

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

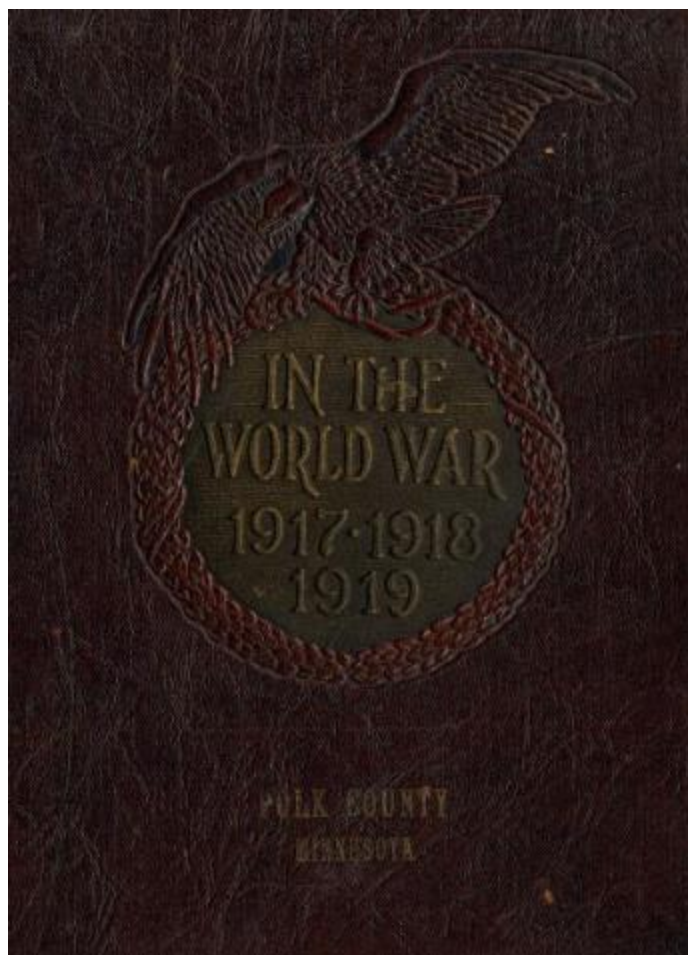
d = died

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, Walter Langford
1896 MN – 1997 WA



Page 56 – labeled #10

WALTER L. NELSON—(10)

East Grand Forks, Minn. Sgt. 1st Cl., 158th Aero Pursuit Squadron. Son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson. Entered the service Nov. 24, 1917. Jefferson Bks., Kelly Field, Gurstner Field. Overseas Jan. 24th, 1918, to March 7th, 1919. Was on the Tuscania when it was torpedoed off the shore of Ireland. Stationed at Scampton Aerodrome, Eng., at 3rd Aero Center in France. Promoted to Corp. May 1918, Sgt. in July, Sgt. 1st Cl. Dec., 1918. Mustered out at Camp Dodge, March 22nd, 1919.

57

“Polk County in the World War” – page 57

<https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/p16022coll47:5441#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-2190%2C-278%2C7923%2C5555>

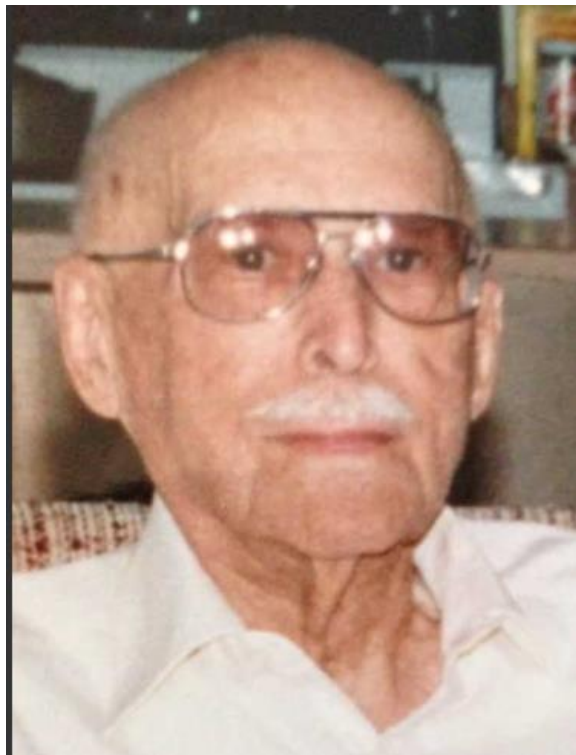
and

<https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/p16022coll47:5441#?c=&m=&s=&cv=59&xywh=761%2C2033%2C1782%2C1250> AND

<https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/p16022coll47:5441#?c=&m=&s=&cv=60&xywh=-1815%2C0%2C7131%2C4999>



Walter Langford Nelson – Find A Grave 57321502



Walter Langford Nelson - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/26147851511/media/2cc3ef5f-f230-4a8d-a140-040ad109fa13>



Walter Langford Nelson in his biplane in WWI, in England -
<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/26147851511/media/8abf8e3d-7296-44d8-a2dd-f101ae0deb41>

NELSON WALTER LANGFORD		C
Sgt 1st Aero Sq A3A		K 383 470
483 N 1 St E Grand Forks Minn		A 1 875 595
Sa 250 328	Died	T 461 278
Born 8/9/96		R
Enl 11/24/17	Dis 3/22/19	Cl 661 345
		I

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1925

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:W9PC-MBN2>

Wife #1 Grace Loughin:



Wife Grace Lillian Loughin –

<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/27122055389/media/473d738d-4a80-4d6b-b921-b97452e97b72>

Marriage License

STATE of NORTH DAKOTA } ss.
COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS

In County Court.

TO ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PERFORM THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY GREETING:

You are hereby authorized to

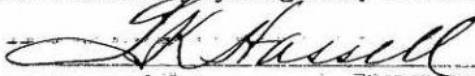
Join in Marriage

Mr. Walter L. Nelson of East Grand Forks, Minn.,
aged 25 years AND

Miss Grace Loughin of Grand Forks, N. Dak.,
aged 25 years

and of this license and your Certificate you will make due return to my office within thirty days.

Dated at Grand Forks, North Dakota, this 30th day of August, A. D., 1921.



<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/78818:61305>

Information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1. PLACE OF DEATH		STATE HEALTH DEPT.		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
County of	Grand Forks	RECEIVED	FILED	State File No.	1966
Township of		MAR 10 1937		Registered No.	6266
Village of	Grand Forks	STATE HEALTH DEPT.			
City of	Grand Forks	No. Deaconess Hospital			
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)					
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.					
2. FULL NAME Grace Loughin Nelson					
(a) Residence: No. 11-13 Ave South St., (Usual place of abode) (If non-resident give city or town and State)					
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3. SEX	4. COLOR OR RACE	5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word)	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Feb 10, 1937		
F	W	M	22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Jan. 24, 1937 to Feb. 10, 1937		
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of W.L. Nelson			Last saw him alive on Feb. 10, 1937. Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 3:15 A. M.		
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, year) Sep 3-1895			The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order		
7. AGE	Years	Months	Days	If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.	Date of onset 2-8-37
41	5	7			
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Housewife					
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. at home					
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)			11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation		
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) N.D.					
13. NAME Chas A Loughin					
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Mich					
15. MAIDEN NAME Marie E Ronnagin					
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Minn					
17. INFORMANT Homer Dickson (Address) Grand Forks, N.D.					
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place Park Cemetery Date Feb 12, 1937					
19. UNDERTAKER H.A. Pierce (Address) Grand Forks, N.D.					
20. FILED Feb 10, 1937			24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify (Signed) J. H. ... M. D. (Address) Grand Forks, N.D.		

ND death record of Grace Lillian Loughin Nelson – died 10 Feb 1937 -
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/45392980:61747>

Grace Loughin is Bride Today

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Augustus Loughin, 313 North Seventh street this morning at 9 o'clock, the marriage of their daughter, Grace to Walter Langford Nelson, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan J. Nelson, 423 North First street, East Grand Forks, was solemnized. Rev. John Gerald York, pastor of the First Baptist church officiated, and an arch of ferns, flanked on either side with pedestals holding bowls of asters in the pastel shades, made an effective autumn setting for the ceremony.

ceremony.

Mrs. Charles A. Loughin, Jr., of Minneapolis, sang "Ecstasy" by Frederick Knight Logan, before the entrance of the bridal party. Mrs. G. W. Buckingham was at the piano, and gave "Un Mot d' Amour" by Edward Schutt, and McDowell's "An Old Trysting Place" for the nuptial music. Mendelssohn's march was used for a recessional.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a simple gown of ivory charmeuse satin, finished with a round English neck and folds of the material. Her flowers were Butterfly roses and white sweetpeas tied with white tulle.

Miss Margaret Loughin, a sister of the bride, as maid of honor, wore an organza frock of robin's egg blue, with trimmings of tucks and gold ribbon. With it she wore a corsage bouquet of Russell roses, and sweetpeas. Horace G. Webster was the best man.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson left by motor immediately after the ceremony for Star Island Cass Lake, Minn., where they will spend their honeymoon. After October 15, they will be at home to friends at 423 North First street, East Grand Forks. Mrs. Nelson traveled in a peacock blue velour coat dress with grey accessories.

The groom who is a graduate of the East Grand Forks high school, and a former student of the University of North Dakota, is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He is assistant cashier of the First State bank in East Grand Forks, and has been affiliated with that institution for several years.

Mrs. Nelson has grown to womanhood in this city, and received her degree at the state university here. She was elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa society and her sorority is Kappa Alpha Theta. For two years the bride has been a member of the Central high school faculty.

Walter Langford Nelson married Grace Loughin on 2 Sep 1921 – "Grand Forks (ND) Herald"
Friday 2 Sep 1921 p 6 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/351912244/?article=1092ef3b-5554-4c68-9b72-d99215350aef&focus=0.03043255,0.10472499,0.17232187,0.42820993&xid=3398>

Wife #2 Mavis Pritchard Johns



Mabel Pritchard Johns Nelson - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/382079578026/media/e6635b51-e27d-42cf-89ee-f7ffc495cee0>



Mavis Johns Nelson

October 27, 1914 - August 19, 2011

Mankato resident, Mavis Johns Nelson, age 96, died Friday, August 19, 2011 at Hillcrest Health Care Center in Mankato. Private services will be held. Mavis was born October 27, 1914 in McGregor, Manitoba, Canada to John and Edith (Pritchard) Johns. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1934 with a degree as a medical technician. On July 12, 1938 she married Walter L. Nelson in Minneapolis. She worked for the hospital in Grand Forks, ND for many years. Mavis enjoyed traveling with her husband, going to lunch with friends and listening to Christian Music. She was a member of PEO and First Congregational Church in Mankato. She is survived by her brother, John (Lorraine) Johns of Mankato; daughter-in-law, Catherine Nelson, grandson, Patrick Nelson; great grandchildren; nieces and nephews, David Johns, Gary Johns, Linda Kramer, Mary Johns, Ryan Kramer, Corey Kramer, Justin Johns and Noah Johns; great nephews, Ben Johns and Seth Dickinson. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, step-son, step-daughter, many aunts and uncles.

Published on August 19, 2011

Obituary of Mavis Pritchard Johns Nelson in the "Mankato (MN) Free Press" 19 Aug 2011 - <https://obituaries.mankatofreepress.com/obituary/mavis-nelson-760391171>

Mavis P. Johns and W. L. Nelson Wed

Her mother's wedding veil of embroidered tulle was worn by Miss Mavis Pritchard Johns, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Johns, 3113 Fremont avenue N., when she was married to Walter Langford Nelson, Grand Forks, N. D., son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson, Fargo. The bride's gown was white satin.

Miss Fiona Chisholm, maid of honor, wore pale blue marquisette. Best man was C. V. Wells. The ceremony took place at Fremont Congregational church and a small reception followed at the Johns' home.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson will be at home after Aug. 10 in Grand Forks. They have gone north for their wedding trip.

Married 26 Jul 1938 Minneapolis, Hennepin MN – "Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune" Tuesday 26 Jul 1938 p 4

Bride's Father Officiated at Nuptial Rites

Her father read the marriage vows this afternoon when Miss Mavis Pritchard Johns was married to Walter Langford Nelson of Grand Forks. The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Johns, 3113 Fremont avenue N., and Mr. Nelson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson of Fargo. The ceremony took place at 4 o'clock this afternoon in Fremont Congregational church, where palms and candelabra were the decorations. Miss Mary Faribault played violin selections.

Charles Pritchard of Winnipeg, Canada, grandfather of the bride, gave her in marriage. Her gown was white satin with a high neckline, long sleeves and a train. She wore her mother's wedding veil of embroidered tulle, train length, and carried Johanna Hill roses, white sweet peas and baby breath. Miss Flona Chisholm, as maid of honor and only bridal attendant, wore pale blue marquette and carried peach gladoli and larkspur. C. V. Wells, a cousin of the bridegroom, was best man.

Following the ceremony, a reception is being given at the bride's home for 26 relatives and close friends. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson will go north on their wedding trip, the bride wearing navy and white in a flowered lace dress. Their address after August 10 will be 1207 Lincoln drive, Grand Forks.

"Minneapolis (MN) Journal" Wednesday 20 Jul 1938 p 15

MISS MAVIS JOHNS ENGAGED.

Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Johns, 3113 Fremont avenue north, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mavis Pritchard Johns of Grand Forks, to Mr. Walter Langford Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson of Fargo, N. D. The wedding will take place July 20 in Fremont Avenue Congregational church, where the bride-elect's father is pastor. Miss Johns is a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

"Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune" Sunday 3 Jul 1938 p 19

Children:



DOROTHY M. NELSON—
Dotty
 Commercial Course
 Orchestra, Band, J. C. C., Friendship.
*“A girl you just can’t help
 liking.”*

Daughter Dorothy Merne Nelson , Central High School, Sioux City IA, 1940 -

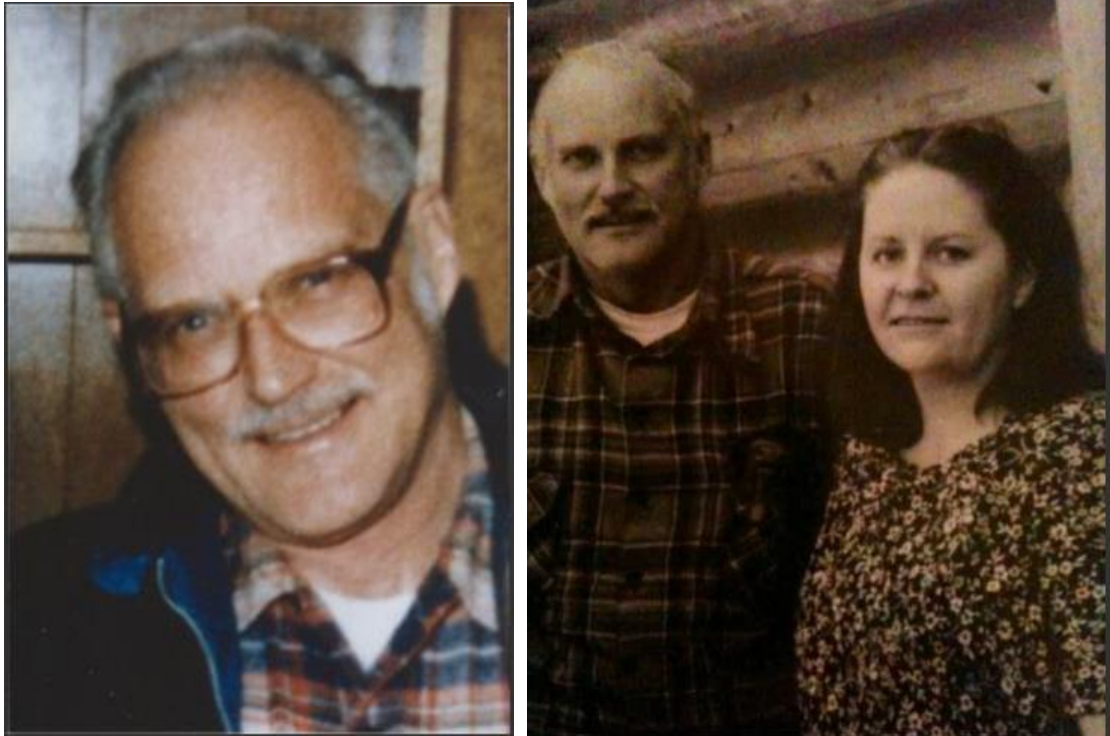
<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/380008669453/media/06f4f0c2-0ca8-47bf-a55a-abb67f33385a>

AND

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1265/images/33046_253699-00065?pld=289432249

JAMES, MERNE NELSON of Ferndale, Washington died at home on January 24. She was born on November 7, 1924 to Grace and Walter L. Nelson, of Grand Forks, North Dakota. In May 1997 she was married to Lewis C. James of Surrey, B.C., and the couple settled in Ferndale in 1998. In the past few years they both battled serious illness, and her husband died in January, 2004. Mrs. James was a gifted teacher of music and of children. From 1952 to 1984 she taught at Jefferson Davis and Daniel Webster Elementary Schools. She developed an award-winning chorus of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students, and in 1979 she was the recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award. Always involved in church music, she was a soprano soloist in the choir at Kessler Park United Methodist Church, served as director of the adult choir and directed a children's choir. She sang for several years in the choir at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. She was a member of the Melodie Club (NFMCC) and an enthusiastic, lifelong member of PEO, an educational organization for women. She is survived by her stepmother, Mavis J. Nelson, of N. Mankato, MN., a nephew LCDR Patrick Nelson, US Coast Guard, of Washington, D.C., a niece Connie Yates of Idaho Falls, ID and several great nieces and nephews.

Obituary of daughter Dorothy Merne Nelson James - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/380008669453/media/a3fcb710-cfdb-454c-9d5e-99b35002a9ca>



Son Charles Langford Nelson –

Left: <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/380008674511/media/bb121f52-9068-4407-8fa8-bd1e33cda0ac>
 and Right: <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/29777738/person/380008674511/media/5f36ad6d-e2cc-4162-9b47-12cbe5e13f06>

Cleo C. Bleedner Married Sunday

Kenwood Park Methodist church was the setting Sunday afternoon for the marriage of Miss Cleo Cora Bleedner, daughter of the Roy D. Bleedners, 136 Kenmore street NE, and Charles Langford Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Nelson of Grand Forks, N. D.

Palms, candelabra and baskets of pink and white chrysanthemums, gladiolus and asters framed the altar, before which the Rev. Wilbert R. Ehler read the double ring ceremony.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of embroidered Swiss organdy. A plain nylon yoke with embroidery applique accented the basque bodice, and short sleeves completed the drop-shoulder effect. A scalloped hemline trimmed the ballerina-length skirt, and she wore a Dutch cap of bridal net. White carnations and pink sweetheart rosebuds formed her cascade bouquet.

Miss Geraldine Edaburn, maid of honor, wore aqua organdy over satin, with a matching jacket of eyelet embroidery. Her cascade bouquet was of pink carnations. James M. Beck was best man, and Floyd Rinehart and Don Routh ushered.

The bride's mother chose navy blue sheer with white accessories, and Mrs. Nelson was attired in a beige suit with accessories of brown shade. Both wore pink rosebud corsages.

Miss Merne Nelson, sister of the bridegroom, sang, accompanied by Mrs. H. L. Emerson.

* * *

The couple greeted 75 guests in the church parlors following the ceremony, after which they left on a brief wedding trip. For travel Mrs. Nelson chose a navy blue wool crepe dress with matching accessories.

After Sept. 10 they will be at home in Ames, where Mr. Nelson is a senior student at Iowa State college. He is a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. Mrs. Nelson was formerly employed by the Collins Radio Company.

Marriage of Charles Langford Nelson & Cleo Cora Bleedner 5 Sep 1951 Cedar Rapids, Linn IA -

"Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette" Wednesday 5 Sep 1951 p 12 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/547913693/?article=c8561cdd-d7a4-4f25-a6c2-85ed91a95e63&focus=0.2665647,0.21840626,0.38010138,0.5311898&xid=3398>

Department of Public Health Division of Vital Statistics Boise, Idaho			CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE (Or Annulment)			State File No. <u>1709</u>		
COUNTY OF <u>Bonneville</u>						DOCKET NO. <u>14,479</u>		
HUSBAND						WIFE		
1. Full Name (first) (middle) (last) <u>Charles L. Nelson</u>						9. Full Name (first) (middle) (last) <u>Cleo C. Nelson</u>		
2. Residence at time of divorce: a. State <u>Idaho</u> b. County <u>1-000</u>						10. Residence at time of divorce: a. State <u>Idaho</u> b. County <u>1-000</u>		
c. City (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) Or Town						c. City (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) Or Town		
3. Residence at time of marriage: a. State <u>Idaho</u> b. County <u>100</u>						11. Residence at time of marriage: a. State <u>Idaho</u> b. County <u>100</u>		
c. City (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) Or Town						c. City (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) Or Town		
4. Color or Race	5. Age	6. Number this marriage (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc)				12. Color or Race	13. Age	14. Number this marriage (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc)
	Yrs					White	Yrs	
7. Birthplace (State or foreign country city or town)						15. Birthplace (State or foreign country city or town)		
<u>Idaho Falls</u>						<u>Idaho Falls</u>		
8a Usual Occupation		8b Kind of industry or business				16a Usual Occupation		16b Kind of industry or business
<u>80</u>						<u>80</u>		
17. Place of divorce: a. County <u>Bonneville</u> b. City <u>Idaho Falls</u> c. Court <u>District</u>						18. Place of marriage: a. State <u>Iowa</u> b. County <u>2-016</u> c. City (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) Or Town <u>Cedar Rapids</u>		
19. Date of marriage: (month) (day) (year) <u>09-01-1951</u>			20. Date of separation: (month) (day) (year) <u>02-10-1965</u>			21. Plaintiff: Husband ☐ Wife ☒		22. Was case contested? Yes ☐ No ☒
23. Date of filing petition: (month) (day) (year) <u>June 18 1965</u>			24. Date of decree or judgment: (month) (day) (year) <u>08 August 09 1965</u>			25. Cause or ground for divorce: <u>02 Cruelty</u>		
26. Absolute divorce or conditions <u>0</u>			27. Divorce granted to: Husband ☐ Wife ☒			28. Alimony granted: Yes ☒ No ☐		29. No. children affected by the decree: <u>Three</u>
30. Total number of children by this marriage: <u>Three</u>			Child Support					
Date signed <u>Aug. 9, 1965</u>			Signature <u>WALLACE HANSON</u>			Clerk District Court		
Form DPH-49065			By: <u>Harqueta Goodale</u>			Deputy		
			Date received by State Registrar			<u>SEP 2 - 1965</u>		

ID divorce certificate – Idaho Falls, Bonneville Co. ID – married 2 Sep 1951, separated Feb 1965, divorce 9 Aug 1965 -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8989/images/48366_b395743-01709_page_0001?pld=456742

Father:

Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census		NORTH DAKOTA CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		RECEIVED 7 1943		State File No. 836 Registrar's No. 111	
1. PLACE OF DEATH				2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED			
(a) County <u>Cass</u>				(a) State <u>No. Dak.</u>			
(b) City or Village <u>Fargo</u> (If outside of city or village limits, specify TOWNSHIP)				(b) County <u>Cass</u>			
(c) Name of Hospital or Institution <u>135 So. Terrace</u> (If not in hospital or institution, give Street and Number)				(c) City or Village <u>Fargo</u> (If outside of city or village limits, specify TOWNSHIP)			
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution <u>None</u> In this community <u>11 yrs</u>				(d) If in city, give Street and Number <u>135 S. Terrace</u>			
				(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? <u>Life</u> years			
3a. FULL NAME <u>Nathan John Nelson</u>				3b. If veteran, name war <u>None</u>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATION			
4. Sex <u>Male</u> 5. Color <u>White</u> 6a. Single, married, <u>Married</u> widowed, divorced				20. DATE OF DEATH <u>April</u> 10 19 <u>43</u> (Month by name) (Day) (Year)			
6b. Name of husband or wife <u>Bertha</u>				21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>April</u> 19 <u>1937</u> to <u>April</u> 10 19 <u>43</u>			
6c. Age of husband 69 or wife, if alive				I last saw him alive on <u>Jan</u> 19 <u>43</u> and that death occurred on the date above stated at <u>10:30 p.m.</u>			
7. Birthdate of deceased <u>March</u> 15 19 <u>1867</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)				The principal cause of death and important related causes in order			
8. Age: <u>76</u> years <u>0</u> months <u>25</u> days If less than 1 day				Date of Onset			
9. Birthplace <u>Vasa Minnesota</u> (City or county) (State or foreign country)							
10. Usual occupation <u>Grain Co. and Banking</u>							
11. Industry or business							
12. Father's name <u>Peter M. Nelson</u>							
13. Father's birthplace <u>Sweden</u> (City or county) (State or foreign country)							
14. Mother's maiden name <u>Not Known</u>							
15. Mother's birthplace <u>Sweden</u> (City or county) (State or foreign country)							
16. Informant's signature <u>Walter L. Nelson</u> Address <u>Grand Forks N.D.</u>				Name of operation <u>/</u> Date <u>/</u>			
17. Burial, cremation, or removal <u>Minnesota</u> Place <u>Riverside, Moorhead</u> Date <u>4 13 43</u>				What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>/</u> Was there an autopsy? <u>/</u>			
18. Signature of funeral director <u>Ernest S. Moore</u> Address <u>Fargo No. Dak.</u> 1 <u>476</u>				22. If death was due to external cause, fill in the following:			
19. <u>4/13/43</u> Date Received by Registrar				(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>/</u> (b) Date <u>/</u>			
Local Registrar's Signature <u>Carl O. Jorgensen</u>				(c) Locality of injury? <u>/</u> (Township or city) (County) (State)			
				(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? <u>/</u> While at work? <u>/</u>			
				(e) Means of injury? <u>/</u> (Specify)			
				Witness my hand this <u>12</u> day of <u>April</u> 19 <u>43</u>			
				Signature <u>Walter L. Nelson</u> M. D.			
				Address <u>Fargo 222</u>			

ND death record of father Nathan (here Nathon) J. Nelson -

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/45360376:61747>

Name: Walter Langford Nelson

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 158th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 250,022

Entered service from: East Grand Forks, Polk MN

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Walter L. Nelson

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father Nathan J. Nelson, East Grand Forke [sic/Forks] MN

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Walter L. Nelson

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Nathan J. Nelson, 425 N. 1st St., East Grand Forks MN (sgt 1st class, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 410 N. 3rd St., East Grand Forks MN

World War II draft registration (1942): as Walter Langford Nelson – b. 9 Aug 1896

Crookston MN; res: 1207 Lincoln Dr., Grand Forks ND. NOK Mrs. Mavis Nelson, same address. Employed at Grand Forks Clinic. Height: 5'10" – 165 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 24 Nov 1917

Discharged: 22 Mar 1919

Address: 423 N. 1st St., East Grand Forks ND

Rank/unit: sergeant 1st class, 138th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 9 Aug 1896 Crookston, Polk MN

Died: 20 Feb 1997 Everett, Snohomish WA

Find A Grave record: 57321502 – photo - presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Grand Forks, Grand Forks ND

Cemetery: Memorial Park

Tombstone: veteran flat: US Army WWI

Father: Nathan J. Nelson, Mar 1867 Sweden – 10 Apr 1943 Fargo, Cass ND. Buried in Riverside Cemetery, Moorhead, Clay MN. Son of Peter M. Nelson. Early census reports list his birthplace as Sweden, including immigration dates & naturalization status, then it switches to Minnesota. His MN death record lists his birth in Vasa MN – more likely Vasa, Sweden? Buried in Riverside Cemetery, Moorhead, Clay MN.

Find A Grave: 140363687

Mother: Bertha Susan Langford Nelson, 24 Aug 1873 Dodge Center, Dodge MN – 10 Apr 1961 NY. Daughter of Isaac Langford (a Civil War veteran, 1829 OH – 1910 OR, F: 62959420) & Amelia Wilmina ("Fanny") Feathers (1840 PA – 1921 OR, F: 93265834). Social Security indicates her last residence in Bluff Point, Clinton NY. Buried in Volusia Memorial Park, Ormond Beach, Volusia FL.

Find A Grave: 120499768

Parents' marriage: 15 Mar 1894 Dodge Center, Dodge MN.

Spouse: Grace Lillian Loughin Nelson, 3 Sep 1895 ND – 10 Feb 1937 Grand Forks Co. ND. Daughter of Charles Augustus Loughin (1868-1936, F: 25084191) & his 2nd wife, Marie Ingeborg Ronningen (1872-1942, F: 25084218) with whom Grace is buried. Buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Grand Forks, Grand Forks Co. ND.

Spouse Find A Grave: 25269505

Marriage: 2 Sep 1921 Grand Forks, Grand Forks ND at the home of her parents, 313 N. 7th St., Grand Forks ND.

Spouse: Mavis Pritchard Johns Nelson, 27 Oct 1914 MacGregor, Manitoba, Canada – 19 Aug 2011 Mankato, Blue Earth MN. Daughter of Dr. (Rev.) John Robert Johns (1886-1983, F: 118977484) & Edith Mary Pritchard (1886-1944, F: 118977501), both born in Wales. He was the officiant at her wedding to Walter. Graduate of U of MN in 1936 with a B.S. degree as a medical technician – not 1934 as reported in her obituary. See “Minneapolis (MN) Star” Monday 15 Jun 1936 p 12 about graduation ceremony. She is buried in the same cemetery as her parents: Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin MN.

Spouse Find A Grave: 118979520

Marriage: 20 Jul 1938 Minneapolis, Hennepin Co MN at Fremont Avenue Congregational Church, where her father was the pastor.

[https://www.ancestry.com/family-](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/29777738/person/382079578026/facts)

[tree/person/tree/29777738/person/382079578026/facts](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/29777738/person/382079578026/facts)

Children: by his 1st wife, Grace Loughin:

- Dorothy Merne Nelson James, 7 Nov 1924 Grand Forks Co. ND – 24 Jan 2005 Ferndale, Whatcom WA. Married in Dallas Co. TX on 3 May 1997 to Lewis C. James (1924-Jan 2004).
- Charles Langford Nelson, 21 Nov 1929 ND – 31 Oct 1983 ID. SSN 501-26-5867. Was a 1st lieutenant in the US Air Force in the Korean War, serving from 18 Jun 1952 to 18 May 1956. Married on 5 Sep 1951 in Cedar Rapids, Linn IA to Cleo Cora Bleedner (29 Mar 1933 Lincoln, Iowa Co. IA – Mar 1969, SSN 481-32-2922), the daughter of Roy Dewey Bleedner & Mary Francis Robertson. They divorced 9 Aug 1965 in Bonneville Co. ID. Buried in Prairie View Cemetery, Grangeville, Idaho Co. ID. F: 109634854

Siblings:

- Winifred Nelson Webster, 6 Jan 1895 Crookston, Polk MN – 27 Aug 1998 Tallahassee, Leon FL. SSN 232-54-9501. Wife of Horace Griffin Webster (1893-1949), the son of Oscar Almeron & Lydia Maude Webster. In the 1930 census, Horace was a lawyer & Winifred a music teacher; they lived in Northwood, Grand Forks ND. Horace is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Grand Forks, Grand Forks ND. F: 25635984

Notes:

The family tree at <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/94XG-9XR/walter-langford-nelson-1896-1997> reports Walter's parents as Andrew William Nelson & Anna Matilda Bloomquist & has some facts about his correct and others (particularly siblings) inaccurate. His parentage does not agree with his WWI information nor the census.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

“Grand Forks (ND) Herald” 12 Mar 1918 p 7 - student at U of ND. Lengthy description, with extracts from 3 letters sent home (11, 13, 14 Feb 1918) to his parents Mr. & Mrs. N.J. Nelson. Describes camouflaged ships, how crew deserted on 1st boat, got souvenirs after

rescued, only wet from destroyer bow spray, used khaki handkerchief as hat as he had left his hat & overcoat on board. Walter had marched in snow 23 Jan 1918 in Garden City NY. Was debating the truth of a Biblical prophecy that the war was to end in Feb when the torpedo hit. He said men were ordered that day not to go to lowest bunks. He was assigned to 16C lifeboat but "16C could not be put over," so he went down a rope to the 2nd destroyer. Some men sat on deck & smoked, some units stood at attention as ship sunk slowly. He was going to swim from the C doors (lowest ones) if he was not rescued. The destroyer "cleverly" backed away & avoided a 3rd torpedo. Now everyone is "ship shy." He saved what he was wearing (uniform, underwear, leggings, shoes).

"Polk County, Minnesota, in the World War" p. 57 - Sgt 1st Class, 158th Aero, entered service 24 Nov 1917 Jefferson Barracks, mustered out Camp Dodge 22 Mar 1919, on Tuscania. <http://polk.mngenweb.net/military/WWI.htm>

Post-war:

1934 Grand Forks ND city directory

Nelson, Walter Langford (Grace L.), business manager Healy Law Woutat Moore Clinic, resident at 11 – 13th Ave. S.

Obituary:

Social Security number: 502-09-2234

Censuses:

1895 MN state census – Polk Co. MN

Nathan J. Nelson, 28 MN, collector, had lived in MN for 28 years

Bertha, 21 MN, housekeeper

Winifred, 5 months MN

1900 Crookston, Polk MN – 431 Store St.

Nathan J. Nelson, 33 Sweden, Mar 1867, parents b. Sweden, emigrated 1868, in US for 32 years, naturalized, married 6 years, traveling salesman

Bertha L. Nelson, 26 MN, Aug 1873, father b. OH, mother b. PA, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living [wife]

Winifred Nelson, 5 MN, Jan 1895 [daughter]

Walter L. Nelson, 3 MN, Aug 1896 [son]

Effie Gordon, 13 MN, Sep 1886, father b. NY, mother b. MN, at school [niece]

Margret Fitzgerald, 22 MN, Oct 1877, school teacher [lodger]

Florence A. Smith, 24 IA, Dec 1875, school teacher [lodger]

1910 East Grand Forks, Polk MN

Nathan J. Nelson, 43 Sweden, parents b. Sweden, in 1st marriage, married 16 years,
 emigrated 1868, naturalized, cashier, bank
 Bertha L., 36 MN, father b. OH, mother b. PA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are
 living
 Winifred, 15 MN
 Walter L., 13 MN
 & servant Annie Lystad, 24 Norway, in private home

1920 East Grand Forks, Polk MN
 Nathan J. Nelson, 46 MN, parents b. Sweden, cashier, bank
 Bertha L., 46 MN, father b. OH, mother b. PA
 Winifred, 24 MN, teaching, public schools
 Walter L., 23 MN, clerk, bank

1930 East Grand Forks, Polk MN – 410 N. 3rd St. – conducted 19 Apr 1930
 Walter L. Nelson, 33 MN, parents b. MN, age 24 at 1st marriage, auto finance, National
 Security, WWI veteran
 Grace L., 33 ND, father b. WI, mother b. MN, age 24 at 1st marriage
 Dorothy Merne, 5 ND
 Charles, 4 months ND

1940 Grand Forks, Grand Forks ND – 1207 Lincoln Dr. – Walter, Dorothy Merne & Charles
 Langford were in the same house in 1935 – Mavis was in Minneapolis, Hennepin MN
 Walter L. Nelson, 43 MN, business manager, medical clinic
 Mavis, 25 Canada
 Merne, 15 ND
 Langford, 10 ND