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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: George E. Youngdahl

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884 : George Edward Youngdahl

Abby Casey

Summer Starcevich

February 2, 2017
George Edward Youngdahl

George E. Youngdahl was born on June 25, 1861, in Scandian Grove, Minnesota. George’s father, Nels Youngdahl, and his mother Betty Goranson, were both born in Sweden. George entered Augustana as a freshman in the fall of 1877. George was a part of the Phrenokosmian Society, which met for discussions, declamations, and debates. While George was studying at Augustana College in 1880, his family and his legal residence were in Fairfield, Illinois. George Youngdahl was ordained as a minister in 1888 from Augustana Seminary. After graduating from Augustana, George, and other various individuals, still supported his alumatter and donated books to the library in 1880 through 1890.


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1 Record of Junior Class, 1883-1884, in MSS 241, Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All the students in the junior class are listed with birthplaces, year of birth, and when they entered the institution.
2 Illinois Marriages, 1815-1935, Familysearch database. Both spouses names, ages, and parents names are listed along with the marriage date.
3 United States Census, 1880, Familysearch database. This include age, marital status, race, occupation, relationship to head of household, birthplace, and both parents birthplaces, for each person on the census.
4 Record of Junior Class 1883-1884.
5 Phrenokosmian Society Records, in MSS 214, Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All the members of this society were listed in the roll book.
6 United States Census, 1880.
7 Augustana Observer, April 1, 1904, pg. 45a, Augustana Observer and Rockety-I Database.
8 Catalogue of Augustana College and Theological Seminary
9 Illinois Marriages, 1815-1935.
10 Youngdahl, George. E, The Augustana Ministerium (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1905), page 201. The Ministerium was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.
11 Illinois, Cook County Birth Certificates, 1871-1940, Familysearch database. It includes birthplace and birthdate, and both parents names and birthplaces.
Unfortunately, George and Hattie had 2 other children who died very young. Hattie gave birth to Ruth Maria Youngdahl on August 2, 1894 and she died on November 6, 1896. George and Hattie’s other daughter, Agnes Elisabeth Georgina Youngdahl was born on July 30, 1896 and died on January 28, 1897. In 1990, George, Hattie, and Florence resided in Colorado Springs city ward 5, Colorado. On April 18, 1904, George Youngdahl died in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

13 United States Census, 1900, Familysearch database. They include age, marital status, race, occupation, relationship to head of household, birthplace, and both parents birthplaces, for each person on the census.
14 Augustana Observer, April 1904
Ancestors of George Edward Youngdahl

Generation 1

1. George E. Youngdahl. For more information about George, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2


3. Bengta Goranson. Bengta was born 15 February 1838 in Sweden.\footnote{Parish Unknown, Church Record book.} Bengta emigrated from Carlstorp, Farlov, Kristianstads Iän (Skane) to America on 15 April 1857.\footnote{Household Examination Roll, p.99 for Bengta Goransdotter, \textit{The Swedish Emigrant Institute & The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies 2005}, Record 396839. Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. This record has information about Bengta’s date of birth and emigration date.} Bengta married Nels (2) in Sweden on 13 June 1858.\footnote{Parish Unknown, Church Record book.}

Nels and Bengta had children.

George. See 1. above.

Nels. Nels was born 1863 in Minnesota, United States.22

Sophiah. Sophiah was born 1865 in Illinois, United States.23

Luther. Luther was born 1869 in Illinois. United States.24

Anton. Anton was born 1873 in Illinois, United States.25

**Generation 3**

4. Sven Nilsson.26

5. Kersti Nilsdotter.27

6. Göran Göransson.28

7. Anna Åström.29

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22 "United States Census, 1880," database with images.
23 "United States Census, 1880," database with images.
27 *Demographical Databases for Southern Sweden*, Baptism of Nils L. Youngdahl.
29 *Demographical Databases for Southern Sweden*, Baptism of Bengta Goranson.
Descendants of George Edward Youngdahl

Generation 1

1. George E. Youngdahl. George married Hattie O. Nelson. For more information about George and Hattie, see the biography in the main part.

Children of George and Hattie.

+2. Florence Harriet Youngdahl.
+3. Ruth Maria Youngdahl.
+4. Agnes Elizabeth Georgina Youngdahl.

Generation 2


Children of Florence and Elmer.


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30 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Membership book 1(page 17).
32 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Membership book 1(page 17).
4. Agnes Elizabeth Georgina Youngdahl. Agnes was born 30 July 1896 in Englewood, Chicago, Illinois. Agnes died 28 January 1897.33

**Generation 3**

5. Norman T. Anderson. Norman was born in 1916 in Illinois, United States.34

6. Dale L. Augerson. Dale was born in 1918 in Illinois, United States.35

7. Hattie V. Augerson. Hattie was in 1920 in Illinois, United States.36

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33 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Membership book 1(page 17).
Questions for Further Research

If we had more time, we would have liked to search more into his descendants up to today. Towards the end of our research process, we struggled to find reliable sources that would take us closer to George’s descendants. If we would have returned to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center we might have been able to track more of George’s descendants using more credible sources.

We would have liked to return to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center to find more reliable sources about his ancestors. We were only able to find up to George’s grandparents. If we were able to look into George’s ancestors more there would be a greater possibility of linking our information to FamilySearch’s Family Tree.

A third task that we would have liked to accomplish was to discover more about George and George’s profession as a minister. As of right now, we only know that George ministered in Chicago, Illinois and then moved to Colorado. If we knew more about what George accomplished in his lifetime, then we could have written a more in depth biography.

Finally, the last thing that we wish we could do if we had more time was to find more information about what George did during his time at Augustana College. We know that George participated in a Fraternity, but nothing much beyond that. Taking a second trip to Special Collections in the Augustana Library would have helped to further our research on what George was involved in.

We have created a record for George Edward Youngdahl in the Family Tree on FamilySearch. The record locator is 9DSG-C22
Source List

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

Augustana Observer, April 1, 1904, pg. 45a, Augustana Observer and Rockety-I Database.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Membership Book 1(page 17), Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.


“Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940,” database,
Elmer T. Augerson and Florence H. Youngdahl, 08 Mar 1911; citing Knox, Illinois, United States, county offices, Illinois; FHL microfilm 1,412,066.


Youngdahl, George E. *The Augustana Ministerium: A Study of the Careers of the 2,504 Pastors*

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