

**Joseph Nephi Nemelka:  
The Story of His Life**



**1909-1971**



**Joseph Nephi Nemelka:  
The Story of His Life**

*A Biography*  
*2 August 1909 -- 15 July 1971*

Gayle C. Nemelka  
Anthony L. Nemelka

To our children, our  
children's children,  
and our future posterity.

G.C.N.



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## Hannah's Promise to the Lord

Near Shiloh, where the temple was, lived a devoted, religious couple, Elkanah and Hannah, who had not been blessed with any children. This troubled Hannah, for it was considered a great misfortune that she had no children. Hannah went to the place of worship and prayed to the Lord:

“O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.”

Not long after this, a child was born to Elkanah and Hannah, and they named him Samuel. Hannah was devoted to her little boy, especially since he was her only child, but she had made a promise to God which she dared not break. When Samuel was still a small boy, she took him to the House of the Lord where Eli was the priest, and left him there to learn to do the Lord's work. In explanation, she told Eli,

“For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.”

And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, “The Lord give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the Lord.” And they went unto their own home. And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and

bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

Old Testament  
I Samuel

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Joseph Nephi Nemelka

*Joseph N. Nemelka*



## Introduction

The worth of a man's life is perhaps best measured by how long his memory lingers amongst those with whom he lived. More than thirty years have passed since my grandfather, Joseph Nephi Nemelka, died; yet his influence on family and friends remains very strong. His birth, to this day, is celebrated by his family each and every year, and memories of him are constantly shared. This history, therefore, is not merely an effort to honor him; but rather, it is an inevitable result of the love which all of us feel for him. We hope that this record will ensure that the memory of his life will never dwindle—that his example will continue to have a strong influence on all of his posterity.

My grandfather completed part of his history before he left us. In addition to recording some tapes, he made a complete outline of his life story. In compiling this record, we tried to follow the suggestions which grandpa made in that outline. However, with the exception of his opening words, he actually wrote very little. Wherever possible, his own words from writings and speeches have been inserted. However, most of the information we have used is taken from the many volumes of records gathered by grandma following his death. One might say that she had been writing his history for over thirteen years. Additional material was obtained from newspaper articles, stories from

his brother Walter and sister Mary, memories of his children, grandchildren, and sisters-in-law, and articles, stories, and thoughts from grandma and me, his grandson.

Among many things, we hope that this record will be a valuable guide and reference for family members in writing their own personal histories. Most people find that deciding what to include in a personal history is a very difficult task. We trust that this history will help in that regard. In addition, we hope that reading the experiences of grandpa's life will quickly bring a realization that his experiences are little different from those each of us have. In this way, the real value of this record might come from the example grandpa set in using his experiences to the betterment of himself and those around him.

Finally, we hope to convey through this history the rich heritage of the Nemelka name. Research and family tradition both suggest that the name "Nemelka" is a Germanized name of West Slavic (Polish, Czech, Slovak, Sorbian) origin.

Carl Alois Nemelka told his children and grandchildren that the Nemelka family originated in a small town in Bohemia (Czech Republic); that the name of the small town where the Nemelka family originates was named Nemelkau (German) or Nemilkov (Czech); and that a female Nemelka's last name would be Nemelkova or Nemilkova. Carl lived in Germany before emigrating to the US, and since the family genealogy records show frequent intermarriage with families of German descent, it is likely that the family originated in the "Sudentenland" area of Bohemia.

Research has been conducted on at least three occasions to attempt to shed further light on our origins, but none has been completely successful.

Research conducted in the early 80's revealed that there are two possible explanations as to the origin of the name Nemelka and its meaning. One possibility is that the "melka" portion is derived from a verb meaning "to grind" or "to mill." The second and perhaps more likely possibility

is that it comes from an old Czech personal name “Namil,” which belongs to a group of so called “protective names.” These names were supposed to protect its bearer from failure, bad luck, and the power of evil spirits, something that would be highly desirable in medieval Europe.

Additional research conducted in the late 90’s once again brought up the idea of the name being derived from “to mill.” One reason the researcher preferred this explanation is that the earliest known “Nemelka” on record owned a mill. “Melka” in Czech means to mill. “Ne” means to not be very good at something. Therefore, under this explanation the name Nemelka would be equivalent to “an unskilled miller.”

Given that most people prefer to give themselves complementary names, it seems most likely that Nemelka is derived from the old Czech personal name “Namil” as mentioned in the original research. Using as an example the Slavic name Pavelka, one can easily understand how the name was constructed. “Pavel” in English means Paul, and “ka” means “son of.” So Pavelka, when translated into English, is Paulson.

Using this construct, “Nemelka” translated into English would mean \_\_\_\_\_son, with the blank filled in with the English equivalent of Nemel or Nemil. But as far as I can tell there is no English equivalent to those names, so Nemelson or Nemilson is as close as one can get to an English form of the name Nemelka.

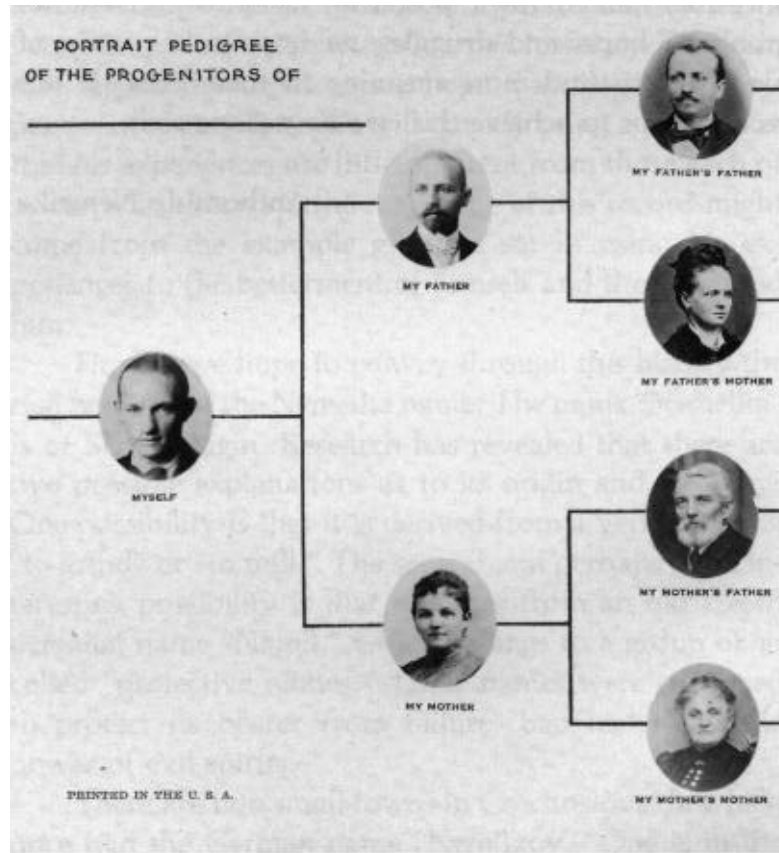
The original research regarding the origins of the name revealed that there are two small towns in The Czech Republic which once had the name "Nemelkau" (German; also sometimes spelled "Nemilkau") and “Nemilkov” (Czech).

“Nemelkau” apparently means “Nemelka’s yard or property.” We have been told by researchers that the German town name “Nemelkau” was valid as an official name alongside its Czech equivalent “Nemilkov” until 1945. Of the two known towns, one was in the District of Most in Czechoslovakia, about 7 km southwest of Most and

the other was in the District of Klatovy, about 15 km south southeast of Klatov. At the time the research was done, there was speculation that our ancestors probably came from the community near Most, which until the year 1945 had Germans as its main population.

Many people have found that great meaning can come to one's life through discovering one's "roots" and understanding the hopes and struggles that one's ancestors had for their posterity. By showing some of grandpa's hopes and struggles, we hope to help some of his posterity find more meaning in their lives. If this record helps to achieve this, we have done well.

—Anthony L. Nemelka



# PEDIGREE CHART

CARL ALOIS NEMELKA  
 Born: 7 Dec. 1877  
 Place: Tetschen, Czechoslova  
 Marr: 1 Apr 1907  
 Place: Rosswein, Leipzig, Savony, Germany  
 Died: 6 Apr 1951  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

JOSEPH NEPI NEMELKA  
 Born: 2 Aug 1909  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah  
 Marr: 1 Oct 1934  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah  
 Died: 15 Jul 1971  
 Place: Bountiful, Davis, Utah

GAYLE COTTERELL, Spouse

ADOLF NEMELKA  
 Born: 1 Jun 1839  
 Place: Tetschen, Czechoslovakia  
 Marr: 18 Aug 1868  
 Place: Krebitz, Czechoslovakia  
 Died: 7 Nov 1894  
 Place: Teplitz, Czechoslovakia

JOHANNA PAULINA KOSTECKA  
 Born: 5 Oct 1849  
 Place: Trebnitz, Czechoslovakia  
 Died: 16 Nov 1915  
 Place: Tetschen, Czechoslovakia

FRANZ EDUARD LUCAS  
 Born: 10 Sep 1853  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Marr: 10 Oct 1875  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Died: 11 Jun 1916  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

ANNA PAULINE DASSLER  
 Born: 20 Oct 1856  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Died: 20 Jun 1923  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

MARTIN NEMELKA  
 Born: 25 Nov 1805  
 Place: Vseruby, Pizen, Czechoslovakia  
 Marr:  
 Place:  
 Died: 31 Aug 1858  
 Place: Vseruby, Pizen Czechoslovakia

THERESIA RODEWALD  
 Born: 1801  
 Place: Rawicz, Poznan, Poland  
 Died: 16 Sep 1870  
 Place: Tetschen, Bohemia, Czechoslovakia

PROKOP KOSTECKA  
 Born: 4 Oct 1813  
 Place: Prague, Czechoslovakia  
 Marr: 14 Jul 1845  
 Place:  
 Died: 4 Sep 1866  
 Place: Horice, Bohemia Czechoslovakia

PAULINE SCHIFFNER  
 Born: 26 Jul 1820/21  
 Place: Prague, Czechoslovakia  
 Died: 1862  
 Place: Tesin, Silesia, Czechoslovakia

KARL FRIEDERICH SCHWALBE  
 Born: 7 Sep 1831  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Marr: 11 Jul 1859  
 Place:  
 Died: 28 May 1911  
 Place:

JOHANNE CHRISTLIEBE LUCAS  
 Born: 16 Nov 1829  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Died: 7 Feb 1898  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany

KARL FRIEDRICH DASSLER  
 Born: 24 Sep 1810  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Marr: 10 Jun 1838  
 Place:  
 Died: 5 Jun 1838  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany

CHRISTIANE FRIEDRIKE REINHOLD  
 Born: 23 Mar 1815  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany  
 Died: 22 Sep 1890  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Saxony, Germany

HELENE ELIZABETH LUCAS  
 Born: 21 Mar 1879  
 Place: Steinpleis, Zwickau, Germany  
 Died: 26 Oct 1962  
 Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

