Augustana Seniors Fall 1885: Carl Erik Elving

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1885 : Carl Erik Elving

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9 May 2019
Carl Erik Elving

An Augustana alumni was born in the Swedish village called Lövkullen on 6 December 1855. Recorded by the Grangärde Parish, the name he was born with was Carl Erik Johanesson. He grew up as a middle child along with four brothers and three sisters, but soon Carl would immigrate to America at the age of 24. The personal reason of his emigration would be very hard to track down, but we do know a couple general motives at the time. A common reason was the economic opportunities it provided. Sweden at the time was focused in agriculture and migrating allowed more land to be available. In addition to this, a massive crop failure began in 1968 which caused a wave of emigration from Sweden. Carl, emigrated in 1879, was likely part of this trend, for even decades later the emigration rates were very high. What we do know for certain is that he left on a boat from Gothenburg to Boston. We also know from the ship record that there was another man at the age of 23 also going to Boston. Perhaps they were friends at some point.

In America, Carl worked as a Swedish school-teacher and within a year he would attend Augustana’s preparatory school. After three years Carl registered for the Theological Seminary at Augustana and took the classical course until 24 June 1888. It is also known that he was attending Augustana College fully aided financially through this time. During this time he was engaged as a city missionary in Omaha, received his A.B. degree in 1886 and took part in the Phenokosmian Society in 1887. Almost four months after graduating, Carl meet Alma Maria Elizabeth and they were married on 31 October 1888. Their marriage ceremony took place in

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3 “Swedish Immigration to North America”, Dr. Dag Blanck, https://www.augustana.edu/swenson/academic/history, An article posted on Augustana College’s Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Online Center about Sweden and America in the late 1800’s.


8 Registration card for Carl Erik Elving, 1883, Folder 07, Box 01, MSS241c, Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. The registration card was printed and almost certainly filled out by Carl E. Elving in 1883.

9 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.

the State of Kansas, Riley County. Together they started a family in Omaha and had three children named Alma Maria, Carl Theodor, and Victor Ebenezer. That same year he was called to become a missionary pastor on the south side of his city, where he and his wife strived to establish a church. By only 1891 a church was built. He left Nebraska in the fall of 1914 for the twin cities in Minnesota to organize many more societies. Elving would soon retire in 1925, but he’s proven to be accomplished in forming and taking part in many organizations. For instance, from 1894-1897 he served on the Augustana Pension Fund Board and from 1899-1902 he was a member of the Board of Directors of Luther College. Later, in 1907-1913 he was a member of the Nebraska Conference Orphan Home Board and in 1921 he was on the board of the Society for Lutheran Missions in Russia. Carl also founded El Campo and Granada Settlements. At the age of 79, he died while a patient at Bethesda Hospital on 15 March 1934. His funeral was held on 17 March and his gravestone is located in Mariadahl Cemetery, Randolph, Kansas.

When Carl Elving was born he was given the name Carl Erik Johannesson, named after his father. In the 1800, a Swedish tradition was to give you child the father’s first name and add -daughter or -son to the end to make their last name. If you had a daughter you would add -dotter, whereas if you had a son you would add -son. Therefore Carl’s father’s name was Johannes and -son was added to the end because he was a male. On all of the american documents he is listed as Carl Elving, which means at some point he decided to take on the new last name Elving. Although we do not know why he changed his last name a common reason at the time was to have your last name be related to nature. The beginning of his last name, -El, is similar to -Al which means river in the Swedish language. Another common reason people changed their names was due to the fact that there were many common last names, like

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12 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; Parish: Lebanon Lutheran Church; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
13 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.
14 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.
15 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.
16 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.
18 Conrad Bergendoff, The Augustana Ministerium 150-152.
Johannessson. Therefore Carl may have wanted a different name as to not have the same name as someone who he is not related to.\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{21} Huntsha, Lisa (Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center), interviewed by Emma Gannaway, 26 March 2019. Notes privately held by Emma Gannaway, Rock Island, 2019. Lisa spoke from personal knowledge from her line of work.
Ancestors of Carl Erik Elving

Generation 1

1. Carl Erik Johanesson. For more information about Carl, see the biography in the main part.
   I. Sam Johan older brother born 27 December 1849.
   II. Greta Lisa older sister born 7 September 1853.
   III. Maya Lisa younger sister born 29 April 1858.
   IV. Augusta Gustaf younger brother born 27 August 1860.
   V. Anders Gustaf younger brother born 20 July 1864.

Generation 2

   I. Maja Lisa
   II. Anders Gustaf
   III. Lovisa
   IV. Per August
   V. Greta Lisa
   VI. Johan
   VII. Carl


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Generation 3


Generation 4


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**Generation 5**


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44 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Olof Persson.

45 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Anna Persdotter.

46 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Anna Persdotter.


49 “Hälfors C:4 (1740-1774)”, database of images, ArkivDigital, (http://www.arkivdigital.net : accessed 10 April 2019), image 139, AID: v53301..b139, NAD: SE/ULA/10427, Maria Persdotter (b.1767) in Hälfors, Sweden; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, This image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Maria Persdotter.

50 “Hälfors C:4 (1740-1774)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Maria Persdotter.


52 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Mats Nilsson.

53 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Lisa Persdotter.

54 “Hälfors A:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Lisa Persdotter.

55 “Hälfors C:4 (1740-1774)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Samuel Samuelsson.

56 “Hälfors C:4 (1740-1774)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Samuel Samuelsson.
18. Petter Hansson Great great grandfather of Carl Erik Johanesson, and Great
grandfather of Great Lisa, and father of Maria Persdotter.

19. Anna Mattsdotter Great great grandmother of Carl Erik Johanesson, and Great
grandmother of Greta Lisa, and mother of Maria Persdotter.

20. Nils Matsson Great great grandfather of Carl Erik Johanesson, and Great
grandfather of Greta Lisa, and father of Mats Nilsson.

21. Catharina Jansdotter Great great grandmother of Carl Erik Johanesson, and Great
grandmother Greta Lisa, and mother of Mats Nilsson.

Born 1739, in Sävsjön, Hällefors.

Born 1740, in Axberg parish in Örebro county.

“Hällefors C:4 (1740-1774)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Maria Persdotter.

“Hällefors C:4 (1740-1774)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Maria Persdotter.


“Hällefors AI:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Nils Matsson.

“Hällefors AI:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Catharina Jansdotter.

“Hällefors AI:5a (1786-1795)” ArkivDigital, database image of household Catharina Jansdotter.
Descendants of Carl Erik Elving

Generation 1

1. Carl Erik Elving. Carl married Alma Maria Elizabeth. For more information about Carl and Alma, see biography in the main part.

Carl had children.

2. i. Alma Maria. Alma Maria was the eldest of the children and was born on 10 December 1898 in Omaha, Nebraska. She was baptized on 30 December 1898 and was confirmed on 11 May 1913.

3. ii. Carl Theodor. Carl was the middle child, born on 25 June 1901 in Omaha, Nebraska. His baptism occurred on 7 July 1901 and he was confirmed 14 years later on 6 June 1915.

4. iii. Victor Ebenezer. The youngest son was Victor who was born on 8 February 1903. Victor was baptized 14 days later on 22 February 1903 and he was confirmed on 20 May 1917. All of the children were baptized and confirmed in the Lebanon Lutheran Church.

All of the children were baptized and confirmed in the Lebanon Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, there was no more data found on the descendants of Carl Erik Elving.

63 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
64 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; Parish: Salem Lutheran Church; ELCA Film Number; A18(2); SSIRC Film Number: A018.
65 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
66 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
67 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; A18(2); SSIRC Film Number: A018.
68 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
69 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; M141; SSIRC Film Number: E-141.
70 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; A18(2); SSIRC Film Number: A018.
71 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; A18(2); SSIRC Film Number: A018.
72 Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; ELCA Film Number; A18(2); SSIRC Film Number: A018.
Question for further research

With more time to research, we would have continue to look for his descendants. When we visited the Swanson center we had to do a lot of research to find Carl’s children, therefore we did not have time to look closer at Carl’s descendants and find more descendants. With another visit to the Swanson Center we may have found more credible sources about Carl’s descendants.

If we had more time to get help from the Swanson Center we could have looked into more information of his father’s family. Our group visited the Swanson Center twice to look into his father’s family, but were unable to find any information past Carl’s great great grandparents. Unlike his mother’s side where we were able to go back six generations. If we were able to find more ancestors of Carl we would have a better chance of connecting people and sources to his Family Tree on FamilySearch.

Another thing we would have liked to look into would be what Carl was involved in while at Augustana. Although we learned what Carl studied while he was at Augustana we are not aware of what he did outside of class or how he was as a student. When we visited Special Collections we were able to see some of the test that they had taken while in class, with more time we could have looked at all his grades to learn what kind of student he was. Having more time would also give us an opportunity to look into more sources from Augustana to learn what he did with his time there.

Finally, we would have liked to learn more about Carl’s life after Augustana, because we learned the basics of what he did but did not learn any details or specific events. We know that Carl was a pastor at multiple churches, but we are unaware of what he did at the churches. During his time as a pastor he worked on boards and did missionary work, therefore we would like to know what event he participated in and what role he played.

We have created a record for Carl Erik Elving in the Family Tree on FamilySearch. The record locator is G9L6-XRX.
Source List

Augustana College Office of the Registrar (MSS 241c), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois


