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Augustana Seniors Fall 1883: Petrus L. Bergström

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13 February 2018
Petrus L. Bergström

Petrus L. Bergström was born on 18 March 1858 in Harbo Parish, Sweden. His original name was Lars Petter but changed it to Petrus Lawrence when arriving America, but used his middle name as his first name. His father, Lars Bergström, was born in 12 March 1831 in the same parish and was a shoemaker. His mother, Cathrina Pehrsdotter, was also born in the same parish on 15 October 1829. 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. He was the only one out of his family to immigrate to America. Both of his parents stayed in the same village but his brother moved to a nearby city when he was older called Västerås. His father died on 11 September 1895, his mother died on 24 May 1906 and his brother died on 8 October 1945.

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.
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. Petrus became intrigued with Pastor Sward’s 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. He graduated Augustana College in 1884 along with his fellow peers and it was noted in a graduation commencement in the local newspaper. He pursued the classical course of study in his senior year and joined the Lutheran Church.

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. In 1887 Bergström was ordained at Chicago while on call to a congregation at Winthrop, Minnesota. He served here for twenty-two years. 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. Another conference was organized and Bergström served as the president and superintendent.

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

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9 My Church: Departed Pastors, 169. Volume XXIII
10 My Church: Departed Pastors, 169. Volume XXIII
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.\textsuperscript{18} Bergström was a leader who helped build up the church, and to try and advance Swedish culture was a plus.\textsuperscript{19} There was not much information on Petrus L. Bergström in Chronicling America, so the majority of what we found were in his obituary.\textsuperscript{20}

\textsuperscript{18} My Church: Departed Pastors, 171. Volume XXIII
\textsuperscript{19} My Church: Departed Pastors, 171. Volume XXIII
\textsuperscript{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 Pehrsdotter and had two children.  

3. Cathrina Pehrsdotter. 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.  


   ii. Gustaf. Gustaf was born on 28 September 1866 in Harbo Paris

**Generation 3**

4. Lars Ersson. Errson 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.  

5. Caisa Olsdotter  

6. Father is unknown because Cathrina was born out of wedlock.  

7. Carin Pehrsdotter.

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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.”

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.”

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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.”

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


Registration Card. Petrus Bergstrom. Special Collections


"United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch*


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