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Nelson, Nels (1864 -)

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NELSON, NELS

File No. B-952

Nels Nelson was born in Stockholm, Sweden November 7, 1864, son of Nels and Mary Waleen.

Nels received his education in the grade schools of Stockholm and at the age of eighteen, joined the standing army. He remained in service for several years and then received a discharge so he could go to America. In 1886 Nels left Sweden and came to America, directly to St. Cloud Stearns County. After arriving in St. Cloud Nels looked for employment and was rewarded by becoming manager of N. P. Clark's farm north of the city of St. Cloud. He managed this farm successfully for nine years and at the termination of that period the farm was sold so Nels entered the granite industry. He began by cutting and quarrying stone and incidentally was one of the men employed to cut the granite for the piers of the present St. Germain Street Bridge.

For twenty-five years Nels worked in the granite industry serving as foreman of various shops in this city.

Nels Nelson married Mary Larson at Monticello, Minnesota on March 31, 1895.

Mary (Larson) Nelson was born at Silver Creek, Minnesota in May, 1876 daughter of Benke and Mary Larson. Her life previous to her marriage was spent at home with her parents.

Benke and Mary Larson were natives of Vermland, Sweden and came to America at the period of the last part of the Civil War. They were early settlers of Wright County Minnesota and are duly recorded in the history of that county.

To Nels and Mary (Larson) Nelson were born eight children, two deceased, the living are Helen (Larson) Carlson, Mrs. John Nelson,

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Norris Nelson, La Verne Nelson, Verlin Nelson and Leone (Nelson) Patke. There are seven grandchildren.

Nels Nelson is another of the pioneers who opened the way for the granite industry, St. Cloud's greatest and most profitable business. He remembers when the east side of this city was without streets or avenues. There were very few buildings and these were either saloons or hotels or both combined. If one purchased a lot for building he usually had to clear off timber and make a road into it to secure his lumber. Looking at the same portion of the city today we can see quite a contrast.

Interviewed: Nels Nelson
Date: January 13, 1937
By: Dean Nelson

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE NELS NELSON BIOGRAPHY

NOLEGAL RECORD IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE. LIVED IN BENTON
COUNTY.