

When Waterville was Home to Nelson, the Northern King — Discovering the Secrets of Sunnyside —



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By
Stephen D. Thompson
With Research Assistance from
CLARK P. THOMPSON, FOUNDER OF MAINE'S TROTTING HORSE HERITAGE TRAIL

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“With the passing of Charles Horace Nelson, the race track of Maine and particularly the Waterville track loses its most famous figure and it is doubtful if ever again there rises a man in Maine who will bring such a personality and ability to the track as this man.”

**Closing paragraph from Obituary published in the Waterville Sentinel
Date of Death: March 29, 1915**

Excerpted from Sprague’s Journal of Maine History:

“Charles Horace Nelson of Waterville was born in Palermo, Maine, in 1843, and died at Togus, March 29, 1915. He was long known among his friends and the fraternity of "horse men" generally as "Hod" Nelson. Before the State became noted for producing immense crops of potatoes and its dairying industry there was a period in the agricultural history of the State, (1880-1895) when Maine enjoyed a veritable horse-breeding boom, and for a decade at least Maine's fast trotting horses had a world-wide fame. Very much of this condition was due to Mr. Nelson and his horse Nelson. The respective careers of Nelson the man, owner, breeder, driver and race track habitué; and Nelson the horse, a superb beast that was the world's champion trotting stallion for a time added greatly to the fame of the Pine Tree State as a great horse breeding section of the country. He was a unique character, positive in his nature, forceful, and in some ways eccentric. His life was more or less a checkered one; he had served as a soldier in the Union Army in two Maine regiments and was a member of the G. A. R. *Probably no human being ever loved a speechless animal more fervently than did Hod Nelson love the horse that bore his name. He will long be remembered for sterling qualities and this deep and somewhat remarkable affection for, and devotion to his horse, is among the most beautiful of them.*”

CREDITS

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Principal Researchers: Clark P. Thompson and Stephen D. Thompson

I extend my appreciate to what I call “the research team.” Without their work and input, it would have been impossible to have gathered the information and data that we have regarding Hod Nelson, his famous trotting stallion, and Sunnyside Farm.

Research Team:

Anne Palmer	Ann Beverage
Donna Trombley	Bernie & Jean Butler
Bill Flagg	David Bolduc
Leah Grandy	Michael V. Hendricksen, Neplains, Inc.

Donnice & Harry Finnemore, staff at the Redington Museum, Waterville, Maine



Stephen D. Thompson founded the Lost Trotting Parks Heritage Center to create a process that will preserve the history of Maine’s Lost Trotting Parks and those in other states. The rich history of the golden age of trotting when known helps us to understand our history and the importance of the horse in the development of the United States.

Check out <http://lostattrottingparks.com>

E-mail: lostattrottingparks@gmail.com

Clark P. Thompson established Maine’s Trotting Horse Heritage Trail. This trail begins in Old Orchard Beach and end in Dover-Foxcroft. Twenty granite inscribed markers have been placed at locations significant to the history of the Maine trotting horse. To learn more about the Heritage Trail, contact Clark by e-mailing clarkprice@msn.com. His book will be your guide as you follow the Heritage Trail from Old Orchard Beach to Dover.

When Waterville was Home to Nelson, the Northern King Discovering the Secrets of Sunnyside

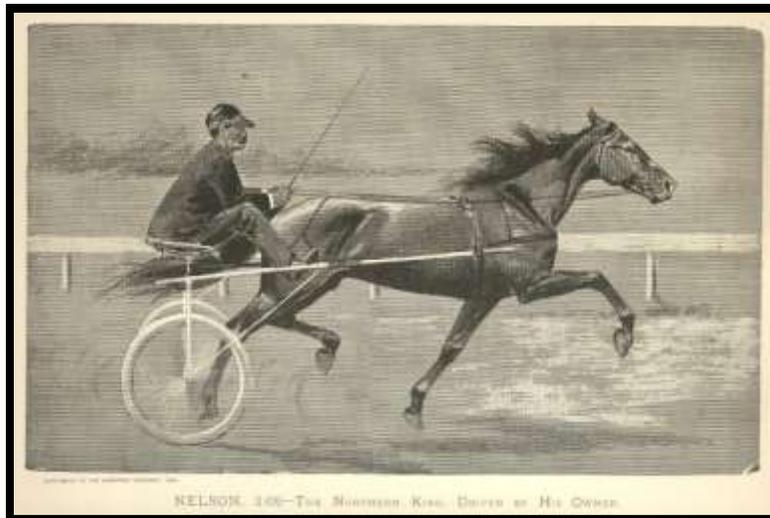


Image Courtesy of Neplains, Inc.

Between 1882 and 1909 Waterville, Maine was the home to one of the world's most famous stallion trotters. Starting in April of 2009, trotting horse historian, Clark Thompson, and his cousin, Stephen Thompson, focused their attention on discovering the secrets of Sunnyside Farm, the fairgrounds of the North Kennebec Agricultural and Horticultural Society, horseman C. Horace Nelson, and the stallion bearing his name. Staff from the Redington Museum, Ann Beverage, Anne Palmer, Donna Trombley, David Bolduc and Bernie Butler lent their energies assisting the Thompson cousins in their research efforts. Following are excerpts from the obituary of the horse Nelson published in the Waterville Sentinel.

S T A L L I O N N E L S O N F I L L S A G R A V E Waterville Sentinel -- Saturday, December 4, 1909

Excerpts –

“The report on the streets Friday evening that the old horse Nelson had been killed by his owner, although Mr. Nelson would not affirm it at the time, was confirmed Saturday by Mr. Nelson, who said that he had killed the famous old animal that afternoon, and Saturday the body was buried beneath a pine tree on the Nelson farm on the Oakland Road where a grave had been prepared so as to be ready to receive the remains.

Saturday, the body was buried under the pine tree on the farm and sometime later, Mr. Nelson will have a big boulder rolled over the spot and on it will be suitable inscribed the record of the life of the horse Nelson.

Beside the remains of the dead stallion is room for another horse, for Mr. Nelson does not expect that the life of his other well known stallion, Wilkes, to extend over many years more. The two kings of the track will lie side by side with their graves properly marked. Wilkes, who is commonly called Nelson's Wiles, is nearly 27 years of age and was the stable mate of Nelson.

Nelson, considered the greatest stallion of his time, registered No. 4209. He was sired by young Rolfe, 2.32 1/2, he by Tom Rolfe, 2.33 1/2. The dam of Nelson was Gretchen, by Gideon. He was bred by C. Horace Nelson, who has kept the old horse through 28 years of his life and has trained and driven him in all his races. He was a great colt and attracted attention as a two year old when he won a two

year old stake races for Maine colts at the state fair in Lewiston. As a three year old he won the state fair cup for the fastest three year old, also the cup for the fastest stallion of any age, taking a record of 2.26 ¼, the fastest half mile track record up to 1884 and for several years after.

As a five year old he won the new England stake for that age and when seven years old he lowered his record to 2.14 ½

1907 – Mr. Nelson and his old horse have been seen occasionally on tracks at Maine fairs in recent years, and the old fellow did good work as a driving horse. His last appearance in public was at the Central Maine Fair in 1907 when he was the chief attraction of “Nelson Day” and received the cheers of thousands as he went around the track with his old time style, and was visited by thousands in his stall.

Of his stallion, Nelson stated, “I could see all those races over and over again, and I could not get the old horse out of my mind. He would have been 28 years old the first of next year. He was foaled in Winslow. He was a clever old fellow and was kind to everybody. In all his life he has only bitten at two or three persons and would not have done so then had they let him along or had they not been intoxicated. He could tell when a man had been drinking and seemed to take a dislike to them on that account. I owned his dam and sire.”

“They say I have refused \$103,000 for Nelson, but I can tell you that I was offered \$125,000 for him when we were on the circuit and he was eight years old. But I wouldn’t take it. He was a consistent performer and won about all the races he went into. Out in Buffalo he was one of a field of 17 horses and won the race in straight heats in .15, .16, and .15. In a high wheel sulkey and that was a record in those days. There were 40,000 people present that day.”

The 100th Anniversary of Nelson’s Death

December 3, 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Nelson, the champion trotting stallion, named “the Northern King.” Sired by Young Rolfe and Dam Gretchen, Nelson, named after his owner, Charles Horace Nelson was born in 1882. The stallion Nelson became the first Maine’s horse, bred, born, and trained in our state, to hold the world’s trotting record in a high wheel sulky on a half-mile track.

The story of Nelson and his owner, known as Hod Nelson, is mostly forgotten. None now remember Nelson Day at the Central Maine Fairgrounds in September of 1907. This day celebrated the achievements of Hod Nelson, one of Maine’s premiere horsemen, and his stallion Nelson.

The era of the “horse as king” was coming to an end. The standard bred horse that provided transportation, worked in the fields, and entertained thousands in competitive trots was being replaced by the automobile and other gasoline operated equipment. The Stock Farms that once bred and sold the standard bred horse were closing. So it seems that overnight the trotting parks became quiet, the sounds of the crowd, the sounds of horses, drivers, and sulkies could be heard no more. Between 1885 and 1930, there were more than 92 Maine communities hosting trotting races that were sponsored by the National Trotting Association.

Hod Nelson and his horse raced on many of these tracks delighting horse enthusiasts.

Charles Horace Nelson was born in Palermo, Maine in 1843. His father, Benjamin Nelson, owned a store. The life of a store keeper was not for Charles and he pursued farming and breeding horses. Nelson married Emma Jones of China and for several years owned a 200 acres farm.

In 1882 Nelson sold his China property and purchased land on the Oakland Road. This land became known as Sunnyside Farm. Following is the description of Sunnyside written by John Hankins Wallace and published in an 1888 issue of *The Wallace's Monthly*:"

"A description of Sunnyside— most appropriately named from its location, lying as it does on the side- hill, where the sun has full play from its first rising in the east until it sets in the distant west. Although Sunnyside comprises 540 acres of as fine land for hay and pasturage as lays out of doors, it is divided into two farms. On the one is a fine residence and three barns where most of the brood-mares and young stock are kept, and upon the other is kept the stallions for service, and where is situated two large barns and a substantial, old-fashioned house used for the numerous help about the place. Upon this latter place is also contemplated still another large barn, as the present quarters are getting decidedly too small for the growing business. That the farm is a popular resort for Maine horsemen is amply proven by the great number of people who visit the place, often running up to a hundred in a single day. Mr. Nelson purchased the farm in 1882 and settled down to business."

The PDF copy of this article was brought to us by Anne Palmer. Today this farm is a residential neighborhood in Waterville, Maine located on Kennedy Memorial Drive. The farm with the fine residence and three barns was located between the JFK Plaza and the Inland Hospital (between Nelson Street and Carver Street).

The center headline of Monday Morning, April 23, 1894 issue of *The Kennebec Journal* was titled, **SUNNYSIDE – The Famous Stock Farm of C.H. Nelson – Some the Beautiful Thoroughbreds Wintered There – Seen and Described by One of the Journal's Reporters.** This article begins with the following lead:

"What person is not familiar with the word "Nelson" and what lover of good horse flesh is not interested in Sunnyside, the home of the great horse which, taking into consideration his shapely proportions, his speed and that of his colts, everything, is still conceded to retain the title which he own when he took the world's stallion record of 2.10 ½, "Nelson, The King of Stallions—The Pride of Maine."

Here are excerpts from the article:

"In all there are now there 76 horses. We drove past the stalls where the brood mares are kept, 24 in all, but among all the number the old horse Gretchen, the mother of Nelson, was the only one we stopped to note. Foaled in 1867 she is now 27 years of age, but still has the same fine limbs, the same straight back, and general proportions of beauty as a filly of four or five. At the farm at Fairfield, Mr. Nelson has 31 brood mares and colts, and any lover of fine horses or any fanciers of horse flesh in general, can always pass an enjoyable day at Sunnyside, and the stranger within our gates will always find Mr. Nelson, when his business will possibly permit, and when not, Mr. Tozier, his genial foreman, ever ready to show up the excellent horses in which every citizen of Maine has just reason to feel proud."

This was the age when the horse was king, when people would journey many miles to see horses of great reputation. It appeared that these were good times for horsemen and owners of stock farms.

Throughout the summer, Trotting horse historian, Clark Thompson of Bangor, and his cousin, Stephen Thompson of Hallowell have worked with the Kennebec Historical Society, Ann Beverage, Anne Palmer, Donna Trombley, David Bolduc, and Bernie Butler to reveal the secrets of Sunnyside. At first the team thought that Sunnyside was the Meader Farm (now the JFK Plaza). Then we looked at Baldic Farm which is now Inland Hospital. Research in the Kennebec Registry of Deeds eliminated these properties as possibilities. Nelson owned land behind the Baldic Farm, but not the residence or the frontage on Oakland Road. In the Sunnyside Farm Catalog 1890, the farm was described to be 1.5 miles away from the Maine Central Train Station. Oak-

land Road was more than 1.5 miles away. However, we also knew that there were two farms. The second farm may have been on Belmont Avenue. We have yet to determine the second farm's location. In the early going, Ann Beverage had sent Stephen Thompson the Hutchinson plan for Nelson Heights. This seemed to be a good candidate, yet we had no definitive proof.

Perhaps we had not asked the right person our questions. Research at the Kennebec Registry of Deeds demonstrated that Nelson participated in at least ten land transactions that involved land in Winslow, Fairfield and Waterville. Finally, at the Registry of Deeds, Stephen took a second look at the Nelson Heights plan. This copy was slightly different than the plan provided by Ann Beverage. On this version of the plan, the developer had penciled in the Sunnyside buildings – the residence, three barns and one small out building. These building matched the description of Sunnyside by John Wallace.

A visit to the Windsor Fair resulted in a referral to Bernie and Jean Butler who live in Sidney. Bernie grew up on Sawyer Street. Meeting Bernie solved the mystery of the Sunnyside Residence. In 1924 Fred Hallett purchased the properties and buildings of Sunnyside for his sister. The property became known as the Flagg Farm. Bernie introduced us to Bill Flagg, one of the innovators of Rockabilly in the 1950's. Bill was born on the second Floor of the Sunnyside Residence. Bill supplied us with photos and the layout of the building. In the 1940's the house was sold. It was eventually torn down in the 1950s.

Left: Cropped portion of A.F. Hutchinson Land Company's plan for Nelson Heights. Plan shows existing building — residence, three barns, and small outbuilding. **Right:** 1930's Tax Map Photo of the residence at Sunnyside.



Image Courtesy of David Bolduc
Tax Card Photo — City of Waterville

- Cropped Image —
- Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

Nelson, 4209

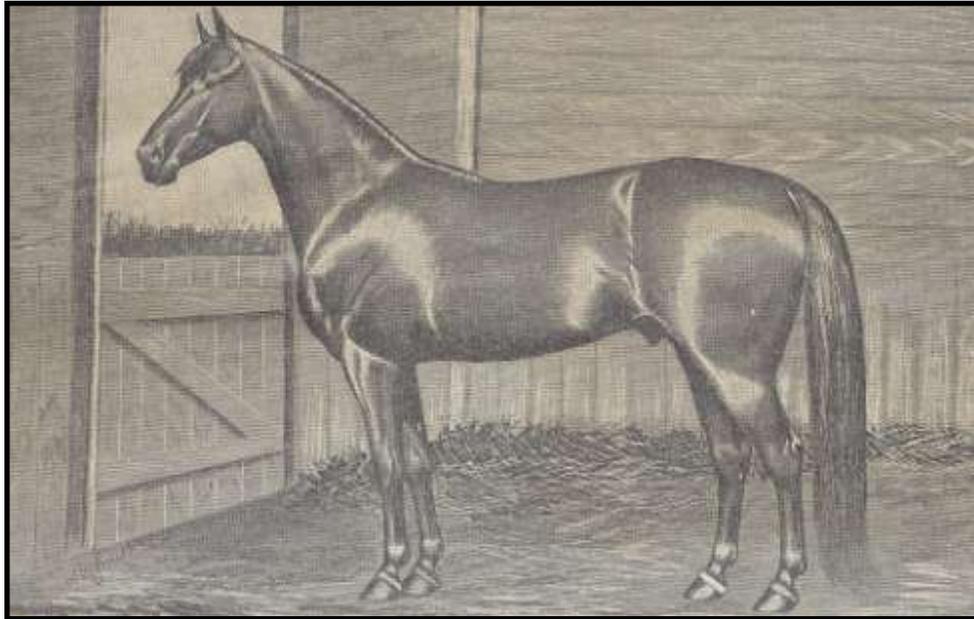
Seven Year Old Record: 2.14 1/4

Three Year Old Record: 2.26 3/4 over 1/2 mile track

Lowest Official Recorded Time: 2.09 (Rigby Park, South Portland, Maine USA)

Lowest Recorded Time: 2.07 3/4 (Moosepath Trotting Park, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada)

Bay Horse 15:3 1/2 hands, foaled 1882; bred at Sunnyside Farm



Nelson's Pedigree

Sire Young Rolfe. 3517

1st dam Gretchen by Gideon. 145.

2nd dam Kate by Vermont Black Hawk, 5

Young Rolfe by Tom Rolfe. 306.

1st dam Judith by Draco. 116.

2nd dam Lady Balch by rising Sun. 429.

Tom Rolfe by Pugh's Aratus

1st dam Pocahontas by Iron's Cadmus

Iron's Cadmus by Cadmus. 393.

Gideon by Hambletonian. 10.

1st dam by Imp. Belfounder

2nd dam by Bishop's Hambletonian.

Hill's Vt. Black Hawk 5. by Sherman Morgan.

Sherman Morgan. by Justin Morgan

As of the publication date of Sunnyside Farm's 1890 Catalog, Nelson had started ten times, winning eight first, one second, never breaking I all the races nor needing any boots or weights. He wore for safety shin and quarter boots.

Note: Pedigree data obtained from the 1890 Sunnyside Farm Catalog

Milestones in the Life of Nelson, Champion Trotting Stallion

1882 -- Nelson sired by Young Rolfe, Dam Gretchen

1884 – Won the two-year old stage race for Maine colts at the state fair in Lewiston

1885 – Won the state fair cup for the fastest three year old and the cup for the fastest stallion of any age, taking a record of 2.26 $\frac{3}{4}$, the fastest half mile track record up to 1884

1887 – Won the New England stakes for five year olds

1889 — September 23 — Nelson vs. Alcyron — Nelson wins every heat — 30,000 people in attendance — Rumors all over Boston that race is fixed for Nelson

1890 – Lower the world's half mile track record trotting in 2.15 $\frac{1}{4}$ at Maplewood Park in Bangor

September 29 --Trotted a full mile in 2.12 at Kankakee, Illinois, which at that time was the world's stallion record

Lowered his mark to 2.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ at Rushville, Indiana

October 9 -- Lowered his mark down to 2.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ at Terre Haute, Indiana

October 21 -- Lowered his mark to 2.10 $\frac{3}{4}$ at Cambridge City, Indiana

-- **Wintered at Sunnyside** --

November 1890 – Banquet in celebration of the Champion Trotting Stallion

Nelson at the Elmwood Hotel, Waterville, Maine – Letter from Governor Burleigh was read to guests. Nathaniel Meader, Mayor of Waterville, was in attendance.

December 1890 — Due to results of the investigation of the fixed race in Boston, Champion Stallion

Nelson and owner suspended from races sanctioned by the National Trotting Association

1891 – Travelled west and was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm wherever he appeared. He commenced his tour which was nothing short of a triumphal procession at Saginaw, Michigan. At Grand Rapids, Michigan, trotted against Allerton for a \$10,000 purse and lost. Lowered his record to 2.10 at Grand Rapids on October 15, 1891. In an exhibition on Oct 13 set a new world record at Trenton New Jersey on a half-mile track.

October 30 – In his own train car, Nelson left Maine to participate in the American Horse Show in Chicago, Illinois. Became the idol of the show! Accompanied by Nelson and three grooms -- Fred Arnold of Waterville presented Nelson with a golden handled whip. On his way from Maine the train made stops in Hallowell, Gardiner, Brunswick, Freeport and Portland. At each stop admirers gathered to see the stallion Nelson and his owner.

“It is doubtful if one of the most distinguished persons in the US, passing along the Bangor and Portland Line of the Maine Central would have attracted more attention and been the recipient of greater honors at the hands of Maine people, then the stallion Nelson received going from Waterville to Portland this morning. At all stops of the train the horse's car was filled with admirers.”



Image of Nelson courtesy of the Redington Museum

December 6, 1892 — NTA suspension lifted — horse reinstated and owner reinstated during good behavior.

August 17, 1893 — Nelson best time — 2.09 at Rigby Park in an exhibition mile, South Portland, Maine

Summer of 1893 — Nelson sets track record at St. John New Brunswick

“On a warm summer day of 1893, Nelson flashed around the Moospath track in a record breaking 2.07 ³/₄. The local horsemen were amazed that such a “big gaited horse as Nelson” could flash around “the sharp turns at apparently full speed.” When the question was put to George McCoy, the caretaker of Nelson, he jokingly replied that Nelson could trot around a water bucket.” Those who saw Nelson’s record breaking performance that day felt is record would stand for a number of years. In fact, it wasn’t until thirteen years later that a Boston horse named Gloria lowered nelson’s Moosepath record.” excerpted from Saint John, A Sporting Tradition, 1785 to 1985 by Brian Flood, Richard Papenhausen, copyright 1985

October 1893 — Nelson loses twice to the stallion Directum at Mystic Park and at Rigby Park

Nelson retired from racing

September 1907 — Nelson Day at the Central Maine Fair — Last time Nelson was viewed in public. C. Horace Nelson paraded his horses to a receptive crowd.

December 1909 — The Champion Trotting Stallion Nelson dies by the hand of his owner. Hod Nelson buried his beloved namesake by the pine tree on Sunnyside Farm.

Nelson at Maplewood Park in Bangor, Maine



Image courtesy of the Redington Museum, Waterville, Maine



Photographs courtesy of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Goshen, New York
Image of Hod Nelson with horse taken by S.S. Vose & Son, Waterville, Maine

The Secrets of Sunnyside

The accomplishments of Hod Nelson and his namesake horse are well documented in books, periodicals of the time and newspapers. For many mystery surrounded the events of the fixed race in Boston. It has been said that Nelson himself refused to fix the race several days before the race. However, a third party was involved, the fix was on, and in a sense Nelson was caught up in an event that may not have been his doing. The name of the third person was never revealed. However, history shows that Nelson did confess his misdeed and eventually he and his horse were reinstated.

The secrets of Sunnyside involve the location of the property that was 1.5 miles from the Depot of the Central Maine Railroad, the location where he kept his horses in Fairfield, and the location of the horse Nelson's grave. Did Nelson actually bury Wilkes along side Nelson? Did Nelson place a large boulder over the grave's location and inscribe it with Nelson's name and record.

Although it had been reported that Nelson kept 200 horses at the Appleton Webb Farm in 1910, financial issues began to crop up in the same year. One of Nelson's properties fell to foreclosure. In the horse's obituary in 1909, it was reported that Nelson's health was failing and that he was almost blind. Given that trotting parks were disappearing and the purchase of automobiles was on the rise, it was becoming apparent that we were entering a new age. The age of "when the horse was king" was rapidly becoming a quickly forgotten era.

Nelson was a Civil War veteran. His service to his nation resulted in a disability. His records at Togus also indicated that he could neither read or write. Nelson's wife Emma Jones of China accompanied him on many of his travels. Was she a key to his success?

In March of 1915, Hod Nelson was dying. His wife Emma, who was caring for him at Sunnyside, suffered a stroke. Emma's nephew from Portland, Frank Hunnewell, traveled to Waterville and took Hod to National Soldier's Home in Togus on March 15. He died at Togus on March 29, 1915. Emma recovered from her stroke to the point where she was able to live in an apartment on Silver Street. She died on August 12, 1916.

During this time period, financial issues arose that resulted in the City of Waterville foreclosing on the Sunnyside property and others for unpaid taxes. Sunnyside was purchased by the A.F. Hutchinson Land Company.

SUNNYSIDE FARM
"GENTLEMEN'S FINE ROAD HORSES
CONSTANTLY ON HAND"

As we discovered more about Hod Nelson and his famous stallion, it was evident that with fame one would expect to see the memorabilia of success such as paintings, engravings, photographs, trophies, race cards, programs, the driver's colors, the whip with the gold handle, and perhaps a collection of newspaper articles. The Redington Museum displays an original Currier & Ives print of Nelson, a small file with copies of some newspaper articles, a painting of Nelson's sire, Young Rolfe, and framed documents that present Nelson's record. However, we know from newspaper articles that paintings existed of Nelson (painted by C.B. Fish), Nelson's dam Gretchen, and a painting of Aubine, a mare whose sire was Young Rolfe. Trophies, photographs, and paintings were displayed at the Nelson Banquet at the Elmwood Hotel and at Nelson Day at the Central Maine Fairgrounds. S.S. Vose and Son, a Waterville photographer, took pictures of Hod Nelson and his horse. What happened to Vose's studio and library?

So the secrets of Sunnyside involve the possibility of finding the lost artifacts. Are they lost, or can the descendants of a family member or close friend solve the mystery? According to Bernie Butler, who was born on Sawyer Street and Bill Flagg who was born on the second floor of the Sunnyside residence, the attic was filled with boxes that they assumed were boxes left at Sunnyside when the Nelsons left. Bernie and Bill do not remember if the boxes were removed from the attic or just left to the owner who eventually demolished the building in the 1950's. Prior to foreclosure the Nelson family had a number of months to remove important artifacts from the age of Nelson, the Northern King. Were materials given to family members, to close friends or to individuals working on the farm? **These are the questions to which we seek answers.**

Persons mentioned in Charles Horace Nelson's Obituary

Frank M. Hunnewell of Portland, a nephew of Mrs. Nelson
Nephew John E. Nelson
Niece Mrs. Charles Clukey of Waterville
Niece Mrs. William Porter of Portland

Persons mentioned in Emma Nelson's Obituary

Thomas Rand found Mrs. Nelson dead
Neighbor Mrs. Frank Paul
Mrs. George Getchell, friend
Mrs. Abbott Morrison
Niece Mrs. Thomas Porter of China
Parents: Francis and Elisa Pinkham Jones
Sister — Mrs. Calvin Rollins of Albion
Brother — Frank A. Jones of North Searsmont
Brother — Wilfred E. Jones of Howard, Rhode Island

The Nelson Family (Palermo, Maine)

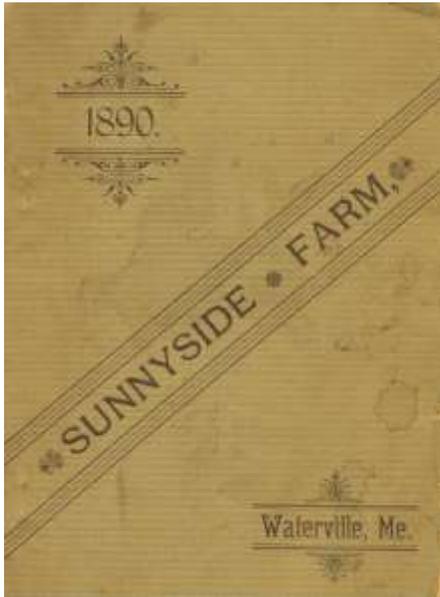
Parents — Benjamin and Aseneth B. Nelson
Siblings: Edward W., Charles H., Benjamin F., Warren (1850 Census) According to the 1860 Census, Emma J. Nelson was living with the Nelson. Warren Nelson was no longer living at the parents' residence.

Census Information

Additional inform from the 1910 census includes the following individuals living in Waterville, Maine, as being household members: Charles Horace Nelson (67), Emma Nelson (6), Howard B. Small (28), Annie M. Small (19), Frank N.R. Dow (42), Charles Nowell (24), and Fred H. Keys (39). The 1880 Census included Josiah Pierson (24) as being a member of the Nelson household when they lived in China, Maine.

The age, "When the horse was king and in harness," is past. Our imaginations can take us back to the late 1800's. We can see our towns and cities where horses were our means of transportation, our workers on the farm, and the animal that brought fame to breeders, owners, and drivers. Take a moment to relive the excitement when the horse was king!

1890 Sunnyside Farm Catalog



In 1890 Sunnyside Farm consisted of 540 acres. One farm with a fine residence and three barns and one farm with two smaller barns and a house for Sunnyside Farm workers.

Program for Fair held at the Fairgrounds



Hod Nelson purchased the fairground in 1889 when the society became bankrupt. Nelson sold the property to the City of Waterville. The location of the fairgrounds is now the back half of the Pine Grove Cemetery. Nelson may be close to one of the turns of the track.

Stallions advertised for Service in the 1890 Catalog

Sunnyside Farm
1890

	
<i>Nelson</i>	<i>Dictator Chief</i>
	
<i>Red Hawk</i>	<i>Wilkes</i>
	
<i>Brilliant</i>	<i>Jedwood</i>

Oakland Road - Waterville, Maine
Charles H. Nelson, Proprietor

Sunnyside Farm was located on the Oakland Road, now Kennedy Memorial Drive. The farm's frontage started near Nelson Street and continued to Carver Street.

Right: The Sterling Street Playground and a fence on Sawyer Street close to the location where Nelson, the champion trotting stallion and his stable mate Wilkes were buried. David Bolduc remember reading a newspaper article that showed Nelson's burial site next to a small depilated outbuilding. These pictures are close to the small outbuilding on the Nelson Heights Plan.



Right: Front and back views of Prompto 10 Minute Oil Change on Kennedy Memorial Drive. These pictures approximate the location of the residence on Sunnyside Farm. The barns with stable were to the right. The barn closest to the Oakland Road was converted to a garage. Sunnyside Farm in the 1920's became known as the Flag Farm.



'The Centennial Year'
Nelson, Champion Trotting Stallion
Hall of Fame Immortal
2.09 Rigby Park



1882 - 1909
(Young Rolfe/Gretchen)
Sunnyside Farm
Oakland Road - Waterville, Maine