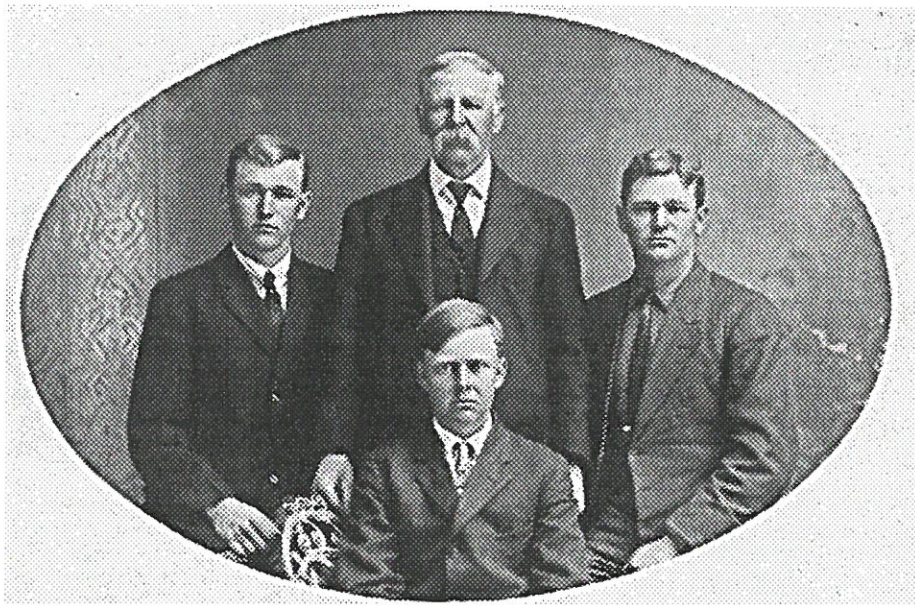


## **The Kansas-Iowa Connection**

**David Noren worked for Axel (Harry) and Anna Larson on their farm  
near Atwood, Kansas. Anna's niece, Amanda Carlson,  
lived on that neighboring farm.**

*The rest is history.*



**David Noren    Axel Larson    Oscar Noren  
                    David Larson**

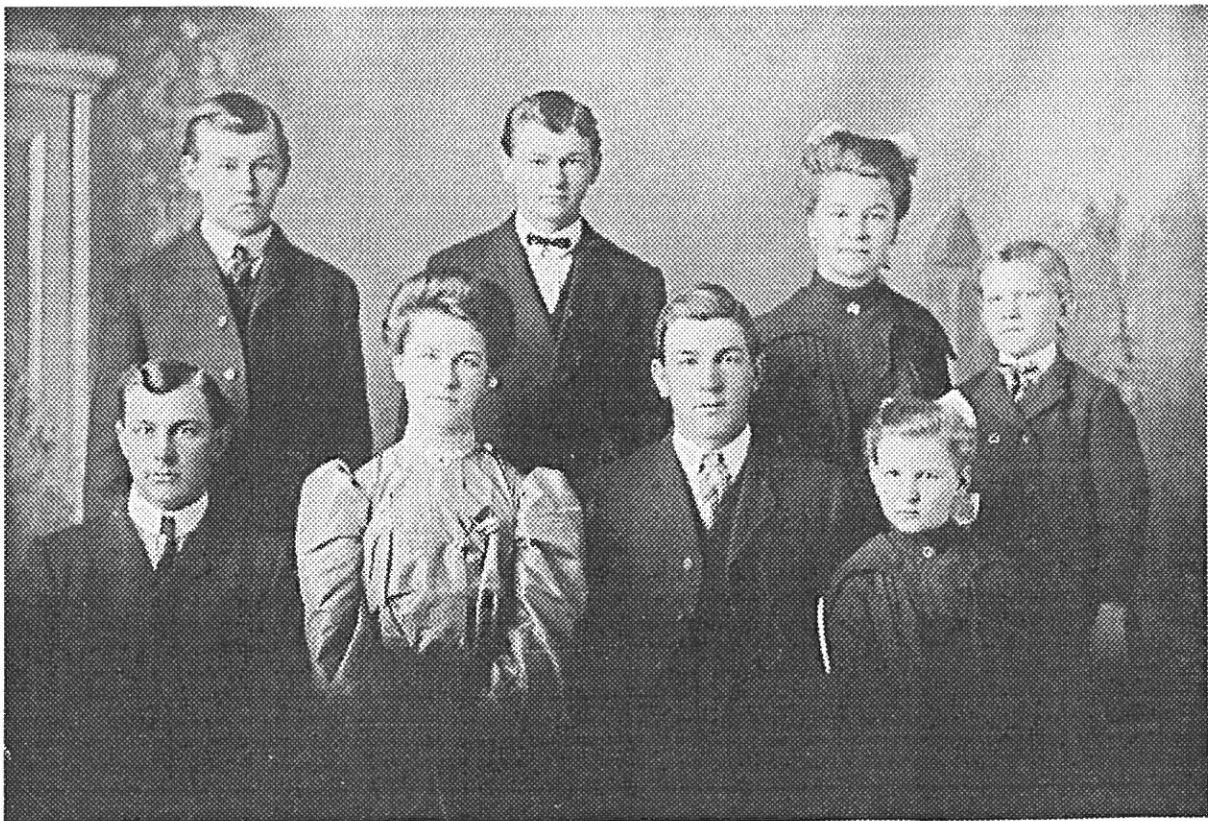


**Adolf and Emma (Larson) Noren**

Wedding Day  
January 22, 1881

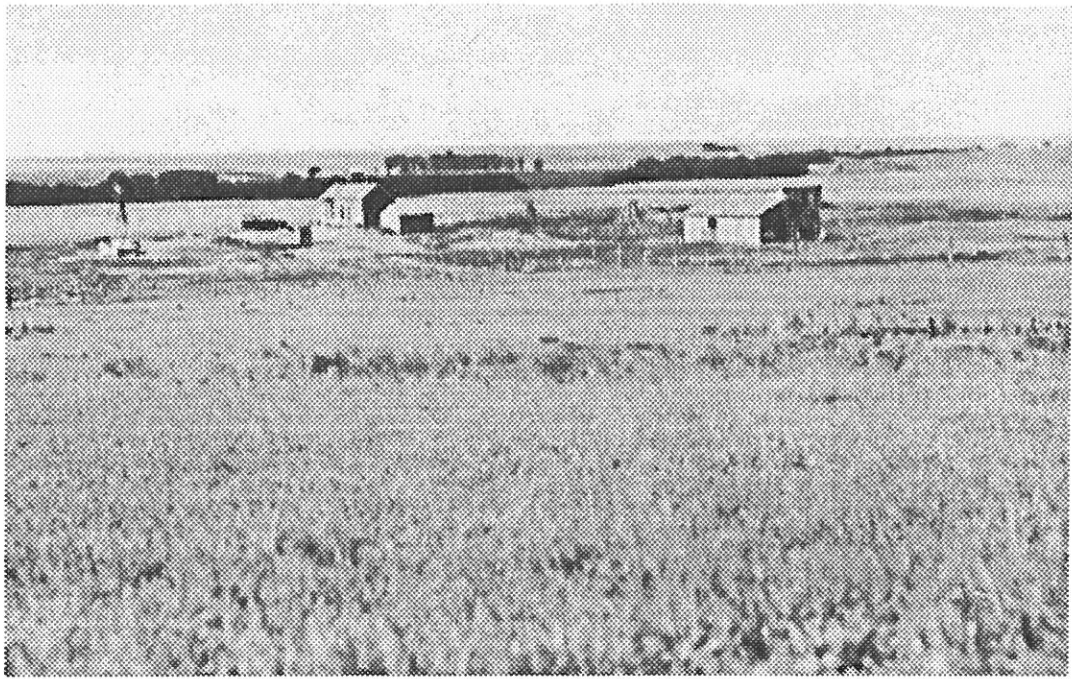


**Adolf and Emma (Larson) Noren 1890**  
*Carl, David, Ida, Oscar and Victor*



**Children of Adolf and Emma Noren**  
 Front Row: Carl, Ida, Victor, Sarah  
 Back Row: David, Oscar, Emma, Edwin





**David and Amanda Noren Farm**  
1921



**David and Amanda Noren Home Place**  
Oberlin, Kansas  
1943



**David and Amanda Noren**  
1973



**David Noren's Garden**

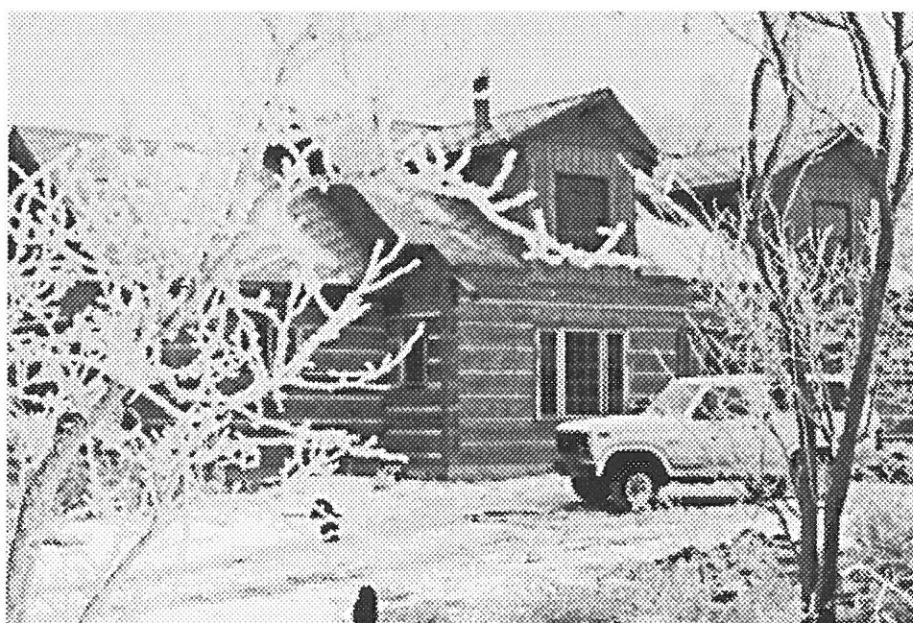


**David and Amanda Noren**  
43rd Anniversary  
1964



## **Willard and Esther Noren's Home**

*Rural Oberlin, Ks.*



## **Steve and Connie Noren's Home**

*On the  
Sappa Creek  
Oberlin, Ks.*

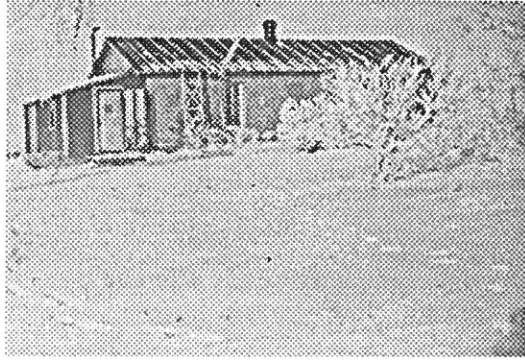
## **Herndon Covenant Church**

*Established 1887*

*"Great Is Thy  
Faithfulness"*



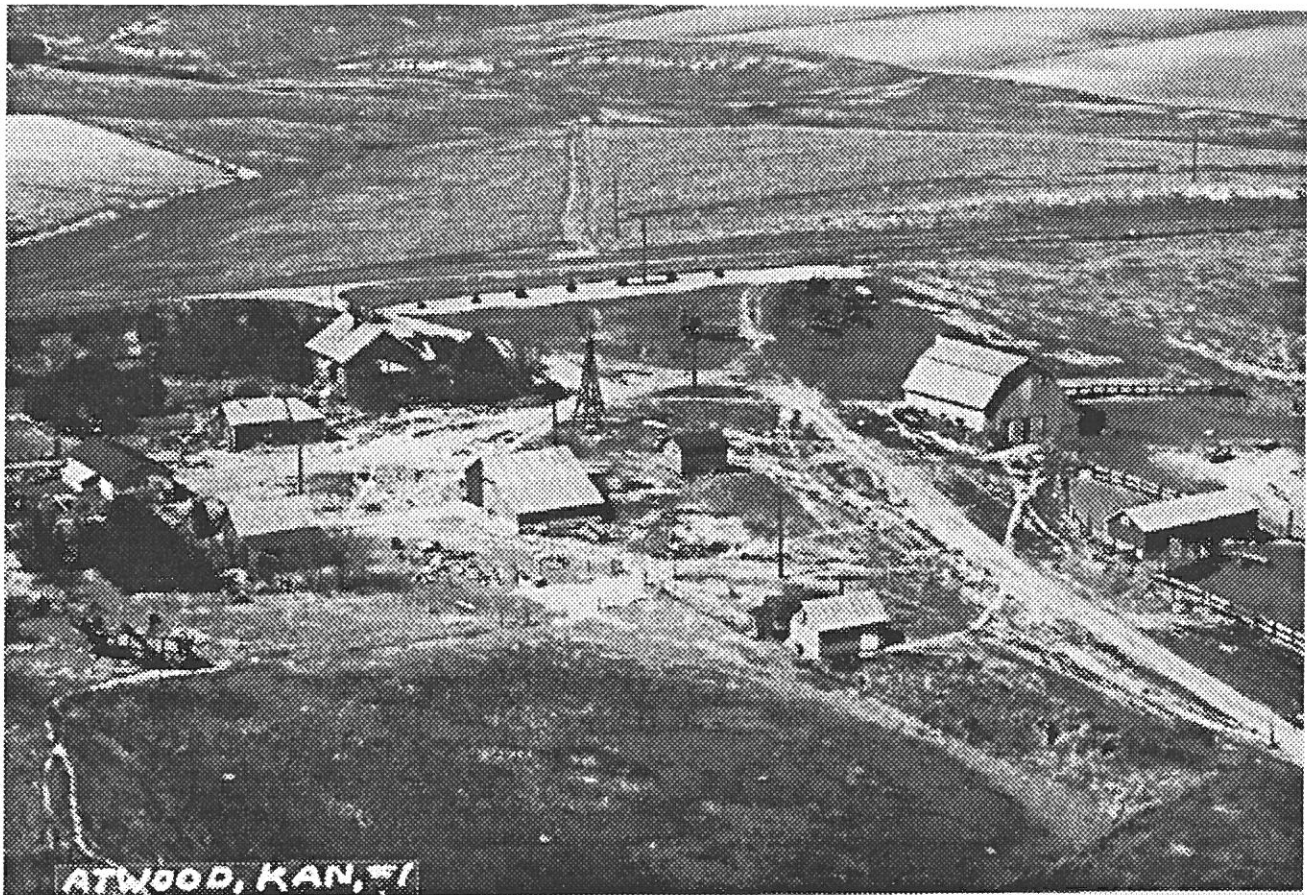




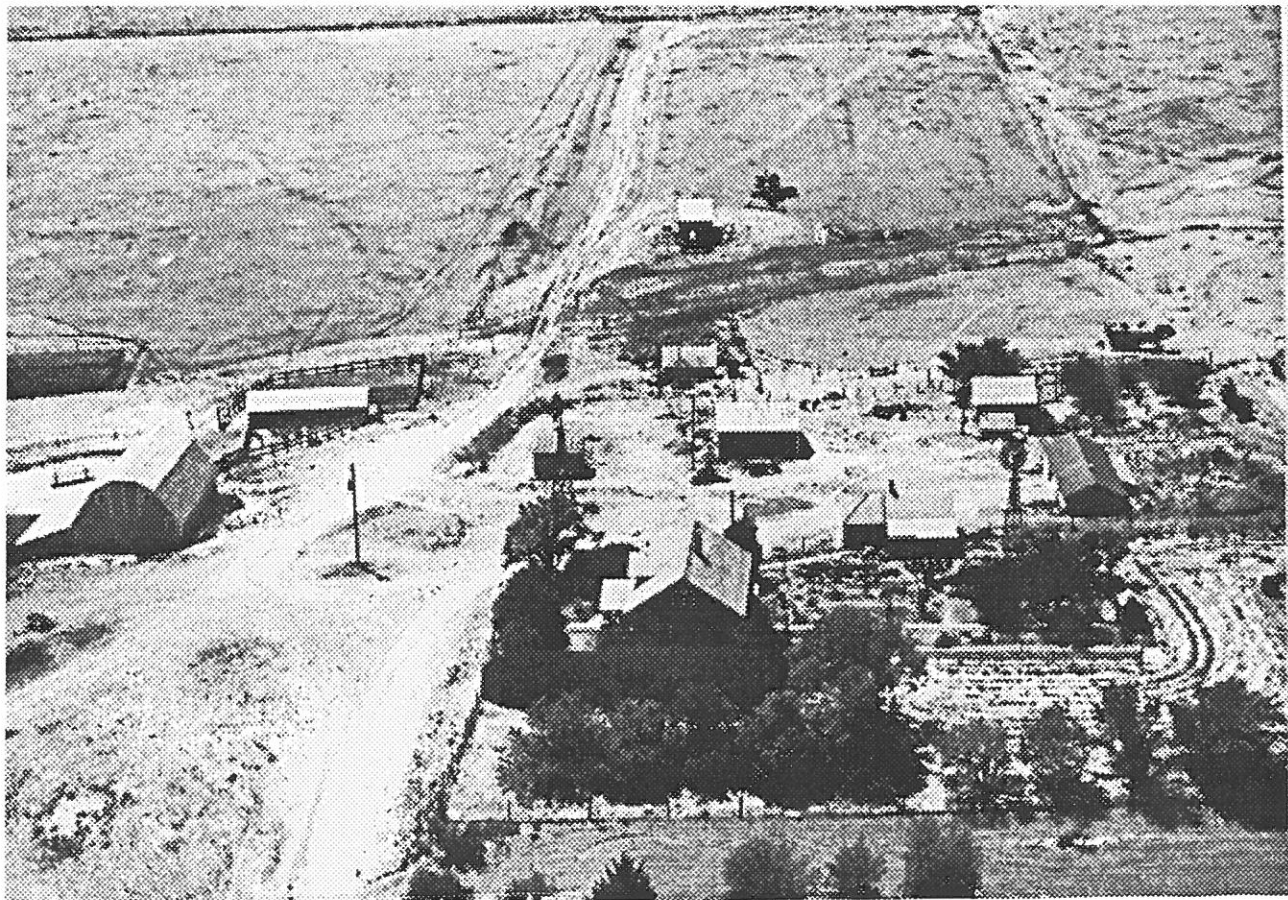
*Sod house built by Axel Larson appr. 1896*



*The family lived in the sod house until 1927.*



**Axel (Harry) and Annie Larson's Farm**  
Rural Atwood, Kansas 1956







**David & Elna  
Larson**



**David & Elna  
Larson**



**Anna, Elna, David and Axel  
(Harry) Larson**

David L. Larson was born to Swedish emigrants Axcel (Harry) and Anna Hoaglund in a half dugout on the family homestead nineteen miles west of Oberlin on November 26, 1896. A brother was born two years later. However, he died at six months. His sister, Elna, was born when David was ten years old. Ever since, David has felt the protectiveness of an older brother toward a younger sister.

Soon after David's birth the family moved into a sod house which consisted of four rooms and a lean-to kitchen. Harry had built sod houses for people all over the country. When it came time to build his own soddie, he made it special with lots of little extras such as built in cupboards, screen doors and ceilings made with wainscoting. The family lived in the sod house until 1927 when they built a frame house. It can be seen today on Highway 36 eight miles east of Atwood.

David, who had thick dark red hair, attended a one room school two miles south of his home. He had to walk to school through pastures as there were no roads. He says he saw a lot of coyotes. He "wasn't too crazy about school", but did like reading and geography. Baseball was a favorite at recess and "sliding on the ice" in the winter. Mrs. Paul Hauptman was one of his teachers. She is now 105 and resides in the Good Samaritan Home in Atwood.

Like all farm children, David had chores to do. His father enjoyed milking so David usually had to take care of the horses.

After completing school David farmed with his father until he was drafted into the Army in 1918. He trained at Ft. Funsten (now know as Ft. Riley). However, the war ended before he was sent over seas.

When he returned home from the war he bought some land next to his father's farm. He farmed with horses until he bought his first tractor, a two cylinder John Deere. He raised wheat, corn and feed and had a hereford cow herd.

Harry died in 1938 and Anna in 1958. In the 1960's David and Elna rented their farm to a cousin, purchased a pickup truck with a camper, and started traveling. They visited relatives from Texas to Canada and from Iowa to California. They continued to live on the farm when home however.

Then, in 1975 David and Elna sold the farm and moved to Oberlin. They were now free to do some real traveling. Their first trip was supposed to follow the bible story of Paul's missionary journeys. However, while going from Beirut to Damascus a war broke out. After seeing three downed planes they were sent back to Beirut. The tour was rerouted to Greece and the Greek Islands. In 1976 they traveled to the middle east again. This time they visited Israel. The second trip was not as eventful, but just as rewarding.

When David and Elna were home they continued to attend the Covenant Church south of Herndon. Their father had helped to build the first old sod church. David taught Sunday school for many years and sang bass in the church choir.

For recreation David always enjoyed fishing. He and his cousin, David Noren, fished the Sappa, Beaver and all the other creeks in the area, catching many a bullhead and sunfish. And David fished wherever he traveled. In Canada the Jackfish was a favorite catch.

David moved to the Good Samaritan Home in 1990 and to Long Term Care in 1991 where Elna visits him daily. He can always be counted on for a friendly smile.



Elna Victoria Larson was born in a four room sod house on October 16, 1906. Her parents, Axel (Harry) and Anna Hoaglund Larson were Swedish emigrants. Her brother, David, who was ten years older always called her Little Sister.

Elna attended the country school two miles south of the family homestead. Because there were no roads she had to walk across pastures and up and down hills every day to school. One time she met five coyotes. They stared at her, she stared back and then continued on her way. It was only later that she realized it could have been a dangerous situation. Her favorite subjects were reading and history which continue to interest her today. She graduated from the eight grade.

Summers found her helping with chores. She took care of the chickens and helped with the milking. Because her mother enjoyed working outside Elna was given the responsibilities of cooking and cleaning at an early age.

In 1928 Elna journeyed to Minneapolis MN to attend the Minnehaha Academy, graduating from the two year course in 1930. Her studies were in the music department and the Bible Institute. These were "lovely years" for Elna. She made lasting friendships from all over the country.

After graduation Elna returned home. The following summer the pastor of the Covenant Church south of Herndon asked her to help him establish a summer bible school for the children. She was in charge of all the music and the teaching of the younger children. It lasted two weeks and was the first bible school in Kansas. The church has had a summer bible school every year since. Elna went on to help conduct summer bible schools in many other northwest Kansas communities as well as in Texas and Canada. She figures has taught over 300 children in bible schools.

Elna taught adult Sunday School in her church and enjoyed conducting Home Bible Studies in different residences in Oberlin. She held the weekly Bible Study at Good Samaritan Center. She also played the piano for many funerals in the Baptist and Lutheran churches as well as the Covenant Church. In addition she taught piano to area children.

Her father died in 1938 and her mother in 1958. Elna continued to keep house for her brother. In the 1960's they rented their farm to a cousin, purchased a pickup truck with a camper, and started traveling. They visited relatives from Texas to Canada and from Iowa to California. They continued to live on the farm when home however.

Then in 1975 David and Elna sold the farm and moved to Oberlin. They were now free to do some real traveling. Their first trip was supposed to follow the Bible story of Paul's missionary journeys. However, while going from Beirut to Damascus a war broke out. After seeing three downed planes they were sent back to Beirut. The tour was rerouted to Greece and the Greek Islands. In 1976 they traveled to the middle east again. This time they visited Israel. The second trip was not as eventful, but just as rewarding.

Elna's hobbies have included her music, letter writing, crocheting and tatting. She sewed for her family ever since she was big enough because her mother was not interested in the activity.

Today Elna enjoys visits from family and friends, and a variety of activities at CLC.