

*A Short Biography of Steven Craig Lengkeek*

*By*

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Steven Craig Lengkeek was born September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1947 in Volga, South Dakota. Volga is a very small town right next to De Smet, South Dakota, where Laura Ingalls Wilder lived. Steven's parents were Gerrit Kryn Lengkeek and Irene Agnes Degroot. The town was mostly all Dutch speaking until the 1940s.

He grew up on a farm where they raised pigs, chickens, dairy cows and dogs. They had many chores on the farm. For example, they collected wood in the winter to heat their house, they had to clean out the barn, chicken house and pig house every week. Every day they had to feed the animals. In the summer they would mow the yard, trim the hedges and weed the garden.

Volga Christian School, an elementary and middle school started by the Christians in Volga was where the Lengkeek children went to school. His Aunt Toot was a teacher there. The school was very small; there were four classrooms with two grades in each room.

When he became a teenager, Steve milked two or three cows by hand morning and night. His father was very particular and would get upset if anyone messed up things on the farm. His father bred dogs in addition to farming. He bred collies, miniature collies, Rat Terriers and chuchuas. His favorite dog was a miniature collie named Tippe. She was black with a tip of white on her tail.

Steve looked forward to holidays. They would go to his Grandmother's house in town or they or they would stay at their own house and the relatives would come and see them. They would have family reunions every two years. One of Steve's hobbies was fishing. He liked to go fishing on a Sunday after noon on Lake Goldsmith, the big lake on the farm. In winter they would break holes through the ice to fish.

He went to Volga High school where he played drums, sang in the choir, ran track and played basketball. He was the first one in his family to learn to type. He had plans to go to Northern State College and become a math teacher. But when he got out of high school he had no money, so he joined the Navy during the Vietnam War. His job in the Navy was being a signal man. One time a sailor threw a cigarette over the side of the ship it caught the signal flags on fire Steve was punished for it.

He met a girl at a church in Delaware the same year he joined the Navy. Her name was Carol Megonagal. He would hitchhike down to see Carol every weekend. A year later he purposed to

her. They got married when they were both twenty. There were two hundred people at their wedding. After they were married he returned to the Navy for one more year.

Their first child was Sarah Jane. Then Steve went to Northern State College to become a math teacher. After going to college, he became a math teacher at Thurmont, Maryland. Their next child to be born was Timothy Edward. Two years later Steven Craig Lengkeek JR was born; he was to become my father. Two years later they had Mathew Henry. The family then moved to Wilmington, Delaware. Steve got a job at as a computer programmer for the state of Delaware. In the summer he ran a pool. He also coached basketball, baseball and soccer. He then got a job at the Delaware Power company as a programmer, analyst, informed technology and manager for twenty eight years. He taught as an adjunct professor for five years at Goldie Beacom College and for years at Delaware Tech Junior College. Currently, Steve is a basketball referee, likes fishing and serves at the Sunday Breakfast Mission. Steve enjoys spending time with his family and reading God's Word. He is now a grandfather of thirteen grandchildren.