



FROM OUR FILES: Elsie Lundin



Elsie was born July 24, 1891 to Swedish immigrants, Sven Peter and Louisa Charlotta Peterson Lundin on the family farm about three miles north of Grantsburg,



Elsie Lundin 1962

Photo courtesy of Penny Hudlow

Wisconsin. She was the sixth child in a family of ten children. The family moved to Minnesota around 1895 and settled on a farm three miles east of Pine City on the St Croix road.

She was handicapped from about the age of seven years. The family said she had polio. The entire right side of her body was affected. She did not have the use of her right arm and wore a brace on her right leg.

Elsie was tall and slender. She was soft spoken and always had a positive attitude. She never married and lived a lot of her years in a rented room and shared a bath with other tenants.

She sewed all of her own clothes.

She was a very gifted artist and produced many beautiful oil and watercolor paintings, which helped to sustain her meager existence. She also painted some reverse paintings on glass. Aluminum foil was placed behind the glass to give the appearance of evening or night. Many of those she signed just E.L.

Elsie had a number of health issues in her later years and died from pneumonia in 1962 at the age of seventy years.

Doris Caroon Martin

April 13, 2019



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Norway Point
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These two paintings were shared by Bonnie Macfarlane, daughter of the Rev. James K. Macfarlane, minister of the Pine City Presbyterian Church 1952 - 1957.

Bonnie wrote:

"Elsie lived next door to the manse (which has since been removed) in a house where she rented room. My father contributed to her living expenses by asking her to use her talents to paint two paintings. I visited Elsie in her room with my Dad. She was a gentle lady and always very nice and sweet to me."

Due to a special request by Rev. Macfarlane Elsie painted a cross in the sky of the painting below.





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