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Augustana Seniors Fall 1883: Petrus L. Bergström

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1883: Petrus L.
Bergström

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Petrus L. Bergström

Petrus L. Bergström was born on 18 March 1858 in Harbo Parish, Sweden.¹ His original name was Lars Petter but changed it to Petrus Lawrence when arriving America, but used his middle name as his first name.² His father, Lars Bergström, was born in 12 March 1831 in the same parish and was a shoemaker.³ His mother, Cathrina Pehrsdotter, was also born in the same parish on 15 October 1829.⁴ Petrus was the first born and only has one other sibling, a younger brother, Gustaf, who was born in 28 September 1866 in Harbo parish.⁵ He was the only one out of his family to immigrate to America.⁶ Both of his parents stayed in the same village but his brother moved to a nearby city when he was older called Västerås.⁷ His father died on 11 September 1895, his mother died on 24 May 1906 and his brother died on 8 October 1945.⁸

¹ Conrad Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1980), page 39. The Ministerium was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

² "Harbo C:5 (1833-1864)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 14 January 2018), image 34/page 50, AID: v72386.b34, NAD: SE/ULA/10377, Lars Petter (b.1858), wife Alida M. Liedberg, and family in Harbo Parish, Sweden; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Lars Petter as the oldest child of parents Lars and Cathrina.

³ "Harbo C:5 (1833-1864)", *ArkivDigital*, page 50, database image of birth record of Petrus Bergstrom.

⁴ "Harbo C:3 (1826-1845)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 14 January 2018), image 16/page 34, AID: v72383.b16, NAD: SE/ULA/10377, Cathrina Pehrsdotter (b.1829), husband Lars Bergström, and family in Harbo Parish, Sweden; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Cathrina Pehrsdotter a child of parent Caisa Olsdotter.

⁵ "Harbo C:5 (1833-1864)", *ArkivDigital*, page 50, database image of household record of Petrus Bergström.

⁶ *My Church: Departed Pastors*. 1937 Call Number Aug. Inst. Bx. 8049.N87 V.23. Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Page 169. This was an obituary of Petrus Bergstrom who passed away and was apart of this church. *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 169. Volume XXIII

⁷ "Harbo C:5 (1833-1864)", *ArkivDigital*, page 50, database image of birth record of Petrus Bergstrom.

⁸ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 170. Volume XXIII

Petrus completed a study at Uppsala University and then he became associated with Pastor P.J. Sward, who was an Augustana Pastor.⁹ Petrus became intrigued with Pastor Swards' work that he joined him on his trip to America in 1883, and with him going on this trip he received a letter of recommendation to Dr. T. N. Hasselquist who was the president of Augustana College and the Theological Seminary.¹⁰ He graduated Augustana College in 1884 along with his fellow peers and it was noted in a graduation commencement in the local newspaper.¹¹ He pursued the classical course of study in his senior year and joined the Lutheran Church.¹²

Bergström then went to Texas for a year to do congregational work, and then after that he came back to Augustana where he taught Swedish at the same time he was studying to be in the seminary.¹³ In 1887 Bergström was ordained at Chicago while on call to a congregation at Winthrop, Minnesota. He served here for twenty-two years.¹⁴ Bergström held many positions and was widely recognized by many. His hard work allowed him to organized thirty-two congregations because of his wide field of knowledge.¹⁵ Another conference was organized and Bergström served as the president and superintendent.¹⁶

Bergström in 1934 was made a Knight of Order of Vasa by the King of Sweden.¹⁷ In 1889, after his ordination he married Alida M. Liedberg of Chicago, and they had three children

⁹ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 169. Volume XXIII

¹⁰ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 169. Volume XXIII

¹¹ "Augustana College: An Educational Institution of which Rock Island is Justly Proud" Rock Island Argus. (Rock Island, Ill.), web archives (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053934/1902-04-26/ed-1/seq-30/> :January 2018); 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 history of Augustana College.

¹² Registration Card. Petrus Bergstrom. Special Collections: January 2018. The general idea of what he was studying was given here.

¹³ *My Church: Departed Pastors*. 1937 Page 169.

¹⁴ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 169. Volume XXIII

¹⁵ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 169. Volume XXIII

¹⁶ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 170. Volume XXIII

¹⁷ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 171. Volume XXIII

Lawrence, Robert, and Olga, and lived in St. Paul, Minnesota until his death on 28 April 1937.¹⁸

Bergström was a leader who helped build up the church, and to try and advance Swedish culture was a plus.¹⁹ There was not much information on Petrus L. Bergström in *Chronicling America*, so the majority of what we found were in his obituary.²⁰

¹⁸ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 171. Volume XXIII

¹⁹ *My Church: Departed Pastors*, 171. Volume XXIII

²⁰“Augustana College : An Educational Institution”.

Ancestors of Petrus Bergström

Generation 1

1. Petrus L. Bergström. For more information about Petrus, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

2. Lars Bergström. Lars was born 12 March 1831 in Harbo Parish, Sweden. Lars was a shoemaker. Lars married Cathrina Pehrson and had two children.²¹
3. Cathrina Pehrson. Cathrina was born in Harbo Parish on 15 October 1829. She was born out of wedlock so not much is recorded on her family other than her marriage.²²
 - i. Petrus. See 1. Above.
 - ii. Gustaf. Gustaf was born on 28 September 1866 in Harbo Parish

Generation 3

4. Lars Ersson. Ersson is the Swedish version for Erickson so most likely he would have went by Eric. He was born on 16 February 1795 In Wahla Sweden. ²³
5. Caisa Olsdotter
6. Father is unknown because Cathrina was born out of wedlock.
7. Carin Pehrson.

²¹ Lars Bergstrom. Population of Sweden 1860-1930. ArkivDigital AD AB.

²² Cathrina Pehrson. Birth Records. Harbo C:3 1826-1845. ArkivDigital

²³ Lars Ersson. Population of Sweden 1860-1930. ArkivDigital AD AB.

Descendants of Petrus Bergström

Generation 1

1. Petrus Bergström. Petrus married Alida M. Liedberg. For more information about Petrus and Alida, see the biography in the main part.

Petrus and Alida had 3 children.

- +2. i. Robert Bergström.
- +3. ii. Olga Bergström.
- +4. iii. Einar Lawrence Bergström.

Generation 2

2. Robert Bergström. "Robert was born 9 October 1897. He attended Gustavus Adolphus College. Robert registered for World War I on 1 October 1918. Before going to war his second and third finger on his right hand were injured, but how is unknown. On the registration card he was tall, slender and had blue eyes and light brown hair. Sometime in the 1930s' he held his own practice as an osteopathic.²⁴

3. Olga Bergström. "Olga was born in 1905, the exact date is unknown. She was born in Minnesota. She was a teacher at a public school when she was older. Not much is known about Olga.²⁵

²⁴ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* citing NARA publication T625 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

²⁵ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* Minnesota > Ramsey > St Paul > ED 74 > image 17 of 32; citing NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002).

4. Einar Lawrence Bergström. "Einar was born 25 March 1896. He attended Gustavus Adolphus College. Einar registered for World War I on 1 October 1918. On the registration card he was tall, slender, had gray eyes and light brown hair."²⁶

²⁶ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, FamilySearch citing NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

Questions for Further Research

As we were researching, we noticed there wasn't a lot of information on the descendents. Is there more records on the descendents or did the last name change over time?

Because the records were from a long time ago and in another language, they were slightly confusing to read. The Swenson Center provided us with names, but the dates were slightly confusing. The only source we found in Family Search was one of Petrus' sons in a World War Two draft notice. Is there other sources that will have similar dates that can be found to help make the information more accurate?

After he immigrated to the United States, he spent the rest of his life in Minnesota, and his children and the rest of his descendants were also born there. If there was more information on the descendents, can we get in contact with any of them that are alive?

Is there any descendants of Petrus that went to Augustana College too?

Source List

Bergendoff, Conrad. *The Augustana Ministerium: A Study of the Careers of the 2,504 Pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Church 1850-1962*. Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1980.

My Church (Rock Island, Illinois): Departed Pastors. page 169.

The Rock Island Argus. (Rock Island, Ill.), 13 June 1884. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

Registration Card. Petrus Bergstrom. Special Collections

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"Sweden Baptisms, 1611-1920," database, FamilySearch citing , reference ; FHL microfilm

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"United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* citing NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

"Harbo C:5 (1833-1864)", *ArkivDigital*, page 50, database image of birth record of Petrus Bergstrom