

Elsa Anna Maria Nelsson Molund was born on Åland, Sweden, an island not far from Kalmar, on April 11, 1984.

**PARENTS** Karl and Ida Nelsson. Father was born in Åland. Mother was born in Mossebo, a town near Kalmar, on the mainland. Elsie's father took care of the pastor's place. They lived there as well until her mother became sick. Then they moved to Mossebo with mother's parents.

**BROTHERS** Had three brother, Erik, Bernard, and Sture. They all went to school in Mossebo. Father stayed in the farm in Åland. Oldest brother was a sailor. He drowned. The second brother helped out on the farm. The youngest brother stayed with Elsie at their maternal grandmother's home. All of her brothers stayed in Sweden.

**CHILDHOOD** Didn't have far to go to school in Mossebo. The church was a little farther away.

**GRANDPARENTS** Maternal, Edward and Venla SÅrderman. Venla's daughter, Marie (Elsie's aunt) raised Elsie and Sture. Marie was married to a man who'd been in America. He had a store in Kalmar. Elsie worked there when she got older. Paternal, doesn't remember them. Elise left Åland and moved to Mossebo when her mother died. Mother died of tuberculosis when Elsa was 9 years old.

**SCHOOL** There was a little school not far from where her grandmother lived. One teacher took care of the whole class. The older students would help the younger students.

**CHURCH** Had to go to Visby to get confirmed. Sometimes had to walk to confirmation class. Had a friend who had a horse. Sometimes Elsie would get a ride to confirmation class.

After confirmation, Elsie went to Kalmar to work in her aunt's husband's store.

**CHRISTMAS** Had a Christmas tree. Had risgrynsgrÅtt on Christmas Eve. Had cookies, pepparkakor, spritz, coffee bread. Baked bread in brick ovens. Elsie describes how they did this. They had kroppkakor, mashed potatoes filled with pork and then cooked them in salt water. They also had lutfisk. They put presents under the tree. Made decorations for the tree. Danced around it. Went to church by horse and sleigh early Christmas morning. The sleigh bells sounded pretty. After church, they had friends over for coffee. They had a smÅrgÅrdsbord on Christmas day. Kept the tree up for a month. Did a lot of visiting.

**OTHER SWEDISH TRADITIONS** Had to learn to knit and sew. Aunt was a seamstress.

Father remarried but quite some time after Elsie's mother's death. Married someone who had been to America. He had a little farm on Åland that he took care of. Helped other farmers too. Elsie didn't spend much time with her father.

WORK (See also I-373) Worked in a store in Kalmar. Sold sugar loaves (sockertopp). Had to chop it into pieces with an ax. Had to weigh the pieces. Had to cut butter into pieces too. Syrup came in barrels. Had to open a spout for the syrup to come out. She left it open one time. When she came back into the room there was syrup all over the floor. Worked there for 2-3 years. Worked as a housekeeper for a family in Stockholm. She worked in a hardware store in Stockholm after she quit her job as a housekeeper.

MEETING SPOUSE They went to the same school in Mossebo. Elsie did not like Erik at that time. He went to America when he was young. He wrote her letters. She worked for 1 year. He came to Stockholm when she was 28 years old. Brought her home. His parents were living in Fårösa. The man who had the store in Kalmar bought a place in Borgholm on Åland. Elsie and Erik got married in Slottskyrkan in Kalmar. 'Slott' means castle. There's a big castle in Kalmar. Elsie stayed with her aunt in Kalmar before getting married.

WEDDING Wore a dark blue dress. Had her aunt and a friend stand with her at her wedding. After the wedding they went to her grandmother's. They took the train there. They had a party for them at her grandmother's house. Somebody who'd come from America brought corn flakes to the party. It was something they'd never seen before. They ate them at the wedding dinner. After the dinner, they danced to accordion music. Many farmers from Mossebo came to the dance. They had lots of cookies and krockor.

REASONS FOR EMIGRATION Erik wanted to go back. Elsie wasn't too excited about it, but she didn't have much family left. They had their tickets ready before they got married. Left in May 1922.

TRIP TO AMERICA Sailed from Göteborg (Gothenburg). Nice trip, but got seasick. Had false teeth. Lost them when she got sick. When they got to New York, she went to a dentist. He couldn't help her (the reason is unclear). A dentist in Tacoma, Wash. fixed her teeth and she hasn't had any problems since then. Elsie was only sick once during the trip. Everybody was nice. There was entertainment on the boat. Erik and Elsie had birthday parties on the boat. The trip took nine days. The name of the boat was the 'Stockholm.' Didn't have to go through Ellis Island.

ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK Thought it was a big city. Took a train from New York to Iowa. Erik had a brother living there. Erik had a job putting tile on roofs. Elsie thought Iowa was terribly hot. The thunder and rain were terrible.

MOVE TO TACOMA, WASHINGTON Didn't stay in Iowa very long. Erik had relatives in Tacoma so they moved to the West Coast. They traveled by train. This was during the fall after they'd come to America. Mrs. Sandin met them at the train station. They stayed with her for a while. Erik got a job doing construction work. They moved from the Sandin's when they bought the house they live in now.

WORK (See also I-373, I-586) Worked a little. Got a job cleaning a store in the Washington building.

ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN AMERICA The language was the most difficult.

CHILDREN Elmer is farming. He is married and has three daughters. He served in the Navy during WWII. Dorothy teaches school. She's married and has three children. Inga died when she was 38 years old. She had been married and had four children. Dorothy is married to Stan Pederman. He works for Tacoma Plywood.

TRIPS TO SWEDEN Went back in 1957. Nice trip. Went on the boat. Entertainment on the boat. Celebrated their birthdays on the boat. Saw childhood home. Many changes. Visited brothers Stureâ' (tape abruptly ends).