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## Augustana Seniors Fall 1883: John Morén

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# Augustana Seniors Fall 1883 : John Morén

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## John Morén

John Morén was born on 6 March 1851 in Mora, Sweden<sup>1</sup> and lived there until his immigration.<sup>2</sup> He was the son of “Gunnars” John Johansson and Kerstin Andersdotter who, both, also lived and were born in Sweden.<sup>3</sup> John Morén was a school teacher at Fjellsdtka Skolan before he immigrated to the United States to receive a higher education.<sup>4</sup> He immigrated to the United States in 1881 at the age of 30.<sup>5</sup> It is suspected that John Morén changed his last name from that of “Johansson”, like his father, to “Morén” to honor his hometown of Mora, Sweden.<sup>6</sup>

During his first few years in the United States, Morén attended Augustana College from the years 1882 to 1884.<sup>7</sup> Studying classical courses<sup>8</sup>, Morén graduated in 1884<sup>9</sup> and was ordained in 1893.<sup>10</sup> To fund his education, Morén received full beneficiary aid from his relatives in Mora, Sweden.<sup>11</sup> In 1893, Morén became a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church following his education at Augustana College.<sup>12</sup> For unknown reasons, Morén was suspended from the church in 1896<sup>13</sup> while living in Springfield Massachusetts. Because he was no longer affiliated with the Lutheran Church, Morén was no longer mentioned in the *Augustana Alumni Register* records.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Augustana College and Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 15-103, volume bound in *Augustana College Catalogue 1871-1891*, Aug. Inst., LD 271, A6651, C3, 1871-1891; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All students in senior class of 1884 are listed with birthplaces, year of birth, and other information commonly found on a birth certificate.

<sup>2</sup> *Augustana College Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 140.

<sup>3</sup> Mora C:8 (1828-1853)”, database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net>: accessed 23 January 2017), image 3460/page 341 (AID: v131135a. B3460.s341, NAD: SE/UJA/11069), “Gunnars” Jon Johansson (b.1828), wife Kerstin Andersdotter, and family in Mora, Sweden, Village 55; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows the birth and baptism date of John Morén, as well as his parents, village, and mothers age upon birth.

<sup>4</sup> *Augustana College Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 140.

<sup>5</sup> *Augustana College Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 140.

<sup>6</sup> Titus, Suzanne. Personal Knowledge. Suzanne Titus, Swenson Center/Augustana College 639 38th Street Rock Island, IL 61201. Suzanne is native to Sweden and assisted with our research on John Morén. She mentioned that it was very common for immigrants to change their last names when immigrating to seem more American. She also mentioned that it was common for Swedes to pay homage to their hometown by changing their last name to a similar name to their town.

<sup>7</sup> *Augustana College Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 140.

<sup>8</sup> *Augustana College Theological Seminary 1884-1885*, p. 140.

<sup>9</sup> “Augustana College”. *Rock Island Argus*. (Rock Island, Ill.), 13 June 1884; web archives ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053943/1884-06-13/ed-1/seq-4/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053943/1884-06-13/ed-1/seq-4/) : December 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 commencement of the class of 1884 at Augustana College.

<sup>10</sup> Nothstein, Ira Oliver. *My Church: an illustrated Lutheran manual pertaining to the history, work and spirit of the Augustana synod*, 1915-1946, p. 47; Augustana College, Swenson Center-Linder Collection, Rock Island, Illinois. Biographies of Augustana pastors of the ELA church are listed here. Typically birth, service, family, and death dates are listed. In the case of Morén, his information was limited due to his separation from the church.

<sup>11</sup> *Augustana College Catalog 1884-1885*, p. 15-16.

<sup>12</sup> *My Church*, 1915-1946, p. 47.

<sup>13</sup> *My Church*, 1915-1946, p. 47.

<sup>14</sup> Alumni Association of Augustana College records, 1860-1999 and undated. Special Collections Manuscripts (Non-Circulating). Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. Morén was

As a result of Morén's church separation, he is not located in the Augustana Ministerium records from 1850-1962.<sup>15</sup> Although we have little evidence of John Morén's life following his education and then separation from the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1883, it is speculated that Morén finished the remainder of his life as an inmate of an insane asylum<sup>16</sup> until his death record states he died in 1931.<sup>17</sup> Though he is recorded as John Moran, rather than John Morén on his gravestone<sup>18</sup> we are fairly certain 1931 is the correct date of death based on the correct birth date and place corresponding with Morén's census records from Sweden<sup>19</sup>. This, as well as the correspondence that Morén was last recorded in an insane asylum in Hastings Virginia named, "Hastings State Hospital Cemetery"<sup>20</sup>. Morén is thought to be buried there with the record of being "John Moran", inmate 1104, male, age 79, single, born in Sweden, traveled from Atkins county, and buried on 19 May 1931.<sup>21</sup>

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not listed in *who's who among the alumni-1924*, most likely due to his separation from the Lutheran church.

<sup>15</sup> Conrad, Bergendoff, *The Augustana ministerium : a study of the careers of the 2,504 pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Church, 1850-1962*, *The Ministerium* was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. Augustana Historical society publication no. 2; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois 1980. If found, mentions the careers of the pastors educated at Augustana college from the years 1850-1962.

<sup>16</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, John Morén in household of Wesley Wanans, Aitkin, Aitkin, Minnesota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 1, sheet 4B, family 77, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 689; FHL microfilm 1,374,702.

<sup>17</sup> "Minnesota Deaths and Burials, 1835-1990," database, *FamilySearch*, John Moran, 19 May 1931; citing Hastings, Dakota Co., Minnesota, reference 3387; FHL microfilm 2,242,302.

<sup>18</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*, John Moran, 1931; Burial, Hastings, Dakota, Minnesota, United States of America, Hastings State Hospital Cemetery; citing record ID 94119535, *Find a Grave*.

<sup>19</sup>"Mora C:8 (1828-1853)", *ArkivDigital*, page 341, database image of John Morén's birth record.

<sup>20</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*, John Moran, 1931.

<sup>21</sup> Boe, Debbie. "Hastings State Hospital/Asylum Cemetery - Hastings, Minnesota Burial Records." John Maran, *Debbiesgenealogy*, 2000, [debbiesgenealogy.com/Hastings%20State%20Hospital%20Cemetery.htm](http://debbiesgenealogy.com/Hastings%20State%20Hospital%20Cemetery.htm).

# Ancestors of John Morén

## Generation 1

1. "Gunnars" John Morén. For more information about Morén, see the biography in the main part.

## Generation 2

2. "Gunnars" Jon Jonsson. John was born 29 October 1828<sup>22</sup>. John was married to Kirsten Andersdotter on 4 April 1850.<sup>23</sup>
3. Kerstin Andersdotter. Kerstin was born 21 December 1828.<sup>24</sup> She gave birth to her first born, John Morén in Mora, Sweden, village 55 at the age of 23.<sup>25</sup>
  - i. Anders Jonsson. Anders was born 18 October 1853.<sup>26</sup>
  - ii. Kerstin Jonsdotter. Kerstin was born 20 May 1856.<sup>27</sup>

## Generation 3

4. Anders Anderson was born 1 January 1787 in Sweden<sup>28</sup>. He married Kerstin Olsdotter on 6 January 1811<sup>29</sup>.
5. Kerstin Olsdotter was born on 2 June 1789 in Sweden<sup>30</sup>. She married Anders Anderson on 6 January 1814<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> "Mora C:8 (1828-1853)", *ArkivDigital*, page 13, database image of John Morén's birth record.

<sup>23</sup> "Mora AI: 14b (1847-1856) database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net>: accessed 23 January 2017), image 68 / page 62 (AID: v131089.b68.s62, NAD: SE/ULA/11069), "Gunnars" Jon Jonsson (b.1828), wife Kerstin Andersdotter, in Mora, Sweden, Village 51; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows the birth and marriage date of Jon Jonsson and Kerstin Andersdotter.

<sup>24</sup> "Mora C:8 (1828-1853)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net>: accessed 23 January 2017), image 190 / page 15 (AID: v131135a. B190.s15, NAD: SE/ULA/11069), Kirsten Andersdotter (b. 1828), parents Anders Anderson and Kerstin Olsdotter in Mora, Sweden, Village 24; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows the birth and baptism date of Kerstin Andersdotter, as well as her parents and village.

<sup>25</sup> "Mora C:8 (1828-1853)", *ArkivDigital*, page 341, database image of John Morén's birth record.

<sup>26</sup> Mora AI: 14b (1847-1856) Image 68 / page 62 (AID: v131089.b68.s62, NAD: SE/ULA/11069) [Source: Arkiv Digital AD AB]

<sup>27</sup> Mora AI: 14b (1847-1856) Image 68 / page 62 (AID: v131089.b68.s62, NAD: SE/ULA/11069) [Source: Arkiv Digital AD AB]

<sup>28</sup> "Mora AI: 12b (1827-1836)", Image 23 / page 19 (AID: v131083.b23.s19, NAD: SE/ULA/11069) [Source: Arkiv Digital AD AB ] Anders Anderson (b. 1787) and Kerstin Olsdotter (b. 1789) in Mora Sweden, Village 24; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows the birth date and marriage date of Anders Anderson and Kerstin Olsdotter.

<sup>29</sup> Mora AI: 12b (1827-1836) *ArkivDigital*, page 19, database image of Anders Anderson's marriage record.

<sup>30</sup> Mora AI: 12b (1827-1836) *ArkivDigital*, page 19, database image of Kerstin Olsdotter's birth record.

<sup>31</sup> Mora AI: 12b (1827-1836) *ArkivDigital*, page 19, database image of Kerstin Olsdotter's marriage record.

## Descendants of John Morén

### Generation 1

1. John Morén. John never married and we do not know of any descendants.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> “United States Census, 1930,” database with images, *FamilySearch*, John Moran, Hastings, Dakota, Minnesota, United States approx. 1 year before his death in 1931; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 15, sheet 3B, line 85, family , NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1085; FHL microfilm 2,340,820.

## Questions for Further Research

The biggest mystery of our research on John Morén, is to find a definite answer on what happened to him after he took leave from the church and why. We have census records of a John Morén, birthdate and place matching with John Morén of Augustana's class of 1884, living as an inmate in an insane asylum for 30 years until 1930. Our next step in our research is finding how Morén found himself in Minnesota, where the asylum was, and why he went insane to begin with. We want to know how he got there, why he went insane, who admitted him, and if and when he died within the asylum. It would also be helpful to find out some history of the asylum itself.

Another large mystery that is vital to the research corresponding with John Morén is his actual separation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church after only a few years of service. We have found records stating Morén was suspended, but after his suspension Morén was never recorded as a pastor again. Instead, we found records of who we suspect is him in Minnesota in an insane asylum. We must find what caused his suspension, why he never came back, and if those events led him to his admittance to the insane asylum.

A final, more broad, question we have for the life of John Morén is a definite answer of his lack of descendants. We have found multiple United States census records from 1910, 1920, and 1930, all of which list John Morén as single. It would be helpful to have absolute confirmation that Morén was never married and had no legitimate or illegitimate children.

We have created a record for John Moren in the Family Tree on *Familysearch*. The record locator is LYDZ-8K9.

### Source List

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- "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X3Z9-KM2> : accessed 4 February 2018), John Moran, Hastings, Dakota, Minnesota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 15, sheet 3B, line 85, family , NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1085; FHL microfilm 2,340,820.