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# MANFRED HISTORY AND PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 321 Harvey, North Dakota 58341

{ "http://www.manfrednd.org" }

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## Greetings from Manfred!

This biography was prepared by Manfred History and Preservation.  
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### Eilert and Tillie Nelson



Husband's Full Name: Eilert Norman Nelson  
Husband's Place of Birth: Manfred Township, ND  
Husband's Father's Name: Knute Nelson  
Husband's Mother's Name: Randi Ulberg Nelson  
Husband's Siblings' Names: Ida, Anna  
Wife's Full Name: Tillie Ramstad Nelson  
Wife's Place of Birth: Hatton, ND  
Wife's Father's Name: Erick Ramstad  
Wife's Mother's Name: Marie Sletten  
Wife's Siblings' Names: Lillian, Eleanor, Gunder,  
Ernest, Wallace, Sandford, Orville, Gilman, Carl,  
Leonard, Evelyn,  
Children's Names: none

### Eilert and Tillie Nelson

Pictured in the county newspaper was their farm, in the Manfred community, which was homesteaded in 1893, which remained in the same family ever since. Known as the K. E. Nelson farm, the place is now operated by Eilert Nelson, who owns the farm jointly with his widowed mother.

This spread is located in Manfred township, just three miles north of Manfred along the county road. The farm unit comprises some 520 acres, of which 425 are under cultivation. The family owned considerably more acreage at once time, but sold out some of their holdings several years ago to bring the farmstead into operating size for one man and one set of machinery.

Eilert now runs about 30 head of cattle on the place, and also keeps four head of horses - almost a record in these days. He combines most of his crop, but still threshes some of his own grain to get a supply of straw, and has also been doing some custom threshing for his neighbors.

K.E. Nelson homesteaded the home quarter, the NE 1/4 of Sect 9-149-71, August 2, 1873. His first home was a sod shanty while he batched on the place, and a few years later he built a one-room shanty. In later years he rebuilt the house, adding rooms and additions twice, to bring it to the modern size structure seen above on the picture. He added land as the occasion and need arose until he built the farm up to its present size. His other holdings were in West Norway township, which land he sold in 1946.

The barn was built in 1915 and other buildings added including the granaries, machine shed, blacksmith shop, chicken house and garage. Last additions to the house were made in 1926.

K. E. Nelson was born in Norway, March 20, 1871 and came to America in 1891, settling first at Yankton, S.D. Where he took up farm work. He went to Northwood in May 1892, and came to the Manfred community in August of 1893 where he took up this homestead. He was also a carpenter, and during the early years, he rented his land and worked on construction projects in the central part of the state.

He made two trips to Norway, one in 1901 and 1902; and the second from 1909 to 1911. When he returned from the second trip he married Randi Guleberg, of Norway at Boston, Massachusetts in July 1911. They returned to the farm at Manfred, which was their home ever since. Mr. Nelson died in July 1947 and his widow still resides on the farm with her son.

They were the parents of three children: Anna, who died in infancy; Eilert, on the home farm; and Ida, who died in 1938. Eilert has been associated with his father in the farming enterprise ever since he was big enough to help out, and he took over full operations after his father's death in 1947. He now owns the place jointly with his mother.

Eilert married Tillie Ramstad of Hatton in March of 1936.

This farm has been another successful and profitable enterprise for both father and son and we are pleased to present it with our series of Wells County farm photos.

Obit: Eilert

Lifelong resident of Manfred community died Friday. Born on a farm 3 miles north of Manfred where he had lived his entire life. Married in 1936, he was a deacon at Vang Lutheran Church

Obit: Tillie

Tillie grew up and attended school near her farm home near Hatton. After marriage to Eilert they lived and farmed north of Manfred. She moved into Harvey in 1977 and entered the St. Aloisius Nursing Home in March of 1994.

She was a member of Vang Lutheran Church and was active in the Ladies Aid and as a Sunday School Teacher.