

Cornelius Nilsen Hersdal

Cleang Peerson was visiting in Norway and is supposed to have supplied the information. He may have referred to the Hersdals as their sister, Oline Aasen and family went to America in 1836. As an interesting aside, Cornelius Nilsen Hersdal had been a soldier in the short war with Sweden.

At any rate, the Sloopers did receive help from Joseph Fellows and their American neighbors, "... but a large portion of their gifts unfortunately went up in flames when a fire broke out in the house [of Cornelius Nilson] in which they were kept". Cornelius was away working at the time of this fire, which brought a complete loss even of the furniture. When he came home his family was standing around with others surveying the ruins. Spying Kari, he asked, "Are all the children safe?" "Yes", she answered. He immediately knelt down and thanked God for his kindness in preserving his wife and children. "The little aid which was again given [the Sloopers after the fire] was far from sufficient to relieve the great distress, and they had to contend with straitened circumstances for a long time before their condition was somewhat bettered".

But Kleng may have been jealous, too, because John Nordboe had been an itinerant physician in Norway, and Catherine, a midwife, and both practiced among the Norwegians at Murray — for example Johan is known to have vaccinated children of Cornelius Nelson.

In the summer of 1834 six families sold their farms and moved to Illinois, according to a contemporary letter. Four were those of Andrew Dahl, Gudmund Haugas, George Johnson, and Jacob Anderson (Slogvig). Who the other two were is not certain but Cleang Peerson is known to have sold his sister Carrie's land (widow of Cornelius Nelson) along with his own in order to buy two new farms in Illinois, although Carrie and her children did not move until May of 1836.

The wife of Cornelius Nilsen Hersdal was Kari Pedersdatter, sister of Kleng Pedersen (Cleang Peerson). Cornelius Nelson was the oldest of the two brothers on the Sloop, He and Kari, with four children (Anne, Nels, Inger, and Martha), were the second largest family on the boat.



Anna Nelson Lake
Lightfoot



Nels Nelson Jr. and wife,
Catherine Knudsdatter Jelsa



Inger Nelson Mitchell



Martha Fellows



Sarah Ann Nelson
Peterson



Peter C. and Simey Danielson Nelson



Amelia Nelson