

NELSON

William Nelson and Easter Morgan

3-g grandparents

Little is known about this couple. William Nelson was born on an unknown date in Tennessee; he died in 1844. Easter Morgan was born in 1803 in North Carolina and died in 1885.

They had five known children:

- Sarah Maria Nelson
- Elizabeth Nelson
- David Morgan Nelson, born in 1838
- Samuel Kornas Nelson, born in 1838
- George Washington Nelson, born in 1844

Sources and Related Information

- David L. Nelson report "David Morgan Descendants"
- U.S. census records – 1880 (record of son George has birthplaces of parents)

George Washington Nelson and Mary Anna McMahel

2-g grandparents

George Washington Nelson was born on February 18, 1844 in Ireland, Dubois County, Indiana to William Nelson and Easter Morgan.

Mary Anna McMahel was born about 1839 in Kentucky. She was the fifth of eight children of James McMeckle and Rebecca Anna Jennings. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to Indiana.

George and Mary were married on September 6, 1866 in Dubois County, Indiana. They reportedly had eight children:

- Rebecca Anna Nelson, born in 1867
- James W. Nelson, born in 1869
- Joseph S. Nelson, born about 1871
- George Nelson, born about 1872
- Elizabeth M. Nelson, born about 1873
- Thomas Bradford Nelson, born in 1875
- John S. Nelson, born in 1877
- Lillie J. Nelson, born in 1880

The family is recorded as living in Dubois County, Indiana for the 1880 U.S. census. Children George and Elizabeth are not shown on that record so they may have died young. Later that year, on July 20, Mary (McMahel) Nelson died. She was only about 41.

A DECADE IN BRIEF

The 1860's

James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson and Ulysses S. Grant serve as U.S. President – Lincoln is assassinated ✕ Slavery is abolished as northern states fight southern states in the American Civil War – 51,000 men are killed or wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg ✕ Russia sells Alaska to the U.S. for 7.2 million dollars ✕ Henry Ford, George Washington Carver and Rudyard Kipling are born ✕ The transcontinental railroad is completed ✕ Dynamite is invented by Alfred Nobel

Three years later, George Washington Nelson remarried. He took as his bride his first wife's younger sister Katherine who at age 40 had apparently never married. George and Katherine had two children: Charles, who died young, and Emma.

Katherine (McMahel) Nelson died on December 6, 1907 at age 65 in Dubois County.

George Washington Nelson lived to be 85. He died on October 1, 1929 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois. Why he had moved to Illinois is not known – perhaps some of his children had migrated to there.

Sources and Related Information

- Dennis R. Hopper genealogy website
- David L. Nelson report "David Morgan Descendants"
- U.S. census records – 1880

Thomas Bradford Nelson and Mary Elizabeth Ford *great-grandparents*

Thomas Bradford Nelson was born April 15, 1875 in Birdseye, Dubois County, Indiana into a large family.

Mary Elizabeth Ford was the daughter of Richard and Nancy (Cope) Ford. She was born April 20, probably in Dubois County, Indiana although one source says Orange County (the location of her parents' marriage). In 1886, Mary's father died tragically in a boiler explosion and her mother struggled to raise the family alone.

Tom Bradford was in the military during the Spanish-American War. The photo below says "1898 – Phillipines" on the back. His occupation was listed as "soldier, USA" in the 1900 census where he was counted as a member of his father's household.



Tom Nelson in uniform in 1898

Tom, age 28, and Mary, age 19, were married on May 20, 1903. With the money he earned in the military, Tom bought a farm in Dubois County. The couple had seven children:

- Thomas Burl Nelson, born in 1904
- Bonner Craig Nelson, born in 1906
- George Wheeler Nelson, born in 1907
- Dorothy Jewell Nelson, born in 1910
- Woodrow Wilson Nelson, born in 1912
- Mary Kathleen Nelson, born in 1921
- Jack Lewis Nelson, born in 1925



Thomas and Mary (Ford) Nelson

Thomas Bradford Nelson lived to be 65 and died on July 18, 1940 in Birdseye, Indiana.



Mary (Ford) Nelson

Mary (Ford) Nelson outlived her husband by 30 years and died on September 15, 1970, also in Birdseye.

Sources and Related Information

- David L. Nelson report "David Morgan Descendants"
- U.S. census records – 1880, 1900 and 1920
- Robert E. Lane manuscript
- Maurice Baxter
- Social Security death index

The NELSON line ends with Mary Kathleen Nelson, who married Maurice BAXTER.

The Spanish-American War

In 1894, the U.S. Congress enacted the Wilson-Gorman Tariff and set into motion a series of events that led to the Spanish-American War.

The tariff limited exports of sugar from Cuba, then a Spanish colony and crippled the island's economy. Cuban nationalists responded by revolting against the colonial government. Spain, in turn, sent troops to Cuba to stabilize the situation, a task that was accomplished, in part, by establishing concentration camps. U.S. businessmen with interests in Cuba became concerned and anti-Spain sentiment began to take hold of the American public.

In 1898, the U.S. sent the *USS Maine* to "stand by" in Cuba, ostensibly to rescue Americans living there should they become endangered by the continuing hostilities. On February 15, 1898, the *Maine* mysteriously exploded. The U.S. blamed a Spanish mine and by April, both countries had declared war. The U.S. passed the Teller Amendment, promising to make Cuba independent after the war, in order to assure the world that the war was not for colonial gain.

The fighting, however, was not limited to Cuba. The U.S. attacked the Phillipines, Guam, Puerto Rico and other Spanish island colonies.

The U.S. handled the Spanish with relative ease and the war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898. Cuba, as promised, was liberated but Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Phillipines all became American "protectorates."

Source: sparknotes.com