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Augustana Seniors Fall 1883 : Johanns Algott Holmén

Emily Brooks
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11 February 2018

Johanns Algott Holmén

Johanns Algott Holmén was born on 19 February 1859.¹ He was born to Peter Holmén and Anna Stina Johansdotter.² Algott Holmén has two older brothers and an older sister. Algott Holmén in birth order with his siblings; John, Mathilda, and Carl.³

Algott Holmén and his siblings were all born in Norra Sandsjö Parish, Jönköping, Iän (Småland).⁴ They were all born in a farm area called Ryds Norrgård.⁵ Peter died shortly after Algott was born on 3 March 1859. In 1861 Algott's mother, Anna, married Claes Sandstedt.⁶ John Holmén emigrated some time in 1867 to the United States of America without the rest of his family.⁷ Claes, Anna, Carl, Mathilda, and Algott Holmén emigrated to the United States on 13 March 1868.⁸

Algott Holmén and his family settled in Burlington, Iowa.⁹ They were congregants of Messiah Lutheran Church of Burlington also written later on as Sweden Lutheran Burlington, Iowa.¹⁰ There is not a lot of information about Algott's life from age nine to age twenty except that he did work as a clerk in a drugstore while in Iowa.¹¹ He also received education before entering Augustana Preparatory School, in Burlington Iowa.¹² Algott Holmén entered the Augustana Preparatory School in 1879 during the fall term.¹³

¹ "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, image 5270/page 509, (AID:v21163a.b5270.s509, NAD:SE/VALA/00265). Norra Sandsjö, Holmén household.

² "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, page 509.

³ "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, page 509.

⁴ "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, page 509.

⁵ "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, page 509.

⁶ "Norra Sandsjö AI:15 (1866-1870)". Database of images. *ArkivDigital*, page 509.

⁷ Messiah Lutheran Church Burlington, Iowa, Register Books, Book 5. "Records of Swedish American Churches". Swenson Center for Swedish Immigration Research, Rock Island, Illinois; Entry for Algott Holmén as Church member

⁸ Emibas Printout, Swenson Center for Swedish Immigration Research, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, Family Emigration records, page 509

⁹ Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records (MSS 241c), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

¹⁰ Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records

¹¹ Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records

¹² Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records

¹³ Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records

Holmén began schooling at Augustana in the year 1881.¹⁴ He enlisted as a freshman with the intent to study in the college, and would later move on to graduate from Augustana in 1884.¹⁵ Eventually after graduation, Holmén registered to continue his studies in the Seminary at Augustana.¹⁶ Freshman year he took many simple classes that students today take, such as: Christianity, history, algebra, geometry, zoology, botany, Swedish, English, German, Latin, and Greek.¹⁷ Most freshman took all of these classes in the typical trimester fashion.¹⁸ Holmén completed three classes for two terms, and four classes for one term, though we do not know which classes he took during which term yet.¹⁹ Sophomore year for Holmén became more broad in the sense that classes like natural philosophy and chemistry were added to his schedule.²⁰ Holmén now had the option to choose his classes more so than in his first year. By the end of his senior year, Holmén had taken all of the sequential classes needed plus physiology, psychology, and logic.²¹

Holmén was very fortunate to graduate in the time that he did. While he entered with a freshman class of 24, that number drastically decreased to 20, 14, and ultimately only 7 by his senior year.²² Most surprisingly, of the seven students that were registered for their senior year, only six of them graduated.²³ The graduating class of 1884 was one of the largest classes the college had seen in previous years.²⁴ The 23rd annual commencement ceremony was held on 12 June 1884, and was very well attended.²⁵ At the commencement ceremony, Holmén was chosen

¹⁴ Registration Card of John Algott Holmén, in Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records

¹⁵ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56, volume bound in *Augustana College Catalogue 1871-1891*, Aug. Inst., LD 271, A6651, C3, 1871-1879; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois.

¹⁶ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

¹⁷ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

¹⁸ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

¹⁹ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

²⁰ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

²¹ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

²² *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

²³ Commencement Program of 1884 for Augustana College, in Office of the President's Records (MSS 248), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

²⁴ "Augustana College" *Rock Island Argus*. (Rock Island, Il.), 13 June 1884. Web archives. (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov: November 2017); image provided by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library, Urbana, Illinois, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress; Part of a special insert about the history of Augustana College.

²⁵ "Augustana College"

to read his dissertation, “What and How to Read”, as part of the order of exercises for that day.²⁶ It is understandable to why the majority of students did not reach graduation. In 1884 admission cost \$5, tuition cost \$12 for the fall term and \$18 for the spring term, and room and board was \$2 per week with a contingent fee of \$0.75-\$1.50, depending on how nice the room was.²⁷ The addition of all of the previous fees was a hefty fine for those maybe not so well-off. This factor did not seem to be a problem for Holmén however, because on 9 June 1887, he graduated from the theological seminary, totaling his years of schooling at Augustana to nine.²⁸ With a doctorate of divinity, Holmén would then move on to become a Reverend for the later portion of his life.²⁹

After Holmén graduated from Augustana College in 1884, he moved on to the Seminary part of the college to become an ordained Reverend.³⁰ Three years later, in 1887, he graduated from the Seminary College and was ordained in Chicago, Illinois.³¹ Shortly after he became ordained, he began working as the Reverend at a Lutheran Church in Republic, Kackley, Kansas.³² He worked there for five years until 1892 when he moved churches and ended up in Osage City, Kansas for seven years before continuing his career in Morganville, Kansas, and Ogden, Iowa.³³ In the middle of his five year career at the Lutheran Church in Morganville, he decided to go back to school at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas to graduate with his Bachelor degree in Divinity in 1899.³⁴ He, then, settled at a Lutheran Church in Essex, Illinois for 24 years from 1906 to 1930.³⁵ During his work in Essex, he went back to school once again and earned his Doctor of Divinity at Augustana College in 1920.³⁶ He retired from being a Reverend in 1931 and moved to Rock Island, Illinois where he taught at the Augustana Seminary program for several years.³⁷ While working in the Seminary, he became the Instructor in Swedish

²⁶ Commencement Program of 1884 for Augustana College, in Office of the President’s Records

²⁷ *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 56

²⁸ Commencement Program of 1884 for Augustana College, in Office of the President’s Records

²⁹ Bergendoff, Conrad, *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1980), p. 39. *The Ministerium* was compiled from other sources. It is a transcript. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

³⁰ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³¹ Commencement Program of 1887 for Augustana Seminary, in Office of the President’s Records (MSS 248), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

³² Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³³ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³⁴ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³⁵ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³⁶ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

³⁷ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

Homiletics.³⁸ He later died on 25 March 1948 in Rock Island when he was 89 years old after a two month long illness.³⁹

Johannes Algott Holmén had two wives and five children.⁴⁰ Holmén's first wife named Regina Cecilia Swanson, of whom he married on 22 November 1890, died a year later in 1891 and did not produce any children.⁴¹ His next wife that he married on 4 October 1894 named Clara Amelia Christensen produced five children, named Carl, Renald, Regina, Agnes, and Ruth, before Holmén died on 25 March 1948.⁴² Holmén's sons Carl became a banker, Renald ended up living in Michigan, Agnes became a pastor and one of his two daughters, Regina, married a man named Fritiof Fryxell.⁴³ When Holmén passed away in 1948, his five children were still alive, as well as his niece and nephew, F. A. Swanson and H. E. Holmén, who had a service and burial for him in Rock Island, Illinois.⁴⁴

³⁸ "Augustana Seminary Yearbook", *Augustana Observer*, (1938), p. 23; Image copy, Augustana College, Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockety-I Database, (2017), Rock Island, Illinois.

³⁹ Obituary of John Algott Holmén in Work of the Augustana Synod (BX8041.M9), Special Collections, College, Rock Island, Illinois.

⁴⁰ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁴¹ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁴² Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁴³ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁴⁴ Obituary of John Algott Holmén in Work of the Augustana Synod (BX8041.M9)

Ancestors of Johanns Algott Holmén

Generation 1

1. Johanns Algott Holmén. For more information about Algott, see the biography in the main part of the paper.

Generation 2

2. Peter Holmén. Peter was born 19 May 1810 in Sweden.⁴⁵ Peter was a farmer in Norra Sandsjö Parish, Jönköping, Iän (Småland).⁴⁶ Peter married Anna Stina Johansdotter (3) year unknown because of fire burning years of church records. Peter Holmén died March 1859.
3. Anna Stina Johansdotter. Anna was born 1 February 1816⁴⁷. Anna was a farmers' wife Norra Sandsjö Parish, Jönköping, Iän (Småland).⁴⁸ Anna married Peter (2) year unknown because of fire burning years of church records. Peter and Anna had four children together.
 - i. Johan was born 11 March 1842 in Sweden.⁴⁹
 - ii. Mathilda was born 24 April 1847 in Sweden.⁵⁰
 - iii. Carl was born 10 May 1851 in Sweden.⁵¹
 - iv. Johann Algott. See 1 above.

Generation 3

4. Peter Månsson. Peter married Lena Nilsson.⁵²
5. Lena Nilsson. Lena was born in 1768.⁵³

⁴⁵ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", Database of images, *ArkivDigital*, image 225/page 507, ADI: v21161.b225.s507, NAD:SE/VALA/00265, Algott Holmén and family at Norra Sandsjö Parish, Jönköping, Län (Småland); Swenson Swedish Immigration Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Peter Holmén with wife Anna Stina Johansdotter and four children.

⁴⁶ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁴⁷ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁴⁸ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁴⁹ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁵⁰ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁵¹ "Norra Sandsjö AI:13 (1856-1860)", *ArkivDigital*, page 507.

⁵² "Vissefjärda C3 (1810-1837)", Database of images, *ArkivDigital*, image 9/page 9, ADI: v29961.b9.s9, NAD:SE/VALA/00426, Peter Holmén, Swenson Swedish Immigration Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original birth record of Peter Holmén and parents mentioned.

⁵³ "Vissefjärda C3 (1810-1837)", *ArkivDigital*, image 9/page 9.

6. Johans Nilsson. Johans was born in 1781. Johans married Ingela Andersdotter.⁵⁴
7. Ingela Andersdotter. Ingela was born 1776.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ “Vallsjö C2 (1760-1847)”, Database of images, *ArkivDigital*, image 60/page 113, ADI: v36438.b60.s113, NAD:SE/VALA/00406, Anna Stina, Swenson Swedish Immigration Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original birth and baptismal records of Anna Stina and parents mentioned.

⁵⁵ “Vallsjö C2 (1760-1847)”, *ArkivDigital*, image 60/page 113.

Descendants of Johanns Algott Holmén

Generation 1

1. Johanns Algott Holmén married Regina Swanson 22 November 1890.⁵⁶ Regina Swanson died August 1891.⁵⁷ Johanns Algott Holmén married Clara Amelia Christensen 4 October 1894.⁵⁸ Johanns and Clara had five children.⁵⁹
 - +2. i. Carl Holmén⁶⁰
 - +3. ii. Regina Holmén⁶¹
 - +4. iii. Agnes Holmén⁶²
 - +5. iv. Ruth Holmén⁶³
 - +6. v. Raynold Holmén⁶⁴

Generation 2

7. Carl Holmén was born 24 March 1896.⁶⁵ Carl Holmén was drafted to World War II in 1942.⁶⁶ Carl married Tressa H Holmén. Carl died 19 November 1956.⁶⁷
8. Regina Holmén was born 24 November 1899 in Kansas.⁶⁸ Regina died in September

⁵⁶ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁵⁷ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁵⁸ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁵⁹ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶⁰ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶¹ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶² Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶³ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶⁴ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

⁶⁵ "United States Census, 1910," database with images,

FamilySearch(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MGM1-NS5> : accessed 26 January 2018), Carl Holmén in household of John W Holmén, Pierce, Page, Iowa, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 108, sheet 8B, family 176, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 417; FHL microfilm 1,374,430.

⁶⁶ "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V1K3-78Q> : 7 April 2016), Carl Holmén, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

⁶⁷ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGH-8PNQ> : 13 December 2015), Carl T A Holmén, 1956; Burial, Rock Island, Rock Island, Illinois, United States of America, Rock Island Memorial Park Cemetery; citing record ID 116923538, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁶⁸ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGH-8PNQ> : 11 July 2016), Regina Holmén Fryxell, 1993; Burial, , , , ; citing record ID 117354997, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

1993, in Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois.⁶⁹ Regina married Fritiof Fryxell.⁷⁰ Regina had three sons with Fritiof. Fritiof Fryxell was a well-known professor at Augustana. Significant research has been done on Fryxell, much is known on him that we are not including.

i. John Birger Fryxell⁷¹

ii. Roald Hilding Fryxell⁷²

iii. Living Fryxell .

9. Agnes Holmén was born 21 January 1903.⁷³ Agnes married Carl Einar

Thorsten Peterson 22 August 1928.⁷⁴ Agnes and Carl had three children.⁷⁵

10. Ruth Holmén was born in 1907 in Iowa.⁷⁶ Ruth married Gustav P. Holmen.⁷⁷

11. Reynold Holmén was born 23 October 1916 in Essex, Iowa.⁷⁸ Reynold died 7 February

⁶⁹ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGH-8PNQ> : 11 July 2016), Regina Holmén Fryxell, 1993; Burial, , , , ; citing record ID 117354997, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁷⁰ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGH-8PNQ> : 11 July 2016), Regina Holmén Fryxell, 1993; Burial, , , , ; citing record ID 117354997, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁷¹ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KWZW-CGS> : accessed 26 January 2018), John B Fryxell in household of Fritiaf Fryxell, Ward 3, Rock Island, South Rock Island Township, Rock Island, Illinois, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 81-81B, sheet 4A, line 38, family 81, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 876.

⁷² "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV2K-88ZB> : 13 December 2015), Roald Hilding Fryxell, 1974; Burial, Pullman, Whitman, Washington, United States of America, Pullman City Cemetery; citing record ID 66895032, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁷³ "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VJPT-39Q> : 20 May 2016), Agnes M V Holmén, 21 Jan 1903; citing Kansas, United States; county district courts, Iowa; FHL microfilm 1,532,107.

⁷⁴ Bergendoff, Conrad, *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1980), p. 126. *The Ministerium* was compiled from other sources. It is a transcript. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

⁷⁵ Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, 126.

⁷⁶ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MGM1-NSR> : accessed 26 January 2018), Regina Holmén in household of John W Holmén, Pierce, Page, Iowa, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 108, sheet 8B, family 176, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 417; FHL microfilm 1,374,430.

⁷⁷ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X388-CH6> : accessed 26 January 2018), Ruth Mary Holmen in household of Gustav P Holmen, Harvey, Meeker, Minnesota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 16, sheet 3A, line 10, family 46, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1106; FHL microfilm 2,340,841.

⁷⁸ "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XVK3-J77> : 20 May 2016), Reynold Emanuel

2017.⁷⁹

Generation 3

12. John Birger Fryxell was born 8 February 1931.⁸⁰ John died 26 November 1953.⁸¹

13. Roald Hilding Fryxell was born 18 February 1934.⁸² Roald died 18 May 1974.⁸³

14. Living Fryxell.⁸⁴

Holmén, 23 Oct 1916; citing Essex, Page, Iowa, United States; county district courts, Iowa; FHL microfilm 1,535,554.

⁷⁹ *Legacy*. Database with images. Legacy.com.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/twincities/obituary.aspx?pid=184110611>: 2018.

⁸⁰ “United States Census, 1940,” database with images,

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⁸¹ “United States Census, 1940,” database with images,

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⁸⁴ “Fritiof Melvin Fryxell.” *Fritiof Melvin Fryxell* | *Augustana College*, augustana.net/x17978.xml.

Questions For Further Research

Johanns Algott Holmén had five children in his life with his second wife. We had a hard time finding his children's spouses along with his grandchildren. Along with not being able to find a lot of information on his grandchildren we found information that conflicted, from one search we found that Regina Fryxell and her husband had two children but another search said that they had three children together.

Another piece of information we would like to find would be Johanns Algott Holmén's grave or burial site. We found in an obituary that Holmén was buried in Rock Island.

Finding out where Johanns' siblings went in life would also add to his life. Information that would be interesting would include his siblings education, spouses, and possible children.

We found the record locator number for Holmén on *Family Search* under the family tree. Holmén's locating number is MWGB-FM2.

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