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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: August William Kjellstrand

Ami Patel  
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Damien Pilotto  
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884 : August William Kjellstrand

Ami K. Patel

Damien Pilotto

6 February 2017
August William Kjellstrand

August William Kjellstrand was one of the students of the Augustana College graduating class of 1885. He was born in Skovde, Skaraborgs lan, Sweden, on 10 February 1864. His father and mother are, respectively, August Kjellstrand and Helen Gunnarsdotter. At age six, Kjellstrand and his family emigrated to the U.S.. According to his immigration records, August’s family emigrated on 18 May 1870 with both of his parents, and his siblings Carl, Klas, and Johan. In 1880, his family lived in Paxton, Illinois. According to the immigration documents, Klas is the eldest brother, with August following, and Johan as the youngest. One oddity we noticed while examining the immigration records was that August William was actually listed as August Wilhelm when he immigrated, but he likely change his name to suit American standards.

After immigrating to the U.S., Kjellstrand and his family lived in Paxton, IL, where his father continued to work as a painter. Before attending Augustana College, Kjellstrand graduated from Paxton Collegiate and Normal Institute. Kjellstrand was first enrolled in Augustana in 1881, and graduated in 1885. Afterwards, Kjellstrand moved to teach Latin at Bethany College up until 1895. During his time teaching at Bethany, Kjellstrand also attended additional classes at Yale University from 1892 to 1893. After his time at Bethany and Yale, Kjellstrand returned to Augustana to graduate from the Theological Seminary (1897), and continued his teaching career as a Professor at Augustana College. He served as an assistant professor in Latin and English (1903-1906), a professor in English, and eventually principal of the school until he died in 1930.
During his life, Kjellstrand married twice. First, he wed Clara Engnell in 1887; she passed away in 1898 without having any children\(^\text{14}\). In 1900, Kjellstrand married his second wife, Laura Anderson at Brockton, Plymouth, Massachusetts\(^\text{15}\). Lara and August had 7 children: in order, Austin, Alexis, Arthur, Edina, Eva, Edward, and Lois\(^\text{16}\). From the censuses for 1910, 1920, and 1930, Kjellstrand and his family are recorded to be living in Rock Island, Illinois\(^\text{17 18 19}\).

\(^{14}\) Conrad, Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1980), page 219-222. The Ministerium was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.


\(^{17}\) “United States Census, 1910,” Illinois>Rock Island>Rock Island>sheet 11A, line 1, August William Kjellstrand.


Ancestors of August William Kjellstrand

Generation 1

1. August William Kjellstrand. In immigration documents, August’s name is listed as August Wilhelm Kellstrand. The rest of his family also spell their last name as “Kellstrand” instead of “Kjellstrand.” For more information about Hans, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

2. August Kellstrand. August was born on 15 July 1832 in Sweden. August was a painter. August married Helen Gunnarsdotter.

3. Helen Gunnarsdotter. Helen was born on 16 December 1828 in Sweden. Helen married August Kjellstrand. Helen and August had children.

   Carl Gustav A. Kellstrand was born on 6 December 1859 in Skovde, Skaraborgs Ian, Sweden.

   Klas Werner Kellstrand was born on 1 July 1861 in Skovde, Skaraborgs Ian, Sweden.

   August William Kellstrand. See 1 above.

   Johan Teodor Kellstrand was born on 9 November 1866 in Skovde, Skaraborgs Ian, Sweden.

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21 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
22 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
23 Permanent record card for August Kjellstrand, Class Registration 1881/82 College Freshman Item 72, special collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. The record card has hand-written information about the student’s relevant family information.
24 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
25 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
26 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
27 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
28 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
29 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
30 Hunsha, Emibas printout, 661143
The Descendants of August William Kjellstrand

Generation 1

1. August William Kjellstrand. August married Laura Anderson in 190031. For more information about August and Laura, see the biography in the main part.

   August and Lara had seven children32.

   +2. Austin W. Kjellstrand33.

   +3. Alexis E. Kjellstrand34.


   +5. Edina Kjellstrand36.


   +7. Lois Pauline Kjellstrand38.

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Generation 2

2. Austin W. Kjellstrand. August was born 30 May 1901 in Providence, Rhode Island. Married Mary E. Kjellstrand.

3. Alexis E. Kjellstrand. Alexis was born 12 April 1903 in Davenport, Iowa. Married Vivian Kjellstrand and had at least one child.

8. Living Kjellstrand.


5. Edina Kjellstrand. Edina was born 16 December 1906 in Rock Island, Illinois.


9. Living Kjellstrand.
10. Judy Rohr Kjellstrand⁴⁹.


Questions for Further Research

Our first question is concerning August William Kjellstrand’s sibling. We want to know what happened to his siblings Charles and Claus. Currently, we have a possible death date for Charles, the death certificate is from California, and the parents on the certificate match up to Charles actual parents, but we do not have any other information to decide, with certainty, that this death certificate matches up with the Charles we are searching for.

Our second question is regarding Lois Pauline Kjellstrand. She is listed as Kjellstrand’s youngest daughter in the Lutheran Church Records, but she was not listed in the 1920 census records we found on familysearch. We believe she may have passed away at a young age, but we have not found any other records of her, and we would like to know her cause of death.

Our third and final question is in regard to Kjellstrand’s daughters. Because most of the time females drop their maiden name, all of his daughters became extremely difficult to track around their 20s, which is around when they would get married. Our question is what happened to them, and whether or not they had any children of their own.

We have created a record locator for August William Kjellstrand in the Family Tree on FamilySearch. The record locator is KNBZ-J26.
Source List


Class Registration 1881/82 College Freshman item 72, special collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

Class Record, 1882/83 College Sophomore Item 60, *Special Collections*, Augustana College, Rock Island IL.

Class Record in 1884/85 College Senior item 60, special collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.


Class Registration 1881/82 College Freshman item 72, special collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

Class Record, 1882/83 College Sophomore Item 60, _Special Collections_, Augustana College, Rock Island IL.

Class Record in 1884/85 College Senior item 60, special collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.
