

It is 1914 (a hundred and five years ago) in a little farming community in northern Illinois. My dad (Folkert Saaijenga 1902 – 1989) was the oldest of 5 children. Four more children would be born into the family in the next 7 years.

It was almost Christmas and the excitement was building. Each one had a “piece” to recite for the Christmas Eve Sunday School program. Dad (all of 12 years old) wrote in his diary that Grampa took the kids to practice Dec. 20. Then came the big day and the family went to the Silver Creek Church (built in 1861) on Dec. 24. A typical kid, Dad seemed less interested in the program than in the presents they received.

Times were simpler then. The pictures are of the church and of Dad, his 4 siblings and Gramma Hilka about that same year with their Kissel Kar.

Wed. SUNDAY 20 Ther.
Cool
Papa took us to
Sunday school
with auto we
practiced on our
speaking pieces
we were to strodsmans

Sunday, December 20, 1914: Cool.

Papa took us to Sunday School with auto.

We practiced on our speaking pieces.

We were to Strodsmans.

Wed. THUR. DEC. 24, 1914 Ther.
Cool
Mamma and we
children were
to church Christmas
tree we got presents
pencil box and a book
the story of Jesus book

Thursday, December 24, 1914: Cool.

Mamma and we children were to church Christmas tree.

We got presents, pencil box and a book, the story of Jesus.

