

## Hedberg Memories

### Newberry, Michigan and the Hedberg Family

Newberry, Michigan is the town my grandparents moved to when they immigrated to the United States from Michigan. It was a center for lumbering and my grandfather was a carpenter, using the lumber to build houses in Newberry. The house he built for his family is still standing in good condition. Just outside the town is a Lumber Museum that is even a stop on some boat tours of the Great Lakes.

Charles Hedberg and Mary Peterson were married in Newberry on June 21, 1890, by C.L. Richards, Presbyterian Pastor, with John Stark; J.W. (or J.M.) Hedberg as witnesses.

Mary was born Marit Jonsson Pierson on February 11, 1865, in Varmland, Sweden, the daughter of Per Jonsson (6/13/1826) and Kerstin Jonso (12/10/1830). Her siblings were Jon (2/5/1856), Kirstin (8/20/1859) and Johanna (1/5/1868). She died in Marquette, Michigan on May 9, 1956 at the age of 91.

Charles was born Karl (Charles) Frederick Hedberg in Varmland, Sweden on April 25, 1862, the son of Olof Hedberg (7/25/1824) and Estina Kajsa Nilson (6/6/1830). Olaf's mother was Stena Sylvander. His siblings were Andreus, John, and Olof August (3/15/1866). They lived in Utterbyn, Sweden. He died in Newberry on August 4, 1941 at the age of 79.

Charles and Mary Hedberg had six children, five daughters and one son, my father. Two of the girls, Teressia Clara (born 1/22/1894 – died 8/17/1918 at the age of 24) and Sigrid Otelin (born 11/2/1904 – died 9/27/1922 at the age of 17). Emma Ragnhild (born 7/23/1896) was the eldest and I remember her as a vivacious, cheerful woman who was always healthy and was the hardiest of the girls. When she grew up she married John Nelson and after he died, Henning Anderson. Emma died on August 2, 1986 at the age of 90.

Eda was next, born after my father. Eda was born Eda Amelia Hedberg on April 29, 1902, the same day as her daughter, Karin, was born. She died on August 14, 1972 at the age of 70. She married George Turngren, a young Swede from Chicago, but I'm not sure how they met. They had two daughters, Marcia and Karin, but Marcia died in infancy and Karin was premature and very tiny when she was born. I remember Eda and George from various family gatherings, as they lived in Glenview and Evanston and we often had Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinners together. Karin was two years older than I but we enjoyed playing together, especially when we all went up to Newberry for a family vacation. Eda was a great cook. I remember her specialty as pork roast! She died of ovarian cancer at the age of about 70.

Tekla was the youngest sister. She was born Tekla Marie Evelyn on 2/12/1908 and I remember her as being quite temperamental. My Dad often had arguments with her! Tekla was a teacher and married on July 15, 1950 to Leland (Andy) Anderson who worked for the State of Michigan as the head of the Upper Peninsula fish and game division. I remember that he would know all about the fish in the rivers and lakes, he could identify birds and loved being outdoors, often in his canoe. A family story is that when Leland was courting Tekla, Emma cooked a delicious dinner then went out the back door so that Leland wouldn't know that Tekla hadn't cooked it!

Of course, there's my Dad, Carl Adel Hedberg, who left Newberry for Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. When he got to the train station, about 12 miles south of Newberry, the station master said,

“Kid, you’ll be back in a week!” Carl never went back, except to visit the family, going on to the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago after graduating from Augustana. Of course, he stayed in Chicago and became a pillar of good medical practices in the city, inaugurating testing for diabetes with the Chicago Department of Health, joining the Institute of Medicine, and teaching and treating at Augustana Hospital for over 50 years.

I remember going to Newberry several summers. We would drive there. When my Dad arrived, family and neighbors would line up for medical exams! I guess there wasn’t much health care available in Newberry at that time, nor a requirement for a license to practice in a different state!

I also remember that in the eastern part of the town, there was a Finnish section. The Swedes looked down on the Fins, because they drank too much – or so it was said!