

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF
TORGER AND ELIE NELSEN

Several have asked about the family history Aunt Nora had started but was unable to finish. The following contains the statistics she had gathered. We have tried to make corrections, to organize, to add material, and to rewrite a part of the information. There may be errors, and changes needed to bring it up to date, but each family will have to add their corrections and additions. We would like to have made copies for the next generation but that is impossible. We hope that each family will share this history, and make additional copies if desired.

Gladys Harris
Ruth Hanson

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53226

Torger Nelsen and Elie Johnson left their beloved homeland in 1861 and 1863, he alone, and she with her family. How difficult it must have been to leave family and friends, knowing full well that they would probably never return to see the majestic mountains, the lovely valleys, the fjords and the beautiful Lake Mjosa near by. Their ambition to better themselves economically, and the tales that came back to Norway telling of the boundless acres of fertile farm land to be had, spurred them on to make the courageous and drastic step to seek a new home.

From the Brottum parish in Ringsaker, Norway, came many families to settle in the Dakota Territory, many seeking the same area in order to be near old friends. A visit to the cemetery in Brottum revealed names such as Bruget, Halla, Freng, Sveum, all familiar names in the Vangen Congregation at Mission Hill, S. D.

The first years were difficult. A sod house provided a shelter until a new and very comfortable home was built. That, unfortunately, burned to the ground in 1899. The building of a new and very large home was begun immediately. This was quite a show place in its day, and adequately housed the large family of eleven children.

During the first years there were many frightening experiences with the Yankton Indians. They, as a whole, remained friendly but curious, and would often enter the home unannounced. When Torger hauled lumber with oxen from Sioux City, a distance of some sixty miles, for the construction of the Vangen Lutheran Church there were many unfriendly contacts with the Indians. This church, "Old Vangen" still stands, well preserved, and visited every year, especially on Memorial Day by hundreds of descendants of the first pioneer families.

Torger and Elie valued education and ten of their children were sent away to continue their studies after completing their work at Welby School, District 19. One went to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, for a time and several attended Business Schools. Most of them attended the Lutheran Normal School at Sioux Falls, and from this institution several graduated from the four year course.

The family had musical talent and with the Simonson family formed a musical group which enjoyed giving choral and instrumental entertainment.

Hospitality reigned always in this home. Though the center of their interest was the church, they had many friends and relatives who came and went, and all received a warm welcome. Family reunions were often held on June 30, Elie's birthday, and they were happy events for all, especially the grandchildren who in time numbered forty-one.

These two God fearing pioneers worked and prospered. They brought with them their love of the Almighty God, their faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and their children were instilled with the ideals of true Christian love.

Blessed by the Memory of Elie and Torger Nelsen!

Elie Johnson, the oldest daughter of Anders Johnson (Johannesen) and his wife Gunnar, was born in Furness, Hedemarken, Norway, on June 30, 1849. In 1863 the family emigrated to America. They sailed from Christiania on the steamship "Atlantic" and reached Quebec, Canada, after an eight weeks journey. During this time, a child died and was buried at sea. From Quebec they went by boat down the St. Lawrence river, arriving in Chicago after a four weeks journey. At that time the country was rejoicing over the end of the Civil War.

They settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and remained there for two years. In the spring of 1866, eleven families in covered wagons with fourteen yoke of oxen and seventy-five head of cattle came to Yankton, Dakota Territory. In June 1870, some of the family left and settled on Goose River, near Hillsboro, N. D.

Elie married Torger Nelsen on Jan. 18, 1868. She passed away in Mission Hill, S. D., October 30, 1922 after a lingering illness due to a severe asthmatic condition.

Torger Nelsen was born in Brottum, Ringsaker, Norway, April 10, 1840. In 1861 at the age of twenty-one he came to America and settled at Coon Valley, Wisconsin. His Mother, Father, and three sisters (Bertha, Johanna, and Karen) remained in Norway and he returned once to visit them. Later he moved to Yankton, Dakota Territory, and homesteaded in 1866. The deed to his homestead is signed by President Garfield. His earlier work was freighting for the government and transporting supplies from Omaha to Sioux City for the soldiers. He was married to Elie Johnson on Jan. 18, 1868 by Pastor E. Christensen. The witnesses were Nils Brakke and Lars Hanson. He served as a member of the Legislature of the Dakota Territory. He was a charter member of Vangen Congregation, and served as secretary of the congregation until his death on March 9, 1908. His oldest son, Norman, then became secretary and served until his death in 1931. At that time his brother Mark became secretary. He served a short time.

The Vangen Ladies Aid was organized Oct. 22, 1884, by Rev. P. H. Dahl at the Torger Nelsen home. At that time ten members signed the charter. Mrs. Torger Nelsen served as President and Mrs. Andrew Simonsen as Treasurer. The Aid met in the homes of the members and sewed and sold articles. Their first achievement was the purchase of the altar painting for eleven dollars and eighty cents in 1885. Two years later an organ was purchased for fifty dollars. Sometime later a church bell was bought for one hundred sixty-five dollars and forty-nine cents. The church bell has the following inscription: "I to church the living call and to the grave do summon all."

In the summer of 1893, about sixty people- neighbors and members of Vangen Congregation, arrived in fifteen wagons and surprised Torger Nelsen and his wife on their 25th wedding anniversary. Rev. P. H. Dahl, the local pastor, presented the couple with a thirteen piece set of silver. The following account of this occasion as written in the local paper follows: "Last Wednesday was a day that will be long remembered by Torger Nelsen and his estimable wife and family. At their pleasant rural home near the banks of the James River, there came on the afternoon of that day, a cavalcade of farmers' wagons, fifteen in number, bearing neighbors and friends to their full capacity. They quietly took possession of Mr. Nelsen's home, and after getting settled and things generally put to rights, Rev. Dahl, of Gayville, speaking in behalf of the fifty or sixty intruders, explained to Mr. and Mrs. Nelsen the cause of their coming. They had learned, he said, that on this day twenty-five years ago, they had entered the happy bonds of matrimony and because of this 25th anniversary of their married life had the friends then surrounding them come to extend congratulations and best wishes. In closing his felicitous remarks, Mr. Dahl presented to Mr. and Mrs. Nelsen a beautiful set of silverware, embracing 13 pieces, and costing \$86.00, as a token of the regard and esteem in which his neighbors held him and his estimable wife. Mr. Nelsen was taken wholly by surprise, as was his wife, as no inkling even had reached them that such an event was to occur, and in acknowledging the unexpected testimonial Mr. Nelsen could hardly find words to express himself. The party had brought luncheon with them, and an "afternoon tea" was enjoyed, that all present will no doubt remember. The party dispersed about six o'clock, after having spent a most pleasing afternoon, with best wishes for long life and continued happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Nelsen."

Torger Nelsen was a board member of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Yankton County for twenty years. "In the spring of 1899 the Nelsen home burned to the ground- a total loss. He was reimbursed as follows: Clothing- one hundred dollars, Books- twelve dollars and fifty cents, Furniture- twelve dollars and fifty cents, Beds and bedding- thirty-two dollars and forty-three cents, Dwelling- six hundred dollars." A new house was started that summer. In 1908, at the age of sixty-eight, Torger died, after a lingering illness following surgery for cancer.

Explanation of relationship to Gunderson families: Gunder Olson Sorem and his wife Agnetta, with six children came to America in 1871. Agnetta was an aunt of Elie Nelsen and was called by her "Morsis" (Mother's sister). Torger met the family of eight in Sioux City and took them to his home. There they stayed on the Nelsen farm until they filed a claim 25 miles north of Yankton. The children, among whom were Bernt and Gunder, took the name Gunderson after their father's given name, Gunder.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF TORGER NELSEN

Niels Thorstensen Klovstad 1799-1899	Ingeborg Jorgensdatter 1803-1889 (Widow Alm)
Kari 1830 (Torger's sister)	Anders Olsen Stenseng (came to Haugen farm)
Ole 1864	
Lars 1871	
Iver Anderssen Haugen 1874 (Bought Hagen farm in 1918)	Jorgine Oldsdatter Prestkvern
Kirsten 1905	
Olaug 1910	
Astrid 1912	
Kolbjorn 1919 (Nils Haugen who lived for a time in the Torger Nelsen home probably came from this branch of the family.)	
Johanne 1836 (Torger's sister)	Johannes Ajer
Karen Evenson (Eau Claire, Wis.)	Annie Sivertson
Andrew Ajer (Colfax, Wis.)	
Nels Ronnebek	
<u>Torger</u> 1840	
Even 1844 (Torger's brother)	
Bertha Svendsdatter Alm (Torger's half sister) 1826 (She took over the farm at Nedre Alm.	Jens Thorstensen Bjornsrud
Torstein Jensen Alm 1846	
Johanne Jensdatter Alm 1860	Nils Guldbransen Kinde
Johann Nilsen Kinde 1887 (Bought the Kinde farm in 1913)	Martha Rogne
Gerda 1920	
Julie 1922	
Nels 1924 (Present owner of Kinde farm in Brottum, Ringsaker)	
Gunnar Nilsen 1891	
Aksel Nilsen 1895	

(The above information was obtained from records at Brottum Church by Gladys Harris and Ruth Hanson when they were in Norway in 1968. In 1974 while visiting friends in Lillehammer they were given the name of the archivist in Hammer who gave them additional information.)

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF ELLIE NELSEN

The father of Elie Nelsen was Andreas Johnson, who died in 1907. He had three wives, Gunnar, Martha and Eliza. The children of Andreas and Gunnar were Ole, John, Elie and Bertie. The children of Andreas and Martha were Nels, Emma (Lund) and Mike. The children of Andreas and Eliza were Arthur, Elmer and Mabel.

John Anderson 1848-1905 (Elie's brother) Alfred died 1951 Gilbert died 1951 Peter Martha died Jan. 21, 1962 Marith died 1957 Ole John died Dec. 1959 Anton died 1944 Tillman died 1958	Emma Peterson 1853-1919 Chris Hong Grier
Ole Anderson 1846-1927 (Elie's brother) Agatha Gustav Allen Peter Adolph, Aug. 8, 1890-May 13, 1971 Joseph Jesse died 1948 Myrtle	Thora Peterson Morgan
Bertie Johnson Dec. 25, 1851-Oct. 7, 1930 (Elie's sister) Austin - 1869 Edward - 1871 Martha 1878-1961 Andrew - 1876 Calvin - 1880 Edith - 1885	William Root Carrie Markeson Elsie Zabel Samuel Owens Myrtle Fritch Elizabeth Thompson Clair Swarthout
<u>Elie Johnson</u> June 30, 1849-Oct. 30, 1922 Nels Albert Nov. 1868-Feb. 4, 1869 Norman Alfred Apr. 7, 1871-Jan. 11, 1931 Edward Martin Nov. 21, 1872-Dec. 7, 1951 Gustav Ingvald Oct. 29, 1874-Feb. 23, 1944 Bertha Josephine Jan. 16, 1877-Sept. 22, 1950 Julia Karine Dec. 6, 1878-Aug. 15, 1935 William Oliver Sept. 22, 1881-Oct. 2, 1928 Tillie Elene Apr. 12, 1883-Oct. 31, 1971 Emma Bergina Feb. 17, 1885-Jan. 17, 1950 Marcus Nov. 25, 1887-Apr. 10, 1888 Marcus Mar. 25, 1889-Dec. 7, 1955 Almer June 17, 1891-June 19, 1951 Nora March 24, 1895-Jan. 24, 1974	<u>Torger Nelsen</u> April 10, 1840- March 9, 1908
Nels Johnson 1859-1930 (Elie's half brother) Martin Francis Guy Bertha Mae Florence Earl	Thorena Thoreson died Sept. 1946 Berquist

Mikkel (Mike) Johnson died 1935
(Elie's half brother)

Emma Anderson Sept. 20, 1867-Nov. 9, 1959
(Elie's half sister)

Marion
Hanny
Gina
Haakon
Eddie

Hartvig Lund

Covel
E. Wright-Moorhead, Minn.
William Carver

Arthur Johnson
(Elie's half brother)

Elmer Johnson
(Elie's half brother)

Mabel Johnson
(Elie's half sister)

DESCENDANTS OF TORGER AND ELIE NELSEN

Nels Albert Nov. 14, 1868-Feb. 4, 1869

Norman Alfred Apr. 7, 1871-Jan. 1, 1931

Berna October 24, 1901

Donald Kenneth Jan. 13, 1926

Richard Vernon Oct. 23, 1930

Curtis Milton Sept. 12, 1903-Mar. 14, 1906

Selma Oct. 16, 1906

Everett Marvin Jan. 17, 1929

Alta April 13, 1908

Jean Ann June 2, 1950

Curtis Milton Feb. 25, 1912

Marjorie Ann July 3, 1934

David Allen June 26, 1969

Jeanette Jan. 14, 1936

Donna May 27, 1955

Brenda Jan. 3, 1957

Peggy Lynn Sept. 4, 1961

Bruce October 9, 1962

Harland C. Oct. 28, 1939

Brian Curtis Dec. 25, 1971

Everett Wilson July 2, 1913-June 24, 1967

Nancy Oct. 31, 1934

Shirley 1936

Helen Mae June 13, 1915

Colleen Mae July 29, 1935

Randy Dec. 18, 1956

Rhoda Lynn Jan. 31, 1958

Wayne Jan. 19, 1959

Sherrrie Renee Feb. 9, 1961

Brenda Sue Feb. 22, 1963

Allen July 9, 1937

Gaylen Lee Aug. 17, 1956

Tracy Lynn Oct. 10, 1959

Shelby Dean Oct. 2, 1963

Reed Allan Jan. 13, 1967

Donald June 30, 1930

Larry Gordon March 11, 1958

Bradley Feb. 20, 1961

Marith Carlson Jan. 3, 1881-Jan. 23, 1953

Otto Bjorum Apr. 27, 1896

Laurel Williams Nov. 18, 1930

Mary C. Jones Feb. 8, 1929

Donald Handy Nov. 8, 1906

Janet Tipton Oct. 19, 1928

Earl Thomas Aug. 6, 1904-Apr. 30, 1971

Gregory Alan Walent March 3, 1950

Dorothy Holbrook July 18, 1914

LaRue Johnson died June, 1957

Charles Rice

Charles Meng

Anne

Irene Hall July 1916

William Baumberger April 17, 1910

Lyle Sander Oct. 11, 1934

Anna Marie Schneider April 21, 1939

Amanda Rowene Feb. 10, 1942

Lori Gail Oct. 17, 1963
 Rodney Dean
 Karla Kay April 24, 1966
 Jeffry 1969
 Janet Sept. 3, 1949
 Mark Douglas Jan. 12, 1961
 Donald Allan August 18, 1917
 Terry Allen May 21, 1944
 Gloria Jean May 29, 1949
 Virginia Ann Sept. 26, 1919
 died Dec. 10, 1959
 Donna Gail Sept. 28, 1945
 Karen Marie Dec. 28, 1968
 Rhoda Ann June, 1971
 Linda Jean April 29, 1948
 Norman Almer October 20, 1926
 Jeffry Norman June 16, 1950
 Jane Louise Dec. 8, 1953
 James Alfred Dec. 3, 1958

Sharon L. Wagner Feb. 4, 1944

Don Frazier

La Verne Hinricks July 15, 1917

Jack Miller May 6, 1916

Ronald Harmon

Steve Sorenson

Mary Lou Johnson Nov. 5, 1926

Katherine Ann Eagleson

Edward Martin Nov. 21, 1872-Dec. 7, 1951
 Harold Jan. 15, 1900-Feb. 25, 1914
 Palmer Granville April 12, 1906-May 14
 1963

Romain Oliver Dec. 14, 1935
 Kay August 22, 1965
 (twins) August 23, 1967
 Christopher Palmer Feb. 13, 1970

Karen Lee Nov. 2, 1941
 Cynthia Kay Jan. 28, 1943

Marcia Estelle July 5, 1910-Jan. 2, 1965

David John March 27, 1943

Carl Nov. 11, 1970

Marcia Coletta June 30, 1945
 August 1968

Ida Olsen May 19, 1878-Dec. 20, 1955

Stella Mellum May 9, 1909

Carol Graham

Veile Eason

Al Lutzer June 21, 1896-May 16, 1961

Theresa Suzanne Foley

Alfred Monson, Jr.

Gustav Ingvale Oct. 29, 1874-Feb. 23, 1944

Inez Eleanora Nov. 8, 1909

Robert Perry Feb. 28, 1944

Martha Yoko July 16, 1973

Romona

Margaret Inez Oct. 21, 1946

Walter Jennings July 20, 1914-Mar. 23, 1955

Valborg Lucille Dec. 31, 1915

Annette Marie Feb. 26, 1943

Brian Robert Sept. 13, 1966

Kevin Robert Dec. 27, 1969

Michael James Dec. 19, 1944

Kimberly Sue Dec. 23, 1966

Jennifer Jo March 19, 1969

Thomas Phillip Dec. 19, 1947

Ida M. Berg Dec. 20, 1876-Aug. 15, 1962

Perry R. Shean July 29, 1899

Kazuko Tsujimoto

James J. Nehez Sept. 17, 1913

Robert Elbert Ray Mar. 8, 1936

Sandra Hoolister July 18, 1946

Bertha Josephine Jan.16,1877-Sept.22,1950
 Albion Everett Feb. 3, 1906

Coralie Jean Feb. 25, 1930
 Jeffrey Dean March 19, 1951
 Thomas Sept. 4, 1952
 Lorie Ann August 16, 1957
 Paul Wendell July 10, 1931
 Jodi Ann May 18, 1954
 Paul Jay July 17, 1955
 Perry L. Sept. 7, 1957
 Sean Albion August 14, 1959
 Quinn Douglas Nov. 27, 1961
 Ardys Lynn October 8, 1939
 Ronald March 18, 1959
 Robert Jan. 27, 1964
 Laura August 11, 1960
 Floyd Therman March 14, 1908
 Roger Dean Nov. 8, 1937
 Brian Dean June 6, 1962
 Bradley Jay Sept. 1, 1965
 La Rue Dale Sept. 16, 1941
 Renae Diana Jan. 22, 1968
 Jeffrey La Rue Dec. 23, 1970
 Milan Don May 23, 1950
 Ilene Adelaid Dec. 28, 1910
 Karen Sue Dec. 8, 1941
 Mark Richard
 Kathie Jill Sept. 12, 1943
 Gregory Eric Feb. 19, 1965
 Kristi Lynn Dec. 15, 1969
 Robert Douglas Dec. 18, 1948
 Oliver Richard June 15, 1916
 Janet Gayle Jan 23, 1947
 Erik R. Feb. 22, 1972
 Ruth Ellen June 24, 1950-Oct.1,1951
 Reid Allen Sept. 11, 1952
 Pamella Ann Nov. 15, 1954
 Phillip Oliver Jan. 6, 1962

Emil L. Hanson Jan.15,1875-Dec.11,1956
 Rose Mahacek
 Clementine Smith Oct. 2, 1915
 Arnold Dean Olson July 15, 1926

Jo Ann Kohel March 2, 1934

Robert Zeigler Nov. 12, 1934

Delma Thompson Jan. 27, 1915
 Janet Kay Koobs Sept. 15, 1936

Dorothy Olson May 30, 1943

Evald Erickson Dec. 23,1905-Nov.6,1958
 Richard Vevle

Arne Kolbjornson

Doris Nelsen Sept. 26, 1922
 Ralph Jacobson Nov. 19, 1946

Julia Karine Dec. 6, 1878-August 8, 1935

Gladys Evelyn March 25, 1904
 Susan Elizabeth April 13, 1939
 Peter Monvids Sept. 26, 1970
 Sarah Elizabeth Sept. 26, 1972
 William Howard Dec. 8, 1943
 Heather Christine Feb. 6, 1971
 Heidi Louise July 28, 1973
 Inez Lorine June 10, 1905-May 5, 1906
 Ruth Louise Feb. 15, 1908

Richard L. Hanson Oct.28,1876-Sept.25,
 1907

A.Howard Harris Jan.1,1898-Apr.17,1962
 Monvids Vigants Oct. 13, 1938

Mary Bybvig June 19, 1944

William Oliver Sept. 22, 1881-Oct. 2, 1928
Melvin Lewis Dec. 5, 1908-Nov. 16, 1958

David Owen March 27, 1934
Gregory 1965
Brett 1968
William May 8, 1935
Kristi Sept. 10, 1957
Sheryl Oct. 9, 1958
Mark Nov. 11, 1959
Erik Jan. 30, 1961
Ruth Oct. 30, 1963
Leif Hendrik July 24, 1969
Danny April 13, 1936 - died
Kelly 1960
Troy July 1961
Melvin 1963
Danielle 1964
Debra 1966
Grace Elinore April 7, 1918
Nelsen Pliny August 5, 1948
Sarah Kay March 10, 1951
Jonathan Cabott Sept. 23, 1956

Ella J. Larson Oct. 10, 1881-May 5, 1962
Dorothea Bach May 23, 1906
Fern Kirkland
Joyce Griffin

Marie Hendrickson Oct. 22, 1936

Connie

Wyman Smith Nov. 21, 1913
Louann Hedbom August 9, 1950

Tillie Elene April 12, 1883-Oct. 31, 1970

Elsie Lillian Feb. 8, 1904
Elmer Paul June 6, 1930
Sidney Luverne July 15, 1905
Delores Audrey Feb. 12, 1929-
Nov. 1939
Eugene Duane Jan. 18, 1931
Larry Gene August 15, 1951
Deborah Feb. 25, 1953
Sherrie Kay Dec. 14, 1956
Beverly Dec. 7, 1934
Karen Linette Aug. 6, 1955
Kathie Jeanette Feb. 29, 1959
Iona Lucile Nov. 15, 1906
Morris Vernon Sept. 22, 1908
Lorraine Oct. 12, 1924
David Wayne April 16, 1950
Timothy Nov. 14, 1953
Peggy Esther May 17, 1927

Allen Lee June 13, 1949
Mary Ellen June 22, 1951
Gary Lynn Nov. 4, 1952
Janet Rae Jan. 31, 1934

Mark Vernon Nov. 13, 1951
Pamela Kristi Jan. 4, 1953
Bonnie June 12, 1954
Michael May 17, 1956
Joan Edith Oct. 18, 1937
Andrea October 2, 1962
Lance Michael Nov. 29, 1964

Ernest A. Knutsen Nov. 15, 1872-Apr. 10,
1962

Elmer Tepper July 3, 1902

Tillie Christopherson Sept. 26, 1909

Joanne Goodrich Sept. 9, 1933

Jessie Mayken

Paul Kozek April 3

William M. Wainwright
Edith Kniffer Aug. 8, 1907
Wayne Cox March 11, 1926

Clarence Nikodym Nov. 27, 1924
George Esser

Richard Baker
Thomas Steven

Burton Bier

Sylvia Berniece May 18, 1910
 Richard Arlen Oct. 8, 1932
 Rebecca Lynn Feb. 10, 1967
 Thelma Joan Oct. 15, 1933
 Michael Allen July 18, 1951-
 July 21, 1970
 Terry Lynn Jan. 9, 1957
 Lindsey Ann June 15, 1958
 Douglas A. April 21, 1965
 Julie Marie Nov. 21, 1967
 Betty Marlene Sept. 15, 1935
 Pamela Rae Oct. 2, 1953
 Russell Franklin May 18, 1956
 Mitchell A. June 19, 1958
 Esther Ophelia May 3, 1912
 Morse Rodney April 15, 1946
 William Clyde June 17, 1948
 William August 2, 1972
 Cristina
 Carol Jean May 9, 1950

Richard Edward Aug. 26, 1967
 Jacquelin Marie Oct. 7, 1951
 Nicholas Aug. 19, 1971
 Thelma Beatrice Nov. 16, 1913-June 1, 1931
 Hazel Agnes Oct. 23, 1915
 Timothy Joel Aug. 25, 1955
 Harold Arthur Oct. 23, 1915
 Gloria Kay June 24, 1929
 Debra 1958
 Cathy 1961
 Steven June 7, 1964
 Michael June 19
 Gary Lee March 26, 1941
 Judy
 Lynn
 Lance Dean Feb. 28, 1944
 Kimberly
 Michael Darwin April 24, 1949
 Scott Andrew July 3, 1973
 Kenneth Hugh Nov. 30, 1917
 Douglas Kent July 26, 1946-
 July 27, 1946
 Gregory Mark June 1, 1949
 Eric Michael Feb. 11, 1973
 Pamela Joan June 8, 1951
 Dian Lynn April 17, 1956

Fritz Rabe Aug. 29, 1906
 Joan March 15, 1936
 Arnold Bippes Oct. 8, 1929

J. C. Massey Sept. 27, 1931

Pamela Jean Hammel
 Paula Kasper

Tom Lyons
 Peter Gemar Feb. 26, 1948

George Gingras Aug. 22, 1918

Dorothy Donnely Aug. 19, 1918
 Chris Nelsen

Tammi

Sue Custer

J. Custer

Ann Damm Sept. 7, 1923

Robin Lee DeYoung

Emma Bergina Feb. 17, 1885-Jan. 17, 1950

Ruth Elizabeth Oct. 13, 1920

Patricia Ruth May 27, 1945-Oct. 29, 1970

Mary Elizabeth April 9, 1948

Thomas H. April 10, 1969

John Michael Oct. 3, 1972

Rebecca Ann June 20, 1952

Dorothy Mae Sept. 21, 1921

Kristofer Allen March 11, 1949

Timothy Lowell March 13, 1950

Jeffrey Bruce April 8, 1955

C.W. Aanestad Apr. 18, 1885-Feb. 8, 1951

Torrence Carlson May 22, 1918

James Fluegel

Thomas Valley

Everett Oxford Nelsen May 21, 1922

Marcus Nov. 25, 1887 - April 10, 1888

Marcus (Mark) March 26, 1889-Dec. 7, 1955	Alma Bursvold June 5, 1905-May 20, 1965
David Dale Feb. 26, 1934	Deanne Ashwell
Kristen Maren Oct. 16, 1965	
Erika Karen March 31, 1969	
Sonia Ann Dec. 9, 1936	Howard Nornes April 27, 1931
Mark Howard April 8, 1961	
Paul Nelsen March 5, 1964	
David Onsgaard May 9, 1966	

Almer June 17, 1891-June 19, 1951	Signe Jensen July 22, 1893
Everett Oxford May 21, 1922	Dorothy Aanestad Sept. 21, 1921
Kristofer Allen March 11, 1949	
Timothy Lowell March 13, 1950	
Jeffrey Bruce April 12, 1955	
David Allen April 13, 1930-July 21, 1946	

Nora March 25, 1895 - Jan. 24, 1974

Though she never married, Aunt Nora considered all her nieces and nephews her children. She enjoyed them, she loved to hear from them, and visits in her home or theirs meant a great deal to her. In every way she showed her loving concern for each one. Her great joy was to return to Mission Hill to her old home.

Through careful management of limited funds she was able, even at her death, to remember the thirty living nieces and nephews.

A beautiful tribute to a lifelong friend is contained in the following letter from Adela Simonson of Mission Hill, South Dakota, written December 1974.

"My sister-in-law, Augusta, who writes to many of you, tells me she has already written you about the many deaths which occurred this year in our little community, including that of my life-long friend, Nora Nelsen, whom many of you know. Her family and mine began a friendship on neighboring farms in the late 1860's, so by the time Nora and I came along, she the last of eleven and I of seven, there was a strong bond established between them. Considering my faulty memory at this point in time (I got that phrase from the politicians this fall) I can't really believe this, but I have a mental picture of us as toddlers sitting on an old pieced-quilt on our kitchen floor, playing happily until Nora tried to lift me - with disastrous results! She was more inventive and daring than I, and when I was allowed to stay overnight with her, she introduced me to a lot of shenanigans that either thrilled me or scared me green. One of the latter was a ride in a made-over buggy contraption which she could steer by means of ropes. We pushed the thing up quite a long slope, managed somehow to clamber inside and away we flew down the hill! Halfway, she would make a sharp turn to offer me, as an added attraction (?) a bumpy ride across an old rattling grain-and-cattle scale platform. I hate to contemplate the results had we hit the scale, but I'm sure that thought never occurred to her.

We went through the grades together in Welby country school. The first year (I was just five) I often sat tearfully chewing my penny cedar pencil while she did my numbers which were an absolute blank to me, in exchange for which I coached her in spelling. In other ways, we often helped each other over the rough spots throughout the years. From country school, we went to the Lutheran Normal School in Sioux Falls for four years and were room-mates, of course. After graduation we taught three years in neighboring districts, comparing pupil problems over the

weekend get-togethers. Somehow, we got notions about a business career, so off we went to business college in Des Moines. Nora, however, was called home shortly thereafter by illness in the family.

Through the many years since, we have been separated by miles - yet we were never apart. For the last thirty years plus, she was the Book Store manager at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., but more importantly, she was a friend to every lonely or homesick student there whether black, white, brown or yellow - and to hundreds of others who shared the hospitality of her apartment and later, her home. I think of the caption which accompanied her graduation picture in the school annual of 1915: 'The only way to have a friend, is to be one'. She had been in good health, but she died unexpectedly during the night of January 24th. When she was found the next morning, there lay beside her bed a little devotional book - let open to the Scripture lesson for that day: "In my Father's house are many mansions....I go to prepare a place for you". I thank God for giving me this dear and truly wonderful friend!"

GRANDCHILDREN OF TORGER AND ELIE NELSEN

Harold Nelsen	Jan. 15, 1900-Feb. 25, 1914	
Berna Nelsen	Oct. 24, 1901	
Elsie Knutsen	Feb. 8, 1904	
Gladys Hanson	March 25, 1904	
Curtis Nelsen	Sept. 12, 1903-March 14, 1906	Sidney Knutsen July 15, 1905
Inez Hanson	June 10, 1905-May 5, 1906	Albion Hanson Feb. 3, 1906
Sidney Knutsen	Feb. 3, 1906	
Palmer Nelsen	April 12, 1906-May 14, 1963	
Selma Nelsen	October 16, 1906	
Ione Knutsen	Nov. 15, 1906	
Ruth Hanson	Feb. 15, 1908	
Floyd Hanson	March 14, 1908	
Alta Nelsen	April 13, 1908	
Morris Knutsen	Sept. 22, 1908	
Melvin Nelsen	Dec. 5, 1908-Nov. 16, 1958	
Inez Nelsen	Nov. 8, 1909	
Sylvia Knutsen	May 18, 1910	
Marcia Nelsen	July 5, 1910-Jan. 2, 1967	
Ilene Hanson	Dec. 28, 1910	
Curtis Nelsen	Feb. 25, 1912	
Esther Knutsen	May 3, 1912	
Everett Nelsen	July 2, 1913-June 24, 1967	
Thelma Knutsen	Nov. 16, 1913-June 1, 1931	
Walter Nelsen	July 20, 1914-March 23, 1955	
Helen Nelsen	June 13, 1915	
Hazel Knutsen	October 23, 1915	
Harold Knutsen	October 23, 1915	
Valborg Nelsen	Dec. 31, 1915	
Oliver Hanson	June 15, 1916	
Donald Nelsen	August 18, 1917	
Kenneth Knutsen	Nov. 30, 1917	
Grace Nelsen	April 7, 1918	
Virginia Nelsen	Sept. 26, 1919-Dec. 10, 1959	
Ruth Aanestad	Oct. 13, 1920	
Everett Nelsen	May 22, 1922	
Norman Nelsen	Oct. 20, 1926	
David ^{Allen} Nelsen	April 13, 1930-July 21, 1946	
Dorothy Aanestad	Sept. 21, 1921	
David Nelsen	Feb. 26, 1934	
Sonia Nelsen	Dec. 9, 1936	