

MY HERITAGE

By Julia Dragseth
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Both father and mother were immigrants to this country from Norway. Their parents lived and were raised in Norway. Mother's folks were all farmers--their interests were centered mainly in what pertained to the country. They were all hard working people; the^{soil}/in that part of the country did not yield much return for the great amount of labor they were forced to exert. They had little time for recreation and for the development of the finer elements and traits of their make-up for self development and social development. There was always a struggle for existence. Mother was born and raised in Sundal, Norway, a part of Norway very hilly and rocky. The chief occupation was farming and dairying. Mother was often a "saterjente". She likes the country and living in town has never appealed to her.

On mother's side there are no family diseases or abnormalities except that all her relatives and ancestors, with a few exceptions have been early grey haired and are prone to be nervous. Their stature is inclined to be rather small and slight, and their complexion is fair. Their length of life ranges between sixty and eighty years. Because work has always had pre-eminence over everything

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else in the lives of mother's relatives, their special mental and moral traits were not given a chance to develop. They all had average intelligence and were rather favorable toward all movements that were forwarded for the betterment of their condition; as, school and church. Living out in the bleak and barren mountains, there were few great movements which stirred the people.

Mother's father, Joe Storlokken, lived on the Svisdal "gaard". He was a farmer by profession. In winter, when there was little farm work to do, he would travel from farm to farm and sew. He was a man who took a great deal of interest in his home. The children thought it great fun when he came home winter nights, after having been away several days. Then he would play with them though he were a child. Altho he was always sickly, he was very good natured, and he was seldom angry. He was fairly brilliant, and liked very much to read and sing, but for this he had very little time. In church affairs he had average interest. His religious life was one mainly of emotion and not of activity. He loved the country and outdoor sports. He was a herder

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until he was fifteen years old and then he became a tailor and farmer. Grandfather was quick and ambitious, was well liked by his associates and was a very sociable person. He married when he was twenty-nine years of age, a woman who had been reared on a neighbor farm and then settled on what had been his father's farm. He died of lung fever at the age of sixty-three. Grandfather had one brother, Ole Olsen (Svisdal), who was also a farmer. In disposition he was very much like grandfather; very good natured--nothing but goodness. His health was very good in contrast to grandfather's. Like grandfather he was early grey, quick, ambitious, thrift, well liked and sociable. He had average religious interests and average intelligence. At the age of about forty or fifty years he married a woman who did not prove to be a fit companion for him. Her disposition was mean and wicked. She saddened and darkened her husband's life. They had one child--a girl. He died at the age of nearly eighty.

Grandfather had three half sisters, who lived right in his community. Their mother, who was grandfather's step-mother, also lived there among them. Mother can recall grandfather's step-mother, but she does not remember his

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mother.

Grandfather's oldest half-sister married a man by the name of Forseth. He lived on the Forseth gaard in Norway, but was a schoolteacher by profession. Mother and all my aunts and uncles have attended school with their uncle Forseth as instructor. In disposition Mrs Forseth was very good natured , and like grandfather, was grey at an early age. She was quick, thrifty , well liked and sociable. She had average religious interests and average intelligence. She liked very much to read. Her health was fairly good. At the age of sixty=six she died from cancer of the stomach. Five children were born to her, all of whom are rather brilliant. There are four girls and one boy. Three of the girls married farmers--their names are: Mrs Hol who lives on the "gaard", Opdal, Mrs Jenstad and Mrs Tingvold. The other girl married a sheriff by the name of Hol. He is a brother of the Hol married to her sister. The boy lives on the Svisdal place. He is well educated and very strong intellectually.

Grandfather's second half sister married a man by the name of Sneva. They live on the Sneva place, a large farm in Norway. She was very much like grandfather--good natured, thrift, quick, well-liked and sociable. She was influential

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and could make people agree with her and come to her point of view. Like grandfather, she was grey at an early age. Her health was good until the last few years before her death. She died from consumption at the age of seventy. The consumption was inherited from her mother so does not run in grandfather's ancestry. The Sneva's had six children--three girls and three boys. One girl married in Norway, but she is now a widow. Her name is Mrs. Faalestad. The other two girls, Randi and Marit, are in this country. They are not married. The boys are Ole, Even and Engebret. Ole is married and lives in Montana.

Grandfather's third half sister married a man by the name of Hagen. He was a very well-to-do farmer. In disposition and interest she was very much like her sisters. They had eight children, four girls and four boys--Halvor, Elie, Randi, Olien, Engebret, Ole, Iven, Marie. They all live in Norway. Halvor lives on the home "gaard" and Elie lives on the "gaard" Nesja. The children are average in intelligence and all are well educated--some are college graduates.

Grandfather's father, my great grandfather, lived on the Svisdal "gaard". Mother never saw him for he was killed

by being run over by a sand load when grandfather was just a child. In appearance he was short and fleshy and hunchback.

My great-grandfather had one brother, Svisdal, who lived on "Skaalvold". He had eight children, four girls and four boys. They are now all dead from consumption which was contracted from their mother. One of the boys married in Norway, but he later come to this country (Alaska) after the children were grown. Two or three of his children have come to this country-- Marie Olsen who for a short time made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Ide in Crookston. Marie Olsen had two brothers, Knute and Nels, and one sister Elie. Two of great grandfather's brother's children --daughters were the wives of Mr. Ide, who for some time lived on a farm near Eldred, Minnesota. Mrs Ide would be Marie Olsen's aunt. Mr. Ide's second wife was small and hunchbacked. I can recall seeing her. She was sick all the time I remember her. One of Mrs Ide's brothers was an idiot, the weakness being inherited from the mother. Nothing is known of the rest of the children, (Mrs Ide's brother's). After the death of his last wife Mr. Ide moved to Harris, Minnesota. One child,

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Helen, was born to Mr. Ide and his first wife. She is now married and has one child. Three children, John, George and Clifford were born to Mr. Ide and his second wife. They are all living on the father's farm near Harris. John is about twenty-one years old, the other two are younger. They are very quick and energetic and have average abilities.

My grandfather's mother, my great grandmother or mother's father's mother came from Lesja. Nothing is known about her except that she was very good natured. Nothing is known about her parents.

Mother's mother, my great grandmother, was dark, short and medium fleshy. She was quick, energetic and sharp tempered. Her interest in religion was more than average and her intelligence was greater than average. She was rather forward and she liked the society of others. Grandmother was grandfather's second wife. Her mother had died when she was very young, she was therefore adopted by Skaalvolds. Nothing is known about her mother and father except that her father was a miner from Lesja.

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Grandmother had two sisters, Marie and Carrie. Both of them lived near grandmother's home. Mother knew them well. Marie married Mr. Hofsaas and lived on a "gaard" called Sletta. She was very good natured. She had no children and lived to be very old.

Her sister Carrie Gjora never married. She was employed at various homes in that neighborhood. In contrast to her sister she was very sharp. She also lived to be very old.

With his first wife grandfather had two children, Thor and ole, who now live in this country. Ole lives at Gary Minnesota and Thor in Roseau County. Ole has nine children,--Marie, John, Clara, Carl, Olina, Samuel, Inga, Alice (Ella), Clarence. Marie is married to a man by the name of Strommen. They formerly lived at Ada, Minnesota. They have three children. Clara was also married but she is now dead. She died at the birth of her first child. The child is living with her parents. John died from wounds received in the recent war in France. The rest of the children are living at home on the farm. The three youngest are not yet confirmed. The childrens interest seems to be centered in the country.

They have average intelligence tho none of them are educated beyond the common schools. As a whole they are very jolly and sociable and are well liked by all who know them.

In appearance, Mother's half brother Ole, is very much like her brother Ole. He is very jolly and easy to get along with, and very sociable. His interests do not extend beyond his farm work.

Very little is known of Thor. He is also married and has eight or nine children. All the children are grown up.

Mother has seven brothers and four sisters. Five brothers and one sister have come to this country-- Jorgen, Ole, Inga, Clarence, Anton, Martin. Mother came first when she was twenty-five years old to the home of Mr. Ide. Her brothers and sister followed in quick succession.

Uncle Jorgen Locken came to Crookston two years later than Mother. He immediately secured work as a tailor at Mossefin's, at which place he has been employed ever since. Uncle Jorgen shortly after he came to this country was married to Rikka Furu, a girl whose acquaintance he had made in Norway. It was her father who had taught Uncle Jorgen tailoring. Uncle Jorgen is a man of fair intelligence, he is always greatly interested

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in politics, but his interest is largely intellectual and not active. His interest in church affairs is rather slight altho he has great knowledge of religion. He is deeply interested in school work and is eager that his children shall have a good education. In financial affairs he has been very successful. In disposition he is good natured. He is very reserve and not subject to much conversation except in argument. Altho he is not jolly he enjoys seeing others have a good time. He has three children living--Julia, Milton and Emma. The children so far have shown average intelligence. Julia perhaps is decidely above the medium in her school work. She is now a senior in Crookson High School.

Aunt Inga came to live with Mother when she came from Norway. She married Mr. Palm shortly after she came and made her home in Eldred for a number of years. If any person has a right to be called good natured she certainly had. Wherever she lived she had a host of friends. She made friends very easily. Altho her time was always filled with hard work she was never the less cheerful and would always have time to chat with whomever she met. She had strong Christian convictions. Aunt Inga died in July 1917 following an operation. Mr. Palm is now living

at Winger, Minnesota. There are seven children--Sena, Victor, Hjalmer, Idolph, Alma, Lydia and William. The children are not grown yet, but so far they have displayed average talents. They are all active and lively.

Uncle Ole Locken is also a tailor and is now living at Grafton North Dakota. He married Caroline Furu, a sister of Uncle Jorgen's wife. Mother says that Uncle Ole is in every respect like her father in appearance and disposition. He has three children living--Mabel, Kathrine, Florence, and two children dead--Anna and Carl. The children are not grown up. Mabel is a student in the Grafton High School.

Mother's sisters Marit and Carrie died when very young from measles. Thor also died when very young.

Uncle Clarence lives at Deer River Minnesota. His occupation is that of tailoring. Uncle Clarence has always been sickly. He married Emma Dahl of that place. They now have two children--two boys.

Aunt Olina is still in Norway. She lived at home with her mother until she died. Since then she has been employed at one of the neighboring "gaards".

Martin Locken is now making his home in Crookston with Jorgen Locken. He is a barber by trade. In disposition and appearance he is very much like his father.

Anton Locken is also a barber. Since he came to this country, about ten years ago, he has been home to Norway once. He is perhaps not as good natured as my other uncles are and he is of a rather restless roving type. He soon tires of one place and is ever searching for another. He is jolly and loves to have a good time. He loves to argue--he and uncle Jorgen are sure to have an argument when they get together.

Uncle Reider is still living in Norway. Since grandmother died he has been employed as a farm hand on the neighboring farms. He will perhaps come to America soon.

As mother is the only one of her brothers and sisters living on a farm, they always come to visit with us during the summer months. My uncles do not care to live and work in the country, they think there is too much toil connected with such a life. They had enough of country life when they were in Norway. Country life there was one of toil. Altho they do not enjoy farm work, they do enjoy immensely being in the country. My cousins think it great fun to be with making hay, carrying lunch to the men in the fields and feeding the chickens.

Mother had thought of coming to this country when she was twenty-three years old, but her folks could not bear to see her go. Two years later she broke away from her home ties to venture forth alone across the ocean into an

and to support such a step to leave a country which she had learned to love, which she had called her home and which in memory has ever remained her home, to leave parents, sisters, brothers and friends to come to a new world of different language and customs. The first few months were months of intense lonesomeness and homesickness. Mother vowed that she would save as much as she could of her first earnings and go back to Norway as soon as possible. But money enough to buy a ticket was not made in a short time, and when money enough had been made the first few pangs of homesickness were gone. Mother worked at the home of the parents of Mr. Ide's half sisters a few miles from Eldred when she first came to America. It was while here she made father's acquaintance; he worked on the neighboring farm. Two years after mother came here she and father were married. They immediately settled on the farm on which we are now living.

Mother is very small and slight in stature. She is fair complexed, brown hair and blue eyes. Mother is kind hearted but inclined to be irritable and fidgety due a great deal perhaps to nervousness. Mother is quick and energetic--she is always busy with something --preferably out of doors. Carpentry work is what she especially enjoys. Mother prefers working in the open air to working indoors. She is very sociable and well liked. She is forward and aggressive and has a good deal of ability, ini-

ative and originality.

Of father's parentage and ancestry very little is known. He came to America when a mere boy of fifteen or sixteen years, he can thus recall very little of his relatives. All of father's relatives are very large. Father is rather large but he tells that by the side of one of his relatives he seemed a mere boy. This certain relative had hands that were double the size of ordinary men's hands. He could carry a weight which no other man in the community could. It was the custom in that part of Norway that brides should wear crowns, but two of father's aunts were so tall that they could not pass thru the doorway with a crown on their head. Like Mother's relatives, the one outstanding characteristic of father's relatives is that they are so very good natured and have a pleasing personality. Father's immediate ancestors all live on farms.

My father's father lived on the Dragseth "gaard" in Ingviken Nordfjord Norway--near Bergen. This is the same "gaard" on which his father had lived. In stature, grandfather, like the rest of his relatives, was very tall and large. Altho he was not unusually quick he was thrifty and ambitious and took a great deal of

interest in his home. Father tells that grandfather would at times go a great distance in order to be present at some argument or meeting pertaining to politics or other current movements. In school and religion he took average interest- his interest in religion was one of emotion rather than activity. Because grandfather was a fairly brilliant man he was wide awake and took interest in things pertaining to the world at large.

Grandfather's father (Dragseth) died when grandfather was very young. It is thought that he came from the Roaeth "gaard" in Nordfjord. Nothing of his parents is known.

Grandfather 's mother came from Bodal in Loen. After her husband's death she lived on with grandfather who then took charge of the farm. Great grandmother Dragseth lived to be very old--eighty-two years. Father tells that she loved to knit so well at nights when she could not sleep she would get up and knit in the dark and seldom would she let a stitch slip. Nothing of her parents is known.

Grandfather Dragseth had two sisters who died at child birth. He had no brothers.

My father's mother (Lyslo) is still living on the Dragseth "gaard" in Norway with Uncle Rasmus who took charge of the farm when grandfather died. Altho grand-

— mother is very old, she is still very active and is able to do a great deal of work. She is a person of infinite patience and good will. During the years papa lived at home he never heard his mother utter an angry word to the children nor did he ever hear an angry word pass between his mother and father.

Grandmother had five sisters and one brother-- Mrs Hegdal, Mrs. Bruland Froseth, Mrs Stove, Mrs Eide, and Nels Lyslo. They are all married and live on "gaards" in Nordfjord. Mrs Eide (Lyslo) is the oldest sister and lives on Olden. She had two children, two girls who are now in this country. One girl married Mons Haugen while in Norway--they later came to America and are now living at Ortenville, South Dakota.

Mrs Froseth has three children, two boys and one girl. One boy is in this country. All the sisters are close together.

Grandmother's father was a farmer living on the "gaard" Lyslo near Hegdal. He was rather large in stature. Nothing is known of grandmother's mother.

Father has two brothers, Ole and Rasmus Dragseth living in Norway and one brother, Martin, in Oregon.

Rasmus is the oldest brother. He is at present living on the Dragseth "gaard". It is he who is taking care of grandmother now. Uncle Rasmus came to America

at the time father did, but returned a few years later, to take charge of the farm. While here in America he worked on a farm north of Eldred. Shortly after returning to Norway he married. He has five children, three girls and two boys, Magdeline, Agnes, Marie, Andy, George. Marie and Agnes are twins. Uncle Rasmus is very interested in schools. He is a man of average intelligence. Before coming to America he attended a Seminary for two years. All of his children are well educated. The twins are the youngest and are about twenty years old.

Uncle Ole is a professor in the High School at Tonsberg, Norway. He has two children--Magdeline and Arvid. Neither one of them are yet twenty years old.

Uncle Martin came to America shortly after father did. He also worked on farms near Eldred at first. He later worked in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and went with some people from there to Hood River, Oregon, at which place he purchased an apple orchard. Uncle Martin takes a vital interest in all the questions of the day. He takes a more active interest perhaps than his brothers. Altho he has not attended school very much he is now a well educated man as he has been his own teacher. Uncle Martin is very jolly and active. He is always "up and doing". Uncle Martin married a German

women whose acquaintance he made while she taught school in his community.

One of papa's brothers, Andreas, is dead. This brother had music talent and was just making preparations to leave and study music when he sickened and died. He was then twenty-one years old.

As has been stated before, father left his home in Norway when a mere boy of fifteen or sixteen. He felt the alluring call of the new world with its many promises and was anxious to cast his lot with the rest of our people who have emigrated to America. Father's home in Norway was situated on a beautiful hillside with a running brook just below the house. On the hillside is a large stone with a cavity wherein father would seek shelter whenever a storm would come up while he was herding the cattle. At sixteen father was full grown and had the strength of a full grown man. Ever since he was fifteen he has done a man's work. In stature father was moderately large and well built. He is very dark complexioned-dark skinned. His mental and moral traits are those of an average man. Father is of a very quiet, reserved and reticent type. Mixing and talking freely with his fellow men does not fall naturally for him. Rather than voice his opinions or sentiments in a dis-

cussion he will keep still. Father is very good natured and patient,--there are few things which try his patience. Altho he is quiet and not given to much talking he enjoys the company of others. At the age of twenty father married and immediately settled on the farm on which we now live. Thru much pluck, courage and hard work, mother and father have been very successful. We now have a beautiful farm home. Thirteen years ago, father was made rural mail carrier, which position he has held since.

On December 20, 1919 mother and father celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

I have three brothers and three sisters living, and one brother dead. All my brothers and sisters except one sister are younger than I. So far none have displayed any particular talent but have average mental and moral traits. My youngest brother, Alfred, died when he was one year and five months old, eight years ago. He was a bright little chap, with curly, golden brown hair, brown eyes and a smiling face. At the age of nine months he talked and at the age of ten months he could walk. He was taken sick when a year old, with which sickness he lingered until he died.