

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This document lacks 1950 census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

The logo for Tuscania, featuring the word "TUSCANIA" in a stylized, black, serif font with a drop shadow effect, set against a solid red rectangular background.

Nelson, Victor
1890 MN – 1966 MN



FOURTEEN MINNEAPOLIS survivors of the Tuscania, and English ship carrying American troops which was torpedoed off the Irish coast, Feb. 5, 1918, conducted their annual reunion Friday night at the Nicollet hotel. The survivors, shown above, are (seated, left to right) E. N. Dahlstrom, T. O. Larson, George Samels, A. J. Schlirf, S. F. Staples and L. B. Rist. Standing (left to right) are Ed Gerber, J. B. Norman, Vic Nelson, L. M. Lundell, G. E. Robbins, H. C. Rydell, D. E. Lowe and E. C. Tupper.

Victor Nelson is standing in the back row, 3rd from the left - "Minneapolis (MN) Journal" Sunday 7 Feb 1937 p 3 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/812310800/?terms=%22j%20b%20norman%22&match=1>

Danster fra St. Paul om Bord paa Tuscania.

Om Bord paa det amerikanske Transportskib „Tuscania“, som blev torpederet af en tykt Underbundsbaad, var Mr. Victor Nielsen, Søn af vor kjendte Landsmand, Mr. Hans Nielsen, 704 So. Smith Ave., St. Paul, som er velkjendt indenfor „Godthaab“ og „S. C. Andersen“ Loger, af hvilke han var Præsident forrige Aar. „Pioneer Press“ skriver: Aften efter Aften siden „Tuscania“ gik til Bunds har Hans Nielsen aflagt „Pioneer Press“ Kontor sit Besøg for at forhøre om velkomment Nyt. Lørdag Aften, da intet Ord endnu var kommen, faldt hans Haab, han sagde ingen Ting, men Haabet var tilsyneladende ved at forsvinde. — Hans Stemme og højede Hoved viste tydeligt, at han var forberedt paa det værste. Men Søndag Aften hævedes de ubisse Timer for ham og hans Familie.

Det var tydeligt at høre paa Miss Nielsens Stemme, da hun svarede paa en Telefonopringning af en „Pioneer Press“ Journalist, som meddelte, at de havde modtaget Meddelelse om, at . . . , længe kom han ikke. „Oh, ja, og vi er glade,“ faldt Miss Nielsen ind. „Vi har modtaget et Telegram fra Krigsdepartementet og fra Kongresmand Van Dyke“.

Victor Nielsen tilhørte Company D, Lyvende Engineers, han var velkjendt indenfor den yngre Kreds i den danske Koloni og hans mange Venner er glade ved at høre, at han denne Gang undgik Tyskernes dødbringende Rugler, og om hans Redning og Ankomst til England.

“St. Paul (MN) Tidende” Friday 15 Feb 1918 p 8 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609866588/?terms=nelson%20%22704%20smith%22&match=1>

Tuscania Society To Hold Reunion

Twelve Minneapolis and St. Paul survivors of the Tuscania, American transport ship torpedoed by a German submarine February 5, 1918, will attend the annual three-day reunion of the Tuscania Survivors association at Kenosha, Wis., starting Saturday. J. B. Norman of Minneapolis, past vice president of the association, will



J. B. Norman

head the Twin Cities delegation. The Minneapolis group will include Rudolph E. Anderson, Ora L. Briggs, George E. Samuels and E. C. Tupper. From St. Paul will be Edward A. Gerber, Leon N. Lundell, Victor Nelson, Frank W. Pearson, Herbert C. Rydell and

Armand J. Schlirf. There will be services honoring the memory of the 210 persons who lost their lives in the disaster.

"Minneapolis (MN) Times-Tribune" Thursday 1 Feb 1940 p

21<https://www.newspapers.com/image/813845435/?terms=%22victor%20nelson%22%20tuscania&match=1>

NELSON VICTOR u. 24-66 km
Xc 3105331
 Cpl Co D 20 Engrs K
 704 S Smith Av St Paul Minn A 2 167 667
 Sn 2 503 73 Died 42066 T 518 052
 Born 3/25/90 R
 Enl 12/13/17 Dis 6/8/19 Cl 780 006
I
 U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
 MAIL AND RECORDS
 FORM 7202—Rev. Sept., 1926
 INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MS-C3GB-Q?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AW9LJ-ZNZM>

Father:

H. C. Andersen Loge No. 91, D. B. S.
 Brodersamfundet har valgt Hans
 Nielsen, 704 Smith Ave. S., til at re-
 præsentere det i Alderdomshjemsfor-
 eningens Bestyrelse.

His father Hans Nelson (here Nielsen) of 704 S. Smith Ave., St. Paul MN – “St. Paul (MN)
 Tidende Friday 6 Oct 1922 p 8

ST. PAUL NEWS
Store & Storage House—\$4,000. Snelling Av., bet. Car-
 roll Av. & Rondo St. Brk., 1 sty., 30x70. On fda. Gen.
 Contr., A. G. Erickson, 138 N. Pryor Av. Owner, Crescent
 Creamery Co., 32 Minnesota St.
Res.—\$3,000. Grand Av., bet. Cretin & Finn Sts. Wood,
 2 stys., 24x28. Fda. in. Gen. Contr., Hans Nelson, 704 Smith
 Av. Owner, Jos. A. Homa, 553 Manomin Av.

“Construction News” volume 36, 26 Dec 1913 p 25

<https://books.google.com/books?id=BuBaAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA25-PA25&lpg=RA25-PA25&dq=%22hans+nelson%22+%22smith+av%22+minnesota&source=bl&ots=-xR-QpJsRA&sig=ACfU3U2Z7kiXsE0C7fnWPOxvIjxEOfu66A&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjE4aZ51PD2>

*Res.: \$5,300. 1 sty. 26x42. Delaware, betw. Page & Sidney. Private plans. Owner Edw. C. Penschulk, clk., Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry., 620 Ohio st. Fdn. under way. Gen. Contr. **Hans Nelson**, 704 Smith av. Htg. let to W. J. Bly, Bryant & 15th st. Elec. wiring to Olson Boottger Elec. Co., 200 E. Third st.

"American Contractor" volume 17, 2 Sep 1916 p 101 -

AhVCQ80KHUZMBWAQ6AF6BAgDEAM#v=onepage&q=%22hans%20nelson%22%20%22smith%20av%22%20minnesota&f=false

Siblings:

Nelson Dies

Thorwald Nelson, 69, of 1109 Forty-sixth st., retired manager of the fur department at Younkers store, died of a heart attack Monday at his home.

Born in St. Paul, Minn., he had lived in Des Moines since 1921. He was a member of the Adelpic Masonic Lodge.

Services are being arranged at the Caldwell-Brien Funeral Home.

Mr. Nelson is survived by his widow, Helen L.; two daughters, Mrs. Lucille Jackson of Ridgewood, N. J., and Mrs. Lois Laughead of West Des Moines; three brothers, Henry and Victor of St. Paul and Frederick of Chicago, Ill.; four sisters, Katherine Nelson of St. Paul, and Amelia Nelson, Mrs. Anna DoBrott and Mrs. Alma Brown, all of Los Angeles, Cal., and seven grandchildren.

Obituary of **brother Thorwald Nelson (1889-1960)** – "Des Moines (IA) Tribune" Monday 15 Feb 1960 p 11

St Paul Mann Station Feb 12 1910

1. Full name and address of applicant *Henry Nelson*
(Write given name in full.)

2. Employment desired *Clerk* 3. Age *18* 4. Nationality *American*

5. Where born *St Paul, Minn.* 6. Married *No*

7. If married give name and residence of wife
(Give post-office address, street and number.)
and names and ages of children

8. Names of parents, if living *Hans Nelson & Maren Nelson*
P. O. Address of parents *541 Manomin Ave. St Paul, Minn.*
(Give street and number.)

9. If parents are dead, give name and degree of nearest relative
(Give street and number.)

10. Do you use alcoholic drinks? *No*

11. Have you ever been employed on any part of this system in the past? *No*

(Questions 12 and 13 to be answered only by applicants for employment as enginemen, trainmen, switchmen, agents, operators or mechanics.)

12. Have you any physical ailment or defect which might render you unfit for railway service? *No*

13. Have you ever suffered any physical injury? *No* If so, state **WHEN, WHERE** and **NATURE OF INJURY**

14. Do you understand that you are required to become a member of the Northern Pacific Beneficial Association upon entering the service of the Northern Pacific Railway, and do you assent to that association's rules and monthly deductions from your salary for this purpose? *Yes*

15. Do you agree to give 10 days notice of your intention to leave the service of the N. P. Ry? *Yes*

16. Do you understand that return transportation will be furnished only after 90 days service provided you are in good standing? *Yes*

Usual signature of applicant *Henry Nelson*

The above was compiled and signed by the applicant: *Wm P Bailey*

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON APPLYING FOR EMPLOYMENT.
(TO BE FILLED OUT BY OFFICER ENGAGING APPLICANT.)

1. Height *5' 7"* 2. Weight *130*

3. Color of hair *L Br* 4. Color of eyes *Blue Gray*

5. State fully and particularly marks or peculiarities easily recognizable *No*

6. Predecessor *New position* Rate *30.00* Disposition made of him *✓* Date *✓*

I consider the above described applicant a suitable person to enter the Company's temporary service. I desire to employ him as *Clerk* at *Emp Bureau* Station

Division. Effective *7/17/10* to *10* Rate of pay *30.00*

Approved *Wm P Bailey* Name and Title
Chief Clerk

Approved _____ Approved _____

U.S., Northern Pacific Railway Company Personnel Files, 1890-1963 for Henry Nelson

File Numbers 028643-032772 > File Numbers 029952-030140

Northern Pacific Railway Co. records for **brother Henry Nelson** 17 Feb 1910; his parents Hans & Maren Nelson resided at 541 Manomin Ave., St. Paul MN -

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui->

content/view/26737:2157?tid=&pid=&queryId=213c88c0d2c26c06f7fd18a94c709d06&_phsrc=hFB39442&_phstart=successSource

Services for **HENRY NELSON**, 68, 1693 Jefferson Av., St. Paul, who died Friday, will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Listoe and Wold funeral chapel, 531 S. Snelling Av., St. Paul. Burial will be in Acacia Park cemetery.

A lifelong resident of St. Paul, Mr. Nelson was president of the Payne Avenue Woodwork Co. He was a member of St. Paul Masonic lodge No. 3; Macalester Presbyterian church; Twin Cities Hoo-Hoo club No. 12, a lumberman's association; Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He was a veteran of World War I.

Surviving are his wife, Lillian; two daughters, Mrs. Ralph Ekenssteen, St. Paul, and Mrs. Raymond Stassen, South St. Paul; two sons, Stewart R. and Roger H., both of St. Paul; four sisters,

Katherine Nelson, St. Paul, Amelia Nelson and Mrs. Ann Dobrott, both of Burbank, Calif., and Mrs. William Dennis, Pasadena, Calif.; two brothers, Victor, St. Paul, and Fred, Chicago, and nine grandchildren.

Friends may call after 3 p.m. Sunday. The family prefers memorials to Macalester Presbyterian church.

Obituary of brother Henry Nelson (1892-1960) who died a few weeks after his brother Thorwald Nelson - "Minneapolis (MN) Star" Saturday 5 Mar 1960 p 13

Amelia Nelson, 704 S. Smith Ave.,

Sister Amelia Nelson attends the 21st state convention of the United Society of Christian Endeavor from St. Paul MN – “Willmar (MN) Tribune” Wednesday 29 Jun 1921 p 10

MARRIAGE LICENSES
RECARNI-SCHMIDLIN—Mario Recarni, 24, and Elenor Schmidlin, 18, both of Reno.
MATTHEWS-HAYDEN—Joe F. Matthews, 32, of Vallejo, Cal., and Ruth A. Hayden, 33, of Reno.
GIBBONS - TUHRMAN — Edward J. Gibbons, 30, and Martha Tuhrman, 29, both of Reno.
ODELL-CLEM—Winfred Alan Odell, 24, of Fallon and Pauline D. Clem, 18, of Fernley.
DOBROTT-NELSON—Earle S. Dobrott, 32, of Sparks, and Anna M. Nelson, 29, of Los Angeles.

Marriage license of sister Anna M. Nelson & Earle S. Dobrott – “Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal” Saturday 3 Jun 1933 p 8



704 Smith Avenue South, St. Paul MN, built in 1906 (and since the Nelson family was composed of carpenters & building contractors, presumably built by them) -
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/704+Smith+Ave+S,+St+Paul,+MN+55107/@44.9247941,-93.1018966,3a,75y,98.23h,91.35t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s3D37BANSdUqlwRJ-7K4H8g!2e0!7i16384!8i8192!4m5!3m4!1s0x87f62ad40d79745b:0x2583e5920ad754ae!8m2!3d44.9247879!4d-93.1016376>

Name: Victor Nelson

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: 250,373

Entered service from: St. Paul, Ramsey MN

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Victor Nelson

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father Hans Nelson, 704 S. Smith Ave., St. Paul MN

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Victor Nelson

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Hans Nelson, 704 S. Smith Ave., St. Paul MN (cpl, 16th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Victor Nelson - b. 25 Mar 1890 St. Paul MN; res: 704 Smith Ave., St. Paul MN. Single. Carpenter for Hans Nelson, St. Paul MN. Medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 296 W. Page St., St. Paul MN

World War II draft registration (1942): as Victor Nelson - b. 25 Mar 1890 St. Paul, Ramsey MN; res: 296 W. Page St., St. Paul, Ramsey MN [address matches NTSA] NOK Katherin [sic] Nelson, same address. Employed by Victor Nelson, builder. Height: 5'8" – 170 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 13 Dec 1917

Discharged: 8 Jun 1919

Address: 704 Smith Ave., St. Paul MN

Rank/unit: corporal, Co. D, 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 25 Mar 1890 St. Paul, Ramsey MN

Died: 23 Apr 1966 McLeod Co. MN

Find A Grave record: 3481303 – presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: Minneapolis, Hennepin MN

Cemetery: Fort Snelling National

Tombstone:

Father: Hans Nelson (Neilson), Dec 1861 Denmark – alive in 1930 census in St. Paul, Ramsey MN

Find A Grave:

Mother: Emily Maren (Mary) Hansen (Hanson) Nelson, Dec 1862 Denmark – died between 1910 & 1920 censuses, presumably in MN

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage: Is this the marriage of Hans Nilson to Mary Hansen/Hanson on 8 Sep 1888 in St. Paul, Ramsey MN?

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: Victor was the 2nd child (born after Thorwald).

- Thorwald (Walter) Nelson, 1891 (tombstone) or Feb 1889 (1900 census) St. Paul, Ramsey MN – Feb 1960 Des Moines, Polk IA. Husband of Helen L. (1891-1976, F: 103764056). Buried in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, Polk IA. F: 103763914
- Henry Nelson, 29 Dec 1892 MN – 4 Mar 1960 MN. Baptized 22 May 1893 [not 1892, since that would be impossible] in Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Ramsey MN. Resident of St. Paul MN in Feb 1960 when brother Thorwald died; Henry died a few weeks after Thorwald. – Husband of Lillian H. Hawlish (1895-1992, : 135576866). Buried in Acacia Park Cemetery, Mendota Heights, Dakota MN. F: 135576271

- Amelia (Emelia) Nelson, 7 Sep 1893 St. Paul, Ramsey MN – 12 Dec 1972 Los Angeles Co. CA (CA Death Index lists surname as Nelson). Baptized 18 Nov 1893 in Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Ramsey MN as Emilie Nilson. In the 1940 census for El Monte, Los Angeles Co. CA, Anna M. “Dobrait” (36 WI, widow) lived with daughters Joyce Ann (6 NV) & Earlene (5 CA) & her sister Amelia Nelson (46 MN). In 1935 the DoBrott family had lived in Monrovia, Los Angeles CA, while Amelia lived in St. Paul, Ramsey MN. – Resident of Los Angeles CA in brother Thorwald’s Feb 1960 obituary & of Burbank CA in her brother Henry’s Mar 1960 obituary.
- Alma Nelson Toften Dennis Brown, 15 Aug 1895 WI – 14 Jul 1987 Pasadena, Los Angeles CA. Married ca. 1932 to George Henry Toften (1895-1980). Married on 12 Sep 1955 to William Ladislaus/stanley (Walter) Dennis (Dzienis) (1903-1978, F: 124626129), the son of Felix Dzienis & Theofilia Kolenda, both born Poland.. When her brother Thorwald died Feb 1960, her surname was Brown but the CA Death Index lists her surname as Dennis. Buried in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Los Angeles CA. F: 124567309
- Freddie Nelson, May 1887 WI. Resident of Chicago IL in Feb 1960 when his brother Thorwald died.
- Katherine (Katie) Nelson. Was her brother Victor’s next-of-kin in 1942 on his WWII draft registration; they both resided at 296 W. Page St., St. Paul MN. Was Katherine Nelson in Feb 1960 when her brother Thorwald died. Was she the Katherine June Nelson b. 16 Dec 1900 Polk Co. WI, died 7 Jan 1991 Ramsey Co. MN?
- Anna Nelson DoBrott, 7 Jun 1903 WI – 12 Oct 1988 Sacramento Co. CA. Married 1933 in Los Angeles Co. CA to Earle Sylvester DoBrott. “Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal” Saturday 3 Jun 1933 p 8 notes marriage license. Earle Sylvester DoBrott (16 Nov 1899 Monroe Co. NY – 4 Jun 1938 Los Angeles Co. CA), the son of Conrad Dobrott & Margaret Clemence. Earle had married 9 Sep 1922 in Monroe Co. NY to Marjorie J. Benedict. Earle is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles CA, F: 137985413. - In the 1940 census for El Monte, Los Angeles Co. CA, Anna M. “Dobrait” (36 WI, widow) lived with daughters Joyce Ann (6 NV) & Earlene (5 CA) & her sister Amelia Nelson (46 MN). In 1935 the DoBrott family had lived in Monrovia, Los Angeles CA, while Amelia lived in St. Paul, Ramsey MN. On CA Death Index, her father’s surname is Nelson, her mother’s Hansen.

Notes:

According to Social Security, Victor’s last residence was in Stewart, McLeod Co. MN.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

“Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune” Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 2 – there were 18 Minneapolis men on Tuscania, among them Victor Nelson, 704 S. Smith Ave., St. Paul MN.

“Minneapolis (MN) Star-Tribune” Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 1 – the list of Twin Cities survivors from St. Paul MN includes Victor Nelson of 604 [sic/704] S. Smith Ave.

Post-war:

“Minneapolis (MN) Times-Tribune” Thursday 1 Feb 1940 p 21 – there are 12 Minneapolis/St. Paul survivors of the Tuscania sinking who will attend the National Tuscania Survivors Association meeting at Kenosha WI, among them Victor Nelson of St. Paul.

Obituary:

Social Security number: 470-12-1977

Censuses:

1900 St. Croix Falls, Polk WI

Hans Nelson, 38 Denmark, Dec 1861, parents b. Denmark, emigrated 1887, in US for 13 years, naturalized, married 12 years, farmer

Maren, 37 Denmark, Dec 1862, parents b. Denmark, emigrated 1887, in US for 13 years, gave birth to 6 children, 6 are living [indexed as Waren because misread]

Torwold, 11 MN, Feb 1889

Victor, 10 MN, Mar 1890

Hinry, 7 MN, Dec 1892

Emelia, 6 MN, Sep 1893

Alma, 4 WI, Aug 1895

Freddi, 3 WI, May 1897

1905 WI state census – St. Croix, Polk WI – as of 1 Jun 1905

Hans Neilson, 43 Denmark, farmer

Maren, 43 Denmark, wife [indexed as Mason because misread]

Walter, 16 MN, farm laborer

Victor, 15 MN

Harry, 13 MN

Amelia, 11 MN

Alma, 9 MN

Frederic, 8 WI

Katie, 4 WI

Anna, 2 WI

[the state of Minnesota is misread/misindexed as Maine]

1910 St. Paul, Ramsey MN – 704 Smith Ave.

Hans Nelson, 48 Denmark, parents b. Denmark, married 22 years, emigrated 1888, naturalized, carpenter, contractor

Maren, 47 Denmark, parents b. Denmark, emigrated 1888, gave birth to 8 children, 8 are living

Walter, 21 MN, furrier, fur store

Victor, 20 MN, salesman, wholesale house

Henry, 19 MN, railroad clerk, railroad office

Amelia, 16 MN, dressmaker, dressmaking
 Alma, 14 MN
 Freddie, 12 MN
 Katie, 9 MN
 Annie, 7 MN

1920 St. Paul, Ramsey MN – S. Smith Ave.
 Hans Nelson, 58 Denmark, parents b. Denmark, widowed, emigrated 1888, naturalized
 1908, contractor
 Victor, 29 MN, carpenter
 Henry, 28 MN, estimator, lumber company
 Amelia, 26 MN
 Alma, 23 WI, clerk, department store
 Frederick C., 22 WI, electrician, not employed
 Catherine, 19 WI, clerk, railroad
 Anna, 16 WI

1930 St. Paul, Ramsey MN – 346 Warwick
 Hans Nelson, 68 Denmark, widowed, parents b. Denmark, contractor, building
 construction
 Amallia, 37 MN
 Victor, 39 MN, carpenter, building construction
 Alma, 34 WI, saleslady, retail clothing
 Katherine, 29 WI, stenographer, office, engineer union
 Anna, 26 WI, saleslady, retail ready to wear
 [For the children: both parents b. Denmark]

TUSCANIA