

***The Nelson Brothers:  
Finnish-American Radicals from the Mendocino Coast***

by Allan Nelson

Edited, with an introduction  
and afterword,  
by Russell and Sylvia Bartley

xiv +166 pp., numerous photographs  
and drawings, 5 appendixes, index

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IHRC, University of Minnesota



***Book based on collection at IHRC***

The Immigration History Research Center is cooperating to help broaden circulation of *The Nelson Brothers: Finnish-American Radicals from the Mendocino Coast*, by Allan Nelson (Mendocino, CA: Mendocino County Historical Society [MCHS] and Mendocino County Museum [MCM], 2005). Materials donated to the IHRC by Allan Nelson (his father, Arvid's, papers), along with Allan's Master's thesis, form the foundation of the book he has written. The family papers include letters between the two Nelson brothers, Arvid and Enoch, when Enoch lived in Soviet Karelia. A description of the IHRC collection is in an appendix. The book contains many excerpts from the letters and is heavily illustrated with original photographs and drawings.

From the Introduction by Donald R. Nelson:

My cousin Allan Nelson wrote the following biographical accounts after a long career as a US diplomat in Finland, South Africa, Greece and Vietnam, among other foreign postings. He completed the first as a Master's thesis in history at Sonoma State University ("Arvid Nelson: A Rare Kind of Finn," 1980); the second ("Uncle Enoch"), as a piece of family history inspired by the discovery of previously unknown relatives in the former USSR. Together these writings offer a rare glimpse into the lives, loves and political beliefs of two Mendocino County Finns who were active in the socialist movement during the early decades of the twentieth century: one, Enoch Nelson (1897–1938), a radicalized mill and woodworker who migrated to Soviet Karelia, where he perished in the Stalinist purges; the other, Arvid Nelson (1890–1967), a prominent socialist journalist for the Finnish-American press.

For more information, contact the publishers: MCHS: 707-462-6969, <mchs@pacific.net>  
MCM: 707-459-2736, <www.co.mendocino.ca.us/museum/>.

*"An important and engaging work....Allan Nelson has provided us with a window into...the early 20th century...[This is an] important contribution to the unique history of Finnish-Americans."*

– Dr. Alexis Pogorelskin, University of Minnesota

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– Professor Emeritus A. William Høglund, University of Connecticut

*“...Readers will learn much not only about Finnish immigrant life in northern California, but also about the courageous struggle...to make their lives count in the broader quest for a better society.”*

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