

# I Take My Pen in Hand

19th Century Nelson Correspondence

May 26, 1850

My dear Mother  
I seat myself this evening to  
inform you that our dear mother  
is dead she died on Friday  
the 19th at twenty minutes after  
one o'clock she was sensible  
to the last she was buried  
Saturday between 10 and one  
o'clock she died happy she  
told me a few days before she  
died that she was tired of  
life that death would be  
sweet to her she was so  
tired at departing it was

Jack E Nelson, Editor

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George and Margaret Nelson (a.k.a, Jorgen Nielsen and Margrethe Pedersdatter), and two of their children, immigrated to the United States in 1853. This growing family eventually settled in northwest Missouri. Later, from the old family farm in Gentry County, the grown children of George and Margaret ventured further west. Two went to California in 1874. Two went, first, to Colorado in 1887. Another, in 1897, moved with his family to Montana. One of the daughters married and stayed in Gentry County. Over the period of three decades in the late 1900s, these siblings corresponded with each other. One of them, Cornelius Nelson, saved the letters he received. Those letters were in turn handed down through the family.

This collection has been augmented with assorted letters from other branches of the family. Many of these original letters were scrawled missives that followed a simple grammar school template. Yet they reveal much about the thoughts, feelings and travails of our ancestors. Together they open up a wonderful panorama on what was going on in the Nelson family during the time period in which they were composed, with all the delightful nuances such original source material often contains.

*Preserving Memories*

Charlotte, NC

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[www.preservememories.net](http://www.preservememories.net)

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First edition: 2010

*To Ava Kenny*

**Jørgen Nielsen**  
**a.k.a. George Nelson**  
(7 Apr 1821—3 Oct 1871)

Married  
7 Oct 1843

**Birthe M.**  
b. 25 Aug 1845  
d. 8 Oct 1845

**Birthe M.**  
b. 26 Jan 1847  
d. 21 May 1899

Married to:  
**Peder Hansen**  
17 Apr 1874

**2 Children:**

**Niels P. Hansen**  
b. 21 Jan 1875  
d. after 1911

**Jens J. Hansen**  
b. 26 Sep 1884  
d. 13 Oct 1884

**Marie**  
b. 12 Jan 1849  
d. 26 Mar 1880

Married to:  
**Julius L Halck**  
30 Dec 1873

**2 Children:**

**Margaret E.**  
b. 3 Oct 1874  
d. 1968

**Bertha Mary**  
b. 11 Dec 1877  
d. 8 Dec 1881

**Christian L.**  
b. 22 Jan 1851  
d. 24 Jun 1923

Married to:  
**Mary E Whitely**  
25 Dec 1878

**14 Children:**

**Male child**  
b. 21 Aug 1879  
d. 21 Aug 1879

**Lillian Florance**  
b. 4 Jul 1880  
d. 21 Sep 1968

**Rosy Ellen**  
b. 4 Jul 1880  
d. 17 Jan 1894

**Bessie Estella**  
b. 27 July 1882  
d. 14 Aug 1883

**Daniel Webster**  
b. 3 Aug 1884  
d. 21 Sep 1964

**Clarence F.**  
b. 1 Aug 1886  
d. 31 Oct 1971

**Mary May**  
b. 22 Feb 1888  
d. 2 Sept 1963

**Margaret Etta**  
b. 1 Nov 1889  
d. 11 Nov 1893

**Christian C.**  
b. 25 Sep 1891  
d. 10 Nov 1967

**Bertha Leanna**  
b. 29 Dec 1893  
d. 5 Feb 1960

**Malinda Alice**  
b. 29 Oct 1895  
d. 24 Apr 1936

**Wiltha Fanny**  
b. 26 Mar 1898  
d. 1995

**Clara Malinda**  
b. 15 Nov 1900  
d. 1 Nov 1983

**Roy William**  
b. 3 Dec 1903  
d. 5 May 2001

**Cornelius**  
b. 8 Sep 1854  
d. 1 Oct 1949

Married to:  
**Anna A. Sutherland**  
12 Dec 1880

**6 Children:**

**George Allen**  
b. 31 Jan 1882  
d. 28 Jul 1961

**Charles L.**  
b. 4 Feb 1884  
d. Mar 1981

**Lillian May**  
b. 10 May 1888  
d. 5 Jan 1945

**Mabel L.**  
b. 9 Sept 1889  
d. 20 Nov 1939

**Walter L.**  
b. 2 Feb 1891  
d. 9 Aug 1983

**Clarence D.**  
b. 31 Mar 1893  
d. 31 Oct 1983



**Margrethe Pedersdatter**  
**a.k.a. Margaret Nelson**  
(6 Feb 1823—19 May 1882)

**Chrisana**

b. 20 Feb 1856  
d. 8 May 1943

Married to:  
**Anthony G  
Walker**

31 Mar 1886

**5 Children:**

**Quincy M.**

b. 2 Feb 1887  
d. 4 Mar 1940

**Anthony G.**

b. 9 Apr 1891  
d. 27 Apr 1957

**Earl Homer**

b. 25 Oct 1893  
d. 5 Feb 1958

**Minnie Ellen**

b. 15 Sep 1895  
d. 12 Dec 1976

**Oliver Teller**

b. 4 Sep 1897  
d. 24 Jan 1967

**George W.**

b. 25 Jan 1860  
d. 13 Jan 1925

Married to:  
**Laura A.  
Collins**

25 Oct 1885

**11 Children:**

**Margaret**

b. 19 Oct 1886  
d. 16 Dec 1980

**Floyd**

b. 2 Sept 1888  
d. 16 Jul 1989

**Cornelia Jane**

b. 21 Oct 1890  
d. 4 Aug 1986

**Bertha Mary**

b. 24 Feb 1893  
d. 18 Aug 1962

**Martha Ellen**

b. 30 Oct 1894  
d. 6 Aug 1960

**Olia May**

b. 24 Oct 1896  
d. 3 Dec 1988

**George W. Jr.**

b. 26 Dec 1898  
d. 12 May 1964

**Olive Grace**

b. 28 Aug 1901  
d. 3 Mar 1989

**Anna Amelia**

b. 28 Mar 1904  
d. 23 Aug 1984

**Easter Hazel**

b. 1 Apr 1907  
d. 6 Aug 2005

**Richard H.**

b. 26 July 1910  
d. 16 Jan 1981

**Elizabeth**

b. Mar 30 1863  
d. 15 Aug 1863

**Abraham L.**

b. 16 Dec 1865  
d. 2 May 1950

Married to:  
**Fidelia Ryckman**

26 Jul 1892

**12 Children**

**Oscar**

b. 11 Sep 1894  
d. 17 Mar 1952

**Lincoln**

b. 4 Jan 1895  
d. 18 Jan 1905

**John Roy**

b. 2 Jul 1896  
d. 29 Jul 1978

**Arthur**

b. 10 Aug 1898  
d. 18 May 1903

**Elmer**

b. 6 Nov 1899  
d. 27 Oct 1979

**Lucy**

b. 13 Jul 1901  
d. 30 Sep 1991

**George W.**

b. 18 Mar 1903  
d. Jun 1884

**Virginia (Myrtle)**

b. 15 Apr 1904  
d. 5 May 1986

**Albert W.**

b. 17 Apr 1906  
d. 13 Feb 1993

**Lewis E.**

b. 16 Aug 1908  
d. 19 Feb 1995

**Thomas E.**

b. 26 July 1911  
d. 13 Jun 1998

**Raymond H.**

b. 8 Feb 1917  
d. 27 Aug 1991



# *Facimile Copies of Letters*

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Our immigrant ancestor George Nelson came to America in 1853 with his wife, Margaret, and two children, Mary and Christian.

# *Introduction*

When I was conducting the research that went into writing *Venturing Forth: The Story of the Family of George and Margaret Nelson*, I was impressed at just how much one can sometimes learn about ordinary people who lived a hundred or more years ago. I remember taking an afternoon to do research in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., hoping to glean a little information about our immigrant ancestor George Nelson (a.k.a., Jorgen Nielsen). I was not only delighted but also a bit dumbfounded when, after submitting my requests for George's Union Army files from the Civil War era, a librarian returned with a folder full of old letters and documents. Those documents revealed details about the injury George sustained during his Union Army training and a firsthand account of his death. There were also details about the family in the years following his death found in affidavits filed on behalf of members of the family who were seeking to claim war veteran benefits.

Using evidence like this, together with old genealogical records, journals and oral traditions, I was able to piece together the history of our forebears: From the lives they lived in the little rural Danish community of Vester Saby, ten mile west of Roskilde, to their emigration late in 1852, and their voyage across the Atlantic on the *Forest Monarch* as members of a party of Mormon converts en route to Utah. Considerable detail about their journey was preserved by a number of traveling companions who kept journals of the trip, journals that were made available to me by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. A clear picture emerged of the difficulties they endured

along the way. Following their landing in New Orleans, they continued by riverboat up to St. Louis, then to Keokuk Iowa. From there they departed in covered wagons, traveling across Iowa toward Utah.

The old journals provide particulars about George's dispute with others in the Mormon party our ancestors were traveling with and George's excommunication from the group. Evidence on the family becomes more sparse following this event. We know they settled for awhile in Shelby County, Iowa, where a son, Cornelius, was born in 1854. Shelby County would later become well populated by Danish immigrants and there is now a Danish history museum and research library there. My efforts turned up very little regarding the Nelson family's time spent there, though I think someone who wanted do some digging could learn a lot more. The same can be said for the period (1856-1858) the family lived in Crescent City, Iowa, after leaving Shelby County. From a couple of affidavits in George's Union Army file I learned of his daughter Chrisana's birth in Crescent City; and how she was said to be the first European-American child born in that community. She was named Crescent at birth, though she came to be known as Chrisana in the family.

In 1858, the family moved to Gentry County, Missouri. Nelson descendents still live in Gentry County, and my research was aided considerably by the late Irene Groom, who had avidly collected information on the family for many years. Old maps and property deeds showed where they had lived. Local histories were helpful for sketching out what life was like in the region during the 1860s and 1870s.

What became of the Nelson family following the time spent in Missouri? The most notable source of information on the lives of the children of George and Margaret Nelson as they continued to venture forth comes from a collection of old letters. My learning of these letters was another one of those satisfying encounters I had while researching Nelson family history.

Not long after I set out to document the history of the Nelson family, I was informed by family members that Ava Kenny, living in Roseburg, Oregon, was someone who could help me. Ava's father, George Allen Nelson, had been an amateur local historian and had taken an interest in Nelson family history early in the 20th century. I was informed that Ava was the keeper of the flame, preserving what her father had collected and helping to keep fam-

ily ties intact. What I wasn't expecting to see when I went to interview her was a treasure trove of material on the Nelson family from the second generation after immigration. What's more, noting my interest, Ava decided to make me the next keeper of the flame, turning over to me files full of records she had been saving.

Among the documents she entrusted to me was a large corpus of letters written during the latter part of the 1800s. From the old family farm in Gentry County, Missouri, the children of George and Margaret Nelson ventured forth. Two went to California in 1874. Two went, first, to Colorado in 1887. Another, in 1897, moved with his family to Montana. One of the siblings married and stayed in Gentry County. Over the period of three decades these siblings corresponded with each other. One of them, Cornelius Nelson, saved the letters he received. He passed these letters on to his son, George Allen Nelson.

This collection of old letters was augmented with copies provided to me by Mary Weishaar, living in Montana; old documents given me by Irene Groom in Missouri; more letters and documents that came via Charlotte Baxtrom in Colorado; and assorted other letters from various sources. Most of the original letters were scrawled missives following a simple grammar school template. Yet they reveal much about the thoughts, feelings and travails of our ancestors. Together they open up a wonderful panorama on what was going on in the Nelson family during the time period in which they were composed.

Most of the stories the letters reveal were told in some detail in *Venturing Forth*. It has been my intent for some time, however, to give more members of the Nelson family access to this wonderful trove of Nelson family memorabilia. With that goal in mind, I have put together this book containing the letters and copies of letters I have in my possession. The task of reading this correspondence is made easier by my transcriptions, though I have left the grammar and spelling contained in the letters intact. Facsimile copies of some of the letters are provided to show the handwriting found in the originals. Accompanying photographs show us most of the people who wrote the letters and their families.

The letters are arranged chronologically. Initially I thought of arranging them chronologically by author, in the manner in which I discussed the contents of these letters in *Venturing Forth*. But a strict chronological ordering provides a better overview of the entire fam-

ily. Headings provided for each letter make it easy to leaf through and read the letters of particular family members if one prefers.

There is much here that makes for interesting reading. Though we have only one letter from the oldest Nelson daughter, Mary, who moved to California in 1874, we do learn of her death a few years later in correspondence from her husband, Julius Halck. Poignant passages from Chrisana and George W. Nelson tell the story of the death of Margaret, the mother of the Nelson siblings.

Fascinating insights emerge from letters written by George W. and Abraham L. Nelson telling of their move to Colorado and their efforts to homestead there. We also hear of their disappointments and new plans to move to more promising locales. From Christian and Chrisana Nelson we learn of ongoing ordeals the family had trying to make a living on the family farm in Gentry County, and then of the difficulties they had trying to sell the old farm.

Letters also arrived from the sister, Birthe, who was left behind in Denmark. One of these old letters has been preserved and is reproduced here, giving a glimpse of life in the old country. And there is ample correspondence telling of Christian's determination to make a new start in life in the period leading up to his move to Montana.

We hear from Cornelius Nelson in only two early letters. Most of these letters were sent to him. He was in California from around 1874 to 1886, when he moved to Oregon. His forethought in saving the letters he received from other family members is what gives us most of this portrait of the family in the latter part of the 19th century.

If you haven't read *Venturing Forth* you might want to start there to get a broader picture and a more cohesive telling of the story of the Nelson family. Herein you will find original sources, with all the delightful nuances such sources often contain.



# *The Letters*

**Mary Nelson Halck to Chrisana Nelson: Letter of July 30, 1876, from Sonora, California. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dear Sister I drop you a fu lins to let you no tha Wee ar all well at presnt and hopin that will find you the same Wee got a letter from home thes week fom Cristan and was glad to heer that you was all Well I am a lone to nit magga is a slep and all is still around me now Halch is on the plans. Nels is work on the plans i hurd from him this week Wee got [Abe] Lincon pitter [picture] it don't lok lik he did wen i was at home i wod not have noed it iff hes name had [not] com on it*

*Tims is hard hear mony is skars her Tims is dull Crops is Vary good but loo and no pris i wod lik to see the people all at home and see how the plas lok at is [?] but i think it will bee som tim till i will see home i wod to see you all at hom but i lik [?] thies plas well it is not varre cold hier but it is varre warm hear and dry in the summer and the hills look bad from latte part off may till october and it begen to rain and then it [?] gren i will writ for to [?]*

*Well i was to the Selbrat the fourt of july dis year i was tree days on the Otside i saw a spirt listen wom[an] and she say the spirt say that we will have war in sid of tree yers and the spirt say it will bee a wors war than the last wor and she say it will last 50 yerss and that we will hav famun and starvisun all our the land look out for hard tims Well i must quit the tim so no mor at [closing and signature torn off]*

July the 30 1876

Dear Mr. Suter I drop you  
 a few lines to let you know the  
 well or all well at present  
 and hope that I will find  
 you the same. We got a  
 letter from home this week  
 from Crispin and was glad  
 to hear that you was all  
 well. I am a love to mid mag  
 ga is a slap and all is still a  
 round me now. Thatch is on  
 the plans. Nels's mark on  
 the plans I heard from him  
 this week. We got Simon  
 spittes it dont look like  
 he did when I was at home

i would not have word it  
 iff has more had than on it  
 Time is hard hear  
 many is ~~it~~ & hard hear  
 Time is dull Crops is ~~at~~  
 Very good but doo and <sup>no</sup> pris  
 i would like to see the people  
 all at home and see how the  
 spars look at is time but i ~~think~~  
 think it will be long  
 time till i will see home  
 i would to see you all at  
 home but i like thes spher would  
 sit is not vasse cold here but  
 it is vasse warm there and  
 stay in the summer and  
 the hills look like ~~the~~ from  
 latter part off may till october  
 and it begen to rain and  
 then it be ~~so~~ soon i  
 will yett far to mid

At Wale i was to the celebrat  
 the fourth of ~~July~~ July do year  
 i was three days on the ship  
 I saw soon a spirit like a woman  
 and she say the spirit say  
 that we will have war in six  
 three years and the spirit say  
 it will be a ~~war~~ war more  
 war than the last war and  
 she say it will last 50 years  
 and that we will have ~~form~~  
 form and division all over  
 the land look out for hard  
 times Well ~~we~~ must  
 yield the time  
 so no war  
 at

No c

C

Mary Nelson Halck,  
1849-1880



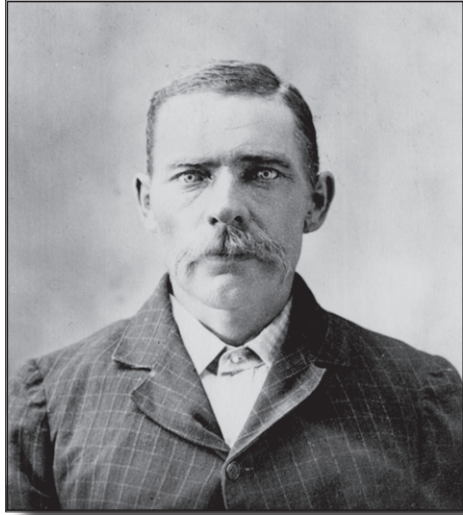
**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 24 January 1880, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Deare Brother i take the present opportunity to write you A few lines to let you No that we are All Well hoping these few lins may find you the same received A litter from you and was glad to heare from you i received the ten Doers all right i give you my Sinseeare thanks for it i have not seen George sins July i rote him A lettter When i rote to you last but i have not got iny anser from him i think that[?]he is coming home Well Neles lom Kirk is not married a yet Some say that him and Amiline Carter is going to git Married he has bin wadding on hir a bout too years Well tims is very good now but wheet looks bad theore has not bin iny Snow this Winter it has bin rainy a good deal this winter Well i cant think of iny thing more to write for the present well i must send you one of my picturs it is not a very good one but it is the best that i can do for this time Write soon from Chrisana Nelson to Mr Cornelious Nelson good By When this you see Remember me and think of one that thinks of the / i am going t Stanbery to work to now*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 20 February 1880, from Quitman, Nadway County, Missouri.**

*Der Brother in take my pen in hand to leet you no that i am well and hope thes Leines ma find you the Same when they com to hand i Reçievd a Letter from you Last sumer and wad Anserd it Before now But i Did not know wheather i wod stay Long a nuf to get a anser. i worked on a farne Last sumer at \$16 Dolers a mont i have Ben Diging col this winter i make about One Doler a Day i Don't know what i will Do this sumer but i think i will go west for i can never make a rase her i was comin out to you Last fall But cod not get my mony i had my things Bundeld up to Start then a feler flad of on me my helth was pore Last sumer But it is beter this winter i have not had vary god health for fore yers Mothers was all well this Last time i herd from home this was no dobt on the place when i was out home Ther is not much stock on the place when i Left home i they Don't get a long very very well i gess Cris and mother Don't get a long very well. Mother wants me to com home and stay But i Don't think i will for Cris has Let the place go Down his wifes folkş ar the tamdes [?] Set you Eever Sen they go about the place Like hogs. i cod not not stand them i wod Like to see you and have a Long talk about our ups and Downs in this ruged world. i want you to Rite and telme what you Ar driven at and how you Ar getting a Long i was glad to get your pictor it Reminds me of old times at home i will send you my pictor and Let you see how i Look now i wad Like to see mary now she wod*

*not know me now i have grod sum sense you last saw me i am six foot  
and 5 inces and way 200 pounds i must quit from George Nelson to  
Cornelious nelson Quitman Naduoay Co Mo good by Ples rite sun for i  
don't know how Long i will stay her.*



George Washington Nelson, 1860-1925



**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: 23 May 1880, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Der Brother i take my pen in hand to let you no that we ar Not vary well at prestant mother has ben vary sick but is biter at this riting she is vary Bad oftn don't know wheather she will ever get well or Not i am at Home to day i come Home last tuday i found them in tolable good circomstances considering the sicness they have had to deal with The old place look§ Naturl as ever abe is man now he is as big as evir kisey look§ better then i ever saw her we al fell sad to think that sister mary being dead i had it in view to com and see Her But that i can not do But hope she is better off That was on mother sickend Hart and Her feble frame, it apirse that ther is mor troubles and sorow on this lo grounds Below times is Hard Her at present But crops look vary nice at prassent but it is getting war if it don't rane prety sune it will not ... [?] i will be at home for 2 week§ then i will go Back to Nadaway i wod like for you to rite to me an send it to Quitman Hoping this lins will find in good Helth when they com to Home i must clos by asking you to rite sune and tel us How Julius and the girls is getting long for we ar all iger to her i send my Love to you all. i still remane your afecnet Brother George Nelson to Cornelious Nelson muther wnt to her from you all*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 24 July 1880  
from Alanthus Grove, Gentry County, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to in forme you of My family i got a pare of nice Girls since you heard from us they was borne on the 4th of July Well you wanted to know the price of land you can get land with sum inprovement on for a bout 10 dollars fir acor i think sam land could be Baght for 5 or 6 dollars per acor the jas 40 acors of land sold be longing to the old ferl place and they most of it is East of the brance it sold for \$320 dollars And ther is to strings railfence and one hause And a bout 15 Acors Broke / Sams Carter Baught 80 Acors west of the fiter ner place I think he give 6.25 for Acor A Bout the rail road land is hier Well al on that subject Wheat is almost A failer Corn is Splended one rain more will make the most of the Corne if you are Julis wish to com home and tend the place com Along But let me no Amedley for i want to know in time to soo wheat i think it is no more there just for the childer to helpe take care of the place i have dun my parte i am shore there is A small det of 49 50 ct that is al CL Nelson to Carnelous Nelson*

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 20 June 1880,  
from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to let you no that we are all well hoping these few lins may find you the same when it Coms to hand Mother has got better agin She is not stout but she is Able to be up all the time Well Nelious i am Sorry to hear that Mary is Dead it was the hardes shock i ever had to heare that my only sister to my name was dead but i can only say well Dun for we no that we all must Die And all we have to do is to prepare our selves for deth Neles i hope that you study a bout these things for we don't know which one of us will be the next / my gratest truhble is the Children i want you to persuad mr helck to never give his children a way What ever he doe for if he was to give them away thay cold be mistreted and no one Cold hinder i want him to keep them with him so long as he live i hope that he will git a long Well i wish that i had them heare it seems like i can Never Stand it George sais that thay shell never suffer so long as he can work and i think george mens what he sais turn over / Well Neles they are plowin Corn to Day Chris helth is not very good this summer / Well Neles We would like to see you the best in the world and mr helck and the childern i want you all to Come and see us if you Can Well george has gon back to Work a gin Well i Cant think of iny thing more to rite hoping to heare from you soon from Chrisana nelson to Mr Cornelious Nelsons good by Write soon*

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 24 July 1880,  
from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to let you no that We Are All Well hoping these few lins may find you the Same i Received A letter from you and was glad to heare from you and mr helck And the children i Am glad to heare that thear are all Well Well Neles i would like to see you you and Mr helck would com to missouri And tetch the children Mother seas if you will you can tind the farm next yeare are if mr helck and Abe will they can Chris seems to be Dissatisfied and he thinks that he can do better sum place els the place is in a very good condition but thear will be a team needed for the mul is giting old and Chris will take his team with him i will do my duty for you all Mr thurmon is living on the old place Margret elen is maried and parted with hir husband agin Well Neles i cant think of iny thing more to write for the present i well close your letter by saing rite soon from Chrisana Nelson to Cornelious Nelson Good By*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius and Anna Nelson: 12 January 1881, from Quitman, Nadoway County, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to Let you know that i am well and hope thes lines ma find you all the same when they com to hand i received a letter from you and was glad to her from you it kinda seprised me to her from you for i had jeun give you up that you had forgotten me i Don't herr from you veary often i hant Bin home for seven month i Don't know when i will go home i Don't know wheather i will go west or not i hant had veary good Luck in MO my health for the Las tou yers i got atun lookers [?] a month Last summer i am Diging coal this winter i make about tou Dolers far Day But i Don't Like that kind of work it is unhealthy and hard to stand up to tel them sister-law that i am a joley felow and is Looking for a mate hard work and hard ships is my Lot i was Like to see you all But i cant promes to cum West for i cant promis myself or iney Body Els iney thing for this world is uncerten i wod Like veary much for you to send me your wifes pictor i wod Like to see it. Speak a good ward for me from your Ever Brother G W Nelson to Cornelious Nelson Good By //Der Sister in Law With plasures i seat myself to serilile [?] a fw Lines to try to inter duce myself well in the first place i am glad and sorow to i am glad i have a nother sister in Law and sorow that i cant see you well it semes that evry Boy that goes to california get mared i wont you to rite and tel me if ther ?ent one for me well i must close for this time from your Brother in Law G W Nelson to Anna Nelson*

**Cornelius Nelson to Christian Nelson: Letter of 15 February 1881, from Sonora, California.**

*Dear Brother i take this presend opertunity to Write you a few lines to in forme you that i am well and Truly Wish these few lines may find you well again Where thay com to [letter torn and confusing at this point]*

*i received a letter and was glad to Hire from you all i Dident ansur youer letter Becas i Was married the 12 of December an i thought i Wolden Write til i Cold Send you our picturs Wee Wilsend you al ou now it Was Cloudy So We couldden get thim Sonner i married a yong lady By the name of Anney Amelia Sutherland 19 yearse of age Born in Sonora Her father and mother bore Sisters and an Brother all liven in Sonora the Brother and the oldest Sister is Married tel Mother i Wish She Cold see my Wife for She is so good natured and [?] She is a girl of edicet and in Dustrous.*

*Wee liv on a farm about 5 miles from Sonora i rented it i hav a Bout 50 acors of Grain Sode it lookes very Well So far it Has Bin very riney this Winter*

*Halck has Set up Shomaker Shop in Sonora and he is Doing Well the Childern is Wel*

*tel Sister crisey that i Will Writ to hir Son no i am a Shamed that i hav Wated So long i Cant see you now for Som time i [?] But When i get [tear in letter] My Wife Back ther or viset maby not long ?*

*tel lincoln to Write to me i am Setteld Down now i Will Write  
oftner*

*Well i most Close for this time saing rite Son Direct to Cornelius  
Nelson Sonora Cal to His affectionet Brother C L Nelson*



**Cornelius and Christian many years later,  
in 1923.**

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 1 April 1881,  
from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to write yo a few line to in form you [?] al well and truly wish these lens may find you all the same when they Com to hand we received a letter from you and was glad to hear from you and your wife. We also reseaved a letter whit your pictures in it ou wrote and told us your did not like to com visit here and leave the girls back. Well I donte blame you. Well I donte blame you it would be a [?] to leave a fellows famy so fare behind. I am thinking of going west if I go west I will go to [missing segment]som time the last time Heard from him he was well We are looking for him to com home he may go With Morgan to organ I rote and tolde him George has Bin talking a bout going West for a long time / al of that/ We have had the longest winter that I ever seen the ground was froze harde enough this morning to bare up a horse. We have had to feede six months and we will have to feed too weeck for at least a long in the winter we had the Bigest snow drifts I Ever seen sum lans were full and the road was in pashable I am a frade that the fall wheat is froze out I Am going to sow sum spring Wheat I sode for tow years the first time I got six Bushels per acre the next time a [?] Bushels per akcor / Mother helth has been very poorly this winter. But she is mending mainly at present Well I must Close for this time By asking you to Write soon and often so no more [?] from Christian L. Nelson to Cornelous Nelson*



**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 17 September 1881, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Deare Brother I take my Seat to write you A few lins to in forme you that we are al tolbel well And truly wish these few lins may find you al the same when they Com to hand We reseavd a letter from you some time a go and was vary glad to heare from you And to heare that you was al well George was at home in August he has gon to New Braska (in Kansas) he did not starte from home he started from Nodaway Co he has a patten on A New harow and he is seling It right he has sold sum right he is out thare a looking At sum land / We have had the hottest sumer that yEver saw And our Crops was Cut short Corn is worth from 40 to 50 cents per Bushel wheat is worth from one dollar to one 29 per Bushel tims is toleble dul potatos is al moste a failure there will not Be Enuuf raised for seede oats run from 30 to 40 Aushels per acor We had a fine snow yesterday the ground was White But whad no frost with it We have not had Eney letter from Denmark for a Bout 18 months I rote a letter to denmark About a month ago kissy Wants to write sum so I will Close for this time asking you to write soon and often Christian L. Nelson to Cornelous Nelson Good By*

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius and Anna Nelson: Letter of 17 September 1881, from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear brother i take my pen in had to let you no that We are All well But mother is Porly She can not talk A bove a whisper half of the time she is so hourse / i hope these few lins will find you well i Receved a letter from you and was glad to hear from you i Did not go to the celebration this year George was at home he has gon to kansas now well Cornelious we had the biggest snow storme yesterday that the oldest settlers ever seen this time a year the ground was white with snow Will i must Close by saying write Soon from Chrisana Nelson C Nelson*

[on the back of the 17 September 1881 letter]

*Deare Sistern law [Anna Sutherland Nelson] i take my pen in hand to write you a few lins it is true that we are not Acquainted with each other Well / i am glad to heare that you and Cornlious is live in happy together i wish you both the best of luck i have been somewhat Neglectfull in ansering your letter but i will do better the next time i will close your letter by saying write soon from Chrisana Nelson i want you to go and see my little neices when you go to Sonore*



Cornelius Nelson married Ann Amelia Sutherland in Sonora, California, on 12 December 1880.

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: 2 October 1881,  
from Quitman, Nodaway County, Missouri.**

*Der Brother i take my pen in hand to Let you know that i am well and that thes few Lins ma find you the same when they com to hand i recievd a Letter from you and was glad to hir from you i had give up hiring from you I thot you had forgotten that you had a Brother George i haven't hird from Home for tou month i Don't know wheather they ar dead or a Live They have awlmost Quit Writing to me and aul my old frend has Quit writing to me i gess i am aulmost forgotten at home and frends But i gess i can Live throu // i would Like veary much to see you Nels it is just seven yers ago to Day Sence we parted it semes Like a Dreem when i think of the Day we was at home to geather. Them Days ar gon to neve more Retourn i hope we ma see eeh others faces agen Before we Leave this Lo grownd of sorow.// Well Nels i saw Bill McDon he is Living in Quitman and Erning his Daley Bead by Day work he hasn't got no property a toll and he has got Childern and so is Life i saw John Demoss in Quitman he is Living ther now he got Back herrshow[?] and he boght five akers of ground in the Surburbs of Quitmen he has got a teem and wigon he is as Big a Drunkerd as Ever.// Well Nels we ar haven afel Dry weather now Corn is fird celer up to the yer and if it Don't rane prety soon we wont have more then ¼ crop Spring wheat was a failure[?] what was aul most a faure it onley went fore bushel to the akere. Time is getin prety Dull. i was working for one of our best farmers and i was the Last hird hand on the place and he*

*asked me if would Quit so we sward up this morning so i am out at present but i can get work if iney Body can and good weges to. I Don't know wheather i will stay her or not i think i will go Down south to about one Hunderd miles to a medical Spring and se if it wont be good for my helth my helth isn't veary good i was over heat in a harvest fild in Ioway when i was 18 teen yors old and i have neve had good health cence. Well nels you asked me if i wod cum west i Don't know whether i can or not if i can Straten up my bisness this winter i will cum next spring i want you to wright aften to me it is a gra?el of plasure to me to hir from you and i wad Like to hir from mr helck i havend hird from helch and the childern cence i was home 14 month ago tel Helch to write to me Well I must Close For this time from you Affection Brother George W Nelson to Cornelious Neson Good by for this time Write soon// Der sister with plasure i take my pen in hand to Let you know that i am well and hoping thes fiew Linss ma find you the same i recievd your Cind and welcom Letter and was glad to hir that you was getting a Long well I am Sorow to hir that your helth isent vary good But i hope that you will git well a gan and injoy good health agan you was speking in your Letter that you would Like to see me i know you Don't want to see me iny worse then do you i would Be the Hapest man you Ever saw if could See your face and Have a Converseason with you// We have had vary Dry weather and it is vary Hot the Dry Weather has aulmost kild out the vedstbls in the garden cabage is a fause I haven't Hird from home for Quite a while I gess they have all gon Back one me they Don't write onley once in a grate while and and that is mostley giving me pietler fits for not writing oftner i Neve hir from Mr Helch i*

*would Like vary much to hir from Mr Helch i would Like vary much to  
hir from the Children and i would vary much to have thes pictrs. i will  
send you my potograf so you can see How ugley i am well i must Close  
By Asking you to Eceuse my poor writing and bad spelling i send my  
Lve and Best wisher to you all G W Nelson Mrs Anna A Nelson i Have  
wroght Awl i can thik of now you can have the fun of Reading it*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 12 November 1881, from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*I take the plesure to write you a few lins to in forme you that we are al well But mother her helth is vary poor she is bead fast the most of the time I truly wish these fiew lins may find you Well and in joying your self When they com to hand Times is hard hear crops was al most a failire come is worth 50 cents per Bushel Wheat one 15 potatos one 25 Cabage head About as big as your fist is Worth 10 cents per head fat hogs is Worth 5 cts per pound But the trobel is that thare is not much to sell Well al on that subject We donte know when George is The last letter we had from him he was in Nodaway Co But he said he was going to Kansas I donte know Whiter he went or not We have not had a letter from Denmark for over a year. We have wrote ton letters but have had no answer a yet. We donte know what is the matter. We have got the wetttest fall that we have had for a long time But we needed som wet wethe to kill the chinty Bugs Well I will send you a few lins of my opinion on the Sabbath and what I think of Sunday keeping Well I will close for this[?]so not more at presant from Christian L Nelson To Cornelious Nelson 1881 Alanthus Grove Gentry Co Mo Write soon and often Good By for this time*

**Letter from Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson, no date given, defending the position of the Church of God 7th Day.**

The headquarters of the Church of God was then in Stanberry, Genry County, Missouri. It is not clear when this document was written though it seems from the letter of 12 November 1881 that Christian might have written an earlier letter on the topic, which Cornelius responded to, and this is the reply to that response.

*You stated in your letter that you would ansur sum of my Questions Well you may think so But I donte think you ansured one you comenced by saying that I sead the Contry was not free for al I say so a A yet there is sum stats that douse not Allow free religion and panselvana is one of them state Well al on that subject you state that Mishcheveous Boys has nothing to do with religin Well it donte loke much like it in this Country for While the olde folks is at meeting praying for them selves and ther childern the childern is out steling chickens & runing horse rases and the like of that as for Creeds it may go for what it is Worth But it is flung at as often for a slour and I thot you was A trying to give us a rub as the Batise sayes to do and with out Eney serpen Al was turn mans made docktern / turn over /p2/ You say that Matt 5.17 to 18 has nothing to du with Sunday I donte think it has But it has with the sabbath the Bible has nothing to dou With Sunday keeping for that was the day that God comenced his creation Work And rested the Seventh day and Blest it See Genesis 2.1 4 now let us turn to Exodus 20 and 10 11 What do we find there But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lorde thy god in it thou shalt Not do any Work, Thou nor thy son nor thy Daughter. thy man servant Nor they Maidsarvant. Nor thy*



Cattle nor thy stranger that is with in thy gates for in six days the Lord made heaven and Earth the sea and all that in Them is and rested the seventh day Wherefore the lorde blessed the sabbath day And hallowed it. We say that it is the only Weekly Sabbath at Now is in[?] that God gave to man and when man keeps Eney other day then the /p3/ day that God Command us to keep he is a Bilding on mans foundation that is not vary sollid. you said that Moses Allout 7 wives can you tell me whar I can find it and that Jesus only one I cant find that place Moses Must have ben a vary olde man for we find that Jacob had two Wives and was before moses Mose never gave the ten comandment law God Wrote it on tabels of stone With his own finger. And that law shows us our duty to man and God you asked me What the savor Cam to this world for he came to redeame man from ther sins he dun away the law that was a ginst us and nailed it to the cross But he did not du away his father Comandments for they are to stand as long as the heavens and the Earth is to stand I Want you to show me the Place whare God has Eve Comanded us to /p4/ hold the sbbath in in it I donte think you have Com to the Con Cluson that heaven and Earth has past away A yet if the sun dun a way with the olde Bible then thare is No rest day given to the humen family the man there keepes the first day of the week of the seventh is gibb[?] gods laws the first day of the week only spoken of 8 tims in the New testament and never Cold sabbath are lord day Jesus kep sabath and so did paul luke John peter and al of the Apostels and al the Erly Chistians God are Jesus never Give us Eney Comand for Sunday Keeping and the man that sais they did donte reade the Bible you said that olde thing must a way sho me the pasaget that the Sabith

has passed er way you cant take the Bible the Bible as a strange to the Sunday keeping /p5/ you stated in your letter that We should not make othre [?] keepe Saturday in stid of Sunday that we should not in force our religen in a free country our Country is free for sum But not for al you Would you say to let him have his own way from your letter you say years then his ways Right Calus him to run a story his Way is wilde I think the right Way is to make him due as Neare right as we can as he has No regarde for the day But for the society that Sunday affords We have a gang of boys that runs round and due al cind of meanes and I think the Best way is to keep him out of such a company And keep him as strate as possible /p6/ you stated We should not inforce our Creat in A free Country Cread What is Cread such stuf We Can heare around home and By sum that donte know that Jesus lived this side of the flud What is a Cread that is a danomintion that has now Bible to Slasnde [?] en and I think that the first day keeppers has non you stated that Saturday Was mozes day and was given to the Jews In the first place Moses did not give the ten Comandment law God Wrote on tabels of stoons With his own finger and it was made And blest on the sevend day of Creation God Keep the first sbbath that was Ever keep And it was made for man Mark 2.27 and the lords day is the sabbath for he sais Therefore the son of man is lorde also of the sabbath you stated /p7/ you stated that we were working on a slipery point. Well if the Bible is a slipery Book I will admit it But it is A good soled Book we are al right for there is not other day given in the new testament but the seventh day and you have not a Single Worde of scripeter for the first day of the week as the lords day the lards day is not spoken of only once in the new testi-ment and it don't say what day it is But Jessus said I am lorde of the sabbath so that is the lards day. Jesus did not due a way with the ten

*Commandments for he sais think not that I am gon to destroy the law or the Profihets I am Not Com to de story but to fulfil Matt 5.17 for varly I say on to you till heaven and Earth pass one jot or one tittle shal in No Wise pass from the Law till al Be Fulfilled Matt 18 /p8/ us to keep the first day of the Week in stid of the seventh day I Beleve in the Bible and that should be our Guide you asked me when was Sunday changed I say that Sunday was never changed there is no such a day spoking of in the Book of God it Got its name from hetherns who worshipt the sun you ask me a Question which you should ansur your self in the place of me. If you keep the first day of the week in the place of the Seventh day of the week you should know why you do So Christ Always cep the Sabbath holey and it was the Sabbath that God reasted on and Blest. I Want you to tell me Who changed the sabbath and when and Where for if you keep Sunday you aut to know Why you do so Well I will close By asking you to ansur sum of my Questions and I Will ansur sum mor of your. Good By for this time*

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 21 January 1882, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Deare Brother i take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to let you no how we are all gitting Along / Mother helth is not very good it is very poor she lay in bed all the time The rest of us is well i hope when thes few lins coms to hand they may find yo all well it has been so long since i receved your letter that i am All most a shame to rite to you but it is Better late then never / we have had a very plesent winter this winter we have not had iny sno to stay on the ground iny length of time it has bin very muddy winter i would like to see you and your wife the best in the world and see how you are giting along but i don't know whither i will ever see you again or not it is harde to tell There is so many Changes in this world well i must close by saying write soon ixcuse my bad writing now Neles do better than i did from Chrisana Nelson to Cornelious Nelson Sally Eoughs [?] is dead*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 11 March 1882, from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to inform you that we are all well But Mother she is very poorly She has been confined to her bed all winter the doctor says that her lungs is affected. But he thinks that she will get up again when warm weather sets in She is a little better than she was She dont cough as much as she did I truly wish these few lines may find you and all well and doing well as I understand that you have got a big boy at your house Well that is shore to happen after a sudden My little girls is getting big enough to bother me when I go to write are due any thing about the house Well all on that subject/ There has been several deaths in the neighborhood this winter. Gran Mother Kirk is dead She died in february And John Blackwell is dead he died in January. We have got a letter from Denmark But we have not got it read [translated] A het I want to go out And get it read next Friday if I can George was at home about a week ago he is as big as a kind horse and Abe is [??]bout if you was to come back hear you would not know the little boy that you knowed when you left hear / times is hard hear now Everything is high Corn is worth 50 cts per bushel Wheat is 1.25 per bushel Potatoes 150 to 200 per bushel butter is 30 cts per pound hogs fat is worth 5 ½ per pound oats is worth 35 cts per Bushel Fall Wheat is good so far But some is out a slay riding to day in blood some last week but we got a snow the 8th which set us back two weeks and it looks like more snow*

are rain Well I cant think of Eney thing Elce to Write for this time  
 So no more at present from Christian L Nelson To Cornelous Nelson  
 a) [Fragment copied with this letter, may be from another date] I  
 Will send you A few lins in ansur to your [?] for your [?] and donte  
 tak som mans Words [?] so I will Close by my saying that if we nev-  
 er meet on this Earth let us live that we Can meete on the other side  
 of Jorden Whare the Wicked sease from trobling and the Fears are al  
 gon Write soon and often Christian L Nelson to Cornelious Nelsonas



Christian and Mary (Whitely) Nelson married in 1878.

**Christian to Cornelius: Letter of 17 March 1882, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Deare Brother I take my pen in hand to write you afew lins to in forme you that we are al well and truly with these fiew may find you the Same when they com to hand / You wanted to now whither I was satisfide to stay in missouri I am not sats fide in missouri But I will stay a year or two. You stated in your letter that you had notion to go to Washington Tetary I would advise you not to go there several of our nabers went there and they warend satisfide to stay but they had to stay for they hadnt Money Enough to com home with if you can make a living in California you had better stay there you wanted to know whare your sharpes rifle was it is in the closet we donte use it vary much there is no game heare now I have not seen a turkey this winter. George has gon west he did not know wither he would go to colorado or New mexico he left last Monday he started from albany he seat that he woud write when he get settled to work well I must close for the time so no more at present from Christian L Nelson to Cornelious Nelson*

March the 17th 1882

Dear Brother I take  
my pen in hand to write  
you a few lines to inform  
you that we are all well  
and truly wish these  
few may find you  
the same when they  
come to hand

You wanted to know  
whether I was settled here  
to stay in Missouri I am  
not settled here in Missouri  
but I will stay a year or  
two. You stated in your letter  
that you had notion to go to  
Washington Territory I would advise  
you not to go there several of  
our neighbors went there  
and they were not satisfied  
to stay ~~in~~ but they had to  
stay for the hindmost



Money enough to come home  
with if you can make gloves  
in California you had better  
stay there you wanted to know  
where your sharpest rible was  
it is in the closed we dont  
use it vary much there is  
no game here now i have  
not seen a Turkey this winter  
George has gone west he  
did not know whether he  
would go to Colorado or  
New Mexico he left last  
Monday he started from Albany  
he said that he would write  
when he got settled to work  
well i must close for this  
time so no more - at personal  
from Christian J Nelson  
to Carnelius Nelson

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 10 May 1882, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Der Brother and Sister i take my pen in hand to Let you know that we ar all Well But mother She is vary Low this night i am faid She wont Last meny Days more She has faild day By day tel she has got So week that she cant handel her Body or feet and her throat is so sore that she cant Eat Iney thing Like meet i went to Stansbary Day Before yesterday and Got her sum wine of Beef and she took some of it But it was to strong for her So i went this Evining and Got her Sum fresh Beef and Kisey made her sum Beef supe and she Eat sum and she sead that was the Best she had Eat for meny Dayes Neles you have no ida how mother Lookş she is so poor that her Bones has cut thru her Back and she Lookş Like a Livin Corps. She ses that she wod not get well if she could She is tiard of Life She is so week and childish that Evrathing Bothers her she is weraid this Evining About Cris His horses ran off Last tusday night a week a week ago and he hunted all last week and this week and is Gon now up in ?way and has not herd anthing of them sense they Left. Hoping thes lines will find you all well when they cum to hand Well Neles i would write sumthing about the Land i ges you know that Cris bout Redeem the place so it will Bee Divided Equall Between all well we ar all of age But Abe and it will Be five yers a yet Before he is of age Well Cris and Cisey and me has talked About the matter we have com to the Conclson that we will not sell our Part for a few years i will tell you the Reasin why Land has jest comanced to*

raise in this cuntry and if we was to sell it now it would not Bring more than 16 or 18 Dolers Per aker wher if we was to Leve it three or four years it will Bring from therty to Forty Dolers Par aker i know it will Pay to Leve it stand for Land is on the Raise and a nother thing with me is mother ses that she Ddon'twant iney of us to sell tell we all get Redy and then sell the Hole farm togeather and she ses she Don't want us to Quarel about the farm i told Her that i thot that we could all agree and Devide with out iney Hard felling and i hape we can i want Der mothers Last wishes for She has Ben a good mother and she has suferd a gradele for us children and we should oner and Respect her in her Last Dayes and Okay her Last wishes. Well Neles ther is not much Debt on the place i Don't think ther is more then fifty dalers in all that is mortgage that father put on it the place is prety well improvid ther is about 60 akers in Cultivation Cris has not took in iney new Land Since i Left home He has Let the Fencing go down He Don't amount to as a farmer He is to much of a tineker and mokes with old mowers and thrashing machene and Don't tend to his farming a nuf they not got much stock on the place they have just About run out well neles What Land that hevt in Cultivation has mity fine young timbers on it and timbes will Be in good Dmand in tow or three yers for Evry Body is cuting what timber they can saw and seling it soth. Timber Bisness will sune Play out and good timber will B worth sumthing Well Neles i had[?]to rote to you sume But i have Bin walking around in the world and have not Bin settled no place and havt a yet But i will stay at home as long as mother Lives and then i Don't know what i Do But i Gess i will go South a Little Peace i Don't Like this Contry her it no place for a foreman i am

*faid Abe will not Amount to much in mo for he is sickley and Him and  
Cris Don't get a Long vary well if he under take to stay with Cris Him  
and Cris will fall out and then he will go out among Strangers and that  
is prety Hard on a Boy i know for i have tride it well neles i want you to  
wright sum i want here from you so i will close for this time By Asking  
you to write sune from yor Affecnet Brother George W Nelson*

[A note is attached to Cornelius' wife, Anna]

*"Der sister with Plasure After so Long a time i seat my self to try write  
to you we ar all in prety health at Present But mother and she is vary  
Low thar was a man taald me to Day that DC Cambell from albany  
told hiim that mother never could get well it is vary hard to think we  
will haf to give mother up But the Lord's will Be Dun we will all  
hope[?]go sumer or Later. Kisey health is not vary good She thinks she  
has got the cumsompsion But i Don't think she has i think se has worid  
her self Enough in the Last few months Elizabeth my sisterin law is  
well and her Childern Look's well they have got to pretey Children in  
the[?]they say i say that Becays they ar kin to me But that is not it i  
will get thes picture taken and you one of Each and Let you deceide  
Well Anna i Promised you that i would com west this Spring and i have  
Broke my promis agan i will not promis iney more for i Don't know  
when i can com Well i must Bring my letter to a close by asking you  
not to do Like i have don But write sune Fer George W. Nelson to Mrs  
Anna A Nelson*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 21 May 1882, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Der sister and Brother I seat myself this Evening to inform you that Our der mother is dead She dide Friday the 19th twenty minet after one O Clock She was sincebile to the Last She was Barid Saturday Between 10 and One o Clock She Dide hapy She told me a few dayes before she deide that she was tird of life that death would be sweet to her it was a Biter Day i sall neve forget the Last look at the meeting hous and then she was lorerd in the gave to be seen no more on Erth it is ofel hard to grive I don't think mothe had an eneme in the world all her old frends came and seen her when she was lying sick and they all loved her o she was a Loving mother the took her corps in the meeting hous and the minester read the 15 chapter of first Corinth and then they sung the Familier him i would not Live Always and then the minester Deliverd a prare and then she was carrade to the Grave and then they lore her in the Grave to rest tel the Sun of man Shall com to geather in home his Jurell [?] I must close I cant write iney mor I Feel so so Bad Home is no more Home For me we ar all well as could Be Expected under the sad misfortion So no more at the present From Geo Nelson to Mr and Mrs Cornelious Nelson Good By Write Often For we ar Lonsom*

1892

May 21, 1892

O Lenthus I have no  
 dear sister and brother ~~and sister~~  
 I seat myself this evening to  
 inform you that our dear mother  
 is dead she died in Jersey  
 the 19th ~~at~~ twenty minutes after  
 one o'clock she was sensible  
 to the last she was buried  
 Saturday between 10 and one o'clock  
 she died happy ~~and~~ she  
 told <sup>me</sup> a few days before she  
 died that she was tired of  
 life that death would be  
 sweet to her she was so  
 tired of suffering it was  
 a bitter day I shall never  
 forget the last look ~~on~~  
 at the meeting house and then  
 she was laid in the grave  
 gave to be seen no more on  
 earth it is a hard to live

I Dont think mother  
 had an enemy in the world  
 all her old friends came  
 and seen her when she was  
 Lying sick and they all loved  
 her O she was a young mother  
 they took her corpse in the  
~~Meeting~~ Meeting house and the  
~~man~~ Minister read the 15  
 Chapter of first Corinth  
 and then they sang the  
 hymn him i would not live  
 always and then the minister  
 Delivered a ~~fine~~ prayer  
 and then she was conveyed  
 to the Grave and then so  
 they bore her in the Grave to  
 Rest till the sun of morn  
 shall cover to heather in  
 home his duell

I must close i cant write  
 any more ~~for~~ i feel so

So Bad hum is no  
 more ~~to~~ for me  
 We ar all well as could  
 Be Expeted under  
 The sad misfortune  
 So no more at the  
 present From  
 Gen Melbourn to  
 Mr and Mrs Colnelious  
 Melbourn

Good By  
 Write often for  
 We ar. Yours and

---



**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 16 July 1882,  
from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother I tak my pen in hand to write you a few lins to in forme you that we are All Well and truly wish these few lins may find you the same when they come to hand I suppose that you heard of mothers death. George Wrote you a letter soon after hear death. I would rite sooner But We have ben looking for a letter from you. If Rain provident henders hear funeral will be Preached on the 20th of August By Elder Andrew Duggar [Church of God minister in Stanberry, MO. Margaret died May 19.] We have been thinking of Getting A Monument to put over our Dear[?] Graves. Will you go your party. A good monument will A Bout one hunderd dollas. I think it would sho respect for the Dead. I am appointed Administeror. Mother left at[?]185.00 dollas Witch will settle up al the deaths. Well I must close for this time by saying write soon and often. Christian L Nelson to Corneliuous Nelson Good By for this time*

**Cornelius Nelson to George W. Nelson: Letter of 23 July [1882], from Sonora, California. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Deare brother Brother i take this present opportunity to Write you a few lines to in form you that We are all Well Truly Wish these few lines ma find you all injoing the Same Belesing it Was Said for ous to that mother have left this World May God have merciea on her pore Sole i hope She is in a better World When Sorrow Never come it is hard to giv up them [She] Was So neare and Der to us But Gods Will Bea Don*

*Let us Strive to meat Thim Wher Parting Shal Be no more We ar al alone With out father or mother i[?]We Will all Bea Scattered a Brod Gorge till me if lincon is is going to Staye With Christian or not i Wold like to Now if not i Wold like for him to Com out here if he Wonts to i Will Do the Best i Can for him if he is Steddy he can Do prity Wel in this Cuntray i think that i Will rent an nother farme this fall then i cold hire him through the Winter mabe through the Sumer[?]he is Sick[ey that Wold[?]help him*

*Well George Write and tell me how ever thing Standes if Chis is going to Stay on the place or not Wher Cisana is at and if She is going to Stay at home that Wold Be the Best if thay Can agree Where ar you going your Self.*

*i am through harvesting i have a prity good Crop of Grane Wether is prity good i am going to hav the hay Baled to morrow that is What you Don't have in MO i think i Will have 30 ton of hay.*

*Well George i must close for this time hoping to hire from you Soon Don't Waigt as long as i Did from your Brother and Sister Cornelius and anney Nelson*

The  
July 23

Honored Cal

Dear Brother

Brother I take this present  
opportunity to write you a few  
lines to inform you that we  
are all well I truly wish these  
few lines may find you all  
going the same believing

it was said for one to that  
mother have left this world  
May God have mercie on her soul

I hope she is in a better  
world when sorrow shews cold  
it is hard to give up them

was so near & dear to us but  
Gods will be done

Let us strive to meet this  
when parting shall be no more  
We are all alone with out  
father or mother in les we will  
all be scattered a brood

George tell me if his cow is  
is going to stay with  
Christiana or not i would like to  
know if not i would like  
for him to come out here if  
he wants to i will do the best  
i can for him if he is sickly  
he can do a pretty well in  
this country i think that i will  
sent an mother for me this fall  
there i could hire him through the  
winter make through the summer  
if he is sickly that would  
help him

Will George write and tell me  
how ever thing stands is Chris  
is going to stay on the place  
or not when widema is at and  
if she is going to stay at home  
that would be the best if they  
can agree where as you going  
your self

i am through harvesting  
 i have a pretty good crop  
 of grain whether is pretty  
 warm times weather  
 good i am going to have the  
 hay baled to morrow  
 that is what you dont  
 have in 1110  
 i think i will have 30 tons  
 of hay

Well George i must close  
 for this time hoping to hear from  
 you soon dont wait as  
 long as i did

From your Brother  
 Cornelius Tannery Nelson

**Translation of a letter from Birthe Nielsdatter Hansen to Christian Nelson. Date not given, but not long after Margaret's death in 1882. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dear Brother, I would like to tell you that we have received a letter from you. Johannes Mortensen is dead and... have written a letter for us last year and we have received it. It is sad to hear that mother was dead but she was so weakened so there was nothing else than death to think of. You want to hear how we are in Denmark, We have 20 tourndre of land... 5 cows and 2 horses and our expense [lease payment]... will be four tourne of grain... and we can get a harvest... tourndre [plus] seed grain. We have had six Rigsdaler for one tourndre seed. It is about three mark for one pound butter and we have 3 English mile for the nearest market town and that is Roskilde. I would like to hear about your harvest and hear about the prices you have... on corn grain and how many tourndre land you have cultivated, and how the land was before cultivation. Now I will finish these lines with kindly regards to all off you. There are no changes for us since you wrote last time.*

[Note: the ellipses represent places where the letter is eroded away]

Minne Broder

Jeg lode dit Brev ud til min  
 skortest et Brev fra Gode

~~Minne Broder, som har~~

den yngste søster

er Løb og siges det i

skrevet et Brev til

forige den som

havde det var jo

høje at møde den

den som var den

den jo ikke anden en

at tænke på i denne



Du ønske at høre hvorledes  
 vi bor her i Danmark vi  
 har 20 Tønder Land og 60  
 pløieland 2<sup>de</sup> her 5 høser  
 og 1 Teaste og her Ugift  
 bliver 4 tønder korn for her  
 lands Land og vi kan hørste  
 Tønder Sød i det hele  
 vi har faaet en 6 Rindar  
 for en tønder Sød korn  
 3 Mark for et parret Snøck  
 og vi har 3. ønske om  
 det næmeste hørst ad det

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 25 February 1883, from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Deare brother i take my pen in hand to let you no that We are All well hoping these few lins may find you the Same Whe they come to hand i receved a letter from you about six mouths ago and your little boys picture i was glad to get it i think he is a purty child i would like to see him i am a shame that i have not ancerd it soon but i will do better after this / My helth has not bin very good this winter. Well we are looking for George home this spring he has not bin home since July i wold like to see him i am so longsum this winter it seems as tho i can not stand it i have not worked out iny this winter Christians Children all had the whspering coff this winter Abe is at home he is talking about gon off this spring Well Neles Write and tell me how you are gitting along And Don't you and Ana do like i have Well i don't tink of iny thing more to write look over my mastakes And bad writing / from Chrisana Nelson to [?] Carnelious And Ana Nelson*

February the 25 1847

My dear Mr. G. I have your letter  
60 M.

I am so glad to see my pen in  
your hand to let you see that we are  
All well hoping these few  
lines may find you the same  
when they come to hand

I received a letter from you about  
six weeks ago and your little boy's  
picture was glad to go to  
I think that he is a pretty child  
I would like to see him

I and a few others that I have not named  
at home but I will do better  
after this - My health has not  
been very good this winter

we are looking for George  
home this spring he has not been  
home since July I would like  
to see him I am so glad  
this winter it seems as tho I am

not I don't it I have not worked  
 out in this winter at home  
 I'm sure all had the whooping  
 cough this winter. If he is at  
 home he is talking of going  
 off this spring

write and tell me  
 how you are getting along  
 and don't you and Anne  
 do like it here

Well I can't think of any  
 thing more to write  
 look over my notes to her  
 and had writing

from to her, Anne  
 - below to Catherine  
 and also to Anne

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 17 March 1882 (sic, probably 1883).**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to let you no that we are all well hoping these few lins may find you the Same i receved a letterf rom you about A week A go and was glad to heare from you Well you wanted to no how we were giting along since mother died Well we are giting along very well Chris is settling up the Dets he is giting a long very well i gues Abe will farm with Chris this sumer george was at home last week he Started West We don't know where he will stop at / Well we have concluded to let the place stand tel Abe is out of age unles we have A good chance to sell / Well you wanted to no whither we would stay in missouri ar not we wont no what we will do we will do the best that we can Well Nelis i would like to see you and your wife And child But we are scatterd now We can only rest in the promis. Tell Ana to kiss the baby for me George sends A card to the baby. Well, Cant think of iny thing more to write i must close by saying write soon / from Chrisana Nelson to Cornelious Nelson look over my bad writing good by*

**Chrisana Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 16 July 1883, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Deare Brother i take my pen in hand to write you a few lins this morning i have bin looking for A letter from you for A long time so i thought i would write / i have had the lonsamus time this summer i ever had in my life since mother died i tell you that i feel the loss of my mother it is home no more like it use to be i am living with Chris now and i gues i will the rest of the summer George left home about a week ago abe is at hom a yet / My health is very poor this summer i got so wore out When mother was sick that it seems as tho i cannot git over it i had to stay by her sick bed the most of the time the nabers was as good as they cold be but she was so lo that she cold not talk very much and what she did talke was in the Danish language so it made it harde on me Well i cannot think of iny thing more to write for this time from Chrisana Nelson to Cornelious Nelson lok over my bad writing Good by*

I Dear Brother i take  
my pen in hand to write  
you a few lines this morning  
i have bin looking for  
A letter from you for A  
long time so i thought  
i would write  
i have had the Consars  
time this summer i ever  
had in my life since mother  
died i tell you that i  
feel the loss of my  
mother it is home no more  
like it use to be i am  
hang with A & Chris  
now out i gues i will  
the rest of the summer  
George left home about  
a week ago she is at  
home yet  
My health is very poor this  
summer i got so more

out when mother was  
sick that it seems as  
tho i cannot get over  
it i had to stay a long  
time had the most of  
the time the mother was  
as good as they said he  
but she was so so that  
she could not talk very  
much and what she did  
talk was in the Danish  
language so it made it hard  
and now well i cannot think  
of any thing more to write  
for this time from  
Melow to Carlsbad Melow

Look over my best writing

Your  
son



**Julius Halck to Christian L Nelson: Letter of 23 February 1884, from Sonora, California. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dear Brother in Law, I recived your Letter of Debr 22 and was glad to hear that you are all well hoping that this may find you all well when it come to hand. Maggie and myself have enjoied the best of Healt since we moved to Sonora. Cornelius was here the other Day. The are all well as well as cann be expected for his Wife have just had an other Beby, it is a great big Boy, big enough to go out to Plow. We have had awful Stormy Weather here for a long Time, but it is fine again so we don't need anny fire in the Day and can have the Doors open to, I sopose it is more than you cann saye about mosouri, I think Crops vil be good here this Summer and it vil give Employment for Thousins of People I wish you could see tha Plains here it is a sollid grain Feeld so farr as you can see. You had better make a Trip out here to see the County, you could see Things here you never would see at Home as anny other Parts of the World, and if you vill come out here I vil take my Team and goe with you Camp out have a good Time and I don't bleve you would want to goe back anny more. No more for this Time so goo by. from Julius L Halck to Christian L Nelson give my regard to all.*

Sonora February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1884

Dear Brother in Love  
 I received your Letter of Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 and was glad to hear that you  
 are all well. Hoping that this  
 may find you all well when  
 it comes to hand. Maggie and  
 myself have enjoyed the best  
 of Health, since we moved  
 to Sonora, Cornelius was  
 here the other Day, She are  
 all well as well as can be  
 expected, for his Wife have  
 just had another Baby it  
 is a great big Boy, big enough  
 to go out to Plow. we have  
 had awful stormy Weather  
 here for a long time, but  
 it is fine again, so we dont  
 need any fire in the Day  
 and can have the Doors open  
 to, I suppose it is more than

you can say about  
Missouri, i think Crops wil  
be good here this Summer  
and it wil give Employment  
for Thousands of People. i wish  
you could see the Plains here  
it is a sollid Grain field i  
so far as you can see. you had  
better make a Trip out here  
to see the County, you could  
see things here you never  
would see at Home or any  
other Part of the World, and if  
you will come out here i wil  
take my Team and goe with  
you Camp out have a good  
Time. and i dont beleve you  
would want to goe back any  
more. no more for this Time  
so good by. from Julius S. Haddock  
to Christian L. Nelson.  
give my regard to all

**Julius L Halck to Mary E. Nelson: Letter of 23 February 1884, from Sonora, California. This letter is on the back of the above letter from Julius.**

*Sonora Februari 23rd 1884. Dear Sister in Lawe, your kind and welcome Letter of December 22nd is at hand, I so ar glad to hear that you ware all well, hoping this maye find you the same. Maggie and myself are enjoying the best of Healt, we have had very Stormy Weather here for a long Time but now it is find again. it is warm enough to Daye so that I have the Doors open, I am afraid it is more than you can saye about your part of the Country Cornelius and his Family are well as well as cann be expected his Wife had an other Son, but Shee is up again and are doing well, her Mother came up from Stockton and stayed with her til Shee were confined. you seyed Rosy and Lilly would like to see Maggie I think you had better all come out here and see us it would bee a nice thrip for you every thing looks fine here now, the Pich Trees are beginning to Blume and looks fine, still we maye have Frost enough yet to kill Them. i must close for this Time. give my kind regard to all. From Julius L Halck to Mrs Mary E. Nelson*

Mary (Nelson) and Julius Halck married in Stanislaus County, California, in 1873.



**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of June 1885, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to in form you that we are al well and truly with these few May find you the same when they com to hand I Recived a letter from you today and was Glad to hear from you and to hear that you was al well you stated in your letter that you had Rote three letters to ous We have not got them I ansurd the last Letter that I got from you last March We had not heard that Julious Was mared we was looking for him out hear this sumer he said that he was coming we have not had a letter from him once Erley in the Spring I donte think he well com[?]if he donte want to com I would like to see Maggie. We had a letter from denmark in the Spring they was al well Birty lost a child it was 15 or 16 days old. Abraham is in Kansas he is coming home this fall George is in Nodaway Co. We are looking for him to com home. Crops is vary poor out hear this year fall wheat wonte make a half crop oats looks Reasunble well Corn is vary small and mealy We have had to much Rain this Spring We have Got two as fine little girls as eney body and our boy is 10 months olde and he was 25 lbs but he cant walk but can croll al over the hous. There was Quit a shooting ecsape took place down at marts halls last week Two of James howtes Boys went over ther to kill him But the Game did not Work well he killd one of them an Woned the other I must close write soon and often Christian L NELSON to Cornelous NELSON.*

June the 1885  
 Alantins mo

Dear Brother

I take my pen in hand to write  
 you a few lines to inform you  
 that we are all well and truly  
 wish these few may find you  
 the same when they com to hand  
 I reciaed a letter from you today  
 and was blad to hear from you  
 and to hear that you was all well  
 you stated in your letter that you  
 had rote three letters to us We have  
 not got them I anserd the last  
 letter that I got from you last  
 March We had not heard that Judson  
 has marred me was looking for him  
 out hear this summer he said that  
 he was coming we have not had a  
 letter from him since Exley in the  
 Spring I donte think he will com  
 back if he donte want to com  
 he can stay a way

June 21 1855

I would like to see Mayja  
 We had a letter from Denmark  
 in the Spring they were all well  
 Betsy lost a child it was 15 or 16 days old  
 Abraham is in Kansas he is coming home  
 this fall George is in Volademy &  
 we are looking for him to come home  
 Crops is very poor out here this  
 year fall wheat Monte make a  
 half crop oats looks reasonable well  
 Corn is very small and much of  
 We have had to much rain this Spring  
 We have but two as fine little girls  
 as Every body and our boy is 10 months  
 old and he was 25 lbs but he can  
 not walk but can crawl all over  
 the house

There was quite a shooting & escape  
 took place down at Mart's halls  
 last week Jim of James Howter's  
 Boys went over there to kill him  
 but the game did not hook well he killed  
 one of them and <sup>one of them</sup> <sup>and shot</sup> the other & must close  
 Christian & Nelson to Cornelius Nelson

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius and Anna Nelson: Letter fragment, no date.**

*Between nabers / My twin girls is getting Bug enough to help thir mother in the house and Danil Webster he is getting to Be a big boy he can Run ever place that he wants to and can talk Considerable Abe he is going to tend part of the farm this year and I am going to Work in the shop Well I cant think of eney thing more to write for this time So no more at presand from CL and ME Nelson to C and AM Nelson Write soon*



**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 5 July 1886,  
from Atlanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to in forme you that we are all well and Truly wish these few lins may find you the same when thay com to hand I reseved a letter from you and was to heare from you al you wanted to know how we are getting a long. I must in forme you that we are not getting a long vary fast we have had servel bad crop years and the prospect is vary gloomy at presant weare needing rain vary much at presant we have not had a good raine cince the tenth of may oats is vary shorte som is not going to Be worth harvisting Corn looks well But if it dose not raine Soon we will have no Corn thare has Ben plenty Rain close round It have past By ours You wanted to know whare George was and whie he did not Rite to you he is in Nodaway Co. his p.o. is Quitman. I donte know why he dose not write to you he has not ben at home for a bout two years and he dose not rite to me vary often. Well I must in forme you that Chrisana is Married She was married last March She married a man by the name of WALKER he Was a Widower he has servel childern She lives north East of hear about six mils. You wanted to know what we can get for the farm. I donte know I don't think we could get 10 dallars per acor. There is no land seling in this country. Times is vary dull the most of land that sels in this coutry sels on time you Wanted me and George to by the farm. I donte think George wants Eney more then what he has got he is talking of moving to Colorado in the Spring I am not abele to*

by Eney more then I have. I would like to sell out and go whare I can  
 get land cheape This country is getting arder hear ever year so a poor  
 man can not make eney thing. Well I hope if you move to Organ you will  
 du well I donte think Washinton territory is what it is craced up to Be  
 there is sirvel Com Back from thare and they don't think much of that  
 country if I could sell out I would like to move to colorado Organ are  
 Washington teratory. A man cant due iny good for him self her land is  
 Coming up al the time and rang[?]and time harder for a poor man stile  
 Eathing up the Country[?]Morgan and Bill morgan and a nother family  
 they are al going to organ the first of May the I will have a chance to  
 [?] these and Morgan is a man off[?]realy on for the truth well al on that  
 subject We will send one of them picturs to denmark when we hear from  
 thim it has ben over a year since we heard from ther But We are looking  
 for a letter from thir We have not heard from Gorge for [??] There is a  
 young man in this naber hood that was out in Caifornia he donte like  
 cal he sais that a labern man is thought no more of thaen a dog / Well  
 I cant think of eney thing Elce to Write so I will close for this time So  
 no more at presad from Christian L Nelson to Carnelious Nelson Write  
 soon and often so Good Night Give my love to al

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 18 December 1886, from Atlanthus, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and sister I take the presand opportunity of ansuring your kind and welcom Letter which found us al well and this leaves alwell and I truly wish these few lins may Find you al the same When they com to had George was out to see us last week and I went out home with him and got a load of Stoon [?] Coal he has ben a diging coal al last sumer and this Fall he Was making a range ment to go to Colorad he was making Arangement to start on the 13 or 14 of this month. He has a cance to get him a peace of land he is going to leave his wife with her mother til Spring. Abe is going out in the Spring and Georgees Wife and Abe will go out to gether. Georges Wife could not go with him now she has got a big girl Six weeks old. I have not seen sister Crisana for about a month But George Was up to see hir when he was at home and they was al well then I am looking for sum of them down tomorrow. I got a letter from Julious som time a go and they war al well He said in his letter that he was A having trouble with his partner in this mine he said that his partner was tiring to swindle him out of Ever thing that he had he said that he did not know how they would com out the last letter that I got from denmark they was al well tims is vary dull hear we almost had A failur last sumer. We had no rain al sumer and what little Corn we made we made it with out rain and we have had a vary dry fall and winter so fare We have had sum vary coald weather the thomonetry has went down to 15 degrees below zerow one are two*

*night We have ben trying to sell the farme but there is no Byers a round we holde the plase at twenty dollars per acor Sister Bertey wants you to wite to hir you can rite to hir you can rite to hir in English And she can get it read over there I will send you hir Address.—til Parcelist Peder HANSEN, Reeslov Mark, Hedehusene Staon, Denmark. Write Soon and often so no more At presend from Christian L. Nelson to Cornelious Nelson and family*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 11 February 1887, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dear Brother i take my pen in hand to write you a few Lines to Let you know that i am still in the Land of the Living i have wrote to you tou or three times But have never had the plasure of giting a Letter from you i would Like to hir from you all once more i am in Colorado now and i think i will make it my Fucher hom i have taken a 160 acer of Land and will Emporve it this comen sumer i Got a very good piece of Land it is all tildible soil and close to market pleny of timber and mild winters and long sumers i For got to tel you my wifes name name was lauria A Collins a native of Ioway She was Eghteen years old when we was merried// i would Like to have your childrns Picters and i will send you ours as soon as Alice coms out// Well i will close for this time By sending my Love and Best Respect to all the Famley and reave a ?koshen For your Part // From you Brother Elpeso Co G W Nelson Colorado Springs Colo // i am well and i hope thes Lins will Find you all the same Good By For this time// Write soon and often and i will? The same good By. Write G W Nelson for ther is a nother George Nelson lives hir.*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 24 December 1887, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and Sister I take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to informe you that we are All well and truly wish these few lins may find you all the same when they com tow hand I recived a letter from you yester day and was glad to hear from you Al and to hear that you was al well you stated in your letter that you had rote to George last Spring and had not got eney ansur I donte Expect he got your letter he changet P.O. address spring for a while he ws in another[?]but hes po adress now is Colorado Springs Elpaso Co Col I got a letter from them about a week ago and they was Al well and Satsfide Abe thinks that he has struck sumthing good I have not had a letter from Julius and magga for a good while but they was al well the las time they rote I have not seen Crisana for over a month but they was al well the lst time they was down I think she has got a good husben they have not got much of this worlds goods I think that they get a long well and that is better then welth. / I have not had eny letter from Denmark sence I rote to you last I am looking for a letter soon I think you should rite to hir She often asks why som of his reltions did not rite to hir you can rite in Englis and She can get it read there. I alwais write in englis I wish that we we could sell the farne I think I would move to Colorad if I was out there now I could Entry me a peace of land But thare is no chance to sell land hear now we have had two failurs in crops. An that makes tims dull hear. Ana wanted to know if Crisanna's step childern lived with hir,*

yeas. She also wanted to know how many childern we had lost we have lost Two one Boy and one girl our first child was a boy he only lived about one our our little girl was one year and 16 days olde when she died our other children is getting to Be a good deal of help to us they Girls can wash dishes and nit they was 7 years old last forth July and danial three years old past. The baby is 17 months olde he can wal un whor. We have had a fine fall But I think winter has set in the last few day has ben vary cold. With som snow. Tims is vary hard hear cattle is the chepest that I ever seen them fat rams is only 2cts per pound in St Louis a man can by a good farm for 14 ac 15.00 dolars Heffers calf is only worth from 5.00 to 6.00 dollars corn is worth 46 cts wheat 50 oats 25 hay thomaty[?] 500 dollars per tun / I am Working at the Blacksmithing trade this winter But there is not much to do tims is to dull. Well I must close for this time. So no more at presant from Christian L Nelson and Wife to Cornelious Nelson and Wife Write soon and often Good By

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 15 May 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dear Brother and sister i take my pen in hand to write once more it has Bin a Long time since i hird from you. Wrote you a letter about a year ago and have never got iney ancer we or all well and i hope they will find you the same i am still Living om my cleme i will pay out this fall My wife Don't Like this cuntry But for my pert i Like it vary will But i Don't know whither i will stay hir or not if i Don't i Don't know when i will go to i thenk i will go to texas i thenk it is a good cuntry i hope you have got you a good home By this time and hope you ar in a Good Cuntry. And Doing well my Baby is well and stout she is comencing to talk well Will close By asking you to writ soon Good By from G W Nelson to Cornelious Nelson and famley// Post Office Pax 158 // [additional note from Laura] Dear Brother and Sister i seat my self Doun to write to you all to Lett you all now how we ar all geten alonge we ar all well but me i havt very well i hope this may find you all in join good helth i havt a quanted with you all but i would like to see you all and get a quanted with you all the best kind we named ar girl Margget after Mother Nelson she is a ofte bad spoilt girl we will send you all hir pictur and i would like very Much to have you Boys picturs and also you and you wife well i would like to see you all i have got garden up it Look nice well i Must Close for this time so good by to all good by rite soon as you get this// i remane as ever you sister Alice Nelson to Cornelison Nelson and wife.*



**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 15 July 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dear Brother and sister i take my pen in hand to ancer your kind and welcom letter wich we Received a short time a go it found us all well and hope when thes lines coms to hand they will find you all same we ar having a Dry seson and Crops will Be short i Don't Expect to get my noney Back i Ex shnded [?] in Planting i Did not have much Crop planted and it is well that i Didn't i Like this cuntry Vary will so far as times and soil consurns But our health is not good we all have the Actturred [?] the worst way we haf to Docter our Body all the time hir Ears and nose is in a Bad state and i am Botherd[?]much my self and Alice has taken the Acterrh since we come and hir i Don't thenk we will stay in this part more than a yer er tou more about cris and the old farm i have not hird from Gentry Co for about three month i Don't know how the Crops is this year ther is one thing certon that Land will not Gane in Value til they Rais a good crop or tou i Don thenk Cris has made much since he has Bin marid he is Getting Quite a famly tou Boys and three girls Abe was Down to see us to Day he is well he is talking of seling out nex weekend if he Dos he will start for Origion a short time i hope if he Dos Go he will Be pleased with the Cuntry i hate to see him go we will Be Lonsom But his heath is Bad and i would Like to see him stout i would Like to see you all and have a good time But i am a afraid it will Be a Long time Before we meet well i will Close for this time Write soon Good By from G W Nelson famly Write soon PO Box 158*

**Laura Alice (Collins) Nelson to Cornelius and Anna Nelson:  
Letter of 15 May 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.  
Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dear Sister Anna i take the plesur of ansurn you kind and welkom  
Letter which i resived and we was glad to hear from you all and to hear  
you was all well but sora to hear of you baby boy weakly but i hope this  
may find him well we havt very well Maggie has bin porly for a good  
while but is some better now i would like to see you all the best kind i  
would like to come and see you all and Look at the Cuntry but we havt  
Able now but maby we will be some Day i hope so i Like out hear very  
will if I have my helth we have a nice peas of Land out hear I havt got  
but 2 falts of this country won is on the a count of fruit and the other  
is my helth havt bin good sence I come out hear but ever body think I  
will git stout again but I Like to live whur I can rase fruit enuff to[?]us  
you said you was goen to sent us won of you picturs we would be afte  
glad to have it and I would be glad to git you children pictur what is  
you Little girls name I would like to now very Much well I must close  
for this time hopen to hear from you soon and often so good by to all I  
remane as ever you sister Alice Nelson to Cornelious Nelson and wife*

Colorado Springs Colorado  
May the 15th 1880

Dear Brother and Sister i seat my  
self down to write to you all to lett you  
all now how we ar all geten alonge we ar all  
well but me i hant very well i hope  
this may find you all in foind good  
helth i hant a Quanted with you all  
but i would like to see you all  
and get a Quanted with you all  
the best kind we maned ar girl  
Margret after a blather blason she  
is a ofte bad spailt girl we will send  
you all his pictur and i would like  
very much to have you Bays picturs  
and altho you ~~but~~ and you wife well  
i would like to see you all i how  
got garden up it Look nice  
well i must ~~close~~ Close for this

Time so good by to all.  
 good byrite soon as you get this

i remane as ever  
 you sister Alice Nelson  
 to Carnelison ~~and wife~~  
 Nelson <sup>and</sup> Wife



Laura Alice Nelson

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 9 Dec 1888,  
from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dear Brother and famley i take my pen in hand to write you a few lines we ar not vary well and have not Bin for som time i hope thes few Lines will find you all in good health i gess we will Leave this part of the Cuntry as we all have such Bad health ther have Bin som of us sick almost all the time we have Bin Living on Oure Land and Doctors chargs such a high price that thes keep me Behind hand all this time and a meener set of people then our nabers is never Lived so to take it all in concideration it is no place for a man with a famley to give in so i will Pull my stakes out of hir in a few Days i Don't know just wher we will stop a yet i will write just as soon as we get seteld and Alice will also write to Anna Well i will Close for this time i give my Love to all the famley yours as Ever G W Nelson// Recive our thanks for that photograph it is very nice and we was glad to get it and will send you ours just as soon as we get them// G W Nelson// Abe is hir to write he is well he is talking of Leaving this cuntry in a few Days.*

### **Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 2 February 1889, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and family. I take my pen in hand to write you A few lines in ansur to your kind and wellcom letter which came to hand yesterday and it found us all well and this leaves us the same and I truley wish these few lines may find you all the same when they com to hand. We have not had a letter from George or abe this winter. I don't know why they don't write unles they have for gotten us. We have knot heard from Crisana for a long time they have not ben down since last spring. I rote a letter to hir som time Ago but have not had eny ansur we are a looking for them to com down soon you wanted one of Fathers pictures I will have [line missing on photocopy] One. We are a having a fine winter. We hav not had much snow a yet and the Ground has knot Ben froze over 4 inches deep this winter the thumomerte has knot Ben down to zerow this winter but there Considerble Bad colds and som deaths I helped dig a grave for one of Mill Morris ses children this week it was a bout three years oald. Tims is vary dull hear Grain is cheep and stock also hay per tun 200 to 250. Corn per Bushel 22 cts oats 18 cts wheat per Bu? 50 to 75 cts fat stirs per pound 3 ¼ to 3 ½ cts fat Cows 1 ½ to 2 cts per pound milk cows from 12.00 to 20.00 per head fat hogs 4.00 to 4.25 per hunderd / Well I cant think of aney thing more so no more at present from Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson And Family. Write Soon and often Good By for this time. [note added on the 7th of Feb 1889] Dear Brother since I rote the above sister Chrisana was down And they are al well so no more at presand From Christian L Nelson Good By for this time Write Soon*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 15 March 1889, from Quitman, Missouri.**

*Well Neles i thot i would write you a few Lines as Alice was writing well we have got Back to MO and have got to house keeping a[?] We have not Bin out to Crises a yet But will go out ther soon and then i will write all about the old home and what the prospect is we ar not living on our own place as it was let Befor we got it so i will haf to Rent this season old Mo Look§ matrial as much as i have seen of it Plenty of frute and vegetabels which is a Rare thing to us as Colo was almost a faluer Last season well i will close for this time By asking you to write soon i send my Love and Best Respects to you all G W Nelson Good By*

**Laura Alice (Collins) Nelson to Anna (Sutherland) Nelson:  
Letter of 15 March 1889, from Quitman, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and sister i take the plesur of writing to you to lett you now how we ar giten a longe we ar all first to libel well the change of climant Make us all feeld bad I hope this wil find you all well and Doen well Well Ana i would like to see you all the best kind we have move to Mo we ar a goen out to Criston folks as soon as the small pox Dies out the small pox ar between ar hous and thire well Anna my boy has got won tooth and will soon have some more maggie ar a grate big girl Now i would like to see you children to so well and i would like so much to have thir picturs and as soon as the small pox git gon at Maryvill i will pose some of mine and the children taken and send you won i got you pictur and Nelius and was so glad to git it it ar raining hear to Day well we Left Abe in Colorado i was ofle sora to Leave him but he hanten sold his clame and he wauten Leave it till he sold it he was ofle good to us i tride to git him to come back with me and gorge maggie thot thar was no body like hir unkle Abe she talks a grate Deal about him i think he can sell his clame well this springe he has a good peas of Land i Like out thair very if i had had my helth i had the New ralga all the time i was out thair well i must close for this time so good by rite soon to me and i will answer soon this from Alice Nelson to Anna Nelson// post ofix @ Quitman Nadoway Co Mo*



**Christian Nelson to George W. Nelson: Letter of 13 July 1889,  
from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and family this leaves all well and I hope these few lines may find you all the same David Blue commiet suicide this mo at about 5 Oclock he shot him self with a wincester rifle the reason that I let you know so soon is they news got out it was me so I thot though I would let you know before you got the false report CL Nelson to GW Nelson Good By*

**Chrisana (Nelson) Walker to Cornelius: Letter of 16 November 1889, from Union Grove, Missouri.**

*Deare Brother And Sister I take my pen in had to write you A few lins to let you no that we are all well hoping these few lins may find you the Same Well it has bin a long time since i rote to you but i have not forgotten you i did not have your Address i was down to Crises last Sabbath and got it Crise got a letter from Abe he Said he got a letter from you that is the first time that i have heard from you for a long time Chris have got another girl At his house he calls her margaret i saw George this fall he has got too children Well i have got one the worse boy in the county him's too years old the 2 day of february his names quincy munsen i want you to write to me and tell me what your girls name is don't do like i did but write soon Well i must close for this time from Chrisana Walker to Cornelious Nelson And famly*



Chrisana married Anthony Walker in 1886  
and bore five children.

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 14 September 1890, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to in forme you that we are al well and truly Wish these few lins may find you The same when they com to hand I recived a letter from you A few days ago and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was al well and doing well. We have got a vary poor crop in this co. We had to much rain wheat took the rust which made it poor Oats is almost a failure corn wont make over a half crop hay was good potatos is good Apls is good. George and family Was out to see us this week his wife is in vary poor helth She is bothered with the rheumatism and Sore Eyes. George has rented his farm and is going to the ureka springs in Arkansas he is going to move in About a month. George went up and staid al night with sister Crisana. They was al well. I got a letter from Jules and Maggie a few days ago. They was al well. You stated in your letter that you wanted to sell your interest in the farm and you wanted me to buy your part in the first part. I think you are a little to hie on the land and second place the land is undivid. I donte want to by Eny Shear till I know whare my part is I think the best thing that we can do is to have the land. Divid I want to know whare my part is. George and Chrisana is both in faver of having a devision in the farm. I want you to write and let us know what you and Abe think about it. Let me Know so I will know what to do. / There was a reunion this fal at Alanthus this fall and they got into a shuteing and cuting scrape and one man by the*

name of Caffey was shot and died next day one man was stabd a copel of times but will get well the man that was shot is one of nute Coffey's Boys it is repored that Ira hall is kild. He was knoct on the head with a rock at grant citey By his brother in law what the trubel was I have not heard. But I think Whiskey was at the back of it. John Pool is dead he died last week so no more at presand from Christian L Nelson to Cornelious Nelson write soon. Tell Abe to write to me about the farm. Chrisana got another fine boy he is 5 month old. Andrew Pettiet was marshal of stanberry he got in trubel with a man and Anda shot him dead on the spot he is out on \$6000.00 doller Bond it is going to hurrah him to Ascape the pen I cant think of eney thing more to write So Good By For thes Time Chrisana Came down yester day they al well

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 4 April 1892,  
from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother & Family I take my pen in hand to write A few lins to informe you that we are al well and truly wish These few lins may find you al the same when they com to hand I got a letter form you som time ago and was glad to hear from you I got a letter from Gorge last week they are al well Exsept his wife she has the sore eyes I got a letter from Denmark they are al well and doing well She wanted to know what had ben dun with her part of the estate. She said that she had not heard eny thing since mother's death. I rote to her how things was but I rote in English and I donte Expect they could make it out just right when I write to her agin I will Let her know how everything stands you wrote in your letter that you did not think the farm could be devied right it would be a hard job you said if thare was a divison you would like Sam Gorden as one of the men Samual Gorden has ben dead about one year he died with the Consumtion. you said you would take \$400 dollars for your shear and Ask me how much less I would take for my part. I donte want to sell my part if I did I could not get that for an undivided part. Each part is worth that much if it was devied or if sum man wanted the hole farm George wrote and said he would take \$250 for his part he said that he would give me the first chance if I did not buy he had a chance to sell to an out sider I would like to buy his shear for them figurs But I have not got the money to buy with and I can not borrow money on an undived share if you want to by an other shar now*

is your chance. It donte seame like thare will be a division made if Each one will agree to let me sell the farm in 40 acrs lots I think I can sell the land so each one can get 400 dollars if al will agree to that plan I will under take the job. I donte want to handle eney of the money al I want is to know that the plan is agreeable and al will stand to the con tract my plan would be to get A buyer for each track of land and then close with al at once and not sell any till we could sell al there is one thing to take in to consideration and that is a good title. We have got the patton But we have not got al of the olde deeds and I don't they can be found When the War broke out there was an old reable had som of the deeds and he run off with them if al agree on the plan that I have proposed I will go to Albany and see what cind of a title we can give for the land we have had Peaceable posation 30 years. I have rote to George and Abe and Maggie I have not heard from sister Chrisana for 3 months I donte know what they think of the plan desison said she was wiling to do eney thing that right oet me know rite a way I will close for this time By asking you to write soon So mo more at presand from Christian L. Nelson And famly to Cornelious Nelson and family

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 10 February 1893, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother & Family I take my pen in hand to write you A few lines to let you know how we are Al well and truly wish these few Lines may find you the same when they com to hand / I recived a letter from you to day and was glad to hear from you & to hear that you was al well you spoke about selling the farm I have heard from Al of the children. But George I rote to him last spring but got no ansur from him he said that he had a chance to sell his part to an out side party if I did not By his part he would sell to out side party But I Gess he has not sold as yet / Green Walker was over to albany last fall and looked about the title he sais that We will have to Get a deede From the county it will cost a bout 840 [? 8.40] dollars you spoke about putting up the land and selling it I donte think that Would Be advizeble there is som land that changes hands But it is mostly on time I donte think there will be eney chance to sell this spring Everbody is wanting to sell and move down to that strip of Land that is coming in in the spring And tims is vary dull we have had Two falurs in crops in Succession Which maks tims hard if I see eney chance to sell I will let you al know What I can do I donte think it is worth while to go to work and get a deede till We see some chance to sell / You wanted to know where George was I donte know the last letter I had from him he was in Arkansas you must excus my bad Writing For I am in a hurry it is Getting late and I haf to Go to Alanthus So no more at present from Christian L. Nelson To Cornelious Nelson Good By*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 10 April 1895, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and family I take the plasur of ansuring your cind and welcom letter which came to hand som time a go it found us al well an I trully wish these few lins may find you al the same when they com to hand / Sister Crisana came vary near geting kild the 11th of march she was down to Georges on a visit hir and one of his step dauters when they started hom the team took frite at something and run away and throwed hir out of the wagon. She had the baby in hir lap but did not hirt the baby hir oldest boy and the girl they bote jomped out of the wagon the skjn was cut from the crown of hir head down over hir right eye the gash about six inch long and cut clear to the scull the docter had to so the gash up she was about 150 yards from Georges house when she was throwed out she staed at Georges a bout a week they took hir home she was doing vary well the last I heard from them I was down to Georges helping him shingel his house when she got hirt I hope that she will get well al right. Green Walker is sick and has ben over a week I donte know what is the matter with him. I have not sent them deed to denmark Ayet I will not send them till sister gets pas al Dainger if eney thing should happen to hir I will let you know you said when I sent the money you wanted me to send your part to you by Express that would cost considerable have you no banks in your county if you have it it would be the best to send you A bank draft I think that is as safe as eny other way / you[?]seamed to think that there was a chance to*



*swindle the ears out of ther part I donte think there is I will let nobody have them deed untill Al party is ready to pay I will the Get somebody tend to the buisness for us Old Judge Hinkley or Judge Hubbar hinkely somtims takes to much tea Well I must close for this time rite soon and often from Christian L. Nelson to Cornelious Nelson Good by for this time*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 18 October 1895, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother & Family I take my pen in hand to write you A few  
 lins to let you know that we are al as Well as comen and hope these few  
 lins may find you al well when they com to hand / I sopose that you  
 are looking for your money Every day we have had som trobel A bout  
 getting the mony we had to have the title fixt a little I got the money  
 from the county school fund. / George he has got the promis of Eastern  
 money. Green Waker he has paid his part over to me I have got \$575.00  
 in the Bank George has got \$700.00 dollars in the Bank I think we will  
 be ready to send ever one his part Next week you said that you wanted  
 me to send you your part by Express it wil coast to much I think A bank  
 draft is jist as safe as Express Abe magie And Birtha Al want a Bank  
 draft I will not send yours till hear From you A gin. Sister Chrisana  
 Walker has got hir a big girl She is six weeks Old and they call hir Men-  
 nie Ellen / Georges Wife has ben in poor helth this fall she is lettles bet-  
 ter at presand. We had a Monument Put up over Father Mother and  
 our to sisters Graves It cost \$60 dollars. I will close for his time From  
 Christian L Nelson to Cornelious Nelson*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 2 November 1895, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother In close find bank draft for \$434.75 your interest in the olde home farme was 445.70 Your part of the Expences is 10.95 the moument cost 60.00 Abstract cost 15.00 Recording Will cost 1.00 Writing deeds cost .75 Total cost 16.75 / When you Get this draft write to me for I want to know that Al Went Strate so no more at presand from CL Nelson to Cornelious nelson of Dixie Washington Co Oregon*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of [? late] 1895,  
from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and family I recved a letter from you this week and was glad to hear from you al it found al as well as could be expect under the circumstances We have got a Brand new dishwasher at our house she was Born oct 29 95. Al is getting Along nicely. I sopose you and Abe was Geting weary about your part but we have dun the best we could under the sircumstances. I will not write iney more this time as I have to Write to the other partys interrested About thie past Christian L Nelson to Corneliuous Nelson*

[On a separate page:]

*you wanted know how meney childern I had I have seven: Lilla Florance 15 years; Danial Wibster 11; Clerance Franklin 9; Mary May 7; Christian Columbus 4; Bertha Luanna 2; Malinda Alice 2 months; 4 children dead; total 11. How meny chidlren have you got.*

*C L NELSON.*

**Christian Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 20 January 1896, from Alanthus Grove, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother & family I take my pen in hand to write you a few lins to let you know that we are Al well and hope these few lins may find you al the same when they com to hand I receved a letter form you some time ago and was glad to hear from you Al I have got a letter from denmark and birthey got her money Alright she sent me a statement that she had no more claim on Fathers and Mother Esstate Al partys got thir Money Al right / We are having vary mild winter so far it lookṡ to Night as though it mite snow I think we will have som falling wether / George has been under the wether but he is up and around agin. Tims is vary dull in this county. Corn is worth 15 cts per Bu, Potatos 20 to 25 per Bu, hogs 3.25 per hundred lbs hay a bout 6.00 per tun taxes is hye I do not know what will becom of us al I think it would be a good plan to go to washington do some hanging I think it would help tims som well I must close for this time so no more at presand from Christian L Nelson to Cornlious Nelson write soon Good By*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 21 January 1888,  
from Granger, Elpaso County, Colorado.**

*Dir brother i take my pen in han to you know that i Am Well And hope thes Fiew Liens ma Find you All the same When thay come to hand/ Well Nelous i have not hird From you For Along time so i thught that i Wold Write to you i have not hierd From home For A Long time thay Was All Well When i hierd the Last time/ Garge And Famley is Well times is good in this Country Now And Wark is plenty i have bin At Work All a winter At the Carpenter traid i have bin in this Country About seven month And Like it tolible Well i have taken up A pies off 160 Akers off Land it is 2 ½ mils From the Ralrade it is a 2 miles From Gorges Land i have Not maved on it A yet but Will move before Long i Will haf to keep[?]i Expect it will be Afley Lonsom but i will Will git usto it i Will prove up on it As soon As i Can/ ther is A Prospect of a home in this country Peple thinkz that Land will be worth \$20 Dolars per Aker in too years.iff it Das i Will sell out An goo too California or orgon i Want oo goe When ther is Lots off game too hunt it is[?]From her that it taken too Days too go When ther is eny Dear or Antilps And they Ar rare ther i Want you too tell me whither ther is eny gavernent Land in that Country or not iff not What is Land Wort in that country And tell me Whither ther is eny game or not ther/ And Whither it is Windy ther in the Winter And Spring off the year or not there is in this country it is very windy/ Well i Will Close For this time by Asking you to Write soon i send my best Respets to All From A L Nelson to Cornelious Nelson/ iff you Write to me Direct you Leters too Granger Elpaso Co Colorado*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 15 April 1888,  
from Colorado.**

*Der brother i take my pen in hand too Let you know that i Am Well And hope thes Fiew Lines may Find you All the sam When thay Come too hand i reseved you Leter yesterday that you Wrote in March i supose it has bin Delaid on the road i Was glad too hir From you Wel times is good in this contry now i Am Working every Day it is For \$2 A Day is going too plant potatos next Week potato is the main crop in this contry Gorge And Famaley is well his Adress is Colorado Springs Elpaso Co Box 158// Well i Wish that i had proved up on my Land i Wald come right out wher you Ar And go too that Valey that you spokē off that Wold bee the place For me And iff it is tacen Whin i git proved up on mi Land i Will come shair iff i[?]i think that i Can sell mi Land Esy[?]For \$2000 ther is Land that mutch know And this contry is[?]know ther is A nother Raleroad coming throw this contry this summer it[?]in too miles And half off mi Land And ther is going bee A junching in 3 miles off me Ther is Fore? Raleroads in this Co now but i Don't Like this contry A tall the Longer i say the wors i hait it but i Will Dry[?] And[?]till i prove up And then i will bid it Ferwell/ Well i Will git my pictur taken And Will send you one soon Well i must close by Asking you too Write soon this From A L Nelson too C Nelson.*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 12 June 1888,  
from Elpaso, Colorado.**

*Dier brother And Famley i take this oportunity to Write you A Fiew Lines to inform you that i Am Well And hope this Will Find you the same When they com too hand i reseved A Leter From you A Fiew Days A go And Was glad too hir From you Well Niliaus you Wanted me too come out in July or the Farst off augaust i Don't think that i can git off that soon i can not prove up on mi Land that son i Wish that i cold come right Now i Want to make As mutch money out off this clame As i Can i Ddon'tthink i can git off befour December And that Wold be too Late For this yer i Expect to come As soon As i can git off i Want too make Anuff money out this plase so i can have A good start one Another clame in that contry Har it is tuff going on A New plase With out Eny money i have tried it i want you to writ And tell me whither it will Do to Wat that Long or not i Cold Come soner by sackrafisin mi Land but i Don't Like to Do that iff i Can help it/ i was Down too Georges plas yesterday And they Ar All Well i Am Afly Lonsom by miself/ Well i must close by Aking you to write soone this From A L Nelson too Carnelious Nelson And Famley*



**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 28 July 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dear brother i take this oportunity to Ancer your Leter Whitch i receved yesterday And was glad to hier from you i Am Well And hope this Will Find you the same We reseved A Leter From Christian yesterday And they Ar All Well i have not hird From Chrisana[?]i have bin in this contry i wrote to her Last Fall And Did not git Eny An;cer Well times is Dull in this contry Now ther is so meney people coming in From the East work is scurce in this contry Wages is run Down too nothing onley \$1.50 per Day And yet 50 cts per Week For board And it is hard too Find A Job Crops is por in this contry We have had An Offley Dry seson mi patatos Will Not bee worth Digin And thay Was mi mane Cop Gorge Will have sum patatos Not very meney/ Land is going Down in value i Cant git As mutch For mi clame As i cold Last Winter i have A Noshen to sell out For What i Can git And Lev this contry the Longer i Stay the Woss i hat the contry i Want you too Write And tell me Whither ther is Eney Work too Doo in that contry throw the Winter or Not And tell me How Fare it is too that valey From Wher you Liv At present And tell me Whither that Land is timber or prery Land iff i Can git A study job throu the Winter i will sell right out And come out ther i Can git A pas too Washington teritry \$15 From hir And then it wold not take mutch to goo Down Wher you ar iff i Don't Come out ther i will Goo too California this Winter Well i must clos For this time by Asking you too write soon And Let me now From A L Nelson too Carnelous Nelson Direct your Leters too Colorado Springs Elpaso Co in ker off G.W. Nelson Box 158*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 27 September [1888] from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Facimile on the following pages.**

*Dier brother i take my pen in hand to Let you now that i Ame Well And hope thes Fiew Lines ma Find you the same When thay Com to hand i Resevd A Leter From you About A month Ago And Was glad to hier From you i Wold have Ancerd it Sooner but i Was About to sell my place And i thought i wold Wate till i seend What i Wold Do i Did not make the trade so i Will hafto Stay her A While Longer / Well times is Dull in this contry now Work is rare it is hard to get A job her now i Wish that i Cold seell out i Wold not say her very Long i Ame Afly Lonsom to Day i Feal Like A Sreambaeker [?] At A Letchin the kjouts is All the music i her And i Ame tyerd off hering them / Well gorge And Famly is Well i hierd From old mo And thay was All Well Nell i must Close by Asking you to Write soo And Don't Do Like i Did i Will Doe beter the next time From A L Nelson to Cornelius*

1859  
 Coleridge Springs  
 Sep the 27<sup>th</sup> 50

Dear Mother  
 I take my pen in hand  
 to let you now that I am  
 well and hope these few  
 lines will find you the same  
 when they come to hand  
 I received a letter from  
 you about a month ago  
 and was glad to hear  
 from you I would have  
 agreed it sooner but I  
 was about to sell my  
 place and I thought I  
 would wait till I heard  
 what I would do I  
 did ~~not~~ not make the  
 trade so I will have to  
 stay here a while longer

Still times is ~~is~~ dull  
 in ~~the~~ this country now  
 Work is scarce it is  
 hard to get at job her now  
 i wish that i had well  
 out i would not say  
 her very long i  
 Am offly homesom today  
 i feel like a dreamer  
 at a Letchin the  
 kiants is all the music  
 i her and i am dazed  
 off hearing them

Well yaze and family  
 is okill i herd Jerom  
 all mo and thay other  
 All Well Well i must  
 close by asking you  
 to write soon and dont  
 Da like i did i will see  
 later the next time  
 from - of L Nelson to C. Nelson

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 11 December, 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dier brother i Ame Well An hap this will Find you All the same  
 When they come to hand i reseved A Leter From you yesterday And  
 was glad to hier From you All Well times is Dull in this contry now  
 And ther is nothing A going on in the Conty i have not sold my place  
 Ayet but will soon in think i Will sell out ar give out one or the other  
 For i[?]A going too stay her this winter Wee havent had mutch winter  
 Any yet but the Wind has comensts blowing Afley bad it blos Like A  
 herican most Evry Day i think it wold kill me off to stay hir All Winter  
 And spring / Well gorge is going too leev this contry i Expect he will  
 leeve About next week i Don't think i Will say her till Crismus mi self i  
 Don't know Wheiter i Will come out wher you Ar or not At First but i  
 will come befour spring i may go back to Mo be Four i Come i have some  
 bisness to too see After ther maby it will come All Right befour i start  
 iff it Dose i will Come Right too orgon From her i Want you too write  
 And tell Whitch Way to Go From Portlan to Wher you Live/ Well i  
 must close by Asking you to write soon As you git this yours truly A.L  
 nelson to C. Nelson*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 29 December 1888, from Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

*Dier Brother i take mi pen in hand to Let you know that i Am well And hope this Will Find yo the same When thay Come to hand i reseved your Leter yesterday And was glad to hir From you And to Hier that you Was All well / Nel times is Dull in this contry now ther is nothing A [?] on [?] Amount to iney thing i Am not Doing Eny thing too Amont to Eny thing i Warkeed in the black smith shop A while but it but it Did not pay it was A shop in A new town that started up i this country it is About 2 miles From mi Ranch that is All the black smithing i have Don sinc i have bin in the Stat/you wanted to now whither Land Wald Rais in this Contry i Don't know whither it Will or not Ever body thinks that Land will rais in the spring whither it will or not i Don't know. This is the Worst Contry to Live in i ever saw / i have not sold mi Land A yet i hat to give it Away but iff i Don't sell soon i will/ Garge is not gone a yet but he will start soon he was Aming too go Last week but He Did not get started the man that is going to take his place Did not get her As soon As he Expected but he is on his Way now He is Coming From Ohio Gorge is going back to od Mo All his wifes Folks Lives back ther And shee wont go Eny wher Els i Don't think that old Mo Will Ever hold me Long A gin For i have A spite At that country eny way. You Wanted to know how Long i Wold say in old Mo iff i went i will not not stay very Long not more then 2 or 3 weeks*

*i Don't mutch Expect i will goo Atall you sed that you Expected that i was going back to see mi girl in the place of coming[?] you Ar mistaken ther is now girls in that county that Atrackş mi Eny thir is some busness back ther off mine that i may have to go back to so After i Don't know i Will Not go unless i have too i Will come right From hir too orgon iff i Can Write soon As you git this your truly to C Nelson A.L. Nelson*



Abe and Fidelia (Ryckman), who he married in 1892 after moving to Oregon.

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 27 January 1889  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dier brother i take Mi pen in hand to Let you know that i Am Well And hope this Will Find you the same When it comes to hand i Reseved A Leter From you yesterday And Was Glad to hier From you And to hier that you All Was Well/ We Ar having som very Windy Wether Now in this Contry i blows And Snows so bad that A person Cannot Do Eny thing ouDors it is Afey Disagreble Wither/ you Wanted to know Whither i Ever hird From Cris i have not hird For So Long that i Don't Remember just when it was i ges thay Ar All Deid up in old Mo i Don't know What is the mater with them you wanted to know Whither georg maid Eny thing out off his Land i Don't know jeust What he Did get i saposhe he got Considerble Money out off his Clame he had 320 Akkers off Land i Wish i Was Redy to Lev this Contry i Am So tyerd off Living in this Territry/ you spaqe About going too Look up soom vacon Land in that Contry iff you Find eny naer ther[?]Want that is Eny good Let me know And iff ther Eny Denger off it being takeng i Will tas[?]And come i Will Come soon Eny way i Am trying too get As mutch out off Mi Land As i Can times is opining up Soom Now i think in About A month times Will be good And then Land will be A Far price. i Am Working out some when the wether is Fit i Make About too Dalares per Day And hard mi self / Well i Must Close by Asking you to Write soon As you get this So ma[?]For this time i send Mi best Respects to All From A.L. Nelson to C Nelson / Adress Falcon Elpaso Co, Calo/ i have given out the notin off going to Mo*



**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 27 February 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother And Famley i take my pen in hand to Let you no that i Am Well And hope thes Fiew Lines ma Find you All the same When thay Com to hand i Resevd A Leter From you to Day And Was glad to hier From you Well Nelis i Expect that you think that i have give out the Nastin off Coming to that Contry but i hant i Will Come As soon As i Can get off And i hope that Will be befour Long . For it is so Lonsom Living in this Country i thought it Was Lonsoum beforur Gorge leff but it is A gradul Was Now i miss him Afley it is An Afley onplesant Life For me to Live Along And keep batchlars hall in A Country Like this ther is No Socity her A tall All that pepal thinks About is to Fite And Quarl With Eteh other thay Ar the Loest grade off peple i Ever Saw in mi Life And it Apers Like the more the Country setles up the Wors it gits / in Regard to that Land you spake off it Apers to me iff A man Cold get A piece off Land so nier A place Like pArtland it Wald be A big thing iff the Land Was Eny Acount A tall And to be so Close to the Rjver When ther is plenty off Fish that wold be A big thing in mi Eye / As Far As the timber Concerns i Like to Live in the timber i am tyerd off the prery ther is Not A stick off timbur on Mi Land her / Well i got A Leter From Christan And they Ar All Well Cris sed that times Was Affley Dull in that County but he sed that Land Was on the Rais / Well i Cant think off Eny thing Els to Writ so i Will Close by Asking you to Write soon i send mi best Respects to you All / From A.L. Nelson To Cornelious Nelson / be shour And Write Soon*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 27 March 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother i take Mi pen in hand to Let you Now that i Ame Well And hope this Will Find you the same When they Come to hand i Reſeved A Leter from you A Few Days A go And was glad to hier From you And to hier that you was All Well / i Reſeved A Leter From Gorge And thay Ar All Well i Reſeved A Leter From Criss And they Ar All Well he ſed that the Contry Was boming thay ſay that Land has Rais \$5 per Aker in the Laſt month Well Nelious i have not ſold mi place Ayet but think i Will ſoon i Wiſh that i was Redy to to Come Right A way but i Don't think it Will bee Long Till i Can Come i think that i Will bee Redy to ſometime in Side off too Weeks i Am in the Colo Springs to Day Looking For A Land bier And i think i hove Found one Well i Am in A heray to Start home And i muſt Cloſe by Aſking you to Write ſon this From A. L. Nelson to C Nelson Adreſs Falcon Elpaſo, Co Colo.*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 29 April 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Diar brother i take mi pen in hand to Let Now that i Ame Well  
And hope this ma Find yo All the same When thay Com to hand i have  
wrote this makes the third time And have not yet Eny Ancer i thought  
i wold write A gen i have bin thinking meby you had Lef that part off  
the County iff you have Not Let me know but i wont promis you that  
i will Come Eny more For i have told so many Storys About mi Com-  
ing but i have Rinted mi place out And have get mi trunk packed to go  
some place And i Don't Know wher i will Land but i Am going to by mi  
ticket to partlen orgon And iff the train Don't Run off the track i Will  
Ride it out Write And Let me Know Whither you Ar going to stay ther  
ar not / i got A Leter From gorge And they Was All will he wanted me  
to Come back And byee the old place And settel Down too bissness but  
when i settel Down to bissness i will bee in A Differn Country then old  
Mo / Well i must Close by Asking you to write soon A. L. Nelson to C.  
Nelson*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 18 May 1889, from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother i take mi pen in hand to Let you Know that i Ame Well And hope thes Fiew Lines ma Find you All the same When thay Come to hand i Rseved A Leter From you A Fiew Days Ago And Was glad to heir From you And to heir that you Was All Well / Well Neliaus i have not sold mi place Ayet but think i Will soon ther is Differns partys talking About bying it but Non has bet so Far i Ame Working in the Blacksmith Shop Now At Falcon but hant making Eny thing to Amount to Eny thing i have not hierd Eny ting From mo For A Long time i Don't know Why thay Don't Write i wold Like to hir From home once And A While but saposé i Cant Well it is Snowing to Day And i think it Will Freez to Night / Well i most Close by Asking yo to Write Soon i send mi best respets to All A. L. Nelson to C Nelson*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 28 August 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dier brother i take mi pen in hand to Let you know that i Am  
Well And hope this will Find you the same When it Coms to hand i  
Revised A Leter From you About three Weeks Ago And have niglected  
to Ancer it i Was sick For A while And have bin botherd Ever sinc it  
semes as iff Ever thing goes Wrong with me you stated in your Leter  
that you had wrote one before And had No Ancer i Did not get it ther  
is other Nelsons that some times git mi male i Expect you think i Am  
not Coming out ther but i Will shore if i Live but i Don't know just  
how soon you ma Look For me Eneytime i ma bee ther in sid off too  
Weeks And it ma bee Longer i have had some bad Luck Sinc i Wrot to  
you but A man that wold Liv in this Contry And keep hatch [?] Ar too  
Not have Eny Luck / Well i have Not herd From mo For A Long time  
i Don't know the Reson thay Don't write / Well i must Close For this  
time hoping that you will Forgive me For Not writing soner i send mi  
Love to All A L Nelson*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 8 September 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother And Famley i take mi pen in hand to Let you know that i Am well And hope this ma Find you the same when thay Com to hand i Reseved A Leter From you to Day And was glad to hier From you Well times is Doll her now Wee had A frost that Cut Ever thing shar [?] the 3 off this month ther Wont bee Eny barn Raisd A tall And All garden stuff iss Ruined this is A pore Farming Contry / Well Niels i Arnt [?] Redy to Com Ayet but hope i will bee beefoure Long i Want you to write And tell me how soon the Rainey Sezon begins And how Long it Lastes And Dos it Rain All the time During that part off the Sezon Well the Bad Luck that i had was not very seris it onley was A Leson that All chaps Like me has to Liern that is iff thay try to. Speclate to Far A hed Well i Wold Rather take mi Lesons While i Ame young then to Wate till i get old Well i must Close by Asking you to Write soon As you get this i send mi best Respects to All A.L. Nelson*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 6 October 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother i tak mi pen in hand to Let you Now that i Ame Well And hope this ma Find you the Same when thay Come to hand i Reseved A Leter From you yesterday And Was glad to her From you A gin it mad me Feal proud to think that i Was uncle Agin / Well Niele i herd From Criss And they Ar All Well gorge And his Wif was out Visiting Criss and Crisana in September i Sapose thay had A good time they hav good Crops in mo this year but they don't get eny thing For Wahat they have Raised Carne is Worth 15 to 18 cts per bushel oats is 11 to 12 cts per bushel Wheat 35 to 65 cts per bushel So you Can see that ther is no money in that conty you stated in your Leter that you had begen to think that i was not A Coming to oregon but i think i Will Fool you A trip i Will Come just As soon As i Can get off i hove maid up mi mind iff i Don't Sell in Side off to months to Come off And Leve it i Can Rent the paster For A fare price ther is no Doubt but What Land will Raise in this conty in sid off too ar three years so i gess i Can get A Long with out What money i have invested in this Contry / i think From What i Can hier off that Contry that i will Like it i see servell people From ther And they All speake Well off it i want to Find some place Wher i Am sadisfide And Quit Roming About For ther is no money in it / Will i must Close by Asking you to write soon From A.L.Nelson to C Nelson / i send mi best Respects to All*

**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 3 November 1889,  
from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Dear brother I [!] take mi pen in had to Let you know that I Am Well And hope thes Feiw Lins ma find you All the same When they Com to hand I I Wrote A Leter to you some time Ago And reseved No Ancer So I thought I wold Write A gin I Reseved A Leter From gorge A few Days Ago And they was well As Comes Well Nelious Wee have had some very Bad Wether in this Contry it snowed And Bloed 24 auers without stoping it stormed so A person Coldnot see too Rods A hed[?] So you Can see what Cind off A Country this is I tell you I Ame tyerd off this Country times is Afeley Dull Now Well I Cant think off Eney thing Elc to to write so I will Close by Asking you to write son As you get this I send mi best Respects to All yers As Ever A. L. Nelson Write And tell me What Land is Worth by this time ther is An other man that is talking off Coming with me And he has used All his Rits to take Land And he Wold haf too bye iff he Come*



**Abe Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 22 December 1889, from Falcon, Colorado.**

*Diar brotther i take mi pen in hand to Let you know that i Am  
Well And hope this ma Find you All the same when thay Come to hand  
i Peseved A Leter From you And was glad to heir From you And to  
hier that you Was All Well i hierd From Gorge Last Week And they  
was All Well i have not heird From Criss For Song time thay was All  
Well When i hierd i have Not heird From Chrisana But onts Sic i Com  
to Colo i Don't know why thay Don't write / Well Nelious i Am glad  
to hier that you have moved one your Clame And that you Like it i hope  
that Land Joining you will Not bee taken till i Com get the r this is the  
hardy place to get Away From i Ever saw but i think mi time i getting  
short to[?]/ When i get to Willimetta Slugh Whitch Directon Due i  
take And is ther Eny hausis to in Quier At Ad tell me what time the  
Boat Calag Levs Portlan / Well i must Close Write Son A.L. Nelson  
Send mi best Respects to All*

**Earl Walker to C.L. Nelson family: Letter of 2 February 1921,  
from Stanbury, Missouri.**

*Dear [?]and family. Will write you a few lines this morning to let you know we are all well and hope you are all the same. We recd your letter the other day and was glad to hear you were all enjoying good health. Mother has had good health all winter. We have had a real nice winter, not much snow the ground is bare now. There hasent been so very much sickness in the country this winter. Ann Fadas has been poorly but she hasn't been very serious. Mother said to tell you she had been thinking of coming out this summer, but she didn't whether she could travel so far alone or not. It makes it a little harder for her to get away now as we are all married and there isn't any that can hardly get away to come with her. Dick was married last month to Inez G? She is Frank G? girl. Tuff has bought the place north of us here. The ?? place and is going to move the first of March and the rest of us is going to live here on the place. You know we have two houses so it makes us plenty of room. We raised a good[?]this year, but it isnt worth much after we have got it. Well perhaps I had better close. I was going to a sale at William Cooks he has bought a farm up in Iowa and is going to move this month. He lives here on Barnhart farm. So will close hoping to hear from you often. Earl Walker.*

**George W. Nelson to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 26 May 1896, from Voyage (Hugginsville), Missouri.**

*Dear Brother and famlay i take the present opportunity to write you a few Lines to Let you know we ar all well and i hope thes feiw Lines will find you the same i sow the Letters you sent to Cris and was glad to hir from you them Deeds is Gon to Denmark i Don't know when they will get Back it will take sum time for them to get a Round i gess we can make the Rite Conections i Know we can if times Don't Get closer and we have a nother money Panic it is taking a Long time But i Cant help it if the workings and the deal Don't sute you ?rite and and Let me know and i will send them Deeds Back Just as soon as they com Back from the Old cuntry. i Can By Land just as cheap with Better improvements on then this has i Don't want to sell i thot i was Doing the Children a faver im going a Bout and getting the Bisness fixed up so Each child could get ils Part and get the Benefit of it non of the Rest Never tride to Do iney thing i offerd to sell my intrest Before i com hir to Gentry Co i Never saw Poore Prospect for a crop the hay is burnt up the wheat is no good and Corn is Dying for the wont of Rain and Late frost kild about all the frute and ther is no Old [?] on hands and Pastres is Dry a nuff to Burn i Don't know [?] hot the and will Be write soon Good By G W Nelson Give my Love and Best Respects to you children and Abe and famley*

**Chrisana (Nelson) Walker to Cornelius Nelson: Letter of 2 September 1934, from Stanberry, Missouri.**

*Dear Brother*

*We rec'd your letter some time ago was awful glad to hear from you. We are all getting along very well. We had it awful dry this summer the corn crop and the oats was almost a failure, but there was a pretty good wheat crop. We have cut all of our cropt for fodder to sinter the stock on. The potatoes and gardens were almost a failure too. But we have had some good rains lately. I will send you the Nelson Record it is what Mother and Cris made from Mother's memory after Father died. I am felling just about like common up and around about all the time. Well this is all for this time. Write often as we are always glad to hear from you. / from Your Sister Chrisana / by Inez Walker*

[Included is the following record on the family:]

*George Nelson was born in Denmark, Europe April the 7th 1820 and died October the 3rd 1871*

*Margaret Nelson was born in Denmark, Europe February the 6th 1823 and died May the 19th 1882*

*Bertah Mary Nelson was born in Denmark, Europe January the 25th 1847 and died April the 15th 1899*

*Mary Nelson was born in Denmark, Europe January the 12th 1849 and died 1881*

*Christian L. Nelson was born in Denmark, Europe January the 22nd 1851 and died June the 24th 1923*

*Cornelius Nelson was born in Shelby Co. Iowa September the 8th 1854*

*Chrisana Nelson was born in Chrisan City Iowa February the 20th 1856*

*George W Nelson was born in Gentry Co Mo January 25th 1860 And died January 13th 1925*

*Abraham L. Nelson was born in Gentry C. Mo December the 16th 1865.*

*From Chrisana Walker Stanberry Mo Sept 2 1934*

## About the Editor:

**Jack E. Nelson**, a great grandson of Cornelius Nelson, spent his childhood in the D.R. Congo, where his parents managed a mission hospital from 1953-1962. After a youth spent in California, he went on to earn a PhD in Comparative Religions and taught at Temple University and Temple University's branch campus in Tokyo, Japan. In subsequent years, he and his wife, Joanna, settled in the Charlotte, NC, area where he has devoted himself to freelance writing, mostly ghostwriting memoirs for people, and becoming an avid cyclist. He has also made a hobby of documenting Nelson family history and related topics. His self-published books on the subject include:

*Dixie Mountain Legacies: Life in a Rural Oregon Community*, co-authored with Jo Ann Tannock (1998; 2008). Local history of the Dixie Mountain community where two of George and Margaret Nelson's sons, Cornelius and Abraham, settled.

*Bwana Mganga: The Life of C. Donald Nelson* (2001). Biography of Jack's father, who served as a missionary doctor in Africa and later founded a hospital in Haiti.

*Venturing Forth: The Story of the Family of George and Margaret Nelson*. (2001; 2005). Documented history of the immigration, earlier life in Denmark, and the settling in the United States of the Nelson family. Also includes a lengthy chapter on the migrations of the second generation and brief comments on members of the third generation.

*I Take My Pen in Hand* (2010). Transcribed letters written by Nelson family members in the latter part of the 19th century.