were trying to attract a crowd. The ride she got convinced her that she should spend her savings on flying lessons. She got her private pilot's license, and when the experimental flying training program for women pilots at Avenger Field became available, she applied and was eventually accepted. After she graduated, she was stationed at Pecos Army Air Base in Texas, a basic training base. She flew as an engineering test pilot on the AT-6 and as an administrative pilot in the UC-78. Following the deactivation of the WASP, Lorraine completed a course in CAA Link trainer. She then worked as a Link trainer instructor in Alaska for several years before marrying a career Air Force pilot and Ex-POW. After retirement, they settled down on a farm in East Texas and love living in the country under the big Texas sky!

Taken from and courtesy of Texas Women's University Libraries. Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. 76204.

The Congressional Gold Medal is considered "the nation's highest civilian award and the most distinguished award" given by Congress. It may be given to recognize a lifetime contribution or a singular achievement. Legislation authorizing each medal must be passed by Congress and signed by the president. This medal was cast in recognition of the WASP contribution to the war effort in WW II.
James Allen Bain, Jr. (Splint) was born in Mobile, Alabama, on December 20, 1951, and was the eldest son of James Allen and Lorraine Marian (Nelson) Bain. The Bain family moved to Johnson Air Force Base in Japan early in 1952. His parents were then reassigned to Scott Air Force Base near Mascoutah, Illinois, in 1955. His family was then transferred to Orlando, Florida, in 1957, where James attended first grade at Blankner Elementary School. The family transferred to Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, South Carolina, in 1958 where he attended Crosswell Drive Elementary School in grades 2-6. The family then transferred to Goose Bay, Labrador, in 1963 where James attended grade 7 and 8 at Goose Air Base Dependents School. The Bain family transferred to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in 1965, where James attended ninth grade at North Davis Junior High School in Clearfield, Utah, and grades 10 and 11 at Clearfield High School. His father retired from the Air Force in 1968 and moved to Dallas, Texas, where James (Jr.) graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1969. He attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, from 1969-1973, when he received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics in May of 1973. He did graduate work in mathematics at the University of Kentucky from 1973-1979, receiving a PhD degree in spring of 1979 for a dissertation titled “Control Kernels and Constant-Rate Jump Processes” under the direction of Raymond Rishel. James taught Mathematical Science while a visiting assistant professor at the University of Delaware from 1979-81, with an NSF grant in the summer of 1980, resulting in the publication “The ratchet, tautness, and managerial behavior in soviet-type economies” with co-authors Jeffrey B. Miller, James R. Thornton and Michael Keren, which was published in the August, 1987 edition of the European Economic Review. James joined The Dow Chemical Company as Senior Research Mathematician in 1981 and continues there as of September, 2010. A common theme in his career has been corporate globalization, initially working on global logistic opportunities manufacturing and distribution problems, later in globalizing computer infrastructure, and more lately addressing the consequences of such globalization in the areas of data privacy, information security, and information policy. James played a York Airflow cornet/trumpet from elementary school until it dropped a value while playing for his high school graduation. He now owns, but rarely plays, a Bach 200 trumpet (a gift from his parents in about 2005) and a Getzen Eterna II. His current interests are attending the Midland Symphony and the Great Lakes Loons minor league baseball team.
A school photograph taken of James Allen Bain Jr. (Splint) in his Cub Scout uniform during March of 1961 when he was nine years old and in the fourth grade. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

James Allen Bain, Jr. (Splint) photographed following being awarded his Doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. Date: May 12, 1979. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
NELSON CHARLES BAIN

(Written text and photographs provided by Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy). Nelson Charles Bain (Chuck or Chuckie) was the second son of James and Lorraine (Nelson) Bain. Chuck was born while his parents were stationed at Johnson Air Force Base in Japan on April 10, 1954. The family returned from Yokohama, to Seattle, Washington, on March 14, 1955, on the USS General W. A. Mann, when he was 10 months old. Upon their arrival, they traveled to Tampico, Montana. After a visit with the Nelson family in Tampico, the family was then stationed in Springfield, Illinois; then Orlando, Florida; Sumter, South Carolina; Goose Bay, Labrador, and finally, Ogden (Layton), Utah – Hill Air Force Base. Chuck was a member of the Boy Scouts of America (Troop 55 of Layton, Utah) and played Little League Baseball. He passed away from leukemia on May 12, 1966 in Layton, Utah, at the age of 12. He is buried at the Fort Douglas Cemetery in Salt Lake, Utah.

Obituary can be found in: Ogden Standard Examiner (Ogden, Utah) on May 13, 1966 (4C)
A photograph of Nelson Charles Bain (Chuck) with Bertha Frierson. Chuck was on his way to celebrate after being named Class King, Sumpter, South Carolina. Date: 1961. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

A school photograph of Nelson Charles Bain (Chuck) taken during March of 1960 when he was six years old and in the first grade. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The obituary of Nelson Charles Bain published in the Ogden Standard Examiner, Ogden, Utah on May 13, 1966 (4C).
(Written text provided by William Joseph Bain). William Joseph Bain (Joe) was born on October 12, 1955, in Springfield, Illinois, and was the third son of James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain. Joe was born while his parents were stationed at Scott Air Force Base near Mascoutah, Illinois. His family transferred to Orlando, Florida in 1957. In 1958, the family transferred to Shaw Air Force Base; Sumter, South Carolina, where he began school at Croswell Drive Elementary School. The family was then transferred to Goose Bay, Labrador, in 1963, where he attended Goose Air Base Dependents School. In 1965, the Bain family was transferred to Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah. His father retired from the Air Force in 1968 and the family moved to Dallas, Texas. Joe attended Edward H. Cary Junior High, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, Texas, in May, 1973. During his school years, Joe was a member of the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, played the clarinet in school bands, and made the Thomas Jefferson High School swim team. After High School, William Joseph Bain (Joe) became a certified Work Line Maintenance Mechanic for Pan Am Airlines, living briefly in New York. In 1990, he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and shortly thereafter joined American Airlines. On November 28, 1992, Joe married Kari Vinson in Dallas, Texas. Kari Vinson was born on November 24, 1967, in Dalhart, Texas. In 1993, the couple was transferred with American Airlines to Chicago, Illinois. In 1995, they returned to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they continue to reside. Joe remains with American Airlines, and Kari is the Supervisor of the Bakery with Whole Foods Market.


AUSTIN NELSON BAIN

(Written text provided by William Joseph Bain). **Austin Nelson Bain** was born on January 8, 1995 in Chicago, Illinois, and was the eldest son of William Joseph and Kari (Vinson) Bain. When Austin was about 10 months old, the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and resides there today. Austin was in the tenth grade at Edison Preparatory High School in the Tulsa Public School system. He was interested in video animation editing; and enjoys playing video games.

![Austin Nelson Bain (left) participating as a member of the Color Guard at Patrick Henry Elementary School during a flagpole dedication and flag-raising ceremony at the school. Tulsa World newspaper published during March of 2005.](image)

WYATT MITCHELL BAIN

(Written text provided by William Joseph Bain). **Wyatt Mitchell Bain** was born on October 11, 1996, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was the second (youngest) son of William Joseph and Kari (Vinson) Bain. Wyatt was in the eighth grade at Edison Preparatory School, in the Tulsa Public School system. Wyatt played the drums and was looking forward to joining the high school band. Like his brother, Wyatt enjoyed playing video games.
ROGER LEE BAIN

(Written text and photographs provided by Sherry Renee (Hunt) Bain). **Roger Lee Bain** was born on September 26, 1957, in Orlando, Florida, and was the fourth and youngest son of James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain Sr.. After Roger's birth the family was stationed in Orlando, Florida, Sumter, South Carolina (Shaw Air Force Base), Goose Bay, Labrador, and Ogden (Logan), Utah (Hill Air Force Base). Following his father's retirement from the Air Force the Bain family moved to Dallas, Texas. Roger attended grade school, junior high, and high school in Dallas, Texas, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1975. Roger continued his education at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology. After graduation Roger began working for Exlog and did domestic and international well logging. He then began working for Mobil monitoring real time well data and later began working offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. When Mobil merged with Exxon he accepted a job with Exxon as a drilling superintendent and continues to work for them today. He began working in the Gulf of Mexico and after several years began working internationally. His job with Exxon has taken him to Melbourne, Australia; Qatar; and, he is currently working in Nigeria. Roger married **Sherry Renee Hunt** on July 17, 1991, in Taos, New Mexico. Sherry was born December 2, 1956, at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas, to Chester Ross Hunt (09/03/1921) and Grace Marie (Hood) Hunt (07/19/1931). She was the oldest of three daughters. Sherry was raised in Dallas, Texas, and her parents still live in the family home in East Dallas. She graduated from Bryan Adams High School in 1975. Sherry attended Eastfield Junior College where she earned an Associates Degree. Sherry completed her college education at North Texas State University (University of North Texas today), graduating in December 1981 with an Associates of Arts Degree in English. She worked as an administrative assistant and office manager for real estate, oil and gas, and investment companies until the birth of her son, Matthew. Roger and Sherry Bain lived in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas in a historic neighborhood called Winnetka Heights. Roger Lee and Sherry Renee (Hunt) Bain had a son, **Matthew Allen Bain**, born on February 17, 1992 at St. Paul Hospital, in Dallas, Texas. After Matthew's birth, Sherry was fortunate to be a stay at home mom and do volunteer work through their church and Matt's school. The family currently divides their time between their home in Muenster and taking care of Jim and Lorraine's farm in Chireno, Texas.

A photograph of Roger Lee Bain when he was in the first grade. Date: October, 1963. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

A photograph of Roger Lee Bain following his confirmation into the Lutheran faith. Walnut Hill Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas. Date: 1972.
A photograph taken on May 30, 2010, of the Roger Lee and Sherry (Hunt) Bain family. From left to right are: Sherry (Hunt) Bain, Matthew Allen Bain, and Roger Lee Bain.

Roger Lee Bain photographed just outside the Tampico Hall, Tampico, Montana, during the Stensland/Nelson reunion held during July of 2000. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Sherry (Hunt) Bain photographed in Tampico, Montana, during the Stensland/Nelson reunion held during July of 2000. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
MATTHEW ALLEN BAIN

(Written text and photograph provided by Sherry Renee (Hunt) Bain). **Matthew Allen Bain (Matt)** was born on February 17, 1992, in Dallas, Texas, and was the son of Roger Lee and Sherry Renee (Hunt) Bain. He was the first male born into the James Allen Bain, Sr. family to carry on the Bain name. Matt began his school years in Dallas. He was in the fourth grade when the family moved to Muenster, Texas, in December 2001. At Muenster he participated in sports, running track and playing football in junior high and his freshman and sophomore years in high school. He also participated in UIL events, winning awards and lettering in a One Act Play. Life in a rural community afforded him many opportunities he would not have had in a large city. He enjoyed shooting his bow, hunting, riding four wheelers, and won awards showing his heifers in major shows. Matthew became involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) through Dairy Judging during his sophomore year. He scored high enough in competition at the Houston Livestock Show to win a scramble heifer. Matt showed his heifer, Ms. Priss, at the State Fair of Texas, the Fort Worth Stock Show, the Cooke County Youth Fair, and the Houston Livestock Show during his junior year of high school. He also raised a pen of three steers for the Commercial Steer Feeding and Management Program at Houston. Matt had the only steer out of nearly 300 to grade Prime and he had the third highest ultrasound graded pen of steers. He purchased two more heifers the summer before his senior year. Matt took Ms. Priss to the State Fair his senior year and she won the Reserve Division. He took his two new heifers to the Fort Worth Stock Show, the Cooke County Youth Fair, the San Antonio Stock Show, and the Houston Stock Show. Matt raised another pen of three steers for the Houston Livestock Show and continued to learn the cattle business. He added a new heifer to his herd just before graduation and Ms. Priss had a calf May 3, 2010. Matt moved his cattle, Ms. Priss and baby Dot, Fluffy, Lady, and Tag, to Jim and Lorraine Bain’s farm in Chireno, Texas, and continued raising cattle as his grandparents did. Matt and Sherry Bain are members of Whaley United Methodist Church in Gainesville, Texas. Matt was very involved in his youth group at Whaley. He often volunteered with the group at local organizations and eagerly attended each mission trip the group made. He completed school in Muenster, Texas, graduating May 28, 2010. Matt began his freshman year at Stephen F. Austin State University in August, 2010. He joined the Cattle Show Team and quickly became involved at the beef center barn. He enjoyed school and stayed active learning the cattle business.
MARY ELIZABETH (BAIN) FAIN McCoy

(Written text and photographs provided by Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy). Mary Elizabeth Bain was born at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina, on July 11, 1959 – the “youngest and only girl” born to James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain. Mary was born on her maternal grandfather’s birthday (Nels C. Nelson – July 11) and named after her maternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson.

When Mary was about two, the family was transferred to Goose Bay, Labrador. Although, she doesn’t remember too much about that time, she does remember riding around in the 1959 Ford with her mother – putting a number miles on the car, with only few miles of road on the base. Shortly before Mary began school, the family was stationed at Hill Air Force Base outside of Ogden, Utah. Mary attended first through third grade at the Hill Elementary School. In Utah, when Mary was six years old, her older brother Nelson Charles Bain (Chuck) died of leukemia. Following her dad’s retirement from the Air Force, they moved to Dallas, Texas. Mary attended Calliet Elementary School, Edward H. Carey Junior High and graduated with Honors from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1977 – all in Dallas, Texas. The summer of her junior year, Mary was awarded the two-week Accounting “camp” Scholarship as the Thomas Jefferson representative at Southern Methodist University (SMU) for students who expressed an interest in pursuing an Accounting career. That experience helped Mary to decide Accounting would be her major in college.

Following graduation, Mary enrolled in Richland Community College preparing for an Accounting degree. She married her High School sweetheart, Mark Ellis Fain. On November 3, 1978 they had their daughter, Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny). In January, 1982 Mark and Mary separated (their divorce would become final in July, 1982). Mark Ellis Fain would pass away on June 22, 2001.

Following the divorce, Mary and Penny moved to Chireno, Texas, and Mary enrolled in Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, and graduated in December, 1983, majoring in Accounting, with a minor in Management. She accepted an Accounting position with Pennzoil in Houston, Texas.

While working at Pennzoil, Mary met Michael Anthony McCoy, and the two were married on March 22, 1986, at Park Place Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. They had two sons; Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) born July 22, 1988 in The Woodlands, Texas; and James Peter (Pete) McCoy born November 24, 1998, in Kennesaw, Georgia.

During the late 1980’s and early 1990’s, the oil industry was in flux and there were several staff reductions. So that both Mary’s and Mike’s employment would not be in jeopardy, Mary left Pennzoil to join GTE Mobilnet in November, 1986. GTE Mobilnet was GTE’s start up division for a new product called “cellular telephone”. GTE Mobilnet (later called GTE Mobile Communications) merged with Contel and the headquarters was moved to Atlanta, Georgia. So in December, 1991, Mary, Mike, Penny and Chuck moved to Georgia, locating in Woodstock, Georgia. In 2001, GTEM merged with three other cellular companies (Bell Atlantic, Airtouch and Primeco) to become Verizon Wireless. Mary continues to work for Verizon Wireless (as of June, 2010). She has enjoyed numerous job assignments, moving from Accounting to Billing to Information Technology, to a Headquarters support position for Customer Service – responsible for the prioritization and alignment of technology initiatives, working as the business liaison to the Information Technology Department to deliver the necessary tools and applications to the front line Customer Service representatives (20,000+ in over 20 centers throughout the United States).
In Mary’s spare time, she enjoys attending the children’s and grandchildren’s activities, and traveling/photography. Every year the family takes a vacation, with the Cash family (good friends from Texas) – favorite trips have included: Walt Disney World (multiple times!), New York, Hawaii, California, the Carolina’s, Colorado, New Mexico, National Parks (Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Teton, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon) and Las Vegas. Her two international trips to Sweden (with Marvin Leslie Carlson, Dennis Lyle Krause, her mom – Lorraine, and daughter – Penny) and Italy (with son Chuck on a Basketball Sports Ambassador tour) have also been highlights. Reading, scrap booking and a recent interest in Birding are also activities Mary enjoys (as time permits). Mary is also active at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Woodstock, Georgia, currently serving her second term on the Church Council, former Financial Secretary and recently elected as a voting member at the 2010 Southeastern Synod Assembly.

A photograph of Mary Elizabeth Bain when she was two years of age. Date: July 11, 1961. Sumter, South Carolina. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

A photograph of Mary Elizabeth Bain taken in 1977 when she was 17 years of age and a senior in High School. Dallas, Texas. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
A photograph of Mary Elizabeth Bain following her confirmation into the Lutheran Faith at Walnut Creek Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas. Date: October 27, 2002.

Mary Elizabeth Bain's graduation photograph from Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, Texas. Date: May 30, 1977.

Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain's graduation from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Nacogdoches, Texas. Date: December 17, 1983.

A photograph of Michael Anthony McCoy and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy following their wedding which took place on March 22, 1986, at Park Place Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas.
A photograph of Michael Anthony McCoy and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy following their wedding which took place on March 22, 1986, at Park Place Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. From left to right are: James Allen Bain Jr., Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, bride Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, Penelope Ellen Fain, groom Michael Anthony McCoy, James Allen Bain, William Joseph Bain, and Roger Lee Bain (front right).
A photograph taken at the La Hacienda Ranch Restaurant outside of Dallas, Texas, on May 30, 2010. Shown from left to right are Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, Franklin Abell, Roger Lee Bain, Sherry (Hunt) Bain and Matthew Allen Bain. Sitting front right is Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell holding McKenna Elizabeth Abell.
A photograph taken on the front steps to Tampico Hall, Tampico, Montana, showing from left to right: James Peter McCoy, Penelope Ellen Fain, Charles Scott McCoy, and Matthew Allen Bain. Date: July 3, 2000. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy standing between Mitch (left) and Gene Etchart at the Valley County Museum in Glasgow, Montana, during June of 2010. These gentlemen were the flight instructors for Mary's mother, Lorraine Marion Nelson, when she began her flying career and later would join the WASP. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny), was born on November 3, 1978 in Dallas, Texas, and was the daughter of Mark Ellis and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain. She attended many Elementary Schools throughout The Woodlands, Texas, before her family moved to Atlanta, Georgia, at the end of her seventh grade year. She then attended E. T. Booth Junior High and Etowah High School where she was a Football and Basketball Cheerleader. She was also involved in DECA and the Etowah Elves. She graduated from Etowah High School in 1997 and started attending Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. She graduated from Kennesaw State in 2002 with a degree in Business Administration and a Major in Marketing. At the time of finishing her degree, she was working full-time as an Office Manager at Siding Claims Services in Marietta, Georgia. She also met Franklin Joseph Abell while attending her last few classes at Kennesaw State. They were married on October 26, 2002, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Georgia, with the reception at Brumby Hall and Gardens in Marietta, Georgia. Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell have two beautiful children, McKenna Elizabeth Abell born on January 20, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia; and Ryan Joseph Abell, born on April 20, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia. The family of Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell reside in Woodstock, Georgia. Penny is now a stay-at-home mom and Franklin owns his own business, Abell Turf and Tractor, which sells golf course equipment and other golf related items. Franklin also co-owns Classic Golf Management with his father, Milton Abell, which is a golf course construction and management company. The Abells enjoy traveling (although with two young children trips are much less frequent), reading and are epicureans and lovers of the arts.
Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny) photographed during July when she was four years old. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

A photograph of Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny) taken when she was in the second grade. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny) photographed on horseback at her grandparents ranch in Chireno, Texas. Date: 1985

A photograph of Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny) when she was eight years old and in the third grade. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
A photograph of Penelope Ellen Fain (Penny) when she was a cheerleader for the football and basketball teams at Etowah High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Date: 1995.

Penelope Ellen Fain's graduation from Kennesaw State University on July 29, 2002. Family members in attendance from left to right were: Mary Elizabeth (Bain) McCoy, Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, Charles Scott McCoy, Penelope Ellen Fain, James Allen Bain, and Michael Anthony McCoy holding James Peter McCoy.
A photograph of Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell and Franklin Joseph Abell on their wedding day, October 26, 2002.


A photograph of Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell with the brides grandparents, James Allen and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain. Date: October 26, 2002.
A photograph of the bride’s family following the wedding of Penelope Ellen Fain and Franklin Joseph Abell. In back left to right are: Roger Lee Bain, Matthew Allen Bain, Sherry (Hunt) Bain, James Allen Bain, James Allen Bain Jr., Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, and Michael Anthony McCoy. In front left to right are: Charles Scott McCoy, James Peter McCoy being held by Franklin Joseph Abell, Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell, and Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain.

Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell photographed during April of 2006 while on a beach in Hawaii.
The Abells, McCoys and Bains celebrating Mother's Day in 2009 at McCullom Field Airport in Kennesaw, Georgia. From left to right are: Franklin Joseph Abell holding Ryan Joseph Abell, Michael Anthony McCoy, Charles Scott McCoy, Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell holding McKenna Elizabeth Abell, Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, James Allen Bain, and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy. James Peter McCoy is standing in front.

A photograph taken at the La Hacienda Ranch Restaurant outside of Dallas, Texas showing from left to right: Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell (Penny), McKenna Elizabeth Abell, and Franklin Joseph Abell. Date: 2010.

The children of Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell: Ryan Joseph Abell and McKenna Elizabeth Abell. Date photograph was taken: May, 2010.
McKENNA ELIZABETH ABELL

(Written text and photographs provided by Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell). **McKenna Elizabeth Abell**, was born on January 20, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia and was the daughter of Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell. McKenna attended Preschool at Hillside Methodist Church and loved taking dance and Gymnastic classes. She loved trips to Disney World.

McKenna Elizabeth Abell photographed during August of 2007.  

McKenna Elizabeth Abell (second from right) photographed at Disney World during Christmas of 2009 with members of her family. From left to right are: Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell, Ryan Joseph Abell, McKenna, and Franklin Joseph Abell.

RYAN JOSEPH ABELL

(Written text and photographs provided by Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell). **Ryan Joseph Abell**, was born on April 20, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was the son of Franklin Joseph and Penelope Ellen (Fain) Abell. Ryan attended Preschool at Hillside Methodist Church and loved throwing balls and climbing anything he could. He was all boy!

Ryan Joseph Abell being kissed by his sister, McKenna Elizabeth Abell. Atlanta, Georgia, Date: May 2009.

Ryan Joseph Abell photographed during March of 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia.
CHARLES SCOTT McCoy

(Written text and photographs provided by Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy). Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) was born on July 22, 1988, in The Woodlands, Texas. Since birth Charles Scott McCoy has been full of surprises for his parents - arriving a month early, breach and with a VSD heart murmur. Charles Scott McCoy is named after his deceased uncle (maternal), Nelson Charles Bain (Chuck), who died of leukemia at a young age. His middle name Scott was the name of his paternal grandfather, Scott Malbon. Charles Scott McCoy goes by Chuck, unless in trouble then his parents usually refer to him as, CHARLES SCOTT McCoy!

At the age of 3, Chuck and his family moved from The Woodlands, Texas, to Woodstock, Georgia. During his childhood, Chuck played baseball, football, and basketball. Chuck attended both Boston and Bascomb Elementary Schools. When Chuck was 10 years old, he was hit with an unexpected kidney illness, which landed him in the hospital for seven days. Around seventh grade, Chuck gave up baseball and decided to play basketball and football for his middle school (E.T. Booth). Chuck was quarterback for the football team and in eighth grade led his middle school basketball team to win the County Championship.

After eighth grade, Chuck attended Etowah High School. As he became better at basketball, he gave up football to focus on his true love, basketball. Chuck became the only sophomore on the Varsity basketball team and started both his junior and senior years. During Chuck’s junior year, the basketball team went 24-7 and made it to the Elite Eight of the High School State Championships getting knocked out by eventual state champion Mays High School. During his senior year, Chuck was recruited heavily by small colleges for basketball. After losing in the first round of the State Playoffs, he chose to attend Piedmont College on a basketball scholarship. Charles Scott McCoy graduated Etowah High School in June, 2006 with a GPA of 3.75, which made him eligible for the Presidential Scholarship at Piedmont College.

While at Piedmont College, Chuck made the Dean’s List (3.34 GPA), and played shooting guard for the Piedmont Lions. In between his freshman and sophomore years, Chuck played basketball for a USA Athletes International Organization. With this organization, Chuck traveled to Italy – playing basketball and seeing the sights in Rome, Pisa, Venice, Milan, and Florence. Chuck McCoy left Piedmont College, retiring from college basketball after suffering two broken ankles, to attend the University of Georgia. From there, Chuck was offered a job back in Woodstock coaching individual basketball skills camps and clinics for all ages of kids. While working for The Summit Basketball Academy, he plans to finish his Biology degree at Kennesaw State University and pursue his coaching interests or as field biologist.

A photograph taken of Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) during November of 1988 when he was approximately 4 months old.
A school photograph of Charles Scott McCoy taken when he was in the second grade. Date: 1995. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).

Chuck McCoy (11) going up for a score during his Senior year while playing basketball for the Etowah Eagles. Date: November, 2005.

A photograph of Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) with Pastor Kari Parsons following his confirmation into the Lutheran Faith at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, Georgia. Date: October 27, 2002.

Chuck playing Pee Wee Football. This SCRA Redskins 6-year old football team won the North Georgia Youth Football Organization Super Bowl. Date: November, 1994.

A photograph of Charles Scott McCoy when he was in the second grade. Date: 1995. (Courtesy of William John Krause II).
Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) photographed during his High School Graduation from Etowah High School, Woodstock, Georgia. Date: June 2, 2006.

Charles Scott McCoy fly-fishing for salmon in Alaska. One of the best days of his life to date. Chuck took a floatplane out to a river where the salmon were running, and literally lost count of the number of fish caught. The scenery was beautiful, eagles soaring, harbor seals swimming by, and as he took off a bear was spotted coming out of the woods right where he had been fishing. Date: July, 2010.

Charles Scott McCoy (Chuck) photographed with Miss Georgia, April Brinson, during Georgia History Day at Bascomb Elementary School in Woodstock, Georgia. Published in Cherokee Tribune, Saturday, February 13, page 1 B, 1999.
James Peter McCoy (Pete), was born on November 24, 1998, at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, Georgia and was the son of Michael Anthony and Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy. He was named after his maternal grandfather (James Allen Bain) and maternal uncle (Morris Joseph Nelson “Pete”)*. Peter also means “small rock; strength” – which is a name that turned out to be most appropriate. James Peter was born 8+ weeks early, weighing only 3 pounds. He spent the first four weeks of his life in the NICU at Kennestone Hospital, coming home right before Christmas weighing 4 pounds. James Peter McCoy was baptized on July 11, 1999, (his mother’s fortieth birthday) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. In 2010, Pete was in the sixth grade at Chapman Intermediate School, in accelerated classes. He was also in his first year of a three year confirmation program at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Georgia. Pete participated in the following sports: Baseball, Flag Football, Soccer and Basketball. Basketball was the sport he enjoyed the most – he was named to the Chapman sixth grade school team.

* Morris Joseph Nelson was known to everyone as Pete. The nickname turned out to come from a family mule “Pedro” who was known to be a bit stubborn. Uncle Pete was “a friend to everyone from 2 to 102”.

James Peter McCoy was baptized at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Georgia. The following individuals were present at his Baptism. Front Row: Sister/Godmother Penelope Ellen (Penny) Fain holding James Peter McCoy, and Charles Scott McCoy. Back Row: Godfather Dennis Bethel, Mary Elizabeth (Bain) Fain McCoy, Pastor Kari Parsons, and Michael Anthony McCoy. Date: July 11, 1999.
The fifth grade 2009 – 2010 Etowah Junior Eagles team was made up of 11 players from Chapman Middle School who went undefeated in Middle School play and became the only School Team to qualify for the Division I National YBOA Tournament. The Eagles captured Titles at the YBOA Marietta Classic and the YBOA March Madness and finished the Season Ranked fifth in the State of Georgia. Included in the trip to National’s, all of the boys got to meet Shaquille O’Neil (Pete is standing in front of Shaq, with Shaq’s hands on his shoulders) and tried to convince Pete to sign with the Atlanta Hawks. June 29, 2010.
JONATHAN NILSSON

(Written text provided by William John Krause II and Dennis Lyle Krause). Jonathan Nilsson was born on January 7, 1879, in Värmland, Sweden, and was the son of Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Nelson. Jonathan was the youngest of seven children born Nils and Maria (Setterberg) Johannesson/Nelson. Jonathan Nilsson died after one week of life on January 15, 1879, and is buried in Värmland, Sweden.

APPENDIX

Brands used by the Descendants of Nels Christian and Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson.

The Nelson Brands were kept in the family and not registered to another party after the original owner passed away.

1. Floyd Ernest Nelson: Registered Brand was HO—. Following Floyd’s death this brand was then registered with his wife, Bertha (Stensland) Nelson.

2. Morris Joseph Nelson (Pete): Registered Brand was NJ—. Following Pete’s death this brand was registered with his Grand Niece, Sally (Nelson) Irwin.

3. Max Walter Nelson: Registered Brand was Ṣ. Following Max’s death this brand was registered with his Grand Niece and her husband, Joe and Gina (Nelson) Reyling.

4. Floyd C. Nelson (Sonny): Registered Brand was: ❉

5. Donald Bruce Nelson: Registered Brands were: ⊥ ⊤ ⊥ ⊤ ⊤

6. Theresa A. Nelson: Registered Brand was: T

7. Bertha (Stensland) Nelson: Registered Brand was: HO—

8. Joe and Gina (Nelson) Reyling: Registered Brand was: Ṣ

9. Sally (Nelson) Irwin: Registered Brand was: NJ—
The special 1885 Census for Detroit, Becker County, Minnesota, taken on May 1, 1885, lists Stina Nelson (Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson) and her two sons Christ (Nels Christian Nelson) and M. (Nels Maurice Nelson). Note that two other individuals, Stina Peterson and John Peterson (both natives of Denmark), reside at the same household.

INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE BIRTH CERTIFICATES OF THE CHILDREN OF MARTIN AND ANNA CHRISTINA (SORENSON) NELSON.

Birth Certification for Nels Christian Nelson. Leonora A. Gidlund, Director, NYC Department of Records, Municipal Archives, New York, New York, conducted a search in the year 2011 for birth records of Nels Christian Nelson for the year 1873. The boroughs searched were Manhattan and Brooklyn. No birth records were found for Nels Christian Nelson.

Birth Certification for Nels Maurice (Morris) Nelson. The State of Ohio did not require births to be recorded until well into the 1880s, with most counties not doing so until the 20th century. At that time, most births occurred at home with either a doctor or midwife attending. Theoretically, that person was supposed to enter documentation at the Courthouse periodically. These records are a ledger entry only and are very sporadic. If an attending physician were present at the birth, that birth would be recorded at the Probate Court. Another possibility that was checked was called a delayed birth record. This official record was created when an individual needing to document their birth (a birth certificate) for some reason (many were filled out once social security went into effect) and was used to provide documentation. Witnesses would go with the person and file affidavits swearing they were present or knowledgeable about the birth. Mary Weese, Courthouse Volunteer, Mahoning County Genealogical Society, Youngstown, Ohio, conducted an extensive search of the Mahoning County records and could find no documentation concerned with the birth of Nels Maurice (Morris) Nelson in Youngstown, Ohio, or Mahoning County.

NOTES ON THE PARENTS AND UNCLE OF NELS CHRISTIAN NELSON

Nels Christian Nelson's parents and uncle were all natives of Denmark. Their precise point of origin prior to their immigration to the United States of America is unknown at present. It is believe that Martin Nelson (Nels Christian's father) and Knute Nelson (his uncle) emigrated together from Denmark with New York as their destination. Whether or not Martin was married at that time to Anna Christina Sorenson is unknown. The first official documents found thus far are from the reported birth of Martin and Anna Christina (Sorenson) Nelson's first son, Nels Christian Nelson, who was born in New York City, New York, on July 11, 1873.
The next official record is the 1880 United States Census for Minnesota (Detroit Township, Becker County) that lists Martin Nelson as being 34 years old, head of the household and a farmer from Denmark. Living with him are his wife, Anna Christina (37 years old), a son, Nels Christian (7 years old, born in New York), a son, Nels Maurice (Morris) (2 years old, born in Youngstown, Ohio), a brother, Canute (Knute) Nelson (32 years old), and sister-in-law, Joanna Nelson (22 years old) and also a native of Denmark. The Minnesota State Special Census for 1885 (Detroit Township, Becker County) lists Stina (Anna Christina) Nelson (43 years old) as head of the household, living in Detroit Township with her two sons, Nels Christian Nelson (12 years old) and Nels Maurice (7 years old), and two boarders, Stina and John Peterson. The last known record for Martin Nelson is the 1880 United States Census for Minnesota (Detroit Township, Becker County). What happened to Martin Nelson and where he is buried is unknown. On October 1, 1886, Anna Christina (Sorensen) Nelson married Antone Elleson at the First Lutheran Church in Audubon, Minnesota. The 1900 United States Census for Minnesota (Detroit Township, Becker County) lists Anna Christina (Sorensen) Nelson Elleson as widowed, 57 (47) years old, and living with her youngest son, Nels Maurice Nelson, who is 21 years of age and a single farmer. The 1900 Census lists Anna Christina’s immigration year as 1873 and her birth date as September 1842. Anna Christina died May 24, 1928, at the State Hospital located in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, at 81 years of age. Her remains were transported back to Detroit Lakes for burial on May 27, 1928, but the place of internment remains unknown. 

Attention: This is the only document found that lists Anna Christina’s father’s name, Nels C. Sorensen, of Denmark. In this document, filled out by an unknown individual, her birth date is listed as 1846. 

Nels Christian Nelson’s uncle, Knute Nelson, is first documented in the 1880 United States Census for Minnesota (Detroit Township, Becker County) that lists him and his wife Joanna living with his brother Martin Nelson. The next documentation for a Knute Nelson is the 1895 Minnesota Territorial and State Census that lists Knute Nelson, age 45 from Denmark, Anna Nelson age 37 from Denmark, Lena Nelson age 11, and Ellen Nelson age 9. The 1900 United States Census for Maple Grove Township, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, lists a Knute Nelson as head of the household, 51 years of age, place of birth Denmark, date of birth as February 1849, and the immigration year listed as 1871. He was married in 1880 and has been married for 20 years. Living with him is his wife Hanne (42 years of age) and children Nikoline Nelson (16 years of age), Ella Nelson (14 years of age), Eddie Nelson (4 years of age), and a boarder Tilda Zkariasen (11 years of age). The 1900 United States Census for Hanco Nelson lists the following: Birth Date: June 1857; Birthplace: Denmark; Residence: Long Lake & Maple Grove Townships, Crow Wing, Minnesota; Spouse Place of Origin: Denmark; Spouse Birth Place: Denmark; Married 20 years; Year of Marriage 1880; Immigration year 1880; Number of Children Born 8; Number of Children living 3. 

Attention: Her father’s birthplace was Denmark and his name was Nels Larson. Her mother’s birthplace was Denmark and her name was Christine Hanson. The Minnesota Territorial and State Census June 26, 1905, lists the Knute Nelson family as remaining in Crow Wing County at this time. Knute Nelson age 56 from Denmark, Anna (J) Nelson age 49 from Denmark, Eddie Nelson age 9, Lena Nelson age 21, Ellie Nelson age 19, and several other Nelsons that worked for them (Andrew age 66, Mathie B age 65, Nels P. age 25, Mike B. age 22, Carl A. age 20, and Robert age 12). The 1910 United States Census for Maple Grove Township, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, lists Knute Nelson (62 years of age) living with his wife Annie Nelson (52 years of age) and son, Eddy Nelson (14 years of age). The 1920 United States Census for Maple Grove Township, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, lists Edward Nelson (age 28) as now head of the household with Anna Nelson (his mother) 62 years of age and two other individuals, Franklin August Nelson (age 22) and Mertle Nelson (age 19). The 1930 United States Census for Brainerd, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, for Lena (Nelson) Carlson age 64, lists her husband Erick A. Carlson age 46, son Erick E. Carlson, and her mother Hannah Nelson age 73. The Minnesota Deaths and Burials, 1835-1900 for Knute Nelson record that he died August 9, 1914, in Maple Grove Township, Crow Wing, Minnesota, at 66 years of age. The burial place is listed as Long Lake. It is thought that burial was in the Bethel Lutheran Church Cemetery of Crow Wing County, Minnesota, which is located adjacent to Long Lake. Knute Nelson left a Will. Minnesota Will Records, 1849-1985 for Knute Nelson records the following. Name: Knute Nelson; Will year: 1914; Record Place: Will Books; Will Records Volume A 1878-1819; pages 488-489. 

Hannah Nelson died at 86 years of age in Brainerd, Minnesota. Funeral services were held at Bethel Lutheran Church, South Long Lake, with burial in the Bethel Cemetery. The Minnesota Deaths and Burials, 1835-1990 for Hannah Nelson record her death date as March 31, 1942, in Brainerd, Crow Wing, Minnesota.