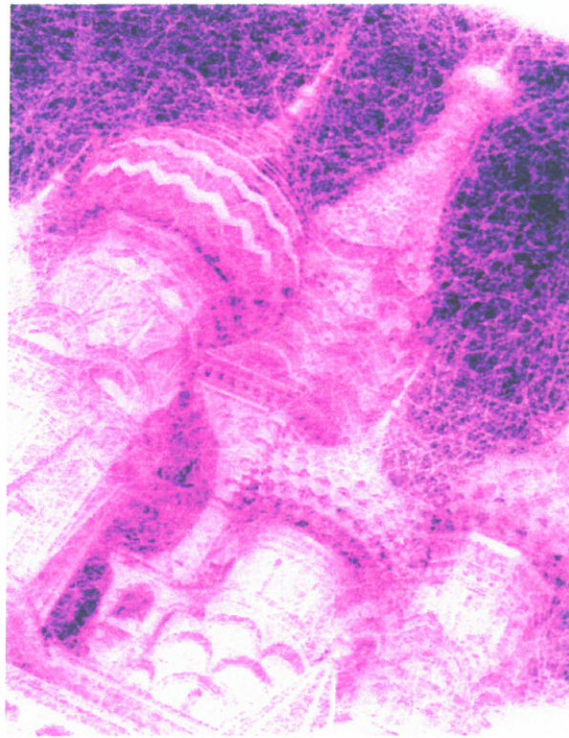




the Life of
DAVID D. SOCOLOFSKY
1870 - 1959

FROM SARATOV, RUSSIA TO SALEM, OREGON



(Scrivener's Note: At age 83, David D. Socolofsky wrote this autobiography at the request of his eldest son, Edwin. The text below is from a faded copy of the typed original, 15 numbered pages which were, for the most part, internally connected. Portions were illegible. Although I occasionally broke the text into additional paragraphs, I retained the language and most of the punctuation just as David D. Socolofsky had written it.

The substance of the autobiography goes only through the year 1928. Epoch 6 below includes information just to that year. David D. Socolofsky did not include any material for the period 1928 to 1953 even though from the events listed on his agenda below it is likely that he intended to do so. What I know personally about those events he has listed, I have added as an addendum. The proposed Epoch 8 apparently never was accomplished. Last, I have designated the obituary as Epoch 7. It may have been written by Edwin after the death of his father.) – John H. Socolofsky 12/30/08

**Biography of
DAVID D. SOCOLOFSKY**

The different epochs:

1. 1870-1879 My childhood to father's death
2. 1879-1885 My early education in parochial and district schools
3. 1886-1890 Working on the railroad construction, attending normal school, teaching school
4. 1893-1901 Clerking 8 yrs., married, bought our first home. Salome and Edwin born at Marion
5. 1901-1916 Started business at Tampa, became postmaster, built a home, started real estate and insurance, sold out and came to Salem
6. 1916-1951 In real estate and insurance, retired, moved to Hood Canal, Bainbridge Island; returned to Salem, employed at Willamette University; married again
7. 1951-1953 Came into the Methodist Home, had some varied experience with the home and described in the typed matter herewith
8. Is composed of all the sidelights on different phases, of all the foregoing epochs in this biography

Biography of David Daniel Socolofsky, 1870-1959, written by himself, at the request of his oldest son, Edwin David Socolofsky, San Jose, California, June 30, 1953, while living at the Methodist Home in Salem, Oregon.¹

Epoch 1 – 1870-1879

My father was Gottfried Socolofsky, and my mother was Maria Elizabeth Socolofsky. Her maiden name was Klohs. I was born May 24, 1870, in the colony of Drei Spitz, Governomong, Saratov, Russia, Europe. My father was Polish and my mother of German descent. I lived in Drei Spitz until I was seven years old. From the age of five years, I attended a parochial school for two seasons, which was always in session about four months during the winter months. Previous to attending that school, I had received some tutoring by my mother, who taught me to read and the committing to memory scripture and some sacred songs, which she did mostly evenings and at bedtime to take the place of bedtime stories. It was mother's favorite idea to sing religious songs to me, to conclude her efforts for the evening. How well I remember, especially one song, which she sang almost every night before I fell asleep. This song told of the different grades of reward in heaven to those who have passed on. When I recall the meaning the author attempted to convey in that song, I feel as though the author must have drawn on his imagination, as he seemed very definite and positive as to what all happens to us after departing from this life; which, I think, no one on earth can know until we reach eternity and are given our rewards. By attending that parochial school I learned to read and write. Arithmetic was not taught in the parochial school but was taught in the Colony school which I was never privileged to attend as we moved to America when I was seven years old.

Life in Drei Spitz holds many great memories for me. The Colony was named from its location, in the junction of two streams which formed a triangle. Consequently, the name Drei Spitz, or three points. At the west end of the Colony, one of these streams was dammed so it formed a large pond from which water power was developed to operate the flour mills that ground the colonists' wheat into flour, bran and (illegible) for horse and stock use. From these streams the colonists irrigated their vegetable gardens which were located along the banks of the three streams. My mother had a vegetable garden and irrigated from the stream. These gardens were entirely the work of women, including harvesting. In spite of that custom, I recall that father assisted mother in harvesting the vegetable crop. Corn and tomatoes were not grown on account of the short season and cool nights. Watermelons, musk melons, and cantaloupes, pumpkins and gourds were grown by the acre and all had a very wide variety of uses. They were all used extensively for stock and humans.

All farm lands consisted of allotments. Every male was entitled to an allotment, but females received no allotment. A man with a family of five boys received six allotments and a man who had five girls received one allotment, only for himself. These allotments contained several acres and were located 3, 5 and 15 miles from the colony.

¹ Since David D. Socolofsky died in 1959, this paragraph undoubtedly was written by someone else, possibly Edwin. Edwin left San Jose and ultimately moved to Lacey, Washington, near his younger brother, Harold. There he lived until his death.

No man received the same allotment each year. Consequently, he had an opportunity to improve on the previous farmer's poor farming. Meadow lands were distributed on the same plan. The soil was very productive and the crops nearly always good if good farming was done.

Coming back to watermelons, they were used in many ways. A very fine syrup was manufactured from the juice of the melon pulp. My mother made as many as 150 gallons of melon syrup in one season. It is far superior to cane syrup. I used to cut the melon and she would scrape out the pulp into a vat. The juice was then extracted, put in large kettles or pans, and boiled into a syrup. All seeds of melons, pumpkins and sunflowers were saved and taken to a mill where the oil was extracted which made the finest shortening for any kind of pastry or the baking of buckwheat cakes. Wesson Oil does not compare with the melon seed oil in quality and flavor. I recall going with my father to the melon oil mill. We had several large two bushel sacks full of seed and returned with about seven gallons of the seed oil in a barrel we had brought with us to the mill.

Pumpkins grew as large as an auto tire and were extensively used for stock food. We usually raised many wagon loads of them. Watermelons we preserved in brine in large vats that kept all winter until we used them all. When thoroughly cured, they were very good for salads, with lamb, mutton, or goose, duck or beef roasts. We also preserved apples in the same way. Both melons and apples made fine eating and snacks before retiring during the long winter evenings.

At that date the inhabitants of the country were not allowed to own land but were allowed to lease from the crown large sections of the country which they would sublease to private parties. This system was largely the practice of the west side of the Volga River. On the east side, where we lived, the system of allotting small tracts to individuals (males only) was employed. Females were not entitled to any allotments except in the case of a widow, the head of the family. A father and his sons, no matter how many, all received allotments. No matter how many daughters the father had, he only received the allotment coming to one male. As the people in the allotment section all lived in colonies and all colony pasture lands were just about an American mile from the colony, all allotments were located three to four miles from the colony and beyond that distance as far out as fifteen American miles. Please notice that I state "American miles." A Russian mile is one half the length of an American mile.

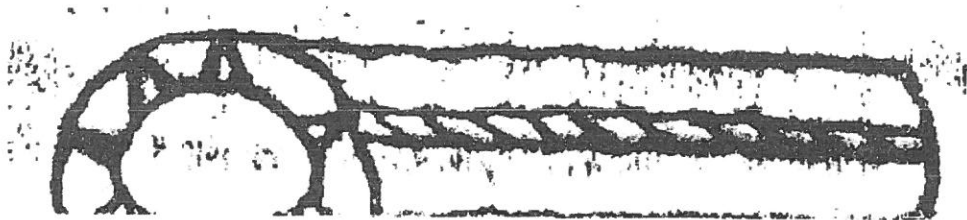
Please notice also that I mention colony pasture lands. About one quarter to one half mile from the colony were the grain stacking and hay and straw yards. Every farmer had one of these yards, which, if enclosed, were enclosed by a willow braided fence. These fences were constructed by driving two to three inch thick stakes into the ground about three to four feet apart into which heavy willows were braided up to any height desired. Every one of these grain yards had a threshing floor in the middle. This dirt threshing floor in the shape of a disc and about 125 feet in diameter had all grass removed and the surface was made smooth and as level as possible. Then it was rolled with a smooth heavy weight roller, made wet, left until fairly dry, then rolled and rolled again. That process made the surface smooth as a plate.

All different kinds of grain were stacked in circles around this threshing floor. The grain all was harvested by hand with cradles or scythes. The male force would mow the grain in rows of swaths with the cradles and the women would come along, one

behind each cradler with a heavy hand rake, rake the grain in small heaps and tie the little heaps into sheaves or bundles. The ties used to tie these sheaves were made out of long rye straw which was made pliable so it could be tied by soaking it in water. All ties were kept wet until used up. In cases where grain is cut green, the tie can be made with the green grain. Many a sheaf I have tied in this manner in this country with a self binder which opened if the sheaf happened to be dropped.

Someone in the family would have to make these ties at home for the whole grain crop. In our family it was my mother's job, and I helped her by stacking away and soaking the ties. My mother seldom went to the fields as someone had to be on the job at home to milk the cows of which we milked several and always had plenty of milk, butter and cheese. She also did other chores as slopping six to ten hogs, feeding the chickens, and taking care of the vegetable garden which she hoed and irrigated. She also did the laundry and the weekly baking for all the help in the fields.

We will now imagine that the grain is harvested and hauled in from the outlying little allotment farms and is stacked in bundle stacks in circles around that circular threshing floor, two or three sheaf lengths wide, leaving just a small disc-shaped space uncovered. The bundles are now all untied and are ready to thresh. That is done by hitching a team of horses or a yoke of oxen to a threshing stone, the end of which looked like the picture below:²



You will notice the cogs cut into the stone the full length so that the grain is beat out as the rolling stone rolls over it. The stone weighed about 500 pounds. As the oxen or horses would pull the stone it would revolve and the big cogs would hit the grain bundles and knock or beat out the kernel which would fall through the straw onto the threshing floor. To beat out a layer of grain sheaves would require about one and one half hours. The grain mixed with chaff now lies under the beaten straw. Now the men-help come along with big forks and shake this beaten straw so all the grain and chaff drop on the threshing floor and the straw remains on top. Now the women come along with grain sack hoods over their heads and rake the straw and chaff off. The straw is raked clear off the floor and taken away into the straw stack and the chaff is removed and stored in a building for stock food in the winter.

All the grain spread over the threshing floor is now pushed into a large heap to one side of the floor and the rest of the floor is swept clean. Now the men-help come with large scoops, throw the grain and wheat chaff into the air and the breeze carries the

² The drawings in this paper were done by David D. Socolofsky.

chaff away and the grain drops onto the threshing floor perfectly clear of the chaff and is now ready to be sacked. This all done, the crew repeats the process until all grain is threshed and cared for. Now straw is never burned; neither is chaff. All are carefully preserved and used for stock food.

The colony pastures I mentioned heretofore are about two to three miles from the colony and extend for several miles further out. Milk cows are pastured during the day. The herder starts driving them at one end of the colony at sunrise. Everybody knows the herd is going out at that time. Milking is done and cows turned out the front gate into the herd. If you milk late, the herd goes on and you have to take your cows out to the herd privately. The cow herder takes that herd out in the evening and brings them back in the morning to go to work. Horses are put out by the owners, hobbled, left out all night, and gone after in the morning. Most animals put out in the evening would be reasonably near where you left them in the morning. I often went with my father to take out the horses after supper. We rode out and walked back. On one of those occasions in the spring of the year, as we were coming back, I ran across a tulip in full bloom. It was about eight inches tall, medium dark, and single in formation. I called father's attention to it but do not recall that I picked it. This was a wild tulip. They grew wild in the country.

In the spring of the year, I often went with my father and older brother or hired man when the crops were sown. There was no fall grain on account of the severity of the winters. We almost always stayed out for several days and sometimes a whole week. We carried complete camping equipment. Our beds were new-mown hay, perfumed with hay nectar. On top of that we put a wool mat $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. For pillows we had sacks stuffed with hay. What we have for cover I just can't recall, but we must have used our big heavy overcoats we carried, as the evenings and nights were quite cold. This sleeping out in the wild was not always as funny or attractive as it may seem; as great big gray wolves were our closest neighbors and many a night I heard them in solo choruses. I bet you can't guess what I did then? Well, I snuggled up so close to dad that you could not blow any air between us.

Our hay was all wild meadow hay and was usually cared for past the middle of summer just before harvest. The grain, all being spring grain, always ripened about the 15th of August. The meadows were all mown with a hand scythe which was as sharp as it could be made. I recall on one haying occasion Dad, Mother, I and the hired man all went together to make hay. We struck the meadow about four o'clock in the afternoon. We pitched our camp, tent included. Mother was at the tent, father and the hired man were mowing, following one another in two swaths. I followed them. There was a shallow ravine in the meadow and as they cut through that ravine I saw fall after the scythe hundreds of stems and foliage of lilies of the valley. I can just see them now and as I liked flowers I was all excited, sat on my knees and picked up the stems with the flowers. They were beautiful. The lilies, as I see them now, must have been almost an inch long. I never saw such lilies of the valley since. I gathered a small arm full and took them over to mother at our camp, which was only a few hundred yards away. Here my memory fades. I do not recall what happened to the flowers.

The mown hay was usually cocked and when cured was hauled to our grain yard near the colony and stacked or put in the large hay mow of our barn. Haying time was also the wild strawberry season and often father would come home with a load of hay and a lot of wild strawberries that were as large as the average tame Oregon strawberries and

were very good and sweet. We also had in that country wild olives which were very dark blue when ripe. Those we pickled in a sweetened brine and we ate them the same as one eats canned cherries. Also, wild apples were quite plentiful. They were more like a crab apple and were called wood apples. We did not make any use of them as we have the finest of all kinds of fruit in our orchards.

Wild roses grew along the roadside profusely. I remember particularly a yellow rose, wild, very pretty, but horribly thorny. I do not recall that we had many domestic flowers but many people had camellias, we called them. I just looked up the name of this flower and the description in the dictionary does not agree with the camellia we had. Ours had yellow centers and white petals; the dictionary describes them as colored and called them the Japanese rose. I recall that some people had quite a good many flowers. Men folks were not interested in flowers and our women folks were too busy otherwise to put in much time or work on flowers.

Toys for children were hardly existent. The only toy I had at the age of about four years was a little homemade cart that did not cost anything. Little girls had some rag dolls but dolls or toys of any consequence were just not existent.

The pond where we went swimming was outside the colony. It was a fine body of dammed up fresh water perhaps three to five feet deep. All the youths of the colony bathed or swam there. All wore the swim suits they were born in, even boys and girls up to sixteen years. As I recall it, young folks were more left to drift for themselves and none of them carried books on morals with them. The above shows you that we must have lived in the Tarzan and Ape period. I do not want to forget to state that as many times as I was at the swimming pond, I never, never saw any of my older brothers or my only sister in the nude swimming gang. That is something to my family's credit. There were organizations that practiced free love and I recall my mother and dad talking about it but my parents did not belong to that crowd. They were clean Christian people who strove to do only the right thing and were sincere in their religion the same as we are.

Our residence consisted of a summer kitchen of one large room and the large duplex. In the summer kitchen we did all laundry, butchering, baking and syrup manufacturing. Late in the fall we moved into one half of the duplex. The other half was occupied by my uncle and family. The summer kitchen had every facility for cooking, baking and extensive boiling of large quantities during the annual butchering season. The duplex had a large kitchen used by both families. In the kitchen were the oven doors to the two large dutch ovens, one in each duplex for heat and cooking purposes. There was a chimney about 6 feet square. In this chimney we hung all new meats for smoking. We always had plenty of sausage, pork, mutton and some beef and fish.

In this duplex was also a large square outside hall from which we could enter the kitchen, either apartment and the attic. In this hall our watch dog, a German police female, was allowed to put up in the cold season. When the door to the apartment was open she would steal into the living room. I have on my upper lip a scar from her paw, where she scratched me on one these "steal in" occasions. Her name was Bless. She was a wonderful watch dog and protected our home and back and front yard from thieves, day and night. When not too cold, she was on duty by being chained to a trolley which operated over a heavy rope which extended clear across in front of our barn, granary, poultry coup, cow barn and pig sty and could run from side to side of our large hof, or yard, and keep marauders from entering any building. The yard was entirely enclosed.

Where there was no building on the street, there was a heavy frame plank fence several feet high. Bless also could reach a sheltered sleeping place by this trolley line. When she gave a fierce alarm, we were always sure something was wrong. Father or the older brothers always responded to her call. Some enemy poisoned Bless. In her agony she climbed up into the hay mow of our barn where we found her dead.

In the backyard of our lot we had our orchard. There were pears, plums and filberts. One kind of pear was an early sugar pear. We youngsters never failed to find those early pears before anyone else. Butchering time was always looked forward to by young and old. It was our custom to put up pork, sausage, lard, and mutton enough to last for most of the year. We would butcher four to six hogs and as many sheep at one time. Butchering time was always in the winter—mutton was hung up in the granary where it froze; pork was brined and smoked. Sausage in casings was also smoked until it was literally cooked, and then left to dry. It was then ready to eat if you cared to eat it without cooking it more. Liverwurst was cooked when made and then smoked. Our hogs weighed from 200 to 300 pounds and were the razor back type with tusks 6 inches long. On these butchering occasions we would ask favored friends in to help us. We usually had two men and two women. All the work was done in one day; everybody knew his or her part to do. The job began at 5 a.m. and ended at 12 p.m. with plenty to do the next day in cleaning up etc. My mother did a lot of fancy baking on those occasions in honor of the helping guests. The pay to these helping guests was to help them when they butchered. The butchering was always a jolly occasion and everybody was jovial and happy. At the age of about four years I and a playmate were playing in my father's workshop when he was constructing part of wagon equipment. My playmate threw a chip at me and hit me in the right eye, causing permanent injury. There were no eye doctors in our colony of 3,000 inhabitants; consequently the inefficient care I received left my eye with permanent injury.

The manufacturing of clothing was largely the work of women; both wool and flax floss were spun into yarn and woven into cloth. Wool yarn was derived from the wool from our sheep of which we had quite a number at all times. To prepare the yarn for spinning it had to be flossed and carded. The carding was my job. We had a carding bench with one card comb fixed stationary. I would sit on the bench straddling before the card, place the wool on the card and card it down smoothly into the card on the bench, then reverse the other card in my hands and lift out the wool I had carded into the card on the bench, in a square about 5 x 8 inches in the form of a wool bat. These bats I would stack up by my mother, at the spinning wheel where she could easily reach them. The flax floss we did not prepare and must have bought it, as we had no arrangements to prepare flax for floss. Carding wool was not hard work and I really did a lot of it at the age of five years.

After the spinning of flax floss and wool into yarns they were sent to the weavers who would weave them into cloth according to the wishes of the owner. Out of the linen cloth the women made all underwear, men's shirts etc. The heavy wool cloth and flannel were made into women's winter skirts and some women's wraps as well as into men's heavy trousers and some men's and boys' overcoats. The women's heavy winter outside clothes were all tailor made, including heavy sheep pelts made into overcoats. For this work tailors came to our house annually and did all our tailoring. Now sometimes we had two tailors at once to expedite the work. The sheep pelts for all fur coats father

would acquire during the summer, have them tanned and ready for the tailor when tailoring time came. To make all these clothes there were no fashion plates or fashion magazines. All were made after a common costume. For our boots and shoes for men, women and children, the same plan prevailed: father would acquire the leather, horsehide for the tops and cowhide for the soles, and have a cobbler or two come into our home and have the footwear made for the whole family. I well remember sitting and watching and talking to those tailors and cobblers. The above system was not expensive and worked very well.

In 1877 I came to America with my parents. I well remember my father saying that when we got to America we would have to give two for one, meaning that we would have to give two rubles for one dollar. From Drei Spitz to Saratov, a distance of 50 American miles, we traveled by covered wagons. There were seven families in the caravan. It was in the month of August and there were flowers on the steppes (prairie) along the way. We children often dropped off the wagons to pick flowers and then ran to catch up with the respective wagons. At Saratov, my parents, at the age of 57 years, saw the first railroad train. I remember that I watched the train move up past the depot platform and I plainly remember that the front of the engine, the part called the cow catcher, was of wood.

From Saratov our whole company went by train to Bremen, Germany, where we took a boat. The trip must have taken several days. On this trip we stopped at Liverpool, England. We arrived at Liverpool in the evening. Our boat must have taken on a lot of cargo and more passengers. When our boat approached the dock at Liverpool, all passengers on board stepped to the side of the boat toward the dock, which overbalanced the boat to such an extent that we were worried about the boat staying right side up. After completion of the boat's mission at Liverpool we were all set for the 3000 mile trip to New York. The motor power of our boat was a combination of sails and steam; either was used, according to the condition of the elements. The trip across the Atlantic required 16 days. About one half the time the weather was favorable. We encountered some very severe storms and came nearly being sunk by a boat that had failed to take in its sails before the storm struck it and was now unable to direct its course; consequently it was driven by the storm, coming directly toward our boat and nosed, with its front end, over the iron rail and back end of our boat, laying flat the heavy iron railing and the back mast of our boat. The officer of our boat, at the helm, saw this boat coming toward us, which would have struck us broadside, but he managed to sway the rear of our boat so that the collision was just a strafing and not a direct hit. Had it been a direct hit I would not be writing this story, as we all would have been drowned. After the above excitement all went well the rest of the way. Just before reaching the harbor at New York we met the Goddess of Liberty, which I will remember noticing and admiring. Here our boat cast its anchor and we were set for the quarantine. After the time of quarantining, a pilot came from New York harbor by a rowboat, who piloted our boat into the docking berth and we all disembarked into Castle Garden. Here we remained a short time and then moved to an immigrant hotel. There we remained a day or two and then all boarded a train for Peabody, Kansas, where we arrived about the middle of August, 1877.

I well remember that father had 50 cents left out of all his life's savings to date. For this 50 cents he bought a 50 pound sack of flour. Three years previous he had paid the fares to come to America for Uncle Godfrey, George and Aunt Kate and children,

also the living for them on the trip as well as all clothes and shoes for them. Now he did the same for six of us: father, mother, Uncle Andrew, Uncle Rhine, Aunt Kate (later Mrs. Friesen) and last but not least, myself.³ The living on a trip of that kind was not too expensive, as we lived very simply. I remember my mother had prepared a 50 pound sack full of well toasted bread for the trip, as that kept and was fine for toast soup, dunking, or eating dry. We also brought some meat prepared so we could carry it on the trip.

We arrived at Peabody, Kansas, in the evening. We all put up for the night on the floor of the depot waiting room, using our immigrant parcels for bed comforts. We had notified Uncle Godfrey when we would arrive. I well remember him coming into that depot waiting room and looking to see when he could locate us. He must have started from home early in the evening, as he was traveling by a yoke of oxen and large wagon, a distance of about 15 miles, and arrived in Peabody about 4:30 a.m. Uncle Godfrey and family and Uncle George had come over three years previous to our coming and had obligated himself for an 80 acre farm, had acquired a white ox and a red spotted ox and a white cow with a red head. The white ox was called Ross and the spotted one Ben. He had also a wagon; was really well started for a beginner in a new country. The location was four miles southwest of Lehigh, Kansas. We loaded all our belongings into the wagon and started out on our 15 mile trip. We urged Ross and Ben all day long and arrived at Uncle Godfrey's place about 5 p.m. and were all happily united after three years of separation. Uncle Godfrey and family lived with some neighbors in pioneer style.

Our next move now was to build a sod house. That was accomplished by breaking the sod on Uncle Godfrey's farm and laying them up in the form of walls for a house. The house was 18 x 30; two rooms and attic, with a slough grass thatched roof. The cost of this house was about \$200. It was very warm and adequate for father's and mother's whole family. In 1879 we sold this 80 acre farm and bought a 160 acre farm 4 ½ miles north of Marion, Kansas. There were no improvements on this farm and so again we had to build a house. There was a lot of building rock on the place so the folks decided to construct a house out of stone. The size of this house was about 20 x 32 feet; one story and attic and thatched roof. There were a large kitchen and dining nook and a large room where all the married couples slept. The rest of us slept in the attic on the floor. The barn was a straw barn but the granary was a frame granary. In this straw barn a horse we owned by the name of Frank bit off my right index finger.

Summarizing the primitive aspect of my and my ancestors' life in Governomong Saratov, Russia, Europe:⁴ When our forefathers settled in Russia about the year 1824 in the steppes section about 5 American miles east of the Volga River, the longest river in Europe, the country was very wild, sparsely settled, and in many cases and places run over by wild beasts, as wolves large as yearling calves, big bears, foxes etc. But the wild beasts were not the worst menace. The greatest menaces were the organized bands of robbers and desperadoes. Both were very treacherous and had no regard for human life. It has been known that they killed a person for a nickel. On account of that situation, immigrants settled only in groups or colonies. In my childhood the stories of thievery

³ While it is not entirely clear, I have assumed that David's father paid for the earlier trip of Uncle Godfrey and his family three years earlier and now, once established in America, Uncle Godfrey returned the favor.

⁴ Even though it follows the arrival of the family in the United States, this summary relates to life in Russia.

and atrocities were innumerable. Even in going to the annual markets people did not dare to go singly but went in groups or caravans for protection. One special reason that such groups were attacked at times: all shoppers in the group, or caravan, carried money or different kinds of trade mediums to do their purchasing with, and this the holdup gangs and desperadoes were aware of.

Of the wild animals the wolves were the most dangerous. They, driven by hunger, in the winter, with a lot of snow and cold, would venture right into the colony or settlement and carry off lambs, pigs, and even sheep and small calves. They were very clever to sling a small pig or lamb or any other small animal onto their back and make away with it. Those pranks were pulled often in day time. Sometimes, in the earlier days, packs of these big beasts would prey on settlements and a person was not safe, especially at night. Domestic watch dogs, if not protected or defended were attacked and devoured. In the winter, in going from colony to colony, it was not safe to go alone in sleighs or wagons as packs of wolves would chase and overtake horses and driver. In the winter, the custom was to drive three horses to a sleigh, the best and most reliable horse in the middle. This horse carried the shafts or tongue, like a wagon tongue. Over the head of the middle horse was an arch or bow with its ends fastened to the sleigh shafts. In the arch of the bow was a bell that served as a sleigh bell. A story was told in my childhood days that on one occasion a party was hauling a corpse from one colony to another. Wolves followed him. They came closer and closer, his horses on the dead run shook and threw the sleigh so that it shook and threw the coffin and corpse. The driver had about decided to dump the coffin with the corpse to the pack when he noticed the corpse sitting up; he had been awaked though the rough ride. Evidently the corpse was not dead to begin with but just in a coma but taken for dead. In an incident of that kind you did not have to urge your horses, as they realized what was happening and were afraid of the wolves. In the chase these beasts would surround the rig and horses and leap for the throats of the horses, which they could slash with ease if they succeeded in reaching a horse. Where there were more than one person in the sleigh or wagon and they had club, fork or gun, they could protect themselves pretty well but had to keep on the dead run until clear of the beasts. If they halted, they were overwhelmed. In colonies or settlements our best protection were our wolf hounds or very savage watch dogs, especially at night. Our police force were night watchmen who served until daylight. I am just a little vague in memory of the night watchman, but as I recall it, I heard the night watchman go by our window calling: "The night watchman goes by." That was the evidence that he was on duty and doing his duty. This going by and giving notice of his presence served the same as punching the clock by the watchman of a large building.

I do not recall seeing any newspapers. Important news to be made public was made known by a man who walked up one side and down the other side of the main street, announcing any council or public meeting, or that heads of families should meet to receive certain orders or instructions. In the U.S. such a man, in days gone by, was called the town crier.

We had no organized fire protection except when a fire occurred there was a voluntary bucket brigade in a few minutes. The source of water was common wells. Up to seven years, I do not recall a single serious fire. Perhaps the fact that we had no

brimstone matches would account for few fires. Fires were kindled with pure punk, flint stone, and steel. A smoker carried all three of these and lit his pipe by this means. My uncle Jacob Socolofsky was a crown-educated medical doctor. The federal government, or crown, as we called it, had offered to educate boys for medical doctors and Grandfather Socolofsky succeeded in getting his son, Jacob, accepted and, as I remember, he was quite a prominent doctor in a larger town, quite a ways from our colony as I understand stationed there by the government, as he was crown educated and no doubt under the orders of the crown. Our colony of 3,000 inhabitants did not have a single doctor or dentist or eye-ear-nose-throat doctor. Almost every elderly mother was a house remedy doctor. Some were very outstanding and at times were called on for help in case of sickness. I well remember a remedy for infant's colic: sparrow turds. Do you get it? Sparrow turds were used for infant colic remedy. Very cheap medicine, as we had millions of sparrows in the country. The people were very superstitious, believing in all kinds of bunk. For example: earlier in the epoch I reported how I got my right eye hurt. One cure they applied for that was to draw a strip of dog skin through the lobe of my right ear. The above shows the primitiveness of medical knowledge and skill. Our lights, to my earliest recollection, were tripods holding a cup. The cup was filled with melted lard and a wick made out of a linen rag was immersed in the melted lard and extended out over the rim of the cup. That tip was lighted and gave light as long as the lard in the cup lasted. The next step of development in light was the tallow candle. Mother was the candle maker and I was the helper. We had a candle mold that was a hollow pipe. A wick of string was put down through the middle of the mold and the melted tallow poured around it; the tallow would cool and form the candle. The next step of lights was a real coal oil lamp like we used in this country up to electric lights. The first one of the coal oil lamps we had was a hanging lamp. I can just see that lamp now. We never reached the electric light period; nor did we see any in Europe. The only funeral I recall was my grandfather's. It was in the dead of winter. I recall the friends who dug the grave had a hard time to pick the ground, as it was frozen solid. The cemetery was at the edge of our colony. The coffin was carried and all attendants walked. I well remember walking by my mother's side in the awful cold. All coffins were home-made as the need arose.

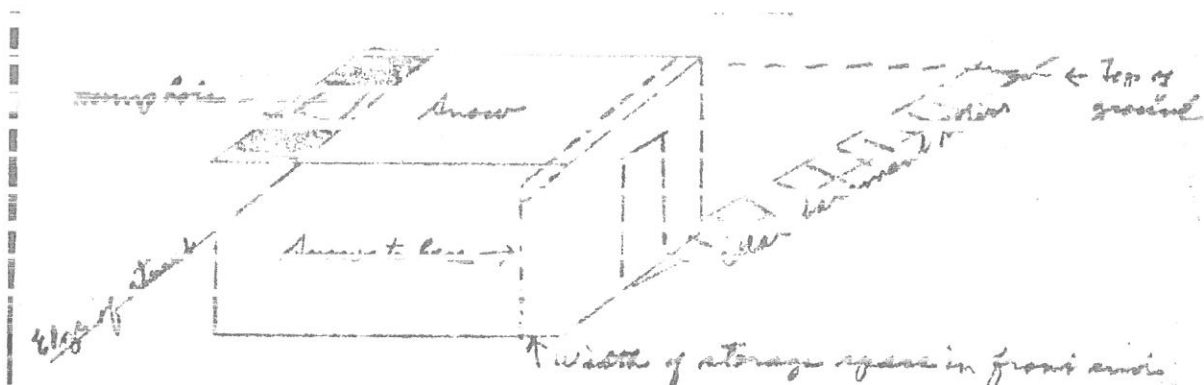
Education was very limited, one school for the whole colony. All were privileged to attend. The church was Lutheran and the colony church building was really quite nice and roomy. I recall being in it once. I must have been three years old, and I know I was with my mother on Christmas as I can see the pine Christmas tree in my mind now as mother and I stood close by the tree. It must have been at the age of four years when father and mother were converted to the idea that they should be baptized as adults and should be immersed, so they and quite a group of other people left the Lutheran church, were all immersed, and formed a church which was called the Annabaptists. They conducted their services in private homes and never did have a church building of their own.

In the whole colony there was no sanitation or sewer system. All those accommodations were extremely primitive. Refrigeration, while very primitive, was very practical and useful. The following is a description of our primitive deep-freeze: I wonder if America coined the word "deep freeze" from the pattern of our deep freeze. We excavated a basement about 14 x 20 feet and about 8 feet deep, located on the edge of

our lot with about one third extending out into the street. The portion extending into the street was covered with heavy planks which made it as strong as a bridge so that any vehicle could pass over it. The planks were covered with straw and a heavy cover of earth over the straw.

In the middle of the street extended portion was a hole or opening with a lid as strong as the rest of it. Over the section inside the lot we extended a building we called the cellar house. This cellar house was large enough so steps or stairway could be cut from the front door of the cellar house to the bottom of the basement. At the bottom of that stairway was an ordinary size door which was kept closed most of the time. On both sides of this stairway on the floor of the cellar house was lots of storage space. This completes the cellar or refrigerator.

After the first heavy snowfall we removed the lid in the flat room portion in the street and shoveled snow into that cellar house basement, spreading and tramping solid until it was plumb full, leaving space at the bottom of the basement stairs to set such as milk, butter and cheese, mutton, pork, or anything that we wanted to keep or preserve. When the basement contained all the snow possible, the lid was replaced, and covered with straw and earth the same as before until next winter. That solid pack of snow seemed to freeze together and formed a solid mass almost like real ice and kept early winter until late next fall and any time during the summer season we wanted fresh pork, mutton or veal we could have it as it would keep perfectly in our primitive deep freeze. I will now attempt to draw this deep freeze for you. The basement shown was all underground.



The people as a whole were very superstitious. Stories of witchcraft and witch activities were very numerous and were considered real and true. Haunted houses and places were plentiful and considered reality by many. I listened in night after night, or rather evenings when our neighbors and friends would call and almost everybody had a

ghost or witch story to tell. As a child listening in, I never could become much frightened about witches or ghosts and I remember from an early age I disbelieved the stuff. These stories were cherished more by the more common class of people. My parents never told us any ghost or witch stories. Ed's mother's folks often called at our home; some of them were ministers; and other high class people called, but not once do I recall that ghost or witch stories were talked about or mentioned in any way. I consider all witch and ghost stories unreal and more fit for an idle mind; which of course is the devil's workshop.

This ends the first epoch.

Epoch 2 - 1879-1885

On the farm north of Marion we farmed quite extensively by renting more acreage from our neighbors and there father suffered a sunstroke and passed away in 1880. For several years we lived on this farm. Uncle Godfrey and Uncle Andrew farmed the 160 acres and Uncle George was hired out. While living on this farm I started to attend a country school and learn my ABC's. My first English teacher was a Charley Hardcastle. I attended this country school for short terms of about four months each. My last teacher in that school was a Mr. Greeley.

About two and one half miles from our farm was a large German settlement; they as well as we were very anxious to retain our German language. Consequently, they organized a German private school in that settlement. My sister had married a quite well educated man by the name of Graham Friesen, who was hired to teach this school. This school was conducted more along the Christian educational line and really benefited me.

The system we operated under on the Marion farm was not very satisfactory so the folks agreed to sell this farm and go out further and each of the three older brothers bought a farm; also my brother-in-law bought 60 acres in the immediate neighborhood. By the sale of the Marion farm the estate was settled and the portion that came to me was \$125, and that was principally through the courtesy of my older brothers. This \$125 was payable at my age of 21 years. This agreement necessitated a guardian and Edwin's mother's father, a Rev. Jacob Ehrlich, of near Marion, Kansas, became my guardian for 12 years. The buying of those farms in the north part of Marion County happened about 1883. As not everybody and everything could be moved at once on account of harvesting etc., Uncle Godfrey built a partly finished house on his farm and my mother and I became the vanguard of our settling there. Our nearest neighbor was a mile away and we considered ourselves rather isolated and were never appreciative of the nightly coyote choruses which made the shivers run up our spines. These coyotes were sometimes so near our house that we might as well have invited them in, but we refrained from that. All of one summer from early spring until after harvest we lived alone like that while I was herding 60 head of cattle on the wide open range adjacent to our farm. For three years herding was my vocation from early spring until frost came and killed the feed on the range. My salary at the age of ten years was my board and clothing. At the age of eleven years I received \$65 and clothes and board annually.

My educational career began when I attended the country school north of Marion, while we lived in the big stone house. After moving to three miles north of Tampa, I attended the Belton school, a distance of two miles away. However, our settlement soon organized its own district and built a schoolhouse. This district was known as No. 91, Marion County, Kansas, where in later years I taught for four consecutive years. I worked for Uncle Godfrey on the farm in summer and attended District No. 91 school for about four months in winter, doing chores for my board before and after school. Mother would call at 4:30 a.m. and I would study until about 5:30; then do chores until 8 o'clock, eat breakfast and run one half mile to school. The chores I did sometimes consisted of hauling in fodder shocks which I had to load by hand. Often the shocks were covered with snow. I would pick up all I could lift and put it on the rack wagon while the snow would run down the sleeves of my coat and sometimes my shirt sleeves. Watering the stock by cutting openings in the ice was fun. Often I would get so cold and wet that my

mittens were frozen stiff and my socks would be frozen to my boots when I attempted to take off my boots. In spite of that situation, I felt I was lucky to be able to chore for my room and board and attend school.

My first teacher at District No. 91 was Charles Brewer; my second Miss Eva Brown; and my third Miss Pauline Rausch, under whom I finished the eighth grade the winter of 1886. The winter of 1885 I attended a German parochial school at Canada, Kansas. This school was under the auspices of the Mennonite Brethren Church, principally of Ebenfeld, Marion County, Kansas. Prof. John F. Harms, who owned a large home in Canada, Kansas, was the teacher and conducted the school in his own private home. There were seventeen students attending the school and all of them boarded and roomed in the professor's house. Professor and Mrs. Harms had three children: Anna, Peter and Samuel. Sam was the baby about 2 years old. As I liked children, I often held him on my lap which Samuel and his mother, who had her hands more than full, appreciated. Boarding seventeen students and her family and doing all her housework, she was a busy person. Strange as it may seem, that baby, Samuel Harms, is owner of a printing business here in Salem and is about 68 years old and is married. We frequently visit each other but I have never attempted to hold him on my lap since meeting him again about eight years ago.

In the parochial school stress was principally on Church history, Bible, German grammar, writing and reading. The attendance of that parochial school one term influenced my future life greatly, as we were taught culture as well as book knowledge. Professor Harms was sincerely religious, very strict, and insistent that we make progress in all our studies. I am sorry that I am not able to recall the expense of that school term, except I paid it myself. Professor Harms was very concerned about having all of us go the straight and narrow way and saw to it that we always attended church on the Lord's Day. There was no church in Canada but one half mile north of Canada was an Evangelical Church which we all often attended. There was also a Mennonite Church about three miles east of Canada and often we would go there. We walked every place and the professor always went with us.

Epoch 3 1886-1893

As stated above, in 1886 I graduated from the 8th grade and that spring I left Uncle Godfrey's place and went to Herington, Kansas, where I was employed in the supply yard of the Rock Island Railroad Company, because I was desirous to make more money and that work paid almost three times the salary a farmer could pay. Here the pay was \$1.40 per day. During that summer I also worked some time on the section out of Herington, on the Union Pacific RR at \$1.35 per day, but this work was not nearly so strenuous. The supply yard was the hardest labor I ever did in my life. The company used only oak ties which were 8 feet long and very frequently quite large. At times I was so tired at night and my hands were so stiff I had difficulty to close them, which made me take up section work. All the above hard work I endured on account of my desire to add to my education fund.

During that summer I saved \$40 and then had \$200 in all. Besides the \$200, I owned the determination to attend the state normal school at Emporia, so the fall of 1887, at age 17, I enrolled at the normal school for the full term of 9 months. The tuition at that

time, it being a state school, was only \$10 for the full term. I found that school and all the instructors very wonderful. Prof. Taylor, the president of the school, was like a father to all. The spirit of the school was very Christian. I often wondered how it could be so much so, it being a state normal school. While attending this school I boarded, in company of a dozen students, at the private home of a Mrs. Fife, a widow. The board cost a student \$1.65 per week plus rooms, according to where we roomed. My total expense for the whole 9 months was \$120. During the whole term I spent for luxuries \$3.48, which was included in the \$120. I left no stone unturned to acquire knowledge, studied early and late.

At the close of that school year, in the spring of 1888, I returned home, attended the teachers' institute at Marion, Kansas, that summer, took the final examination at the close of the institute, and passed for my first teacher's certificate, with a very respectable grade, which I do not recall. I had been advised by my professors and the county superintendent to apply for a school, but I was afraid I might not pass and so disappoint that school board. Teachers were hired in the spring but the examination was not until the latter part of August; consequently I had a certificate but no school. However, the teacher of the school for which I had applied after receiving my certificate, became mentally unbalanced with several months of his term remaining and the board, knowing me, now came to see me about employing me to finish teaching that term. I was paid the same salary the former teacher had been paid, which was \$40 per month, with the promise that if I were satisfactory as a teacher, they would extend the term an extra month, and for two consecutive falls that school board attempted to employ me to teach their school, offering to pay me \$55 per month, which was about as high as any country teacher in the county received. I appreciated this compliment of that school board very much but preferred to accept the offer of School Dist. 91, Marion County, Kansas, at the same salary. District 91 was my home school, which I taught four years.

Epoch 4 1893-1901

I now realized that teaching really should be a profession and to make it that I would have to complete a full course of four years at the State Normal School, which would have required \$1000, which I did not have. Consequently, I discontinued school teaching and hired out as a dry goods clerk to the Loveless and Sackett Mercantile Company of Marion, Kansas. That position I held for 8 years, starting at a salary of \$25 per month and ending with a salary of \$50 per month. That firm employed 21 clerks of which there was just one man who received a higher salary than I and that was the buyer for the dry goods department. He received \$60 per month.

After (sic) 10 years of service with the Loveless and Sackett Mercantile Co., my salary had been raised to \$40 per month. I now felt that I could venture to become married. As stated above, Rev. Jacob Ehrlich had been my guardian until I became the age of 21 years. The Ehrlichs knew the Socolofsky family from the time I was a child and the Socolofskys knew the Ehrlich family from the time Ed's mother was a child.⁵ This mutual acquaintance developed into a romance between Ed's mother and myself and we agreed to get married. Ed's mother was Anna Elizabeth Ehrlich, who was 24 years

⁵ D. D. Socolofsky often refers to his wife as "Ed's mother," possibly because son, Ed, had requested this narrative.

old and I was 25 years old. We were married in the little stone church in the west end of Marion, Kansas, on Sunday, October 28, 1895, the Rev. Jacob Ehrlich, Ed's mother's father, officiating.

My mother and I were living in a house in Marion on south Walnut St. before our marriage. In the course of a few months after our marriage, my mother moved back to Uncle Godfrey and family, near Tampa, where she remained until the time of her death. Ed's mother and I were nicely situated in the house on Walnut Street, but soon decided to move into a nice little brown house on West Main Street for about two years, and there Salome was born. Then we moved into the Wheeler house in West Marion, across the street from the stone church in which we were married. In this Wheeler house Edwin was born. We then lived for some time in the next house south of the Wheeler house, known as the Lewis house in southwest Marion, east of the depot in a nice location. I do not recall the name of this street. The neighbors on the south were Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Martin. Mr. Martin was a prominent attorney and they were fine neighbors. On the north was the Apple family, a widower, and his daughters who were also a fine family.

The house we bought was a well constructed, plastered frame house which had a cellar under it. It also had two large bay windows on the front side, facing the street, and had double sliding doors between the dining and living room. There were four rooms and back enclosed porch and an open front porch. There was also a large cistern, for water for house use with a bucket pump, an outside toilet, a poultry house and a large fine race horse barn. There were four 25 foot lots, 125 feet long. The house was fenced by a board fence. All improvements, including the fence, were painted pure white. The property faced east, had four nice shade elm shade trees in the parking, and joining the parking, a board walk. For this house we agreed to pay \$750 on terms of \$50 down payment, the balance to be paid in payments of \$7.50 at 6% per month.

In this property we lived about four years when one of the members of the Loveless and Sackett Mercantile Co., Mr. Sackett, sold his interest and moved to Colorado, Springs. This change in the firm made quite a change in my situation at the store. The son of the then owner clerked alongside me, and our rivalry was not too pleasant, as I outsold him in every way. I was the only German speaking clerk, and as we had a great volume of German trade my sales amounted to more than his, daily, which he did not appreciate. Mr. Sackett, the member of the firm who retired was very friendly to me and that friendship I had lost also. The situation at the store when I was employed was as above described. Ed's mother and I decided I should resign my position and we would go into business for ourselves.

Before going into the description of that business venture, I want to relate some happenings while living in the four room white house. Salome was now about ___⁶ years old and Edwin was three years old. In the winter mother would dress them warm and let them play out in the yard in the snow. On one of those occasions, they were making snowmen on the ground. To scoop the snow they used the small coal shovel from mother's cookstove. Edwin had an idea it would be nice to build little snowman on the outside window sill and did. After he had built it he decided he would knock it down with the little coal shovel and did, and by that act gave the window pane a hard enough lick to break it in pieces. The window was a two pane window so by breaking the pane

2 The age was illegible in the source document. Salome was somewhat older than Edwin.

left one half the window open. Edwin was considerably petrified by the mishap and did not repeat the performance. As I recall, we did not punish him for the accident. Edwin and Salome may recall the above anecdote. During that winter an epidemic of diphtheria swept the section of the country where we lived and Edwin became stricken with the dreaded malady and became very critically ill. Our family doctor was Dr. G. P. Warner, a very good and conscientious man. He used every available means to bring relief to Edwin's condition but all was without avail. He then said to mother and me, "There is one more remedy I could apply and that is antitoxin. It will either kill him or cure him." He was so badly afflicted that mother and I decided to have the doctor administer the antitoxin. If mother and I ever prayed, we prayed on that occasion for Edwin's recovery. The doctor administered the antitoxin and it took effect immediately for the better, giving relief to Edwin's affliction in every way and in a few days he was pronounced well. To say that mother and I were grateful can not at all express our gratitude to God for sparing dear Edwin. (next sentence unintelligible) As soon as we knew that Edwin's ailment was diphtheria we sent Salome to her grandmother Ehrlich, where she stayed until all danger of taking diphtheria was over.

Epoch 5 – 1901-1916

As I stated heretofore, we decided that I resign my position with Loveless and Sackett and start business of our own in Tampa, Kansas. I went to Tampa before mother, Salome, and Edwin. We were expecting another baby and mother preferred to stay at Marion with her mother until after that event. That baby was Walter. In the interim I had gone to Tampa and started the business, also rented a five room house from Mr. J. J. Berry, a very kind hearted Irishman who was very kind and helpful to us. As soon as mother felt able to be moved with the baby, I went after them and brought them to Tampa and we moved into the house I had rented. As soon as the above mentioned Mr. Berry learned that we were contemplating to come to Tampa to start a store, he came to Marion to see me and suggested three things: rent to us a store building and residence he owned at Tampa and to have me appointed postmaster at Tampa. All three suggestions became a reality. Mr. Berry was very influential, and through our Congressman, Mr. Deen, who lived at Marion and knew me well, I was recommended to Teddy Roosevelt, who was then President of the United States, for the postmaster job at Tampa and was appointed.

The office at Tampa was a fourth class office and as the President had put all fourth class offices under Civil Service, I held that job for eleven years, until Woodrow Wilson became President. The Tampa post office had no rural mail delivery, but when I took office I made application to establish three mail routes. My applications were accepted and the routes established. These routes were of great service to the population in the vicinity of Tampa, far and wide. President Wilson and his Democratic cohorts soon made the claim that there were many postmasters who were incompetent and that it was necessary to subject all fourth class postmasters to an examination, which was only a political scheme to weed out all Republicans holding office. The civil law declared that in case of competition for an office, the most efficient applicant should be appointed and further stated that if any applicant was appointed on account of political affiliation he would be removed. Here is what happened: two Democrats and I took the examination. I stood at the head of the list with a grade of 94%, but a Democrat was appointed. After

the examination I received no report of my standing and made inquiry to the Post Office Department, and here is what I received in reply: You stand at the head of the list, grade 94%. That reply came in a penalty envelope but was written on a scrap of wrapping paper and not on official stationery.

Up to the time of the above, I had operated the post office in our store. The revenue from the office was \$60 per month. Out of that I retained \$20 for the responsibility of being postmaster, and the balance went to the store business for office rent etc. At the end of each month I would sit up night after night making out monthly or quarterly reports to the Post Office Department. In my absence, mother, who was my assistant postmaster, would conduct the office, balancing the money order account at the close of each day's business perfectly; that I considered very wonderful. The helpfulness to one another is what made it largely possible to raise our family and finally be able to move to Oregon.

In 1910 we decided to dispose of the store business and sold out to a company which was organized for that purpose by the name of Home Mercantile Co. Edwin and Salome both were employed by Home Merc. Co. After the sale of the business, we moved the post office to a small frame building on the west side of Main Street just south of George _____'s store. We then acquired the agency of Upland Mutual Insurance Co., of which O. A. Olsen was president. We were now comfortably situated: mother tended the office and I solicited insurance. In about six months after moving into the little building the Tampa Mill caught fire and burned to the ground. The little building we were in caught fire and burned and we lost quite heavily. We carried insurance. I purchased another post office cabinet and furniture for our business. We had other things in the post office building that we missed when we wanted to use them. One item was my heavy fur overcoat that I wore in the winter while driving through the country soliciting insurance. In addition to our business, I also bought and sold milk cows. In spite of losing three of them I did quite well in the venture with the cows. We nearly always milked several and sold the milk to neighbors. The milk business was mostly Edwin's fair and no doubt he recalls all that happened. One of our shipped-in cows was run over by a train. This was a jersey. The RR company paid us \$75. I had to contend quite a little over that claim, but the claim agent was very nice and reasonable about it. The post office was moved into the room at the west end of the Tampa State Bank building, where I later turned the postmastership over to the Democrat appointee, about the year 1913.

I now rented an office in the Rudolph Fritsch building at \$__ per month and operated a real estate and fire insurance business. I worked extremely hard at this business, soliciting insurance and being on the alert for real estate deals at all times. I would start in the morning, driving a pair of ponies, all the while going away from Tampa until late in the afternoon to chore time, at which time prospects could get no further attention; then I would head my ponies homeward, tie the lines together, hang them over my shoulder, and go to sleep. The ponies knew the way home and never missed a road or direction any time. Often I would get home late, after dark. I nearly always drove the same team out of the livery barn owned by Noah Hankler of Tampa. Whenever I was away from our real estate office, mother would take over for the day. I always appreciated mother's willingness and ability in that respect but realize now more than ever that that always meant a sacrifice of time to her. One point I am happy about is that

she always liked a variation of that kind and she often let me know that she really felt pleased that she could do work of that kind and she seemed gratified.

In 1911 we bought our first car. It was a battleship gray Buick. We paid \$1,100 for that car. Previous to the purchase of that car mother often said, when she saw cars go by our house, "We will never have a car." I always said, "Yes, we will." And we did. We were the first family of our whole relation to own a car, and we really owned it, as we paid cash for it. We owned \$750 stock in the Home Merc, which we traded in and the balance we paid out of our real estate and insurance business, so we had no car payments to worry about.

In 1902 we decided to build a home in Tampa. It was a six room semi-English type frame structure, 1 and one half story with a large front porch, a small back porch; also a large enclosed back porch over the kitchen door. We also had a cement cistern on the house. The outbuildings consisted of a barn, with room for three head and with a roomy haymow; a garage; outside toilet; and a small coal house. The building site consisted of three 25 foot lots, 150 feet deep. All the above improvements cost approximately \$1500.

In addition to the insurance business and the real estate business at home we also had connections with several agents who operated home seekers' excursions to Texas. On these excursions I often would be away a whole week during which mother would attend to the post office and took applications for insurance. Mother did remarkably well to attend to the family and our office. Out of the Texas ventures we made \$1700 in cash. We were now completely out of debt, owned our home, business and car. For three years we operated our real estate and insurance business in an office in the Fritsch building. Mother and I worked exceedingly hard at the real estate business. The season of 1915 we made \$4000 in our business. Living and business expenses were low and we were both very economical, consequently we had a very nice balance in our favor in property and some money. To build our home in Tampa we had to place a mortgage on it of \$1000, which we procured from Mr. John Rhodes of College Hill, which we repaid in 1915.

In the insurance business we had very strong competition, but our company was a mutual company and its rate was \$2.50 per hundred, while the rate of my competitor was \$3 per hundred, a difference of \$5 on \$1000 worth of insurance in favor of my prospect. My principal competitor was the Case Insurance Co. of Marion, Kansas. Its representative operated continually in the vicinity of Tampa and told all kinds of bad features about a mutual company but in spite of his misrepresentation, I wrote policy after policy for his former policyholders. Finally, the Case Co. representative decided he wanted my company and wrote to the president of my company, a Mr. O.A. Olsen of Upland, Kansas, applying for my agency. Mr. O.A. Olsen replied to the Case Co. representative that his agent in Tampa was doing very well for the Upland Mutual and that he did not care to make any change. I did not know of this attempt of the representative of Case Co. until the president of my company wrote to me telling me the whole story. Mother and I appreciated Mr. O.A. Olsen's stand in our favor very much. We had worked the insurance business up to where we had a policy expiring daily. The fellow who told so many objectionable features about mutual insurance was Z. Taylor of Marion, Kansas.

Mother and I continued our business until 1916, when we decided to move to Oregon. We knew but little of Oregon and the West Coast, except what Rev. Theo Fry

had told us. His parents and sisters and his brother all lived in Portland at that time. On account of our contemplated move to the West Coast, we now offered our home, business and car for sale. Conditions in our part of the country, both economically and crop outlook, at that time were very bad. We priced our home at \$1800 and sold it at that price to Mr. and Mrs. John Sweeney of Tampa. For the insurance business, I was offered \$400 cash from the (bottom of page missing) . . . of the insurance business, as he was trying to operate it through a part-time agent who was a rural mail carrier and who was not a success at the business. The consequence was Karl thought I got the best of him in the deal and it was almost three years before I was paid the \$400.

We had policies enough in force so I had a policy expiring daily and Karl looked after those expiration, that alone should have made him money. The car we sold to Frank Steffek of Tampa for \$225, when it was worth at least \$300 to \$500, and were glad to get that. We billed our household goods for a public auction with Al Merrillatt of Lost Springs, auctioneer. This was about the 1st of July, 1916. The crop prospects were very bad; consequently there were very few buyers among the large gathering attending our sale. The auctioneer remarked that the large crowd either was so darned glad to see us go or so sorry to see us go that they wanted to see us once more; he seemed not to know which was the reason for a large gathering. All our belongings went for one half value. We should have chartered a car and shipped all our goods to Salem; by doing so we could have saved hundreds of dollars. The deal for our house was completed on the 1st of July and on the 4th of July, 1916, Walter and I were on our way to Garden City, Kansas, where uncle Jerry and Eunice lived. Here we tarried until Mother and the rest of the family arrived. Why the rest, besides Walter and myself came later, I cannot recall; neither do I know if they all stayed at Garden City until I wired them to ship to Salem, or if they returned to Marion again.

On my trip I came by way of Denver, Ft. Collins, Spokane, Walla Walla and Portland. None of all those stations pleased me as well as Salem. I arrived in Salem about the _____ part of August on the Oregon Electric. I was met at the train by Mr. Prime, Sr. (sp?) whom I had met on my trip west. I had stopped in Portland, so we were separated, he coming on to Salem. He at once invited me to go home with him which I did not expect at all. I accepted his invitation with the understanding that I pay \$5 per week for board and room. I was well pleased to have that kind of arrangement, preferring it to having to go to a hotel. I stayed at Prime's one month. Mr. Prime took me out to view the surrounding country and Salem and I was well pleased with both and wired to Mother to ship and come to Salem. Mother and the rest of the family came by the northern route, through the Dominion of Canada, stopping at Daysland, Alta., where Mother's oldest sister and family lived, also stopping at Boreburn, Sask., where my brother, _____ and family lived, and then on down the coast through British Columbia and on to Salem, where they arrived September 16, 1916.

Epoch 6 1916-51

Previous to the arrival of Mother and family, I had rented a six room furnished house at ___15 North Cottage Street, where we lived for two years. In 1918 we purchased a modern six room home at 985 North Summer Street from Mr. Darling, paying therefore \$3500, all cash. We came to Salem with \$5000 after paying all expenses of moving. We

now had \$1500 left on deposit at the Salem Bank of Commerce. We lived in the home very happily for seven years. During that time, Edwin, Walter and Salome attended Willamette. Edwin graduated in 1925. Walter attended three years and Salome quit Willamette after attending ____ years. The twins, Harold and Herbert, entered Grant School, graduated from that school, entered high school, and graduated from there.⁷ By that time Walter had graduated from high school and had had three years at Willamette. The twins were now ready for the university also. Herb had been granted a scholarship to Willamette. Mother and I were anxious the twins also attend Willamette but they stated they wanted to attend the University of Oregon. Walter also was determined to finish his years there. After quitting Willamette, Salome started to clerk at F. G. Shipley's store, where she was employed for some time. Now with the boys away from home, Salome and Mother conceived the idea to sell all our household belongings, rent the house, and Mother and I would move into an apartment; that was the beginning of disastrous ideas. We sold about \$1000 worth of household goods for \$300 to Mr. Woodry and moved into the Engle Court Apartments, paying \$40 dollars rent. The house we moved out of rented for \$50.

In 1916 I had gone into partnership with Fred L. Wood, in the real estate business. This partnership lasted six months and amounted to very little financially. I then embarked in the business by myself and did very well until 1925 when the volume of business diminished greatly. About that time Mother's mother became very ill and Mother was notified to come to her bedside at once. We talked it over and decided to let Mother and Walter make the trip Durham, Kansas. They stayed in Durham, Tampa and Marion about six weeks during which time they had some very unpleasant experiences among our relatives by being treated improperly when they had to undertake the long trip from the coast to comply with their request for Mother to come. As stated above, Edwin graduated from Willamette, where he met Veona Belle Williams. They decided to get married and did. The bride lived at Grants Pass, Oregon, and Salome, the twins and I drove to Grants Pass for the wedding. The above all happened during the absence of Mother and Walter. In 1924 Walter and the twins went to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon. Walt graduated in 1926 and the twins in 1928. In 1926 we decided to rent our house at 985 North Summer St. and moved into Engle Court Apartments. That was a disaster. In 1927 we decided on building the brick house at 475 Leslie Street and sold our Summer Street house. We had bought that house for \$3500 and sold it to Rae Looper, for cash, at \$6000.

⁷ In 1904 the twins, Harold and Herbert, were born in Tampa, Kansas, while the family still lived there.

Epoch 7 1951-1953

OBITUARY OF DAVID D. SOCOLOFSKY

David D. Socolofsky was born in Drei Spitz, Province Saratov, Russia, May 24, 1870. His parents were Gottfried Socolofsky and Maria Socolofsky. In 1877 he came with his parents to Peabody, Marion County, Kansas, where he resided for 37 years.

At the age of 25 years, he was united in marriage to Anna F. Ehrlich, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Ehrlich with the Rev. Ehrlich officiating. Five children were born to this union: Mrs. Salome A. Smith, Salem; Edwin D. Socolofsky, San Jose, California; Walter A. Socolofsky, Salem; Harold J. Socolofsky, Olympia, Wash.; and Herbert G. Socolofsky, Tacoma, Wash. In 1916 the family moved to Salem, Oregon, where he resided until his demise. On December 30, 1947, Anna E. Socolofsky, his first wife, preceded him in death.

On February 10, 1951, he was united in marriage with Mina L. Olmstead, whose husband had passed away on August 30, 1948, and who lived in the Methodist Home at Salem, where he also was admitted at the time of their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Socolofsky made their home here until December 19, 1956, at which time they entered the Northwestern Christian Home at Beaverton, Oregon. They returned to Salem on July 8, 1958.

At the age of 79 years, Mr. Socolofsky turned his attention to the writing of _____ prose and poetry. A number of his compositions have been published in various magazines and papers.

He was a member of the Baptist Church for 69 years, where he was an (Elder) Deacon for 24 years. In 1949, two years prior to his marriage to Mina L. Olmstead, he united with the First Christian Church of Salem, Oregon, and was a member of that fellowship at the time of his passing.

He passed away on December 2, 1959, and leaves to mourn his loss, his widow, Mina L. Socolofsky, one daughter, four sons, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. He had four brothers and one sister who preceded him in death.

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Addendum

The epochs listed at the beginning of this paper list several events after 1928 which were not addressed by David D. Socolofsky, namely, “moved to Hood Canal, Bainbridge Island; returned to Salem, employed at Willamette University; married again, came into the Methodist Home.” The obituary does state that in 1951, while he was living at the Methodist Home, he did marry again.

Sometime after he retired from the insurance business, David D. Socolofsky and his then wife, Anna Ehrlich, moved to Hood Canal, Washington, where he was caretaker of a vacation home. After a time at the Hood Canal home, they moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington where he was caretaker of a large estate owned by the Black family, as I recall. My father, Harold J. Socolofsky, visited them regularly and I also spent some time there with them. The Blacks used the property primarily in the summer.

D. D. Socolofsky ultimately returned to Salem and was employed as a custodian at the Willamette University College of Law. In the summer of 1960 I enrolled in a Bar Review Course at the school and became acquainted with law professor John Paulus who told me that he had known David D. Socolofsky; that he was a “very nice old gentleman.” Professor Paulus was from the Midwest and also had a German background, I believe. (John H. Socolofsky, 12/30/08)