

12-1-1982

## Norwegian Sailor Last Survivor

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(1982) "Norwegian Sailor Last Survivor," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 2 : No. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol2/iss4/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

as well as newspaper clippings. He returned to Seattle, where he published his *Washington* book in 1908. He was a prolific writer, whose works on Swedish America are still cited by scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 546–547; *Svenska män och kvinnor* I-VIII (Stockholm, 1942–1955), VII, p. 80.

- <sup>7</sup> Andrew Chilberg was b. in Knäred Parish (Hall.) March 29, 1845 as Andreas Killberg, s. of Carl Johan Killberg and Johanna Johansdotter and a brother of Nils (see note 4 above). He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1846. After extensive travels to the West Coast, he returned to Iowa, but already by 1875 he set out for the West, settling in Seattle, where he opened a grocery store. He became a successful businessman and in 1879 was appointed Swedish-Norwegian vice consul for Seattle. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 312–315.
- <sup>8</sup> Adolph Edgren was b. in Gävle Oct. 27, 1858. He received his entire musical education in Sweden. In 1892 he came to America, where he travelled widely with various musical groups, organized by him, such as the Philharmonic Concert Company of New York and the Jenny Lind Quartet. He lived in Omaha, NE, Kansas City, MO, Portland, OR and San Francisco, before coming to Seattle in 1906. Here he established the Edgren School of Music together with his wife, Emma Möller, a concert artist in her own right. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 325–327.
- <sup>9</sup> Carl Hjalmar Lundquist was b. in Bofors, Karlskoga Parish (Öre.) Oct. 11, 1883, the s. of Carl Johan Fredrik Lundquist and Hulda Serafia Wennerblad. In 1886 he and his family arr. in Chicago but after ten years his father was transferred back to Sweden, where Carl Hjalmar received his entire pre-university training. In 1905 the family returned to Chicago, where Carl Hjalmar became a newspaper editor, before deciding to turn his attention to the study of law. He passed his bar examination and became assistant corporation counsel for the city of Chicago. He was very active in Swedish American circles in Chicago. After his death, his vast collection of books and papers were donated to the archives of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society in Chicago, through the instrumentality of the archivist at the society, Selma Jacobson. — *The Swedish Element in America* I-IV (Chicago, 1931–1943), III, p. 356.

-oOo-

## Norwegian Sailor Last Survivor

When Commodore John Paul Jones, on board the *Bonhomme Richard*, engaged the British vessel, the *Serapis*, off Flamborough Head on the east coast of England on Sept. 23, 1779, he commanded a crew made up of sailors from eleven different nations. Among them were seven Swedes, all able-bodied seamen, and three Norwegians, two of them able-bodied seamen, and one, an ordinary seaman.<sup>1</sup> The battle which turned out to be one of the most ferocious in the American War for Independence, ended with Jones' victory, his capturing of the *Serapis*, but at the same time losing his own vessel, the *Bonhomme Richard*, when it sank in the North Sea from the heavy damage she had sustained in the battle.

Of the total crew of 322, approximately 150 were either killed or wounded in the engagement. Very little is known concerning the fate of the Scandinavians who participated in the battle, but a notice in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*, published in Boston, MA Aug. 2, 1851, has the following item concerning the last survivor of that bloody conflict:

“An old Salt — Thomas Johnson, a sailor, just 100 years of age, died at the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia on the 16th inst. [July 16, 1851]. He was Norwegian, and the last survivor of the gallant crew of Paul Jones, in his desperate conflict with the *Serapis* in 1779”.

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Eliot Morison, *John Paul Jones* (Boston, MA, 1959), p. 205.