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Bloomington Hills Elementary

My Great-Grandmother:
Selma Olivia Sedell

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My great-grandmother, Selma Olivia Sedell, was born on April 15, 1903. She had four sisters, Mia, Martha, Mimmie, and Greta. She also had one brother, Mane.

In my great-grandmother's family, two of her sisters, Mia and Martha emigrated first to the U.S. Mane was second, and then Mimmie. The money to bring Selma, Greta, and their mother was borrowed and arranged by Mane and Mimmie.

Just before Christmas in 1917, they left Sweden and celebrated Christmas on a boat. Then they traveled by train to Kristiania, Norway, and stayed for four days. Next, they sailed on a Danish ship, which was very small and uncomfortable.

They arrived in New York on January 1st, during World War I. Selma saw the Statue of Liberty. After getting to New York, everybody went to Ellis Island. They got on a train, which went underwater toward Ellis Island.

Inside the train, there were only a few seats, so mostly everybody had to stand straight up, because there was hardly any room. Then Selma started to feel dizzy, so Greta and her mother asked someone if Selma could sit in their seat.

When they arrived at Ellis Island, only a few people at a time got on another train to get to Salt Lake, which took four days. There, they met Mimmie and Mane, and Selma went to live with Mia for three months.

Selma then went back to Salt Lake and worked at a grocery store, making pies, and also at three different homes.