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Augustana Seniors Fall 1885: Laurent Erik Sjölander

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Laurent Erik Sjölander

Laurent was born in Tuna, Västernorrlands Län, Sweden on 22 April 1859.¹ Laurent was the son of Olaf Peter Sjölander and Anna Maria Brulin.² Olaf was born on 14 February 1835, and is married to Anna who was born on 5 March 1826.³ For occupation, Olaf was a farmer.⁴ Olaf also worked at Charles Misc. Co.⁵ Two days after Laurent was born, Laurent was baptized.⁶ Prior to his college career, Laurent's occupation was studying.⁷ Laurent was then confirmed on 24 June 1874.⁸ As a child, Laurent studied at Bethel Baptist Seminary which is located in Stockholm.⁹ Laurent was then enrolled in Fjellstedt School in Uppsala.¹⁰

As Laurent grew older, he realized that he wanted to do more with his life and create more opportunities for himself. Because of this desire to move onto bigger and better things, Laurent along with his father, Olaf Peter Sjölander, and mother, Anna Maria Brulin decided to emigrate to America in search of opportunity.¹¹ With a vision of a better life in mind, Laurent, his father, and his mother boarded a ship called Orlando.¹² Laurent and his parents departed from Hull City in England on the Orlando on 4 October 1881, with Chicago, Illinois on their minds.¹³

After experiencing these situations in his early life, Laurent decided that when in America, he wanted to attend college to gain a degree to be a pastor.¹⁴ Laurent made the decision to enroll in Augustana College for the class of 1886.¹⁵ During Laurent's time at Augie, he attended Lutheran Church in Moline, IL.¹⁶ Laurent was lucky enough to gain a fall financial aid package.¹⁷ His senior year graduating class was very small compared to modern day graduations, but these people graduated nonetheless.¹⁸ In 1886, Laurent graduated with a class of fifteen people.¹⁹ Laurent graduated with Andrew Forsberg, Peter Lindberg, John Seedoff, and

¹Swedish Parish Records, 1860-1947, Tuna A1:12 (1852-1864) Image 202 / Page 181, Swenson Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. This Swedish parish record contains general information of Sjölander with the backup of other sources.

²Swedish Parish Records, 1860-1947, Tuna (Y) C:4 (1843-1861) Image 580 / Page 109, Credit to *ArkivDigital*. Swenson Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. This Swedish parish record contains general information of Sjölander with the backup of other sources.

³Swedish Parish Records, Image 580 / Page 109.

⁴Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

⁵Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

⁶Sandgren, Carl H. edited by. *My Church. A Yearbook of the Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America Volume XXIX*. Augustana Book Concern, 1943, p. 106.

⁷Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, Folder 9 1882 A-Z, Box 1 Early Registration Records, 1876-1891, MSS 241, Augustana College Office of the Registrar records, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The registration card is a printed form with hand-written information, almost certainly filled in and signed in 1883 by Laurent Sjolinder.

⁸Sandgren, *My Church*, p. 106.

⁹Sandgren, *My Church*, p. 106.

¹⁰Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

¹¹Swedish Parish Records, Image 202 / Page 181.

¹²Emigration Records from Sweden, 1900, Göteborgs poliskammare före 1900, Inkomna uppgifter om utvandrade personer, SE/GLA/12703/E IX/18 (1881) - A0056907_00277, *Riksarkivet*, <http://rikarkivet.se> : accessed April 2019), Image.

¹³Emigration Records from Sweden, SE/GLA/12703/E IX/18 (1881) - A0056907_00277 (Riksarkivet).

¹⁴Sandgren, *My Church*, p. 106.

¹⁵Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

¹⁶Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

¹⁷Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

¹⁸Graduation Program, 1881-1891, I11, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Graduation program for the graduating class of 1886.

¹⁹Graduation Program, I11.

a few others.²⁰ When Laurent was enrolled at Augustana College, there were numerous class options. They offered natural sciences, mathematics, Christian science, German, Greek, and Latin.²¹

Laurent was ordained in Galesburg, Illinois in 1888.²² Laurent was also beginning to start a family. Laurent had a wife, Marie B. Sjölander, and they ended up having a daughter, Constance E. Sjölander.²³ After ordainment, Laurent obtained his Master of Arts at the University of Minnesota.²⁴ After gaining his masters, Laurent worked for Union Creek and Nathanael, South Dakota, 1888-1896, Grand Forks, North Dakota and Bethesda and Nyskoga, Minnesota, 1899-1906, Adams, North Dakota, 1902-1906, Tracy and Walnut Grove, Minnesota, 1906-1920, Ivanhoe, Minnesota, 1908-1920, Hager City and Bay City, Wisconsin, 1920, Tabor, Minnesota, 1921-1922, and Little Falls-Darling-Belle Prairie, 1925-1929.²⁵ Laurent died 17 March 1943 in St. Paul, Minnesota.²⁶

We went even further back than just finding out about Laurent. We traced some of Laurent's ancestors and got all the way back to his great grandparents. On Laurent's father's side, we quickly found that Olaf was born out of wedlock so we could not find any record on Olaf's biological father.²⁷ However, we did find Olaf's mother who is Anna Cajsa Olsdotter.²⁸ Anna was born on 9 October 1810, in Åsta which is in the parish Tuna.²⁹ Then, we followed Anna's records and found her parents (Laurent's great grandparents on his father's side). Anna Olsdotter's parents were Olaf Olafsson and Britta Ersdotter who were living in Åsta at the time.³⁰ Olaf Olafsson was born on 5 February 1791, and Brita Ersdotter was born on 9 June 1784.³¹ Finally, we traced Laurent's lineage on his mother's side. We did not get as much on Laurent's mother's side because pages were missing. Anna Maria Brulin's parents were Lars Brun and Anna Johansdotter.³² On the records, we were able to find only Anna Johansdotter's birthdate and only a possible date on Lars Brun. Anna Johansdotter was born on 11 June 1791, and Lars Brun was possibly born on 24 August 1779.³³ They were all living in the parish of Torp in a

²⁰Graduation Program, 111.

²¹*Augustana College Catalog* 1881-1891, p. 23-25, volume bound in *Augustana College Catalogue* 1881-1891, Aug. Inst., LD 271, A6651, C3, 1881-1891; Augustana College, Rock Island, IL; Special Collection, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL

²²Bergendoff, Conrad. *The Augustana Ministerium: a Study of the Careers of the 2,504 Pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod Church 1850-1962*. Augustana Hist. Soc, 1980, p. 6.

²³"United States Census, 1930," database with images.

FamilySearch(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X3D7-M42> : accessed 3 April 2019), Laurent E Sjolinder, St Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 140, sheet 4A, line 26, family 43, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1121; FHL microfilm 2,340,856.

²⁴Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, p. 6.

²⁵Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, p. 6.

²⁶Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, p. 6.

²⁷Tuna (Y) AI: 14b (1877-1886)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 11 April 2019), image 100 / page 454, AID: v122782.b100.s454, NAD: SE/HLA/1010212 [Kalla: ArkivDigital AD AB]; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Lars Eric Sjolinder with parents.

²⁸"Tuna (Y) AI: 14b (1877-1886)", *ArkivDigital*, page 454, Lars and parents.

²⁹"Tuna (Y) AI: 14b (1877-1886)", *ArkivDigital*, page 454, Lars and parents.

³⁰"Tuna (Y) AI:7 (1804-1813)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 11 April 2019), image 146 / page 170 , AID: v122774.b146.s170, NAD: SE/HLA/1010212 [Kalla: ArkivDigital AD AB]; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Anna Cajsa Olsdotter with parents, siblings, paternal grandparents.

³¹"Tuna (Y) AI: 7 (1804-1813)", *ArkivDigital*, page 170, Laurent's grandparents on his dad's side.

³²Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 11 April 2019), image 69 / page 64, AID: v122685.b69.s64, NAD: SE/HLA/1010207 [Kalla: ArkivDigital AD AB]; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Mother's side of the family.

³³"Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)", *ArkivDigital*, page 64, Mother's side of the family.

place called Saxen. For a concise representation, view the ancestor report or ahnentafel on page four.

Once we found Laurent's ancestors, we went on to look for his descendants. Laurent and his wife Marie had four children.³⁴ Laurent and Marie's first born child was a boy named Laurence Jonathan Sargon Sjölander, and he was born on 21 March 1898 in St. Paul, Minnesota.³⁵ After a few years, they had another boy named Anthony Olof Samuel Sjölander, and he was born on 15 March 1901 in Grand Forks, North Dakota.³⁶ Laurent and his family then decided to move to Tracy, Minnesota where Laurent and Marie had their third child, Julius Bernhard Miamum Sjölander.³⁷ Julius was born on 14 September 1907 in the city of Tracy.³⁸ Finally, Laurent and Marie had their last child on 21 June 1916.³⁹ They had a daughter who was named Constance Evangeline Bent Sjölander.⁴⁰ However, Constance's birthplace was not recorded on the documents that we received.⁴¹ Therefore, we will assume that Constance was born in either Walnut Grove or Ivanhoe, Minnesota because that was where Laurent was working around the time Constance was born.⁴² We could not find any of their children because there were no documents available for us to use. For a concise representation, view the descendants report on page five.

³⁴ Archived of the Evangelical Church in America; Elk Grove Village, IL, USA; *Swedish American Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, and Burials*; Parish: *Zion Lutheran Church*; ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

³⁵ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

³⁶ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

³⁷ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

³⁸ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

³⁹ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁴⁰ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁴¹ Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁴² Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium*, p. 6.

Ancestors of Laurent Erik Sjölander

Generation 1

1. Laurent E. Sjölander. For more information about Laurent, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

2. Olaf Peter Sjölander. Olaf was born on 14 February 1835.⁴³ Olaf was a farmer.⁴⁴ Olaf also worked at Charles Misc. Co.⁴⁵ Olaf also married Anna Maria Brulin.⁴⁶
3. Anna Maria Brulin. Anna was born on 5 March 1826.⁴⁷ Anna married Olaf.⁴⁸

Generation 3

4. N/A
5. Anna Cajsa Olsdotter. Anna was born on 9 October 1810, in Åsta.⁴⁹ Anna's parents are Olaf Olafsson and Britta Ersdotter.⁵⁰
6. Lars Brun. Lars was possibly born on 24 August 1779.⁵¹ Lived in the parish of Torp in a place called Saxen.⁵²
7. Anna Johansdotter. Anna was born on 11 June 1791.⁵³ Lived in the parish of Torp in a place called Saxen.⁵⁴

Generation 4

8. Olaf Olafsson. Olaf was born on 5 February 1791.⁵⁵
9. Britta Ersdotter. Brita was born on 9 June 1784.⁵⁶

⁴³Swedish Parish Records, Image 580 / Page 109.

⁴⁴Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

⁴⁵Registration card for Laurent E Sjolinder, 1883, MSS 241 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records.

⁴⁶Swedish Parish Records, Image 580 / Page 109.

⁴⁷Swedish Parish Records, Image 580 / Page 109.

⁴⁸Swedish Parish Records, Image 580 / Page 109.

⁴⁹“Tuna (Y) AI: 14b (1877-1886)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 454, Lars and parents.

⁵⁰“Tuna (Y) AI: 7 (1804-1813)”, database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 11 April 2019), image 146 / page 170 , AID: v122774.b146.s170, NAD: SE/HLA/1010212 [Kalla: ArkivDigital AD AB]; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Anna Cajsa Olsdotter with parents, siblings, paternal grandparents.

⁵¹“Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 64, Mother's side of the family.

⁵²“Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 64, Mother's side of the family.

⁵³“Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 64, Mother's side of the family.

⁵⁴“Torp (Y) AI: 9 (1828-1838)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 64, Mother's side of the family.

⁵⁵“Tuna (Y) AI: 7 (1804-1813)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 170, Laurent's grandparents on his dad's side.

⁵⁶“Tuna (Y) AI: 7 (1804-1813)”, *ArkivDigital*, page 170, Laurent's grandparents on his dad's side.

Descendants of Laurent Erik Sjölander

Generation 1

1. Laurent Erik Sjölander. Laurent married Anna Maria Brulin. For more information about William and Anna, see the biography in the main part.

Laurent and Anna had a child.

- i. Laurence Jonathan Sargon Sjölander⁵⁷
- ii. Anthony Olof Samuel Sjölander⁵⁸
- iii. Julius Bernhard Miamum Sjölander⁵⁹
- iv. Constance Evangeline Bent Sjölander⁶⁰

⁵⁷Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁵⁸Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁵⁹Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

⁶⁰Ancestry.com, ELCA Film Number: *M144*; SSIRC Film Number: *E-144*, p. 60.

Suggestions for Further Research

We were unable to find a good picture of Laurent. If a group decides to pick up where we left off, we suggest they find a good photograph of Laurent.

Our group worked hard to find information on Laurent. Since there is always more information to be found, what would be some sources we could use to find more information on Laurent.

After researching the ancestors and descendants of Laurent, we were curious as to what else we could find. If there is a possible way, could we find any of Laurent's close friends and coworkers?

We have created a record for Laurent Erik Sjölander in the Family Tree on *FamilySearch*. The record locator is G9LX-S4B.

Source List

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