

OCCGS Civil War Veterans Project

Veteran's Information

Veteran's Name: Nels Frederick AXELSON

Birth Date: 29 August 1828

Location: Misterhult, Sweden

Year of Immigration: 1859

Naturalized: August 9, 1892, Santa Ana, California

Death Date: 21 May 1916

Location: Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Buried at: Santa Ana Cemetery

Plot Location: N-5-3-8

GPS Coordinates: N33° 46' 05.54443" W117° 50' 22.85372"

(DMS) Datum: NAD83. Coordinates are +/- 1.00 feet of the grave location



Side Served - Union

Rank: Private

Company: C

Unit: 43RD Infantry Regiment

State: Illinois

Occupation: Stone Mason

Family Information

Parents –

Father: Unknown * See Note Below

Birth Date/Location: Sweden

Death Date/Location: unknown

Mother: Unknown * See Note Below

Birth Date/Location: Sweden

Death Date/Location: unknown

Spouse: Christine Mary Magnuson

Birth Date / Location: 14 November 1840, Sweden

Death Date/Location: 9 September 1903, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Marriage Date / Location: 2 October 1863, Henry County, Illinois

Children –

Name: Charles Frederic Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 25 June 1864, Paxton, Ford County, Illinois

Death Date / Location: 2 August 1957, Orange County, California

Married Carrie May Bratten – 2 December 1885, Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas

Name: Anna M. Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 21 December 1866, Henderson County, Illinois
Death Date / Location: 10 November 1953, Orange County, California
Married George Pliny Hill

Name: Gustavus Adolphus Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 6 June 1870, Blue Rapids, Marshall County, Kansas
Death Date / Location: 8 February 1953, Los Angeles County, California
Married Jessie Bell Seely

Name: Anton H. Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 3 November 1872, Marshall County, Kansas
Death Date / Location: 17 March 1883, Marshall County, Kansas

Name: Lincoln Leonard Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 10 June 1875, Kansas
Death Date / Location: 27 July 1896, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah

Name: Emma E. Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 9 February 1880, Kansas
Death Date / Location: 31 July 1953, Los Angeles, California
Married Edgar Everett McDowell

Name: Hilda C. Axelson

Birth Date / Location: 6 April 1881, Kansas
Death Date / Location: 26 February 1962, Orange County, California
Married First – Emmett Raymond McDowell – died in 1910
Married Oliver J Helvey

Additional Information

Member of Sedgwick Post No 17, GAR

Nels F Axelson departed Sweden by himself 13 May 1859 via Canada. He arrived in the United States around 1861 residing in Illinois.

Nels Axelson, 36, of Berlin, Mercer County, Illinois enlisted as a Private in Co. C, 43rd Infantry Regiment on 1 September 1861 for a period of 3 years. He was a farmer, single, 5' 7 ½" tall with brown eyes and brown hair. He mustered in on 16 December 16, 1861 at Otterville, Cooper County, Missouri and was discharged on 9 April 1863 at Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee on a surgical certificate of disability.

Nels Axelson and family moved to Orange County about 1890.

Nels' sons, Charles and Gustavus started a business called Acme Iron Works in the 1890's. The name was changed to Axelson Machine Company about 1896. By 1929 the company had grown and become the Axelson Aircraft Engine Company, a publicly traded company. At that time the management included C F Axelson (son of Nels F Axelson), D F Axelson (Delbert F who was Charles Axelson's son), and J C Axelson (Jule Calmont also a son of Charles F Axelson). The name changed again to Axelson Manufacturing. Axelson Aircraft Division made Engine and Engine parts that could be found on commercial aircraft such as the Douglas DC-6. Then company appears to have been sold in the 1950's.

Nels' son Lincoln was a member of Co L, 7th Volunteer Infantry Unit in Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Sources

"Pioneers in Blue and Gray", Civil War Veterans in Orange County by Gordon Bricken, First Edition, The Bricken Press, Santa Ana, California, Copyright 2009

- Record for Nels Frederick Axelson

Office of the Secretary of the State, Illinois State Archives, "Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls" Compiled by Fred Delap in cooperation with the Illinois State Archives, <http://www.ilsos.gov/isaveterans/civilmustersrch.jsp>

- Record for Nels Axelson

Ancestry.com. *U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007

- Record for Nels F Axelson

Orange County California Genealogy Society Quarterly Journal, XVIII, #2, June 1981 – Roll of Honor for the Sedgwick Post No 17 GAR.

- Record for Nels F Axelson

Ancestry.com. *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010.

- Record for Nels F Axelson

Ancestry.com. *Sweden, Emigrants Registered in Church Books, 1783-1991* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

- Record for Nils Fredrik Axelsson

Illinois State Archives, Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763 – 1900, Searchable Data Base, <http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/marriage.html>

- Record for Nels F. Axelson and Christina M. Magnuson

1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

- Shannon, Pottawatomie County, Kansas, Roll M593_441, Page 429B, Family 125, Record for Frederick Axelson in the household of Gustaf and Anna E Magnuson.

Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. United States of America, Bureau of the Census.

- Blue Rapids, Marshall County, Kansas, Roll T9_388, Page 206B, ED 165, Family 97, Record for Frederick Axelson

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

- Santa Ana, Orange County, California, Roll T623_96, Page 8A, ED: 0147, Family 228, Record for Nels F Axelson

Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Santa Ana Ward 1, Orange County, California, Roll T624_90, Page 5B, ED 0055, Family 163, Record for Nels F Axelson

State of California, United States. Great Register of Voters. Sacramento, California: California State Library.

- 1892, Nels F Axelson, 64, Orange, California, Naturalized: August 9, 1892, Santa Ana, Orange County, California

Ancestry.com. *Sweden, Emigrants Registered in Church Books, 1783-1991*[database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

- Record for Nils Fredrik Axelsson

Ancestry.com. *Kansas, County Marriages, 1811-1911* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

- Record for Anna A Axelson and George Pliny Hill

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, compiled 02/13/1900 - 12/30/1953*; National Archives Microfilm Publication: A4156; Roll: 127; Record Group Title: *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787 - 2004*; Record Group Number: RG 85

- Record for Gustavus Axelson

Ancestry.com. *New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

- Record for Gustavus Axelson

California, Death Index, 1905-1939. California Department of Health and Welfare. California Vital Records

- Record for Nels F Axelson

State of California. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

- Record for Charles Fredric Axelson, Mother's Maiden Name: Magnuson
- Record for Anna Axelson Hill, Mother's Maiden Name: Magnuson, Father's Name: Axelson
- Record for Gustavus Adolphus Axelson, Mother's Maiden Name: Magnuson
- Record for Emma Elizabeth McDowell, Mother's Maiden Name: Magnuson, Father's Axelson
- Record for Hilda C Helvey, Mother's Maiden Name: Magnuson

Findagrave.com, searchable data base of cemeteries, tombstone inscriptions, memorials and photographs

- Memorial 8721877, Created by Shriver, Record for Nels F Axelson
- Memorial 10322489, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Christine Maria *Magnuson* Axelson
- Memorial 85341380, Created by Chris Mills, Record for Charles F Axelson
- Memorial 117053850, Created by Mia Houghton, Record for Gustavus Adolphus Axelson
- Memorial 9168766, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Anna Amerlia *Axelsson* Hill
- Memorial 10322490, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Lincoln Leonard Axelson
- Memorial 120368099, Created by Darrell Brooks, Record for Anton H Axelson
- Memorial 10401495, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Emma Elizabeth McDowell
- Memorial 10342761, Created by Eldora Sasser, Record for Hilda C Helvey

Who's Who on the Pacific Coast:A Biographical Compilation of Notable Living Contemporaries West of the Rocky Mountains, Edited by Franklin Harper, Harper Publishing Company, Los Angeles, Cal. 1913, Google Books, https://books.google.com/books?id=vV4DAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=axelson&f=false

- Record for Charles Frederic Axelson, Page 26

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Wednesday, August 10, 1892, Pg 7 Col 5

- List of People Admitted to Citizenship in Santa Ana, California on August 9, 1892
- Record for Nels Axelson

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Thursday, July 30, 1896, Pg 9, Col 3

- Death of Lincoln Axelson in Salt Lake City Accident

Los Angeles Herald, Los Angeles, California, Tuesday, August 4, 1896, Pg 7, Col 3

- Funeral of Lincoln Axelson

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Friday, September 11, 1903, Pg 18, Col 2

- Death of Mrs Axelson

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Saturday, December 24, 1910, Pg 5, Col 3

- Funeral Services for E R McDowell

Santa Ana Register, Santa Ana, California, Monday, May 22, 1916, Pg 5, Col 3

- Death Notice for Nels Frederick Axelson

Vintage Machinery, <http://vintagemachinery.org/mfgindex/detail.aspx?id=2137>

- Record for Axelson Manufacturing Company

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Tuesday, January 03, 1928, Pg 90

- Advertisement – Axelson Machine Company, World's Largest Exclusive Manufacturers of Oil Well Pumping Equipment

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Sunday, June 16, 1929, Pg 80

- Plane Engine Firm Formed – Formation of Axelson Aircraft Engine Company

The San Bernardino County Sun, San Bernardino, California, Thursday, June 20, 1929, Pg 21

- Advertisement – 45,000 Shares (No par value) – Axelson Aircraft Engine Company

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Sunday January 12, 1930, Pg 67, Col 5

- Expansion of Firm Planned – Axelson Machine Company Changes Name

Photograph of tombstone for Nels F. Axelson, Santa Ana Cemetery, Orange County, California taken by Charles Lewis Beal, 2/20/2007. Used with the permission of Charles Beal.

*NOTE: We have listed Nels Axelson's parents as “unknown” as no documentation listing their names other than on-line family trees which lacked source information for the data was found. Several Family Trees have the following identical data for his parents.

- Father: Axel Nilsson, May 7, 1798, Hycklinge, Doderhult, Sweden
- Mother: Anna Lisa Pettersdotter, May 21, 1797, Slathult, Misterhult, Sweden