



Nelson Family  
Collection, 1882-1980

Collection 111

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Youngmie Han; Donica Martin

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Nelson family

**Inclusive Dates:** 1882-1980, bulk 1924-1980

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes (3.3 linear ft.)

**Language:** English, Swedish

**Provenance:**

The Nelson Family collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Biographical Note:**

Benjamin Nelson (1888-1980) was the son of Charles J. Nelson. In 1911 Benjamin Nelson graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in mechanical engineering. He then worked as an engineer in Chicago and New York until he returned to Champaign in 1939. He was an executive vice president of First Federal Savings and Loan, where he worked from 1939 to 1956. He was also a World War I veteran, having served in France with the American Expeditionary Force. His wife was Marjorie Spalding; they had no children. He died September 25, 1980 at Mercy Hospital at the age of 92.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains one folder of correspondence in Swedish and 39 bound diaries written by both Charles Nelson and Benjamin Nelson. Also included are photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera.

**Name Terms:**

Nelson, Benjamin

Nelson, Charles J.

Nelson family

**Container Listing:**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Charles J. Nelson, Letters (in Swedish), 1890s?

Not foldered, bound book: Charles J. Nelson, Diary (in Swedish), 1882-92

Folder 2: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 1, 1924

Folder 3: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 2, 1925-26

Folder 4: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 3, 1926-27

Folder 5: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 4, 1927-28

Folder 6: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 5, 1928-29

Folder 7: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 6, 1929-30



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- Folder 8: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 7, 1930-31
- Folder 9: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 8, 1931
- Folder 10: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 9, 1931-32
- Folder 11: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 10, 1932-34
- Folder 12: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 11, 1934-35
- Folder 13: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 12, 1935-36
- Folder 14: Benjamin Nelson diary, volume 13, 1937

**Box 2**

*Diaries, bound copies*

- Volume 14, 1937-38
- Volume 15, 1938-40
- Volume 16, 1940-41
- Volume 17, 1941-44
- Volume 18, 1944-47
- Volume 19, 1947-49
- Volume 20, 1949-51
- Volume 21, 1951-52
- Volume 22, 1952-54
- Volume 23, 1954-56
- Volume 24, 1956-57
- Volume 25, 1957-59
- Volume 26, 1959-61
- Volume 27, 1961-63
- Volume 28, 1963-65

**Box 3**

*Diaries, bound copies*

- Volume 29, 1965-67
- Volume 30, 1967-69
- Volume 31, 1969-71
- Volume 32, 1971-72
- Volume 33, 1972-74
- Volume 34, 1974-76
- Volume 35, 1976-77
- Volume 36, 1977-78
- Volume 37, 1978-79
- Volume 38, 1979-80 (Last entry is August 30, 1980.)