

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Nelson, Olay Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Stacy County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 10 Aug 1844 Rock County, Wisconsin

2. Marriage (s) date place

Lizzie Eskel Dec 1869

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Organizer of the Farmers Savings Bank at Slater Iowa  
being its first president and board of directors at desk; board of directors of  
St. Charles College

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R. (county chairman 1936-1937 national  
commander)

C. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

4. Church membership Lutheran

5. Sessions served 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly 1886, 1888

6. Public Offices

A. Local Postmaster of Shellville 1874-1880; school treasurer 1874-1885

B. State Sergeant-at-arms in the general assembly for 14 years

C. National Delegate to the National Republican Convention which nominated  
James G. Blaine for president

7. Death 15 Apr 1938 Slater Iowa; Laird Bethlehem Cemetery, Slater, Iowa

8. Children George E.; Elsie C. (Mrs. Larson); Anna J. (Mrs. Skortman); Belle (Mrs.  
Ransom); Nathan D. (Mrs. Jardal); Elmer O.; Rodrick D.; Kivante J. (predeceased her father  
in death); Carrie H. (predeceased her father in death); Anna K. (born in infancy)

9. Names of parents Nelson (Dad) (Christensdatter) Nelson

Nelson, Oley

10. Education His mother was his principal teacher

11. Degrees Attended colleges at Madison, Wisconsin

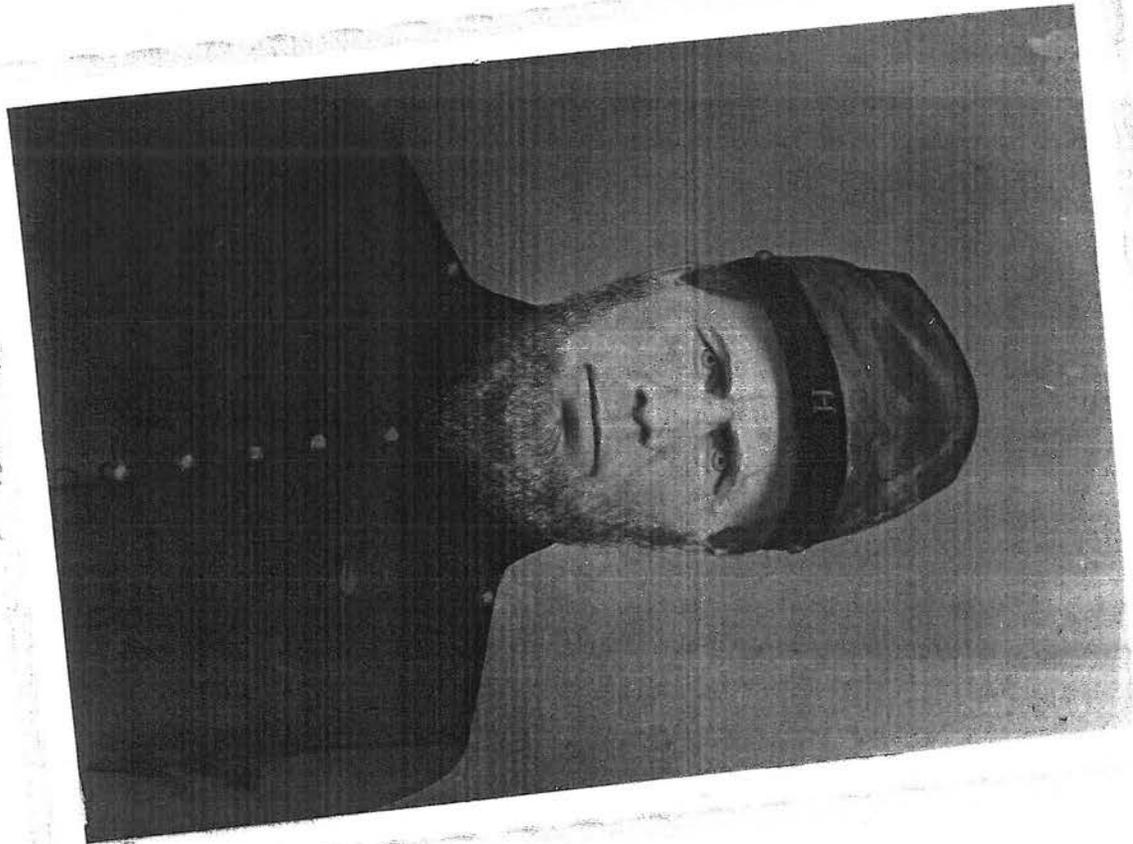
12. Other applicable information Republican

- In 1848 the family moved to Primrose, June County, Wisconsin settling on a 160 acre farm
- His father died in the Civil War so he took charge of work on the farm
- Military service - Civil War - Co. D 40<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Spring 1864 - December 1864
- He continued to live with his mother until 1867 when they moved to Polk County and located on 80 acres of new prairie. Hard times came upon the family and in 1869 he went to Des Moines where he found employment hauling brick. He later worked in the mercantile business
- In 1874 he moved to Sheldon and conducted a farmer's boarding house, built the first bank in Sheldon where he continued as a merchant and grain buyer until retirement.

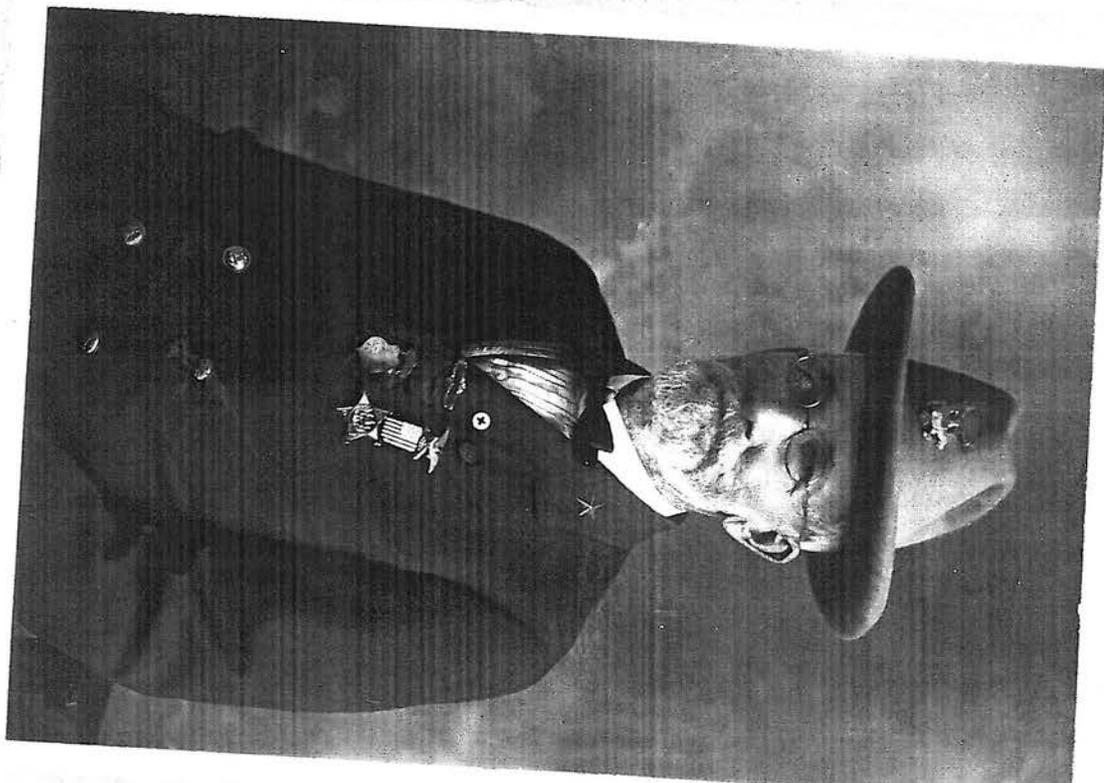
Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>History of Story County Iowa 1911, p. 428-432</u>			
- <u>Annals of Iowa, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, Vol XXV #2, Oct 1943, p. 116-121</u>			
- <u>Obituary - The States News, States, Iowa, Wed. Apr. 20, 1938,</u> <u>p. 1, col. 1-2</u>			
- <u>Obituary - The States News, States, Iowa, Wed. Apr. 20, 1938,</u> <u>p. 1, col. 5-6</u>			
- <u>Article "Oley Nelson Kansas Abolitionist" - Des Moines Register</u> <u>Nov 23, 1997 issue</u>			
- <u>Iowa Journal 1939 p. 1872-1874</u>			
- <u>Portrait of Oley and his father, Miles, who died young in the Civil War - The</u> <u>original photos are located in the archives of the State of Iowa Historical</u> <u>Library, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa.</u>			
- <u>States Iowa 1889-1989, p. 156-159</u>			
- <u>Findagrave.com (accessed 20 Jan 2011)</u>			
- <u>ancestry.com (accessed 20 Jan 2011)</u>			
- <u>Familysearch.org (accessed 20 Jan 2011)</u>			



John Blair  
(father)  
d. May 1812



Wiley Blair  
(son)  
d. 15<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1938

Olney Nelson (son of  
Nelson, Nelson)  
Co., Di 40. Wis (University Reg)  
Enr. May 1 - 1864  
Discharged Sep 21 - 1864  
Member of 21-27. Gen.  
Assembly Iowa

Nels. Olson  
Co., H. 8. Wis (Eagle Reg)  
Enlis 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1841  
Died 4<sup>th</sup> July 1842  
Buried at Keokuk Iowa  
Emigrated to Wisconsin  
1844 from Iowa

Favorite Dish!



Oley Nelson, Slater's Grand Old Man, Died Last Friday

Buried With Military Rites on Monday—Large Crowd Attends the Services

Hon. Oley Nelson, 93, past national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at 2:45 o'clock last Friday afternoon at the home of a daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Skortman.

Mr. Nelson took sick in February, when he had two strokes which affected his right side. He was making a nice recovery when he suffered a relapse on the 8th. From then on he gradually failed till Friday afternoon, when he passed away.

Funeral services were held last Monday afternoon from the home and the Bethlehem church, where he had worshipped during his long residence in Slater. They were in charge of his pastor, Rev. E. R. Rorem, who was assisted by Dr. Frederick Weertz of the St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines.

Rev. Rorem took as his text, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." In the course of his talk he wove a beautiful wreath in memory of the deceased, a close friend. Dr. Weertz, at whose church Mr. Nelson had often worshipped while in Des Moines, spoke on the text, "As For Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord." He, too, paid a beautiful, fitting tribute to the long, useful life of the grand old man.

The singing included two vocal solos by Donald Peterson, "In the Garden" and "Somewhere a Voice Is Calling." The Riis quartet sang three numbers, "The Old Rugged Cross," "No Night There" and "Beautiful Land." Mrs. Ruth Fausch presided at the organ.

One of the very impressive parts of the services took place when the civil war veterans present, five of them, gathered around

the open casket for the G. A. R. rites. Dr. Overton Menett of Los Angeles, Calif., national commander, served as chaplain. He also sang two solos. Judge Willett, 93, of Tama, Iowa, assisted, as did also Comrade Noll, 93, of Grinnell, who read the final words, "Taps are sounded, lights are out; the soldier sleeps."

There were many floral tributes, probably the largest number ever in Slater. They, with the large American flags and the flag draped casket made a very impressive setting, fitting to every detail. In addition to the flowers there were many gifts to the missions in his memory, coming from relatives and friends, far and near. Locally there were contributions from the Ladies' Aid, the auxiliary and the Dorcas Circle of the Bethlehem church, as well as the business men. Messages and telegrams came from many points, bearing words of sympathy and cheer.

Mrs. R. G. Nott had the arrangements in charge, as well as the flowers. She was ably assisted by Legion members and members of the Legion auxiliary.

Burial took place in the Bethlehem cemetery, beside his wife and his mother. A military guard of honor, twenty-three of them, stood before the grave and fired a three-volley salute, after which taps were sounded. Sons of veterans acted as pallbearers.

The crowd was the largest ever to attend a funeral at Slater. The main auditorium was packed as never before. Many seats were taken in the basement, leaving the overflow to seek places of advantage on the lawn. The number probably totalled 1,100 or more. The loud speaker system made it possible for everybody to hear the services, no matter where they sat. Mr. Hattery, chief of the road patrol, was here to direct the traffic. He brought with him two other road patrol officers and they cared for this work without a hitch.

Among those present were Gov. Nelson Kraschel, Adj. Gen. Charles Grahl, W. F. Hathaway and many others from Des Moines

(Continued on Last Page)

Death of Reinert Holland

Passed Away Last Saturday Afternoon: Funeral at Kelley, Yesterday

Reinert Holland, long time resident of south of Kelley, died last Saturday afternoon at the age of 76 years. In failing health for some time, he had been much worse of late and the final summons on Saturday had been anticipated. The children were at his bedside.

Funeral rites were held yesterday from the Bethany church at Kelley at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge.

When the minister sang "When Jesus Came to Earth," he was accompanied by Prof. R. E. Dean on the piano. Scripture reading and prayer was followed by a vocal solo, a Norwegian favorite, "Fly Som en Fugl til Din Klippe," by Jeffery Richardson. The funeral sermon followed. In closing the ladies' quintet sang, "Abide with Me."

There were many floral pieces and an unusually large number of gifts to the missions in his memory. Burial was made in the family lot in the Kelley cemetery.

Spring Luther League Convention at Ames

The spring convention of the Story City circuit Luther League will be held at the Bethesda Lutheran church at Ames the latter part of the week—April 22, 23 and 24. The convention theme is, "Christ-Controlled Lives," and the invocation speaker, Rev. L. Knutson of Lake Mills, Iowa. The opening sermon on Friday

Don't Use Rusty Cream Cans

BECAUSE The State Dairy and Pure

PR

THE NEED FOR THE PROFESSIONAL HERITAGE MICROFILM, INC.

**NOTICES**  
**CHURCH**  
 Pastor  
 school at 10 a. m.  
 services at 11.  
 at 8 Thursday

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 Rorem, Pastor  
 services at 9:45 a. m.  
 school at 10:45 a. m.  
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**GES CHURCH**  
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**ODIST CHURCH**  
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 School at 10:00 a. m.  
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**CH, SLATER**  
 School 10:00 a. m.  
 services at 11.  
 services at 7:45. Rev.  
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 meeting at 8 on Wed-  
 ning.

**STINE CHURCH**  
 Buland, Pastor  
 services at 9:45. Sun-  
 after the services.

**n Church, Huxley**  
 school at 9:45 a. m.

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 re Mr. and Mrs. Elias  
 Mr. and Mrs. Aaron  
 her mother, Mrs. Erick-  
 near Kanawha. Rev.  
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nd Mrs. E. M. Eliassen  
 lter of Houston, Minne-  
 d week's visitors at  
 of folks, Mr. and  
 ge Nerness, of northeast  
 remaining till Sunday  
 Mr. Eliassen has been  
 to head the Houston  
 mother year.



The pedestrian is still the cause of numerous traffic deaths. In 1937 almost fifty per cent of the people injured or killed in accidents involving automobiles were pedestrians. Many of these accidents were caused by people walking on the wrong (the right hand) side of the road in rural communities. This does occur in spite of the great number of bulletins, warnings and splendid newspaper editorials which have appeared on the subject.

Every school, community, club and civic organization ought to stress traffic rules and regulations.

Walk with the semaphore lights. Do not jaywalk. Do not cross in the middle of a block. If you must walk on highways or rural roads, walk on the left side of the road, facing the oncoming cars. These and many other warnings should be obeyed by all pedestrians.

**Stop! Look! Listen!  
 Live longer!**

Lawrence Skortman of Chicago came home to attend the funeral rites for his grandfather, Oley Nelson, on Monday.

Broke his neck—and didn't know it. A human mole who dug thirty years! Several of the interesting features in The American Weekly, the magazine distributed with next Sunday's Chicago Herald and Examiner.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Walker of Des Moines had as their Sunday guests Mr. and Mrs. Ray Walker and Mr. and Mrs. W. Nash of Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Walker and family and Mr. Soderstrom of Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Walker and Sybil of Slater and Miss Carrie Gjerdevig of Des Moines, Ia.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Erslund entertained the members of the Slater Bridge club at their pleasant country home last Thursday evening, it being the organization's last scheduled meeting for the spring. The high scorers and winners of the prizes were Mr. and Mrs. Phil Rood. The hostess served a delicious lunch at the social hour.

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WALT DISNEY'S



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The chances are you can save time, worry and money by traveling or shipping over The Milwaukee Road. Your local agent will welcome the opportunity to discuss your transportation problems.



**Oley Nelson . . .**  
 (from first page)

Prof. Holland and Prof. Thompson of St. Olaf college; President Astrup Larson of Ames; Rev. Duea if Dows; Rev. Kreutzman of Alleman; Rev. Buland, leaders in patriotic organizations from all parts of the state—in fact, friends from all walks of life.

Starts on Friday—**GAMBLE'S SPRING SALE.** Values, Values, Values! Tot wagon 77c. Special, 4-inch brush included at no extra cost with purchase of 5 gal. standard house paint. Gamble Stores.

**Apostle Spoons Favored Gifts**  
 A set of thirteen Apostle spoons was a favorite christening gift among the wealthy in Tudor and early Stuart periods.

**NOMINATE  
 MAXWELL F.  
 SMITH  
 FOR  
 COUNTY ATTORNEY  
 OF  
 STORY COUNTY  
 REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES JUNE 6, 1938**

**District No. P-8  
 Notice of Hearing on Establishing of Proposed Secondary Road District**

Notice is hereby given that there has been filed in the office of the County Auditor of Story County, a petition for the establishment of a District for the surfacing the following described secondary roads: Commencing at the northwest corner of Section 17 - 82 - 24, Palestine Township, and runs east two miles along the north line of Sections 17 and 16 - 82 - 24 and is two miles long. Said roads to be surfaced with gravel.

Said District to include the following described real estate:

Subdivision	Sec.	Twp.	Range	Owner
NE 1 SE 1	8	82	24	Jennie June Robinson
Ex. 8 3 rods				
S 3 rods	8	82	24	Iva N. and Jennie June Robinson...
NE 1 SE 1				

**Notice of the Appointment of  
 O. R. Peterson, Administrator  
 State of Iowa, Story County, ss:  
 No. 8446**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified as Administrator of the estate of Andrew Soderland, deceased, late of Story county. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment; and those having claims against the same will present them, duly authenticated, to the undersigned for allowance, and file in the office of the Clerk of the District Court.

O. R. PETERSON, Administrator  
 Dated March 29, 1938,  
 L. E. DAVISSON,  
 Clerk District Court

**Announcements**

**For County Attorney**  
 Maxwell F. Smith of Ames is a candidate for County Attorney, subject to the Story county Republican primaries in June, 1938.

**For County Supervisor**  
 I wish to announce that I am a candidate for the office of County Supervisor for the term beginning January 1, 1939, subject to the will of the Republican voters in June.  
 J. C. Erslund

**For Representative**  
 I am a candidate for Representative from Story county, subject to the Republican primaries in June, 1938.  
 C. E. Lookingbill  
 Nevada, Iowa

**For County Recorder**  
 I am a candidate for Story County Recorder, subject to the Republican primaries in June.  
 Sina Kloster

**For Sheriff**  
 I wish to announce my candidacy for re-election to the office of sheriff of Story county, subject to the will of the republican voters at the primaries, June 6, 1938.  
 Nevada, Iowa. C. V. McGriff.

**For County Attorney**  
 I am a candidate for County Attorney, subject to the Republican primaries of Story county in June, 1938.  
 Chester O. Hougen

**Worry Defined**  
 Worry is just a form of day-dreaming in which you are the goat instead of the hero.

**FORTY**

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OLEY NELSON

Representative Twenty-first and Twenty-second Iowa  
General Assemblies, 1886-1888  
President Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers Association  
1919-1920  
State Commander Iowa Department G. A. R.  
1927-1928  
National Grand Commander G. A. R.  
1935-1938

## OLEY NELSON—AN UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER

By JOHN P. HERRICK

One of the unforgettable characters I have met in the past decade was the late Oley Nelson of Slater, Iowa, one of the friendliest men I have ever known. Traveling together on a transcontinental train we found we had mutual friends in Iowa. One of them was my father-in-law, the late Lafayette Young, with whom he had served in the Iowa Assembly. They had been friends for fifty years. Oley Nelson was on his way to his Iowa home from an official visit to the few remaining Grand Army posts throughout the country, a circle trip of more than 6,000 miles. Some of the posts had only three members. Oley Nelson was then Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and 91 years young; he did not appear to be a day over 70.

The story of Oley Nelson's life is worth telling to the youth and grownups of today. His father was a farmer in far-off Norway, his mother a village school teacher. When the young farmer proposed, the teacher said: "I will marry you on one condition—that we go to that great, free country of America, where the children, with whom we hope to be blessed, will have the best chance to succeed in life." Oley's father loved the homeland dearly, but he loved the blue-eyed, flaxen-haired school mistress more. So they were married in 1843, and the following spring embarked for America, a voyage of seven long weeks on a sailing vessel. They landed at Castle Garden, in New York, thence up the Hudson to Albany by boat. From Albany to Buffalo they traveled on an Erie canal packet, speed less than three miles per hour, furnishing their own bedding. It surprised them to learn that the western terminus of the canal was 500 feet higher than Albany. From Buffalo, they voyaged up the Great Lakes on a paddle-wheel steamer, and disembarked at the bustling little frontier settlement of Milwaukee. The 1840 census gave Milwaukee 1,712 popula-

tion; Buffalo, 4,470, and the great port city of New York, 391,114.

A drive of 90 miles west from Milwaukee in a covered wagon, brought them to a log house in Primrose, Dane county, Wisconsin, that Norwegian friends had ready for them. The day after they arrived in Primrose, Oley was born.<sup>1</sup> He just missed being born in a covered wagon.

When the Civil War began, Oley's father enlisted in the Union army. Oley, then seventeen, wanted to go along, but his mother insisted he was needed on the farm. The father died in 1862, while enroute home from the army on sick leave. When Oley was twenty, his mother agreed to his enlistment, and he joined the Wisconsin University Regiment, so called because every one of the thousand members was under twenty-one.

Two years after Oley came home from the war, a visitor to Primrose told them that the soil was richer, and corn grew taller in Iowa than in Wisconsin. The farm was sold, and Oley and his widowed mother loaded the household furniture in a covered wagon, and in company with two neighbors, trekked to Iowa, where Oley Nelson helped found the towns of Sheldahl and Slater.

In his time, Oley Nelson was a successful farmer and merchant; president of a bank; president of a Norwegian college; served two terms in the Iowa General Assembly; president of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa; many terms as sergeant-at-arms of the Iowa Assembly; was one of the twelve organizers of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church; State Commander of the Iowa department of the Grand Army, and rounded out his career as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In his Iowa home in Story county, Oley Nelson reared a family of seven children, and knew and loved eighteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. "Life has

<sup>1</sup>Oley Nelson was born August 10, 1844. Although at the outbreak of the Civil war he organized a company of Wisconsin men to fight in that struggle, in his several enlistments he was mustered in the forces of three states, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

been good to me," he said in parting, "and my only unfulfilled wish is to at last sleep under Iowa sod."

Oley Nelson, the son of Norwegian immigrants, was an institution in Iowa. When he died April 15, 1938, at his home at Slater, at the age of 93, the daily newspapers of the state blazed his name across the front pages in tall, black type, and devoted much space to the inspiring story of his life. Thousands mourned the passing of the erect, slender little man, with snow-white moustache and goatee, keen sense of humor, and blue eyes that smiled and twinkled when he greeted friend or stranger.

#### OLEY NELSON'S LIFE INCIDENTS

(An extemporaneous talk by Former Representative Oley Nelson of Slater, Iowa, upon being called on for remarks at a meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa, held at the Historical building at Des Moines, on March 17, 1921, from a stenographic report of proceedings.)

MR. NELSON: I fully agree with what has been said in commendation of those great Iowa men who have been mentioned, men who during their life time helped make Iowa what it is today. In answering your request for reminiscences of my own life, I can only say that it has been more uneventful. Probably, as a starter, I was fortunate in getting started with one of the best women to hold up my hands and work with me in the common tasks of our life.

I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I have a picture of the log house in which I was born. I claim to be what you might call a thoroughbred. I don't know whether that explains what I mean—but both my father and mother came from Norway to this country in 1840. My father voted the Whig ticket up to the time of 1849 or 1850, when the Republican party was organized. He voted for Lincoln, of course, and the Republican party was his political choice. When the war broke out in 1861, and there was a call for 75,000 three-months men, father wanted to enlist, although he was past forty years of age. Then when the call was made for three-year men he did enlist and died while in the service; and when father died in the army I enlisted and took his place.

After the close of the Civil war I came to Iowa. I landed up close to where Slater is today, with my mother, a war widow. The grasshoppers came on and we didn't have the wherewith to pay for everything that we had gone in debt for; so I came down to Des Moines to work for S. A. Robertson, a contractor. The

job he gave me was to haul brick on this very street from around the capitol. The old capitol building was trying to fall down, and when I hauled the brick from around this beautiful capitol square, little did I think then as a boy, that later I should be added to those entitled to a seat in that capitol building.

As a baby, almost, I entered into politics, and there is THE MAN (pointing to the imposing painting of Hon. John A. Kasson)—John A. Kasson who gave me the incentive to enter public life. My work had been more along church lines. I was still working here for S. A. Robertson—and I had a team of large horses—and one day I had a load of 1,000 brick which I hauled to Mr. Kasson's place to use in fixing up his cistern. I drove my team into his yard, but it was slippery and I could not get my team to pull the load up to the cistern, so commenced to unload my brick. John A. Kasson came out and looked at me. He saw that I had on a soldier's old blouse, and a soldier's button and blue overalls. He asked me how many loads did my employer exact of me for a day, and I told him four loads. "Well," he said, "young man, you can't carry 4,000 of them over here from where you are unloading," and he took off his coat—I told him how to carry the brick, and together we carried two-thirds of them over.

Mr. Kasson was then running for congress in this district, and one day he came down to see me, and he said: "I understand, Mr. Nelson, you can speak the Norwegian, Swedish and Danish languages as well as English." I told him that I could. Then he asked: "Will you go up into Story county and the northern sections of this district and talk with the voters and get them to vote for John A. Kasson, and have them send down a delegation for John A. Kasson and against Palmer." I told him that I would gladly do so. I went up there, and what do you think was my political speech? My political appeal to those voters was that a man who would help a poor soldier in working for his bread to pay his way and keep the wolf from his door, and a widowed mother helping that poor boy to be what he is today, is surely worthy to go to congress. So I got that whole delegation to go to the county conventions for John A. Kasson.

Pardon me for mentioning these things, but in the soldier's life there are things perhaps too sympathetic for me to talk about. However, there is one thing that I will venture to mention to you old Pioneers. I was delegated to take out a detail of twenty men and got as far as Holly Springs, and when we came to Holly Springs the railroad tracks and bridges were torn up. I detoured my men and told them they were permitted to go around Holly Springs. I sauntered up to Holly Springs and one of the first men I saw was one in a rocking chair on a porch. He saw me coming along and beckoned to me, and I went up to where he was sitting. He said: "Young man, where are you

from?" I told him "from Wisconsin." "Ah," said he, "from Wisconsin. Are there many soldiers from Wisconsin?" I replied "I don't know how many are in the service now, but there had enlisted over 50,000." He said: "Not 50,000?" In the meantime, I happened to tell him that I had lost a good father to preserve this Union, and then I told him that I was a Scandinavian, and he commenced to scratch his head. "Well," he says, "a Norwegian—Norway, that country a way up where the sun never sets. Do you talk Norwegian?" "Yes," I replied. "Can you read and write?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. "Talk Swedish?" "Yes," I again responded. "And English as well as that?" "Yes," I answered. Then he said: "I will tell you something, my young man. I was a member of the Mississippi legislature. We voted to secede, and when we voted to secede, we made an argument something like this: That we in the southland could muster enough soldiers to lick all the Yanks east of the Rocky mountains, but the Mississippi valley, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa have Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Germans and others speaking four or five different languages, and we didn't suppose they were as patriotic as we believed those who were that speak the English language, and if we are to fight against the English, Germans, Norwegians, Danes, Swedes, Scotch and Irish that live in those territories, we are lost."

I had a real fat idea when I was in the legislature. I thought I was going to have a great record, and I introduced a bill for what we now call in Iowa a "General Drainage Law." It was an early bill on that subject, and they made a lot of sport and fun over Nelson of Story county because of his drainage bill. They called it the "tile drainage of Muskrat creek," a Skunk river branch, and Mr. Nelson not quite rightly balanced in introducing a bill for general drainage.

I had another bill which I introduced in the legislature, No. 99 that passed the house, that would give every pupil in a district a text book. It passed the house, but I lost the bill in the senate. It was the first bill seeking to secure a law whereby a poor child could go to the district school—whereby a poor man's son could get his education—but I was too early. I had another little bill which I thought was all right. It was a bill proposing the reduction of interest from ten percent to eight percent.

Now, this is merely reminiscent. Pardon me for consuming this valuable time. I am really glad to be here. I have met many times with the Pioneer Lawmakers and now happy that I have had the opportunity of addressing you.

## Oley Nelson

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From Goodspeed, 1890, p. 390-392 - Hon. Oley Nelson, an old settler of Story County, needs no introduction to the readers of the present volume. That the following brief sketch of his eventful and honorable life is afforded a place just here, will be a matter of much interest to the many who have come to know him so intimately, and felt the helpful influence of his wide and generous acquaintance. Like a number of America's representative men of to-day, he comes of foreign parentage, though himself a native of Wisconsin, born August 10, 1845. His father was Nelson Oleson Evensrude, of Numedahl, Norway. He married Miss Aase Credstendatter, of Numedahl, Norway. Ole obtained his early education in log school-houses, supplemented first by an attendance at the common district schools, and later at a commercial college in Madison, Wis., where he graduated in mathematics and book-keeping. His father was warmly attached to his adopted county, and in the time of her peril and under Lincoln's second call for full service volunteers, he shouldered his musket, and in August, 1861, entered the United States army, becoming a member of the famous Eagle Regiment, Eight Wisconsin Volunteers. Among the battles in which he participated were Belmont, Island No. 10, Iron Mountain, Fort Donelson and Corinth, at the latter of which he received a furlough and started home. But, alas, for human hopes. Sickness overcame him, and he laid down his life for the cause he loved so well, his remains being interred at Keokuk, Iowa. Oley, strengthened by a sense of the obligation resting upon him, became a member of Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers, being mustered into service at Madison, April, 1864, and assigned to the Western Division. His army duties led him to Memphis, Holly Springs and Jackson, he participating in the last capture of the first named city. He was mustered out at Madison in the fall of 1864. At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Nelson entered with vigor upon life's field of action. Having had an inclination to seek a home in the oft-heard-of west, his mother and himself, in a prairie schooner, started from the old home in Dane County, Wis., and settled in Polk County, Iowa, just across the line from Story. To-day he stands at the head of the general mercantile interests of this section; he is also a heavy grain dealer. Educational matters have always found in him a staunch supporter. Mr. Nelson's estimable wife was formerly Miss Lizzie Erslund, who was born near the ancient city of Bergen, Norway, July 7, 1850. She was educated, however, in the common schools of Iowa, and the Lutheran parochial schools, and is a lady of intellectual worth and culture. This happy union has been blessed by the presence of four sons and five daughters. The eldest is George E. (aged nineteen), Elsie C., Carrie N. These three children are graduates of the Lutheran parochial schools. The remaining children are Anna G., Belle O., Kiiimte A (now deceased), Amos K. (also deceased), Mattie (aged four years), and Elmer Oley (the youngest in the family). Mr. Nelson in his political references has always been a Republican, active and decided in the arena of political life, though never an office-seeker. His first presidential vote was cast for Lincoln during his second term. He has responded on several occasions to the wishes of his fellow-citizens and served in official capacities of a local nature, and in 1885 was chosen by acclamation to represent Story County in the State Legislature. The best comment upon the two years of his service from 1885 to 1887 is that at the expiration of his term he was made his

own successor. He prosecuted with vigor and persistency the passage of numerous bills of immense value to the people, among them those referring to "Tile Drainage in General" and "Across Public Highways and the Right of Railroads," also "Partition Fences Between Individual Land-owners," etc. The most important measure introduced was that lessening the cost of text books, and optional uniformity in the general use of text books throughout the State, which, in honor to him, was made a private bill, and defeated the two extremes, State publication and the committee plan, or the district purchase plan. This bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority, but was defeated in the Senate. All other bills advocated by him are, however, upon the statute books of the State. Mr. Nelson has been present at every State convention held in Iowa since his residence here. He and his wife are devout members and consistent workers in the United Lutheran Church, and were among the organizers of Bethlehem congregation, then belonging to the Conference Synod. They take great interest in the Sunday-school connected with the church, and are worthy contributors to all benevolent institutions. He has been a member of the board of trustees, has often filled the position of delegate to the yearly conference, and served in other capacities. To sum up all in a word, Mr. Nelson is a man who has risen to his present position of esteem through his own efforts, valuing the worth of honor and friendship because gained through his honorable channels, and while respected and beloved for his many cardinal virtues, it is but the truth to say that these tokens have come to him because they were justly deserved.

From the Slater Newspaper, January or February, 1917 - (Note: It is presumed this obituary is from the Slater newspaper. It was found in Oley Nelson's NAHA file along with another, shorter obituary for her that was from the Slater newspaper and which said a more detailed obituary would be published the following week.)

Ingeborg Nelson, the subject of this sketch, first saw the light of day among the beautiful fjords of Norway, being born in Skaanevig, on the 7th day of July, 1850, her parents being Knute and Carrie Ersland. While Ingeborg was yet a mere child her parents bade adieu to friends and native land and embarked for America, the land of possibilities, there to make their home among new and untried surroundings. The journey hither was one of those long, uneventful voyages that marked the major trips across the Atlantic those days and the little family reached Lisbon, Ill., their destination, in safety in the spring of 1854. Their stay at Lisbon was brief. The spirit of adventure beckoned them further west and it soon became too strong to be resisted and the following year a little band was organized for the westward movement. The Erslands were members of the colony, the first to settle in Story county. The colony's first chapter had a sad page, that of the death of Mrs. Ersland, mother of Ingeborg, who was the first grownup person to be called away from the little band. Kind hands ministered to the needs of the bereft children and all were cared for and Ingeborg grew up among them to womanhood.

On the 29th of January, 1869, she was united in marriage to Mr. Oley Nelson, a promising young man full of hope and ambition and with a world of perseverance and confidence that spelled success. They ever lived happy together and were the proud parents of a large, highly respected family, ten in all, of whom eight survive her. They are Mr. George of Silverton, Oregon; Mrs. C. E. Larson of Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Gustaf Prestegard of Lincoln, Nebr.; Mrs. Chas. Skortman and Mrs. Tom Rawson of Slater; Elmer of Des Moines, Mrs. Elmer Fardal of Stanhope and Miss Beatrice of Slater, all of whom were present at the funeral. Two boys, Abraham and Knute, died in infancy.

Mrs. Nelson's health had been failing a short time previous to her operation which was performed on the 18th of December, 1916, as a last resort. She came through the operation very nicely and was ready to come home on Sunday, January 7th. On the Saturday previous she suffered from an unexpected relapse and passed away the next morning, the 8th, at an age of over sixty-six years.

Funeral took place Friday, January 12, 1917, at the Bethlehem church, it being in charge of her pastor, Rev. Peterson. Present were also Rev. Holman of Chicago, Rev. Holm of Eagle Grove, Rev. Brenne of Stanhope, Rev. Birkelo of Huxley and Rev. Wee of Slater. Aside from the eight children, she is mourned by a devoted husband and two brothers, Anfin Erslund of Cambridge and A. K. Erslund of Buhl, Idaho, who with all the children and the following sons-in-law, Elmer Fardal of Stanhope, Gustaf Prestegard of Lincoln and T. W. Rawon and Chas. Skortman of Slater, were present at the funeral.

All who knew Mrs. Nelson will remember her as the kindest of women. She had a big heart and it always beat warmly for those in trouble, sickness or sorrow and she was always solicitous for their welfare. She loved home and home surroundings and loved the (missing text) that homelife brought. She was likewise endeared to church work and could always be depended upon to do her share and more, no matter what the cause might be, in a financial way or with personal work. Doing her best never satisfied--she wanted to do more. In her death the community has been deprived of one of its most beloved and highly esteemed women, one who was eminently successful in her efforts to make the world better and whose memory will long be revered by all who knew her.

The floral tributes were many and very beautiful, among them being a large cross from the United Church, a big wreath from the board of trustees of the United Church, and a large, standing harp from Mr. and Mrs. A. Erslund. Beautiful pieces also came from the following: Andrew Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Seward Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Nelson, Mrs. Carrie Kalsem, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Kalsem, Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Nelson, Mr. A. C. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Nelson, Mrs. Martha Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Highland, Mr. and Mrs. C. Highland, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. John Skein of Ft. Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Fardal of Stanhope, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Mason of Cambridge, Bethlehem Ladies Aid Society, Seventh Grade Pupils of the Slater Schools, The Slater School Faculty, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Larson, The Embroidery Club, Mrs. Thomas Shaw, Thompson, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Hendrickson and Will and Helen Bates of Ames, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Peterman of Perry, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fread of Des Moines, Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Lorenze of Des Moines, Mr. and Mrs. Donhow of Story City and a big Rug of Roses from the family and Rev. Holman and Prof. Undum.

The pall bearers were Seward Nelson, Andy Nelson, Knute Amland, Axel Mason, Carl Erslund and M. M. Mason.

From *The Roland Record*, Thursday, November 17, 1921 - Hon. Oley Nelson of Slater appeared on the program at a meeting of the Luther League of Salems church Sunday evening. Mr. Nelson gave an instructive and interesting address on the subject "The Early Immigration, of the Norseman, his loyalty to his church, his adopted country and his sacrifices." Mr. Nelson

commenced his discourse by giving a brief history of Norway and its people and continued with the trials and tribulations of the early immigrants to this country. He recited several personal experiences that he encountered in his service in the Civil war and portrayed the important part the Norwegians played in that conflict. In his closing Mr. Nelson dwelt for a time on the history of the Norwegian Lutheran church up to the present time. While in our city Mr. Nelson was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Grove.

From *The Cambridge Leader*, Thursday, April 21, 1938 - Funeral services for Oley Nelson, aged 93, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Anna Skortman at Slater Friday, were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Bethlehem church at Slater, the Rev. Rorem of Slater and Rev. Wertz of Des Moines in charge. Special services were also conducted by National Commander Mennet of the G. A. R. He was buried with full military honors in the Slater cemetery.

Oley Nelson was born in Clinton, Wis. Aug. 10, 1844 and enlisted in Co. D. 40th Wisconsin Regiment in the spring of 1864, shortly after the death of father in the service. He was honorably discharged from the army and came to Story county with his mother in a covered wagon in 1867. He engaged in the mercantile business in Sheldahl and later moved to the new town of Slater where he was the principal merchant for many years.

He was elected and served two terms in the Iowa legislature. He served as State and also National Commander of the G. A. R. and was very prominent. He was the oldest man who has had the honor of serving as sergeant of arms of the Iowa Legislature for 9 years.

He was married to Miss Lizzie Erslund in 1869 and 10 children were born to them. His wife died several years ago. The surviving children are: Mrs. Chas. Shortman, Mrs. Tom Rawson and Beatrice Nelson of Slater, George of Portland, Ore., Elmer and Mrs. Elsie Larson of Des Moines and Mrs. Mattie Fardal of Webster City.

A large number from Cambridge and vicinity were among the 1,000 people that attended the funeral.

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Information received through email:

Subj: Ingeborg (Erslund) Nelson  
Date: 01/21/98  
To: tlewis1132@juno.com

Delores,

Visited the NAHA archives recently and one of the things I found was an obit for Oley Nelson's wife, Ingeborg. Will be glad to send it to you if you do not have it.

Arlen

Subj: Ingeborg Nelson  
Date: 98-01-26 12:10:47 EST  
From: tlewis1132@juno.com (TRUMAN L LEWIS)  
To: artwedt@dmacc.cc.ia.us

I do have a lengthy obit of Mrs. Oley (Ingeborg) Nelson so I won't need another. Thanks for thinking of me. Delores

Subj: Oley Nelson  
Date: 98-05-24 16:54:47 EDT  
From: rlarson1@isd.net (R B Larson)  
To: atwedt@aol.com

I have a photo from Slater, Iowa dated 1903 of Mr. & Mrs. Oley Nelson. She may be Anna Nelson, born 16 Apr. 1840 in Hafslo, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway. She married in Hafslo to Ole Nelson. Ole born 3 Dec. 1836, also likely in Hafslo. They were married in Hafslo and had a daughter, Christine, also born in Hafslo on 29 Aug. 1863. They emigrated in 1865 and settled on a farm in Nunda Township, Freeborn County, Minnesota. They were alive in 1875 but "disappeared".

Thanks

Bruce Larson

Subj: Re: Oley Nelson  
Date: 05/25/98  
To: rlarson1@isd.net

Bruce,

Thanks for the information about the photo of Oley Nelson. There was an Oley Nelson in Slater, but I am not sure it is the same one you referred to in your message. I am including what information I have about Oley Nelson and you can see what you think.

Arlen Twedt

**OLEY NELSON**

Oley Nelson was a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, where he was born on August 11, 1845, the son of Nels and Aasa Olson Evensrue, natives of Rollag, Numedal, Norway, who emigrated to America in 1843. After a few years the family moved to Primrose, Dane county, same state, where the father entered on 160 acres of land. It was here where Oley grew to young manhood and received his education, attending college at Madison.

The civil war having broken out, the elder Nelson enlisted in the Eighth Wisconsin volunteer infantry in August, 1861. After having taken part in many engagements he took sick and died at Keokuk, Iowa, while on his way home.

The son, who had been helping with the work on the farm, desired to take his father's place and at the age of 17 we find him enlisting in the Fortieth Wisconsin infantry in 1864. He assisted in the capture of Memphis. While stationed at Holy Springs, Miss., he took sick and was sent home on a furlough. He received his honorable discharge in 1864.

In the spring of 1867 Mr. Nelson and his mother decided to move to Iowa. Disposing of their equity in their farm, they took their belongings and migrated to Iowa in a prairie schooner. They staked out an eighty acre homestead in Polk county, two miles south from what is now Sheldahl. They built a small home, hauling the material from Polk City. In the early fall grasshoppers ate up everything green in that section.

While the outlook was very discouraging they tried it another year, but were forced to quit and moved to Des Moines, where Oley got a job as a teamster, hauling brick. It was in the fall of this year, 1869, that he got his first introduction to mercantile business, being employed by Luce & Mahannah. He conducted a "Farmers' Home" boarding house in connection.

In 1873 Hubbard & Polk interested him in going to Sheldahl and help lay out the town, which he did. It resulted in his building a big store as well as a home. He developed a big business, buying grain in connection. Then came the moving of Sheldahl to Slater in 1887.

In Slater, Mr. Nelson built another large store as well as a commodious home. He enjoyed an ever increasing business and was behind every worthy movement. His interest in Slater never ceased—not even after his retirement.



Army of the Republic from the time of its inception and served it in many capacities from state commander to that of county chairman. The crowning event of his long career was his election as national commander for the year 1936-37. It was the greatest honor that his comrades could give him, and he deserved it. Although over 90 years, he was very active and made a great commander—the most popular one in years. He traveled from coast to coast, visited many states and made several trips to Washington, D. C., on important legislative matters. During one of his visits there he was received by President Roosevelt and had an interesting visit with our chief executive. In addition to his many G. A. R. activities he served on the governor's staff for several years and was sergeant-at-arms in the general assembly for fourteen years. As such he was the oldest man ever to be employed by the state.

Mr. Nelson's marriage to Miss Lizzie Erslund of Cambridge was solemnized in December, 1869. To this union ten children were born, of whom seven survive him. They are George of Portland, Oregon; Elsie Larson, Elmer and Beatrice of Des Moines, Mrs. Anna Skortman and Mrs. Belle Rawson of Slater and Mrs. Mattie Fardal of Webster City.

Mr. Nelson was termed "Slater's Grand Old Man," and rightly so, as his interest in the town and the community never wavered from the time he helped found it, and his passing on is a distinct loss to the town, the church and the schools. Yesterday he was with us; today he is gone. We stop to revere his memory.

**WHO WILL TELL THE STORY**  
(Compiled by Oley Nelson)

When the comrades have departed,  
When the veterans are no more;  
When the bugle call is sounded,  
When life's weary march is ended,  
When the campfires slumber long;  
Who will tell the world the story  
When the host is in the tomb?

**His Favorite Dish!**



**Ruby Weeks Becomes the Bride of Marvin Thompson**

A pretty home wedding took place last Saturday evening April 16th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weeks, when their daughter, Miss Ruby, became the bride of Marvin Thompson of Williams, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson of Slater.

Promptly at six o'clock Mrs. Joseph Thompson of Hubbard, Iowa, played Lohengrin's Wedding March as the bridal party took their places before the east window in the living room. Presiding the ceremony Miss Ruby Weeks, a sister of the bride, read the Lutheran marriage service, using the single ring ceremony in the presence of the immediate relatives. Miss June Weeks, a sister of the bride, served as bridesmaid and Edwin Thompson, a brother of the groom, as best man.

The bride was charming in a gown of copenhagen blue silk crepe and wore a corsage of gardenias.

The bridesmaid wore navy blue with rose trimming and a corsage of gardenias.

Immediately after the ceremony a two-course wedding dinner was served in the dining room by Hazel Estrem and Dorothy Weeks. A large wedding cake, beautifully decorated, served as a centerpiece for the bridal table. The menu and the decorations carried out a pink and white color scheme. The guests included near relatives, the immediate members of the church and the school. Contracting parties are both splendid young people. The bride is a graduate of Slater High

**Death of Reinert Holland**

**Passed Away Last Saturday Afternoon: Funeral at Kelley, Yesterday**

Reinert Holland, long time resident of south of Kelley, died last Saturday afternoon at the age of 76 years. In failing health for some time, he had been much worse of late and the final summons on Saturday had been anticipated. The children were at his bedside.

Funeral rites were held yesterday from the Bethany church at Kelley at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge. The service was held at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge. The service was held at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge. The service was held at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge.

There were many floral pieces and an unusually large number of gifts to the missions in his memory. Burial was made in the family lot in the Kelley cemetery.

**Spring Luther League Convention at Ames**

The spring convention of the Story City circuit Luther League will be held at the Bethesda Lutheran church at Ames the latter part of the week—April 22, 23 and 24. The convention theme is, "Christ-Controlled Lives," and the convention speaker, Rev. J. G. Knutson of Lake Mills, Iowa. The opening sermon on Friday evening will be delivered by Rev.

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**Buried Wednesday on Monday Attend**

Hon. Oley Nelson, national commander of the Army of the Republic, died at 2:45 o'clock on Monday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oley Nelson. Mr. Nelson, 90 years of age, which affliction he suffered. From then on he passed away every care, and he died almost peacefully.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Bethany church at Kelley. He had long resided in Des Moines, where he was in the employ of Rev. E. R. Rorem, assisted by Dr. J. G. Knutson of the St. Olaf church, Des Moines. He took as his motto the Kingdon course of life. A beautiful woman, the deceased Weertz, at Des Moines had while in Des Moines, where he was in the employ of Rev. E. R. Rorem, assisted by Dr. J. G. Knutson of the St. Olaf church, Des Moines. He took as his motto the Kingdon course of life. A beautiful woman, the deceased Weertz, at Des Moines had while in Des Moines, where he was in the employ of Rev. E. R. Rorem, assisted by Dr. J. G. Knutson of the St. Olaf church, Des Moines. He took as his motto the Kingdon course of life.

The singing was by Dr. J. G. Knutson, "The Garden of Gethsemane," "Voice Is Crying in the Desert," "The Old Rite," "The Night There Land," Mr. Nelson resided at the

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the capture of Memphis, was stationed at Holy Springs, Miss., took sick and was sent home on a furlough. He received his honorable discharge in 1864.

In the spring of 1867 Mr. Nelson and his mother decided to move to Iowa. Disposing of their equity in their farm, they took their belongings and migrated to Iowa in a prairie schooner. They staked out an eighty acre homestead in Polk county, two miles south from what is now Sheldahl. They built a small home, hauling the material from Polk City. In the spring of 1868, grasshoppers ate everything green in that section. While the outlook was very discouraging they tried it another year, but were forced to quit and moved to Des Moines, where Oley got a job as a teamster, hauling brick. It was in the fall of this year, 1869, that he got his first introduction to mercantile business, being employed by Luce & Mahannah. He conducted a "Farmers' Home" boarding house in connection.

In 1873 Hubbell & Polk interested him in going to Sheldahl and help lay out the town, which he did. It resulted in his building a big store as well as a home. He developed a big business, buying grain in connection. Then came the moving of Sheldahl to Slater in 1887.

In Slater, Mr. Nelson built another large store as well as a commodious home. He enjoyed an ever increasing business and was behind every worthy move—organized the Farmers Savings bank and other projects. His interest in Slater never ceased—not even after his retirement.

He was always interested in state and national matters. This interest was early attested in his election to the general assembly in 1882 and 1884—two terms. He was also a delegate to the national convention which nominated Blaine for president. While at Sheldahl he served as postmaster for six years.

From early childhood he had been trained in the tenets of the Christian religion, his mother being an earnest, sincere Christian woman. He was very active in church matters and identified himself with the United Lutheran church of America. For years he took a leading part in its activities and was honored with many positions of trust and honor. Chief of these was his membership on the board of directors of St. Olaf college and vice president on the board of the United church.

He was a member of the Grand

commander—the most popular one in years. He traveled from coast to coast, visited many states and made several trips to Washington, D. C., on important legislative matters. During one of his visits there he was received by President Roosevelt and had an interesting visit with our chief executive. In addition to his many G. A. R. activities he served on the governor's staff for several years and was sergeant-at-arms in the general assembly for fourteen years. As such he was the oldest man ever to be employed

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#### WHO WILL TELL THE STORY (Compiled by Oley Nelson)

When the comrades have departed,  
When the veterans are no more;  
When the bugle call is sounded  
On the everlasting shore;  
When life's weary march is ended,  
When the campfires slumber long;  
Who will tell the world the story  
When the boys in blue are gone.

Who will tell about the marching  
From Atlanta to the sea;  
Who will halt and wait and listen  
When they hear the reveille?  
Who will join and swell the chorus  
Of some old Grand Army song?  
Who will tell the world the story  
When the boys in blue are gone?

Sons and daughters of this nation  
You must tell of triumphs won,  
When our work on earth is ended,  
And the veteran claims his own.  
You must cherish dear Old Glory  
And its teachings pass along.  
You must tell the world the story  
When the boys in blue are gone.

#### Ryg To Iowa City

Ed Ryg, who submitted to operations on both of his eyes for cataract trouble at the University hospital at Iowa City, went back there last Sunday to have the proper lenses inserted in his glasses. One of the hospital's ambulances picked him up on Sunday noon. When they bring him back he will be equipped with the proper glasses.

April 6th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weeks, when their daughter, Miss Ruby, became the bride of Marvin Thompson of Williams, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson of Slater.

Promptly at six o'clock Mrs. Joseph Thompson of Hubbard, Iowa, played Lohengrin's Wedding March as the bridal party took their places before the window in the living room. Preceding the ceremony Miss Ruby Weeks, a sister of the bride, sang "I Love You Truly."

The bride's pastor, read the Lutheran marriage service, using the single ring ceremony in the presence of the immediate relatives. Miss June Weeks, a sister of the bride, served as bridesmaid and Edwin Thompson, a brother of the groom, as best man.

The bride was charming in a gown of Copenhagen blue silk crepe and wore a corsage of gardenias.

The bridesmaid wore navy blue with rose trimming and a corsage of gardenias.

Immediately after the ceremony a two-course wedding dinner was served in the dining room by Hazel Estrem and Dorothy Weeks. A large wedding cake, beautifully decorated, served as a centerpiece for the bridal table. The menu and the decorations carried out a pink and white color scheme. The guests included near relatives, the immediate members of the two families.

Contracting parties are both splendid young people. The bride is a graduate of Slater High; the groom from the Kelley schools. They will be at home to their friends at Williams, Iowa, after May 1st. He is in the milling business there.

#### Paulsrud Accepts Call From Duluth

Rev. Jordan Paulsrud, who has been serving a charge at Houston, Minnesota, has accepted a call from the First Lutheran church at Duluth, same state, where he will assume his new duties on June 1st. With his family he will move there the latter part of May. Friends speak of it as a much deserved promotion.

#### Luncheon and Sale at Log Cabin

The Ladies' Aid of the M. E. church will have a sale of potted plants, shrubs, bulbs, etc., at the Slater log cabin on Thursday afternoon. They will also serve lunch. All are cordially invited.

#### Kelley, Yesterday

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Funeral rites were held yesterday from the Bethany church at Kelley at 2:00 o'clock with his pastor, Rev. Rorem, in charge. The hymns were "When I

by Prof. R. E. Dean on the piano. Scripture reading and prayer was followed by a vocal solo, a Norwegian favorite, "Fly Som en Fugl til Din Klippe," by Jeffery Richardson. The funeral sermon followed. In closing the ladies' quintet sang, "Abide with Me."

There were many floral pieces and an unusually large number of gifts to the missions in his memory. Burial was made in the family lot in the Kelley cemetery.

#### Spring Luther League Convention at Ames

The spring convention of the Story City circuit Luther League will be held at the Bethesda Lutheran church at Ames the latter part of the week—April 22, 23 and 24. The convention theme is "Christ-Controlled Lives," and the convention speaker, Rev. J. L. Knutson of Lake Mills, Iowa. The opening sermon on Friday evening will be delivered by Rev. Barstad of Radeliffe, Iowa.

Interesting programs have been arranged for all of the sessions. Miss Hazel Hoffman, member of the Slater school faculty, will have a part in the program Saturday forenoon.

#### Death of James Nervig

James Nervig, a former resident of southeast of Slater, died at his home at Humboldt, Iowa, last week. Funeral took place last Saturday. Not a few from the Slater community were in attendance.

Supt. and Mrs. C. R. Laughrigh spent their Easter vacation in Chicago, guests at the home of a cousin of Mr. Laughrigh. Mrs. Laughrigh's mother, Mrs. Jesse Lenn, accompanied them as far as Fairfield, Iowa, where she remained. The Laughrighs made the trip in their new car, a De Soto.

Rev. E. R. assisted by D. of the St. Church, Des Moines, took as his the Kingdon course of beautiful y the deceasec Weertz, at Nelson hac while in Des text, "As F We Will Se too, paid tribute to death of M Holland. f St. Olaf coll the United college. I tribute.

The singi solos by l the Garden Voice Is ( quartet s "The Old Night The Land." M sided at th

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## The Iowa State Department of History and Archives

An institution of the State of Iowa, located at the seat of government, established as a department of the State in 1892, and administered by a Curator elected by a Board of Trustees composed of the Governor of the State, a Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It consists of the following divisions:

- The Historical and Genealogical Library
- The Public Archives of the State of Iowa
- The Collections of Iowa History, Art and Industry
- The Manuscript Collections of letters and correspondence of prominent figures and movements relating to Iowa
- The Museum Division: Indian, geology, pioneer life, transportation, and natural history collections and exhibits
- THE ANNALS OF IOWA, *an Historical Publication*
- The Newspaper Division—Files of Iowa Papers
- The Portrait Gallery of Iowa Historical Figures

In the interest of preserving Iowa history, the Department, as an official and permanent institution of the state, solicits the presentation, to its Manuscript Collection, of letters, diaries, family histories, and general manuscripts about Iowans and the area of which the state is a geographical part.

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

In the more than half a century THE ANNALS OF IOWA has been published, it has made accessible to the people generally a vast amount of interesting and accurate data on the history of the State that otherwise would not have been available. The securing of material, and editing and supervising its publication, is a part of the immediate task of carrying on the work of the Department in harmony with its well established traditions. The Editor welcomes for publication the contribution of the reminiscences, the writings, the biographies, observations and studies of those familiar with Iowa people and with important and significant events and movements in the state's history.

# ANNALS OF IOWA

AN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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Payne 1911

Now he has one of the best farms in this section of the county, containing all of the most modern improvements. He has made a specialty of cattle feeding, in which he has met with unusual success.

The marriage of Mr. Robison took place April 4, 1888, when he was united to Miss Mattie Whitaker, a daughter of Samuel and Harriett (Miller) Whitaker, of Indian Creek township. Her mother was a native of Indiana, while her father was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. The latter came to Story county in 1855 and is now a resident of Maxwell. To Mr. and Mrs. Robison have been born four children, two of whom survive, namely: Edith, and Clay A. The daughter is now a teacher in the district schools. She is a graduate of the Maxwell high school and attended the Iowa State Normal school at Cedar Falls.

In politics Mr. Robison is a republican and he has served for several years as a member of the school board. He is affiliated with Maxwell Lodge, No. 465, I. O. O. F. Mrs. Robison, prior to her marriage, was a teacher in the public schools and is a highly accomplished woman. She is a member of the United Evangelical church.

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OLEY NELSON.

*includes picture*

Among the well established citizens of Story county there is none who deserves more honorable mention than Oley Nelson, who is now living retired at Slater. He is a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, born August 11, 1845, and son of Nels and Aase (Chrestensdotter) Olson Evensrue, both of whom were natives of Rollag, Numedal, Norway. They were married in Norway and came to America in 1843, locating at Jefferson Prairie in Rock county, Wisconsin. The father entered forty acres of government land and in 1845 declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. In the spring of 1848 he removed to Primrose, Dane county, Wisconsin, and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he proceeded to improve. On August 10, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, known as the Sugar River Rifles, of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the regiment gaining a wide reputation as the Live Eagle Regiment. The regiment left Camp Randall at Madison, Wisconsin, about October 1, 1861, and went to St. Louis, from there going to Iron Mountain, Missouri, where they drove out the rebels and secured the ore for the use of the government. They then went to Raleigh and from that place to St. Louis and thence down the Mississippi river, assisting in the capture of Island No. 10. The regiment was then ordered to Corinth and after the capture of that city to Vicksburg. On the way from Corinth to Vicksburg the father of our subject received a sixty day furlough to enable him to visit his home as his health had been seriously impaired. He went aboard a boat at Memphis and came as far north as Keokuk, Iowa, when

he was taken off the boat in an unconscious condition and conveyed to the hospital, where he died August 4, 1862.

After the father's death the mother continued to live on the farm and the son took charge of the work. However, in the spring of 1864, desiring to take the place of his father in defense of the Union, he enlisted in Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin Infantry, and was present at the last capture of Memphis later in the same year. The regiment was sent to Holly Springs and Jackson, Mississippi, and at the latter place Mr. Nelson was taken sick with fever and jaundice and in the fall of the year was sent home on a furlough. He was in a very serious condition on his arrival at Madison and was practically incapacitated for any service for several months. He received his honorable discharge from the army in December, 1864.

Mr. Nelson continued with his mother in Wisconsin until 1867. In the winter of 1864-5 the home farm was sold under foreclosure on account of a security debt, and they then moved to eighty acres in which the mother had an equity. In the spring of 1867 she disposed of this equity, receiving two hundred and twenty-five dollars. They also possessed a span of colts and three head of young heifers, and having secured a prairie schooner started westward, having decided to cast their lot in Iowa. Upon reaching Skunk river opposite Cambridge, Story county, Iowa, they found the river bottom flooded, making it extremely dangerous to attempt to cross with a wagon. Accordingly Mr. Nelson left his mother upon the bank and hired a pilot for five dollars to assist him in crossing with the wagon and animals. After reaching the opposite shore he waded back, the water reaching above his waist, and took his mother on his shoulders, she being a small woman weighing only about ninety pounds, and carried her across in safety. The effort practically exhausted him, but after resting a while they resumed their journey and crossed the county line to Polk county, subsequently locating on eighty acres of raw prairie. As their resources were extremely limited Mr. Nelson found it necessary to sell the horses and wagon and purchase a yoke of oxen, this transaction replenishing the treasury by about one hundred dollars. He hauled lumber and brick from Polk City to build a house and they lived comfortably during the following winter. In the fall of 1867 the grasshoppers ate up everything green in that section and it was indeed a gloomy outlook, especially as payments were due on the farm and other obligations had been incurred.

In the spring of 1869 Mr. Nelson sold the oxen and wagon and went to Des Moines, where he secured a position the first day of S. A. Robertson to haul brick from his yard at a salary of thirty dollars per month and board. In the fall of the same year he received his first introduction to the mercantile business in the house of Luce & Mahanna, his salary being fifteen dollars per month, twelve dollars of which he was obliged to pay for board. Subsequently he conducted a farmers boarding house and in 1874 removed to Sheldahl, where he erected the first store building in the town,

continuing as a merchant and grain buyer until he retired on account of the encroachments of age. He was organizer of the Farmers Savings Bank at Slater and was its first president, being at the present time a member of the board of directors.

In December, 1869, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Ersland, of Cambridge, and by this union ten children were born, namely: George E., Elsie C., Carrie H., Anna G., Bell O., Mattie A., Elemer O., and Beatrice D., and Kuttie A. and Amos K., who died in infancy. The first five are now married.

Politically Mr. Nelson has ever since arriving at the age of manhood given his support to the republican party and has served in a number of responsible positions. He was postmaster at Sheldahl from 1874 to 1880 and school treasurer from 1874 to 1885. He was elected to the twenty-first and twenty-second general assembly, serving in 1882 and 1884 with distinguished ability, being especially active in behalf of better drainage laws, better school laws and free text-books. He was a delegate to the national republican convention which nominated James G. Blaine for president and has been employed many times by the state republican committee as a campaign speaker, having appeared in more than fifteen counties in Iowa and in four counties in Minnesota. Religiously, he is identified with the United Lutheran church, in which he has for many years been a prominent worker. In 1904 he was elected president of the board of directors of St. Olof College and since 1890 has been a member of the board of the United Norwegian church of America, being now vice president of that body.

Mr. Nelson possessed limited opportunities of school education in his early life. His mother, however, was a woman of fine education and was his principal teacher until he came into contact with the world. His tastes were originally for mechanical pursuits but conditions led him into mercantile life, in which he attained deserved success. As a public speaker he has been highly efficient and his services have been in urgent demand. Today he is recognized as a leader among Norwegians of Iowa, due to his high character and marked business ability, and he is greatly esteemed wherever he is known.

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#### DICK R. SPIEKER.

Dick R. Spieker, cashier of the Peoples Savings Bank of Nevada and recognized as one of the most progressive young business men of the city, was born in Grundy county, Iowa, September 17, 1880. He is a son of John and Hattie (Husinga) Spieker, both natives of Germany. The father came to this country with his parents in infancy, the family locating in Hardin county, Iowa, in 1852. Our subject's Grandfather Spieker did not possess a liberal amount of this world's goods when he established his

# Y DRIVER AD PERIL, ASSERTS

## to Tighten ck Rules.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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## Accidents.

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## Conference.

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# Bricks Hurlled At Groceries, Glass Broken

Disturbances Friday night re-  
sulted in police being called to  
four business establishments in-  
cluding three grocery stores and  
an ice cream company.

Four men were arrested after  
an alleged attempt was made to  
hurl a brick through the window  
of the Lambert Ice Cream Co.,  
Nineteenth st. and Keosauqua  
way. Two later were released.

## Windows.

Windows were broken out with  
bricks at the grocery of Albert E.  
Baber, 1069 Sixth ave., and the E.  
Fourteenth Street Food Market,  
2401 E. Fourteenth st., police said.  
No arrests were made.

Neither grocery has signed the  
new closing agreement proposed  
by the retail clerks union, police  
stated.

## Rock.

The proprietor of the Thomas  
Food Market, 825 Sixth ave., re-  
ported to police that a rock was  
hurled at a barricade erected over  
the front of his store after a win-  
dow had been broken out a few  
nights ago.

The men police arrested gave  
their names and addresses as Grant  
J. Harter, 23, of 2609 Carpenter  
ave.; John A. Berger, 40, of 1510  
Ohio st.; Raymond Lorenz, 19, of  
2914 Waukonsa road; and Edward  
J. Rutkowski, 30, of 1618 Twenty-  
eighth st.

## Lambert Files Charges.

Guy Lambert, proprietor of the  
ice cream company, went to the  
police station and, police said,  
identified Harter and Berger, fil-  
ling charges of disturbing quiet of  
a person against them.

Lorenz and Rutkowski were not  
identified, police said, and were  
immediately released.

Harter and Berger early today  
pleaded not guilty to the charges  
before Municipal Judge C. Edwin  
Moore and were released on \$100  
bond each for hearing Apr. 22.

# CAME TO IOWA BY 'SCHOONER' 68 YEARS AGO

## Legislative Officer for 14 Years.

SLATER, IA.—Oley Nel-  
son, 93, past national com-  
mander of the Grand Army of  
the Republic, died here Friday  
afternoon at the home of a  
daughter, Mrs. Anna Skort-  
land.

Mr. Nelson suffered a  
stroke in February. Appar-  
ently recovering, he suffered  
a relapse Tuesday.

He served as national com-  
mander of the Civil war vet-  
erans for one year beginning in  
September, 1935. He was state  
commander in 1927.

## Oldest Employee.

The oldest man ever employed  
by the state, he had served 14  
years as sergeant-at-arms of the  
Iowa house of representatives.

Six of his seven children were  
in Slater Friday. Another son,  
George, was telegraphed at Port-  
land, Ore., and funeral arrange-  
ments were delayed pending word  
from him.

## Wisconsin Native.

Before becoming sergeant-at-  
arms, Mr. Nelson served Story  
county for two terms, in the twen-  
ty-first and twenty-second as-  
semblies, as state representative.

A native of Rock county, Wis-  
consin, Mr. Nelson was educated at  
a commercial college in Madison,  
Wis. In his early youth he helped  
his father develop a quarry in Iowa  
stead near Primrose, Wis.

Commerce commission officials at Kansas City, Mo., where administrators of state motor vehicle departments from this section of the nation will hold a convention.

One recent Iowa truck accident which Tate referred involved a driver who left Flint, Mich., at 7 p.m. with a shipment of canned goods and, more than 24 hours later, piled his truck into a ditch near Cedar Rapids, Ia.

"He had no relief driver and stopped only for two hours sleep in his cab at an Illinois city," Tate said.

In the other accident, a tractor-trailer truck "jackknifed," sideslipped a bus and nearly caused a serious accident, Tate said. ("Jackknifing" occurs in a tractor-trailer when the brake is applied on the trailer unit before it is applied to the trailer unit.)

**Driver Exhausted.**

In this accident," Tate said, the driver's wife was riding with him and she said the accident occurred because her husband was fatigued. He was trying to get the truck through on the schedule set for in his contract with a local firm." Tate said many other truck accidents could be traced to fatigue of the driver.

Trucks are sent through on tight schedules in an attempt to keep up with train schedules," he said. "But train employees are required to have adequate rest and the trucking industry should have similar requirements."

**EGG DYES—\$1**

The spirit of the season failed to shake Municipal Judge Ralph Powers Friday in following out the strict letter of the law. Lucille Bourg, 211 Twenty-ninth st., admitted she had worked overtime Thursday afternoon at Seventh and Walnut streets.

"I was trying to buy some better egg dye," she told Judge Powers. "There was such a jam at the store I was 15 minutes returning to my car."

"That'll be one dollar," sighed Judge Powers.

Moore and were released on \$100 bond each for hearing Apr. 22.

**Picketed.**

The ice cream company has been picketed for some time by the milk drivers union. Lester Stewart of Clive, Ia., business agent for the union, was arrested Friday morning following a disturbance. Stewart pleaded not guilty later to charges of assault and battery preferred by Lambert.

**OH SUCH GIRLS!**

Susan, Just 94, Decides It's Time to Bob Hair.

KINGWOOD, W. VA. (AP)—Susan Messenger, 94, stepped spryly into a barber's chair Friday and ordered:

"Bob my hair."

The astonished tonsorial artist complied.

Before starting her half-mile hike home the agile customer smiled:

"I'll be back in three months for another job."

**61 FACE VOTE CHARGES.**

KANSAS CITY, MO. (AP) — A federal grand jury Friday indicted 61 more persons on vote fraud conspiracy charges in the 1936 general election.

develop a 100-acre homestead near Primrose, Wis.

**Father Enlists.**

The elder Nelson enlisted in the Eighth Wisconsin volunteer infantry Aug. 10, 1861. He became ill just before the siege of Vicksburg and died at Keokuk, Ia., in 1862, on furlough.

His son left the farm and enlisted in the 40th Wisconsin infantry in 1864 at the age of 17. He was present at the capture of Memphis, but soon became ill and was sent home on furlough.

**\$15 a Month Job.**

Mr. Nelson and his mother migrated to Iowa in a prairie schooner in 1867, 68 years ago. They staked out an 80-acre homestead in Polk county, but Oley was forced to take a \$15 a month job as teamster in Des Moines when grasshoppers ravaged their crops.

During the next several years he developed a prosperous business as merchant and grain buyer at Sheldahl, Ia. He later moved to Slater where he organized the Farmers Savings bank and was active in civic affairs. He donated a park to the city.

**Lifelong Republican.**

A lifelong Republican, he was a delegate to the national conven-

Nelson—

Continued on Page Nine.

**He Was An 'Institution'**



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## DYES—\$1

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ere was such a jam  
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one dollar," sighed  
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## PLACE YOUR WANT AD EARLY!

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## 61 FACE VOTE CHARGES.

KANSAS CITY, MO. (AP) — A federal grand jury Friday indicted 61 more persons on vote fraud conspiracy charges in the 1936 general election.

and was active in civic affairs. He donated a park to the city.

## Lifelong Republican.

A lifelong Republican, he was a delegate to the national conven-

Nelson—

Continued on Page Nine.

# He Was An 'Institution'



Oley Nelson, shown in G.A.R. uniform and with his dog, was called "an institution—not an issue" last year when nominated for his seventh term as sergeant-at-arms of the Iowa house.

# Bank Night a Lottery

# OLEY NELSON IS DEAD AT 93

Wife L  
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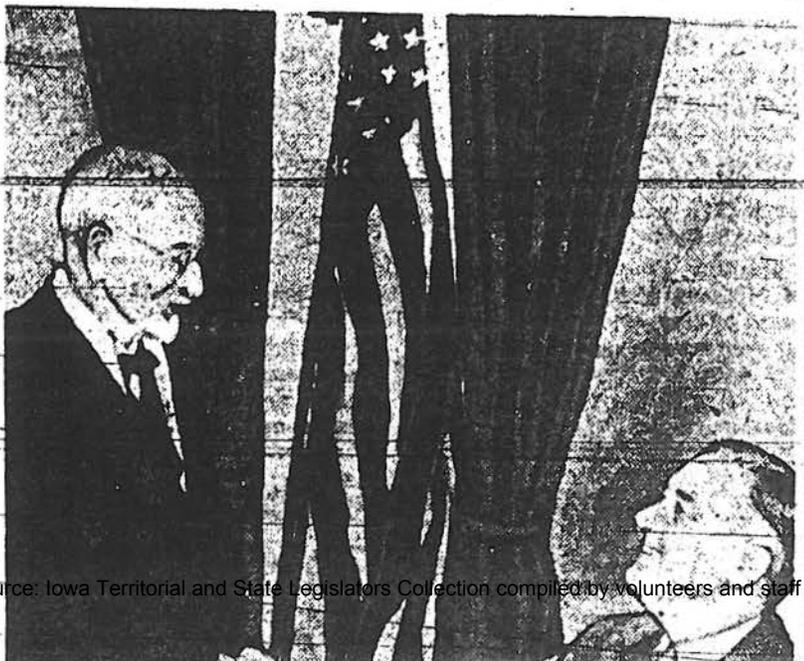
## Death Ends Nelson's Career

Past National Chief of G.A.R.

**Nelson—**  
*Continued From Page 1.*



A familiar face at the statehouse for many years was that of Mr. Nelson. He served as sergeant-at-arms for the house. With him is Harry Black, assistant.



tion which nominated James G. Blaine for president.

During his tenure as a legislator, he was instrumental in passing the bill which created the Iowa Soldiers home at Marshalltown, Ia.

### "An Institution."

When Mr. Nelson was nominated for his seventh term as sergeant-at-arms of the Iowa house, Representative B. B. Hickenlooper of Cedar Rapids, Ia., Republican house leader, said of him:

"Oley Nelson is an institution —not an issue."

A slender little man with a white spade beard, white hair and twinkling eyes, Oley Nelson was proud of his job as sergeant at arms.

His stentorian voice filled the house chamber when he announced: "Mr. Speaker, a message from the senate."

### Did Work Himself.

He feared some "younger war veteran" might get the office. So for a time he took care of all the sergeant's work without any help "so they won't think I'm getting too old."

As national G.A.R. commander, he set out in March, 1936, upon a grand tour of 7,000 miles, from coast to coast, with his secretary, Miss Katherine Flood. He was received by President Roosevelt in Washington, D. C., while making the tour.

### Remembered Friends.

He made his old friends, members of his national staff. Judge James W. Willett of Tama, Ia., became a national judge advocate, and J. P. Risley of Des Moines, who died recently, a national adjutant.

Returning to Des Moines from the convention which named him commander, Oley Nelson was received with brass bands and parades, both in Des Moines and Slater.

### Trees Planted.

Trees were planted in his honor, and at the dedication of one of his eyes grew moist with tears.

"I used to meet the girl I mar-



Mrs. Walter  
"Most Beaut"

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## NIGHT IOWA

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This picture of Oley Nelson, who died Friday, was taken in 1936 when, as commander-in-chief of the G.A.R., he visited President Roosevelt at the White House in Washington, D. C.

as I know at present" Post-  
master General Farley's ruling  
on "bank nights" does not di-  
rectly affect "bank nights" in  
Iowa.

## WRITER RETURNS AFTER 16 YEARS

After a hardy attempt at pro-  
ducing a humorous novel, Darwin  
Teilhet, returning to his home  
town Friday night after being ab-  
sent since 1922, can't understand  
why "Journey To The West" is  
being claimed by proletarians as  
their own.

Accompanied by his wife of 10  
years, whom he married follow-  
ing a campus courtship at Stan-  
ford university, Teilhet arrived in  
Des Moines during the rain at 11  
p. m. Friday by plane.

### Recall His 'Caprice.'

He had not been here since he  
was a student at Drake university,  
where his humorous magazine "Ca-  
price" was suppressed by faculty  
decree after going through four  
editions. He was 19 when he left  
to study in France.

Since abandoning the parental  
establishment located then at  
Thirty-fourth st. and University  
known as the author of mystery  
stories.

the tour.

### Remembered Friends.

He made his old friends mem-  
bers of 'his national' staff. Judge  
James W. Willett of Tama, Ia., be-  
came a national judge advocate,  
and J. P. Risley of Des Moines,  
who died recently, a national ad-  
jutant.

Returning to Des Moines from  
the convention which named him  
commander, Oley Nelson was re-  
ceived with brass bands and pa-  
rades, both in Des Moines and  
Slater.

### Trees Planted.

Trees were planted in his honor,  
and at the dedication of one of  
them in the statehouse grounds,  
his eyes grew moist with tears.

"I used to meet the girl I mar-  
ried—or who married me—out  
there," he said, pointing to the  
broad lawn.

He told how young people of  
that time—about 1869, he said—  
used to meet on the statehouse  
grounds because there were no  
other parks in Des Moines.

"I worked for a contractor who  
took care of the statehouse base-  
ment," he said, "and I had the  
honor of driving a team which  
hauled bricks and other odds and  
ends around the place."

As national commander, Oley  
Nelson publicly protested the  
"despoiling of Memorial day  
with exhibition contests of  
sport."

He declared that "Memorial  
day is a consecrated day" for  
war veterans.

At Portland, Ore., where he vis-  
ited on his 7,000-mile tour, he had  
a sharp retort for reporters who  
asked him if he would allow South-  
ern veterans to carry a Confed-  
erate flag in a G.A.R. parade.

### Wife Dead.

"I'll tell you what we'll do," he  
said, "we'll take them in and do  
anything to make it congenial if  
they will throw away that darned  
old rebel flag!"

Several years ago, his wife, the  
former Lizzie Ersland of Cam-  
bridge, Ia., died.

The surviving children are Mrs.  
Skortland, Mrs. Tom Rawson, and  
Beatrice Nelson, all of Slater;  
George, Elmer Nelson and Mrs.  
Elsie Larson of Des Moines, and  
Mrs. Mattie A. Fardal of Webster  
City, Ia.

The body is at the Riis mortu-  
ary.

## ANNUAL WAGE TALK PLANNED

to Meet With MacVicar.  
A joint committee of the

## Job Took Vengeance



Mrs.  
"MOS"

## DEATH

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Walter 1914 792



1914.

**Nelson, Oley.**

(Fk.)

F. 10de aug. 1844, av Nels Olson Evensrue og Aase (F. C. Prestemoet), i Clinton Twp., Rock Co. (Jefferson Prairie), Wis. Studerte ved Albion Academy og Wisconsin universitet, en termin hver. Bosat i Clinton, Rock Co., Wis., 1844-48; Primrose, Dane Co., Wis., 1848-67; Polk Co., Iowa, 1867; Des Moines, Iowa, 1868-74; Sheldahl, Iowa, 1874-90; Slater, Story Co., Iowa, 1890—. Butikbetjent i Des Moines 1868-74; handelsmand i Sheldahl 1874-90; i Slater 1890-14. Var med og organiserte Bethlehem menighet, trustee, diakon; medlem av Board of Trustees for Konferentsen 1884-90; medlem av Board of Trustees for Den forenede kirke 1891-17; vicepræsidi-

dent 1891-17; medlem av Executive Board 1891-17; medlem av Board of Trustees for St. Olaf College og en tid præsident for samme. Soldat i borgerkrigen 1864-65, i kompani D, 40de Wisconsin; postmester, dommer, skoledirektør, medlem av 21de og 22de Iowas legislatur. Organiserede Skandinaviske veteranforening og Skandinaviske pionerforening. Forfattet "The Early Norwegian Immigrant, 1840-60", "Story Co. menigheder", "The Controversy as to the Responsibility of the Augsburg Board of Trustees, 1890-93", 1916. Gift 1869 med Engeborg Ersland (hun døde i januar 1917). Har hat 10 barn, 8 i live.

it is less than one-third green, the crop might better be cut as quickly as possible. Where the corn is short enough to be handled by the grain binder this furnishes the most rapid and satisfactory method of cutting it. Where the corn is too large for the grain binder it may be cut with the corn binder by hand. The larger the corn the better quality of silage it will make. If there is a choice between two fields of different size, both equally drought injured, put the larger corn into the silo and cur and shock the other for fodder.

**Watch Moisture Content**

Even though the corn appears quite dry the stalks are likely to contain more moisture than is normally found in corn at regular silo filling time. Corn containing from 55 to 60 per cent moisture makes the best silage. If put into the silo with too much moisture in the stalk, immature corn makes a very sour silage that scours cattle badly. For this reason it is a good idea to allow the corn to dry out after being cut, even to the point where a little water might be needed to make it sufficiently damp for silage making. Usually cutting the corn a day ahead and allowing it to dry on the ground will get it into shape for putting in the silo. Very immature corn that has reached the tasseling stage does not have as much feeding value, pound for pound as does that which has reached the tasseling and silk stage. However, it is very much worthwhile saving. Ordinarily it is better to cut such corn with the grain binder and put it in the shock. It should be gotten under shelter or stacked as soon as enough for such fodder wastes quickly in the field.

There is, so far as known, no danger from poisoning of cattle in drought injured corn that is cut and cured for fodder or partially cured and made into silage. Pasturing of such cornfields is wasteful and may cause losses of cattle either from "overfill" or in the case of drought injured small corn from actual poisoning.

**CRASH VICTIMS REMAIN SERIOUS**

**Mr. and Mrs. August Peterson Remain in Serious Condition at Hospital in Perry**

The condition of Mr. and Mrs. August Peterson who were seriously injured in an automobile crash northwest of Woodward about ten days ago still remains in a critical condition at the King's Daughters hospital in Perry.

Mrs. Peterson suffered a broken pelvis, and other possible internal injuries, and Mr. Peterson suffered fractured skull and other body lesions in the wreck. Mr. Peterson has not regained consciousness since the accident. The other members of the party who were but slightly injured, are now getting along nicely.

This automobile accident happened at an intersection, in the mile south of the fatal crash in which Max Mouglin and T. B. Wilkie were killed.

All-Stars and another team, is being planned.

All 4-H boys of Boone county and their parents are invited and urged to attend this meeting which promises to be one of the finest ever held for the club members here.

**AGED SLATER MAN WILL CELEBRATE**

**Hon. Oley Nelson Honored Upon 90th Birthday at Gathering in Slater Tomorrow**

**Mr. Nelson is at Present Sergeant at Arms in the House of Representatives**

Hon. Oley Nelson of the Slater community, who is at present the Sergeant at Arms at the house of Representatives, will be 90 years old tomorrow. Oley, "The grand old man of the house" as he is known among his political friends, is still spry and gets about his duties at the house with comparative ease.

Friday afternoon from 2 p. m. until 10 p. m. at the Nelson park at Slater which took its name after Mr. Nelson, will be the scene of a celebration for Mr. Nelson commemorating his birthday. Many of Oley's friends will be at the park, both from that community and other places. It is the expectations of many of the members of the legislature to attend the gathering.

Mr. Nelson, survived the political turnover of the 1932 election and was continued unanimously at the door of the house chamber. He served as a representative from Story county during the 21st and 22nd general assemblies.

Among notables who plan to attend are Governor Clyde Herring and his staff and prominent men in the church who are President Roe of St Olof College, Prof. Holland, and others. There will be no set program of any kind but the celebration will be an informal gathering in which he will be able to meet his many friends. There will, however, be several musical numbers featuring local talent, and others.

Mr. Nelson is a Civil war veteran and a son of a veteran of that war. He is past commander of the Iowa G. A. R. and past senior commander of the national G. A. R.

He is responsible for the planning and presentation of the Nelson park in that community, which is named in his honor.

Mr. Nelson is wished many happy returns of the day on his birthday and his many friends, although they may not be present at the gathering tomorrow, congratulate him. During Mr. Nelson's declining years he has been active in the affairs of the organizations which he has been associated with and has won for himself the friendship of many.

**Card of Thanks**  
We wish to thank our neighbors, friends, relatives and singers for their acts of love and sympathy

he was married the second time to Miss Rachel Sharp in 1921. One child, Joseph Jr. was born to this union. They made their home in Des Moines for a number of years.

**LOOK STUR JUND**

**Small Twister Did Small**

*Handwritten note:* The corn field on the C Helms farm was laid flat 1 was stated Monday morning the field was planted late in corn would straighten In Zook Spur trees were up and limbs bdown about 1/2 way At nearly every home there or damage was reported A 100 English, colored the 1 was entirely blown down No Zook Spur eleven electric poles were blown over: In Will Reynoldson orchard were also uprooted The storms in the surround communities seemed to be serious nature than it was in Woodward community the struck with considerable violence but seemed to be just high enough to escape the houses. It is the water tower lifting the tank off and hauled it o roof of the York store doing considerable damage. Outside of to other damage was reported there. In the Bear Creek vicinity storm uprooted trees and minor damage to barns and smaller buildings. The local phone company reported damage along the lines near Zook Spur.

month were thrown in for good measure. The eighth day in the consecutive group registered on which is too close to 100 to be comfortable. The coolest day of the month was 83.

The only redeeming feature of the month was the rainfall which fell during the early portion of the month. The days of consecutive heat registered as follows:

18	99
19	100
20	108
21	106
22	106
23	103
24	106
25	104

It will be a long time before July 1934, is entirely forgotten. Probably the younger folks of today, when they become old-timers, will recall the summer of 1934 as the season of "hot days."

**GAMBLE STORE OPENS SATURDAY**

Local Store Owned and Operated by George H. Little, Formerly of Boone

The new Gamble store in this city will open to the public Saturday and is located in the A. R. Miles building across from the Madid Motor Co. The store is operated by George H. Little and is owned by him. It is his intention to move here in the near future.

The Gamble store will carry automotive supplies, tires and batteries, paint, radios, and household necessities. It's one of the 800 Gamble store agencies now operating throughout the middle west.

For more details concerning the opening of this store you are referred to their advertisement which is on another page in this issue.

**Early Settlers Reunion**  
Special Correspondence  
The Early Settlers Reunion will join in a reunion August 16, at Altoona, Iowa, a basket dinner being served at noon. Every-

**FUNERAL HELD THURSD**

**Funeral Infant Child Mr. Mrs. William Miller Held**

The funeral services for the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Lam Miller of the Garden town community, was held here Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist church with Rev. C. A. Ca. the pastor, in charge. The was about six months old and name was Gene William. The pathy of their friends is extended to them.

**HOLD ACHIEVEMENT SHOW**

**Cass Township Girls Sponsor Achievement Show**

The Cass township girls are day at the Homesley cabin on the north side of the river. Achievement Show. Each girl bringing a baked product which will be judged and the best

The Slater News  
9/18/35

# Oley Nelson Chosen Nation's Command'r

Elected To Highest Position of Honor and Trust in the G. A. R. of America

Election Climaxes Fifty Years' Active Service in Organization He Loves

The Hon. Oley Nelson, "Slater's Grand Old Man," achieved the ambition of his life last week, September 12th, when he was chosen commander of the National Grand Army of the Republic at its national encampment, held at Grand Rapids, Michigan—the highest office and honor that the organization can bestow upon any of its members.

Mr. Nelson had for some time cherished the ambition to become national commander, but it was not till in July, this year, that he began to interest his friends in the matter. Well and favorably known by the G. A. R. from coast to coast as well as by the Women's Relief Corps, he began a quiet campaign in the interest of his candidacy. It met with a splendid reception, though other aspirants bobbed up—in Kansas, Wisconsin, Ohio and New York—and they were all plenty active.

When he left for the encampment, Mr. Nelson felt encouraged over the prospects, but added, "You can never tell. America is a big country and all the candidates have friends. I have done my best. If I'm defeated, I will take it on the chin and come home, smiling."

As the convention progressed the candidates began dropping off till only Mr. Nelson and Jacob Secrest of Cincinnati, Ohio, remained. When the balloting began, Mr. Secrest was confident while Mr. Nelson remained hopeful. It had not progressed far however, before all scented the outcome and when the votes were counted, Nelson led by a ratio of 3 to 1. It was then voted to make Mr. Nelson's election unanimous. Mr. Nelson was then escorted to the platform, where he gave one of his characteristic talks, thanking his comrades for the honor thus bestowed.

During his long, active career Mr. Nelson has served the G. A. R. in many capacities—as first national vice commander, as state commander, as post commander, patriotic instructor, chief of staff, member of the Soldiers' Relief Commission and in other ways.



In his election to the highest office in the gift of his comrades, Mr. Nelson has not only brought honor to himself, but to his home town, Slater, Story county, and the state as well. Many festivities are planned in his honor—at Slater, Ames, Des Moines, Marshalltown and other points—and a busy fall faces him.

All Slater joins in extending him the heartiest congratulations and best wishes on his election to this high office.

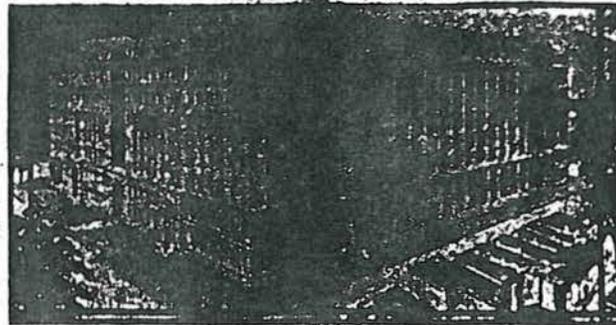
Just when Mr. Nelson will be home is not known. He reached Chicago, Saturday, where he has been feted ever since—honored at many functions.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Johnson of Ames were Sunday visitors at the home of his mother, Mrs. Mary Johnson, and Swan.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Croft and children of Des Moines were Sunday visitors at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Croft.

Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Huffman left for their home at Oklahoma City, Saturday, after a visit with her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rood.

## Uncle Sam's New Printing Office



THIS is the new government printing office in Washington. That is, it is the architect's drawing of the building which is to be erected to replace the present out-of-date and rather dilapidated structure. The new office will be on H street.

## ED HOLLAND HURT IN FALL

Ed Holland of Kelley Seriously Hurt When Scaffolding at His Home Broke

Ed Holland, rural carrier at Kelley, was painfully hurt in the back last Friday while assisting with some work at his place. Ed is remodeling his home. While on a scaffold, working with two other men, the scaffolding fell, precipitating all to the ground below. In the fall Ed hit a bunch of shingles, wrenching his back very painfully, making it impossible for him to walk. He is confined to the bed, under a doctor's care. It may be some time before he will be able to care for his duties on the Kelley rural route.

## Dorcas Program

The Dorcas Circle of the Bethlehem church meets next Monday evening, and is planned by Kenneth Mervin, Otis and Cora Ihle. The program is as follows:

- Opening Song...Circle
  - Devotional...Rev. Rorem
  - Piano Solo...Ruth Rorem
  - Vocal Duet...Mrs. Lein and Gladys Christianson
  - Convention Rep't...Letta Houge
  - Vocal Solo...Otis Ihle
  - Talk...Rev. Buland
  - Vocal Duet...Arlene and Homer Lewis
  - Closing Song...Circle
  - Closing...Lord's Prayer
- A cordial invitation to all.

## Enrolling at Iowa State

Charles Sargent, Stanley Heggen and Harvey Wagaman are this week enrolling as students at the Iowa State college at Ames. Frederick Wagaman and the Severson boys, Gerrish, Eugene and Stanley will resume their studies there at the same time. The Severson brothers, Gerrish will resume his research work at the

## Items from Here, There

George Berhow Dies at the Methodist Hospital, Des Moines—Other Items

George Berhow, well known southern Story, died at the Methodist hospital at Des Moines Wednesday morning, a victim of heart trouble, from which he has been suffering for some time. Funeral services were held at the Palestine church Saturday afternoon, with Rev. Buland in charge. Burial was made in adjoining cemetery. George mourned by four sons and daughters, one of whom he has been making his home. George was born near Huxley and grew up in that community.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Larson and children of Watertown, Dakota, have been spending last week in Iowa, visiting at home of his folks, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Larson, of south-east Kelley, and her relatives in Alleman community.

Mailcarrier T. J. Sabo and wife of Huxley returned the first of the week from a motor trip that had taken them to the Brainerd, Minn. community and other places, visiting relatives and friend Tommy Thompson, substituted served on the route during T. Sabo's vacation.

## Locals Dropped Opening Contest

The high school boys played ball with Cambridge at Cambridge on Friday afternoon, losing the contest by a score of 11 to 6. Fred Crnkovich, pitching for Cambridge, did well on the mound, his support was not so good. The team lost some of its best play through graduation last spring. Coach Kelley has scheduled several games for this month, starting early in October.

WEEK END SCHOOL SHOES

# Oley Nelson was an institution

Dom Register 23 Mar 97

*He helped build the Statehouse, then he ran it*

By MAURY WHITE



I dropped by the House chamber in the Iowa Capitol the other day, hoping to run into a few former fellow workers left over from the 46th General Assembly, but Oley Nelson was nowhere in sight. Nor was Herman Kelch, for that matter.

It wasn't a surprise not finding Herman, as our temporary employment as pages spanned only the first four months of 1935, but at that time 90-year-old Oley Nelson appeared to be as much a part of the Statehouse as the marble stairs.

That's not only the way it seemed to an impressionable teen-ager, that's the way it was. The Civil War veteran who had brought his widowed mother from Wisconsin to Iowa to settle in Story County in 1867 was serving the sixth of seven terms as sergeant-at-arms.

Seven terms spanning 14 years in the political arena is impressive, but there's more. Oley did construction work on the building in 1869; courted his future wife at parties on the Statehouse grounds; and, as a Republican and Story County's representative in the 21st and 22nd sessions, became a force in creating the Iowa Soldiers Home in Marshalltown.

Shortly after finishing his stint as sergeant-of-arms in 1935, Nelson rocketed much higher in rank. He was elected national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, the veterans' organization for the winning side in the War Between the States.

In 1936 Nelson traveled 7,000 miles coast to coast, met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and was widely quoted for his answer to a question as to whether he would allow Southern veterans to carry a Confederate flag in a GAR parade.

"I'll tell you what we'll do,"

Oley had responded. "We'll take them in and do everything to make it congenial if they will throw away that darned old rebel flag."

Gov. Nelson Kraschel had quickly come up with an office in the Statehouse for Oley to occupy during his year as commander. Then, at age 92, he served his seventh and final term as sergeant-at-arms in 1937, passing away the following year.

His obituary said he was the oldest state employee ever, a record that should endure, and no one else likely will ever be as tied in with the Statehouse over a span of 68 years. Nor possess the prestige and popularity to become so impervious to the power of party patronage.

Riding Roosevelt's coattails, the Democrats had taken over the Statehouse in 1932, putting Oley's job in jeopardy. Although he was kept on in 1933 and 1935, in 1937 the 92-year-old Republican was truly worried about being replaced by a younger war veteran.

Such fretting was wasted effort. Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Cedar Rapids, the Republican House leader, spoke up first during the biannual patronage fight, which was turning nasty.

"Oley Nelson is an institution, not an issue," he pointed out.

Speaker LaMar Foster, a Democrat from West Branch, quickly agreed.

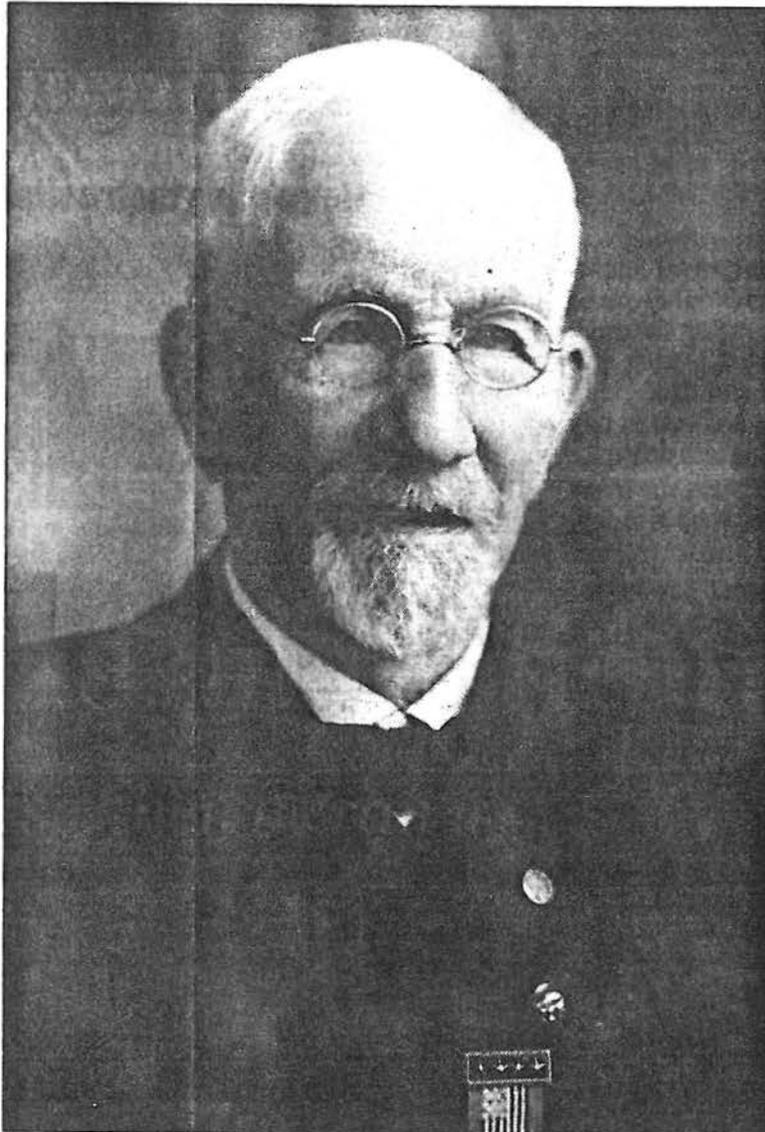
"I don't care what you House members decide about the rest of the patronage, but I want someone to move the appointment of Oley Nelson as sergeant-at-arms so we can have order in this house," Foster declared.

A story from that time relates what followed:

"A half-dozen representatives so moved and Oley was appointed with a ringing 'aye' and, in his blue Civil War veteran's coat and carrying a gnarled cane, he marched to the rostrum to take his oath."

"Marched" was the operative word but it was more of a lurch, even in 1935. While the respect and loyalty he inspired leads you to think Oley Nelson was a towering figure, he actually was a small, slender man with a white spade

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p 1012



BOB NANDELL/THE REGISTER

**Oley Nelson's** portrait hangs in the Statehouse in Des Moines.

beard and hair to match, who possibly even slept in that Civil War coat.

But Oley had a presence, and a stentorian voice. Lord, did he have a voice! The high point of any day's work as a page came when our mentor would square his frail shoulders, march to the center aisle and boom out: "Mr. Speaker, a message from the Senate."

Believe it, Oley didn't need a microphone and those seated on that aisle must have yearned for ear-plugs. Once finished with this

alert, he would plod back to his modest desk just inside the main doors to keep a watchful eye on his room and the pages.

I was 15 years old and a junior at Manilla High School when my parents decided it was time I should leave the nest, at least temporarily. The school cooperated by granting a leave of absence and the great adventure started in early January.

Although my grandfather, Tom J. White, was then assistant state superintendent of printing and

**I cherish my few months with Oley Nelson and still think of him with awe.**

had an office in the Statehouse, he and Nellie had a one-bedroom apartment so I didn't stay with them.

Because we got along at first meeting, Herman Kelch and I wound up sharing a room on the top floor of the Cherry Place Tea Room, a restaurant-rooming house just across Grand Avenue from the Capitol grounds. We each paid \$5 a week for room and board.

The pay was probably about \$45 a month, making me richer than I'd ever been. After turning 16 late in January, I bought my first suit, adding a hat for good measure. In addition to learning a bit about legislation, I gained an early start on dealing with the world.

Being on my own in the big city in 1935 was no problem and I regretted having to resign before the end of the session. To be eligible for football as a senior, I had to spend the last six weeks of the second semester in Manilla classrooms.

Never having known a Civil War veteran before or another since, I cherish my few months with Oley Nelson and still think of him with awe. After a brief period of correspondence, I lost touch with Herman Kelch.

There was another Statehouse regular I came to admire. George Mills was an energetic young reporter for the Iowa Daily Press Association, who my grandfather thought showed great promise. I've often wondered what happened to him.

Just kidding, Lefty.

**MAURY WHITE** is a retired Register sports writer.



**Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nelson**

October 3, 1969. Diann, daughter of Carl and Helen (Torgerson) Denton, was born on May 28, 1947 in Des Moines. Diann graduated from North Polk Community High School in 1965 and from the American Institute of Business in Des Moines in 1968. Diann, a former court



**Christopher Jay Nelson, 11**



**Amy Elizabeth Nelson, 4**

reporter (stentype shorthand), is employed part-time as a typesetter by the Tri-County Times in Slater. She has taught Sunday School at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for many years and was a member of the Slater Historical Centennial Book Committee.

They are the parents of two children: Christopher Jay, born June 3, 1975 and Amy Elizabeth, born August 4, 1982. Chris began 8th grade at Ballard Junior High in the fall of 1988 and Amy began 1st grade at Slater at the same time. They reside on an acreage on the north edge of Slater.

## **Oley and Ingeborg Nelson**



**Oley Nelson**

Among the well-established citizens of Story County there were none who deserves more honorable mention than Oley Nelson. He was a native of Rock County, Wisconsin, born August 11, 1845 to Nels and Aase (Chrestensdotter) Olson Evensrue, both of whom were natives of Rollag, Numedal, Norway. They were married in Norway and came to America in 1843, locating at Jefferson Prairie in Rock County, WI. Oley's father entered 40 acres of government land and in 1845 declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. In the spring of 1848 he removed to Primrose, Dane County, WI, and entered 160 acres of land, which he proceeded to improve. On August 10, 1861, Nels enlisted in Company H, known as the Sugar River Rifles, of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the regiment gaining a wide reputation as the Live Eagle Regiment. The regiment left Camp Randall at Madison, WI, about Oct. 1, 1861, and went to St. Louis, from there going to Iron Mountain, Missouri, where they drove out the rebels and secured the ore for the use of the government. They then went to Raleigh and from that place to St. Louis and thence down the Mississippi River, assisting in the capture of Island No. 10. The regiment was then ordered to Corinth and, after the capture of that city, to Vicksburg. On the way from Corinth to Vicksburg, Oley's father received a 60-day furlough to enable him to visit his home as his health had been seriously impaired. He went aboard a boat at Memphis and came as far north as Keokuk, Iowa, when



Ingeborg Nelson and daughters

he was taken off the boat in an unconscious condition and conveyed to the hospital, where he died on August 4, 1862.

After the death of Nels, Oley and his mother continued to live on the farm and Oley took charge of the work. However, in the spring of 1864, desiring to take the place of his father in defense of the Union, Oley enlisted in Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin Infantry, and was present at the last capture of Memphis later in the same year. The regiment was sent to Holly Springs and Jackson, Mississippi, and at the latter place Oley was taken sick with fever and jaundice and in the fall of the year was sent home on a furlough. He was in a very serious condition on his arrival at Madison and was practically incapacitated for any service for several months. Oley received an honorable discharge from the Army in December of 1864.

Oley and his mother continued farming in Wisconsin until 1867. In the spring of 1867 Oley's mother disposed of the equity she had in 80 acres, receiving \$225. They also possessed a span of colts and three head of young heifers, and having secured a prairie schooner started westward, having decided to cast their lot in Iowa. Upon reaching the Skunk River opposite Cambridge, Story County, Iowa, they found the river bottom flooded, making it extremely dangerous to attempt to cross with a wagon. Accordingly, Oley left his mother upon the bank and hired a pilot for \$5 to assist him in crossing with the wagon and animals. After reaching the opposite shore he waded back, the water reaching above his waist, and took his mother on his shoulders, she being a small woman weighing only about 90 pounds, and carried her across in safety. The effort practically exhausted him, but after resting a while they resumed their journey and crossed the county line to Polk County, subsequently locating on 80 acres of raw prairie. As their resources were extremely limited, Mr. Nelson found it necessary to sell the horses and wagon and purchase a yoke of oxen, this transaction replenishing the treasury by about \$100. He hauled lumber and brick from Polk City to build a house and they lived comfortably during the following winter. In the fall of 1867 the grasshoppers ate up everything green in that section and it was indeed a gloomy outlook, especially as payments were due on the farm and other obligations had been incurred.

In the spring of 1869, Oley Nelson sold the oxen and wagon and went to Des Moines where he secured a position the first day of S. A. Robertson to haul brick from his yard at a salary of \$30 per month and board. In the fall of the

same year he received his first introduction to the mercantile business in the house of Luce & Mahanna, his salary being \$15 per month, \$12 of which he was obliged to pay for board. He subsequently conducted a farmers boarding house and in 1874 removed to Sheldahl where he erected the first store building in the town. Oley was very instrumental in starting the new town of Slater, when the railroad mistakenly misplaced the tracks. The businesses needed access to the railroad, so a decision was made to move 53 businesses and homes a mile north to Sheldahl Crossing; now Slater. Mr. Nelson continued to run the General Mercantile Store in Slater and worked as a grain buyer until he retired on account of encroachments of age. He was organizer of the Farmers Savings Bank at Slater and was its first president and continued his service as a member of the board of directors.

In December of 1869, Oley was united in marriage to Miss Ingeborg Ersland of Cambridge, and to this union 10 children were born: George E., Elsie C., Carrie H., Anna G., Bell O., Mattie A., Elmer O., Bearice D., Kuttie A. and Amos K. Kuttie and Amos died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Nelson supported the Republican Party and served in a number of responsible positions. He was postmaster at Sheldahl from 1874 to 1880 and school treasurer from 1874 to 1885. He was elected to the twenty-first and twenty-second General Assembly (now Legislature), serving in 1882 and 1884 with distinguished ability, being especially active in behalf of better drainage laws, better school laws and free textbooks. He served on the staff of the Governor of Iowa for several years. He was sergeant at arms in the Iowa General Assembly for 14 years and National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a delegate to the national Republican convention which nominated James G. Blaine for president and was employed many times by the state Republican committee as a campaign speaker, appearing in more than 15 counties in Iowa and in four counties in Minnesota. Religiously, he was identified with the United Lutheran church, in which he was for many years a prominent worker. The Nelson family was very active in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Slater. In 1904 he was elected president of the board of directors of St. Olaf College and was a member of the board of the United Norwegian Church of America, where he also served as vice president.

Mr. Nelson possessed limited opportunities of school education in his early life. His mother, however, was a



Oley and Ingeborg Nelson and two of their daughters, prior to 1917.

woman of fine education and was his principal teacher until he came into contact with the world. His tastes were originally for mechanical pursuits but conditions led him into mercantile life, in which he attained deserved success. As a public speaker he was highly efficient and his services were in urgent demand. He was recognized as a leader among Norwegians of Iowa, due to his high character and marked business ability, and he was greatly esteemed wherever he was known.

Nelson Park in Slater was named in honor of Honorable Oley Nelson.

#### HONORABLE OLEY NELSON

Mr. Speaker: Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character, and public services of the Honorable Oley Nelson of Story County, beg leave to submit the following memorial:

Oley Nelson was born in a log cabin in Rock County, Wisconsin, on August 10, 1844, and passed from this life at his home in Slater, Iowa, on April 15, 1938. His father served in the Civil War and died in service.

He enlisted June 17, 1864, in Co. D., 49th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which was known as the University regiment. He was discharged September 16, 1864 after illness rendered him unfit for further service.

In 1867 he came to Iowa in a covered wagon with his mother. For a few years he worked in Des Moines and at one time he worked for a contractor, hauling material to build the State Capitol. He later engaged in mercantile and banking business in Slater, always displaying keen interest in his community. He represented Story County in the 21st and 22nd General Assemblies and for 14 years served as Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 30 at Ames, Iowa for 40 years, and was a member of Grenville M. Dodge Camp, Sons of Union Veterans for 27 years. He was Department Patriotic Instructor and in 1827 was elected Department Commander of Iowa. In 1931 he was National Chief of Staff, and was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief the same year. He was elected National Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1935--the third man from Iowa to attain that office.

While a member of the General Assembly, Mr. Nelson



Oley and Kermod Nelson

was one of the foremost advocates for the establishment of a Soldiers Home. It was largely through his efforts that one was established at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Mr. Nelson was not only a good soldier, a loyal statesman, but he lived up to every measure of a real citizen. He contributed to the civic welfare of his hometown, Slater, Iowa, which place remained his residence until the time of his death. Though he gained national recognition as National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, he always remained, to his neighbors and friends, just plain "Oley Nelson."

A fitting tribute was paid to Mr. Nelson by Ray Murray in the following lines:

#### OLEY NELSON

*"He shall not die!"  
Although I stood beside his bier  
And dropped a tear  
To see the soldier I once knew,  
Still garbed in blue  
Asleep beneath the flag that he  
Had fought to keep unstained and free.*

*Asleep he lay, nor knew nor heard  
A single, solitary word  
Of all the praise we offered here  
To one so dear;  
Just lay asleep, his fighting done,  
Now mustered out with victory won.*

*The lights are out, 'taps' echo creeps  
Across God's camp, our soldier sleeps;  
But all the things for which he fought,  
The ideals that he ever sought  
Have been passed on to you and I;  
He's answered Taps,  
But shall not die!*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in the passing of the Honorable Oley Nelson, the County of Story and the State of Iowa has lost a valuable and honored citizen and the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa, Forty-eighth General Assembly, tender by this resolution its sincere sympathy to the surviving members of his family in their sorrow, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives and that the Chief Clerk of the House of

Representatives, Forty-eighth General Assembly, be instructed to send an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

Albert Steinberg, James E. Irwin, E. M. Lichty, Committee.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Memorial Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives, Forty-eighth General Assembly.

A. C. Gustafson, Chief Clerk of the House.

## Peter L. and Christina (Holland) Nelson

Peter L. Neilson was born in Copenhagen, Denmark on August 22, 1866. He came to the United States at the age of 17 years. Pete had studied the trade of a butcher in Denmark and when he came to the United States he was employed by his stepbrother, Lew Gamrath in the town of Sheldahl, Iowa. When the town of Slater, Iowa was founded, he established a butcher shop known as the Tollefson-Nelson Meat Market--later being known as the Nelson Meat Market. Pete operated his meat market until his retirement in April of 1945, after 50 years as a Slater businessman.

On October 6, 1896, Peter Nelson was married to Christina Holland, who was born and grew up on the Holland homestead northeast of Slater.

Three children were born to this union: Lester A., born in 1898; Virginia, born in 1900; and Leona, born in 1902.

Pete-Butch was widely noted for his homemade bologna, which he made every Wednesday. People came from miles around for this homemade delicacy. Sometime between the time Pete left Sheldahl and established his business in Slater, the family name was changed from Neilson to



Pete and Christina Nelson

Nelson. When or why the "i" was dropped from his name is not known.

## O. Halver and Bertha (Roe) Tesdahl



Bertha Roe Tesdahl

Bertha Roe Tesdahl, daughter of Ole and Katrine Roen, was born in Skonevick, Norway on January 12, 1870. She was educated in Norway and came to America at the age of 18. In 1892 she was united in marriage to Knute O. Roe and they made their home in Marshalltown, Iowa. Five children were born to the Roes: Oscar, Clarence, Sam, Mable and Clara (Roe) Nelson.

O. Halver Tesdahl was born at Etne, Norway on December 24, 1860. He came to America with his parents in 1865. They located on a farm near Huxley, southwest of the Palestine Church, where he grew to manhood. He married Lea Larson in 1881. On June 4, 1904, O. Halver married Bertha (Roen) Roe. They made their home north of Slater, later moving into town.



## HONORABLE J. D. MORRISON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public services of the late Honorable J. D. Morrison of Grundy county, Iowa, begs leave to submit the following report:

J. D. Morrison was born at Pittsfield, Illinois, on December 4, 1850. He received his initial education at a district school near his home. He also attended commercial college in Quincy, Illinois. After his graduation from that school he moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where he taught school for several years. In 1883 he was married to Carrie Atwood and to this union there was born one daughter and one son. Mr. Morrison moved to Reinbeck immediately after his marriage, where he was employed as a bookkeeper. Later he entered the insurance and real estate business and carried on this work for many years.

Mr. Morrison lived an active and full life. He was consistently elected a delegate to the Republican party's county convention. During President Taft's administration he served as postmaster at Reinbeck. He was also a member of many organizations, one of which was the Reinbeck I. O. O. F. Lodge.

Mr. Morrison represented Grundy county in the state Legislature during the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra General Assemblies. As a public servant his first thought was always of the sense of duty he owed to the people of the state as a whole rather than to some group which was seeking a special advantage for themselves.

Mr. Morrison passed away March 1, 1939, at the age of eighty-eight years.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-eighth General Assembly, That the state has lost a valued and beloved citizen, and the House of Representatives would tender, by this resolution, its sincere, heartfelt sympathy to his beloved family in their sorrow.*

*Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.*

C. W. ROSS,  
HENRY W. BURMA,  
DEAN W. PEISEN,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.

## HONORABLE OLEY NELSON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character, and public services of the Honorable Oley Nelson of Story county, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Oley Nelson was born in a log cabin in Rock county, Wisconsin, August 10, 1844, and passed from this life at his home in Slater, Iowa, on April 15, 1938. His father served in the Civil War and died in service.

He enlisted June 17, 1864, in Company D, 49th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which was known as the University regiment. He was discharged September 16, 1864, after illness rendered him unfit for further service.

In 1867 he came to Iowa in a covered wagon with his mother. For a few years he worked in Des Moines and at one time he worked for a contractor, hauling material to build the state capitol. He later engaged in mercantile and banking business in Slater, always displaying keen interest in his community. He represented Story county in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second General Assemblies and for fourteen years served as sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives.

He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 30 at Ames, Iowa, for forty years, and was a member of Grenville M. Dodge Camp, Sons of Union Veterans for twenty-seven years. He was department patriotic instructor and in 1927 was elected Department Commander of Iowa. In 1931 he was National Chief of Staff, and was elected senior vice-commander-in-chief the same year. He was elected national commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1935—the third man from Iowa to attain that office.

While a member of the General Assembly, Mr. Nelson was one of the foremost advocates for the establishment of a soldiers home. It was largely through his efforts that one was established at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Mr. Nelson was not only a good soldier, a loyal statesman, but he lived up to every measure of a real citizen. He contributed to the civic welfare of his home town, Slater, Iowa, which place remained his residence until the time of his death. Though he gained national recognition as National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic he always remained, to his neighbors and friends, just plain "Oley Nelson."

A fitting tribute was paid to Mr. Nelson by Ray Murray in the following lines:

#### OLEY NELSON

"He shall not die!"  
Although I stood beside his bier  
And dropped a tear  
To see the soldier I once knew,  
Still garbed in blue,  
Asleep beneath the flag that he  
Had fought to keep unstained and free.

Asleep he lay, nor knew nor heard  
A single, solitary word  
Of all the praise we offered here  
To one so dear;  
Just lay asleep, his fighting done,  
Now mustered out with victory won.

The lights are out, 'tap's' echo creeps  
 Across God's camp, our soldier sleeps;  
 But all the things for which he fought,  
 The ideals that he ever sought  
 Have been passed on to you and I;  
 He's answered Taps,  
 But shall not die!"

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That in the passing of the Honorable Oley Nelson, the county of Story and the state of Iowa has lost a valuable and honored citizen and the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa, Forty-eighth General Assembly, tender, by this resolution, its sincere sympathy to the surviving members of his family in their sorrow, and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Forty-eighth General Assembly, be instructed to send an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

ALBERT STEINBERG,  
 JAMES E. IRWIN,  
 E. M. LICHTY,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.

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HONORABLE JOHN ORR

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare a resolution commemorating the life, character and public services of the late Honorable John Orr of Keokuk county, begs leave to submit the following:

John Orr was born February 18, 1850 in County Down, Ireland, and died at the home of Mrs. Jennie Garrett in Sigourney, Iowa, April 13, 1939, at the age of eighty-nine years, one month, and twenty-six days. He suffered a stroke of paralysis from which he never rallied.

In 1870 he came with his parents, brothers, and sisters to America. They settled in Rock Island county, Illinois. Six years later they moved to Iowa, and in 1879, came to Keokuk county, locating on a farm near Thornburg which was his home for fifty-nine years.

He was married January 12, 1898, to Anna L. Johnston who preceded him in death in 1922. A brother, Robert Orr, with whom he was closely associated in business, died last December. Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Jane Harding of What Cheer, Mrs. Agnes Dunbar of Cedar Rapids, and Mrs. Belle Biglow of Edmonds, Washington.

Mr. Orr served as Keokuk county Republican Representative in the Iowa Legislature during the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first General Assemblies. He was prominent in Masonic circles and was made a Mason in Ireland at the age of nineteen years, and has held a continuous membership in the Order more than seventy years. At the time of his death he was a member of the Masonic Lodge and O. E. S. at Thornburg, Iowa Consistory at Cedar Rapids and Shrine at Davenport.

## Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

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**Oley NELSON (AFN: 20DT-QK2)****Sex:** M[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

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**Event(s)****Birth:** 19 Aug 1844  
, Clinton Twp., Rock County, Wi**Death:** 15 Apr 1938  
, Slater, Story County, Ia**Burial:**  
Bethlehemcemetery, Slater, Story County, Ia

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**Parents**

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**Marriage(s)****Spouse:** [Ingeborg Knutsdtr ERSLAND](#) (AFN: 20DT-Q70)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 29 Jan 1869

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**Submitter(s)**[Details](#)

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**About Ancestral File**

Ancestral File is a collection of genealogical information taken from Pedigree Charts and Family Group Records submitted to the Family History Department since 1978. The information has not been verified against any official records. Since the information in Ancestral File is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the file to verify its accuracy.

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You searched for **Oley Nelson** in **Iowa**

### Iowa Cemetery Records

Name: **Oley Nelson**  
Death Date: **1938**  
Page #: **248**  
Cemetery: **Slater**  
Level Info: ***Tombstone Records of Story County, Iowa(Inclusive)***

**Source Information:**

Ancestry.com. *Iowa Cemetery Records* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.  
Original data: Works Project Administration. *Graves Registration Project*. Washington, D.C.: n.p., n.d.

**Description:**

These cemetery records represent seventy-six counties and Graceland Cemetery of Sioux City, Iowa, in the united States, that were transcribed by the Works Project Administration. Records in this database generally include the page number where the record can be found in the WPA index, the name of the deceased, birth date, death date, age, cemetery name, town name, and additional comments if any. [Learn more...](#)

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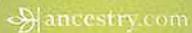
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# Oley Nelson

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11/10/2009

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You searched for **Ole Nelson** in **Iowa**Provided in  
Association with

## U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865

Name: **Ole Nelson**  
Residence: **Madison, Winneshiek, Iowa**  
Class: **2**  
Congressional District: **3rd**  
Age on 1 July 1863: **43**  
Race: **White**  
Place of Birth: **Norway**

**Source Citation:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group Number: 110; Title: Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War); Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records); ARC Identifies: 4213514; Archive Volume Number: 3 of 3.

**Source Information:**

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.  
Original data:

*Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865*. NM-65, entry 172, 620 volumes. Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), Record Group 110. National Archives, Washington D.C.

**Description:**

This is a collection of Civil War Registrations from 1863-1865. There were four drafts that included 776,000 individuals in that time. The records contain class, congressional district, county, state, residence, name, age on July 1, 1863, race, profession, married status, birthplace, former military service, and remarks. [Learn more...](#)

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