

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Nels J Nelson

Born: June 02, 1870 in: Viroqua, Vernon Cty, Wisconsin
 Married: November 27, 1896 in: Shelley,MN
 Died: September 17, 1957 in: Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
 Father: Jens Nelson Bakke aka John Nelson
 Mother: Johanna Sofia Sigbjornson

Wife: Bertina Olava Carlson

Born: November 18, 1875 in: Shelley,MN
 Died: October 11, 1946 in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
 Father: Edward Johan Carlson
 Mother: Bertha Marie Hovland

CHILDREN

1	Name: Birdie Melvina Nelson Born: October 31, 1912 Died: November 05, 2001 Married: March 24, 1932 Spouse: William Conrad Hanson	in: Scambler Twnshp, MN, USA in: Hawley, MN in: Hawley, Mn
F		
2	Name: Selma Charlotte Nelson Born: June 14, 1898 Died: March 14, 1947 Married: Spouse: Harry Serflaten	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Mpls.,MN
F		
3	Name: Edwin Benney Nelson Born: August 09, 1899 Died: March 1968 Married: January 12, 1935 Spouse: Violet Gunderson	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Hawley, Mn
M		
4	Name: John Stanley Nelson Born: September 26, 1900 Died: October 15, 1969	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Fargo, ND
M		
5	Name: Neil Byron Nelson Born: March 30, 1902 Died: May 28, 1983 Married: December 04, 1939 Spouse: Edna Josephine Ness	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Pelican Rapids, Minnesota in: Pelican Rapids,MN
M		
6	Name: Tayler Lincoln Nelson Born: March 10, 1904 Died: April 24, 1980 Married: January 16, 1938 Spouse: Irene A. Wegge	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Moorhead, MN
M		
7	Name: Samual Manley Nelson Born: April 09, 1906 Died: August 11, 1967 Married: May 25, 1934 Spouse: Lorena Aina Mathilda Williams	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Pelican Rapids, Minnesota in: Cologne, MN
M		
8	Name: Julia Sophia Nelson Born: February 20, 1908 Died: September 06, 1954 Married: 1930 Spouse: Theodore Thompson	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Hawley, MN in: Hawley, MN
F		
9	Name: Walter Ingman Nelson Born: July 07, 1910 Died: April 07, 1993 Married: January 20, 1941 Spouse: Jeanette Harriet Ness	in: ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN in: Pelican Rapids, Minnesota in: Pelican Rapids,MN
M		
10	Name: Betsy Nelson	

Family Group Sheet

10	Born: September 26, 1900
F	Died: September 26, 1900

Family Group Sheet

Husband:	Nels J Nelson
Born:	June 02, 1870
in:	Viroqua, Vernon Cty, Wisconsin
Died:	September 17, 1957
in:	Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Relationship with Father:	Jens Nelson Bakke aka John Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Johanna Sofia Sigbjornson - Natural
Burial:	1957 Lake Ida Cem., Cormorant MN
Migrated:	1871 From Wisconsin
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

Nels migrated from Wisconsin when he was one year old.

Nels was the oldest child and the only male child. This was the influencing fact of his life.

Nels was a good provider for his large family. He put all of those boys to work; raising dairy cattle, sheep, pigs and the crops to feed them, plus a cash crop.

He acquired an extra two hundred forty acres around the home acres. He helped set his sons up with farms.

Nels took part in community structure served on the township board for many years.

He served on the school board and the various offices of the church.

He was well respected in the neighborhood, township and county.

Nels was taciturn much of the time in the family settings. However, his word was law when spoken and no one challenged it.

However, when grand children arrived, he was warm and thoughtful. How many lemon drops, shoes, etc. did he buy?

How often did he measure a child's foot with his hand when he was going to town on his weekly marketing trip, and return with a much needed

pair of shoes for the grandchild? How many waltzes did he share with grand children around the kitchen on a long winter

evening? How many children did he entertain by tying paper to a kitten's feet to watch it unable to walk without the sense

of touch? His chair in the corner of the kitchen beside the wood box and the stove was a favorite spot to share the funnies and a shaved chunk of spic a chut(dried beef from an upstairs closet.) His desk was in the form of shelves

above his chair. The Pelican Press and The Fergus Falls Journal were stacked in a neat pile in his collecting box. It was the

corner where he enjoyed a pipe of tobacco. It was a grandchild's joy to snuggle up and share the spot with him.

Nels and a neighbor owned a threshing machine and steam engine that sent them around the neighborhoods threshing grain.

It was a job that took them away from home for many weeks in the fall seasons. The farmers stacked the bundles of grain

while awaiting their arrival. The women spoke of the loneliness and the work to be done when they were away.

When the threshing crew ARRIVED at someone's place that was an entirely different story. Oh, the excitement!

Rooms for

the crew had to be arranged because they were often too far from home to return every night. The meals that had to be

cooked for the crew and the neighbors who came to help! The cooks were rated on their meals, in size and taste.

The neighbor girls were often asked to help, as well. It meant extra experience, some money and perhaps a new beau.

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There was strict routine adhered to by Nels' household. Old Ben Franklin would have been proud. The day started at five A.M. or

with the cattle and stock being fed, then breakfast at about 6 A.M., then the rest of the milking, etc. The day's work then began.

It was interrupted by forenoon lunch for those who wished, a large noon meal, a large afternoon lunch. The evening chores began

about five P.M. followed by a light supper. The day wound down at 9 P.M. sharp. It was bedtime for the hardworking household.

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Bertina Olava Carlson
Married:	November 27, 1896
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Shelley,MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Wife:	Bertina Olava Carlson
Born:	November 18, 1875
in:	Shelley, MN
Died:	October 11, 1946
in:	ScamblerTwnsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Relationship with Father:	Edward Johan Carlson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertha Marie Hovland - Natural
Burial:	1946 Lake Ida Cem., Cormorant MN
Address and Phone(s)	
Medical	

Notes

Bertina was born a twin to Thedora Carlson in Shelley, Minnesota.

She met Nels, whom she later married when he tended her parents' farm while they were away. This was while they were living in Cormorant Township just south of Cormorant Church. They later moved back to the Shelley, MN area. Nels must have kept them in mind.

Bertina must have been a good organizer and provider. She was able to acquire nice things for her farm home. She raised her own turkeys that roamed about the yards, laying their eggs and hatching them in little houses strategically placed around the house. The chicken egg sales may have been hers, as well, as it often was on the farm homes.

She was love personified to her grand children. It was great to stay at her house, watch her make lefse, wander about with her turkeys, help her wash clothes when the smelly Maytag engine got started "put, putting" away, get to comb her soft hair with a rat tailed comb to the point where it had to be cut because it too ratted and the comb was entangled. How many ways did she help her children? A high light was the summer time, when oldest daughter Selma came with her daughter, Joyce. They always brought the funnies from the Mpls. papers that they had collected for months. The farm cousins eagerly read them.

Bertina shared with those in need. She was an active member of the Lake Ida Church and the Ladies Aid. It was a special event when the church suppers were held. Then the heritage dishes came to the foreground. It was time for lutefisk and lefse, potatoes and pies. There was always an auction sale of the ladies handiwork. How proud a member was when her dishtowel set brought in a record amount of money. The quilts that were auctioned were "to die for" for their special work, design, and the teamwork of the ladies ot either tieing or stitching the quilt. Many were wool lined using the "carded" wool from the sheep of the farm. Crocheted and knitted items brought finery to the farm homes and to some urban homes of those who visited to buy and enjoy the special church night. It was a community affair to remember.

Bertina took an active interest in all that was involved on the farm and its business but leaving it in the able hands of her husband, Nels. She was a helpful partner to her husband, Nels. They built a house with a large kitchen with three adjoining rooms; pantry, bedroom, laundry. The upstairs had one large bedroom with two smaller ones adjoining it to the east. Later they added a large dining room and living (Front) room. This allowed for three more bedrooms upstairs. With the large family, all of that room was needed. They also added a veranda upstairs and a porch/entry downstairs. The house was heated with a kitchen stove and space heaters downstairs. Floor vents allowed the heat upstairs. They lit the house with gas lamps. They had basement under the kitchen that was concreted. This held the supply of food and canned goods and other storage. There was a root cellar under the dining room, though not used much.

The old summer kitchen behind the house was a great storage place for old, out moded things and a wondrous

Family Group Sheet

place for grandchildren to explore. A deep hole was dug that was near the water level of the lake behind the house.

Family Group Sheet

This was always cool to keep the cream, butter(homemade), and some milk for the house.

The outhouse was built in another direction. The path led past the wood pile, however, where snakes made their home.

It was a cautious walk made only when necessary.

Across the road were other adventurous destinations. There was the garage for the Model T car, the granary with storage of grain and a scale to prove that you had grown in too many directions, the chicken house, where hens pecked at you when you searched for their eggs, the pig pen with its smelly occupants, and the wondrous barn. The barn held the cows that gave warm milk that you could get if you brought your own cup, the awesome bull, the cute

calves and the darling kittens. The other side housed the horses. Be careful as you walked behind them. Uncle Walter had a special pet horse, Sandy, that would do tricks for him. They made a awesome pair with a special relationship. The sheep fold was to the west of the barn. Sheep and their amusing little lambs went to the sheep pasture in the summer time. Young stock and other cattle went to a different pasture for the summers. One of the activities of grandchildren was to go get the cows from the pasture for the nightly milking. Such adventures; as you skipped to and fro along the paths and mounds trying to avoid the cow patties. The cows were usually amiable about coming, especially, if they knew that there might be some feed awaiting them in their stanchions. Then came the tedious task of milking them. Only the owner took a lot of interest in this task, noting the amount and richness of the milk.

Bertina served a large breakfast , a forenoon lunch for those who wished, a large noon meal ,a large afternoon lunch

for all, and a simple small meal in the evening. Special memories include those of cream and bread for lunch or for the evening meal. Homemade hot from the oven bread with butter and brown sugar was a hit. Lefse with butter and sugar

was quite ordinary. Some lefse that had been made on the stove that was too cool or with the wrong potatoes could be tough.

It could be a chewing challenge. Soften it with some cream or milk with sugar though and it went down quite well. Seasoned hams and beef were another favorite. The drying place was in an upstairs closet for the end of its curing. Sharing slices with grandparents promotes special memories.

It was a busy household with many seasonal tasks. Bertina held it all together.

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Birdie Melvina Nelson
Born:	October 31, 1912
in:	Scambler Twnshp, MN, USA
Died:	November 05, 2001
in:	Hawley, MN
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural
Burial:	November 08, 2001 Park Church Cem.
Degree:	Quilter, crocheting, knitter, Rosie, riveter in airplane factory
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

Birdie enjoyed the placement as youngest of her family. She was the tomboy of the family. Her life reflected it. She enjoyed outdoor activities, so being a farm wife was not all bad. Living through the Great Depression was a challenge, but she was never one to shrink from any challenge. Such a personality took her and her family to new horizons. Portland, OR gave her an opportunity for work outside the home. She became the original "Rosie the Riveter". She enjoyed the work and the first money of her adult life. Returning to MN was not to her wishes but she made the best of it. A new and permanent home awaited her. She retained hold on it the rest of her life.

Birdie's grief in life was the genetic RH Factor which left her with two children of six, her first and her last. How different her life might have been had this not affected it.

She enjoyed gardening, crocheting, knitting, crosswords, and her home. She was the last surviving sibling and was enjoyed by all of the next generations. Anyone coming into the family had to pass her acceptance tests---be down to earth.

In spite of hardships, she was always an optimist.

She was on hand to help all of her siblings, one way or another.

She was a strict disciplinarian to all children. They respected and loved her for it. She was known for her excellent lefse. It is her legacy. A recipe is offered elsewhere in this book. It is the art of using the recipe makes the difference. She knew! Her pickles, apple pies, doughnuts (for Bill), and any other thing that she set her mind to were memorable. Her many crocheted items from holders of various types to tablecloths are keepsake items for her offspring.

Marriage Information	
Husband:	William Conrad Hanson
Married:	March 24, 1932
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Hawley, Mn

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Selma Charlotte Nelson
Born:	June 14, 1898
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	March 14, 1947
in:	Mpls.,MN
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural

Address and Phone(s)	
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Medical

Cause of death: Heart attack

Notes

Selma lived in Minneapolis with her family; husband Harry and daughters Ruth and Joyce.

Selma brought her daughters home to the farm every summer for a few weeks.

Selma had a lovely home on Upton Ave. in Minneapolis.

She died of a heart attack while running to catch a bus. She was just 48 years.

The death of daughter, Ruth, was a hurt that she endured until her own death.

Marriage Information	
Husband:	Harry Serflaten
Beginning status:	Married

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Edwin Benney Nelson
Born:	August 09, 1899
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	March 1968
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural

Burial:	1968 Lake Ida Cem., Cormorant MN
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Address and Phone(s)	
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Medical

Notes

Edwin was the eldest son. He was the owner of a large farm west of Nels and Bertina in Clay County. The farm was near enough to share work and machinery during some seasons of the year.

Edwin was sociable and affable. Nieces remember him as long suffering and fun to be around. Barbara and Wanda (Walter's) tell of joining him in the silo during silo filling time. He allowed them to tramp about without chasing them away.

Edwin ran for county commissioner of Clay County. He enjoyed being part of the neighborhood. He was a handsome man with a hearty laugh. He was charming to all.

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Violet Gunderson
Married:	January 12, 1935
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Hawley, Mn

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	John Stanley Nelson
Born:	September 26, 1900
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	October 15, 1969
in:	Fargo, ND
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural
Burial:	Lake Ida Cemetary, Cormorant, MN
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

John was adored by sisters and enjoyed by their children. He was respected by his brothers. He spent many years farming adjoining acres to his father. He enjoyed his bachelor status.

When he left the farm he joined Stenerson Lumber Co. of Moorhead. He soon became the yard boss and worked in happy relationship with them for many years.

He spent his last months of life with sister, Birdie.

He remained outside family spats, thus keeping his position as favorite and respected sibling.

Marriage Information	
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Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Neil Byron Nelson
Born:	March 30, 1902
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	May 28, 1983
in:	Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural
Burial:	1983 Ringsaker Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

Neil attended Park Region College in Fergus Falls. He graduated from Moorhead Normal School.

He was a school teacher for several rural schools in the area.

He retained an interest in education long after he went on to other occupations. He took an interest in many areas that were helpful to his family. He taught Sunday School at the Lutheran Church in Pelican Rapids.

He was a Boy Scout Leader in his community.

He invested in a bulldozer and went into business for himself; doing construction work for road construction companies, farmers, etc. He also was a salesperson; selling insurance and selling nursery stock.

Many of the evergreens, apple trees and roses are living beyond him.

His large family is the greatest testimony to his life. They are solid citizens; career truckers, career servicemen, nurses, plumbers, mailmen, mechanics, secretaries, and building management among their life choices.

Neil was a "can do" type of personality. He was capable in many areas. He always took an interest in the nieces and nephews. His hearty laugh and amiable personality are well remembered. He a vocal politician, leaving no question on his views.

He and his family were always favorite guests. What a riot! What a delight to have them share the children with cousins.

Neil died of a stroke at the Pelican Valley Hospital, Pelican Rapids, MN 1983.

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Edna Josephine Ness
Married:	December 04, 1939
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Pelican Rapids, MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Tayler Lincoln Nelson
Born:	March 10, 1904
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	April 24, 1980
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural
Burial:	Lake Ida Cemetary, Cormorant, MN
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

Tyler owned an eighty acre plot of land but did not farm. He retired to it late in life

*He was a true child of the twenties and thirties. He was generous in sharing his home .
He worked at Armour's Meat Packing in West Fargo until retirement.*

*IreneWegge was the love of his life. Their home in Moorhead was a stop for country relatives
on their way into the city. Later they built a home on the eastern edge of Moorhead on 18th Street.*

*Irene was a seamstress. She worked at the St. John's Hospital. She also sewed for others. She
made some special dresses for nieces entering the first grade and later.*

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Irene A. Wegge
Married:	January 16, 1938
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Moorhead, MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Samual Manley Nelson
Born:	April 09, 1906
in:	ScamblerTwensp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	August 11, 1967
in:	Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural

Address and Phone(s)	
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Medical

Notes

Manly was a fun uncle. He taught finger plays and rhymes to little people to occupy them and have fun.

He was a steadfast and determined individual. He farmed south of his home place. Dairy and beef cattle and sheep were his main business. He made a living on land that was marginal, raising three children.

They provided a home for his father, Nels, in the last years of his life.

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Lorena Aina Mathilda Williams
Married:	May 25, 1934
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Cologne, MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Julia Sophia Nelson
Born:	February 20, 1908
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	September 06, 1954
in:	Hawley, MN
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural

Address and Phone(s)	
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Medical

Notes

Julia is remembered fondly. She could tease and love at the same time. She was a diligent sister, helpful and honest. She enjoyed her siblings and her own family. Her untimely death was a loss to all friends and family.

She and her sister, Birdie, were very close. Julia was a hardworking wife and mother. She took her responsibilities very seriously.

Marriage Information	
Husband:	Theodore Thompson
Married:	1930
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Hawley, MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Walter Ingman Nelson
Born:	July 07, 1910
in:	ScamblerTwmsp. Pelican Rapids, MN
Died:	April 07, 1993
in:	Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural
Burial:	Lake Ida Ce., Cormorant, MN
Address and Phone(s)	

Medical

Notes

Walter's family placement affected his life. As youngest son he was allowed to purchase the home farm. If WWII had not been in full swing and the draft was grabbing all available young men, his life might have been far different. He and his family had been working and living in Portland, OR making war supplies. However, when the draft was calling the older men with children, coming home to the farm was a relief to all. Nels and Bertina were happy to have someone there to take over. He became an enterprising farmer and a credit to his father. He became integral part of the community, as well.

Walter was the young dandy of the family. He received a dollar a week as allowance while he was home, before marrying Jeanette. He also got to use the family car, the Model T Ford!!!! Walter was a tease to all of his nieces and nephews. His demeanor masked a soft and loving and caring person to those he loved.

Marriage Information	
Wife:	Jeanette Harriet Ness
Married:	January 20, 1941
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Pelican Rapids, MN

Marriage Notes

Family Group Sheet

Child:	Betsy Nelson
Born:	September 26, 1900
Died:	September 26, 1900
Relationship with Father:	Nels J Nelson - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Bertina Olava Carlson - Natural

Address and Phone(s)	
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Medical

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Marriage Information	
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Marriage Notes