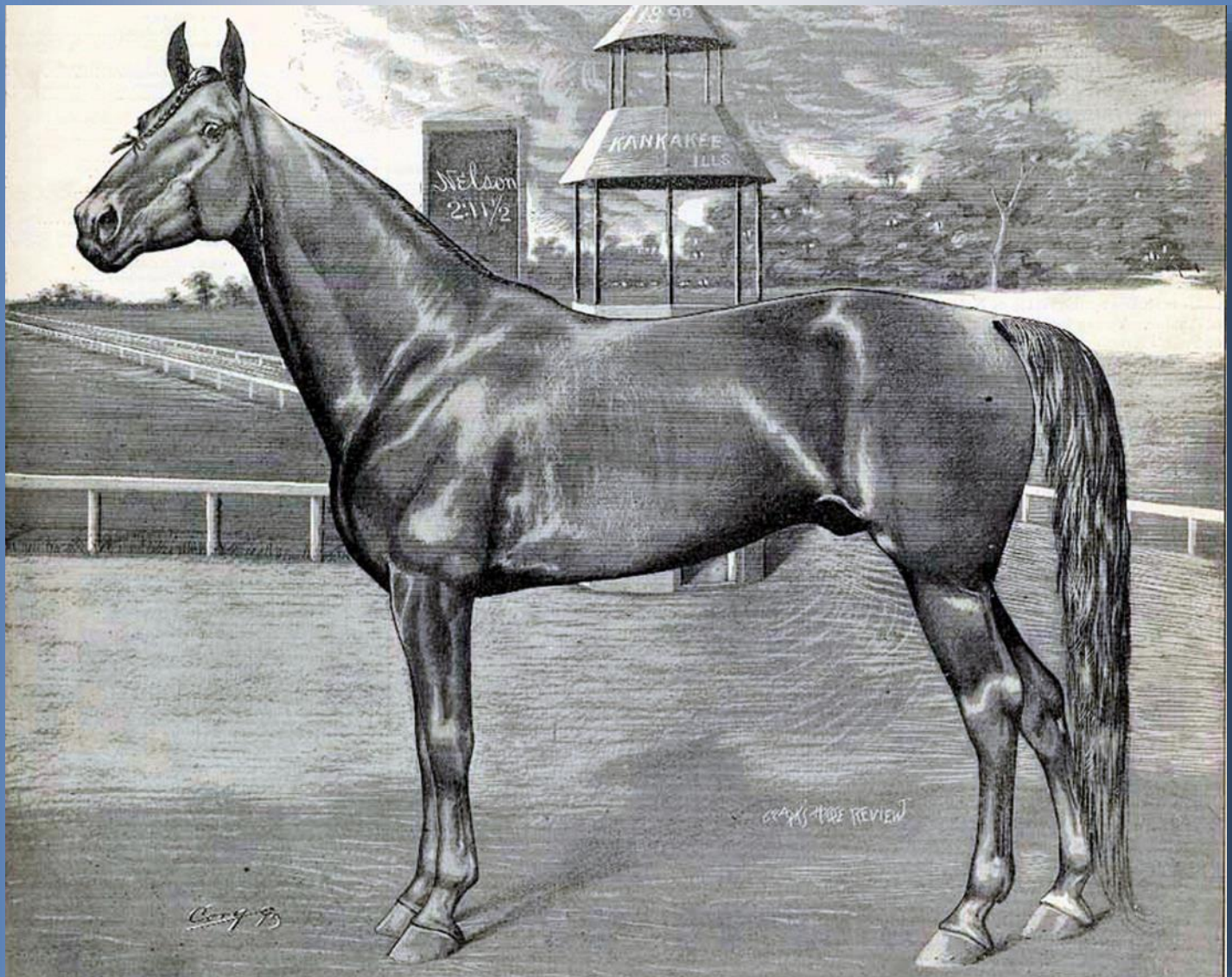


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SPIRIT **TURF**

Published by the Lost Trotting Parks Heritage Center

Special Issue of The Maine Spirit of the Turf March 2017
Part III
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NELSON DAY AT BIG FAIR IS SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY WAY

Great Old Northern King With His Numerous Progeny Exhibited Amid the Plaudits of the Multitude.

Nelson day at the Central Maine fair, yesterday, was an unqualified success. It has been advertised that the greatest collection of the members of the Nelson and Wilkes horse families ever seen in New England would be exhibited and this was just what happened. There were 60 of the get of these two horses on the grounds and nearly as many were exhibited under the wire on the stretch. The "ol' hoss" himself first led out a string of 23 and then a little later Wilkes followed with a string of 30 behind him. Such an array of beautiful and speedy horse flesh has never before been seen on any track in Maine at one time.

C. H. Nelson conducted the exhibition, announcing the name and breeding of each horse from the judges' stand as it was led past him. He exhibited a remarkable knowledge for horses and memory for their pedigrees. If they had been children of his own family he could not have described them better. A glance at a horse in front of him was enough and he reeled off the pedigree to the fourth and fifth dam and often sketched the history of the animal, giving records of race or exhibition miles. Once a horseman at his elbow thought he had made a mistake in a grandmother or great-grandmother of a colt under the wire but Mr. Nelson proved to be correct. He pointed out some of the good points of the specially good ones and gave the crowd a big lot of information about the animals being shown. He handled the exhibition in splendid fashion, keeping things moving all the time and yet allowing each horse time enough to be well inspected by the spectators. There were world's record, Maine record and New England record holders in the lot and hardly one in the bunch over two years old needed more than two minutes and 30 seconds to turn a track. It was a great exhibition of fine horses and every horseman who saw it was delighted.

The best known and most notable horse in the whole lot was Nelson (2.09), 4209, holder of the world's record for trotting stallions to high wheeled sulky, 25 years old and one of the best show horses as well as racers in the country. Thousands of horsemen all over the country firmly believe that this is the greatest horse that has ever been bred. He has probably gone more fast miles than any other living horse and has been given ovations and compliments that

would give a prima donna reason to be proud. He has made several triumphal tours of different sections of the country and has been idolized more than any other horse.

As a race and exhibition animal he swept everything in his class from a two-year old up and now at 25 years can make the best of 'em move right along for an eighth or quarter and in the show ring would take quite a few blue ribbons. He is the leader of the Sunnyside stud and is known in horse circles all over the world. Gold could not buy him in his prime and he will stay at Sunnyside an honored veteran until he dies, unless he happens to survive his owner which is not at all probable.

Nelson was sired by Young Rolfe (2.21 $\frac{1}{4}$), he by Tom Rolfe (2.23 $\frac{1}{2}$). His dam was Gretchen by Gedeon, 146. And by the way, Mr. Nelson has an oil painting of Gretchen with colt by her side on exhibition in the Coliseum.

Nelson gave promise of a great career from early colthood and began to smash records and attract wide attention as a two-year old. When at this age he won the two-year old stake race at Lewiston. As a three-year old he won the Maine State fair cup for the fastest of his age and also the cup for the fastest stallion of any age, doing a mile in 2.26 $\frac{1}{2}$. As a five-year old he won the New England stake. At the age of seven he lowered his record to 2.14 $\frac{1}{2}$. Then began his remarkable career of victories that has never been equalled by any stallion in the country.

In 1890 he was worked at the Franklin park in Massachusetts and was shipped to Bangor in August of that year where he went a mile in 2.15 $\frac{1}{2}$ against the track record. From Bangor he was shipped to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and thence to Kankakee, Illinois, this being his first western trip. At Kankakee he went a mile in 2.12, establishing a world's record for a trotting stallion. Two days later he went a mile in 2.11 $\frac{1}{2}$. At Rushville, two days later still, he did the trick in 2.11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Twelve days later at Cambridge City, Indiana, he again lowered his record to 2.10 $\frac{1}{2}$. He was then shipped back to Maine and after just a week's rest took the road again for Chicago, where he was the center of all eyes at the great horse show there. He came back from Chicago for the winter at Sunnyside.

In 1891 he went West again and was given a regular ovation wherever

OBITUARY OF CHARLES HORACE NELSON (1)

WATERVILLE SENTINEL -- 1915

DEATH OF A ONCE FAMOUS HORSEMAN

Chas. Horace Nelson, Owner
of Sunnyside Farm
Died Monday.

Charles Horace Nelson of this city died Monday afternoon at the National Soldier's Home in Togus and in his passing there was removed a man who filled a unique place in the history of the town for Waterville became known as the home of Nelson, the man who was made famous by being the owner of the wonderful horse Nelson and the strong, almost human affection which existed between the noble animal and his master.

Mr. Nelson would have been 72 years old the 16th day of the coming month and was born in Palermo, the son of Benjamin and Asenath (Brown) Nelson. When a young man he married Miss Emma Jones, daughter of Francis Jones of China and for some years lived on a farm about half a mile from the village in China and later in the village itself. While in China he was interested in the breeding and raising of horses and 33 years ago he and his wife came to Waterville and lived at the Elmwood for several years.

AUTHORITY ON HORSES.

At this period Mr. Nelson was considered one of the greatest authorities on horses in the country and it was there that he and Mrs. Nelson entertained some of the most prominent men in the country, who came here to see him on business. For many years Mr. Nelson was a familiar figure on the streets of the city where he was often seen driving some of his high blooded horses and never failed to attract the attention of all passers.

After several years of residence at the Elmwood and at a home on Silver street Mr. Nelson went to his farm, which is called Sunnyside farm, situated on the Oakland road and

After several years of residence at the Elmwood and at a home on Silver street Mr. Nelson went to his farm, which is called Sunnyside farm situated on the Oakland road and this was for years one of the show places of Waterville.

For several years Mr. Nelson has been in falling health and during the past year has been seen around the city but very seldom. During all this time he has been tenderly cared for by his wife, but when she suffered a shock several weeks ago it became apparent that some other arrangements would have to be made. A little over two weeks ago Mr. Nelson was taken to Togus by Frank M. Hunnewell of Portland, a nephew of Mrs. Nelson, and remained there till the end.

Since going to Togus, Mr. Nelson has gradually failed, growing steadily feebler. He became unconscious toward the last, not seeming to realize his condition and apparently suffered no pain. The remains will be brought to this city today and the funeral will be held on Thursday at the mortuary chapel at Pine Grove cemetery, the hour to be announced later.

Besides his wife, who is ill at her home, Mr. Nelson leaves a nephew, John E. Nelson, of this city and Augusta, and two nieces, Mrs. Charles Clukey of this city and Mrs. William Porter of Portland.

CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

Mr. Nelson had a very creditable war record. He enlisted in the 19th Maine regiment and served there till he was disabled and discharged. After his recovery to health he re-enlisted in the 12th Maine and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He was elected commander of W. S. Heath post of this city about 11 years ago and was especially active in recruiting members during his term of office. The Grand Army was very dear to him and he felt that every old soldier should belong to the organization and help to do honor to the flag.

Mr. Nelson while a young man on the farm became interested in horses and was fortunate early in his career in developing the greatest horse ever bred in Maine. It was chiefly through the great stallion Nelson, 209, that the fame of the man Nelson spread throughout the land. Before this horse was developed, Mr. Nelson had been breeding and selling horses for a number of years and had then developed some good ones. The horse Nelson early showed indications of

OBITUARY OF CHARLES HORACE NELSON (2)

WATERVILLE SENTINEL -- 1915

veloped some good ones. The horse Nelson early showed indications of the qualities which were to win fame for himself and his master taking the two year old stake at the Maine State fair at Lewiston in 1884. The training of his master showed itself the next year when he took the world's record for a half mile track with a mark of 2.26 3-4 at the same fair. Mr.

Nelson then took the horse all over the country being received with enthusiasm wherever he went. The horse readily cut seconds from the record, each attempt lowering the mark just a little, until in his own state at the now dismantled Rigby park he established what was for years the world's fastest stallion record of 2.09 and which is today the fastest record for the old style high wheel sulky. For many years afterwards the horse was shown on the tracks of Maine and the New England states and his appearance with his master in the sulky never failed to bring forth an ovation. Although it was chiefly through this horse that Mr. Nelson was famous, he had been the owner of a great many other horses whose names have become notable wherever horsemen gather, chief among them was the great stallion Wilkes, who was one of the greatest sires ever known and whose colts are now ranked among the leaders in the trotting stock of the United States. Many other horses of lesser fame were owned from time to time by Mr. Nelson and until a few years ago when the failing eyesight forced him to give up driving on the track, he was one of the familiar figures at every race held on the larger tracks of the state.

KNEW RACING GAME.

No man in Maine had a wider knowledge of the racing game and no one was more widely known than Mr. Nelson, for not only did he win fame for himself all over the United States but he was everywhere known as the man from Maine and his fame added to the glory of the state.

Although largely occupied with racing he never abandoned the buying and selling of horses and for many years made regular trips to the

Boston markets with horses which he had purchased in this section. His judgment was accepted without question by a large clientele of Boston buyers and it was not an infrequent occurrence for him to sell a horse to one of his customers there without the buyer ever seeing the animal. Even after he was unable to make the trips to Boston he sent many horses there and no matter what the condition of the market or how hard other sellers found it to dispose of their animals, to say that the horse had been sent there by Nelson was to insure its early sale.

DEVOTED TO HORSE.

What might be said to be the romance of Mr. Nelson's life was his devotion to the horse which bore his name. When this horse was at the height of his fame, fabulous prices for those days were offered for him, the then unheard of price of \$100,000 being offered by a syndicate of New York men. To all these the man turned a deaf ear, declaring that the old horse should never pass from his hands, and long after the animal had outlived his usefulness, a good stall and plenty to eat was his portion. Thus for a number of years lived the most famous horse of his time, until unable to eat longer, the old man led his companion of years to the field back of his house and there with his own hands ended the life which had meant so much to him.

It has been said that Mr. Nelson was never the same after the death of the old horse and that his then failing health developed rapidly toward the end.

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.

OBITUARY OF EMMA AUBINE NELSON

WATERVILLE SENTINEL -- 1916

MRS. EMMANELSON DIED YESTERDAY

Widow of Horseman Found
Lying on Couch With
Life Extinct

Mrs. Emma J. Nelson, widow of Charles Horace Nelson, was found dead on the couch in the sitting room of her home at 127 Silver street yesterday at about noon by Thomas F. Rand, who lives in the other part of the house. The body was lying in perfect repose as if death came while she slept.

Thursday forenoon, Mrs. Nelson was calling at the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Frank Paul, and while there complained of not feeling well, but nothing unusual was thought of this as she has not been in good health for over a year.

She was seen to come to her home about noon Thursday and as far as could be ascertained yesterday no one had seen her alive after that. Yesterday forenoon, Mrs. George Getchell called at Mrs. Paul's home with butter and at Mrs. Paul's request, went to the home of Mrs. Nelson, as the latter had asked her to be sent there when she called again.

Mrs. Getchell could find no one at the home of Mrs. Nelson and called at Thomas F. Rand's who lives in the other part of the house, saying she would call at Mrs. Nelson's later. Mr. Rand, who feared that something was wrong, removed a cellar window and came up stairs into Mrs. Nelson's part and found her fully dressed lying on the couch. One look assured him that life was extinct. No lights were on and it is probable that Mrs. Nelson laid down before dark and death overtook her while sleeping; or she may have turned off the lights and not have felt able to go up stairs to her sleeping room.

Mr. Rand notified the neighbors and Mrs. Paul and Mrs. Abbott Morrison came to the house to attend to matters until some of the family could be sent for. Undertaker Redington was notified and in the absence of Medical Examiner E. P. Fish, Medical Examiner W. H. Harris of Augusta was called. He was not at home, however and after waiting several hours, the remains were prepared for burial at the telephoned request of relatives.

A niece of Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Thomas M. Yoster of China and a nephew, Frank M. Hurdwood of Portland, were notified of the death of their aunt and both arrived in the city last evening.

Mrs. Nelson was born in China, Jan. 11, 1848, and was the daughter of Francis and Eliza Finham Jones. With her husband, who was a noted horse owner and dealer, she came to Waterville about 34 years ago. Mr. Nelson died at Togus March 23, 1915, and Mrs. Nelson remained at the home Sunnyside Farm, until last fall when she moved to her present home on Silver street. Mrs. Nelson was a member of the Friends' church. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Calvin Rollins of Albion, and two brothers, Frank A. of North Ferrismond and Wilfred E. of Howard, R. I., and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will take place at the mortuary chapel at Evergreen cemetery at two o'clock Sunday afternoon, the officiating clergyman to be announced later.

SMOKEY DIRECT'S SIRE LINE
MATERNAL DESCENDANT OF GERTRUDE NELSON



Gravel Gertie
Her Dam Sky Happy Days

Cenalta Fireworks -- Her Dam Spirit of Fire



Gordon and Helen Empey
Bowden, Alberta, Canada



Spirit of Fire, Dam Sky Happy Days (L)
Wolf Creek (R) carrying Gravel Gertie's
Embryonic Transfer

“We got into the business in 1996. We started with a mare by the name of Smittys’ Girl. Over the years we have between 25 and 30 horses. We have raised and cared for a stallion, mares, foals and race horses. We have raised over forty foals. We focus on mares in order to sell foals at the yearling sale.

Since harness racing in Alberta has taken on hard times, we have had to race some of our own horses. We have raced only horses we have raised on the farm and we find real pleasure seeing them develop from babies until they become race horses. We have raced in Alberta in Edmonton, Lacombe, and Grande Prairie. We have also raced at Fraser Downs, B.C., Calgary and Lethbridge.”

IMAGES OF NELSON 4209

