

NELSON, Ornell E.

June 10, 1917

southeast of Viborg

August 16, 1932

Swan Lake (norwest of Viborg)

Viborg Enterprise - August 17, 1932

August 24, 1932

SWAN LAKE IS TRAGEDY SCENE AS BOY DROWNS

Ornell Nelson's Body Found on Bottom—Efforts at Reviving Fail

Ornell Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. ~~Belle~~ Nelson of Viborg, drowned in Swan Lake Tuesday afternoon while swimming. Funeral services will be held at the Baptist church Thursday afternoon.

Residents of this vicinity were greatly shocked to hear the news of the unfortunate occurrence and after the body was taken from the water every effort was made to resuscitate the lad. A pulmotor from Parker was brought into action to no avail. The work of trying to revive him continued for over three hours.

Ornell and his two cousins who had just arrived from Chicago were enjoying the swimming and the last he was seen was when he was in the shallow water. No one recalls seeing him make any efforts to keep from drowning and his body was found on the bottom of the lake after Bonnie Marcussen dove off the raft toward shore and when she came up she said she believed there was a body on the bottom of the lake.

There were quite a few swimmers there at the time and they brought the lad to shore and heroic efforts were made to bring him to consciousness. Dr. Blandford responded to the call for help which was phoned in, and J. J. Jacobsen, state milk inspector who was on the shore, phoned to Parker at once for a pulmotor, but the operator there said she didn't know of any in town.

The body was taken to Pete N. ~~Nelson's~~ cottage and efforts to revive him continued but to no avail. An attempt was made to get a pulmotor from Sioux Falls without success and then Parker was called again and a machine was finally located there and sent down. Efforts to revive him with this continued until 6 p. m. It is thought that he must have had a fainting spell, because the last time he was seen he appeared to be enjoying himself.

As far as can be estimated, the drowning must have occurred close to 3 in the afternoon. It was his first swim of the year, and he looked forward to the event with much anticipation as his two cousins from Chicago arrival that same morning by car. They helped in the efforts to revive him and one of them drove into town to get Mrs. Nelson, who was deeply effected by the news and who refused to give up hope for recovery to the very last.

The event caused much sorrow here and the deepest sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved father, mother and sister.

OBITUARY

Funeral services for Ornell E. Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. ~~Belle~~ Nelson, who was drowned while swimming at Swan Lake a week ago were held at the Baptist church Thursday afternoon. Several beautiful musical numbers were sung by members of the Young People's Choir and the funeral sermon delivered by Rev. W. E. Prewitt. Burial was made at the Baptist cemetery after the services.

Ornell E. Nelson was born on his father's farm southeast of town on June 10th, 1917, and spent the fifteen years of his life in the Centerville and Viborg vicinities. He is survived by his parents and younger sister, Mae.