

# Dr. Marie Sophia Nesseth

My mother related a story to me about her mother's first cousin, Marie Sophia Nesseth, and the bed that was associated with Sen. Cushman Davis. According to the story, Marie, who was born in 1861, was a chiropractor. She treated Senator (and 7th MN Governor) Cushman Davis in a bed in the house of her brother, Nels Pederson Nesseth, in Red Wing, Minnesota. The brother's wife was pregnant at the time and Sen. Davis made a request that if the unborn child was a boy, they would give the child his name. A boy was born, and he was baptized Cushman Davis Nesseth (1894 - 1969).



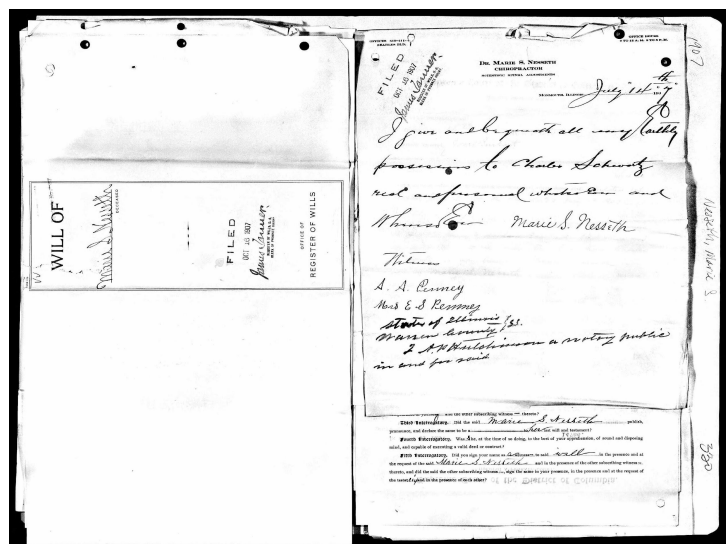
This was an interesting story, but there were many questions about Marie's story. Was she really a chiropractor? What really was the relationship with Cushman Davis? And why is the bed a central part of the story?

I found a few answers (and even more questions) through Ancestry.com. Marie attended St. Olaf Academy from 1877-1878. Then, according to the census records, Marie was in Washington, DC in 1898 and the 1900 census lists her as a trained nurse, apparently at the Homeopathic Hospital. She is listed in the City Directory as a nurse in 1906.

This raised more questions — was she a nurse or a chiropractor?

Then I found her Will and Probate Record on Ancestry.com. One of the pages was on letterhead paper that listed Dr. Marie S. Nesseth as a chiropractor in Monmouth, Illinois. This seems to establish her credentials as a chiropractor, but adds the question of why and when she ended up in Illinois.

Amazingly, one of her bequests concerned the bed: "My large bed that was given me by Senator Cushman Davis I give and bequeath to my nephew Cushman Davis Nesseth, of Red Wing, Minn., the



same to be given him when he arrives at the age of 21 years.” Again, more intriguing questions.



Cushman K. Davis (1838 - 1900)

side of her stone. Nils emigrated from Meraker, Norway in 1875 with some of his sons. One of his sons, Peder Nilsen Nesseth, was Marie's father. He immigrated to Minnesota in 1858 and helped to establish the rest of the family when they arrived.

Dr. Marie S. Nesseth was a woman ahead of her time. She seemed to have had an interesting life and known interesting people, but she didn't forget her family. It was unfortunate that she died at a young age.

I hope that I will find out more about Marie in the future as additional information is added. Maybe I will finally find out why the bed is so significant to Marie and why her nephew had to wait until he was 21 years old to inherit the bed.

Marie S. Nesseth died July 15, 1907, the day after the will was signed. She was only 46 years old.

Marie S. Nesseth's body was returned home and buried in the Minneola Lutheran Church Cemetery, near Zumbrota, Minnesota. The cemetery is small, so her headstone is prominent. Her name is proudly listed as Dr. Marie Sophia Nesseth.

Marie also included the name of her grand-father, Nils P. Nesseth (1806-1900) on the



Minneola Lutheran Church

By Marilynn R. Erickson  
(1st cousin 2X removed)