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Augustana Seniors Fall 1885: John Seedoff

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1885: John Fredrik Seedoff

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May 6, 2019
John Fredrik Seedoff

John Fredrik Seedoff was born 21 April 1861 in Askeby, Östergötland, Sweden.1 His parents names were Jonas Fredrik Hag and Carolina Johansdotter who were also both born in Askeby. He also had 2 siblings named Carl August Hagg (13 September 1855), and Gustaf Albert (8 October 1863).2 John’s father was a soldier back in Sweden (Registration Card). His parents got married in 1852 in Sweden.3 Before John left for America his last name was Hagg, and once he arrived in Rock Island he changed it to Seedoff. John emigrated from Sweden in 18 August 1882 from the Göteborg port at the age of 21 on a ship called the Romeo, he was the only one on the ship heading to Rock Island, the rest were heading to New York4. He ended up settling in Rockford Township Rockford City Ward 2, Winnebago, Illinois, United States5. John registered at Augustana College in the Fall of 826. During his time at Augustana, John loaded up his class schedule with a selection of courses such as religion, science, mathematics, and several different languages, such as German and Latin 7. He graduated from Augustana College in 18868 .In the Fall of 1886, John joined the Augustana Theological Seminary and completed the program in 18889. He was later ordained on 24 June 1888 in Galesburg Illinois, then called to Topeka Kansas Trinity

6 Augustana College Office of the Registrar Records (MSS 241), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.
8 Augustana College Office of the President Records (MSS 248), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.
Lutheran Church where he resided from 1888-1890. He married Edla Seedoff in 1890. While married to Edla, they had 8 kids named Tholberg, Gerda, Egnar, Joel, Arnold, Roy, Ruth, and Marion. Mrs. Seedoff and three children preceded John in death. From 1890-1896 he was a pastor of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City Minnesota. He moved to Rockford in 1896, and served as a pastor of First Lutheran Church until he retired in 1927. During his life span, Dr. Seedoff served for many different organizations. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Bethesda Hospital, St. Paul, for five years; Augustana Hospital, Chicago, six years; the Board of Charities of the Illinois Conference during four years and for several years served on the Board of Augustana College and Theological Seminary. He also once served as vice-president of the Illinois Conference. Also, Dr. Seedoff was granted the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Upsala College in 1927. John died in his home in Rockford, Winnebago Co. Illinois, on 27 July 1939. His burial date was 31 July 1939 at the Scandinavian cemetery in Rockford, Winnebago Co. Illinois.
Ancestors of John F Seedoff

Generation 1

1. John Seedoff. For more information about John, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

2. Jonas Fredrik Hag. Jonas was born 25 February 1831 in Sweden.\textsuperscript{16} He came from the Gistad parish in Gästad Village.\textsuperscript{17} Jonas married Carolina Johansdotter.\textsuperscript{18}

3. Carolina Johansdotter. Carolina was born 13 September 1831 in Askeby, Sweden.\textsuperscript{19} Carolina was from the same parish as Jonas called Gistad in the Gästad Village.\textsuperscript{20} Carolina married Jonas and had 1 kid.\textsuperscript{21}
   i. John Seedoff\textsuperscript{22}

Generation 3

4. Jon Johansson. Jon was born 22 May 1796 in Östergötland, Sweden.\textsuperscript{23} Jon was a gardener while living there. Jon married Anna Stina Mansdotter.\textsuperscript{24}

5. Anna Stina Mansdotter. Anna was born 10 August 1799 in Östergötland, Sweden.\textsuperscript{25} She too was a Gardener, and was from the Gistad parish.\textsuperscript{26}
   i. Jonas Fredrik Hag (See generation 2)\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{22}“United States Census, 1900,” database with images. 2019.
\textsuperscript{27}“United States Census, 1900,” database with images. 2019.
Generation 4

6. Jahannes Huaig. Johannes was born 21 September 1801 in galstad Village in Tornevalle Parish.\textsuperscript{28} Johannes served as an infantry man in the army.

7. Maaria Olsdotter. Maria was born 13 November 1804.\textsuperscript{29} She too was from the galstad Village in Tornevalle Parish.\textsuperscript{30}

Descendants of John Fredrik Seedoff

Generation 1

1. John Fredrik Seedoff, John married Edla Seedoff. For more information about John and Edla, see the biography in the main part.

John and Edla had children.

   i. Tholberg Seedoff31
   ii. Gerda Seedoff32
   iii. Egnar Seedoff33
   iv. Joel Seedoff34
   v. Arnold Seedoff35
   vi. Roy Seedoff36
   vii. Ruth Seedoff37
   viii. Marion Seedoff38

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Questions for Further Research

Is there any extra information about what their kids did later on in life? (ex: kids, wives, death)
Is there more information about John’s wife’s parents and grandparents?
Source List


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


Augustana College Office of the President Records (MSS 248), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

First Reference Note

Conrad Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1980), page 42. *The Ministerium* was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

Registration card for Johan Fredrik Seedoff, 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 Fredrik Seedoff.


First Lutheran Church (Moline, Rock Island County, Illinois), formerly Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Moline, Register Books, Book 5, undated, page 153; “Records of Swedish American Churches”, images of church records on microfilm, Reel 98 (1); Swenson Center for Swedish Immigration Research, Rock Island, Illinois; entry for Hans Hanson as a church member.
Subsequent Note


Sandgren, Carl. *My Church A Yearbook of the Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America*


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

First Lutheran Church (Moline, Illinois), Register Books, Book 5, page 153, entry for Hans Hanson.