

LS 0139 – LS 0140 - 0141

Elsie Jackson: - He had a lot of cattles on hes claim - and he bought a part of that. He bought a little cabin for those ancesters to live in. He bought that farm part where hes land was - and - he bought the farm. He bought 80 acres. And then he built a kitchen on the one side.

Lennart Setterdahl: A Leanto?

Elsie Jackson: A leanto. And we lived there until after. - I was a little tiny girl when he had an uncle and a friend who built that bigger house for us. That's the true story. -

L: And both Your mother and Your father came from Sweden.

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah.

L: Do You remember from **were** in Sweden?

Elsie: I got -

L: Your grand parents - they came from Källeberg, in Södra Vånga.

Elsie: Yeah - this is - yeah!

L: And then: Karl Gottfrid Johansson, that was Your father?

Elsie: That was my father.

L: He was born in Källingaryd in Sweden; 1869. So he came one year after Your mother then?

Elsie: Over here - yes.

L: And they had no connection with eachother in Sweden before they left? They didn't know eachother though?

Elsie: I have it written in here about how they met.

L: Your father, he came to a - was it a yankee family?

Elsie: I heard yesterday about my father from a letter from my sister, that he ran away from home - You know.

L: Oh he did.

Elsie: A-ha - because of the service. And he got to a boat, where they were taking mostly that kind of boys over here to America. He knew he was going to America and he wanted to get on. And he got on and got along with himself on the boat and then when he got to America, then they took those boys and sent them here and there and everywere - and he didn't know anything, where he was going. And he landed in Wisconsin with some of these people that took those boys. And he stayed there for about four or five years and then he worked hes way gradually down towards Cleyburn. He had an uncle that lived in Cleyburn, that he knew.

L: That was Efraimson?

Elsie: That's right. And he was the one that got him started on getting a work on a farm, learning him the language and go to the Mariadal church.

L: I see. So he worked hes way, all the way from Wisconsin.

Elsie: I didn't know that before my sister Ruth told me.

L: Your mother, she was younger then?

Elsie: Yeah, there were nine years of ages difference.

L: She came as a young girl?

Elsie: She came with her grandma and grandpa. They were a family. They had three children when they came over from Sweden and they came to - First to Rockford and got somehow to Cleyburn in Kansas. And somebody of the older people helped them find a place to buy and

they bought 80 acres of land, it was about 6 miles from the Mariadal church and about 6 or 7 miles from that little town of Cleyburn, so they wanted to settle there.

L: And that's in Potawatomi?

Elsie: Potawatomi county, Kansas. Cleyburn, Kansas, would be what they called it.

L: So they weren't satisfied then to stay in Rockford; and - for instance - work in the factories. They were looking for land?

Elsie: I think they had an old old friend that had gone there and had written and told them how good the farms were and how much money they could make - and make a lot of land - and that - and that urged their demand to go to that place.

L: Do You know if there were some other people from the same neighbourhood in Sweden that went down with them to Kansas, or were they the only family?

Elsie: I think they were alone.

L: Like in Oldsburn and Cleyburn and Mariadal, were they several families from the same area in Sweden?

Elsie: Well they were, but I'm not sure that mama, and her family, were with them, but they soon got together - You know.

L: Do You remember, from when You were growing up, that they had uncles and cousins who came to visit them?

Elsie: Oh yes! We were there; all the time, when I was just a little girl You see.

L: Yes.

Elsie: And we go there for Christmas, once in awhile - and it was Sunday dinner - and one time we stayed over the Christmas eve and stayed - and went to julotta at the Mariadal church.

L: Yes.

Elsie: And I suppose we wrote about it in the letters - or something. That's in my memory.

L: So There were other relations then to Your family in Kansas, that came for visit? Do You remember?

Elsie: This is Efraimson, Cleyburn.

L: It was an uncle, or morbror?

Elsie: But; - That was papas side: Efraimson.

L: Oh papas side - farmor!

Elsie: Papas side. And I don't know if there were some relationship between, far away marriages from Sweden.

L: Jan and Kajsa Nelson; they came in 1868, and -69, they were Your grand parents?

Elsie: Grand parents.

L: Your grand parents. Your father:

Elsie: Karl Gottfrid.

L: Ja.

Elsie: I wrote here last night.

L: He was born 1849 in Bjurbäck, in Västergötland. And then he moved, when he was one year old, to Sörudden, Köllingaryd, (?) in Västergötland. He came to the Unated States, in what year?

Elsie: .. I have it in the book here, but - .. I don't think I can tell You - but I'm looking.

L: Your grand parents: Jan and Kajsa Nelson, did You call them morfar and mormor when You were growing up?

Elsie: I think we did, morfar and mormor - way way back.

L: Mormor.

Elsie: But later we started to call them grandma and grandpa.

L: So there was always Swedish spoken in Your home when You grow up, during the years? Do You remember?

Elsie: When I was little, it was, but pretty soon the girls started; the bigger girls started to go into school and that brought the language home, so then we switched gradually from Swedish to English, but I was confirmed in Swedish, in the last confirmation class in (?), Kansas. That was in 19; about -15, or something like that.

L: Did Your parents switch over to English also then - or did they talk Swedish and You talked English to them - or?

Elsie: It depended on the while.

L: It did?

Elsie: It depended on the while, Yeah, it did. They'd like to talk Swedish and we would come home with that English.

L: Did they insist in that You should talk Swedish so You shouldn't forget the language?

Elsie: We weren't (?) about it. It just gradually came. But, of course, we got the English from the school, but we always went to the Swedish Sunday school, always!

L: So You had no problems then, either with the English or with the Swedish?

Elsie: Not with my parents.

L: They were

Elsie: They were (?). Yeah - that went on - and there were others. There were some from (?) Kansas, that's another little town around there, and they were quite a few of my relations of my married cousins and so for. And they used to drive that long way; 30 miles or so, with horses and came to see us.

L: Did You grow up with Your grand parents; mormor - and morfar? - or?

Elsie: Lived? with? us?

L: In other words: did they live with You, when Your mother married?

Elsie: No. No.

L: They didn't.

Elsie: When my mama and papa married, they got a little place right there, after we were together as a family.

L: And morfar and mormor, they lived for themselves?

Elsie: Yeah; they had some children at home!

L: Children at home yeah.

Elsie: Yeah. No, we never lived together, but we did a lot of visiting together.

L: How far away was it?

Elsie: About 8 miles.

L: 8 miles. So; - You had to use the horse and buggy then!

Elsie: With a spring wagon.

L: A spring wagon.

Elsie: We finally got a carriage, but it was so cold. It didn't serve us very long. But I could see us yet, sitting, we were four children and mother and father, in a spring wagon, going to julotta on the Christmas morning. Get up about 3.30 and driving that long, it was 5 miles from the little home we had, up to the church.

L: How did Your mother and father meet? In the church, or?

Elsie: He went to work, he finally got a pretty good job; papa, at a man by the name of (?), and He was a real wealthy man that came over from Sweden and could do big things.

L: Oh - he was a Swede also!

Elsie: No. No.

L: He was?

Elsie: He was just a Yankee just - a-ha. And he'd come and he had a lot of money and he bought a big tractor. There was land; - many acres of that pretty land and he was working and doing things with it, and so he got (?) of papa and papa went there and worked for him and this is what we assume - what we know - that's where he learned the English language. And then, the closest church they could go to in that place - and papa wanted to go to a church, - was the Mariadal church. And that could be; maybe 10 miles, or more, to get there, but he went. And then mama was always at the church and that's where we assume that they met - and fell in love and decided to get married. So they (utelämnat) that area, until they decided to get married and they were married at the old; - at the Mariadal church! And from then on, they (?) a small piece of land, closed by my grandma and grandpa. But they didn't stay there long. They had a fire, the house was burned. Then he got (?) of these 80 acres, up by (?) - and he bought that. And that's where we lived, until we moved to (?), Kansas.

L: How much did they have to pay for that 80 acres?

Elsie: I think they got (?).

L: So he could get a loan then?

Elsie: Yeah. We've got the signatures.

L: In a local bank?

Elsie: A local bank?

L: Where did they? -

Elsie: There wasn't a bank in (?). They had to go to Westmoreland to do that business.

L: But it wasn't hard for them to get the down payment.

Elsie: No. He got somebody, some of that relation maybe, took a sign for him.

L: That 80 acres of land, was that (? resten utelämnat)?

Elsie: A part of it was (?), they had used some of it, but it was a lot of those (?), pasture as a prepasture and there was a stream of water running way down by the barn, so he could bathe his cattle down there for a while.

L: The Blue river didn't go up there?

Elsie: No no, that's far away.

L: It's too far away. This land, was it wild prairie?

Elsie: There had been a part of it, used for a field, but most of it was just plain prairie land and he picked up the best and made it for more fields.

L: So it was good land then?

Elsie: Well - it was prairie land. It wasn't very very good, but we got along with what we got. You know, it wasn't real.

L: So the summers, they could be pretty dry then?

Elsie: Yeah we had hard years too. But mama grow her garden the best she could and he worked there and we children, we helped as we grow up. We got along.

L: Where there any buildings on this 80 acres of land?

Elsie: He had to do all the buildings, as this little house I told you, he moved it over. And it was a hill, that went down and he built his barns there. If there was a (?) You could see down in the barn, where the horses were standing and the barn was in a little lower level and You could go right in from there.

L: And there were no problems to get water, You said there was a creek.

Elsie: There was a creek there.

L: Even in the summer it was?

Elsie: Yeah we had water.

L: Even for the cattle though?

Elsie: Yeah. And then another - going up another hill - from the barn and it was an up hill from there. there was a bank and it was full of rocks, just big stones, You know - and there was, what they called a spring! and there still was a spring when we left that place.

L: And it was good for drinking?

Elsie: And papa took a big wooden box, like they used to have in the grocery stores and dug it down there and piped the water from; - what ever that was coming - in to that box and it went out. So we had cool fresh water all the time - and there we kept our cream and our milk and our butter, until later on, when he dug a well up by the house.

L: It kept cool, also in the hot summer?

Elsie: Yeah - hot summers. I can see papa yet going down there getting milk and cream and things yeah.

L: How far away was that from the house - about 300, 400 yards?

Elsie: Well - something like that. It wasn't to far, but he must clime when he came back.

L: And I suppose, later on, when You were big enough, You had to run?

Elsie: We had to do the running. We had to do the running. And that stream was still going by there, that wasn't helping our spring water, cause the spring water came - and there we used to play around in the water.

L: In the real early time, when Your mother was newly married, she saw some Indians.

Elsie: Yeah! Mother was acrippled You know. She (? utelämnat) to work - and she got reumatism in one leg, so they sent for grandpa to come and get her. She was just about 20, 25 miles away and he went in their lumber wagon to get her. And - and she got home and I suppose (?) sending for medicine and that, I don't know how they did it in those days. And; - she got better and worked with it, until she got so she could walk nicely and she even learned to ride horse back.

L: Could she walk all right with a cane?

Elsie: She didn't use a cane until she got older. She just limped. So she got along. And she used to work for these people doing house work and that wasn't easy - You know.

L: But how about the Indians?

Elsie: Yeah - I'll tell You - it's in here. She was the oldest of those eight children. She wasn't the oldest, there was two boys before her, but: she was the oldest girl. So - You know how it was - in those days. At an early age they had to help: wash dishes and make butter and things like that. And one time grandma and grandpa had left her in charge of the children and they had the table - - here is the window and they had the table here, by the window - and she had cooked (?) from the farm - and had a big plate of (?) standing on the table - and the children were sitting around going to eat them. All right - here comes two Indians, two horses and two Indians and rode up to that glass window, opened the window and just took the (?) from there and rode away. So the children were left without any dinner, but the Indians were eating the (?). But - there was Indians around there, we did see them all the time.

L: But they had no trouble with them?

Elsie: No, they never had any.

L: The Indians (? utelämnat), deer meat, and stuff like that, to the family? They never told You about that? There wasn't an exchange of food?

Elsie: I wouldn't know of that, there mabee was. They would exchange - I'm sure.

L: But they were friendly?

Elsie: Yeah, those Indians were not dangeous.

L: No. Before Your mother was married, she was the post mistress in Mariadal? That was before she was married?

Elsie: That was when she was working down there with the pastors families. And then she

L: How did she get that job? Did she have to go to a school for it?

Elsie: No. Mabee they felt sad for her because she was a cripple, I don't know! She limped, You know - and - she worked, but they knew that she worked hard I guess - and I don't know how she got it. She needed money, I imagine, so that's why she found it. But; I guess, the pastors family had to see that in her, - so they asked her. That I can't tell You. But the post office job, it was in a little building, a little up of the church and I have a picture of it here. You saw that?

L: Yes. In Mariadal?

Elsie: You went upstairs. You had to go upstairs - and I've heard, other girls that said; it wasn't a very nice room, it didn't look like a post office, but they had all the official things there.

L: But all the mails from Sweden - and all over - they came to that place?

Elsie: And I guess they called it Mariadal in this routin, because Cleyburn was 8 miles away You know.

L: So it was a separate post office then: Mariadal?

Elsie: I think, at the time, it was the Mariadal post office.

L: And that name: Mariadal. It came from Mrs Jonsson, wasn't it?

Elsie: Maria Jonsson came over as a widow - and two of her sons were already there, they had tried it and they sent for mama and she came, but she didn't live long. And then - she had to be buried, so they put up the name Mariadal. Mariadal. A dal, You know what that means: a Valley.

L: A Valley ja.

Elsie: Mariadal. Now it's gone.

L: Now it's all gone.

Elsie: It's up in Oldsburn.

L: From Mariadal You can see the Blue River?

Elsie: From the Mariadal; yeah.

L: Ja?

Elsie: Oh yeah You could see the river. They have a bridge across there.

L: Do You remember that Blue River as a dangerous flow of water, when You were growing up?

Elsie: Yeah. We lived on the prairie and I was scared of that water.

L: I see. So it was wide across?

Elsie: Oh! - yes. To go to Cleyburn, that was one of the thrills I got in the childhoow to go to Cleyburn, because; I'd get to ride on that big bridge across the Blue River!

L: And that was a wooden bridge?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: So - that was an experience in the young days! Did Your mother drive horse and buggy herself, if she wanted something?

Elsie: No. No I don't think so. She maybe drove, but sometimes one of the bigger girls were going on. We had a car, a two wheel car

L: Yes.

Elsie: and I don't know if they went with that to Cleyburn or not.

L: I see.

Elsie: No; - papa usually went with her, I think.

L: It was a to far of distans though.

Elsie: From our farm? It was 8, 10 miles around. Over the prairies and You had to open the gates - You know.

L: You had to open all the gates!

Elsie: Yeah!

L: You could get a farmer on Your back.

Elsie: And one time, my uncle - oldest uncle - was there. He travelled a lot, he didn't farm; but he was home for Christmas. And - he came to our place, to stay just over for Christmas a couple of days. And on the Christmas day, we had been to julotta, all of the family, but he didn't want to go and he was home there and - and we'd had our dinner I think. And he went out doors. It was a lovely Christmas day in the wether and he went to set fire to some long grass, that papa had left along a fence. And that fire spred and started to get into our corn field. So - mama - they had to hitch two horses for her twelwe buggy and she got in that buggy and rode 2 ½ miles to the neighbours, to get the help. We did what we could there, but it finally (?) down.

L: So fire was? -

Elsie: It was a very bad fire - and You see: those prairies - the winds (?).

L: And a lot of tall grass, I suppose, in the ditches and all over.

Elsie: Yeah. That's what he'd left - You see, left this along the fences. He ment well! He was going to do something good You see!

- Under föregående dialoger, samt under de som följer, tittar de tillsammans på bilder. -
(sekr anm).

Lennart Setterdahl: You were all girls in Your family?

Elsie Jackson: Just four girls.

L: Four girls. Your sisters: Lilly, Laura and Ellen, they were older than You? Three of them?

Elsie: Lilly was the oldest.

L: And then Laura?

Elsie: And then Laura and Ellen and me.

L: Did You have any special chores to do, Your mother told You: to peel the potatoes, and -
Elsie: Oh - yes. Yeah. And fix the fire and go to get cubs to get in the stove - and things. We had our special - and to fill the wooden box, it's another job we had. Papa would have a (?) outside and we'd go in to fill it.

L: So Your mother, after a while, didn't have to tell You what to do then?

Elsie: No! But she told us - You know - about things to do, but she never did have to give us a certain job! And - the oldest - as soon as she was able - and we did it all of us - would get out and help papa with hes chores - and things. Papa wasn't so (?) well, after a few years he got a heart condition. And so that was one of our jobs.

L: Both inside and outside then.

Elsie: Yeah. But we could do; outside we did - and then we could do it inside. Lilly was the first one to help outside. And; she wasn't much for the school. She finished her 6 grade - she finished that; - and then - and then she stayed home a lot, and then (? utelämnat) and she went to Manhattan and worked, for bigger wages, and sometimes she sent money home, if she could. She only was paid about 6 dollars a week at that time, at the home in there. And so we used that to fix a well, to dig a well - and things. And then Laura came along and she liked books better, she was a better student. She finished her 8 grade in (?) school. She finished her 8 grade and right then she went to teaching, to teach at a school; for about 35 dollars a month.

L: So she didn't go to any college?

Elsie: No.

L: Oh I see!

Elsie: And Ellen, she didn't either care for books. She liked to do house work and things like that. She would hire her out, when we didn't need her at home and she would hire her out, in house work. Later on she liked sewing and quilting, and things like that. But Laura liked her schools.

L: Did You try all kinds of chores around Your house? How old were You then?

Elsie: I think I just did it gradually. I could go out and peel the cubs, or (? utelämnat). I imagine about seven or - six or seven, or something like that. And then gradually I worked myself in. I could help papa with something. I used to go and get the cattles in the pastry, that I did at many times. I did that at the old Nelson farm.

L: You mentioned here even the cubs. Was it out in the yard?

Elsie: I think we really had a little shed for the cubs. That was up, closer to the house.

(? Mindre ordväxling utelämnad).

L: So that was one of the staples for the stove then, so to speak, mixed with wood then, or; how did You do it? Did You only use coal cubs for the heating?

Elsie: No no. He had wood too. He had wood there.

L: He mixed it up then?

Elsie: Yeah. Cubs would be easier to start with and then put the wood on the top of that - and - **so** we did.

L: And the cubs, they also burned a little bit slower. Didn't they? Or did they flame up fast?

Elsie: No. They're just easier to start underneath and then put the wood on the top of that.

L: So that was one of Your jobs. You had to pick them.

Elsie: We had to. Oh yes!

L: So Your mother and father didn't have to tell You what to do then in the morning?

Elsie: Yeah. Then You know that we had 3 miles to walk to the school.

L: 3 miles.

Elsie: 3 miles and You started school at 8.30, and go back. We had to start, to get there; - at 9 maybe we started. You got to start early in the mornings!

L: Was that a short way, or was it a way around?

Elsie: That was the long way.

L: But You could take a shorter way?

Elsie: Yeah - that made it about 2 ½.

L: 2 ½.

Elsie: But - I don't know.

L: And then You carried Your lunch to the school?

Elsie: Yeah. Mama had it (?) for us too.

L: Did You have a box for it then?

Elsie: The one I remember the most was a little tin pail, or galvanized, or something and then a little wire (?) across and a little cover on the top. That's what I remember.

L: And it was a sandwich then?

Elsie: Sandwiches and she'd have a cake, or cookies, or mabee some fruit, not always fruit mabee.

L: What did You have to drink?

Elsie: I think we just drank water. I think sometimes we had milk, but I think lots of times we just - we had water at the school.

L: But in the summer time it was to hot then.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: So You always had water inside the school though?

Elsie: We had a pump outside and sometimes the big boys would have to get to pail the water and we had a dipper in the school house.

L: That everybody used?

Elsie: Everybody used!

L: For how long did they continue with that use?

Elsie: I had a pail in my school. I tought in a school a year in the country and I had that. We had separate drinking cups that we used.

L: When people got sick, they had to cure themselves at home, or did they send for a doctor? Do You remember?

Elsie: I think some families depended on; what they called: pattern medicine. Have You heard that before?

L: So they read in the Swedish-American papers?

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah.

L: The Miracle?

Elsie: Yeah, and some kind of liniment they always had to have and they depended on that as long as they could and when they got to bad, then they even took them in a buggy - and took them to the doctor usually. It was many doctor calls in those days.

L: But there were people that didn't use any liniments, or any pills or anything, I suppose.

Elsie: Yeah I suppose there were different kinds.

L: And they survived too!

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Did You have a Swedish-American paper in Your home?

Elsie: I don't think we did it the first, but one of our neighbours brought us Hemlandet.

L: Hemlandet.

Elsie: And when we went to grandpas house, they would mabee save up some papers and we took that. I can't remember when we first got a paper, but it was a while. We couldn't afford it I suppose.

L: Could You read Hemlandet? Do You remember?

Elsie: Oh - I think so, but I think - by the time - i got in school and that. I wasn't to oftly interested in reading the Swedish. I studied my Catechism and read the Bible on Swedish. But they would read (?) of the things that were happening.

L: Did You read any American newspapers then?

Elsie: Yeah I think the teacher gave us a little review sometimes.

L: Did You attend the church regularly every Sunday?

Elsie: Always. Always.

L: With the hole family?

Elsie: The hole family. We all went to the church. That was one of the things to look forward to, when we got ready, so we could go to the church at Sunday.

L: Was there any meeting, after the service, for: for instance the Lutheran Leage, the Ladies Ade; kvinnoforeningen, syforeningen, or did they meet during the week?

Elsie: Way way back there was, I think, a meeting of the ladies: syforening, what we called it.

L: After the service?

Elsie: After the service - but - that was when I was very small, because I don't remember much of that, but I know that they did have it for a few times. And they would have a potluck

dinner at the church and I remember the first when I went to it. They had the table outside the church and everybody brought something - and we all went around there. That was a real experience for me, as a little girl. I thought it was big.

L: Could they do that, also during the hot summer months?

Elsie: Yeah they had trees - yeah, they had trees, big trees, by the church.

L: So they all got together.

Elsie: All.

L: And they talked about the ladies news.

Elsie: Yeah, they did. And then they held those four horses, that stood out there, all that time and they held them out there - and in the wintertime they covered them with blankets.

L: So they had to wait there.

Elsie: For the first to go, and then drive 5 miles home - You know!

L: So if You asked a horse, he wouldn't know how long the service was?

Elsie: I don't know if they fixed it at that time! I don't know.

L: But that was the time when everybody got together.

Elsie: They were sociable

L: Sociable.

Elsie: and They (?) the news from the farmers.

L: And You young people, did You play then with the other children?

Elsie: Oh - we did some - yeah. We played around with some of the others.

L: Did You live far from Your neighbours?

Elsie: Okey. These Swedish (?), they were on one side of us and there was another family there on the other side that were Lutherans. - But on the other side we had - I called them Yankees, that's not like a good name, but that was what they called themselves. - But They were English people and they did come over and; one of them had a huge apple orchard and we could go there and pick apples when ever we wanted to. And another had something else and they gave us what they had, although they didn't need to.

L: So they were friendly people then?

Elsie: They were friendly - and we had peaches that we throwed away and we shared it with them!

L: Those Yankees, what did they do different than the Swedes. They said they had orchards with apples. Did the Swedish people plant (?) also, in their yards, when they came to Kansas?

Elsie: Oh yes. Papa had a big orchard with apples and peaches, we had peaches. And those (?), the others, they had nice orchards; beautyful orchards and - if they had more than we did - we would share it - see.

L: I see. From where did they get those apple trees? Did they buy those apple trees from a nursery, or how did they get them?

Elsie: I think they (? utelämnat). By mail they did a lot, by mail, in that way. There might have been a nurcery man come around. They did that a lot in those days. A man would come a lot. And the doctors came around ever so oft. They had special times, sometimes, they would come around.

L: Without a call?

Elsie: Without a call - yeah - and then they wanted to sell their liniment, or something to You.

L: Oh - I see. And those doctors, You could depend on them?

elsie: Well - I guess so! You know about my Whooping cough story?

L: No! You've got to tell that one!

Elsie: When I was (?), I was born in September, and that was in the real cold wintertime. But - somehow, - I had a Whooping cough! And there was a Swedish man, that lived close in (?). He said: You bring the baby up to the door. Bring a horse there, from the barn, and let that horse breathe over the baby's face and it will be cured. And the folks were scared You know, they were frightened for me, having a Whooping cough! as such an early age. And so they tried it - and it didn't work! I still had my Whooping cough! My mama and papa went with me in the spring wagon (? utelämnat) and took me up to Oldsburn, which were 5 miles, and took me to the parsonage. It was a Sunday, in any way, and they went to the parsonage, that house still stands in Oldsburn. And - Joe Anderson was that name of the pastor and he baptized me; with mama and papa. If they probably called in some neighbours for witness - I don't know.

L: Because they thought You were already gone then?

Elsie: Oh no, I was still breathing! But they wanted me to come over that Whooping cough. They saw me cough. I was going to die.

L: You were in very bad shape then, in other words.

Elsie: Yeah - I was - yeah. They would have taken me to the church another Sunday, but they didn't wait.

L: So what did happen?

Elsie: He baptized me and; as I said here, he gave me the water and (utelämnat) and it has kept me all my life.

L: No doctor, at that time?

Elsie: No! No more horses!

L: No more horses either! So those doctors, did they recommend certain cures?

Elsie: Yeah - they would have certain liniments which would be good for this and certain would be good for that. And; - some had books too, You know, they sold books that they thought would help for medication, that little books that would tell You what to take for this and for that. I don't remember using them much but I do remember some times peddlers came.

L: Hälsolära.

Elsie: Well! That's a good name! A very good Swedish name.

L: They didn't use pills for everything, like they do now adays. The medicine was mostly in liquid at that time?

Elsie: Yeah, I guess so. I don't remember when the pills came. I remember we used to take Aspirin a long time ago. But I remember the old liniment (? utelämnat).

L: Do You think people had more backache and muscle ache in those days?

Elsie: They worked oftly hard, You know. Some of those labors really worked hard. Maybe that made the difference. I think we know more about our troubles now. They (?) that liniment on - I don't know.

L: You said that You worked out in the fields. You helped Your dad - and so on. Did You cut any weat, or worked along with a threshing crew?

Elsie: I remember; we had all those big rakes You know. I don't know if You know, and there was two horses hitched to that one. And I did help one time and ran that rake a little bit.

L: But You didn't use any hand work, for instance?

Elsie: No, I maybe just cleaned off some places.

L: (?) up the hay? Holding the hay?

Elsie: No.

L: How about Your other sisters, they had to help?

Elsie: They had to help. I could see them yet on a haystack. You know: they stacked these haystacks and they helped papa in what they could!

L: So You were younger then? In other words: You were behind them a little bit?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: So You could watch them. So You didn't need any liniment then, in other words!

Elsie: No. If I did have sores, I suppose they had put something on it. I don't know!

L: But You remember Your sisters used it?

Elsie: Well - that was usually the thing we put on. I remember one time, my sister, - next to me older - she had a. - What happened to her? Do You know what Kansas (?) are?

L: Yes.

Elsie: Okey. Something had bit her under the nail one night, she was getting really for bed - and she was scared of that. And there was something else, that (?) her - a spider, or something got it and she was (?) of that. So I remember mother go and get her some of that liniment putting on - and so it got better.

L: But this (?), that went under Your skin, didn't they?

Elsie: No they don't get under, but they get in, yeah - they get in the skin.

L: So this liniment, it has a peculiar (?), doesn't it?

Elsie: It's strong, something strong. I know we used to just hate that smell of that liniment.

L: Because it can smell up the hole house. You know; if somebody have an egg somewhere when You come to the house! You mentioned spiders. How about snakes? Were You particular afraid of snakes? You were living out in the country, You were born with it.

Elsie: Mhm.

L: Did You really have a fear for all those things?

Elsie: Not a fear, but we knew that we should be careful - and one time I went into this funny barn I said that my papa had built - and there was a big; - they called them, they said it was one of those ball snakes - and it was a huge thing. But I saw it and I avoided it, going around. Because I was afraid of it. We were scared of them, we ran away from them! Otherwise I don't think we had any particular trauma.

L: But they say that the snakes, they keep the mice and the rats away.

Elsie: Yeah, there was a say.

L: So the farmers didn't kill them then? They wanted to have them?

Elsie: Yeah - I've read that in books.

L: You didn't here it when You were growing up?

Elsie: No, I didn't know of that. And we even had a grass roof on that barn and You could imagine that was just a lot of place for them to live.

L: In the early Kansas spring, hot and warm.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: In the old Mariadal: in Oldsburn, and Cleyburn, in the early spring there is a purple flower, You can see it in the valleys? Was that during Your time? The hole valley is purple in April.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was that there when You were growing up?

Elsie: I don't have any memories of that. We had some big reeds growing and I suppose there was purple flowers, but I don't remember too much about them. We had lot of trees down along that stream, that went through the barn, and then came up around. But - I don't remember!

L: One of the big chores in a household was washing. Because You were a big family - every family was big. You had to wash. How often did You do that?

Elsie: We had what they called a sistern and a huge, huge barrel, that was put out by the corner of the house were it ran down, and that would be were the girls (? utelämnat) to take a pail. I think the older girls did it more then. And go and get a pail of the water and throw it in the boiler on the stove in the kitschen. You know; she had a big boiler. And there we would heat our wash water.

L: I see.

Elsie: That's were we get our water.

L: And everything that was white, it was boiled?

Elsie: Yeah. That's right!

L: Did You throw any blue powder in it to make it more white?

Elsie: I'm gona say: I don't know.

L: You can't remember that.

Elsie: Yeah - I don't remember.

L: The soap was a regular household soap?

Elsie: The soap was made by mama and the neighbours.

L: Oh she made her own soap.

Elsie: They saved - when they butchered, they saved (?) - isn't it that what they call it?

L: Yes.

Elsie: And (?) and they would go together sometimes and make this. Just like they went together to make cheese at Christmas time.

L: So You had soap making and cheese making. Like a party then.

Elsie: Yeah. I think they made this soap making outside in some place, in some big kettels or something, so they didn't have to make it in.

L: And it would last for the hole year then?

Elsie: If they went out for soap they would make more.

L: And in that soap You washed Your hands and Your face, Your clothes and everything?

Elsie: I wouldn't say for sure about that. I can't remember back if we had hand soap, You know. But one bar of soap - Everybody that came in and washed their hands; the men and the women and all and that one bar of soap was there. And I think we had (? Utelämnat).

Elsie: I think we had a hand soap.

L: So it was a big day then when You had the wash day?

Elsie: Yeah - and I have lived in neighbourhoods were the woman would have to have her clothes on the line at 5 o'clock in the morning, to be sure she had hers up first before any of the neighbours around could see it.

L: Why?

Elsie: That's a Swedish ideal - way way back. She would up and heat that water, at mabee 3 o'clock and get it warm - and then do her washing and get it out on the line.

L: So nobody should ever see what she washed up?

Elsie: I suppose that was her idea of wanting that people to see that she got to wash out early! That was a Swedish custom.

L: And most of the people did like that?

Elsie: No, I wouldn't say most of them did.

L: And that was around Swedesburg?

Elsie: That was in Swedesburg. Yeah. That place is gone now.

L: So she was? -

Elsie: She was real ambitious.

L: You could have Your ten o'clock coffee and the work was done?

Elsie: Yeah - I guess!

L: And they had big washes at that time, because they saved it up then for several weeks. You didn't wash every week?

Elsie: I think I have always washed once - about once a week - with the children I had to.

L: You had to.

L: You really have to.

Elsie: Yeah. And then You wash every day some times You know.

L: But the men's working clothes, they couldn't be washed every day?

Elsie: Oh no - not work clothes - no.

L: They worked out in the barn and were almost dirty.

Elsie: Sure.

L: But it was a lot of hand scrubbing!

Elsie: I guess so! I didn't do that!

L: You didn't do that either, so You were the lucky one!

Elsie: Yeah.

L: When You were helping Your mother, or Your father, out in the fields,

Elsie: We helped both.

L: can You remember that You, at any time, refused to do something they told You? You didn't like it? You didn't feel like it?

Elsie: Oh - I think there were times, maybe, when I didn't want to, but I knew it was a duty, it just came natural to me. I know, my mama would ask us to go and pick cherries on a big cherry tree and clime up in a cherry tree and sit and pick cherries and that wasn't fun, but we did it!

L: You didn't like that?

Elsie: No.

L: You were scared to fall down then?

Elsie: No, I guess I didn't want to do it. I was in the country, there wasn't any people to watch, but it was a hard duty! And I suppose, if I had to go to pick up apples under the tree and I didn't like that maybe! But - kids are kids.

L: But You were corrected then by Your parents?

Elsie: I knew that it was a duty to do it - and I had to do it!

L: And You knew that You couldn't get away with it.

Elsie: No. But I don't think we tried to hard.

L: But - if You did refuse to do something, what did You have in Your mind instead: playing with Your dolls, or with Your play mates in the neighbourhood?

Elsie: Mabee we had some things down in our play house - You know - to play with.

L: Oh! You had a play house!

Elsie: We had a little (?).

L: You had a play house?

Elsie: Under a (?) tree.

L: Which You built Yourself?

Elsie: I think we had a little box - You know; - wooden boxes were given in those days - and I think papa had bought one in a store and brought it home and we had a little box and had a little (?), I remember, and we had some broken dishes in there and that was for our dishes - and then we had a doll, or two, along. I think we had a little doll buggy - and maybe a swing by the tree too - a rope swing.

L: Could some of Your neighbours

Elsie: Yeah we had some neighbours, not very far - they were to far away to run between much, but we had them once in awhile.

L: So You were playing hosehold then?

Elsie: (? Utelämnat).

L: Did You have a neighbour boy then comming over to play?

Elsie: No I think there were girls that came!

L: Only girls?

Elsie: I think so.

L: Do You remember any special games?

elsie: No - I don't know. We played Got the handkerchif, cause You had to have a girl for that. And we played in the corn stocks - You know - we ran in the corn stocks and we piled the corn. We used to play around there and we hide from eachother.

L: The toys were home made?

Elsie: The most of them.

L: Was something bought?

Elsie: We had a doll, it maybe had been handed down from other sisters, You know - and mama would make different clothes for it, cleaned them for us.

L: Did Your parents participate in any of Your games?

Elsie: Oh, no, I don't think so. I was the little of us, You see, but at that time the others was bigger, so they could help. I don't remember much about it.

L: So You were with Your sisters.

Elsie: Papa used to sit and read to us in the nights and he read in Swedish, in Uncle Toms cabin. Hes book. I've got the book here.

L: So he read in that - and that was in English?

Elsie: In Swedish.

L: In Swedish!

Elsie: mhm.

L: Uncle Toms cabin.

Elsie: I have it here. I think one of the girls found it in the book sale, up at the hospital, or in some place. But he read it.

L: But You remember it. You were young then?

Elsie: Yeah. He was sitting at the table and we were sitting around then.

L: You had a karosene lamp then, or.

Elsie: A karosene lamp - and mama (? utelämnat).

L: So nobody was idle, not even in the evenings. In other words: they got to have something to do?

Elsie: Yeah. You read it in all the Swedish books. They sat around the karosene lamp and everybody had to be home, stitching, or doing something. It's our good history; I guess that You call it that, but they don't do it now.

L: So he read a couple of chapters then, when he felt like it?

Elsie: Mhm.

L: Could You read in that book too, for Yourself, or did You just wait until he started?

Elsie: Not in my memories, it was before I could read maybe - fether back.

L: Could You read when You went to school?

Elsie: Oh - I'm sure I read pretty well, because the girls had been to school for awhile - and they helped me. I think so.

L: And You found it interesting when they came back about what they were doing.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: You picked up the letters then.

Elsie: Yeah - that's right.

L: Could You write Your name?

Elsie: Yeah - I think I could.

L: Could Your parents assist You with Your school work, or did they stay out of it?

Elsie: Papa didn't. Papa had not much education by himself, You know, but; he'd learn so he spoke well in English. I can't remember papa wrote - but I'm sure he did. (I wish I had some of hes hand writing), but, mama tried to take care of the business in the hand work - and do all she could. And; later the bigger girls got in; the bigger girls helped her. My second sister especially; she liked the books well. The older one was more for the house work and stuff.

L: The next girl was reading.

Elsie: She liked the reading, and she's the one that went teaching in school after the 8 grade.

L: And the first one, she was more for the house work.

Elsie: Yeah, she wasn't to found of school, but she got along!

L: And the 3rd one: You, were interested in the school work.

Elsie: Yeah I liked the school work - I always did!

L: Your dad didn't have any boys to take over hes work outside?

Elsie: Well! -

L: But You all helped out.

Elsie: We all helped eachother. We were all together the hole day.

L: Your dad didn't milk any cows?

Elsie: Milk any cows?

L: Yeah - Your dad?

Elsie: Yeah - he milked, before

L: He did!

Elsie: before the older sister got so she could - yeah. Yeah, he did.

L: (? Utelämnat).

Elsie: We didn't have a separator at the first.

L: No.

Elsie: I'm not sure we had a separator on the farm. We kept the milk down in the (?), with the cold water and skinned off it and

L: And made butter.

Elsie: and made butter.

L: Did You sell that butter?

Elsie: If we had to much - yeah. We took it to Cleyburn and trade it in for money in our (?).

L: So, at that time, there was no dairy in Oldsburn, or closed by?

Elsie: No; not in Oldsburn, or in Cleyburn either. They went to Cleyburn, quite a bit, to do their trading, more than to Oldsburn. You had a couple of more stores in Cleyburn, but I used to go to Oldsburn once in awhile.

L: And the eggs went the same way?

Elsie: The eggs - we had egg crades You know to pack them in.

L: What did You buy in the stores? It was coffee, I suppose?

Elsie: Coffee and sugar and flouer, they did all their baking.

L: You couldn't get the flouer from a farm?

Elsie: No. There were some that did but we never did, we just bought it in the store.

L: And then all the baking was done at home in the oven.

Elsie: Yeah it's different now. And the (?) was picked by somebody and put in the stove to make the oven warm.

L: What kind of bread was baked; the big, long cakes, or loaves?

Elsie: Mama usually just baked loaves, I think. I am sure she did it both. I remember she had a pan (? Utelämnat).

L: And it was less for a week then?

Elsie: Well; I imagine it so.

L: You always had fresh bread?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: And then You mentioned about butchering. You had the pigs and You butchered during the fall?

Elsie: Yeah. And my mothers brothers, one of them - they lived about 4 or 5 miles from our farm - so they used to come over always when they were going to have a slaughtering day, they came over. Mama did heat the water - yeah - she was heating the water in the stove and papa was getting them, what ever else they needed, - and; so; - those men came and butchered. - And; - I can remember when they had the hog hanging up in the little barn, it was a little leanto, where they used to put this buggy. And they cut it up and - and

L: They used the hole pig then?

Elsie: Canned. - Yeah. Canned some of it, and - they didn't freeze it of course, but they canned, they salted it.

L: Salted it down.

Elsie: A little.

L: Where did You keep it then, on the upper floor - or?

Elsie: We had a cave papa had fixed, that they had, I suppose he did it.

L: Oh! like a cellar?

Elsie: Like a cellar yeah and we had to go down. We had kept our canned fruit and we even kept our apples down there.

L: And it would last then until March-April?

Elsie: I suppose so, (?) chickens and stuff like that. They didn't buy much, it was expensive - I suppose - but we always had. Mother used to make dry beef herself, excellent dry beef.

L: She was able then to take care of the hole thing.

Elsie: Yeah, she did that. Yeah. (? utelämnat) by the fire and she smoked it in there - yeah.

L: How about sausage?

Elsie: Yeah - she made sausage. The neighbours went together I think some times and made potato sausage at the Christmas time.

L: Do You remember if they saved the blood?

Elsie: Yeah, they did. That's something I never use, but; they did.

L: But they did.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was there certain parts of the pig that You didn't eat?

Elsie: Well - that was a thing that I didn't like to eat!

L: How about the rest of Your sisters, didn't they like the blood meat either?

Elsie: I wouldn't know - I don't think I remember; - but I remember it was very dislikable to me, so I just left it.

L: Was there somebody who had told You that, or did You figure it out for Yourself, that You just didn't like it?

Elsie: It just was really against me - I think. It might have been some other kids - You know - in my age!

L: Was there any other food that You didn't like?

Elsie: I'm just thinking they're taking that blood from that pig, it's dislikable.

L: So You just watched them sometimes?

Elsie: No, I don't think I was ever out there when they really did it. They had a certain place where they did it - and I think we stayed away.

L: But Your older sisters, they had to help?

Elsie: I suppose they did, when they got older.

L: How about Christmas. Did You have any big gatherings?

Elsie: I remember one or two Christmases when we went to grandpa Nelsons house and that was a big day. Papa did get hes chores down and get all the kids in that spring wagon and drive another 8 miles - You know. But they had it all ready - and they had just gordious Christmas dinners down there - the hole day - and they had candelabra in the ceiling - and You know how scared people are of lights now. And this was just hanging down and it was trimmed with tissue paper and candles all around. Then they had a tree, they got a big Christmas tree, in the living room. Yeah - it was a nice time.

L: How was that tree decorated?

Elsie: With candles. All candles.

L: And they were burning?

Elsie: They were burning when we were in there. We went in the living room for that.

L: What else did they have in the tree, did they have any flags or ornaments of ?

Elsie: They had some ornaments, some nice pieces, they used to say they came from Sweden, and a little like that.

L: Oh - they had that?

Elsie: Yeah. Oh yeah.

L: Things they brought with them, do You think, or they had sent for it?

Elsie: Well - I imagine so, some relation mabee had sent; (?) and that silvery paper stuff - You know. And I remember one time my uncle went out. We kids were supposed to go in then into the living room and my uncle came in with a basket; an old (?) basket, You know how they were? And he had hes gifts in there. That was from hes family. There were names in them You know. Yeah. - And - everybody were supposed to have some little gift and we had always found something.

L: And that tree was decorated by Your grand parents?

Elsie: Yeah it was my grand parents.

L: Had they decorated it themselves?

Elsie: No. As long as I remember; the oldest son was married and lived there with the grand parents and they had their first baby, so; it was him and her, that had decorated the tree, the wife and her. We had everything. We had potato sausage, we had ostkaka, and we had, I think we had lever even. They had just everything!

L: You brought things with You also then?

Elsie: We brought some things and they fixed the rest. They just had everything.

L: And then there was a lot of talking.

Elsie: A lot of talking.

L: In Swedish, I suppose?

Elsie: I'm sure it was in Swedish!

L: Because Your grandparents - they probably - ?

Elsie: They didn't go with English.

L: They were talking Swedish.

Elsie: Yeah. I don't know how old I would have been then, the last time I remember, mabee six, or something like that. Because I know; he was real proud of this baby he had - the father. And he had it laying in one of those rocking chairs, they fixed a little bed in that and he

wanted us to look at that baby. The baby died. She lived in about twelve years - and - she was gone.

L: It could have been some sickness.

Elsie: Yeah. Papa always got a tree - maybe one of the brothers from the valley would bring us a Christmas tree. We put up that in - if we had a container of some kind, in our little living room, we had a nice little living room. And - We had an organ; grandmas old organ - and - somehow they would trim that tree at the night, after we had gone to bed - and they had closed the door and nobody should go in, in that living room, until we'd have our Christmas supper - and we had: potatoes and korv and lutfisk etcetera. And - then - somehow - papa would get outside! and! - and go around to the front door and knock on the door and set in a little box of presents. And then they made us believe, or tried to make us believe, that it was Sankta Claus coming.

L: So he didn't show himself then.

Elsie: Yeah - yeah. Then he came back. He didn't show himself, he just knocked at the door and he (?) us that it was Sankta Claus who had left those gifts. And - of course - that got away from us pretty soon, when we knew better! And then we opened that box with gifts - and sometimes we'd sing a song before - and - I wonder if I would play, or if I didn't play - if I had learned to play. A-Ha. And we'd sometimes use to sing a little hymn before - and then we would open this - and then papa usually read in the scripture after that.

L: What kind of gifts did You receive then?

Elsie: Many home made gifts that mama had made for us; things we needed - or some crayons for school, or maybe a book we needed - or things like that. But; - usually there was always a doll in, with us four girls it was always a doll in the family - You know - and new clothes, new dresses for this doll and things like that. Well - those is the things I think of.

L: There were no fruits?

Elsie: Yeah yeah they had fruits - they always had.

L: How about candies? Did You get chocolate at that time?

Elsie: Well - I don't remember chocolate at that time. It was usually those hard, with red stripes on - You know those Swedish. Yeah. They had some pretty things that they had been brought from Sweden, or had got them from Sweden since they came; real pretty. Two - or three - pretty things for the tree; and they were very special to us. We kept them.

L: And the Christmas tree, it was a cedar tree You said.

Elsie: It was a cedar tree.

L: And it was picked up in the

Elsie: Blue Valley.

L: In the Blue Valley.

Elsie: mhm.

L: And it was cut off, it wasn't taken up with the root?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: It was cut off.

Elsie: Just cut off. And we kept it as long as we could.

L: For how long, do You think?

Elsie: Maybe in January some time we had to take it out.

L: Did You have a big party then, when You undressed the tree and You danced around it, do You remember that?

Elsie: (Överhoppat).

L: Yeah - the tree.

Elsie: I don't remember so much of that. I think the older girls made it, mabee. But we sang - and we had a good time.

L: There were a lot of Swedish dishes, You mentioned lutfisk.

Elsie: Everything was there!

L: So You could get lutfisk in Oldsburn?

Elsie: Sill - I remember sill. Well - they made their own lutfisk. They just brought those fishes.

L: Yes, But I mean: they could buy that flake?

Elsie: Yeah. Mama did have all the time, she fixed her own - and we did it at home.

L: How often did they eat lutfisk? Only for Christmas?

Elsie: Well - pass the new year, and; as long as - what ever they had - as long as that lasted, sometimes they did the second (?).

L: But You never started with lutfisk before Christmas?

Elsie: No no, that was at the Christmas eve: lutfisk.

L: And there were lutfisk och - potatiskorv

Elsie: Potatiskorv - A-Ha.

L: Ostkaka?

Elsie: Ostkaka! Mince pie, I think we had a (?) of mince, and apple. And: rise pudding.

L: Rise pudding. Was it the last thing? Was it the dessert; rise pudding?

Elsie: Yeah but there was something else; well - pie - they always had a pie, mince pie usually, but they had made it themselves.

L: That was more like an American dish then: the mince pie?

Elsie: Yeah, that was

L: Where had they picked that up, do You think?

Elsie: No! I don't know! The neighbours were talking together. Neighbours were talking together.

L: Before Your Christmas meal - You said the prayer?

Elsie: Not before we sat down, after we sat down and usually it was - I suppose grandpa did it, as long as he could, - and after that, one of the

L: Do You remember that prayer, Can You recite it?

Elsie: I think it just came out of his mind.

L: A Swedish prayer?

Elsie: A Swedish. Yeah I don't know if it was just a particular prayer. I think it was just a free prayer that he said that night.

L: It was always a prayer said at the table then?

Elsie: And we always had our hands **like this** and our heads down too - You know. We knew that. We were trained to put our hands down and listen to that prayer.

L: Can You recite a Swedish prayer that You remember?

Elsie: I don't think I really do that, I don't know.

L: No.

Elsie: I think it was (?), that he just gave free.

L: I see.

Elsie: I think that.

L: And it was a short prayer then?

Elsie: Oh yeah, it wasn't really short, but it was; - I know, we girls just thought it would be nice to start eating!

L: After a long days work. How about after the meal. Did You say: Thank You for the food then, before You could leave the table?

Elsie: Oh yes. We always Tackade Gud för maten.

L: All of You?

Elsie: No, we left it to that one person, to do it.

L: I see. And then You could leave the table.

Elsie: mhm.

L: At the Christmas parties, could You all sit at the same table?

Elsie: All, but two or three, that had to be in the kitchen. It was a long table and - there was a couple of three that had to be in the kitchen, just to bring the food and; - and service.

L: So they ate there?

Elsie: They ate. When we were through, I imagine they came and sat at the table.

L: So the living room; that room was never used daily?

Elsie: No, they were pretty careful of that room. It was an organ in there and a little davenport of some kind and - mabee a rug on the floor; a home made rug - mabee. They had their sitting room and they used that more then every day. Grandpa had hes big clock in there, from Sweden. A Swedish clock.

L: That room wasn't heated in the winter time then, unless when it was used?

Elsie: No. I think that's right.

L: Was it a separate stove in there?

Elsie: No. I think they opened everything up, from the other door.

L: You had an organ in Your home?

Elsie: We had an old organ that grandma Nelson didn't need, because her daughter in law brought her organ, to put in the home. So she gave that organ to us. And that's where we played.

L: You all learned to play then?

Elsie: The two older once didn't learn to play.

L: How did You get the knock?

Elsie: I don't know how to say that, but; Ellen and I liked to play - and she even learned to play. I guess I took a few lestons after I got up to Oldsburn and I just kept on.

L: (? Utelämnat)?

Elsie: Yeah, we had music.

L: Was it common that the most homes had an organ?

Elsie: Those neighbours, that we knew, had it and I don't know about - I say - (the Yankees), I don't know - and I don't remember them.

L: Because that was an expense.

Elsie: Yeah. And those (?) neighbours, that I'm talking about, they had a good organ! and some of their girls learned to play. And so we wanted an organ. We were happy when it was given to us.

L: So - You couldn't finish all Your schools there. You moved to

Elsie: To grades in Oldsburn.

L: In Oldsburn.

Elsie: And then I graduated from High school - You see - there in Oldsburn.

L: Yes.

Elsie: From High school.

L: Why did You move from Oldsburn? You moved away from the farm then.

Elsie: Because of papas health. So we went here.

L: So You sold the farm then?

Elsie: He sold hes little farm.

L: At that time, there was noone of the girls, that married - or?

Elsie: No no. So we sold the farm and took us all to Oldsburn. My oldest sister wasn't home very much after that. She worked out. She went to Manhattan.

L: So he sold the farm and he could buy a house in Oldsburn.

Elsie: He bought a house. He bought a little lot, it's a nice little place in there - and hes uncle - one of my mothers brothers, and another man - built that house.

L: And he got money left then, so he could live on without working.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Because - Your mother couldn't?

Elsie: Well she sewed some, but not at that time. She hadn't started then.

L: And one of Your sisters still stayed then with them in Oldsburn?

Elsie: Yeah there was one with him and her all the time - yeah. The oldest, when mother was left alone, she did stay there with her.

L: And You came there in April 1908?

Elsie: I think that's right.

L: And then he died the same year?

Elsie: He died in 1909. We came there in April and he died in 1909,

L: Oh - 1909.

Elsie: in June I think. He died on hes birthday.

L: Did he go under doctor's care then for something?

Elsie: Yeah - he was under the doctor's care. Medicin.

L: He was going down then?

Elsie: We knew he was going down, all the time.

L: How old was he then?

Elsie: 60.

L: 60.

Elsie: They called it (?), or they called it something different. Heart illness, of some kind.

L: But Your mother was still - ?

Elsie: She was pretty perky. And then she worked.

L: She lived until 1935.

Elsie: A-Ha, she was 73, I think. So she got along.

L: You were confirmed in Oldsburn?

Elsie: Oldsburn.

L: Yes.

Elsie: And that was the last Swedish class they had, after that they switched to English.

L: Was it a big class?

Elsie: Yeah I think we were about twelwe.

L: Twelwe.

Elsie: About equally devided; boys and girls.

L: Oh I see. And You went once a week then?

Elsie: Yeah, every Saturday.

L: You didn't walk to far then.

Elsie: That was right in Oldsburn.

L: In Oldsburn, and it was a white stone church.

Elsie: No. That was a little wooden church.

L: Oh it was a wooden church!

Elsie: And they got brick around.

L: I see!

Elsie: I liked the oldest. I liked the older one.

L: So - wood was used instead of stone?

Elsie: Yeah - wood was used in place of stone.

L: Would You say that most of the houses around there were of stone though?

Elsie: In Oldsburn?

L: Yeah.

Elsie: I don't think I could say that.

L: No.

Elsie: There was a period when they wanted things done in a hurry - and they used just wood in.

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: mhm.

L: But there were plenty of stone to be used for construction around there?

Elsie: Oh yeah. But most of the houses in Oldsburn were of wood.

L: I see. You had to finish Your school in Manhattan? 70 miles away.

Elsie: I went to Manhattan, There I worked for my board and room, for two years of High school.

L: Oh You worked for Your board!

Elsie: I worked for my board, and room. I've been a poor lady!

L: How did You do that, I mean: to combine it with the schooling?

Elsie: Okey: My sister worked for a wealthy family in Manhattan - and, at the time, they'd have a girl and she was eight years old, a daughter; this couple. That was the only children they had. She was eight years old when I moved there - and they wanted. My sister was going to quitt working. They thought they could get along with me; going to school and staying with Mary - sometimes You know - when they went out. When they wanted to go out. Then I should be a baby sitter - and also do the house work - and I did that. And I had a little room downstairs, right out of the kitchen - and - that was my little room. And then I had the kitchen over here, and the stair went up here - and - I took care of that for two years.

L: So - You could make a little bit money then, instead of paying?

Elsie: I got a dollar every week for cleaning. That's all I got - and that board and room.

L: Were You tired then after the school and the work?

Elsie: Oh yes. (? Överhoppat). I had a little trouble there, the man started drinking

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: and that was a kind of bad for us, but; I made it all right. And I took care of Mary when they were gone. And - and then they had parties some times there and I'd have to manage that!

L: You had to cook too?

Elsie: Yes.

L: So - then - Your mothers teaching came in handy.

Elsie: I guess so!

L: Could You do cooking at that time?

Elsie: Oh yeah.

L: You baked too?

Elsie: Yeah, I did some baking.

L: After two years in Manhattan You went to Emporia.

Elsie: A-Ha. That was only

L: And a college.

Elsie: That was only a summer session I had there.

L: I see.

Elsie: But I took the Primary (?); cause I aimed that, I liked to teach in Primary some time. I took Primary and I had to have some certificate for that.

L: How did You get the idea?

Elsie: I don't know. I think it just came here, all by itself.

L: Was it a regulare college, a business college - or?

Elsie: It was a normal college but they had - what they called - Normal courses for teaching and that's what I took, a summer course there.

L: Something like Bethany in Lindsborg?

Elsie: Yeah yeah.

L: But it was not as big though, or was it the same size?

Elsie: It was an ordinary state college yeah.

L: An ordinary college.

Elsie: Yeah. But then I didn't get the. - The job I got then was, for the next year, was at a country school.

L: In Rock Prairie?

Elsie: A-Ha. Prairie Rock.

L: Prairie Rock I mean.

Elsie: It was on the other side of Cleyburn, quite a little place west of Cleyburn, right out there. And I tought there one year - and then the next I got the Primary in Oldsburn - cause the teacher had to quitt.

L: When You got this first call as a teacher, did You have to take the State Exam then to be a teacher, or an authorisation that You had gone through it?

Elsie: I think I had to take something like that - yeah.

L: So that Normal college course, that was for teaching?

Elsie: A teaching course, exact.

L: A teaching course.

Elsie: And then, when I was in Manhattan, that's when I met my husband - You know. And - they had a little white church.

L: In Emporia You mean?

Elsie: In Manhattan.

L: Oh in Manhattan!

Elsie: A-Ha - and it was a little white church, changed from what it is now and I was organist. I was playing on Sunday You know- and in the evenings some times. I managed the organist job in this little church. And they had called a student from Lindsborg to manage the service during the summer there. And that's when Hjalmar came there and that's were we met.

L: So he had gone through Bethany?

Elsie: He was working at Bethany then.

L: Oh I see, so he had already gone through the Theological seminar?

Elsie: No, just Bethany. He had two more years to go.

L: (?) from Augustana?

Elsie: Before he graduated from Augustana.

L: I see.

Elsie: And that's were we met - and before (? utelämnat) we were a kind of committed and we decided to marry.

L: (Överhoppat konstaterande). Did You marry then?

Elsie: No. We waited two years, until he graduated. He had to graduate from Augustana and I had to teach one more year. I didn't have to, but I did. I tought one more year after that.

L: Could You have married at that time?

Elsie: If we had a lot of money and I hadn't been eager to not teach any more, but I was committed to teach and I wanted to - and it was agreeable.

L: But he was not ordained pastor then, he was only a student?

Elsie: He was a student.

L: Could a student pastor marry at that time without interfering with the continuation of to be a pastor?

Elsie: I wouldn't know that answer, I wouldn't know. And they took him to Minneapolis to ordaining, they did it with those classes. That's were he was ordained, in Minneapolis.

L: And then You married in Oldsburn.

Elsie: A-Ha. We made these plans before. We were married - I guess - a couple of weeks after he came (?), we were married, in that little white church. And then we had a reception at mamas home, (?) and; - and then we left - and from there on I've got the story here.

L: Yeah. You have saved the wedding invitation, or the menue - so to speak.

Elsie: That's it! Isn't that funny?

L: Yeah: fruit (? utelämnat), what is that?

Elsie: Well. -

L: It was the first of the menue.

Elsie: It was; I imagine: oranges and bananas and; depending of the time of the year, mabee pears cut up You know - like we do now - and; mabee some orange juice on there. No wine or anything.

L: No, not any wine. Nothing to drink? Just coffee?

Elsie: I suppose we had water on the table but coffee, but no other drinks.

L: And then, as number two of the menue: sandwiches, Saratoga chips. What is that?

Elsie: It's a potato chip, like a potato chip.

L: Oh they had those at that time too!

Elsie: Something like that.

L: From fresh potatoes?

Elsie: A little different - yeah.

L: Oh, I see! How did You buy them? Did You make them at home?

Elsie: We mabee sent for them from Manhattan, or something, or mabee we ordered them special. I wouldn't remember that, but we got them, - in any way.

L: And Pressed chicken.

Elsie: I think (? utelämnat) and that was Pressed chicken!

L: Oh - I see. There was a lot of work! But it was a fansy dish then.

Elsie: It was a fansy dish and You made (?) and You put it off in squares and served it, with lattuce mabee.

L: I see! and Double peas, and pickles. And the double peas now and pickles, it was from Your own?

Elsie: Not the peas.

L: No!

Elsie: No, I don't think so.

L: You didn't have that in Your garden?

Elsie: No, we didn't have enough garden stuff.

L: I thought You had?

Elsie: Yeah - it was just cucumbers, or something there.

L: You had that.

Elsie: mhm.

L: And then Pinapple sallad and Cheese wafers.

Elsie: That would be on lattuce and a pinnapple slice and then a little - a little dressing on the top and a tiny - like a little cracker and a bit of cheese wafer.

L: I see. Pinapple sallad, that was?

Elsie: Yeah it was fruit, it was just - A-Ha.

L: And then You had a good time, making all the Angel fruit cakes.

Elsie: We made the Angel fruit cakes. It was hot down there in Kansas - don't You know! We didn't have air conditioning.

L: How did You keep it, did You make it a day before?

Elsie: We put the Angel fruit cakes in the basement. But the bankers whife did have a refrigerator and she kept some of that food stuff,

L: At that time?

Elsie: at that time, for us. She lived (?) away.

L: What kind of refrigerator was that? Was it gas powered, or?

Elsie: It probably was electric, - I wouldn't say that. It could have been gas.

L: It could have been electric, at that time?

Elsie: It could have been gas - I don't know.

L: But the farmer homes didn't have that?

Elsie: Not generally, no. They used to have a big place were they kept frozen stuff and they could go there and buy it too - You know.

L: The ice cream, it was made in the same day?

Elsie: Well - they cooked the custard the day before - I think - and cooled it and then froozed it, mabee the same day.

L: Where did they get the ice?

Elsie: Somebody had enough ice in their ice box, so they bought it in chunks, that's the way they used to do it!

L: So You bought it then from the ice-man?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: I see. If I go back a little bit to Your farm. Did Your dad take up any ice from the stream?

Elsie: mhm.

L: That was what he used to.

Elsie: mhm. And we used it.

L: And Rosette wafers, what was that? Was it a coockie?

Elsie: What is it in English?

L: Rosette?

Elsie: Oh - that's though Swedish things, that You're making on a certain iron and dip it down in fat. Everetts make them all the time,

L: Oh I see!

Elsie: That's what they were.

L: And that was the last.

Elsie: And they were very special.

L: And then You had coffee.

Elsie: And then coffee.

L: And the children drank milk, I suppose. Were there any children?

Elsie: Well - there were some little girls in the wedding party - and - they were just drinking milk or something mabee - the children.

L: Who was the pastor?

Elsie: Doctor Lindqvist, A. W. Lindqvist, do You remember him; Albert.

L: Yes, I've seen the name.

Elsie: He was our pastor for quite a while, before he went to - where did he go? to Kansas City? He was a kind of quitting - You know. I don't know about hes whife. I think she was living there, I'm not sure, mabee she was. Yeah.

L: So that was the wedding then. Your husband was ordained?

Elsie: He was already ordained. He'd been ordained in Minneapolis and he went to home first, and came down. So we were ready to go.

L: So You stayed in Your home then, just for a short while.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: If I ask You about Your schools. Was it in Rock Prairie, - or; Prairie Rock?

Elsie: Prairie Rock.

L: Prairie Rock.

Elsie: mhm.

L: Did You have eight classes there?

Elsie: Well; I had eight grades! and I had one or two children.

L: How did You manage that, when they were so different?

Elsie: Well - You have Your seats up in the front, You don't have any desks to them out in the country schools. And then I'd say: The second grade reading come up and be here in my desk - and there mabee be two come up, or mabee four, or; what ever there was in the Second grade! And then they would come up and then I would ask them questions about their leston, if they understood that leston - and I would ask them questions. Sometimes they would put things on the blackboard, or I would have things on the blackboard. Sometimes they would have to go and write up on the blackboard.

L: And that You interfered with: the 4th, 5th, the 6th and the 7th grade?

Elsie: They had to sit there (?) during that time.

L: I see.

Elsie: They sat, like in their desks, in other schools.

L: And they were quiet then?

Elsie: They had to be.

L: So You had a tremendous respect with You then? You were a young girl!

Elsie: I don't know!

L: What did they tell You, at the Normal college in Emporia, about how You should (?)?

Elsie: I've forgot what they tought there! But; they tried to help us teaching You know.

L: And the children were ?

Elsie: Yeah - I got along - yeah.

L: No problems?

Elsie: No. Yeah! We had some problems; about absences and things like that, not coming to school like they should - or something. They had to come from

L: Far away.

Elsie: far away - but; - we got along. In fact: they asked me to come back the next year, but I didn't. Then I committed myself to Oldsburn You see.

L: And then You came home to Your old neighbourhood.

Elsie: And I had three grades there: I had the Primary grade, and Grade One, and Two! And that little ones are in need of a little more leading than - than ordinary.

L: Was it more interesting to have 8 grades instead of 3?

Elsie: I like the 3 the better.

L: Why? Was it easier to learn?

Elsie: Yeah - there was three lessons to get ready - You see. And in the other way, You had **all the lessons** to get ready.

L: You had to work all night then?

Elsie: I don't think I ever did, but I maybe should!

L: You didn't only have one grade!

Elsie: That's right!

L: Because You had to be (?) in: geography, and in

Elsie: I had to know everything, everything.

L: From the first step, up to the

Elsie: That's the way they did with all of them in those days!

L: It was a one room school house?

Elsie: A one room - and; - You've seen an old school house. You know how big they are. A big stove in the center of the room.

L: And water, and a dipper.

Elsie: mhm. (? Överhoppat).

L: How did they do: they were coming in with their wet feet - and everything?

Elsie: We just managed, the best we could.

L: Did they take their boots off, to dry off?

Elsie: I suppose; if they were real wet, they put them by the stove I think.

L: Otherwise they were sitting there with wet feet.

Elsie: They were being sitting with their wet feet, or take it off or something. We managed that too I guess.

L: They ate their lunch, right in the class room?

Elsie: In the spring time we would go out and eat, if they wanted to. Otherwise they sat, were ever they wanted to - by their desks, - and ate.

L: And then they had breaks between

Elsie: Recess.

L: Recess. What did they do then?

Elsie: They could go out doors and play - if it was nice. Sometimes even in the winter time they did like to go out and play.

L: That was about 5, 10 minutes?

Elsie: 15 minutes recess.

L: You had Your lunch also then, during that time?

Elsie: I sat by my desk and ate lunch.

L: So that was an experience!

Elsie: I've got lots of experiences, I really have. I guess: anybody at 90 years of age can say that! (? Överhoppat). You start now - don't wait to You're 90!

L: You have seen a tremendous lot of changes in Your life?

Elsie: Everybody tells me that, and it's true, how big the changes have been, from then until now. And I don't know. Should I call them Good changes, or bad?

L: Well - this is the question! You had this one room school house. Now they are talking about to go back to that idea again. Would it work, do You think?

Elsie: Not as well as what we'd been doing, I don't think.

L: You don't think so.

Elsie: No. It would be more companionship with the children mabee - between themselves.

L: But it would be harder then to teach?

Elsie: Oh I think it would be very hard.

L: It would be very hard for the teacher to keep the respect.

Elsie: I'm thinking we're mabee making too many changes.

L: Could You touch a pupil? Could You tell them that they had to sit down?

Elsie: Oh - I suppose I did, - mabee, if they were whispering, or studying together when they shouldn't.

L: Then You had to - to touch Your foot down.

Elsie: Yeah. I would mabee say: "Be quiet"; to somebody.

L: Where You told that at the Teachers college in Emporia, how to behave?

Elsie: Mabee we had a Trial course! - I don't remember! - right in the class. I have been in this so many years (? utelämnat). I had nice teachers.

L: So then You tought one school year in Oldsburn?

Elsie: In the country, and one in

L: And You moved away to (?).

Elsie: - and that was **It** - and I was through. Yeah.

L: And then You moved away from Kansas.

Elsie: She said: he changed hes name, out East, working for the railroad. And; somehow she thinks: the error could have been made: from Johnson to Jackson. Now that's all I can tell You about that.

L: That was Your husbands father?

Elsie: That was my husbands father.

L: They came to Malmo in Nebraska.

Elsie: A-Ha. They had - They had a relation, and some friends there, that's why it led them to Malmo. Yeah. Yeah. - And they had their homested up there: Highburns.

L: Did You visit them shortly after Your marriage?

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah.

L: Your husbands parents.

Elsie: We left Oldsburn and went - in fact: - we left Oldsburn and went there for a little, second honeymoon. That's the only thing we did. We stopped and visited with hes parents.

L: It isn't too far up north there?

Elsie: No! A couple of 100 miles, or something! In fact: we went on the train You know.

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: And we stayed there for, mabee ten days, or something, and visited her. He was gone. He was gone; - the man. But the brother and old mother lived there, so we stayed there with her.

L: Did You notice anything different in that neighbourhood of Malmo, compared to Oldsburn?

Elsie: They lived, I guess: 4 or 5 miles out of Malmo, so here was Malmo - and they lived right on a farm. Right on a farm. I think I noticed that the farmers there had larger areas at their ground. They came a little fether along in my little town, were I lived on the farm. Otherwise; there was the neighbourhood (? överhoppat). And they had a cousin, that lived one miles and a half away, and they had us over a couple of times, in order to get acquainted - and that - so we had a nice time there.

L: How about the dwellings, the houses they lived in. Were they bigger?

Elsie: What?

L: The houses they lived in?

Elsie: They had a huge house, they had built up a huge house.

L: Were the houses bigger, compared to in Oldsburn?

Elsie: Well two of them were - and some were just the opposit.

L: Two storey houses.

Elsie: Two storey houses - and big two storey houses. But then, You see, the family was gone; so it was just the mother and the one son left. So that house

L: He wasn't married then?

Elsie: No he wasn't married then, he was alone. I'll guess they had a little more money mabee - if I should say that - than we did, but; our living was about the same. (? Utelämnat).

L: But Your husband; Hjalmar, he wasn't interested to be a farmer?

Elsie: My husband?

L: Your husband. He wasn't interested in being a farmer?

Elsie: No! He worked there, until he grow up - and then I guess he got the idea that he wanted to go to school. And then; Wahoo, in Nebraska, - You see - was not to far from there, so that made it a kind of handy for him. So he went there.

L: To Luther college?

Elsie: To Luther college. And then from there he came up to Lindsborg - and then; the seminary. No, he didn't care for farming.

L: Hes call then, the first one, was to?

Elsie: Merrill Wisconsin.

L: Merrill, Wisconsin. That was up in a different area completely.

Elsie: (? Överhoppat).

L: You got a homesick then, because there was a different climate?

Elsie: There were times when I was - but I knew it was going to be in that way. We lost our first little girl up there. I lived with that.

L: For how long did Your husband stay there?

Elsie: I wrote those down, I was afraid I wouldn't remember it. We were there two years - yeah - and then we went to Salem.

L: Salem; In North Dakota?

Elsie: South Dakota.

L: South Dakota I mean! South Dakota.

Elsie: And that was another experience. It was out in the country.

L: It was out in the prairie?

Elsie: About half a mile, the church was a little away (? överhoppat) from the parsonage; a beautyful six room parsonage.

L: The parsonage was located a little away from the church?

Elsie: Quite away. Yeah.

L: You stayed there - and the most of your daughters were born there?

Elsie: Two of them were born there.

L: Two of them.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: In Merrill, and in Salem, did You have to help Your husband with any kind of church work?

Elsie: Not with official works. I just did work with the ladies.

L: Silent work.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Never recognised.

Elsie: Never recognising!

L: Very seldom recognised either.

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah well that's true.

L: You had to be a chairman, or a president for the chapter even.

Elsie: Well - sometimes. Many times.

L: Didn't the women expect the pastors wife?

Elsie: Yeah, the one that had been had been there for years You know. They had both been very devoted and they were very expectedly.

L: (? Överhoppat).

Elsie: (? Överhoppat).

L: Did You feel, at any time, that there were a pressure on You?

Elsie: Well a kind of, but they were nice about it You know. One time I had the Ladies ade at the house and it was an annual meeting and they expected it. I think I had a hundred and some people there!

L: All ladies?

Elsie: The men would come along to drive the horses.

L: And they could also come in for a cup of coffee?

Elsie: Yeah! Sure!

L: How could You feed all those people?

Elsie: Well I had lots of cakes out in the pantry! and coffee!

L: You had no help?

Elsie: No - but the ladies came on and helped me. They even asked me to make communion wine, which I did one year.

L: You made the communion wine!

Elsie: The lady before me had made the communion wine.

L: From what?

Elsie: Of grapes.

L: Grapes. And You had to learn that? Was it in Salem?

Elsie: It was in Salem. But I did it one year, - and then I said: No. I didn't say No the first year but the other lady had done it and I said: "I'll try". So that was

L: So they had to buy it. They brought in grapes though from somewhere?

Elsie: Yeah: I don't remember about the grapes, were they got them. It's so long time ago.

L: So You had to bottle it.

Elsie: mhm.

L: Were they still speaking Swedish at Salem?

Elsie: They were - yes. It came to the time where they needed just a change, you know. That was being brought about when we were there. But - it was hard for the older people to keep up with driving automobiles - and things like that. So, even at that time, in 1920 I guess it was, they were driving horses, the older people that lived far away. They just couldn't take learning how to drive that cars.

L: At the meetings in Kvinnoföreningen, did You have to talk Swedish to them, or could You have it in English?

Elsie: I imagine I took quite a bit of both.

L: Because there were some oldtimers still going around then?

Elsie: Yeah. It was a kind of hard, You know, to keep up with the Swedish. I had nice ladies to work with. I don't think there's any place where I can complain about the ladies, I really don't.

L: So they tried to help You?

Elsie: Yeah they were always good. They were always good. Yeah. They had a kind of done their way and if You couldn't (? utelämnat). They were good.

L: But they expected You to be the one that went before?

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah they tried to expect that - I guess - in those days.

(? En del överhoppat).

L: Did they have a lot of potluck suppers at the church during that time?

Elsie: not as much as at some of the other churches. They did some, but it was far for people to come in, You see - and it got to be hard for them to gather. They had to get out and sometimes, during the winter, it would be snowy - and it wasn't easy for them.

L: So sometimes the churches were closed then?

Elsie: Well - if it was real stormy. But they did pretty good.

L: Did it happen that Your husband had to (? överhoppat) some of the högmässor?

Elsie: I don't think that happened much, I don't remember that it happened.

L: No.

Elsie: But he would get up there, if somebody (?) have service.

L: You stayed on there, for how many years?

Elsie: You mean in Salem?

L: Yes.

Elsie: We were there four years.

L: Four years. Was it some conveniences there in the surroundings? Could You get to a store quite easy?

Elsie: There was a store; a grocery store and a post office that we could walk to and that helped a lot.

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: And, of course, my husband kept a car and goes to the town.

L: You had a car?

Elsie: Oh yeah.

L: And; the congregation ?

Elsie: Not. Noo no.

L: Oh he had hes own car?

Elsie: Oh he had hes own car. We only got that one car in Merrill.

L: You had one there?

Elsie: We got a car there. A Model T. They gave us one.

L: Why didn't they have that conveniens in Salem?

Elsie: We haven't seen that in any other place!

L: In Merrill was the only one.

Elsie: Merrill was the only one. Yeah!

L: Jaha!

Elsie: Yeah.

L: But it was a small congregation in Merrill though?

Elsie: Yeah - but; we had two other places to go to - You know. Scandia; and then a place in between.

L: Tamaha?

Elsie: No, we stopped at Lions Stone.

L: Oh, Lions Stone.

Elsie: And it was really nothing, but an old peoples home. A great, big house that we did call, years ago; a poor house. Do You know what I mean? And they had older people staying in there, roamed in. There was a Lutheran wife and her husband - and we stopped there, once in awhile, and we had a service for them. And then we had to go to Scandia You see. It was - it was 30 miles between Merrill and Scandia. But Scandia was interesting.

L: In All Your places: there were Swedes. You had the Baptists, You had the Covernants, You had the Methodists. How did that affekt Your husbands work? Was it, at that time, pretty strict lines between the people?

Elsie: I think that each one took care of their own - yeah.

L: They didn't want to mix, in other words.

Elsie: Not to much, no.

L: No.

Elsie: We had some Together meetings in Merrill some times. There we had Norwegians and we had

L: You had to change the pulpits then.

Elsie: Some times - but mostly it was just it's own.

L: But the pastor had to be careful not to mix to much?

Elsie: No no.

L: It was the congregation.

Elsie: Yeah. You took care of Your own.

L: Were there any discussions, like public discussions, between the Baptists and the Covernants - and?

Elsie: No - I can't say that.

L: You don't remember any.

Elsie: No, I can't say that.

L: No.

Elsie: (? Överhoppat) there own.

L: Did You and Your husband discuss, at any time, the differencies? The Covernants were probably the closest to the Lutherans. The Baptists were to much off, because they had adult baptizem in the water. But the Covernants; the differences there is very very small.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Did You discuss that with Your husband?

Elsie: Oh I think we talked about it when there were little local things comming up. I don't think we spent a lot of time talking about it!

L: Did You discuss that at the Ladies Ade meetings?

Elsie: I don't think we did! I think each one just took it's own and did the best we could there. No. We never had any fights at all. We had a Catholic couple living in Merrill, they were lovely people. We got along with them a lot of times.

L: Did they attend the Lutheran church?

Elsie: No, they had their own church and they went there every Sunday. It's changed in Merrill, things has changed up there.

L: In which years did You serve in Salem?

Elsie: 1920 to -24 we were there.

L: Was it good years?

Elsie: Yeah - I think it was! We were out in the country far but You got used too it - You know. We had this store (? överhoppat). And then we went to Mitchell, which I would say, was - there was a little change in the parishes out there - and I knew this change was comming on - and they needed someone at just that particular time. So they sent us to Mitchell and then - together with that - was a New home congregation out in the country.

L: You worked with this?

Elsie: Yeah. Have You been there?

L: Yes.

Elsie: You've been everywhere!

L: No!

Elsie: So - they sent us there - and - we were only there a year.

L: Salem was also a strictly farming community?

Elsie: In the New home yeh?

L: Yeah.

Elsie: They were All together. All together.

L: All together. Were the people there different from in Salem?

Elsie: Ah?

L: Because the climate; - and the business climate, - can change people drastically. Did they have the envelope system in the church at that time?

Elsie: I believe they did, I think so. I can't say for sure, but I think so.

L: Were they able then to support the church?

Elsie: Yeah. The New home people, there wasn't to many families that lived there. But the ones that were there were so eager and that helped us a lot. I don't know how many families there were, I don't know. In the New home.

L: Yes. I can't say it now.

Elsie: We were there - and - my husbands mother was with us there - and she was ill and we had some kind of tuff times during that time. Then they took her to Nebraska. Her daughter came and got her and then we went to Merrill.

L: Your husband had to make house calls out in the country?

Elsie: Yes.

L: Did they call on him, or did he just drop in?

Elsie: He used to have a kind of a time he went, usually, if it wasn't a sick call - or something.

L: Very few called on the pastor, unless they **had to**?

Elsie: Yeah, - Not very - No.

L: It wasn't abused to much?

Elsie: No, I wouldn't say so.

L: Some people called the pastor all the time.

Elsie: No no. He would go a kind of every once a month, or twice a month, or so. as he felt that he could go - and then he would go, wether he had ben called or not, You know; just go and visit.

L: Otherwise they called only in emergency?

Elsie: Yeah yeah we had those to.

L: For some baptizem, and

Elsie: Yeah, we had those to.

L: and death calls?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: So he went out to the home then, when somebody had died?

Elsie: Oh yeah.

L: Or did he wait until it came to the funeral?

Elsie: No; no he went to their homes.

L: He went to their homes.

Elsie: In Scandia we had a funeral, in the bitter winter, 30 below zero, and; here was the casket in the rig - and it was a lot of flowers to be held. And we had been to their home - and we got in to the car then and went with them to the church. And the church was cold and it was ridiculously cold. No flowers. But we had the funeral. I had all the shoes on when I played the organ!

L: But You couldn't bury? 30 below!

Elsie: (? Överhoppat). So that was one experience.

L: So - flowers were completely useless then, in that cold?

Elsie: Yeah, they couldn't have had them. They were just frozen. They didn't have any.

L: So the church wasn't heated then for that funeral?

Elsie: Well; if there was heat there, I didn't feel it. We didn't keep on to long You know, so: it worked.

L: So that was a dangerous job.

Elsie: It was rhisky.

L: How about Your husband, when he had to go out in hes car in the winter time?

Elsie: He got along. I don't know! I suppose he heated it, or something. We must have had a heater in the car.

(? Överhoppad dialog).

L: And then You worked in Mitchell. In 1924?

Elsie: No. Now we're talking about Mitchell. The next one was Cley Center, Kansas.

L: Then You were back in Kansas again. Were You happy then to come back to Your old neighbourhood?

Elsie: I felt happy. Yes. I was happy. 35 miles from my home.

L: You felt like Your home, looking at the prairies in Kansas.

Elsie: Yeah, I did that. I liked it. Yeah that was a big move for me.

L: Were the people different when You came back to Kansas?

Elsie: Yeah, I think they were!

L: Were they more outspoken?

Elsie: Yeah- more friendly.

L: More friendly.

Elsie: The others were friendly - and always nice - but there was something about the climate, or what ever it was.

L: The people were reserved?

Elsie: A-Ha. Each one. - There were so many things. They had mines and they had so many things up there. They were scared up in the north.

L: I see.

Elsie: Yeah I enjoyed staying up in Kansas.

L: So: Cley Center; Swedesburg, it was called.

Elsie: A-Ha. It was 9 miles up from Cley Center; the congregation.

L: It was a pretty big church though!

Elsie: It was a big church.

L: A big church, and a big congregation.

Elsie: A big congregation, and a good congregation. And our youngest girl was born there.

L: Your husband served there: from 1925, to -31. It was - in other words - before the Depression. And then You came right in to the Depression. Did You feel that in 1931?

Elsie: No. We felt it more I think when we got down to the Moose Mountain. It was bad before we came. It was bad before we came from Merrill. But; we got along. We got our salary and we had to go along, more or less. Yeah we felt that.

L: Did the salary get lower then when You came to Swedesburg?

Elsie: I would guess, mabee about the same, I can't tell You that. I would think; we got the same, or a little bit up about. I don't have that.

L: No.

Elsie: But we got along - and I know it was hard.

L: So it was easier for Your husband to get around Swedesburg and Cley Center?

Elsie: Yeah it was better.

L: And the winters was not that bad either.

Elsie: A-Ha. We had a new house there You know; in Cley Center.

L: A new house?

Elsie: It was rebuilt I guess.

L: I see.

Elsie: It was - I think, a six room house. And we had that to fire - You know! It took a lot.

L: So they didn't help You with the heating?

Elsie: No.

L: You had to do the work Yourself.

Elsie: They did sell wood for us.

L: Oh, they did.

Elsie: A-Ha. One day a year they'd come with the wood so we used that.

L: And You had electricity?

Elsie: A-Ha.

L: Did You have an ice box?

Elsie: Yeah. Not an ice box, - it was what we called a cooler.

L: A cooler.

Elsie: That's what we had. They had fixed that when we came. And the girls had a lot of fun with that.

L: You had to bring in ice?

Elsie: No. No it was a thing that was built way way down below the basement. And then it was a box and a rope, that took it up and down and so it pushed.

(Dialog överhoppad).

L: How about washing mashine, did You have that at that time?

Elsie: Yeah I had an electric downstairs.

L: And it was Your own?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Did the congregation help You with a car at that time?

Elsie: No.

L: No.

Elsie: No, we had our own! No we had nice memories from Cley Center, they were lovely people. (? Överhoppat ganska mycket).

L: But how did You feel the times when You had to tell them the truth?

Elsie: It has been times when I told them the truth! Yeah. If I was for sure I was right and they were wrong. I wouldn't back up with anything that was wrong.

L: No.

Elsie: I mabee had in my life.

(? Överhoppat).

L: Your husband, he was a new pastor. He was trying it out.

Elsie: Yeah, it was a kind of new for him.

L: So it was good for him to have: Merrill, Salem, Mitchell and Cley Center, because he was learning.

Elsie: Yeah he was learning. Yeah. I suppose; every man has to do that, You know.

L: Because, for example in Oldsburn; You had Sundqvist, he was baptizing I suppose.

Sundqvist? In Oldsburn? No that was in Mariadal!

Elsie: Johanson. Johanson baptized.

L: Johanson. Yes.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: In Mariadal, You had Sundqvist there,

Elsie: Yah.

L: for many years. And doctor Heterius for many many years. He probably came up from Texas, I believe.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: He was there for many many many years. So he would set the congregation in one trend and it was very hard to get out of that. So; mabee it isn't to good if a pastor stay to long.

Elsie: I think You're right! I think it's all right to get moving. (? Överhoppat).

L: Because; years ago, like in Rockford, the First Lutheran, doctor Lorén; he was there for 40 years. He never moved.

Elsie: I know of that.

L: And then, from Cley Center, You could go back home to Oldsburn.

Elsie: (? Överhoppat).

L: It was route 36 over.

Elsie: It wasn't far!

L: No.

Elsie: So; I enjoyed that. I could feel closer to my people - and; they came to me.

L: Did they come to visit You?

Elsie: Yeah - they came a few times. We had two christmases there when my mother was still living and then she died.

L: Did she stay then with You in Cley Center?

Elsie: No. No. No she stayed at home. She had a daughter at home. She stayed there.

L: So she were happy then when You married a pastor?

Elsie: I don't know. I think she was a kind of sad, because she knew I had been away so long, she didn't make any fuss over it. She was always kind.

L: Do You think she felt more (?) when You left?

Elsie: Well. Yes!

L: You were the last one.

Elsie: Sure. I was the last one.

L: We got a little bit mixed up here with Merrill.

Elsie: Yes - sure - we did.

L: There was Munising.

Elsie: I know now the differenties.

L: Up in the copper country. And that's were You mentioned: Scandia.

Elsie: And we stopped at that old peoples home in Lions Stone.

L: I see. So that's were You did

Elsie: That's were we got the car.

L: You were there for; how many years? Two years. 1918 to 1920. But then, after Cley Center, You came to Merrill, Wisconsin.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: And that was a call for eight years.

Elsie: Seven, it says here.

L: Seven years.

Elsie: From 1931 to -38.

L: Oh! seven years. There was a little bit different; I mean, even from Munising in Michigan, You came to

Elsie: To Cley Center. Yeah.

L: Yes.

Elsie: Yeah. I guess I was a little mabee disapointed that we were going so far north again, but; I went.

L: So Munising, it was quite a bit up north there?

Elsie: Yeah. That's what I said; it was a long distance for me to take.

L: But it was (? överhoppat), but cold winters and a lot of bears.

Elsie: Yeah! That's right!

L: There were some Finns up there too?

Elsie: There were some Finns there to.

L: And they were very reserved people, weren't they hard to get in to?

Elsie: They were very used to live in the way they always have lived - and they wanted to stay in that way. That one family, that I mentioned, they were Finnish people and they had built a little house, mabee of their own wood, cut the trees down and made the floors, and everything. It was all of wood - and - and stone up around for some places, for windows - and that. And they still drove, at that time. That's the only: (?), I have ever seen driven. They drove. And they just wanted to live on that food they could rase in their farm. They were poor people, and had a big family, and they wanted to live on that - and then work real hard there, rase their food for themselves, to live on, and they thought they would have earned eternity - You know. This was their religion! It was natural to them! (?) was their name; I can remember. And they did everything they could for us to make it nice. They had those floors scrubbed white, and the food, they put on, was all hole rased, but it was lovely. But it was a change for us, You know.

L: Their children, were they brought up in that schooling too?

Elsie: Yeah. We had a letter from a son; my husband had (?), when we were out there at the house. And he said that he had gone out west and he was working in a stone factory. They made (?) of stone out there. He said: he did enjoy that and he was thankful that he got to go to our church - and so far. But he was out west now. Mabee he got an 8 grade education, but nothing more.

L: But they helped each other and they also helped You?

Elsie: They did. They did. We stayed at the (?) house every weekend, we went out there. We went on the train. We came out on the Saturday morning and we'd stay until Monday afternoon and one of the (?) had to keep us, both of us, in their house and feed us and give us transportation, when You couldn't drive a car. And they were lovely, but they were reserved people. But we got along. But; - it was a big change for us; Both of us.

L: That was an experience for You to come there. In Munising, You had a little Christmas tree there.

Elsie: Yeah!

L: It was a fir tree.

Elsie: Yeah yeah.

L: You did have it on a table.

Elsie: Yeah. It was a little one., One of the neighbours brought it and we sat it on a table.

L: Was it a custom to have it on a table, rather than on the floor?

Elsie: I guess we didn't have any other stand and he brought it on a stand, I think. So we put it there. It was all right!

L: And You had some decorations on it there?

Elsie: Yeah. We did the best we could.

L: You had electric light though?

Elsie: Oh yes, yeah we had.

L: That was during the war.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was it hard to get things, like food?

Elsie: Yeah, there were some difficulties.

L: How about the Spanish Flue? The Spanish Flue? It was an influenza epidemic.

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah I think we had that. Yeah there was a very serious flue. But I don't think any of our members died from that.

L: And they presented You with a Model T Ford.

Elsie: Yeah! (? Utelämnat). I have to give her a credit for that!

L: Very good.

Elsie: That little white church is what You wanted to look after.

L: That's Scandia.

Elsie: That's the Scandia church.

L: The Scandia Lutheran church.

Elsie: Yeah. That's were we lost our little girl.

L: Cathrine Jackson - and that was 1919. So; she is buried at the cemetary?

Elsie: She's up in the cemetary in Munising.

L: She was baptized by a Norwegian lady.

Elsie: A Norwegian lady that was helping us. She was staying with me before the baby came. And then I had another helper, she was nurse like, she was there too. And; quite suddenly they

sprang the news on me that the baby was going. We thought it was all right. And quite suddenly they sprang the news on us that it would not live. So; this dear little lady was downstairs in the house, I was upstairs. And Hjalmar and I talked it over just a little bit - and I said: "Why not let Mrs Holder to come up and baptize the baby"? and he asked her and she said she would. So they brought the things up to my bed and she was baptized there. She was a lovely Christian lady, so it did make me feel better. We could have gone out and got another pastor, You know, but we didn't.

L: Who was the midwife? Was it a lady in the community? The midwife?

Elsie: She was a kind of a neighbourhood lady that was there. But it was the little Norwegian lady that was with us. And she was a very good Christian. She wouldn't do a thing bad in her hole life.

L: So You didn't have a doctor?

Elsie: We were under the care of the doctor. She was under the care of the doctor, the baby - Oh yeah. He was the one that sprang the news to us that we couldn't keep her.

L: Oh yes.

Elsie: Yeah - he said that - an obstruction in her throat. Nothing we could do.

L: But most of the time it was the midwife taking care of the hole thing? The doctor was never called for a birth - for instance?

Elsie: Yeah - well - if nothing had happened to her different, there would have been only the midwife, we had her hired before.

L: And the children were usually born in the home, at that time?

Elsie: Yeah. They just didn't do it in any other way.

(De fortsätter att titta på gamla fotografier).

L: You also

Elsie: You've got Mitchell there.

L: Mitchell, the New home, South Dakota.

Elsie: In New home.

L: In New Home You had Your mother in law with You for a while, so she helped You out then, Mrs Jackson.

Elsie: She didn't help me out, we had to help her. She was in poor condition a kind of, so it was hard for us.

L: Oh - I see.

Elsie: And we had no bed room downstairs we could give her and we knew that wasn't good. So those were a kind of ruff days.

L: Dolores Paulin, she was born at the Cley Center General Hospital.

Elsie: She was

L: Was this the first one You came to the hospital with?

Elsie: That's the first one - and there was a real Kansas blizzard that day. So the doctor came out - it was 9 miles out - and he said: "You get" ..- (one of the other girls was a kind of sick, so we called him out). - And he said: "You'll get in the car and go with me". Cause he knew that the baby was coming soon. So I did. And I went on Monday and the baby came on Wednesday. And I had stayed with the dear old lady in Cley Center during those days, so I got a taxi when I was supposed to and went to the hospital. Hjalmar couldn't come down for two days. There was no telephone, or no roads - or nothing. But then he got down - and - we got along.

L: So a blizzard like that usually lasted for three days then?

Elsie: Yeah, yeah - that's about.

L: And then it calm down by itself?

Elsie: Yeah it got down, they get the roads open.

L: So most of the people, if they didn't have to go out, they know that, and they stay home?

Elsie: Stay.

L: But the pastor of course have to go, if somebody is calling?

Elsie: Well - I couldn't call him! There was no ways to call him! But he had some others helping him with the little children in the house.

L: In Swedesburg, You helped with to organize

Elsie: The Girls Chorus.

L: The Young womens Society.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: The Missionary Society.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was it something new then for that church?

Elsie: Yeah. It was new. It was a bunch of girls, just real nice girls You know, that needed something to do and they were singing in the choir - so I got a hold of them. We had a little society; a Missionary Society and then it ended up being a Girls Chorus.

L: I see. So You taught them to sing and You played with them?

Elsie: Yeah. And; some of the girls could play, so I did the leading. We sang. We even went to Oldsburn and sang and I think we went to a couple of other near congregations in the Sunday evenings.

L: So You went around then! So what did the old men say about that?

Elsie: I don't know if he is living than, I think mabee he'd gone. But there was another deakan (I guess he was a deakan or a preast). He said: "I don't know if it's very good that these girls are going out on the Sunday night". We used to have a service, but we didn't have a Sunday night service at our church. I still have letters; at my birthday I have letters from some of those girls: in California and out, far far away, that appreciated that.

L: So You saw the need to get them together?

Elsie: Yeah. You see the picture of it there?

L: Yes.

Elsie: The two little tiny heads You see below, that's my two little girls. Just little girls. And one of them went to Lindsborg and she was going to do music and then she went for nursing, she's 73 and she's done lots of good of her own. The other one is doing other good things. So I'm happy about them. It wasn't anything big. I didn't want any recognition, or anything!

L: But it was a need for it then in the community?

Elsie: Yeah! Yeah I felt it was good! They were comming together just singing and practicing.

L: Where the people shy, at that time, to talk to?

Elsie: No. No. Those girls were nice everyone! I think they had that need of togetherness, You know. You did live on a farm, far away, they needed to get together. And there were ways to get in. They had cars, somebody had a car and they picked them up.

L: How did the Baptist- and the Covernant church do? In Bramford, it was a Sion Lutheran church, but also a Covernant church.

Elsie: Yeah. I think that

L: You didn't have any pressure from them?

Elsie: No. No. After we left then, there was some connections between them. There's some Lutheran church out there. There's some connections. It just disappeared - I don't know. But it did start up afterwards I know.

L: Did Your husband preach in Swedish in Cley Center at that time, or was it all gone?

Elsie: Let's see. Paulin was born in 19-?

L: -26.

Elsie: -26. I think; at that time, we had been doing half and half of it. Swedish in the mornings and .. Swedish at night -. I don't remember. There was a change in there, just about of, at that time. They were taking half and half - You know.

L: What did Your husband say about that? He had to prepare two sermons? It's enough to prepare one!

Elsie: I don't know what he felt about it. He just did it, that's all. He didn't fuss.

L: So he had no troubles then with the language?

Elsie: No.

L: Did he say it at any time?

Elsie: Yeah, he said it was getting easier to do it in English.

L: He said that?

Elsie: He said that. And; he'd get away from it so long - You know! And there weren't many Swedish people there, some, that we could go and see, You got there.

L: So there were some people in the church that couldn't understand the Swedish sermons?

Elsie: Oh - there was! That's why we felt we had to change.

L: Was it any pressure from the synod to change over to English?

Elsie: (? Utelämnat).

L: So 1969 was the tornado?

Elsie: Yes.

L: And then You went, 1931, to Merrill, Wasa/ and to Irma, Wisconsin/.

Elsie: Yes.

L: We faced it over in the beginning here. You were there for eight years!

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was it a good place?

Elsie: Merrill - Now: let's see.

L: In Irma?

Elsie: And we had Wasa too You know.

L: Yes.

Elsie: I guess I don't know, I think it was pretty good. But I think - as I remember back - we felt that it was time to change. I believe that is the best answer I can give you.

L: And then: -38 to -43 during the war, You went to Mountain and Monisee, in Wisconsin.

Elsie: That was a kind of a. - Mountain was a place were we was called to of course and then Monisee went along with it and that wasn't far away, it was 30 miles - I think - and we went there once a month. Monisee church; Monisee church, they destroyed that. Do You remember?

L: No, I've never been there.

Elsie: A-Ha. It was in the Depression days, the deep Depression days and the farmers that owned land around the church, they said: Oh! There was quite a large lot for the church and

the cemetery". And they said: take that church out of there so we can plant food there. We can keep the cemetery but we want...". So; it was voted down in the past.

L: So they did tear the hole church then?

Elsie: The hole church, but the cemetery was there. Some of them were offtly sad about that, some of the members, but; that's was the way it was done.

L: It was during the war?

Elsie: In the very, very Depression days.

L: You were there then during the Depression days, in Merrill.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: Was it a hardship then? Did they pay the salary then for Your husband?

Elsie: They didn't put the salary there for anything - no. It got to be a hardship out there and we were rasing our girls then too, You see. (?) graduated from High school in Merrill - and

L: How could You aford then to send, like Hortense

Elsie: From High school she went to Oshkosh, Wisconsin and took a business course. And in that way she started to earning a little bit money - and Dorothy was still in High school a part of the time. And then she finally, through that job, and some friend, she found out, - or mabee through a paper - what was the man, that was the controoler down at the Augustana?

L: Ericson?

Elsie: Ericson. That he needed a job (? överhoppat), so she got the job.

L: Then she was safe.

Elsie: Yeah - then she took on to there. And then, Dorothy got in to college - and pretty soon Pauline got in here.

L: But Your husbands salary was very minimal.

Elsie: No he didn't have anything. Nothing.

L: You couldn't take a work?

Elsie: I'll tell You when I did take a job! When did we go from there now?

L: Then You came to New Windsor.

Elsie: Yeah - then I did.

L: In -44?

Elsie: Yeah - that's when I took a job!

L: So You could do that then! What did they say?

Elsie: I didn't ask anybody! I just did it! Well. I knew that we were; we were just (?), for our income - and stuff. And I thought. why shall I sit at home in a room here, in an apartment, in some place? And - somehow - I don't know if I can even tell You how I got the word that they needed a house keeper at (?) Lutheran. And I called the authoroties up there and - sure enough - they took me. They needed one. And I've never done such a thing in my life, but I learned. And I was with them in ten years, and I liked it.

L: You travelled then from New Windsor?

Elsie: No no. We moved then from New Windsor and we had made no arrangements when we left New Windsor.

L: Oh I see! That was after 1960?

Elsie: Yeah, that was way back.

L: I see.

Elsie: But there, I didn't have any. No.

L: But in New Windsor You stayed in Your apartment?

Elsie: Oh yeah, all the time when I were there.

(? En del överhoppat).

L: It was after Your husband was retired though You could take this work?

Elsie: Yeah. We had made no arrangements. If we'd been wise, we would have made some arrangements, - we hadn't, but it came on, that we had to quit. So Hortense and Edward said: "Come with us and stay until You can find something" and we did. And; that's when the thought came to me. I'm not going to sit here and live of somebody else, not doing anything. So then I got this job. And then he helped a little with pastor work at Trinity.

L: But he was retired then; 1960?

Elsie: Yeah. And then we found a little apartment in Rock Island. Cause: I had to take a bus. It was close enough, so I could walk to the Lutheran (?). And then we lived at that apartment until we bought that little house out there - and then we lived there.

L: So You were actually never retired? You kept going.

Elsie: Yeah I kept going. Even after he died I was out there. Two years, - and - that was a long time, to be alone and have a house and a yard; - and everything. So.

L: At that time the pastors pension was not that high?

Elsie: I'm going to be true and frank to You. He didn't keep up his pension.

L: And You didn't get a thing then!

Elsie: I've got a little bit for some medication.

L: No no. But the synod, they didn't have the safety, to help the pastors, when they had hardships during the Depression?.

Elsie: We didn't get anything. Maybe we didn't know how to ask for it.

L: (? Utelämnat resonemang).

Elsie: I can't answer You that.

L: But they didn't do that?

Elsie: Well - it wasn't all that he couldn't. He wasn't just a financial man, he just didn't know how. He couldn't; and he didn't see - he didn't see the background at all. We struggled with it.

L: It was to hard.

Elsie: And now I've got left overs in the bank and I'll hope it will keep me here.

L: So You had a good health then apparently.

Elsie: I had quite a bit of trouble. The girls took me to the hospital. Since I came here - the first three months or so - I had one trouble after the other, (? överhoppat).

L: You have raised; how many daughters?

Elsie: Three.

L: Three daughters.

Elsie: Three daughters - and they all say: don't worry about it.

L: And they all got the schooling that You didn't get, in other words: they went to higher schools than You did.

Elsie: they are all graduated from college.

L: From college.

Elsie: Yeah. Yeah! They were presumed of their colleges - and - that's all right.

L: So they didn't have to go through that hardships that You did?

Elsie: No, they don't. Pauline married a Catholic and they live in Belvedere. Built them a nice home and they're just getting along fine. He's a little older than she is I know, but - but he's a good man.

L: Now on Your 90th birthday, September the 3rd, You had a big gathering here.

Elsie: That's when they all came for the party.

L: How many generations were here together? Five generations?

Elsie: Well. Well it was: papa, and my children, and grand children, and then me; it will be four generations then - wouldn't it? Me, the first one.

L: Yes. But there were a lot of small kids. Wouldn't they be the 5th generation?

Elsie: Yeah. - There's. - Yeah. I had three little ones, they came the last fall, all sons, little tiny ones. So I have seven great grand children. And their parents, and my children, that's four.

Taking our grand parents, it would be five generations.

L: So if those small children, on that picture, sit and take the time to listen, You can take them the way back to the Indian times.

Elsie: Well! That's something to talk about!

L: Did Your parents ever talk about Sweden as a hard place to live in? How did they express Sweden to You.

Elsie: I know that they both came over here, hearing from their relations, from this country. They lived up around Frankfurt, there was a bunch of relations up there and they heard from them. And those people here, that had come from Sweden - and were living in Frankfurt and around there - they said: "Come on over here. You can buy all the land You want to - and You can raise wheat and You can raise corn and everything is just going good. So come over here to America". So grandma and grandpa all heard that and that's why they came. I've got letters to show of them.

L: Where they homesick?

Elsie: Yeah, but

L: Did they get over that?

Elsie: They had all their minds made up, they were going to stay here - and they did.

L: How about Your father?

Elsie: Jackson.

L: He left. Not Jackson - but - *Your father?

Elsie: My father, and his father.

L: Yes.

Elsie: My father; I didn't know anyone back of that - You see.

L: His father died in Sweden?

Elsie: Yeah. He was ill.

L: And his mother was a widow?

Elsie: Yeah.

L: And he never saw her again?

Elsie: His mother was a widow.

L: Yes.

Elsie: Yeah.

L: He never went back for a visit?

Elsie: No.

L: He couldn't - no. He had his brothers and sisters in Sweden? Was he the only one?

Elsie: No. He had some brothers in Sweden. And one brother came here to America.

L: Oh - I see. What was his name?

Elsie: (?) Johnson. He was the youngest one and he married - that's a double marriage. Papa's brother married mama's sister.

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: And there was a double marriage in the (?) & Nelson family and I can't explain it to You, but they told me, when I was a child. They were somehow cousins and there was a child, that was born deaf and dumb.

L: I see.

Elsie: So I have a picture of her.

L: So they lived in Kansas on a farm then?

Elsie: Many of them are gone, some of them moved to Texas (?) farm land. I can't keep up with them. But; they had big farms out there and a lot of cattles. They said it was just grand in Kansas, to come over. That's how they got here.

L: You haven't been in Sweden?

Elsie: I've been to Sweden.

L: You have been to Sweden!

Elsie: I have been to Sweden.

L: So You have seen the places then were they came from?

Elsie: I have. A-Ha. When I have lived out there - two years, at the house. - Hortense and Dorothy were over to Dorothy's house and her older sun - they both had the same idea. They said: "They were going to Sweden in the summer". And they said: "Mother, You'll come and go with us to Sweden" and they talked me in to it. It took me a long time to decide and I went with them to Sweden in June. Daddy had died in October and I went with them in May, or June, - what ever it was- that we went. And we were there for five weeks.

L: Did You see anything in the landscape that Your parents, or grand parents, had told about?

Elsie: I definitely saw them.

L: Was it something specific that You remember?

Elsie: Well - First of all - my second cousin Erik Burén, he was over, he and his wife. They took us in to their home - You know. We stayed there.

L: Was it in Västergötland - or?

Elsie: They were in Falköping.

L: Falköping.

Elsie: Yeah. They had their home there. And he and she started taking us to one place after the other. You know. Right along where they were. We had a truck; a car, we could all ride in to. She would take a Swedish lunch along, we sat in the park. It was a glorious time. And we went to Stockholm and looked things over there. I wouldn't give that up for anything. I have a picture there of - of Kullen, if You know what that is?

L: Yes. I don't know where it is exactly.

Elsie: Okey. It's where my great great grand mother was born.

L: Oh I see. It was a particular farm where she was born?

Elsie: Yes.

L: Was the old house still standing?

Elsie: No. There was a cellar, an old cellar left and they said that was all they had when they first came there - and then they build a little log cabin of some kind. And they had to walk about, from 40 50 feet, to a spring, to get even enough water to drink at first and then they built them a well. So they lived there. So; they'd live there. And we had that hole trip - far to walk to a store, or anything, - You know. So that was really a memory.

Lennart Setterdahl: End with the interview with Elsie Jackson, Rock Island, Illinois.

It's today September the 25th 1985.

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