

Our Grandparents were Helmer and Edna Anderson Liffengren

Both Helmer and Edna were born in Iowa, and lived in Iowa until their parents immigrated to South Dakota. Like many other young Iowa families, their parents decided to homestead in west central South Dakota. They erected a claim shack on the homestead in northern Jones County. Helmer at 16 stayed on the claim to prove ownership while the rest of the family returned to Iowa.

Our mother Louise Liffengren was the oldest child of Helmer and Edna. She preceded her twin brother Luverne by a few minutes. The story that I heard was that when it was time to give birth Helmer went to fetch the doctor from town - the roads were difficult.

Helmer and the Doctor did not get back in time. Great Grandmother Ida Anderson attended Edna and delivered the babies. Louise was born, and then Ida said, "My goodness, Edna, I believe there was another one!. And there was, and Luverne was born. His birth was the first thought that they had twins!

Louise being older and a girl always thought she was senior to Luverne. They went together to a one room school house. Louise was always grateful that her brother raised a pig, to sell to finance one semester of college.

The home place of Edna and Helmer was, I think, a mix of claim shacks that had been put together. The place was a bit cold in the winter. Louise told of her parents heating bricks, which the children would take up with them swaddled in cloth, and the heat from the bricks would keep them warm.

Helmer and Edna had a bear skin rug that looked very impressive. Uncle Bud Jansen put it over his head and came down the stairs. One of my earliest memories was being terrified of the "bear". Bud would take the bear rug off and I was ok. Then he would put it back on and I would be scared again. I distinctly remember Grandfather Helmer laughing with a big booming voice. And then I realized it was funny.

Louise told the story that Helmer would drive, and hold both Luverne and Louise in his arms while driving.



Helmer was a hero, saving the elderly neighbors from a prairie fire by using his tractor to plow a firebreak around their home. He was badly burned when the fire ran over him. The neighbors pitched in and helped with harvest while he recovered from the bad burns. Louise Liffengren Hullinger wrote the story, illustrated by her sister Ida Liffengren Jansen. The story of Helmer in the Prairie Fire and many other stories about the old days in South Dakota were written by Louise and written in a Book entitled "New Years County". You can read them at: <http://louisehullinger.blogspot.com/> and <http://storiesbylouisehullinger.blogspot.com/>

The Liffengren place was behind a little dam with willow trees. There were large cottonwood trees along the small creek. There was an old log barn with many horse harnesses and collars.

Helmer used bottle gas tractors. I think most or all of his tractors ran on big cylinders of bottle gas. And there was a very large bottle gas tank behind the home that always felt cool.

I was the oldest grandchild - the son of Louise, the oldest child of Helmer and Edna. I am likely the only grandchild of Helmer who remembers him - he died in 1952 at the age of 59 from prostate cancer. Edna told me that they worked hard all their lives, and then when it looked like they would finally have something he died. They did manage to build up a successful ranch south of the communities of Murdo and Draper.

Helmer and Edna raised five children - the twins Louise and Luverne, Ida, Opal, and Norman.

Norman was the youngest of the five siblings, and enjoyed playing with his nephews and nieces. He had a little Fordson tractor that he liked to use to take us on rides. We loved that.

We had some great summers there. Our father Clifford Hullinger built a tree house on the willows next to the small dam south of the home. Neil and I loved that.

They had a very aggressive rooster that would fly up in the faces of the grandchildren, frightening all of them. Clifford encouraged Neil and I to chase the rooster. Once we got him started we were able to chase him all over. Then, like an ostrich, he dove his head under a partially buried log

and stopped. So did Neil and I, unsure of what to do - we did not want to get too close to that rooster with his fierce demeanor and large talons.

Cliff picked up the rooster by both legs, carried him upside down to the dam, and hurled him far out into the water. With great effort the rooster fought his way back to the bank. Cliff threw him back in again. As I recall, the rooster after that was chastened and did not attack the grand children anymore.

Clif also built a log raft in the large dam north of the Helmer and Edna's home. Clif, Louise, Neil, and I enjoyed the raft and the dam. That is where I learned to swim - using the elementary back stroke to get around. It was hard to see where you were going, and I managed to get far from the raft, but was able to get back, and after that was a confident back stroker.

Norman had an old car body - a ford roadster, I think. Looked very neat. I think many of us loved that car and had hopes of turning it into a hotrod. Helmer or Norman also had an old gasoline pump - you used a lever to pump gas into the elevated 10 gallon tank, and then used gravity to fill the car tanks.

Inspired by that car body I later bought a wrecked Model A car from Gen Liffengren's brother. Our cousin Raymond Boe fixed it up and I drove it back to Chicago. The story at: modelahullinger.blogspot.com



Edna had a lovely little Buick Special that all of the grandchildren loved. I drove her back and forth from Chicago to South Dakota in that little car.

Ole H. Liffengren
(17 Apr 1866 - 29 Jul 1931)

Peter Anderson

Barbo Olsdatter Tronrud
(14 Nov 1871 - 17 Aug 1943)

Ida Caroline Kaasa

m. 26 Oct 1923, Pierre, Hughes Co., SD, USA

Helmer Liffengren

Edna Sophia Anderson

b. 16 Oct 1895, Lake Mills, Winnebago Co., IA, USA
bp.
con.
d. 2 Feb 1954, Pierre, Hughes Co., SD, USA
bur. Draper Cemetery, Draper, Jones Co., SD, USA
cen. 1900, Tronrud Nordre, Bagn, Sør-Aurdal, Oppland, Norge
res.
ali. Hilmar Liffengren

b. 13 Oct 1901, Ridgeway, IA, USA
bp.
con.
d. 31 Mar 1979, Pierre, Hughes Co., SD, USA
bur. Draper Cemetery, Draper, Jones Co., SD, USA
cen.
res.
ali.

Children

Louise Edna Liffengren (Living, Female)

Luverne Helmer Liffengren (20 Feb 1924 - Mar 2000)

Ida Ruth Liffengren (3 Oct 1926 - 20 Jun 2012)

Opal Blanche Liffengren (Living, Female)

Norman Ray Liffengren (Living, Male)