# NILS OSTER AND MARIA MATHILDA (SETTERBERG) JOHANNESSON/ JOHANSSON AND THEIR DESCENDANTS (1827-2011)



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# Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/ Johansson and their Descendants (1827-2011).

Complied by

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This document summarizes the family history of Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Johansson following their arrival in the United States. It was decided that the living descendants of Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Johansson, who wished to do so, would write a short narrative history about themselves and their immediate family before the memories of this generation were lost to time. The individuals that chose to do so are presented in parentheses at the beginning of each descendant's information within the body of the text. Those writing on the behalf of others also is presented in this way. Some of us (William John Krause II, Dennis Lyle Krause, Kelvin Keith Krause) have expanded their segments to include a few more paragraphs and photographs of memories growing up in Montana/South Dakota during the mid-1900s. Hopefully, this will provide the reader with a feeling of what experiences they had growing up during this time period on the northern plains and being second generation Americans of immigrant families. The following provides some preliminary information with regard to the events that took place prior to Nils Oster and Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Johansson immigration to the United States from Sweden.

The names of our ancestors (generation 1) prior to and after their arrival in the United States of America. From very early times the Swedes used patronymic names, in which case the father's name was used as part of his children's name. For example, if Johannes had a son, that son would be called Johannesson. If Johannes had a daughter, she would be called Johannesdotter. This is why there is a double "ss" in the son's name. The most important identity of a person in the patronymic naming practice was the first name. The surname did not necessarily indicate a relationship other than between brothers and sisters. Prior to the 1800's a wife never adopted her husband's patronymic name. If they both had a family name she would keep her family name. Patronymic names were used in Sweden until around 1860 when many started to adopt family names. Most just took their patronymic name as their family name. Some took the name of a place or region. For example, in our family, Zetterberg means "Mountain Pasture". This was americanized to Setterberg. At this time there was no law governing the taking of a permanent surname and one just went to the parish minister and told him what name he or she would like to be known by. No legal or other action was needed. One needs to be aware that a person could have had more than one surname in their lifetime. Brothers and sisters could also have had different surnames. In addition, the spelling of a persons name could have changed when that person arrived in the United States. Either the immigration official spelled the name the way it sounded (phonetically) or the immigrant changed the name to be more American. In our family for example: Nils became Nels, Karl became Carl, Gustav became Gust, Anders became Andrew, and Maria became Mary. In the case of our family in generation 1, the sons of Nils Oster Johannesson (Johan Adel, Anders Gustav, Axel, Jonathan) stuck with the patronymic tradition and went by the name of **Nilsson** initially, which then was Americanized to **Nelson**. In the case of this family, public records record Anders Gustav (Nilsson) Nelson and Axel (Nilsson) Nelson. In Sweden the daughters would have had the surname of Nilsdotter. However, when coming to America the port authorities gave the daughters the surname of their father, Johansson (Johannesson), as was the American custom. Johansson was further americanized to "Johnson." After a period of time in the United States, the daughters as well as their mother chose the name Nelson as their surname as did the sons resulting from this marriage. Just when this decision was made is unknown. One should be aware that Nils Oster Johannesson's wife, Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson/Nelson, gave her name as being Maria Mathilda Nelson when she signed as a witness for her youngest daughter (Maria Elizabeth) marriage to Nels Christian Nelson. After the death of her husband Maria Mathilda moved to North Dakota to be with family and lived with her son, Axel Nelson. Maria Mathilda Nelson is the name recorded on her gravestone in Coleharbor, North Dakota. All three daughters: Amanda Christina, Anna Katarina, and Maria Elizabeth recorded their maiden name as being Nelson on their marriage licenses. Our family's history is further complicated by the fact that that Nils Johannesson's eldest daughter, Amanda Christina Johannesson/Nelson, and youngest daughter, Mary Elizabeth Johannesson/Nelson, both married husbands with the surname Nelson. Likewise, Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson) Nelson's son, Martin Leonard Nelson, married an unrelated Nelson, Mabel Hilda Nelson. With regard to the name Mabel Nelson we have three individuals known by that name in the Glasgow, Montana area. This is how they are related to Mary Elizabeth (Johannesson/Nelson) Nelson: Mabel (Wright) Nelson Kane was her sister-in-law, Mabel Elizabeth Nelson was her daughter, and Mabel Hilda Nelson was her daughter-in-law.

## Nelson Family Swedish Origins

(Written text and and documents provided by Dennis Lyle Krause). The origins of the family of Mary Elizabeth Nelson (Mary E) can be traced back to her Swedish heritage. Marvin Leslie Carlson, grandson to Mary E's oldest sister, Amanda Christina Nelson, began his initial genealogical research of the family in 1997 at the Family History Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Center is maintained by the Mormon Church with microfilm records of lists of parishes in Sweden, birth registers and other family information for a given province and year. The Center had the 1866 parish birth registers for the province of Värmland, Sweden. That year was very significant in finding the original "roots" of the Nelson family. Knowing the birth date and the Swedish province of one of Mary E's brothers, Anders Gustaf Nilsson (Marvin's great uncle) born on November 29, 1866, in the province of Värmland, Marvin searched each birth register of the parishes in Värmland for the year 1866 until he found him. In addition, he found the name of the parish: Huggenäs, and the name of family farm: Galtane. Marvin also uncovered the 1870 census of Värmland and discovered Mary E's entire family, the Johannessons, up to this point in time. That initial investigation and research has lead to the following genealogical narrative of the Nelson family heritage in Sweden as well as their immigration to the United States of America. This narrative was constructed from letters and documents written to Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause during 1997-98 by Marvin Leslie Carlson explaining his findings in tracing the Nelson family heritage in Sweden.

From the 1870 census information **Mary Elizabeth Nelson** was born Maria Elizabeth Nilsdotter in the parish of Huggenäs located near the town of Säffle in the province of Värmland, Sweden, about 210 miles west of Stockholm. Her family lived on the central Värmland peninsula that jets out into Lake Vänern, Sweden's largest lake. This area is rich with Viking history. Their farm was called Galtane from the word galt, which has the meaning of boar in the Swedish language. The name of the farm as well as others is identified on a map of Värmland, which was the practice during that time period. From the 1870 Värmland census Mary E's family members were identified. Her father was **Nils Johannesson** from the parish of Huggenäs in Värmland province. Her mother was **Maria Mathilda Setterberg** from the parish of Rok near the town of Linkoping in Ostergotland province. There were four children in the family at that time. Their oldest was a daughter, **Amanda Christina**. There were three sons: **Johan Adel, Anders Gustaf** and **Axel**. Mary E and her other sister Anna Katrina were not born at this time. They were all living at Galtane with Nil's father, **Johannes Oster Nilsson**, and Nils's younger brother of 23 years, **Johan Gustaf**. Mary E's grandfather was a widower at this time.

The Family History Center also provided maps locating Swedish family farms in Detroit (Lakes) Township, Minnesota, after they immigrated to the America. In addition, the Becker County Historical Society in Detroit Lakes maintains church records of Swedish immigrant families in the Minnesota area. The first document showing Maria Elizabeth and her sister Anna Katrina living on the farm in Sweden with the rest of her immediate family was discovered from these records at the Family History Center for the time period from 1881-1886. These church records were called clerical survey records or house examination rolls. By church law, ministers were required to keep rolls of all their parishioners from house to house and farm to farm on how well certain sections of the Catechism were known. This was done every year, and if you did not participate, you could be fined. If you didn't know the Catechism, you were deemed a social outcast. These records showed when and where they were born, who and when they married, when they died, where they came from, if from a different parish, if vaccinated, and where you moved if you left the parish. If you died or moved, your name was lined out.

#### Mary Elizabeth's Ancestors

In reviewing the clerical survey records for the time period 1851-1856 for the parish of Huggenäs in Värmland, all of Mary E's grandparents are named on her father's side of the family. Mary E's father was Nils Johannesson born on September 27, 1827, in Huggenäs parish in Värmland. Nils Johannesson's father was Johannes Oster Nilsson born on Feb. 13, 1796 in the parish of Ostra Uggelsater. Johannes's parents were Nils Torstensson and Kjerstin Andersdotter. Johannes had a brother Olof Nilsson born on May 10, 1799, also in Ostra Uggelsater. Olof was believed to have become a professional hat maker, extended his name to **Olof Nilsson Setterberg**, and traveled throughout central Sweden. Nils's grandfather was Nils Torstensson, the son of Torsten and Maria Nilsson. He was born on October 6, 1749, on the family farm in Ostra Uggelsater parish of Värmland. He married **Kjerstin Andersdotter**, the daughter of Anders and Maria Jansson on December 29, 1789, in Ostra Uggelsater. Kjerstin was born on December 3, 1756 on the family farm of Rud near the town of Botilsater in Värmland. They had four sons born in Ostra Uggelsater parish, the first two died at an early age: Anders born November 24, 1791, and died Feb 9, 1793; Anders born June 1, 1793, died March 25, 1794; Johannes born February 13, 1796, and Olof born May 10, 1799. Nils Torstensson died on May 29, 1804, followed by Kjerstin on March 24, 1807.

Nils Johannesson's mother was **Catharina Larsdotter** born on August 25, 1805, in the parish of Sädra Ny just a few miles east of Huggenäs. Catharina parents were **Lars Svensson** and **Maria Jansdotter**. Her parents were also from the parish of Södra Ny. Lars's father is Sven Tortensson, brother to Nils Tortensson.

Mary E's mother, **Maria Mathilda Setterberg**, was born on March 25, 1833, in the parish of Rok in Ostergotland province about 140 miles southwest of Stockholm. Maria Mathilda was from the village of Heda in the parish of Rok near the eastern shore of Lake Vänern. Her mother, **Anna Greta Jonsdotter**, was also born there. The name of their farm was called Norrgard. Maria Mathilda's father, **Olof Nilsson Setterberg** (brother of Johannes Oster Nilsson) was originally from Huggenäs and became a hat maker by trade in Linkoping. He married Anna Greta in 1827. They had three children. Their oldest daughter, **Carolina Wilhelmina ("Lilla Moster")** was born August 7, 1827, in the parish of Vadstena about a dozen miles north of Rok, **Maria Mathilda**, and a son **Johan Adolph** born in 1837 also in the parish of Rok. All locations sited are within a few miles of one another near the town of Odeshog. Carolina Wilhelmina will be shown to have played a most significant role in the immigration of her family members to America that will be examined in depth later.

Anna Greta's father was **Jonas Bengtsson** born on July 1, 1761, in the village of Heda and owned his farm free and clear. Her mother was **Maria Johansdotter** from the parish of Vastra Tollstad. The name of the farm she came from was Broby. They had two children, Anna Greta and a son Petter. Anna Greta moved from the farm in 1825 to Linkoping, the provincial capital of Ostergotland. There she met Olof Nilsson Setterberg and they married in 1827. On August 7, 1827, Carolina Wilhelmina was born. When Anna Greta returned to her family's farm with husband Olof and daughter Carolina, she learned her brother **Petter Jonsson** was dying from tuberculosis. It was determined from a death register that both her parents and brother Petter died from tuberculosis the following year. Following his death Petter's widow took her two sons and went back to her home parish and birthplace of Odeshog. Two years later the Setterberg's finally settle, are buried and where Carolina Wilhelmina and Maria Mathilda grew up.

Anna Greta's father's (Jonas Bengtsson) parents were **Bengt Jonsson** born in 1730 and **Marie Hansdotter**. They were married on November 4, 1750, in the parish of Rok. The Jonas Bengtsson's family ancestry can be traced through parish registers with the family staying in Heda for over 100 years. The earliest family record was the marriage of a hired man from Skanninge and a hired woman from Odeshog in 1712. The parish of Rok has a significant Viking history with a famous rune stone that the Vikings carved just outside its parish church.

#### Family Locations and Movements

Many of the locations on the Säffle peninsula in Värmland: Säffle, By, Södra Ny, Karlslund farm, Galtane farm, Tolerud farm, Botilsater, Eskilsater, all were significant to the Nelson family history. It was a common practice during that time period that several farms were owned by a single family and were leased/rented to other families for their operation and income, which may have been the case for Galtane, Karlslund and Tolerud farms which the Johannesson family occupied during the mid to late 1880's.

#### Galtane Farm

From church records it appears that after Johannes Nilsson and Catharina Larsdotter were married, they moved to the Galtane farm in the parish of Huggenäs in 1825. Johannes was born in the parish of Ostra Uggelsater, which was just a couple of miles down the road and across from the Galtane farm. From 1825 to 1860, some 35 years, they farmed the cleared land growing wheat and raising livestock. During that time period they raised a family of three sons and three daughters: the eldest was Nils (September 27, 1827); Stina Maria (November 17, 1832); Anders Fredrik (July 1, 1836); Sara Cajsa (July 23, 1840); Lovisa (August 2, 1844); and Johan Gustaf (April 26, 1853). Catharina was 48 years old when her last child, Johan Gustaf, was born. In addition, they were several hired men and women that helped with the farming and chores. Nils's youngest brother Johan Gustaf and sister Lovisa were baptized in the parish of By near the town of Säffle. It is believed that the Johannesson family went to the church at By because of these recorded baptisms and the fact that the parish church in Huggenäs was closed and sold in 1842. The Huggenäs church would become an elementary school (1842-1966) in the Huggenäs area in which several members of the Nilsson family attended. In 1972 another church was built in place of the school and the cemetery reopened.

Life on the Galtane farm in the 1860's was a bit hectic as Nilsson family members began to move out and about. Many who married during this period moved to other parishes according to church records dating from 1861 thru 1870. On June 9, 1861 **Nils "Johannesson"** married **Maria Mathilda Setterberg** and church records revealed that Nils had ownership of the Galtane farm at that time. Earlier his sister Stina Maria "Johannesdotter" married Daniel Johannesson (no relation) on January 6, 1860, and moved to the village of Eskilsater near the tip of the Säffle peninsula. Sara Cajsa "Johannesdotter" married Olof Erickson on April 22, 1862, and they moved to the town of Botilsater midway down the peninsula. Anders Fredrik "Johannesson" married and moved to the parish of By on May 6, 1863, a couple of miles south of the village of Säffle.

Another reason for family movement from the Galtane farm was to make room for Nils's growing family with the birth of **Amanda Christina** on July 7, 1861. Next to arrive was a son **Johan Adel** born on March 17, 1864 followed by **Anders Gustaf** on November 29, 1866. In addition, during this time period of 1860 through 1872, Nils Henrick Olsson, wife and family of three daughters and two sons moved to the Galtane farm as renters. Nils owned the farm in 1861 when Amanda was born; however, when Johan Adel was born in 1864 he was identified as a tenant farmer. Then two years later when Anders Gustaf was born, he was a farm owner again according to church records during the time period.

#### **Tolerud Farm**

In 1863 Nils's father Johannes, mother Catharina and his younger sister Lovisa and brother Johan Gustaf move out of Galtane and down the road a few miles to a smaller farm called Sodra (South) Tolerud. Across the road from their farm as a large estate called Tolerud. While at the Sodra Tolerud farm for a five to six year time period, several events took place. On July 8, 1864, Nil's mother Catharina passed away. The next year in 1865 Stina Maria, her husband Daniel and their five kids moved to the farm. In 1867 Johannes and son Johan Gustaf returned to Galtane where Nils and family are tenants again. While at Tolerud Nils's youngest sister Lovisa "Johannesdotter" married Alfred Johannesson (no relation) in 1870 and moved to the village of Eskilsater where sister Stina Maria had previously lived. Stina Maria and family stayed on at Sodra Tolerud and continued to operate the farm.

Back at Galtane the Nils Johannesson family continued to grow with the arrival of **Axel** born on January 23, 1869, to join his grandfather Johannes, uncle Johan Gustaf and the rest of the Olsson family of seven. On September 1,1870, Nils Henrick Olsson's wife passed away.

#### Karlslund Farm

In 1872 church records show that Nils and his family along with his father Johannes and brother Johan Gustaf moved from Galtane farm where he was a tenant to the Karlslund farm, an estate, just up the road only couple of miles away. Nils became the land proprietor or squire of the farm. The Karlslund farm as shown on earlier maps of Värmland was also known as the Svinstad farm where svin means pig in Swedish. It may have previously been a commercial pig farm. In the fall of 1872 Nils's brother Anders Fredrik and family moved back from the parish of By to live at Karlslund. During their stay at the Karlslund farm, the Johannesson family continued to grow with the additions of **Anna Katrina** born on July 27, 1873, and **Maria Elizabeth (Mary E)** born on May 24, 1876. The last child born into the family was **Jonathan** born on January 7, 1879, who lived only eight days dying on January 15. In the early 1880's, Nils lost the title to the Karlslund farm but stayed on again as a tenant.

During this time period of the 1880's, Nils's eldest daughter Amanda Christina "Nilsdotter" moved out of Karlslund at the age of 24. She boarded a ship in Goteborg on June 12, 1885, and immigrated to America to live with her aunt, Carolina Wilhelmina (Setterberg) Johnson Anderson, who had settled in Richwood Township of Becker County Minnesota. In 1887 Nils's father Johannes passed away at the age of 91 years followed on December 6 of same year by his son Johan Adel who died at the age of 23 from epilepsy. On January 14, 1888, Axel "Nilsson" left Karlslund to join his sister and aunt in Minnesota. Later in October 9, 1888, Nils and family left the Karlslund farm and moved back to Galtane and lived as renters with the Olsson family. Then on April 5, 1889, Anders Gustaf (Gust) left Galtane for America to join Axel and Amanda. Finally, a year and half later on September 11, 1890, Nils and the remaining members of his family: Maria Mathilda, Anna Katrina and Maria Elizabeth (Mary E) left the Galtane farm for America, destination: Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

#### Carolina Wilhelmina Setterberg "Lilla Moster"

Carolina Wilhelmina Setterberg left Sweden to come to America on October 28, 1868, at 40 years of age. She didn't marry until she came to America; however, in the Göteborg Church records there is a cross marked next to her name, which indicates a child that died. She had a daughter, **Clara Gustava**, who lived a month. She was born in April and died on May 12, 1860. On the death certificate the father was identified as A. C. Norberg, a bookkeeper in Göteborg. Except for a few years in Karlstad, Sweden, Carolina lived almost a dozen years in Göteborg, Sweden. Little is known of Carolina's where abouts or activities during her initial years in America and Minnesota from 1868 when she arrived through 1873. On November 3, 1875, Carolina Wilhelmina Setterberg is documented as being married to **Charles Johnson** in Duluth, Minnesota. Her name is then found recorded in 1876 as a church member in good standing in official documents at the Upsala Lutheran Church in Richwood Township, Minnesota. In the 1880 United States census for Minnesota, her name was shown to be **Caroline Johnson**. Following the death of her first husband, Carolina Wilhelmina (Setterberg) Johnson married a second husband, **Andrew Anderson**. The marriage was recorded in Becker County, Minnesota, and took place on January 18, 1881.

In the 1885 Minnesota census she was identified as Caroline W. Anderson, widow of Andrew Anderson. Andrew Anderson was a Civil War Veteran who was discharged on July 8, 1862, after 9 months of service. They lived on a small farm in Richwood Township, Becker County, Minnesota. Andrew Anderson died in 1884 leaving Caroline alone on the farm. In 1885, Amanda Christina Johannesson/Nelson (Amanda Nilsdotter) americanized to Amanda Nelson joined Caroline on the farm. In 1888 Amanda's brother, Axel Nilsson, americanized to Axel Nelson arrived at the farm followed by brother, Anders Gustaf Nilsson, americanized to Gust Nelson in 1889. Then in 1890, the rest of the Johannesson family: Nils (Nels), Maria, Anna (Anne), and Maria (Mary E) all joined Caroline on the farm. Caroline Anderson's farm was the final destination of the entire Johannesson family's immigration to America. While at this farm Amanda Christina married Andrew Nelson (Anders Nilsson) in late 1885. They had their first child Gustaf Adolph in 1886, Albin in 1890, and Hilda in 1893. After the third child was born, the family of Andrew and Amanda Christina Nelson left the farm and moved into Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, buying a house near the railroad depot. They would later purchase a farm in Richwood Township of Becker County, Minnesota. Mary Elizabeth would leave the farm in 1895 when she married Nels Christian Nelson. Anne, Axel and Gust Nelson stayed on the original Anderson farm to operate it with Caroline. The family affectionately knew Caroline as "Lilla Moster" or "the dear Auntie".

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A copy of the 1866 Huggenäs parish birth records for Värmland, Sweden, listing the Johannesson family and their servants. Listed (top six entries are: Nils Johannesson (married) (born September 27, 1827), wife Marie Mathilda Setterberg (born March 25, 1833), daughter Amanda Christina (born July 7, 1861), son Johan Adel (born March 17, 1864), son Anders Gustaf (born November 29, 1866), and son Axel (born January 23, 1869). Servants with a line through their name suggests that they were on this farm at one time but were no longer residents on the farm at the time the records were recorded.

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A copy of the 1870 census for Värmland, Sweden, that lists the members of the Nils Johannesson family and their servants. From top down in Bracketed area are: Nil's father, Johannes Oster Nilsson (widower) (born 1796), Nil's younger brother Johann Gustav (born 1853), Nils Johannesson (married) (born 1827), Maria Mathilda Setterberg (wife) (born 1833), Amanda Christina (daughter) (born 1861), Johan Adel (son) (born 1864), Anders Gustaf (son) (born 1866), and Axel (son) (1869). A hired hand and a servant girl also are recorded as living with the Johannesson family.

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A copy of the 1881 Huggenäs parish birth records for Värmland, Sweden, showing the entire Johannesson family. Listed from top to bottom are: Nils Johannesson (married) (born September 27, 1827), Maria Mathilda Setterberg (wife) (born March 25, 1833), Amanda Christina (daughter) (born July 7, 1861), Johan Adel (son) (born March 17, 1864), Anders Gustaf (son) (born November 29, 1866), Axel (son) (born January 23, 1869), Anna Katarina (daughter) (born July 27, 1873), Maria Elizabeth (daughter) (born May 24, 1876), and Jonathan (son) (born January 7, 1879 - died January 15, 1879). Note the lines through Jonathan's name indicating death. Note also the birth date of Maria Elizabeth (Mary E.) listed as May 24, 1876. This date is different from that recorded on her grave marker which is May 28, 1878.

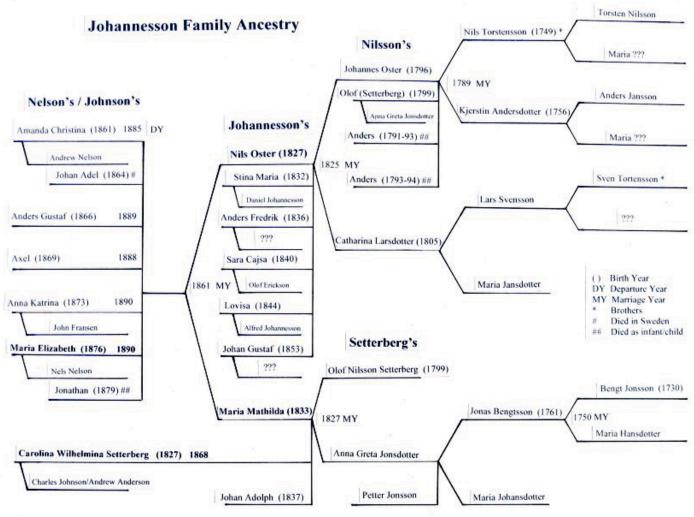
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The 1886 Huggenäs parish birth records for Värmland, Sweden, indicate that all nine members of the Johannesson family no longer live and work the Karlslund farm. The line through the name indicates that these individuals are no longer residents of the Karlslund farm.

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A copy of the Huggenäs parish records for Värmland, Sweden, showing the members of the Johannesson family that left for America from the Galtane farm and the departure dates. Note in particular that the names of the children of Nils Johannesson and Maria Mathilda Setterberg followed Swedish tradition of the time. Son, Anders Gustaf, has the surname Nilsson; and daughters, Anna Katrina and Maria Elizabeth, have the surname Nilsdotter. After arriving in America the surname of the sons would be Nelson (Nilsson) following Swedish tradition. The daughters also chose to use the surname Nelson (Nilsson) which was in contrast to both Swedish and American tradition in which case the surname would have been Nilsdotter or Johnson (Johannesson). Perhaps the most surprising name change with regard to this family was that of Nils Johannesson's wife (Maria Mathilda (Setterberg) Johannesson) who also adopted the surname Nelson after arriving in the United States.

1.10



A family time line created by Dennis Lyle Krause showing individuals comprising the family tree and their relationships prior to the Nils Johannesson's family immigration to America.

### Homesteading

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Most settlers came to Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana for free or inexpensive land and a chance to farm. Settlers either bought their land from the railroad or homesteaded federal land. Each of the plains states was subdivided into counties, counties into townships (36 square miles), and each township into sections (one mile square or 640 acres). Homesteading usually involved living on and improving 160 acres of land (a quarter section) for a number of years, after which the settlers got the land for free. Most new settlers grew wheat. Following the free Homestead Act signed into law by president Lincoln on January 1, 1863, settlers flooded into the northern Great Plains. Under this law, any man or woman 21 years old or the head of a family could have 160 acres of undeveloped land by living on it five years and paying 18 dollars in fees. In addition to living on the land, they were also required to farm and make improvements before they could own it outright. The law required that they build a house, measuring at least 10 by 12 feet, and have at least 10 acres under cultivation. Alternatively, a homesteader could purchase land for \$1.25 an acre after living on it for 6 months. Homesteaders first had to file their intentions at the nearest land office and after a check for any ownership claims, paid a filing fee of 10 dollars to claim the land temporarily. When all the requirements were met and the homesteader was ready to take legal possession of the land, two neighbors or friends, willing to vouch for the truth of the statements regarding land improvement, signed a proof document. After signing the final form and paying a 6-dollar fee, the homesteader received the patent for the land signed with the name of the current United States President of the time. They could obtain an additional 160 acres of land by planting and maintaining trees on the prairie. The first wave of settlers occurred between 1879 and 1886 when over 100,000 settlers entered the Northern Dakota Territory alone. The second wave of settlers occurred between 1898 and 1915 when over 250,000 settlers entered North Dakota. The vast majority of the second wave came on the railroad (Northern Pacific or Great Northern) into both North Dakota and Montana. The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 greatly affected the settlement of Montana. This Act, signed by William Taft, expanded the land allotment from 160 acres to 320 acres, reduced the time necessary to hold the claim from five to three years, and permitted a five month absence from the claim each year. This Act provided 320 acres to farmers who accepted more marginal lands that could not be easily irrigated. The development of the Montana Hi-Line region of Montana can trace its roots back to the Great Northern Railway. The Montana Hi-Line refers to the northern part of Montana that is adjacent to US Highway 2 - or about the 100 miles of Montana that lies south of the Canadian border. US Highway 2 closely parallels the route of The Great Northern Railroad which was developed first. While some settlement of this region of Montana did occur prior to the arrival of the railroad, most of this region lay virtually undeveloped until after 1887. The railroad reached an area referred to as Siding #45, on July 23, 1887, the future site of Glasgow, Montana. The Great Northern was a land grant railroad and owned a 50 mile right-of-way through North Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington and coupled with the homestead act was a plan to encourage settlement of these states. The plan worked because between 1910 and 1920 the population of Montana alone increased by 175,000. Tampico, Montana came into existence around 1904, when a store and a post office were built at this location. The remains of Tampico, now a ghost town, still exist located 12 miles northwest of Glasgow, Montana, on the tracks.



A 1909 advertisement placed in a St. Paul, Minnesota newspaper that was aimed at potential settlers from Minnesota to attract them to the West. Note that in this instance land was being sold by the Great Northern Railroad from \$1.25 to \$7.00 an acre. Source of article unknown.