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Nelson, Nels (1860 - 1936)

Melba Peterson

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NELSON, NELS

FILE NO. B-954

Nels Nelson was born in Skane, Sweden in 1860. At the age of six, his mother died. At eight he had to leave home and has been self-supporting since. He came to America July 8, 1868, at the age of sixteen. The journey had taken eight weeks. He came to America with his father and brother, John.

They arrived in St. Paul where Nels secured a grubbing job. This was in July, 1871. In the fall of 1871, he walked to Litchfield Minnesota where he purchased a yoke of oxen and drove to Lake Johanna. Here his father had previously taken squatters rights. They built a sod hut on this land which was the nucleus of 800 acres, gradually acquired in later years.

The first stack of wheat (and there was only one) was threshed with a flail. Nels and his brother, John, owned the first threshing machine in the community. It was a crude horse power affair which was considered quite wonderful.

Nels remained with his father until after his marriage on December 1, 1878, to Marin Hanson. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Regua. Marin (Hanson) Nelson was born in Telemarken, Norway.

After their marriage, they took squatter's rights on a quarter section of land near his father's. Afterward Nels homesteaded this land.

In 1876 and 1877, grasshopper hordes wiped out the limited crops upon which the settlers depended. Nels had to get work elsewhere to keep the wolf from the door. He went to Iowa. The trip was made with team and covered wagon, together with Ole and Charlie Kittleson and

Gundel Erickson. They worked all summer to make enough money so they could return home in the fall.

Nels and Marin (Hansen) Nelson had four children: Hans and Louis, who are dead; N. R. Nelson and Mrs. J. B. Wall of Brooten.

Nels Nelson died in 1936.

Copied from Brooten Review of 1936

Copied by Melba Peterson

TAKEN FROM COURT RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FOR THE NELS NELSON BIOGRAPHY

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DEATH RECORD, BOOK 3, Page 19, Line 535

Nels F. Nelson born March 15, 1860
Son of Thor Nelson Strande and Sigrid Festera
Died March 30, 1936
Age: 76 years, 15 days

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NO CENSUS RECORDS IN STEARNS COUNTY COURTHOUSE